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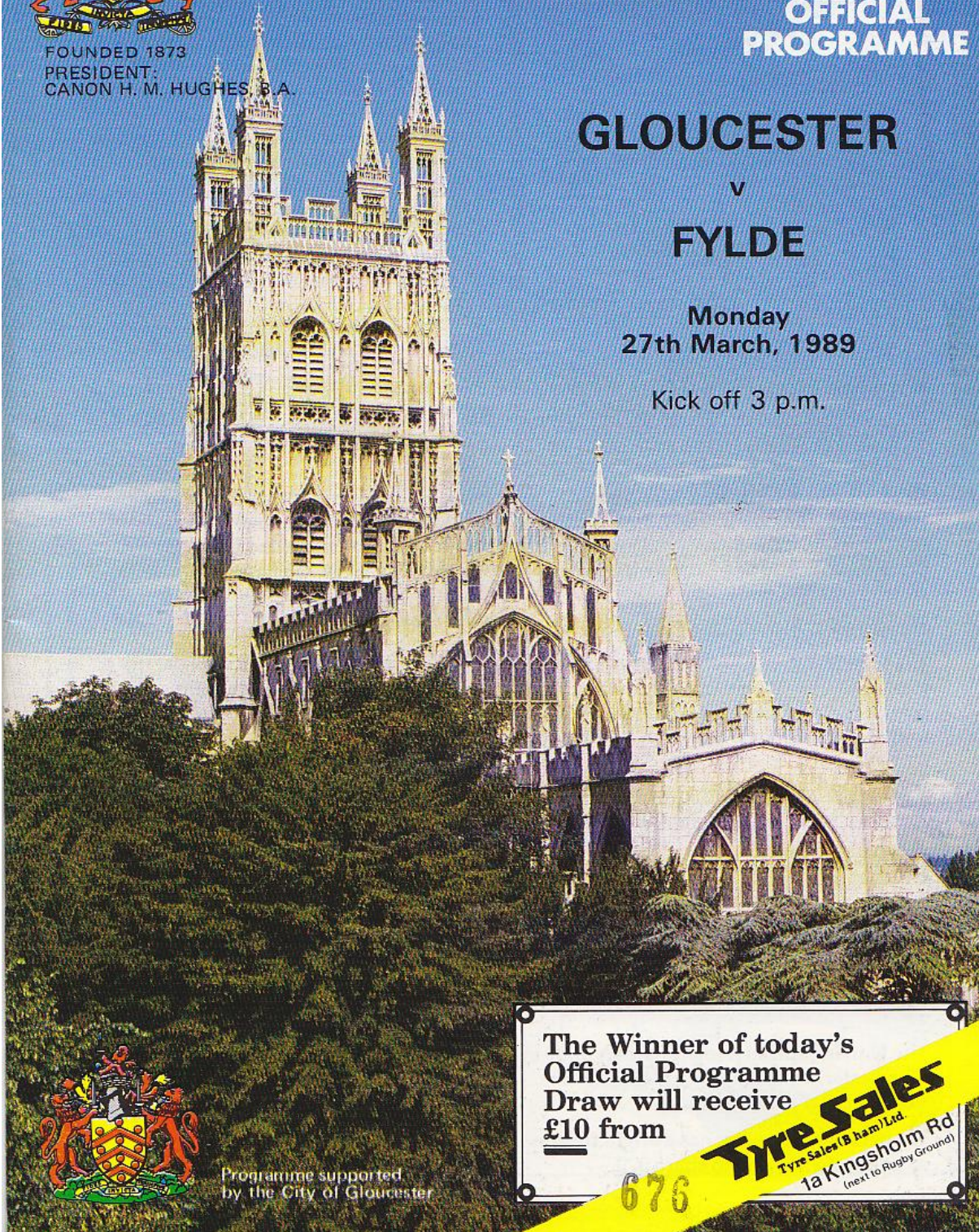
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30^p
**OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME**

GLOUCESTER v FYLDE

Monday
27th March, 1989

Kick off 3 p.m.



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HAVE YOURSELF A CLARET, GOLD AND WHITE EASTER

I suppose that, if anyone were to refer to the 'seaside club' in this part of the world, you'd probably think of Torquay, or perhaps even Plymouth. To anyone from North of Leicester, however, the phrase can only refer to Fylde, the pride of Lytham St. Annes, the attractive town they have been gracing since long before anyone had ever heard of 'Ernie' or the National Society of Self Employed and Small Businesses.

Most people go to the seaside for Easter — we have the seaside come to us.

