

# GLOUCESTER V. PLYMOUTH

SATURDAY  
25th OCTOBER, 1986  
Kick-off 3 p.m.

Sponsored by



MANAGEMENT SERVICES LTD.



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  
Kingsholm Rugby Ground

476

- RUGBY BOOTS
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## ALAN BRINN SPORTS

52 Eastgate Street, Gloucester

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### Sponsored by **MANAGEMENT SERVICES LTD.**

#### GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

Full Back

15. P. Mansell

Three Quarters

14. D. Morgan

13. P. Taylor

12. R. Mogg

11. J. Breeze

Half Backs

10. M. Hamlin

9. R. Williams

Forwards

† 1. M. Preedy (Capt.)

2. K. Dunn

3. R. Pascall

4. P. Wallace

5. J. Etheridge

6. B. Fowke *M. LONGSTAFF*

7. I. Smith

† 8. ~~M. Teague~~

REPLACEMENTS

J. Davis

K. White

#### PLYMOUTH

Full Back

15. J. Butcher

Three Quarters

14. S. Walkin

13. M. Turton

12. M. Livesey

11. R. Westlake

Half Backs

10. G. Gabbitass

9. B. Fairgreive

Forwards

1. C. Hocking

2. B. Priday

3. P. Mitchell

4. I. Harrison

5. G. Lovell

6. M. Hewitt

7. B. Howarth

8. I. Russell

REPLACEMENTS

R. Bailey

P. Marsh

Referee: T. SPREADBURY (Somerset Society)

† International

**Good luck to one special team from another!**



# Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

### **Best in the West?**

I can say, without fear of contradiction, that Plymouth are the best side in Devon this season. At least, that is what I hear from Gloucester's Chief Leisure Officer, Alistair McHaffey.

He also assures me that the fact that he used to play on the wing for today's visitors is quite irrelevant.

Actually, there is a good case. Exeter aren't having a good time, and Torquay suffered rather badly at the hands of Plymouth last Saturday. Whether our visitors really are 'Best in the West' is more open to debate, but we'll have a good idea after the visit of Camborne to Kingsholm next month.

But interest in today's game is more than just academic. Perhaps it isn't yet widely appreciated that the South West Merit Table is still our route into next season's John Player — for this season, anyway — so we need to win, and win well. And you may remember that it was a loss down at Plymouth, a few years ago, which effectively excluded us from the John Player the following season.

Last season's scheduled game didn't take place, because our early entry into the Cup committed us to travel to Lewes that day. The year before that we won, 20-12 at Plymouth, and on their last visit to Kingsholm they went down 20-15, and perhaps the fact that, uniquely, the game took place on Christmas Eve might have had a bearing on things.

Well — today is only the eve of the night the clocks go back, but we don't need a festival period to welcome Plymouth. Thanks for coming up from dear old Demshire, lads. Hope you have a great day.

### **Thanks to Management Services**

"Management Services Ltd.?" I said. "What do they do? Could be almost anything with a name like that!" But I was rapidly informed by Mark Ruffell, MSL's Managing Director, that the rather modest title conceals a multitude of good deeds, initiated by today's generous sponsors as a matter of day-by-day routine.

If you haven't come across the Clarence Street company, then you're probably not half of a young couple seeking to buy your first home. In fact, MSL has some ten years' experience in property development and Housing Association Management, enabling them to evolve a special scheme for just that difficult section of the market, which has already housed hundreds of young couples, nationwide.

Quite recently, MSL landed its biggest site to date, worth about £5.5 million, at Boreham Wood — covering part of the Old Elstree Film Studios, as a matter of fact. However, their hearts, apart from being in the right place, are also firmly in the West Country. One reason why they selected today's game is that they already administer five sites in Gloucester and six in Plymouth.

But their association is even more personal than that. MSL's Chairman and co-Founder, Ralph Freethy, is a Plymouth man; "And they still allow him back!" says Gloucester regular, Mark Ruffell. He said it, Mr. Freethy — not me.

I'm told that, although Mr. Freethy is not really a rugby man, he's here today. It is to be hoped we can give him a taste for one of the finer things of life which he has obviously missed out on.

