

THE  
**GLOUCESTER**  
RUGBY FOOTBALL  
CLUB

v  
**BATH**

YEARS AT  
**100**  
KINGSHOLM



**80p.**

Official Programme



FOUNDED 1873

President:  
Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

Saturday, November 9th 1991  
Kick-Off 3.00pm

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# TOUCH LINES

by  
Peter Arnold

## EARLY BATH

We don't usually have the opportunity to welcome Bath this early in the season. Indeed, last time round, we didn't see them until April, an earlier League game having been postponed for reasons not unconnected with the British climate.

In fact, we won that one by 15 points to 7, and then went on to lose at Bath right at the end of the season, so honours are pretty much even-steven just at the moment.

No League points at stake today, of course, and in this rather strange season, the whole thing feels a bit odd. This is our first home Saturday game since Exeter visited us on October 5th — a full five weeks ago. Nevertheless, the visitors are Bath, with all that that implies, and there seems no reason to doubt that they are going to be the team to beat this season, as in the several previous ones. Wasps, Harlequins, Leicester have all had unexpected reverses already, but Bath, with a win over Neath, ominously carry on along their formidable way.

As everyone who hasn't been living on another planet knows, our encounters with Bath, in both League and Cup, have had a very significant impact on the whole of the English season, and with the solitary exception of that Twickenham Cup Final, on which we will not dwell, they have been close, hard-fought affairs, and a pleasure to watch. Perhaps today's occasion doesn't have the edge that some of our recent meetings have — that will come later in the season — but any visit of Bath to Kingsholm is an event worth attending, and we thank them for that.

Perhaps it's just as well that this isn't a League game. That way our distinguished visitors can enjoy a spot of hospitality during the Kingsholm Centenary season without taking the whole thing too seriously. I hope they do just that.

## THANKS TO BARCLAYS

One nice thing about regular Sponsors. Their annual visits give one a series of snapshots of the development of the organisations concerned. This is particularly true of today's generous benefactors, who have consistently used these occasions to promote Barclays Business Centres, established in 1988.

Countrywide, the network now totals more operations than similar systems run by all the three other major clearing banks combined.

This is a massive undertaking by anyone's standards, and it has been brought about by research carried out by Barclays in the mid-1980's. This accurately forecast the trend which has, in fact, occurred. UK and foreign banks now offer a much wider range of services that once would have been thought possible. Increasingly complex technicalities can become bewildering for any businessman who simply wants to get on with his own job, without taking a Degree in corporate finance.

Alongside this, the banking business has become fiercely competitive, forcing once conservative banks to become far more market oriented. If a bank is to increase, or even hold, its market share, then it must go out and win business in competition with similar institutions. Such thinking would have been heresy, a decade or so ago.

Barclays research showed that, while price is, of course, important, business customers consider high standards of service to be far more valuable. They want all their banking needs to be met promptly and efficiently, and need to know that the advice they receive comes from a genuine expert. Above all, they need a readily accessible banker who really does understand their business. Needs must be identified, solutions presented, decisions made rapidly. In fact, they need someone who can fight their corner. And they don't want their advisor to be here today and gone tomorrow: continuity is essential.

Barclays have gone to considerable lengths to provide those things, through their network of local Business Centres. Staff training, alone, has cost some £13 million. Nowadays, Barclays Business Centres can offer all the services you'll ever need. Including some you've probably never heard of.

Quite apart from the modernised Southgate Street branch (it's been there since the 1920's), Barclays now have a Corporate Suite in the Docks. It's in the Britannia Warehouse, overlooking the Victoria Basin and houses the team of Corporate and Business Sector Managers. It's a wonderful resource for Gloucester's business community, ideally equipped

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## MORE TOUCH LINES

and located to take advantage of the forthcoming upturn in the economy.

But not today. This afternoon is reserved for Kingsholm, and we thank Barclays sincerely for that.

### **GOLD BOND**

The amount of money given away as prizes in our splendid new Gold Bond lottery has now passed £3,000, which ain't bad for just about six weeks of operation. And that doesn't count the commission earned by Agents around the City, which can be very handy indeed.

