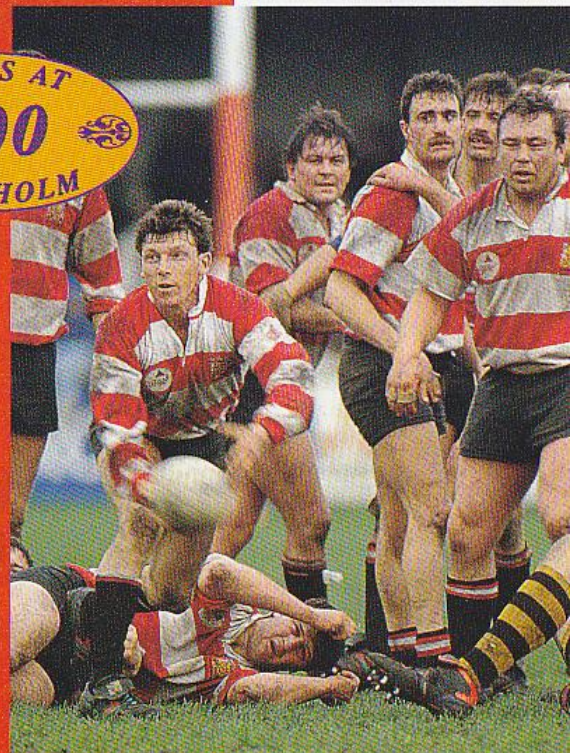
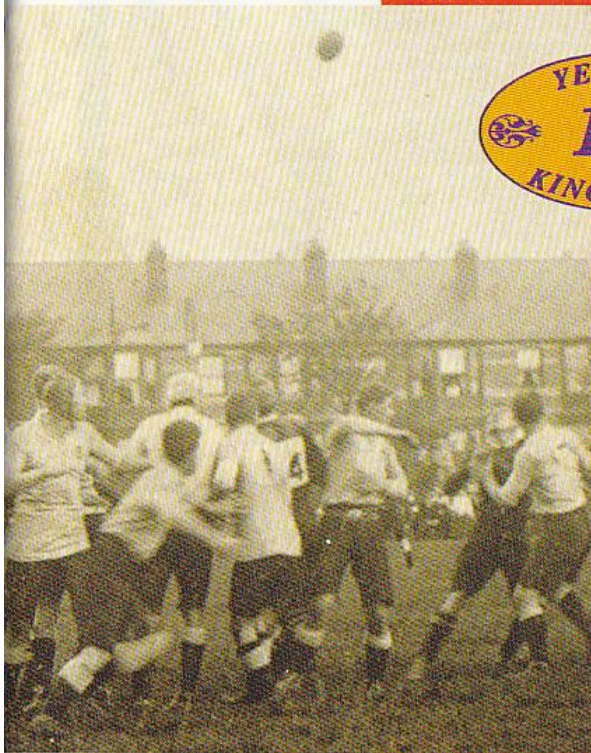


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THE
GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB

v
**IRISH
PRESIDENT'S XV**

YEARS AT
100
KINGSHOLM



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FACT FILE

Kingsholm was sixty-two years old when the first team from Ireland paid a visit to take on the Gloucester club. It was in the 1955-6 season that The Wanderers Club sent a team to take on the Cherry and Whites.

Was the luck of the Irish with them on that occasion? No. The Cherry and Whites emerged 12-3 winners against the club that provides a very decent pint for rugby fans in their clubhouse which is alongside the old West Stand at the Lansdowne Road end of the world's oldest international rugby ground.

Then came the first of three visits by the Wolfhounds, which is a sort of Irish Barbarians, and the first of only two Irish wins to be posted at Kingsholm. It was in 1965-6 season that the Cherry and Whites were beaten 18-14, Gloucester getting revenge with a 16-8 win the following season and edging ahead in the three games series with a 6-3 win in 1973-4.

Bective Rangers, another Dublin club, join the Wanderers as the only other Irish club team to have played at Kingsholm — they lost on all three visits. It was 20-6 in 1968-9, 13-3 in 1969-70, and 20-12 in 1970-1.

The only other side from Ireland to take on Gloucester at Kingsholm is the divisional Munster who turned up on Monday September 22, 1986, with several Irish internationals and duly recorded a 28-16 win.

Several Gloucester players in today's game also appeared in the Munster match. For the record, the Cherry and White's team was: Nick Marment (full

back); Jim Breeze, Ruari Maclean, Paul Taylor and Richard Mogg (three quarters); Mike Hamlin (fly half); Richard Williams (scrum half); Kevin Dunn (hooker); Malcom Preedy and Richard Pascall (props); Nigel Scrivens and John Ethridge (locks); Bobby Fowke and Andrew Stanley; Mike Teague (number eight).

