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# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

# 30p

## OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

# GLOUCESTER

v

# BRIDGEND

Saturday  
31st December, 1988

Kick off 3 p.m.

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**GLOUCESTER**

(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts
	3p	9

2		8




7	H/T	8
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- 15. ~~T. Smith~~ *N. MARGENT*
- 14. D. Morgan
- 13. R. Mogg *J. BREEZE*
- 12. ~~D. Presthyski~~
- 11. N. Price
- 10. M. Hamlin
- 9. M. Hannaford (Capt.)
- 1. M. Preedy (I)
- 2. K. Dunn
- 3. ~~R. Pascal~~ *R. PHILIPS*
- 4. ~~N. Scrivens~~ *J. BRAIN*
- 5. J. Etheridge
- 6. J. Gadd
- 7. I. Smith
- 8. M. Teague

Replacements:  
L. Gardner  
K. White

(I) — International

Cumulative  
Match  
Score

3	0
3	4
7	4
7	8
10	8
13	8
17	8
17	12

**BRIDGEND**

T	G	Pts





17	F/T	12
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- 15. P. Parry
- 14. P. Drake
- 13. M. Hall
- 12. J. Apsee
- 11. R. Diplock
- 10. A. Williams
- 9. B. Roach
- 1. M. Griffiths
- 2. H. Bevan (Capt.)
- 3. P. Edwards
- 4. P. Kawulock
- 5. J. Berrington
- 6. M. Budd
- 7. D. Bryant
- 8. O. Williams

Replacements:  
K. Ellis  
W. Hall

Referee: S. GRIFFITHS (North Mids Society)

## **GLOUCESTER 197 - WALES 83!**

Do you realise that the combined efforts of Swansea, Pontypridd, Ebbw Vale, Newport (twice), Newbridge and South Wales Police have resulted in 197 points for Gloucester against a meagre combined total of 83? Or that the only Welsh team to beat us so far has been the underrated Newbridge side? It must be the best record the Club has had against over-the-border teams for many years, but of course, we haven't played Neath or Llanelli.

And we haven't played Bridgend, an omission which is about to be rectified.

It's proving to be a very odd season in Wales, with Swansea and Cardiff in the doldrums, and the National side not, as yet, having put it together at all. Against that background, you would have to say that Bridgend are currently one of the Principality's top three clubs, a position to which they are by no means strangers.

Of course, today's visitors would be welcome at any time, but it's especially good to have them to help us usher in 1989. On the other hand, New Year's Eve being what it is, I suppose both sides are likely to be a little below strength, whatever it says in the team pages, and it would have been nice to see both teams in top gear, so to speak.

Not that it matters much. Games between the two Clubs are invariably full of incident (of one sort or another), and we're certainly in for an interesting afternoon. Gloucester will be wanting to regain the superb impetus which was so evident during the run-up to the holiday period, and Bridgend will probably feel that the honour of the Principality is on their shoulders. As I've said before, there's no such thing as an easy game against Welsh opposition, whatever the eventual scoreline, and that rule certainly won't be broken today.

Once again, our heartiest welcome to Bridgend. We wish them the happiest of New Years, both on the field and off it.

But, of course, as far as 'on the field' goes, the New Year doesn't start until tomorrow!

## **THANKS TO DELOITTE**

Our generous Sponsors for today's game are Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, who, I'm sure you won't need me to tell you, are one of the largest Accountancy firms in Britain. More — they have a network of offices across Europe.

This obviously puts them in an ideal situation as far as '1992 And All That' is concerned, and they are determined to cash in on the opportunity, obviously for their own benefit, but also for that of their Clients.

You will be very well aware of the business boom in and around Gloucester, and there is a whole clutch of local companies who are seeking to expand, and who could well benefit from the European expertise of Deloitte's. In fact, I'm told that our local branch, among others, is concentrating a great deal of their efforts in this direction, which is something worth noting for anyone who is casting a speculative eye towards the opportunities which are presented by the relaxation of barriers between us and the European Market.

After all, having the chance is one thing — being able to seize it is quite another. That is where Deloitte Haskins and Sells could come in very useful.

Against this sort of background, we're somewhat honoured that the firm takes time off, every season, to support a game at Kingsholm. Who knows? We could find a guest list full of Pierres, Pedros and Pietros in future seasons.

That's for another year, however. In the meantime, we're very happy to welcome Deloitte's guests and staff here today once again. We hope that everyone has a thoroughly good time, and that they have an extremely prosperous 1989. With a little help from their friends in Spa Road, of course.

## **INTO 1989**

The first match of 1989 is, of course, Moseley; away at the Reddings this season. Next Saturday, however, the First XV is at home to London Scottish, who are always worth watching, and who will be a useful pipe-opener for our home game against Leicester on the 14th, and which is the first Championship game of the New Year. After that, we shall be looking forward to the visit of Blackheath — the first for many years — and our trip to Brixham in the Cup. So we have an eventful January.

