



FOUNDED 1873

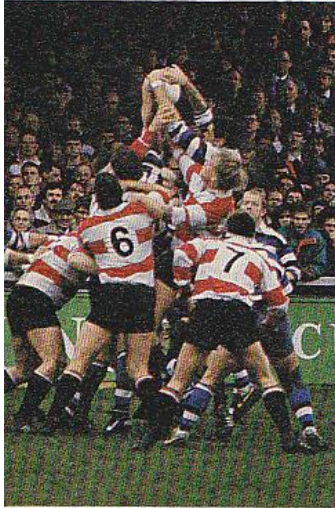
THE

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

v

# EXETER UNIVERSITY



Wednesday, October 3rd 1990  
Kick-Off 7.00pm



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

**435**  
Lucky Number







# TOUCH LINES

by

Peter Arnold

## THE ETERNAL VERITIES

'Change and decay in all around I see', says the hymn. Half of Bath defected to Newport. Half of Wales defected to Warrington. Matson beaten by Gloucester Old Boys. The RFU has even set up a body to investigate the transfer of players between clubs. It's the end of Civilisation As We Know It.

Or perhaps, not quite. As long as Exeter University visits Kingsholm on a Wednesday in October, then the Eternal Verities aren't quite dead and gone. Years ago, as St. Lukes, and more recently under their present name, they have been brightening our season with their own brand of running Rugby, and very welcome too.

My own feeling is that this type of match performs a very useful service for Gloucester at the moment. We have an unusually interesting crop of new players, some of whom are knocking at the big-game door very hard. The pressures of the League and Cup systems, as we found to our cost last season, mean that first-choice players need to be paced somewhat. The Exeter University-type games give our hopeful players a chance to spread their wings and show what they can do. Certainly, one has to gauge performance against the standard of the Opposition, but if a chap's got it, an experienced observer can usually see it.

But to return to tonight's festivities, you'll remember that last season's match was marred by the serious neck injury sustained by EU's 'Ali' Braithwaite. We were delighted to hear that he has made an excellent recovery, and there may be a chance that he's here this evening.

Incidentally, I'm told that the recovery was aided by the tender ministrations of the nurses at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, or more accurately, one of them. It's an ill wind . . .

So here's a warm welcome to Exeter University, that idyllic campus which is almost a botanical garden in its own right, and where the beer is excellent in the Student's Union. We can't offer tropical plants at Kingsholm, but we can make sure that the team has a very pleasant evening, and as always, we'll do just that.

## FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

You will have caught up with the fact that, on Saturday, we are expecting a visit from Moseley, with League points at stake. And after the disappointment at Leicester, we can do with them.

Last season, we opened the League campaign at the Reddings, and eventually won a fairly scrappy game which, quite frankly, we made heavy weather of. Part of the problem was that the pitch at Moseley, last season, looked like something the Armoured Brigade might practice on before going to Saudi Arabia, but I'm told that it's back to its normal green and pleasant condition this season, and that the standard of Rugby which the side is playing has risen accordingly. One way and another, next Saturday's meeting, here at Kingsholm, looks particularly evenly balanced, and certainly not one to be missed.

The following Saturday we're at home again, this time to the vastly improved Plymouth outfit. Several sides have come good after some years in the wilderness — Rugby, Blackheath, Northampton, for example — and Plymouth is certainly among that number. Quite an interesting prospect.

In between whiles, I see from my membership card, that the Colts are due to entertain Lydney, one week tonight. Reg Collins tells me that he has a good squad this season, and those games are always worth watching. Certainly better than staying home and watching telly.

So, we live in interesting times. See you along the way.

## GOOD WISHES TO THE 'GLOUCESTER'

One of the happiest Kingsholm occasions of recent years was the evening when the side from HMS 'Gloucester' played a Combination side, wearing for the first time their cherry-and-white strips, kindly donated to them by Eggletons Solicitors. Now, our own Type 42 destroyer has arrived in the Gulf, and we all know what the consequences of that mission can quite possibly be.

Of course, if the shooting does start, 'Gloucester'

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)



will give as good an account of herself as any ship in the world, but no one in their right mind wants to see the necessity for that arise.

I'm told that their Rugby strips have gone with them, so at least there's a little bit of Kingsholm helping to fly the flag in this most dangerous of situations.

Our thoughts, and our heartfelt good wishes, go with them — and with the families left back here at home. Best of British lads!

