

JOHN PLAYER SPECIAL CUP
FOURTH ROUND

GLOUCESTER V. OLD REIGATIANS

SATURDAY
14th FEBRUARY, 1987
Kick-off 3 p.m.

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Kingsholm

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GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

Full Back

15. T. Smith

Three Quarters

14. J. Breeze

13. P. Taylor

12. R. McLean

11. R. Mogg

Half Backs

10. M. Hamlin

9. R. Williams

Forwards

† 1. M. Preedy (Capt.)

2. K. Dunn

3. R. Pascall

4. J. Brain

5. J. Etheridge

6. J. Gadd

7. P. Ashmead

8. J. Bennett

REPLACEMENTS

M. Hannaford

K. White

OLD REIGATIANS'

(Green & Blue)

Full Back

15. A. Whiteley

Three Quarters

14. S. Lent

13. P. Dwyer

12. J. Bramhall

11. S. Pilgrim

Half Backs

10. N. Brown

9. G. Read

Forwards

1. S. Kennedy

2. D. Payton (Capt.)

3. J. Payton

4. A. Eustance

5. D. Ewings

6. T. MacIver

7. N. Jones

8. J. Manfield

REPLACEMENTS

M. Elsey

G. Morgan

Referee: D. J. HUDSON (Man. Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

Apologies to Old Shootershillians

Old Shootershillians? They're the team that our very welcome guests, **should** have been playing today, and with Old Reigatians record, over the past couple of seasons, we're sorry to have done them out of one of their prime fixtures.

We, of course, were originally down to visit Aberavon, and one of the good things about the Cup draw is that we now have a home fixture to enliven what would have been a barren February, as far as first XV Rugby is concerned.

As all the world knows, by now, Old Reigatians saw off Exeter and Saracens to get this far. Exeter are having a bad trot, but as we know from last season, the 'Sarries' are no mugs when it comes to Cup Rugby. So it wouldn't do to dismiss today's encounter as a tasty little snack before we get down to the meat and potatoes.

I'm sure the lads are under no illusions about that, and in one way it's a pity that Nick Marment isn't in the side. He, of course, came to us from Saracens, and would certainly have been looking to retrieve some honour for his previous Club.

It's a good thing all round that an Old Boys team such as today's visitors can get this far along the road. Similar clubs, all over England, must be thinking that if Reigatians can do it — so can they. And I would think that such ideas must be swanning around such local notables as Matson, Coney Hill and Gloucester Old Boys. Added spice is given to that speculation by the fact that next year's leagues do (it says here) offer similar opportunities to clubs outside the Cup competition.

And let's face it, if any side could do with a few new ideas and new faces — it's England (Begorrah!).

So it's a very warm welcome to Old Reigatians. Whatever the result, the experience of a major match at Kingsholm must be one they relish, and will remember. I'm told that they're bringing a small army of supporters, and that, in itself, says a great deal for a team from a part of the world which isn't famous for such support.

We hope everyone has a thoroughly memorable day. And if they can repeat the dose next season — then good luck to them!

Thanks to John Player

Again, everyone will want to express thanks to the John Player organisation for their continued support of the Competition which has grabbed the imagination more firmly than any in the Game. No doubt they consider they get value for their money — and there's nothing wrong with that — but, nevertheless, their generosity does add a whole dimension to the English season; one which no club values more than Gloucester.

It's enough to make you change your brand of fags!

. . . . And to Honeywell

Today is also the day that Honeywell is providing us with valuable support — by no means for the first time. They offered to back us at a home Cup match, well before anyone knew if there would be one, or who the opposition was to be. Not that the outcome of the draw disappoints Honeywell in the slightest. They have a Reigate office.

It always adds a fair bit of prestige to be able to say that one of the world's largest computer and information technology organisations regularly supports Gloucester RFC. We're grateful for it, and hope they continue to do so.

Nothing stands still, however, and things have been moving on the Honeywell front. They have now entered into a new association with Groupe Bull of France. Although there has been informal co-operation for 20 years or so, the whole thing is now official, and with other similar developments taking place, they can now claim to be the first truly world-wide company in their field.

Closer to home; Honeywell have recently installed a large and sophisticated management system at the Gloucester-based Ecclesiastical Insurance Company, which with their continued involvement with local government, ensures a very healthy Honeywell involvement in this part of the world.

Traffic isn't all one way, however. Our old friend and Patron Alun Pritchard is now working from London. But don't worry — he's not about to start supporting London Welsh, still commutes at weekends, and doesn't miss many Kingsholm games.

So we all wish Alun, all his colleagues and their guests the very best, and hope they have a splendid day at Kingsholm.

Welcome to His Worship

It's always nice to see the Mayor at Kingsholm, and indeed, we have a long tradition of welcoming our First Citizen to the venerable ground. Not so often, however, do we have the pleasure of seeing the Mayoress, so it's very good to welcome Mrs. Ayland today.

There is a reason for it. She tells me that she spent her childhood living in St. Mark's Street, and has spent many a happy hour retrieving rugby balls from her back garden. Perhaps she'd like to join the ball boys when her term of office is over.

Councillor Tony Ayland is probably better known for his devotion to the hard ball game, but as an Old Cryptian, he's no ignoramus about Rugby either.

Welcome Sir and Ma'am. Do come again.

All That Hot Air

The fact that I have to talk about hot air on the day when the Mayor and several Councillors are in attendance is, I assure you, pure coincidence. In fact, Terry Tandy asks me to tell you about the hot air blowers which so dramatically allowed the Bridgend game to be played, against all the odds.

Nothing comes free, and the cost of hiring the blowers to thaw the pitch was £552.26. Which ain't peanuts. Still — they worked.

All The Winners

One of the problems about the string of away matches we've had is that I haven't had a chance to report on the various lucky souls who have won a few quid on the 300 Club Draws. Unfortunately, I don't have space to list them all, but the £25 prizes for December and January were won by Messrs. H. Jones and A. J. Mills, respectively. A couple of names do stand out among the £10 winners, however, I expect Jim Coughlan took his in punts — and is now quite insufferable about the Dublin result — while Brian Brain's tenner might just inspire anyone who's been angling for a free pint over the bar of the 'York House' into thinking that this might be the time, I wouldn't count on it though.

And, talking of winners, John Beaman tells me that he still has a couple of prizes from the Christmas Draw unclaimed. It might be worth enquiring, because if the owners don't turn up soon, he'll drink them himself.

Back to Saturday

Anyone who was thinking of going up to Nottingham next Friday — don't bother. It's been called off. Our home fixture against Orrell on March 20th will now be played on Saturday March 21st. The Northampton fixture, however, remains as a Friday evening game on March 6th.

United's Year?

The chance of United going through the season undefeated now looks a very real one. But if they are to do it, they could do with your support. The next chance you'll have to see them in action at Kingsholm arises on next Saturday, as ever was, the opposition being Moseley. Let's face it — it would probably be more fun than watching England on the 'box'.

Lucky Programmes

Haven't had many of these to announce lately. However, Mr. A. Griffiths of 88 Whaddon Road, Cheltenham found that the number 98 on his programme for the Bridgend game earned him a crinkly fiver. Thanks to Tyre Sales for their continued generosity.

Tailpiece

There are all sorts of unkind jokes about Irish arithmetic. The latest comes from a Dublin newspaper's report on the England—Ireland game:—

"England scored NIL — and were lucky to get that."

Thanks to Cliff Harris for the information.

PETER ARNOLD.