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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30_p

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



GLOUCESTER

v

BATH

Monday
30th November, 1987

Kick off 7 p.m.

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WELCOME TO MONDAY

Don't know about you, but on the rare occasions when I watch Rugby on a Monday, I feel as if I'm getting away with something. After all, it isn't for nothing that this particular day of the week is known as 'Black Monday', and more notable for noses to the grindstone than feet to the ball.

That's about the only thing we shall get away with this evening. Bath may have had their reverses, this season, but they are still one of the two or three best sides in the country, and there is always the 'West Country Derby' factor to consider.

It would be quite possible to fill this entire programme with reminiscence, anecdote and observation about Gloucester v. Bath over the past few seasons. It would probably be superfluous, because I'm sure everyone here knows just as much about it as I do. Two particular occasions do warrant mention, however.

Last season, Gloucester surprised an awful lot of people — including, to be honest, quite a few Gloucester supporters — by winning the Merit Table game at Bath. It was certainly one of the surprises of the year, as far as the pundits were concerned, and a lot of informed opinion had written Gloucester off before they ever reached the ground.

There's a moral there too. It would be fatally easy to argue ground advantage, among other things, and expect an easy Gloucester win, but I don't suppose that Marcus Hannaford and the lads will be falling into that trap.

The second occasion which is worth recalling was that pulse-racing Cup Semi Final a couple of years ago, when Bath did us by just another one point. That game was one of the finest I have ever seen, and the whole affair did the game of Rugby a great deal of good. It's just a shame that snooker kept it off the TV screens until well after midnight. If tonight's affair is as good, everyone will go home happy.

We shall miss one or two faces tonight. John Hall and Chris Martin are absent through long-term injury, and we were all sorry to hear about the Barnes depressed cheek bone, sustained last weekend. If Richard Sharpe is covering this evening's game, he will have sympathy, because it was a similar injury, at the hands of Springbok, Mantjies Roux which, effectively, ended his glittering career.

We all hope things aren't as bad as that. We also hope that, both on the field and off it, everyone has a good evening this evening. Welcome Bath!

THANKS NATWEST!

Naturally, we are always grateful to our generous Sponsors, but we owe a special vote of thanks to National Westminster Bank this evening. As I have good reason to know, it isn't easy to have to rearrange the date of a promotional exercise at such very short notice. Guests have to be notified, one's own colleagues badgered into changing their plans, and there is all manner of incidental hassle. Inevitably, one or two people you have invited along can't make it, and your hoped-for goodwill exercise diminished to that extent.

I'm told that NatWest appreciate that the Clubs can't do much about an RFU decision, and that it ain't our fault. Nevertheless, it's very good of them to continue to co-operate in this way.

But then, that's symptomatic of the way that Banks have changed since the days when the idea of an interview with your Bank Manager drove you straight to the bottle. Nowadays, the whole idea is to treat your Manager as a friend and advisor. And he's got a lot to advise about. National Westminster, for example, have over 200 different services to call upon, and I don't suppose that's the end of the story.

In Gloucester, everyone will be familiar with the NatWest branches in Eastgate and Westgate Streets — John Melhuish, who manages the latter is one chap we're very pleased to see here this evening.

Anyone who finds himself in Hucclecote will know that there's a branch there too. Were you aware, however, that the Royal Hospital has its own facility, for the convenience of patients and staff? And there's also a branch at the Cattle Market, servicing one of the City's most important profit centres.

Tonight's effort, however, is generously provided by the whole of the Bank's Severnside Region, which covers everywhere from Tewkesbury to Bridgwater, and which has its Regional Centre at Bath. Hence the choice of the Gloucester v. Bath game.

It's nice to see Derek Vaile, Deputy Regional Director; Mike Sparrow, who is the Sales Manager for Personal Banking Services; and Chris Obbard, who performs the same function for Commercial Services, all here this evening. We'd also like to thank Richard Boase, who bore the brunt of the sudden change of date, for his efforts.

In fact, we'd like to thank everyone from NatWest, and hope that they, and their guests, have themselves a great, if early, time with us.

DIVISIONAL TICKETS

Whatever you think of the Divisional Championship, we do have one of the games here this season — South and South West v. the North, on December 12th, to be precise. Terry Tandy will be sitting in his Office, under the main Stand, waiting to sell you stand tickets for the occasion — but please, not until *after* the game this evening. He's got quite enough on his plate until then.

Centre Stand Tickets cost £3.50, and unnumbered Wing Stand tickets cost £3.00. No Ground Tickets.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Kingsholm regulars will be familiar with the various changes on the Ground since the new Safety at Sports Grounds legislation came into force. Bath supporters — and there are sure to be a lot of them — won't.

One thing we do have to be careful about is to make sure that gangways and steps are kept clear. So please don't park your bum, or anything else in these places, or someone will very likely ask you to move it.

Similarly, the covered stand at the Worcester Street End is now restricted to 400 souls. Of course, it physically holds more than that, so if the Ground is crowded, but you can see space in that area, please don't blame us. Bureaucracy it may perhaps be, but not on our part.

One more thing. I should think that John Beaman will be wanting to see your Social Club Membership Card before you can get into the Clubhouse tonight. Hope you've got it with you.

