

GLOUCESTER V. COVENTRY

SATURDAY
20th DECEMBER, 1986
Kick-off 3 p.m.

Sponsored by
**HARTLAND MOTORS
LIMITED**

RENAULT



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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
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Tyre Sales
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Sponsored by

HARTLAND MOTORS LIMITED

GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

Full Back

15. N. Marment

Three Quarters

14. J. Breeze

13. R. McLean

12. P. Taylor

11. N. Price

Half Backs

10. M. Hamlin (Capt.)

9. R. Williams

Forwards

1. P. Jones

2. K. Dunn

3. R. Pascall

4. C. Guest

5. J. Etheridge

6. R. Fowke

7. I. Smith

† 8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS

L. Gardner

G. Mann

COVENTRY

(Blue & White)

Full Back

15. M. Fairn (Capt.)

Three Quarters

14. E. Sanders

13. J. Minchull

12. K. James

11. C. Wynter

Half Backs

10. C. Millichip

9. A. Savage

Forwards

1. T. Revan

2. C. Davis

3. S. Wilkes

4. T. Gulliver

5. B. Kidner

6. P. Thomas

7. P. Suckling

8. R. Travers

REPLACEMENTS

Referee: GUS THOMPSON (London Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

Coming Second Three Times

Serves us right, really. On December 15th, 1984, Coventry came here with a full side and were more than a little miffed to have to go home in some pain following a 58-12 defeat. Since then, Gloucester has lost every single encounter between our great Clubs. And that includes achieving a most disrespectful 'double' over us while we were in the process of winning the John Smith's Merit Table 'A', Coventry themselves languishing in the Lower Regions at that time.

The manner of 'Cov's' recovery was both typical and instructive. After that heavy defeat, they went back to both Coundon Road, and the basics, completely gutting their side for the following week, and never looking back afterwards.

This is more or less what we might have expected from a fine old Club, as highly respected at Kingsholm as any side which has ever come here. It's difficult to imagine a season without Coventry. Even to contemplate such a thing would be like imagining a cricket season without Yorkshire v. Lancashire — heresy of the first water.

The names spring lightly off the tongue. Jackson and Duckham, who seemed ever-present on the England wing in their respective eras, Gittings who won one Cap and should have had more, Cole who never got one at all; one of the prime injustices of the post-war game. Robbins G. L. and Robbins P. G. D. — it would be possible to go on like this for ages.

It always seems appropriate to me that we play Coventry around Christmas — the time when old friends traditionally meet. And that's true, even if the Goodwill demonstrated on the field is likely to be of a slightly eccentric variety.

Happy Chrissers, Cov!

Greetings to Hartland Motors

Special Christmas thanks, today, to Hartland Motors who are, once again, sponsoring an important game at Kingsholm. You won't need reminding about Hartland — their name is locally synonymous with 'Renault'.

1986 has been quite a year for the St. Oswald's Road distributors. First, there was the launch of the acclaimed Renault 21 range, and if you own a telly you can't possibly have missed the commercials for those.

Then came additions to the Renault commercial range; the Extra and the handy Renault 5 van. The Traffic and Master ranges saw substantial improvements too.

All things considered, Renault can now claim to have the youngest range of vehicles available in Britain — and locally, that means Hartland Motors.

To cap the year, Hartland have recently won a major dealership Award. Known as the Gold Award it marks their status as the best Renault dealership in the South West, in terms of outstanding service to the customer.

Their services to Gloucester rugby aren't bad, either, a fact for which we are sincerely grateful. Hope 1987 is at least as successful for you, folks.

Toulouse? We Toulost It!

You'll have read that Gloucester will now not be playing French Champions, Toulouse on January 31st. It doesn't really do much good to hold post mortems, but it is worth pointing out that the sudden loss of the game, after so much difficulty in arranging a date in the first place, is no fault of either Gloucester or Toulouse. The blame — if that's the right word — sits squarely on the shoulders of the French Rugby Football Union, who are insisting that Toulouse fulfill another fixture on that date.

