THE
GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB

President: Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

v
BLACKHEATH

Saturday, January 19th 1991
Kick-Off 3.00pm

OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF THE
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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

50p.
Official Programme

Tyre Sales
1a Kingsholm Rd

276
Lucky Number
### Gloucester Rugby Football Club

**Gloucester**

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**Replacements:**

- M. Hannaford
- J. Jones

**Blackheath**

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**Replacements:**

- J. Clarke
- A. Watton

Referee: G. Davies (Liverpool Society)
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
aforementioned medication has been won by none of
the most appropriate recipients I can think of, one Mr.
B. Headland of Barnacre Drive, Hucclecote, whose
name was the first 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 genteel these days, being less concerned
with putting it in than with simply putting
However, his capacity for bitter has remained
unchiminished 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

By appointment to GRFC and also
suppliers of grass seed to
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)
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 zitch. 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. 'Quagnire' 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 painfully 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
boat 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 teensy 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-cost'. 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
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 Murryfield 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.

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