

**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY  
FOOTBALL  
CLUB**

**1988-1989  
HANDBOOK**



FOUNDED 1873

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED IN 1873

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## The 1988/89 Official Handbook

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### CLUB OFFICERS

**Presidents:**

Canon H.M. Hughes, B.A.

**Chairman:**

P.J. Ford

**Vice Presidents:**

S.T. Day A.G. Hudson R. Morris

**Hon. General Secretary:** T.R. Tandy.

48, Cotteswold Road, Gloucester.

Tel: Gloucester 23049

**Hon. Treasurer:** A.D. Wadley,

'Byeways', Belmont Avenue, Hucclecote,

Gloucester. Tel: 617202

**Hon. Fixtures Secretary:** P.J. Ford,

'Rivermead', Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester

Tel: Gloucester 424101

**Hon. Team Secretary:** F.C. Reed,

86 Colin Road, Barnwood, Gloucester

Tel: 619490 (H)

**Hon. Membership Secretary:** D.T. Foyle,

"Teviotdale", Brookfield Road, Churchdown,

Gloucester

Tel: Churchdown 856677

**Hon. Colts Secretary:** R.W. Collins,

11 Gilpin Avenue, Hucclecote, Gloucester

Tel: Gloucester 614335

**Committee:**

J. Beaman, M. Booth, A. Brinn, T. Close,  
M. Elway, J. Fidler, P. Hawker, J. Holder,  
B. Howells, R. Jardine, J. Jarrett, A. Mitchell,  
M. Nicholls, A.C. Pope, R. Redwood,  
E. Stephens, A. Townsend

**Players' Representative:** J. Bennett

**Captain 1st XV:** M. Hannaford

**Captain United XV:** D. Spencer

**Coach:** K. Richardson



# “The best job in Rugby”

Canon Mervyn Hughes, *President, Gloucester RFC*

Some years ago, on accepting, once again, the Office of President of the Club, I thanked the Membership present at the AGM for ‘electing me to the best job in Rugby’. And, although a great deal has happened since then – not least the renovations to the Ground, forced by the Safety of Sports Grounds Act – I have no reason whatever to change that opinion.

The day-to-day running of the Club falls on the broad shoulders of the Chairman, the Secretaries, the Treasurer and the various Committee Members, and we are all eternally grateful for their continuing and hard work, but the President can sometimes sit back and take a look at the overall view.

It seems to me that Gloucester RFC has never been in better shape to face the challenges of an ever more demanding future. The demands of our ground developments have placed a strain on our finances, but problems are there to be solved, and we have the people, the expertise, and the will, to solve them.

On the field, the future looks bright, and it gives me very great pleasure to watch the stream of highly promising young players, emerging and challenging for First XV honours. We hear a great deal of adverse comment about the young people of today, but anyone who thinks that the future is bleak should come along to Kingsholm, occasionally.

We have a great deal to be thankful for at Gloucester – excellent players, fine facilities, the best supporters in English Rugby, and above all, a wonderful Club spirit which makes its presence felt far beyond the confines of Kingsholm.

The Presidency of Gloucester Rugby Football Club is still the best job in Rugby, and I’m grateful to you for allowing me to continue to hold it.

# **“Looking forward with confidence”**

**Peter Ford, Chairman, Gloucester RFC**

We started the 1987/8 season on a high note with an away win at Swansea. The big disappointment came very much later, when we lost to Wasps at home, putting an end to our run in the John Player Special Cup, and dashing any hopes we had of winning the League.

This about sums the season up – high spots, and low points, with the ‘highs’ just about outnumbering the ‘lows’.

In fact, we had a great deal to be pleased about. Keith Richardson, in his first season as Club Coach, made an immediate impact, and Marcus Hannaford led the First XV with great enthusiasm. He’ll find the experience invaluable in 1988/9.

David Pointon enjoyed yet another successful season as United Captain, but has now decided to hang up his boots. We owe him our grateful thanks for all his efforts over the years. He’ll be a hard act to follow, but we wish Dave Spencer a successful season in a job which is so vital to the future of the Club.

And, talking about the future, it was immensely encouraging to see our Colts side go through the season unbeaten. This season, even more young players have come along to try their luck, and it is clear that we have an enormous reservoir of talent, ‘waiting in the wings’ when the chance comes.

Five of last season’s Colts joined us on our highly enjoyable tour to Portugal. We were impressed by their performances and their standard of play, and the experience, both on and off the field, is certain to stand them in good stead.

There are so many people to thank in summing up a season, that it is often difficult to know where to start, but pride of place, this year, must go to Dr. Tom Durkin, who has also announced his retirement as Club Medical Officer. He has been involved with Gloucester RFC for more years than I care to recall, and was, in fact, one of the first Doctors to hold such a post in First Class Club Rugby. So many players have had reason to be grateful for his skills, over the years – nothing was ever too much trouble. Although he has decided to take a rest, I’m sure he won’t be left undisturbed for long. Thanks for everything, ‘Doc’ !

The various Secretaries, and the Treasurer have all worked extremely hard, as have all the Committees. Our thanks are due to them all, as they are to so many other people. The ladies who provide refreshments after the home games, our generous Sponsors, the chaps who look after the pitch . . . the list is seemingly endless, but it’s their efforts which make our great Club what it is.



# A word with the coach

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**Keith Richardson,**  
*Coach, Gloucester RFC*

"It no longer matters how many matches you win during a season", says Gloucester coach Keith Richardson, who is now in his second season back at Kingsholm. Richardson, the former Gloucester and Bath prop, is in charge of a Gloucester squad eager to do well and he knows he must send them out for the 'big' games in the right frame of mind.

"In my playing days a season was judged by how many matches had been played against how many won. Nowadays that does not matter. You can play 47 and lose 30, but you will be forgiven if you win the vital League and Cup matches."

Wycliffe College master Richardson was appointed coach last season when Bob Redwood stepped down and it is his second spell in that position having spent one season in charge during the early 1980's. Since then the game has altered drastically with the introduction of the Courage Leagues.