#### CARE TO GIVE A HAND?

Terry Tandy asks me to tell you that the Club could do with one or two more Stewards — to help people get to their places, and generally make sure that things run smoothly on big match days.

It's not an every-match commitment. Generally speaking, we can manage all right, but when the big matches come along, we can be stretched a bit thin at times.

If you're interested in giving a hand in this way, do please have a word with Terry Tandy. He'll be delighted to see you, and fill you in with a few more details.

Quite an interesting job, actually.

#### THANKS TO TYRE SALES

Not having a match sponsor tonight, I have the opportunity to thank Tyre Sales Limited, of 1a Kingsholm Road, for their enterprise in continuing to donate the 'Tantalising Tenner' for the holder of the programme bearing the lucky number. Indeed, they've upped the ante over the past couple of seasons, having graduated from a 'Fortunate Fiver'.

We're very grateful for their season-by-season generosity, and very much hope that their constant spot on the programme cover stimulates useful business for them.

That's the name of the game. Sponsorship would have its material rewards, as well as its satisfaction in supporting a worthy organisation.

#### IN THE \*\*\*\*

I see that the headmaster of a private school in South West London was recently incensed by the arrival of a flock of Canada geese. Apparently, they took over his school's Rugby pitches, and proceeded to eat them.

Moreover, they did what geese do, and deposited droppings all over the playing area, with the result that his aspiring Harlequins and Wasps spent their games slithering about in evil-smelling ooze, and that their Mums, who had to wash the kit, began to complain about the rural aroma which was issuing from their washing machines.

The head's reaction was predictable. He grabbed a shotgun, which he hadn't used for decades, and proceeded to blaze away at the offending fowl. He got six of them, too, but that still left about 150, which simply ignored him and continued to ingest and excrete all over the place. The saga continues.

It occurs to me that we've seen horrible things done to players from a great height here at Kingsholm, but not usually by Canada geese. And we're a lot closer to Slimbridge than South West London is. Perhaps our wildfowl have more sense of the fitness of things than London ones do.

#### TAILPIECE

I notice that, not being required to assist administration of a Sponsor last Saturday, John Hiley went back to his roots and turned out for the Old Cryptians.

And he doesn't qualify for his bus pass until next year.

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER



THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.



# TALKING RUGBY

with  
Mike Harris



Tonight's game against Exeter University could aptly be described as the calm before the storm.

On Saturday the Cherry and Whites face Moseley in the league at the start of a crucial period for the side's hopes of honours this season.

Later this month Gloucester face Wasps and Nottingham, the only two teams to beat them in last season's league campaign, and if they are to stay in the title race they must aim to win all three games.

It will therefore come as a relief to the players to turn out for a much less pressurised match, like tonight's.

Although a game is always played to win, a low key encounter is often more entertaining as it gives the players more chance to take risks and demonstrate their running skills.

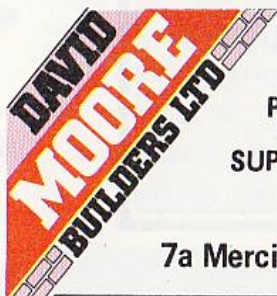
This was clearly evident on Saturday when the Cherry and Whites played some of their most fluent rugby of the season so far to run nine tries past Ebbw Vale and hopefully they will be able to put on a similar demonstration this evening.

Ideally a rugby supporter likes to watch a highly competitive game in which both sides are prepared to run the ball at every opportunity.

League games are highly competitive because of their importance but they often lack entertainment value for the very same reason.

Fixtures with less riding on them are consequently more than welcome. What must be in doubt, however is whether room can continue to be found for them in a rugby season with an increasing number of commitments for players at the top level.

1990		COLTS XV FIXTURES		
SEPT.	6	Coventry	... .. A	
	12	Moseley	... .. H	
	19	Clifton	... .. H	
	26	Forest of Dean	... .. H	
OCT.	3	Hereford	... .. A	29-15
	10	Lydney	... .. H	
	17	Nuneaton	... .. A	
	24	Bath	... .. H	
	31	Clifton	... .. A	
NOV.	6	Northampton	... .. A	
	14	Worcester	... .. H	
FEB.	13	Cheltenham	... .. H	
	20	Nuneaton	... .. H	
	27	Lydney	... .. A	
MAR.	6	Bath	... .. A	
	13	Moseley	... .. A	
	20	Coventry	... .. H	
	27	Worcester	... .. A	
APR.	3	Solihull	... .. H	
	13	Brixham	... .. A	



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