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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30p

**OFFICIAL
 PROGRAMME**

GLOUCESTER v SARACENS

Saturday
 26th March, 1988

Kick off 3 p.m.

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Today's game is sponsored by
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GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts

2		8

	3c	6

1		4
1		4

1	pen try	4
10	H/T	4

- 15. T. Smith
- 14. J. Breeze
- 13. R. Mogg
- 12. D. Cummins
- 11. N. Price
- 10. M. Hamlin
- 9. M. Hannaford (Capt.)

- 1. M. Preedy (I)
- 2. K. Dunn
- 3. R. Pascall
- 4. N. Scrivens
- 5. J. Etheridge
- 6. D. Spencer
- 7. I. Smith - A. Stanley
- 8. M. Teague (I)

Replacements:

- 16. A. Broady - P. Kingston
- 17. S. Hansen

(I) — International

Cumulative
Match
Score

0	4
6	4
10	4
16	4
22	4
22	10
22	14
26	14
26	20
26	24

SARACENS

(Black)

T	G	Pts

26	F/T	24

- 15. S. Hancock
- 14. P. Barcelon
- 13. J. Buckton
- 12. L. Smith
- 11. D. McLagen
- 10. N. Holmes
- 9. F. Steoman

- 1. R. Andrews
- 2. J. McFarland
- 3. C. Roberts
- 4. M. Pattinson
- 5. L. Adamson (Capt.)
- 6. P. Lindley
- 7. S. Kempster
- 8. D. Ryan

Replacements:

- 16.
- 17.

Referee: C. LEEKE (East Mids. Society)

IF YOU WANT TO GET A HEAD . . .

As many supporters will remember, we once had a fine old hostelry in Eastgate Street, known as the 'Saracen's Head'. I believe there is no truth in the assertion that it was named after a cranium removed from a member of the splendid club we entertain today.

Indeed, these latter-day Saracens would appear to have their heads well and truly screwed on, if the season's results are any guide.

Initially, they seemed to be having quite a good run in the Courage Clubs Championship, although they have fallen from grace a little recently, and are now comfortably esconced around halfway down Division Two, having won four games out of eight.

Saracens had a noteworthy John Player run too. You may recall that they were eventually stopped at Plymouth, which is no disgrace, the Devon Club now appearing to be approaching something like their past glories. You'll probably also remember that, a couple of seasons ago, they gave Gloucester a tough time in a John Player on their own patch, before going down 13-6.

That was, in fact, the second time we had drawn them in the Cup, the other occasion being in 1985, when Gloucester won at Kingsholm 29-3.

But let's not worry about past results too much. Today we have a straightforward club game, with nothing to worry about except the usual euphoria which comes from a win against good opposition.

So Saracens are, as always, very welcome today. And we can assure them, they won't have to walk as far as Eastgate Street for a convivial noggin afterwards.

THANKS TO NATIONAL CARRIERS

It's always nice to be able to thank a large national concern for their generosity in sponsoring a match at Kingsholm. If nothing else, it indicates that we must be doing something right.

Today's benefactors are NCCS, which may not mean much just like that, but if I told you it is an acronym for National Carriers Contract Services, Britain's leading 'dedicated' third-party Distributor, and a subsidiary of the enormously successful, employee-owned National Freight Consortium, all, as they say, would be revealed.

National Carriers Contract Services main aim in life is to get your goods, and even people, from A to B as efficiently as possible. They do this by a whole spectrum of methods, from the contract hire of a single vehicle, to the operation of an entire distribution system, incorporating staff and management, warehousing, computer systems, and every other resource you need. At the moment, NCCS has over 100 customers spread through just about every business sector you can think of.

It's quite an operation. There are 110 locations, nationwide, 1 million square feet of warehousing, and over 2,500 vehicles and trailers. NFC's backing makes available a further 700 locations, and 150 vehicle workshops.