"Our games have worked out well for this season and fixture secretary Peter Ford has it well organised – when a League or Cup match falls on a Saturday we no longer have top level games on the previous Wednesday. In the past we have struggled by playing, for example Pontypool on Wednesday and then the Harlequins in the League a few days later.

Now we have the opportunity to give more players first class experience with a Saturday team and a Midweek side, which will still be extremely powerful.

This gives players the chance to rest, no longer being forced to play major matches twice a week through most of the season".

"It is a pity but it looks likely that the really hard friendly fixture will become a thing of the past. And, looking further forward I believe an Anglo-Welsh League is the next step along the line for English rugby with perhaps, later, a European League taking in League and Cup winners from England,



France, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. That is a great prospect – European matches would really pack the grounds.”

When Richardson arrived back at Gloucester to start his new job last season he saw it as a settling period, needing to assess the clubs playing strength and see exactly what the situation was at Kingsholm. Now, after a year in charge, he goes into the new season full of confidence wanting to win the Courage Championship and the newly named Pilkington Cup – the old John Player competition.

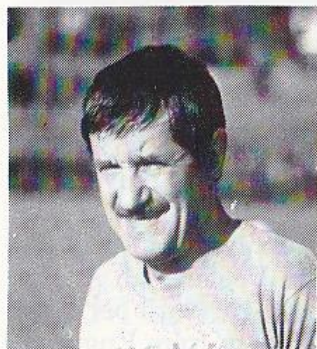
“We have worked hard during the pre-season period, adopting a simple approach to the game and practising skills at high speed. Yes, you could look around and say we could do with a player in this or that position, but in Rugby Union you work with what you have and I would hate to see that change. We have the players at Kingsholm capable of bringing success to the club, a close knit spirit and a squad which will produce an excellent team.”

Richardson looks back on last season’s defeat against Wasps – which ended Gloucester’s Championship and Cup hopes – with the thought that it could yet prove a useful result.

“We hated it at the time, but it brought us back to earth and forced us to look again at our approach to the game. Training was much improved after that defeat and players were prepared to work on their basic skills. And it is basics which win rugby matches, not occasional inspiration. The players have worked hard. We may not have any big names – there are no current England internationals and not many from last season’s South West team in our squad – but that could easily work in our favour. Gloucester are generally inspired when they come up against big name teams full of internationals.

“We have the players, now I must ensure they bring out their best form for League and Cup matches.”

Keith Richardson was talking to Terry Philips of the *Citizen*.



Garth Cromwell, who has been Gloucester’s leading rugby referee for some time, is helping Cherry and White coach Keith Richardson with training this season by providing technical support.

Cromwell, the former Longlevens back-row forward and RFU panel referee, who was advised by doctors to quit after officiating for 18 years will help at Kingsholm whenever he can.





## A Captains View

**Marcus Hannaford**  
talks to  
**Terry Phillips**  
of the  
*Citizen*

There is a feeling of confidence at Kingsholm this season and I believe we are on the verge of one of those 'bumper' Gloucester seasons. We have not had a really outstanding season for a while, but I have the feeling that either the current campaign or the next will prove to be one of those years the players and supporters will not forget.

There is a great team spirit at Gloucester – that was underlined during the week long tour to Portugal – and during the close season constructive discussions between Players and the Committee improved the understanding of each others problems.

These meetings continue to prove useful and everybody has approached this season with one aim in mind – to do everything to ensure we do well on the pitch.

We have the potential with top quality players and an excellent, highly respected coach in Keith Richardson. That, supported by the full backing of the committee and the tremendous support from those who pay at the turnstiles each week – surely is the recipe for good times ahead.

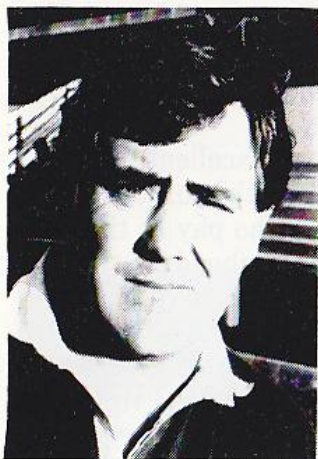
Last season was my first as captain. I went into a new job with new responsibilities and I enjoyed those responsibilities both on and off the pitch. It was not a fantastic season from my own point of view. I would have liked to have produced better form consistently, but I believe I had the right response from the players and gained their respect.

Now, with that first season behind me, I look forward to regaining the form which took me close to a call-up for England not so long ago. Unfortunately the England Selectors went for experience when I was in the frame for a place, but at the age of 25 I still have the chance to breakthrough. The next two seasons are going to provide my best chance of staking a claim and



hopefully my form with Gloucester will give the England selectors a nudge. And that goes for all Gloucester players. If everybody knuckles down and we hit form then the selectors will start going out of their way to watch us and more of our players will be given the chance to play representative rugby. Hooker Kevin Dunn is one who immediately springs to mind. He was unfortunate not to be given a chance within the England set-up last season, but he did earn a place in the England B squad and can press on from there. Others will be looking to gain selection for the South West squad – and if Gloucester start the season well there is no reason, why we should not have a strong party from Kingsholm named for the Divisional championships. Our most disappointing match of last season was certainly the clash with Wasps, which counted towards the Courage Clubs Championship and the John Player Cup. Having lost we were out of the chase for the Championship and the Cup. It was a day when Wasps played well and caught us in mediocre form. Their forwards gained the upper hand and Wasps' scrum-half Nigel Melville had the luxury of playing behind a pack going forward. But we can improve on that. On our day we are a match for anybody.

We had some excellent wins – like that opening success against Swansea away – and some disappointing defeats, like the 10–8 defeat against Pontypool when we really should have won. But when you consider that several senior players like John Gadd and Mike Teague drifted off the scene, (although it was good to see Mike return to Kingsholm after Christmas) it was a reasonable season. Everybody, particularly myself as captain, learned from our experiences over the season and we are back ready for the new challenge.



## A new role for Fred

Fred Reed, the former Gloucester hooker and coaching assistant to Keith Richardson, is the new team secretary at Kingsholm. He has taken over from Mike Nicholls, who, after many years in the position, stepped down at the end of last season. Mike stays on the main committee.



