



**GLOUCESTER
V.
NORTHAMPTON**

**FRIDAY
6th MARCH, 1987
Kick-off 7 p.m.**

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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

**PRESIDENT:
CANON H. M. HUGHES B.A.**

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

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Official Programme
Draw will receive
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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. M. Hannaford

Forwards

† 1. M. Preedy (Capt.)

2. K. Dunn

3. R. Pascall

4. N. Scrivens

5. J. Brain

6. J. Gadd

7. P. Ashmead

8. B. Fowke

REPLACEMENTS

R. Williams

G. Mann

NORTHAMPTON

Full Back

15. R. Hinton

Three Quarters

14. F. Packman

13. D. Woodrow

12. M. Greenhalgh

11. J. Cubitt

Half Backs

10. A. Mynard

9. D. Elkington

Forwards

1. R. Cox

2. D. Frankland

3. N. Fox

4. S. Heaver

5. V. Cannon

6. P. Alston

7. P. Pask

8. G. Poole (Capt.)

REPLACEMENTS

P. Larkin

D. Newman

Referee: G. JAMES (Leicester Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

Back to Normal

The tumult and the shouting has died, as far as Gloucester's involvement in the Cup is concerned, and we only have one game to come in the John Smith's Merit Table. And I, for one, can't restrain a small sigh of relief. Enthralling as the 'big' matches are, it's nice to get back to a plain, straightforward, game of Rugby against old and respected opponents, with nothing more on the result than pride and satisfaction.

Northampton can certainly justify the above description. Although the days of the Butterfields and Jacobs's may be long gone, the lads from Franklins Gardens certainly constitute one of England's great clubs, and no doubt the wheel will one day turn full circle, and their day will come again.

Don't run away with the idea, however, that Northampton are no-hopers. For example, this is the first season that they have failed to qualify for the John Player, and it isn't so long ago that we found ourselves in the same unenviable situation. Last season they fielded a total of 55 players, in an effort to find a winning combination, and if nothing else, that figure shows that there are still a lot of players who are proud to turn out for Northampton. Surely, with resources of that kind, it can't be long before they cause a few bitten fingernails among today's so-called 'leading' clubs.

Last season's Gloucester v. Northampton match fell victim to some particularly gruesome weather, so we don't have any recent experience by which to judge the two sides. It's some time since tonight's visitors beat Gloucester, although three years ago, we only just managed to squeak an away match by 17 points to 14.

Nevertheless, it's nice to see the black, green and gold shirts back at Kingsholm, and it would be a sad day if the demands of an increasingly congested season ever prevented it happening.

Welcome lads. Let's just have a good game, and enjoy the beer afterwards.

Thanks Again, Telecom

Tonight, we once again have to thank British Telecom for sponsoring a Kingsholm fixture. I hope it isn't an omen that on the last occasion they supported us this way, we lost to Bristol in a very dull match. Perhaps this evening's frolics can redress the balance.

That last valuable BT sponsorship co-incided with the opening of our local 'System X' telephone exchange, and developments have proceeded apace since then.

Did you know, for example, that by paying a few pennies more, you can get your phone on a system which enables you to stop your teenage kids ringing mates in Australia (or Birmingham) in your absence, and without your knowledge? S'a fact. By dialling a secret code, you can stop any outgoing national or international calls, or if you're feeling really aggrieved, prevent any calls other than 999 emergency ones. These same digital and 'Star' services can be used to provide three-way calls, or to divert calls when you need that facility.

Quite a few commercial concerns have already taken advantage of this system. You can identify them by noting numbers starting with '3'.

If you want to know more about these systems, you could pop over to Cheltenham on Wednesday, April 15th, when All, as they say, Will Be Revealed at an Open Day at the Cheltenham Exchange in Vittoria Walk.

Finally, Roger Lindsey apologises on BT's behalf, to anyone here tonight who may have been in any way discombobberated by the recent engineers industrial action. Most of the backlog of maintenance work has now been cleared, and the installation programme should be back on the rails before very long.

Apology accepted, Roger. And we hope that you, your colleagues and guests, have an extremely enjoyable return to Kingsholm. Come again, next season!

Long Distance Fiver

Those Old Reigatians got everywhere. Not only did they crawl out of the woodwork in remarkable numbers, and give Gloucester a harder job than most pundits expected, but they also had the nerve to walk off with our Lucky Programme Fiver.

A Mr. Laycock was the problem. He bought programme no. 1784, which happened to be the one which came out of Terry Tandy's green bowler, and duly received a handy fiver, courtesy of Tyre Sales Ltd.

In fact, Mr. Laycock is living evidence of the diversity and enthusiasm of the Old Boys support. His address is Friary House, Bramham Road, Bigley, West Yorkshire.

But the way they were going after the match, I doubt whether the fiver got any farther than the Clubhouse.

Good For Orrell

Fair do's. They scored more points in the relatively short period in which they dominated the game than we did, when we had the opportunity. It would be nice, now, to see Orrell go the whole way. And they just could.

Home advantage on their sloping pitch certainly played a part in their last two Cup wins. Last season, Bath visited Orrell and only just scraped through on the away rule. And Orrell are stronger this year. Bath probably aren't. Which all adds up to a possible upset.

Of course, if Orrell do surmount that considerable hurdle, they then have to play the Final at Twickenham — which could be different. Wouldn't it be nice if it turned out to be Orrell v. Bristol!

On Our Own Patch

If anyone disagrees with my estimate of Orrell's home advantage, then the issue could well be settled, one way or the other, on Saturday (please note, **Saturday** March 21st), when we have the same opposition in our final John Smith's Merit Table match. I'm sure you won't want to miss that.

Before then, of course, the First XV are away to Richmond next Saturday, so it's high time we turned our attention to the feats of the United. It would be marvellous if they could go through the season undefeated, and the next tests are upon us.

Tomorrow, as ever was, United are away to Northampton, while next Wednesday evening, they travel to play Glamorgan Wanderers. Next Saturday's engagement, here at Kingsholm looks tougher than either, when the competition is provided by Nottingham. United deserve, and would appreciate, all the support they can get.

While on the subject of forthcoming games, please note that the First XV home game against the formidable Moseley outfit, who gave Bath such a fright last Saturday, has now been moved back to **Friday** April 3rd, the change having been prompted by the rearranged England v. Scotland match at Twickenham.

See you then.

Patron's Evening

Gloucester RFC's annual Patron's Evening is renowned as having everything except Cynthia Payne. This season's Bacchanalia has now been arranged for Thursday, April 9th.

But don't rush for your free ticket tonight. The date was only fixed a few nights ago, so tickets won't be available until next week's United game — which is just another incentive to come along and support our second string.

Tailpiece

Paul Harris must be around nine years old, and has been supporting Gloucester, complete with cherry-and-white shirt, for most of that time, following the traditions of his father and grandfather. So you might say he knows a bit about the game.

But he was one very cross young man last Saturday. He, and another fan of similar vintage, stationed themselves in the corner of the Orrell ground, within feet of where that disputed try was scored.

He buttonholed me after the game, quivering with rage. "That winger **never** touched that ball down" he thundered. "He wasn't anywhere near it. He cheated!"

Well, young Paul, I have a message for you from Nick Price, who wasn't so far away from the incident either.

"The Referee gave the try", says Nick. "And if the ref. says so, then it's a try."

And perhaps there's a lesson in that for all of us.

PETER ARNOLD.

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