Information kindly supplied by Gloucestershire County Library Service

On the equivalent Saturday to this one, exactly one hundred years ago, Gloucester played their first away game of the season. They travelled to Stratford-on-Avon, and that's an unfamiliar name in Rugby terms, more related to somersaults than scrums down. Then it was to Gloucester in 1890.1 as well. It was the first time the two clubs had met, although the Warwickshire side appears to have had a good pedigree, having, as reported in the 'Gloucester Journal' on more than one occasion, made a good fight for the Midlands Cup. Both sides were weakened, but a very good game was witnessed by several hundred spectators. Almost from first to last, Gloucester had the best of the game, and the incursions of the homesters into their territory were of a very temporary character. In the first half, Click, Powell and Price all got tries, the two first of which were converted by Jackson.

In the second half, things were a little more problematical...not to say controversial...on account of the aggressive play of W. Brian. On more than one occasion he was almost breaking Gloucester's line of defence and the try he eventually scored was thoroughly deserved.

However, an earlier try apparently wasn't. The Gloucester full back...Hughes had undoubtedly touched down, and the decision of the referee in awarding the points to B. Collins was very disappointing to the visiting team.

However, honour was satisfied in the end. Gloucester winning by two goals and four tries (16 points) to two goals (10 points). If that didn't work out for you, remember that, in those days, a try was worth two points, and the conversion, three!

While all this was going on, the 'Second Gloucester Team', was taking on Swindon Rangers. According to the Journal, the game was of a very one-sided character, and home fifteen fairly 'running away' with the visitors, and coming out victorious by three goals and five tries to nil.

There were rave reviews about several of the Gloucester players, including Watts and Scott Skerving. 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

WELCOME TO MONDAY

Don’t know about you, but I always feel as if I’m getting away with something when I come along to Kingsholm on a Monday. After all, that’s the day when one is supposed to shun off one’s hangover and get one’s nose firmly stuck to the grindstone for another week. Mondays are supposed to be horrible, especially at this dark time of the year, and there’s a tinge of guilt about actually enjoying them.

I don’t know whether things are the same over in elegant Cheltenham, although my experiences around various hostleries and Rugby Clubs in our Regency neighbour make me inclined to believe that they are. I know at least one ex-steward of a Cheltenham club who probably wouldn’t have closed from Sunday night yet, but that was in less puritanical times. Cheltenham Rugby Club have always been noted for their hospitality, and it’s a traditionally integral part of the Kingsholm season that we have a regular opportunity to reciprocate.

I may be in a minority, but I happen to think that games such as this evening’s are important. Time was when Cheltenham could give most sides a run for their money, and these things being cyclical, they’ll probably be in the same position again, one of these days. Fixtures against relatively strong opposition can only help to advance that date, which must be good for the Gloucestershire game in general.

There is also the thought that we can’t spend the whole season playing ‘hard’ matches. New and younger players need first XV experience, and it doesn’t do any good to have the preferred side turning out week after week. Injuries are bound to occur, and there are going to be occasions when second-string players are going to be thrown into the fray, possibly in very important matches. When that happens, nerves are bound to fray, and the more that can be done to alleviate that, the better for both the individual concerned and the side as a whole.

Anyway, it’s nice to see Cheltenham once more. The season wouldn’t be the same without them.

THANKS TO WARNERS

When you’re thinking about buying a car, the chances are that, in this area, the name ‘Warners’ is one of the first which will occur to you. It’s nice to know that the name of the respected old Gloucestershire family can now be associated with Sponsorship at Kingsholm, and we thank the firm for its generosity.

Nowadays it’s ‘Warners Trust plc’ which is a far cry from the Tewkesbury bicycle shop opened by grandfather Harold Warner in 1925. From those beginnings, the company has grown into one of the largest privately owned vehicle franchises in the country, and that sort of thing doesn’t happen without a great deal of hard work and imagination.