# So you think you know your Gloucester?

Here's a quiz to test how much you really know about Kingsholm and Gloucester RFC generally. We'll start with an easy one.

- 1 This is the first year book – style publication produced by Gloucester RFC since the Club's Centenary. Which year was that?
- 2 Who was Gloucester RFC's accredited first Captain?
- 3 In which year did Gloucester move to Kingsholm?
- 4 And who were the Club's first opponents on the Kingsholm ground?
- 5 Who, before Ruari McClean, was the last Gloucester player to take part in a full Scottish International Trial?
- 6 And who was the last full Scottish International to play for Gloucester?
- 7 John Gadd may not have a full England Cap, but he has played for England at Twickenham, and, what's more, scored two tries. Who were the opponents?
- 8 Against whom did Mike Burton make his full International debut?
- 9 Willie Jones was one of Gloucester's most distinguished outside halves. Can you name the positions in which these other members of the 'Jones Boys' usually played?
  - (a) Les Jones
  - (b) Gordon Jones
  - (c) Brian Jones
- 10 In which City church can you see a memorial to a Gloucester wing three quarter?
- 11 John Fidler and Steve Mills were not the first Gloucester players to represent England against Argentina. Who was?
- 12 And another easy one to finish with. What do the following Gloucester players have in common?
  - (a) Willie Jones
  - (b) Johnny Thornton
  - (c) Les Jones

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Answers appear on page 32.



# Player Profiles

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A catalogue of players who represented Gloucester R.F.C. during the 1987-88 Season.

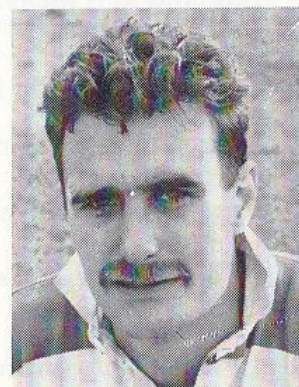


## MARCUS HANNAFORD

Marcus Hannaford – aged 25; height 6 ft; weight 13½ stones, scrum-half. Club captain who has made well over 100 appearances for Gloucester. The former Old Cryptian scrum-half, and England colts triallist (1981-82), comes from the Hannaford family which also produced former England and Bristol number eight Charlie and Cryptians' stalwart Bob. Marcus runs his own fencing business.

## ANDREW STANLEY

Andrew Stanley – aged 25; height 6 ft; weight 13 stones 11 lbs; flanker. Moved to Kingsholm from Gordon League three seasons ago. Played for South West colts and had an England colts trial. 'Stan' has over 20 first team appearances.



## NIGEL SCRIVENS

Nigel Scrivens – aged 30; height 6 ft 4 ins; weight 17½ stones; lock. Has played more than 100 first XV games for Gloucester. Formerly with Cirencester, Scrivens, is in his seventh season at Kingsholm. He works as a salesman.



**JIM BREEZE**

Jim Breeze – aged 29; height 5 ft 11 ins, weight 14 stones; winger. Has scored more than 60 tries for Gloucester, having joined them after playing for Stroud and Gloucester All Blues. Breeze, who works as a fitter, represented Gloucestershire and the South West as a colt.

**DAMIAN CUMMINS**

Damian Cummins – aged 23; height 5 ft 11 ins; weight 13 stones 2 lbs; centre. Damian, who is a teacher at Saintbridge School, broke through last season and has built a useful partnership in the centre with Ruari Maclean. Previously played for London Welsh and Exeter University.

**ANDY BROADY**

Andy Broady – aged 22; height 6 ft; weight 13½ stones; full-back. The former Gloucester Old Boys full-back, who represented the County at under 21 level, made three first team appearances, kicking eight conversions and a penalty.

**JOHN ETHERIDGE**

John Etheridge – aged 23; height 6 ft 6 ins; weight 16 stones 7 lb; lock forward. Former Gloucester All Blues and Old Richians player who has made good progress since breaking into the first team. Has made more than 60 first team appearances.



### **GLYN MANN**

Glyn Mann – aged 26; height 5 ft 10 ins; weight 14½ stones; hooker. Formerly with Longlevens and Matson. Glyn has played for South West schools, County colts and, the full Gloucestershire team. He runs his own building firm.



### **PETE JONES**

Pete Jones – aged 25; height 5 ft 10 ins; weight 15 stones 9 lbs; prop. 'Jonah' has made more than 60 first XV appearances, also being selected for the South West squad and an England under 23 trial. He works for Severn Trent Water Authority.

### **MALCOLM PREEDY**

Malcolm Preedy – aged 27; height 5 ft 11 ins; 15½ stones; prop. England international who has also represented Gloucestershire, South West, Barbarians and, during a four month stay in New Zealand, Auckland 'B'. Malcolm, who is fast heading towards 250 appearances, works as a maintenance fitter.



### **MIKE TEAGUE**

Mike Teague – aged 27; height 6 ft 2 ins; weight 15 stones; number eight. England international whose junior club is All Blues. Has played for Cardiff and Barbarians. Runs his own building firm. Teague has made 250 appearances for Gloucester's first team and holds the record for number of tries scored by a forward in one season – 16.



**RICHARD MOGG**

Richard Mogg – aged 32; height 6 ft; weight 13 stones 4 lbs; winger/centre. Has been at Kingsholm for 14 seasons and has passed the 400 appearances mark – one of only eight players to do so in Gloucester's history! Arrived at Kingsholm as an 18-year-old from Tredworth and went on to play for the South West, England under 19, England under 23, England B and Barbarians. Works for Severn Trent Water Authority.

**JEREMY BENNETT**

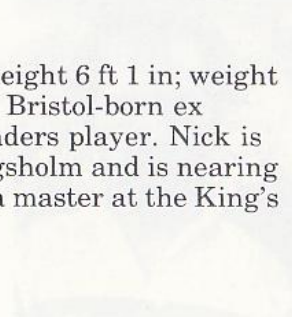
Jeremy Bennett – aged 24; height 6 ft 1 in; weight 15 stones 9 lbs; flanker/number eight. Has played more than 100 first team games for Gloucester. Also represented Gloucestershire Schools, Gloucestershire colts and South West schools. Works for Robert Maxwell Communications as a communication programme controller.

