THE
GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB
v
LYDNEY

YEARS AT
100
KINGSHOLM

80p.
Official Programme

Thursday, December 26th 1991
Kick-Off 3.00pm

MATCH KINDEY SPONSORED BY

The Citizen

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

WORTHINGTON
BEST BITTER

OFFICIAL SPONSORS
WE GET LETTERS

I have received quite a spate of letters lately, most of them complimentary, I hasten to add, and I thank the writers, most sincerely, for taking the trouble. I can’t possibly find room for all of them, but here’s a couple which caught my eye particularly.

Dear Sir,

I have just been watching the Gloucester v Rugby game. What a wonderful match, and what a wonderful record Gloucester have maintained this season.

I am a past member of the Club, in fact in the early 20’s I had a Schoolboys ticket price 8/6. My late father and I never missed a game at Kingsholm. I am still very interested in the Club’s performances, though I am unable to see live games any longer.

My memories go back to the glorious days of Tom Vince, Biddy Holford and Sam Hall. In fact the first time I visited Twickenham those three were playing for England against the All Blacks. England lost and I remember Tom Vince knocked on and just missed a try!

I hope I am not being a nuisance in writing to you, but I am so thrilled with the team’s success this season, may it continue.

The only member of my family who is interested is a great nephew. I gave him a Season Ticket for his 21st birthday last year. With all good wishes to the team for their future success.

Yours sincerely, Joan Palmer

Thank you, Miss Palmer. It’s always good to hear from our more senior supporters, and I’ll ask the lads to score a try especially for you. Did you know that Farnworth RFC is actually an older club than Gloucester, and have been wearing the cherry-and-white colours for longer? It’s also nice to learn that even the great Tom Vince was only human, and could make a mistake occasionally.

Meanwhile, from one of our more longer-standing supporters to a very new one.

Dear Sir,

I visited Kingsholm for the first time whilst on holiday in the area last Saturday for the excellent win over Bath. I was most impressed with the friendliness of the stewards, fellow supporters etc. and wondered whether you could send me details of membership?

I would hope for occasional visits to Kingsholm and to support the London area. I have already purchased both scarf (and tie) although I wonder whether it is Arsenal or Sunderland football club? This hurts as I dislike soccer!

I look forward to hearing from you and best wishes against Leicester on Saturday.

Your sincerely, Ralph Carter

Welcome to the Club, Mr. Carter. I gather that Membership details have been sent to you. As I once wrote on another occasion about another Kent man, ‘Discovering Gloucester after a lifetime of supporting London Rugby must be like a steady drinker discovering real ale’.
TOUCH LINES
by
Peter Arnold

CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR...

And when it does, it brings Lydney. Which is right
and proper, and the way things should be. After all, this
is the time of year when you meet old friends, and the
neighbours drop in for a drink or two.

You can’t count Bristol, which is in Avon, for the
moment anyway, so our friends from down the South
Wales road are the only Gloucestershire club, apart
from ourselves, who are playing in the upper echelons
of the Courage Clubs Championship. They’re finding it
hard going at the moment, but no one knows the
toughness and resilience of the boys from Regentsholm
better than we do, and you shouldn’t write them off
yet. Not with Gordon Stanton and Dave Spencer in
charge, you shouldn’t.

After all, they gave Sale all they could handle in the
Pilkington Cup. I wasn’t there myself, and only know
what I’ve gleaned from the radio commentary, the
excellent Citizen report, and what people have told
me, but I gather that Lydney could well have won that
one, and with respect to the Northern club, it’s a great
pity they didn’t. That would have done Gloucestershire
Rugby a power of good.

However, Boxing Day isn’t a time for that sort of
thinking. It’s a day for celebration, relaxation, and
general good fellowship. We couldn’t hope to find
opponents more likely to fulfil those criteria better
than Lydney.

So — very warm seasonal welcomes to Lydney,
purely off the pitch. Best wishes for the rest of the season, and thanks for sharing our
holiday with us. Christmas wouldn’t be the same
without you.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Just about the first piece of information you’ll want
is that concerning the arrangements for tickets for the
Pilkington Cup game against London Scottish here at
Kingsholm on January 25th. Quite simple, really.

Stand tickets only. Experience has shown that it
isn’t worth printing Ground versions, at this stage of
the Competition, anyway. The cost will be £6.00 per
ticket.

They will go on sale on Monday, January 6th, as far
as Members are concerned, and one week later will be
available generally. Get yours at the Office outside the
Clubhouse entrance, between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm
any weekday. Of course, you are welcome to order by
post, but if you do, don’t forget to enclose a SAE.

