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 CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

**30p**  
**OFFICIAL  
 PROGRAMME**

## GLOUCESTER v PONTYPOOL

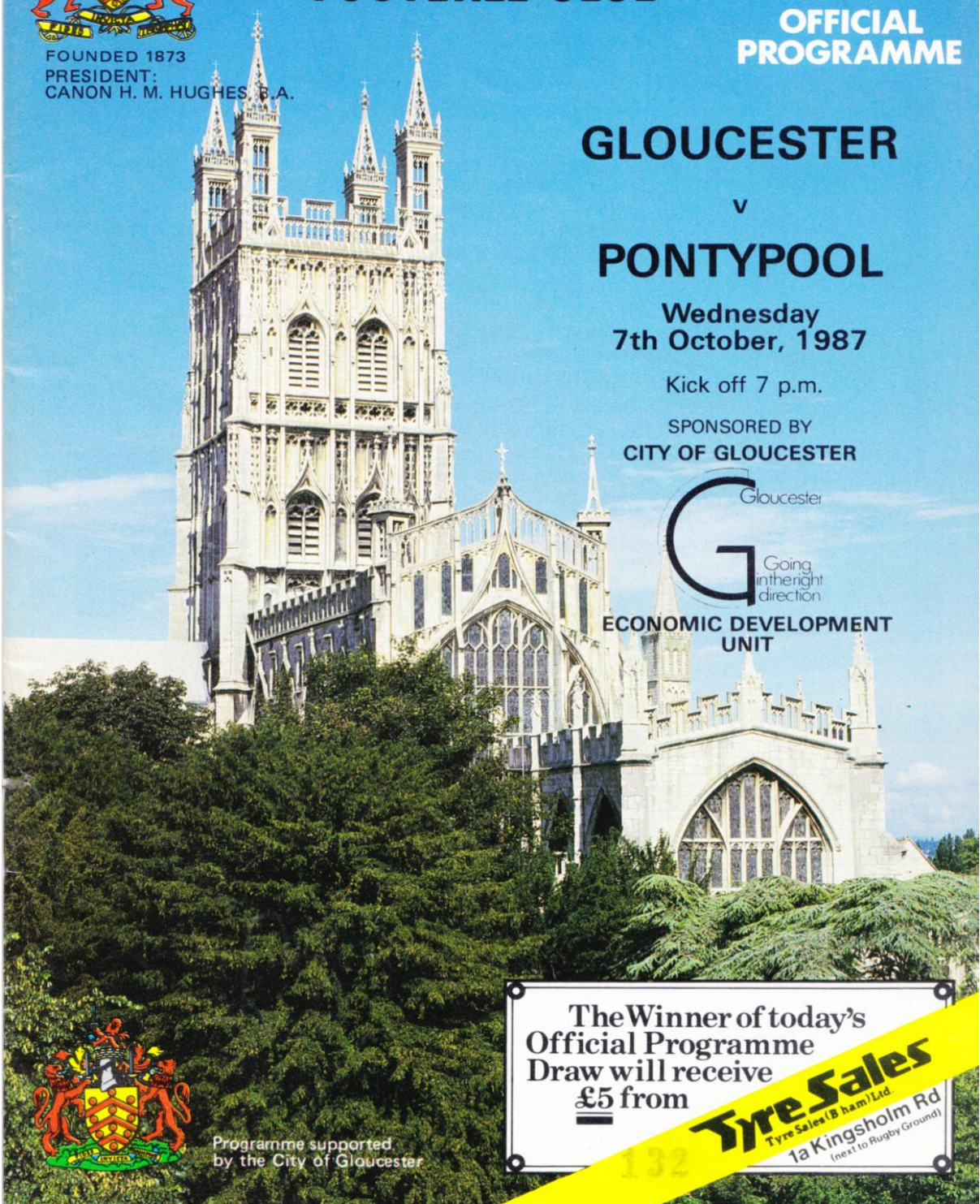
Wednesday  
 7th October, 1987

Kick off 7 p.m.

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
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### **AND, FOR OUR NEXT TRICK . . .**

Now let's get this straight. It's *Pontypridd* who are shouted for as 'Ponty'. Pontypool are 'Pooler'. But, whatever you call them, it's going to be quite a trick to beat them.

Somehow, it didn't seem right, last season, to see tonight's visitors falling somewhat from their own high standards, and it's only to be expected that they are now back to their own pre-eminence among Welsh Clubs. Someone was always going to suffer from Pontypool's rare fall from grace, and as it happens, the first club to do so this season was Bath. No comment.

Not that we have any reason to crow. Mediocre season or not, they were good enough to beat us last season, by 26 points to 16. But then, we weren't doing so well at that time, either.

Pontypool games at Kingsholm have always had something extra. There is a sense of urgency and commitment which isn't equalled very often, in my experience. And there has never been any need for Cups or Leagues to provide stimulus.

