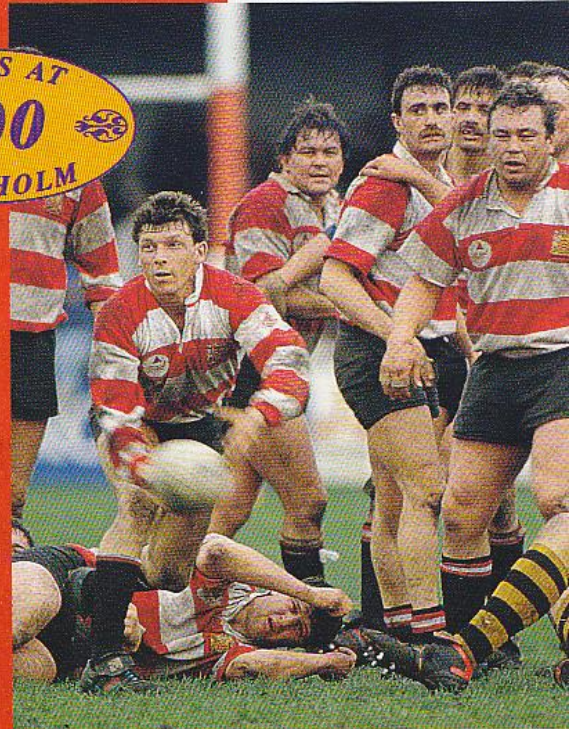
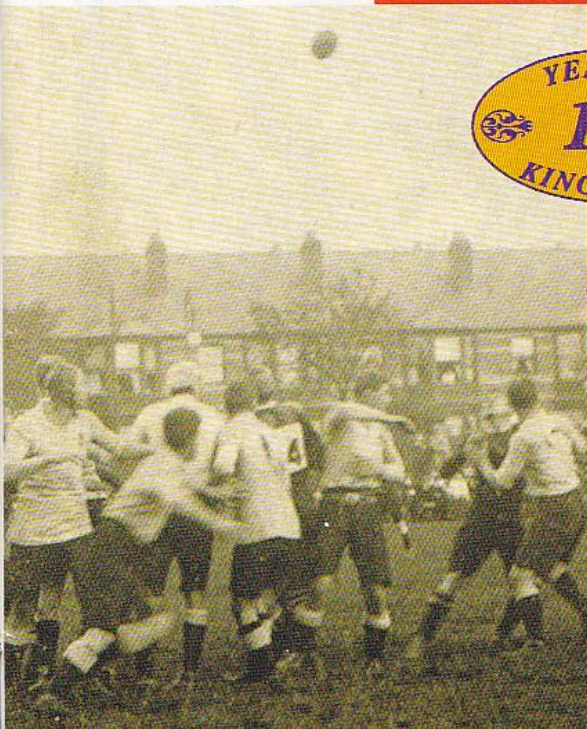


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T	G	Pts

14. T. Smith
13. D. Caskie
12. S. Morris
11. N. Marment

10. N. Matthews
9. R. Williams

1. P. Jones
2. J. Hawker
3. A. Deacon
4. P. Miles
5. D. Sims
6. P. Ashmead
7. I. Smith (Capt.)
8. S. Masters

Replacements:

M. Hannaford
S. Bryan

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Cumulat
Match
ScoreA blank sheet of white graph paper with a grid pattern. The grid consists of horizontal and vertical lines forming small squares. The paper has a bright yellow border around its edges. A metal clip is visible at the bottom center, holding the paper in place.

Referee: A. SPREADBURY (Somerset Society)

15. P. Thorburn (Capt.)

T	G	Pt

14. G. Davis
13. C. Laity
12. S. Enoch
11. S. Bowling

10. G. Bird
9. T. Jones

1. B. Williams
2. T. Hyatt
3. J. Davies
4. G. Llewellyn
5. A. Kembery
6. D. Thomas
7. A. Varney
8. J. Williams

Replacements:

P. Jackson
J. Reynolds

15 F/T 20

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Richard Cound

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TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

NO LET UP

Who'd be a Gloucester player? Having spent two successive Saturdays playing World Cup strength opposition, and acquitting themselves more than honourably, what do they get for their pains? A game against Neath that's what. Not exactly a gentle ease into the Season, you might say.

