



FOUNDED 1873
PRESIDENT:
CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30p

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

GLOUCESTER v BEDFORD

Saturday
1st October, 1988

Kick off 3 p.m.

SPONSORED BY

National Carriers

AND

**Mid West
Communications (UK)
Limited**



Programme supported
by the City of Gloucester

The Winner of today's
Official Programme
Draw will receive
£10 from

148

Tyre Sales
Tyre Sales (Bham) Ltd.
1a Kingsholm Rd
(next to Rugby Ground)

"UP THE WOODEN HILL"

"... to Bedfordshire", was a formula by which Victorian nannies used to shepherd their sleepy charges to bed. However, there's nothing somnolent about Bedford RFC, and as we all know, nothing remotely nanny-like about our distinguished Old Boy, England Captain John Orwin, who wrought such wonders with the club in recent seasons.

And that's a painful memory, because 'J.O.' must have chortled mightily when his side beat Gloucester by 12 points to 10 in the equivalent fixture last season. Now, I gather, John has moved on again, having given up his pub. Wasps have been mentioned, but I've seen no mention of his having played yet.

Bedford v Gloucester has a long and honourable history, and personally, I have always thoroughly enjoyed those fixtures. Bedford never 'get their heads down', as the saying goes, and the games are invariably entertaining.

Anyway, in these League and Cup-ridden days, it's a nice change to see an honest-to-God 'friendly' between two English clubs, with nothing to play for but pride. I don't know from personal experience, but I would have thought that the players can relax and enjoy themselves a bit more.

Bedford would be the first to admit that they are not the power in the land that they used to be at one time. I, for one, hope that it's a passing phase, and that we shall soon be comparing them with the best in English rugby once again. If games against Gloucester help in that respect, then we're doing a club which deserves it a favour.

So it's 'Welcome' once again to Bedford. I hope they all enjoy their visit as much as I fully intend to.

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

It's my pleasure to thank, not one, but two generous Sponsors today. Our old friends from National Carriers Contract Services have linked with Mid West Communications, this time, to give us their most welcome support.

NCCS (for short) are a subsidiary of the employee-owned National Freight Consortium, and are the largest dedicated distribution company in the UK. To give you an idea of what that means, the distribution market amounts to some £50 million, at the moment, and 26% of that is handled by 'third party' organisations. They have over 100 customers, are based in 110 locations, accounting for over 1 million square feet of warehousing. If you take their NFC connection into the reckoning, then they can operate from more than 700 different sites.

Even in that context, NCCS are remarkable, having increased their turnover by 230% over the past few years.

And don't think they're just for the big boys. Sure — they can offer the most hi-tech, sophisticated, computer-controlled distribution system, using large number of vehicles, but if your interest is in a one-wagon operation, they'd be glad to talk about that too. Bearing in mind the Bath experience, I wonder if they could help get the Gloucester XV to matches on time?

Mid West Communications (UK) Limited are a different type of communications company altogether. In fact, National Carriers Contract Services are one of their customers.

Founded as recently as April 1986 as a company supplying cellular telephones, they have very rapidly developed into a thriving outfit, supplying the whole range of business communications equipment. And, already, they are serving customers all over the UK from their Head Office in Evesham.

Mid West have all the appropriate Telecom authorisations to supply the complete BTMC range of equipment. They can also provide everything you need in the exciting and expanding world of Fax machines — which they consider to be an essential for a successful business — and have all the most up-to-date telex systems on offer, software and all.

You don't get to be that successful, in about eighteen months, unless you've something extra going for you. Mid West point to their personal approach and their thoroughgoing, continuous service, before, during and after sale. Maintenance and similar functions are available on a 365-days-a-year basis. This being Leap Year, they work for one more day than that.

One thing did intrigue me. Apparently, the new regulations mean that, nowadays, anyone can have a pay phone installed. Might come in handy if you have a teenage daughter.

Be that as it may, we hope that everyone from both our munificent Sponsors have a thoroughly entertaining day, today.

D.I.R. International

FOR THE RUGBY TOUR OF A LIFETIME

PERSONAL ATTENTION AND SERVICE • ALL TOURS TAILOR MAD

D.I.R. INTERNATIONAL LTD

Halas House, Holywell Road, Malvern WR14 4LE, England.

Tel. (06845) 60247 & 64826 (24 Hours) Telex 335626 Fax (0684) 892275



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

SAD DAY

If I wrote that last Saturday was a sad day for Gloucester RFC, you'd probably think I was referring to the Bath result. Not so, however. Losing at Bath is no disgrace: the behaviour of some of our younger supporters on the train, on the way home, certainly was.

I don't like it when of our long-serving supporters rings me at home in the late evening, to tell me that a bunch of moronic louts had ruined the whole day, and destroyed the reputation of, not only Gloucester RFC, but the whole City of Gloucester. And that some of them were wearing cheap Gloucester-coloured shirts.

