



FIRST STEP ON THE ROAD

Whether you approve of the new League structure or not, it's here, and this is the first opportunity to start guessing how well we shall fare. In fact, it's not a bad game to start with, because there doesn't seem to be much — on paper, anyway — between the two sides, and by about 4.30 this afternoon, we should be able to make some sort of a judgement of both Gloucester's and Moseley's chances against other teams in the First Division.

Of course, you could be a member of the school, not inconsiderable in size, which says, as Peter Gough did last week-end, that the only important thing is to see "a good game of Rugby", in which case, you should be happy enough as a result of today's proceedings, if past history is anything to go by.

The saga of Gloucester v. Moseley goes back a long way, and is a chronicle of fine Rugby and great players. Many people will remember that we wrote a small chapter in the game's history by achieving a tie after extra time in the old John Player Cup Final, the only occasion on which this has happened. Anyway, the new Pilkington Cup (doesn't trip off the tongue so lightly, does it?) is some way ahead yet, as far as Gloucester is concerned, and we'll worry about it in due time.

The last time we had the pleasure of entertaining the lads from the Reddings, on New Year's Day this year, we won by 18 points to 12, and that was a Courage Club Championship game too. Moseley will be as conscious of that as we are, and will want to set the record straight. On the other hand, our own lads will be feeling their oats a bit after the efficient demolition of Swansea, last Saturday, and will take a bit of knocking out of their stride.

We shall see what transpires, but however things go, it's a delight to see Moseley so early in the season, they're extremely welcome, and we all hope they enjoy their visit something inordinate.

THANKS TO ALDER KING

Quite a lot has happened to today's sponsor, Alder King, since last they generously sponsored a Kingsholm match (Ebbw Vale, if memory serves). They've become part of Lloyd's Bank's 'Black Horse' organisation, and our old friend Tim Heal, today's host, now runs an operation which covers branches in Bristol, Bournemouth, Exeter, Southampton, Chippenham, Taunton and Yeovil, as well as the one here in Gloucester.

You'll probably know very well what they do for a living — at least, you must have been walking around with your eyes shut if you don't, because their sign boards have been showing up on a very significant number of the commercial and professional premises available as a result of Gloucester's amazing development boom.

We obviously can't list the lot, even if we knew them, but you'll probably be interested to learn that

they have become Agents for selling the developments in Gloucester Docks.

It's all very well performing miracles in reviving such a wonderful piece of industrial history as our Victorian Dockland, but the bottom line is finding someone to occupy the premises provided by the project. And you can't afford to make mistakes, which is why Alder King have got into the act.

In other words, our Brunswick Road-based professional estate agency, surveyors and valuers are playing a vital role in the progress of 'good old Glawster'. And they have some very well-informed help too. Brian Nicholas, who used to be Gloucester City Council's valuation expert has now joined Alder King, and you can't think of anyone with a better background for the job.

Brian's here today — but then, he probably would be, anyway. We certainly hope that he, and everyone else who has come along, has a thoroughly good time.

GET IN QUICK!

Just a reminder that applications for International tickets are needed in something of a hurry — a situation not helped by the fact that the first game, against Australia, takes place as early as November 5th.

It's quite easy to start the ball rolling. Stroll along to the Office, at the rear of the main Stand, and Terry Tandy, or whoever is officiating, will be happy to let you have the appropriate form.

As always — we shan't get enough tickets to go round, but that's one of the facts of life we've learned to live with.

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

TAKE A LOOK AT THE COLTS

You'll remember that our highly superior Colts side won ten games out of ten, last season. Reg Collins tells me that more young players than ever have aspired to get into the side this season, which argues a bright future, and is a very telling contrast to the situation Swansea find themselves in, not even being able to raise a second XV to take on our United last week.

By the time you read this, Gloucester Colts will have played Nuneaton, and at the time of writing, I obviously don't know how they got on, but you'll have your first chance to cast a critical eye over them next Wednesday, when they entertain Moseley Colts — appropriately enough — here at Kingsholm. Why not do just that? It's the future you're looking at.

SHOP

Indications last weekend are that our nice new shop, at the Worcester Street end, is going to be a great success. The refreshments provided certainly make a change from the fare supplied by the old hotdog van, and there's a good range of other products to treat yourself to as well.

Notably, there's a new departure in the way of a poster. It sold well on its first appearance last Saturday, and I commend it to your attention. It features a team photograph, facts and figures about last season, and a few items of memorabilia of which you might like a record.

It's ideal if you happen to have a youngster who likes to cover his bedroom wall — but on the other hand, you don't really need an excuse do you? And, at 75p. it's a snip.

APOLOGIES TO TREVOR

John Beaman has been officiating just inside the Clubhouse for so long that I was under the impression that they simply throw a dust sheet over him for the close season, and just buff him up a little when September rolls around. I therefore assumed that he would be dispensing Social Club Membership cards this year, as heretofore.

Not so, however. John has now graduated to the new shop, and his duties in the Clubhouse have been assumed by the amiable Trevor Pritchard. Sorry Trevor! It was incompetence rather than malice.

But, whoever's in charge, you do need such a card if you want to use the Clubhouse Bar this season

— so the Law tells us. So go and have a word with Trevor — just so he doesn't feel neglected.

And, incidentally, while you're there, don't forget the 300 Club.

HMITER

The Firsts are away to Pontypridd next Saturday, returning against our old friends from Clifton on Wednesday the 20th. We then travel to Bath and Exeter.

But the fact that the lads are going walkabout doesn't mean that you have to go without your weekly 'fix'. One or two of the United side must be knocking on the senior team's door, this season, which is why the cancellation of their Swansea trip must have been a bit of a blow. I can't think that there will be any such problems about Coventry today, and if you'd like to see them in action, why not trot over to Cheltenham next Tuesday?

The United game against Pontypool at Kingsholm next Saturday is probably a 'must', and on the 24th, we have a replay of today's game at United level. Plenty to look forward to.

CONGRATULATIONS

... to the whole clutch of Gloucester lads who have made their way into the first South West squad. You may feel that one or two others might have made it, too, notably lan Smith. However, they keep telling me that the door is still wide open, so we shall see what we shall see.

TAIL PIECE

Just about every English side which played Welsh opposition, last Saturday came away with hefty wins. Swansea couldn't raise a second XV.

Is this the end of civilisation as we know it?

PETER ARNOLD



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PLAYING RECORDS

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FIRST XV UNITED XV

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Leading Points Scorers First XV —



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