Anyone who knows anything at all will readily concede that Neath have been the best Welsh side for a fair few seasons now. The record, and the number of players they have supplied to the National team speak for themselves. Of course, World Cup demands, among other things, haven't made it easy for them so far this season, but they are still the yardstick against which the strength of the Welsh club game is measured.

I notice they were pipped by Nottingham, last Saturday, but I'm not reading too much into that. After all, we've also been known to lose to the lads from Beeston, and in far more trying circumstances than those of an early-season friendly. In fact, the scars from two seasons ago still itch, from time to time.

Obviously, the Welsh All Blacks are extremely welcome visitors at any time, but it's especially good to see them here during our Ground Centenary year. They were, after all, founded in 1871, which makes them two years older than Gloucester. Great side they certainly are, but I can't remember a time when they weren't a considerable force in Welsh Rugby, so there really isn't anything very new about that.

What with one thing and another, we haven't seen them at Kingsholm as frequently as we would like of recent years. Last season they beat us 17-7 in an early-season game at the very pleasant Gnoll ground, one at which Gloucester supporters can always be sure of a welcome.

So can the Welsh All Blacks when they come here. It's good to see you chaps, and our best wishes for your own League and Cup competitions. May your success continue.

THANKS TO PITT, GODDEN & TAYLOR

One of the interesting things about this job is that you get to follow the commercial and professional fortunes of our regular Sponsors. That's particularly true of today's generous benefactors, accountancy

firm Pitt, Godden & Taylor, because we virtually assisted at the birth of the enterprise.

This is the fourth year in a row that the George Street company have sponsored a Gloucester game. The startling fact is that the first time they did so, they hadn't even officially opened for business yet! You might say that Pitt, Godden and Taylor launched their fledgeling business at Kingsholm.

Yet here they are, not much more than three years old, with clients based, quite literally, from Cornwall to the far reaches of Aberdeen. As Partner Martyn Pitt, who describes himself as a 'die-hard regular at Kingsholm for more than twenty years' says "Amidst tales of doom and gloom caused by the recession, it's heartening to know that some of our local businesses are performing well".

Martyn is also quick to point out that, although the firm now has clients in towns and cities the length and breadth of the Country, they still deal mainly with local businesses. They offer services in the fields of audit, accountancy, tax and computer consultancy, insisting on an extremely personal approach. They describe theirs as a 'hands on' philosophy.

Gloucester RFC can be a pretty 'hands on' outfit, as certain English and Irish players have painfully discovered recently. Perhaps, therefore, it isn't any coincidence that Pitt, Godden & Taylor number several current and ex-Gloucester players among their clients. "A high recommendation indeed", says Martyn Pitt.

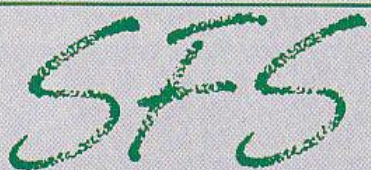
I think we'd recommend your firm too, Martyn. Hope your success continues, and many thanks for your continuing generous support.

STARTING AT THE TOP

I don't know if you're watching ITV's excellent 'Oval Globe' series which is screened at 4.00 pm on Sundays, but if so, you'll have seen a New Zealand sequence showing a group of six and seven-year olds happily throwing miniature Rugby balls about. The point being made was that this early start has something to do with All Black domination of the international scene.

Today, we reveal Gloucester's answer. His name is Richard Pitt from Hardwicke School, he is seven years old, and is our Mascot for the day. Quite the youngest and most diminutive we've had so far, and the son of

S.E.L.E.C.T



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MORE TOUCH LINES

Martyn Pitt, a Partner in the accountancy firm who are sponsoring today's game.