I can't see any reason why tonight's game should be any different. 'Pooler's' front eight have always been an awesome proposition, and now they are backed by, unquestionably, the finest pair of halves in Wales, and arguably in Britain. Anyone like to take money that Mark Ring won't be playing outside half for Wales this year? I certainly wouldn't bet against it. And, while I'm naming names, our congratulations to Messrs. Bidgood and Huish on their selection for Wales 'B' against France 'B' in 10 days time.

It will also be interesting to see how ex-Chess player, Marcus Hannaford, copes with a predatory Bishop.

Sorry - couldn't resist that, but anyway, it's very good to see Pontypool back here for the umpteenth time. It was Bobby Windsor who once, in my hearing, described Gloucester as the nearest thing to a Welsh club in England. It took it as a compliment, and I'm sure he won't have any reason to revise his opinion this evening.

### **WELCOME TO THE MOVERS**

Tonight's sponsorship story is a bit special, because it's the first time that the City of Gloucester has ever supported a First XV match in this way. To be precise, it's the Council's Economic Development Unit to whom we are indebted.

There isn't much point in my describing what the EDU does in any detail, because you'll find that spelled out on the inside back cover of this season's programmes. But what I *can* tell you is that ratepayers' money is not being spent merely in the cause of backing Gloucester RFC, worthy though some of us might think that cause to be.

In fact, tonight's little festivity is the culmination - one might even say 'climax' - to a day-long programme of visits, presentations and information on business opportunities in our venerable old City. The recipients of the hospitality and instruction are largely representatives of the major national practices who spend their time advising companies and organisations who wish to move their operations, set up new premises, or generally expand or relocate. And with the economy on the move again, there's a lot of it about.

We have a lot to offer to business and commerce in Gloucester, and the more often we hammer that fact home to the right people, the better for all of us.

Steve Kendall, who runs the Unit, explains the operation this way: "We want them to feel the atmosphere which makes Gloucester special, and take away a positive lasting impression of the City."

He could hardly have chosen a better place, or a better night to achieve that aim. But then, with ex-Notts, Lincs. and Derby hooker Ian Stuart as his Chief Officer, and our old friend Fred Reed as his No. 2, he probably knew that already.

From our own point of view, our thanks go to the Employment and Estates Committee of the City Council for their support. We hope we've helped in your efforts to create new jobs for Gloucester.

### **TYRE SALES AGAIN**

Mr. K. Hopkins of 17, Thorsby Avenue, Tuffley, and Mr. R. Gevans of Charlton Drive, Charlton Kings, have reason to be grateful to Tyre Sales Ltd. of Kingsholm Road. They have both been holders of winning Lucky Programme Numbers recently, and we hope that the Fabulous Fivers were put to appropriately convivial use.

As you'll have gathered, Tyre Sales have, once again, generously agreed to provide the aforesaid Fivers, this season. It's an imaginative way to support the Club, while obtaining some worthwhile publicity. Thanks, once again, chaps. We - and all the winners - appreciate the gesture.

### **GOOD FOR 'J.O.!**

So we lost at Bedford - which just goes to show what a funny old game this is. It's nice to see a good old side like that, having been in the doldrums for a few seasons, stringing one or two good results together. John Orwin will have been happy!

Our next home First XV game is against Newport on Saturday week, and I notice that they seem to be getting their act together at last. You don't have to wait until then to see some good Rugby, however. United are at home to Richmond on Saturday, and they're always a stiff proposition at this level.



Next Wednesday - October 14th - sees the first visit of Bath to Kingsholm this season, and the fact that it's a Colts game shouldn't put you off from coming along. I'm told that we have a highly competent and attractive bunch of youngsters this season, and their results so far would seem to bear this out.

Meanwhile, there's the away game to Harlequins on Saturday. That 40-point beating we got two years ago still rankles, and this time there is the added incentive of League points at stake. The lads would love to see you if you fancy a trip to the 'Smoke'.

#### **GANGWAY!**

The evening when an unusually high number of City Fathers have graced us with their presence seems an appropriate one to remind you of the new regulation about keeping gangways clear. It's all in the cause of spectator safety, I'm told, so please do us a favour and keep out of the aisles while watching the game.

We have enough extra cash to find, without having to employ stewards to enforce the legislation.

And while I'm on the subject of things legal, don't forget your Social Club Membership Card if you like to patronise the Clubhouse, before or after the match. John Beaman will be glad to provide you with one - and after all, it's free to Members.

#### **WELL DONE LEAGUE AND HILL!**

While the rest of you were whooping it up at Bristol, I went to see the Gordon League in their Cup game against Chiltern. The result is history now, but it's nice to be able to record that both of our representatives at this stage of the John Player have progressed efficiently to the next round.

Both are drawn at home, 'League' against Oxford and 'Hill' against Lewes, who played Gloucester in the third round a while ago. Neither will be an easy proposition, but home advantage must make the Gloucestershire sides fancy their chances. Best of luck, both!

#### **YOU'VE GOTTA PICK A TICKET OR TWO!**

It's no secret that the Club has to raise £250,000, in total, to comply with all the alterations forced on us by the Safety at Sports Grounds legislation. That's a lot of bread, whichever circles you move in.

