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THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

v
NEWPORT



Saturday, October 21st 1989

Kick-Off 3.00pm

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GLOUCESTER 31 (26 H/T 10)

(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts
1	2	9

1	4
1	4
1	4

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1	4
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1	4
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8 H/T 6

15. T. Smith
14. D. Morgan
13. D. Cummins CASKIE
12. R. Mogg
11. J. Breeze
10. M. Hamlin (Capt.)
9. L. Gardner
1. M. Preedy (I)
2. K. Dunn
3. R. Pascall
4. C. Guest
5. J. Etheridge
6. P. Ashmead
7. I. Smith
8. B. Clark

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

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

Replacements:

(I) — International

Gloucester Rugby Club use GILBERT MATCH BALLS

NEWPORT 10 (17, 20)

(Black & Amber)

T	G	Pts
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1	2	10
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31 F/T 10

15. G. Hardacre
14. D. Griffiths
13. L. Jones
12. A. Evans
11. J. Thomas
10. G. Abraham
9. J. Reid
1. M. Davies
2. H. Ali
3. A. Williams
4. P. Booth
- 5.
6. C. Scott/A. Pocock
7. G. George
8. I. McKim

10. G. Abraham
9. J. Reid

1. M. Davies
2. H. Ali
3. A. Williams
4. P. Booth
- 5.
6. C. Scott/A. Pocock
7. G. George
8. I. McKim

Replacements:

- N. Callard
- G. Moon

Referee: J. COULSON (Northumberland Society)

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TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

USEFUL WARM-UP

No, I don't mean in any way to be patronising, which in any case would be a most dangerous course of action where Newport is concerned, but rather to point out that, in just ten days' time, today's visitors will be facing the might of the touring All Blacks.

It's all very well to take New Zealand on, as Cardiff did, on the first match of their tour; quite different to have to cope with them a few weeks later, when they've come to terms with pitches, referees, interpretations and all the other peripherals which are sent to try any touring party.

Traditionally, of course, All Black sides derive much of their strength from their forwards, and I'd like to think that a warm reception from the Gloucester eight will serve Newport as very useful preparation for the game on Tuesday week.

After all, what are friends for, if not to help out at appropriate junctures? And we can certainly count the black-and-ambers as among our oldest. In fact, I think I'm right in saying that Newport were the last side to play Gloucester on the Spa, so we have been welcoming them to Gloucester since before Kingsholm, itself, ever entered the picture. And, as you well know, 1991 sees the Centenary of the Ground, so our connections range back over 100 years. There can't be many older fixtures in the calendar.

None of which, of course, cuts any ice when the thirty blokes run out on to the field this afternoon. I've never seen a dull Gloucester/Newport game yet, and I don't suppose that opinion will be changed by 4.30 this afternoon.

Nice to see you Newport. Hope you have a most enjoyable visit.

BEST WISHES 'ALI'

Most Rugby people can take the odd knock, the occasional stitch or two, in their stride, but no one likes to see an injury of the severity sustained by

Exeter University outside half, 'Ali' Braithwaite, here at Kingsholm, ten days or so ago.

Even in these technological days, a broken neck is potentially a very serious matter; we wish it hadn't happened, and send him all our very best wishes for an extremely speedy recovery.

Naturally, we hope he'll be seen on the Rugby field again, in the fullness of time, but even more important, we hope that the inevitable disruption to his University career is absolutely minimal.

It's nice to be able to record that Gloucester RFC has already received a letter from the University's Captain, thanking Dr. Eltringham, the St. John's men, and all concerned, for the prompt and efficient attention which 'Ali' received.

I don't suppose it's any real consolation to him, but it's worth pointing out that two Gloucester players — John Bayliss and Phil Blakeway — continued long and distinguished careers after suffering similar injuries. In fact, Phil won a significant number of his England Caps after his mishap, and if that's so for a prop forward, then there's hope for anyone.

Being still in Ward 15 of Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, and likely to remain there for a while, it's almost certain that 'Ali' will see a copy of this programme, and if so then — keep plugging 'Ali', we at Kingsholm are all rooting for you, and will be glad to see you anytime. Hope you're home soon.

THANKS TO J. BIBBY AGRICULTURAL

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose the French say (when they're not chanting 'Allez France' that is). As you undoubtedly instantaneously translated, it means 'The more things change, the more they remain the same'.

The relevance, in this context, is that although J. Bibby is a welcome new name to our distinguished list of Sponsors, the occasion is in direct line of descent from a couple of similar exercises, a season

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

or so ago. And the connecting link, quite simply, is Bob Osborne.

Bob has been in the animal feed business for 20-odd years, and ran a couple of highly successful sponsorships for his old employers. Six months, or so, ago, however, he decided to do his own thing, and go into business for himself. He immediately approached his major supplier, J. Bibby, who, we're delighted to say, were happy to reinstate the arrangement.

J. Bibby are one of the oldest and most respected companies in animal feed, and it's good that in a primarily agricultural County, they have been generous enough to support Gloucestershire's principal sporting organisation in this way.

Bob Osborne's company is called Select Feeds and Seeds, it's going well, and we certainly hope it continues that way. After all, what he doesn't know about the business — no one does.

Of course, most people here today won't be farmers; but if you have a garden, or a lawn to look after, you might still want to give Bob a ring on 0452 76511, which is a Westbury-on-Severn number. He does a very good line in grass seed, and will be happy to do business with any Kingsholm supporter. Or anyone else, for that matter.

