



Saturday, 26th September, 1987

BRISTOL
V
GLOUCESTER

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

30p

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Club Notes

Today's match with our old friends from the North of the County is the first match the Club has been involved in the Courage Club Championship. It has been stated that this Championship will instigate a more competitive approach to Club Rugby in England. I suspect the author of such sentiments has not worn a blue and white shirt or a cherry and white shirt at Kingsholm or on the Memorial Ground. We welcome the Gloucester Club and anticipate a stern and hard fought match played with verve, passion and commitment, but also with chivalry to old and respected opponents.

We are twice blessed with distinguished visitors today. John Burgess, President of the Rugby Union and his Lady took lunch today with the officers of both Clubs. John is no stranger to the Memorial Ground as he has held many offices within his beloved Lancashire and within the playing affairs of England. We thank him and his wife for honouring us with their presence in our Centenary season.

The Minister of Sport, Colin Maynihan, is spending a day in Bristol. He is the guest of Ron Hayward, one of our Bristol M.P.'s. Ron is a stalwart referee of the Bristol Society. The Minister is visiting the Combination Ground to watch some of the Combination Clubs playing and then attending the second half of today's match. We are delighted the Minister has found time to visit our City and hope he enjoys his afternoon with the Rugby fraternity.

Schools Rugby. The collection being made at today's game is for the Bristol Schools Rugby Union. In spite of all the trials and tribulations which have affected School games we still have a dedicated group of men who give freely of their expertise and free time to enable the young men of Bristol to play our game. Your generous donations will enable this worth while Union to continue to make its valuable contribution.

Next Friday evening at the Social Club the Bristol Schools Union will present the Club with a Honours board listing all the boys from Bristol who have represented England in Schoolboy internationals. The list is an impressive one: W. Barman (1904) played in the first ever international and since then no fewer than 123 boys have followed in his footsteps. In recent years both Paul Collins and Alan Sharp, who are regular playing members of the Club, complete the list. The National Westminster Bank have generously sponsored the evening's activities which will commence at 7.30 p.m. If any former internationals have not received their invitations will they please phone Mr. Cleaton on Bristol 40047.

BRISTOL versus BARBARIANS Wednesday, 21st October, 1987.

In view of the anticipated demand, applications for stand tickets (price £5.00) for this game must reach the Membership Secretary no later than 4th October, 1987. This offer is limited to Current holders of stand seat and restricted to one ticket only per applicant. Centurion members should not apply for additional tickets. Cheques made out to Bristol Football Club and accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope should be sent to:-

Mr. J.E. Wilson, 10 Pycroft Avenue, Henleaze, Bristol. BS9 4NL.

Tickets for the ground (£2.00) and enclosure (£3.00) may be obtained from the Membership Secretary, the Social Club, the Supporters' Shop and Harris's Sports, Park Street, Bristol.

Teams

BRISTOL 16 (13) 17, 4 P6

Colours: Blue & White

A JONATHAN WEBB X
B KEVIN MORGAN
C KELVIN WYLES
D RALPH KNIBBS
E HUW DUGGAN

F MARK TAINTON
G RICHARD HARDING X

H JOHN DOUBLEDAY
I KEVIN BOGIRA
J PETER SMITH
K NIGEL POMPHREY (Capt.)
L PETER STIFF
M ANDY DUN
N PAUL COLLINGS
O PETER POLLEDRI

P PAUL LANDER
Q DAVID PALMER

Referee: ROGER QUITTENDEN (Sussex/London)

36, 1 P6 GLOUCESTER 21 (3)

Colours: Cherry & White

N MARMENT 15
D MORGAN 14
P TAYLOR 13
R McLEAN 12
J BREZE 11

M HAMLIN 10
M HANNAFORD (Capt.) 9

M. FREEDY X 1
K. DUNN 2
R. PASCALL 3
J. ETHERIDGE 4
J. BRAIN 5
D. SPENCER 6
I. SMITH 7
J. BENNETT 8

Replacements
P. KINGSTON X 16
G. MANN 17

Touch Judge: ANDY CLARKE

X Indicates International.

Many thanks to today's Match Ball Sponsors who are
JOHN THORNE'S OFF LICENCE, THE BERKELEY ARMS,
286 Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol. Telephone: 653833

Cabots Notes

Dear Fellow Rugby Nutters,

LOOKING BACK 24th January, 1953 Gloucester 6 Bristol 12

This match has great interest to several well-known members of our present committee who either played in this match or knew as fellow players those who did. It has a second reason for attraction - it was eighteen years almost to the day since Bristol had won at Kingsholm.

Before describing this fantastic game let me give you the two Bristol teams of that day:-

1st XV Tom Wells (Camb. University) at full back; Jack Gregory (England rugby player and sprinter) with Keith Smith on the wings; Mike Corbett (Son of Len) and young Johnny Broad (late replacement) as centres; Glyn Davies (the late lamented Wales outside half) and our ever-present Gordon Lovell as halves; Pete Storkey, Don Woodward and Adrian Bain in the front row; Bert MacDonalld and Gordon Gripps in the engine room; and Dick Mould, Doug Pratten and Johnny Scott in the back row. Barry Leyland was reserve.