**TIM SMITH**

Tim Smith: aged 26; height 5 ft 11 ins; weight 12 stone 13 lbs; full-back. Formerly with Gordon League, Brockworth and Widden Old Boys. Has represented Gloucestershire Colts and England students. Stands fourth on Gloucester's all-time list of points scorers with well over 1000 points in nearly 150 appearances. Works as a scaffolder.

**NICK MARMENT**

Nick Marment – aged 28; height 6 ft 1 in; weight 13 stones 10 lbs; full-back. Bristol-born ex Saracens and Ding's Crusaders player. Nick is in this third season at Kingsholm and is nearing 50 first team games. He is a master at the King's School in Gloucester.





**KEVIN WHITE**

Kevin White – aged 29; height 5 ft 9 ins; weight 15½ stones; hooker. Has spent 13 years at Kingsholm after joining Gloucester from Saintbridge Former Pupils. Has represented Gloucestershire Colts, South West Colts and England colts plus the full Gloucestershire team. Kevin, who runs his own painting and decorating business, is nearing 150 first team appearances.

**JOHN ROBERTS**

John Roberts – aged 23; height 5 ft 7 ins; weight 10½ stones; fly-half. School teacher at St Edwards in Cheltenham. Previously played for St Paul's College and has also played for English Colleges and British Colleges. In his third season at Kingsholm.

**DAVE ROPER**

Dave Roper – aged 29; height 6 ft 3 ins; weight 16½ stones; Back-row forward. Has been at Kingsholm for two years after moving to the area. Has formerly played for Birkenhead Park and New Brighton. Works as a chartered accountant.

**JOHN BRAIN**

John Brain – aged 27; height 6 ft 4 ins; weight 16½ stones; lock. John has been at Kingsholm for ten years after switching from Gloucester Old Boys. Has represented the South West, England under 23's, English Students. Is nearing 200 games for the club. John is a Trading Standards Officer.

**LLOYD GARDNER**

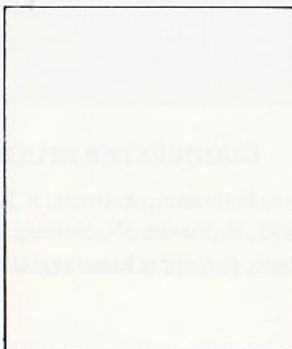
Lloyd Gardner – aged 25; height 5 ft 10 ins; weight 11½ stones; scrum-half. Formerly with Spartans, Lydney and Stroud, Lloyd has scored a remarkable ten tries in 13 full first team appearances. Runs his own mini-skip hire business.

**DAVE SPENCER**

Dave Spencer – aged 30; height 6 ft 2 ins; weight 15½ stones; back row forward. The 1988–89 Gloucester United captain, taking over from the now retired Dave Pointon. Formerly with Stroud, Widden Old Boys and Cainscross, 'Spanner' is well on his way to 100 first team appearances. Has been a South West squad member and played for Public School Wanderers.

**DERRICK MORGAN**

Derrick Morgan – aged 27; height 5 ft 10 ins; weight 12½ stones; winger. Joined Gloucester after coming through the junior ranks at Longlevens. Played for Gloucester Colts. Works as a fitter. Has scored more than 100 tries for the first XV.

**PHIL WALLACE**

Phil Wallace – aged 21; height 6 ft 4 ins; weight 17 stones 2 lbs; lock. Joined Gloucester from Matson. He has won a full County cap plus representing Gloucestershire colts, South West colts and earning an England colts final trial. Works as a hod carrier.



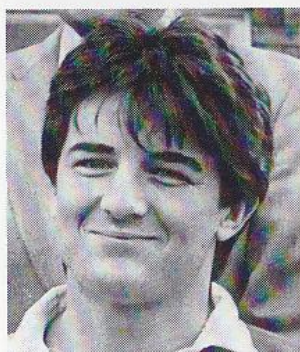


**GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB 1987-88**

Back Row: S.T. Day, B. Howells, T. Close, J. Beaman, P. Hawker, A. Brinn, J. Jarrett, R. Jardine, K. Richardson, R. Collins, E.J. Stephens, M. Booth  
 Middle Row: M. Nicholls, R. Morris, K. Dunn, C. Dyke, A. Stanley, N. Marment, J. Etheridge, N. Scrivens, R. Pascall, M. Teague, T. Smith, A. Mitchell, R. Redwood  
 Front Row: J. Breeze, R. Phillips, D. Spencer, G. Mann, P. Ford (Chairman), M. Hannafor (Captain) Canon M. Hughes (President), R. Mogg, M. Preedy, D. Morgan, R. Maclean  
 Ground Row: J. Roberts, M. Hamlin

**NICK PRICE**

Nick Price – aged 31; height 5 ft 11 in; weight 14 stones 2 lbs; winger. Formerly with Old Cryptians, Nick joined Gloucester in 1981–82 and has made more than 150 appearances. Has represented Gloucestershire and is a director of a life and pensions brokerage.

**LARRY CUMMINS**

Larry Cummins – aged 25; height 6 ft 2 ins; weight 14 stones 7 lb; number eight. Joined Gloucester from local rugby in Cheltenham. Played 60 first team games for the Cherry and Whites, scoring 16 tries. Currently playing in Australia.

**CHRIS DEE**

Chris Dee – aged 21; height 6 ft; weight 12½ stones; winger. Joined Gloucester from Coney Hill. Represented Gloucestershire colts. Has made four first team appearances for Gloucester, but is a promising young winger with a lot of potential.

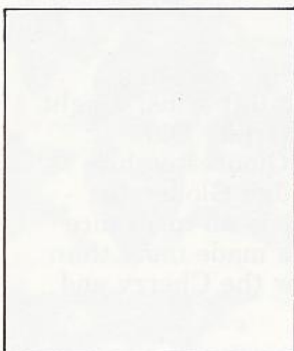
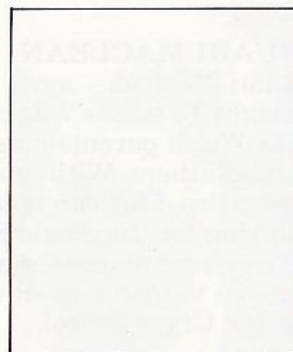
**PAUL ASHMEAD**

Paul Ashmead; aged 22; height 5 ft 2ins; weight 14½ stones; back-row forward. In his third season at Kingsholm after joining Gloucester from Coney Hill. Has made nearly 30 first team appearances. Works as a refrigeration engineer.



