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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30p
**OFFICIAL
 PROGRAMME**



GLOUCESTER v WASPS

Saturday
 13th February, 1988

Kick off 3 p.m.

FINANCIALLY ASSISTED BY



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TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

(... and a bit, in the event of a draw)

It's always the same with wasps. You just think you've got rid of them, and back they come, more aggressive than ever. Of course, there's a difference between wasps and Wasps. The former are never welcome, the latter always are. To have them at Kingsholm twice within a matter of weeks is a decided bonus, and the added stimuli, provided by both Cup and League, make today's proceedings an event unique in the annals of English first-class rugby.

Indeed, as you will know by now, certain circumstances could lead to an extra ten minutes each way, so we might even get extra product for our money. Not that anyone will really want that, I imagine. A clear-cut result, one way or the other, is obviously the most likely outcome, and a consummation devoutly to be wished.

At first glance, we shouldn't expect too much of today's game. We all know about the dourness that Cup rugby tends to instil, and the extra importance conferred by the Courage Clubs Championship could tend to inhibit any tendency to throw the ball about willy-nilly.

But there are a couple of factors which argue against such pessimism. To start with, the English Selectors have delayed naming their squad for the Scottish game at Murrayfield, and according to reports, will be visiting both Gloucester and Leicester today. Several players, on both sides, will be fancying their chances of catching the Selectorial eye, and will want to show what they can do. Keith Andrew must be the front runner in that respect, but there are certainly others. It could be worth watching front rows, wings and scrum halves, for example.

In any case, Wasps have never been a side to play the game any more tightly than they have to, and they certainly have the backs to make a running spectacle of things. When they get the ball.

As always, the deciding factor in how the game will be played could well be the weather. I'm writing this as our latest hurricane is brewing on the horizon, and the forecast for the rest of the week is wretched, to say the least. We can only hope that the Gods relent and give us a clear, still day for, what should be, a great rugby occasion.

There is more than the usual number of welcomes to extend today. Obviously, it's good to see the boys from Sudbury again, so soon, especially those who weren't able to make the last safari, and it's worth pointing out that one or two key Gloucester players weren't available that day, either.

We are also glad to see the aforementioned Selectorial representation, and hope that today's events provoke more regular visits.

Finally, Wasps are better supported than most London sides, and have eagerly taken up their total ticket allocation. The presence of a solid phalanx of visiting support can only improve the occasion, and increase the efforts of the home-grown variety to have an effect on the game. Which should add very significantly to the occasion.

Welcome everyone. Should be quite a day.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS . . .

I've frequently gone on record as saying that the splendid commercial organisations which apply so much cash to the game by way of sponsorship of major competitions don't always get the acknowledgement they should for that fact. Today, my chickens have come home to roost to the extent that I have two such organisations to thank.

We all know about the generosity of John Player, who in 13 seasons of Cup rugby have donated some £1 million (or almost that, anyway) to the Cause. Their generosity has certainly changed the face of the English season, and for the better, in my humble opinion.

Courage are in the process of achieving the same distinction, although how it all works out in the end is still *sub judice*.

Particularly pleasing is the way that the resources provided filter right down to the minor ranks of the game. Just how many cans of ale have been donated to clubs around the country by now, I don't know, but enough restorative must have been dispensed to float a small frigate.

Courage deserve the thanks of all rugby people. And we'll drink to that.

. . . AND TO ALLIED DUNBAR

Not only have we cause to thank the major sponsors today, but we must also offer our gratitude to Allied Dunbar who are providing invaluable financial support for the occasion, too.

Anyone who watches telly must be well aware of the wide range of financial services offered by our benefactors, their TV campaign being one of the better ones on offer at the moment. In any case, at the time of writing, negotiations are under weigh to include a leaflet on the subject with your programme.

What I do have to hand, however, is some personal detail about the two Principals in our friendly, neighbourhood Allied Dunbar facility.

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DAVID I. ROBINS M.Inst.T.T.

First of all, there's Len Huff. He's not really a rugby man; presumably 24 years as a 'Bootneck' — Royal Marine to the non-matelots among us — together with his other interests, didn't leave him much time to get acquainted. Indeed, he says "During nearly a quarter-century of involvement in Service sport, I was never close to rugby at this level.

Having visited Kingsholm, I now know it's a very hard game for tough men. I prefer to watch!"

Let's not hold it against him. He is probably the only Kingsholm benefactor who ever refereed a soccer match at Wembley, having performed that office in the Varsity match of 1978.

So what did he do in the summer then? Played, coached and umpired tennis, that's what. In fact, he officiated at Wimbledon from 1980 to 85, acting as service-line judge in finals in each of those years.

Quite a sportsman, being also acquainted with volleyball, basketball, squash and badminton.

Len has been in Gloucester since 1986, and is very happy with the move, both socially and in the business sense.

