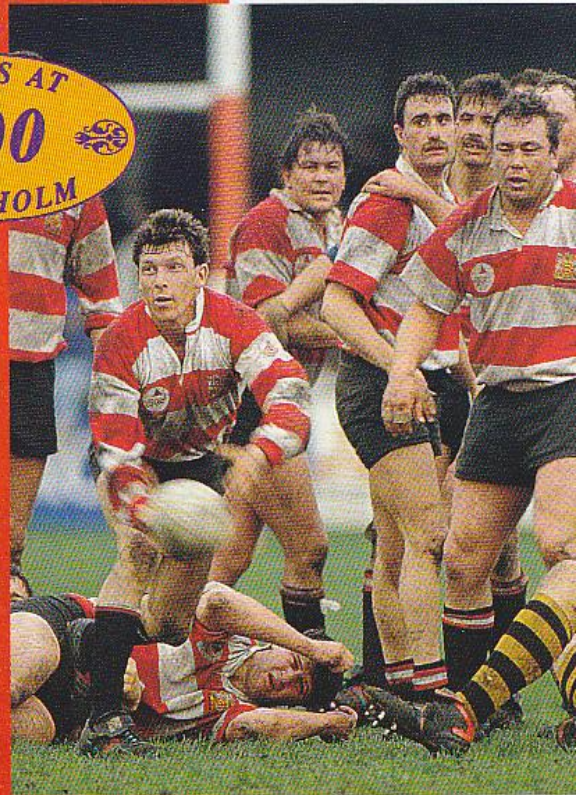
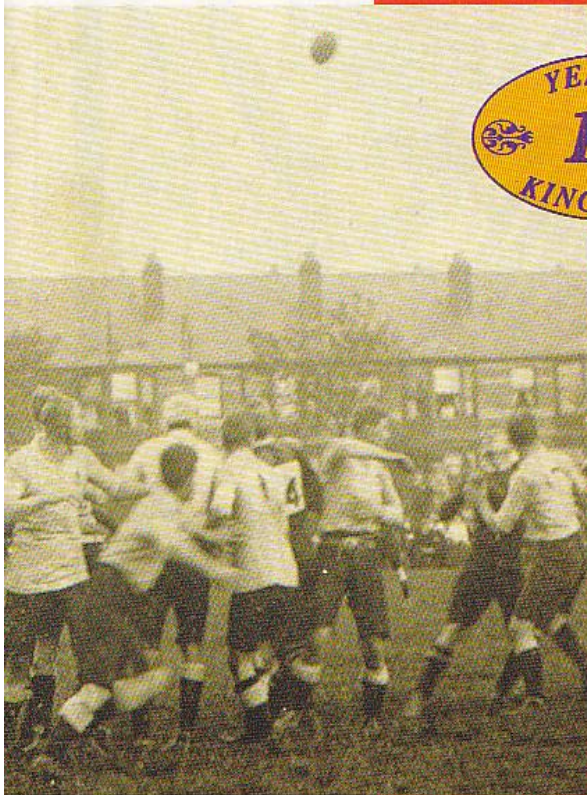


THE
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CLUB

V
MOSELEY



80p.
Official Programme



FOUNDED 1873
President:
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Wednesday, September 2nd 1991
Kick-Off 7.00pm

MATCH KINDLY SPONSORED BY

Nash
READYMIX

OFFICIAL SPONSORS



TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

BACK TO NORMAL

It's rather like drinking an honest-to-goodness pint after a session on exotic liqueurs. Swansea, England, Irish President's XV and Neath is a heady cocktail by anyone's standards: after that lot, it's good to be trying conclusions with a straightforward English League side. Especially a good old good one like Moseley.

It wouldn't be unkind to state that the boys from The Reddings have not quite been living up to the very high standards they traditionally set themselves, over the last season or so. However, as we well know, these things go in cycles, and it won't be too long before they are back at the very top of the tree where they belong. In all the many years our two clubs have engaged in amiable hostilities, there has never been a spell of more than a season or two when Moseley haven't been in that position, and there's no reason to believe that things will be any different this time round.

