



FOUNDED 1873

# THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

## v PONTYPRIDD

Saturday, September 16th 1989  
Kick-Off 3.00pm

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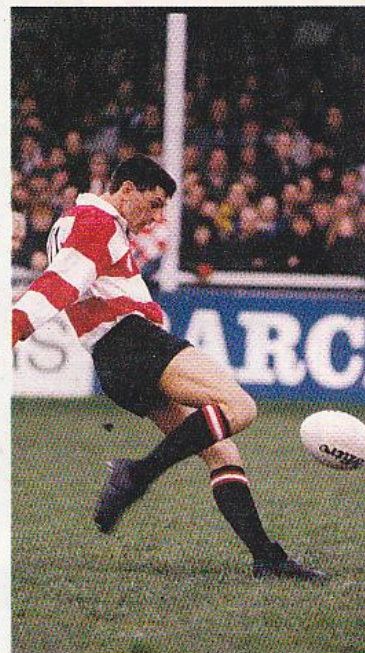
1a Kingsholm Rd

**40p.**

Official Programme

**675**

Lucky Number





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(Cherry & White)

12	H/T	3

1. M. Preedy (1)
2. J. Hawker
3. P. Jones
4. N. Scrivens
5. J. Brain
6. J. Gadd
7. I. Smith
8. B. Clark

16. I. Roddan
17. N. Mathews
18. R. Pascall

(1) — International

Referee: D. MATTHEWS (Liverpool Society)

Cumulative  
Match  
Score[illegible]

(Black & White)

1. S. Brain
2. P. John
3. P. Knight
4. J. Scarlett
5. D. Davies
6. D. Hopkins
7. S. Griffin
8. H. Evans

16. R. Davies  
17. R. Evans  
18. M. Knowles

15 F/T 10



# TOUCH LINES

by  
Peter Arnold

## 'WE'LL KEEP A WELCOME ...'

Over the weekend, someone told me, with justifiable pride, "We have the Dunvant Male Voice Choir at the Cathedral on October 9th." To which my immediate reply was, "That's nothing — we have Pontypridd at Kingsholm on September 16th."

It isn't very often that we have the opportunity to forestall the Dean and Chapter. This year, however, the annual invasion by the Welsh hordes starts here, rather than in the rather more rarefied atmosphere of that tall building down Westgate Street.

Sorry if that seems irreverent, and I've no doubt that the stout tenors and basses from Dunvant will represent excellent value, if you're into that sort of thing, but precisely the same claim can be made about today's very welcome visitors to Kingsholm.

It's not our first encounter with Welsh opposition, this season, of course. For the second year in a row, we scored more than 30 against Swansea, on the opening Saturday, while, at the same time, United were doing unmentionable things to the second string from the same opposition. Only a few seasons ago, that would have argued a potential cricket score against Pontypridd, but things move on, and such comparisons are no longer valid.

I'm open to correction, but I don't remember the lads from Sardis Road winning at Kingsholm, since they stepped in and took over the fixture after Cardiff unaccountably dropped us. On their own patch, things have often been different, of course, and Pontypridd are definitely not an outfit to be taken lightly. They have always had a formidable pack of forwards, and when did you ever see a set of Welsh backs who didn't try to run the ball at you?

I haven't seen the Gloucester side, at the time of writing, but I suppose that with League fixtures against Moseley last Saturday, and Bath, next week, the selectors may wish to rest a few people, but we should be in for a good game, in any case.

Bearing in mind the hospitality always afforded us at Sardis Road, I sincerely hope that our visitors have a thoroughly good time today, on and off the field.

That's what the game's about, after all.

## THANKS TO STOATE & BISHOP

Our (quite literally) Friendly Neighbourhood printers, Stoate & Bishop, do a splendid job for us, year in and year out, not only by printing this programme, but also by applying their brand of expertise to a whole wealth of other printed material, including the Year Book. They also have the extraordinary generosity to act as Sponsors, once a year, and today is it.

It is therefore highly appropriate that their day at Kingsholm should be the very one when our brand-new Sponsors Bar is open for the first time. It's nice that such very old friends and suppliers being the people who break new ground, so to speak.

If you think about it, producing our programme isn't the easiest of jobs. Each one has to have an individual number, to start with, so that someone can win a tenner, and the quantities actually printed vary from week to week. Although much of the material is pre-printed in one fell swoop, these notes, Steve Fraser's and the team sheets tend to arrive at the last minute, so that information is as topical as possible. It's also not easy to know when the Opposition's team details arrive. In fact, it's a messy sort of job, and one which demands a lot of attention to detail.

And Stoate & Bishop do have other things to do as well. They are undoubtedly one of the leading print organisations in the area, providing both litho and letterpress facilities, as well as handling phototypesetting, and providing a design service. And as I have reason to know, they're very good at their job.

Early next year, the company enters a new phase of development. They will be consolidating their Cheltenham operations at new premises on the Kingsditch trading estate, which will make life much easier for them.

Don't worry though. It doesn't mean that another Gloucester landmark is soon to disappear. That distinctive blue-and-white sign will still grace the end of St. Catherine's Street, and you'll still know where you are when you stagger out after the game.

Good thing too. I'd hate to have to trek all the way to Cheltenham to deliver my notes, each week.