I'm told that the Guard, intelligently enough, asked my informant, and one or two more responsible supporters, to quiet the situation down, which they proceeded to do. That's fine, and we thank them for it, but the necessity shouldn't have arisen.

I'm also informed that the young lady behind the bar (before the Guard was forced to close it) was insulted and abused, and on behalf of all of us at Kingsholm, I apologise to her. If she likes to come along and make herself known to me, at some time, I'll do what I can to make amends.

I have the authority of Terry Tandy to write that, if supporters can't behave themselves on away matches, then we don't want them at home matches either. Slightly hard up the Club may be, but we don't need their money badly enough to risk sinking to the level of some Soccer clubs.

I'm sure that there are very few people here today who would disagree with that.

YEAR BOOK

Speaking of National Carriers, I learn that their generosity also extends to sponsoring our new venture, the Club Year Book. I should also mention that our Programme Printers, Stoate and Bishop, of St. Catherine's Street are supporting us too, and that there's a good chance that another well-known company, not unconnected with Richard Pascal, are considering the matter as well.

The Year Book is now well in production, and should be available from our highly successful new Club Shop, among other places, in the very near future.

It will cost a derisory £1, and bids fair to be the best quidsworth you'll buy this season. Terry Phillips has supplied a great deal of information, plus pen pictures of players, there's a profile of a distinguished old stalwart, and even a whole two-page 'Tailpiece' by that other chap.

And, while on that sort of subject, when you drop into the Shop, don't forget the new Club Poster which is selling like cold lager.

INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

The due date for applications for International Tickets is now officially past, but Terry Tandy is feeling generous at the moment, and tells me that he'll still accept some over this weekend.

WASPS NEXT WEEK

Having come in second against Bath, last weekend, we have the next thrilling instalment in the Courage Clubs Championship next Saturday. And the visitors are Wasps.

You'll remember the nasty they did us last season, stopping our Cup run, and pushing us down the League on the same day. My opinion was that the London lads played out of their skins, and that Gloucester didn't play as well as they were capable of. It will be interesting to see what happens this time round, and I should think there will be a big crowd, so get along early.

On the Wednesday after that, we have a visit from Ebbw Vale, our first taste of Welsh opposition since we took Swansea apart on the first day of the season. All good, interesting stuff.

TAILPIECE

Terry Tandy, the other day, with every justification, enquired if I ever bother to read the programme. If I did, he maintains, I would have picked up the fact that our Lucky Programme now earns the fortunate holder £10 and not £5 as I stated in my eulogy about the generosity of Tyre Sales Limited in the Clifton programme. In fact, they have doubled their investment. And very nice too.

My answer to Terry is "Good God, man — I spend half my time writing for you; you don't expect me to be able to read as well!"

PETER ARNOLD



HARTLAND RENTALS

St. Oswalds Road
Gloucester

Latest Models

Tel: Glos. 305051

Cars & Vans



TALKING RUGBY with Terry Phillips

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

Former Gloucester captain John Orwin is back at Kingsholm today leading Courage Championship National Division Two side Bedford.

The 34-year old England international was a big influence at Kingsholm for a number of years when he played for Gloucester while stationed at RAF Brize Norton.

He left the area when he left the RAF and took over a public house near Bedford — the Black Horse at Wootton.

He has figured prominently in Bedford's excellent start to the season — they have only lost to Leicester — and is looking forward to the challenge of today's match.

"I spent several happy seasons at Gloucester and I enjoy going back to Kingsholm," he said this week.

Orwin was back in Gloucester only a couple of weeks ago when he played for John Watkins International XV at Hempsted Lane to help Gordon League celebrate their centenary season. That match ended 36-36.

While Orwin's Bedford have made a good start in National Division Two, Gloucester went down against Bath in National Division One and then slipped up badly in midweek when they lost 18-14 and had prop Pete Jones sent off.

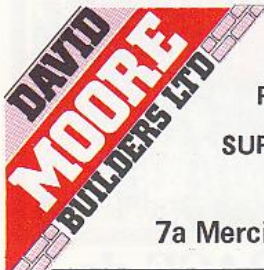
It was a disappointing defeat after Gloucester had led 11-0 at half-time and 14-3 five minutes into the second period and the first loss against Exeter for six seasons.

The Cherry and Whites must bounce back quickly from those two defeats before a minor hiccup becomes a major crisis.

But today's match against a useful Bedford team is the chance to return to winning ways and skipper Marcus Hannaford will be keen for his team to show the form they found in excellent wins against Swansea and Moseley earlier this season.



John Orwin



ALL TYPES OF BUILDING & REPAIRS UNDERTAKEN
PLUMBING AND CENTRAL HEATING DECORATING
SUPPLIERS & INSTALLERS OF MOST KITCHEN FURNITURE
& APPLIANCES

7a Mercia Road, Gloucester.

Tel: 0452 414000