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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30p

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

GLOUCESTER

v

EXETER

Wednesday
23rd September, 1987

Kick off 7 p.m.



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EXETER - THE ONE AND ONLY

It's a shame that the increasing congestion of the first-class fixture list has meant that we now meet old friends like Exeter only once per season - and that in mid-week. Perhaps they don't have the prestige of some of the sides who are involved in the new Courage Club Championship, but I can't help thinking that the game loses something when traditional fixtures have to suffer in this way. Nobody's fault - but there you are.

It does, of course, mean that we value tonight's visit that much more highly. Exeter games have never been short of interest and incident, even if some of them have been a little eccentric.

I well remember, for example, one end-of-season match when Gloucester scored well over a dozen tries - and converted just one of them. Our present Coach, Keith Richardson was the Captain at the time, and having tried every faintly credible kicker, he finished by handing the ball to the ref. with a "Here, you have a go!" gesture. Just as well the game was nearly over, or he'd have had the linesman, the programme sellers and the car park attendant on.

Oddly enough, our favourite recent memory of Exeter concerns their second team. You'll recall that United just needed a win that day to seal a unique, unbeaten season. Exeter, at the time, were having some trouble raising two sides per Saturday.

The crowd, that day, was larger than we'd had for some First XV matches, and although the visitors got a genuine hammering, the fact that they were there at all went down very well with the Kingsholm faithful.

It couldn't have been easy for Exeter to attract players to a game which was always going to be a torrid experience, and everyone is very grateful for the efforts they made that day. After all, there was nothing in it for them, apart from a neighbourly gesture to old friends.

That's only one reason why we're glad to welcome Exeter this evening. We hope they have at least as good a time, after the game, as their United side did last season. Great to see you again, chaps!

BIG ONE ON SATURDAY

Unless you've been on a visit to Outer Mongolia, you will be conscious of the fact that Gloucester travel to Bristol for a Club Championship game on Saturday. Bristol have had a stuttering start to the Season, and have some injury problems, but it wouldn't be wise to read too much into that, all things considered.

Similarly, I'm told that Swansea have got their act together since we beat them at the beginning of the month, so their win over Bristol, last Saturday, may not be all that significant, either.

One thing's for sure. Our lads can do with all the vocal support they can get, so if you have the chance - make the trip.

If you're not able to get along, then there is more than adequate compensation at Kingsholm, when United take on their Bristol counterparts.

After that, United take on Bedford on Saturday, October 3rd, followed by the tough game against Berry Hill on Monday, October 5th. Then the First XV takes over again on Wednesday October 7th with a visit from the awesome Pontypool side, who are already going great guns this season.

We live in interesting times!

BEST OF LUCK TO LEAGUE AND HILL

Mention of Berry Hill reminds me that, while Gloucester are trying conclusions with Bristol on the 26th, the Foresters entertain Salisbury in the John Player Cup, while Gordon League perform the same service for Chiltern on the same day.

Our best wishes go to both of them, hoping they have a pair of magnificent Cup runs. Wouldn't it be something if, at some stage, we got drawn against one of them? It *has* to happen some time!

Bit of a mind boggler that!

TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT!

This is the last home game before September 30th. That means that it's your last chance to pick up application forms for International tickets before the due date. Terry Tandy will be pleased to give you one.

It's also the last match that Patrons Cards will be valid without the all-important receipt. If you haven't paid up by now - and David Foyle tells me that the vast majority of Patrons have - then isn't it time you thought about it?

And incidently, Season Tickets of all denominations will be available in the Clubhouse, before and after the game this evening.

Remember, also, that you need a Social Club Membership card if you intend to use the Clubhouse, and that John Beaman will be very glad to supply you with one.

ATTENTION GWYN HIATT

Gwyn Hiatt is not only a recently-acquired Patron, but also our own Divisional Librarian, based in Brunswick Road. He might be particularly interested in this item.

I first met J. V. Smith many, many years ago, when he whipped my ankles out from under me in a Crypt v Marling School match. I felt rather better about that, years later, when he appeared on the wing for England.

More recently - about five years ago - he served a distinguished year of office as President of the RFU. Now, he has written a book about his experiences during that year. And a jolly good read it is too.

The book is called *'Good Morning, President'*, and not only does it give an insight into the joys and sorrows of that most prestigious of offices, but it is interesting for the wealth of local reference it contains.

You'd be surprised who gets a mention. I was astonished.

Describing the England v Fiji game that season, when England won 60-19, and John Gadd scored two tries, 'J.V.' writes:-

"On the social side, we had the pleasure of entertaining . . . Peter Arnold, the Mayor of Gloucester, who writes the programme notes at Gloucester as his contribution to Rugby, every week."

Contribution? Or handicap? You tell me.