That gives the Cherry and Whites six wins from their eight meetings at Kingsholm with teams from Ireland. Gloucester have scored 117 points in those eight meetings and have given up 81 points.

But all those previous meetings have been against club or divisional sides from across the Irish Sea. Today it is different — the Irish President's XV, which, if you translate from officialese into the vernacular as understood down Kingsholm Road, means Ireland.

Finally, there can be few rugby clubs that have taken-on two international teams in successive games, as Gloucester can now boast. If someone, somewhere, can come up with a club to equal the Cherry and Whites now proud record of September 1991, then Gloucester will be able to say: "Well, I bet when those two national sides came on the field, they weren't led out by a native of your Town on both occasions". Captain Will Carling sportingly let Mike Teague (born in Gloucester) lead England out last week, and Phil Matthews (born in Hucclecote) will be the first in a green jersey out on the turf this afternoon not through the fortunes of birthplace, but as the Captain of Ireland.

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TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

CEAD MILE FAILTE!

... which means, so I'm told by Mike O'Connell, raconteur, erstwhile prop forward and purveyor of Irish ale in this our fair City, "One hundred thousand welcomes!"* and I can't think of a more appropriate way to greet this afternoon's highly distinguished visitors. To paraphrase Oscar Wilde, himself an Irishman, to welcome one international side is fortunate, to welcome two, and that on successive Saturdays, is little short of miraculous.

More — on both occasions the visiting side has a native-born Gloucester lad to lead it out. Last week, Mike Teague was, very pleasantly, granted that signal honour, while the Irish President's XV is skipped by Phil Matthews, originally from Hucclecote. It isn't any surprise, knowing their Gloucester backgrounds, that both of them are world-class back row forwards. How did we let Phil get away?

Ed Martin's 'Fact File' provides chapter and verse, but perhaps we don't see as many sides from across the Irish Sea as we would like to. I can remember one or two mighty struggles against the Wolfhounds, some years ago, and Bective Rangers paid some very pleasant visits. There was also the occasion when Munster arrived to play Gloucestershire, and what's more, beat the County convincingly.

London Irish have also been very welcome visitors, although quite often, Cup commitments have disrupted our intentions. It's good to see that, having attained promotion to the Courage League Division One, the Exiles will now be regular opponents.

London Irish do have the distinction of having played at Kingsholm on a Sunday. Some years ago, Gloucester and the Irish were the only two first class sides to have got to about halfway through the season unbeaten, and although the John Player Cup intervened yet again, everyone was anxious for the game to be played, so we broke the Sabbath. The Exiles game second, a circumstance which they surveyed with great good humour, drank truly Hibernian amounts of beer with us, and then all departed to the Irish Club in Horton Road, where, for all I know, the celebrations are still going on.

Of course, various Irish stars have graced the Kingsholm firmament from time to time. The incomparable Willie John McBride skippered an

International XV here to mark the County's Centenary, for example. Pat Quinn also played in that game, and Kevin O'Brien represented Broughton Park here on occasion. Indeed, he was to be seen in the bar when they visited us last Easter.

So the Irish aren't entirely unknown to us, and we welcome today's distinguished contingent quite unreservedly. I hope they can give us their informed opinion about the quality of the Club's Guinness, after the game, and our very best wishes for the World Cup go with them. We shall certainly be shouting for them considerably louder than we might otherwise have done.

**He's also a notorious practical joker, so if I've been conned into saying something rude about the Irish, they'll know where to send the boys round.*

THANKS TO HAZLEWOODS

If anyone mentions firms of accountants in this area, the chances are that just about the first name you'll think of will be Hazlewoods, who are today's generous Sponsors. It's always nice to be dealing with one of the leaders in the field, and in Rugby terms, Hazlewoods are certainly up there towards the top of Division One. They have five offices in Gloucestershire — in Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud, Tewkesbury and Staverton — and as a leading member of a substantial international group of independent accounting firms, can provide representation and information to clients from over 370 offices throughout the world.

Yet they still manage to retain a pleasant, individual approach. As Managing Partner Don Cattermole puts it "We have spread our wings substantially since the 1920's, but the family atmosphere and personal and friendly client contact remain, along with the highest standards of professionalism."

The eighteen partners in the practice are determined to hold on to those qualities, although they don't rule out the possibility of opening more offices as the situation demands. As their literature proclaims "Each client's success is our success".

