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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30p
 OFFICIAL
 PROGRAMME

GLOUCESTER v SOUTH WALES POLICE

Wednesday
 4th November, 1987

Kick off 7 p.m.

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'ALLO! 'ALLO! 'ALLO!

Headline over, and a truce on all alleged jokes about big feet, cummer-longer-me and P.C. Plod. What we have this evening, for your delectation, is a highly-respected, efficient and successful Rugby team which has become a very real force on the International scene over the past few seasons.

Indeed, that very thing probably means that our visitors from South Wales Police will be a little depleted this evening, having been asked to supply two players and a replacement for the Wales team which meets the American Eagles on Saturday next. And don't forget - the Revolting Colonials beat all the form books by handily disposing of Neath, last Saturday.

Congratulations to the Police contingent. Pity though: we're pleased for Bleddyn Bowen on his elevation to the Welsh captaincy, but the result is that the forthright centre will almost certainly miss coming to Kingsholm yet again, injury having ruled him out a time or two in previous seasons.

I must admit one query about the Welsh selection. Having seen Mark Ring in action for Pontypool in that very good game a week or two ago, I can't see why Bleddyn Bowen has been asked to revert to outside half after a break of several years, while Ring is playing behind him at centre. Seems odd to me.

Not that it's any of our business. We're just glad to have the Police with us once again. Last season we restricted them to the inhospitable end of a 20-9 scoreline, having just squeaked past them by the odd point in 29 the season before. Nevertheless, they're never a team to be taken lightly, and the injury situation, coupled with selection problems related to the Clubs Championship games doesn't necessarily leave us at our strongest this evening, either.

We'll see. Meanwhile, we're very happy to be assisting South Wales Police with their enquiries, and we hope they have a highly enjoyable time with us. Even if it is the eve of Fireworks Night.

THANKS TO SATELLITE SYSTEMS

We have a new Sponsor this evening, and naturally we're very grateful for the privilege. Indeed, if all the plans have gone right, they will have a greater impact on most people's attendance than Sponsors usually do.

There should be the odd extra TV screen about tonight. The difference being that you'll be able to watch something new, beamed by satellite, probably across the Atlantic. Could be drag racing, baseball or one of a wide range of sports we don't get covered by 'domestic' television.

We hear about so many 'things of the future' that one tends to dismiss such comments rather easily. There's little doubt, however, that the advent of satellite TV will have a tremendous impact on all of us. Equally, there's no doubt at all that Satellite Systems (Cotswolds) Ltd. are the leading practitioners of that technology in our part of the world. Peter Bolton tells me that they have already won some important Ministry of Defence contracts, and that the trend is firmly upwards.

And if you think that the satellite dishes are too big and too expensive, and that the whole thing is too complicated, then you might be surprised at just how fast the system has developed. Dishes are getting smaller, and satellite TV is now within the financial reach of most of us. After all, when just one satellite can give you 16 channels, the totality of the proposition is slightly mind-boggling.

Who knows - we might even get some Rugby by satellite before very long.

But TV isn't the only string to Satellite Systems' bow. They also handle 'Multitone' products in this area. As you probably know, the London-based international company are world leaders in the radio-paging and intercom market, having invented the first radio-paging system for St. Thomas's Hospital as long ago as 1957. Nowadays, they have a Research and Development Centre in Basingstoke, and a new manufacturing plant in King's Lynn.

It's not just 'bleepers' any more. Today, you can also have a system which displays messages, stores information and even allows you to conduct a conversation. Many of the systems rented from Telecom and Air Call are, in fact, supplied by Multitone.

The Gloucester area is particularly rich in Multitone systems. They are in use at Cheltenham General Hospital, Birds Eye Walls, and CEGB. So if you are involved with the running of large shops, offices, or any area of industry, really, you could do worse than contact Irene Melvin on 01-253-7611.

And if you're intrigued by Satellite TV, ring Peter Bolton or Archie Hartshorne on Gloucester 883306.

LOTTERY

Don't forget to invest in the odd Lottery ticket tonight. You could win £1,000. Even more to the point, we're still looking for Agents to sell for us - on a percentage basis, naturally - around clubs, centres, work-places, or anywhere really. Call at the Secretary's Office if you're interested.

MORE RUGBY BOOKS

I seem to have started something when I reported that our Friendly Neighbourhood Divisional Librarian and Rugby Supporter, Gwyn Hiatt, was stocking various works on the Noble Game in the Gloucester Libraries. Now he writes to tell me about a couple more he is acquiring.

He highly recommends the *BBC Rugby Special* book, which includes a review of the World Cup, and has been compiled by Nigel Starmer Smith (whom God preserve) and Ian Robertson. Also hot off the presses is *'Gareth Edwards' 100 Great Rugby Players'*. The revered Gareth must be getting forgetful, because he doesn't mention any Gloucester players, but intriguingly, he does feature Welsh Captain, Gwyn Nicholls, who was born in Westbury-on-Severn. How did we let *him* get away?

THREE IN A ROW

The next three First XV games are all home fixtures. On Saturday, Rosslyn Park pay us a visit, Cheltenham arrive one week tonight, and Newbridge come along on Saturday November 14th. And not a League match between them, which I must confess, I find something of a relief.

Not that I'm knocking anything, but I sometimes feel that the structure of the game is denigrating the good, old-fashioned Club match. See you along the way.

IT'S DISCO TIME AGAIN!

Had a message from Jeremy Bennett the other day. It appears that we are now entering the period when the ever-popular Players' Discos invade the Complex. The first such event of the Season takes place on November 14th, following the Newbridge match.

I wasn't at home when the message arrived, so when my daughter, who took the call, enquired about prices and was told by Jeremy, "Same as usual", she assumed I knew. I suppose I did once, and I think that tickets cost a modest £1.50, but if I'm wrong - I'm sorry.

