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THE
**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB**

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

v
NOTTINGHAM



Saturday, October 27th 1990

Kick-Off 3.00pm

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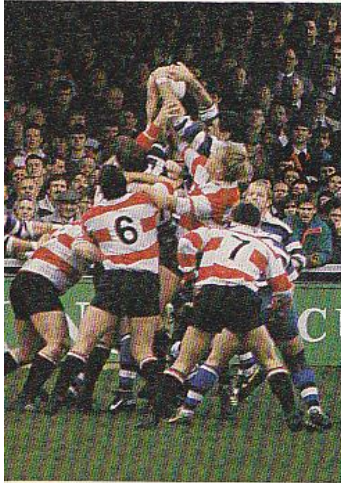


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TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

THIRD TIME ROUND

I really don't have to tell you about recent events in the long saga of Gloucester v. Nottingham games. When Gloucester visited Beeston for the first time last season, we were on the crest of the wave, Cup and League were both well in our sights, and the 26-16 win kept us firmly on the Pilkington trail.

Second time round, everything had changed. Right at the end of an exceptionally hard season, the lads had, it appeared from the touch line, gone off the boil — we lost, and the rest of the season is melancholy history.

This season, neither side has been performing in top gear at all consistently. Both sides badly need to win this one. Both sides are eminently capable of putting on a sparkling display, and confounding the pundits up and down the country by doing so.

One does have to point out that both last year's epic encounters were played at Beeston, and home advantage must count for something. On the other hand, it wouldn't be a good idea for Gloucester to give away too many penalties today.

One way and another, this is a very difficult game to call. It should be a very intriguing match, perhaps the most nail-biting one at Kingsholm so far this season.

Nottingham are, of course, always welcome visitors. It's a shame that the crowded fixture list only allows us to see them once each season, the Cup draw apart. I'm sure they'll have an enjoyable visit, and we'll be doing our best to see that they do.

JON BOWLES

There's a very good do scheduled for Friday, November 16th at the Tredworth Rugby Club. It's a great pity that it has to be in aid of such a sad cause.

As you've probably heard, Jon Bowles had the misfortune to be involved in a very nasty road accident, and is now blind and severely disabled. This doesn't stop him enjoying his rugby, and it was nice to see him at the Cheltenham game, being given a running commentary on the proceedings.

Money can't give him his old life back, of course, but it can make things a lot easier for him. Accordingly, a trust fund has been set up with the aim of doing just that.

And you can help, and have a thoroughly good night out while you're about it. Events at Tredworth RFC are always memorable, but the November 16th dinner should be a humdinger, even by those standards.

The speakers will be Mike Burton and Ian Wright, which should ensure value for money right there. Add a four-course meal, with wine included and a bar extension, and you have something special. Kick-off is 7.30 for 8.00.

Cost is £25.00 a ticket, and if you feel like it, tables for ten are available, so why not get a party together? Men only.

Full details and place bookings are available from our old mate John Watkins, who will be glad to take your phone calls on Gloucester 411427, between 5.00 and 6.00 pm each day. If that time isn't convenient for you, ring Longlevens RFC on Gloucester 306880.

I'm sure you'll want to support the Jon Bowles Trust Fund in some way or another, and it's difficult to think of a better method. Make that phone call when you get home.

NEXT WEEK, THE OLD ENEMY

Bristol are here next Saturday. 'Nuff said, really, except perhaps, to mention that this isn't a League game — that little contretemps is scheduled for the end of the season at Bristol. But when did we ever need artificial stimuli like League points to make Gloucester v. Bristol something special?

Before that, on Wednesday October 31st, you could be proceeding in a Kingsholmwards direction to help South Wales Police with their enquiries. Again, it's a game with a history of good Rugby, and you would be advised not to miss it.

Before that again, on Tuesday next, our formidable United side are playing hosts to New Zealand Yugoslavs. If my (always rocky) mathematics are

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right, they've scored 300 points in their last half-dozen or so games. Only last week they put 60 points on the Wasps second string, and Wasps Vandals always used to be reckoned to be a very strong side. Present evidence would seem to show that no one is likely to beat United this season, but you never know about injuries. First XV calls and the like, so anything can happen. Certainly, they're worth supporting.

When they have a game that is. They've already been deprived of one because the Opposition couldn't raise a side, and another because the ref — would you believe — didn't turn up, and their hosts couldn't find another one.