**STEVE HANSON**

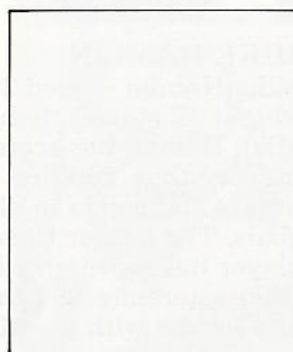
Steve Hanson – aged 22; height 6 ft 1 in; weight 14 stones 8 lb; flanker. RAF serviceman based at Innsworth. Former Wasps player who has captained the Combined Services under 21 team.

**CRAIG GUEST**

Craig Guest – aged 25; height 6 ft 3 ins; weight 17½ stones; lock forward. Former St Mary's Hospital second-row forward who has played 17 times for the Gloucester first team. Guest is a doctor at Standish Hospital.

**TONY BILLETT**

Tony Billett – aged 26; height 5 ft 10 ins; weight 15 stones 10 lb; prop forward. RAF serviceman based at Innsworth. The former Neath player, who has played for the RAF and Combined Services, pushed Richard Pascall out of the first team for a spell last season making a total of four appearances.

**PAUL TAYLOR**

Paul Taylor – aged 32; height 6 ft 1 in; weight 13 stones 7 lb; centre. Former Widden Old Boys player who is now working in Mozambique helping to rebuild railways. 'Tally' has been a loyal servant to Gloucester and is nearing the 300 mark in first team appearances.

**RUARI MACLEAN**

Ruari Maclean – aged 26; height 5 ft 11 ins; weight 13 stones 7 lb; centre. London-born Ruari has Welsh parents plus Scottish and Canadian grandfathers. With qualifications for four countries, Maclean opted for Scotland and after playing for the Anglo-Scots he earned Scotland B caps and played for a Scotland XV on the close season tour to Zimbabwe. Maclean is a teacher at the Crypt School.

**CLIVE DYKE**

Clive Dyke – aged 26; height 6 ft 2 ins; weight 13 stones 8 lbs; centre. The former Old Cryptians player played for Gloucestershire Schools and progressed through Gloucester Colts to the senior squad. He is an insurance broker in Gloucester and has made more than 50 first team appearances for the Cherry and Whites.

**MIKE HAMLIN**

Mike Hamlin – aged 29; height 5 ft 11 ins; weight 12 stones; fly-half. The ever-consistent Mike Hamlin has scored 31 tries for Gloucester in more than 200 first team matches, totalling nearly 200 points in all including 14 dropped goals. The former Coney Hill and Cheltenham player has represented Gloucestershire Colts, Gloucestershire and the South West. He works as a joiner with the Midlands Electricity Board.

**RICHARD PASCALL**

Richard Pascall – aged 30; height 6 ft 2 ins; weight 17 stones; prop. Pascall played for Kent at the age of 18 and has developed into a powerful prop on the verge of a breakthrough at international level. He has played for Gloucester almost 200 times and represented Kent, English Colleges, British Colleges, English Students, London plus the South and South West. A Products Manager with Chelsea Building Society.



### **BARRY CLARK**

Barry Clark – aged 25; height 6 ft 2 ins; weight 15 stones, 5 lb; number eight. A farmer at Stow-in-the-Wold, Clark made a big impact when he switched to Kingsholm from his local club last season. He pushed Mike Teague for the number eight spot and earned six first team appearances.



### **IAN SMITH**

Ian Smith – aged 25; height 6 ft; weight 13 stones 10 lbs; flanker. Has recently returned to Gloucester after three months stay in Australia where he played for Waratah. Has represented Gloucestershire colts, been selected in the South West senior squad and earned an England under 23 trial. Nearing 150 first team games for Gloucester. Works as a civil engineer.

### **KEVIN DUNN**

Kevin Dunn – aged 23; height 5 ft 9 ins; weight 13½ stones; Hooker. The former Spartans and Lydney player has made 50 appearances for Gloucester. Kevin has been chasing representative honours for England B and the South West, finally making the breakthrough by playing for both against Australia within 5 days!



### **BOB PHILLIPS**

Bob Phillips – aged 29; height 5 ft 11 ins; weight 16 stones; prop. The former Tredworth player has been at Kingsholm for seven seasons. Works for Severn Trent Water Authority. Bob is nearing the 100 appearances point at Kingsholm.



# Players for the future

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## TONY WINDO

Tony Windo – aged 19; height 6 ft; weight 16½ stones; prop. Former captain of Gloucester colts and was also selected for South West colts squad. Tony was another of the successful colts on the club tour to Portugal. Works as a postman and joins Gloucester from Spartans.

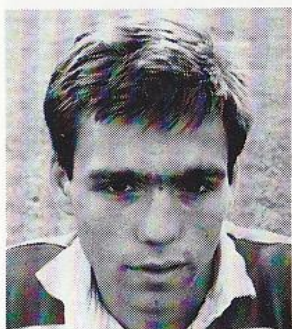


## DAVE SIMS

Dave Sims – aged 18; height 6 ft 6 ins; weight 15½ stones; lock. Dave joins Gloucester this season from Longlevens after impressing during the club's close season tour to Portugal. Has represented the County colts and South West colts plus making one appearance for England colts. Currently a student at college in Cheltenham.

## GREG KEYSE

Grey Keyse – aged 18; height 6 ft 4 ins; weight 15 stones; number eight. Greg has joined Gloucester this season from Longlevens after producing some good form during the tour to Portugal. Has represented Gloucestershire colts and works as a plumber.



## NEIL MATTHEWS

Neil Matthews – aged 18; height 5 ft 11 ins; weight 12 stones; fly-half. Has joined Gloucester this season after doing well on the close season tour to Portugal. Formerly with Longlevens and Cheltenham. Has represented Gloucestershire and South West Colts. Works as a trainee contracts manager for John Fidler builders.