And it's all working. NCCS turnover has increased by 230% over 4 years — and you can't grow much faster than that. My information is that "this growth is due to the proactive stance taken by NCCS in developing state-of-the-art techniques to provide cost-effective distribution solutions for both new and existing customers". In other words — they've got the kit and the know-how. The fact that all drivers and warehousemen are shareholders in the Company may have something to do with it as well.

Dave Hodges is the chap to contact if you want to know more. He's here today, and was sober last time I saw him. Or you could ring him on Gloucester 505577 or 417190.

But the only thing NCCS are distributing today is hospitality. We certainly hope that everyone in the party has an extraordinary good time.

RAVE UP TONIGHT

Jeremy Bennett tells me that tonight, as ever was, is the occasion for one of the galaxy-famous Players' Discos in the Complex. Cost £1.50. Jeremy says "just turn up and pay at the door". If that's your scene, why not do just that, and make your own contribution to the Players' Tour Fund? It's a good cause — at least it gets them out of the country for a while.

HOW ABOUT 'J.O.' THEM?

Our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to John Orwin on acquiring the England Tour Captaincy. I hope everyone remembers that he largely learned his lock forward play right here.

Most people will remember the impact he made when he took over as Captain here, and you can't knock his effectiveness in the same role at Bedford. What happened when he took control at Twickenham, last week, was plain for all to see.

He deserves his chance, and knowing him, he'll grab it with both buck-sized hands.

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

THANKS, BLUE DEVILS

Another aspect of the generosity shown by NCCS, is that they arranged for the Blue Devils Marching Band to entertain us before today's game. Makes a nice change.

They've been here before, of course, and I remember when the pitch was so muddy that they could hardly shift one elegant foot before another. Hope the elements are kinder to them today.

INTO EASTER

There's quite a lot going on at the moment. Berry Hill v. Lydney in the County Cup Final next Tuesday, and Lydney again, playing Gloucester on the 31st at 7.00 p.m. That will be an interesting comparison to make.

On Easter Saturday, the lads are away to Moseley, and if you don't fancy the trip to The Reddings, you could stay right here and watch United take on Bridgend Sports.

Birkenhead Park on Easter Monday complete the holiday games — but don't go away — we then have Neath, followed by Sale in our final League match, in rapid succession. Good 'ere innit?

WHAT'S UP DOC?

Our old friend Doctor Tom Durkin (whom God preserve, of Kingsholm Road), gives me advance notice of an interesting occasion planned for April 9th, the day of the Neath match. Apparently, there is to be a Seminar, held at the Postgraduate Centre in the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, on the subject of 'The Immediate Rehabilitation of Soft Tissue Injuries in Sport', which I take to mean 'how to get 'em back on the field after they've been kicked somewhere painful'.

Of course, 'Doc' was never one to rely on theory. He's arranged for participants in the Seminar to come along to the match afterwards. And they'll be very welcome too.

Just one thought occurs, however. It might be a good idea for players to make sure that they stay on their feet that day. Knowing Doctors as I do, they'll all be eager to try out what they've discussed in the morning. One sniff of a bruise, and they'll be out on the pitch in droves, smothering the victim in ice, bandage and liniment.

Perhaps we should have an Arms Park style 'Do Not Invade the Pitch' sign that day.

THANKS FROM THE PATRONS

I'm sure that all my fellow patrons would wish me to thank the organisers of last Tuesday's Patrons Evening. It was a thoroughly enjoyable event, made more memorable by the presentation of tankards to last season's record-breaking, undefeated United side.

Pity that not all the tankards turned up in time; a fact which our revered Presedent, Canon Mervyn Hughes took in his usual unflappable stride.

"It means we'll have to feed them again!" he commented. If that occasion is as pleasant as last Tuesday's, no one will grumble at that.

TAILPIECE

Here are the answers to two posers I've left you with recently.

The unbeaten club side which we played on a Sunday, a few years ago, was London Irish. I remember it well, having been invited back to the Irish Club in Horton Road afterwards.

Terry Tandy also reminds me that, back in '74, we played Bristol on a Sunday, having been forced to do so by the phased power cuts which we were getting at the time. But Bristol weren't unbeaten, of course. Neither were London Irish after their Sunday visit.