Bob's an old friend, of course, and a Patron of the Club, which doesn't make us any less grateful to him. However, it's nice to welcome the new friends from J. Bibby who have come along today. Four of them I know by name — Phil Hembry, Roger Llewellyn, Malcolm Young and Howard Marsden. We hope they, and everyone else with them, derives all the pleasure — and all the business — from today's occasion, which their generosity deserves.

NEWBRIDGE SWITCH

Just in case you hadn't caught up with the fact, the Newbridge game has been switched from Saturday November 4th to Friday November 3rd. Kick-off, 7.00 p.m. of course.

This is at the request of Newbridge, who understandably wanted to avoid a clash with the Wales v. All Blacks game, the suggestion posed Gloucester no problems, and we were happy to agree.

But don't turn up on Saturday expecting to see, what is always, a very attractive game. You'll feel a bit lonely if you do.

BEDFORD NEXT SATURDAY

Back to League action, next week. Bedford are the visitors, and if Gloucester don't win it, following certain serious events at Sudbury, then any chance of honours will have gone down the proverbial drain.

It's quite a nasty journey from Bedford, so they normally don't bring hordes of supporters. We're not, therefore, expecting a crowd of Bath proportions. Nevertheless, the Police will be keeping an eye on us, so I'd ask you to observe the usual niceties — keep stairs and gangways clear, turn up early to avoid turnstile crushes; you know the sort of thing by now.

But it *is* an important game, so the lads could do with your support. Don't let them down, will you.

Actually, we have quite an attractive run of home matches from here on. There's Newbridge, as aforementioned, on Friday 3rd, South Wales Police on Wednesday 8th, and Saracens, in the League, on Saturday 11th.

Plenty to savour.

DAYS OF BEER AND ROSES

Our immediate past Mayor, Archie Hartshorne, brought one of his colleagues from CEEB along to the Exeter University game. In turn, the colleague brought his delightful young daughter with him.

Young Jenny had never been to Kingsholm before, and her eyes lit up on wonder as she looked at the various trophies around the walls of the main bar of the Social Club. She was particularly interested in the array of England shirts on view, complete with the traditional red roses.

"Ooh!" she said "Does this place belong to the Labour Party?"

It quite put Archie off his beer. And that takes a bit of doing.

TAILPIECE

The wits in the crowd have been on form lately. One example concerns the Exeter match, a week or two ago.

At one point, a cat, intent on his own business, ran across behind the posts at the Worcester Street end. Came a voice from the crowd:

"Ah! I see Moggy's got over in the corner again!"



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TALKING RUGBY

with
Steve Fraser



Last weekend's defeat at Sudbury has probably done more damage to Gloucester's pride than championship hopes.

Victory against Wasps would have established the Cherry and Whites as outright favourites for the Division One title. But the front-runner's lot is not an easy one.

The challenge of playing the team of the moment tends to bring out the best in any side — as Gloucester showed against Bath — and early front-runners have a tendency to fall by the wayside.

In the minds of many outside Gloucestershire, Saturday's defeat exposed Gloucester as a team with distinct limitations who can now be written off as a serious challenge. Preedy and Gadd were praised but the rest of the team were largely ignored.

The national press painted a picture of the stereotyped West Country team: strong up front, weak at the back and reluctant to let the ball out of the forwards' hands. But anyone who saw Gloucester run Swansea and British Police ragged earlier this season knows there is a lot more to them than that.

They are now regarded as just one side among the pack chasing Bristol and that may work in their favour. They have played what are almost certainly the two strongest sides in the league. Now the media spotlight will move on and they must get down to the business of beating teams they know they should beat.

Bristol have taken up the burden of the front-runner. Their early success has been a surprise but they have yet to come up against any of their serious rivals for the title. Their three wins have all been tight and they must play host to Bath next weekend.

For Gloucester it is time to get a couple of bread and butter games under their belt. Their next two league matches are both at Kingsholm against comparatively weak opposition.

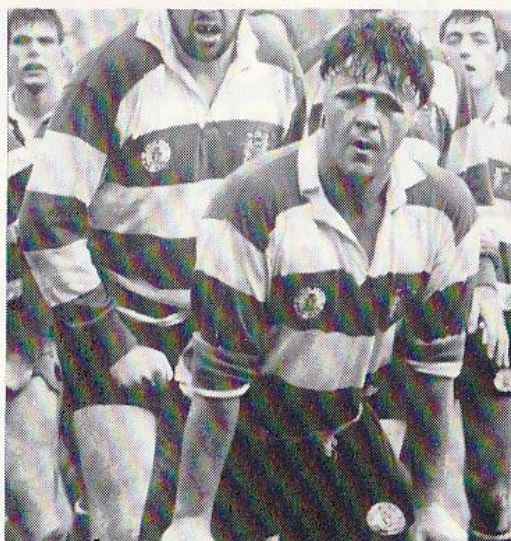
Next weekend they play host to bottom-of-the-table Bedford. The signs are that last season's Division Two runners-up will not

have long to experience Division One rugby before returning to the lower level.

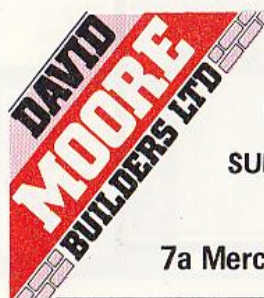
They have conceded 153 points in three league matches and have yet to play Bath or Wasps.

A fortnight later, Rosslyn Park are the visitors. The Londoners have already beaten Nottingham away from home and could prove tricky opposition.

Nonetheless, they will not figure in the final reckoning and therefore must be beaten.



Pack leader Malcolm Preedy — shone against Wasps



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