



FOUNDED 1873
PRESIDENT:
CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30_p

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

John Player Special.

GLOUCESTER

v

ORRELL

Saturday
23rd January, 1988

Kick off 3 p.m.

FINANCIALLY ASSISTED BY

Honeywell Bull



Programme supported
by the City of Gloucester

The Winner of today's
Official Programme
Draw will receive

£5 from

1671

Tyre Sales
Tyre Sales (Bham) Ltd.
1a Kingsholm Rd
(next to Rugby Ground)

EVER GET THE FEELING YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE?

Have you noticed how John Player Cup matches seem to come in bunches? At one time we always seemed to be playing Richmond, and there was another period when we didn't seem to be able to get away from Gosforth. Could we, I wonder, now be entering an Orrell syndrome?

Last year, of course, our two clubs didn't meet until the Quarter Finals, and the game was played at Wigan. Those of us who made the trek North were impressed by the organisation, and by the welcome we received, and it's nice to be able to return the compliment early on in this year's campaign.

Last year's game was a typical Cup match, in which Orrell just about deserved to shade Gloucester, 10-16, and there were those, in both camps, who considered that home advantage had been crucial. That contention appeared to have been justified, when in the 'ordinary' club fixture, a few weeks later, we were inhospitable enough to put 30 points on them.

But we shouldn't read too much into that. To start with — the Cup is different. It always was. Commitment is that much higher, there is a great deal more to play for, the Cup-fighting tradition, which both our clubs have, is a huge incentive, and people aren't anywhere near as likely to throw the ball around willy-nilly.

It's also worth remembering that David Cusani and Peter Williams now have international experience, and that outside-half Williams extended that by going to the World Cup, with all that that entails. That can't have done Orrell anything but good — and, in any case, you can't take any side which scored over 1,000 points, last season, lightly.

On the other hand, Gloucester are playing better, at the moment, than they were at the crucial period last season. Mike Teague didn't play at Orrell, Marcus Hannaford had his injury problems, and Tim Smith wasn't there. The lads should also be on something of a 'high', having disposed of Moseley, Leicester and Wasps in quick succession.

So things look pretty evenly balanced, and while I would put money on Gloucester at home, that may be as much loyalty as anything.

Should be good, and in extending a hearty welcome to Orrell, we also hope they have one very enjoyable visit to Kingsholm.

MUST BE SOME RICH PEOPLE ABOUT

We keep being told that the British economy is on the up-and-up, and if John Beaman's experience is anything to go by, there may be something in it. He has no less than ten prizes from his Grand Christmas Draw still unclaimed.

He tells me that he has stuck the appropriate list on the Clubhouse notice board, so it could be worth taking a quick gander. Even if you don't qualify for an unclaimed goodie, perhaps, as they say in the commercials, 'you know a man who does'.

WORKING ON THEIR FIRST MILLION

Our thanks are obviously due to John Player for continuing to sponsor England's premier Cup competition. It's changed the face of the Season, and has given untold pleasure to a very great many people.

Some figures, received only this week, will give you some idea of the Company's involvement. As we have reason to know, having won the forerunner which proved the case for a knock-out competition, this is the 13th season of the Cup. This year, John Player are spending £125,000 on their sponsorship, £119,000 of which goes, as prize money, to the 130 participating clubs.

This brings the Company's investment, over the years, to £997,500, which, like the man said, ain't hay.

Perhaps the anti-smoking lobby, which would like cigarette manufacturers to be banned from sponsoring sporting events, should consider those figures, and think about the immense amount of benefit John Player have provided for Rugby clubs, large and small, throughout the country, before they start foaming at the mouth about the matter.

THANKS TO HONEYWELL BULL

Our thanks are due, yet again, to Honeywell Bull, who are providing us with invaluable financial support today. I say 'yet again', but this is, in fact, the first time that this major computer organisation has favoured us with their generosity under their new name. And thereby hangs a tale.

In April 1987, the Honeywell company, who were regular sponsors of Kingsholm games, entered into a new partnership with Groupe Bull of France, and NEC of Japan. This showed excellent taste, in that both new partners come from good Rugby countries.

I don't suppose that had as much to do with the operation, as the fact that the new Honeywell Bull organisation became the first truly international computer company, on a genuine worldwide basis.

To give you an idea of the scale of the whole thing, Honeywell Bull now employs 216,000 people, 2,700 of whom work in Britain in various places, including at the 32-acre manufacturing plant in Newhouse which nestles in Scotland's 'Silicon Glen'. Perhaps their advice should have been sought before the Scottish side went to Dublin last week.

Honeywell Bull's revenue amounts to some £20 Billion, of which the British arm contributes in excess of £200 Million, and we're very grateful that some of that income has been applied in our direction.

Locally, Honeywell Bull provide the major computer installations for Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucester City Council, and the Forest of Dean District Council. Several important people from those organisations are here, including the Chief Executive of Gloucester, Richard Shackleton, and Howard Baker, who is the City Treasurer, and who would undoubtedly have been here anyway.

We thank Honeywell Bull again, and sincerely hope everyone has a helluva good day at Kingsholm.

BACK TO SQUARE ONE

You'll have read that the much-discussed replay of the Gloucester v. Leicester game is now not to be played next Saturday after all. According to my information, Bridgend, who are scheduled opponents that day, objected.

Contrary to what you may have seen in various sections of the press, the Rugby Football Union had very little to do with the matter. The appropriate regulating body is, in this case the Major Clubs Association, so let's give credit — if that's the word — where it's due.

As you may know, Gloucester and Leicester were directed to play their Courage Clubs Championship game on Saturday, January 20th and, to be fair, a scan of the two clubs' fixture lists revealed that this is about the only practicable date — a mid-week game under lights, with one club having to travel a fair distance, having been ruled out as unreasonable.