Not a bad draw, all things considered. We could
certainly have more difficult ones, and most assuredly
will if the Eagles, however, the Scots can
put out a formidable side, and have a habit of
surprising everyone from time to time. Remember,
they have beaten Gloucester three times in the Cup,
including one occasion at Kingsholm. That was a game
I remember vividly for its sheer disappointment.
Gloucester could and should have won it, and
somehow didn’t. Let’s see what happens this time
round.

BOOKED YOUR HOLS YET?

If you haven’t, you might like to consider this one.
Gloucester will be visiting the USA in April next year,
and MEM have arranged a package for supporters to
take with the team.

The whole thing starts with three nights in New York,
where both First XV and United have fixtures against
the Old Blues side. Then it’s on to Boston where the
boys are to take part in the highly prestigious Boston
International Rugby Tournament. It’s quite the most
important event of its type in the States, and has a
whole range of social events associated with it. While
the First XV are doing that, United will have games
against local sides.

Even before the Tournament starts, you’ll have a
memorable event to attend. It’s the ‘Kick-off Party’,
which takes the form of a three hour cruise around
Boston Harbour, accompanied by around 1,000 like-
-minded souls. The Boston Tea Party was never like
this.

If you survive that one, there’s a Barbecue to attend,
and as the Grand Finale, the Awards Banquet, which
should be quite a treat in its own right. In spite of all
that, there will be plenty of time for independent
sightseeing.

It’s all a great temptation, isn’t it? You could
succeed and get full details by ringing Mike Burton on
Gloucester 41666. He’ll be delighted to arrange
Advance Registration for you.

THANKS TO THE ‘CITIZEN’

We’re all so used to the ‘Citizen’ keeping us updated
on the affairs of local Rugby that sometimes I think we

By appointment to GRFC 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 (Car)
CASH FOR CHRISTMAS

Mrs V. F. Wilkes of Dean's Way, C. Middleton of Churchdown, Mary Sibery of Longlevens, D. Fortlock of Hucclecote and D. J. Bentle of Brockworth all have £100 extra to spend this Christmas, because they're winners in our Gold Bond draw. The Agents who sold them their entries were Smiles of Worcester Street, for whom it's getting to be a habit, Kisses of Chosen Drive, Churchdown, The White Hart, opposite the Ground (best wishes, Roy!) and M. Bentle of Brockworth, who are also a little better off as a result.

In addition, G. D. White of Tuffley, K. B. Clark of Henry Road, P. Wales of Evenlode Road, Mike Rose of St. Mark's Street and J. Harris of Longlevens have won £5 consolation prizes.

Good luck to all of them. If you'd like to join their number, as Agent or participant, then you only have to ask. Do so by ringing Mike Burdon or Dave Golder on 0452 419666.

SEASONAL CONGRATULATIONS

Good news for three Gloucester players this Yuletide. Dave Sims and Neil Matthews have been selected for the squad named England Development Squad. Obviously we send them both our good wishes, and there isn't a doubt that both of them will do well.

Following his form this season, notably in the presence of the England hierarchy, I had just a hope that Paul Ashroad might elbow his way in, too, but he hasn't quite made it. Of course, there's plenty of competition in the back row these days, and the likes of Messrs. Back and Rodber have been in the frame a little longer. Still — Paul has plenty of time, and I'm sure he'll get a crack of the whip one of these days.

The third Gloucester player to have won honours is Don Corkside, and no one ever deserved it more. He's been picked in a strong Scotland 'A' side who play Spain on Sunday next.

I'm told that there's no truth in the rumour that his nickname is now to be changed from 'the Ferret' to the Spanish Fly.

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER

Lloyds Bank
THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.
Things ain't what they used to be! Back in the Dark Ages of the 50s, my father used to take me out on Boxing Day. We would catch the bus into Kings Square and then mosey off down Worcester Street to Kingsholm and watch Gloucester beat the Old Merchant Taylors.

The only thing you can still do is to walk down Worcester Street to the ground! Gone is the Boxing Day bus and for OMT read Lydney.

OMT paid their first visit to Kingsholm over the second Christmas that the Cherry and Whites were at the ground. But their first visit to Gloucester was in 1890 when the fixture was played on the 5ps. Gloucester won by a try and three minutes to a minor. This very first meeting was the only fixture not to be played at Kingsholm.

All told, OMT played 62 Boxing Day matches against Gloucester before the fixture was terminated after the 1973 game which Gloucester won by a then Kingsholm record 82-12 margin.

