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# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

# 30p

## OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

## GLOUCESTER

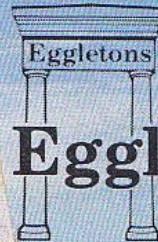
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## SOUTH WALES POLICE

Wednesday  
2nd November, 1988

Kick off 7 p.m.

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## Eggletons

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## NIGHT BEAT

Looking back over my notes for the past couple of seasons, I see that, in writing about South Wales Police, I have consistently commented on the club's amazing transformation over that period. From a caterpillar more noted for honest endeavour than the finer points of the game, they suddenly emerged as a butterfly, full of sophistication and studded with Internationals.

Times have changed a bit. Some famous performers, notably Bleddyn Bowen, have moved on, and while the Police are very much a team which can beat anyone, given a fair crack of the whip, perhaps they would pardon me for saying that they are not, at the moment, reaching the dizzy heights that they did a year or two ago.

Not that that says very much about this evening's little sortie. If Gloucester follow the pattern of the season so far, they'll be giving some of the younger players a run out, and evening games don't always produce the same sort of performances that Saturday ones do.

It also has been said that Gloucester has been something of a bogey side for the Police — partly due to the fact that injuries have plagued them rather on these occasions. In fact, if my records are correct, I think that you have to go back to 1983 (Not one of our better seasons), to find a game which South Wales Police have won — by 13 points to 9, at Kingsholm, to be precise.

They've come a bit close though. In 1985, we were lucky to hold on 15-14, and that wasn't long after we'd put 53 points on Pontypridd, and 27 points on Llanelli.

Conversely, the year after that last defeat we beat them 32-10. Like the man said, it always was a funny old game.

All of which points to the fact that anything is likely to happen this evening. No one knows better than us that records were made to be broken, and that includes winning runs against Welsh opposition. We shall know by about 8.30 this evening.

After that, we hope that South Wales Police enjoy the Kingsholm hospitality, and that they go back to their lonely beats feeling a little more loved and cherished than the average copper must at times.

Thanks for coming, Police!

## THANKS TO EGGLETONS

It only seems a few weeks ago that I was writing some words of thanks to Eggletons Solicitors for sponsoring an event at Kingsholm. That's not surprising, because it happens to be true. You'll remember that our lively, Brunswick Square-based firm of solicitors were the generous people who provided the new cherry-and-white strips for the side from HMS Gloucester who played here as part of the 'Freedom of the City' celebrations.

Eggletons are, of course, long-standing benefactors of Gloucester RFC, having regularly sponsored games — against a whole variety of Opposition — for some years now. And we're not the only people with cause to be grateful. The firm's tent and party at the Gloucester Cricket Festival is rapidly becoming legendary.

Of course, they don't spend all their time attending sporting events. In fact, they certainly have an extremely busy legal practice to run, and they do it with great efficiency, and a degree of 'let's cut out the jargon' which isn't always associated with that profession. They also have a diverse team of experienced specialists who are very well qualified to handle just about any legal problems which may arise.

It seems appropriate that, this season, Eggletons is sponsoring a Police game, but in retrospect, it's a shame that they didn't manage to secure the Wasps game. We had a French referee for that one, you may recall, and Roger Eggleton himself is Gloucester's *Agent Consulaire de France* — French Consul to you. The fact that the ref. didn't know any English, and that Roger proudly claims to be the only French Consul in Britain who can't speak French, would have made the encounter interesting.

It occurs to me that, on the occasion when one needs a solicitor, one has to be sure that one is getting the right one. (If you'll pardon all the 'ones'). Any firm who supports the 'Elver Eaters' so readily, must recommend itself to anyone who regards Kingsholm as his spiritual home.

You might think about that next time you're buying a house or suing the Council.

## CRACKDOWN

I'm told that the practice of trying to get into the Ground without paying is on the increase. Apparently, the ploys used to talk the way in through the gates are astonishing for their versatility, originality and ingenuity. Apparently, the range of documents produced in lieu of season tickets range from examples of last-year's card (very popular), through out-of-date driving licenses to Asda till receipts.

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



Similarly, the excuses for not having a ticket at all include everything from the simple 'I forgot' to 'British Airways lost it on the way back from Ibiza'.

It's not on though, is it? You'll be very well aware that the Club needs all the gate money it can get, due to the cash-flow pressure caused by all the new Ground renovations forced on us by the Fire Officer (whom God preserve). You might also like to consider that the less money that comes in through the gates, the more Membership and admission charges will have to increase next season, so in the end, everybody loses.

Of course, tickets do get lost. If that happens to you, please let David Foyle know as soon as possible so that we can check up and replace it. After all, someone could have found your old one and be getting in free with it. Similarly, don't get all huffy if, in spite of your well-recognised face, you're refused entrance if you haven't got your card with you. After all, for all the chap on the gate knows, your ticket might be being used by someone else — perhaps without your knowledge.

All this is leading up to the announcement that, starting with the Bristol game on November 19th, nobody — but nobody — will get in without either paying at the turnstiles or producing a valid membership card. And that does mean anybody.

Sorry if that means a slight financial disadvantage on occasion. But any other system just isn't fair on the honest majority of us.

#### **NO GAME ON SATURDAY**

As you've probably heard, the game against Rugby on Saturday has been cancelled, because they are due to play West Hartlepoons in the Pilkington Cup. We wish them well, particularly as we made that particular journey a season or two ago, and know what they're up against. Interestingly, I note that Rugby are just two points ahead of West Hartlepoons at the top of the League Third Division, so it might be quite a game.

