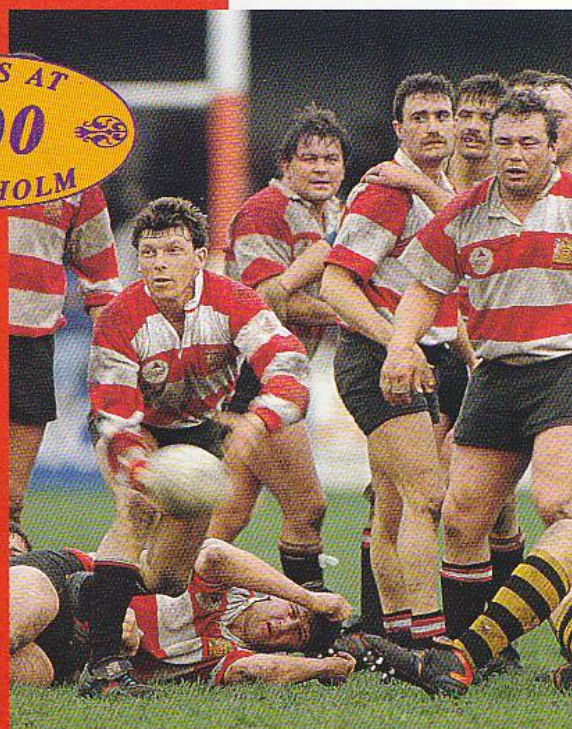
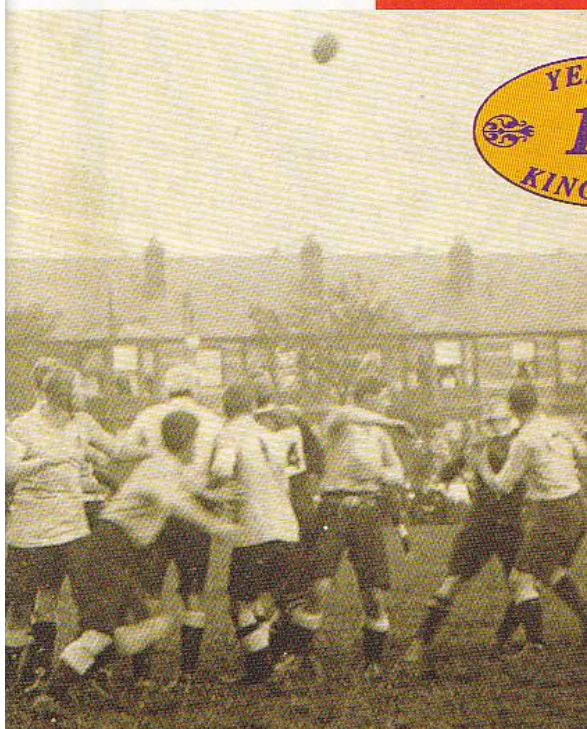


THE  
**GLOUCESTER**  
RUGBY FOOTBALL  
CLUB

V  
**NEWPORT**



**80p.**  
Official Programme



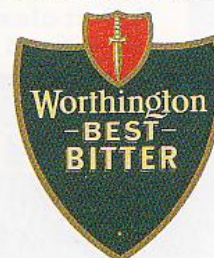
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Friday, January 17th 1992  
Kick-Off 7.00pm

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### GLOUCESTER 4-2

(Cherry & White) (4-6; 3-7; 2-8)

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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Cumulative  
Match  
Score

6	0
6	4
9	4
12	4
16	4
22	4
26	4
32	4
36	4
42	4

15. M. Roberts  
 14. J. Perrins  
 13. D. Caskie  
 12. D. Cummins  
 11. S. Morris

10. N. Matthews (M. HAPLIN)  
 9. R. Williams

1. A. Windo  
 2. K. Dunn  
 3. R. Phillips  
 4. S. Deveruex  
 5. R. West  
 6. D. Parry  
 7. A. Stanley (Capt.)  
 8. P. Miles