Tonight sees us launching our new Lottery, which we're hoping will help us considerably. The format is the familiar one - rub-off cards with instant prizes, and larger ones which have to be claimed.

You may already have been accosted by an attractive young lady, persuading you to take the odd flutter, and we'd all be grateful if you'd do just that.

But we're not just talking about a match-night operation. Various local clubs, and all our Members are being circulated, hoping that we can persuade them to sell tickets for us on a percentage basis. It could be a lucrative proposition for your skittles team, or whatever, to take part. And you'd be helping Gloucester RFC no end.

You may feel that all the enjoyment which generations of Gloucester players have given us, over the years, merits a little help from us. If ever there were a time when the Club needed such help it's right now.

Why not see what you can do?

#### **AND THANKS . . .**

On the same subject, the Club hasn't actually launched an appeal, but we've all been surprised and heartened by the number of unsolicited donations which have arrived out of the blue. They range from modest tenners, to very considerable sums of money.

Obviously, all such generosity is more than welcome. And our heartfelt thanks to those people who have helped without being asked. You certainly find out who your friends are.

#### **TAILPIECE**

I hear that Chiltern have suggested that they take on Gordon League in an Over-35 match. I hope they know what they're doing: can you *imagine* what a 'Golden Oldie' side the League could get together if they really tried? We might even get Peter Ford to drag out his boots again.

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.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottingham	4	3	1	0	70	12	14
Leicester	3	3	0	0	68	38	12
Gloucester	2	2	0	0	60	19	8
Coventry	4	1	0	3	56	110	7
Moseley	3	1	0	2	31	50	6
Bath	2	1	0	1	27	34	5
Sale	3	0	0	3	37	60	3
Orrell	1	0	1	0	12	12	2
Harlequins	1	0	0	1	9	12	1
Bristol	1	0	0	1	16	21	1

(Wasps & Waterloo have yet to Play)

Gloucester set out to end a run of five successive Pontypool victories in this annual fixture, which is traditionally a fiercely contested, bruising encounter.

It was back in 1981-82 that Gloucester last defeated 'Pooler', having also earned a shock win in Wales the season before.

All the points came in the first half at Kingsholm in October 1981 and then the yellow-shirted Gloucester players had to defend stubbornly against wave after wave of Welsh attacks.

The points that night came from tries by Steve Boyle and Malcolm Preedy plus penalties from Les Jones and Tony Durkin.

And the Gloucester team that night was: A. Durkin, P. Pritchard, S. Parsloe, P. Taylor, R. Mogg, L. Jones, S. Baker, M. Preedy, S. Mills (capt.), S. Ashmead, J. Orwin, S. Boyle, J. Gadd, M. Teague, M. Longstaff.

Since then Gloucester have met Pontypool five times and the results have been:

1982-83	Pontypool 52	Gloucester 15
1983-84	Gloucester 12	Pontypool 23
1984-85	Pontypool 19	Gloucester 3
1985-86	Gloucester 12	Pontypool 17
1986-87	Pontypool 26	Gloucester 6

And over the last 12 meetings between these teams Gloucester have won three and lost nine, scoring 118 points and conceding 217 in that time.

On their last visit to Kingsholm Pontypool won 17-12 in a match dominated by their powerful

pack. The ball rarely went past scrum-half David Bishop as Pontypool recovered from a nine points deficit to finish worthy winners.

Around 6,000 spectators watched that match, refereed superbly by Roger Quittenton.

Full-back Steve Lazenby kicked four penalties for the Cherry and Whites, again playing in their second choice yellow strip, but tries from Mark Brown and Geoff Davies plus three penalties by full-back Peter Lewis gave Pontypool victory.

And the Gloucester line-up that night: S. Lazenby, R. Mogg, I. Goslin, P. Taylor, J. Breeze, M. Hamlin, M. Hannaford, M. Preedy, S. Mills, R. Pascall, J. Orwin (capt.), J. Brain, J. Gadd, D. Spencer, J. Bennett.

The problem for Gloucester was that three days later they took on Harlequins in a John Smith's National Merit table match and were hammered 43-6.

Perhaps the fiercely physical clash with Pontypool had taxed the Gloucester players too much with another big game so close, but whatever the reason, the Cherry and Whites were a pale shadow of their normal selves on that disappointing day in a virtually empty Twickenham.

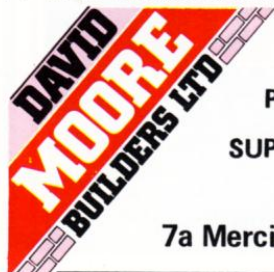
Certainly Gloucester looked heavy-footed and were rarely in contention.

That experience posed a real problem when the Gloucester selectors met on Monday evening. For on Saturday Gloucester must travel to play Harlequins in the Courage Clubs championship.

Malcolm Preedy . . . try for Gloucester on their last win against Pontypool.



Steve Boyle . . . now with Moseley, but he scored against Pontypool in their last defeat against Gloucester.



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