# A word about our Sponsors

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It takes an awful lot of cash to run a Club like Gloucester RFC, these days. During the year ending April 30th, 1988, the wage bill alone was within pennies of £22,000 – and that in a Club which owes so much to thoroughly voluntary, unpaid help in so many different fields.

Even without the massive expenditure incurred by the necessary renovations to the Ground, the money which comes into the gate, and is received from Members, doesn't meet the bill. So we have to look elsewhere.

One of our most successful endeavours, over the past few years, has been the attraction of Sponsorship, in all its forms. In fact, not many clubs have been so successful as we have, and very few Gloucester First XV games now go by without financial assistance from some local, national or even international organisation.

We are quite extraordinarily grateful to all the companies, and other bodies, which have so generously helped us in this way. And let's not forget other people, who take advertising boards around the Ground, space in the Programme, and take other opportunities – match ball sponsorship, lucky programme prizes etc. – to get involved.

And there's more to Sponsorship than just cash. People are invited to Kingsholm, by our benefactors, from all over the country. Some are Rugby regulars, some aren't, but they all go away with a great impression of Gloucester RFC, and Kingsholm generally. The gospel is therefore spread far beyond the confines of the old City.

And don't forget – no one sponsors a Kingsholm game unless they think it does a good promotional job for them. It certainly works, because people tell us so, and come back again and again. We couldn't manage without our Sponsors, and our heartfelt thanks go out to all of them.

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## Acknowledgements

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## “DIGGER”

### Roy Morris talks to Peter Arnold

The face isn't so lived in, the ears not quite so well used, but the vast 'Country Bumpkin', appearing in an RAF concert party called 'The Riff-Raffs', is unmistakably our own Roy 'Digger' Morris. The photograph is 45 years old now, and taken in the Sudan, but the genial grin hasn't altered, and the hands, even then, could have done duty as JCB's.

Since the publication of Mike Burton's book, *Never Stay Down*, the whole Rugby world must know of 'The Digger' as a forward of awesome strength and immense durability. Those of us lucky enough to know him, may recall that he is an ex-trainer of greyhounds, professional boxer, and even bookmaker, but I doubt if any of us ever suspected that there was a budding Richard Burton somewhere inside that rather craggy exterior.

But that's Roy Morris. Always a man of unexpected resources and shrewd comment on a whole range of topics.

It was on April 2nd, 1911 that the world was enriched by the arrival of the infant Roy, and just about all the years between then and now are recorded in a fascinating series of scrapbooks and photographs, kept in the front room of his house in Coney Hill. It's a unique record of a distinguished playing career, of course, but is also a valuable source of information, if anyone wants to know anything about, for example, what it was like to serve in the RAF in the War years, through Eritrea, Sudan, Ethiopia and Italy. Well worth an hour or two of your time, if you're ever lucky enough to be invited.

'Dig' first played for Gloucester in 1930 and played his last recorded game for the United in 1952. Somewhere in between he achieved just about every honour the game provided, except a full England Cap – and he came precious close to that. A photograph over the Morris mantelpiece depicts the Possibles side that beat the Probables at Manchester in 1937/8 by 18 points to 17, and Roy was in the second row. And he was an England Reserve in 1946/7.

Many sportsmen had their careers gutted by the War, and Digger could well be one of them. He was certainly good enough to play for the United Services v. South Africa in 1945 (in Rome), and for the Services against Wales in 1943, but the lack of full International honours doesn't seem to bother him overmuch. On the other hand, his services to Gloucestershire are a very fond memory for him.

"If you want a good quiz question," he says, "Ask who Captained Gloucestershire in two County Finals in the same season!"



It was in 1948 that the County drew with a star-studded Lancashire side at Blundellsands, and so had to replay at Kingsholm. They were beaten, but the occasion led to one of the better Digger Morris stories.

It appears that the Lincs (and England) Captain, Jack Heaton, had intended to put a bet on the match, but had forgotten, and it was only as they ran out on the field, remembered that his opposing Captain ran a book in his own right. "He asked me what price I would give him", remembers Digger, "and I gave him 6 to 4 on. He had a quid with me, and we lost." Can you imagine what a furore that story would cause in some quarters, 40 years on?

We asked him about his most memorable match. At first, he considered the game in which Gloucester beat Llanelli in 1936, the first victory over the Scarlets since 1896. "I went over for the only try, in the corner," he recalls, "and Harold Boughton kicked it from the touchline. They weren't very happy about it."

But, on balance, he plumped for "the time we played that Kiwi team, just after the War." This was a New Zealand Services side, which was, in effect, a full All Black team. "I got laid out in the first half, and don't remember much about it. Then I had a blinder in the second half. I dropped one of their blokes on his head, and then there were four of them after me!"

Well, there's no accounting for taste.

No one ever accused Digger of being a shy, retiring violet, but he does claim never to have been sent off, and never warned. Even now, at 77, it is easy to see what a powerful presence he had on the field. And those of us who were privileged to see him play can vouch for it. His 'fighting weight', as he calls it, was 6 foot 2 inches, and 15 stone. It can't have changed by more than a fraction since.

He's part of the very fabric of Kingsholm, and very willing to share his rich store of reminiscences with you. And I can't think of a more pleasurable way to spend an after-match session.

## **DIGGER'S TOP XV**

We asked Digger to pick his best-ever Gloucester XV, from the people he played with, and has seen since. Here it is.

H. BOUGHTON, C.C. TANNER, F. EDWARDS, McCANNLESS,  
SHEPHERD, D. MEADOWS, M. BOOTH, M. BURTON, A. CARPENTER,  
F. WASLEY, J. A'BEAR, R. MORRIS\*, P. HORDERN, J. WATKINS,  
M. TEAGUE

\*Digger isn't being big-headed here. He explains "John A'Bear and I were always famous for being a pair – like Marques and Currie – so if I don't pick myself, I can't pick 'Abbo' can I?"

Fair enough, and quite typical. After all, John was best man at Digger's wedding.





