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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30p

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

GLOUCESTER

v

LYDNEY

Monday

26th December, 1988

Kick off 3 p.m.

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TRADITIONAL FARE

*'On Christmas Day, most think it good,
To dine on turkey, and on pud,
To Rugby Men of proper kidney,
On Boxing Day, it must be Lydney'*

Sorry about that. There's something about the Festive Season which makes me come over all poetic. Going from bad to verse, I suspect.

Not that I believe that our old friends from over Westgate Bridge are about to be swallowed whole by Gloucester. It's one of the paradoxes of the game that matches between close neighbours tend to be keenly contested affairs, the results of which have little to do with the on-paper merits of the two sides, or their relative placings in any sort of national rankings.

Nevertheless, the rather horrid little doggerel does serve to point out that Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the visit of Lydney on Boxing Day — traditionally, a time when friends and neighbours drop in to exchange pleasantries, and even gifts.

However, Lydney aren't about to give us anything. They're neatly poised at the head of their Division of the League, and must have every chance of promotion, next season. And, of course, there's always the fact that they do dearly love to beat Gloucester, which is only right and proper.

Teams tend to be a little eccentric at this time of the year, what with so many fixtures close together and prior commitments of many players, so we must regard today's team lists as a basis for negotiation, rather than carved in letters of stone, but we do hope that some of our old friends have made the trip — Paul Howell, for example, and, of all people, Gordon Sargent. If they aren't, then I hope that some Lydney supporter will show them a copy of these notes, so that our Seasonal best wishes can be relayed to them.

As for everyone who is here, we don't have to reiterate just how welcome they are. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without them. Which is where I came in.

Have a good Boxing Day!

A STAR HAS RISEN . . .

In George Street, no less. Brunel House, to be precise. Nothing to do with Caspar, Melchoir or Balthazar — unless they've changed their names to Pitt, Godden and Taylor, which does sound a more contemporary title for an Accountancy Practice.

It's always a source of pleasure to greet a new name to the illustrious list of Sponsors of Gloucester RFC, and especially nice when the exercise is geared to help a new enterprise along its way. They do seem to be doing very nicely without our help, however, having surprised even themselves by the rate of growth they've achieved since their foundation last May.

And it's a firm which has its priorities right. Martyn Pitt tells me that they had arranged to sponsor today's game even before they had any offices to work in!

"It was a natural step for us to take," says Martyn, a Kingsholm regular for at least twenty years. "And it's nice to be in George Street, only a decent touch kick away from the Ground, and from most locations in the City Centre, for that matter."

Martyn Pitt, Mike Godden and Phil Taylor used to be Senior Managers with the local office of a large firm, but thought they saw the need for a Chartered Accountancy Practice offering all-round expertise at an affordable price. Judging by their success so far, they must have hit it right on the button.

There's no doubt that they are already a force to be reckoned with in the local business community. They have a wealth of all-round experience, backed by a team of specialists with expertise ranging from taxation to computers, "Our watchword is personal service", says Martyn Pitt.

Seems like two words to me, but I know what he means. After all, in these days of high technology, an Accountant doesn't actually have to be able to count.

But they can be *counted on* for all financial and business needs, and they know a bit about Rugby, too.

Our thanks are hereby proffered for their generosity in supporting us this early on in their career. We wish them every success in their laudable endeavour, as well as an absolutely super time today.

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

BRIDGEND ON SATURDAY

Possibly Bridgend have fallen from their awesome standards of a few years ago, but they're still a side which can give anyone far more than they bargain for. So you may feel that a visit to Kingsholm next Saturday is an appropriate way to open the New Year festivities. Bit of a change, really; we're usually trying to shrug off the effects of seeing the Year in, rather than acquiring a thirst to see the old one out, at that stage. And, at least the buses will be running, so you don't necessarily have to worry about blowing into bags and things.

On Monday we're away to Moseley, which might make a nice trip to finish the holiday. Then, on Saturday, January 7th we have a visit from London Scottish, which is always fun. See you along the way.

DISTINGUISHED COMPANY

I keep telling you how good our new Year Book is — but then, having contributed, I could be biased. But you needn't take my word for it — apparently one distinguished commentator was duly impressed, and took a copy away with him.

Would you believe Nigel Starmer Smith, no less?

He was here covering the Divisional match, saw the publication, and complimented us on it. Don't knock it — we're not used to many compliments from that particular quarter.

Got your copy yet? Worth having at just £1, and could easily fill the gap between the Queen's Speech and time to get the Scotch out again.

