



GLOUCESTER

**V.
FYLDE**

**MONDAY
20th APRIL, 1987**

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.



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

129

Tyre Sales
Tyre Sales (Bham) Ltd.
1a Kingsholm Rd
(next to Rugby Ground)

- RUGBY BOOTS
- JERSEYS AND SHORTS
- BALLS
- CLUB DISCOUNTS
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- Personal attention always available at:

ALAN BRINN SPORTS

52 Eastgate Street, Gloucester

Telephone 33722

GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

Full Back

15. N. Marment *ccctcc*

Three Quarters

14. J. Breeze

13. R. Mogg *ct*

12. R. Morgan

11. N. Price *t*

Half Backs

10. M. Hamlin *t*

9. M. Hannaford *t*

Forwards

† 1. M. Preedy (Capt.)

2. G. Mann

3. R. Pascall

4. N. Scrivens

5. J. Etheridge

6. J. Bennett *A Stanley t*

7. I. Smith

† 8. M. Teague *J Bennett*

REPLACEMENTS

L. Gardner

K. Dunn

FYLDE

(Claret, Gold & White)

Full Back

15. J. Pond

Three Quarters

14. B. Hanavan *t*

13. F. Gough

12. J. Coughlin

11. M. Peston

Half Backs

10. S. Burnage *pp*

9. M. Weir

Forwards

1. R. Moffitt *D Sough*

2. D. Haley

3. D. Ward *D Newman*

4. D. Young

5. A. MacFarlane *A Towler*

6. S. Frost

7. S. Holmes *M Hesketh*

8. M. Hesketh *A MacFarlane*

REPLACEMENTS

J Lyons

K Austin

Referee: R. PARKER (Staffordshire Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

By No Means Least

And, for our last trick, we present Fylde RFC with their own brand of oval-ball legerdemain. The question 'Where do you go on holiday if you live at the seaside', is at least partially answered by our Northern visitors. Fylde, referred to as the 'seaside club' in Rothmans, are perfectly happy to spend their Bank Holiday indulging in athleticism at Kingsholm. Every other year, anyway.

And it's good to see them, even if a Rugby Football Union edict asking people committed to the World Cup (omitting Bath and Wasps players, of course), probably prevent a couple of wopping great forwards from attending.

Never mind. The demands of Easter can produce some odd-looking sides at the best of times.

Although this is a holiday game, it would be wrong to dismiss it as a mere romp. Fylde are a force to be reckoned with, even if they have had something of an up-and-down season — but we're the last Club in the world to be in any position to carp at that.

It's nice to finish with a pair of Northern clubs, anyway. The way the John Player draw worked out, we lost Waterloo and Liverpool, even if we did gain West Hartlepool as a bonus.

So it's a big welcome to Bill Beaumont's old club. Of course, he has been known to attend this game, but even if he doesn't, we hope that his colleagues can report back with an excellent game, and slight hangovers as a result of Kingsholm, end-of-season hospitality.

Thanks to Everybody

There are very few home games which do not give me the opportunity to say 'Thanks' to generous sponsors, and add a little information about their fields of endeavour. Today is different, because it's the occasion when I have to acknowledge the generosity of all our sponsors and advertisers, who have been invited along for a pre-match noggin or so.

And a diverse bunch they are too. They range from large national, and even international, concerns, through the Local Authority to fire-in-the-belly, one and two-man enterprises. Obviously, we are extremely grateful for their backing, and for the financial advantages which their largesse confers on us, but we must also congratulate them on their enterprise and imagination in using this form of public relations, which we sincerely hope, pays off for them in their commercial lives.

One hears a lot about sport — just about all sports — being over commercialised these days, and there could be an argument about that, but, surely, the level at which our sponsorship is pitched can't offend anyone, and the advantages to the Club are undeniable.

Thanks again, everyone. Let's do it again, next season.

