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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30p
**OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME**

GLOUCESTER

v

WASPS

**Saturday
8th October, 1988**

Kick off 3 p.m.

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OUCH!

Yes — it still hurts, that 24-13 defeat by Wasps on February 13th this year. You'll remember that, for various reasons, the game counted towards both League and Cup, and effectively ended our challenges in both.

The Wasps players performed brilliantly, that day, while Gloucester's stars seemed to be temporarily in eclipse. My own view is that the best team won, on the day, but that, in reality, there wasn't so much between the two sides as might have appeared.

Not so well remembered is the fact that Gloucester had already efficiently demolished Wasps, at Kingsholm, precisely four weeks previously. The score was 22-13, which represents as near a complete reversal of fortunes as makes no odds.

Perhaps the best thing to recall is that both games were thoroughly entertaining to watch.

No mistake, Wasps are a very formidable outfit, and with Divisional honours not all that far away, a fair few of them will be seeking to impress. On the other hand, much has been made of the fact that Gloucester have rather gone off the boil after an absolutely terrifying start to the season. But consider; since the Moseley game we haven't had a settled side, thanks to injuries and things, and in this day and age, it must be difficult for players to keep their game at a peak of excellence when there isn't much to play for.

All this means that we may be in for a real cracker today. All the signs are there, and throughout local rugby circles, only the Gordon League match v. Matson has provided anything like the conversational gambits which this one has during the last week.

We shall see. Meanwhile, it's always good to welcome the chaps from Sudbury to Kingsholm — at least one of them was here last Saturday, making copious notes — and we hope that both he, and everyone else, has a highly enjoyable time, whatever the result.

THANKS TO XEROX

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The only thing is, we haven't got a Xerox Copy Centre around here. But that lack is about to be amended by the opening of their 38th branch at 294 High Street, Cheltenham. Telephone: Cheltenham 226332.

Could come in very useful.

Thanks for joining us today, Xerox. A Gloucester v. Wasps game is something which even you can't copy.

... AND TO DAVE MOUNTJOY

While our old friend Dave Mountjoy, of P. & P. Glaziers, Bristol Road, can't claim to be multi-national, as yet, taken in perspective, we're just as grateful to him for his generous gesture today. He's provided the ball for the match, and I understand that there's no truth to the rumour that he's installed radio control for the benefit of Tim Smith.

He tells me that his company is going great guns, and good glaziers aren't so thick on the ground that we can afford to ignore one, especially when he's so closely associated with Gloucester RFC.

If you need a pane in the glass — if you'll pardon the expression — contact Dave on Gloucester 29355. You'll get all the first-class attention that he provides for the players' baggage on match days.

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

HOPE SHE'S ALL RIGHT

Mike Hamlin buttonholed me, after the Bedford game, to tell me that several players were worried about an incident which happened on that occasion. Apparently, a kick went to touch and, unfortunately, hit a little girl, probably there with her Dad, full in the face.

The players ask me to tender their most sincere apologies, and while it is obviously 'one of those things', they wouldn't have it happen for the world. If anyone knows anything about the accident, they'd be pleased to hear that everything is now all right.

THE BUYWAY CODE

Some years ago, I was extremely impressed by the Club Shop on Wasps' Sudbury ground. Perhaps the most memorable item was a display of ladies' underwear with little gold wasps in the most amazing places.

We haven't reached those heights of entrepreneurial flair at Kingsholm yet, but John Beaman tells me that our splendid new shop at the Worcester Street end of the ground is doing good business. There must be a lot of damp patches on walls around Gloucester, because our attractive new poster, priced at 75p, is going like hot doughnuts.

You know, Christmas isn't that far away, and a little early shopping might save some hassle later. How about a Club sweater for some interested friend or relative?

A LOTTA LOTTERY

Don't forget to buy your lottery tickets from the attractive ladies who are there to sell them. And we're still looking for a few more Agents who might like to make a little cash while doing the Club a bit of good at the same time. Terry Tandy will give you details.

'EBBW' ON WEDNESDAY

I can't believe that Welsh clubs will continue to fare as badly against English teams as they have to date, and I hope the trend doesn't start reversing itself at Kingsholm next Wednesday evening. The Competition will be Ebbw Vale, who are our first Welsh opposition since the Swansea game, right at the start of the season.

The trans-Severn theme continues, next Saturday, with the United game against Newport — old and valued opponents who always provide a tough test for Gloucester, whatever the relative merits of the two sides on paper.

OOPS!

Anyone planning their season with the aid of the small membership card, will find that next Saturday's First XV game against Newport is billed as a home fixture, which means that, as the United is playing here as well, the pitch is likely to get a little crowded.