Thanks for the plug, 'J.V.', but the pleasure was all mine. Watching an International from the President's box really *is* the way to watch Rugby, believe me.

There's a lot of names you'll know. Including Terry Tandy's. Certainly, I recommend you to get hold of the book, if you can.

Which brings us back to Gwyn Hiatt. I think he would be well advised to make sure that the County Library is well stocked with J. V. Smith's own unique contribution to Rugby's literary scene.

Anyway, Pontypool supporter though he may be, I'm sure he'll want to read it himself.

Nudge, nudge, wink, wink, Gwyn.

300 CLUB

Punters are arriving at the 300 Club very satisfactorily, so if you're one of the band who likes his own particular lucky number each month, but hasn't actually done anything about it yet, perhaps you would be advised to get your skates on. And if you're a new member, welcome to the Club.

After all, it's your chance to win some useful akkers while contributing to the general wellbeing. See any member of the Social Club Committee.

TAILPIECE

Same moan as last year. Here we are, about a month into the Season, and BBC2 haven't favoured us with a sniff of a 'Rugby Special' yet.

Now 'Rugby Special' may not be much, but it's all we've got, and bearing in mind the degree of coverage which other sports get, I feel we're not getting a fair crack.

One development on the horizon may have implications. BBC have now announced that they're to go ahead with our own local radio station, which is to be based in London Road. Perhaps when 'Auntie Beeb' becomes conscious of the degree of interest there is around here, we might be able to exert some influence.

There is another factor, which affects both BBC and ITV. The pressure to take us out of The Midlands and into Western TV is now becoming quite intense, with the County Council taking the lead. HTV, for example, give much more attention to Rugby than Central do. So let's keep our fingers crossed.

PETER ARNOLD



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TALKING RUGBY with Terry Phillips

The Citizen rugby writer Terry Phillips on the news from Kingsholm - in every Gloucester RFC programme.

The Cherry and Whites face a tough Courage Clubs Championship trip on Saturday when they travel to Bristol for their second National Division One match of the season.

After beating Coventry so convincingly in their opening fixture, Gloucester can do their chances of success this season the power of good with a win in this local derby.

And the clash also provides scrum-half and skipper Marcus Hannaford with the chance of a face-to-face confrontation with England's World Cup number nine Richard Harding.

For Harding is likely to be back in the Bristol side on Saturday and the outcome will be of great interest to England selectors.

For some players the captaincy can be a burden, but Hannaford seems to have revelled in the task this season. He looks fitter than ever and has been in superlative form during his five appearances this season, scoring three tries.

And while Gloucester battle it out for Courage Clubs Championships points, two other Gloucestershire clubs will be in John Player Cup action.

Gloucester do not start in this competition until the third round, but Berry Hill and Gordon League, the finalists in last seasons Flowers County Cup, open their campaign this weekend.

The Player Cup kicks off a 12th season with more prize money than ever before. Total prize money has risen from £110,000 last season to £125,000 and the two finalists at Twickenham on Saturday April 30 next year will each receive £3,750.

Much of the extra money has been allocated to clubs at a grass roots level and even if Berry Hill or Gordon League fail to make progress they would receive £950.

Berry Hill take on Salisbury at Lakers Road in the Forest of Dean. Salisbury have made only one

previous Player Cup appearance, going out in the first round 11 years ago.

Gordon League play at their Hempsted Lane home and take on Chiltern, the Buckinghamshire Cup winners who are in the Player Cup for the first time.

And Chiltern will rely heavily on a centre partnership known locally as the "SS". The two players involved are Jeremy Salmon - no relation to England's Jaimie - and Simon Stalley, a pair who will have plenty of support from the two coachloads of supporters Chiltern will have backing them.

For the 20 clubs who survive the first round the draw will be made at the Rugby Union headquarters, Twickenham at noon next Monday.

Courage Clubs Championship National Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottingham	2	2	0	0	38	15	8
Bath	2	1	0	1	27	24	5
Gloucester	1	1	0	0	39	3	4
Leicester	1	1	0	0	24	13	4
Moseley	2	0	0	2	12	35	2
Sale	1	0	0	1	3	17	1
Coventry	1	0	0	1	3	39	1

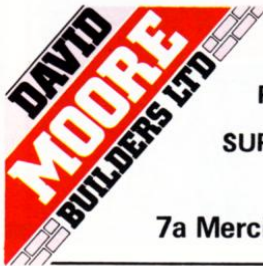
Yet to play: Bristol, Harlequins, Orrell and Wasps.

Fixtures this Saturday in Division One: Bristol v Gloucester, Coventry v Sale, Harlequins v Leicester, Nottingham v Orrell.

Next Wednesday: Coventry v Nottingham.



Skipper Marcus Hannaford is in possession for Gloucester during Saturday's 26-19 victory against Pontypridd.



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