Replacements:  
 N. Marment  
 A. Martin

T G Pts

6 14

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3 12

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Referee: L. BRYAN (Bristol Society)

### NEWPORT 4- (17)

(Black and Amber)

T G Pts

15. J. Powell

14. S. Pill

13. J. Slater

12. S. Turecek

11. J. Thomas

10. M. Boyes

9. N. Callard

1. G. Finney

2. G. Davies

3. P. Harriman

4. B. Watkins

5. M. Arthur

6. T. Edwards

7. C. Scott

8. G. Pugh

Replacements:

C. Blanks

J. Nolan

4-2 F/T 4

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# TOUCH LINES

by  
Peter Arnold

## THE GREAT REVIVAL

The last time the All Blacks toured Wales, I went along to Rodney Parade to watch them take on Newport. If ever there were a slaughter of the innocents that was it. One way traffic all day, and one of the most convincing demonstrations of all-round superiority I have seen in a long time.

But isn't it amazing what a couple of years can bring? In that time the revered black-and-ambers have bounced right back to their rightful place among the very best that the Welsh game can provide. They are a team to be reckoned with by any standards, and no one plays them with complete confidence in a victory. If New Zealand were to come back tomorrow, they wouldn't find the going half so easy. I note that, last Saturday, Newport stopped the formidable Newbridge side's run of success to the tune of 20 points to 6, and are now handily poised for a run at the Heineken League's Championship, and the way the lead has been chopping and changing in that particular competition over the past few weeks, I for one am not going to right off Newport's chances.

Of course, we're always pleased to see such old and respected visitors. One hundred years ago, almost to the week, they beat Gloucester during the first season we were playing at Kingsholm, and not many clubs from either side of the Severn did that in that particular year. They've been visiting Kingsholm ever since, and long may that state of affairs persist.

I wish I were more confident about that. With the pre-eminence of our respective leagues, and current moves to make the Courage Championship a home-and-away affair, our Anglo-Welsh 'friendly' fixture list must be in some jeopardy.

Let's not worry about that just at the moment, however. Let's just luxuriate in the latest visit of one of our more valued opponents, and extend the warmest of welcomes to Newport. Hope they have a highly enjoyable evening.

## THANKS TO BOCM SILCOCK

This isn't the first time I've had the pleasant duty of welcoming BOCM Silcock to Kingsholm, and thanking them for the generous sponsorship they are providing this evening. If you're not a member of the agricultural community, the name may not mean a lot to you, but if you're a Gloucester man, the name 'Foster Brothers',

their predecessor company, assuredly will. At least, it ought to. Fosters were doing business around the surrounding counties even before Gloucester RFC was a twinkle in the Founding Fathers' eyes.

Nowadays, the Bristol Region of BOCM Silcock supply quality animal feeding stuffs over a triangle extending from Somerset to Worcestershire and across to South Wales.

Indeed, customers and staff from the company's Newport office are here tonight, and that provides divided loyalties for Regional Manager 'Dai' Price. He does have a cop-out, however, declaring himself neutral by virtue of his appearances in the centre for Swansea in the fifties and sixties. He has particularly fond memories of his series of confrontations with one particular Gloucester centre, and anyone who can recall, with affection, being marked by John Bayliss must be a pretty tough cookie.

BOCM Silcock obviously have quality people working for them, which is entirely appropriate, because they pride themselves on the quality of the dairy, pig and poultry farm products they supply, made from the finest raw materials available. Indeed, they can claim to lead that particular field, and that contention is confirmed by the fact that no fewer than fifteen company sites have already attained the coveted BS 5750 Award of Excellence.

You might say that farmers are entitled to expect no less, but the same thing might be said for the housewife, who is, after all the end user.

Of course, the current economic climate doesn't exactly help, but BOCM Silcock's answer is an imaginative one. They have allied themselves with North West Securities to found BOCM Silcock Excel, the first system in the field to provide low-cost finance for farmers wishing to expand but being constrained from doing so by current financial conditions.