As you would expect, Hazlewoods offer every accountancy service you have ever thought of — plus a few you probably haven't. Accountancy and audit, tax, trusts and estates, corporate finance, financial

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MORE TOUCH LINES

investigation for anyone thinking of purchasing a company, even Company Secretarial services to maintain statutory books and records.

That's a very quick summary of a whole galaxy of Hazlewood expertise and experience. I'm sure they'd be glad to elaborate further if you get in touch.

Don Cattermole concludes 'I welcome the chance for the firm to sponsor this prestigious match between the Irish President's XV and the 'cherry-and-whites', and wish both teams well in the coming season.'

Thanks for that, Mr. Cattermole, and for your generous support. You're pretty prestigious yourselves.

OLIVER'S ON THE BALL

Hazlewoods have also supplied today's Mascot. He's Oliver Webber, son of one of the firm's partners, Norman Webber. Oliver is 10 years old, and has already turned out on the wing for Painswick Under 13's.

His newly acquired cherry-and-white strip could well come in handy. If my memory isn't at fault — and I'm sure it isn't — Painswick play in those colours too. Indeed, they have worn them for longer than we have, having been founded in 1872.

None of which need stop the speedy Oliver Webber trying out his legs at Kingsholm, one of these days.

LAST WEEK

You wouldn't want me to let the opportunity pass without commenting about the performance of the Gloucester side last Saturday. The points difference was appropriately wide at the end, but for over an hour the lads gave England all they could handle, and on not a few occasions, rather more than that. We really could have expected no more from them than they gave us, in fact, they did us proud. In retrospect, it was inevitable that they would tire in the last quarter.

I'm not going to mention any names, because everyone played his heart out, but a few players must have enhanced their own International prospects no end: a Scottish Selector or two would have profited by attending.

I've seldom been more proud of a Gloucester side

than I was a week ago today, and the occasion will be fondly remembered by all of us privileged to be present.

Undoubtedly, the remark of the day came from The Shed when the England pack had just been pushed backwards for yards.

A good West Country voice proclaimed "Go easy on 'em Glos!"

THANKS

On the same subject, Terry Tandy asks me to thank everyone for the good-humoured way the supporters conducted themselves last Saturday. In spite of various restrictions on where one could stand or sit, there wasn't a single untoward incident all day. The whole exercise was an object lesson on how crowds should behave, and usually do at Kingsholm.

I never saw one policeman all day — apart from the ones out on the field — and that's more could have been achieved at various other sporting occasions of the same magnitude. Gloucestershire Constabulary will, I'm sure, have taken note of the fact.

WORLD CUP

Indeed, these two games provide very useful dummy runs for the New Zealand v. USA game on October 8th. I'm asked to warn you that you won't be able to wander just anywhere on that day, and there will be barriers to make sure you don't. I'm afraid that the many people who like to stroll gently round during the game will be grounded that day.

I'm also told that the entire Complex will be taken over by the World Cup organisation, and that the usual happy gang of after-match drinkers will be relegated to the Clubhouse on that occasion. Nothing we can do about it. We are, in effect, simply renting the ground to the organisers. Furthermore, you will need a ticket to get into the Clubhouse at all, and those will be issued shortly, so you have been warned.

On a brighter note, it appears that the collapse of Keith Prowse may make more World Cup tickets available to Gloucester supporters. Watch the Press, the Programme, and listen to the loudspeakers.

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BACK THEN

We've repeated last week's inside back and front covers today. If you didn't get a Programme last week, they are the front and reverse of one of the earliest Gloucester programmes still in existence, a 'Comic Football Match' dated circa 1900.

Close inspection is very revealing. To start with, the prices are nostalgic, the programme itself costing one penny, which I calculate means that today's effort constitutes a 24,000% rate of inflation since then! Similarly, you could get a pound of tea — described as a 'real eye opener' for 1/6, which is 7½p. in today's funny-money. Furthermore, you could have a sample quarter-pound for free!

Notice, too, the address of 'The Orient' post card shop. It's simply described as 'Corner Shop, St. Aldate St.' Is it the same corner which now houses Hudson's sports shop? I wonder if Gordon, our respected past Chairman knows.

Again, my thanks to Norman Partridge and Gloucester Old Boys RFC for the loan of this lovely old piece of memorabilia.

QUIZ TIME

Just for fun. Answers on Tailpiece page, although you could cheat by buying a copy of our 'KINGSHOLM — THE FIRST 100 YEARS' brochure, because all the answers are in there. A snip at £1.50. This week, it's all about Gloucester's International players.