## After 13 years at Kingsholm

**Dave Pointon talks to Terry Phillips  
of the *Citizen***

Dave Pointon, a loyal and enthusiastic Gloucester Rugby Club player for the past 13 years, starts the new season at Kingsholm in a far different capacity.

For after being Gloucester United's captain during two highly successful seasons in leading the side to an unbeaten record in one of them. Pointon has decided to retire.

"I am taking the first few months of the season off completely," says the 33-year-old left-footed fly-half, "I will pop down to Kingsholm, to watch a few matches and see how I feel around Christmas.

"Then I hope to start playing again locally and perhaps even start some coaching."

Pointon, who is head of physical education at Gloucester's St Peter's School and assistant headmaster of the upper school, has never linked up with a local junior club because he went straight to Kingsholm after leaving St Paul's College in Cheltenham.

Now he wants to put that right and says: "I would love to play locally in the second half of the season when I grow tired of watching.

"Perhaps I could have stayed at Gloucester one more year, but they have some good young players battling for the fly-half spot now and they must be given a chance.

"People like Neil Matthews, Richard Temple and John Roberts will give Gloucester plenty of strength in depth, although I would always be happy to turn out again if they suddenly found themselves short."

Pointon was educated in Rugby and played for his local club at the age of 16 when he found himself marking British Lion David Duckham!

Later Pointon trained as a teacher at St Paul's College and played for Gloucestershire while still a student. At the age of 18 he played in the County Championship final when Gloucestershire defeated Eastern Counties at Kingsholm.

He joined Gloucester in 1975 and made his debut against Western-Super-Mare in the seaside club's centenary season.

Since then he has played 163 first XV matches for the Cherry and Whites and includes 14 dropped goals in a total of almost 200 points.

For the last two seasons, though, Pointon dedicated himself to leading the United and in 1986-87 they achieved a unique record in Gloucester's history.



United went through the season unbeaten and Pointon says: "That is a season that will stick in my memory for a long time. Everything went well – we had some excellent players and a great spirit in the squad.

"I believe the players respected me as a captain and I was able to motivate them through what was a tough season."

There have been moments of disappointment for Pointon during his 13 year stay with Gloucester, though he twice missed out on an appearance in a John Player Cup final.

He was on the replacement bench twice, Les Jones keeping him out against Moseley and Chris Williams against Leicester.

"I hold no grudges about that," says Pointon, "I have had too many good times at Kingsholm to worry about missing those cup finals.

"It is a ground with a marvellous atmosphere. When the crowd start chanting 'Gloucester, Gloucester' it lifts the players tremendously. I will never forget them.

"When I first went to Gloucester I was full of ambition having played in a County Championship final as a teenager and then earned a place in the Gloucester team, one of the few non-internationals in the side.

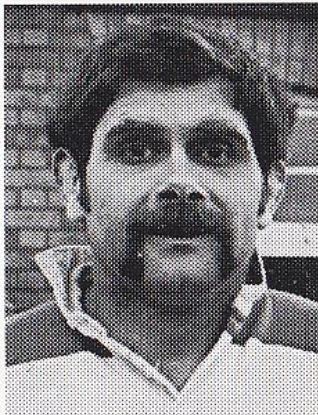
"But I became more realistic about everything as the years went by and now I look back on a thoroughly enjoyable stay at the club.

"It could all have ended a lot sooner because doctors told me I would never play again after injuring a knee badly when I was 26, but I came back after being out for two years and proved them wrong.

"It's been great and perhaps in years to come I will try for a place on the committee, but for the moment I am taking a break and spending some time with the family."

And Pointon's family has grown during the close season – his wife Ellen gave birth to a baby boy in July, a brother to five-year-old Joseph.





## “No picnic in Portugal”

Gloucester could scarcely have found a more ideal tour manager for the seven day close season trip to Portugal than former England and Barbarians lock John Fidler.

The 39-year-old former policeman is a veteran of 18 rugby tours which have taken in trips to South Africa, America, Hong Kong, Italy, Rumania, Argentina, Bermuda and Portugal.

But after all those trips Fidler was still surprised by the standard awaiting the 43-strong Gloucester party when they arrived in Lisbon.

For the Portuguese teams, full of flowing, running rugby, have reached a useful standard. They have 30 clubs and a League which has been running for 25 years.

Certainly Gloucester had to work hard for their successes against national champions Cascais (18-9), a Lisbon Select (36-18), Belenenses (31-22) and Direito (40-6). In two of those games the Cherry and Whites were trailing at half-time and looked in a little trouble.

“The Portuguese have plenty of flair and ability,” says Fidler.

Gloucester also competed in the Lisbon sevens – reaching the last eight before losing to eventual champions Cambridge University – and have been invited back next year to a tournament which organisers say will soon be among the best and biggest in the World.

A shortage of players wanting to go on the seven day tour provided an unexpected boost to the future of the Cherry and Whites.

With more than 40 players needed for the four match trip, Gloucester invited some of its colts to ensure they had a full party and unearthed some real gems.

Five young players were given a blooding at senior level in Lisbon and all five surprised Gloucester officials with the sheer quality of their performances.

The five Colts who toured Portugal were;

18-year-old Dave Sims from Longlevens, a lock forward whose speed would make him a more than useful 400 metres athlete.

Fly-half Neil Matthews, also 18, who arrived for pre-season training with



the Cherry and Whites. He impressed throughout the Portuguese tour and looks a shining prospect. Although the ever-consistent Mike Hamlin will once again be the major contender for the fly-half spot, Matthews looks to have a good future.

Lock Simon Devereux and powerful prop Tony Windo from Spartans were two more teenagers to impress tour manager John Fidler and club coach Keith Richardson on the trip, while the youngest tour member was a strapping 17-year-old number eight, Greg Keyse.

All five were made welcome during the tour and the experience will make it easier for them to integrate into the Cherry and Whites senior ranks.

## **WELCOME RETURNS**

Gloucester welcomed Matson lock Phil Wallace along to pre-season training. Wallace made only one first XV appearance last season – against Pontypool in October – spending his playing time helping Matson to success in the Courage Clubs Championship. But it seems Wallace will make more appearances this season – he is rated highly by the selectors – and could make a big impact.

