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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30p

**OFFICIAL
 PROGRAMME**



GLOUCESTER v BRISTOL

Saturday
 19th November, 1988

Kick off 3 p.m.

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A FINE PAIR OF BRISTOLS

There's no doubt that the matches most eagerly awaited by supporters from both camps, year after year, are the traditional pair of confrontations between Gloucester and Bristol. Cricket has its 'Roses' matches, Soccer its Liverpool v. Everton, and Rugby its 'West Country Derby', as I'm sure some national press scribe will dub today's game in tomorrow's papers.

We don't really need a Courage Clubs Championship to produce commitment and passion into these games. Those qualities, among others, are built into the very fabric of the whole saga.

But facts is facts, and the League is with us, like it or not. Furthermore, both sides badly want a win today — Gloucester to retain our place breathing down Bath's neck, and Bristol to try and achieve that status. To put it another way, Gloucester, at the moment, has 8 points from 5 matches, while Bristol has 6, so that if Bristol win, we'll be neck-and-neck.

In last season's League encounter, Gloucester came out ahead by 21 points to 16, and that was at Bristol, so any casual observer could be pardoned for thinking that the odds must be on the 'Elver Eaters' today. Old observers of the scene, however, will know that home advantage has never been as potent a factor in these matches as it sometimes is. While we normally think that Kingsholm is worth a point or three, all such bets are off when the visitors are the Old Enemy from down the A38.

There doesn't seem to be much between us in playing strength, either. Both sides can point to much-feared packs, both have backs that can win games on their own. And both sides know each other's style very well indeed.

All in all, this is one game which I wouldn't want to put money on. But then, when was there a Gloucester v. Bristol game where one could, with any confidence?

It should be a fascinating afternoon, and I hope none of the neighbours are trying to sleep, because the decibel count will undoubtedly be very high.

It's almost superfluous to add a word of welcome to the Bristol contingent. They know perfectly well that no side is ever greeted at Kingsholm with more enthusiasm. Long may it remain so.

THANKS TO TELECOM

If the Bristol lads are welcome to Kingsholm today, then they are no more highly regarded than our generous Sponsors, and for much the same reasons. They support us in this way very regularly, they enjoy their Rugby, and, after our long association, we have come to know them very well.

Although, in the climate of today's technology, they always have something new to tell us about. This year, it's the migration from their Great Western Road headquarters to new premises at Olympus Park, Quedgeley.

Julie Maden, who has now taken over the 'contact man' role, from Roger Linsey, and has the advantage of being much better looking than him, tells me that part of the reason for the move is to allow the installation of one of the most modern customer computer systems in Britain. This should provide a more comprehensive service to both business and residential customers, ranging from paying your phone bill to buying one of those terrifying modern switchboard systems which seem to do everything short of making the boss's coffee.

Personally, I shall miss seeing my usual group of Telecom-based acquaintances around the City Centre at lunchtime — including our attractive and distinguished Mayoress, incidentally — but the new premises will undoubtedly be more comfortable than the ageing edifice which stands where the Workhouse used to be.

Both Gloucester and Bristol are part of Telecom's Severnside District, which means that we can't automatically assume that all the Sponsor's guests will be shouting for Gloucester.

We won't hold that against them, however, and in thanking them again for their generosity, hope that they have a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with us.

I wonder if there's anyone left to man the switchboard?

UNIFORM APPROACH

Sorry if the advent of uniformed security personnel has put you off your stroke today, but if everybody played by the rules and didn't try to slink in without paying, then it wouldn't be necessary. As I've warned for the last couple of matches, the intention is to crack down on the sad little minority of freeloaders who don't have a ticket, and don't intend to part with the entrance money either.

The unfortunate thing is that the genuine bloke who's just forgotten his membership card is

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

penalised as well — but that's the way of the world. Another case of a few spoiling things for everyone else.

We don't expect to see the security lads here for every game — just those where a big crowd is expected. However, today's crackdown is permanent. All the lads on the turnstiles and the gates have firm instructions to bar anyone who can't produce a card, unless they pay up and look happy.

If you've lost your passport to the Sacred Turf, then let Membership Secretary, David Foyle know as soon as you can, and he'll make the appropriate checks and issue you with another one.

The Club doesn't want to come the heavy father, but sometimes it's necessary to safeguard the law-abiding majority.

UNITED NEXT WEEK

The First XV are off on their travels again, for the next couple of Saturdays. Next week they have a tricky trip to Waterloo, who are always difficult to beat on their own ground, even if they aren't doing so well in the League as yet, while in a fortnight's night they travel to Leicester in a 'friendly' — if that's the right word.

