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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30p

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

ANTHONY HICKMAN

Estate Agents

GLOUCESTER

v

STROUD

Wednesday
9th September, 1987

Kick off 7 p.m.



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HOME AGAIN, HOME AGAIN . . .

We are gathered here today, in the face of this Congregation, to join together Stroud and Gloucester in the launching of the 1987/8 Kingsholm Rugby season. And very pleasant too, even if the Old Homestead has suffered a change or two since last April.

As for our new Programme - well, there's posh for you.

At this stage, it's a bit difficult to say anything constructive about either side, other than the usual, but none the less sincere, welcome to our old friends from up the road.

As I've said before, local Derbies are an important part of any sporting scene, and it is to be hoped that the new League structure won't be allowed to interfere with such fixtures. One interesting factor in this type of encounter is the cross-fertilisation one gets from players moving between clubs. I've no way of knowing whether Steve Baker will be turning out for Stroud this evening, but if so, there will be fascination in comparing his style and ability with those of Marcus Hannaford, whose position is the same as that held by Steve with such distinction a few years ago.

Similarly, I suppose we may expect some selection changes of Gloucester's part, as the Coach and Selectors work through the permutations in the search for the most effective side.

Be that as it may, it's good to have the Rugby drought at an end again, and equally good to have a leading local side to help us quench our thirsts. Great to see you again Stroud!

R.I.P. THE TUMP

The Club had absolutely no choice about the alterations made to the Ground at horrendous expense. The changes necessitated by the new Safety at Sports Grounds legislation will inevitably mean that some long-time supporters will find that their old familiar spots are not so available to them, and we apologise though it ain't our fault.

Changes to the main Stand are fairly obvious. All red seats now count as Centre Stand - the old wooden benching at the back has had to be sacrificed, because the partition had to go under the fire regulations. Sorry about that to the happy party who liked to sit up there at Wing Stand prices.

You'll also notice that all entrances are now at the front of the Stand, which won't speed up the exodus after the game.

Perhaps the saddest aspect is that the good old Gloucester institution known as 'The Tump' is now a no-go area, which means that another old tradition bites the dust.

Not so obvious, is the fact that stand which parallels Worcester Street is now restricted to 400 spectators. Shouldn't be a problem tonight, but there will be occasions when that limit will be reached, and would-be fans turned away. You have been warned.

It's all progress, they tell me, but sometimes I wonder.

INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

Application forms for International Tickets are now available from David Foyle or Terry Tandy, and if you want one, it would be a good idea not to hang about. We have to send them in by September 30th, which is only three weeks away.

As always, the demand will inevitably exceed the supply, so someone is bound to be disappointed - we'll do our best to provide something or other, however.

SHOP THE JOBS!

Sorry to start the season on a sour note, but blame those idiots who started to cause some crowd trouble last season.

You of course, are a perfectly reasonable person who comes along for the game, the company and the conviviality, and you probably can't understand what makes the job element act in the way it does. Last season, however, there were one or two about.

The wellbeing of the Club is everyone's business. Let's face it, there have been enough people in the past, including some sections of the National Press, who have gleefully seized on any opportunity to slate the Kingsholm crowd. With the extra pressures of the League structure upon us, we don't want to give them any further opportunities.

If you see anyone indulging in abusive or violent activities, don't hesitate to tell any Club Committee member. The only 'grass' we worry about is the stuff out in the middle. But don't 'have a go' yourself, whatever the provocation. That only makes things worse.

The Club will immediately expel offenders from the Ground, and will bar them from coming along ever again. After all, we don't want them here, do we?

HICKMAN FIRST OFF THE MARK

Comes a new Season, comes a new Sponsor, and it's pleasant to be able to welcome Anthony Hickman to that select band of admirable businesses.

On New Year's Day 1980, while we were all watching Gloucester play Moseley, Anthony Hickman was working hard readying his first Estate Agency office in Cheltenham which was to open on the following day. The fact that the company now has eight branches, with a ninth (at Pershore) scheduled to open on October 1st, must make them one of the leading independent Estate Agents in the area. There are two branches in Gloucester, in Northgate Street, (tel: 424341) and at Hucclecote (tel: 613355). Not that it matters much; details of all properties for sale are displayed in every branch, so that whether you happen to be in Evesham, Winchcombe, Malvern or Ledbury, you can get full information about houses available anywhere else.

Success of Hickman's order argues a very high level of service indeed, and I can vouch for the friendliness and efficiency of the people who handle house purchase and sale - and that's true from original enquiry to completion.