This not being New Zealand (although the number of stars appearing at Kingsholm over the current few weeks might lead you to wonder if it might be), Richard hasn't found a suitable club to join just yet. He is, I'm told, trying his hand at Badminton, which can't do his eye for a moving and non-spherical projectile any harm. Knowing his Dad, I would be very surprised if he doesn't play Rugby just as soon as he's able, but that's for the future.

He must have one unique record, anyway. The first time he ever runs out on a Rugby pitch is at Kingsholm, wearing the cherry-and-white strip. Something to tell his own grandchildren about.

BACK TO NORMAL

Some of our usual arrangements have been disrupted by the events of the last couple of weeks, so the odd reminder may be in order. First of all, applications for home International tickets have to be in by next Saturday, so this may well be your last chance to pick up the necessary form from the Office. Second, normal service has been resumed as far as season tickets are concerned. See Geraldine, again, in the Office, which will be open from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm each weekday.

WORLD CUP

Obviously, at the time of writing I don't know how the sales of tickets for the New Zealand v. U.S.A. World Cup game went on Thursday evening. If there are still some around, you'll hear about it over the loudspeaker system.

Don't forget that the Organisers are taking over the whole Complex for that afternoon, so if you're a member of the aristocracy which foregathers there, you'll be relegated to the outer darkness of the Clubhouse that day, and serve you right.

You'll also need to be a Member of the Social Club to get into the bars on that day. And you won't be able to take any guests in. Just to remind you, Season Ticket holders are entitled to free Membership, anyone else can join by handing over £2.00. And you'll probably save that during your first couple of visits, purely on the price of the beer. Enquire in the Clubhouse.

GOLD BOND LAUNCH

By the time you read this, some lucky character will have won £100.00 as the first winner in the daily draw in the Gold bond lottery scheme. I'll let you know who it was next week.

David Golder tells me that Agents for the scheme have been coming in at a very satisfactory rate, which means that a fair few people have been earning money for their organisations — or even themselves — by signing on. There's always room for more, however, and David would be pleased to hear from anyone interested. Get him on Gloucester 419666.

MOSELEY ON WEDNESDAY

On Wednesday next, we have only our second evening First XV game. The Opposition are our old oppos. from Moseley, and they're always worth watching. Then, on Saturday next, we have some more old friends from Exeter turning up.

Also on Saturday, United are playing Bedford. Already it has become very apparent that their grip on the Midlands and West League is going to take a lot of prying loose, and you'll be able to support them in that worthy endeavour by coming along to Kingsholm on the three following weekends, when they endeavour to bury Newport — who don't play in that League, of course — Leicester and Northampton.

LAST SATURDAY

Anything I might write about the events of last Saturday has been said already. For a club side to beat what was virtually a major World Cup side is an achievement which will take a bit of beating. And to be brutally frank about it, we might well have beaten the Irish President's XV by a lot more. It really was a memorable day, and we thank the lads for it. Now, they need have no fears about any opposition for the rest of the season, and confidence is half the battle.

I'd also like to congratulate the Irishmen for the way they took it. However they were feeling inside, they were charming about the whole thing, and I didn't hear one single excuse. It's also worth noting how ready they were to dispense autographs to the youngsters — just at the time when you'd have thought they had other things on their minds. It's a lesson to any leading player.

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BACK THEN

Information kindly supplied by Gloucestershire County Library Service

On September 26th, 1891, the 'Gloucester Journal' reported that Gloucester Football Club had 'opened their season last Saturday by playing a Twenty from local clubs, and at the close of the game the score stood: Gloucester 3 minors, Colts nil.'

For the non-historian, you got one point for a 'minor', and you could win one by forcing your opponents to touch down behind their own line, by kicking the ball dead, or if the ball went into touch in goal. With today's balls and kickers you could have scored one point at every kick-off! The report went on:

'The play was very tame indeed, neither side doing any amount of passing, but plenty of scrummaging, and that at times being of a very loose character. Occasionally, however, a player would distinguish himself a bit of brilliant play which would call for a round of applause from the spectators. The Gloucester Captain (T. Bagwell) appeared to be in splendid form, whilst Jackson showed he had lost none of his old tact.'

