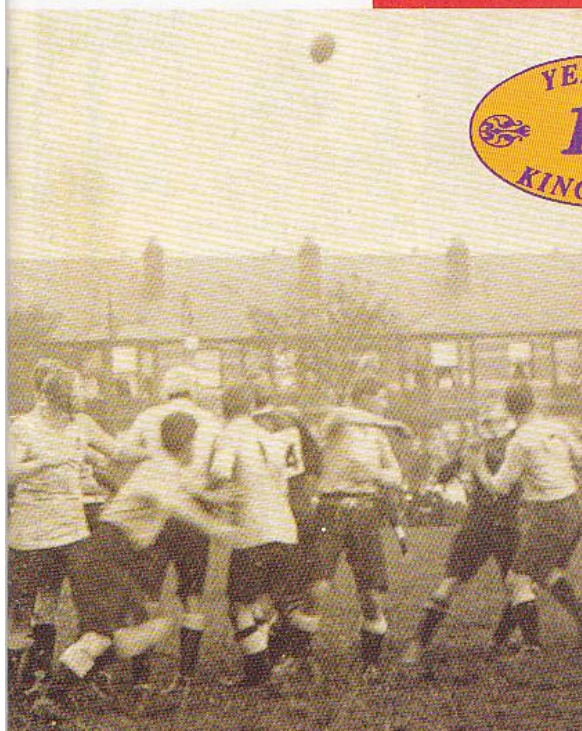
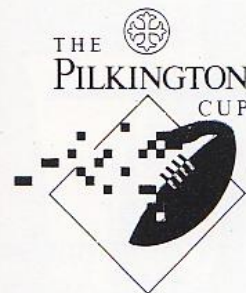
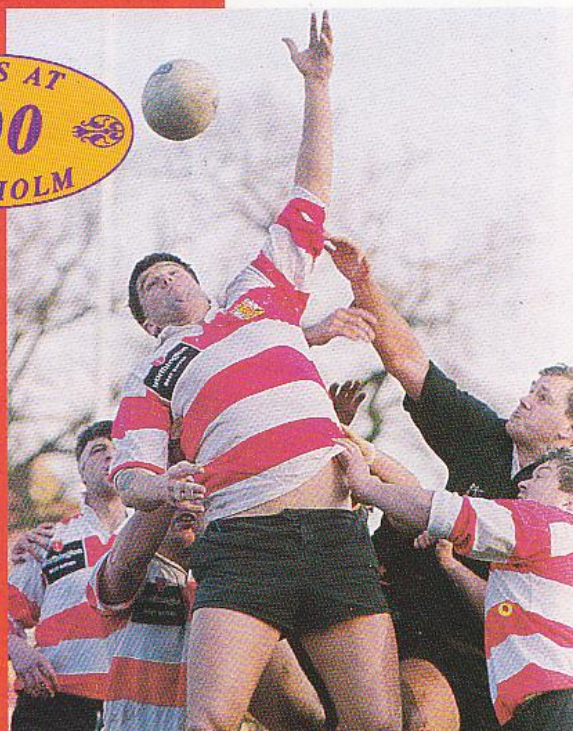


THE
**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB**
v
LONDON SCOTTISH



YEARS AT
100
KINGSHOLM



80p.
Official Programme



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

Saturday, February 8th 1992
Kick-Off 3.00pm

MATCH KINDLY SPONSORED BY



OFFICIAL CLUB SPONSORS



TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

SECOND TIME OF ASKING

If today's match had gone ahead as advertised, our distinguished and very welcome visitors wouldn't have stayed to enjoy our hospitality for very long after the game. This doesn't imply any discourtesy on their part, nor any descent into teetotalism. It seems that London Scottish had a pressing engagement elsewhere.

It was entirely understandable. January 25th was Burns Night, and we would be the last to discourage them from engaging in their fine old club's traditional celebration of that unique tribal feast. The unkind weather did, at least, enable us to entertain London Scottish in the way they merit today.

It's odd that we should originally have been drawn to play them on Burns Night. For years we used to meet London Scottish at New Year, around Hogmanay time. Now that the vagaries of the Courage Club Championship has brought that long series of games to a close, there's something mystically Celtic about the luck of a draw which should have brought them here on the second convivial date in the Scottish calendar. We'll never know whether the coincidence would have encouraged even more national fervour than usual, but the recent record would seem to indicate that Scottish scarcely need it.