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



## TICKETS FOR THE BATH GAME

As announced previously, the Police have insisted that next week's eagerly-anticipated League game against Bath be an all-ticket affair. This follows the lessons learned after the Hillsborough tragedy.

The situation is that we shall not be able to use the Tump at all, and the usual permitted gate has been reduced even further than that. The last time Bath were here, we had a crowd of 10,500, but we're not going to be able to accommodate anything like that number this time.

Please note, Season Ticket holders will not — repeat NOT — be required to produce a separate ticket. They will be able to walk in as usual, except that admission will be strictly via the turnstiles, so that an accurate check on numbers can be maintained.

It is anticipated that all Stand places will be taken up by season ticket holders, so Ground tickets only will be available. They will be at normal Saturday afternoon prices.

Ground tickets will be available today. Precisely where, I don't know at the moment, but there will be loudspeaker announcements with details. They will be sold with a limitation of FIVE per person.

As for availability during the week, it rather depends on how many are left to sell. Certainly, there will be some on sale in the Social Club all week, but if you normally patronise any of our other outlets, better watch the press for announcements.

On the day, any remaining Ground tickets will ONLY be available from the turnstiles on Worcester Street. Ticket holders, only, at Dean's Walk, please. EVERYONE, including the little band of Season Ticket holders who tend to wander in through the Players and Officials entrance, will be required to enter the ground via turnstile. How else can we keep a strict check on numbers?

And one Awful Warning. Any abuse of Season Tickets will be dealt with severely by the Club, and also, I'm told, by the Police.

Phew! Quite a screed. One thing which does emerge from it all, is that you'd do everyone a favour — including yourself — by getting here early, and avoiding, as much as possible, a crush at the turnstiles. Apart from anything else, when we've sold our permitted number of tickets, there simply won't be any more. So if you're not armed with the magic piece of cardboard, you could miss out if you leave things to the last minute.

It's all a bit of a hassle, I know, but bearing in mind what happened at Hillsborough, and after,

one can't really blame the Police for taking a harder line than they have hitherto. They have a job to do, after all.

## SEASON TICKETS

Season tickets — excellent value, of course — are on sale in the Clubhouse. But not between next Thursday and Saturday. That's so that an accurate check on the likely attendance at the Bath game can be maintained. Before and after then — be our guest.

## SHOP!

It also occurs to me that you might want to update sweaters, ties or whatever, in your efforts to support the lads next Saturday. In that case, John Beaman tells me that there is a new range of gear available at the Shop, and he'll be delighted to sell you some of it.

## LIFE AFTER BATH

The season doesn't actually come to a shuddering halt after the Bath encounter, although this particular programme may tend to give that impression. Next Tuesday, there is an away game at Clifton, followed by a home fixture against Exeter on Saturday week. Then we finish the month on Saturday, the 30th by entertaining the other 'Ponty' — Pontypool.

You might also like to note that we have a game against British Police on Wednesday, October 4th, part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the Gloucestershire Constabulary. I'm told that the Police are intending to bring their strongest possible side, although it's pity that France v. British Lions happens to take place on exactly the same day, which could well exclude Messrs. Dooley, Ackford and Richards.

## TAILPIECE

Teletext is a marvellous invention, and it's surprising what snippets of information one can glean from it. For example, I notice that, on the day when everyone else is playing their first-round Pilkington Cup games, Askeans are down to entertain a lady called 'Red Ruth'.

What? All of 'em? Lucky old Ruth.



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# TALKING RUGBY

with  
**Steve Fraser**



Lock John Etheridge's progress from Gloucester All Blue to England prospect continued this weekend when he joined a national squad training session.

It has been an eventful week for the 24-year-old. On Tuesday he was named in the South West side to face Leinster in Ireland. The following day he scored a try in his 100th appearance for Gloucester.

And this weekend he and hooker Kevin Dunn are in London with the 41 strong England squad from which most of the team to face Fiji on November 4 will be picked.

"Too Tall" already has three appearances with the England B team under his belt against Italy, Spain and a Basque select. His height and strength make him one of the natural successors to the England partnership of Wade Dooley and Paul Ackford.

But he is the unenviable position of competing for places with the best second row forwards in the British Isles and both are at the height of their careers after commanding performances in the British Lions Test victory in Australia.

Tries have been few and far between for the 6ft 6in giant. His try on Wednesday was his fourth in first team action.

Despite the relative insignificance of the match, it came at a crucial time for Gloucester when they were trailing 13-3 with half an hour to go. Greg Keyse broke from a line-out and Etheridge was there in support as the pack drove over the line.

He is one of just three Gloucester players named in the Bath dominated South West team for the November trip to Ireland, teaming up with one of the locks he will face in next Saturday's crucial Courage League clash with Bath at Kingsholm, John Morrison.

Prop Malcolm Preedy and hooker Dunn are also in the team, with Richard Pascall, Mike Hamlin and Marcus Hannaford named as replacements.

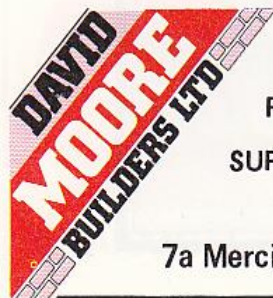
As expected, Bath supply two-thirds of the

team. But there will be several Gloucester players out to prove the selectors wrong in Saturday's long-awaited encounter.

For more on that match, see tonight's Citizen Pink Un.



*John Etheridge*



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