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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30p
**OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME**

GLOUCESTER v CROSS KEYS

Saturday
30th January, 1988

Kick off 3 p.m.



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TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED

Quite apart from being an unexpected occasion, and therefore all the more pleasant, today's game is rather like one of those old detective stories of the Country House party vintage. Just when you're trying to work out whether it was the butler or the wicked stockbroker whodunnit, the final chapter arrives and you find out it was the vicar after all.

Being interpreted for visitors who aren't familiar with the train of events, first we were to visit Bridgend, then we were to replay Leicester, then it was off to Bridgend again, and in the end, it turns out to be Cross Keys.

But, like all good mystery stories, the final unravelling is very satisfying. Cross Keys haven't been here for at least twelve years, and it's always nice to renew acquaintance after that period of time.

It does give the poor scribe a problem though. I usually like to give some indication of recent happenings between the two protagonists, but this time, there haven't been any, so there's no past form to make judgements from.

What I can tell you is that Cross Keys are in a re-building phase, at the moment, which was reflected in last season's results. We do know the feeling, from a year or two ago, and it's nice to be able to help another club in that particular process.

Our thanks are also due to Cross Keys for enabling us to have another game at this time. With Bristol and the John Player against Wasps on the horizon, this weekend is the last one we would have wished to see go begging. After all, there is no training which compares with actual match conditions, and we're grateful to today's visitors for helping us out.

Just so long as no one gets injured.

A warm welcome, therefore, to Cross Keys. It's nice to see them after all these years, and we hope that they find their unexpected expedition a pleasant and rewarding one.

THANKS TO THE TYRE SALES

Today's game was, of course, supposed to be an away fixture, so this is one of the rare occasions when we don't have a major sponsor. That will probably suit Peter Gould, who can spend his before and after-match periods consuming ale rather than dispensing it.

It also gives me a chance to thank Tyre Sales of Kingsholm Road for their continuing support in providing the Crisp Fivers for the Lucky Programme Draw each home match.

I've always thought this was a very imaginative way to back the Club, while being a highly cost-effective way of acquiring front-page advertising for the whole season. We hope it works well for them, and that business is stimulated by their enterprise.

I'm sure that Mr. Fowler of Ross-on-Wye would echo the sentiments. He invested 30p in Programme No. 529 at the Orrell game, and found that that very number was drawn out of Terry Tandy's battered trilby, making Mr. Fowler that much richer on the day.

He describes himself as a Kingsholm regular "for many years", so the Fiver obviously went to the right chap. Who knows — perhaps he can remember the last time we played Cross Keys.

HEAR THE BUZZ?

Of course you have. Gloucester has drawn the formidable Wasps in the Fourth Round of the John Player, to be played at Kingsholm on February 13th. By no means the easiest of assignments, but we do have them at home, which is where we would want them. And we have to play the big boys sometime in the Competition.

By Herculean efforts of logistics, Terry Tandy and David Foyle, in association with Stoate and Bishop, the printers, have managed to make Stand tickets available after tonight's game, to be dispensed by David from the Caravan behind the Main Stand. As usual, there won't be any Ground tickets.

Centre Stand tickets will cost £3.00, and will be available to Patrons only, until after the Bristol game on February 5th. Wings are priced at £2.50.

We have already discovered that Wasps will, not surprisingly, be taking their whole allocation — they are one of the London Clubs who always are well supported — so tickets will be in something of a short supply situation. Might be a good idea to get yours as soon as possible.

APOLOGIES

I hear that there were unfortunate incidents at the Orrell game, which resulted in people finding their numbered Stand seats already occupied. This was due to an unfortunate concachination of circumstances which has now been sorted out.

In professional circles, this is technically known as a cock-up, and one which, I am assured, won't happen again. A slightly-bruised Terry Tandy offers the heartfelt apologies of the Club to those affected, and hopes they enjoyed the game anyway.

EXTRA DATE

We have another bonus on the horizon. On March 15th, which is a Tuesday, English Students will be playing French Students right here. Should be worth seeing, especially as the home side includes players from Oxford and Cambridge, rather than just the UAU teams, as is usually the case on such occasions.

Well — it's different, ennit? More details as and when they become available. Seems a long time away, but it's only about six weeks.

BRISTOL NEXT WEEK

There is more to life than the John Player. Next Friday evening — FRIDAY, please note, because of the England and Wales game on the following day — Bristol will be here again. Presumably, Messrs. Webb and Harding won't be playing, but the lads from down the A38 will still be a very powerful outfit. Our old County mate Nigel Pomphrey, having announced his impending retirement, will be anxious to bring his side away with a win on that occasion. I'm sure you won't want to miss out on that one.

The following Saturday sees the Cup game against Wasps, replacing our scheduled trip to Aberavon, and the 20th is the date of our return trip to Bath. So the lads are going to have a tough time over the next few weeks.

WHAT A TRIPLE!

Last Saturday's Cup results must be the best ever for Gloucestershire. Indeed, I don't think that three sides from the same County have ever reached the fourth Round before.

We always felt we had the beating of Orrell at Kingsholm, and I got the impression that Gloucester could have moved up into another gear, if necessary.