- 1... Who was the first Gloucester player to win an International Cap?
- 2... Who was the last Gloucester player to Captain England at Lansdowne Road, Dublin?
- 3... Who scored two tries in a match for England and never got a Cap?
- 4... Peter Butler won his second Cap against France in 1976. Against whom did he win his first?
- 5... Alphabetically, who is Gloucester's first International?
- 6... Finally, which Gloucester player came within 15 minutes of winning a Cap and never did so?

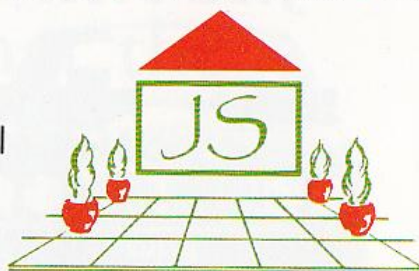
If you found those easy, why not try setting a quiz yourself? Send your efforts to Peter Arnold care of Gloucester RFC.

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TAILPIECE

by
Peter Arnold

QUIZ ANSWERS (see 'BACK THEN' page)

(1) Walter Jackson (1894) (2) John Orwin (but only for half the match). (3) John Gadd (against Fiji, 1982) (4) Australia (1975) (5) Arnold Alcock (1906) (6) 'Father' Dix.

CENTENARY BROCHURE

As I said earlier, you could find the answers to all those questions in our Centenary Brochure, 'KINGSHOLM, THE FIRST 100 YEARS'. And a whole lot more too. In fact, I'll venture to suggest that even the most knowledgeable Gloucester aficionado will learn a few things by investing a modest £1.50 in a copy.

There are some superb action pictures, some historic documents, and a whole raft of words, not dissimilar in style to the ones you're reading now.

There are people selling them around the ground today, and a supply in the Club Shop. Judging by the clamour I received on the subject after last Saturday's game, after the sellers had departed, a lot of you would like a copy, so I'm trying to get them to stay on later this week.

I promise you, you'll enjoy your copy.

WORDS OF WISDOM

The arrival of the Irish reminds me of the memorable speech the great Willie John McBride made when he Captained the International XV which lost to Gloucestershire during the County's Centenary Season. This was before the Complex was built, and the oration was made from a bar stool over in the old quarters where the gym is now. Willie John elevated by a bar stool is an impressive enough sight, even when not accompanied by his undoubted gifts of Celtic oratory.

"I've always wanted to play at Kingsholm" he said, "And it's good to be here at last. Before I came I'd heard a lot about your ground, I'd heard a lot about your Rugby, and I'd heard a lot about your crowd."

"As soon as I arrived, this afternoon, I knew everything they said about your ground was true." (applause)

"Ten minutes into the game, I knew everything they said about your Rugby was true" (renewed applause)

"But as soon as I ran out on the field I knew that everything they said about your crowd was true!" (prolonged laughter)

WELCOME HOME

I liked Mike Teague's comment made to Graham Day of BBC Radio Gloucestershire after last Saturday's game. Graham asked him how he felt about being honoured by leading the England team out.

Mike remarked that it was obviously a very emotional moment for him. And then continued:

"Then, two minutes into the game, I got a smack in the mouth, and thought, 'Oh yes! A typical Gloucester Welcome!'"

Accidents will happen, Mike.

'BURTO' ON RADIO FIVE

It's nice to see that Mike Burton is to share commentary duties with Bill McLaren on BBC Radio Five's coverage of the World Cup. The combination is obviously one to be conjured with. The fact was announced during Rugby special last week, and during the conversation, Bill McLaren speculated on a Scotland-Ireland Final.

Of course, he could be biased.

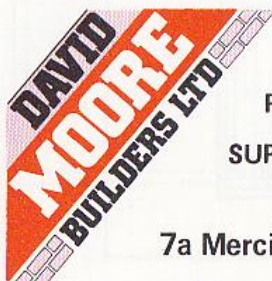
WRONG AGAIN, NIGEL

It's nice to note that Nigel Starmer Smith (Old Boy of Barnwood Church of England School) reads his programme when he comes to Kingsholm. Unfortunately, he appears to have been rather hurried about it, this time round.

During his commentary, which I thought was very fair, he commented that the England game was only the second time that a full International side had played at Kingsholm. He'd obviously picked up the snippet from Ed Martin's 'Fact File' notes, but in the general furore, had misread it. What Ed had actually written was that this was only the second time that a full International side had played against Gloucester, which is, of course, a very different thing.

In my own memory, which goes back a mere half-century, and not counting these two matches, I can recall full sides at Kingsholm from England (twice), Wales (twice), New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, USA, Japan, Romania . . . and I've probably missed a couple at that.

See you next week for Neath.



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