While I'm on the subject, we obviously send our support and best wishes to Berry Hill in their efforts to do a 'Cup Double' over London Welsh — on the Foresters' own ground this time. They could well give the Exiles a torrid time, when you consider that they have yet to win a game in Division Two of the League.

Perhaps it would also be in order to wish South Wales Police luck in their Welsh Cup match on the same day, when they are at home to Nantyllyon — of whom, I'm ashamed to say I've never heard — in Pool 'Q' of the Welsh Cup.

#### **CHELTENHAM NEXT**

Which means to say that the next foregathering will be for the Cheltenham match on November 9th. Always nice to support home industries, so to speak.

After that, the United have themselves an intriguing assignment on Saturday, November 12th, when they take on Bath United at Kingsholm. On a good day, our old foes can produce a second-string side of really formidable strength, and our lads will be wanting to redress the balance after the First XV's defeat in the League.

And, of course, the vital League game against Bristol follows on the 19th. Better start getting your tonsils lubricated.

#### **GOOD ON YOU 'DUNNY'!**

Don't know what you thought, but my opinion was that, according to the 'Rugby Special' film anyway, hooker Kevin Dunn had a good game for England 'B' against the Wallabies. Playing with two unfamiliar props, he seemed to give the Australian 'Man Mountain' hooker all he could handle, and nipped one against the head off him. He also looked ubiquitous in the loose.

I've had to write this programme early, being away for the weekend, but by now, 'Dunny' might even be limbering up for his first full cap. And not undeserved, either.

#### **TAILPIECE**

I was interested to note that, according to Terry O'Connor in the 'Daily Mail', Pilkington Glass are to present a silver trophy for the Cup this season. "We may be a glass company", said a spokesman, "but it would be silly to give a glass cup to a Rugby team."

All right — but British Gas obviously have more faith in the delicacy required to play the game. They presented the Club with a glass rose bowl for defeating Ebbw Vale in the game for which they provided the ball. And I haven't heard a resounding tinkle yet.

Gloucester players might drop the ball on occasion, but a glass vessel which might contain liquid? Never.

PETER ARNOLD



## **HARTLAND RENTALS**

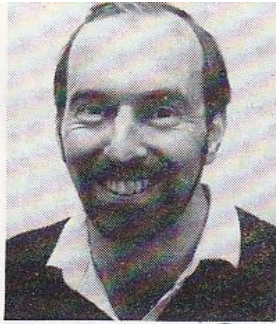
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**TALKING RUGBY with . . .**  
*The Citizen sports editor Terry Phillips*

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

Dave Spencer, Gloucester United's captain, and speedy winger Derrick Morgan are both still waiting to play their first matches for the club this season. Wing-forward Spencer and Morgan have both been troubled by injuries which have kept them in the treatment room while Gloucester have been battling for Courage Clubs Championship honours.

A knee-injury which required pre-season surgery has kept Spencer out, although he is nearing fitness once more and has managed one run-out during a Sunday morning match at Widden Old Boys.

"Spanner" was appointed Gloucester United captain at the close season players meeting — taking over from Dave Pointon — but as yet has been unable to lead the side.

While Spencer is hoping to return soon it seems Morgan could be out until the New Year with a back injury which has troubled him for some time.

Medical Man Roger Rolleston has been helping Morgan with the injury and he says: "Derrick has been out for some time and he has a disc problem which has not yet been solved.

It could be Christmas or later when he can play again, but Derrick is recovering steadily."

Spencer and Morgan are Gloucester's only long-term injuries now as former Spartans and Stroud player Dave Watling returned to action for Gloucester United in last Saturday's 17-7 win against Saracens at Kingsholm.

Watling played in the pre-season trials, but fell from scaffolding at work and has been ruled out ever since. But he scored two tries on his first match of the season and looked in good form.

Full-back Tim Smith missed Saturday's trip to Newbridge, which the Cherry and Whites lost 17-10, with an ankle injury sustained in training and he could be out for a couple of weeks.

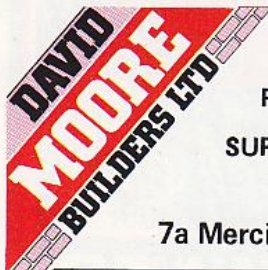
Lock Nigel Scrivens, who had stitches inserted in a head wound sustained during the Courage Championship victory against Liverpool away, is fit again. Scrivens was injured when his head collided with Glyn Mann's knee as the hooker crashed over for a try against Liverpool, but he has had the stitches taken out.



Dave Spencer

**COURAGE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**National Division One**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Bath	4	4	0	0	80	33	8
2 Nottingham	4	3	1	0	58	36	7
3 Gloucester	4	3	0	1	96	40	6
4 Orrell	4	3	0	1	64	57	6
5 Leicester	4	2	1	1	65	57	5
6 Bristol	4	2	0	2	48	32	4
7 Wasps	4	2	0	2	71	65	4
8 Harlequins	4	1	0	3	54	71	2
9 St. Helens	4	1	0	3	39	75	2
10 Rosslyn Park	4	1	0	3	44	83	2
11 Moseley	4	1	0	3	29	74	2
12 Waterloo	4	0	0	4	33	58	0



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