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THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

v RICHMOND

Saturday, April 7th 1990
Kick-Off 3.00pm

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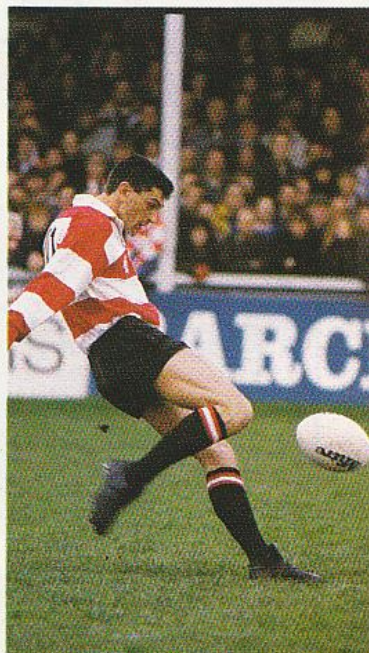
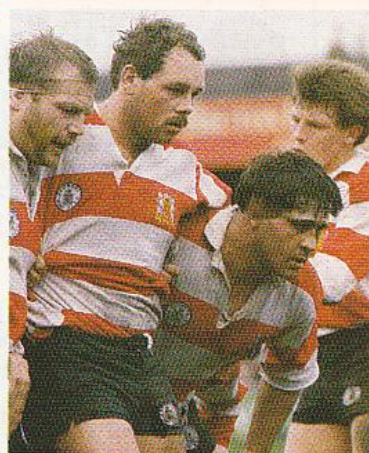
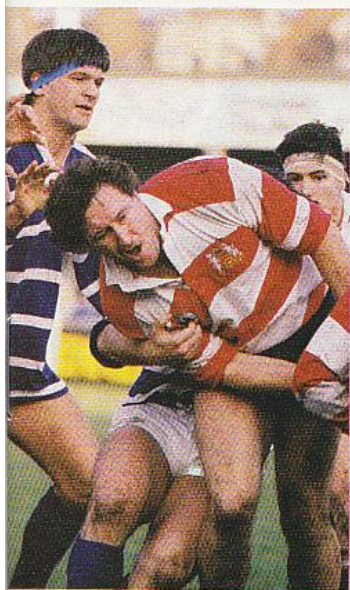
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GLOUCESTER 10 (1T, 2PG)

(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts
	3	6

1		4

10 H/T 3

15. N. Marment

14. D. Morgan

13. R. Mogg

12. S. Davis

11. N. Price

10. P. Mansell

9. D. Cummins

1. A. Windo

2. J. Hawker

3. R. Phillips

4. D. Sims

5. J. Etheridge

6. P. Ashmead

7. A. Stanley

8. D. Spencer

Replacements:

17. M. Roberts

18. A. Deacon

(I) — International

Referee: A. TURNER (Manchester Society)

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RICHMOND 12 (1DG, 3PG)

(Red and Black)

T	G	Pts

16. M. Radford

15. J. Fallon

14. W. Waghorn

12. M. Livesey

11. R. Forde

10. D. Morris

9. M. Hancock

1. M. Yeldham

2. H. Roberts

3. P. Guttridge

4. D. Cooper

5. A. Maren

6. M. Brown

7. E. Saunders

8. D. Sole

Replacements:

17. R. Holman

18. I. Jackson

10 F/T 12

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UNEXPECTED PLEASURE

We're getting away with something extra, this week. As you probably know, the First XV should have been at the Gnoll, taking on the formidable Neath outfit, but as that distinguished side is involved in the Welsh Cup, they had to call it off.

The good that that particular ill wind has blown is that we have an unexpected home fixture, which is gratifying enough in itself, but a double pleasure because it brings Richmond to Kingsholm, and we thank them for agreeing to come at fairly short notice.

It's especially nice to see Richmond, because we haven't welcomed them to Kingsholm for a year or two now. Which is a shame, because, a few years ago, we had a couple of memorable Cup struggles against them. Remember going to the Athletic Ground one Sunday, because Matson were playing London Scottish on the Saturday? That trip was a saga in itself.

