



GLOUCESTER

V.

NEWPORT

SATURDAY

27th DECEMBER, 1986

Kick-off 3 p.m.

Sponsored by

BJB

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**MATCH SPONSOR
FOR TODAY**

BJB CONSULTANTS

50 London Road, Stroud, Glos.

GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

Full Back

15. N. Marment

Three Quarters

14. J. Breeze

13. R. McLean

12. R. Morgan

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. J. Gadd

7. I. Smith

† 8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS

B. Fenley

G. Mann

NEWPORT

(Black & Amber)

Full Back

15. P. Rees

Three Quarters

14. M. Batten

13. C. Manley

12. J. Callard/J. Howells

11. J. White/F. McWilliams

Half Backs

10. P. Turner

9. N. Callard

Forwards

1. J. Rawlins

† 2. M. Watkins

3. A. Williams

4. J. Widdicombe/R. Young

† 5. D. Walters

6. G. George

7. R. Powell

8. W. Rendall

REPLACEMENTS

Referee: G. DAVIES (Liverpool Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

'Hook' or 'Hooker'?

On December 27th, 1904, 'Peter Pan' opened for the first time at London's Duke of York Theatre. Which isn't really very relevant to today's festivities, unless you count the fact that today's visitors include, among their more famous players, Mike Watkins who is just about the best-known 'Captain Hooker' in the business.

Not that Gloucester—Newport games are ever any sort of Never-never Land; it's all too forthright and down-to-earth for that.

There isn't any doubt that our long-standing fixtures against the Black-and-Ambers provide some of the toughest challenges the lads get. But there rarely seems to be that much between the two clubs in the final analysis. Certainly, they gave us a 34-21 beating at Newport last October, but results since 1983 read (Gloucester scores first), 3-7, and 10-12 with the rest being lost to the weather.

I suppose that if a Welsh club can ever be said to be 'neighbours' of an English club, then Gloucester and Newport must be the leading example of that. Accordingly, although any game against a leading Welsh side must be a daunting proposition, perhaps Newport has a special place in our local mythology—one which goes back to epic battles against the 'Invincible' sides of the 1920's and 30's.

Of course, the Christmas season does produce some diluted sides — after all, even rugby players have families, contrary to some remarks one has heard made on the terraces — but we have no reason at all to doubt that today's game will be anything other than the usual high-standard affair.

Just one word to the Welsh Selectors. The old cricket proverb about 'no England team being any good without a Yorkshireman in it', could well be modified to refer to Wales sides without Newport men.

That's not our business, however. All we have to do is bid Newport a sincere welcome, and make sure they have a cracking good day at Kingsholm.

Thanks BJB.

To strain the 'Peter Pan' analogy just a little further, that work was, of course, written by J. M. Barrie, and we have another Barrie — Beatty of that ilk — to thank for generous sponsorship of today's game.

There's no use ringing Barrie Beatty of BJB Consultants on Stroud 303116 — that's his Registered Insurance Broker's number. If you want good, informed advice on pensions, investment plans or the like, ring him on Stroud 70799.

Barrie tells me that his Clients have done very well by taking his advice over the past couple of years, and if you decide it's time you gave a thought to where your season ticket and beer money's coming from in your declining years, then you could do a lot worse than contact BJB Consultants.

Of course, you'll probably find yourself talking quite as much rugby as investment. Not only is Barrie a long-standing Kingsholm Patron, but he's also a Member of the Newport Club — probably just about the only valued sponsor of a match who has a foot in both camps, so to speak.

In fact, if Barrie had a third foot, he'd probably plant it firmly at Cardiff Arms Park, where he is a Debenture Holder.

I always think that if you're going to trust anyone with handling your money, then you need to know a bit about him first. And you must admit that Barrie Beattie's qualifications are impeccable, for anyone with a feeling for the oval ball game.

Thanks Barrie, for your past, present, and I have no doubt at all, future support. We all hope that the three dozen people you've brought along today have just as good a time as you intend to.

Well Done Mike and John!

At the time of writing, the final Divisional matches haven't been played, so my information isn't as good as yours will be by the time you read this, but we really ought to send our congratulations to John Gadd and Mike Hamlin for their performances against London at Bath.

All right — so we all have our misgivings about the Divisional Championship, the way the sides are selected, and indeed the need for the competition's existence at all. Nevertheless, it's good to see two Gloucester stalwarts distinguishing themselves in good company. And I'm told that that is just what John and Mike did, in their respective roles.

Not that we're surprised by that. Is it a coincidence, I wonder, that the Division starts winning matches just when circumstances force the inclusion of the two Gloucester lads?

Incidentally, I have no quarrel with Mike Teague's decision to opt out at all, but the way things have turned out—it's a pity!

Into The New Year

Next Thursday, New Year's Day, Gloucester travel to Moseley for a vital John Smith's Merit Table 'A' game. Let's think about it for a moment.

Apart from that, we have London Scottish at home on Saturday next. Then there's an extremely difficult trip to Wasps on the 17th. We then have to travel to Nottingham in February — also no doddle — and have Orrell at home in March. Presumably, the away game with Leicester on January 10th will now become a Merit Table game, too, but I gather there may be some doubt about that.

If we are to make sure of a place in the top division of the forthcoming leagues, then we simply have to start winning Merit Table matches away from home — and the first chance we have to do that is next Thursday, at Moseley.

No one is more aware of all this than Malcolm Preedy and the lads. But they can certainly use all the support they can get. Which means you.

And can you think of a better way to clear a New Year's Eve hangover than cheering on Gloucester at Moseley — always an attractive trip, anyway?

Let the Train Take the Strain

The above seems to take care of most forthcoming fixtures, I must remind you, however, that British Rail are running a train to West Hartlepool on January 24th, for the John Player Special Cup match — cost £12.00.

Full details of timings etc. from the Travel Centre at the railway station, and British Rail ask us all to book early. Indeed, if they can't fill the train, it will be cancelled, so don't think you can just turn up on the day and ask for a ticket.

See you aboard!

Coach to Leicester

While on the subject of forthcoming matches, if you weren't here yesterday, you probably won't know that Andy Mitchell has arranged to run one of his far-famed coaches to Leicester on January 10th. Neither will you be aware that it will only cost £3.00, so it won't be too much of a strain if your budget has been fractured by seasonal expense.

The coach departs from Kingsholm at 10.15, and what happens after that will probably be determined by the opinions of the hardy souls undertaking the safari. But if you're interested, better get your skates on, because Andy's coaches invariably fill up pretty quickly.

United

But let's not forget 'Reed's Raiders', otherwise known as Gloucester United.

You won't need telling that they saw off Bath a couple of weeks ago, and are playing very good rugby indeed. During January, they have some attractive fixtures at Kingsholm, and I can recommend them to your attention.

On the 10th, they entertain Leicester, which should be good, and will be looking forward to Cleve's visit the week after. Following that, Newport High School Old Boys — always a good side — are here on John Player Cup Day, so if you can't make the trek North, then there's no need to do without your weekly rugby 'fix'.

Tailpiece

"Hallo Father Christmas!"

"Hallo, little boy. And what would you like me to bring you, this year?"

"I'll have two tickets for the England and Wales game please!"

I don't know if the above conversation actually took place, but it could well have done. My espionage system tells me that one firm's Christmas party this year featured a rotund Father Christmas who, when bereft of robe, whiskers and padding, revealed himself as none other than our revered Membership Secretary, David Foyle.

And some reverend gentleman had the nerve to say that 'Santa' doesn't exist.

See the New Year in well, everyone.

PETER ARNOLD.

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