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# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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

## GLOUCESTER v WASPS

Saturday  
16th January, 1988

Kick off 3 p.m.

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# DOWTY ROTOLO



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## THE STING!

Complications upon complications. Not only do we have to find out when, where and even if, our replay of the Leicester game can take place, but now that Wasps have exercised their right to demerit today's game, we're going to have to try to slot that one in as well. It looks a bit of a 'Mission Impossible', considering the demands of the John Player and the International season — which also has an extra match, this year. Perhaps all we can say is "roll on 88/89", when, they tell us, all such problems will be resolved.

Not that we should blame Wasps in any way. They have always been unwilling to demerit, but you can't expect them to continue to place themselves at a disadvantage when other major sides don't have any such scruples.

We didn't play Wasps last season, the weather turning nasty at the wrong time, so the most recent comparison we have is now two years old. I remember that Kingsholm game vividly. We were in the middle of a good trot, at the time, having disposed of Moseley, London Scottish and Leicester in rapid succession. We beat Wasps too, but they undoubtedly showed us the most dangerous set of English backs we'd seen all season that day, and the 23-15 scoreline could have been a lot closer.

On the evidence of last Saturday, the demerit situation may not be all bad. The win over Leicester was an excellent one, especially considering the frightful conditions. But I just wonder if both sides would have been quite so willing to play attractive Rugby if League points had been at stake.

The same situation applies today, of course, and there seems no reason why we shouldn't see just as good a game. Wasps have never been noted for dour play, and the lack of pressure could contribute to quite an exhibition. To quote Confucius, let's lay back and enjoy it.

One good thing about it all is that the lads could do with a couple of stiff tests before the John Player next week, and that they will certainly have had.

So we must thank the boys from Sudbury for that. But it's always good to see Wasps here, and we hope they all have a helluva good time before buzzing back to the Big City.

## THANKS TO DOWTY ROTOL

We're grateful to all our generous sponsors, of course, but it's especially nice to be able to welcome a Company which is undoubtedly one of the most important in its field, worldwide.

I imagine we all think we know about Dowty Rotol. We're certainly aware that they are our largest aerospace Company, and one of Gloucestershire's major employers, but do we all realise just how big they are?

Did you know, for example, that the Staverton-based operation occupies over 800,000 square feet of working space, and employs 3,400 local people? Not exactly your friendly neighbourhood corner shop is it?

And are you sure you really know what Dowty Rotol actually *do*? The description handed to me indicates that they are among the world leaders in 'aircraft landing gear, propellers, high lift systems, ram air turbines, hydraulics and geared systems for civil and military aircraft.' If you want examples, Dowty Rotol systems are used in the British Aerospace 748, and also in the much-envied 'Harrier' jump-jet. The same could be said about the A310 and A320 Airbus aircraft and a whole generation of planes by the historic Fokker company. In fact, it's probably easier to make a list of aircraft that don't use Dowty Rotol Products than those who do.

This is a state of affairs which looks likely to continue. The Company is very involved in the Experimental Aircraft Programme (EAP) which is the one pointing the way into the future.

As a result of all this, Dowty Rotol made a capital investment of £11 million last year, and are scheduled to spend £12½ million similarly this year.

All very big stuff. Which is one reason why we're delighted to welcome Managing Director Jim Lightfoot, among others, to Kingsholm today. We certainly hope that everyone has a great time, and that we help to take the pressure off them for a few hours. Thanks again. Dowty Rotol!

## ORRELL NEXT SATURDAY

Next week is John Player Special Cup Week. As if you didn't know. That means, of course, that everyone pays, Member or not. If, therefore, you like to watch your Rugby from the Stand, then it would seem that a quick trip to the Secretary's Office to purchase supplies from the rapidly-dwindling stock of tickets may be in order. Please note; it's Terry Tandy's office this week, not David Foyle in the Caravan. David has swanned off to sample the delights of Paris, where he tells me some sort of Rugby match is taking place. That's his story, anyway.

Tickets cost £3.00, reserved, and £2.20, unreserved. That's stand only — no Ground tickets, and admission is at the usual prices. If that's your preferred way of watching the game, then do us a favour, and get along a bit early. We don't want to obstruct the footpaths any more than we can help, and we'd hate you to miss the kick-off because of queues at the turnstiles.

### WATCH YOUR PARKING

You'll probably know that the John Player Special Competition's 'all pay' rule includes car parking charges, windscreen sticker or not. It might be a bind, but as Terry Tandy says, "It's cheaper than a ticket!"

That's just what some unhappy souls received, earlier on in the season, for not parking prettily in the streets around the ground. It was a fair cop, actually. We'd all been warned often enough.

So, if you are bringing your vehicle next Saturday — and what's wrong with using the bus. Occasionally, if you live locally — it's probably better to pay up and look happy at the car park. Which is another good reason for turning up a bit early.

### INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

Terry Tandy also tells me that, by the time you read this, tickets for the home Internationals will have been despatched to those who applied for them. As usual, some people aren't getting all they asked for.

For example, no one has tickets for more than one International. Sorry about that, but it must be a problem akin to the Judgement of Solomon to allocate tickets fairly from our ration, which seems to get less as time goes on. In fact, we have forty less Twickenham Stand tickets for the Wales game than we had two years ago!

I'm glad I don't have to make those decisions. While the need for new development, like extra hospitality boxes etc. is understandable, I sometimes wonder if the grass-roots club supporter is getting his fair crack of the whip.

We'll just have to see how future development at 'Billy Williams' Cabbage Patch' works out.

### BACK TO NORMAL

At last, we'll have something like a full squad to pick from for the Cup match. It seems odd that a player of the quality of Kevin Dunn should be forced by The System to sit on the benches for week after week, and then be expected to leap back into the fray, just as sharp and match-hard as he was almost two months ago. We are lucky to have a deputy as able as our Mr. Mann to fill the breach, but some other clubs won't have been so fortunate. It wouldn't be so bad if 'Dunny' had actually been playing in Divisional, Trial and International games, but simply to be there because of the need for high-quality replacements seems a bit hard.

More cheerfully, it's nice to see our squad of injured on their way back. Richard Mogg and Craig Guest are playing again, of course, and Paul Taylor is, I'm told, back in training. At just about the right time too.

Incidentally, I don't think I have actually congratulated Ruari MacLean on his excellent run in the Scottish Trial Squad. The 'Jocks' do seem to have their act together rather more than our own is, and the Trial result would seem to have been much more positive than either the English or Welsh. And you can say that again.

### FROM HERE ON IN

There's no need to write further about next Saturday's little conversazione with Orrell, and we're away to Bridgend the following week. Bristol starts with a bang, however, with the visit of Bristol — the 'Old Enemy' — on Friday — please note — February 5th. See you then.

### BEST OF LUCK . . .

All our good wishes to our other sides in the John Player next week. We hope that Berry Hill and Gordon League pass the next test with flying colours. Just so long as neither of them gets drawn against Gloucester in the next round.

### TAILPIECE

Did you notice that the RFU is considering running a pools system? I wonder how it will work?

One thing's for sure. No-score draws won't feature. I also doubt whether you'll be able to retire to the Cayman Islands on the proceeds.

There will also have to be safeguards so that you don't send your Rugby coupon to Littlewoods.

I hope the idea takes off though. It could be a way of getting more Rugby coverage on TV. I can just hear Nigel Starmer Smith declaiming: "Telegram claims are required"!

PETER ARNOLD



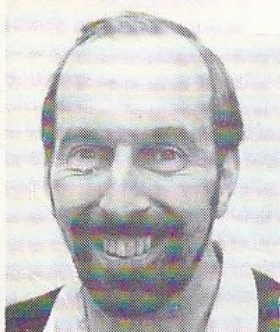
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## TALKING RUGBY with Terry Phillips

The Citizen rugby writer Terry Phillips on the news from Kingsholm - in every Gloucester RFC programme.

Gloucester start their John Player Cup campaign next Saturday when Orrell are the visitors to Kingsholm and they will be boosted by the return of several players.

Hooker Kevin Dunn will be back after his involvement with Divisional Championship rugby and then England — he is replacement for England B today — while Nigel Scrivens, Craig Guest, Richard Mogg and Paul Taylor are all close to full fitness.

Scrivens limped off during last Saturday's 30-16 win against Leicester, but thankfully it was not too serious and he was selected for today's match.

Guest, a doctor at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, was in the United team which surprisingly crashed heavily against Leicester United away and he came through well. Guest has managed only two appearances so far this season — against Stroud and Coventry in September — before going out with a shoulder injury.

In all Guest has made 13 first XV appearances and scored one try, a tally he will surely add to this season. He was due to play for United against Cleeve away today.

Centre Mogg has not played since November's match against Bath, and has managed only eight appearances so far this season.

Paul Taylor has been ruled out by ligament damage which has kept him out since October, but he is back in training and nearing fitness.

The return of players who have been missing for a while is a boost to the club and it has come at the right time according to skipper Marcus Hannaford.

"It is always the same at Kingsholm after Christmas," says Hannaford, "There is a new confidence about the place. Struggles during the first half of the season are forgotten and everything looks so much better.

"I really do not know why, perhaps it is because the John Player Cup comes up in January.

"But the team spirit is excellent right now and with virtually a full squad to select from things could not be better going into the clash with Orrell."

### Courage Clubs Championship:

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



Paul Taylor . . . returning to fitness after long spell out with ligament damage.

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