Obviously, we'd like you to have the odd flutter, but on the 'if you can't beat 'em join 'em' principle, you might like to consider becoming an Agent yourself. It's very easy, not very time consuming, and can be even more profitable than the pure commission figures indicate, because there's also a little dab in the fist for any Agent who has a winner on his books.

Why not ring the amiable David Golder on Gloucester 419666?

### **GOING SHOPPING?**

It's a regrettable necessity with Christmas looming on the horizon. But it's one you could well combine with pleasure at our own Club Shop, alongside the Worcester Street stand. John Beaman and Alan Townsend will be delighted to point out various goodies to you which would make very good prezzies for right-minded recipients.

For example, there are still small supplies of World Cup memorabilia available — ties, T-shirts etc. And you'll find the prices highly attractive. Make nice gifts, come Christmas.

You could even buy a plaster bust of Mike Teague — you've probably seen the series, which has been doing the rounds for years, but this is the first time that a Gloucester player has actually attained that particular Hall of Fame.

There's also a (rapidly dwindling) supply of our Ground Centenary publication, 'Kingsholm — The First 100 years', which has been enthusiastically greeted just about everywhere. At £1.50, it's a considerable bargain, and again, would make an

excellent stocking filler, especially for some poor exile living elsewhere these days.

Go and see John or Alan. I'm sure they'll see you right.

### **LEICESTER NEXT SATURDAY**

As you will know, the Courage Clubs Championship opens next week, and our contribution to the beanfeast is to entertain our most friendly rivals, Leicester. Knowing how the League works, I wouldn't let the fact that we've beaten the 'Tigers' already this season lull you into any false security.

Before that, however, we have a happy little date with Exeter University next Tuesday, which is always a cheerful occasion.

To complete the picture, don't forget that today is Pilkington Cup day, and we'll very soon know who and where we'll be playing on November 30th. Wouldn't it be a blast if it turned out to be Matson, away!

### **GANGWAY!**

Don't forget to keep gangways and steps clear today, and at the Leicester game next week. PC Plod and Fireman Fred get quite sniffy with us if we don't.

**ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER**



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## ED MARTIN'S FACT FILE

Any club that dismisses the theory that it is one of the toughest things in English club rugby to gain a win at Kingsholm should check with Bath.

The first visit by Bath to Kingsholm was for a scoreless draw in the 1895-6 season. It took Bath another 21 visits before they could post their first Kingsholm win — they squeaked home 10-8 against the Cherry and Whites in 1927-8.

Bath then had to wait until 1938-9 for their second win and then to 1966-7 and 1967-8 for their third and fourth wins. To date, Bath have visited Kingsholm on 78 occasions and have won just seven times (Gloucester have won 64 of the encounters with seven of the matches drawn).

It might look a rather dismal history for Bath. But the club could well point out that they have won three times at Kingsholm in the past five seasons — and that Gloucester are given a torrid time at the Recreation Ground where the Cherry and Whites have failed to win since 1981-2.

The biggest embarrassment Bath has suffered at Kingsholm was the 51-7 defeat in 1976-7 — and it took them until the Cup Final at Twickenham to put egg on Gloucester's face! The most points scored by Bath against Gloucester at the Recreation Ground is 26 in 1987-8 when the fixture was drawn (Bath's 24-9 home win in 1979-80 is their best win against the Cherry and Whites in Bath).

The Bath fixture provides two other interesting Gloucester superlatives. Gloucester won all 14 meetings between 1895-6 and 1903-4 scoring 271 points to Bath's total over the 14 matches of just THREE!

Then there is the matter of the 30-game unbeaten streak against Bath between 1895-6 and 1922-3. When the streak was snapped at Bath, with Gloucester falling 9-6, the playing record of the Cherry and Whites against Bath stood at 26 wins and four draws with Gloucester scoring 445 points and Bath 57.