London Scottish are having a very fine season, and are a force to be reckoned with by any standards. Gloucester may be unbeaten in Division One of the League, but the Exiles are going one better by having won all their games, so far, in Division Two, and a quick glance at the fixture list makes it difficult to see where their first defeat is likely to come from.

History is against Gloucester today. Scottish have beaten us three times in Cup competition, admittedly, not in the recent past. However, while the Exiles appear to be running away with Division Two, Gloucester are one of the front running sides in Division One. Our visitors shouldn't be misled by slight stutters in our last two League games; they don't mean much in the context of the Cup.

I'm told that the bookmakers, a week or so ago, were rating Gloucester as eight points better than Scottish, which I suppose is fair enough on the record, but I contend that, in Cup games, everyone starts at evens, as rugby's Thurrock and soccer's Wrexham will be glad to testify.

Of course, we're not without our own Scottish connection. The presence of Messrs. Ian Smith, Pete Jones, Don Caskie and Damian Cummins gives the game a decidedly Caledonian flavour, which can only add spice to the whole occasion.

If it hadn't been for the Pilkington Cup, we wouldn't have played our old friends from the Richmond Athletic Ground this season, so whatever the result of the game, we have something to be grateful for. We certainly hope they have a brow visit.

THANKS TO WORTHINGTON BEST BITTER

Of course, Pilkington are today's Sponsors; we thank them for that, and wouldn't wish to detract from the enormous service they have been doing the game over the past few seasons. However, Worthington have also given Gloucester invaluable financial assistance, and have taken over the hospitality chores today.

It's good that they should do so during our Ground Centenary Season. By the time Gloucester played Burton on Trent in that first match at Kingsholm, the Worthington Brewery had been producing their nectar in that selfsame town for well over a century.

In fact, Worthington, founded circa 1761, pre-date Bass by some 16 years. Both breweries set up shop within yards of each other because of the availability of clear and suitable water from gypsum beds beneath the town. Anyone who has ever had to suffer an arm or a leg in plaster now knows that there are more convivial uses for gypsum than producing plaster of paris.

Worthington beers achieved a high reputation, especially in bottled forms, from the early days. Nowadays, of course, Worthington Best Bitter has an enormous following, and rightly so.

Worthington and Bass, although rivals in the early days, appear to have been on good terms. Worthington's famous 'Shield and Dagger' trade mark originally evolved from a heart and dagger design, and the change came when Bass registered their first ever trade mark in 1876. It featured then, as now, an inverted red triangle. Unfortunately, a quick glance at the Worthington trade mark could have given the impression that they, too, were using an inverted triangle, so they gracefully stepped aside, replacing the heart with the shield that we've known ever since.

It's obviously vital that the quality of beer should be

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MORE TOUCH LINES

consistent. After all, any ale drinker likes to know what he's getting. However, the Worthington family do seem to have taken this laudable principle to extremes. For generations, the first-born in the family was always baptised 'William Henry Worthington', which was fine until one Worthington lady produced a daughter. Nothing daunted, the family christened the poor little mite 'Williamena Henrietta'.

Of course, we're all tremendously grateful for the marvellous support we get from Worthington Best Bitter, but we're not the only generous iron they have in Rugby Union's fire. Quite recently, the Company announced a three-year sponsorship of the Worthington National Sevens, following a highly successful inaugural competition in 1991.

Qualifying rounds will be held in the four RFU Divisions, and twelve teams will then go forward to the Final, to be held at Bath on April 26th this year. Should be quite an occasion, and although Gloucester have never really seemed to get to grips with the Sevens game — invented, incidentally, by a Scottish butcher — perhaps the Worthington connection will inspire them to do something about it.

Be that as it may, we're sincerely grateful for all the help Worthington Best Bitter gives us. We hope all their guests and friends today have a highly memorable visit.

KEEP IT CLEAR

It's one of those days again. One of those occasions when I have to remind you that you shouldn't try to watch the game from gangways or steps, because if you do, you'll incur the displeasure of the Police and the Fire Officer. Obviously, it's all in the cause of safety, and no one can really argue with that.

By the same token, if a Steward asks you to move, or clear the way, then you'd be doing everyone a favour if you simply complied with the request. I'm aware that it can be annoying to be asked to shift just as you've got yourself comfortable, but our Stewards are good supporters too, and they wouldn't be interfering unless they have a very good reason. Even though it's not always apparent.

FOLLOWING IN GRANDAD'S FOOTSTEPS. NOT TO MENTION DAD'S, GREAT GRANDAD'S AND UNCLE'S

Welcome, today, to Owen Barton and George Biggar, who are doing us the honour of acting as Match Mascots. For the first time, we have one for each side.

