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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

30_p

**OFFICIAL
 PROGRAMME**



GLOUCESTER

v

NOTTINGHAM

Saturday
 22nd April, 1989

Kick off 3 p.m.

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HILLSBOROUGH

The sympathies of all sporting people, whichever football code they support, must, this weekend be extended to the friends and families of those who suffered in the FA Cup Semi Final disaster. If any of the Nottingham contingent, so welcome here today, were touched by this in any way at all, then our thoughts are with them, and we hope that, in some small measure, their visit to Kingsholm will take their minds off things, just for a short while.

In our own way, we have some small inkling of how such a tragedy must affect a town. Gloucester, as a City, is just as involved with, and proud of, its Rugby Club as Nottingham and Liverpool are with their Soccer teams, and the "supposing it had been us" thought sends a shiver down the spine. We may have been a little derisive about the attention to detail which the relevant Authorities imposed on us in our recent Cup Semi Final, but the necessity for it is now brought home to us in the most tragic way possible. The parallels are too close for comfort.

Obviously, we intend to stand, for a moment, in memory of the victims of the disaster before today's game, and it's only right that we should do so.

If anyone here today has contacts with Notts Forest AFC, then perhaps they would be good enough to take a copy of this programme along to the Club. Just to show that those of us who follow the 'other' brand of football are thinking of them today.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE END-OF-SEASON ROMP

We have become used, over the years, to spending this particular afternoon watching a happy little run-out against clubs which, not to put too fine a point on it, don't number in anyone's top ten in terms of playing strength. Indeed, I can remember one game where a depleted Gloucester scored over a dozen tries and didn't convert one of them. Keith Richardson, who was Captain, finished by handing the ball to the referee, and saying "Here — you have a go!"

It's not like that today. Anyone who saw the way that today's visitors gave Bath and almighty fright in the Pilkington Cup, will readily concede that Nottingham are one of the best sides in the country, and fully deserve their place, breathing down our necks for second spot in the Courage Clubs Championship.

In fact, one can't help cocking a quizzical eyebrow at the producers of 'Rugby Special' for covering a Third Division game today, when they could have had an extremely intriguing, and much more significant, match right here.

Nevertheless, it's difficult to think of a better game to conclude a thoroughly fascinating Kingsholm season. Second spot in the League would seem to depend on it, and it's by no means impossible for us to become the top points scorers in the First Division for this season. Nottingham will, of course, have a word or two to say about that, and won't concede points lightly. They would like to finish runners-up to Bath, too.

All those considerations apart, however, it's always good to see the lads from Ireland Avenue. Most of us will remember seeing a fresh, green youngster called 'Dusty' Hare making his Kingsholm debut here, wearing the green-and-white strip, and ever since then, their biennial visits have been occasions to look forward to.

We couldn't be in better company to savour our last visit before we go into our Summer hibernation, and we hope they thoroughly enjoy their trip.

THANKS TO DOWTY ROTOL

If we've left one of the best to last in terms of today's visiting team, we can say the same about our generous sponsor. Anyone who has lived in Gloucester more than ten minutes must have heard of Dowty Rotol, the largest company within the Aerospace Division of the world-famous Dowty Group. It's a particular pleasure, therefore, to welcome their representatives and guests to Kingsholm, and thank them for their valuable support.

You'll probably already know quite a bit about Dowty Rotol. Indeed, with 3,300 people working there, it would be a tremendous co-incidence if a fair few of them weren't along here today. Those supporters, of course, won't need telling that their company has a worldwide reputation for their expertise in producing Aircraft Landing Gear, Propellers, Flight Control Systems, Hydraulics, Gearboxes and Ram Air Turbines, as well as repair and overhaul of all those things. Neither will the news that Dowty Rotol's customers include just about every major aircraft constructors in the Western world come as any news to them.

You don't get to be that important by standing still. Investment in new technology has been immense, and further evidence of the trend is given by the new large landing gear shop, recently extended to cope with the runaway success of the European Airbus 320 programme.

