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# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

# 30p

## OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

# GLOUCESTER

v

# PLYMOUTH

Saturday  
10th December, 1988

Kick off 3 p.m.

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# ANTHONY HICKMAN



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### GLOUCESTER 28

(Cherry & White) (3G, 1T; 2PG)

T G Pts

15.	T. Smith			
14.	N. Price			
13.	D. Prestayecki			
12.	R. Mogg			
11.	D. Morgan			
10.	M. Hamlin			
9.	M. Hannaford (Capt.)			

1.	P. Jones			
2.	K. White			
3.	R. Phillips			
4.	N. Scrivens			
5.	J. Brain			
6.	P. Ashmead			
7.	I. Smith			
8.	B. Clark			

Replacements:  
R. Winter  
J. Bennett

(I) — International

22 H/T 0

Current Match Score

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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Referee: G. DAVIES (Liverpool Society)

### PLYMOUTH 22

(3G; 1T)

T G Pts

15.	K. Turton			
14.	S. Walkin			
13.	N. Leonard			
12.	B. Vallance			
11.	R. Penfold			

10.	D. Cundy			
9.	B. Fairgrieve			

1.	C. Hocking			
2.	B. Priday			
3.	N. Saunders			
4.	I. Harrison			
5.	T. Chapman			
6.	I. Russell			
7.	K. Norris (Capt.)			
8.	I. Gregory			

Replacements:  
E. Gibbs  
D. Mathias

23 F/T 22

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Good luck to one special team from another!



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### **PLYMOUTH HO!**

And 'if Plymouth comes, can turkey and pud be far behind?' you might say. As I remember it, the last time Christmas Eve fell on a Saturday, Plymouth were our Yuletide guests. We struggled to win that day, against a side that obviously had some potential, the onset of the holiday notwithstanding.

Last season we journeyed happily down to Devon and won 10-4. Two years ago, here at Kingsholm, the margin was greater — 37-15, in fact. But it's funny thing about Plymouth. It isn't how regularly they beat us so much as *when* they do. You may remember that it was a defeat by the Devonians which shoved us so far down the old South West Merit Table that we didn't qualify for the John Player Cup the following season.

"Ah well!" we said "We needed the rest anyway!" And, if you believe that, you believe Bristol deserved to win the other week.

Still, there's no disguising the fact that Plymouth are very much a side to watch, these days. They had a thoroughly admirable run in the Cup last season, are riding high at the top of Division Three of the League, and have an attractive draw away to Rosslyn Park in the Pilkington Cup — one they could well win, even if 'Park' did restore justice by beating Bristol with the last kick of the game a couple of weeks ago.

Just as important as any of those considerations, today's visitors are among our oldest, and most welcome, opponents. Some of us remember the days when Plymouth Albion were ranked among the greatest in the land, alongside Bedford and Northampton.

So it's very good to see Plymouth at Kingsholm once more. We hope they all have just as good a time today as we thoroughly intend to.

### **SORRY — BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO DO THE SHOPPING**

I'm afraid that those of us who were hoping to get out of the last-minute chores by coming along to Kingsholm on Christmas Eve are going to have to think again. Our projected administration of sage and onion to Newport that day has been brought forward to Monday, December 19th.

Shame, really, but at least it doesn't mean that we have to wait a whole two weeks before we see the First XV in action again, although a trip to Coventry, on Saturday next, and Newport, at Kingsholm, two days later is a bit of a stiff proposition for the lads.

Of course, United are in action here next Saturday, against Coventry, so that might count as an excuse to dodge the Christmas shopping crowds that day. It's worth a try, anyway.

### **HANDY TIME TO WIN**

It's a good time of year for the Gods of Chance to provide you with a little extra cash, so we're very pleased to hear that the November 400 Club draw turned up trumps for Messrs. A. Copson (£25), A. Townsend, A. Whittle, A. W. F. Sampson, A. R. Gale and A. Boughton (£10 each). It's also pleasing to note that the original target of 300 members has been exceeded by 33½%, which means better prizes, and a bigger contribution to Rugby Club funds.

I put it that way because, reasonably enough, the august band of organisers ask me to remind you that the proceeds from their efforts don't just disappear into some mysterious administrative pot, but are used, each year, to provide some improvement to the services and amenities available at Kingsholm. This year, I'm told, the cash has been earmarked for some new Honours Boards.

Nice to know that your contributions are put to good use.

### **STOCKING FILLER ANYONE?**

Seems a good time of the year to remind you that our new Club Shop is in full swing, and doing great business. Well worth visiting for any prezzies for right-minded friends and relations.

We were considering printing a full price list in the Programme, but it would be so long and comprehensive that we may even have to print a special insert one of these weeks.

One attractive stocking filler which is worth a mention is our new Club Year Book, indescribably fantastic value at just £1.00 coin of the realm. It has pen pictures of all the current players, a quiz to see how much you really know about Gloucester RFC, and — yes — even a Tailpiece.

Everyone who has seen it has been duly impressed. Why not acquire one yourself?

### **ANOTHER ONE FROM GWYN**

One of the problems to be faced after the Festive Season is how to use the book tokens which unimaginative or severely rushed relatives tend to send you. Divisional Librarian, Gwyn Hiatt has a

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



suggestion to make, and we thank him for what is only the latest in a series of tip-offs he's sent me about new Rugby books.

