



EBBW VALE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
EBBW VALE
v
GLOUCESTER

Wednesday 18th October 1989 K.O. 7.00 p.m.

Season 1989-90

Official Programme 30p



Chris Earland, who made his debut for Ebbw Vale at Gloucester in October 1986, jumping against Newbridge last month. A "Gwent Gazette" photograph.



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*Wish Ebbw Vale Rugby Football Club
Every Success During The Season*

EBBW VALE R.F.C.

SUPPORTERS CLUB

WHY NOT JOIN US AND SUPPORT THE RUGBY CLUB

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION: £2.50

AWAY COACHES

Contact: Terry Shorthouse 309182

Barrie Burn "Kings Arms" 302902

TODAY'S TEAMS

EBBW VALE

	v
Chris Earland	15
Ian Jeffreys	14
Rob Andrew	13
Derek Davies	12
Chris Hillman/Andrew Dobbs	11
A. N. Other <i>Gerry Evans</i>	10
Alun Davies	9
Andrew Dibble	1
Nigel Meek	2
Malcolm Sibthorpe (Capt)	3
Mike Boycott	4
Glenn Williams	5
Mark Thomas	6 8
Phil Easley	8 6
Denzil Earland/David Moore	7

Replacements

Brian Powell, Robert Harris

David Rowe
Andrew Dibble

GLOUCESTER

Paul Mansell
Derek Morgan
Richard Mogg
Damien Cummins
Jim Breeze
(Capt) Mike Hamlin
Lloyd Gardiner
Malcolm Preedy
Kevin Dunn
Richard Pascall
Nigel Scrivens
John Brain
John Gadd
Barry Clark
Ian Smith

Replacements

Ian Roddan, Andy Deacon,
Tony Windon

Referee: Mr. G. Bowden (Taffs Wells)

Tonight's Ball donated by

L. J. & M. J. LEWIS

Commercial Vehicles Ltd, Pontllanfraith, Blackwood

September Vice Presidents' Draw

1st Prize	No. 199	Mr. M. Davies	£70
2nd Prize	No. 60	Mr. D. Preece	£40

WELSH BITTER

WELCOME GLOUCESTER!

Two things matter to the sporting community of the City of Gloucester, the success of their rugby club's 1st XV, and the equal success of their seconds, the United. In the summer there's County Cricket, but when rain stops play the conversation turns to prospects for the coming rugby season. And those prospects are always good, always fulfilled.

Cherry and white is a colour blend some might consider more Laura Ashley than Levi, but those who play Gloucester, the men at the sharp end, know that it's tougher than the toughest jeans. Rugby is the only winter sport that matters in Gloucester, which places great responsibility on the administrators and players.

Gloucester succeed on at least four levels. They produce stars for England, they do well in the Cup which they have won outright twice, they excel in the Courage League (runners-up last season), and they still find time to play many Welsh clubs with consistent success. Last season they played eight games against Welsh teams and won seven (Swansea, Ebbw Vale, South Wales Police, Newport (twice), Pontypridd and Bridgend) losing only at Newbridge.

A year ago at Kingsholm they beat us 21-10, thanks largely to their back-row of Andrew Stanley, Paul Ashmead and Lion Mike Teague. The first two got tries and so did wing Nick Marment and full-back Tim Smith who top scored for Gloucester in 88-89 with 345 points. Our only try was scored by Ian Jeffreys. Of the side that represented us at Kingsholm only Ian, Stephen Jones, Alan Phillips, Malcolm Sibthorpe, Neil Jones, Robert Stephens and Denzil Earland have played in our 1st XV this season.

It takes time to weld a newish squad and turn out teams in the real sense. Ideally the summer is the time to do that, but pre-season injuries and the late but welcome influx of new players meant that we started blending in the heat of battle. Our fixture list is arguably the strongest in Wales because we play all the Merit Tables clubs twice a season, another reason for players to face challenges and succeed at the top level.

