Hudson & Co.

SPORTS OUTFITTERS

SPECIALISTS IN RUGBY CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND EQUIPMENT
FOR OVER 50 YEARS

SUPPLIERS TO
GLOUCESTER RFC AND MANY LOCAL CLUBS

COMPETITIVE PRICES ON CLUB STRIPS

LARGE SELECTION OF REPLICA JERSEYS

5B NORTHGATE STREET
GLOUCESTER
TEL: 082787

ALAN BRINN SPORTS

RUGBY BOOTS • JERSEYS AND SHORTS • BALLS • CLUB DISCOUNTS • INDIVIDUAL DISCOUNTS FOR LOCAL CLUB MEMBERS

62 Campden Street, Gloucester
Telephone: 309722

COOMBS & RIDGEON

GLOUCESTERS USED CAR SPECIALISTS

Established for over 25 years
333 BRISTOL ROAD
Tel: 526933 & 524884

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

SPONSORED BY

STOATE & BISHOP

Lithographic and Letterpress
Printers, Typesetters and Designers

1 Woodhouse Industrial Centre
The Weaver Way
Cirencester
GL7 4NH
Telephone: 01285 657246
Fax: 01285 657337

Good luck to one special team from another!

Richard Cound
BMW in Gloucestershire

P & H MOTORS

PARTS SERVICE CAR SPARE

PRIORITY ROAD • GLOUCESTER

VAUXHALL MAIN DEALER

Telephone: 0952 524912

NEW CARS USED CAR SPECIALISTS
TOUCH LINES
by
Peter Arnold

BACK TO NORMAL
It’s rather like drinking an honest-to-goodness pint from a bottle instead of a can. With the
new players and the new style of play, it’s easy to see why some people think that this
season is going to be better than last year. The weather has been kind too, with plenty of
good days for people to enjoy themselves. The teams are well-matched, with
Moseley looking good, but not too good to lose. The future looks bright for rugby.

Sponsor, and tonight we have a concrete example, which is an atrocious pun that I simply

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 Nash Rocks Limited. Plants are already in operation in South Cerney, Coleford,
Redditch, Kington and Hereford.

A new, fully computerized, plant has recently been
dedicated to Ghentse, 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 screened markets. All the plants,
it has full CSRMC 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 Gloucester and Hereford, has Pete Waters; very
well known in the trade locally for some 15 years to
take overall control. Matthew Paton has 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
are leaders in dry and coated aggregates as
well as ready-mixed concrete. 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 donation 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
collected yours yet, then they’ll be available, at £5.00

S.E.L.E.C.T.

SFS
FEEDS & SEEDS

By appointment to CRFC 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 760511
or 0860 590330 (Carl)
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 organising 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 non-playing, 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 needn't 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. Nine gates 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 any 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 basking a get to get into the First XV.

Indeed, one could go further. There is virtually no one in the Firsts who cannot 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 Gelder 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 Gelder on Gloucester 419666.

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER

Lloyds Bank

THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.
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, 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 during 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 2,33 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!

---

McGOLDRICK'S

The Food People

Whatever the event, we are the specialist caterers:

- SPORTS CATERING
- BUFFETS
- BARBECUES
- BIRTHDAY PARTIES
- CHILDREN’S PARTIES
- DISCOS

For further information and assistance in planning your events please call

GLOUCESTER (0452) 721742

or call at our shop in School Lane, Quedgeley
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 1995-6 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 64-606 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>P</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>PF</th>
<th>PA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>979</td>
<td>497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Away</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1611</td>
<td>1161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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 Best 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 have no responsibility for the Social Club, so doesn’t influence what’s available in the way of food 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’ loo.

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 Nest and Junior Clubs who played Gloucester during this week in 1991 included players from Dursley, Cheltenham, Ross-on-Wye, Beaufort (whoever they were), Gordon Leaue 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, 13:18, 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?