So tonight's generous sponsors have every reason to look forward with confidence to 1992, and reckon that Gloucester RFC can do the same. They are certainly determined to retain and improve their pre-eminent position throughout the rest of the century, just as the club is.

If you want to know more about BOCM Silcock services, ring Gloucester 506435, where Peter Hillier, Dick Wheeler, Chris Nelmes and John Bevan would be pleased to hear from you. I believe they're all here this

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## MORE TOUCH LINES

evening, as are some guests who've never been to Kingsholm before. We hope they all have a great time. And come again.

### JOHN'S MADE IT AT LAST!

John Morey has been waiting a long time for this. Ever since November 12th, in fact, and when you're 10 years old, that's a lifetime. Young John, who attends Dinglewell School in Hucclecote, was due to act as the Match Mascot for the game against Exeter University, which was called off owing to bad weather. The fact that the weather cleared up at the last minute, and that the game could probably have been played after all, probably didn't please Master Morey at all.

Now, however, he's made it, and very welcome too. Not that it's his first visit: he was one of the youngsters in attendance when the World Cup ball passed this way during the run up to the competition.

Which is as it should be. He plays his mini-rugby for Old Richians, and is by no means the first player from that particular stable to have acted as Mascot. Perhaps we'll see the name 'J. Morey' in the programme again in a few years time.

### ALIAS McSMITH...

Just as we were wondering where our next international Cap was coming from, up pops Ian Smith in Scottish colours. Good for him: it's no more than he deserves. The unfortunate injury to the originally selected player is reported to be quite serious, and while our sympathies certainly go out to him, the circumstances do give Ian the opportunity to make the spot his own.

I notice that the great Scottish full back, Andy Irvine has been whithering on about Ian not being big enough for the role, which must put a wry smile on the face of John Watkins. I have news for Mr. Irvine. A transit van is bigger than an Alpha Romeo, but I know which I'd prefer to drive. Quality always was worth more than quantity in this game.

Hearty congratulations to the Skipper. But he has given us something of a dilemma. Who do we shout for when glued to our telly tomorrow? Obviously, we all want England to win, but we'll also be rooting for

'Smithy', and that's a spot of schizophrenia to which we're unaccustomed. And if we feel like that, spare a thought for father Dick.

### ... AND McJONES

That 'quality versus quantity' argument was never more aptly illustrated than by Peter Jones' performance in the Scottish Trial. He gave his enormous opponent a fair old going over in the tight, and then some. What you might call a high Watt-age performance.

In some ways, Peter's achievement is even more praiseworthy than Ian's. He was, after all, only called up for the 'A' game against Spain at the last minute, and having been given the chance, grabbed it with both muscular hands. As Ian Smith's experience testifies, anything can happen once you get yourself to the stage that 'Jones' has now reached, and I have a feeling that his time will come.

The Best of Celtic luck to both of them.

### THE CURSE OF SCOTLAND

I've never known why the nine of diamonds is known as the 'curse of Scotland', but be that as it may, it seems that next Saturday's Pilkington Cup game against London Scottish exposes us, not only to the attentions of the clear leaders of Courage League Division Two, but also to a spot of Celtic mythology. The 25th of January happens to be Burns Night.

That doesn't mean you'll be able to buy haggis in the bar, but it does mean that the usual Cup conditions apply. It's 'all pay', and that includes the car park, which will in any case, fill rapidly. No ground tickets have been sold, so it might behoove you to get here early to avoid a scrum at the turnstiles. I'm told that there are still some stand tickets available at £6.00 so it's worth asking at the office.

We'll need all the support we can get, so come with vocal chords in full working order.

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## BACK THEN

I have in front of me the Secretary's Notebook for the season 1897/8, and I thought it might add point to my editorial comments about Newport's very long history of games against Gloucester if I told you how the two sides fared in that season. Remember — Newport were undoubtedly, with Cardiff and Swansea, among the top three sides in Wales at the time.

