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# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

**30<sub>p</sub>**  
**OFFICIAL  
 PROGRAMME**

## GLOUCESTER v NEWBRIDGE

**Saturday  
 14th November, 1987**

Kick off 3 p.m.

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### **BUCKING THE TREND**

It's good to welcome Newbridge this afternoon, if only because it gives another opportunity to reverse a trend which I, hadn't really realised until I came to look up the records. In fact, Gloucester haven't won this encounter for the past four occasions.

In 1983, Newbridge came here and gave us a tonking of quite horrid proportions — 36 points to 16, if you want the grisly details.

As I remember it, that result was largely inspired by Paul Turner, later of Newport, and now of London Welsh, and in my opinion, the best outside half qualified to play for England.

A year later, we went to Newbridge and did rather better, losing 9-17, while on their return to Kingsholm in 1985, we were a bit unlucky, going down 10-12. Last season, again at Newbridge, the home side won 13-16, so the scales look pretty evenly balanced, if you believe that records mean anything.

I always feel that Newbridge don't get the appreciation they deserve, being overshadowed, often, by the doings of the Neaths and Pontypools of this world. My experience of today's visitors is that they know how to play Rugby, and how to play it in an entertaining fashion.

I do notice that, from the results, they haven't had the best of seasons, according to their own high standards, but I can't imagine that that situation will continue indefinitely. Given the record against Gloucester, they'll be hoping that the turning point arrives today.

I wouldn't be honest if I concurred in that aspiration, but I can, with confidence, say that we all hope they have a good time, and that we're glad to see them again.

### **TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT!**

The Civic Ball? The Chartered Insurance Institute Dinner? Not on your life! Without doubt, the most glittering occasion in Gloucester's social calendar happens tonight, when the first Players' Disco of the season bursts upon an astonished world, right here at Kingsholm.

For a modest £1.50, you can dance the night away, trying not to be overawed by the baroque splendour of the Complex. The beer's good too.

Proceeds go to the Players' Fund, and a good time will assuredly be had by all. Why not come along? The lads would be glad to see you.

### **CHRISTMAS DRAW**

John Beaman is positively salivating to sell you a few tickets in the Annual Christmas Draw. I haven't seen the prize list yet, but if past efforts are anything to go by, it must be reaching telephone-directory proportions.

Could be a useful way of augmenting your Festive provisions, especially those that require corks. Anyway, even if you turn out to be one of the unfortunate souls that don't win anything, the fact that you have a supply of tickets adds spice to the Grand Draw evening, a bit later on.

One thing's for sure — if you don't enter, you can't win. See John and make your investment.

### **THANKS TO BEAVEN**

We're grateful to all our generous Sponsors, of course, but there's something particularly satisfying when those far-sighted and open-handed souls represent good old, long-established Gloucester Companies.

This afternoon provides a good example. In fact, Beaven & Sons, of Lower Westgate Street, were founded as long ago as 1841, which makes them three decades older than Kingsholm itself.

That being so, many people here today will know quite a bit about them. Others won't, so here's Managing Director Ron Mogg's thumbnail description.

"We are a multi-purpose services Company, with separate Divisions in Heating, Ventilation, Plumbing and Air Conditioning, Electrical Engineering and Contracting, Electrical Control Systems, Design and Manufacture of Control Panels."

That's about like saying that Peter Butler was a bit of a kicker. In fact, Beaven are certainly among the leaders in those fields, locally, and probably a bit beyond.

The 'local' theme continues. The name 'Parsons' is a very familiar one to old Gloucestersians, and Beaven have perpetuated it by retaining the name in their small electrical and plumbing repairs and installations Division.

Another name that will strike a chord with most Kingsholm regulars is that of 'Ibbotson' — and (you've guessed it), A. V. Ibbotson of Quay Street, has recently been taken under the wing of Beaven & Sons Limited. They specialise in all types of Metalwork Fabrication.

Just to complete the nap hand, Enamel & Shotblasting Co. are also part of the Parsons Group. They're the people to go to for all types of finishes, all the way from zinc and aluminium metal spray to paint finishing to any specification.

At the end of a period when so many traditional Gloucester companies have disappeared from the scene, it's very good to hear that one of the oldest of them all is alive and well, and living in Lower Westgate Street. We wish them well, and hope to see them many more times at Kingsholm.

Have a good day, chaps — and thanks again.



### COUNTY NEXT SATURDAY

Saturday, November 21st sees the return of County Rugby to Kingsholm Cornwall are the visitors.