Be that as it may, thanks again, MSL. Sincere welcomes and we hope that all your guests, aficionados or not, have a thoroughly enjoyable day.

### **Ouch!**

I don't suppose you would have been too worried if today's team sheet had read as follows:

Nick Marment, Nick Price, Ruari McLean, Paul Taylor, Richard Mogg, John Roberts, Marcus Hannaford, Richard Pascall, Kevin Dunn, Pete Jones, Nick Scrivens, John Brain, Jeremy Bennett, Mike Teague, Dave Spencer. Replacements: Richard Williams, John Etheridge.

Not a bad side. But the point is that every one of them either has been or still is, injured. And the list is not exhaustive.

That just gives you an idea of the difficulties under which selectors, coaches and players have been operating this season. Naturally, we're all disappointed when the team hits a bad streak, but it's worth remembering that sort of factor when discussing the matter.

No one likes a fair-weather friend.

### **Youngest?**

On the same subject, can anyone remember a younger second row than the pair who turned out against Newport, last week, and I understand has been selected for today? Blowed if I can.

### **Into November**

We start November with an away match at Rosslyn Park, next Saturday. Before that, however, it would be worth coming along next Wednesday to see our more-than-useful Colts side entertain their long-standing friends from Brixham.

Wednesday, November 5th should see fireworks when South Wales Police pay us a visit, after which we travel to Newbridge on the following Saturday. Then we're back home on Wednesday, November 12th for Cheltenham, followed on Saturday the 15th by a visit from Broughton Park, who Jim Ryan, who hales from them there parts, tells me I have to pronounce 'Brawton' rather than 'Browton'.

Meanwhile, of course, you can always support our unbeaten United side, who have Crediton next Saturday and Caerleon on November 8th. So there's no need to suffer from rugby deficiency.

### **Eighty Years On**

I wonder if our past Chairman, Wartime International Gordon Hudson is here today? If not, it's probably because he is suffering from a case of fragility incurred by his attendance at Bedford's Centenary Dinner, last night.

One of the reasons why the East Midlanders invited him is interesting. It appears that his father, the great Arthur Hudson, guested for Bedford the day that they played the legendary 1906 All Blacks — exactly 80 years old.

Nice gesture on Bedford's part, I thought.

Perhaps it's time they returned the favour by lending us a certain lock forward I could name!

### **Lucky Fivers**

Two lucky programme winners to announce this week — and perhaps another in the offing. Programme no. 358 won the crackling fiver at the Bedford game, and was held by Mr. R. W. J. Elton of 'Aysgarth', High Street, Drybrook. The Harlequins fiver was also won by a Forester; one who describes himself, less formally as 'Charlie Carr from Bream', and bought programme no 798.

As for Ebbw Vale, we know one of our regular supporters held the winning programme, because he was observed celebrating the fact. Just one minor detail — he forgot to claim his £5. Terry Tandy asks me to point out that it's still available Sir, whoever you are, if you can still produce your Ebbw Vale programme.

### **Greetings to South Oz!**

We have known for a long time that our programmes arrive over a very wide area, but I heard of one that will take some beating for sheer mileage, the other day.

A drinking partner of mine from the St. Peter's Club, Dave Collinson by name, spent several years in South Australia, and returned home just a few years ago. He's a Kingsholm regular, always buys a programme, and always sends it to his brother in Adelaide. He tells me that 'South Oz' regard themselves as something of an outpost of the Union code, being besieged by League and Australian Rules.

Well, if this one gets all the way to South Oz, greetings and best wishes, all you Fosters quaffers, from the Poms of Kingsholm. Keep plugging!

### **Tailpiece**

Nothing like one's offspring to bring one down to earth. My daughter is at something of a loose end, at the moment, boy friend being away for a few days. I therefore suggested she might consider attending today. The suggestion was not received with any display of enthusiasm.

"Why not, Kate?" said my wife, "You used to go along."

"Huh!" replied daughter, "I *used* to play with dolls!"

Collapse of stout father.

PETER ARNOLD.

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