



THE
**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB**

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

V
STROUD

Tuesday, September 5th 1989
Kick-Off 7.00pm

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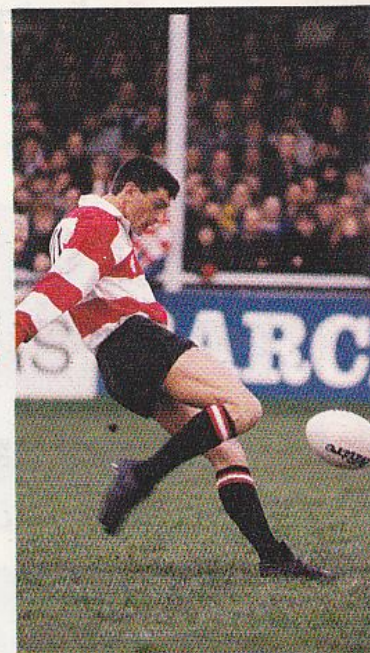
1a Kingsholm Rd

40p.

Official Programme

142

Lucky Number



TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

WELCOME HOME

It's always pleasant when neighbours drop in to ask you how you enjoyed your summer holidays. Which is about what is happening this evening. In fact, our early encounter with Stroud has become one of the traditions of the Season — an opportunity to see one or two new faces, estimate how the close-season lay-off has aged last season's stalwarts, and remember the name of the guy who always stands a few feet away from you, and who you only ever see at Kingsholm.

Looked at another way, this particular game presents the anticipated joys of the next eight months as a blank sheet of paper. What are the players going to write on it? Perfect poetry, or the Rugby equivalent of 'There was a young lady of . . . ?'

One thing's for sure — we'll find it difficult to do much better than we did last season. To have been runners-up in the Courage Clubs Championship, and only just lost in the Semi Final of the Pilkington Cup is a record only bettered by the Bath side. And they're not unbeatable, as we proved last time round.

Personally, I think we haven't yet seen the best of the current Gloucester side. I think there is a great deal of potential unrealised as yet, and the strengths of the squad reaches right down to Colts level. I'm not going to pontificate about personalities at this stage — they'll inevitably emerge as the campaign develops — but there's nothing wrong with the Club's spirit, or the determination to do well.

That's all for the future though. Right now, the major thing is to offer a heartfelt welcome to our old friends from Stroud, and to express the hope that they do as well in their sphere of the Game as we fondly hope Gloucester do in theirs.

AND THE BEST OF BRITISH . . .

It's only right to take the earliest opportunity to wish the very best of luck to our new First XV Captain, Mike Hamlin. He'll have a hard act to follow in Marcus Hanaford, but he's more than capable of meeting the challenge. Remember, Mike has several Divisional games under his belt now, and that he went to Spain with the England 'B's' as second-choice outside half, and came back as Number One. That must put him in the top handful of English No. 10's.

You never know what effect the Captaincy will

have on a player. Sometimes, it can bring the best out of him, and one or two good judges I have spoken to reckon that Mike will fall into that bracket. We all fervently hope that such will, indeed, be the case, and if that's so, we could be in for a very good season indeed.

Good wishes are also in order in the case of Coach Keith Richardson. We all know what a great job he — and his assistants, let's not forget — have done at Kingsholm during his tenure of office, and now he has added the South West Divisional side to his responsibilities.

That's a huge challenge, and one which, I'm sure, he's more than equal to. It's time our lot won that Championship, and K. Richardson Esq. is just the bloke to see that they do.

THANKS TO 'CUFS'

'CUFS', pronounced 'Cuffs', is the informal acronym for 'Commercial Union Financial Services', and they have broken new ground, this season, by providing generous Sponsorship for two successive home games: this one, and the visit of Cheltenham, on Wednesday the 13th. That's not the only original thing about their form of Sponsorship, either, about which more later.

Commercial Union Financial Services is the arm of the world-famous CU insurance organisation which exists to give advice and help on financial matters for the individual. You'll be aware of Commercial Union's famous slogan about 'not making a drama out of a crisis', and you could say that CUFS aim in life is to make sure that the crisis doesn't arise in the first place.

CUFS has been in operation for some three years, growing from an organisation set up by Commercial Union — which has now been around for 128 years — to provide financial advice for its own millions of customers, worldwide. You could say, therefore, that few, if any, such organisations have more experience or expertise at their fingertips.

Mortgages, Life Assurance, Investment, Pensions . . . all such matters fall with CUFS' ambit. Peter Goodwin, who has a foot in all three camps by supporting Gloucester, living in Stroud and working in Cheltenham, tells me that he finds he can do a lot of good for retired people, finding that their pension systems and available capital can be utilised much

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

more effectively than is often the case. It's certainly worth giving him a ring on Cheltenham 226666, just to find out if you fall into that category.

Meanwhile, to our onions, as the French say. You're well used to the 'Lucky Programme Number' system, which we've been operating for some years through the generosity of Tyre Sales Limited. For the next two home matches, that system will be extended by CUFS. Holders of programmes bearing numbers drawn out of the hat at half time, will be entitled to either a posh CU Golf Umbrella, or a current copy of 'Rothman's Rugby Handbook'. The actual numbers of prizes so presented, will depend on the numbers of programmes sold, so listen out at half time.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL . . .

CUFS are also running another intriguing competition, for similar prizes, which you might like to have a go at. Consider the following Limerick:

*'A forward, one day in the rain'
Got kicked, where it caused him great pain,
Said his nubile young wife,
"It's quite changed our life,
....."*

All you have to do, is complete the poem by adding the last line. Something like *"Please go out and do it again"*, would fill the bill, perhaps.

