



FOUNDED 1873

THE  
**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY FOOTBALL  
CLUB**

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

v  
**CLIFTON**



Wednesday, September 5  
Kick-Off 7.00 p.m.



OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF THE  
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

The Winner of today's  
Official Programme  
Draw will receive £10 from

**Tyre Sales**  
Tyre Sales (Bham) Ltd.

1a Kingsholm Rd

**50p.**  
Official Programme

Lucky Number

540



# TOUCH LINES

by  
Peter Arnold

## GOING BACK A BIT

We haven't many matches as long-established as this one. In fact, we were playing against tonight's welcome visitors before Kingsholm ever became the Club's headquarters — which isn't really surprising, because the Clifton club was actually founded in the year before Gloucester was: 1872 if you want the actual date.

To give you an example, on September 18th, 1897 Gloucester opened their season with a home match against Clifton, and won 14-0, scoring four tries (worth 3 points in those days of course), and converting one of them. Fred Lovesy, who lived on the Cross, and was the Terry Tandy of his day, wrote in his Secretary's notebook, "*A fairly good opening game, but Gloucester were rather scraggy or would have scored more. Clifton smart with their feet.*"

I'm not quite sure what Mr. Lovesy meant by that word 'scraggy', but no doubt it spoke volumes at the time.

Just to complete the story, the tries were scored by P. Stout and G. F. Clutterbuck (2), with A. Stephens scoring the other and converting it himself. The Club took £20.00 on the gate.

I don't know how smart Clifton are with their feet this season (or for that matter, how 'scraggy' Gloucester are likely to be), but it's surely a good thing to maintain ties of this antiquity with a fine old respected club like Clifton. All right, so you probably wouldn't compare them with some of the prestigious outfits which visit us each season, but Man doth not live by Bath alone . . .

Anyway, it's good to see Clifton here again, and we hope they have a highly enjoyable evening.

## IAN ON THE UP-AND-UP

It's no surprise to see Mike Teague invited to join England's Squad training session next weekend at Newcastle, which is as it should be. It's very good however to note that Ian Smith takes another step in the process of recognition by going along as well.

Experiences in Argentina must have opened up several question marks, and I would think that selectors are looking a bit carefully at up-and-coming talent at the moment, and it would seem an

excellent opportunity for Ian to catch the eye. It's just a pity that it has to happen on the weekend when we're away to Neath.

Nevertheless, we wish Ian and Mike all the best. Even if Mike isn't allowed to take his motor bike with him.

## AWAY ALL MONTH

At least we're getting our 'dry spell' over early this season. The next First XV home game isn't until September 29th, when we entertain Ebbw Vale.

The basic reason for the hiatus is that the impact of the new Welsh League on the Fixture List is going to take a while to sort itself out. If we want to retain our traditionally-strong Anglo Welsh card, then there isn't at the moment, much alternative. And the structure of our own Courage League means that we play our first Championship game — against Leicester — away this year, on September 22nd. Next season, that position will be reversed, of course.

However, the 'Firsts' don't any longer have a monopoly on the League syndrome. If the stars are away, then United, participating in their own unofficial league experiment, now take over Kingsholm for the next three Saturdays, the Opposition being provided by the rather daunting sequence of Nottingham, Pontypool and Bath.

Parenthetically, it will be interesting to see just how strong Bath United are, the club having lost five players to Newport, one to Bristol and one to Gloucester over the close season.

So we should have a good opportunity to take a look at the several new faces who have arrived on the scene. And that's worth coming along for.

I also note, from my fixture card, that the Colts will be active during this period. They're at home to Moseley, Clifton and Forest of Dean on successive Wednesday evenings, starting next week. Always worth watching, and a good barometer to the future.

## INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

Applications for International tickets have to be

S · E · L · E · C · T

FEEDS & SEEDS

Suppliers of grass seed to Gloucester, Cinderford and other Rugby Clubs

\* Suppliers of all lawn seeds \*

\* Large or small orders catered for \*

Contact Bob Osborne on 0452 76511  
or 0860 590330 (Car)

sent off by the end of the month, so if you fancy a trip to one of the games, better do something about it fairly quickly.

While I'm on the subject, there's absolutely no point in enquiring about tickets for the World Cup All Blacks game next September. While we're absolutely delighted to be staging the game, ticket allocations are purely a matter for the Cup organisers, and even Terry Tandy can't do much about it.

#### WINNING MONEY

Don't forget that the 300 Club is in operation again, and any Social Club Committee Member will be glad to point you in the right direction. Similarly, we're very happy to hear from anyone who would like to become an Agent for our major Lottery. There's a few quid in it for you, or for any organisation you'd like to support.

