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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30p
**OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME**

GLOUCESTER v LEICESTER

Saturday
9th January, 1988

Kick off 3 p.m.

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GLOUCESTER
(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts
	3c	6

1		4
2		8

2		4

1		4

16	H/T	6

- 15. T. Smith
- 14. D. Morgan
- 13. R. MacLean
- 12. D. Cummins
- 11. J. Breeze

- 10. M. Hamlin
- 9. M. Hannaford (Capt.)

- 1. M. Preedy (I)
- 2. G. Mann
- 3. R. Pascall
- 4. N. Scrivens
- 5. J. Brain
- 6. P. Ashmead
- 7. I. Smith
- 8. M. Teague (I)

Replacements:
P. Kingston
R. Phillips

(I) — International

Cumulative
Match
Score

LEICESTER
(Red, Green & White)

T	G	Pts

30	F/T	16

- O. W. Hare (I)
(Capt.)
- N. B. Evans
- M. I. Bates
- L. S. Burnhill
- J. C. Dexter

- K. J. Harris
- I. S. Kenney

- A. S. Reofern
- B. H. Roberts
- C. P. Burnell
- D. P. J. Mann
- E. T. Smith
- F. A. Marriott
- G. S. Povoas
- H. P. Thornley

Replacements:
P. D. Grewcock
Q. G. Collins

Referee: R. QUITTENTON (London Society)

PLENTY OF MERIT IN IT . . .

All right — so Leicester has de-merited today's game, as they have every right to do, under the rules of the competition. That fact doesn't make our old friends and rivals any less welcome.

It's all a bit academic, anyhow. The advent of fixed dates for League matches next season should solve the problem. What is intriguing is — what happens now?

The Club Championships game ought really to be rearranged, but with the advent of the International Season, and the John Player Special Cup, not to mention the proposed special Irish International to help celebrate Dublin's 1,000th Anniversary in April, it would take the negotiating skills of Mr. Gorbachev, assisted by a bank of computers, to find a suitable date.

And, don't forget, we still have some League matches to play, notably against the powerful Wasps side, next week. Wasps, who also provide people to both the major and the 'B' Internationals in Paris, have the option of de-meriting too — and who could blame them if they exercise it? Of course, we only play them once per season, so, presumably, there would be a question of rearranging that one, too.

It all makes the brain ache a bit. Let's just sit back and enjoy the visit of Leicester as we used to before things got complicated. 'Tigers' v 'Elver Eaters' has always been a meeting to savour, whether at Kingsholm or Welford Road, and I don't see any reason why today's episode in the continuing saga should be any different.

After all, there's enough to play for, without introducing League points. Gloucester has won four out of the last five encounters, and today's visitors will be out to prove that their win at Leicester, recently, was no fluke, and had little to do with the fact that both sides were depleted by the disruptive Divisional Championship.

Over the past few years we've seen some cracking Rugby between these two sides, so let's hope today lives up to the tradition.

Leicester — you're heartily welcome. Have a thoroughly enjoyable day.

THANKS TO CRIDDLE BURGESS FEEDS

Animals have to eat too, and in this neck of the woods, their own particular hypermarket is Criddle Burgess Feeds Ltd. of Tetbury, the country's largest privately-owned supplier of animal feeds and needs.

They're also the generous Sponsors of today's game, and I believe I may be right in saying, the first ones ever to bring 100 guests along with them. Frequenters of the Complex shouldn't be too worried about that. The majority of Criddle Burgess customers are farmers, and the demands of that profession being what they are, I gather that about 70 of them will have to nip off sharpish after the match, leaving a hard core of about 30 behind.

One of those will be Bob Osborne, who likes to be described as "Your Man in this area", when it comes to feeds. He's 'Mein Host' for the day, and is, in any case, a Kingsholm Regular.

I liked one comment he made. "If anyone needs animal feeds, and finds that the Lucky Programme Number read out at Half Time isn't theirs, then tell them to try ringing 0666 52296 — that could be an even luckier number as far as their stock is concerned!" Well, you've got to give him points for trying, haven't you?

The other point that intrigued me was that *all* our local contingent of 'Royals' are customers of Criddle Burgess Feeds. Bob didn't think any of them would turn up, but knowing the independence of such people as the Princess Royal and Princess Michael, you never know. Better watch the language, chaps — just in case.

Be that as it may, we thank Criddle Burgess Feeds for their generosity, and, whoever turns up, we hope that everyone has a right royal time.

APOLOGIES FROM KEITH RICHARDSON

Apologies, in advance, from our energetic Club Coach, Keith Richardson, who won't be at the Wasps game next week. He'll be in Paris, so at least Kevin Dunn won't be the only 'Elver Eater' present on that occasion. No — he hasn't joined the massed ranks of England Coaches — he's there on business, having launched an enterprise called 'Hunter's Tours' and organised a French trip for the International.

The last we heard, he had a few places left. Worth asking, anyway.

TICKETS FOR ORRELL

You won't need reminding that January 23rd is the date of the John Player Special Cup match against Orrell. You'll also know that the rules of the competition make it an 'all pay' match, whether we like it or not.

Tickets will be available, immediately after the game today, from the caravan behind the main stand, David Foyle officiating, and not from Terry Tandy's office, as was originally announced. Not to worry if you have already made application to Terry. He's passed them all on to David.

Tickets are available for the Stand only, price £3.00 reserved, and £2.20 unreserved. If you're one of the happy souls who like to 'do it standing up', then please get along a bit early, to minimise the crush at the turnstiles — and to ensure you get somewhere near to your usual pitch.

Drivers shouldn't forget, either, that the 'all pay' regulation applies also to the Carpark, so don't blame the attendants.