In fact, two thirds of Dowty's Sales go to overseas customers, which contributes enormously to annual sales in the order of £140 million. Which ain't, as they say, hay.

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

The future looks bright too. Long-term orders will certainly increase sales well into the 1990's. There's a whole list of recently-signed orders and agreements which will keep everyone very busy for the foreseeable future. Nigel Cowie, who was kind enough to give me all that information, has no doubt where the credit for this remarkable success should go. "The growth", he writes, "is the result of commitment and co-operation of the entire workforce."

Well — we hope that those who are here today have a highly enjoyable time, and we thank them for coming.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH

We have certainly had our fair share of representative honours this season. Mike Hamlin, Malcolm Preedy, Richard Pascal, Ruari Maclean, Damian Cummins, John Etheridge, Neil Matthews, have all been recognised somewhere along the line, and I've probably forgotten someone at that. And if so, I apologise.

The 'Jewel in the Crown' (if he'll pardon the expression) must, however be Mike Teague climaxing a remarkably successful International campaign with his selection for the Lions. It's very satisfying, therefore, that he has retained his place, following his injury at the start of the Welsh game, for the England side to play Romania in May. Good on you, Teaguey.

And, while I'm about it, we'd all like to offer our humble good wishes to Simon Hodgkinson for his — much overdue, in my opinion — call-up for that same Bucharest match. At full back, of course, although you may remember that we first saw him at Kingsholm playing at outside half. And bringing a lot of flair to the job, too.

We hope they both have blinders.

DIG DEEP

While Gloucester is famous for its cherry-and-white strip, the old black-and-white one is just as familiar to anyone who comes here at all regularly. I refer, of course, to the stalwart souls from St. John's Ambulance, who do such a sterling job of straightening out slightly buckled players, and attending to other people who have come over all unnecessary during the course of a match. Quite simply, we'd be in considerable bother without them.

Once a season, we are happy for them to make a collection, as some small recognition for their efforts. Today's the day: so please forgo the price of a pint or so, and make a contribution when the bucket welders come round. It will be much appreciated, and well used.

And it isn't a bad way to say 'Thanks' is it?

THANKS ALL ROUND

So many people to thank, so little space to do it in. We've had a thoroughly interesting and highly successful season — a place in the upper echelons of the first Division, and a Cup Semi-Final must be regarded as highly satisfactory, even if we'd all like to have done just that much better.

Of course, the players have to 'do the biz' on the field, but they wouldn't be able to without a veritable army of people who give their time, skills and muscle in so many ways, to make Gloucester one of the best Clubs in Britain. The ground wouldn't look so good, or be such a famous venue if a lot of people didn't look after it. You wouldn't be able to get a programme unless the lads sold them to you, and someone organised them to do so. And so on.

The President, Chairman, and Secretaries ask me to relay their sincere thanks to everyone who helps in any way whatsoever. And that includes the regular supporters without whom there wouldn't be a Gloucester RFC. You are appreciated.

400 CLUB

I don't have full details, but I'm told that the final, sooper-doooper Draw Night of the Season will take place next Friday as ever was. Always a good night out, even if you don't win anything. And you might.

TAILPIECE

I'm indebted to a correspondent who I can't acknowledge adequately, because I couldn't read his signature. He sent me a copy of a cutting from the 'Irish Independent' newspaper, bearing an action photograph from the England v. Ireland game. I was fascinated to read that it features the England No. 6, one 'Michael McTeague'.

Begorrah and Bejabers!
Summer well.

PETER ARNOLD



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

Gloucester Rugby Club can clinch runners-up spot in the Courage Clubs Championship National Division One with a win against Nottingham today.

But defeat would leave Nottingham in with a chance of second place behind runaway leaders Bath.

Four clubs are on 13 points — seven behind Bath — going into today's game. They are Gloucester, Wasps, Nottingham and Orrell.

And today's fixtures are: Bristol v. Liverpool St. Helens, Gloucester v. Nottingham, Harlequins v. Moseley, Leicester v. Bath, Rosslyn Park v. Orrell, Waterloo v. Wasps.