AWAY TIL CHRISTMAS

It may come as a shock, but this is our last Home First XV game before the Festive Season. Until the New Year in fact, when the formidable Moseley side pay us a visit.

That doesn't mean you have to do without your Rugby, however. If you can get to Leicester, next Saturday, the lads would appreciate your support in their vital Courage Clubs Championship game.

At home, United entertain Leicester also, on that day, and they have Coventry on the 19th and Newport on the 21st. Between whiles, there's the aforesaid Divisional game on the 12th. So you're not stuck with the Christmas shopping. See you along the way.

IF YOU'RE READING THIS IN THE BAR

. . . . then you'd do everyone a favour, including yourself, by making your way into the Ground a bit early tonight. We don't want any more congestion at the turnstiles than we can help, and I'd hate you to miss the kick-off, as some people did on the evening of the Pontypool game.

DIG DEEP!

Don't forget to buy a few lottery tickets this evening. Could help a bit with the horrendous expense of Christmas. And there's still room for some more Agents, if you're interested.

Similarly, John Beaman's Super Colossal Stupendous Christmas Draw is now in full swing. Why not win a bottle or two? As I've said, it could be your last chance.

TAILPIECE

It seems dreadfully early, but this is the last chance I have to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Not really, I suppose, what with lights going up in October and cards on sale in July.

How about a few New Year's Honours suggestions?

To Marcus Hannaford for Services to Gents' Outfitting. To John Orwin for Services to the Building Trade — and Barmaids.

Let me know if you think of any more. I'll try to get them into the Moseley Programme on New Year's Day.

Meanwhile — have a great time.

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.

Over the last seven seasons Gloucester and Bath have met 13 times with the Cherry and Whites emerging the winners seven times. Bath managed five wins, while one match was drawn 7-7.

A few years ago this fixture was seen as a regular win for Gloucester, but Bath's rapid rise and their John Player Cup triumphs of recent seasons have made these two leading West County clubs intense rivals.

In the 1973-74 Gloucester centenary season it was all pretty comfortable for the Cherry and Whites as they completed a double. At Kingsholm the result was 18-8 and at the Recreation Ground 19-15.

The Kingsholm match saw loose-head prop Keith Richardson in marvellous form and there were calls that he was worth an England place. But Bath struggled to put a side together and had to borrow Gloucester's reserve number eight Jerry Herniman to make up their numbers.

In 1976-77 Gloucester played only one fixture against Bath and romped home 51-7, scoring nine tries. Bob Clewes(2), John Haines, John Watkins, Dave Pointon, Steve Mills, Richard Jardine, Eddie Pinkney and Richard Mogg were the try scorers, while Peter Butler kicked six conversions and a penalty.

A couple of seasons later Gloucester's talented three-quarter Richard Mogg celebrated his call-up by England under 23's with a blistering display during an 11-3 win against Bath.

Mogg ran half the length of the pitch to score a try with Gordon Sargent also going over and Butler adding a penalty for victory.

At the start of the 1980's Gloucester were well on top, recording doubles in 1980-81 and 1981-82.

But in December 1982 Gloucester slipped 21-12 and had number eight Mike Teague sent off — the fourth Cherry and White player dismissed that

season. Bath's Richard Hill was also ordered off.

In the return at Kingsholm that season Gloucester drew 7-7 against Bath and that resulted in them missing out on a place in the third round of the John Player Cup because they had finished too far down the South West Merit table.

A try from Nick Price and a Les Jones dropped goal provided the points for Gloucester that day, but many other chances were missed.

Among the most important matches was the John Player Cup tie at Kingsholm in 1985, a tie which attracted a capacity crowd.

Gloucester lost 12-11 that day after playing superbly, but Cherry and White fans will prefer to remember last season's encounter. Gloucester made their worst start to a season for 30 years and having lost matches against Coventry, Bristol and Harlequins in the John Smith's Merit table looked in some trouble.

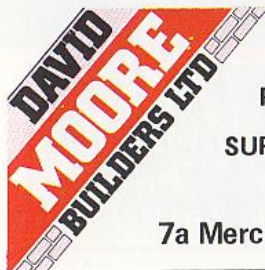
But they responded in style, earning a deserved 12-9 triumph at the Recreation ground in a match delayed by the late arrival of referee Terry Friend. A penalty try helped Gloucester on their way that night, but it was a deserved and sweet success.

Gloucester's record against Bath over the last seven seasons:

Courage Clubs Championships:

National Division One	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottingham	9	4	1	4	129	119	22
Leicester	5	5	0	0	102	60	20
Bristol	6	3	1	2	115	67	16
Gloucester	5	3	1	1	92	53	15
Moseley	5	3	0	2	85	63	14
Bath	6	2	1	3	81	86	13
Coventry	6	1	1	4	70	145	10
Waterloo	2	2	0	0	26	15	8
Orrell	4	1	1	2	54	65	8
Wasps	3	1	1	1	40	39	7
Sale	5	0	0	5	37	116	5
Harlequins	2	0	1	1	18	21	3

Not including Saturday results Moseley v Leicester, Wasps v Nottingham.



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