



FOUNDED 1873

THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

v CHELTENHAM

Wednesday,
September 13th 1989
Kick-Off 7.00pm

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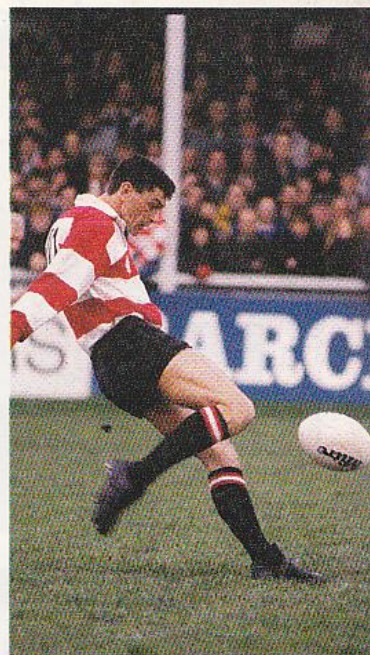
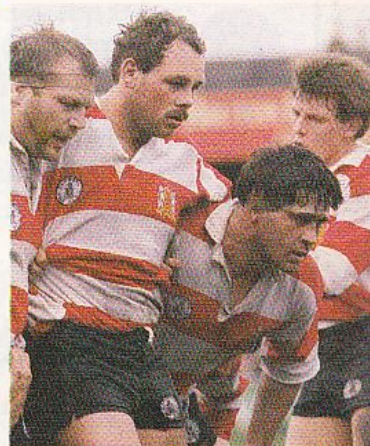
The Winner of today's
Official Programme
Draw will receive £10 from

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Official Programme



310

Lucky Number

(Cherry & White)

H/T		

- | | |
|-----|-------------|
| 15. | N. Marment |
| 14. | A. Curtis |
| 13. | D. Cummins |
| 12. | P. Taylor |
| 11. | C. Barton |
| 10. | N. Matthews |
| 9. | L. Gardner |
| 8. | |
| 7. | |
| 6. | |
| 5. | |
| 4. | |
| 3. | |
| 2. | |
| 1. | |

J. Roberts
R. Phillips
N. Scrivens

(I) — International

Cumulative
Match
Score[illegible]

(Red & Black)

1.	R. Cook			
2.	D. Kearsey			
3.	P. Holmyard			
4.	R. Yates			
5.	J. Conway			
6.	P. Sargison			
7.	M. Steele			
8.	C. Kelly			

G. Smith
R. Bolton
D. Billingham
M. Parry

F/T		

TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

THE NIGHT WE CAME SECOND

Last season, Gloucester won 34 games out of 44, and scored 1,028 points. Even those sections of the Press which don't normally regard Gloucester as second only to Mother Theresa in saintliness and rectitude, happily conceded it to be one of the best records in Britain, and congratulated us therefore.

But we lost to Cheltenham.

I know all the excuses, of course. We had a predominantly second-string side out. The vital Bath Semi-Final was just around the corner. Players used to high-pressure league fixtures couldn't get their minds in gear for a mere local 'friendly'.

Codswallop. The fact is, that we lost to Cheltenham, and when future historians look back on the records of the 1988/9 season, all such considerations will have been forgotten, and won't cut much ice anyway.

In any case, that attitude doesn't do justice to a Cheltenham side which is now showing distinct promise after several seasons in the doldrums. They put several praiseworthy results together, towards the end of the Rugby year, and the win against the Old Enemy from just up the road must have been highly encouraging for them.

That's very healthy all round. Gloucester didn't get where it is today without having the basis of a very strong local Rugby scene with which to make comparisons, and a formidable Cheltenham would certainly concentrate the mind wonderfully, as well as providing stern opposition against which to test players with ambitions to make their marks on the League Scene.

We all hope that Cheltenham's Renaissance continues, this season, and it just makes our next-door neighbours even more welcome than they invariably are. This particular fixture has always had a special place in the Kingsholm calendar, and I for one, am looking forward to the odd noggin with them after the game.

Have a good evening chaps. But just be careful, will you? To paraphrase Lady Bracknell, to lose one game against Cheltenham may be unfortunate, but to lose two, looks like carelessness.

INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

As usual, we have to think about allocations for International tickets, before we've had time to change gear from the cricket season. The system is as usual — see Terry Tandy or David Foyle and snaffle an application form.

This year, applications have to be in to Twickenham by September 30th, so better get a wiggle on. It's also worth pointing out that the situation may well be even more horrendous than usual, in that all the new building work at Twickenham has restricted the number of tickets available to clubs still further. Terry tells me that it could well work out that allocations will be restricted to one ticket for one match per member. But we'll have to wait and see.

THANKS (AGAIN) TO CUFS

Tonight sees the second leg of what Americans, or steam railway buffs, would call a 'double header'. Commercial Union Financial Services — CUFS for short — are following up their generous sponsorship of last week's game against Stroud by repeating the very welcome dose this week.

Anyone who saw the Stroud programme will remember that CUFS are Commercial Union's Financial Services arm. They use the undoubted experience and expertise, gained by helping their millions of customers, worldwide, to advise anyone with a requirement on such vital matters as Mortgages, Life Assurance, Investment and Pensions. If you have such a problem, and, like me, regard anyone who sponsors two successive Kingsholm matches as someone worthy of your patronage, then the cat to contact is Peter Goodwin on Cheltenham 226666.

But Peter isn't the sort of guy to shell out his sponsorship money and sit back and wait for things to happen. In fact, anyone with a programme has a chance to benefit from his company's largesse.

First, he's organised an extension to our usual 'Lucky Programme' system, in that, in addition to the 'Titillating Tenner', regularly and generously provided by Tyre Sales Limited, he is donating pleasant prizes in the form of current 'Rothmans Rugby Handbooks' and voluminous and colourful

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

Commercial Union golf umbrellas. The winning numbers will be announced at half-time, and can be claimed by dropping in to the Complex.

Even more imaginatively, he's got a limerick competition going. For anyone who didn't see last week's programme, the idea is to supply the last line to the following poetic epic:

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

Now use your imagination. My own entry reads: "Please go back and do it again!", but I've no doubt you've got better ideas.

Send your entry to: PETER GOODWIN, COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL SERVICES, CHAPEL HOUSE, ST. GEORGES SQUARE, CHELTENHAM GL50 3LJ, by Friday, September 23rd. Or declaim it to Peter in the bar afterwards.

Meanwhile,

*Those splendid young chaps known as CUFs,
Are surely made of the right stuff,
To help out our sport,
With this sort of support —
We really can't thank them enough!*

GETTING INTO OUR STRIDE

On Saturday, we have our first visit from Welsh opposition. Our old friends from Pontypridd arrive, and that should be a good game. On the following Wednesday, we're away to Clifton, and then, on the 23rd, we have the Big Battalions from Bath arriving. No doubt Gareth Chilcott will be wanting to make a point following his omission from the England Squad. You won't want to miss that one, anyway.

THREE FOR THE SQUAD

Congratulations to the Gloucester trio who have been selected for the England squad training session next weekend. Of course, if Mike Teague had not featured in the list, it would have been as surprising as if they'd dropped King Henry V from the Battle of Agincourt, but best wishes are in order, nonetheless.

It's especially good to see Kevin Dunn and John Etheridge, both 'veterans' of the England 'B' tour, of course, included and we're sure they'll do well.

We're told that the session is in preparation for the England v. Fiji game on November 4th, and if

you're looking for omens, it's worth remembering that the last time the Fijians were here, John Gadd played and scored two tries.

I know. I was there.

NO TUMP FOR BATH

Our friends from the Gloucestershire Constabulary, understandably meticulous after the Hillsborough disaster, are imposing various conditions for the Bath game on September 23rd. To start with, the match will certainly be an all-ticket affair, and I'll let you know full details when discussions are complete.

One thing's for sure: the Tump will not be in use, so the gate decreases accordingly. Pity, but there you are.

Is this a trend for the future? Could be, but luckily most of our 'big' League games are away fixtures this season, so it shouldn't be too much of a problem in the short term. Cup games — which are all-ticket anyway, of course — could be another matter.

