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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30_p
**OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME**

GLOUCESTER v RICHMOND

**Saturday
12th March, 1988**

Kick off 3 p.m.

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SOMETHING IN COMMON

I've no doubt that the wound still itches a bit, at Richmond as it does in Gloucester. While we were, deservedly, losing to Wasps in the John Player, Richmond were suffering the same unkind fate at the hands of Bristol. So we have something to commiserate about today.

In fact, it's some time since Richmond won at Kingsholm, and I won't be insensitive enough to spell out the details, but oddly enough, many people will remember meetings between our two clubs for a couple of draws, rather than for wins or losses.

Those were John Player Cup games too. One year we played them at Kingsholm, and the next at Richmond. Both games were drawn, and the away team went through, which is symmetrical, if nothing else.

The game at Richmond was noteworthy for another reason too. It was played on a Sunday, and that doesn't happen often. The reason, as I recall, was that Matson had been drawn away to London Scottish, whose ground Richmond share, and that game took place on the preceding Saturday.

The other reason I remember that occasion — the rugby wasn't such as to stick in the mind — is that someone poured beer over the referee before the match. I can understand, without condoning, occasions when such actions take place *after* the game, but to do it before a boot has been raised in anger seems to me to be counter productive.

It's all history now, however, and indeed, few fixtures have as much history attached to them as do Gloucester v. Richmond. It's nice that we can continue the venerable series as a simple club game, without such distractions as Cups and Leagues.

Richmond are therefore very welcome — as always. We hope they have a fine time at Kingsholm, and that they go back to the Big City refreshed by their second Westward pilgrimage in just a few weeks.

THANKS TO STOATE AND BISHOP

One thing about Stoate & Bishop (Printers) Ltd. They print the best programme in English rugby, whatever Moseley (and Nigel Starmer Smith) say.

Not only do they provide that estimable service for us, but they have the generosity to act as Sponsors for today's game, for which we give them our sincere thanks.

No doubt, like most of us, you sit there clutching your programme, week after week, without thinking of the amount of work which has to go into it — and why should you? All you want is the information contained therein. But consider.

Teams are usually selected somewhere around Tuesday evening. There's no knowing when the Opposition's team information will be available. When there's an evening game, or Christmas and Easter roll along, that complicates the scene further.

There is also the small matter of Terry Phillips and Yours Truly. We both have to have enough information to fill our respective slots, and be sober enough to write them.

One way and another, it isn't easy to get a programme out on time over 40 times a season. And this is one job when deadlines simply *have* to be met. No use ringing up the Client and saying "Do you mind if we're a day late? We're a bit busy!"

Not that, I imagine, Stoate and Bishop have to resort to that ploy very often. They're an efficient company who have been providing print services in Gloucester since 1970, and Cheltenham since 1972.

I quote from the company's literature. "The combination of attention to detail with new technology has made us many friends in a wide field of commercial printing, ranging from books and catalogues to manuals and all forms of stationery — providing a complete service for local companies and for major, internationally-known organisations."

"We have also gained a reputation for quality work for nationally-known auctioneers, estate agents and many diverse institutions."

Well — institutions don't come any more diverse than Gloucester RFC.

It's nice to be able to thank Stoate and Bishop for all the work they do for us, sometimes good-humouredly pulling out extra stops when the need is urgent. I know it's all good business for them, but they sometimes exceed the efforts normally called for in that context.

And, of course, we thank them for their support today. I'm quite sure that all their representation, as well as their guests, will have a thoroughly good afternoon.

CHANGE OF DATE

'Youth must have its day', they say, and in this case, that particular day is Wednesday, March 23rd. That's the evening that our highly promising Colts side entertains Moseley Colts.

That's fine so far, but if you read these notes for the Liverpool-St. Helens match, you may remember that that was the date earmarked for the annual Patron's Evening. Obviously, that sort of double booking wasn't on, so the lads stay as originally arranged, and us old fellahs have had our bunfight brought forward a day, until TUESDAY, March 22nd.

