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THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

V

SOUTH WALES POLICE

Wednesday, November 8th 1989
Kick-Off 7.00pm

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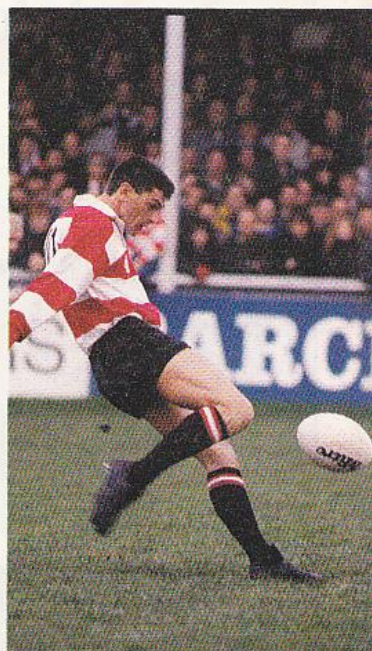
1a Kingsholm Rd

40p.

Official Programme

056

Lucky Number



TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

ENQUIRIES ARE CONTINUING

A few weeks ago, Gloucester were inhospitable enough to put it across the British Police side good and proper. It was a memorable occasion, and a good time was had by all, including our Chief Constable.

There were several reasons for the eclipse of the Constabulary that evening: the Lions game in Paris deprived them of Paul Ackford, Dean Richards and Wade Dooley were injured, and the side didn't get together until the afternoon of the match.

Another, highly significant, factor was that South Wales Police had a game of their own that night, and not even tonight's respected opposition can be in two places at once.

This evening, however, that deprivation will be rectified. South Wales Police are, unlike their National counterparts, anything but a scratch fifteen, and can be relied upon to give us a wholehearted performance.

The record, I'm afraid, is against them. You have to go back to 1983 to find a Police victory in this fixture — although a couple of years later than ran us mighty close, only going down by 15 points to 14. All things being equal, Gloucester should win tonight's encounter handily enough.

However, all things are emphatically *not* equal. We're coming up to a stretch of three Courage League games in a row — Rosslyn Park, Bristol and Saracens — so life's going to be a bit busy for the First XV regulars from here on in. I would imagine, therefore, that some of the lads will be given a well-earned rest this evening, in anticipation of the trials to come. There are also a couple of niggling injuries about.

In fact, we could well see a couple of very well-matched sides doing their thing, this evening, which can't be bad for those of us who don't do anything any more energetic than shouting from the sidelines.

Win, lose, draw — South Wales Police are very welcome visitors indeed. It's great to see them here again, and we hope they have as good an after-match celebration as the British Police contingent did a few weeks ago.

THANKS TO MARTYN, MICHAEL AND PHILIP

Normally, I would have written 'thanks to Pitt, Godden and Taylor', as this evening's generous Sponsors, but my unwonted familiarity, in this case, is justified by the fact that the three Partners in the highly successful George Street firm of Chartered Accountants were all old friends of Gloucester RFC long before they got together to do their own thing.

This is the second Kingsholm game they have supported in this way, and remarkably, the first match to have received their generosity was actually arranged before the firm actually opened for business. That's getting your priorities right, with a vengeance.

Even now, Pitt, Godden and Taylor have only been in business for some eighteen months, but they certainly haven't let the grass grow, and have already become one of the most highly respected Practices in the City. In fact, in that year-and-a-half, the firm has doubled in size.

That sort of success doesn't happen by accident. The Partners themselves attribute their progress to a determination to provide an efficient and highly personal service, backed up by an encyclopaedic knowledge of all facets of the trade, from taxation to computers. Evidence of this is given by the sheer diversity of their Clients.

Martyn, Michael and Philip are all Patrons of the Club, and tell me they'll do all they can to support Gloucester Rugby. They now regard their Kingsholm sponsorship as a permanent feature of their working life. And we're delighted to hear it. Hope they go from strength to strength.

If you need any more convincing that they could be the right company to handle your financial affairs, let me quote from Martyn Pitt himself.

"We have a number of former and current Gloucester players listed amongst our Clients. And you can't have a better recommendation than that!"

True enough. And thanks for your support.

TICKETS FOR BRISTOL

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

and when they happen to be League engagements, doubly so. This season, with things being so tight at the top, the November 18th Away game assumes crucial proportions.

So what does one do about tickets? One applies to Bristol, that's what.

Bristol, in their wisdom, have decided not to send an allocation to Kingsholm. Instead, people are asked to write to:

J. WILSON,
10, PYECROFT LANE,
HENLEAZE,
BRISTOL BS9 4NL

The cost is £5.00 per Stand ticket. No ground tickets — pay at the gate. And a Stamped Addressed Envelope is required. Then as applies first gets the tickets, in case of an excessive demand, so it might be a good idea to get your order off fairly pronto.

AND THE REST

But, before then, we have to see off Rosslyn Park, also in the League, which is no means a foregone conclusion. That's next Saturday, right here. Then, as aforesaid it's Bristol away — but don't forget that United will be taking on Bristol opposition, at home, on the same day.