'Among the Colts, H. Hopewell did some good work, as did Bartlett the three quarter back. Both sides played fairly well, although the ground was not to their advantage, and that it was the first match of the

season.'

It's interesting that they started their season some weeks later than we do nowadays. The Jackson, who showed so much 'tact' — as in 'tactics' rather than diplomacy — later became Gloucester's first International, and you can see his blazer in the Clubhouse now.

Today's visitors might be interested to know that the Journal also reported that, on the same Saturday, *'Cardiff showed some very promising form, and next Saturday's game against Neath should prove very interesting.'*

Elsewhere in the Sports column, the 'Journal' reported that a Mr. J. B. Redclyffe of Ascotswood, Newcastle attempted to row a quarter of a mile, ride a bicycle a quarter of a mile, run 440 yards, swim the same distance, and also ride a horse the same number of yards within the space of fifteen minutes.'

He made it too — in 12 minutes 48 seconds, which would be some going, even a century later. They bred 'em tough in those days.

My sincere thanks to the County Library for supplying this information, which I hope they're going to do regularly, throughout the season. Special thanks to Ros Lane, who actually did the work, at a time when she was especially busy. It's good to have friends in the right places.

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ED MARTIN'S FACT FILE

Neath made their first trip to Kingsholm over the Easter weekend of 1910. Earlier in the season, Gloucester had visited the Welsh Club, Neath winning that very first meeting between the two clubs by a comfortable 14-3 margin.

That Easter, 81 years ago, Neath were leading the Welsh Club championship and had only been beaten during the season by Leicester and London Welsh. So on that first visit, there was a lot at stake for the Welshmen — and, the press reported "a good following of supporters" arrived on the train with the team.

As for Gloucester, they were at a low ebb. Up to that Easter, Gloucester had had a good season — they were unbeaten at Kingsholm having posted win against Swansea (8-5) and Cardiff (20-8) and a 3-3 draw against Newport. Then along came Headingley on their very first visit to Kingsholm and shocked an over-confident Gloucester by 15 points to eight.

The Cherry and Whites were understrength for the Neath game. But the team regained its composure and held the Welsh champions to what the papers headlined "A Pointless Draw".

Reports of the game said that it had "a distinct holiday flavour and was lacking in brilliant incidents". Everyone appeared to agree that a draw was the best result, but there was disappointment that neither side could manage to score.

Teams for that first Neath visit to Kingsholm were reported by the Citizen as follows:

Gloucester: E. Hall; W. J. Pearce, W. Hall, H. Barnes and J. Hamblin; D. R. Gent and J. Stephens; G. Vears, W. Johns, H. Berry, G. Holford, D. Hollands, F. Pegler, W. Nelmes and N. Hayes.

Neath: Tit Davies; A. Williams, F. Rees, R. Richards and T. John; J. Thomas and J. Brennan; T. C. Lloyd, H. Lee, F. David, T. Reason, W. Perry, T. Jenkins, D. H. Davies and Howell Davies.

Referee: Mr. Rodway (Midlands).

Gloucester and Neath have met 48 times, with Neath ahead 25-19 on wins (four of the encounters have been drawn). By and large, the results have gone with the home team, with Gloucester winning 15 of the 25 meetings at Kingsholm where all four of the drawn games have been played out.

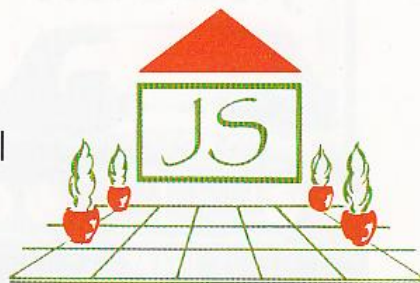
One of Gloucester's most prolific scorers has also played for Neath. Willie Jones, who also played the summer game at county level, joined Gloucester in the 1945-6 season and stayed at Kingsholm for three and a half seasons. When he left — and joined Neath — early in the 1948-9 season, he had made 77 appearances and had scored 462 points at an average of six points a game. Of his points total, 15 of them came from his five tries — the remainder from the boot.

