

**JOHN SMITH'S
MERIT TABLES**

**GLOUCESTER
V.
HARLEQUINS**

**SATURDAY
11th OCTOBER, 1986
Kick-off 3 p.m.**



FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

**PRESIDENT:
CANON H. M. HUGHES B.A.**

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

The Winner of today's
Official Programme
Draw will receive
£5 from

Tyre Sales
Tyre Sales (Bham) Ltd.
1a Kingsholm Rd
Gloucester

780

- RUGBY BOOTS • JERSEYS AND SHORTS • BALLS • CLUB DISCOUNTS
- INDIVIDUAL DISCOUNTS FOR LOCAL CLUB MEMBERS
- Personal attention always available at:

ALAN BRINN SPORTS

52 Eastgate Street, Gloucester

Telephone 33722

GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

Full Back
15. T. Smith
Three Quarters
14. D. Morgan
13. P. Taylor
12. C. Dyke
11. J. Breeze
Half Backs
10. M. Hamlin
9. M. Hannaford
Forwards
† 1. M. Preedy (Capt.)
2. K. Dunn
3. R. Pascall
4. N. Scrivens
5. J. Brain
6. J. Bennett
7. I. Smith
† 8. M. Teague
REPLACEMENTS
R. Williams
K. White

HARLEQUINS

Full Back
15. S. Thresher
Three Quarters
14. S. Hunter
13. A. Dent
12. C. Smith
11. M. Summers
Half Backs
10. M. Fletcher
9. A. Woodhouse
Forwards
1. J. Kingston
2. J. Older
3. M. Martin-Hobley
4. W. Starman
5. R. Langhorne
6. M. Skinner
† 7. D. Cooke (Capt.)
8. E. Weekes
REPLACEMENTS
16. R. Glenister
17. M. Green

Referee: S. TREVITHICK (Cornwall Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

The 'Quins Syndrome

It's still a bit painful. There we were, full of the confidence which comes from having scored 310 points in 11 matches, ready to take on Harlequins at 'Twickers', no less, and what happened? We went down, 43-6. Not the best start to our campaign to win the first John Smith's Merit Table last season.

It was a rude shock — but perhaps the lessons learned did have something to do with our eventual victory in that competition. It's and ill wind . . .

Of course, our confidence, though misplaced, was justified by the fact that we had beaten the Londoners, 19-6 and 16-3 in the two previous encounters. Indeed, most people will probably remember that we had an irritating habit of winning the game even when fielding a virtual United side during the long period when the Harlequins game co-incided with a County match.

Times have changed, though. 'Quins are certainly one of the best sides in England, this year. In fact their only defeat so far has been at the hands of Swansea, last Saturday, and it's no disgrace to go down fighting at St. Helens. It's a shame that the England v. Japan game will have depleted them a little, today.

It's always nice to see a good side, of course. But Harlequins are always welcome at Kingsholm, not least because of the sheer antiquity of the fixtures between our two Clubs.

Nice to see you 'Quins. Hope you have an enjoyable visit to good ole 'Glawster'.

The Colts with the Volts

The Gloucester Colts side are putting in some electrifying performances this season. I'm told that their handsome victory over Cardiff Colts caused some consternation in that part of the Principality, whose youngsters don't really get much practice at losing, especially to English teams.

But the lads could well have their toughest outing yet next Tuesday — not Wednesday as previously advertised — when they visit Bath, who also have a highly impressive Colts side. To beat them, as well as Cardiff, would be a remarkable 'double', and confirm that we have real potential coming through the Colts system.

Sock it to 'em lads!

Ebbw and Flow

Next Wednesday we welcome Ebbw Vale to Kingsholm, and my contacts in that part of the world tell me that they're arriving with a great deal of confidence. You may remember that we lost very disappointingly to them last season, so we have a point to make. Your vocal support would be appreciated.

Next Saturday, the First XV travel to Newport, which will be no Vicarage tea party, and again, a few friendly faces — and voices — at Rodney Parade would be more precious than rubies, as it says in the Bible.

