



**GLOUCESTER  
V.  
BRIDGEND**

**SATURDAY  
31st JANUARY, 1987  
Kick-off 3 p.m.**

Sponsored by

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Haskins + Sells**



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**MATCH SPONSOR  
FOR TODAY**

**Deloitte  
Haskins+Sells**

**GLOUCESTER**  
(Cherry & White)

Full Back

15. N. Marment

Three Quarters

14. J. Breeze

13. R. Mogg

12. P. Taylor

11. N. Price

Half Backs

10. M. Hamlin

9. R. Williams

Forwards

† 1. M. Preedy (Capt.)

2. K. Dunn

3. R. Pascall

4. C. Guest

5. J. Etheridge

6. J. Gadd

7. P. Ashmead

† 8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS

P. Kingston †

G. Mann

**BRIDGEND**  
(Blue & White)

Full Back

15. C. Bradshaw

Three Quarters

14. J. Lynn

13. J. Apsee

12. S. Grabham

11. P. Darke

Half Backs

10. A. Williams

9. M. Griffiths

Forwards

1. M. Griffiths

2. W. Hall

3. P. Edwards

4. A. Owen (Capt.)

5. J. Jenkins

6. J. Morgan

7. M. Budd

8. G. Williams

REPLACEMENTS

Referee: P. FITZGIBBON (London Society)

† International

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



**Richard Cound**

BMW in Gloucestershire

### **Vote of Thanks**

The first thing I must do, this time, is offer sincere apologies and thanks to today's distinguished visitors — apologies because we've mucked them about, and thanks because of the way in which they have accepted the situation and co-operated with us.

To remind everyone, after a great deal of hassle, we were able to arrange our match against French Champions, Toulouse, for today. This was great, as far as we were concerned, but not so good for Bridgend, who were down to play us originally. As you'll remember, the French RFU then got stropky, and insisted that Toulouse fulfill a Championship fixture today, so the whole thing fell through.

Meanwhile, Bridgend had sent us best wishes for the match, and arranged a fill-in fixture for themselves, understandably enough. Nevertheless, when they heard that our Gallic bonanza had been snatched away from us, they readily agreed to come as originally intended. Quite frankly, I would not have blamed them if they had told us to get, as they say, stuffed. The attitude of the Bridgend Club contrasts sharply with that of certain other sides who seem only too ready to 'de-meritise' games at the drop of a prop forward.

So, not only do we owe Bridgend our thanks, but they deserve a good game from us too. Especially at the moment, when they are engaged in a demanding Welsh Cup campaign, and could do with a good, hard game to keep the momentum going.

We've had some good games against Bridgend too. The last time they were here, two seasons ago, we won an excellent game by 13 points to 3. Last season, at Bridgend, we lost a close one, 7-10. So the record doesn't give much advantage to anyone.

So it's a warm welcome to the Welsh lads. We should also congratulate them on beating Ebbw Vale in the last round of the Welsh Cup, and send all our best wishes for their tricky next-round engagement against Newbridge — nobody's pushovers, as we have reason to know.

Have a great time chaps!

### **Thanks to Deloitte, Haskins and Sells**

Anyone who ever attends AGM's of any organisation will know that, right at the end of the proceedings, there is usually a formal resolution to appoint an Auditor, and a perfunctory vote of thanks to the individual who has been lumbered with the job for another twelve months. It's not quite the same with a Club like Gloucester RFC.

In fact, it isn't possible to operate without an Auditor, and any old retired bank clerk won't do. A great deal of money is involved, there are legal requirements, and the whole process is highly complicated. So the Company which gets the job has to be very good at their job.

In our case, not only do our respected Auditors do a great job for us, but they sponsor a match as well, so we have a double reason for thanking them today.

Roy White, of Deloitte Haskins and Sells couldn't really think of anything startlingly original to say about his Company. Personally, we think he's being a bit modest. They are certainly one of the most highly-regarded Accountancy organisations around, and the fact that they have offices in both Gloucester and Cheltenham means that they're easy to get at, wherever you live. In fact, if you find yourself in need of an Accountant, the fact that they operate on behalf of Gloucester RFC may recommend itself to you.