Last season, it was our unhappy duty to contribute to Moseley's temporary departure from Division One of the Courage League by beating them here by 30 points to 12, and in our return friendly on New Year's Day, we compounded that by coming home with a 20-10 win. I don't suppose they're very pleased that Sam Masters is now to be seen in a fetching cherry-and-white ensemble either, so our very welcome visitors will be out to prove a point or two this evening.

That's an innovation in itself. I could be wrong, but I don't recall a Moseley game kicking off at 7.00 before, but then, the requirements of our Ground Centenary year combine with the demands of the League to bring changes all round. Perhaps we can make up for playing Moseley just once this season by issuing some hearty hospitality in the bar afterwards.

I'm quite convinced that Moseley will be back on the Saturday list next season, because that's when the League games are played, and you can't keep a good side down. Until then, it's good to see such old and respected opponents at Kingsholm, helping us to celebrate our Centenary. It wouldn't be the same without Moseley, and we're all wishing them the best of luck in their bid to regain their rightful status this season.

THANKS TO NASH READYMIX

It's always a pleasure to express thanks to a new

Sponsor, and tonight we have a concrete example, which is an atrocious pun that I simply couldn't resist.

Nash Readymix Limited was established as a company only last year. In effect, it came about as an amalgamation of the ready mixed concrete interests of the internationally famous Tarmac Group in Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, and Powys with those of Nask Rocks Limited. Plants are already in operation in South Cerney, Coleford, Redditch, Kington and Hereford.

A new, fully computerised, plant has recently been opened in Cheltenham, replacing an older operation just off Gloucester's Bristol Road. It has a capacity of 90 cubic metres per hour, which is an awful lot of garden paths, and incorporates a pan mixer for the local collected and screed markets. Like all the plants, it has full QSRMC accreditation, and has the enormous advantage of Tarmac technical backup and service. Prices are good too.

All sounds very impressive, but no company is any better than the people who work for it, and Nash Readymix is proud of its young but experienced team. Simon Phillips has responsibility for all the plants, and in Cheltenham and Gloucester, has Pete Walters, very well known in the trade locally for some 15 years to control operations. Matthew Pattinson does the same for Coleford, and Mike Courtney runs South Cerney.

Tarmac, of course, need very little introduction, and those in the field will know that their Quarry Products Division are leaders in dry and coated aggregates as well as ready mix. Nash Rocks are a privately owned company based near Kington, well known for agricultural ground limestone as well as concrete blocks and other services. Earlier this year they achieved the significant distinction of becoming the first UK company to receive BS5750 accreditation.

We're very grateful for their support. Perhaps this evening's doings will cement our relationship. Sorry, I couldn't resist that one, either.

WORLD CUP

At the time of writing (Friday morning), there are still World Cup tickets available, in spite of a good take-up in the Clubhouse last Thursday. If you haven't acquired yours yet, then they'll be available, at £5.00

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MORE TOUCH LINES

for a Ground ticket, from the Office alongside the Clubhouse entrance.

It's also worth reminding you that, if you want a pre or post-match drink, you'll need to be able to show a Social Club membership card to get into the Clubhouse on that day; Tuesday October 8th, in case you've forgotten.

Season ticket holders are entitled to one for free. If you haven't invested in one of those yet, then membership of the Social Club will cost you £2.00. Enquire in the Clubhouse.

Complex dwellers, this means you. The World Cup organisers have, in effect, taken over the Complex for that day, so you won't be able to inhabit your favourite spot on that occasion.

I'm also asked to tell you that possession of a membership card is the only way to get into the Clubhouse on October 8th. There simply won't be room for guests, be they never so eminent or deserving, and the fair thing is simply to enforce the rules rigorously.

Sorry if the arrangements inconvenience you, but it's only for one day.

UP FROM DEM'SHIRE

The First XV are entertaining our old friends from Exeter next Saturday, which is always pleasant. After that they go walkabout for a couple of weeks, visiting Newport and Leicester, before returning for South Wales Police on Friday, October 25th. If you fancy the trip to Newport, then don't turn up on Saturday, because you'll be a day late. The game is on Friday October 11th.