And, I must confess, it's nice to come along to a game which is just played for the fun of it. Obviously, we have our share of excitement in both League and Cup, just at the moment, but the nerves do tend to get a bit shredded at times. Harlequins, Northampton, Llanelli and Orrell in rapid succession don't do much good for the old blood pressure. And we're just spectators. Imagine what it must be like for the players!

We can all relax a bit now, however, until April 28th, and the final League game against Nottingham, but let's not think about it at the moment. The Order of Business for today is to have a thoroughly enjoyable game against Richmond, and I'm sure that is well on the cards.

The lads from the Great Metropolis are heartily welcome, of course, for the reasons stated, and also because it's always nice to see such a respected and long-established Club performing at Kingsholm. We hope they have a least as good a time as we thoroughly intend to.

TWICKERS

Terry Tandy asks me to tell you that, because of the logistics of the situation, he won't be sending out tickets for the Cup Final on May 5th until the

middle of next week. So there's no need to panic yet awhile. After all, we're still a month away aren't we?

If you still haven't applied, then by all means do so (don't forget the SAE), but don't expect to be able to get a £5.00 ticket for the Ringside. We only had a small allocation of those, and they're all gone. We're still all right as far as the other values — £3.00, £7.00 and £9.00 — for the moment, anyway.

It really has been a tremendous operation, so far. You'll remember that the application forms were handed out, for the first time, at last Saturday's Orrell game. Yet completed forms, together with SAE and remittance, were dropping through Terry's home letterbox within about an hour of the end of the game. On Sunday, his front garden path resembled a Ramblers Association National Jamboree. All types of vehicle were used to transport applicants to Cotteswold Road, including a huge juggernaut-style articulated vehicle, and — would you believe — a fire engine!

HOW ARE YOU GETTING THERE?

Coaches available for charter on May 5th, around Gloucester and Cheltenham, are as rare as winning Welsh International sides, and no doubt you know some club, organisation, community association or ladies sewing circle who are running one to the Final.

Which does not mean to say that the usual Club coaches won't be available. They will, and I suggest you talk to Trevor Pritchard for details. We're creatures of habit, around here, and I expect you'll be wanting to go with the same crowd you've been drinking with throughout the whole Cup campaign. But I wouldn't hang about, if I were you.

The rail situation is a little more uncertain. One or two organisations are considering chartering special trains, but nothing has been signed and sealed yet. I can say that Severn Sound will definitely *not* be running one of their own. They did consider it, but unfortunately, the financial arithmetic didn't work out for them. Pity, but one does have to face the economic facts.

As far as British Rail itself is concerned, nothing has been finally decided, but at the time of writing, it looks as if there may be extra trains as far as

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Paddington, but you will have to proceed from there — probably to Hounslow — under your own steam — or diesel, as it is these days. Obviously, if someone does charter their own train, then BR will do their best to get that one into Hounslow, but there are operational problems.

One thing I do know is that the Club won't be chartering a train. We've enough on our hands as it is, so please don't bother to contact any officials about it.

If you think about it, getting 15,000 people to Twickenham and back, all in a matter of a few hours, is a very daunting problem, whether you're talking road, rail or any other medium.

Anyone want to borrow my bike?

ADVANCE NOTICE

Because this game was arranged in something of a hurry, we don't have a Sponsor today, but that fact does give me an opportunity to thank all our Sponsors and Advertisers, in all their many guises, and to give them advance notice that our Annual get-together of such invaluable souls will take place on April 21st, which as you know, is the last home game of the Season, against Sale. So put the date in your diaries, chaps. We wouldn't want to miss extending our hospitality to you.

MOGGY'S 500

According to the 'Citizen', this is Richard Mogg's 497th game for the Club. Now, higher mathematics was never my strong point, but I think that means that, on paper, he can afford to miss out on three games, and then play his 500th at Twickenham.