Owen is 8 years old, and isn't the first member of his family to run out in the cherry-and-white strip. In fact, his grandfather is Gordon Hudson, who is a past Club Chairman, and highly respected in that office. He is also one of those awesome flank forwards whose name always comes up in those 'do you remember when' conversations. He is a Barbarian, and once scored four tries in a Victory International against Ireland.

Of course, that also makes Owen the great-grandson of the great Arthur Hudson, legendary Gloucester and England winger, and very able club administrator as well. If he can emulate the earlier members of his dynasty, the Owen won't be doing too badly. We look forward to it.

Doing the honours for London Scottish is George Biggar, who is 6½, and attends Oakley Park prep school. If the name sounds familiar, so it should, because his father is Cheltenham solicitor Mike Biggar, who used to captain London Scottish. In fact he did so in 1974, when the Exiles beat us 12-4 in the old John Player Cup, here at Kingsholm.

Mike's being modest at that. He won 24 caps for Scotland, between 1975 and 1980. What's more, young George's uncle, A. G. Biggar, played for Scotland a dozen or so times from 1969 to 1972.

One way and another, we could hardly have two mascots with more impeccable pedigrees. We wish them both well, and hope they excel at rugby when they have a few more years under their belts.

As a footnote, Mike Biggar says that young George is already a better skier than he is, so sporting blood is obviously hereditary.

APOLOGIES . . .

. . . to all those people who enquired about England v. France tickets. An allocation of just two doesn't really go very far.

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KEAR'S KUP KWIZ

Actually, Alan Kear, of 69, Mayfield Drive, Hucclecote, does spell better than that. I know, because he has taken me up on the invitation, issued earlier in the season, to provide the occasional quiz for this page in the programme. In fact, I've had it for some time, but hung on to it for use in a Cup day issue.

Answers are on the 'Tailpiece' page. If you think you've spotted an error, then Alan's address is above. Don't take it up with me.

Not that I have any reason to believe that such is the case. Here goes:

1... What is Gloucester's record Cup score, and who were the victims?

2... Gloucester have appeared in four Cup Finals. Can you name the years and the Gloucester Captain in each match?

3... Can you name the Gloucester player who has appeared in three of the four Cup Finals?

4... In 1980, Gloucester played a Cup match on a Sunday. Against whom, and where?

5... One of the reasons for that was that another Gloucester side were also playing in the Cup on the same ground on the Saturday before. Who were they, and who were their opponents?

6... Who scored the winning try for Gloucester against Leicester in the Cup Final of 1980?

7... In the very first Cup season, Gloucester beat a side which included seven of the 1971 British Lions. You'll probably know who that side was, but can you name the Lions?

Thanks, Alan, Let's do it again some time.

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ED MARTIN'S FACT FILE

This is the 50th meeting in history between Gloucester and London Scottish who first visited Kingsholm in the ground's inaugural season 100 years ago when Gloucester scraped home to a 2-0 win. That first match was to be the last for more than 40 years as the series was not to be resumed until the 1934-5 season when the Scottish Exiles came to Gloucester and were dispatched 29-5.

Gloucester paid their first visit to London Scottish in 1937-8 and were themselves banished 15-3, as they were in their second visit in 1947-8 when the Exiles won 14-3. These early results set the tone for the results — Gloucester usually winning at home, but losing away.

In fact, things are very uncanny. Gloucester has won 14 of its 25 home games scoring 277 points in the process, while London Scottish has won 13 of the 24 London fixtures scoring 276 points.

When it comes to the John Player/Pilkington Cup, then London Scottish is a jinx club — Gloucester has never won in three meetings, though the 1980-1 quarter final meeting at Richmond was drawn in terms of points scored (nine each). The Exiles won the match on the "try count" and went on to the semi finals.

But there is good news for Cherry and White supporters — Gloucester is currently on a five game winning streak against London Scottish at Kingsholm (they are also unbeaten in six matches). A Gloucester

win today would extend to four games the overall winning streak — which would be the longest against the Exiles.