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TAILPIECE

by
Peter Arnold

BRIAN GARFIELD

Many people have been saddened by the sudden and untimely death of Brian Garfield, than whom Gloucester RFC never had a better supporter. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife Gina, and also sons Kerry and Scott, and daughter Sally. They had a husband and father to be proud of.

Our own President, Canon Mervyn Hughes a past next-door neighbour, conducted the service, which was an extremely moving event. He was able to tell the congregation that, to his knowledge, Hucclecote Church had never seen so many people attending to mourn the passing of an old friend.

Brian Garfield was that highly unusual character, a genuinely selfless man: a 'gentle man' in every sense of the word. I knew him, on and off, for most of his too-short life, and can honestly say I never heard a single bad word either from him or about him.

Gloucester RFC, and indeed, the world, is the poorer without Brian Garfield. If he's looking over my shoulder from whatever heaven good Rugby men go to, he'll be saying 'Don't be stupid. Shut up, and get on with the game.' Which I now propose to do.

BOOKS

Gwyn Hiatt, from the County Library, has just sent me details of the season's first couple of new Rugby books — if you discount our own Ground Centenary publication, that is.

The first one is an interesting effort called 'Rugby — the All Blacks' way', It's by J. J. Stewart, a former All Blacks coach, who should know what he is talking about. In effect, it blows the gaff on the techniques the All Blacks use to keep on top of the world. There's a section on coaching which covers things like running a practice session, formulating a game plan, and correcting players' faults.

I'm no expert on coaching myself, but our own Don Rutherford, Technical Administrator of the RFU, writes 'J. J. Stewart really is the master of his craft. Do read this book, you can't fail to learn from it — and it's excellent value for money'. At £9.99 it certainly is.

The other book is even more interesting and, judging by the number of referees we get at every home game, should be required reading for any Gloucester supporter. It's entitled 'Rugby Union Laws Explained' and is written by Jim Fleming and Brian

Anderson, with a foreword by Bill McLaren. Both the Authors, of course, are Scottish international referees.

Sounds useful. Perhaps one should be given away free with every season ticket.

FULL CIRCLE

We can't seem to get away from the historical context, these days. Last Saturday I was enjoying a noggin with a happy little group of supporters who travelled to the Swansea game, and they told me about an interesting encounter in the Clubhouse.

As we know, the first International match played at Kingsholm was held at around the turn of the Century, and not for the last time. England were walloped by Wales. One of the Welsh wingers, who scored a try, was a gentleman called S. J. Trew, who on investigation, was playing in his first International and went on to win 29 Caps, the last as late as 1913.

What intrigued our group, was that their informant was Mr. Trew's grandson, and that he is 83 years old. If my arithmetic is right, that means that he was born in 1908 — right in the middle of his granddad's International career. I wonder how many other grandfathers have played for Wales? And we'll have no unkind remarks, please.

OVER TO YOU, ED

My thanks to Mr. Peter Watson of Cheltenham, who dropped me a line concerning Ed Martin's 'Fact File' notes. He starts his missive with the comment: 'Sports historians and statisticians are a shocking breed — always trying to catch each other out.'

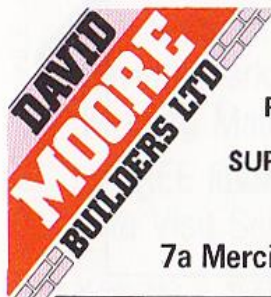
His point is that he wants to 'add to Ed's good work' by supplying two results which, he says, were missing from the list of 'over-40 points against Gloucester' which Ed was tactless enough to supply for the England programme. According to Mr. Watson, they were: 46-16 at Swansea in September 1983, and (the worst of the lot) 60-12 at Llanelli in April 1988.

Over to you, Ed. I'm certainly far too chicken to come between two Rugby statisticians in full flight.

IRISH RESULT EXPLAINED

According to a naturalised Irish acquaintance of mine, it was all Digger Morris' fault that Gloucester beat the Irish President's XV last week.

"He fed 'em on greyhound soup!" he complained. But didn't explain whether he was talking about the Irish or our lads.



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