GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

GLOUCESTER v SALE

Saturday 16th April, 1988
Kick off 3 p.m.
SPONSORED BY Deloitte Haskins+Sells

The Winner of today’s Official Programme Draw will receive £5 from 681 Tyre Sales

1a Kingeholm Rd Used to Rugby Grounds

Programme supported by the City of Gloucester
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**GLOUCESTER** (Cherry & White)

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**SALE** (Royal Blue & White)

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<td>J. Powell</td>
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**Replacements:**

16. J. Roberts
17. G. Mann

Referee: M. J. Edwards
END-OF-SEASON SALE

Seems a long time since last September — and yet, paradoxically, we only just seem to have started, and here we are at the last home game of 1987/88.

One week ago, it was an eventful season. Undoubtedly, the most important innovation in the English game has been the advent of the Courage Clubs Championship, which has made its presence felt wherever 30 lads gathered around a tumm-aged pub ball. It’s highly appropriate, therefore, that we finish the Kingsholm season with our final match in that Championship.

Safe would, in any event, be very welcome visitors. We’ve had some right old dog-dongs with them from time to time, and you’ll remember that it was Gloucester’s win at Safe which sealed the fate of the John Smith’s Merit Table, which you’ll remember was the forerunner of the present competition.

I also remember, a few seasons ago, when we’d beaten almost everyone all year, Safe came here and showed us that we weren’t as good as all that, largely due to an inspired display by ex-England Captain, Steve Smith; who certainly gave the young aspiring Marcus Harnaford a few pointers in scrum half technique on the day.

As you’ll know, Safe haven’t been having one of their better seasons, although they’ve matched up one or two creditable wins in non-League games. It doesn’t seem possible for them to avoid relegation, but they’ll certainly be wanting to go out on a high note, and should not be taken too lightly. Anyway, knowing their true North Country grit, I’m perfectly certain they’ll be back.

We certainly hope they’ll continue to come here. It would be a shame if the game’s new structure were to mean that we lose such honoured and appreciated opponents as Safe.

That’s as may be. Let’s simply repeat our welcome, and state that we couldn’t wish for better opposition in our final home game.

THANKS TO DELOITE’S

As anyone who is a member of anything knows, the Auditors are the last people to take a look at any club’s accounts. It’s oddly opposite, therefore, that Gloucester RFC’s own Auditors should appear as the final sponsors of the season, and they have our sincerest thanks for their generosity.

Deloitte Haskins and Sells aren’t exactly yer friendly neighbourhood accountants. In fact, to use the parlance of the profession, they’re one of the ‘Big Eight’ Chartered Accountancy practices, with offices worldwide. They have one of the biggest tax advice organisations in Europe.

This becomes increasingly important. Even smallish firms operate in Europe these days, and VAT and Customs duties are, like the poor, always with us; whichever country we happen to be visiting. As you’ll know from various press reports, the framework of VAT is established by EEC law.

It is becoming increasingly important. VAT specialists throughout Europe who can help with their specialist local knowledge. No doubt the Portuguese arm would be happy to help, if the need arises, when the lads visit their country later on this year.

One thing’s for sure — you have to keep your Auditors on your side. Deloitte’s don’t seem to have any complaints, if today’s generous gesture is anything to go by.

As always, we’re delighted to see Roy White and his colleagues, not to mention quests, and we hope that, in their honour, the scoreboard rattles along as healthily as the balance sheet.

Have a great time, people!

RACE NIGHT NEXT FRIDAY

Talking about the Portuguese trip, I was butterhodled, at the Nash game, by Jim Jarrett, who informs me that Members might like to know about just one more Kingsholm event which could finish off the season nicely.

This Friday night, as I implied, the proceeds are to go towards the Portugal tour. It’s a worthy cause. I’m sure you’ll agree, and you could happily invest a quid or two in cinematographic gee-gaws, and use the proceeds to nip off to Llanelli on the following day.

Why not do just that?

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COLTS

It’s true that a healthy Colts squad ensures the future playing strength of the Club, then, in a year or two’s time, Gloucester will have the strongest side in England.

You’ll have read that Gloucester Colts have emulated last season’s United side by going through the season unbeaten, winning 10 games out of 10.

That’s a very considerable achievement indeed. Especially when you remember that the record includes ‘doubles’ over such prestigious outfits as the Colts from Bath and Mostley.

However, the standing of a club in the national rankings doesn’t always reflect the strength of the Colts teams they can field, and Reg Collins, to whom I am grateful for this information, also gives prominence to similar records against Nameston and Lydney.

The Gloucester Colts system is interesting. In between matches, players return to their own clubs, gaining experience against very good sides, and getting advice from highly knowledgeable practitioners of the art. The system also means that a Colts sweater is worth winning, and there is certainly competition to get into the side.

