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THE

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

v

PONTYPOOL

Saturday, September 30th 1989

Kick-Off 3.00pm

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ARJO-MECANAIDS



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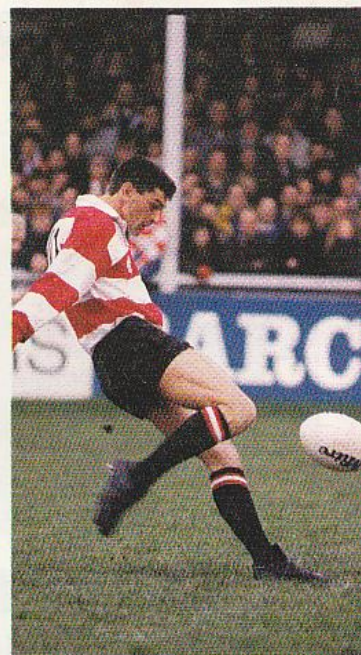
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Today's game sponsored by
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(Yellow)

T	G	Pts
2	2	13

H/T		

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

10. M. Hamlin (Capt.)
9. L. Gardiner

1. M. Preedy (1)
2. K. Dunn
3. R. Pascall
4. N. Scrivens
5. J. Etheridge
6. P. Ashmead
7. I. Smith
8. B. Clark

Replacements:
N. Matthews
R. Phillips

(1) — International

Cumulative
Match
Score[illegible]

(Red, White & Black)

	T	G	Pts
15. G. Davies			
14. S. MacWilliams	1		4
13. R. Biogood			
12. M. Egan			
11. P. Cook			

10. M. Silva	3	8
9. D. Wright	2	8

1. S. Jones (I)			
2. G. Jenkins (Capt.)			
3. G. Price (I)			
4. D. Churchill			
5. R. Goodey			
6. C. Huish			
7. A. Carter			
8. D. Oswald			

Replacements:
K. Weaver
C. Johnathan
P. Jenkins

Referee: S. GRIFFITH (N. Midlands Society)

Good luck to one special team from another!



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TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

NOW FOLLOW THAT!

On the day that our own commercial radio station, 'Savern Sound' first went 'on air', as the expression goes, their major in-studio guest was the remarkable Max Boyce, who among other things, is a lifelong Pontypool supporter. During the broadcast, the presenter had the melancholy duty of informing him that Gloucester had won an away match at Pontypool. For once, Max was bereft of appropriate words. "Did they?" was all he could manage. "Did they really?"

The point was, that, in those days, for Pontypool to lose at Pontypool Park was about like waking up in the morning and finding that the Cathedral Tower had gone for a walk during the night.

So, if any team can surmount the inevitable sense of anticlimax which last Saturday's win over Bath engenders, it's today's most welcome visitors. They may have receded slightly from the days when the Pontypool pack was the nearest thing to a Panzer Division which most of us have seen, but they are still a highly formidable outfit, achieving some good results this season, and extremely difficult to beat.

Add to that the fact that most Welsh sides raise their game when visiting Kingsholm, and that some of our players may well be somewhat shell-shocked after the events of last Saturday, and you have the makings of quite a confrontation.

Last January, at Pontypool Park, Gloucester won by 23 points to 13, in a spell when we were beating everyone. Leicester had been seen off, 28-0, the week before, and Blackheath were to be on the wrong end of 37-0 the week after. It wouldn't be wise, therefore, to extrapolate too far from that result.

But then, there was never a time when you could take 'Poola' lightly. They have always provided one of the most eagerly awaited games in our season, and nothing has happened to alter that. I do hope that the Welsh RFU manage to sort out their own League proposals so that such fixtures aren't endangered. Gloucester's century-long reputation was created, to a large extent, by the unique strength of our Welsh fixture list, and we wouldn't want to see anything happen which would jeopardise that. And Pontypool are certainly amongst our most valued opposition.

It's good to see them here again, and we hope they all enjoy their visit.

THANKS TO ARJO MECANAIDS

It's nice to have the neighbours round, especially when they're providing some of the hospitality. Most people will have had to pass the premises of today's generous Sponsors, before they reached the turnstiles.

You'll certainly have seen their factory, and noted the Arjo Mecnaiids sign, but do you know what they actually do, and just how important they are in their field of endeavour?

Quite simply, they are the world's leading suppliers of patient lifting and hygiene systems. Every single hospital in the United Kingdom uses their equipment, and so do the majority throughout the world.

It's now two years since the original Mecnaiids company was acquired by the Swedish Arjo organisation. The success of the new body has been phenomenal, but is really only the beginning. Heavy investment from the international parent group has stimulated a period of expansion in the fast-growing healthcare market, and especially in the sector of that industry which concentrates on care for the elderly.