Why not give it a try? Anyone who sings rugby songs must be able to handle a simple Limerick, after all. Send your entry to: PETER GOODWIN, COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL SERVICES, CHAPEL HOUSE, ST. GEORGES SQUARE, CHELTENHAM GL50 3LJ. Or hand it to Peter in the Bar afterwards. Closing date Friday, September 22nd. And I'll repeat the whole thing in the Cheltenham Programme, next week.

Meanwhile, thanks to CUFS for such a generous and imaginative form of Sponsorship.

THINGS ARE GETTING TIGHTER

In the wake of the Hillsborough disaster, the Police are, understandably, becoming much tighter on enforcement of the various rules and regulations affecting crowd safety. Meetings between them and Club Officials on the subject are continuing, and I'll certainly let you know if any changes to our normal ways of doing things emerge from the discussions. At the moment, however, we'd appreciate it if you would co-operate as fully as you can, for example, in keeping stairs and gangways clear. Incidentally, I'm told that, for these reasons, the Bath game is likely to be all-ticket. Details when I have them.

EARLY BATH

As aforesaid, the next First XV home game is against Cheltenham, next Wednesday. Before that, however, it might be worth your while to take an early chance to see the United by coming along to their game with Coventry Extra Firsts on Saturday next. On the other hand, the Firsts have their opening League game of the season at Moseley, and you could well want to follow them there. It is, after all, essential that we have a good start.

On Saturday, September 16th, the Firsts have a visit from our old friends from Pontypridd, always a hard-fought game, and then, on Saturday 23rd, the Champion Bath side arrive, and I don't need to expand on that, do I?

HAIL AND FAREWELL

It was good to see that Terry Phillips has now been Elevated to the Peerage in the ranks of the hierarchy at the 'Citizen'. He's a good bloke in a job he'll do superbly, and we all wish him the best of luck.

The unfortunate thing is that he won't, now, be able to give his invaluable help in contributing to this programme each week. We thank him for his efforts, over the past couple of seasons, and assure him that he will always find a welcome here at Kingsholm. And I don't suppose he'll be an absentee very often.

Meanwhile, the other side of the coin is that his place is being taken by Steve Fraser, who has already written some trenchant reports for the 'Citizen' and makes his programme 'debut', tonight.

Welcome Steve! Hope you enjoy the whole scene.

SEASON TICKETS

Ooh! Yes! Nearly forgot. Season tickets will be on sale in the Clubhouse after the match.

TAILPIECE

You can't get away from it, can you? I had just arrived in sunny Cornwall, a few weeks ago, and, naturally, visited the local pub on the first evening. My companion introduced me to an obvious Regular, by simply saying: "This is my cousin Peter from Gloucester." Please note, that the word 'Rugby' hadn't even been mentioned.

"Oh yes!" he said, "How's Tommy Palmer?"

It appears that the fellow concerned, name of Chenoweth, had played against the 'Pollocks', (Golden Oldies, to the uninitiated) on several occasions, and just assumed that, if I came from Gloucester, I must know Tom Palmer.

We chatted, and he sent his good wishes to all that happy band, with special reference to Mike Booth and Norman Partridge.

Be sure your sins will find you out.



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TALKING RUGBY

with
Steve Fraser



Rugby snobs who have in the past accused Gloucester of playing dull ten man rugby are in for a surprise this season — if Saturday's match against Swansea is anything to go by.

Coach Keith Richardson is continuing to guide the Cherry and Whites into new territory — with dazzling results.

The considerable Gloucester contingent who made the trip to Swansea at the weekend saw some electrifying play from both teams in a thoroughly enjoyable encounter.

With a platform created by the dominance of the pack in the set-pieces, the Gloucester three-quarters were in no way overshadowed by their more illustrious opposite numbers.

Best of all, at key moments Gloucester were quicker witted than the home side.

Two of the tries came because Swansea were caught on the hop.

In the first, Malcolm Preedy took a swift tap penalty in a situation where Swansea expected Gloucester to kick. Marcus Hannaford, Richard Mogg and Derrick Morgan were quick in support for Mogg to go over.

Hannaford again took Swansea by surprise close to the final whistle by taking a short penalty, faking a pass and simply cutting in himself as the Welshmen waited for him to release the ball.

Whichever way this evening's clash goes, let us hope it contains moments of that calibre.

Stroud start the season looking to shake off the problems of recent times. Last season ended in bitter disappointment with relegation from Area League South to South West Division One.

Ahead lie clashes with tough local rivals Matson and Berry Hill so it is important they begin to get it right. New captain Jerry Perrins says promotion is their target but they will have to improve on last Saturday's performance where they scraped home only narrowly against Old Edwardians.

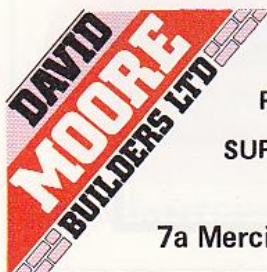
They can take little solace from recent

results against Gloucester — they lost 34-0 at home last season and 49-6 the season before — but they have upset the apple cart in the past and can do so again.

Seven seasons ago they led Gloucester 15-7 at half-time at Fromehall Park and survived a spirited fight-back to win 21-16. That was their last victory in this traditional fixture but rugby is never short of surprises and their time will surely come again.



Scrum-half Marcus Hannaford on the break



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