Games were played on a home-and-away basis, and the first one that season was held at Kingsholm on December 11th, 1897. The weather was fine, and the result turned out to be a no-score draw, but that doesn't mean it was boring. Far from it. Gloucester Club Secretary, Fred Lovesy, writes:

*Both teams had their full strength out. It was a fast, exciting game, chiefly confined to the forwards, a draw being a fair criterion of the day's play.*

Interestingly, the game attracted a record gate — all of £96.14.0. It was also interesting that the 'umpire', not to be confused with the referee, was a Mr. F. Tandy. Any relation, Terry?

In view of what happened later in the season, it's worth recording the Gloucester side:

Hipwood, Taylor (captain), Cook, P. Stout, Clutterbuck, Stephens, Cummings, Williams, Hall, Rose, F. Stout, Hatherall, Pitt, Click, Lewis.

At Newport, in March, the story was very different. Gloucester went down by 24 points to nil — a fair old thrashing by the standards of the time. Fred Lovesy reveals why:

*Gloucester went down with the weakest team played this season, Taylor, Percy Stout, Clutterbuck, F. Stout, Cummings, Hipwood and G. Smith all being absent. Percy and Frank Stout playing for England v. Scotland, the result a draw, one try each. Newport had their best team out. A. Gould playing again, but not quite up to his old form.*

A. Gould, incidentally won 27 caps for Wales, the last one being in that same season. The Secretary continues:

*Although the score is large, it is no criterion of the game, as Gloucester had shocking luck owing to want of pace behind the scrum.*

You can make what you like of that. Mr. Lovesy also describes the referee, J. D. Evans of Cardiff, as 'Weak'.

Appearing at full back for Gloucester was a young George Romans, and he wasn't second choice for much longer.

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## ED MARTIN'S FACT FILE

### HEALTH WARNING: NOT FOR GLOUCESTER SUPPORTERS WITH BAD HEARTS!

If Gloucester RFC had the opportunity to wipe out the complete records of one fixture, the obvious choice would be Newport — the biggest bogey of 'em all!

Even at Kingsholm, the Cherry and Whites have an overall losing record — of the 86 games played, Gloucester have won 38, Newport 39 and nine have been drawn.

Now that record is very respectable when compared with the record for matches played in Newport. Since the points system was introduced in 1891-2 season, there have been 88 contests in Newport, the Welsh club winning 72 of them, with six matches drawn. Yes, Gloucester have won a meagre 10 games when away to Newport in 100 years!

Such was the jinx that it took 18 long seasons to even claim a draw (3-3 in 1909-0) and a staggering 42 years to post the first win in Newport (10-6 in 1932-3). Prior to the 1891-2 season when the International Board introduced the points system, England and Wales had very different methods of scoring with the result that the Citizen might headline a Gloucester win, while the Welsh papers would claim a Newport win in the same game! If one takes the claimed Gloucester wins at Newport, then add two to the tally, with victories in 1881-2 and 1882-3.

Apart from the war years, there has been at least

one fixture with Newport every season since 1878-9 with the exceptions of 1879-0, 1885-6 and 1904-5. This makes the fixture the oldest consecutive fixture that Gloucester has, beating other regulars like Bristol, Cheltenham and Stroud. In reality, Newport is the daddy of them all!