MONEY BACK

There can't be many left by now, but if anyone bought tickets for the Divisional Championship game which was, in the event, transferred to Torquay because of the weather, then they can receive a refund by taking their unused tickets along to Terry Tandy in his office.

Took a bit of negotiating, I'm told, but all is well now.

CONGRATULATIONS AND COMMISERATIONS

Our congratulations to Kevin Dunn on, at least, making the replacement benches for the England 'B' side in Paris. There are those of us who, remembering the mayhem he wrought upon Mr. Moore, who has been selected to hook in the full International, think he might well have been given higher recognition than he has. He's got plenty of time, however, and his chance will undoubtedly come. I keep telling myself.

Commiserations to Richard Pascall, who didn't quite make it. Competition among the props is particularly strong, and at least he's 'in the frame'. The season has a long way to go yet.

It's also great to see that John Orwin has forced his way back in. Again, there are those of us who feel that he should never have been dropped.

We can claim that, although 'J.O.' is a Yorkshireman who played for Oxfordshire, and is now at Bedford, he really learned his lock-forward trade right here at Kingsholm. In fact, he first played here at No. 8.

It's a well-deserved recall, and we all hope he keeps his spot for as long as he wants it.

WASPS NEXT WEEK

As previously mentioned, Wasps are the visitors next Saturday. Although the de-meriting issue has still to be settled, the London Club don't have a record of doing any such thing, for which they must be congratulated.

But, League match or not, Wasps are a very strong side, who play exciting Rugby. I'm sure you won't want to miss them, and our lads could certainly use your support.

The following week, we have the John Player against Orrell, of course, and you won't need reminding of the events of last season. They beat us in the Cup then, but got something of a going-over when they came down here. The Cup is different, however, and they won't be an easy proposition.

Just to complete the picture, we shan't be seeing United at Kingsholm this month. Not until the Bath game on February 12th, in fact. But if you like to follow their fortunes, as many do, you could go down to Cleve next week, or to Newport High School Old Boys on the 23rd.

The First XV then finishes off the month with the tricky trip to Bridgend. Quite a rough old month all round.

TAILPIECE

I don't know the facts behind the following story, and neither did Mr. Spencer to whom I'm indebted for telling it to me.

Everyone seems agreed that the success of the excellent Moseley game, on New Year's Day, was at least partly due to the way that the referee, Mr. Laurie Prideaux, handled it, but it is an event which took place immediately after the match which intrigues me.

Apparently, Mr. Spencer was standing, on the old changing room side, near a supporter who had a small boy perched on his shoulder. To everyone's surprise, as the teams were running off the field, Mr. Prideaux ran across the field, away from the team entrance, and presented his whistle to the small boy.

I don't know if there's a story behind it, but if so, I'd love to hear it. In any case, it was a very nice gesture from one of the game's more respected referees.

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.

Gloucester Rugby Club are off on tour again at the end of May — with four matches arranged in Portugal plus an appearance in the Lisbon sevens.

Around 40 players and officials will be in the party for the trip which follows the success of the tour to America two years ago. Under tour manager Jim Jarrett, the Cherry and Whites comfortably won every match during the two-week tour.

They did, of course, expect to do well in America against sides from Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Boca Raton, but Gloucester were also delighted that things went well off the pitch.

Now they have another tour planned and among the spectators at the Moseley match was Manuel Cabral, who is organising the trip from the Portuguese end.

"I have enjoyed watching Gloucester play," said Cabral, "and I feel they may be a little too strong for the Portuguese teams on tour, but they will be given good, competitive matches.

"Our clubs have not met senior English opposition before, but they are capable of giving Gloucester a pretty good run."

Gloucester's first XV will play the Portuguese Barbarians, who are likely to have Scotland scrum-half Roy Laidlaw in their team, and national champions Cascais.

United also have two fixtures — against Portuguese Cup winners Cduz and Direito, also among their top clubs.

The tour party leave at the end of May and returning after the Lisbon sevens, to be held during the first week in June.

Today's Gloucester v Leicester clash does not count towards the Courage Clubs Championship

table because the Midlands club have five players involved in an England training weekend.

They are Rory Underwood, Les Cusworth, Dean Richards, John Wells and Tim Buttimore.

Gloucester demerited the match against Leicester away last month because of Divisional Championship calls and now the two clubs are left with the problem of re-arranging the fixture.

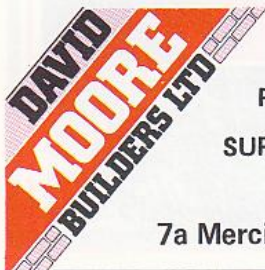
With John Player Cup matches coming up plus other Courage Championship games and inter-club fixtures it is hard to see where another match could be slotted in.

And among other problems for officials of both clubs — where should the game be played and should the gate money be shared?

Both clubs have now travelled to meet the other in normal club fixtures this season and those problems must be ironed out. Perhaps it could be solved if the two were drawn together in the John Player Cup — the match could then double up as a Courage Championship clash.

Courage Clubs Championships:

National Division One	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	7	7	0	0	138	73	28
Nottingham	10	4	1	5	138	136	23
Bristol	8	4	1	3	146	92	21
Gloucester	7	4	1	2	119	81	20
Bath	8	3	1	4	107	112	18
Moseley	8	3	0	5	110	123	17
Waterloo	4	4	0	0	72	38	16
Wasps	5	3	1	1	74	64	15
Coventry	6	1	1	4	70	145	10
Orrell	4	1	1	2	54	65	8
Sale	6	0	0	6	50	145	6
Harlequins	3	0	1	2	34	38	4



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