



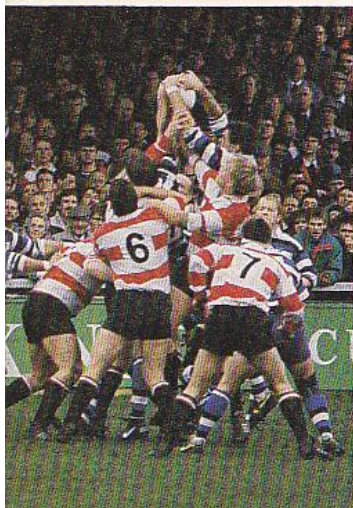
FOUNDED 1873

THE

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

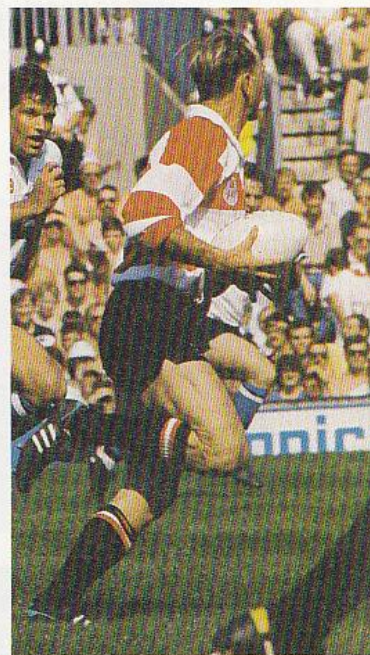
v MOSELEY



Saturday, October 6th 1990
Kick-Off 3.00pm



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TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

POINTS AT ISSUE

It won't be any news to you that today's game is the first Courage Clubs Championship match to be played at Kingsholm this season. Neither will you be unfamiliar with the proposition that the runner-up spot acquired by Gloucester in the recent game at Leicester means that today's points are extremely valuable. And I don't suppose our distinguished visitors from Moseley feel any less strongly about that.

Last season, we opened our League campaign at The Reddings, and came away with a 16-12 win, which some well-qualified observers thought wasn't exactly the best performance of the season. Be that as it may, the lads came back with a vengeance, and put 33 points on Moseley at Kingsholm on New Year's Day — and you can read what you like into a holiday game of that sort.

But since when did we need the stimulus of a League to regard Moseley as very welcome visitors indeed? They've been coming here for longer than most of us can remember, and for most of that time, giving Gloucester all they can handle. They've always attracted good crowds, and provided enthralling, committed Rugby, with no quarter asked or given. Things will certainly be no different today.

We also have a familiar face back, in unfamiliar colours. Ruari Maclean, now happily recovered from an injury which kept him out for almost all of last season, is back in action and keen to inflict the kind of mayhem on his old mates that he used to purvey when he wore cherry-and-white. Not only that, but he is in the Anglo-Scots squad which also includes Damien Cummins and Don Caskie, so there's a decidedly Gaelic flavour about the centre of the park today. Carl Arntzen must be feeling a little bit left out.

One way and another, I'm not going to risk any of my hard-earned bawbees on today's result. It could go either way, and we should be in for a good afternoon.

Anyway — it's good to see Moseley back at Kingsholm, and we all hope they thoroughly enjoy their annual visit.

NOW WE KNOW . . .

. . . just who does drink Carling Black Label. Just about everybody, or so I'm informed by Bass Brewers, who are sponsoring today's game. In fact, it's the top-selling lager in the country.

But there's more. I'm also told that Toby Bitter is the favourite draft beer in Rugby Clubs in the whole wide area in which it's distributed.

Both of these toothsome delicacies are dispensed by Bass, who, as you very well know, are Gloucester's major sponsors, and it's nice to have an opportunity publicly to state our gratitude for their generosity, not just for one match, but for the whole season.

So why would they also sponsor an individual game as well? Alan Jenkins, my Bass informant, tells me that they're "delighted to support the season's first League game." No doubt they are, but they are also taking the opportunity to present the Club with the next sponsorship cheque, which will, no doubt, bring a sparkle to the eye of Doug Wadley.

To perform that office, we're delighted to welcome Clive Buckle, the Bass MD, and spice is added to that function by the thought that there can't have been many occasions when a former Bath hooker has presented Gloucester with a healthy wad of the green stuff.

However, Bass are nothing if not ecumenical. They also support the County Cups of Devon, Cornwall, Hampshire and Somerset, and are hoping to become involved with Gloucestershire. Thinking of the old County structure, it's nice to see that Fred Ellison, Hon. Sec. of Somerset, is one of Bass's 40 guests today. Remember some of the homeric, do-or-die tussles Gloucestershire used to have with Somerset in the old days?

This should be a very pleasant occasion, and I'm absolutely sure that our generous sponsors will have a jolly good afternoon. Hope to see more of them, as time trots by.

