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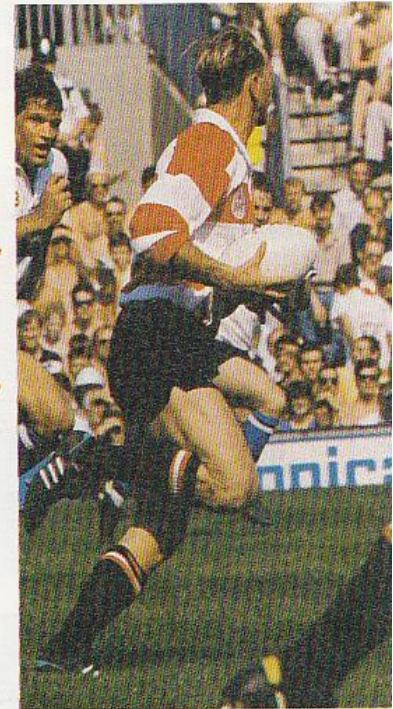
THE
**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB**

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

v
CHELTENHAM



Tuesday, October 16th 1990
Kick-Off 7.00pm



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TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

A STRICTLY LOCAL AFFAIR

One thing you can be sure of — unless something highly peculiar happens, tonight's match won't feature in tomorrow morning's sporting headlines. To be devastatingly frank, Gloucester v. Cheltenham doesn't rank with Soccer's Liverpool v. Everton in the local Derby stakes.

Who cares?

Certainly not the fifteen worthies who will be running all over the park this evening. Nor those of us who have turned up to watch. This long-established fixture has always had a special place in the Kingsholm fixture list, and rightly so. If two towns, (all right, one town and a city — I've been pulled up for that before) only a bracing evening's stroll apart, can't meet for a spot of friendly mayhem on a regular basis, then there's even more wrong with the game than I thought there was.

You may also be under the impression that one of tonight's sides doesn't have a snowball's chance in a take-away kebab shop of coming away with a win. If so, you are, quite possibly, in error. I haven't seen the two sides, at the time of writing, but with the trip to Wasps coming up on Saturday, I can't imagine that we'll see many — if any — chaps who might be asked to participate, doing their thing tonight. Which means a Gloucester side composed largely of emerging talent, rather than established stars.

That's one of the values of games such as this one. It does give the opportunity for Selectors to see promising players in action. Of course, in such circumstances, the quality of the Opposition has to be taken into account, but an experienced observer can always tell if a player has got potential or not.

I hope you don't think I am rubbishing Cheltenham in any way at all. A lot of good players have emerged from the Cheltenham ranks — Mike Hamlin, John Fidler — you know the list as well as I do*, and who's to say that we shan't see a future star or two wearing red-and-black this evening? And remember — Cheltenham did beat Gloucestershire a couple of seasons ago.

Anyway, the season wouldn't be complete without a visit from Cheltenham, and it's always nice to have a convivial pint with old friends. Good to see you again, chaps!

**It includes our old friend and Old Boy of Barnwood Church of England School, Nigel Starmer Smith. He played once, and never got picked again.*

NICE ONE NEIL AND DAVE

Congratulations to Dave Sims and Neil Matthews on being selected for England Under 21's. The game is against Ireland and will be played at Moseley on October 29th. That's a Monday, and the game isn't so far away that you couldn't go along and see how the lads get on.

The Under 21 set-up is a comparatively new one, and seems to me to be a good way to create a bridge between Colts Rugby and the full England 'B' and England system. After all, the All Blacks have been doing this sort of thing for generations, and look where it got them.

We have other candidates too. Tony Windo has already played — against France, last season — and apparently made an impression. With the current crop of Gloucester players in the appropriate age group, we could well have other selections to celebrate.

Watch this space.

MAKE A FEW QUID

We're always on the look-out for Agents for our major Lottery. Such an Agency does have pecuniary advantages, because people who sell tickets get a percentage of the proceeds.

You're not going to be able to retire to the Cayman Islands on the proceeds, but it can be a useful way to supplement the income of the club, society or worthy cause with which you may be associated. Selling tickets at some regular gathering — skittle match, handicraft session, for example — could well present your organisation with valuable funds, and afford a modicum of amusement, too. How about a regular supply behind the bar of a club

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or community centre?

If you think there may be something in it for you, have a word with Terry Tandy. He'll be glad to tell you about all the details.

NOT ALL HIGH STREETS

I quote from Ian Wooldridge (whom God preserve) of the 'Daily Mail':

'Walk down your high street, stop 10 healthy men between the ages of 20 and 40 and ask them to name more than five players in the current England team, and you'll be confronted with nine blank faces. En masse, rucker players in England are less well known than walk-on nonentities in Coronation Street'.

