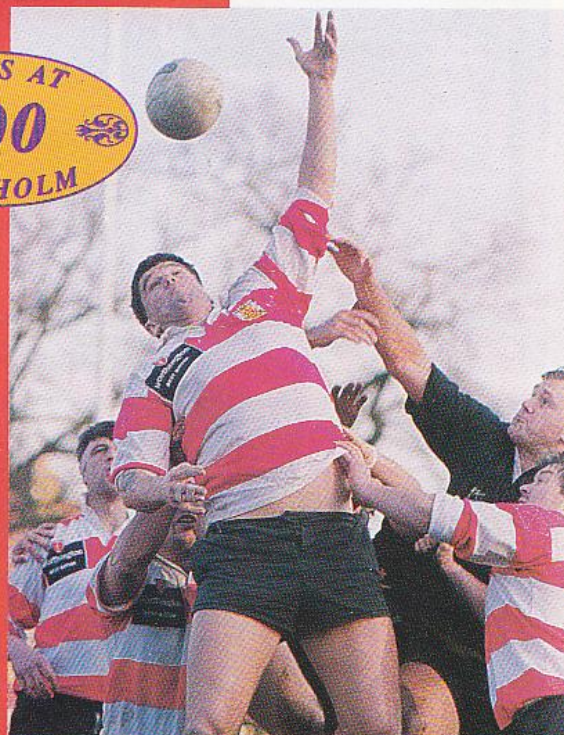
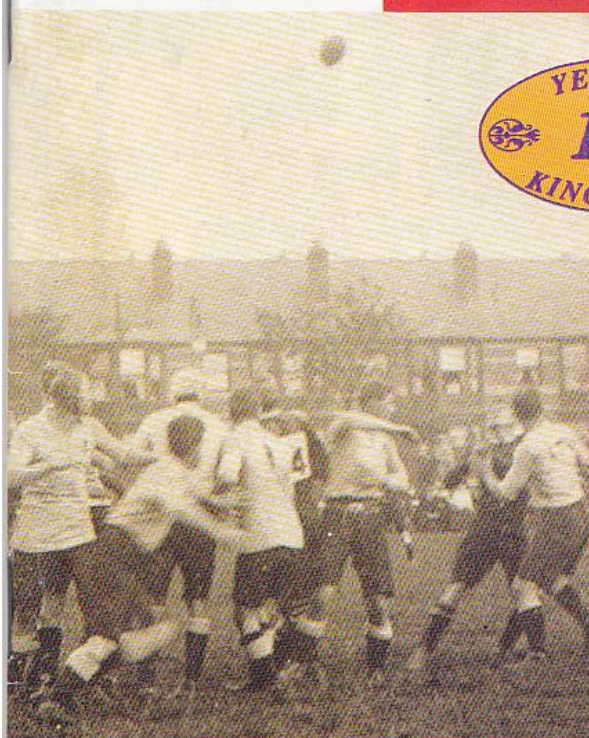


THE
GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB

v
NORTHAMPTON



80p.

Official Programme



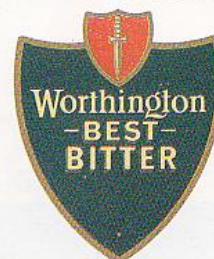
FOUNDED 1873
President:
Canon H. M. Hughes BA.

Saturday, March 14th 1992
Kick-Off 3.00pm

MATCH KINDLY SPONSORED BY



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Game sponsored by
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Gloucester Rugby Club use
GILBERT MATCH BALLS

GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts
	2p	6

1		4

4	H/T	7

15. T. Smith

14. J. Perrins

13. D. Cummins

12. D. Caskie

11. S. Morris

10. N. Matthews

9. M. Hannaford

1. P. Jones

2. J. Hawker

3. R. Phillips

4. N. Scrivens

5. D. Sims

6. P. Ashmead

7. I. Smith

8. S. Masters

Replacements:

