

The Rugby Football Club

PROGRAMME NOTES

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COURAGE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP - NATIONAL DIVISION ONE

Today we extend a belated welcome to **Gloucester** who were due to have made their first visit to Webb Ellis Road on December 8th last year. A freak blizzard put paid to that arrangement, therefore today now becomes the anniversary of the only other meeting staged between the clubs 101 years ago at Gloucester. We are delighted to see the successful West Countrymen today and wish them, their officials and famous supporters an enjoyable day.

Ironically, we will be repeating a similar greeting in seven days time when Gloucester return for a third round Pilkington Cup tie. No doubt they would have preferred to have introduced us to their own Kingsholm headquarters, but we have to say we are happy with the present arrangement. Vale of Lune, you will remember, faced a similar League and Cup visit in consecutive weeks in 1988.

Today's opposition is though a far different proposition from our earlier Lancaster double challenge as evidenced by an enviable record in the Courage First Division. In 87/88 Gloucester finished fifth, were second in 88/89, second again in 89/90 just one league point behind the champions, Wasps. Last season they finished in sixth place, winning half their games in a season they have described as "mediocre". Some mediocrity! Last Saturday they dumped Leicester by 21-3 in their opening League game.

For the Lions, today they will be pleased that their pack takes on a more familiar look with several players returning to the pack including **Gareth Tregilgas**, **Phil Bowman** and **John Jenkins**, all of whom missed last Saturday's game against West Hartlepool. **Tony Simms** replaces **Alan Ruddlesdin**, who was injured in the second minute last week. Rudds' has not suffered any breaks as first feared but has sustained ligament damage that will sideline him for several weeks.

In the backs, **Stewart House** takes over from **Mark Palmer**, also injured on Saturday (torn calf muscles) and is out for 4 weeks. Joint leading try scorer, **Dean Watson**, plays on the wing and **Richard Pell** is back at outside half.

Last week **David Bishop** made his 150th appearance for the club but given the match result would prefer the occasion was forgotten. However we wish to apologise for not including a mention in the programme notes.

Two more milestones are also reached today, with **Trevor Revan** making his 100th appearance and **Martin Fleetwood** his triple century outing. We are sure that these impressive statistics will be even more well remembered when linked with our Division 1 debut. We congratulate Trevor, Martin and David on their achievements for us and wish them and all the team the very best of luck for what is for them and the Club an historic occasion. **We are proud of you lads, GO FOR IT.**

TODAY'S MATCH SPONSORS

We are again indebted to our patron, Marston Brewery and our principle sponsor Rugby Cement, for sponsoring today's game and equally to the locally based solicitors, Bretherton, Turpin & Pell, whose details appear on the inside of the back cover of this programme, and Tabcon Construction, whose proprietor is Mr. Tim Kirby. Tabcon Construction are a Civil Engineering and Building Company who have close connections with the town and the Club. All are pleased to be associated with today's events and we wish them and their guests an enjoyable day.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY COMMENT ON THE ROLE OF WING FORWARDS

"The boys who are bending and watching on the outside, mark them – they are most useful players, the dodgers; who seize on the ball the moment it rolls out from amongst the chargers, and away with it across to the opposite goal; they seldom go into the scrummage, but must have more coolness than the chargers.

Thomas Hughes, who wrote Tom Brown's Schooldays, was a pupil at Rugby School from 1834 to 1842.

Extract taken from The Book of World Rugby Quotations by Derek Douglas.

RUGBY Colours:		CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP	GLOUCESTER Colours:	
		§ International ★ Trialist		
Ora	nge/Black/White	+ Divisional * County	Cherry	//White
15	Mark MAPLETOFT § U/21	Full Back	Tim SMITH	15
14	Eddie SAUNDERS +	Right Wing	Jerry PERRINS	14
13	Stuart GLOVER *	Centre	Don CASKIE	13
12	Stewart HOUSE *	Centre	Damien CUMMINS	12
11	Dean WATSON *	Left Wing	+ Simon MORRIS	11
10	Richard PELL *	Fly Half	+ Neil MATHEWS	10
9	David BISHOP *	Scrum Half	+ Marcus HANNAFORD	9
1	Gareth TREGILGAS *	Loose Head	Peter JONES	1
2	Steve BRAIN § Capt.	Hooker	+ John HAWKER	2
3	Trevor REVAN §B	Tight Head	+ Bob PHILLIPS	3
4	Martin FLEETWOOD *	Lock	Nigel SCRIVENS	4
5	Phil BOWMAN *	Lock	+ Dave SIMS	5
6	Mark R. ELLIS *	Flanker	+ Paul ASHMEAD	6
8	John JENKINS	No. 8	Sam MASTERS	8
7	Tony SIMMS *	Flanker	Capt. Ian SMITH	7
16	Jason ALDWINKLE	Replacement	Laurie BECK	16
17	Richard COX	Replacement	Dave KEARSEY	17
		Referee: Mr. Ronnie McDowell (Irish RFU) Cork Society Touch Judges: Mr. David Williams, Hertfordshire Society Mr. Peter Williams, Staffs/ North Midlands Society	DEED NOV. 1814	