That doesn't mean you need go short on your Rugby. For the next few weeks United will be very active here at Kingsholm. Next Saturday they're at home to Bedford — I don't know at the moment where and when that game will take place — and after that entertain Newport, Leicester and Northampton on successive Saturdays, before catching the Friday syndrome and hosting a very intriguing game against Cardiff on November 1st.

The Colts aren't idle either. After visiting Clifton on the day the World Cup comes to Gloucester, they play Northampton on October 16th and Lydney on October 23rd, both matches at Kingsholm, and if you want to know where our future stars are coming from,

then those are the matches to see.

So there's plenty going on.

UNITED

It's only right that United should take centre stage for a while. They are looking in superb form at the moment, and they're not going to let go of their Midlands and West League Championship very easily. They're just as much a part of the Kingsholm scene as the First XV are, and one which is highly valued by their very loyal and enthusiastic band of supporters. They too should have their moments of glory in our Ground Centenary season, and retaining their Championship would be as good a way of celebrating as you can think of.

Results this season speak for themselves. Nuneaton are usually regarded as tough opposition, but they were comprehensively demolished, as were Richmond.

I suppose that the secret is that there is a whole clutch of United players who would be automatic First XV choices in many a Courage League club. I don't need to name them to you, of all people, and it would be invidious to do so, but there has seldom been a period when we have so many good performers turning out for the second XV, and with the loyalty and dedication to the Club to be willing to do so, while busting a gut to get into the First XV.

Indeed, one could go further. There is virtually no one in the 'Firsts' who can honestly say that his place is absolutely safe, and what's more, the lads know it. Which is extremely healthy, and the way things should be.

Early days yet, of course, but the United season is already proving to be as fascinating to follow as the fortunes of the senior side.

And they could do with your support.

GOLD BOND

David Golder tells me that the Gold Bond lottery has taken off well, with the first prizewinners in the bag. There's always room for more, however, and David would be very happy to hear from anyone who fancies becoming an Agent. It is, after all, a very good way to raise a little cash for any organisation in which you may be interested — or even for yourself, for that matter.

Interested? Ring Dave Golder on Gloucester 419666.

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER



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BACK THEN

Information kindly supplied by Gloucestershire County Library Service

The 'Gloucester Journal' of October 3rd, 1891 reported that Gloucester had played their second game of the season on the previous Saturday, and that the opposition was a Twenty picked from the Next XV — what we would now call the United — and from top junior clubs. If you read these notes in the Neath programme, they you will recall that this was the second such match, and that the first one, played the previous week, hadn't covered anyone with glory. As the 'Journal' stated:

'The juniors were well represented, and being their conclusions on the result of the previous Saturday's match, many people thought that they would run the city team very close'.

It wasn't to be, however. Gloucester beat the Twenty by 15 points to nil. As the 'Journal' was quick to point out:

'It must be borne in mind that the city team was much stronger than the previous week, having the services of Walter George at half, A. Cromwell, T. Taylor and Henshaw (whose appearance had been anticipated with great interest) in the front division'.

The 'great interest' invoked by Mr. Henshaw arises from the fact that he was a defector from down the South Wales road. The press reporter commented:

'Henshaw, the ex-Newportian, fully sustained his reputation.'

The score consisted of three converted tries, two of them scored in the first fifteen minutes. After that, superior numbers made things more difficult. Can you imagine today's First XV taking on a Twenty picked from United plus, say, Matson, Gordon League and Gloucester Old Boys? The phrase I particularly like is:

'Remarkable dodging ability was shown by all the three quarters'

I wish I could write like that.

The 'Journal' also reports that the England team had just returned from a tour of South Africa, where they had played nineteen matches and won the lot, scoring 223 points, which consisted of 63 goals and 39 tries. Aston of Blackheath had scored 33 tries, yet he only ever won two Caps.

Those were the days!

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ED MARTIN'S FACT FILE

Moseley made their first trip to Kingsholm in the 1891-2 season. The Midlands club was the tenth side to play Gloucester at Kingsholm and their visit provided the Cherry and Whites with their eighth win on their new ground — Moseley were taken care of by nine points to nil.

