

**JOHN SMITH'S  
MERIT TABLES**

# GLOUCESTER V. LONDON SCOTTISH

SATURDAY  
3rd JANUARY, 1987  
Kick-off 3 p.m.

Sponsored by

# Stoate & Bishop



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#### 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

#### LONDON SCOTTISH

(Dark Blue)

Full Back

15. S. Irvine

Three Quarters

14. T. Patterson-Brown

13. D. Bruce-Lockhart

12. L. Renwick

11. B. Watt

Half Backs

10. N. Chesworth

9. A. Cushing

Forwards

1. G. Graham

2. I. Kirk

3. J. Reid

† 4. J. Campbell-Lamerton

5. I. Campbell-Lamerton

6. I. Morrison

7. R. Wainwright

8. J. Maklin

REPLACEMENTS

T. Crockett

N. Weir

Referee:

† International

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



# Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

### Scotch Missed

Certainly, we *have* missed London Scottish at Kingsholm for a while now. Two years ago, the weather got a bit too seasonal and the game was called off, which means that we haven't seen our Caledonian friends for four years. Which just makes them more welcome today.

The last time our two clubs met was that controversial John Player when we lost 12-8, but that's all water under the bridge, and we won't dwell on it now. In the 'real' fixture, at this time last year, we registered one of our more emphatic wins in the series, by 37 points to 13, but a margin of that size between the two sides is unusual. In fact, I remember a game — it might have been in '81, but I'm open to correction — which was one of the best I've seen, yet resulted in the very rare animal, a pointless draw.

There isn't any doubt that, for the last couple of seasons, London Scottish have been the most successful of the London 'Exiles'. This isn't for the first time, and may have something to do with the coaching of that regular thorn in our side, Alistair McHarg — still the club's most capped player with 44 Scotland appearances. Remember him turning up late to a representative game after flying in to Staverton?

It always surprises me that London Scottish can provide such creditable rugby in this match so soon after Hogmanay. It just shows what a diet of porridge, Scotch and Arbroath smokies can do for you.

One thing about it — our visitors are well in training for the after-match conviviality, and we hope they enjoy the whole visit to the limits of their considerable capacities.

Welcome, Scottish — and *lang may ye're lum reek!*

### Thanks to Stoate and Bishop

It's particularly pleasing for me to provide the usual word of thanks to today's generous Sponsors, because without them, I could well be out of a job. Stoate and Bishop are, of course, the company who print the Gloucester Rugby Club programme — which is now regarded as one of the better examples of that curious species of literature in the country.

And it ain't easy. Nice, regular, bread-and-butter work it may be, but the vagaries of the season mean that selection meetings can't always be held at the most convenient times for printing purposes — and even when they are, team changes can happen. Under these circumstances, it isn't possible to schedule the work as part of a system which can cause hassle all round.

But then, Stoate and Bishop have a lot of experience and expertise. Everyone who comes to Kingsholm will know the firm's premises on the corner of St. Catherine's Street, just a long drop goal from the ground. You may not realise, however, that it is just one of three plants which the company has — the others are in St. James's Square and Suffolk Road, both in Cheltenham.

This gives them a comprehensive spread of facilities and equipment. While we all know them for fairly basic jobs, such as the one you are reading now, they can — and do — handle just about everything, from a 'cheap-and-cheerful', one-colour handbill to a glossy, prestige brochure in umpteen colours.

I am asked, today, to comment on the fact that my old friend Charlie Stoate has now retired after 15 years with the company. Everyone in the local printing scene knows Charlie, and will wish to extend good wishes for a long and satisfying retirement.

One last thing, Stoate and Bishop are particularly pleased to be supporting the London Scottish game, Mrs. Stoate, who is also well known around the trade, is, of course, a braw Scot.

So thanks again, Stoate and Bishop — and not just for today, but for all the understanding you give the club throughout the season.

### Away to Leicester Next Week

Never mind the demeritising (horrible word!) controversy. Matches between Gloucester and Leicester are always worth seeing. And that will be particularly true next week, because you can bet your best Christmas present that the 'Tigers' will be playing their stripes off to settle matters after their 41-6 defeat at Kingsholm. After all, can anyone remember when anyone put 40 points on Leicester last? And the fact that they had fractionally more reserves in their side than we did, won't cut much ice with them.

No doubt, many people will be tempted to make the trip and see what happens. Some 50 or so — a coach load — will have the situation resolved for them, thanks to Amiable Andy Mitchell who beavered around just before Christmas and arranged a suitable vehicle.

This is the third time I've advertised the fact, so knowing the speed with which Andy's coaches are usually filled, all seats may be gone already, especially as the price is a highly attractive £3.00. So if you'd like to go, and don't mind getting up on a Saturday morning in time to make a 10.15 deadline at Kingsholm, then I'd beat Andy into submission today, if I were you.

#### **. . . And Talking of Trips**

There's only one sensible way you're going to get to West Hartlepool for the John Player on January 24th. And that's by train.

Happily, our good friends from British Rail are proposing to run a 'special', so the whole thing may not be a problem. The cost is only £12 return, which seems like good value to me. Full details and timings are available from the Travel Centre at the station. There will be a deadline, by which time, if the train isn't likely to prove economic, it won't run. So don't be tempted to turn up on the day and buy tickets when you arrive.

Incidentally, Terry Tandy tells me that, although facilities at West Hartlepool are excellent, understandably, grandstand tickets will be hard to come by. This is offset by the fact that there is bags of covered accommodation, running the length of one side of the ground, so if it rains, you have a good chance of avoiding pneumonia.

I wonder if this could be our Cup year? We have, after all beaten two of the leading contenders in Bath and Leicester. If it does turn out that way, and you weren't at West Hartlepool, you'll regret it for years. So hadn't you better do something about it?

#### **But That's Not All**

One of the other leading contenders for John Player Cup honours must, of course, be Wasps. They're not out of the John Smith's race yet, either.

You can measure our chances by going along and supporting the lads at Sudbury on January 17th — and that is a Merit Table game, unlikely at the moment to be demeritised, although you never know these days, apparently.

After that, we have the John Player trip on January 24th, and then the visit from Bridgend on January 31st. This, of course, replaces the game against Toulouse, the French Champions, which had to be cancelled through no fault of ours, or the Frenchmen.

It would be nice to give Bridgend a lot of support. We do owe them that much after the off-again, on-again hassle which they've had to endure from us. And anyone who saw Neath v. Bridgend on the 'box' will probably want to see them again in the flesh, as it were.

Don't forget, also, that we have some attractive United fixtures coming up, Leicester, Cleve and Newport High School Old Boys, in that order.

So there's a lot to look forward to.

#### **Anglo Scots Whae Hae!**

This seems an appropriate occasion to congratulate Ruari McLean and Pete Jones on their selection for the Anglo Scots squad in the Scottish Divisional Championship. Ruari went further, played in the trial game, and was selected for the first match — which didn't go well for the Anglo Scots.

I can understand Ruari's selection, with a name like that. But have you ever heard a more aggressively English name than 'Peter Jones'?

Somehow, I can't see 'Joner' in a kilt and sporran!

#### **Tailpiece**

Did you notice that the Chairman of England Selectors has been defending the Divisional Championship on the grounds that the matches are "more competitive than most Club games"?

Perhaps the Gloucester Club should send him a complimentary season ticket, next season, with Gloucester—Bristol, Gloucester—Bath, Gloucester—Leicester, and a few others outlined in red.

Finally, a thoroughly colourful, cheerful, convivial, money-making and interesting New Year to everyone.

My New Year resolution. I *must* stop being rude about Selectors.

PETER ARNOLD.

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