



**JOHN SMITH'S  
MERIT TABLES**

**GLOUCESTER**

**V.**

**ORRELL**

**SATURDAY**

**21st MARCH, 1987**

**Kick-off 3 p.m.**

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#### GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

Full Back

15. N. Marment

Three Quarters

14. D. Morgan

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. I. Smith

† 8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS

L. Gardner

G. Mann

#### ORRELL

(Yellow & Black)

Full Back

15. S. Taverner

Three Quarters

14. P. Heath

† 13. J. Carleton

† 12. F. Clough

11. G. Ainscough

Half Backs

10. P. Williams

9. G. Williams

Forwards

1. K. Fletcher

2. N. Hitchen

3. J. Webster

4. R. Kimmins

† 5. D. Cusani

6. D. Cleary (Capt.)

7. P. Buckton

8. P. Moss

REPLACEMENTS

G. Glynn

D. Lundy

Referee: K. BRACKSTON (W.R.F.U.)

† International

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



# Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire



### **Here We Go Again!**

Sounds like the continuation of a soap opera doesn't it?

Was Orrell's home advantage crucial in the Cup?

Could Mike Teague have made all the difference?

Was the raving idiot who pulled the communication chord the same character who committed an unspeakable act behind the terracing?

I'm not expecting answers to all those questions today, but the more interesting ones may well be resolved by about 4.30.

Unlike Orrell, of course, we've lost interest in the John Player until next season, but in its own way, this afternoon's little social gathering is just as important as our meeting at Orrell's pleasant, sloping ground, because it happens to be the final game we have in the John Smith's Merit Table 'A'.

According to my 'Teletext', the present situation is as follows:

Gloucester, lying 5th, have won 3 out of 7 matches, giving us 42.85%. Orrell, in 7th place, have won 2 out of 5, giving them exactly 40.00%.

So there ain't much in it.

My shaky arithmetic has it that if Gloucester win, we will go up to 50%, and Orrell down to 33.33%, which is fine for us, but decidedly dicey for them, while if Orrell win, we'll descend to 37.50%, while the Northerners climb to 50%, which would be equally nail-biting for Gloucester. Where either result would leave the two teams in the Table depends on what other games are on today, and what their results are, but you get the general idea. What it amounts to, is that both sides dearly want to win today.

It's to be hoped that thoughts of next week's Cup Semi Final doesn't affect the way anyone plays today, but even lock forwards are reputed to be human, and it would be understandable if there were a conflict between the need for a good, hard game in the run-up period, and the niggling doubt about injuries. We'll see.

Meanwhile, we all extend a very hearty welcome to the Orrell lads, and my own personal feeling is that I hope they put it across Bath next week. I feel they deserve it.

And they could do just that. After all, we beat Bath on their own patch, which is more than we could do at Orrell — and remember that Bath only got through on the away rule in last season's encounter in the North.

We'll be watching with interest.

### **Moseley on Friday Week**

Just to remind you that the Moseley game — which is our next home First XV match — has been brought back to the evening of Friday, April 3rd, because of the rearranged International on Saturday 4th. And incidentally, our old friends the St. John's Ambulance lads will be holding their annual collection that evening, and as they are celebrating their Centenary this year, it would be nice if you came prepared to dig deep. Before that, of course, we find ourselves away to Saracens next Saturday, which is usually a pleasant trip.

### **Coach to Berry Hill**

But what about the United then? That unbeaten season looks to be well within their capabilities, although they still have some high hurdles to clear, not least Orrell, away, today.

But what's the most difficult fixture? Bridgend? Pontypool? Bath? All away, incidentally. Dave Pointon takes another view, and considers that the hardest obstacle is likely to be Berry Hill on their own pitch on Wednesday, April 8th.

Like any good Captain, he's thinking about ways to maximise his side's chances, and in the cause of ensuring as much support as possible, he's asked Andy Mitchell to run a coach to the game.

Naturally, Andy has agreed to the proposal, and would be glad to hear from anyone who'd like to go along. And why not? Leave Kingsholm at around 6.00 pm, and pay £2.00, which is probably less than your petrol would cost you if you drove there. Also good Breathalyser insurance as well, of course.

See Andy in the Clubhouse after today's game. United would value your support, and it should be a very good match, apart from anything else.