Tom Taylor is a quite different kettle of elvers. He's a Gloucestershire man, born and bred. Newent Grammar School, actually. He's also an ex-Policeman, which makes an interesting combination with an ex-Marine.

After leaving the Force, Tom spent some 15 years selling Leyland and Bedford trucks, the latter three years of which were employed managing the Watts Truck Centre in Gloucester. He's understandably proud of the fact that some of the people who were his customers when he first joined the industry still had that privilege when he left.

He's been an Allied Dunbar man since 1981, and fervently believes in getting to know his Clients. He reckons he has a minimum of 2/3 meetings with anyone new before making any recommendations.

Which is exactly the pitch made by the Allied Dunbar commercials. Does it mean, I wonder, that we can expect at least 3 occasions, sponsored by them, before they decide to give it up? Hope so.

Our thanks are undoubtedly due, and we hope everyone they bring along thoroughly enjoys the occasion.

THAT DRAW

Just to spell out what happens in the case of a draw after 'normal' time today. If scores are level, ten minutes each way of extra time will be played. In that event, the score after 80 minutes will determine the points awarded in the Courage Clubs Championship, while the final result determines the John Player Special Cup position.

Sorry about the complication, but it probably won't arise anyway.

BEST OF LUCK LEAGUE AND HILL

All our best wishes go to Berry Hill and Gordon League today. Harlequins won't find it easy, and while all the pundits are giving the League very little chance against the big Waterloo side, you never know in this business.

Incidentally, did you notice that Waterloo lost their League game against Coventry? That will cause rejoicing in Leicester. And I suppose, could just have an effect on their confidence in having to travel in this direction twice in rapid succession.

GANGWAY!

Please don't stand in the gangways today. I know it must get boring to have to keep reading that, but there are a lot of visiting supporters here, and the Fire Officer doesn't make any distinction between visitors and home fans. If you do stray over the line, don't be surprised (or offended) if someone points out the fact to you.

TAILPIECE

I'm asked to announce that the collection our Lottery Girls made for the 'Comic Relief' efforts at the Bristol game, last Friday, amounted to a very creditable £367.35p. Thanks for your generosity.

Incidentally, when I was asked why I wasn't wearing a red nose on that occasion, I pointed out that I was doing the job properly.

Working on mine from the inside.

PETER ARNOLD



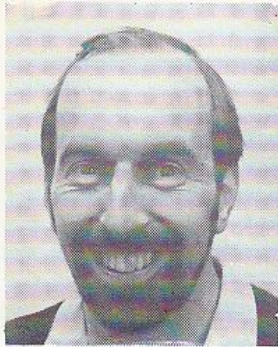
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TALKING RUGBY with Terry Phillips

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

The weather has always been a problem for Gloucester v Wasps fixtures — four times in the last seven seasons the game has been called off because of the condition of the pitch.

On the other three occasions Gloucester have won, two of the matches being at Kingsholm and one away. In 1983 Gloucester won 16-9 against Wasps away, in 1986 it was 23-15 and last month a badly depleted Wasps team went down 22-13.

That match, of course, should have counted towards the Courage Clubs Championship, but Wasps had so many players on England duty it was 'demeritted'. And the decision taken then makes today's game doubly important because it counts towards both the John Player Cup and National Division One.

Today Wasps have all their internationals back — they include eight in their line-up and pose a considerable threat to Gloucester's Cup hopes.

Six of those England players are in a highly talented back division — Nick Stringer, Simon Smith, Kevin Sims, Rob Lozowski, Ron Andrew and Nigel Melville. The other two internationals are props Paul Rendall and Jeff Probyn.

These teams have only met once before in the Cup, ten years ago when Gloucester won 13-3 in a quarter-final tie, and Wasps are trying to end a long barren spell at Kingsholm — they have not won here since the Second World War.

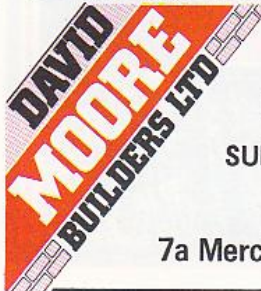
Courage Clubs Championship:

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
Moseley	9	4	0	5	129	135	21
Gloucester	7	4	1	2	119	81	20
Bath	8	3	1	4	107	112	18
Waterloo	5	4	0	1	82	53	17
Wasps	6	3	1	2	86	83	16
Coventry	7	2	1	4	85	155	14
Orrell	5	2	1	2	66	71	12
Sale	6	0	0	6	50	145	6
Harlequins	4	0	1	3	40	50	4



A tussle for possession on the last occasion Wasps were at Kingsholm back in January. Paul Ashmead (left), Nigel Scrivens (centre) and John Brain are the Gloucester players clearly pictured. Gloucester won this Match 22-13.

Action from Gloucester's last match, a 19-15 defeat against Bristol at Kingsholm. It was only Gloucester's third home defeat this season and ended an unbeaten run of eight matches.



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