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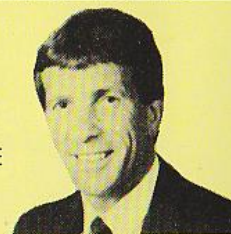
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DAVID I. ROBINS M.Inst.T.T.

Seems fair enough to me, and while we obviously have to apologise for the date change, it does have at least two advantages. First, we don't have so long to wait, and second, there's an extra day to recover from hangovers before the Saracens game.

Anyone wanting tickets are advised to contact David Foyle or Andy Mitchell.

WELL DONE KEVIN!

Nice to see that hooker Kevin Dunn has kept his place on the bench for next Friday's 'B' International against Spain. It may seem like a fairly inconsequential honour, but it does mean that 'Dunny' is well in the Selectors' thinking, and that his big chance could well come, injury permitting. After all, he has plenty of time.

Hasta la Vista!

STUDENTS NEXT TUESDAY

This is your last call for stand tickets for the English v. French Students game, right here, next Tuesday evening. Centre are priced at £3.00, and Wings at £2.50. Pay at the gate for the Ground.

There's quite a lot of interest, nationally, in this game, which is why it has been made a ticket affair. It isn't often that Oxford and Cambridge players qualify for inclusion, and let's face it — we need a new generation of England players from somewhere, if International results are anything to go by.

Should be a most interesting occasion. Hope you can make it.

COUNTY CUP

Have you noticed how many Lydney players are achieving various sorts of honours at the moment, especially in the various Youth sides, not to mention the County Senior side?

Put that side against Berry Hill at Kingsholm, therefore, and you should have a game worth watching. And that's precisely what we have on Tuesday, March 29th, when the two sides try conclusions in the County Cup Final.

We've all been so intrigued by the mighty efforts of Berry Hill and Gordon League in the John Player Cup, that we tend to forget that there are other sides around the area that might have done just as well, given a reasonable draw, and Lydney is certainly one of them. Remember their game against Sale a few seasons ago?

The County Cup Final is always worth watching, and this year won't be any exception.

COMING SHORTLY

To begin at the beginning, we have an away game at Cheltenham next Wednesday. With some hard games coming up, it will be interesting to see who gets selected for that match, and how they fare on the night.

Next Saturday, the First XV is away to Orrell in the Courage Clubs Championship, and that will be a tough one, even if the Northerners are without Peter Williams at the moment. And it's one the boys will want to win, all things considered.

That means, of course, that the United entertain the equivalent Orrell side at Kingsholm next Saturday, which certainly warrants a little of your time.

March 26th, two weeks today, sees an intriguing visit by Saracens, who are having their best season for years, having their best-ever run in the Cup before being put out by Plymouth, surely the most improved side in the country. And don't forget our Colts side, who, as previously mentioned, take on Moseley on the 23rd.

With Neath and Sale still to come, there's life in the Kingsholm season yet!

COME ON THE COUNTY!

Best wishes to the County side, away to Lancashire at vale of Lune, which, if truth be told, was never a happy hunting ground, even when the County Championship wasn't ruined by the Divisional Championship. Wouldn't it be ironic if the present side could succeed where their predecessors failed?

Surely, this International season must have proved that, not only is the Divisional minuet unpopular and disruptive, but ineffective and irrelevant too. I still think that a properly constituted County Championship would be a far better way of deriving an England squad.

TAILPIECE

Here's a memory test for you.

I mentioned earlier that Richmond was one of the few club sides (as different from representative teams) who we have played on a Sunday in relatively recent years. Can you name another one?

The clues are that the game was played at Kingsholm, and the Opposition was the only unbeaten side in England at the time.

Answer later.

PETER ARNOLD



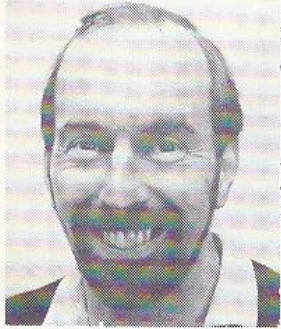
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TALKING RUGBY with Terry Phillips

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

Gloucester Rugby Club have two more Courage Clubs Championship matches left to confirm coach Keith Richardson's pre-season belief.

