



THE
**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB**

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

v
EXETER

Wednesday,
September 27th 1989
Kick-Off 7.00pm

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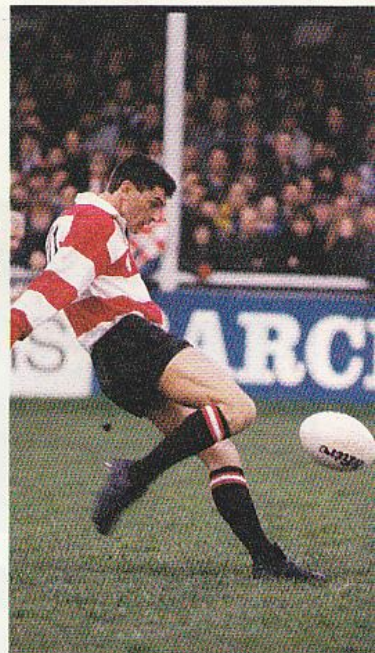
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GLOUCESTER XV 37 PTS
(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts
1	2	9
3		12
1		4
1		4

15. T. Smith
14. D. Morgan
13. R. Mogg
12. D. Cummins
11. J. Breeze

10. N. Matthews
9. L. Gardiner

1. R. Phillips
2. J. Hawker
3. A. Deacon
4. N. Scrivens
5. S. Bryan
6. P. Ashmead
7. A. Stanley
8. B. Clark

Replacements:

- K. Baker
G. Richards
J. Roberts

21 H/T O

(i) — International

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EXETER XV 8 PTS
(Black & White)

(Black & White)		T	G	Pts
15.	I. Stewart	1		4
14.	M. Hoskins			
13.	N. Emanuel			
12.	R. Taylor			
11.	J. Davies	1		4

14. M. Hoskins
13. N. Emanuel
12. R. Taylor
11. J. Davies

10. A. Green
9. A. Maunders

1. B. Luffman
2. G. Meldon
3. T. Harris
4. H. Langley
5. G. Bess
6. R. Walker
7. P. Bye
8. M. Cathery

Replacements:

- G. Stratton
S. Burne

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37 F/T 8

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TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

A NICE FRIENDLY EVENING

Years ago, when everyone went on holiday by train, and many of us made a beeline for Devon, the first time you really felt that you were on your 'hols' was when you heard that lovely, rich Devonshire voice declaiming, "Eggster St. David's! Eggster St. David's!" So tonight's welcome visitor brings a twinge of nostalgic recollection for quite a few of us. Furthermore, after weeks which seem to have been dominated by Leagues and Welshmen, isn't it nice to watch a plain, simple 'friendly' against old and valued opposition?

Exeter would, I'm sure, be the first to own that last season wasn't one of their better ones. However, there are signs that they may be returning to the sort of form which used, on occasion, to give us a nasty case of the trembles when our place in the following season's John Player Cup depended on our position in the South West Merit Table. I notice, for example, that tonight's visitors ascended to the next round of the Pilkington Cup by seeing off High Wycombe — and I know from personal experience, what an enthusiastic and dedicated bunch the lads from Buckinghamshire are, so that particular result is probably a better one than might appear at first sight.

It's interesting, too, to see them around the start of the season. You'll remember that, for years, our game against the Devonians tended to be on the very last Saturday, and there was something of an end-of-term feel about it. A thought, if you like, that the 'real' business of the season was now over, and that this was just a happy run-out. No disrespect intended, of course.

Anyway, old and tried friends aren't so thick on the ground that we can afford to lose too many of them, so the Devonshire All Blacks are very welcome indeed. We're very glad to see them again, hope they have a highly enjoyable evening, and tender our best wishes for the season.

THANKS TO C. & G.

I've lost count of the number of times Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society has sponsored a match for Gloucester RFC. As ever, we are extremely grateful for their support and generosity. Long may it continue.

Not that we are by any means alone in enjoying C. & G.'s benefaction. Any cricketer is very well aware of their involvement in the local leagues, they have become Sponsors of the Cathedral Appeal, and have just announced generous support for our magnificent new Regimental Museum.

