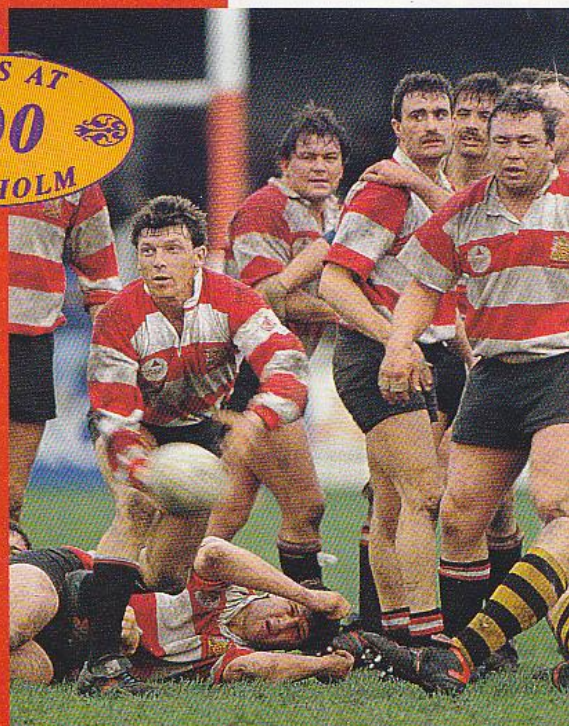
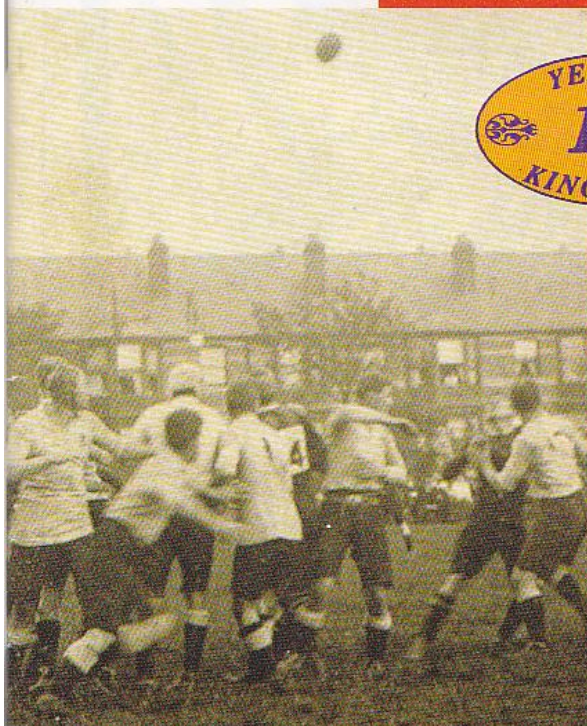


THE
GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB
v
EXETER

YEARS AT
100
KINGSHOLM



80p.
Official Programme



FOUNDED 1873
President:
Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

Saturday, October 5th 1991
Kick-Off 3.00pm

MATCH KINDLY SPONSORED BY

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There were rave reviews about several of the Gloucester players, including Watts and Scot Skirling. Bartlett, the wing three quarter, was magnificently described as having scored after 'a *splendidly dodgy run*.' How the language changes in 100 years!

TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

WHO NEEDS THE WORLD CUP?

Whatever momentous events are happening elsewhere, we have the extreme pleasure of welcoming Exeter to Kingsholm this afternoon. And that's an occasion we have enjoyed for many years now, and wouldn't want to miss. We're always happy to see old friends, whatever the alternative attractions may be.

It's not unkind to state that we have faced stronger opposition this season. In fact, we've faced stronger opposition than any club has, so there's no disrespect in the comment. I think I'm right in saying that Exeter still have an interest in the Pilkington Cup, and we would all like to see them go further. Any good old West Country club has our support.

In last season's game, down at St. Thomas, we beat our hosts by 36 points to 9, but as we'd just put it across Leicester, and were to put 20 points on Bridgend on their own ground on the following Saturday, there's no disgrace in that.

The return of Mike Burton to the Kingsholm scene reminds me of one of the most emotional moments I ever recall on our famous old ground. Exeter were here for the final game of the season, we had just won the John Player Cup, and Mike had announced that it would be his last game for Gloucester. John Watkins was Captain that season, and the plan was to parade the Cup around the ground after the match. This the team did, and as they came round opposite the stand, John handed the Cup to Mike Burton, to take on into the changing rooms.

I know he'll forgive me for saying so, but it was the last straw for Mike. Quite unashamedly, he stood there and wept, and acquired even more respect from the assembled crowd for doing so. Exeter had a hand in that occasion, and we welcome them all the more for that.

I have fond memories of the hospitality meted out at Exeter's County Ground — indeed, in Exeter as a whole, quite apart from Rugby — and it will be nice to hear some good Devon accents in the Clubhouse after the game. All our good wishes for the rest of the season, and we'll look forward to your next visit.