Wycliffe College master Richardson said Gloucester would finish in the top half of National Division One when he set out on his first season as the Cherry and Whites' coach.

They currently lie fifth, although Richardson warns: "Mathematically there is still a chance we could be relegated if we lose our last two matches and the lower teams win a few.

"But I had hoped for a top half position and it seems we are on target to achieve that.

"Obviously I hope that, if everything goes well and we continue to progress along the lines we have laid down this season, we can mount an even better challenge next season."

Gloucester's next Courage Championship match is against Orrell away next Saturday, while they face Sale at Kingsholm on Saturday April 16.

John Orwin, who was club captain at Kingsholm a couple of seasons ago, is still hoping he will be lining up against Gloucester next season.

Orwin's new club Bedford is lying third in National Division Two and still hoping they can sneak into a promotion place.

In Area League South Stroud, who are playing Camborne at home today, still need a win to stay clear of relegation danger. After today's Camborne clash they must take on Cheltenham at the Prince of Wales Stadium later this month.

Lydney, who play at Kingsholm later this month, lie safely in fourth place, but they are desperately disappointed to have missed out on promotion and will be making a mighty effort next season to go up.

NB: The change to the Bedford and Gosforth statistics is due to Gloucester having three Championship points (and so a win) deducted according to rule 7bii. Match points for and against have been deducted from both sides.

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP:

National Division One Table Correct As Of: Monday 7th March

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	8	7	0	1	144	103	29
Nottingham	10	4	1	5	138	136	23
Moseley	10	4	0	6	140	167	22
Bristol	8	4	1	3	146	92	21
Gloucester	8	4	1	3	132	105	21
Wasps	7	4	1	2	110	96	20
Waterloo	6	4	0	2	86	90	18
Bath	8	3	1	4	107	112	18
Orrell	6	3	1	2	96	77	16
Coventry	7	2	1	4	85	155	14
Harlequins	6	2	1	3	109	65	13
Sale	6	0	0	6	50	145	6

National Division Two Table Correct As Of: Monday 7th March

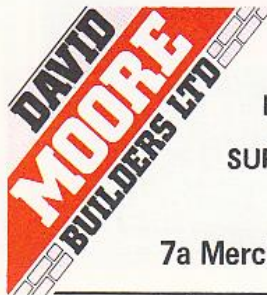
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosslyn Park	10	7	2	1	133	83	33
L'pool/St. Helens	8	7	0	1	113	55	29
Bedford	8	5	2	1	90	53	25
Richmond	9	5	0	4	109	109	24
London Irish	11	4	1	6	120	173	24
Headingley	8	4	1	3	136	85	21
London Scottish	8	4	0	4	114	90	20
Saracens	7	3	2	2	91	67	18
Gosforth	9	2	1	6	87	115	16
London Welsh	7	2	1	4	98	109	14
Blackheath	9	1	0	8	68	132	12
Northampton	8	1	0	7	78	166	11

National Division Three Table Correct As Of: Monday 7th March

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wakefield	8	7	0	1	231	68	29
West Hartlepool	7	7	0	0	171	53	28
Plymouth	8	6	0	2	208	92	26
Vale of Lune	8	6	0	2	154	119	26
Met Police	9	5	0	4	121	111	24
Fylde	8	5	0	3	236	114	23
Sheffield	8	5	0	3	99	137	23
Maidstone	7	3	0	4	82	77	16
Morley	9	1	1	7	92	182	13
Nuneaton	7	1	1	5	53	87	11
Birmingham	10	0	1	9	46	349	11
Exeter	7	0	1	6	69	173	8

Area League South Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Askeans	9	7	1	1	125	68	15
Sidcup	8	6	2	0	109	54	14
Camborne	8	5	1	2	94	78	11
Lydney	8	5	0	3	143	93	10
Havant	8	4	0	4	87	75	8
Southend	8	4	0	4	51	83	8
Sudbury	8	3	1	4	100	80	7
Salisbury	9	3	1	5	75	79	7
Stroud	8	3	0	5	65	101	6
Cheltenham	8	2	0	6	72	130	4
Streatham/Croydon	8	0	0	8	49	129	0



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