There was to be one more visit. OMT celebrated their centenary in the 1982-3 season — and they asked Gloucester if they could come. That 'special' match was the 63rd and final meeting. Gloucester winning 70-0.

Gloucester have won 66 of their 78 Boxing Day matches at Kingsholm. Eight have been lost and four drawn. This gives the Cherry and Whites an 87-18 win record for their holiday match. Their only opponents have been OMT and Lydney.

**BOXING DAY AT KINGSHOLM**

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A point to ponder between Christmas and Easter.... Gloucester have never won a Courage League match that was originally postponed.

Happy New Year!
TAILPIECE
by
Peter Arnold

SYMPATHIES TO NIGEL
We’ve all had our fun at the expense of Nigel Starmer Smith, over the years, and none more often than I. In fact, we have considerable, if slightly wry, affection for him, and news of a family tragedy will strike a chord with all of us.

Apparently, ‘Starmer’ lost his daughter to a rare blood disorder, right in the middle of his heavy commitments to Radio 5 during the World Cup. This might be expected to prostrate any man, but Nigel soldiered on, flying back to Paris for the Quarter Final. I listened to that broadcast, and wouldn’t have suspected that there was anything wrong.

Our sincere sympathies go to Nigel and his family, and we hope his devotion to Rugby will do just a little to take his mind off things. If anyone from the BBC is covering today’s game, I hope they’ll send a copy of the programme to him. Just so he knows we’re thinking of him.

SHOUTING THE ODDS
More information from my bookmaking correspondent, Mike Heasman. Apparently, you can get 7 to 1 on Gloucester winning the League, and 5 to 1 on winning the Cup. The favourites in both competitions are obviously Bath at 11/4 in both cases. Wasps are rated at 4 to 1 for the League and also 5 to 1 for the Cup.

Apparently, one Cheltenham punter got on early, and stands to win £20,000 if Gloucester wins either League or Cup, and over £10,000 if they do the double, and we wouldn’t begrudge him a penny of it.

At the time of writing, you could get 33/1 on Gloucester for the double, but the aforementioned hopeful got 194/1, in London, before the League season kicked off. Apparently, you can usually obtain better prices in London: the bookies don’t seem to see much further than Wasps and Harlequins.

But if you really want a flutter, try Thurrock for the Cup at 1500/1!

FEELING OLD

Not wishing to boast, I became a Grandfather for the first time, a couple of weeks ago. An old drinking mate of mine commented, “In most well regulated families, the lad gets his name put down for Eton at birth. I suppose, in your case, it’s Gloucester Rugby Football Club.”

He’s not wrong, you know.

WELL DONE JONATHAN

Jonathan Newton of Churchdown is today’s mascot. As you’ll have read, his name came out of Terry Phillips’ battered bowler in a draw run by the Citizen, today’s Sponsors. Waiting until his back was turned, I spoke to his Mum about him. “He’s sport mad!” she told me. “Plays football, but likes Rugby best.” Which shows a remarkable grasp of the fitness of things for a nine year-old.

Young Mister Newton goes to Churchdown Village Junior School, and plays for their mini-Rugby for Chosen Hill. “They’ve been going for about a year now, and have really got it together,” Mrs Newton told me. Which is good news for all of us.

COLTS

I’m grateful to Reg Collins for updating me on the Colts record. They’ve now finished the first half of their season, resuming in February. Here’s the score:

Played 10, Won 9, Lost 1, Drawn 0. Points For 294, Against 56.

Results since we last reported, in the Leicester programme, were: Forest of Dean (H) Won 35-7, Wyth (A) Won 32-0

Leading points scorers: Goran Antonijevic, 2 tries, 15 conversions, 10 penalties — 68 points. Chris Thayer 12 tries — 48 points. Bruce Harris, 11 tries — 44 points. Dafydd Farr, 6 tries — 24 points.

One of the highlights of the Colts Season so far came when no less than four players — all from Old Richards, incidentally — were invited to attend the South West Colts Coaching Weekend at RAF Lakenheath. They were, Jack Mark Wright, prop Andrew Screen, and flanker Rob James and Dan Darby. Well done, lads!

SEASON’S GREETINGS

What with one thing and another, notably the weather, I haven’t had a chance to wish you all the appropriate Season’s Greetings. Better late than never, like the man said, so I do so now, quite unexcuseably. I hope you are having a quite spectacularly good Christmas, and that 1992 will be amazingly prosperous and pleasant.

Of course, there’s still New Year’s Eve. No doubt you’ll see the year in appropriately, and you won’t be drinking and driving, will you? It’s dangerous, illegal and downright stupid, and you might spill the stuff.