It isn't hard to think of well-known names connected with the Fylde club. Bill Beaumont, Steve Bainbridge, Paul Dooley, Ian Aspinall, have all made their marks, for one reason or another. No doubt you'll remember a fair sprinkling of Fylde players in those Lancashire sides which used to contest the 'old' County Championship so fiercely.

We don't see today's visitors every year, our Easter guests varying a bit from time to time, but that just makes them all the more welcome when they do arrive. At the moment, Fylde are perched comfortably about half-way up the League's Third Division, but don't let that fool you into thinking they'll be overmatched today. Easter holiday being what they are, I haven't seen today's side, but I should think that it would be a bit much to ask many First XV regulars to turn out after Saturday's epic confrontation with Bath. And anyway, if we can lose to Cheltenham, we can certainly pay the same compliment to Fylde.

My memories of the claret-gold-and-whites tell me that they do like to run the ball when they can, which is what we all like to see in a Bank Holiday match. I certainly don't recall them playing a dull game here, or, even when they've been rather on the receiving end, ever giving up trying. And there have been times when they've given us all we could handle.

I'm sure they will today. Whatever happens, it's very good to see Fylde here once more, and I've no doubt whatsoever that they'll thoroughly enjoy their visit.

THANKS TO WELL, JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY REALLY

For the best of all possible reasons, we don't have an official Sponsor today. That's because this is the occasion when we entertain all our sponsors for the season, plus many others who have supported us in so many ways, and have provided extremely welcome finance in the process.

Anyone who comes here at all regularly must have become conscious of the sheer variety of companies and organisations who give us their backing by way of sponsorship. We have large, multi-national companies, and smaller, severely local ones. We have major clearing banks, building societies and public utilities such as British Telecom (who come twice).

We have people who manufacture and sell mainframe computers, and happy souls who go around installing and maintaining things.

In fact, you name it, and someone who makes it probably sponsors a Gloucester match.

We also have the people who place advertising boards around the ground, and the splendid people who make the programme you're reading now financially viable by taking advertising space. There are people who perform the same service by sponsoring our posters and Year Book, and the fellows who provide a match ball, now and then.

Of course, we don't expect these generous souls to support us without getting something back for it, and there are plenty of stories about people who have obtained very good business by inviting the right people along to 'their' game. I remember a senior executive of one company telling me that he could trace £500,000-worth of business directly to an afternoon at Kingsholm.

Which is all as it should be. One hand washes the other, and everyone benefits from the enterprise.

So our heartfelt and sincere thanks to all the individuals, companies and organisations who have helped us immeasurably through their sponsorship exercises. We hope you keep coming, and that you find the experience just as pleasurable, and profitable, as we do.

PATRONS' NIGHT

Wednesday, April 5th, next Wednesday week, as ever was, sees this year's episode in the continuing saga of the Gloucester RFC Patrons' Nights. The fun, games and frivolity start at 7.30 in the Complex, and if you're a Patron, all you need to get in is a ticket.

Andy Mitchell, Mervyn Ellway or Terry Tandy will be pleased to furnish the essential pasteboard for you, and everyone will be very pleased to see you and, perhaps, swap the odd convivial noggin.

See you there.

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

GOING TO THE FINAL?

Of course, at the time of writing, I don't know what happened last Saturday, or whether it's Bath or Gloucester who will be trotting along to Twickenham on April 29th for the Pilkington Cup Final.

Nevertheless, I have heard many people expressing the intention of seeing the match, and even been told of coaches being booked for the occasion, whether Gloucester is there or not.

If that's so, the sentiment does everyone concerned credit, but you could do Gloucester RFC a favour in the process.

It appears that tickets for the Final will be available from the Club, and that Gloucester RFC accumulate 10% of all such akkers received. You'd be doing everyone a favour, therefore, if, intending to make the trip, you get your Final tickets from here at Kingsholm.

Might as well have anything that's going, mightn't we?

FINAL STRETCH

After today, we have only one more scheduled home First XV match. Pity really, because two of the four games still to be played have a highly significant bearing on our final standing in the Courage Clubs Championship.

I suppose that the surprise packet of our new League structure has been Orrell, sitting there just above us in second place in the First Division. We have to play them in an away game on April 8th, and anyone who remembers our trip to Edge Hall Road in the Cup, a couple of seasons ago, knows that beating them there is not a job for the inexperienced or faint-hearted.

Sharing third position with us, at the moment, is the formidable Nottingham side, who did so well against Bath in the Cup Quarter Final. They are our last opponents of the season, due here on April 22nd. It would be appreciated by everyone if we had a full set of highly vocal supporters here on that day.