### RECORD AGAINST BATH FROM 1891-2 TO DATE

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA
Home	78	64	7	7	1145	438
Away	72	32	9	31	722	578
Neutral	1	0	0	1	6	48
Overall	151	96	16	39	1873	1064



# TAILPIECE

by  
Peter Arnold

## ROY FOWKE

Like most people, I was considerably saddened by the news of the death of the indomitable Roy Fowke, bearer of a famous Gloucester name, and something of a legend in his own right. One could write at very great length about 'Fowke', but Peter Ford summed it all up very concisely, calling him 'a players' player', and there's no finer accolade than that.

Roy was the absolute image of a typical Gloucester forward; hard, fast, not given to taking prisoners. Sometimes I felt that he reserved his best performances for the County, in the days when that really meant something.

He'll be badly missed from the Gloucester scene, but we do have the considerable consolation that his son Bobby is now back at Gloucester, and bidding fair to carry his father's banner nobly. And we mustn't forget the rest of the clan, stalwarts of the Spartans.

To these, and all the family — Roy's brother Jack also played for Gloucester, of course — our heartfelt sympathy.

## NO HARM IN TRYING

It's amazing what some people will get up to. One of our members — I don't know who and wouldn't tell you if I did — was fortunate enough to be allocated a ticket for the England World Cup Quarter Final in Paris. Had a thoroughly good time, apparently.

So much so that he rang the office on the following Monday, and pointed out that, as he had spent his own money getting to Paris, he had proved that he was a genuine and committed England supporter, and should therefore also be allocated a ticket for the Murrayfield Semi Final.

Of course, in trying to be fair to everyone in a genuinely no-win situation, the idea was to let our meager supply of tickets go on a one-only basis, and avoid showing preference to anyone, so his impeccable logic didn't succeed in producing yet another magic piece of cardboard.

What the Fair Geraldine said on receiving the telephone call isn't recorded. But Terry Tandy's comments on having the matter referred to him are. And they wouldn't be shown on TV before nine o'clock in the evening.

Gloucester supporters are known for their ingenuity in such matters, but this play is even more diabolical than most. It almost deserved to succeed. But not quite.

## WINNING AT CARDIFF

As everyone knows, Gloucester have now won at Cardiff Arms Park for the first time since 1935. Keith Richardson considers that Cardiff were happy to settle for the eventual 11-6 scoreline, so complete was the Gloucester forward domination.

That is a mighty achievement, and it reminds me of the dear, dead days when Worcester Street would be completely blocked by supporters on the day of a Cardiff match. But in my time, we never won in the Principality's capital city.

Indeed, I remember being told, years ago, by a venerable Cardiff ex-player, that the saying at the Arms Park in those days, was that 'Cardiff could turn out fifteen men with wooden legs and Gloucester wouldn't beat them.'

I wonder if Keith Richardson counted the legs of the Cardiff players on Friday last? Apparently, counting Gloucester supporters' legs after the match would have been easier. Many of them were legless.

## LADIES FIRST

No longer is the Gloucester RFC Match Mascot an exclusively male preserve. The breakthrough for the sex discrimination lobby has arrived with Gemma Jewkes who leads the side out today.

Gemma is 10½ years old (she insists on the half) and has a passion for all sports, her two priorities being rugby and soccer. She attends Nympsfield School at the moment, and plays football for the King's Stanley Under 11's.

What she really wants to do is play women's rugby, but hasn't found a team yet. However, Stroud High School, which she hopes to attend soon, does have a women's side, and she's determined to play for them. Perhaps today's exercise will help a little.

Gemma is the daughter of Robert Jewkes, who is a partner in the Cheltenham-based Corinium Carpets. That company was down to sponsor the South Wales Police match, which as you know, never took place. We couldn't disappoint Gemma, however, so here she is today.

Corinium Carpets were disappointed too, and we're sorry they were let down in this way, through no fault of ours. However, it's nice to know that we've been able to arrange some hospitality facilities for them today, and perhaps that will compensate to some extent. Hope they'll be able to go the whole hog on a not-too-distant future occasion.