Sure — they offered us a replacement game against another French club. But that wasn't the point. The idea was for the French League Champions to play the English John Smith's Merit Table Champions. Anything less would not justify our asking Bridgend to relinquish their planned Kingsholm fixture.

While on the subject, Terry Tandy asks me to thank publicly the Bridgend Club, who quite frankly, have been messed about over this matter. First of all, they readily agreed to step aside on January 31st, then they arranged another match for that date, and now have reverted to the original plan. We couldn't really have blamed them if they had decided to stick with their rearranged fixture list.

There are times when you find out who your friends are!

A Reminder . . .

. . . if any were needed, which I doubt, of the Kingsholm Holiday fare. Lydney on Boxing Day, Newport the day after, Moseley, away, on New Year's Day, and London Scottish on January 3rd. The latter two being John Smith's games. And boy — do we need 'em, after Leicester's celebrated miss move, a couple of weeks ago.

. . . And Don't Forget West Hartlepool

£12 can see you on the train to West Hartlepool for the John Player on January 24th. Not a bad deal, all things considered. I'm afraid I still don't have details about timings, and Christmas printing schedules being what they are, you'll have to wait until the New Year before I can give them to you now. No doubt Terry Tandy will release them to the press if he gets them before that.

What I *do* know is that if British Rail can't fill a train, then the trip won't be going, so early booking at the British Rail Travel Centre would help quite a bit. Let's face it — you've lost out on Toulouse, so you might as well make it up with a swinging trip to West Hartlepool.

Money Mountain

On December 6th, for the Leicester match, I didn't have space to comment on the fact that we allowed the organisers of Severn Sound's 'Money Mountain' to make a collection at the ground. The Club Committee thought this a reasonable thing to do, bearing in mind that all the forty charities concerned were local, and that, being hospital based, many of them referred to an organisation to which many Gloucester players, over the years, owe heartfelt thanks.

In the event, 'Money Mountain' exceeded its target of £30,000 quite comfortably, and our collection contributed a creditable £255 to that.

Can't help thinking that if the collection had been made *after* the game, rather than before, then the sheer euphoria of the occasion would have yielded even better results!

Merry Christmas — But Watch It!

All the Players and Committeemen of various denominations want me to extend best wishes for a very merry Christmas indeed, with thanks for all the support you continue to give the Club. Nothing has happened this season to change to commonly-held opinion that we have the best crowd of supporters in English rugby.

Being a devout and practising worshipper of the Imperial Pint myself, I don't wish to blight your festivities in any way, but it is worth reminding you that our Friendly Neighbourhood Fuzz have had instructions from On High to crack down on drink-drivers this Christmas, and people emerging from the Kingsholm Clubhouse must be an obvious target.

Indulge yourself in a seasonal libation by all means, but it might not be a bad idea to make other arrangements to get home afterwards.

Hope I don't sound as if I'm preaching, and it doesn't really come well from a supporter who doesn't drive at all, but I'd hate to see you nicked at this time of the year.

Have a good time, anyway.

Christmas Tailpiece

The Arnold Christmas gift list this year includes:

Black armbands for two distinguished members of Gloucester City Council, Cllr. Archie Hartshorne who preferred to support Coney Hill against Matson to supporting Gloucester against Leicester, and Cllr. Mike Pullon who is, quite simply, a Leicester supporter and hasn't been seen since.

A rocking chair and shawl for Mervyn Ellway to rest his poor old bones now that he's retired from work.

Sympathy cards for the entire Bath XV, for obvious reasons.

One very large pint for John Gadd, who should have been the first name the South and South West Selectors thought of in the first place.

A soft cushion to warm Kevin Dunn's bum as he sits on the Divisional side's benches.

Roller skates for Graham Spring, for the next time he has to nip up and down from his seat to the microphone as often as he had to during the Leicester game.

And the heartiest of Christmas greetings to absolutely everyone from your Humble and Devoted Scribe. . . .

. . . . PETER ARNOLD

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