United XV Bob Challis (England) at full back; Peter Symes, Daddy Thomas, Ron Trott and Lancaster threequarters; John Blake and Geoff Davis (half backs); Cole, Howell and Allen in the front row; Neate and Neale second row; and Trott, MacDonalld (brother of the afore said poacher Bert) and Bull as the back row.

In retrospect an amalgam of talent and knavery as Bristol has seldom witnessed.

Before the game Bristol had lost 11 times that season including a 6-9 defeat by Gloucester at home. Their 10 wins had been, with respect to the clubs involved, against fairly weak opposition. Everything was against Bristol on form - except, as Old Cabot points out on several occasions, that odd chemistry of the spirit that says 'To hell with the odds - we're going to win!'

The Bristol pack were devastating. Even big Adrian Bain (better known as a doctor and a fine swimmer to many people) was swift in the loose; and as a kicker missed a couple of easy ones but made up with a siege-gun penalty in the first half. It was a very fast game and the pack performed better than Tony Reed, writing in the Evening Post, remembered for a long while.

Tom Wells' touch finding (remember that it could be from anywhere down the touch line at that time) was in great form. The princely Glyn Davies had his tactical, defence-splitting kicks exactly measured up - leading, for example, to Keith Smith's try. An outside-half of Glyn Davies' calibre could in those days make a winger's job look extraordinarily simple, once you had timely possession!

A great occasion and although not realised at that time the harbinger of a vastly improved remainder of the season. In fact by the end of April Bristol had lost to only two other clubs - Swansea and Cardiff. That can't be bad!

Visitors Notes

THE BEST OF ENEMIES

Cricket has its 'Roses' match. Soccer its Liverpool v. Everton and Rangers v. Celtic. Rugby Union has its Bristol v. Gloucester. All of them have their special atmosphere, and that extra something which has passed into the mythologies of their respective sports.

My own earliest memory of the famous match is being taken along to Kingsholm as a very small boy, just about the time when Adolf Hitler was playing an away game in Czechoslovakia, as a warm up for the big match which kicked off in 1939. I say 'memory', but the only impression I retain is of what seemed like hundreds of men running all over the pitch, in the cause of doing indescribable things to each other. And they all appeared to be 9 foot 2. (When Bristol visits Kingsholm, they still do).

As I got older, of course, the personalities began to emerge. In the post-war years, I remember being tremendously impressed by the fact that a one-eyed forward - his name may have been Hill, and he was certainly built like one - could play with such ferocity.

Jack Gregory was also a name to conjure with. A blond-haired winger who could outrun everyone, he gave the same flowing impression as David Duckham used to in his best days.

He met his match one day though. Gloucester's Charlie Crabtree took the ball inside his own half, and went like the devil, widening the gap between himself and international sprinter Gregory with every stride, eventually going over in the corner.

Years later, I mentioned the incident to Gloucester's international prop, George Hastings. "Well, he said, 'You know why that was, don't you? Charlie was dead' - scared of being tackled from behind, and he ran like the wind" to make sure he wasn't! It's amazing what you can do with enough incentive.

But personality and confrontation has always been the hallmark of Bristol v. Gloucester encounters. We can all think of them, Mike Burton v. Austin Sheppard, Dave Rollitt v. John Watkins. Big Dave Watt v. John Fidler. No quarter sought or given, and the bruises soothed in the bar afterwards.

That spirit has, again, always been a feature of our West Country Derby. Some important sides - no names, no pack drill - come to Gloucester to face the dislike of the Kingsholm faithful. This was never so when Bristol are the visitors. The blue-and-whites are always welcome, on the field and off. Even if the game does bear very little resemblance to a vicarage whist drive.

Many people must remember an epic struggle, one cold evening at Kingsholm, when the whole 30 players were on the field for just 4 minutes of the game. Ambulances were trotting up and down Worcester Street like a bus service that night. Man-mountain John Fidler stopped the Bristol pack's wedge, assaulting the Gloucester line after a tapped penalty, all by himself, was carried off on a stretcher, and came back on again almost immediately - and wasn't alone in that experience.

Of course, some sections of the national press had a field day. Or tried to, being stopped in their tracks by the referee, who insisted that he saw nothing to complain about. Neither did the players of either side. Hard it certainly was. Dirty it wasn't.

This unique relationship between the two great clubs has a great bearing on Gloucester-shire's amazing record in the old County Championship, before misguided so-called administrators castrated it. You could see John Watkins flatten Dave Sorrell on one Saturday, and be there at his elbow the following week, providing an understanding which could crucify the County opposition.

And so it all goes on. The game would be the poorer without the Bristol v. Gloucester matches, which have proved to be the furnace which has forged many a County and England stalwart. Everyone from Gloucester will join me in wishing Bristol a truly memorable Centenary Season.

As long as they don't beat Gloucester, of course.

*George didn't actually use the terms 'dead' or 'the wind', but this is a family publication.
PETER ARNOLD.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Last season Bristol achieved the "Double" against Gloucester, details as follows:— Saturday, September 27th, 1986, Gloucester 3: Bristol 12 [penalties; Hogg — 4] Away. Friday, February 6th, 1987, Bristol 17 [tries: Woodman — 2, Knibbs — 1; conversions: Webb — 1; penalty: Webb — 1] Gloucester 10. Home.