



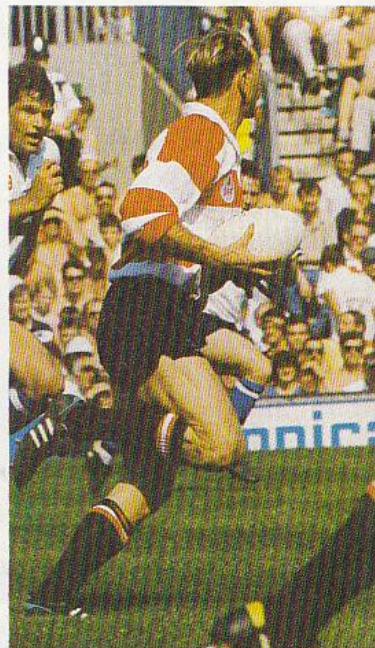
FOUNDED 1873

THE
**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB**

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

v

BLACKHEATH



Saturday, January 19th 1991
Kick-Off 3.00pm



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



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Official Programme

276
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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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Cumulative Match Score

Referee: G. Davies (Liverpool Society)

GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts

15. T. Smith

14. J. Perrins

13. D. Cummins

12. S. Morris

11. N. Marmont

10. M. Hamlin (Capt.)

9. L. Beck

1. M. Preedy

2. J. Hawker

3. R. Pascall

4. C. Guest

5. D. Sims

6. J. Gadd

7. I. Smith

8. B. Clark

Replacements:

M. Hannaford

P. Jones

H/T

BLACKHEATH

(Red and Black)

T	G	Pts

15. C. Parker

14. D. Craig

13. R. Smith

12. T. Payton

11. P. Jones

10. N. Munn

9. R. Taylor

1. G. Hughes

2. A. Clark

3. J. Frostick

4. J. Wishart

5. D. Hursey

6. T. Smith

7. J. Swain (Capt.)

8. S. Short

Replacements:

J. Clarke

A. Walton

F/T

TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

THE VENERABLE 'CLUB'

As you'll know, we're now into the year which sees the Centenary of the Kingsholm Ground, so it's entirely appropriate that the oldest Rugby Club of them all features so early in our Agenda. Known to its habitués (and 'sons of habitués', as a Blackheath regular of my acquaintance used to say), simply as 'The Club', this fine old institution played against Richmond in the first club Rugby match ever. Having just moved house, my reference books are in a cardboard box, somewhere, so I can't tell you the exact date, but it was before Digger Morris was around, so that will give you some idea.

Many of us can remember when the visit of mighty Blackheath was one of the highlights of the Kingsholm season. After that, there were the doldrum years, when nothing much seemed to go right, but the advent of the Courage League seems to have provided just the stimulus that was needed to revive The Club's fortunes.

There were those around who didn't give much for Blackheath's chances under the new club rugby structure, but like one or two other sides — Saracens and Northampton spring to mind — they seem positively to have thrived on the challenge, and are now definitely a side to be reckoned with. And a good thing too.

There was a time when Blackheath was only notable for footpads and highwaymen — in fact, I seem to remember that Dick Turpin did something nasty to a coachload of tourists there before leaving his end-of-season tour of York. I'm not accusing today's respected and very welcome visitors of highway robbery, nor yet felonious assault, but this rumbustious background should help them fit in well with our happy band of pilgrims.

Hope so, anyway, I'm sure they'll have a great time at Kingsholm, today. It's very good to see them again.

THE FORTUNATE HEADLAND

You may recall that, when Bass Breweries sponsored our most recent Pilkington Cup match, they posed a one-question quiz, the prize for which was a tray of cans of Bass's own nectar. The challenge was to name the best-selling bitter around Gloucester's rugby clubs, and the answer was 'Toby'.

I'm delighted to be able to report that the aforesaid medication has been won by one of the most appropriate recipients I can think of, one Mr. B. Headland of Barnacre Drive, Hucclecote, whose name was the first one to emerge from Terry Tandy's jockstrap.

Brian Headland is an ex-scrum half of some distinction, not unknown around the precincts of Gloucester Old Boys. Brian's sporting interests are rather more gentle these days, being less concerned with putting it in than with simply putting.

However, his capacity for bitter has remained undiminished with the years, and if he likes to divert his attention from his sand wedge long enough to visit the Social Club, he'll find his refreshment awaiting him. And I think he owes me at least one of them.

SPAIN AND HARLEQUINS

Taking things in chronological order, there are still tickets available — in all parts of the House, as they used to say in the Golden Age of the Cinema — for the England 'B' versus Spain game tomorrow. Obviously, they're on sale today.

So are tickets for next week's 'crunch' Pilkington Cup game against Harlequins — but only Ground tickets. All seats in the Stand are long gone, a circumstance abetted by the fact that 'Quins snapped up their entire statutory allocation on Day One.

Ground tickets for the game were issued primarily to ease congestion at the turnstiles on the day, so

S·E·L·E·C·T



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you'll be doing everyone, not least yourself, a favour by buying yours beforehand. If you like to take a chance at the gate — well, that's up to you.