He may well be right, in most places, but I'm not so sure about our High Street. Wander into the 'Golden Heart' or the 'Little Vic,' and I'm pretty certain that you could easily find ten blokes who could name all 15 players, probably plus the replacements. But then, Mr. Wooldridge has probably never heard of Tredworth Rugby Football Club.

GIVE A HAND

Since I've been relaying the request for a few new Stewards to officiate on big match days, we've apparently recruited a few happy souls, willing to give a hand. Terry Tandy's pleased about that. However, we still need one or two more, just to be on the safe side, so if you think you'd like to get involved, please have a word with him.

It's not a every-match obligation. We just need a few more chaps on gates and in an around the ground on the days when we're expecting a big crowd. The job's quite good fun, and isn't exactly onerous. Why not have a go?

WASPS ON SATURDAY

The Firsts are away to the Champions, Wasps, on Saturday next, and that should be quite an encounter. I suppose Gloucester must start as underdogs, but that's no bad thing.

One advantage of this is that we have a chance to

see United at home — against Wasps, again — on Saturday. United are certainly living in interesting times, at the moment, and can't be an easy option for anyone visiting Kingsholm. On the other hand, Wasps, traditionally, have always had a strong second string, so it should be a game worth watching. I earnestly recommend you to come along.

After that, on Saturday, the 27th, we entertain Nottingham, also in the League. Now *there's* a match to conjure with. You'll remember the two games up there, last season, and the influence they had, not just on Gloucester, but on the outcome of the whole season.

The lads are still smarting from the defeat which deprived us of the Championship, and will be out to redress the balance. And Nottingham will be without the charismatic, and defecting, Mr. Moore this time. It's certainly a game you won't want to miss.

After that, on Hallowe'en, as ever was, we have a visit from South Wales Police, who are always good value for money, and we start November with the Bristol game — which isn't a League match, incidentally. That comes at Bristol, next April

Meanwhile, United are due to play at home again, on the 30th, against — would you believe — New Zealand Yugoslavs. That should be worth a visit, for sheer curiosity value.

And one certainly shouldn't forget the Colts. They're away to Nuneaton, tomorrow evening, but on Wednesday the 24th, they entertain Bath, here at Kingsholm. After the shellacking which United handed out against the same opposition, it will be fascinating to see if the Colts can complete a highly significant double.

TAILPIECE

I don't believe it for a moment, but I've just heard about a trainee electrician who failed his first exam. Apparently, on being asked what the initials 'D.C.' stand for, he replied 'Don Caskie'.

Not so inappropriate, actually. Not the way he's been buzzing about, lately.

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER



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Mike Harris



Gloucester's 72-3 demolition of Plymouth Albion will have put the players in just the right frame of mind for Saturday's league clash with reigning Division One champions Wasps.

The 14-try victory over the Division Two side was a fine example of the support play which the cherry and whites are capable of.

Although the Devon side were much weaker than when the two teams have met in recent seasons, Gloucester's performance was a very good one.

It was their biggest win of the season so far and their largest since beating Birkenhead Park 84-0 in April.

Last season Wasps had a convincing 29-4 win over Gloucester in the league but the cherry and whites will be hoping for a repeat performance of their most recent encounter with the star-studded London side when they won 23-19 in the Pilkington Cup.

Wasps are one of the strongest sides in the league and Gloucester will have to be at their best to beat them.

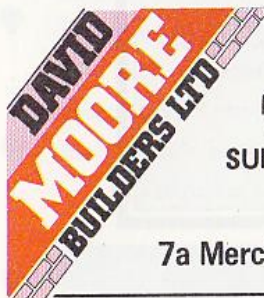
But they showed against Plymouth that they can produce some devastating rugby capable of beating most sides.

Both Gloucester and Wasps have come unstuck once in the league this season against Leicester and neither can afford another defeat if they are to stay in the title race.

Tonight's local derby against Cheltenham is a much more low-key affair but is another chance for players on the fringe of first team selection to stake their claims for regular first class rugby.

COURAGE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	3	3	0	0	65	27	6
Bath	2	2	0	0	62	13	4
Orrell	3	2	0	1	62	22	4
Harlequins	3	2	0	1	49	30	4
Northampton	3	2	0	1	48	35	4
Wasps	3	2	0	1	52	43	4
Gloucester	2	1	0	1	36	30	2
Bristol	3	1	0	2	44	44	2
Nottingham	3	1	0	2	37	50	2
Roslyn Park	3	1	0	2	25	43	2
Saracens	3	1	0	2	31	52	2
Moseley	2	0	0	2	21	52	0
L. St. Helens	3	0	0	3	16	107	0



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