



GLOUCESTER V. NEW BRIGHTON

SATURDAY
18th APRIL, 1987
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Sponsored by

774  AM

**SEVERN
SOUND**

FM 102.4



FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

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

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

The Winner of today's
Official Programme
Draw will receive
£5 from

Tyre Sales
Tyre Sales (Bham) Ltd.
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(next to Rugby Ground)

697

- RUGBY BOOTS
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- Personal attention always available at:

ALAN BRINN SPORTS

52 Eastgate Street, Gloucester

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Sponsored by **SEVERN SOUND**

GLOUCESTER (Cherry & White)

Full Back

15. T. Smith

Three Quarters

14. D. Morgan

13. R. McLean

12. R. Mogg

11. N. Price

Half Backs

10. D. Pointon (Capt.)

9. R. Williams

Forwards

† 1. G. Sargent

2. K. White

3. R. Phillips

4. P. Wallace

5. J. Brain

6. A. Stanley

7. P. Ashmead

8. L. Cummins

REPLACEMENTS

L. Gardner

G. Mann

NEW BRIGHTON (Dark Blue)

Full Back

15. P. Wright

Three Quarters

14. D. Griffith

13. A. Irving

12. R. Coward

11. T. Charlish

Half Backs

10. P. Crawley

9. C. Wright

Forwards

1. K. Pollard

2. B. Hearn

3. S. Guy

4. S. Miles

5. C. Thomas

6. M. Cannon (Capt.)

7. P. Santo

8. J. Houghton

REPLACEMENTS

M. Dooley

S. Foster

Referee: G. JAMES (Leicester Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

Odd Years Only

Where has the season gone to? It only seems a few weeks ago that I was composing my notes for the Swansea game, and here we are — Easter already!

The 1986/7 campaign has certainly not been short of incident, for one reason or another, so it's pleasant to be able to sit back and enjoy a game, unburdened by thoughts of Cups, Tables, thoughts of retribution, or even local partisanship. Just a happy game between two sets of old friends, in fact.

New Brighton, in fact, is a smallish town in Cheshire, just across the Mersey from Bootle. This happens in the 'odd' years, their roles being adopted by Headingley and Birkenhead Park in the intervening even ones. And, in case any visitor from Outer Space thinks that New Brighton has any connection whatever with any South Coast town with a similar name, I should disabuse them of that illusion right away.

New Brighton, in fact, is a smallish town in Cheshire, just across the Mersey from Bootle, an area not noted for the powder-puff qualities of its residents. We may therefore expect a sterner challenge than would be offered by a fifteen from a Southern resort, more famous for antique shops and illicit weekends than for prop forwards and No. 8's.

It would be idle to imply that New Brighton have a habit of winning at Kingsholm, but in Gloucester's up-and-down season, you never know what can happen. In any case, I always enjoy watching our Northern friends, who like to run the ball when they can, and can be relied upon to provide great entertainment.

So it's a hearty welcome to the lads from Cheshire. We hope they have a great Easter visit, and go home suitably refreshed for the impending close season. Nice to see you, chaps!

United's Great Season!

I don't wish any disrespect to the Exeter Second XV lads, but the odds do now look very much on United going through the season undefeated. And they could hardly have had a more testing run-up to the end of the season than have had to travel to Bridgend, Berry Hill and Pontypool in rapid succession.

Especially Berry Hill. Dave Pointon always thought that the visit to the Forest would be the toughest hurdle to clear, and he was certainly proved right on the night. In fact, on the evidence we have this season, the Foresters could beat just about any Second team outfit in England and Wales, and it would be nice to see them have the chance to prove it.

An unbeaten season is a considerable achievement for any side, in any class of Rugby. Obviously, you need a good side to start with, but luck with weather, injuries, availability, and (dare I say) referees, must also enter into the equation.

Normally, one would also say that you need a settled side to have a chance of such an achievement. However, if you come to think about it, a United team can never be sure of that, calls by the First XV being what they are. Looked at that way, United's feat becomes ever-so-slightly incredible.

So it's an extremely heartfelt series of congratulations which are in order. Congratulations to everyone involved that is. Obviously, to the Skipper and his loyal band of players, to the Coaches, the bagmen, and anyone else you can think of. Not forgetting the supporters.

Not that it is any hardship to support United. Not only have they been playing winning Rugby, but **good** Rugby as well — and that isn't always the same thing.

Now lads. Having delivered myself of a considerable eulogy, don't let me down by tripping up over Exeter, will you?

