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GLOUCESTER v ENGLAND XV



At

KINGSHOLM

Saturday, September 14th, 1991

Kick Off 3.00 pm

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Official
Programme

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Three-quarter Backs.	
Giles Farmer	G. ROMANS
A. Lazybones	R. COLE
Charley Wallpaper	P. G. HARRIS
A. Notout	F. RUST
Half-Backs.	
Our Slavey	B. G. HARRIS
Little Titch	P. RODWAY
Forwards.	
Sergt. Coppem	A. PURTON
Becky Pilgrim	H. RICHARDSON
Farmer Twocows	C. WALWIN
Alice Wherearthou	J. WELSHMAN
Andy Andy	W. SMITH
Convict 99	G. VANCE
U. Davil	T. B. PHILLIPS

Back.	
Little Jim	J. Little
Three-quarter Backs.	
The Fat Boys from peckham	W. HADDON
	H. ASHWORTH
Rusty Rassi	W. H. RASBACH
The Boys called Taps	H. ROBINSON
Half-backs.	
R. U. There	T. RUST
Baron Rushpenny	H. SMITH
Forwards.	
Pierrot Billy	W. JOHNS
Col. Perhapsnot	W. SMITH
Fat Tom	J. LUKER
A. Littleode	L. PRICE
I. Deliverbread	H. SMITH
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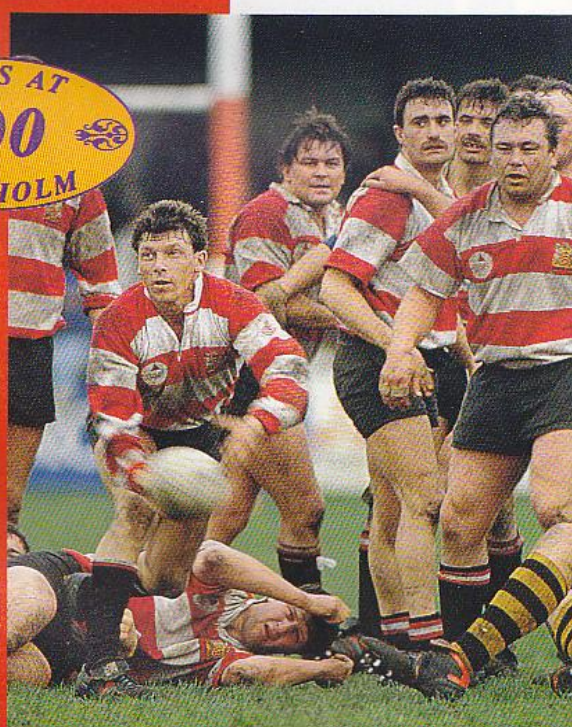
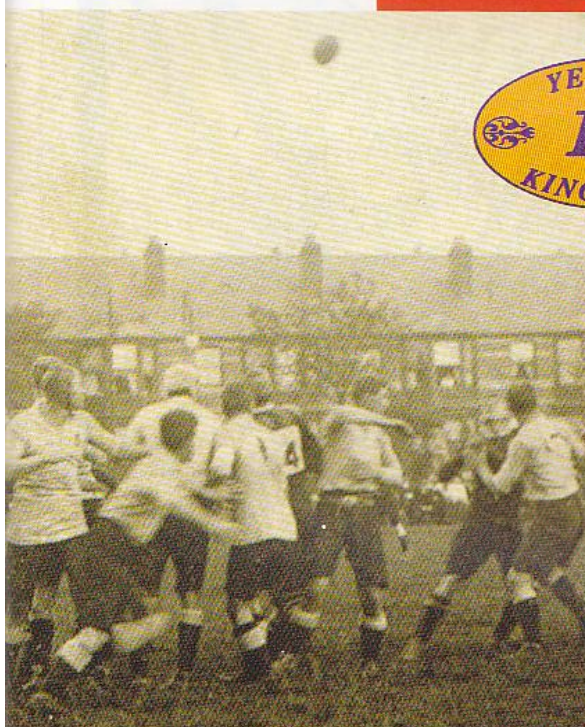
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TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

DOING OUR BIT

We've seen Gloucester play some memorable games on our unique old ground, over the years, but even the longest-serving 'elver eater', or his grandfather, must surely admit that there has never been an occasion quite like this one.

For that matter, there has never been an occasion like this *anywhere*. To help a full England side culminate their preparations for a World Cup by playing a serious, no-holds-barred game against a Club side is, quite simply, unparalleled. It's an honour not unconnected with our Ground Centenary, obviously, but I'd like to think that it wouldn't have happened unless the England management had been very sure that the World Cup side would gain considerably from the exercise.