The Gloucester lock forward who dropped a goal against Bristol from his own half, was — who else? — Jim Jarrett. "The ball came to me, miles from anyone", he told me. "I heard someone shout 'Have a go, Jim' — so I did."

The rest is history.

PETER ARNOLD



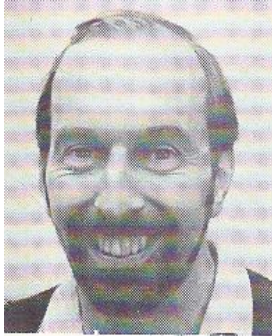
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TALKING RUGBY with Terry Phillips

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

Lydney visit Kingsholm twice next week — on Tuesday when they play Berry Hill in the Flowers County Cup final (7 p.m.) and Thursday when they tackle Gloucester in a match sponsored by The Citizen.

Berry Hill have won the County Cup four times in the last five seasons, missing out two years ago when they lost to Lydney in the final. Last season the rivals met in the semi-finals with Berry Hill emerging the winners and then defeating Gordon League in the final.

On Thursday Lydney return to Kingsholm for the second part of their tough two-games-in-three-days test. Lydney, celebrating their centenary season, entertained Gloucester at their Regentsholme ground on Boxing Day and the Severnsiders went down 9-3 in a close fought match.

Another tough match is in prospect, but how much will that struggle against Berry Hill take out of the Lydney lads?

Gloucester Rugby Club jumped to second spot in the Courage Championship National Division One table with a thoroughly deserved win against Orrell last Saturday — and left the Lancashire club deep in relegation trouble.

Sale look certain to go down, but there is a second relegation place this season and Orrell badly need a couple of wins in their last four matches to ensure safety.

At the top Leicester are still clear favourites for the title, but Gloucester, Wasps and Waterloo still have some hope.

The Cherry and Whites would need to beat Leicester when that match is re-arranged plus bottom club Sale to stand any chance at all, but that victory against Orrell did open it up a little.

Matches still to be played in Division One: LEICESTER v Sale (home), Gloucester (home), Waterloo (home).

WASPS v Coventry (home), Orrell (home), Waterloo (away).

BATH v Sale (away), Orrell (home), Harlequins (home).

WATERLOO v Moseley (away), Wasps (home), Leicester (away), Orrell (away), Bristol (away).

GLOUCESTER v Leicester (away), Sale (home).

BRISTOL v Harlequins (away), Coventry (away), Waterloo (home).

ORRELL v Bath (away), Wasps (away), Waterloo (home), Coventry (away).

HARLEQUINS v Sale (home), Coventry (away), Nottingham (home), Bristol (home), Bath (away).

COVENTRY v Wasps (away), Harlequins (home), Bristol (home), Orrell (home).

SALE v Bath (home), Harlequins (away), Leicester (away), Gloucester (away).

NOTTINGHAM v Harlequins (away).

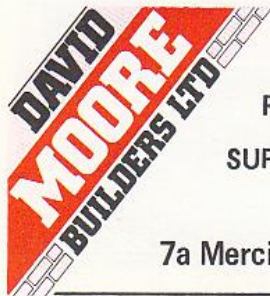
MOSELEY v Waterloo (home).

Courage Clubs Championship:

National Division One	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	8	7	0	1	144	103	29
Gloucester	9	5	1	3	145	115	25
Wasps	8	5	1	2	124	102	24
Nottingham	10	4	1	5	138	136	23
Moseley	10	4	0	6	140	167	22
Bristol	8	4	1	3	146	92	21
Waterloo	6	4	0	2	86	90	18
Bath	8	3	1	4	107	112	18
Harlequins	7	3	1	3	124	77	17
Orrell	7	3	1	3	105	90	17
Coventry	8	2	1	5	97	70	15
Sale	7	0	0	7	56	97	7



Former Gloucester scrum-half Julian Davis (centre), who is likely to visit Kingsholm twice next week in the Lydney team on Tuesday against Berry Hill and Wednesday against the Cherry and Whites.



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