That Leicester v. Bath league match has to go ahead even though the clubs meet again in the Pilkington Cup final a week later.

The RFU have decided the rules and regulations of the League system have to be upheld and the match must be played today.

Bath had asked that the Pilkington Cup final should also count for League points.

A World record attendance of 58,000 is expected for the Pilkington final as Bath, who won the Cup in four successive years from 1984 to 1987, and Leicester, with three wins in a row from 1979 to 1981, clash at Twickenham.

Fred Howard (Liverpool) will be the referee, while Ian Bullerwell (East Midlands) and Roger Quittenton (London) have been appointed touch judges.

The Pilkington Cup starts again next July — the draw for the first round of the 1989-90 competition will be at the London Hilton on July 7.

Lydney, Berry Hill and Drybrook are also involved in next season's competition.

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP

National Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Bath	10	10	0	0	251	83	20
Gloucester	10	6	1	3	202	106	13
Wasps	10	6	1	3	177	138	13
Nottingham	10	6	1	3	136	109	13
Orrell	10	6	1	3	135	138	13
Leicester	10	5	1	4	174	187	11
Bristol	10	5	0	5	138	103	10
Harlequins	10	4	0	6	156	169	8
Rosslyn Park	10	4	0	6	153	195	8
Moseley	10	3	0	7	98	204	6
Waterloo	10	1	1	8	120	206	3
Liverpool St. Helens	10	1	0	9	102	204	2

National Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Saracens	10	10	0	0	241	71	20
Bedford	10	6	1	3	126	172	13
Coventry	10	6	0	4	141	119	12
London Irish	10	5	2	3	173	200	12
Headingley	10	5	1	4	170	124	11
Sale	10	5	1	4	180	137	11
Northampton	10	5	1	4	143	131	11
Gosforth	10	4	0	6	167	199	8
Blackheath	10	3	1	6	159	123	7
Richmond	10	3	1	6	100	207	7
London Scottish	10	2	1	7	122	151	5
London Welsh	10	1	1	8	125	213	3

National Division 3

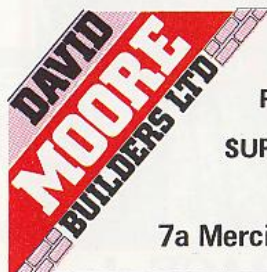
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Plymouth Albion	10	10	0	0	291	77	20
Wakefield	10	9	0	1	269	100	18
Rugby	10	9	0	1	254	86	18
West Hartlepool	10	5	1	4	152	113	11
Nuneaton	10	5	0	5	165	182	10
Exeter	10	4	0	6	130	154	8
Fylde	10	4	0	6	127	157	8
Sheffield	10	3	1	6	146	173	7
Vale of Lune	10	3	1	6	94	133	7
Askeans	10	3	1	6	126	203	7
Metropolitan Police	10	3	0	7	98	262	6
Maidstone	10	0	0	10	62	274	0

Area League North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Roundhay	9	8	0	1	225	71	16
Broughton Park	9	8	0	1	176	74	16
Preston Grasshoppers	9	5	0	4	146	116	10
Stourbridge	9	5	0	4	100	76	10
Morley	9	5	0	4	119	118	10
Northern	9	4	0	5	157	116	8
Winnington Park	9	4	0	5	165	139	8
Durham City	9	4	0	5	163	154	8
Lichfield	9	4	0	5	102	103	8
Stoke on Trent	9	3	0	6	85	129	6
Birmingham	10	0	0	10	29	371	0

Area League South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Lydney	9	8	1	0	225	82	17
Havant	9	7	1	1	161	77	15
Camborne	9	6	1	2	198	117	13
Redruth	9	6	1	2	121	65	13
Sudbury	9	4	1	4	132	89	9
Cheltenham	9	3	2	4	102	151	8
Salisbury	9	3	1	5	76	130	7
Stroud	9	3	0	6	119	160	6
Ealing	10	3	0	7	144	188	6
Southend	9	3	0	6	100	153	6
Sidcup	9	0	0	9	65	231	0



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