Looking at the situation, and not actually bothering to do the arithmetic, it seems to me that the results of those two games could make the difference between a highly creditable second spot in the League, and a ho-hum sort of spot about halfway down it. Or up it, depending on your mood of the moment.

United can fill in some of the blanks for you, however. We have Bridgend Sports here on April 1st — next Saturday, and Sale on the 15th; both highly attractive games.

There's a lot of life in the season yet.

UNBEATEN COLTS AGAIN?

And some of that life could well be supplied by our magnificent Colts team. You will no doubt remember that they finished last season unbeaten, a record to be envied by virtually any similar outfit, just about anywhere.

There is now a fighting chance that they could repeat the dose this season, which would be an incredible achievement, and should, perhaps, qualify them for one of those 'Team of the Year' awards which crop up at the end of each year's festivities.

Oddly enough, Reg Collins tells me that they regard their most dangerous opposition as Nuneaton, and as luck will have it, they're due to come to Kingsholm on Wednesday evening. Surely, that event must be worth an hour or two of your valuable time, and it would do the boys a power of good to have a reasonable crowd behind them, on that particular occasion.

After that, the Colts have to beat Brixham, on their own ground, on Sunday April 9th, which isn't a doddle either.

If the lads do achieve this unique double, it will mean that they have won twenty games, spread over two-and-a-half seasons without defeat. Bearing in mind the huge influence which ex-Colts have on the strength of our First XV side, it would appear that the future of the Club is in very competent hands indeed.

TAILPIECE

Did you notice that Old Cryptians now have their own set of floodlights?

I don't know what that will do for their playing standards, but my mole in those particular quarters tells me that it's having a highly significant effect on the bar takings.

PETER ARNOLD



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

Gloucester full-back Tim Smith has consistently stayed near the top of the national points standings this season and he is currently second behind Dusty Hare.

The Tandem Computers Rugby Union Statistics include all matches against Courage Clubs Championship National Divisions, the top 18 Welsh clubs and teams from the top two divisions in the McEwans National League plus County matches, Divisional matches, Pilkington Cup ties and internationals.

Leicester's Dusty Hare leads the way by a comfortable margin, but Tim Smith has stayed in the top bracket with Stuart Barnes of Bath lying third.

Also behind Smith — in 16th place — is England full-back Jon Webb.

In the try list Jeremy Guscott leads with 20 and his Bath teammate Audley Lumsden is second on 18, while Gloucester's Nick Price is on 16 alongside Tony Swift (Bath).

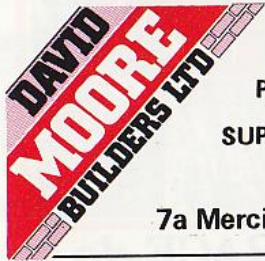
Tandem Top Points Scorers (up to and including 15th March)

	Total	
1. D. Hare (Leicester)	356	11T 54C 67P 1DG
2. T. Smith (Gloucester)	291	10T 46C 53P
3. S. Barnes (Bath)	249	6T 48C 40P 3DG
4. A. Kennedy (Saracens)	243	8T 29C 51P
5. S. Hodgkinson (Nottm)	230	5T 24C 48P 6DG
6. C. Arntzen (Moseley)	227	3T 43C 43P
7. C. Parker (Blackheath)	215	8T 30C 41P
8. S. Thresher (Quins)	198	7T 28C 38P
9. I. Aitchison (Waterloo)	193	4T 18C 42P 5DG
10. C. Howard (Rugby)	192	8T 29C 34P
11. David Pears (Sale)	190	5T 7C 48P 4DG
12. B. Mullen (L. Irish)	185	2T 21C 40P 5DG
13. R. Andrew (Wasps)	181	3T 29C 35P 2DG
14. A. Finnie (Bedford)	159	12C 38P 7DG
15. S. Irving (Headingley)	156	8T 26C 24P
16. J. Webb (Bristol)	150	4T 19C 32P
17. M. Livesey (Richmond)	144	15C 31P 7DG
18. J. Graves (Rosslyn Pk)	137	2T 24C 27P
19. S. Burnage (Fylde)	131	10C 37P
20. D. Cundy (Plymouth)	124	1T 27C 19P 3DG

Tandem Top Try Table

1. J. Guscott (Bath)	20
2. A. Lumsden (Bath)	18
3. B. Evans (Leicester)	17
4. T. Swift (Bath)	16
N. Price (Gloucester)	16

On the way to a try . . .



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