The absence of the Seniors does have the advantage of enabling us to watch the United against London Irish next week. Berry Hill, please note. They're also at home to Leicester on December 3rd, but as the Divisional match is booked for Kingsholm on that day, I'm not sure where that will be.

TICKETS

And, talking about the Divisional game against London, tickets will be available before and after today's game. At the time of writing it hasn't been decided whether the Caravan behind the main Stand or the Secretary's Office will be used for that purpose. No doubt the dulcet tones of Graham Spring will clarify the matter over the loudspeaker system during the afternoon.

Tickets cost £5.00 for Centre Stand, £4.00 for Wings and £3.00 Ground.

And a plea from Terry Tandy and David Foyle. 'Before' and 'after' the match please. Not 'during', as has happened sometimes. After all, Terry and David have a right to watch the game too, don't they?

BRIXHAM

People have been wondering about the Pilkington Cup game at Brixham on January 28th. Early days yet, of course, but some things have become clear.

To start with, there will be no train. BR's nearest station is Paignton, and the extra cost of laying buses on would probably make the trip a bit expensive. The Club will be running various coaches, and we'll let you know more, closer to the date.

Second, Brixham only has a small stand — seating 120, as a matter of fact. This entitles us to a grand total of 60 Stand Tickets, and although the Devon lads are investigating temporary seating, such tickets are bound to be in short supply, especially as it's certain that half Devonshire will want to be there. It's also worth pointing out that the ground is in a very exposed position, above the town, so anyone whose legs, or disposition, aren't what they used to be, might find the experience a bit cold and exhausting at that time of the year.

We'll keep you informed as things develop.

TAILPIECE

Terry Tandy has had a letter from an aggrieved would-be spectator who turned up for a cancelled Colts match, not knowing the game was off. Apparently, The 'Citizen', for reasons of their own, with which I have no right to quarrel, tucked the cancellation notice away in a corner somewhere, and our irate correspondent missed it.

Not our fault, and there's little we can do about it. However, perhaps he'll forgive us reminding him, and anyone else who hasn't been around long enough, or often enough, to have absorbed all the Kingsholm traditions, that you can always tell whether the game's on or off as soon as you're within sight of the Ground.

From time immemorial, as they say, the rule has been that if the Club Flag's flying, the game's on. If it isn't — it ain't.

There was a hiccup, a few years ago, when a visiting party half-inched the flag, but apart from that, the tradition has been in force since the First World War at least, and still — most emphatically — is.

Some things never change.

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.

England international Mike Teague makes his 250th first XV appearance for Gloucester Rugby Club in today's vital National League match against Bristol. Teague, aged 28 and now running his own building firm, first appeared for the Cherry and Whites during the 1978-79 season when he made four appearances. His debut was at Kingsholm against Exeter University, then St Lukes College, in a midweek game and Teague scored a try in a comfortable victory.

"I was 18 and I do not remember too much about it," says Teague, who linked up with Gloucester from junior club All Blues.

He has since played three times for England and gained selections for Barbarians during a playing career in which he has become one of the most powerful number eights in the country.

He has now played 249 matches for Gloucester scored 64 tries. A brief spell with Cardiff ended when Teague returned to Kingsholm and now he has successfully linked up with John Gadd — a player Teague describes as the best blindside flanker in England — and Ian Smith in an outstanding back-row.

"People keep saying how well we are playing," says Teague. "But Gloucester's run of success at the start of this season has been down to the way the whole team has played overall."

"Everybody has been doing well and that has been the key to wins against Moseley, Wasps, Rosslyn Park and Liverpool St Helens."

Gloucester have won four of their first five league matches this season with the only defeat coming against Bath away 19-3.

Bristol, who have won on three of their last four visits to Kingsholm, have won three of their first four games this season.

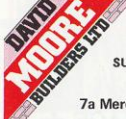
Another top league match being played today features leaders Bath against second place Orrell.

COURAGE CHAMPIONSHIP National Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Bath	5	5	0	0	118	33	10
2 Orrell	5	4	0	1	84	61	8
3 Gloucester	5	4	0	1	122	48	8
4 Nottingham	5	3	1	1	67	51	7
5 Leicester	5	3	1	1	99	79	7
6 Bristol	5	3	0	2	66	38	6
7 Wasps	5	3	0	2	86	74	6
8 Harlequins	5	1	0	4	60	85	2
9 St. Helens	5	1	0	4	43	95	2
10 Rosslyn Park	5	1	0	4	52	109	2
11 Moseley	5	1	0	4	29	112	2
12 Waterloos	5	0	0	5	55	92	0



Mike Teague on the run for Gloucester during a match at Kingsholm.