It all seems a bit ironic, when you consider that we've just spent a quarter-million quid on 'improving' the place, with just these considerations in mind.

SITS. VAC.

Looking for a part-time job to augment the pocket money? You could find one, right here. The Club is looking for 'ground staff' for general duties around the ground, plus some extra stewards, mainly, but not exclusively, for First XV match days.

We also require someone to run the new Sponsors' Bar, when it comes into operation in a week or two's time. Again, First Team days only. If any of these interest you, or anyone you know, Terry Tandy will give you details.

TAILPIECE

Heard at the United game against Swansea. Two chaps chatting about the potential of some of the players on view. One remarks:

"Yes. Useful young scrum half that. And I like the look of the hooker. And, tell you what, that No. 6 will make it too!"

For anyone who wasn't here, I should point out that the player in question was a promising youngster called J. Gadd.



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TALKING RUGBY

with
Steve Fraser



Mighty Bath, Gloucester's next Courage League opponents, began their defence of the championship in ominously good form on Saturday.

Stuart Barnes gave a true captain's performance, running in two tries and converting four altogether as the hapless Harlequins were put to the sword 32-12 at the Recreation Ground.

Any hopes that Gloucester might benefit by playing the hot favourites early in the season were dismissed in a match of great quality, to be playing away this season.

The Cherry and Whites also got off to a winning start, beating Moseley 16-12 at The Reddings. But if the result was pleasing, the manner in which it was secured was less so.

The pressure on both sides to start their league campaigns with a victory produced an unattractive battle of the packs punctuated by periodic flare-ups.

The Gloucester pack were clearly frustrated by their hosts' spoiling tactics and it was not until late in the first half that they gained the ascendancy.

A lot of the problems were sorted out at half-time and they were well in control by the final whistle. But if they take that long to settle when Barnes leads out Bath on September 23, it could be a painful afternoon for the Kingsholm faithful.

While Bath dazzled and Gloucester battled, the other front-runners for the league title began to emerge. Wasps showed their determination to improve on last season's third place with their first ever league win over Leicester, 29-12 at Sudbury.

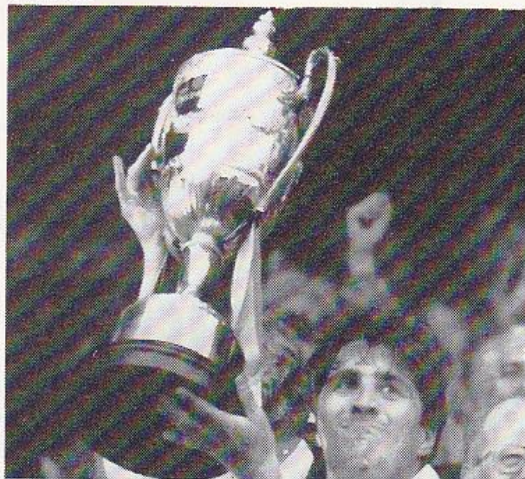
Dean Richards unhappy first league match as captain of Leicester ended abruptly in the second half when he jarred a shoulder and left the field in agony.

Bristol toiled to a 15-12 victory over Orrell at Edge Hall Road in a match short on discipline and ideas. Gloucester's recent record against their West Country rivals makes them the one side Mike Hamlin's men are almost happier

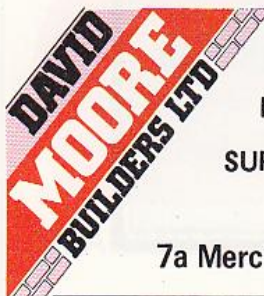
Bedford's 22-3 win over Saracens in the battle of the newly promoted suggested they might survive in the higher division. Gloucester entertain both sides at Kingsholm later this year.

But the shock win of the day was Rosslyn Park's 11-6 win over Nottingham. Park's new Scrum-half Richard Moon did to his old club what Ruari Maclean would undoubtedly like to have done to Gloucester on Saturday.

Already it looks as if Gloucester's next two Courage League clashes — against Bath next week and Wasps on October 14 — will be crucial.



Bath captain Stuart Barnes lifts the Pilkington Cup last season



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