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THE

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

V

ROSSLYN PARK

Saturday, November 11th 1989

Kick-Off 3.00pm



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PROGRAMME SUPPORTED BY
THE CITY OF GLOUCESTER

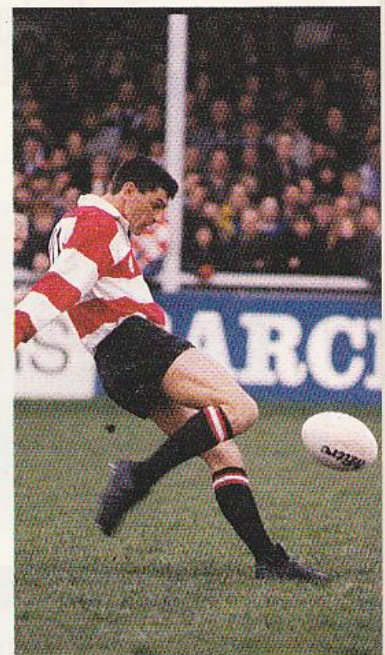
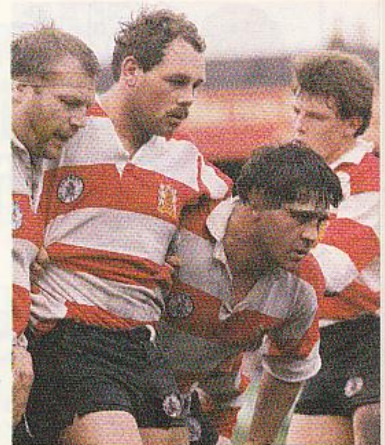
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Official Programme



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Today's game sponsored by
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Gloucester Rugby Club use GILBERT MATCH BALLS

GLOUCESTER 4-1 (3G; 5T; 1P) Cumulative Match Score

(Yellow)

T G Pts

1 2 9

3 12

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15. T. Smith
14. D. Morgan
13. D. Caskie
12. R. Mogg
11. J. Breeze N. PRICE
10. M. Hamlin (Capt.)
9. M. Hannaford
8. B. Clarke
7. I. Smith
6. P. Ashmead
5. J. Brain
4. N. Scrivens
3. R. Pascall
2. J. Hawker
1. M. Preedy (I)

- Replacements:
- L. Gardiner
- K. Baker

(I) — International

ROSSLYN PARK 12 (1G; 2P)

(Red and White)

T G Pts

15. J. Graves

14. S. Hunter

13. K. Wyles

12. C. Smith

11. R. Crawford

10. M. Jermyn

9. R. Moon

8. T. Brooks (Capt.)

7. T. Hyde

6. P. Tayler

5. S. Dear

4. G. Curtis

3. J. Reid

2. S. Davies

1. P. Essenhith

Replacements:

M. Boyd

M. Horrocks-Taylor

4-1 F/T 12

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PARK AND RIDE

Don't make any mistake — Rosslyn Park will be no easy ride.

The figures might not exactly confirm that — our welcome visitors have lost two League games to our one, and have scored 41 points to our 79, but, as always, the statistics don't tell the whole story.

'Park' are one of those sides — not unlike Gloucester, in a way — which has always been there or thereabouts. They like to play an expansive game, when they can, but that has never stopped them from fielding a big, well-drilled pack (Remember Andy Ripley?), or from beating just about everyone, at one time or another.

They don't seem to get the publicity which 'Quins and Wasps' do, but they're certainly among the top three London Clubs, and *that* means rather more, these days, than perhaps it did a few seasons ago.

Furthermore, Rosslyn Park have certainly adapted to the League game. Their experiences in Cup campaigns — they were John Player Finallists in both 1975 and 1976 — has shown them that extra commitment up front can work wonders, and it won't be through lack of trying if they don't win today.

One Rosslyn Park visit to Kingsholm, you may remember, must still rankle a little. Three or four years ago, they came to Gloucester, at just about this time of the year, they had won eleven matches on the trot, and were the only unbeaten side in the country. Rugby League star 'Chariots' Offiah was playing for them at the time.

We were inhospitable enough to beat them, that day, and their season never attained the heights which it looked to be scaling for the first two months or so. 'Park' won't have forgotten that, and with league points at stake, who could blame them for thinking this one to be an appropriate visit to redress the balance?

It's always nice to see the other side which plays in red-and-white (All right — I know ours is strictly described as 'cherry', but let's not split hairs about it), and we hope they have a good time here today. We certainly intend to.

THANKS TO AVONPRINT

Next year, Avonprint, tonight's generous sponsors, will be celebrating their 20th anniversary. Which makes me feel very old, because I well remember them as an infant company, notable for their determination to succeed and a general attitude of fire in the belly.

The infant has certainly grown up since then. They now have an annual turnover of £5 million, and can claim to be one of the most technically advanced print organisations in Britain — and if you consider that British printers are among the most advanced in the world, the next inference is obvious.

They are also one of our longest-standing and most faithful Sponsors, so our thanks are even more heartfelt than usual. It also means, I am informed, that invitations to their annual forays from Cirencester and Swindon to Kingsholm are avidly snapped up by their recipients, and another factor in that equation is that many of the customers they acquired in their early days are still in their portfolio, which is a very significant recommendation indeed.

Avonprint, themselves, consider that their insistence on state-of-the-art technology (they've just finished installing yet another generation of high-tech equipment), combined with high emphasis on quality, especially in the demanding field of four and five-colour printing, are the major reasons why they are so consistently successful in a very competitive market. We've never been short of good printers in this neck of the woods, and to remain pre-eminent against that background takes a bit of doing.