Warners of Gloucester, based in Bristol Road, won their Peugeot franchise in 1986. Managing Director, Ian Davies heads a team of 55 people — which is a lot for such enterprises — who offer a well-qualified, personal and friendly service to anyone who wants it. There are cars to suit all requirements, with highly competitive finance deals to match. Because the company is a fleet specialist, these deals embrace everything from hire purchase, through leasing, to contract hire. The recipe obviously works because, even in these hard times, sales top 600 new and 350 used cars a year.

Warners Service Department is worthy of mention too. Staff includes Gloucestershire’s only Peugeot ‘Master Technician’, and he is supported by a team of factory-trained technicians who can call upon the latest diagnostic equipment, should you need it. Naturally this combines with a highly efficient Parts Department and the latest Stock Control System.

There’s also a newly-opened Bodyshop and Accident Repair Centre.

M. J. Warner, based at Cheltenham until new purpose-built facilities are available, is a houseproduct of a very different colour. It provides Warners Trust plc with a specialist marquee, having won a Mercedes-Benz franchise almost exactly one year ago. So South Gloucestershire has a genuine luxury car supplier.

The full Mercedes-Benz range is on offer, together with a variety of previously-owned models, and a selection of demonstration cars which you can cordially be invited to try for yourself. Service is provided by Mercedes-Benz trained technicians, and as ever, is based on a personal, friendly way of going about things, including a collection and delivery service from your own premises, with a courtesy car loan system should you need it. Obviously, all cars are fully valued before their return.

And all that’s just for starters. Warners Trust plc also

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 (Can)
MORE
TOUCH LINES

have a Peugeot dealership at Shannon Way, Tewkesbury, and Eso and Golf Service Stations. The
whole thing really is an impressively complete
motoring package, and we’re delighted to welcome it
to Kingholm. Thanks again!

POST MORTEM

It seems a long time ago now, but the cancellation
of the South Wales Police match means that this is
the first chance I have had to comply with a request by
Terry Tandy to thank everyone for their co-operation
and general good humour on the day of the World Cup
game. We’re not used to the sort of restrictions placed
upon our movements on that day, but all the
supporters understood the reasons for them, and
everything went off very well.

And that’s not just us talking. Apparently, the World
Cup organisation were impressed by the facilities
provided for them, and were very happy with the
organisation of the whole thing.

It was also very nice to receive a letter from Ed
Schrann, the Manager of the USA Eagles’ squad,
expressing the Americans’ thanks for the way they
were received and generally looked after during their
stay. They enjoyed Gloucester — not just the Rugby
ground — very much, and were appreciative of the
hospitality shown them wherever they went.

Can’t be bad. They’ll probably tell their friends and
relatives when they get home, and you never know —
it might bring a few dollars into the City in the long
run.

Thanks again, everyone.

GOLD BOND

Wouldn’t you just love it. The first lucky so-and-so
to win £100 in our nice new Gold Bond lottery was
none other than our own, our very own, Doctor Tom
Durlin, who for so many years, was the Club’s medical
advisor, and who earned himself a well-merited
international reputation for his awesome expertise in
sports injuries. I saw him just a few days ago, and he
was in great form, rolling off reminiscences of his old
friend and patient, the great Tommy Voyage.
I can’t think of anyone I’d rather have seen win it,
but of course he’s only the first in an increasingly long
line of winners. By the time you read this, only five
weeks into the scheme, over £2,500 will have been

handed out in prizes, and that trend will continue at
a rate of over £500 a week.

Spare a thought, too, for the Agents who are selling
the system. Danny McLellan, for example, has over
100 investors in his books, and so do the proprietors
of newsagents Seymour News in Gloucester’s Seymour
Road. That means that they’re in receipt of a handy
few quid by way of commission, and David Golter,
who runs the scheme for the Club’s commercial
management tells me that they’re not alone in that.

There’s always room for more, of course. Gold
Bond can represent a useful way to provide funds for
any club or organisation in which you have an interest.
Or there’s nothing to stop you using it as a way of
supplementing your own income, and we could all do
with that, these days.

Why not get some more information on the subject,
no obligation at this point? David Golter, a very
pleasant fellow who doesn’t go much for hard-sell
tactics, will be happy to let you have full details. Ring
him on Gloucester 419966.