Looking ahead to March 18th, the game against London Irish has suffered from the same error. Both matches are, of course, away games.

Well — nobody's perfect.

RUGBY'S NOT ON

Peter Ford tells me that the game against Rugby, scheduled for November 6th, has been cancelled, I know not for why. Pity — I'd quite like to have seen them.

It's not at all certain if another match will be arranged for that day, but as we have three games within ten days, at that time, perhaps it would be no bad thing to let the ground — and the players — lie fallow for a while.

TAILPIECE

Story you might like.

It appears that The Devil challenged St. David (being Welsh) to a Rugby Match, to be played on the flat area, just outside the Pearly gates.

"You've gotta be joking boyo," quoth Dewi. "We've got all the good rugby players up here."

"True, True!" replied His Satanic Majesty, grinning evilly, "But we've got all the referees down here!"

Sorry, Gloucestershire Referees Society. No offence.

PETER ARNOLD



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TALKING RUGBY with . . . The Citizen sports editor Terry Phillips

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

Many Gloucester Rugby Club supporters expressed surprise when tough-tackling centre Ruari Maclean was left out of the South West squad despite some excellent displays in around 80 first team appearances for the Kingsholm club.

But Maclean, a 26-year-old teacher at Gloucester's Crypt School, had not expected to be named and says: "I have opted to play representative matches in Scotland and as the South West is a stepping stone to England recognition I don't suppose my name even cropped up in selection."

London-born Maclean, a former Welsh Colleges international, has made steady progress since making himself available to Scottish selectors.

He qualifies through a Scottish grandfather, although he had a wide range of options as he was born in England, his parents are Welsh and he also has a Canadian grandfather.

But the decision to play in Scottish representative rugby has paid dividends as Maclean earned a place in the Anglo-Scots team and went on to make two appearances for Scotland 'B'.

Last summer, while Gloucester were off to Portugal on a club tour, Maclean went with Scotland on a tour to Zimbabwe and he played in four of the five matches.

The Scotland squad comprised nine full internationals, 11 'B' caps and four newcomers to the international scene and Maclean says: "It was really a 'B' squad with a little extra strength added and it was thoroughly enjoyable.

"I played in both Test matches against Zimbabwe, although Scotland did not award international caps for the tour."

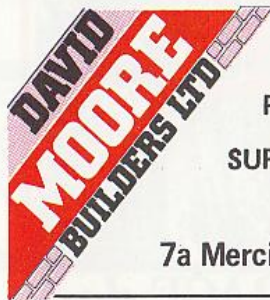
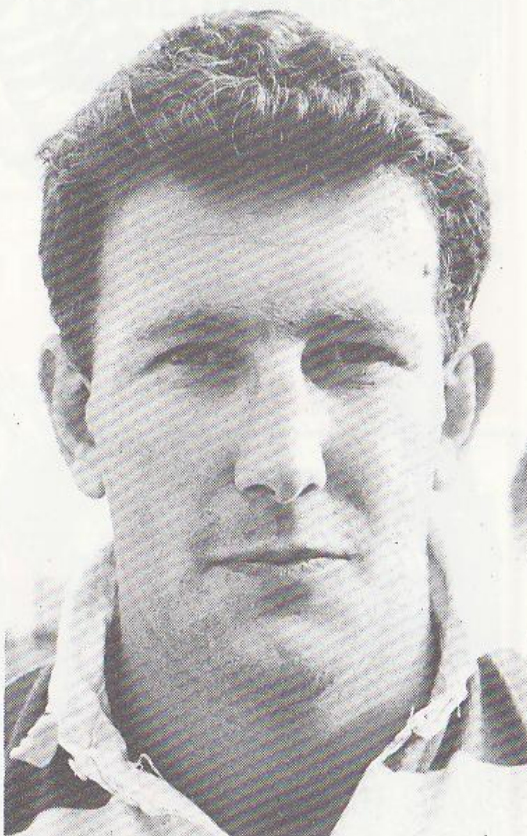
Maclean's next target, though, is to battle his way into the full Scotland team and earn a full cap. A week ago he went to Murrayfield for a 30 player squad training session.

"The first step is to play for Anglo-Scots later this month and next month and hope I do well in those matches when the Scotland selectors will be watching," says Maclean.

"After that I can only hope. If the selectors name Doug Wylie of Stuart's Melrose at fly-half that will give me a good chance, although if Wylie, who has nine full caps, is in the centre that could block my way."

And Maclean may not be the only Gloucester player in the chase for recognition at international level in Scotland. Both Damian Cummins and Ian Smith, who each have Scottish grandparents, have indicated to Scotland selectors they are available and may be named in an Anglo-Scots team soon.

And 18-year-old fly-half Neil Matthews has been approached by Scotland's colts team selectors.



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