Unfortunately, we don't live in a perfect world, and with the inevitable problems of finding three sides over Easter — two Firsts and a United — and with various injuries still giving problems, Richard's invaluable services may be called upon rather more often than that. So it could work out that the incomparable 'Moggy' will celebrate his half-millennium in that nail-biter at Nottingham.

I'm sure the situation doesn't worry Richard all that much. He'd rather play than watch, if ever a man did, and to achieve the distinction at all is a very considerable achievement. To get there at any time is marvellous, to do it in the final League game

of the Season, with Gloucester going for the Title, would be incredible, and to reach the milestone in the Cup Final, mind boggling.

AND TALKING ABOUT NOTTINGHAM . . .

... I'm told that the Club will be running coaches to the Nottingham game on the 28th. If you think you can take the excitement two weeks in a row, see Trevor Pritchard in the Social Club.

GET YOURSELF GEARED UP

You'll want to fly the flag at Twickenham, obviously. The way to do that is to visit John Beaman in the Shop. There you can select which of the vast range of incredibly low-priced, cherry-and-white impedimenta you're going to flaunt at Headquarters.

Bath certainly won't shout us, and there's no reason why they should out-clout us, either.

COMING UP TO EASTER

Next Saturday, we have a visit from Headingly, and on Easter Monday, Birkenhead Park arrive. These Easter games are always great fun, and well worth your attention.

Before that, however, on Wednesday, as ever was, the lads are off down the road to Lydney, and given decent weather, a trot down with them would be quite a nice evening jaunt.

Two weeks today, we have our last first-team home match of the Season, Sale providing the opposition. After that, we're into the hard stuff.

See you around.

TAILPIECE

According to Terry Tandy, one earnest supporter was in such an understandable hurry to get his Cup Final tickets application in that he read along the wrong line on his Membership Card.

While filling in the form, in the space designated 'Gloucester RFC Members state type of ticket and number', he, in all sincerity, wrote 'Ground 20901'.

To save you looking, that's the Club telephone number.

Honest mistake, or crafty ploy? In the former case he is to be congratulated for his enthusiasm, in the latter, for his initiative!



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TALKING RUGBY with Steve Fraser



This lull before the end of season storm has come not a moment too soon for Gloucester.

There is a limit to the injuries a team can carry — and last weekend the signs were that Gloucester were very close to their's.

Tim Smith, Marcus Hannaford, John Gadd and Mike Teague were all some way short of 100 per cent fitness and it is a testament to the team that they came through as stern a test as Orrell in those circumstances.

The performance was far from satisfying but the result has set up a mouthwatering finale with the League and Cup double up for grabs in the last two games of the season.

The strange structure of the league system has often been criticised but it has given Gloucester four weeks breathing space before the next major showdown at Beeston on April 28.

Players and spectators alike need time to catch their breath after the heart-stopping events at Franklin Gardens and Kingsholm last Saturday.

Bath's destruction at Saracens means the league title is now a two horse race, with only Wasps in with a genuine chance of denying the Cherry and Whites. Technically, Saracens could also finish top if Gloucester slip against Nottingham but they would need to run up around 80 points in their final match.

As their opponents are Wasps, that is unlikely. A Wasps victory would bring them the title if Gloucester do anything other than win at Beeston. The Londoners have a superior points difference.

With all the pressure of the past few weeks, it is almost a relief to be at a game where nothing but pride rides on the result.

Today's visitors, who stepped in when Neath announced they would be otherwise engaged this weekend, have themselves had a thrilling season.

The highlight came in the Pilkington Cup where the quarter-final draw pitched them against the holders Bath. The second division side held out for 25 minutes but eventually capitulated to an honourable 35-3 defeat.

While Gloucester were clinging on against Orrell last Saturday, Richmond were wrecking the promotion hopes of London Irish. A 36-12 win away from home confirms how difficult today's encounter will be for this Gloucester side.