This time, he recommends a volume called 'Rugby Partnership', which is a joint effort by Scotland's John Rutherford and Roy Laidlaw, the famous half-back partnership which was around so long that it almost qualified for a Department of the Environment grant.

One story I liked. As you know, it was said that Laidlaw knew Rutherford so well that he could find him in the dark, and it was never the same with anyone else.

Apparently, after losing in Dublin, earlier this year, Roy Laidlaw was spotted by a group of tired Scottish supporters, while he was wandering around the airport in search of a loo.

"What's the matter Roy?" queried one of them, "Still looking for Richard Cramb?"

On the other hand, if you don't want actually to own the book, Gwyn tells me that the County Library will certainly be acquiring some copies, and you can always reserve one.

#### **UNJUSTIFIED**

Don't know about you, but I thought that the allegations of dirty play in last Saturday's Divisional game went a bit over the top, in one or two quarters.

Certainly, there was some niggles, but nothing that good referees don't sort out, quite efficiently, with a minimum of fuss, in games of all standards, up and down the country every weekend. That doesn't make it right, of course, but let's get things into perspective.

I suppose the problem is that, in these games, everyone is playing for himself, and his chances of impressing the Powers That Be, rather than for his side. In those circumstances, players do get hyped up and tense, and it's easy for tempers to flare. In this case, I don't think that certain actions of two of the three Officials actually helped much, either.

And isn't it ironic that these sort of accusations only seem to arise at televised games at Kingsholm? You-know-who's Law, I suppose.

Of course, anyone can make a mistake, as did one very distinguished and highly-regarded ex-player and journalist who commented that the game was settled when "Knibbs crashed over for a try from a five-metre scrum". I'm sure Mike Teague was fascinated to read that!

#### **THANKS TO ANTHONY HICKMAN**

What were you doing on January 1st, 1980? Watching the Moseley game, probably. Anthony Hickman wasn't — he was too busy opening the first branch of what has become one of the area's leading Estate Agencies.

He made up for the omission though, by sponsoring last season's Stroud game, and therefore kicking off the season for us. So we're very grateful that the company has decided that the operation was a Good Thing, and extended their generosity to us again this year.

The company now has nine branches, in Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire, which should qualify them for seats at the Three Choirs Festival, come to think of it.

Two of those branches are in Gloucester (Northgate Street and Hucclecote), so you can easily avail yourselves of their very comprehensive services any time you like.

It's also nice to know, in these times when Banks and Building Societies seem to be getting in on the act with increasing regularity, that Anthony Hickman are still a severely independent company, and have every intention of remaining so. We know the feeling. We're a bit like that ourselves.

So we certainly hope that Tony, his staff and guests, have a thoroughly good time today — and thanks again for the gesture.

#### **TAILPIECE**

I keep hearing the surprising allegation that the late, great Richard Burton actually played twice for Gloucester, possibly while stationed at RAF Innsworth. Apparently, the rumour was started by Bledwyn Williams, during a programme on Radio Two.

Of course, he was called 'Richard Jenkins' then, so there's no danger of him being confused with the amazing Michael of the same clan.

One of two of us have asked around, but can't find any confirmation of the matter. Anyone shed any light?

PETER ARNOLD

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.*

Jeremy Bennett, Gloucester Rugby Club's powerful back-row forward, returns to the playing scene today, although he may have to watch the match against Plymouth.

For Bennett, fit again after a series of injuries, has been named as a replacement.

The 24-year-old Bennett, who has made more than 100 appearances for Gloucester's first XV, has managed only three games this season because of injuries.

But he is now fit following the ligament damage which has kept him out for some time — and he could even have played last weekend.

Bennett made himself available after training, but the teams for the weekend had already been selected and he had to wait for another week.

Also back in action is Derrick Morgan, the 27-year-

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

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Bath	7	7	0	0	170	51	14
2 Orrell	7	5	0	2	108	103	10
3 Leicester	7	4	1	2	148	125	9
4 Nottingham	7	4	1	2	95	78	9
5 Gloucester	7	4	1	2	147	74	9
6 Wasps	7	4	0	3	131	100	8
7 Bristol	7	4	0	3	93	66	8
8 Harlequins	7	2	0	7	114	134	4
9 Rosslyn Park	7	2	0	5	85	153	4
10 Moseley	7	2	0	5	57	166	4
11 Waterloo	7	1	1	5	94	130	3
12 St. Helens	7	1	0	6	73	135	2

old winger who has been restricted by a back injury.

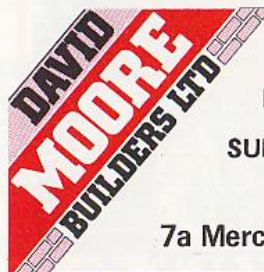
It was thought Morgan would be out until the New Year, but he returned for his first match in the first XV when Gloucester travelled to play Waterloo away.

There is another player on the injured list, though, and that is promising lock John Etheridge.

He was injured in the defeat against Leicester, although he is unlikely to be out for long.



*Jeremy Bennett in full flight for Gloucester Rugby Club.*



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