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# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

**30<sub>p</sub>**  
**OFFICIAL  
PROGRAMME**

## GLOUCESTER v CHELTENHAM

**Wednesday  
9th November, 1988**

Kick off 7 p.m.

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### **WELCOME NEIGHBOUR!**

This is the night neighbours drop round for a little social intercourse and a spot of light refreshment. And very welcome too.

When the new League system was under consideration, fears were expressed — by me as much as anyone — that local fixtures might be endangered because of a potentially crowded fixture list. In fact, the trend seems to be exactly the reverse, Clubs find that, in an essentially amateur game, it's a bit much to expect players to operate at peak performance levels, week after week, without suffering reaction and staleness at some time in the season. If you look at the clubs which did well last season, Bath (who are a special case) apart, they seem to be the ones which started on a low note. Conversely, the sides which started with a bang — Gloucester and Nottingham for example — didn't really last the course.

This season, with League fixtures on set dates, it has been possible to provide some 'light and shade' into the fixture list, so that players can be rested, and aspiring newcomers eased into the scene, so broadening the pool of battle-hardened players available. All of which leaves a very valuable job for the local fixtures to do.

So we're grateful to Cheltenham for that. Conversely, we're glad to be able to help our nearest neighbours in their quest for a match-winning side.

Even if all those considerations did not apply, Cheltenham would still be very welcome. There has always been something a bit special about these annual meetings, and local Derbies are always worth seeing.

Quite simply, the season wouldn't be the same without Cheltenham. Nice to see you again, chaps, and we hope you have a highly enjoyable evening with us.

### **THANKS TO CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER**

Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society's sponsorship of these matches has become almost as traditional as the game itself. And we're eternally grateful for that fact.

Time was, when we thought of C. & G. as our friendly, neighbourhood Building Society, and so it remains, in several important respects, including the large number of local branches we have, but there's more to it than that, nowadays. The company is one of the country's Top Ten Societies and goes from strength to strength.

I suppose that the subject which will interest most people will be the progress of the fine new Headquarters building, now arising over our Barnwood Fields light industrial estate. I'm told that all is going well, and the premises will be in full operation at just about the same time as next Rugby Season is getting well under weigh.

I had a look at it on Monday, actually, and I must say, I'm impressed. I don't think even the Prince of Wales could call it a 'carbuncle', and it's certainly a worthy addition to the many attractive buildings which compose that estate.

It also occurs to me to point out that the whole City — quite apart from Gloucester RFC — has reason to be grateful to Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society. Their initiative in leasing the ground floor of the Guildhall for what they term their 'Flagship' branch, provided the finance which got the whole Docks project off the ground. And, if you haven't been down there lately, go and take a look. You'll be surprised at the strides that have been taken in a very short time.

But Wednesday Night is Rugby Night, and we all thank C. & G. for their invaluable support once again. We certainly hope that Len Evans, and everyone else, from both Cheltenham and Gloucester have just as enjoyable a time as their generosity deserves.

### **PUT UP OR PAY UP**

Members had better make sure they have their cards with them when arriving for the Bristol match on November 19th. If not, quite simply, they'll have to pay to get in.

As I warned in the Programme for the South Wales Police game, this is a new crackdown on people talking their way into the Ground without paying. The Committee is perfectly well aware that the majority of sob stories about forgotten, lost, chewed up or dematerialised Membership Cards are quite genuine, but no doubt about it, some aren't. And that's not fair on the rest of us.

There only seems to be one way to deal with this, and that's to make an ironclad rule that no one gets in without a ticket. That way, the chaps on the gates know precisely where they are. Even if your face is a very familiar one, which has been venturing into the Sacred Precincts since before the railways came, and the gateman is your brother-in-law, you still won't get in.

Sorry about that, but I'm afraid that it's just another example of how the stupid antics of a moronic few can spoil things for the law-abiding majority.

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

If you've genuinely mislaid your ticket, a word with Membership Secretary David Foyle will produce a replacement for you within a short time, and you'd be doing everyone a favour if you'd set about it with as little delay as possible.

And, while I'm on the subject, it might not be a bad idea to make sure you have your Social Club card with you, if you want a drink after the Bristol game. We do have to comply with the Law, which has remained unchanged as far as we are concerned, in spite of the new Licencing hours. Bristol is sure to attract a big crowd, and the Clubhouse could well get a bit crowded.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO KEVIN**

At least, Kevin Dunn has a better class of bench to sit on this season . . . After a year of watching 'B' Internationals from the replacement box, he has now leapt straight into the same job for the full England team.

At least he was able to take part in the general euphoria following England's defeat of Australia, although I can't help thinking that his efforts in conspicuously out-hooking both Wallaby No. 2's within a week could have been more adequately rewarded.

It was also good to see Richard Pascall called up into the training squad. At last he seems to be in the frame at least.

Let's not get too carried away with the whole thing. The Australian side is by no means the strongest we've ever seen, they were playing in unfamiliar conditions, and the Home Championship is a very different kettle of fish indeed.

Perhaps 'Pasc' and 'Dunny's' time will come yet.