Berry Hill's away win over London Welsh must have been one of the greatest shock results ever, and from what I read, and hear from people who were there, a thoroughly deserved one.

Yet it shouldn't have been. Berry Hill have been knocking at the door for some years now, and someone was going to have to suffer, sooner or later.

Gordon League's win over Headingley was no less meritorious. The Yorkshire side did, after all, have two full Internationals playing, and I suppose you could say that Peter Winterbottom had a cold, stern experience.

It's the League's Centenary season next year, and you can't think of a better way to usher it in.

Incidentally, I note that one newspaper reported that the Gordon League was formed by General Gordon. Not on your life it wasn't. Not unless he changed his name to Agnes Jane Waddy for the occasion.

Anyway — heartiest congratulations to both sides from Gloucester RFC.

Just so long as we don't get drawn against either of them in the Fifth Round.

AND HOW ABOUT THE DRAW?

You can just imagine the conversation:

"I say! You there! Forest chappie!"

"Wass want Old Butt?"

"Can you tell us the way to Berry Hill?"

"Ah. Wass want to go there for then?"

"We're playing rugby against them today."

"Nasty, that. Them beat Wales last week!"

"Yes. All right. But how do we get there?"

"Well — if I was thee, I wouldn't start from here in the first place!"

I tell you — if Berry Hill have their scouts out, they could keep the 'Quins wandering around the Forest for days. And then claim the game for non-arrival. Although, the Twickers lads could just come unstuck, in any case.

The draw was a good one, from our point of view, though. Bath and Leicester look as if they'll sort each other out, and two other potential giant killers, Saracens and Plymouth are playing each other.

Waterloo look to have too much physical presence for the League, but with home advantage, the case is by no means hopeless. After all, it only wants a silly penalty or two to upset things. Best of luck to both Gloucestershire sides. They deserve it.

TAILPIECE

I'm told there is no truth in the rumour that Andrew Stanley has sent a year's supply of 'Meaty Pal' to Ian Smith's Jack Russell.

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.

February will be a big month for Gloucester with matches coming up against Bristol and Bath plus that John Player Cup tie against Wasps at Kingsholm.

First in line is the clash with Bristol next Friday evening and Gloucester's South West rivals will arrive at Kingsholm intent on revenge.

Gloucester's 21-16 win against Bristol away back in September — when flanker Ian Smith burst over in the dying seconds for a matchwinning try in the Courage Championship match — still rankles down at the Memorial Ground.

Bristol have since moved up the table and stand one point ahead of Gloucester, who do have a game in hand.

A week after Bristol's visit comes the match against Wasps with a place in the Player Cup quarter-finals at stake.

Forget Gloucester's 22-13 win against Wasps here earlier this month for next time they will welcome back England squad members Kevin Simms, Nigel Melville, Paul Rendall, Jeff Probyn and Rob Andrew.

The Wasps' backs looked pretty useful during their defeat at Kingsholm a couple of weeks ago and with those players returning it is going to be a tough task indeed.

Gloucester are confident, though, and why not. At Kingsholm they are a formidable outfit indeed and in their latest run of success — they are unbeaten in the last seven matches — they have shown a steady rise in the quality of performance.

With Gloucester facing Wasps and Bath having to travel to face Lichfield or Leicester in the midlands at least two more top clubs will be out by the quarter-finals.

And that can only help Gloucester's cause if they can overcome the challenge of Wasps.

After the Cup clash, Gloucester must travel to play Bath away and this time it will be Gloucester out for revenge.

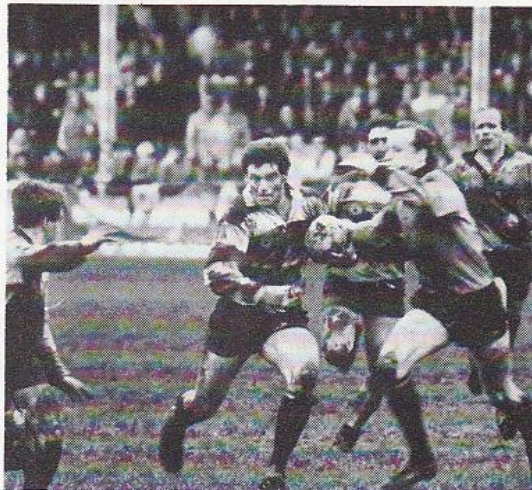
Bath Snatched a 16-9 win at Kingsholm back in December, a victory that rocked Gloucester's

hopes of taking the National League Division One title.

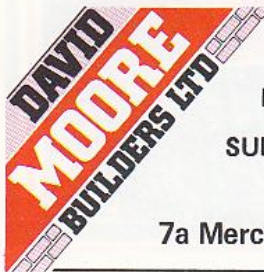
The Cherry and Whites still hold hopes of the championship of course, even though Leicester do still boast a 100 per cent record. And while the game at Bath will not count towards that aim a win against their old South West rivals would be a major boost to confidence.

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



Gloucester Rugby Club skipper Marcus Hannaford on the run during last Saturday's John Player Cup third round tie against Orrell at Kingsholm. The Cherry and Whites emerged 19-9 winners and earned a home tie in the last 16 — against Wasps on Saturday, February 13.



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