## **WELL DONE MIKE!**

Nice to see that Mike Teague has played himself back into the England reckoning with his stirring displays in the Divisional Championship. Pity his try in the final game wasn't allowed. It would really have been something to have scored in all three games.

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

I can't help feeling a bit sardonic, however, at the prevailing suggestion that England might play him at No. 6, as they did Egerton of Bath for the Wallabies match. Replacing one number 8 out of position by another. Hmm.

Anyway, not wishing to belittle Mike's chances in any way, surely just about anyone from Moseley to Camborne knows that the best No. 6 in England is John Gadd, so why look further if there's a problem?

I think Kevin Dunn is unlucky too. He has, as you will remember, taken a strike or two off Oliver this season already, and I can't see why the Wasp should be preferred to him at this late stage. He is, after all, the current reserve hooker for England. Bad luck 'Dunny'! Keep plugging, mate. Your time will come.

#### **WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT SO FAR?**

As usual at this time of the year, I have the nerve to share with you my own thoughts on the season until now. Nothing authoritative — just my own opinions, with which you are perfectly entitled to disagree, and probably will.

We could hardly have had a better start to the season, totting up 175 points in the first five games. True, two of those were against Stroud and Clifton, but two of the others were Swansea and Moseley, who both conceded 30 points.

Perhaps the saddest aspect of that period was that Swansea couldn't raise a Fifteen to play a home fixture against our United. When that happens to such a highly-respected club, who just a few seasons ago, were walloping everyone in the British Isles, there is cause for worry.

We then came down to earth with a bump, losing to Bath by 9 points to 19. Not too much to worry about there, but we then went on to lose to Exeter 18-14. Obviously, the side was much weakened for that game, and while I can see the attractions of such a policy from the coaching point of view, I can see dangers in dividing the club into two sets of players in this way. The trend is worrying from a 'club community' point of view, but is, I suspect, inevitable, given the structure of the season at the present time.

After that, the season went along swimmingly, especially in the League, until that notorious match against Bristol. I don't wish to open old wounds, but I don't think I have ever seen a game so totally dominated by the losing side. With hindsight, it is easy to say that the game should have been tightened up when we were three points ahead, but we were so much in command that such advice, at the time, would have seemed pessimistic in the extreme. Similarly, I refuse to blame Tim Smith for missing his kicks. Anyone can have an off day, especially when just returning from injury, and you can't crucify one man for losing a game in that manner.

Since then, everything has been happening quite nicely thank you. I wish we had beaten Waterloo, instead of tying with them, but that's the only real fly in the ointment since. The omens for 1989 are good, provided we can maintain a reasonably settled side, although I can think of one or two positions where I could wish we had more established cover.

But we mustn't be nit-picking. We can claim to have one of the best half-dozen sides in England, and that's nothing to grumble about.

Now for the Cup. Given a good draw, there seems no reason why we shouldn't do very well indeed.

#### **FROM ALL OF US . . .**

. . . . to all of you — a quite incredibly happy and prosperous New Year.

#### **TAILPIECE**

Here are the answers to the little quiz I produced for the Lydney programme:

- 1 . . . Robin Cowling played for both Leicester and Gloucester, Don Rutherford for Percy Park and Gloucester, and Graham Parker for Blackheath and Gloucester.
  - 2 . . . Both Mike Teague and George Hastings played for Gloucester and Cardiff.
  - 3 . . . Peter Butler, George Hastings and Don Rutherford all kicked goals for England.
  - 4 . . . The pairs of brothers who played for Gloucester were John and Stewart Dix, John and Conrad Gadd, and Gordon and Brian Jones.
  - 5 . . . The father-and-son duos were Peter and Paul Ford, Arthur and Gordon Hudson and Richard (Dick) and Ian Smith.
  - 6 . . . Both Newport and Orrell play in black-and-amber, and Moseley and Blackheath in black-and-red. Hope you enjoyed it. If so, let me know, and I'll try and dream up some more, now and then.
- See you next year. And I sincerely hope that 1989 brings you everything you would want it to.

PETER ARNOLD



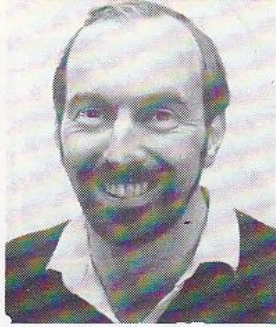
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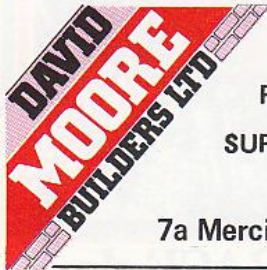
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TALKING RUGBY with . . .  
The Citizen sports editor Terry Phillips



*Front-row power. The Brixham front-row likely to face Gloucester in the Pilkington Cup third round tie late next month. The Cherry and Whites travel to face Brixham on Saturday January 28 when the front-row pictured above, Tim Lock, Richard Hogan and Ian Griffin, are likely to face up to Gloucester's Malcolm Preedy, Kevin Dunn and Richard Pascall.*



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