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THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

v LEICESTER

Saturday, December 2nd 1989
Kick-Off 3.00pm

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Lucky Number

Gloucester Rugby Club use GILBERT MATCH BALLS

Cumulative
Match
Score

LEICESTER

(Red, White & Green)

15. N. Marment

14. D. Morgan
13. R. Mogg
12. ~~D. Caskie~~ D. CUMMINS
11. J. Breeze

10. N. Matthews
9. L. Gardner

1		4
1		4

1. A. Windo
2. J. Hawker
3. A. Deacon
4. N. Scrivens
5. J. Brain
6. P. Ashmead
7. I. Smith
8. B. Clark J. GADD

1		4

Replacements:
PENALTY TRY

4 H/T 4

(I) — International

[illegible]

LEICESTER

(Red, White & Green)

T	G	Pts

N	C. Gerald
M	T. Buttimore
L	J. Harris
K	P. Sandford

J L. Cusworth (I) (Capt.)
I S. Kenny

A	S. Redfern
B	M. Roberts
C	W. Richardson
D	A. Gissing
E	T. Smith
F	A. Marriott
G	S. Povoas
H	I. Smith

[illegible]

Replacements:

M. Cleaver
D. West

19 F/T 13

Referee: J. PEARSON (Durham Society)

TOUCH LINES

by

Peter Arnold

'TYGER, TYGER, BURNING BRIGHT'

I don't, for one moment, believe that William Blake was thinking of the Leicester Rugby Football Club when he wrote those lines. If he had been, generations of mucky schoolboys would probably have found them easier to learn. Nevertheless, you and I can't remember a time when the 'Tigers' haven't been among the brighter stars in the Rugby firmament.

This season is by no means an exception. Bath may be a point clear at the top of the League, Wasps may be getting all the publicity, but Leicester are still very much a side to be reckoned with, and I wouldn't mind betting, will be there or thereabouts, when the final results are totted up. Remember, while Saracens have beaten 'Quins, and drawn with Gloucester, they got a fearful seeing off at the hands of the 'Tigers'.

Recent encounters between Gloucester and today's welcome visitors have, almost invariably, been exciting and entertaining. Even in the days when they were the acknowledged Kingpins of English Rugby, we were known to beat them, at home and away. On the other hand, they've been known to stop Gloucester's merry gallop when we were in the process of putting one over just about everyone else.

Of course, both sides will be weakened by Divisional commitments today, to an extent which, I would think, cancels out. Last season, in the same circumstances, we lost at Aylestone Road, by 13 points to 19; an impertinence which was adequately reprimanded when they came here for a League fixture to the tune of 28-0.

They're a great bunch of lads, too. If you're ever in the area when Leicester are playing at home, drop in and tell them you're from Gloucester. You won't be disappointed with the welcome you receive. On a similar subject, Leicester are one of the very few clubs who have ever written to say 'Thanks' for the things I said about them in this programme, a courtesy which I, for one, greatly appreciated.

One famous 'Tiger' will be missing today, of course. It won't seem the same without William Henry ('Dusty') Hare, whose golden boot dominated English Rugby for so long. However, there are

enough excellent practitioners of the Art around to make today a memorable occasion, and they're all quite immoderately welcome. Hope they thoroughly enjoy themselves.

TICKET FAMINE

I quote:

"As you are probably aware, the capacity of Twickenham is reduced by almost 10,000 during the redevelopment of the North Stand. Regrettably, this has resulted in allocations being even lower than usual."

That's an extract from a letter received by Terry Tandy from the RFU Ticket Office, just a few days ago. Being interpreted, it means that there's going to be one hell of a problem in apportioning International tickets to those who have applied for them through the Club.

If you want an indication of the scale of the difficulties, we've had a cheque for £13,996 returned to us — and that represents an awful lot of tickets which we're not going to get.

At the moment, I don't know how allocations, such as they are, are going to be made, but you can be sure that we'll try and find a fair way to do it. Can't do too much, of course, until we see just how many tickets we do get.

The letter also tells us that tickets for both the Ireland and the Wales game will be sent out towards the end of December, so there's a little time to get our act together before that.

Depressing, isn't it.

STILL THE CHEAPEST

And the depression isn't going to be lifted by the next bit. It is with considerable regret (it says here), that the Club announces that entrance at the turnstiles will cost £2.50 — an increase of 50p — as from January 1st.

Again, that has been forced on us by the findings of the Taylor Enquiry into the Hillsborough Disaster, which has considerable revenue implications for the Club. You'll know about the restrictions on the gate imposed on us, but there are other factors too.

We have to supply extra first aid equipment, pay for more policing, employ more stewards. All has to be paid for, somehow.

OAP and Junior prices will, however, remain at

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£1.00 for the present, and transfers to the Stand are unaffected.

And a Happy New Year to you too, but it does have to be said that the new price is still significantly lower than that charged by most big clubs. If you travel around, you'll find you can't usually get into a game for less than £3.00, so we're still well below the market price.

Nobody wants to put prices up, but it's sometimes inevitable.

UNITED, NEXT WEEK

There's a good chance to take a look at the United, next Saturday, when they are expecting a visit from Glamorgan Wanderers, certainly not opposition to be taken lightly. The First XV have a tricky old visit to Plymouth on that day, bearing in mind their inevitable weakened condition, and the improvement in the Devon side in recent seasons — especially on their own patch.

On Saturday December 16th, however, the lads are back home again, playing their traditional pre-Christmas match against Coventry, which is always fun and games.