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DAVID I. ROBINS M.Inst.T.T.
Reg points out that about 70 players turn out for the early-season trials, and that he usually expects to call upon around 30 of them during the season. He asks me to compliment all of them on their enthusiasm and loyalty, and to give his thanks to all the North Gloucester Combination Clubs who willingly encourage their young players to amalgamate for the mid-week Colts matches. It would be a bit unfair to select players for special mention, but it’s only right to record that outside half, Neil Matthews, and lock forward Dave Sims have already turned out for United, and that both, together with loose head prop Anthony Wondo, have been invited to join the Club’s Portugeuse Tour in May and June.

The list of Colts who have gone on to great things is impressive, to say the least. Internationals Malcolm Pooley and Mike Leakey are among that number, and it’s interesting to note that our two most recent Club Captains, Malcolm Pooley and Marcus Honnorford both arrived through the Colts ranks.

Reg Collins has given me a list of over two dozen names of players who first appeared for the Colts since 1976, and who are still around at the top level now. I doubt if many clubs point to a record like that.

Finally, Reg asks me publicly to thank John Powell and John Wix for their ever-present support and help during the season, to which I would add the thanks of the Colts themselves — indeed, of all of us — to Reg Collins himself. I doubt if they could have done so well without him.

MESSAGE FROM MRS. EWERS

Many of you will remember Fred Ewers, who used to run the Colts side before Reg Collins. I had a nice phone call from his widow, Mrs. Ewers, the other day, to tell me that this season’s Colts record is not unique.

"About 12 or 13 years ago," she tells me, "the Colts went through unbeaten. The last match was at Brixham, in dreadful conditions, and Gloucester won 3-0, although they finished the game with only 14 men."

She also sent her regards to everyone who remembers her.

Nice to hear from you, Mrs. Ewers. Keep in touch.

LAST CALL FOR AGENTS

As you’ll know by now, it has been decided to continue holding our successful Lottery throughout the summer months. Anyone who would like to become an Agent can start the ball rolling by contacting Terry Tandy.

THANKS TO EVERYONE

This is the programme for thanks, of course, and we heartily thank everyone who has given a hand in whatever capacity.

However, Peter Ford asks me to express the gratitude of both Players and Officials to the ‘ordinary’ supporter this season. Support has been tremendous, and it certainly helps the lads on the field when they hear the old Kingholm roar. Ask Neath. They know all about it.

Well — it hasn’t been a bad old season, has it?

TAILPIECE

"We never appointed you, in the first place," said Peter Ford. "So we can’t bloody sack you, can we?"

Which is one way of telling you that, God and Circuits permitting, I shall be doing this job again next year. Sorry about that.

Meanwhile, thanks for all the snippets and comments you’ve been giving me. Some of them quite unprintable.

Summer well.

ARTHROSCOPE APPEAL

The Orthopaedic Department of the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital requires an arthroscope costing £4000. This delicate instrument enables the surgeon to explore the inside of a knee joint through a minute incision thus avoiding the need for major surgery. This is an important medical advance particularly for sportsmen since it reduces the time for rehabilitation and enables players to resume training much sooner following their operation.

This instrument has already helped many rugby players throughout the country. Even more players could be helped in this way if the local hospital possessed an arthroscope of its own.

Gloucester Rugby Club maintains very close links with the hospital, who have given us outstanding service over the years. If you would like to help them in a practical way, you are invited to do so by making a donation during today’s game. It will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Mr. Tim Tasker
Orthopaedic Surgeon
Dr. Roger Eltringham
Medical Officer, Glos. RFC

PETER ARNOLD

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

Next Tuesday Matson aim to win the North Gloucester Combination Senior Cup for the 19th time in the last 26 seasons.

Matson's record in this Toby Bitter sponsored competition is remarkable, but they will be given a tough battle in the final at Kingholm by Gordon League, who reached the last 16 of the John Player Cup this season.

League secured their place in the final with a 10-9 win against Spartans away, the second time this season they have triumphed by a point against City rivals Spartans.

They won 7-6 in the Flowers County Cup and came from 9-6 down with only a few minutes left in the Combination Cup semi-final when winger Mike Stubbs raced in for a try.

Matson won their semi-final 48-6 against Tredworth and have not really been extended on their way through the competition.

Gordon League last won this competition 11 years ago, but they have won it on ten occasions and will give everything to halt Matson's march.

**COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP:**

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Including midweek results

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Action from last weekend’s Gloucester v North match at Kingsholm which produced an impressive 35-19 victory for the Cherry and Whales. The Gloucester players pictured are (left to right) John Etheridge, Paul Ashmead and Barry Clark.

Gloucester skipper and scrum-half Marcus Hannaford in possession against North last Saturday.