BROTHERS BARNETT

Scotland may have their Hastings brothers, New
Zealand and Western Samoa share the Bachelors, but
we can top them all. We have the Barnett.

This evening’s Match Mascot is Ryan Barnett, aged
7, and his brother performed the same service at the
Gloucester v. England game at the Old
Richards. He is limbering up by playing mini-rugby for
Heron School, and is limbering up by playing mini-rugby for
Old Richards.

I well know how unbearable it can be for parents
when one brother has something another wants. At
least we have solved that one for the Barnett family.
Both siblings now have their own official Gloucester
tops, and we fervently hope they both wear the
full-sized one in a few years time.

BATH NEXT SATURDAY

Ruff said.

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER

Lloyds
Bank

THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.
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 be pleased 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 there first visit to Kingsholm to provide the ground with it’s first drawn game — a scoreless affair. But the Cherry and Whites got back to winning ways against Exeter with a 1-0 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 1892-3.

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!
'TAKE THE BALL AND RUN'

With the recent World Cup Semi-Final in mind, it's worth quoting a passage I came across in a book given me for a recent birthday. The reference is to last season's Grand Slam Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham, and it runs: "When England cut their line to three it was a cop-out rather than a line-out. The allusion was to the fact that Messrs Dooley, Ackford and Richards are all policemen."

I do recommend you to read the book concerned. It's an anthology compiled by Godfrey Smith, entitled 'Take the Ball and Run', and includes pieces - fact, fiction and apocrypha - by a real galaxy of players and writers, including a thesis on the dark and mysterious art of propping by Mike Burton, and printable excerpts from Cirencester RFC's song book.

It isn't surprising that there is a local flavour to the book. Godfrey Smith lives in Malines and admits to being a Vice President of Malines RFC, who describe themselves as the smallest club in England with the ugliest colours. Apparently, the latter circumstance arose because, when they were building their clubhouse, the only cheap paint available came in green and mauve.

Usually, when I publicise a book it's because Gwyn Hiatt of the County Library has sent me details of new ones, recently acquired. However, I found this one on my own, and if the Library feels like acquiring a copy or two for the delectation of the Kingston Fairfell, then I can tell him it's published by Pavilion Books.

ENGLISH LESSON

You may have read a paragraph or two in the Citizen about a group of Mexican journalists who recently visited the City. I can amplify the story a little.

The whole thing was organised by Philip Cooke, Gloucester's tourism supremo. Having played on the flank for Harlequins in his time, he obviously knows the Rugby scene, and regards Gloucester RFC as a useful weapon in his endeavours. When the Mexicans arrived, he arranged to bring them around to see the Moseley game, and begged a hospitality box for the purpose.

None of them had ever seen a Rugby match before, but they all soon cottoned on. The rest of the story comes from Derek Brown, who was there, and who I think for the information.

Apparently, among the number, was a very attractive Mexican lady who did not know one word of English, and who had to be translated to at all times. She now knows just one phrase, which she quoted enthusiastically all through the second half. I can't imagine that it would have impressed the Shakespeareans of Stratford-on-Avon, which was the party's next port of call. Can't you just picture the conversation?

Shakespearean: "Once more into the breach, dear friends, once more. Or close the wall up with our English dead!"

Mexican Lady: "Cronon Glost!"

The rest, as it says in Hamlet, is silence.

LOST AND FOUND

Heard at a Probus Club meeting last week.

"Did you hear that they've found Lord Lucan?"

"No. Where?"

"The safest place imaginable. The last place anyone ever looks. He's turned up playing on the wing for Wales!"

PLAY THE GAME

Another quotation from the book 'Take the Ball and Run', which I mentioned earlier. It's by J. B. M. Stuart, writing at around the turn of the Century.

'So far as kicking the man on the ball is concerned, always remember that, played cleanly, rugby football is quite dangerous enough for most people's liking, and that a man who kicks another man intentionally is a blackguard and a coward.'

Recently, a well-known international, in his book on rugby, said that a gentleman kicks another with his instep, rather than his toe. Personally, I think that no gentleman ever kicks another.

There's no answer to that.