THANKS TO STOATE AND BISHOP

It's always pleasant to be able to thank generous Sponsors, but it's particularly nice today. Not only are Stoate and Bishop supporting us yet again, but they're

also the people who do the Club's printing, and that includes your weekly programme.

They've been doing that job for twelve years now, and for nine of them, they've been sponsoring a match. In fact, they've been doing so for as long as sponsorship has been available, so we have a great deal to thank them for.

Perhaps we have had a small hand in Stoate and Bishop's success. They have now come of age, having been trading for 21 years. I well remember them in the early days, when they were operating on a staff of just six, a number which has now grown to 50. They provide a full print service, operating a very modern plant in Cheltenham. That doesn't mean they're no longer a Gloucester firm. The St. Catherine's Street premises, virtually next door to the ground, still performs very useful storage, warehousing and other purposes for the firm.

Producing the programme isn't a straightforward job. I can well understand why our Selectors find it necessary to delay naming a side until Thursday evening, from time to time, but it doesn't make things easy for the poor old printer. He doesn't get the necessary information for the centre pages until Friday morning, it all has to be typeset and laid out, and then the printing can start. After the ink's dry, the programmes have to be cut and folded, stapled and bundled, and transported to Kingsholm. As you can imagine, this can be a hell of a rush, and often means getting chaps in on Saturday.

They've never let us down yet, and our old friend Mike Stoate is invariably good natured and understanding about the situation. I can state from my own point of view, that I've always found the firm efficient and ready to help in any way they can. If I've asked for something special it's always been forthcoming, and there have been many occasions when they've picked my copy up from my home, if I've been unable to use the usual channels.

So my own thanks are more heartfelt than usual today. Chaps — you're a pleasure to work with. And may your success continue.

ROTTEN LUCK!

Gloucestershire had three sides in the first round of the Pilkington Cup: Lydney, Berry Hill and Matson. With anything like average luck, we could well have had

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MORE TOUCH LINES

all three in the second round too, but what happened? Matson get drawn away to Berry Hill. Then lightning struck twice, and Matson get Lydney in the next round. I find that slightly incredible, and the circumstances wasn't helped by the fact that the draw had to be made twice because of a cock-up first time round.

Nevertheless, it does mean that we are certain that one of them will go through to the third round. If the trend continues, either Matson or Lydney will get drawn against Gloucester. Now there's a mind-boggling prospect!

UNITED NEXT WEEK

Next Saturday, the Firsts having played away to Newport on the previous evening, attention at Kingsholm switches to United, and that's a prospect to savour. The opposition is also from Newport, who can be relied upon to give Andrew Stanley's lads more than a run for their money.

In fact, United are holding the stage for the two Saturdays after that, too, the competition being provided by Leicester and Northampton, in the Second Teams League. Don't forget, either, that the Colts will also be entertaining Northampton on Wednesday, the 16th.

There's a lot of good Rugby in that lot, and I commend it to your attention.

WORLD CUP

At the time of writing, there are still a few ground tickets available for next Tuesday's World Cup game, so if you fancy watching the All Blacks take on the might of the USA, then there's hope for you yet. Try the Office, just outside the ground.

If you do have a ticket, take due note of the entrance quoted on it, and make sure you arrive at the right one. If you don't, you won't be able to get to the part of the ground you're supposed to: there will be actual physical barriers to stop you doing so. Just for that day, the traditional Kingsholm practice of wandering freely from place to place will be held in abeyance.

This is all part of the arrangements insisted upon by the World Cup organisers, so if you're inconvenienced, it isn't Gloucester RFC's fault. After all, we're just the landlords that day.

Similarly, don't forget that you'll need to be able to show membership of the Social Club to be able to get into the clubhouse on Tuesday. A membership card is easily available by paying over £2.00, if you're not a season ticket holder, and if you are, then you're entitled to one for free. No one who hasn't got such a ticket will be able to get a drink, so you won't be able to take any guests in.

The reasons are fairly straightforward. We're expecting a very big crowd, many of them arriving from all points of the compass, and there simply won't be room for everyone. Furthermore, the World Cup people have taken over the entire Complex on Tuesday, so the people who normally frequent it will have to go elsewhere. Which means the Clubhouse, and that won't help the accommodation problem either.

Finally, there will be no car park available that day, so you'd better look up the bus timetable. If you do come by car, we'd be grateful if you would watch where you are parking. The last thing we want is trouble with the neighbours, even if we have been here for 100 years.

You have been warned. Back to normal next week.

WATCH THE GANGWAYS

Gloucester RFC aren't producing the programme next Tuesday, although I was rather chuffed to be asked to provide five or six hundred words to it. That means that, in order to prove that we do try to adhere to the Law, I really ought to level my usual warning, on big match days, not to post yourself on steps or in gangways to watch the game. Safety reasons, of course.