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PLAYING RECORDS

FIRST XV FIXTURES

1986	3	Swansea	...	H	35-13
SEPT.	6	Stroud	...	A	34-0
10	*Moseley	...	H	37-9	
17	Pontypridd	...	A	25-18	
20	Clifton	...	H	44-9	
24	Bath	...	A	9-19	
27	Exeter	...	A	14-18	
OCT.	1	Bedford	...	H	25-16
8	Wasps	...	H	19-3	
12	Elbow Vale	...	H	21-10	
15	Newport	...	A	19-15	
22	Liverpool	...	A	31-9	
29	Newbridge	...	A	10-17	
NOV.	2	South Wales Police	...	H	45-7
9	Rugby	...	H	Can.	
9	Cheltenham	...	H	48-3	
12	Rosslyn Park	...	H	26-8	
19	*Bristol	...	H		
26	*Waterloo	...	A		
3	Leicester	...	A		
DEC.	10	Plymouth	...	H	
17	Coventry	...	A		
24	Newport	...	H		
25	Lydney	...	H		
31	Bridgend	...	H		
1989					
JAN.	2	Moseley	...	A	
7	London Scottish	...	H		
14	*Leicester	...	H		
18	Pontypridd	...	A		
21	Blackheath	...	H		
28	Bristol	...	A		
FEB.	3	Aberavon	...	A	
11	Bath	...	H		
17	Bath	...	H		
25	Northampton	...	H		
MAR.	3	Northampton	...	H	
11	Harlequins	...	A		
15	Cheltenham	...	A		
18	London Irish	...	A		
23	Lydney	...	A		
25	Newbrighton	...	H		
27	Fylde	...	H		
APR.	1	Headingley	...	A	
8	Orrell	...	A		
15	Sale	...	A		
22	*Nottingham	...	H		
29					

* John Courage Club League Fixture

FIRST XV	P	W	D	L	F	A
UNITE	16	13	0	3	442	174
UNITE	13	10	1	2	274	142

Leading Points Scorers
First XV — T. Smith 113 (18C 23P 2T); N. Marmont 85 (18C 11P 4T); J. Breeze 24 (6T); N. Matthews 20 (5T); R. Temple 20 (5T); R. Moog 20 (5T).

United — N. Marmont 78 (18C 14P); J. Roberts 21 (2C 4P 1DG); N. Price 16 (4T); P. Ashmead 16 (4T); C. Dee 16 (4T); R. Temple 16 (4T).

UNITED XV FIXTURES

1986	3	Swansea	...	A	28-13
SEPT.	10	Coventry	...	A	23-3
13	Cheltenham	...	A	24-10	
17	Pontypridd	...	H	44-16	
24	Moseley	...	H	6-6	
28	Glamorgan Wanderers	...	H	6-9	
OCT.	1	Bedford	...	A	13-9
8	Richmond	...	A	3-13	
15	Newport	...	H	21-17	
22	Berry Hill	...	A	19-9	
24	Saracens	...	H	17-7	
NOV.	5	Creighton	...	A	40-12
12	Bath	...	H	30-18	
19	Bristol	...	A		
26	London Irish	...	H		
DEC.	3	Leicester	...	H	
10	Glamorgan Wanderers	...	A		
17	Coventry	...	H		
24	Newport	...	A		
31	Moseley	...	A		

1989

JAN.	7	Wasps	...	A	
14	Leicester	...	A		
21	Cleve	...	A		
FEB.	28	Newport H.S.O.B.	...	H	
4	Bristol	...	H		
11	Plymouth	...	A		
18	Bath	...	H		
25	Rosslyn Park	...	H		
MAR.	28	Cheltenham	...	H	
4	Northampton	...	H		
11	Harlequins	...	H		
18	Orrell	...	A		
25	Pontypridd	...	A		
APR.	1	Bridgend Sports	...	H	
8	Sale	...	H		
15	Nottingham	...	H		
22	Nottingham	...	A		
29					

COLTS XV FIXTURES

1988	7	Nuneaton	...	A	23-3
SEPT.	14	Moseley	...	H	17-7
OCT.	5	Bath	...	A	16-3
12	Lydney	...	H		
19	Lydney	...	H		
26	Lydney	...	H		
MAR.	1	Bath	...	A	
8	Lydney	...	A		
15	Moseley	...	A		
22	Nuneaton	...	H		
APR.	9	Brixham	...	A	

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