Incidentally, you don't have to wait until April 8th to watch United. They're at home to Pontypridd next Saturday.

### **The Business of Sport**

Thanks, today, to two local companies who are sponsoring the match. Two companies, but only one organisation, if you know what I mean.

Marketing and Print Services have achieved quite a reputation for excellent, hard-hitting, promotional literature, advertising and other material over the past few years. They handle work for national companies as far away as Surrey, and including household names such as Kraft Foods and Lenthalic.



They also operate on behalf of the Gloucester City Council, and a fair spread of local companies in an amazing variety of fields. And they are as good at high-prestige glossy work, as they are at 'cheap and cheerful' literature for companies who don't have huge budgets.

But that's only part of the story. Peter Gould, who is as much a fixture at Kingsholm as the goal posts, decided, some while ago, that he would like to use his undoubted marketing expertise in a sporting context. Well-known sales promotion lady, Marie Journeaux, agreed and the pair of them launched a new enterprise called Sport in Business.

The object of the exercise is to provide clients with novel methods for companies to entertain customers, or run company events, in a sporting environment. For example, Sport in Business can provide Fly Fishing Days, on good water, with appropriate refreshment, and the guarantee that you'll take home a brace of trout, even if you've never handled a rod in your life.

But that's just an example. Similar packages are available covering quite a range of sports, including golf, bowls, cricket and — of course — Rugby.

Right now, Peter and Marie are spending a lot of time finding companies to support the forthcoming Rothman's 'Matchroom' Snooker event, to be held at Gloucester Leisure Centre in May, and featuring Jimmy White, Willy Thorne, Cliff Thorburn and Tony Meo. Opportunities are being snapped up fast, so if you're into snooker, and would like to promote your company at the same time, have a word with Peter or Marie today. Or ring them on Gloucester 503686.

One final thing. It's Peter Gould's birthday today, so we wish him and his guests, even more good wishes than usual. As well as our grateful thanks, of course.

#### Patrons Night

This season's Patrons Evening will be held on Thursday, April 9th, and bids fair to uphold the traditions of that highly regarded, if somewhat alcoholic event. Tickets should be available from David Foyle today, and I'd suggest that you get yours while you can, because we don't have all that many home games between now and then.

Don't tell my wife. It's her birthday that day, and she thinks I'm to be at an important Council meeting.

#### Advance Warning

Somewhat unusually, this season's Sponsors and Advertisers Match, when we say modest but tangible thanks to those worthy supporters is on April 20th, which is Easter Monday. The Fylde match, actually. So if you are one of that happy band, then put the date in your diary. We wouldn't want you to miss it, because the occasion wouldn't be complete without you.

Apart from anything else, it's your opportunity to pick yourself a good game for next season — and we wouldn't want you to miss out on that, either.

#### Tailpiece

Talking of Peter Gould, he tells me that, dropping into the Four Mile House for a modest corpse reviver last Friday Evening, he was confronted by the, not inconsiderable, sight of John Brain absorbing Guinness like an Irish coachload on Gold Cup Day. On enquiry, John told him that he was 'wetting the baby's head', his wife having presented him with a daughter the previous evening. Named 'Charlotte', by the way.

According to the report I read, 'BRAINER' played a blinder at Richmond the following day, so there must be something in this fatherhood lark.

Congratulations from all of us, John!

Just one thing though. It is to be hoped that young Charlotte takes after her Mum. Well — would you want a daughter who looked like a lock forward?

PETER ARNOLD.

JOHN SMITH'S MERIT TABLE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	%		P	W	D	L	F	A	%
Bath .....	7	6	0	1	178	65	85.71	Orrell .....	5	2	0	3	60	98	40.00
Leicester ...	10	7	1	2	153	103	75.00	Bristol .....	8	3	0	5	126	106	37.50
Nott'm .....	4	2	1	1	46	22	62.50	Harlequins	3	1	0	2	35	45	33.33
Moseley ....	9	5	1	3	91	127	61.11	Coventry ...	9	3	0	6	117	170	33.33
Gloucester	7	3	0	4	75	92	42.85	Wasps .....	6	2	0	4	109	94	33.33
Sale .....	7	3	0	4	82	136	42.85	L. Scot, .....	5	1	1	3	62	67	25.00

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