#### **BATH ON SATURDAY**

The First XV is away to Rosslyn Park on Saturday, but more-than-adequate compensation is offered by the prospect of watching United take on their opposite numbers from Bath. They'll certainly be trying to succeed where their seniors failed, earlier on in the season.

And then, of course, we have the Big One — Bristol in the League on Saturday 19th. We simply have to win that one, especially as there's a tricky trip to Waterloo, also in the League, the following Saturday.

Your support is asked, requested, and positively demanded. The Bristol game is always one of the highlights of the Kingsholm Season, and with League points at stake it becomes an essential for any clean-living, right-thinking Gloucester supporter.

See you there.

#### **WELL DONE HILL!**

After last season's gallant feats, it wasn't exactly the shock of the year to note that Berry Hill defeated London Welsh in the Cup — again. But the 24-9 margin was highly creditable, even if the Exiles aren't exactly on top of their form.

I imagine that, by the time you read this, the Draw will have taken place, and we'll know where they go from here. Let's hope the luck is on their side. They deserve it.

With Exeter and Plymouth (Poor old 'Cov!'), also getting through, the West Country certainly has good representation in the next round. Which means that our chances of being drawn against one of them are correspondingly enhanced.

Gloucester v. Berry Hill? Now there's a thought!

#### **300 CLUB COMING UP**

Just to remind anyone who's interested, but hasn't got around to it yet, that the first 300 Club draw takes place at the end of this month, so if you want to have a chance to be in the akkers, now's the chance to join. Any member of the Committee will deal with things for you.

#### **TAILPIECE**

There was I, strolling into the 'Royal Oak' at Hucclecote for a quiet pint, and who should I see on a similar errand, but the legendary Willy Jones.

We supped gently for a few minutes and exchanged reminiscences. After which, Willy asked me to relay his good wishes to anyone who remembers him. This I now do, with the greatest goodwill in the world.

Nice to see the old drop-goal wizard again.

PETER ARNOLD



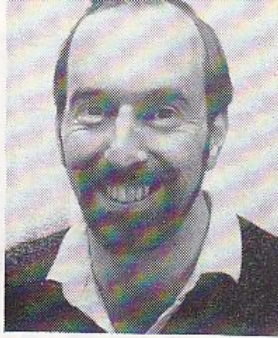
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**TALKING RUGBY with . . .**  
*The Citizen sports editor Terry Phillips*

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

Gloucester face a trip into the unknown on Saturday January 28 when they travel to Brixham in Devon for their Pilkington Cup third round tie.

But the Cherry and White selectors do have a chance to watch Brixham locally well before that date. For the Devonians will be battling it out with Cinderford in the Forest of Dean on Saturday November 26 in a Courage Championship South West Division Two match.

Brixham, who missed out on promotion behind Berry Hill last season, are hot favourites to go up as champions this time, although they still have to travel to Gloucester for a clash with Matson at Redwell Road.

That match against Matson will not be until next March and by then Brixham should know a little more about rugby in Gloucester having already faced the Cherry and Whites.

Not that they are completely in the dark. Brixham regularly face Gloucester at Colts level and during the 1970's they played United on an annual v basis.

And in the late 1970's Gloucester played a Sunday match against Brixham away, taking a side to Devon which included skipper John Watkins, Mike Burton, Alan Brinn and John Bayliss.

Gloucester emerged 19-11 winners in the only first XV match between the sides played.

Brixham were founder members of the Devon RFU in 1875 and they are among the top teams in Devon despite having only 18,000 residents in the town with 34 per cent of them aged over 60!

They qualified for this season's Pilkington Cup with a 6-0 win against Devonport Services in the Devon competition and have reached the third round with wins against Okehampton (38-9) and Bath side Old Culverhaysians (13-3).

Seven Brixham players were in the Devon side for the County Championship this season — Sean Irvine, Nick Bagge, Mark Beresford, Tim Locke, Richard Hogan, Paul White and Mark Faulkner.

Stand-off Beresford scored 360 points for the club last season and is again the leading scorer this term, while centre Chris Ward is the team captain.

But have Brixham any chance of beating Gloucester in the Pilkington Cup clash?

"With a good, strong South West wind blowing and more than 5,000 local supporters expected we will

make it difficult for Gloucester," says club official Danny Irvine.

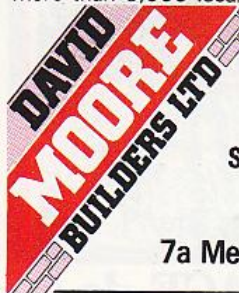
"We are looking forward to what will be a big day for the club."



John Watkins . . . captained Gloucester against Brixham

**South West Division Two**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Brixham	4	3	0	1	85	36	6
2 Cinderford	4	3	0	1	74	37	6
3 Matson	3	3	0	0	84	34	6
4 Abbey	4	3	0	1	79	58	6
5 Barnstaple	3	2	0	1	29	25	4
6 Henley	3	2	0	1	41	72	4
7 Devon Con.	4	1	0	1	53	71	2
8 Bournemouth	3	1	0	1	23	39	2
9 Launceston	4	1	0	3	45	67	2
10 Redingensians	4	1	0	3	48	89	2
11 Newbury	4	0	0	4	38	71	0



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