GLoucester v LONDON SCOTTISH

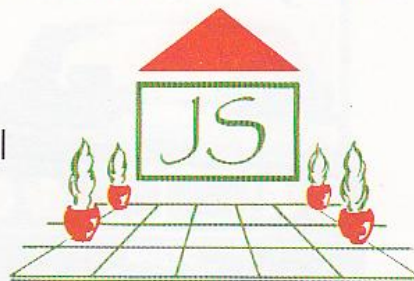
	1891-2 to date					
	P	W	L	D	PF	PA
Kingsholm	25	14	8	3	277	205
London	24	9	13	2	239	276
Total	49	23	21	5	516	481

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TAILPIECE

by
Peter Arnold

BIGGAR AND BETTER

The reason why young George Biggar is acting as mascot today is rather convoluted, but easy enough really. Before the arctic weather started to disrupt things, we were down to play London Irish today, in the Courage Clubs Championship. George's father, Mike, works for solicitors Rickerby Jessop Flint, who were to sponsor that game — and still intend to do so in the fullness of time. When it was decreed that London Scottish visit us today, Mike Biggar could hardly be expected to pass up the opportunity to nail his tartan colours to the mast, so to speak.

In fact, Rickerby Jessop Flint are here today, regardless. Although Pilkington are the official Sponsors of all Cup games, and Worthington Best Bitter are also providing support, RJF had already issued invitations for people to avail themselves of the firm's hospitality, and saw no reason to change things.

Consequently, we have a convivial party from a Cheltenham solicitors here today, and we welcome them most sincerely. Plus thanking them for their current and future support.

Things do get complicated, don't they?

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

I commented, earlier on, that the bookmakers are quoting Gloucester as eight points better than London Scottish today, although personally, I consider that a bit generous. I have been asked just what that sort of figure means, and why do our friendly, neighbourhood turf accountants find it necessary to make the calculation.

According to my Turf Correspondent, Mike Heaseman, who uses his rugby knowledge and his facility with statistics to advise bookmakers on such matters, part of the answer lies in the difference between rugby football and — say — horseracing. After all, unless you're going to bet on the score, there are only three possible results in a rugby match — win, lose or draw. In a horse race, there might be as many as thirty.

Furthermore, the average race attracts a very large number of bets, usually for relatively small sums, when compared with a rugby match. This provides a very wide statistical base, and enables the bookmaker to set his odds with a fair degree of confidence. Even so, they still come unstuck, sometimes. So when dealing with rugby, a relatively uniformed bookie does need extra information. Hence the calculation, supplied by blokes like Mike Heaseman.

There are limitations, however. Mike can't take into account factors like injury, team selection, the weather and — dare I say it — the vagaries of the referee. He has to go purely on the record. So you do have a good chance of beating the bookmaker.

Mike has given me his calculations for today. Take them home, and see how right he was.

He rates:

Bristol as 4 points better than Saracens.
Orrell as 16 points better than Sale.
Gloucester as 8 points better than London Scottish.
Wasps and Harlequins as scratch.
Newcastle Gosforth as 9 points better than Manchester.
Bath as 2 points better than Northampton.
Leicester as 20 points better than Waterloo.
Rosslyn Park as 18 points better than Thurrock.

BIT UNFAIR

Heard in a pub equipped with television, during the recent Calcutta Cup match:

"Look at Smithy! Living offside! Just like his old man!"

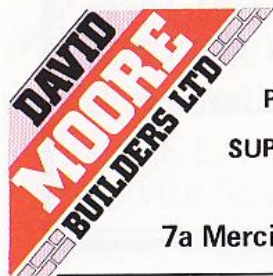
In mitigation m'lud, I should point out that the vociferous gentleman had been on the premises since 11.00 a.m., and that he'd spent half the game believing that one of the players wearing a white shirt was Ian Smith. Apparently the other patrons had a devil of a job convincing him that the Gloucester Captain could, in any way, be playing for Scotland.

KEAR'S KUP KWIZ ANSWERS

1. Gloucester beat Exeter University by 87 points to 3 in 1985/6.
2. 1972 — Mike Nicholls, 1978 — John Watkins, 1982 — Steve Mills, 1990 — Mike Hamlin.
3. Richard Mogg, 1978, 1982, 1990.
4. Richmond, at Richmond Athletic Ground.
5. Matson against London Scottish.
6. Richard Mogg.
7. The opponents were, of course, London Welsh in the game at Old Deer Park. The seven British Lions were: J. P. R. Williams, Gerald Davies, John Dawes, Mike Roberts, Geoff Evans, Marvyn Davies and John Taylor.

THE BATH GAME IS ALL TICKET!

Don't forget. Bath have made their game against Gloucester on February 29 an all ticket affair. Ground tickets (only), 10.00 a.m. to 2 p.m. from the office at £4.00. Season ticket holders only until Wednesday. After that, anything goes.



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