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President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

V HEADINGLEY

Saturday, April 14th 1990

Kick-Off 3.00pm

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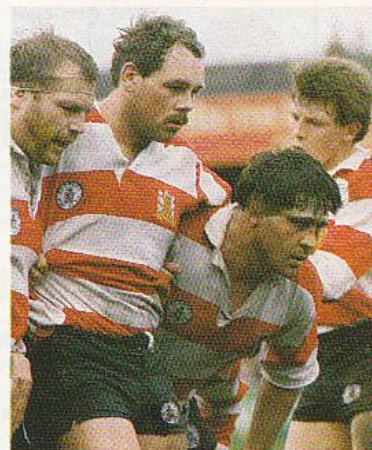
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H/T

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Gloucester Rugby Club use GILBERT MATCH BALLS

HEADINGLEY 9 (1G; 1PG)

HEADINGLEY 9 (1G; 1PG)

T	G	Pts
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14. D. Kennell
13. P. Johnson
12. S. Hill
11. J. Funt

10. M. Johnson
9. N. Summers

1. I. Johnson
2. C. Atkins
3. A. Machell
4. I. Taylor

6. M. Pepper
7. M. Lumley
8. N. Green

F/T

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Good luck to one special team from another!



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by
Peter Arnold

YORKSHIRE RELISH

Don't know about you, but these Easter games are among my favourites in the whole season. There's no bother about League points or Cup places, the available players often throw up some intriguing combinations — and sometimes a look at emerging new talent — and everyone seems to want to run the ball about. What's more, the weather is often good.

The games also give us a chance to renew acquaintance with players and friends from a small and select group of clubs, most of them based much further North than we are, who we don't see at any other time.

Headingley is just such a Club, and we welcome them, most heartily, today. They don't come to Kingsholm every year, which makes their visit even more pleasant.

Perhaps it wouldn't be too indelicate to point out that the last time some of us saw Headingley was when, a couple of years ago, they lost to Gordon League in the Cup, in spite of the presence in the side of no less a personage than Peter Winterbottom, since defected to 'Quins.

Headingley shouldn't feel too aggrieved about that result. League were in a conspicuously purple patch, and they're always difficult to beat at Hempsted, anyway. And it's worth pointing out that a strong Waterloo side were pushed to beat the League in the round after the Headingley one.

More to the point, when Gloucester visited Headingley on April 1st last season, they came away with a bare 12-10 win, so there's no reason to think that we're going to find it a walk-over this season, all things considered.

One way and another, things look set fair for a very pleasant afternoon, and we all hope that our visitors from Yorkshire find it just as enjoyable as anyone else.

WON A TENNER THIS SEASON?

If you have, by buying a programme bearing the appropriate Lucky Number, then it's thanks to the continuing generosity of Tyre Sales Limited. You can't miss them — they're right next door to the Ground.

As you'll be aware, there has been a lot of pressure on space in the programme, what with Cup tickets and all, so I haven't had a chance, lately to thank Tyre Sales for their continuing and imaginative form of Sponsorship. Which doesn't mean to say that we're not grateful for their support, or that we don't wish them every success in their endeavours.

As, no doubt, you do too — if you've won one of the 'Titillating Tanners'.

KEEP ON KEEPING ON

Even if you didn't have the winner of the Grand National, you could still complete an entertaining Spring Double by coming along on Monday next, and watching our too-infrequent visitors from Birkenhead Park. Always worth a visit.

And you certainly won't want to miss next Saturday's game against Sale. It's the last home game of the Season, and whatever happens in the last stages of Cup and League, you will readily admit that, this Season, the boys have done us proud. It would certainly be nice to have a big crowd here, to give them a good send-off for the stern stuff of the following two weeks, and generally, to show our appreciation for a thoroughly enthralling eight months.

I shall certainly be here, and I hope to see you too.

WELL DONE UNITED

On the same sort of subject, United have now — apart from the home game against Nottingham, scheduled for April 28th — finished their home season, and a very successful one it was too, starting with a 51-3 win over Swansea.

Dave Spencer has been an inspiration, and several players have either enhanced their reputations, or started to create one for themselves. Which is what United Rugby is largely about.

Again, we thank them for some excellent football, and an entertaining season. After all, even if Gloucester do win the League and Cup Double, they wouldn't stay top of the heap for very long, if we didn't have battle-hardened talent coming up through the ranks of both Colts and United.

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COLTS

The Colts haven't finished their season yet, owing to some rearrangement of their fixtures. They've had a good season too, having only lost three games so far. The extension to the season has something to do with the fact the Brixham senior side are only one match away from attaining promotion to the upper ranks of the Courage Clubs Championship, and just like Gloucester, have a nail-biter on the last League day of the season.