In the past 100 years, Moseley have paid 66 visits here — tonight is their 67th. Gloucester has won 49 of the encounters, losing 11 with six draws.

Moseley have failed to score on 11 of their visits to Kingsholm. And their defensive play has only been able to stop Gloucester scoring once — a 28-0 win, ironically in the 100th meeting of the two clubs in the 1976-7 season.

Up at The Reddings, Gloucester has had a harder time — though they are just ahead in the series. The Cherry and Whites have won 25 times and lost 24, with eight draws up in Birmingham 13. However, Moseley are ahead 649-606 when it comes to points scored.

The two "Neutral" games were both finals of the Club Knockout Competition — then called the John Player Cup and now the Pilkington Cup. Both games were played at Twickenham.

COMPLETE RECORD AGAINST MOSELEY

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA
Home	66	49	11	6	979	497
Neutral	2	1	0	1	26	15
Away	57	25	24	8	606	649
Overall	125	75	35	15	1611	1161

The records include the problematical 1987-8 season. However, they do not include the matches prior to the introduction of point values for scores in 1891.

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TAILPIECE

by
Peter Arnold

NICE ONE WILL!

I think that undoubtedly the quote of last week came from Will Carling. He was being interviewed about England's chances against New Zealand, and saying that the side's attitude was much harder than it had been during the last World Cup. That got the conversation on to the psychological warfare which seems inseparable from the game these days.

The England Captain wasn't worried about that either. He was then — inevitably — asked if the side had any plans to counter the undoubted psychological effects of the intimidating All Blacks 'haka'.

"Well," he replied "We did think of showing them a bit of Morris Dancing!"

The mind, as they say, boggles. Can't you just see Mike Teague, socks rolled down, clad in a beribboned straw hat and adorned with bells on his ankles? Spike Milligan's fondly-recalled East Action Stick Dancers pale into insignificance.

GET IT RIGHT

Ever since the Club AGM, back in July, it has become increasingly apparent that many people have a grave misconception about just what it is that Mike Burton's MBM Sports Management company is doing for Gloucester RFC. Let's get it right.

MBM are handling the commercial management of the Club. That means that matters such as sponsorship, advertising, the Programme, corporate hospitality and sales promotion of various kinds fall right within MBM's bailiwick.

Mike and his firm has no responsibility for the Social Club, so doesn't influence what's available in the way of nosh or drinks in the Clubhouse, nor yet the price of the beer.

You'd be amazed at some of the functions I have heard laid at Mike's door — and it's always stated as though Mike himself were responsible, rather than a perfectly properly constituted company, with a Board of Directors and everything.

I can therefore categorically state that neither M. A. Burton Esq. nor MBM Sports Management, have any influence over team selection (he'd probably be playing himself if he had), the price of season tickets (which is an AGM decision), how often the grass is cut, how often the seats in the stand are dusted, or the state

of the decoration in the ladies loos.

Yes — I really have had all those things mentioned to me, usually with a request that I use my influence, which is virtually non-existent, to Get Something Done.

Have we all got it straight now?

SPREADING THE NET

Harking back to the game described on the 'Back Then' page, further investigation reveals that the Twenty from Gloucester Next and Junior Clubs who played Gloucester during this week in 1891 included players from Dursley, Cheltenham, Ross-on-Wye, Beaufort (whoever they were), Gordon League and Gordon Wanderers, who were, I believe, a Forest of Dean Club.

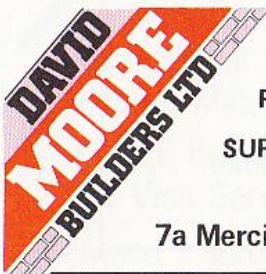
They certainly spread the net wide, in those days.

BEAST OF THE APOCALYPSE

Looking at MBM's letterhead, I felt a supernatural shudder between the shoulder blades. Is there, I asked myself, any significance in the fact that Mr. Burton's company has a telephone number which ends with the sinister number 666 — the Number of the Beast.

If you remember your Book of Revelations, 'And the number of the Beast shall be the number of the Man, and the number of the Beast shall be six hundred and three score and six.'

Holy Water, anyone?



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