Not that senior citizens are the only people to benefit from the company's experience and expertise. Gloucester Leisure Centre, for example, can demonstrate ingenious examples of their technology, including a Pool Lift Hoist for disabled swimmers which won a Design Council Award. Last year's Mayor and Sheriff's Appeal provided a Hi-Lo bathing system for Ermin House in Horton Road.

Slightly buckled Rugby players might have cause to be thankful for a glass-sided hydrotherapy pool, ideal for the treatment of sporting injuries, as well as a whole range of physiotherapy tables and exercise equipment.

Arjo-Mecnaiids employ some 200 people in Gloucester, so they're very significant employers — and that doesn't count the large amount of sub-contract work made available to local engineering companies.

And, quite apart from all that, they Sponsor a

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

game at Kingsholm. We certainly thank them for that, and hope to see them time and again in our Sacred Precincts, which are, after all, just next door.

WELL DONE THE 'SQUADDIES'

Tomorrow, as ever was, there is an England Squad Training Session, with special reference to the Fiji game. No one is surprised that it includes Mike Teague, although we congratulate him, nevertheless.

The other two Gloucester 'squaddies' however, deserve more comment. Very welcome is the recognition of Mike Hamlin. To be fair, the defection of Stuart Barnes opened the door for him, but one has to recognise his stirring performances for England 'B' and the Division, and there are plenty of young hopefuls around who could have been chosen. Well done 'Hambo'. It's no more than you deserve.

John Etheridge, of course, has been on the fringes for a while, having trained with England last season. With only Paul Ackford amongst the recognised locks available for the squad, he must be in with a very good chance of getting the nod this time.

One glaring omission is the name of Kevin Dunn, and we commiserate with him. All I can think, is that the Selectors couldn't have seen him play against Bath, last Saturday, when he was my own personal 'Man of the Match'.

THANKS ALL ROUND

Terry Tandy, on behalf of the Committee, asks me to thank all the supporters, who constituted last Saturday's 'full house', on the excellent example of crowd conduct which they provided to interested observers before, during and after the Bath game. As far as I know, there wasn't a whisper of any sort of a problem during the whole proceedings.

We don't like saying 'we told you so', but — we told you so.

It's to be hoped, that with that experience to draw upon, the Powers that Be might see fit to relax the restrictions they placed upon us, somewhat, if and when a similar occasion presents itself.

After all, although many of our more difficult League games are to be played away, this season, there is still the Pilkington Cup to consider. Remember — 10,500 people saw us lose to Bath, last season, with no more cause for concern than we experienced last week.

READING MATTER

Dedicated Pontypool supporter, and Gloucester's Divisional Librarian, Gwyn Hiatt, has been lam-

ting the recent dearth of new Rugby books about which to inform us. However, one has now shown up which is appropriate to today's festivities.

David Parry-Jones has written 'The Rugby Clubs of Wales', which provides a brief history and description of all the major — and no-so-major — clubs in the Principality. There's a wealth of anecdote and comment, and even a map for each club which shows visitors how to get to the ground.

On Pontypool Park he waxes positively poetic. "The steep, wooded hillside," he writes, "is ablaze with colour. Bronze, red and flame tinted in the first half of the season, brilliantly green in March and April. It is a sight to cheer the soul."

Well, there's pretty for you. You can buy the book for £12.95, but it's much cheaper to borrow it from your local branch library, who will be happy to reserve it for you.

EVENING ALL!

Next Wednesday, we entertain British Police, in a special game to celebrate 150 years of the Gloucestershire Constabulary. Should be a good evening. On Saturday, United have a visit from Bedford, and on Wednesday, October 11th, we're expecting Exeter University to drop in. See you along the way.

SEASON TICKETS

For the first time in recorded history, Gloucester RFC have had to cease selling Patrons' tickets because there simply isn't any more room in the Centre Stand for any more Patrons. That's a very healthy situation, from the Club's point of view, but it does mean that, next season, people who pay up first will get preference, and some would-be Patrons could miss out.

We're also rapidly approaching the same situation regarding Wing Stand tickets. There are a few available, so if you haven't yours yet, better see David Foyle in the Social Club afterwards. Ground seasons, are of course, not in such short supply.

However, such has been the demand, this season, that we've had to order a reprint of both Wing and Ground tickets. We're hoping they'll be ready for today, but if not, David will take down your particulars, and send your magic cardboard on to you.

TAILPIECE

Harking back to David Parry-Jones book, mentioned above, he has this to say about us.

"A visit to Gloucester quickly shows how a well-stocked, efficiently-run, accessible sandwich and drinks counter is appreciated by the fans."

He said it, not me.



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