After that, we're into the Christmas season, as far as Kingsholm is concerned, which this year, means Lydney on Boxing Day and Moseley on New Year's Day.

And, talking of Lydney, the Colts are there on Wednesday next. If you're within striking distance, undoubtedly worth a visit.

CONGRATULATIONS — WHOEVER YOU ARE

I was hoping to be able to comment on the Divisional side, today, but various niggling injuries having forced a delay in the selection process, I can't really do that. What I *do* know is that no less than *nine* Gloucester players are in the reckoning, at the time of writing — and that doesn't include Malcolm Preedy who has been ruled out by his knee injury, which was causing him to hobble, quite considerably, the last time I saw him.

So — hearty congratulations, whoever you are, and sincere commiserations, whoever you aren't.

THANKS TO EGGLETONS

Out generous Sponsors, today, are Eggletons Solicitors. Which is about like telling you that Christmas Day falls on December 25th this year, so regularly do Gloucester's leading law firm dispense their most appreciated financial support in this direction.

But then, supporting local sporting enterprises is a way of life for Eggletons. You may recall that good old Gloucester cherry-and-white strips are likely to be seen all over the world, nowadays, as a result of the Brunswick Square firm's generous donation of

them to the HMS 'Gloucester' Rugby Team.

You may not be quite so aware that Eggletons also sponsor the Gloucester Under 13 Cricket League, and have every intention of providing the same service for the Under 15 version.

None of this is really all that surprising when you realise that both Roger Eggleton and Colin Dunford played many times on Kingsholm, in their day, and that, like the other member of the trio, Geoff Gorman, are devout and practicing cricket fans. In fact, Eggletons have their own cricket team, and it's a source of regret to Roger that they haven't, as yet, progressed to organising a Rugby XV.

But they do have to work for a living occasionally, and to further that aim, now have a special British Telecom 'Linkline', which enables anyone to make initial enquiries about any legal matter — including likely costs — in as simple and convenient way as possible. For your future reference, should you ever need it, that number is 0800 378978.

Everyone needs a solicitor at some time in their lives. If you don't have one, and are thinking of moving house, or something, I can thoroughly recommend, from personal experience, the friendly, no-codswallop approach adopted by Eggletons.

After all, their dedication to the sporting scene is a recommendation in itself, isn't it?

Thanks again, Roger and gang. Hope you have a marvellous day.

PREZZIES

I'm told that a limited supply of the 1989/90 edition of the Club Year Book should be on sale today — God and Printers willing. There's a great deal of interest to be gleaned from it, and it can be heartily recommended as a Christmas stocking filler. After you've read it yourself, naturally.

On a similar subject, this season's Poster is selling like hot doughnuts. Again, makes a super present.

TAILPIECE

We always suspected that one essential quality for the Club Secretary was the ability to walk on water. I, for one, however, didn't realise that a talent for accurate precognition was also a prerequisite.

Yet Terry Tandy tells me that, without benefit of Ouija board or crystal ball, he knew precise details of the results and scores of our matches against both Rosslyn Park and Bristol at 12 noon on the days the games took place.

The explanation is relatively simple. Apparently, he travelled — not by Tardis, but just boring old aeroplane — to Acapulco on holiday. He then rang back to find out the scores, and the apparent gift of prophecy is explained by the time difference.



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TALKING RUGBY

with
Steve Fraser



What we witnessed at Kingsholm last weekend was a classic instance of the Scottish Disease.

You won't find it in a medical dictionary but the Scottish Disease is a well documented madness which afflicts a team when everything is going too well.

The Scots are not satisfied with winning — something inside tells them victory is only worthwhile if achieved against the odds.

Thus, if a Scottish football team takes the lead, when they need a draw to qualify for the World Cup you can bet your bottom dollar they will concede an equaliser and then have to hang on like grim death for the final whistle.

The former British Lions hooker Colin Deans summed it up rather well. He said: "It is not enough for Scotland to produce a champion jockey like Willie Carson . . . he must be injured or suspended or preferably both before the championship counts.

"I am convinced that the only reason Bonnie Prince Charlie didn't go all the way to London after reaching Derby was that the clan chiefs found it all too easy.

"They decided to give the English a sporting chance by yomping back to prepare for Culloden" (where they were given such a hiding that they never rose again).

Gloucester led 21-6 early in the second half last weekend against a side they had expected to give them much more of a run for their money. Just when a delighted Kingsholm crowd was beginning to speculate about how much points difference they could make up on the league leaders, the Scottish Disease set in.

Gloucester knew they had Saracens beaten. They had completely outplayed them. The problem was, it all had been too easy.

They relaxed just a fraction and before you knew it Sean Robinson and Ben Clarke were

over for tries which clinched a 21-21 draw and left the Cherry and Whites a mountain to climb.

The sad fact is Gloucester can no longer win the Division One championship on their own. They have to rely on Bath, one point ahead, to lose it.

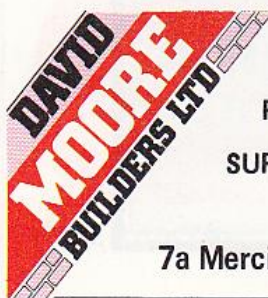
However, the situation is not hopeless. Bath have still to meet both Saracens and Leicester before the season is out.

If the main symptom of the Scottish Disease is a misguided belief that the only victory worth having is one achieved against the odds, then Gloucester could do with another dose.

The odds are stacked against them now. Let's hope they have the class to meet the challenge they have set themselves.



Scrum-half Marcus Hannaford rips the ball out of a ruck in last weekend's match against Saracens



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