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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30_p

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

GLOUCESTER

v

SALE

Saturday
16th April, 1988

Kick off 3 p.m.

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GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts
1	6c 1p	19

1		4
1		4
1		4

	1c	2
2		8

1		4
1		4
2		8
1		4

25	H/T	3
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15. P. Mansell
14. J. Breeze
13. R. Maclean
12. D. Cummins
11. R. Mogg
10. M. Hamlin
9. M. Hannaford (Capt.)
1. M. Preedy (I)
2. K. Dunn
3. R. Pascall
4. N. Scrivens
5. J. Etheridge
6. P. Ashmead
7. I. Smith
8. B. Clark

Replacements:

16. J. Roberts
17. G. Mann

(I) — International

Cumulative
Match
Score

6	0
6	3
9	3
13	3
19	3
25	3
29	3
35	3
39	3
43	3
49	3
55	3
55	7
61	7

SALE

(Royal Blue & White)

T	G	Pts

61	F/T	7
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15. G. Jenion
14. H. Thomas
13. P. Barrett
12. D. Pollard
11. J. Powell
10. G. Rafferty
9. A. Preston
1. T. Wilding (Capt.)
2. M. Poole
3. M. Callery
4. C. Shaw
5. C. Brierley
6. S. Morrison
7. P. Billington
8. D. Sydall

Replacements:

16. G. Stanton
17. I. Bullough

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 way and another, it's been 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 idiots foregather around a funny-shaped ball. It's highly appropriate, therefore, that we finish the Kingsholm season with our final match in that Championship.

Sale would, in any event, be very welcome visitors. We've had some right old ding-dongs with them from time to time, and you'll remember that it was Gloucester's win at Sale 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, Sale 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 and aspiring Marcus Hannaford a few pointers in scrum half technique on the day.

As you'll know, Sale haven't been having one of their better seasons, although they've notched 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 Sale.

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 DELOITTE'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 apposite, therefore, that Gloucester RFC's own Auditors should appear as the final sponsors of the season, and they have our sincere thanks for their generosity.

Deloitte Haskins and Sell 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 duty 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.

Deloitte's have a network of VAT specialists throughout Europe who can help with their specialist local knowledge. No doubt the Portugese 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 guests, 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 Portugese trip, I was buttonholed, at the Neath 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.

Next Friday evening, as ever was, there is to be one of the highly-popular race nights, which are invariably fun and games for everyone. 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-gees, 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 is a very considerable achievement indeed. Especially when you remember that the record includes 'doubles' over such prestigious outfits as the Colts from Bath and Moseley.

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 Nuneaton 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 invidious 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 Windo, have been invited to join the Club's Portuguese Tour in May and June.

The list of Colts who have gone on to great things is impressive, to say the least. Internationals Malcolm Preedy and Mike Teague are among that number, and it's interesting to note that our two most recent Club Captains, Malcolm Preedy and Marcus Hannaford 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 sends 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 Kingsholm 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 Cirrhosis 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 sportsman 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 excellent 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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TALKING RUGBY with Terry Phillips

The Citizen rugby writer Terry Phillips on the news from Kingsholm - 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 Kingsholm 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.



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

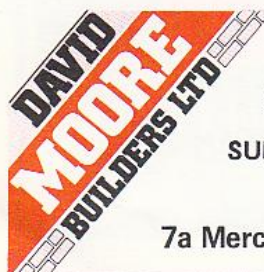


Gloucester skipper and scrum-half Marcus Hannaford in possession against Neath last Saturday.

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP:

	National Division One						Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A	
Leicester	10	9	0	1	225	133	37
Wasps	10	7	1	2	195	121	32
Bath	10	5	1	4	151	139	26
Gloucester	9	5	1	3	145	114	25
Nottingham	11	4	1	6	146	170	24
Harlequins	9	4	1	4	167	106	22
Moseley	10	4	0	6	140	167	22
Bristol	8	4	1	3	146	92	21
Waterloo	8	4	0	4	114	151	20
Orrell	8	3	1	4	123	113	18
Coventry	9	2	1	6	103	219	16
Sale	8	0	0	8	71	120	8

Including midweek results



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