And there looks certain to be a big battle for back-row places at Kingsholm, with the arrival at training of Bobby Fowke. The powerhouse forward missed last season, but is again ready to challenge for a first team spot and it is good to see Fowke, a 24-year-old with a Kingsholm family tradition, back with the club.

His father Roy, grandfather George and uncle, Jack were all formidable players for Gloucester Rugby Club in their time. Fowke has made 25 first team appearances for the Cherry and Whites – and he aims to add to them this season.



# TAILPIECE

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## Peter Arnold consults the *Crystal Ball!*

Yearbooks, by their very nature, are more concerned with what happened last season, than with the likely train of events in the future. However, someone ought to indulge in a little ill-informed speculation at an early stage in the season, so I suppose I'm elected.

Not, you understand, that I know more about the game, or am a better judge of a player than the majority of people who are likely to forego a little beer money to purchase this worthy publication – if I were, I'd probably change my name to 'Nigel' – but not knowing what I'm talking about never stopped me pontificating yet, so I'm not about to break the habit of a lifetime.

First of all, what are our prospects on the field for 1988/9? My opinions on that are probably as valuable as anyone's but do depend on what time of the year it is.

In September, I can prove, quite unarguably, that Gloucester will smash everyone out of sight, up to and including Clifton. By Christmas I may have modified my views. By May 1st my opinions will be exactly accurate, and indeed, have been ever since September. In that, again, I don't differ from most of the Kingsholm Mafia. One famous New Zealand journalist once wrote that you never beat Wales, you just score more points than them. Similarly, Kingsholm supporters are never wrong, although they may have been misunderstood, misquoted, or taken out of context, now and then.

So now you know exactly how well Gloucester are going to fare this season, and will be able to say "I told you so" when the Middlesex Sevens roll around again.

## PREDICTION

Some firm predictions can be made with absolute certainty, however. Terry Tandy won't be winning the 'Slimmer of the Year' Award. Neither John Hiley nor Peter Gould will have gone teetotal. None of the Gloucester pack will have reached the Final of 'Miss World' – although they'd all be quite happy to reach the finalists given half a chance.

The price of beer in the Clubhouse won't be reduced, the smell of liniment will not stop percolating up into the Stand, and the Tump won't be taken over by North Housing Association, with or without a ballot. We can also say, with certainty, that Gloucester won't win the John Player Special Cup, if only because it's now changed its name to the 'Pilkington'. Now that could be a different story.



## SPECULATION

Which brings us into the realm of speculation, rather than prophesy, and here we can all have a go. Take the Divisional Championship, for example. We now have enough experience of that odd and highly disruptive competition to be fairly confident about the likely turn of events. In fact, at the time of writing, we have rather more information than usual, because the Midlands have just lost to, of all people, the American Eagles. Come back George III. All is forgiven.

The competition will start with high hopes, and much comment. Large sections of the Press will tell us what great games they were, and people who actually went to the matches, (if you can find any), will tell you what an underwhelming bore it all was.

(We shall also hear that, because the Courage Clubs Championship is now on fixed dates, avoiding the Divisional matches, there should be no need for demeritising the League games. Someone will eventually get a battery of barristers to study the fine print, and de-merit anyway.)

The same pattern will persist over the next two weeks, with everyone working themselves up into an absolute fever of apathy about the whole thing. Either London, The North, Midlands or the South West will eventually win, although by next season, you'll have to consult Rothmans to remember who.

Speculation will then start as to the likely make-up of the England side for the Home Internationals. This will be complicated by the fact that England will have played Australia – arguably the most important match of the whole Season – well before the Divisional Championship has even started.

The Press will be fairly divided in their opinions. The 'Daily Telegraph' will advise picking the entire London side, The 'Guardian' will find good reasons for selecting everybody, and the 'Independent' wouldn't touch any of them with a long goal post. The 'Sun', on the other hand, won't care who gets picked as long as they've got big ..... but you've heard that one.

When the Home Internationals come along, we shall be told that we have the best team since Bill Beaumont's Grand Slam side, or possibly since Nepia's All Blacks.

They will then proceed to lose – unless the Captain goes off injured, and has to be replaced by a Bristol scrum-half and an ex-Gloucester skipper.

At least, that's what will happen if we amalgamate the experiences of the past few seasons. We can only hope that things will turn out differently this year.

## SUGGESTIONS

So much for prediction and speculation. We can, however, make a few suggestions about innovations at Kingsholm. To start with, how about a cricket-style pass-out ticket?

The idea is prompted by the fact that pubs are now able to open from 11.00am to 11.00pm, and that we have three excellent hostelrys within a short drop-out from the Ground. It would be nice to be able to nip out for a quick snifter on a cold day, and then come back in, suitably fortified and in better voice.



It would also be nice to have players weighed and measured, rather like jockeys and boxers, before they go on the field. The thought is suggested by various press reports on the Bristol v. Orrell game, where lock-forward Mr. Kimmins was variously described as being 6'8", 6'9" and 6'10". Perhaps he's like mercury in a barometer, and stretches and shrinks according to the temperature.

A third thought would be to have the height of the goal posts extended by another 50 feet or so, if only to stop the Mayor buzzing the ground in a Royal Navy helicopter.

One suggestion, which I hope will never be made, is that we do anything to update the scoreboard system. One of the charms of Kingsholm is to be able to glance to the Dean's Walk end and note that Gloucester are winning 103 points to 99 occasionally.

In fact, there is a great deal about the Kingsholm scene which none of us would want to change. The pitch always looks like a billiard table in need of a haircut, the Clubhouse is always full of broad grins and memorable comment, and the badinage from the crowd is as sharp and hilarious as it ever was.

Long may it remain so – and here's to another great season.

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So you think you know your Gloucester?

### ANSWERS

1. 1973
2. F. Hartley, from 1873 to 1875
3. 1891
4. Burton-on-Trent
5. Ronnie Etheridge, at full back.
6. Wing three quarter Lewis Dick
7. Fiji, in 1982
8. Wales, in 1972
9. (a) Outside half, (b) Wing three quarter, (c) Flank forward.
10. St. Mary de Lode, to the Rev.C.C.Tanner.
11. John A'Bear
12. They all kept (or keep) pubs!