Anyway, they're super events, if you're that way inclined, and highly recommended. Why not trot along?

RULES IS RULES

Are you keeping the gangways clear, deserting the Tump, keeping off the Pitch, taking care where you park your car, and in possession of a Social Club Membership Card? You are? Creep!

But if you aren't doing all those things, don't blame me if you get shouted at, blasted by Graham Spring's PA system, booked, arrested and barred from the Clubhouse.

There — that's got that lot over.

400 CLUB?

Don't forget that our ambition to turn the '300 Club' into the '400-Club' is proceeding very nicely, thank you. But there's room for more investors, and the way things are going, we shall be offering the biggest and bestest set of prizes yet. Can't be bad. Talk to Social Club Committee members about it if you're interested.

HOW ABOUT ORRELL THEN?

Isn't it amazing how things work out? At one time we never seemed to be able to avoid Richmond in the John Player Cup, then it was Gosforth, and now we seem to be on a series of Orrell encounters. This time, however, we have them at home, where we stuffed them gently after controversially losing to them on their own patch. The Cup is no respecter of reputations, however, and the prospect is intriguing, to say the least.

So are the draws for our other two local sides. Berry Hill will assuredly start as underdogs at London Welsh, but the Exiles aren't doing all that well this season, and you never know. Gordon League could certainly spring a surprise again Headingly on the slope at Hempsted.

We'll have to wait and see.

TAILPIECE

In a state of happy inebriation the other day, I was persuaded to purchase a copy of Warwick University's Rag magazine. One quip caught my eye.

Definition of a Rugby Player: The one who drinks more than the local Soccer Club.

PETER ARNOLD



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T	G	Pts		Cumulative Match Score
			15. T. Smith	
			14. D. Morgan	
			13. R. Mogg	
			12. D. Cummings	
			11. N. Price	
			10. J. Roberts	
			9. L. Gardner	
			1. P. Jones	
			2. K. Dunn	
			3. R. Phillips	
			4. J. Brain (capt.)	
			5. J. Etheridge	
			6. P. Ashmead	
			7. L. Cummings	
			8. A. Stanley	
			Replacements:	
			K. White	
			P. Kingston	
			(I) — International	
			H/T	

SOUTH WALES POLICE

T	G	Pts	
			15. M. Hembury
			14. A. Hughes
			13. D. Jones
			12. R. Donovan
			11. C. Barber
			10. I. Stevens
			9. T. Lee
			1. J. Owen
			2. C. Hillman
			3. H. Williams-Jones
			4. N. Jones
			5. J. Wakeford
			6. A. Davies
			7. M. Morris
			8. P. Lloyd
			Replacements:
			S. Davies
			D. Harrett
			F/T

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Referee: A. SPREADBURY (Somerset Society)

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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.

Courage Clubs Championships:

National Division One	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottingham	8	4	1	3	116	97	21
Moseley	5	3	0	2	85	63	14
Gloucester	4	3	0	1	83	44	13
Bristol	5	1	1	2	90	54	12
Leicester	3	3	0	0	68	38	12
Bath	4	2	0	2	57	58	10
Waterloo	2	2	0	0	26	15	8
Coventry	5	1	0	4	61	136	8
Sale	4	0	0	4	37	97	4
Orrell	2	0	1	1	22	40	3
Wasps	1	0	1	0	12	12	2
Harlequins	1	0	0	1	9	12	1

Gloucester Rugby Club's failure to stop Waterloo's runaway start to the season was a bitter blow to their Courage Clubs Championship hopes, but the Cherry and Whites still have their eyes firmly fixed on that title.

Waterloo have opened the season with ten successive wins including two National League Division One victories — against Nottingham 10-9 and Gloucester 16-9.

But they must travel to play Bath in December and have tough away matches against Moseley, Coventry, Harlequins, Leicester and Bristol to come. Only two more matches remain at home for Waterloo — against Sale and Wasps.

Gloucester have won three of their first four matches and already the two big matches in five days at the start of December look vital.

Bath visit Kingsholm on Tuesday, December 1st and then on Saturday, December 5th the Cherry and Whites must travel to play Leicester, who are still unbeaten in the League this season with three wins from three matches.

During November Gloucester have only one Courage Championship match, the re-arranged clash with Harlequins away.

Other top clubs are busy with Leicester playing three times, Bath and Nottingham twice each.

November fixtures — Saturday, November 7th: Orrell v Sale.

Saturday, November 14: Wasps v Bath, Orrell v Bristol, Nottingham v Leicester.

Saturday, November 21st: Coventry v Bath, Leicester v Wasps, Harlequins v Gloucester.

Saturday, November 28th: Moseley v Leicester, Wasps v Nottingham.

Tonight's visitors South Wales Police play an annual fixture against Gloucester, but it is always at Kingsholm.

And they have found little success over recent years, having lost 11 of the last 12 matches to be played.

Gloucester have scored more than 300 points in that run, while Police are one short of three figures on 99.

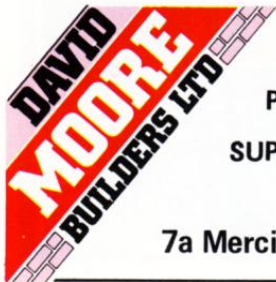
But it is often a close match with last season's encounter finishing 20-9 to Gloucester and the 1985 fixture resulted in a 15-14 success.

The lone Police win came in 1983-84 when they emerged 13-9 winners.

Tonight the Welshmen are without their Welsh internationals Bleddyn Bowen and Ritchie Collins, who are both resting before Saturday's encounter between Wales and the US Eagles.



Nick Marmont... the Gloucester full-back is the top scorer so far this season with 82 points from his 10 appearances.



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