If you know Avonprint, then you know their sister company Adsetters, now one of the leading typesetting and artwork organisations in the South West. They place the same emphasis on technology — having also just finished a major new installation exercise — and the same assurance of quality. They are based in Swindon and maintain a highly efficient delivery service all over the area.

Gordon Clifford is the Managing Director of Avonprint, a convivial soul, who is always willing to

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

discuss matters of mutual interest on Cirencester 657811. Similarly, Alf Futchler will be delighted to chat to you, if you like to ring Adsetters on Swindon 61140.

If you need quality print, typesetting or artwork, I'd certainly recommend you contact Gordon or Alf. In fact, I would be very surprised if both of them aren't here today, together with a remarkably diverse set of customers. I'm sure they'll all have a thoroughly good time, and no one deserves it more.

WHAT A PAIR OF DRAWS!

At first sight, both Gloucester and Berry Hill seem to have suffered from the attentions of the Gods of Chance in the Pilkington Cup Draw. We could have wished a less formidable challenge than Wasps at Sudbury, and Berry Hill have a tall order at Moseley.

However, that's months away yet, and anything can happen in between. Wasps certainly won't find Gloucester an easy proposition second time around. Berry Hill must have been hoping for First Division opposition, and they have at least a fighting chance at The Reddings.

Time will tell.

FAREWELL TO 'BUMPS'

Many old Gloucester hands will have been saddened by the news of the death of 'Bumps' Carpenter, son of a famous father, also nicknamed 'Bumps', and a legendary hooker for Gloucester.

'Bumps' Senior had one cap for England, against South Africa, in 1932, and while his son never achieved quite that eminence, he did have a Trial, and is certainly one of the best hookers never to play for England.

The pair have one, almost unique, claim to fame. A. D. Carpenter junior propped for his father, also A. D. Carpenter, just once at Kingsholm. They were aged 17 and 40, respectively.

The passing of 'Bumps' Carpenter is the end of an era, and we regret it. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

WELL DONE THE FOREST!

As good Foresters, the two Carpenters would have been delighted at the Pilkington Cup results, last weekend. Berry Hill's defeat of London Scottish, Lions, Internationals and all, is an enormous

achievement, bearing in mind that the Exiles are undefeated in the League this season.

Drybrook's narrow defeat is scarcely less remarkable. Admittedly, London Welsh aren't exactly world-beaters, these days, but they were playing on their own turf, against opposition which had no previous experience of Rugby at this level. It must have been galling to have lost in the last 12 minutes, but a highly laudable result nevertheless.

The London Exile sides must be getting paranoid about the Royal Forest of Dean, these days.

CRUNCH NEXT WEEK

Our League fixture down at Bristol, next Saturday, has a crucial bearing on the eventual results for the whole season. You only have to look at the League tables to see that. As I've told you a couple of times before, we don't have any tickets, and applications, enclosing an SAE and £5 per ticket, should be sent to J. Wilson, 10, Pyecroft Lane, Henleaze, Bristol BS9 4NL. Of course, I have no way of knowing if any are left, but there might just about be time to write and find out.

No ground tickets, incidentally, so if you're going to turn up to the turnstiles, it might be just as well to get there early.

Of course, you could come here instead, and watch United take on their counterparts from down the A38.

On the following Saturday — November 25th — we have a League fixture, at home, against Saracens. They've been surprising everyone, have a much improved side, and are actually sitting just above us in the table, the last time I looked. That could be another 'crunch' match, and you won't want to miss it.

See you along the way.

TAILPIECE

My London Correspondent (my son, actually) rang me on Sunday night to tell me about the various press reports on the two Forest Pilkington games. Apparently, one scribe, not by any means impressed by London Welsh's performance against unheard-of Drybrook, suggested that the Welsh change the name of their ground to — wait for it — "Oh Dear! Park."

Ouch!



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TALKING RUGBY

with
Steve Fraser



Today's game is the start of a two week spell which will make or break Gloucester's league challenge.

Rosslyn Park at home today, Bristol away next Saturday and Saracens at home in a fortnight — three league games in a row with no time to put things right if they do not go according to plan.

The peculiar structure of the league makes this fortnight the most important of the season.

By 4.30 pm on November 25, the group of six teams currently at the top of the table with three wins from four will have been cut down to two or three at the most.

This weekend Harlequins play host to Bristol. Next weekend Gloucester travel to Bristol and Saracens face Harlequins. And the following week Wasps have their show-down with Bath.

The Cherry and Whites had an off-day against Wasps and were punished by a 25 point hammering. There is no room for any more off-days in the league but pack leader Malcolm Preedy says Gloucester learnt a lot that afternoon.

"They beat us convincingly," he said. "Everything they did worked. But we sat down and had a long talk after the game and discussed what had gone wrong. We made too many errors and we can build on what happened and make sure it doesn't happen again."

Gloucester thoughts are naturally looking ahead to next weekend's trip to the Recreation Ground. But that match will lose its significance if the Cherry and Whites do not knuckle down to today's task.

Rosslyn Park are so far this season the least successful of the four London clubs. But that is hardly surprising when two of their games were against Bath and Wasps.

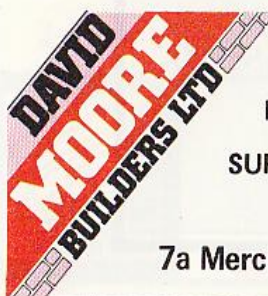
They have shown they are no push-overs by beating Nottingham 11-6 away and Moseley

18-3 at home. Perhaps the fact they held in-form Wasps to a narrow 14-6 win says most of all about their class.

Gloucester's recent record against them is good. They won 26-8 in London last year and came out on top 16-6 in the two previous encounters in 1987 and 86.



Prop and pack leader Malcolm Preedy — Gloucester have learnt from Wasps hammering



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