GLoucester GOLD BOND DRAW AND DISCOUNT CLUB — Week No. 1

Mon. 30th Sep. A2405 — Dr. T. DURKIN (Agent: Alan Hancock, Smiles Newsagent)

Tues. 1st Oct. A2858 — STUART GRAY (Agent: I. Barnfield-Hale)

Wed. 2nd Oct. A5502 — JOHN FRYER (Agent: Mark Folley)

Thur. 3rd Oct. A2158 — LIZ CAMBRIDGE

Fri. 4th Oct. B2921 — MRS. ALSOPP (Agent: A. Weall, Variety News)

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ED MARTIN'S FACT FILE

This afternoon's meeting with Exeter could well be the 50th fixture between the two clubs. But then the half century might well have been reached last season.

The reason for the uncertainty is the country-wide newspaper strike of April 1980.

In the 70s and early 80s, the Exeter fixture was late in the season each year. In fact it was usually on the last Saturday of the season.

And in 1980, the newspapers took their enforced sabbatical after the Cherry and Whites had squeezed past Cheltenham 13-10 on April 24. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has any results at the end of the 1979-80 season.

Also proving to be a problem are, would you believe, the 1987-88 and 1988-89 seasons! It is proving difficult to check results from these two seasons. Again, I would like to hear from anyone who has results from these two seasons.

It's called Sods Law, I'm told. Results from 100 years ago right up to the 1980's have been easy to record — and to undertake the checks with three other sources. But get into recent years

Now to Exeter and what is certain about the fixture. The first visit by the Devon club to Kingsholm was in the first season. Exeter were the 12th club to play on the hallowed turf.

Cardiff had just made their first visit to Kingsholm to provide the ground with its first drawn game — a scoreless affair. But the Cherry and Whites got back to winning ways against Exeter with a 13-0 verdict. Earlier in the season, Gloucester had visited Exeter and returned with a 2-0 win.

It took Exeter six matches to score against Gloucester. In 1906-7, Exeter recorded their first points against the Cherry and Whites in the 6-6 draw down in Devon. It was the 20th game between the two sides that brought Exeter's first win — a 5-3 result, again down in Devon, in 1962-3.

The data base says that Gloucester has never lost to Exeter at Kingsholm. And asking around the Kingsholm faithful the other night, no one can remember an Exeter win here. But having said that, the missing result from April 1980 was more than likely a Kingsholm fixture!

TAILPIECE

by
Peter Arnold

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

I didn't make the Neath game. So many people have commented on the fact, and inferred that I'm only a fair-weather fan, deterred by a spot of Scotch Mist and a gentle breeze, that I thought I'd better explain why.

I was conned into attending the ceremonies and procession attending the election of the new Mayor of Barton on Saturday. For the benefit of non-Gloucestrians, I should point out that, although the office stretches back to the Fifteenth Century, it's nowadays a completely irreverent proceeding, played strictly for laughs, and totally unconnected with the real Civic scene.

I did hear a rumour that there was some beer involved, so I duly turned up, thinking that I could duck out in nice time to get to the match. Which just shows how wrong one can be.

It peed down, as you know. And there was I, in full morning suit, inveigled into taking part in the procession from the Olympus Theatre down to the Guildhall. After that, it was back for some nosh, home to change and off to the game.

But it was not to be. Just when I thought I could make a break for it, I was grandly informed that I was expected to help the new Mayor of Barton, 'Beat the Bounds'. Would you believe it, ever bound we beat turned out to be on licenced premises. Do you know how many hostelrys there are within the boundaries of Barton St. Mary? It felt like an awful lot.

About the closest I got to Rugby, was when we heard the half time score, eleven-nil to Gloucester. Our two Town Criers — our own Alan Myatt and a chap called Gough, a good Rugby man who performs the same rather odd function in Nuneaton — then paraded Barton Street grandly declaiming the fact. A bit premature, as it turned out.

I tell a lie. There was another Rugby connotation. We had three barmaids on eccentric cycles, clad in Rugby shirts, and as far as I could tell, very little else. The combination of the exertions caused by pedalling, a high wind, and driving rain with the clinging nature of the Rugby shirts enlivened the proceedings considerably.

So what with one thing and another, I never made the match.

Honest, guv. It won't happen again. 'Til next year'.

WELL DONE TEAGUEY

It's the first opportunity I have to congratulate Mike Teague on his selection for the England World Cup XV, as different from just the Squad. He certainly deserves it, and will probably take a lot of dropping now he's got there.

KINGSHOLM — THE FIRST 100 YEARS

I'm glad to be able to announce that sales of our Ground Centenary Brochure are going well. There are still supplies in the Club Shop, at £1.50, which is excellent value.

I'm also told that arrangements have been made to sell them at various book shops in the centre of town, and indeed, that the various proprietors and managers were very happy to do so.

They will be on sale all season, and the publishers are considering a reprint if necessary, so if you need ideas for a Christmas stocking filler or two, you could do far worse.

See you anon.