Just one more thing. If you're thinking of bringing your car along, then you'd better arrange to get here around 1.30, or your chances of patronising the car park — for which you'll have to pay, under the Rules of the Competition — are just about zilch. If you can't make it by that sort of time, then it might be as well to leave the old rustbucket at home for once, or at least resign yourself to a fair old stroll to the Ground.

UNITED AT INNSWORTH

Terry Tandy, our worthy General Secretary, has had a couple of complaints about last Saturday's United match being transferred to Innsworth. I can well understand how frustrating it is to turn up and find nothing happening, but I do have to say that the circumstances were more than extenuating.

Anyone who came along to the London Scottish game will appreciate the reasons for the switch. 'Quagmire' was a mild term for the conditions which developed, and the quality of the match which ensued reflects great credit on the players of both sides.

However, it was patently obvious that the old pitch badly needed a rest. The decision was immediately taken to find a new venue for the United game on the following Saturday — not easy during such a busy part of the season — and by Monday evening arrangements had been made with RAF Innsworth, whose pitch hadn't seen a boot raised in anger since December, for the game to be played there.

It's difficult to see how arrangements could have been made any more quickly. The switch was publicised in the 'Citizen' three times between Tuesday and Friday, which means that there was only one evening when the message wasn't in the local paper. So it's just as hard to see what else could have been done to warn people.

Nevertheless, the Club does apologise to anyone who was inconvenienced. Equally, we'd like to put on record our appreciation of the readiness with which the Innsworth authorities co-operated. They got us out of a (literally) sticky situation.

TEAGUE'S BACK!

Congratulations to Mike Teague on regaining his England place. Remembering what happened to him the last time he played for England at Cardiff, he'll be out to prove a point or two today.

And while we're talking about England matters, it was nice to see the Squad training at Kingsholm last Wednesday evening. Where better? But my nasty, suspicious mind suggests a sinister undertone.

Could it just be that the England authorities are just a teeny bit worried about the outcome of their match against Gloucester in the run-up to the World Cup next September? And that they are taking steps to nullify Gloucester's home advantage?

THERE IS LIFE AFTER PIKINGTON

According to my fixture list, the next First XV home game after the Harlequins game is the League meeting with Bath on February 9th, which should be mildly interesting, after which we entertain Newport and London Irish in rapid succession.

Before that, however, we visit Newbridge on February 1st. Please note the date, if you're thinking of going along. It's Friday. That night, United take on Bristol at Kingsholm.

BEST OF LUCK . . .

To Hucclecote Old Boys and Civil Service in their quests for glory in the highly-successful Provincial Cup. Two teams from the same town at this stage of the competition really says something about the strength of local rugby.

Incidentally, for the benefit of the Powers-That-Be who have to make the draw on television, the word is not 'Huckle-coot'. Just think of the noise you make when you try to stifle a burp, and you'll get it right.

TAILPIECE

Speaking of Hucclecote, I don't live there any more. I do value the letters and calls I get on the subject of the programme, so if you want to get in touch with me from here on in, you'll find me at:

74, Victoria Street, Gloucester GL1 4EW
Telephone: Gloucester 380481

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER



THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.

TALKING RUGBY

with
Mike Harris



Most eyes will be on Cardiff's National Stadium this afternoon where all the pundits are predicting England's first win since 1963.

This year, more than ever, there would seem to be no reason at all why England should not return with a victory.

A makeshift Wales side, hit by defections to Rugby League, would appear to have little chance against a well organised England side who have played some brilliant rugby in the last couple of seasons.

But that view takes no account of the passion generated by a packed crowd at Cardiff and the question marks surrounding England's ability to stand up to the sort of pressure they experienced in Murrayfield last year.

But if, as expected, they do overcome the Welsh challenge, it will be due in no small part to the help of Gloucester Rugby Club, and not just the contribution of the mighty Mike Teague in the back-row.

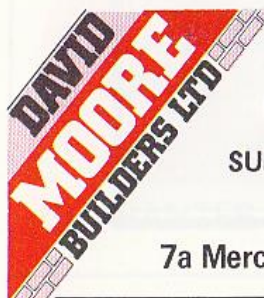
England put the finishing touches to their preparations at Kingsholm on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning and Gloucester's pack provided them with some useful scrummaging practice.

While the main event takes place at the National Stadium Gloucester entertain Courage Division Two side Blackheath this afternoon.

Several regular first team players are rested but the Cherry and Whites will still hope to put in a good performance to boost confidence before next Saturday's eagerly awaited Pilkington Cup fourth round tie against Harlequins.

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.	10	Lydney	...	...	H	14-3
	17	Nuneaton	...	...	A	22-9
	24	Bath	...	...	H	13-9
	31	Clifton	...	...	A	Canc.
NOV.	6	Northampton	...	...	A	11-10
	14	Worcester	...	...	H	23-14
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	
	P	W	D	L	F	A
	9	8	0	1	170	102

Leading Points Scorers: Gareth Fenwick 46 (12C 6P 1T), Bruce Harris 36 (9T), Leigh Hastings 16 (4T), Chris Theyer 16 (4T).



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