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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30_p

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

GLOUCESTER

v

LYDNEY

Thursday
31st March, 1988

Kick off 7 p.m.

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WELCOME BACK!

At the time of writing, it's too soon to know how Lydney fared in their County Cup Final with Berry Hill, but it's safe to say that they acquitted themselves with fire, commitment and no little skill. We know that, because they always do.

Whatever the outcome, last Tuesday, we also know that the County will be well represented in the John Player Cup, next season. Berry Hill and Lydney? Who could ask for better?

The Severnside club's re-entry into the Cup could hardly have come at a more appropriate time. The Centenary Season is always worth marking, and for Lydney to crown theirs by ensuring themselves a John Player place in 1988/9 seems as good a way of doing it as any.

I shall watch their progress with interest. So will a lot of people who are far better judges than I. They tell me that Lydney have, potentially, the best set of backs they've had for years, and young ones at that. Tonight will prove that contention, one way or another, and one just hopes that their efforts, two evenings ago, won't have taken too much out of them. Gloucester have a string of injuries, culminating in those suffered by Tim Smith and Jim Breeze last Saturday, and there may not be as much between tonight's two sides as the facts on paper would have you believe.

There's also the local derby factor to consider. Reputations are likely to fly out of the window on such occasions, and almost anything can happen — and often does.

The Lydney visit to Kingsholm is never one to miss, and no side is more welcome. Nice to see you again, chaps, and we all hope we can help you celebrate your Centenary in style.

THANKS TO THE 'CITIZEN'

We have generous sponsors from just about the whole spectrum of commerce and industry, but it must be unique to be able to thank an organisation which can quite fairly claim to be present at every single game which both sides on the field of play, throughout the Season.

Our thanks are due to the 'Citizen', of course, for more than one reason. The City's leading newspaper has always done a thorough and highly professional job of reporting, and commenting on, the results and affairs of Gloucester RFC, keeping us informed and entertained in their own individual manner.

The job has never been left to some 'hack' journalist either. From the days of the fondly-remembered 'J.B.', through the immortal Arthur Russell, to today's Terry Phillips, the chaps given the job of writing about rugby at Kingsholm have always been well informed, and know something about the game. We may sometimes disagree with some of the things they say, but then, we argue with everybody else, don't we?

As a newspaper, the 'Citizen' is entering a very exciting phase. At the moment, their circulation averages 120,000, and is rising. There's a very great likelihood of bigger and better things to come too, with an imminent — later this year — move to new and modern printing facilities at Staverton. But don't worry — if you want to place a small ad. offering to sell your Great Aunt Martha's harpsichord, you'll find the good old 'Citizen' alive and well, and living in St. John's Lane, just the same as ever. Any other situation would be like moving the Cathedral, wouldn't it?

For anyone who has strayed in from furrin parts, I should also point out that full pages of rugby reports appear every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and I can't think of another paper, anywhere in England, which can claim such comprehensive coverage of the game. It's the *only* place where you can read full details of Combination Cup games, and that fact probably has much to do with the interest there is in such matters, throughout Gloucester, Stroud and the Royal Forest of Dean.

Of course, you could ask 'why am I writing all this, anyway?' After all, Terry Phillips makes a highly efficient job of his own contribution to the programme, for which we thank him, and he could just as easily have done the job himself.

One answer is a happy one. He has other things on his mind, at the moment, which could even account for his possible absence tonight; and it's not often that Terry misses a Kingsholm match.

A new addition to the Phillips family was due to arrive last night, but as the stork is not exactly as reliable as the team bus, he can't actually guarantee adherence to that date. So he may be welcoming the new generation into the world.

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

All our congratulations and best wishes go to you, and your wife, Terry. At least, she'll now have someone to talk to while you're off watching rugby — and getting *paid* for it, would you believe!

And our renewed thanks to everyone who is here tonight, together with those who are 'back at the ranch' getting tomorrow's news out.

The City wouldn't be the same without you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 'MOGGY'

Last Saturday, Graham Spring commented that the announcement of Richard Mogg's invitation to join the Barbarians' traditional Easter Tour was 'one the happiest I've made all season'. There's surely no Kingsholm regular who wouldn't say 'Hear! Hear!' to that.

It's time Richard got some recognition from somebody, and a Barbarians shirt seems a highly appropriate way to provide it. After all, if you think about it, 'Moggy' is a natural Barbarian. His style of play fits them like hand in glove, and he won't let them down, whatever he's asked to do, in the centre, or on the wing.

Having missed large chunks of the season through injury, he must be especially pleased to have his year capped in this way. Good on you, Moggy. We all hope you thoroughly enjoy the experience.

EASTER AND ONWARDS

Unhappily, we're beginning to see the end of another season. But not quite yet.

An Easter Saturday trip to Moseley is well on the cards, if you fancy it, and on Easter Monday we're expecting a visit from Birkenhead Park, traditional opponents at this time of the year. There's an added attraction that day, in fact.

Sir Thomas Rich's School play Saintbridge, each year, at Under 15 level, the incentive being a trophy presented by our own Patron, Ken Morris. This year they're holding the fixture at Kingsholm, before the First XV match, kick-off 1.45, half-an-hour each way. Well worth coming early I'd have thought.