#### MATT GOING WELSH?

I wrote our congratulations to our Matt Bayliss on being asked to referee on All Blacks v. French XV game in last Saturday's programme. However, space didn't permit me to comment on the other part of the 'Citizen' story which announced that he was also to take a Cardiff v. Swansea game.

I don't know all the ramifications of this, of course, but over the years, one has heard suggestions that we ought to have Welsh refs. for English League and Cup matches, and vice-versa for games in Wales.

Personally, I've always thought there was some strength in that argument, and it will be interesting to see if Matt's foray into the Principality adds any power to the particular elbow.

After all, we'd all have been very happy to see Mr. Norling at Twickenham last May, wouldn't we?

#### WHY NOT DO A BIT OF SHOPPING?

Just to remind you that the Club Shop is well and truly open for business, and you may feel it's an appropriate time to kit yourself out for the season.

#### GANGWAY!

There shouldn't be a problem this evening, but it's part of my job to remind everyone of the Fire Officer's and Police edict that no one is allowed to watch the game from stairs or gangways.

We're not expecting any accidents, but it's only common sense to be careful in these matters.

And while I'm on that subject, we don't want any problems with the neighbours, so we'd ask that you watch where your parking your car outside the ground. The various works going on around Gloucester are changing the pattern of traffic, so it's as well to keep an eye on things.

#### TAILPIECE

According to Ian Wooldridge, in my opinion, the best Sports Writer in Britain by a street, our old oppo, Terry O'Connor of the 'Daily Mail' has hung up his pen and gone into retirement.

As you'll probably recall, there was a long period when Terry O'Connor wasn't exactly flavour of the month at Kingsholm. Indeed, there were times when he seemed to have a positive dislike for Gloucester, criticising both the style and robustness of our play with unfailing regularity. I can remember at least two Gloucester players who had more than reasonable England careers, who wouldn't have been allowed within punting distance of a white shirt if Mr. O'Connor had had anything to do with it.

Often, his criticism was, quite frankly, wrong, and I can recall one occasion when he came badly unstuck. His column, that day, accused Mike Burton of biting an opposing prop forward's neck, and certainly the forward had the scars to prove it. Unfortunately, a spy who I had, at the time, in that particular camp, subsequently alleged that said scars had been imparted, the night before the game, by the player's girl friend, and understandably, he didn't want to admit as much to the Press.

My informant died a year or two afterwards so the truth or otherwise of the matter will probably now never be established, but it caused a great deal of hilarity at the time.

We saw Terry O'Connor at Kingsholm last season, and as always, he was a very pleasant and shrewd companion to have a beer with. His pen could be vitriolic, but he's a nice bloke when you get to know him.

Forthright, and even mistaken, he could be, but I have always maintained that, unlike some I could mention, he was never snide. If he believed a thing he wrote it, in forthright fashion, and you never got the impression that he was just being clever at your expense.

I, for one, hope he has a thoroughly pleasant retirement, and that we still see him hereabouts from time to time.

**ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER**



**Lloyds  
Bank**

THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.

# TALKING RUGBY

with  
**Mike Harris**



It is not only the top clubs that embark on recruiting campaigns in a bid to ensure future success for their teams.

With the introduction of a league system to England, many small ambitious clubs have seen the chance to join the top flight.

Clifton, who visit Kingsholm this evening, have followed the example of many of the more illustrious clubs (with the notable exception of Gloucester) and attracted players from other leading sides before the start of the season. Having won promotion for the second successive year at the end of last season, Clifton will be playing in National League Division Three this season — only two divisions below Gloucester.

And their ambition to win promotion for a third successive season is a realistic one.

During the summer Clifton have recruited several top class players including former Bath full back Phil Cue, Bristol flanker Peter Polledri, Bath centre Ben Cundy, Bath winger Barry Trevaskis and Bristol back row man Tim Edbrook. In addition Clifton can now draw upon the vast experience of former Bristol winger Alan Moreley who has been appointed the club's new coach this year.

Last season Gloucester travelled to Clifton and narrowly beat the Bristol side 7-19.

This evening's encounter should be just as tough for the cherry and whites and it gives some of the new players at Kingsholm this season a chance to prove themselves.

Ian Morgan, Jerry Perrins, Peter Miles and Dave Parry will all be trying to impress the selectors in their first full game for Gloucester.



**Jerry Perrins**

**DAVID  
MOORE  
BUILDERS LTD**

ALL TYPES OF BUILDING & REPAIRS UNDERTAKEN  
PLUMBING AND CENTRAL HEATING      DECORATING  
SUPPLIERS & INSTALLERS OF MOST KITCHEN FURNITURE  
& APPLIANCES

7a Mercia Road, Gloucester.

Tel: 0452 414000