A few years ago, that would have been one of the most eagerly anticipated Kingsholm games of the season, and it's a great shame that the — to my mind — thoroughly discredited Divisional Championship should have castrated the County Championship to its present equivocal status. This is one of the topics which I get a bit hot under the collar about, my opinions are well known, and I won't bore you with them again.

In spite of all that, there will be some good players on view, and results so far would indicate that it's likely to be a good match. So you might like to come along.

On the other hand, all our eyes will be on Twickenham that day, where the rearranged game against the formidable Harlequins side takes place. If you feel like the trip, then the lads would certainly be very glad of your support.

We're also scheduled to stage a United game against Newport High School Old Boys on that day, but the game obviously can't take place at Kingsholm. Various moves are afoot, but, at the time of writing, nothing has been finalised, so I shall just have to ask you to watch the press. If the matter has been resolved by the time you read this, then no doubt Graham Spring's dulcet tones will give you full information via the PA system.

### AND ON TO DECEMBER

We finish the month with a visit from London Irish on the 28th, and then embark on the December campaign. You'll probably be aware that we visit Leicester in the Clubs Championship, and entertain Bath for the same reason, early in the month.

I haven't actually heard anyone talking about the Divisional match based here on the 12th, but it is a fact that we do host the South West v. the North on that day, so you may wish to talk your way out of the Christmas shopping on that occasion. Well *anything's* better than that, and a game which is likely to have an effect on the make-up of the England team is a better excuse than most.

### LOTTERY

I think they pick them out for me. Every time I scratch off the numbers on one of our new Lottery cards, I seem to get three in a row, no problem, but that fourth one eludes me.

That means that the winners must be going somewhere else. And it could be you, so why not buy a few cards and prove the point? This time of the year, any infusion of akkers is welcome.

And, don't forget, we're still looking for Agents to spread the net more widely.

### TAILPIECE

It was my distinguished predecessor, the late and much-missed Arthur Russell, who was the expert on quotations, but I came across one, the other day, that I think I should pass on to you.

It's by P. G. Wodehouse, himself a Rugby man, who wrote in a book called 'Very Good, Jeeves', published in 1930:-

*"Rugby Football is a game I can't claim absolutely to understand in all its niceties, if you know what I mean. I can follow the general principles, of course. I know that the main scheme is to work the ball down the field somehow, and deposit it over the line at the other end, and that in order to squelch this programme, each side is allowed to put in a certain amount of assault and battery, and do things to its fellowman which, if done elsewhere, would result in fourteen days without the option, coupled with some strong remarks from the Bench."*

He must have been watching Gloucester and Bristol.

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.*

Ruari Maclean, Gloucester's strong tackling centre, is off to Edinburgh next Wednesday — to join the Scotland squad for a training session at Murrayfield.

It all sounds a little strange to hear that Scotland have picked a player who was born in London to Welsh parents, but the 26-year-old Maclean explains: "My grandfather comes from Argyllshire and that is how I qualify.

"But then I would play for Bermuda if they wanted me!

"I am delighted to be involved in national squad training with Scotland even though I am English.

"It will be great to be involved with players I normally only see on television and, while I know my chances of winning a Scottish cap are forlorn, there may just be a chance of selection in a Scotland 'B' team.

"They usually go for uncapped players in the 'B' team and it would be great to have a game for a national team."

Maclean flies up to Edinburgh on Wednesday for the squad training and says: "I am not sure whether or not I will have to stay overnight, but thankfully Scotland are paying expenses."

Two other Gloucester players — prop Pete Jones and flanker Ian Smith — are both qualified to play for the Anglo-Scots, but they have opted to be available for the South West in the Divisional Championships, which clash with the Scottish Inter-District matches.

Maclean is in the Anglo-Scots squad for their District matches against Edinburgh, South Scotland, Glasgow and the North and Midlands.

"All these District matches are Scotland trials," says Maclean, "And hopefully I can do well when the selectors are watching.

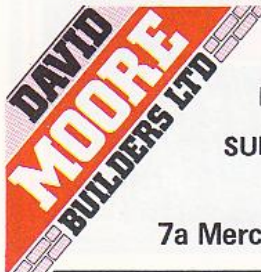
"I believe I was called into the Scotland squad after I played for the Anglo-Scots in their win against a French XV when I did reasonably well.

"Thankfully the selectors have only watched me three or four times in all and each time I have had a reasonable match. They have not seen me have a stinker."

Maclean, a former Llanelli and Newport player, made his first team debut for Gloucester against Abertillery in October 1985, when the Cherry and Whites won 13-0. He scored three tries in 31 appearances during that first season and has now played 57 first XV matches overall, scoring seven tries.



Ruari Maclean



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