### GLOUCESTER v NEWPORT

	1891-2 to date					
	P	W	L	D	PF	PA
Kingsholm	86	38	39	9	742	712
Newport	88	10	72	6	450	1335
Total	174	48	111	15	1192	2067

### 1878-9 to 1890-1 (as claimed by Gloucester)

	P	W	L	D
At The Spa	9	2	5	2
At Newport	9	2	4	3
Total	18	4	9	5

### Complete Record

	P	W	L	D
At Gloucester	95	40	44	11
At Newport	97	12	76	9
Total	192	52	120	20

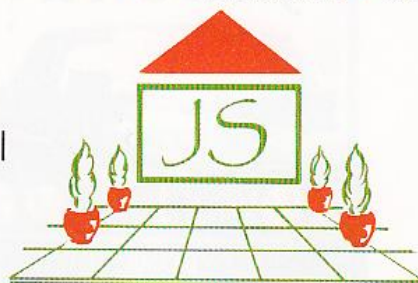
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# TAILPIECE

by  
Peter Arnold

## INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

Terry Tandy tells me that everyone who has applied for International tickets should have heard by around Monday next, either by way of tickets or a letter and a refund.

As always, these days, there are a fair few of those. Again, we didn't get anything like the allocation we applied for, and our own Allocations Committee have had their usual thankless task of trying to get a quart out of a pint pot, to borrow Terry's own graphic phrase.

As you might expect, it was the England v. Wales game which caused most trouble: people who applied for Ireland tickets were mostly accommodated, whereas the Wales ticket allocation was 40% over-subscribed.

It's worth noting that the Committee does keep records, and that people unavoidably disappointed this year will get some preference for the 1993 games. Which is about the best the Club can do.

## PITY THE POOR BOOKMAKER!

My latest epistle from Mike Heasman, who keeps me informed about betting matters, is a real cry from the heart. It wrings yer 'eart strings, it really does. In fact, he starts it *'Curiouser and curiouser, said Alice'*.

Apparently, after the last two Courage League rounds, the poor, undernourished bookmaker doesn't know what to do next, and his next world cruise is in serious jeopardy. Mike tells me that, depending on which turf accountant you patronise, you can get anything from 3/1 to 8/1 on Gloucester winning the Courage League. The favourites are variously identified as Gloucester, Orrell, Wasps, Northampton, Harlequins, Bath and Leicester, so there's a right old turmoil going on in such circles.

If the bookmakers are confused, what hope for the investor? Mike tells me of one such, who he describes as a 'hefty punter', who backed Bath heavily before the season started, and has now switched his allegiance successively to Gloucester after two rounds, and 'Quins after four rounds. As Mike says, all he now has to worry about is Northampton, Orrell, Wasps and Leicester — and he stands to make very little if he does win.

Mike ends his letter *'Boiing! Time for bed, said Zebedee'* which about sums it up.

## THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION

So Ian Smith is the son of nine-England Trial man, Dick Smith. Apparently, two can play at this dynasty game. I'm told that the Match Mascot for the Cup game is the grandson of former Club Chairman, and formidable flank forward, Gordon Hudson.

## FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Next Saturday is the Cup game against London Scottish, of course, and you know all about that, but it's worth pointing out, just in case you hadn't caught up with it, that the following game, the highly attractive one against Newbridge, is on FRIDAY January 31st.

I'd hate you to turn up a day late, but even that would be by no means a disaster, because you'd find yourself watching the United against Bristol, which all things considered, should be a very good game indeed.

## MAKING SURE OF A TICKET

I was hailed the other day by one of our senior and more loyal supporters, with the magic words "Hey, Pete! I've got a story for you!", a salutation which always grabs my interest.

It appears that a friend of his rang him, a week or two ago, and asked him to get a London Scottish ticket for him. Nothing unusual about that, you might well think, and indeed, the caller in question does it every year, and the two of them turn up together.

Nothing unusual, that is, until you are made aware of the circumstances of the telephone call.

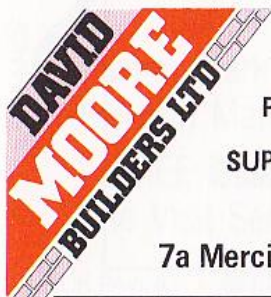
It was made from a public call box.

In the pitch dark, with the aid of a torch.

In the middle of an air raid.

In Zagreb.

Now there's a fellow who has his priorities right.



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