If you aren't interested in the Moseley trip, then why not treat yourself to a view of the United on Saturday. Their opposition will be Bridgend Sports, and it will be interesting to see if our second string can reverse the fortunes of the First XV on their recent foray over Westgate Bridge.

Then, next Saturday, we have one of the most attractive visits of the year, in the shape of Neath, Finalists in the Welsh Cup, after putting it across Pontypool last week.

So don't despair — there's a bit to look forward to yet. Including the Combination Cup, the dates for which still have to be finalised. Watch this space.

SUMMER LOTTERY

Our lottery is building quite nicely, and providing some very welcome cash for the Club's coffers. So much so, in fact, that it has been decided to continue to run it over the summer months.

Of course, that means we could do with some more Agents who can earn a few quid while helping Gloucester RFC along. Interested? If so, contact Terry Tandy, who will be only too pleased to arrange regular delivery of tickets to wherever you like, over the close season.

Gives you some rugby interest during the dry spell, doesn't it?

TAILPIECE

As you've probably heard, Monday is the day on which we invite our sponsors and advertisers to partake of a little refreshment, and receive our grateful thanks for their generosity.

There was a small administrative hiccup, however. Recipients of the invitation were fascinated to read, in the covering letter, that we were playing Exeter on that day. The ticket said, correctly, that the opposition was to be provided by Birkenhead Park.

Peter Gould was contacted by one of our benefactors, who is unable to be with us, but hoped the Club would manage to do well, in spite of having to take on Exeter and Birkenhead Park at the same time!

I've heard of triangular tournaments, but this is ridiculous.

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 and Lydney, meeting tonight in a match sponsored by The Citizen, can both still have a say in a Courage Championship title chase this season, although neither can now be among the honours.

The Cherry and Whites have missed out in National Division One, although they still have to play leaders Leicester away and could yet upset their title charge.

And in Area League South, Lydney, still bitterly disappointed they were pushed out of the promotion race so early, travel to play unbeaten Sidcup, who must win or draw to take the title.

But Lydney are desperately keen to win against Sidcup, a result which would hand Askeans the championship and the one promotion spot available into National Division Three.

A Lydney victory would leave Sidcup in Area League South and give the Severnsiders' fixture list a much healthier look next season.

If Sidcup stay down Lydney would take on all the far flung clubs — Cambourne, Sidcup, Sudbury and Havant — at Regentsholme next season. Without those long trips to worry about, Lydney would surely start confident of earning promotion to the National Leagues.

Cheltenham have retained their Area League status, but only because of some shock results in Division Three of the National League.

The 16-4 home defeat against Stroud left Cheltenham second from bottom, but as two Northern area teams — Birmingham plus Nuneaton or Morley — are to be relegated Cheltenham look certain to stay up.

For the two relegated teams from National Division Three will go into Area League North, leaving only one — Streatham and Croydon — to go down from Area League South.

And that seems only fair, for Cheltenham were left second from bottom by a Championship committee decision.

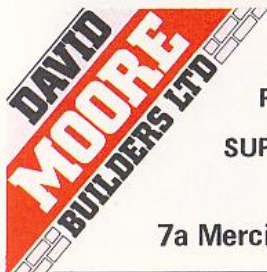
Salisbury lost against Stroud away earlier this season, but were awarded a win because Stroud fielded an ineligible player. Those two points handed to Salisbury left them one ahead of Cheltenham.

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP:

National Division One							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	9	8	0	1	186	118	33
Gloucester	9	5	1	3	145	114	25
Wasps	8	5	1	2	124	102	24
Nottingham	10	4	1	5	138	136	23
Bath	9	4	1	4	130	130	22
Moseley	10	4	0	6	140	167	22
Bristol	8	4	1	3	146	92	21
Orrell	8	3	1	4	123	113	18
Waterloo	6	4	0	2	86	90	18
Harlequins	7	3	1	3	124	77	17
Coventry	8	2	1	5	97	170	15
Sale	8	0	0	8	71	201	8

National Division Two							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Roslyn Park	11	8	2	1	155	83	37
L'pool/St. Helens	9	7	1	1	119	61	31
Richmond	10	6	0	4	137	134	28
Headingley	10	5	2	3	164	101	27
Bedford	10	5	2	3	119	114	27
Saracens	9	5	2	2	172	83	26
London Irish	11	4	1	6	120	177	24
London Scottish	8	4	0	4	114	90	20
Blackheath	11	2	0	9	102	187	17
Gosforth	9	2	1	6	87	115	16
London Welsh	9	2	1	6	115	149	16
Northampton	9	1	0	8	78	188	12

National Division Three							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wakefield	11	10	0	1	308	90	41
West Hartlepool	9	8	0	1	195	79	33
Vale of Lune	9	7	0	2	167	125	30
Fylde	10	6	0	4	257	153	28
Plymouth	9	6	0	3	215	101	27
Sheffield	9	6	0	3	114	146	27
Met Police	11	5	0	6	130	128	26
Exeter	10	3	1	6	116	185	20
Maidstone	9	3	0	6	108	107	18
Nuneaton	10	2	1	7	80	120	17
Morley	10	1	1	8	99	220	14
Birmingham	11	0	1	10	46	381	12



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