If you can't make it, however, then ample compensation can be obtained by staying right here and watching United defend their marvellous record against the same opposition. Indeed, I commend your attention to the United side, generally. Not only have they been playing some excellent open rugby, this season, but last Monday's performance against Berry Hill — who were, you remember, all Lydney could handle in the John Player — proved that they have a highly formidable pack as well.

Come along. You'll certainly get your money's worth.

. . . And Talking About Money's Worth

I've been giving my obligatory plug for the 300 Club each week, but heretofore I haven't had space to go into any detail. So here we go.

First the bad news. Your sub is 25p a week, which you can pay weekly, monthly or all at one go, which works out at £6.50 for the six months, which is easier for all concerned, including you.

Starting on Friday, November 28th, there will be a monthly draw (last Friday in each month), for one prize of £25 and five of £10. At the end of the six months comes the Big One — One prize of £300, one of £160, one of £50, and three of £25. My (rather dodgy) arithmetic works that out as £960, and why shouldn't you have your share of it?

More — those figures are worked out on the assumption that Membership of the Club does not, in fact, exceed the magic 300. If it does, the prize money goes up accordingly.

But if you don't join, you can't win. So why not see one of the Social Club Committee members, and take a small plunge? Apart from anything else, you'll be helping towards ground maintenance and improvements. Which is good for all of us.

Gotyer Card?

Only, of course, you'll find it a bit difficult to join the 300 Club if you can't get into the Clubhouse. Which, strictly speaking, you can't do unless you hold a current Social Club Membership Card.

It's an easy thing to forget, I know, especially if you're a Season Ticket holder (you are, aren't you?), in which case it comes free. But there are times when the size of the crowd dictates that only Members be allowed in, and those are usually just the times when you most want to trot in, buy a beer, and hold a post mortem.

If you haven't picked up your card yet, John Beaman will be delighted to oblige you.

Sponsoring United

Having Harlequins here practically ensures that Phil Cooke will be along too. Phil is the ex-Quins flanker who, nowadays, runs the City's drive to acquire a healthy share of the growing tourism market.

He was also one of the first people to take advantage of our new system for attracting sponsorship for United matches, snapping up next January's Leicester match.

So why should a hardened professional like Phil use £100 of his hardpressed budget to sponsor what is, after all, a second-string match?

The intention is to invite a corps of influential people in the tour-operating business along for the day, show them the rapidly-developing attractions that Gloucester has to offer, and finish up on the sacred territory of Kingsholm, which everyone has heard of, for relaxation and a little light refreshment.

And Phil isn't the only one to see business potential. In just a few days time, Bass (South West) are to sponsor United's game against Yugoslav Sports — and no one ever accused a brewery marketing department of not recognising a good promotional opportunity when they see it.

It's certainly a point to ponder if you're in that sort of game. Peter Gould will be glad to give anyone full details.

Is There a Champion in the House?

I'm not absolutely sure, but there's a good fighting chance that World Light Heavyweight Champion, Dennis Andries is joining us today, having given his support to last night's professional boxing promotion at the Leisure Centre.

His commitments in London may not have permitted him to stay on long enough, but if they did — welcome Dennis, and best of luck from the Rugby fraternity.

Tailpiece

You may remember that, in last Saturday's Bedford programme, I expressed doubts whether John Orwin's duties as a licensee would permit him to make the cross-country trip to play. Naturally, we were all delighted when he did.

I asked him about the matter after the game. "Well, Pete, it was the Wife," he told me. "She said 'You've gotta play at Gloucester, and you've gotta play well. Go on — I'll look after the pub.' And she threw me out of the door, so here I am!"

Now *there's* a lady who gets her priorities right!

Tail-End Piece

You may also remember that, last Saturday, I informed you that our generous sponsors, RCA Services, supply a wide range of equipment to Her Majesty's Armed Forces. It appears, however, that I misid one out.

They also supply disposable bed-pans.

There's no answer to that.

PETER ARNOLD.

Front Cover Cathedral Photograph reproduced by Courtesy of Gloucester City Council.