It's not the first time that England have played here, of course, and I've no doubt that Ed Martin will elaborate further on that theme in his 'Fact File' piece, but for the Cherry-and-Whites to turn out against the white shirts is very new. What isn't new is to see Gloucester defending Kingsholm against heavy odds, and whatever the eventual scoreline, our distinguished visitors will certainly know they've been in a game by about 4.30. This is no happy Centenary run-about, and both sides know it.

I suppose it was to be expected that World Cup warm-ups would throw up some unexpected results — Scotland losing to Romania and Canada, France struggling against Wales, New Zealand going down to Australia — and against that background, England's preparations seem to have gone pretty smoothly. Predictably, given the circumstances and the time of year, they suffered in Australia (watching TV, I felt that the score flattered the Wallabies), but it is no mean achievement to beat Fiji on their own patch, and credit is due for a gritty performance there. It's to be hoped that today's effort will consolidate things further.

In one sense, England can't win today. They may score more points than us, but in the larger scheme of things, Gloucester must be the eventual winners, if only through having been granted the privilege of staging the game at all. Furthermore, the experience can't be anything but good for the Gloucester players, especially those with International aspirations of their own.

There is no Club, and no band of supporters, more solidly behind England in their Cup campaign than we are, and we all wish them all the best of good fortune in the coming few weeks. Perhaps they'll bring the trophy back for us to see it, when they've won it.

But, more than that, as always, we do hope that they can relax and enjoy some traditional Kingsholm hospitality while they're here. There's more to Rugby than World Cups, and it's alive and well and living in Gloucester.

THANKS TO WORTHINGTON

It's entirely appropriate that Worthington Best Bitter should be the generous Sponsors of today's game. Not only are they Gloucester RFC's major sponsors, but the Company, Bass Brewers Limited, are very involved with the World Cup itself. Through New Zealand Breweries' Steinlager brand, they are one of the major event Sponsors, and official Sponsor of the All Blacks and the USA Eagles, both of whom will be playing here in a few weeks' time, of course.

What's more, the Worthington National Sevens, exactly the same age as the World Cup, was held for the first time in the West Country, earlier this year, and our old friend and benefactor, Clive Buckle, Regional Managing Director of Bass South Sales can't resist adding that it was won by the host club. Why should he? He used to hook for Bath himself.

Clive writes "On behalf of Bass Brewers Limited, I would like to welcome you to Kingsholm today on what will undoubtedly be an exciting and important match in the Rugby calendar, pitting the National side against one of the premier Clubs in the country".

Very complimentary, coming from a Bath man, and we thank him for it. He continues: "The Rugby World Cup is one of the world's major sporting occasions, and as sponsors, we are proud to be involved with the event, and with the England side's build-up to the tournament at Kingsholm this afternoon. We wish both teams good luck and the England team every success in the World Cup."

Clive also sees another reason why today's generous Sponsorship is so appropriate: "Worthington Best Bitter is one of the country's leading ale brands, benefitting from over 200 years of brewing expertise. The tradition and heritage of the Worthington name

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MORE TOUCH LINES

echo those same qualities in Gloucester RFC, and in the game of Rugby itself'.

We can't quite claim to be as old as Worthington, although we do have the same qualities of durability and continuing popularity. But give us time, Clive, give us time. And thanks again for your magnificent support — not just today, but over the seasons.

GANGWAY!

For the first time this season, I should remind you that watching the game from steps or gangways is a definite no-no. (Sorry about the Americanism: the imminent arrival of the 'Eagles' must be catching).

It all has to do with fire regulations, and that sort of thing, so we can't do much about it. Similarly, we'd be grateful if you would co-operate with the Stewards. There is invariably a very good reason for anything they do, although it isn't always obvious, and they probably don't have time to explain it to you. A little give-and-take goes a long way.

IRISH PRESIDENT'S XV NEXT WEEK

But then, you probably knew that already. However, there are undoubtedly a few visitors from foreign parts here today, so it's worth mentioning that, at the time of writing, tickets are still available, at the same prices as today. Purchase your supplies from the fair Geraldine at the Club Office alongside the Clubhouse entrance, outside the ground. If you can't do that today, then the Office will be open from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm each day next week.

Incidentally — mea culpa — there was an error in the Stroud Programme, concerning the Office telephone number. It is in fact, Gloucester 381087. Sorry about that!

Just one further note on that subject, what with one thing and another, Season Tickets will not be on sale today. There's quite a lot to worry about, and something had to go.

As for forthcoming matches, normal service will be resumed on Saturday, September 28th, when we are expecting a visit from Neath, which is an attractive prospect in itself. Hope you'll be there.

UNITED

Amid all the tumult and the shouting, we mustn't forget the United. They have a testing game against Nuneaton here on Wednesday, and would be glad of your support. Having stormed their own particular Midlands League last season, they are quite determined to do it again this time round.