Merit Table

The John Smith's Merit Table 'A' is not quite complete, but any further matches don't look likely to change Gloucester's standing. In other words, our position in next year's league set-up now seems to be secure. At the time of writing, the Table looks like this:

	P	W	D	L	%
Bath	7	6	—	1	85.71
Leicester	10	7	1	2	75.00
Nottingham	6	4	1	1	75.00
Moseley	10	6	1	3	65.00
GLOUCESTER	8	4	—	4	50.00
Bristol	9	4	—	5	44.44
Sale	7	3	—	4	42.85
Wasps	6	2	—	4	33.33
Harlequins	6	2	—	4	33.33
Orrell	6	2	—	4	33.33
Coventry	10	3	—	7	30.00
London Scottish	7	1	1	5	21.42

A couple of points are worth noting. First, two of the three losses sustained by the two leaders were at the hands of Gloucester, and second, the three West Country sides are all in the top six. You can draw your own conclusions from that.

And considering our poor start, we didn't do so badly in the end, did we?

Now For The Combination

The NGC Cup matches are always well supported, and are on us again. The Senior Cup Final is scheduled, right here, for Wednesday next, as ever was, and the Junior Cup Final follows on Tuesday, April 28th. Both kick-off at 7.00 p.m. At the time of writing, I'm afraid the teams competing aren't known, but you'll know about that from the Press.

Come Along Next Saturday

All being well, United will crown their unbeaten season by taking on Exeter, at Kingsholm, next Saturday. It would be nice to have a good crowd to see them home — in fact it would be nice to see the old ground packed to the eyebrows.

Why not come along and show your appreciation of a superb season, packed with excellent Rugby, by a side with incredible team spirit?

Just one small caveat. Exeter have, on occasion, had trouble in getting a second string together. It's to be hoped that they don't have problems this time; it would be a shame to see United's campaign peter out by default.

Still, let's not squeal before we're hurt. It should be a great occasion.

Well Done 'J.O.'

Did you notice that our old sparring-partner and skipper, John Orwin, has been selected for the Barbarians Easter Tour of Wales? It's no more than he deserves, and there are some of us who think he should still be in the England squad.

Well done, John. We miss you.

Thanks and Cheerio, Jim

You know, it can't go on like this. One season we lose John Orwin, the next, Jim Bennett ups and defects to Somerset.

For those, not in the know, Jim is the man whose duty it is to look after all matters pertaining to advertising and sponsorship. It's a difficult and time-consuming job, and only a dyed-in-the-wool Gloucester fanatic would be prepared to accept the very considerable burden.

I remember the occasion when Jim's son Jeremy played his first game for Gloucester, and made a very considerable impression. "The lad did well, didn't he?" I commented. "Yes," said Jim, "But I wish it had been me out there!"

That speaks volumes. Jim Bennett will be a very hard act to follow, and we'll miss him a lot. Not just because of the work he has done, but because he's a good bloke too.

Cheers Jim! Best of luck in your new endeavours.

. . . But He's Not Alone

This being the final First XV game of the season, it's the appropriate time to give a semi-official word of thanks to all those helpful souls who make the Kingsholm scene what it is. There are far too many to mention, and most of them wouldn't thank me for doing so anyway. Suffice it to say, that there are a great many 'Jim Bennetts' in the Gloucester Club, and they all deserve our appreciation.

Think about it. **Someone** has to prepare the pitch, clean the gear, sweep out the clubhouse, wash the glasses, provide the food, operate the scoreboard, mend broken prop forwards, run the line, retrieve the balls which go over the Worcester Street stands, tidy up the grandstand — you name it, someone does it.

And thank goodness for them. Just because we're not fulsome in our gratitude, doesn't mean to say that we're not grateful.

Tailpiece

And thanks from me too. I couldn't do this odd little job without feedback and comment — some of it rude — from all sorts of sources, by no means all of them official.

I expect I'll be back next season. If you'll have me, that is.

Summer well, and I'll see you in September.

PETER ARNOLD.

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