At least, that was their story.

A BETTER CLASS OF BENCH

Pete Jones, Kevin Dunn and Ian Smith will be warming their bottoms on England 'B' benches over the next week or two. Congratulations to them for that, and let's hope that those benches will turn out to be launching pads for higher things. There seems no reason why not, although Kevin seems to specialise in the replacement position, these days.

While on the subject, Mike Teague is also due to turn out in a 'B' shirt. Shame they didn't pick him against Argentina, but I'm told that one shouldn't read too much into that. He'll certainly be trying his considerable best to get his full England place back, and knowing Mike, I'm not about to bet that he won't.

SPECIAL THANKS TO WAGON FINANCE

We're always extremely grateful to our generous Sponsors, of course, but this week, we have extra reasons for our gratitude. Less than one week ago we didn't *have* a Sponsor, which would have been a pity for a match as important as this one.

Not that corporate generosity is waning. It was simply that DIS, very faithful and long-time Sponsors, have taken one of our hospitality boxes (still one or two left, by the way), and so, understandably, didn't require a game as well. Then someone else did emerge, involving a major charity, but it didn't prove possible to arrange things in time.

Not to worry. There, nipping down the wing just as sharply as he ever did for Loughborough,

Jordanhill, Swansea, Gloucester and 14 times for Scotland, came Lewis Dick, this time, wearing whichever shirt is appropriate for the South West Regional Manager of the Wagon Finance Corporation. He's got a fair team behind him too, including Cheltenham Branch Manager, Clive Lucas.

Wagon Finance were founded in 1906, in the beginning, to finance railway rolling stock. Some of our old Wagonworks hands may remember them, although by 1935 they were closely involved in instalment finance for motor cars.

Nowadays, Wagon Finance are part of M.I.A. Plc, the international financial and media services organisation. Wagon Finance operate nationwide with over 40 branch offices, including those in Cheltenham, Bristol, Bournemouth and Malvern. They're still very involved in motor finance, including contract hire and leasing, operating through motor dealers, but they also handle finance for a wide range of instalment credit which they organise through retailers.

They'll be glad to give you full written details of all their services if you ring Cheltenham 577701. They especially pride themselves on their speed of turn-round when making financial decisions and arrangements — but what else would you expect with Lewis Dick in control?

It's nice to see Lewis back at Kingsholm, taking time off from coaching Cheltenham North. He's glad to be back too, and sends regards to such stalwarts as John Fidler and Bob Clewes, and indeed to anyone who played alongside him. He has especially warm memories of John Watkins, who has featured already in this programme. Not only does Lewis regard him as a very fine player, but quotes him as typifying "Everything that is best about Rugby Football". He also asks me to remember him to the supporters, who he describes as "very special".

Our thanks again. Hope everyone has a very good afternoon with us.

TAILPIECE

Heard in the Royal Oak, Hucclecote, last week: "How do I stand about getting a Wales-England ticket?"

"You don't stand, old mate, you grovel!"

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TALKING RUGBY

with
Mike Harris



The Gloucester players and supporters will want to forget last season's bitterly disappointing league defeat at Beeston.

The cherry and whites were well below par on that day and Wasps snatched the league title when it seemed certain to be on its way to Kingsholm.

Today's league clash with Nottingham is bound to bring back memories of that game.

But Gloucester's primary aim today will be to secure two badly needed league points, not to exact their revenge on the East Midlanders.

The cherry and whites were unlucky to come off second best to Wasps last week at Sudbury.

They paid the price of not turning first half pressure into points and several players went very close to scoring tries before the break.

Gloucester showed in that early period and during the previous week's thrashing of Plymouth Albion that they are well capable of reproducing last season's devastating form.

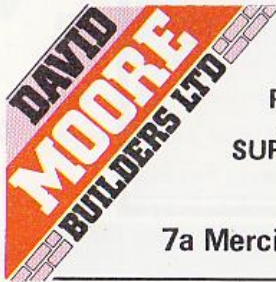
What is to be hoped is that they can do so against Nottingham today.

Gloucester are unlikely to be among the title chasers at the end of the season after their defeat at Wasps.

But another defeat today would raise early season relegation fears for the side.



P.S. Saturday November 3rd Match against Bristol — Kick-off is 3.00 p.m. not 7.00 p.m. as stated on poster.



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