Thanks from the Skipper

Before leaving the United, Dave Pointon asks me to convey his thanks, and those of the whole side, for the support given by the hardy band of pilgrims who accompanied the side to Berry Hill. He is quite sure that the backing given, on an unpleasant evening, made a considerable difference to the result of what was always a very tight game. To which I would only add thanks to Andy Mitchell for taking the unprecedented step of running a coach to a United game. And it certainly paid off.

Why don't we all come along to the United game on April 25th — next Saturday? United deserve it, and it would be nice to cheer the lads home wouldn't it?

The Season's Not Dead Yet!

As you will probably have assumed, we shan't be seeing Bath at Kingsholm this season, because of their involvement in the John Player Cup Final, and the difficulty of rearranging games at this time of the season. Even though my personal preference would have been to see Orrell go through, I'm quite happy to send best wishes to our fellow West Country side in their fourth successive visit to Twickenham, and I hope they continue to 'fly the flag' by putting it across Wasps.

Returning to domestic considerations, while the visit of Fylde on Monday now turns out to be the final home 'Firsts' game of the season, there is an added attraction that day. Before the game, kick-off 1.45, Saintsbridge Former Pupils Under 14 side meet Old Richians Under 14's for the Kingsdale Morris Trophy. Well worth getting here early, and even missing a pint of beer for, I'd say.

Next Wednesday, April 22nd, you could come along to watch the NGC Senior Cup Final, starting at 7.00 p.m. At the time of writing, we don't know the teams involved.

Then, of course, we have United's, hopefully climactic, game against Exeter next Saturday, which should be quite an occasion. Following that, on Tuesday, April 28th, there is the NGC Junior Cup Final. Again, kick-off 7.00 p.m., with the participants not known at the moment.

So there's still a bit to look forward to.

Thanks to Severn Sound

We've always had a fair amount to thank 'Severn Sound' for — always giving our matches good coverage, and invariably co-operative when we need a rapid announcement about anything. Today, however, they've gone even further by actually sponsoring the match, and we're extremely grateful for that.

I suppose it's human nature to take for granted something which other people would give their eye teeth for. Our local Independent radio station is a case in point. 'Severn Sound' is certainly regarded, in the trade, as one of the most successful stations around, from many points of view, and the latest evidence of that is that the Sony organisation has recently awarded the title of 'Independent Radio Personality of the Year' to Andy Radford for his Sunday Show.

When approached, 'Severn Sound' Head of Sales, Gary Miele had a couple of points to make. One was that on behalf of the Station, he'd like to thank our old mate John Hawkins for the sterling job he does of covering Gloucester RFC matches in all locations, winds and weathers — a sentiment we'd all echo, even if I do suspect that John doesn't find it too much of a hardship — and the other was that there's a special Sports programme next Monday afternoon, which will be covering the whole scene, including the Fylde game.

Unfortunately, Garry can't be here today, but we hope all his colleagues and guests have a thoroughly good time.

Thanks again, 'Severn Sound'. Gloucester wouldn't be the same without you.

That Cricket Match

Aided by incredible luck with the weather, the organisers of the floodlit cricket match at Hempsted, the other Sunday, raised in excess of £1,000 for the various charities involved, and ask me to convey thanks to everyone who supported the event. Even more to the point, the involvement of the various Gloucester RFC members was highly important and entertaining.

A combination of unkind bowling and a dislocated shoulder prevented Nick Price from incommoding the scorers, while Dave Pointon looked for a while, as if he's going to give local bowlers a hard time in the coming season. The star, as far as we are concerned, however, was undoubtedly Nick Marment. He featured in a 100-plus stand, and certainly helped his side reach a more-than-respectable total.

As one of his sixes disappeared somewhere in the direction of Lydney, some Rugby supporters couldn't forbear from shouting: "Why the 'ell can't you kick like that?" Unkind, I thought.

Tailpiece

A little bird tells me that there's a game at Coney Hill tomorrow, with charity in mind, which features a Coney Hill side, versus a side arranged by Councillor Archie Hartshorne, and got together largely by Tim Smith. Apparently, the three-quarter line consists of Nick Price (if fit), Richard Mogg, Peter Gould, and Derek Morgan.

Peter Gould? If anyone wonders how our amiable Master of the Sponsors intends to keep up with that lot, I'd suggest that they need only place a pint of bitter under the posts towards which he is running, and he'll beat all of them to it, with yards to spare.

PETER ARNOLD.

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