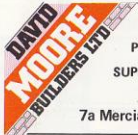
COURAGE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Gloucester	10	8	1	1	211	127	17
Wasps	10	8	0	2	226	100	16
Saracens	10	7	1	2	162	143	15
Bath	10	7	0	3	232	89	14
Leicester	10	6	0	4	233	158	12
Harlequins	10	6	0	4	197	158	12
Nottingham	10	5	0	5	175	145	10
Orrell	10	4	0	6	157	118	8
Rosslyn Park	10	4	0	6	150	179	8
Bristol	10	3	0	7	120	138	6
Moseley	10	1	0	9	116	237	2
Bedford	10	0	0	10	64	451	0

PLAYING RECORD

FIRST XV FIXTURES				UNITED XV FIXTURES				
1989				1989				
SEPT.	2	Swansea	—	SEPT.	2	Swansea	—	
	5	Stroud	—		9	Coventry Ex 1st XV	—	
	9	Moseley	—		16	Blackwood	—	
	13	Cheltenham	—		23	Bath	—	
	16	Pontypool	—		26	Cheltenham Utd	—	
	19	Clifton	—		30	Saracens	—	
	23	*Bath	—	OCT.	7	Cinderford	—	
	27	Exeter	—		14	Richmond	—	
	30	Pontypool	—		21	Newport	—	
OCT.	7	British Police	—		28	Pontypool	—	
	11	Exeter University	—	NOV.	4	Credon	—	
	14	*Wasps	—		11	Plymouth	—	
	18	Elbow Vale	—		18	Bristol	—	
	21	Newport	—		25	London Irish	—	
	28	*Bedford	—	DEC.	2	Leicester	—	
NOV.	4	Newbridge	—		9	O'Cuibers	—	
	8	South Wales Police	—		16	Coventry	—	
	11	*Rosslyn Park	—		23	Newport	—	
	18	*Bristol	—		30	Moseley	—	
	25	*Saracens	—	1990				
DEC.	2	Leicester	—	JAN.	6	Wasps	—	
	9	Plymouth	—		13	Leicester	—	
	16	Coventry	—		20	Clew	—	
	23	Newport	—		27	Newport H.S.O.B.	—	
	26	Lydney	—	FEB.	3	Bristol	—	
	30	Bridgford	—		10	Cheltenham	—	
1990					17	Bath	—	
JAN.	1	Moseley	—	MAR.	24	Rosslyn Park	—	
	6	London Scottish	—		3	Northampton	—	
	13	Leicester	—		6	St Paul's & St Mary's	—	
	20	Blackheath	—		10	Harlequins	—	
	27	Wasps (Pilkington Cup)	—		17	Orrell	—	
FEB.	2	Bristol	—		24	Pontypool	—	
	10	Gosforth (Pilkington Cup)	—	APR.	7	Carlton	—	
	16	Bath	—		14	Moseley	—	
	24	Notts (Pilkington Cup)	—		21	Sale	—	
MAR.	2	Northampton	—					
	10	*Harlequins	—	1989				
	13	Cheltenham	—	SEPT.	13	Moseley	—	
	17	Llanelli	—		20	Hereford	—	
	24	Northampton (Pilkington)	—		11	Nunaton	—	
APR.	31	*Orrell	—	OCT.	18	Lydney	—	
	7	Neath	—		18	Bath	—	
	12	Lydney	—	NOV.	22	Northampton	—	
	14	Headingley	—		29	Lydney	—	
	16	Birkenhead Park	—	DEC.	6	Bath	—	
	21	Sale	—	MAR.	7	Moseley	—	
	28	*Nottingham	—		14	Moseley	—	
MAY	5	Pilkington Cup Final			21	Nunaton	—	
					28	Hereford	—	
					APR.	8	Brixham	—

Leading Points Scorers:
First XV — T. Smith 222 (34C 42P 7T); N. Marment 96 (24C 12P 3T); D. Morgan 76 (19T); M. Hamlyn 56 (4C 4D 9T)
United — N. Marment 83 (21C 11P 2T); M. Roberts 74 (18C 6P 5T); P. Mansell 74 (14C 13P 1T 1D); A. Curtis 68 (17T).



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