Last Friday evening we were well beaten by Pontypridd, and our next two matches are Saracens away next Saturday and South Glamorgan Institute next Wednesday, October 25th.

If we play as we did against Pontypridd then our prospects for the season will be gloomy indeed. Allowing for Ponty's excellent forwards and clever backs, once again our challenge was mufed to say the least. The midfield tackling was poor, and only a few players emerged with credit, among them Nigel Meek, Andrew Dibble, Alun Davies, Chris Hillman and new prop Andrew Hunter who went on as a replacement and scored a very good try. The control of the rucks and mauls was below standard, but so is our general play at the moment.

Never forget your Welsh.

WELSH BITTER
From Whitbread Wales

HIGH GLOSS

When we played Gloucester here on September 17th 1980 we didn't know that our visitors had a lion cub in their pack. The little devil grew into the roaring British Lion who showed the Wallabies that a diet of cider beats the golden nectar anytime. Mike Teague said after the third Test this summer that he couldn't go back to 'Gloss' unless the Lions won — and his contribution to that victory was immense.

In the Gloucester side of September 17th 1980 that won 18-10, Mike was accompanied by some special players, full-back Peter Butler, the ageless centre Richard Mogg, scrum-half Peter Kingston who played for Pontypool in a Cup semi-final, prop Gordon Sergeant, hooker Steve Mills and lock Steve Boyle.

They must have said a few words, some of more than four letters, when told that the referee hadn't turned up because of a clanger by the WRU. But more of that in a minute, because the game again proved the value of a good place-kicker, Peter Butler the Master of the Art, putting over three penalty goals, a conversion and a dropped goal. They had a kicker, we didn't, but 'Gloss' deserved to win, Paul Howell getting their try.

The official ref was replaced by Graham Powell, the regular Ebbw Vale touch-judge, his second experience of stepping into a breach Henry V would have jibbed it. The first occasion was in November 1979 when the ref for the Cross Keys game did not appear, and the Keys fans made it clear that Graham was not their favourite substitute. Fair's fair, Graham did well and on both occasions the visitors went away winners!

Wayne Bow, who played 224 games for us before semi-retiring recently because of work commitments (yes, rugby remains an amateur game!), made his debut for the club against Gloucester in September 1978 (18-9 to Ebbw Vale). He played opposite Peter Butler and his first touch of the ball set up a try for Clive Burgess who will remember a special Vale — Gloucester match here in October 1982.

Torrential rain didn't deter our basic and we scored six tries — and against Gloucester! It was Budgie's last game before he went to Brescia in Italy and we won 45-18, not such a one-sided affair as the score suggests because one report properly said, "Gloucester entered into the spirit of things". Steve Boyle and John Woodhouse got their tries and Gry Lawrence, Neil Robinson, Wayne Bow, Brian Thomas, Colin Williams and Nigel Osborne ours. Jeff Stephenson kicked three penalty goals and six conversions, and Gloucester full-back Paul Ford (son of the famous Peter), kicked two conversions and a penalty goal, Les Jones also popping over a penalty.

Now let's get up to date and recall the results of our last five matches with Gloucester, all played in the month of October: 1984 (home) lost 15-24, 1985 (away) won 22-19, 1986 (away) won 9-7, 1987 (home) won 17-14, 1988 (away) lost 10-21.

It didn't take a Cup and League competition to show the rugby Welsh how good Gloucester always are. Last season they lost 6-3 to Bath in the Pilkington Cup semi-final and finished second to them in Division One of the Courage League. But 'Gloss' or 'Gloucs' have been showing that form for donkey's years and so had Mike Teague who follows a long line of great Kingsholm and England forwards like Phil Blakeway, Mike Burton, George Hastings and Tommy Voyce.

That's Cruft's standard so we can expect a hard game as usual. But for Graham Powell's sake I hope the proper ref turns up.

R.E.L.

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