Thanks, gents, for your support, and efforts on our behalf. Hope you, and your 50 guests, have a splendid and convivial afternoon.

### **Sid's on the Ball**

We have another, even larger, organisation to thank today. In fact, I suppose, anyone who has bought any British Gas shares can, as shareholders, regard themselves as Sponsors today. Our friendly, neighbourhood, privatised heating and cooking specialists have generously donated the ball for today's game.

We're very grateful, of course, but their kind gesture pales into insignificance against their sponsorship of the England v. Wales game at Cardiff on March 7th. That famous and eagerly-awaited fixture is now known as the 'Gas Challenge'.

I wonder if the British Gas involvement in Rugby Union gives a clue to the Riddle of the Age? Could the surname of the elusive 'Sid' be Smart or Dangerfield?

### **Welcome Nigel!**

I suspect that most of us are still down the pub when Nigel Starmer Smith and his team present their 'Rugby Special' programme on BBC 2 this season — not that it's in any way his fault. It's nice, therefore, to welcome the BBC crowd to Kingsholm, while wondering what we've done to feature in two 'Rugby Specials' in just a few weeks. Hope the weather's better than it was at Leicester.

Nigel is, of course, especially welcome, because of his local connections. He is, after all, about the best-known Old Boy of Barnwood Church of England School, (Archie Hartshorne please note), and, I believe, once guested for Cheltenham. Nigel — the way they're going this season, perhaps you'd better get your boots out again.

### **West Hartlepool**

I feel that it's only right to thank and congratulate the West Hartlepool Club for the way they staged and organised our John Player match last Saturday. All of us who went up were impressed by their ground and by their facilities, and by the welcome we received. Everything went like clockwork, the only hiccup coming when the bar ran out of glasses after the match. Even this was largely because they insisted on supplying fresh glasses with every drink, and it did provide the unique spectacle of a couple of hundred hard-bitten Gloucester Rugby fans drinking out of **half pint sleeveers!** Usually, one in each hand.

### **And For Our Next Trick . . .**

The Captain of Old Reigatians RFC is quoted as saying, after the cup draw, "Gloucester must think they have a bye into the next round." We have news for you Sir.

We've been at this Cup lark too long to take any side lightly. Any team which can get this far in the most competitive campaign in English Rugby — and I include the Divisional Championship — must have something going for them, and aren't to be regarded as easy meat. That's the only safe attitude to take, because anything can happen on the day, and there is always the matter of injury and unavailability to take into account. The fact that February 14th is St. Valentine's Day won't guarantee any sweetness and light.

You'll want to know about tickets, however. Terry Tandy tells me that they will be available, hopefully, after today's game from David Foyle at the Caravan at the rear of the main Stand.

Centre Stand tickets (numbered and reserved), available, for the moment, at the rate of one each to Centre Stand Season Ticket holders only, will cost £2.50, and Wing Stand tickets (not numbered or reserved) will be £2.00. There won't be any Ground tickets, so if you prefer watching your Rugby from the vertical position, better get along a bit early to avoid a scrum at the turnstiles.

Just to remind you, the rules of the Competition force us to charge everyone, and that includes car-park tickets, so don't complain about that. It ain't the Club's fault.

### **February Fixtures**

The Cup game apart, we have a blank February as far as First XV fixtures are concerned, but don't forget that we're away to Bristol on Friday February 6th, and the lads could do with your support.

All is not lost, however. The United are at home to Bristol next Saturday, and provide a more-than-adequate substitute for a box-bound International. They also play Moseley and Rosslyn Park at Kingsholm on the 21st and 28th, respectively, so there's no lack of good Rugby during the shortest month.

### **Tailpiece**

A quote from the West Hartlepool programme, referring to the John Smith's Merit Table 'A':

"Is this really a valid Table this year? Harlequins, one game by the end of January? Next season, when each side has to play ten games, there may be more worthy champions, just as Gloucester were, with eight wins out of nine."

Couldn't have said it better myself. And they didn't mention the word 'de-meritise' once!

PETER ARNOLD.

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