Such public spirit deserves success, and the Society has certainly achieved that, of late. Len Evans, our local C. & G. Chief Ovaltiney tells me that 1988 was their best-ever year, and although he can't be certain until the year-end figures emerge, he's sure that 1989 is going to turn out to be equally as good.

For the same reason, he's not quite sure whether the Society is now the seventh or eighth biggest in Britain, but it's one or the other. Not bad for an organisation which rated a modest 25th a bare decade or so ago. In Rugby terms, that's about like a Courage Third Division side graduating to the First Division in two seasons — and then finishing about half way up the table.

There are now six branches in Gloucester, and 28 in the County as a whole. And that doesn't count the 20 or so Estate Agency branches which are conspicuously weathering the storm which has struck so many in that beleaguered profession. And, I'm told, a new programme of expansion is on the cards, which will expand those figures nationally.

Len is quite certain, however, that the Society will never lose its local touch. "Gloucestershire still constitutes our core business," he says, "and Eastgate Street is still our 'flagship' branch."

If you need any more evidence of their local commitment, you only have to look at the

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

remarkable new Headquarters building, now nearing completion at Barnwood. Occupation starts in November, and anyone who has ever had a guided tour of the 'old' HQ in Cheltenham will be slightly appalled by trying to imagine what a complex operation that will be.

Tonight, we have C. & G. representation from Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury present. We certainly hope they all have a great evening, and that they keep coming back, year by year.

It's worth it, if only to listen to Len Evans' jokes.

IT'S AN ILL WIND . . .

Or an ill rainstorm, for that matter. One of the few people to have been highly gratified by the tropical torrent which poured down before, during and after the Pontypridd game was John Beaman. No, he hasn't taken up surfboarding, as far as I know, it's just that the weather enabled him to sell no less than six large umbrellas from our Club Shop.

But he's by no means sold out, and there is a whole new catalogue full of Gloucester Rugbiana, just waiting to find good homes, for them as would like some.

Why not unshackle your cheque book and see for yourself?

READING MATTER

It shouldn't be very long now before our new season's poster is available, very much along the lines which proved so popular last year. And it shouldn't be long after that before the 1989/90 Edition of the Club Yearbook hits the newstands, as they say.

I also hear a whisper that Malcolm Preedy and Nick Price are busily turning out a players' brochure, which is intended to swell the coffers of the Tour Fund, which, we would all agree, is a well worthwhile cause.

I shall look forward to seeing all of them. Nothing like a little reading to wile away the hours between matches.

AND, FOR OUR NEXT TRICK . . .

We have a visit from Pontypool on Saturday. Nice to see them in daylight, after several seasons under lights. Almost anything can happen in those matches, and quite often does.

One week tonight, we have that very attractive fixture against British Police, part of the Gloucestershire Constabulary's 150th Anniversary celebrations. Quite a unique occasion, and well worth investing a little time in, I'd say.

After that, United return, on October 7th with a game against Bedford, whose First side have, you will remember, just been promoted to Division One.

So there's no need to go short, yet awhile.

300 CLUB

If only so that Terry Close will stop punching me on the kneecap, I must remind you that 300 Club numbers are going fast, and if you want to have a potentially lucrative flutter, it might be a good idea to do something about it fairly smartish.

Ask in the Social Club.

SIX OF THE BEST

Did you notice that our representation in the South and South West Divisional side to play Leinster has now been doubled to six? Part of the reason, I'm told, is that Messrs. Barnes and Hall have decided to relinquish any England ambitions, for this season, at least, and as the Division is supposed to be the ladder by which the ascent to International level is made, there doesn't seem much point in them playing for the Division.

Seems fair enough to me, and I congratulate the expanded Gloucester contingent something immoderate.

TAILPIECE

A friend of mine — no names no pack drill, but he's here tonight — told me, over the weekend, that his wife had suffered the misfortune of having her credit cards stolen. Naturally, I commiserated.

"Oh! Don't worry" he said, "In fact, I haven't reported it yet. Whoever pinched them is spending less than she does!"



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