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# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

# 30<sup>p</sup>

## OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

# GLOUCESTER v NEWPORT

Saturday  
17th October, 1987

Kick off 3 p.m.

SPONSORED BY



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### **HOME AGAIN, HOME AGAIN . . .**

Seems a while since we foregathered on a Saturday. Having unexpectedly lost at Bedford and got drowned last week, it's nice to be back in the old routine again.

Not that we've been starved. The Pontypool games was a cracker, and could easily have gone either way. At the time of writing I don't know how the lads got on at Ebbw Vale, but whatever did happen, today sees the completion of a notable Welsh 'triple' with the welcome advent of Newport. Wonder if any other English club can point to such stern Welsh opposition, all in a row like that?

Newport, of course, can claim to be among our oldest opponents, having played Gloucester since the early days when the Elver Eaters were playing on the Spa. And that's going back well over a century.

Last season, the black-and-ambers beat us twice. At Newport we went down by 34 points to 21, while we lost 15-29 at Kingsholm. That was, however, on the day after Boxing Day, so perhaps hangovers had something to do with it.

As you'll have noticed, Newport haven't had a brilliant start to the season, by their own high standards. There are indications, however, that they are now getting back to their old eminence, so it wouldn't be wise to read too much into early season results.

Whatever happens, everyone will want to express a very warm welcome to today's visitors. The season wouldn't be the same without them.

The thought occurs that with the increasing importance of League matches, and the suggestion that the Welsh RFU might explore the same route, such games could be in jeopardy.

But let's not worry about that today. Hope everyone has a terrific time.

### **THANKS TO DIS**

If any of our visitors from Newport are wearing shoes bought at Curtess or Freeman, Hardy and Willis, or if they are carrying anything acquired at their local Argos shop, then they will have experienced the results of the efforts of today's generous Sponsors.

Not that that is too surprising. The Design Installation Services Group have current contracts all the way from Plymouth to Glasgow. They are certainly one of Britain's leading organisations in the environmental engineering field, and their reputation and track record increases all the time.

DIS are based in Bath Road, Cheltenham, with regional offices in Plymouth and Manchester, and anyone who finds himself visiting the Kingsditch Trading Estate, also in Cheltenham, will probably have noticed Cheltenham Electrical Controls Limited, who design and manufacture switchgear, motor control centres, control panels and programmable controller systems.

Other Group activities include heating, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, waste systems, and fire protection systems, among others. A large part of this activity is in the retail, commercial and industrial markets.

But DIS is busy close to home too. They are very happy to be very involved with our fascinating Docks project, and are in the design and installation stages of mechanical and electrical services for the new BBC Radio Gloucester, which is to be based in London Road.

They have time for fun, however, and it's pleasant to be able to report that this is the fourth time they have supported Gloucester this way.

Obviously our thanks are due to Ray Bell, Steve Kentfield, and all the other DIS people who are here today. We hope all of them, plus their guests, have a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

### **. . . AND BRITISH GAS**

Being in the heating and ventilating field, it seems highly appropriate that DIS are sponsoring the game for which British Gas are supplying the match ball. If, like me, you took the opportunity to acquire a modest few British Gas shares, I'm sure you'll agree that your money is being spent wisely.

It's a handsome gesture, and we thank British Gas for it.

### **IT HELPS IF YOU'RE HERE EARLY**

The cloudburst in the hour or so before the Pontypool game gave us problems at the turnstiles. Understandably, everyone sheltered until the last five minutes, the rain stopped, and then the entrances looked like the 24 hours before the Harrods Sale.

We can blame the weather for that one, but it does point up the fact that you'll be doing everyone a favour by getting here in good time. No one likes queueing at the best of times, and with the likes of Nottingham and Bath on the horizon, perhaps you'd be good enough to take due regard of the point. We'd hate you to miss the kick-off.



#### WHERE DID YOU LEAVE YOUR CAR?

On a similar subject, the Police are getting a little worried about some of the parking in the streets around the Ground on match days. We can understand the anxiety to get here as soon as possible, but we do want to keep on good terms with the neighbours, and you probably know from your experience how infuriating it can be to be blocked in so that you can't get your car in or out of where you want to go - especially if it's your own property.

At the moment, the local Law are being very reasonable about the whole thing: after all, they do have a pretty good Rugby team of their own, but if the problem continues, they're going to have to start getting official, like it or not.

We'd hate you to find a ticket on your windscreen after the game, and we do take the point that people living round the Ground have a fair amount to put up with at times.

Just a word to the wise.

#### HARLEQUINS

You don't want to believe all you read in the papers. Although both clubs want to rearrange the waterlogged Harlequins v. Gloucester Courage Club Championship match, there never was any serious intention of playing it on November 7th when we're due to entertain Rosslyn Park.

Negotiations, as they say, are in hand, and I'll certainly let you know as soon as anything has been decided.

#### BIG ONE NEXT WEEK

Nottingham are riding high at the top of the Championship table at the moment, partly because their fixture list provides them with early matches against other sides in Division 1.

As you'll know, they haven't lost a Championship game yet, and with Simon Hodgkinson back in his rightful outside-half spot after a few seasons at full back, must be regarded as a very tough proposition indeed.

And they're here next Saturday, which will be something of a 'crunch' for both sides. As someone said in the pub, the other day, "If they can beat Gloucester at Kingsholm, then they'll *deserve* the bloody title."

That's one you won't want to miss.

On the following Saturday - the 31st - the lads have another tough assignment, away at Waterloo, and while that's going on, you could come along and see United take on Saracens, which should be attractive.

#### WELL DONE 'SPANNER'!

Congratulations to Dave Spencer on getting into the 'first' South West Divisional side. After all his injury problems, last season, and his spectacular reappearance on the scene, he deserves some recognition.

Of course, the last word on the final composition of the side hasn't been said yet, so there's plenty of hope for the whole batch of Gloucester players assigned to the 'shadow' squad. And I'd hope that something similar can be said about John Brain, who is unlucky to have been left out, remembering some of the people who have been selected.

Early days yet.

#### TAILPIECE

It was at this game this year, when we acquitted ourselves less than nobly, that someone said to me after the match: "I hear my firm is going to sponsor a game at Christmas."

I expressed due appreciation, and he continued: "At least, I *think* that's what the boss meant. What he actually *said* was - 'It'll be a cold day before we sponsor this lot!'"

PETER ARNOLD



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