They have paid us the compliment of asking our Colts to travel to Brixham that day, and provide an aperitif to the full League match by playing a game against their opposite numbers, kicking off at 1.00 pm. Nice gesture, I thought, and much to be commended. It also provides a memorable end-of-season for our excellent Colts side.

Just tot up the number of First Team players, performing so conspicuously well this season, who have graduated to 'big' Rugby via the Gloucester Colts, and you'll see how important Reg. Collins' 'nursery' — no disrespect intended — is to the continued success of the Club in general. And the process continues: I can think of at least two current Colts players who have turned out for United this season.

Keep going Colts. We're depending on you.

NOTTINGHAM

With all the euphoria surrounding the Cup Final, there has been an understandable lesser emphasis on the Nottingham game on April 28th. I don't have to tell you, however, that winning the League is even more of an achievement than lifting the Cup. After all, fancied Cup-running clubs do get fairly easy draws now and then, although with Gloucester's luck in that respect, you may be forgiven for forgetting that fact.

Consequently, we'd like a very healthy contingent of supporters up at Beeston, hard though two such trips on successive Saturdays may be on the nerves, the vocal chords, the liver and the budget.

I'm told that coaches will be running from Kingsholm, and that the thing to do is to see Trevor

Pritchard in the Social Club.

Even more important, is the matter of tickets. You can't blame Nottingham for making the whole thing an all ticket affair, under the circumstances, and they've sent us an allocation of just 2,000 ground tickets.

It's worth mentioning that there are no rules in the Courage Clubs Championship system about ticket allocations. Clubs can handle things the way they think fit. Nottingham have decided to confine us to ground tickets, and you can't blame them for giving over their limited stand space to their own members. After all, we did much the same thing when Bath came here in the League at the start of the season.

Anyway, Nottingham tickets will be on sale, to Members only, (don't forget your Membership Card) on Tuesday next at 7.30 on Tuesday next — the 17th as ever was. That exercise will then be repeated on the following Thursday. After that, any left over will be available, generally, at the Sale match, next Saturday.

FINAL TICKETS

As you will have read in the Press, all Cup Final tickets have now been sold, and there's no point in applying if you haven't done so already. The allocations will be sent out over this weekend, and the whole thing is then in the hands of the Post Office.

Please don't ring our long-suffering Secretary if yours isn't on your doormat on Tuesday morning. He has had over 5,000 applications to process, and that's a man-sized job if ever there was one.

The amount of interest, really is amazing. I, personally, know about applications from Cardiff, London and Cornwall. And I expect you've heard of some too.

TAILPIECE

Nice shout from the 'Shed' at the Orrell game, relating to the gargantuan Mr. Kimmins: "Put a light on 'is 'ed, Ref. 'Im's a danger to aircraft!"



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TALKING RUGBY with Steve Fraser



Bath, for so long England's most successful club, are suddenly looking very vulnerable.

The side which for much of the season have looked classy enough to repeat last year's League and cup double have already seen the Courage Championship slip from their grasp. And on current form, Gloucester are going to relieve them of the Pilkington Cup as well.

Gloucester's marvellous League victory early in the season hinted that Stuart Barnes's men were perhaps not the force they once were.

Victories against Wasps and Bristol soon after suggested the Kingsholm result was just a hiccup but recent defeats at the hands of Nottingham and Saracens have raised more serious doubts.

Those shock defeats are partially attributable to a bad run of injuries. Every club knows how quickly a season can turn sour when one key player too many is ruled out.

But Bath have survived injury problems before and come through — and they know it.

Last season they stood unrivalled as England's most complete club side. This season several teams, including Gloucester, have caught up.

A side which has won five out of the last six Pilkington Cup finals should have nothing to fear on May 5.

But those associated with the club are sounding far from confident.

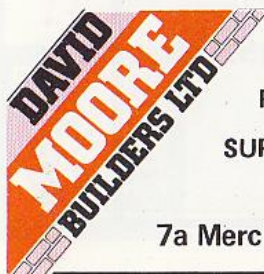
A rugby writer on the local evening paper who is normally unshakeable in his support for the club is far from convinced they will retain the trophy.

He believes the crucial factor will be the absence of influential back row forward John Hall, currently serving a 60 day suspension after being sent off for the second time this season.

Certainly Hall's suspension considerably weakens the Bath pack. Only time will tell how significant it truly is.



Stuart Barnes . . . are Bath the force they once were?



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