Best of luck in that, and also to Andrew Stanley who is skippering United this season. Dave Spencer will be a hard act to follow, but if anyone can do it, Andrew can.

WELL DONE BRADLEY!

Today sees the first manifestation of one of our more interesting innovations. We have our first Match Mascot of the season.

He's Bradley Green, he's 9 years old, and he goes to Coney Hill Junior School. He plays Mini-Rugby for Old Richians. Today will be the first time he has worn the famous cherry-and-white strip, which he gets to keep. Hope he'll be wearing the full-size version in the fullness of time.

Mike Burton asks me to remark that it's good to see that our very first Mascot is a born-and-bred Gloucester lad, keeping the Rugby flag flying.

To which I would add, it's nice to see that he's from Coney Hill, an area who have supplied Gloucester with so many stalwart players, over the years. Digger Morris, Mike Potter ...

LAUNCHING GOLD BOND

Talking about Mike Burton, he'll be doing his highly articulate and amusing thing in the new Restaurant, alongside the hospitality boxes, on Tuesday next — the 17th — at 8.00 pm. The occasion is a launch for the exciting 'Gold Bond' lottery, scheduled to begin at the end of the month.

The idea is to invite along anyone who is interested in becoming an Agent for the project, and thereby earn an akker or two. There will be full information, a free bar and a spot of light refreshment. So, if you're interested, that's the place to be on Tuesday evening. Can't hurt to find out more, can it?

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER



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FACT FILE

The visit by England today is only the second time that a full international side has visited Kingsholm to take on the Cherry and Whites.

On Thursday October 19, 1905, Gloucester took on the might of New Zealand. No one, not even the Citizen, expected the All Blacks to be beaten — and no one was disappointed!

Apart from the match providing the first full international opposition for Gloucester, the visit of New Zealand has its niche in Kingsholm folk lore after the Cherry and Whites were well and truly beaten by a 44-0 margin.

In the 100 years of Kingsholm, no other team has had the audacity to come here and score 40 points or more against the pride of Gloucester.

That match against New Zealand is the heaviest defeat suffered by Gloucester at home.

The teams for the match were as follows:

GLOUCESTER

Back
L. Vears
Three-quarters
C. Smith
E. Hall
J. Harrison
A. Hudson

NEW ZEALAND

Back
G. Gillett
Three-quarters
G. W. Smith
R. J. Deans
W. Wallace

Half-backs

J. Stephens
A. Wood
D. R. Gent

Forwards

W. Johns (captain)
A. Hawker
F. Pegler
G. Vears
B. Parham
H. Collins
G. Matthews

Five-eights

J. Hunter
W. Stead

Half-back

F. W. Roberts

Forwards

F. Glasgow
W. Glenn
W. Cunningham
G. Nicholson
J. O'Sullivan
C. Seeling
W. Johnstone
D. Gallagher
(wing & capt)

Referee: Mr. F. Nicholls (Leicester)

Back in 1905, New Zealand were considered the finest Rugby team to have stepped onto a field. The Gloucester selectors decided to play only seven forwards, the opinion being that an extra half back would be more useful to the side than a wing forward.

Gloucester contained "the Colonials", as the Citizen called the New Zealanders, for much of the first half. But the home side was reduced to 14 players after Arthur Hudson was knocked out when tackled by New Zealand full back Gillett.

(Fact File continued on 'Playing Record' page)

PLAYING RECORD

FIRST XV FIXTURES

1991			
SEPT.	3	Stroud	H 53-6
	7	Swansea	A 14-18
	14	England XV	H
	21	Irish Presidents XV	H
	28	Neath	H
OCT.	2	Moseley	H
	5	Exeter	H
	8	World Cup New Zealand v USA	
	11	Newport	A
	19	Leicester	A
	25	South Wales Police	H
	29	Lydney	A
NOV.	1	Cardiff	A
	9	Cheltenham	H
	9	Bath	H
	12	Exeter University	H
	16	*Leicester	H
	23	*Rugby	A
	30	Pilkington Cup	
DEC.	7	Plymouth	A
	14	*Wasps	H
	21	*Nottingham	A
	26	Lydney	H
	28	Bridgend	A
1992			
JAN.	4	*Rosslyn Park	H
	11	*Saracens	A
	17	Newport	H
	25	Sale	A
	31	Newbridge	H
FEB.	8	*London Irish	H
	14	Bristol	A
	22	Coventry	H
	29	*Bath	A
MAR.	6	Pontypool	H
	14	*Northampton	H
	20	Aberavon	A
	28	*Orrell	A
APR.	4	Bedford	H
	11	*Bristol	H
	14	Clifton	A
	18	Headingly	H
	20	Birkenhead	H
	25	*Harlequins	A

*John Courage League Fixtures

FACT FILE continued

With Gloucester short-handed, New Zealand scored four goals and two tries by halftime. Hudson recovered sufficiently to return to the game for the second half — but reports suggest that perhaps he shouldn't have returned.