When you need an Estate Agent you need to be sure you're picking the right one. You may feel that generous sponsorship of Gloucester's first home game is a pretty fair recommendation in itself. Thanks again, Anthony Hickman. We hope you and your guests have a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

SEASON TICKETS

David Foyle will be comfortably established in the Clubhouse tonight, dispensing Season Tickets of all denominations. And he'll be doing the same thing for a match or two yet. This means that you can acquire yours without ever entering the Ground, and that the question of any refund is avoided.

In spite of the increases forced on us by the alterations to the Ground, Seasons still represent excellent value, and they can save an awful lot of hassle at the turnstiles on popular match days. Why not take advantage?

You could also join the 300 Club while you're about it - and don't forget, if you like a snifter after the game, the Law requires you to have a Social Club Membership ticket too. See John Beaman.

COV ON SAT

Coventry games are always well worth a visit, and this year's home game has the added distinction that it is the first in the new League structure. So you'll want to be here. As you'll remember, they've been beating us with indecent regularity over the past couple of seasons, so there's a point or two to prove.

On the following Saturday, we have a visit from our old friends from Pontypridd, who also beat us last season, and who always play some good Rugby. I don't suppose you need all that much encouragement to come along at this stage of the season, but just in case you haven't got into the swing of things yet, it's as well to provide a little nudge.

And don't forget that the first Colts game at home is against Lydney on September 26th. Always worth watching.

TAILPIECE

Now that Toshiba are sponsoring the Divisional and County Championships, does it mean we'll be playing across the pitch rather than up and down it?

Great to be back.

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TALKING RUGBY with Terry Phillips

This season's new-look, bigger Gloucester programme now has more room for statistical information and other news of interest. This page will carry Courage Championship tables, details on opponents and anything else of interest.

It will be compiled by Citizen rugby writer Terry Phillips each week.

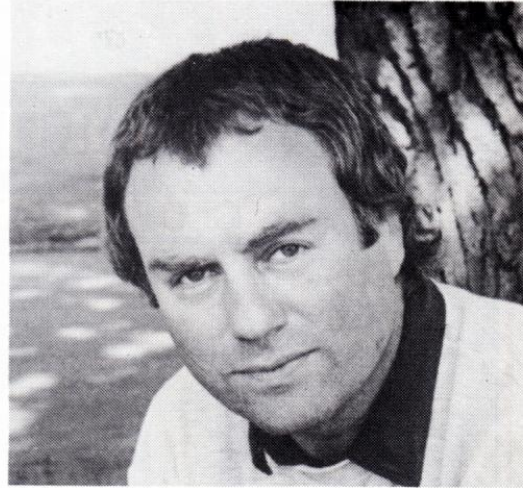
Gloucester have opened the new season with a new captain - Marcus Hannaford - and a new coach - former Cherry and White prop Keith Richardson.

England B international scrum-half Hannaford, the son of Old Cryptians' stalwart Bob Hannaford and nephew of Gloucester, Bristol and England number eight Charlie, made his debut for the Cherry and Whites against Exeter University in November 1983 and has since made 91 first XV appearances. He has scored 35 tries in that period.

Last season Hannaford, aged 24 and a self-employed fence erector, was troubled by shoulder and leg injuries which stopped him challenging for a place in England's World Cup squad. But former England colts triallist Hannaford has bounced back strongly and he looked fit and sharp during pre-season trial outings.



Marcus Hannaford



Keith Richardson

Gloucester's new coach, taking over from Chosen Hill schoolmaster Bob Redwood, is former Cherry and White prop Keith Richardson, who teaches at Wycliffe College.

Richardson, aged 44, was a wing-forward who joined Gloucester from Bath as a player, but switched to loose-head prop with great success. He retired in 1978-79 after being captain and was later coach for one season.

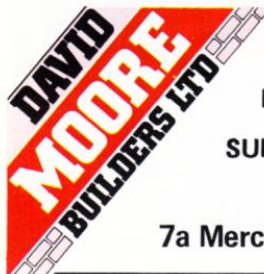
Now he is in charge again - a unanimous appointment by the club's committee - and says: "I learned a great deal from that one season as coach - lessons I hope will prove useful to me now."

Assisting Richardson this season will be former Gloucester hooker Fred Read, who was in charge for the match against Swansea last Saturday because Richardson was on holiday.

Stroud, tonight's visitors to Kingsholm, also have a new captain - former Gloucester prop Alan Dix.

Among the players to have joined Stroud for their coming challenge in the new Leagues - they are in Area League South - are former England under 23 scrum-half Steve Baker, Dave Booth from Hucclecote, Clive Banks from Longlevens and Mike Gardner from Cainscross.

Dave Booth is the son of ex-Gloucester and South West scrum-half Micky Booth.



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