Wonder if Starmer paid for his? He's welcome, anyway.

SOME FOR YOU TO TRY

Talking about the Year Book, I gather that the Quiz, published therein, is proving very popular. That being so, and as just about every periodical one picks up these days has one, I thought you might like a few more memory-teasers to while away the time between matches. I'll try and remember to print the answers in a future programme.

- 1 . . . Which England International player appeared for both the following Clubs?
(a) . . . Gloucester and Leicester (b) . . . Gloucester and Percy Park (c) . . . Gloucester and Blackheath
- 2 . . . Now, can you name *two* England Internationals who played for both Gloucester and Cardiff?
- 3 . . . What do the following Gloucester players have in common?
Peter Butler George Hastings Don Rutherford
- 4 . . . Provide the surnames for the following brothers who have played for Gloucester.
John and Stewart John and Conrad Gordon and Brian
- 5 . . . Now, provide the surnames for the following pairs of fathers and sons, who have also turned out for Gloucester.
Peter and Paul Arthur and Gordon Richard and Ian
- 6 . . . This season, Gloucester play *two* sides which each play in the following pairs of colours. Can you name them?
Black and Amber Black and Red

TAILPIECE

Hope no one has the same problem which I did last Christmas. A close relative, who shall remain unidentified for fear of physical reprisals, gave me a Rothman's Yearbook.

Anyone want an unused copy of Rothman's Football Handbook, 1987/8?

PETER ARNOLD



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GLOUCESTER (Cherry & White)

15. N. Marment
14. J. Breeze
13. R. Mogg
12. D. Cummins
11. N. Price

10. M. Hamlin
9. L. Gardiner

1. M. Preedy (I)
2. K. Dunn
3. R. Pascall
4. J. Brain
5. J. Etheridge
6. J. Gadd
7. I. Smith
8. B. Clark

Replacements:
R. Winter
K. White

(I) — International

Cumulative Match Score

Referee: T. FRIEND (Staffordshire Society)

LYDNEY (Black & White)

15. R. Mills
14. M. Howells
13. M. Smith
12. R. Morgan
11. M. Fennell

10. G. Price
9. P. Howell

1. P. Davies
2. L. Weaver
3. A. Brooks
4. M. Rogers
5. D. Churchill
6. A. Kay
7. R. Lewis
8. A. Knox

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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 Rugby Club have produced some excellent form in the pre-Christmas period, but the selectors are still looking for a little more.

It's not that they are unhappy with the way the side are performing, far from it. But too often teams have been allowed to stage recoveries when Gloucester should have been in control.

"The club spirit is excellent, the attitude of players throughout the club is spot on and the performances have been good," says Gloucester team secretary Fred Reed.

"But too often we put ourselves in a winning position and then let our grip slip.

"We have to work on the way we must play when we are, say, 20 points ahead.

"In the past we have tended to fritter away possession playing 'Harlem Globetrotters' style rugby. We must think about how to play when we are on top.

"Somebody suggested the other day we are winning too much possession and we run out of ideas on how to use it, but I feel it is just a case of thinking ahead and deciding on how to play when we are on top.

"The match against Bristol was virtually won and yet still we went down to an injury time try, while we were well on top against Plymouth and they came back. They are only two examples.

"It's not that we are looking to put 50 points of people after moving into a comfortable lead, but we should be going on to win by 30 points instead of hanging on as we did against Plymouth.

John Fidler had to leave that match at half-time and he drove away believing it would be a good win for Gloucester. He could hardly believe it when he heard we had only won 28-22."

Gloucester currently lie fourth in the Courage Clubs Championship National Division One having lost to Bath and Bristol, plus drawing against Waterloo.

That, again, is not quite up to the standard expected from the Cherry and Whites.

"We are in a highly respectable position and we have earned some good wins," says Reed, "But with the quality of players we have at Kingsholm we feel we



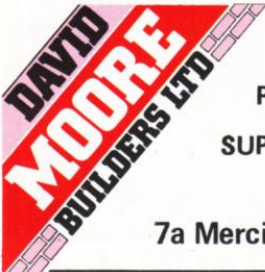
Fred Reed

are the number two club in the country at least this season.

"Bath are obviously the form team of the moment, but we expected to be second in the table at this stage. We have only slipped a little below that, though, in what is a tough, hard fought competition.

"But we must set ourselves a high standard and we feel the selectors and players can work together in improving things all round in the New Year.

"We have done pretty well so far, but everybody would like to push that little bit more and achieve success in League or Pilkington Cup."



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