Newspaper reports of the day say that Gloucester were outplayed by the All Blacks. But they do suggest that Gloucester might have scored had Hudson not been injured.

Hudson, who was to win his first England cap in 1906, had broken the Gloucester try scoring record with 35 in his 31 appearances the previous season. He was to go on to break the record with 41 tries in 26 appearances in 1905-6 season.

In his Gloucester career, Arthur Hudson made 261 appearances and scored 235 tries.

Teams Scoring 40 Points or more against Gloucester

Score	margin	Opponent	Season
16-57	41 pts	Llanelli	1976-7
15-52	37 pts	Pontypool	1982-3
0-50	50 pts	Bridgend	1977-8
6-48	42 pts	Bath	1989-0
0-45	45 pts	Coventry	1964-5
9-45	36 pts	Newport	1969-0
18-45	27 pts	Ebbw Vale	1982-3
0-44	44 pts	NEW ZEALAND	1905-6
3-44	41 pts	Swansea	1985-6
12-43	31 pts	Swansea	1972-3
0-42	42 pts	Newbridge	1964-5
9-40	31 pts	Cardiff	1945-6

(Matches at Kingsholm are in CAPITALS)

Statistics compiled by Ed Martin

	P	W	D	L	F	A
FIRST XV	2	1	0	1	67	24

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- If anyone would like to send in similar quizzes, for full acknowledgement, of course, pose a few questions, add the answers, and drop them into the office, marked for the attention of Peter Arnold.

TAILPIECE

by
Peter Arnold

'KINGSHOLM — THE FIRST 100 YEARS'

You may have noticed unfamiliar faces around the turnstiles, willing and eager to sell you our official Ground Centenary brochure. At a miserable £1.50 it's about the best value-for-money piece of literature you'll see all season.

It's worth the money for the illustrations alone. There are reproductions of some fascinating old documents from the very early days of Gloucester RFC, as well as photographs of many players all the way from Walter Jackson, the Club's first International, to Mike Teague.

To be fair, it's a book about the Ground, rather than just the Club. Written by some poor, underpaid hack whose name escapes me for the moment, it's an intensely personal impression of Kingsholm and its inhabitants, with plenty of anecdote and comment. I'm quite sure you'll enjoy it.

It will be on sale all season, from outlets around the City, as well as right here. Wouldn't make a bad stocking-filler come Christmas.

If anyone wants their copy autographed, I'll be in the bar, thirst akimbo.

BIT CRUEL, REALLY

You'll be well aware of the events of the Club AGM, last July, but undoubtedly the best remark of the night came from Graham Watts of Hucclecote.

Mike Nicholls, whom God preserve, was presenting his fixture list, and was understandably — and justifiably — proud to announce that we were to play England today, and the Irish President's XV next Saturday. Applause and felicitations all round.

Enter Mr. Watts. "Excuse me Mr. Nicholls," quoth he. "Can you tell the Meeting if there's any truth in the rumour that Wales offered to play the United?"

We don't wish to intrude on private grief, but in Graham's defence, this was during the week after the disastrous Australia v. Wales game.

Don't worry, Graham. Wales will be back — and the sooner the better, as far as the Home Countries game is concerned.

WHOOOPS!

I've had one or two people expressing a worry that their tickets for the Irish President's XV match bear the date 'September 21st', while the counterfoil is dated 'September 14th', and was that all right?

Terry Tandy tells me that we don't know quite how it happened, but assures everyone that it won't make any difference, and not to worry. Apologies all round.

Of course, it would have to happen for an *Irish* game, wouldn't it?

DECIBEL COUNT

About the only man I know who positively likes being called a 'loudmouth' is Alan Myatt, Gloucester's Town Crier, officially the loudest of that rather odd fraternity in the world.

He tells me that he got his early training in the Art from shouting on the old Tump, in the days before hospitality boxes. And that his father and grandfather occupied the same spot before him.

He managed to fall off the stage at a competition in Newquay, just recently. Presumably, he learned that in the Clubhouse bar.

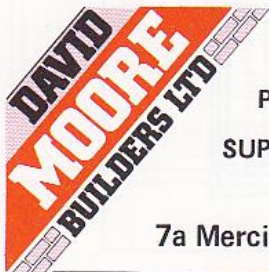
ANY TO COME . . .

. . . glad of it. As you know, I now have more room for inconsequential chit-chat. If anyone hears a good story they think is worth passing on, I'll be glad to consider it for this page.

QUIZ ANSWERS

(1) Orrell, (2) London Irish, (3) Fylde (4) Saracens (5) Rosslyn Park (6) Broughton Park.

Don't forget, if anyone would like to set a Quiz, contact Peter Arnold.



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