WHY NOT GET INVOLVED?

If today's crowd is as big as everyone expects it to be, then we shall be a bit stretched for Stewards. Nothing catastrophic — just that we could do with

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one or two more chaps on the ground, so to speak.

We don't have any problems for run-of-the mill matches. It's just that we could use more cover for the big occasions.

Terry Tandy would be delighted to hear from anyone who feels he would like to give a hand in this way. As I say, it's not any every-match commitment, but one where you could do a very useful job, and one which is by no means onerous or unpleasant.

Interested? Give our genial General Secretary a call.

TRYING HARD

Had a chat with Dave Spencer last week. He may be having a highly creditable run with the First XV at the moment, but he still sees his principal role as Captain of United, and it was that which he wanted to bend my ear about.

'Spanner' tells me that he's never seen a United squad working so hard, or taking things more seriously. Obviously, the unofficial Second Team League has something to do with that, but there is also the thought that so many First XV places are in the melting pot at the moment, that just a little more effort could see an aspiring player into the Big Time. You only have to look at the performances that United players have turned in, so far this season, when called into the Senior side, to appreciate the truth of that.

In fact, the lines between the two sides are becoming increasingly blurred. Would you really call the likes of Nigel Scrivens, Malcolm Preedy, Kevin Dunn 'genuine' United players? And how would you class full-back Nick Marment, who has claimed the winger spot from such aspirants as Nick Price, Jerry Perrins and the ever-enthusiastic and ('Spanner' tells me) very hard-working Chris Dee?

I suppose that moral is that to pull on the cherry-and-white shirt is an enormous honour which most of us would give our eye teeth for, and that whether you do so as a United player, or a First XV man is largely irrelevant.

United are doing us proud this season. I certainly recommend you to support them whenever you can.

BAA-BAA MIKE

There's no question — we could have done with Mike Teague today, not that I'm making unfavourable comparisons with other players stepping into his boots.

However, you don't turn down the chance of a Centenary Barbarians shirt, if you're offered one, and remembering what happened to Mike the last time he played against Wales at the National Stadium, you can't blame him for wanting to put the record straight. I'll bet he'll be a right handfull today.

It would be churlish in the extreme to do other than wish him a triumphally good game.

KEEP CLEAR!

This being a fairly crowded day, it's about time I warned you, yet again, of the necessity to keep stairs and gangways clear — and please don't attempt to watch the match from them. Fire regulations do have to be taken seriously.

PLYMOUTH NEXT WEEK

Plymouth are one of the most improved sides in the country — and they're here next Saturday. Always worth watching. Then we have a visit from Cheltenham on the following Tuesday. Please note: *Tuesday*. I imagine that the trip to Wasps on the following Saturday has something to do with that.

TAILPIECE

I was informed, the other day, that St. John's Ambulance have been Doing Their Thing at Kingsholm since 1912.

Our glamorous team of Physios has been getting all the publicity lately, and deservedly so, but I wonder if they'll still be doing the job in 78 years time? And still getting the cheers if they are?

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TALKING RUGBY

with
Mike Harris



Realistically, Gloucester have to win today's game against Moseley to stay in with a chance of going one better than last season and winning the league title.

To do so they will have to overcome two former cherry and whites who will be determined to win on their return to Kingsholm.

Anglo Scot centre Ruari Maclean will be well remembered for his uncompromising tackling when he was a Gloucester regular a couple of seasons ago.

Although injury threatened to end his career last year the 28-year-old is now back to full fitness and will be keen to get one over his old club.

Scrum half Bruce Fenley spent far less time with the cherry and whites.

The 22-year-old former Old Patesians player was with Gloucester for only a few months before moving to college in Birmingham and joining Moseley.

He has now been with the Midlands side for three seasons and today keeps England B scrum half Simon Robson out of the side.

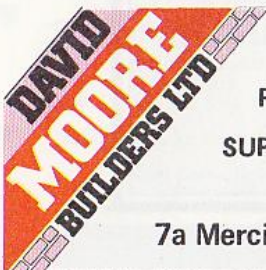
Gloucester will certainly have their work cut out to subdue the likes of Maclean and Robson this afternoon.

Although they have shown glimpses of their best form Gloucester have yet to play to their full potential throughout an important match.

Success breeds success and Gloucester need one really good win to rediscover the confidence that is essential at the top level of any sport.

Today's match is the perfect opportunity for the cherry and whites to show what they are capable of, albeit without the services of Mike Teague.

1990 COLTS XV FIXTURES				
SEPT.	6	Coventry	A 0-19
	12	Moseley	H 21-17
	19	Clifton	H 37-6
	26	Forest of Dean	H 29-15
OCT.	3	Hereford	A
	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	H
	20	Coventry	H
	27	Worcester	A
APR.	3	Solihull	H
	13	Brixham	A



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