Enter Bridgend, who apparently have a substantial sponsorship exercise, as well as TV coverage for that day. One national newspaper reported that the Welsh club was prepared to seek legal advice on the matter, and it does seem a pity that lawyers have to be involved in this way.

That's the view which the Major Clubs Association took anyway, and sensibly enough, they decided to withdraw their instruction, a decision for which I congratulate them. It's not a climb down, but a reasonable reaction to a changed situation, and one must respect a body which is not afraid to change its mind in such circumstances. It's also worth noting that Bridgend don't blame Gloucester, in any way, for the problem.

So where does that leave us? Frankly, nowhere. Both clubs must now wait to see how the season works out. So must Wasps, whose game last week was also, of course, demerited. If all three of us get knocked out of the John Player early, then perhaps something could be done.

There is also the thought that, if the proposed games don't have an effect on the eventual winner of the Championship, then why bother?

That brings Waterloo into the picture. They, also unbeaten, are quite anxious for Leicester to have as many chances to lose as possible, and you can't blame them for that.

Unfortunately, Waterloo have their last four Championship fixtures in April, so we don't know how serious their challenge is until, virtually, the Cricket Season. And, I believe, that one of those fixtures is against Leicester. 'Oh! what a tangled web . . .'

Thank the Lord that the whole thing won't happen next season, when all such fixtures will be on set dates, and from then on, shouldn't clash with representative requirements. Until we get a touring side that is.

Pass the ice pack, someone.

INTO FEBRUARY

As aforesaid, we're away to Bridgend next Saturday, and that isn't so far away that you can't go and give the lads your valued support.

Please note, that the next game is against Bristol, no less, on the FRIDAY evening, February 5th, to avoid the clash with the minor Anglo-Welsh fracas at 'Twickers', and you won't want to miss the visit of the 'Old Enemy'.

On Saturday, February 13th, we're due to play away at Aberavon, but what is the day of the next round of the John Player, so a lot depends on today's result. We're away to Bath on the 20th, and then are down to entertain Liverpool St. Helens, who are having a good season, on the 27th. But that's John Player day, again.

TAILPIECE

A nice story has come my way, thanks to the revered Mickey Booth.

Apparently, while officiating as Committee Man at the London Scottish match, he met an old friend, one Peter Kingham, who many people will remember as a respected referee of some years back.

Peter has hung up his first-class whistle, these days, although I gather he still does a bit in that direction.

He told Mickey that he has just bought a new house down at Epsom, and was faced with the problem of finding a name for it. In the end, he came up with — would you believe — 'Kingsholm'.

Apparently, he hit on the name, partly in an obvious reference to his own name, but partly in memory of the many happy hours he spent with Gloucester RFC. So some referees like us!

PETER ARNOLD



HARTLAND RENTALS

St. Oswalds Road
Gloucester

Latest Models

Tel: Glos. 305051

Cars & Vans



TALKING RUGBY with Terry Phillips

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

It's Cup time again with some important matches scheduled - not least today's John Player tie against Orrell.

And just across the City, at Gordon League's Hempsted Lane ground, another big tie is taking place. League face Headingley, who include England flanker Peter Winterbottom.

Gloucestershire's other representatives Berry Hill have had to travel for their match against London Welsh - and that is a tie which throws up a real possibility of a surprise win.

Forest of Dean team Berry Hill are also, of course, heavily involved in the Flowers County Cup and have reached the semi-finals.

They will play Gloucester Old Boys away next month, while Lydney entertain Matson in the other semi-final.

But for the moment all thoughts are on the John Player Cup and, at Kingsholm, Gloucester's tie against Orrell.

Last season Gloucester negotiated the third round with a 12-6 win against West Hartlepool away and then landed a real tough one - Orrell in Lancashire.

The Cherry and Whites lost 16-10 on that day and their Cup hopes were ended, but a few weeks later they crushed Orrell 31-3 at Kingsholm.

Now the teams meet again in the Cup and this time Gloucester have home advantage. We will see what difference that makes.

There is no place in the Orrell team today for 21-year-old New Zealander Phil Heath, who scored a vital try for the Lancashire club in last season's John Player Cup win against Gloucester.

Heath's place on the wing is today filled by John Gillfillan, also 21 and from junior club Aspull.

Centre Dave Fell is back with Orrell after a spell with Italian club Roma, while among the forwards is Paul Dooley, brother of England lock Wade Dooley.

Both are policemen in Blackpool, although Paul plays in the back-row.

Courage Clubs Championship:

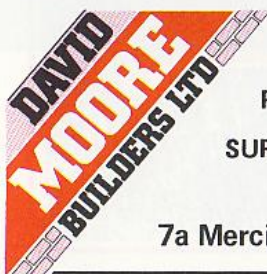
National Division One	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	7	7	0	0	138	73	28
Nottingham	10	4	1	5	138	136	23
Bristol	8	4	1	3	146	92	21
Gloucester	7	4	1	2	119	81	20
Bath	8	3	1	4	107	112	18
Moseley	8	3	0	5	110	123	17
Waterloo	4	4	0	0	72	38	16
Wasps	5	3	1	1	74	64	15
Coventry	6	1	1	4	70	145	10
Orrell	4	1	1	2	54	65	8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



Line-out action from Gloucester's 22-13 win against Wasps last Saturday.



Gloucester winger Derrick Morgan on the run against Wasps last Saturday.



ALL TYPES OF BUILDING & REPAIRS UNDERTAKEN
 PLUMBING AND CENTRAL HEATING DECORATING
 SUPPLIERS & INSTALLERS OF MOST KITCHEN FURNITURE
 & APPLIANCES

7a Mercia Road, Gloucester.

Tel: 0452 414000