We then finish our League triple — and indeed, all League action until Leicester on January 13th — by entertaining the much-improved and formidable Saracens outfit on November 25th.

Quite a noteworthy period coming up. Could decide the whole League situation. You won't want to miss any of them.

NICE ONE HELGA!

If John Beaman can tear his attention away from our well-stocked Club Shop for a moment, he'll like this one.

I visited Newport for the All Blacks game, last week, in the company of a good friend of mine, named Helga Perry. Helga has claims to fame in several directions, but I wasn't aware, until then, that she was an autograph buff.

Naturally enough, after the game, she beavered around coercing and cajoling signatures from the New Zealand players. I arrived on the scene just in time to see her talking to the great Grant Fox, who, it is pleasant to record, in common with his teammates, was happy to spend time chatting and signing, even before he'd had a bath and a pint.

I heard Helga warble "Thanks a lot! Keep the pen!" She then produced another, and rushed off in

search of further literary victims.

So — there is every likelihood that a clutch of Gloucester RFC ball-points will be winging their way to New Zealand, at the end of the tour. Which isn't a bad spot of PR on Helga's part.

You see — you never know when a trip to John Beaman's Hypermarket is going to come in handy!

WELL DONE 'CITY'

Let's not be parochial about it. Our counterparts in the round-ball game have pulled off a major coup by reaching the first round proper of the F.A. Cup, and we congratulate them on their achievement.

There's plenty of room for both codes in a sports-minded city like Gloucester, and any time any local sporting organisation makes an impact on the national scene, it rebounds to the credit of all of us.

I don't know anything about Soccer, myself, but I'm reliably informed that Gloucester City have a very good chance of getting through the next round too — with the potential of acquiring a lucrative game in the third round. Hope they make it.

TAILPIECE

One continuing topic, these days, is the number of games which modern players are expected to play in a season, and the increasingly crowded nature of the fixture list. A piece in the excellent programme produced by Newport RFC for their All Blacks game has an interesting sidelight on the issue.

Apparently, when the New Zealand Maori side toured Britain in 1888/9, they stayed here for over a year, and their record at the end of it all was as follows:

*Played 74, Won 49, Drawn 5, Lost 20
Points For 394, Points Against, 188.*

And, if you think that the record was just a quirk of a rather odd touring side (Four of the 'Maoris' were as white as any of us), then consider the programme of the Newport side around the time they played the tourists.

They played Gloucester on December 22nd, the Maoris on Boxing Day, Moseley on December 27th, Oldham (!) on New Year's Day, and Llanelli on January 5th.

All that and Christmas pudding too!



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Gloucester Rugby Club use GILBERT MATCH BALLS

SOUTH WALES POLICE

(Red)

T	G	Pts

[illegible]

Replacements:

F/T

Referee: A. KNIGHT (Manchester Society)

TALKING RUGBY

with
Steve Fraser



England captain Will Carling did Gloucestershire rugby no favours when he made the Pilkington Cup draw on Monday.

Gloucester return to Sudbury — the scene of their biggest humiliation this season. And giant-killing Berry Hill face First Division Moseley without the benefit of a packed Lakers Road roaring them on.

On the face of it, fate could not have been much crueler.

But as Richard Nixon said, the finest steel has to go through the hottest fire. And there are good reasons for believing both the Cherry and Whites and the Hillmen can emerge victorious.

Motivation is all in rugby and if there is one team Gloucester have good cause to want to beat this season, it is Wasps.

That 29-4 league defeat in London last month wounded Gloucester pride. They were made to look very poor by a skilful but by no means unbeatable Wasps side making best use of the conditions.

They let themselves down. What better platform than a Pilkington Cup clash could they want to set the record straight?

They were ham-strung by injuries in key positions last month. Hopefully this time round Tim Smith, Marcus Hannaford and Mike Teague will be back in the picture.

Adversity has always brought out the best in Gloucester. The Cherry and Whites had the toughest possible route to the first ever Knockout Cup final in 1972 but they kept winning against the odds. Bath, Coventry and the brilliant London Welsh were all successfully brushed aside.

The team Gloucester beat in the final 17 years ago provide Berry Hill with their next test of character. Moseley are not half the team they were then and victory at The Reddings is by no means beyond the Foresters.

They are boosted by the fact that new coach

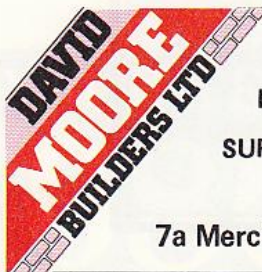
Dave Protherough just happens to know Moseley inside out. He should do — he was coach there until the end of last season.

Aided by Protherough's inside knowledge and their instinctive ability to rise to the occasion, few would bet against Hill pulling it off again.

It is just a pity Drybrook's name was not in the hat for the Third Round draw. The villagers acquitted themselves with honour against London Welsh and can look back on their first appearance in the Cup, with considerable pride.



Berry Hill coach Dave Protherough... a chance to put one over on his old club



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