K. Dunn

L. Gardiner

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

SPONSORED BY



Cumulative Match Score

0	4		
0	7		
4	7		
7	7		
10	7		
10	11		
10	17		

Referee: J. PEARSON (R.F.U.)
Touch Judges: D. Williams, D. Payne

NORTHAMPTON

(Black/Yellow/Green)

T	G	Pts

15. I. Hunter

14. F. Packman

13. M. Dawson

12. R. MacNaughton

11. H. Thorneycroft

10. J. Steel

9. D. Elkington

1. G. Baldwin

2. J. Oliver (Capt.)

3. G. Pearce

4. J. Etheridge

5. M. Bayfield

6. T. Rodber

7. W. Shelford

8. R. Tebbutt

Replacements:

B. Taylor

P. Roworth

10	F/T	17

TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

ROUGH RUN IN

This is the first match of just about the most difficult run to the end of a season which any of us can remember. League matches against Northampton, London Irish on March 25th, just three days before the second visit to Orrell, Pilkington Cup Semi Final against Bath the following week, and then Bristol, Wasps and Harlequins in rapid succession. You can't have a more horrendous schedule than that.

However, one correspondent writes to me: "Look at it this way. Eight games to go, five at home, one on neutral ground, and two away, to do the double. We'd have settled for that last September, wouldn't we?"

Apart from that, Mrs. Lincoln, how did you enjoy the show? And today's game is by no means the least demanding of the tests in store. Northampton are, without doubt, the success story of the past few seasons, after far too many years in the doldrums. You'll recall that they gave us all we could handle in the Cup Semi Final a couple of years ago, and last season went one better by being losing Finalists in a game where the scoreline flattered Harlequins, in my humble opinion. What's more, we only squeaked past them by seven points to six in the equivalent match this time last year.

There are very fine players in all departments, not least, in the pack where — not having seen the side at the time of writing — one can confidently expect visits from Messrs. Rodber, Etheridge (who we seem to have seen before, somewhere), and the great Wayne Shelford. In fact, "Buck" is making his second trip to Kingsholm in three days. He skipped one of the two teams in the Bass Quiz Night in the Clubhouse last Thursday.

Not that we're complaining. Like everyone from Northampton, "Buck" Shelford is extremely welcome today. I'm sure that the game is going to be memorable, and we all hope that our valued visitors have a thoroughly good time off the field as well.

THANKS TO BASS

Bass Brewers do a lot more in the cause of Rugby than run Quiz Nights, of course. As you probably know, they sponsor the highly successful National Sevens Tournament, which is to be held at Bath, once again,

this year. Gloucester has never really been a sevens club, but we applaud the initiative, nevertheless.

More to the point, they are Gloucester's major Sponsor, and today sees one of the games which they have chosen to support in this way. We are quite immoderately grateful, and hope that Clive Buckle — who at one time hooked for Bath, so is going to have his loyalty stretched on April 4th — and Alan Jenkins have assembled their usual convivial crowd to enjoy the event.

We're happy to see them again, and conversely, I am told that they are happy with the amount of Toby, Worthington Best Bitter, and Bass products generally, which are consumed in the Clubhouse, week by week. Which is fair enough: such associations should be mutually profitable.

The Bass organisation is extremely interesting from several points of view. The whole thing started when the original Mr. Bass, a haulier with a significant business running drays for various brewers, decided that there was probably more money in making the stuff than carting it about. One sideline was that he eventually sold his haulage business to a chap called Pickford.

Just think — if things had worked out differently, you might have had Bass moving house for you while you stayed in the Clubhouse drinking Pickford's Best Bitter.

Actually, the original idea was to sell beer specifically for export, principally to the Baltic Trade. Tax changes made that unprofitable, so they switched to the Far East, notably to India, and that led to the term "IPA", which is short for "Indian Pale Ale".

Then one day, a shipload of beer went aground off Liverpool, and was salvaged. The local Customs and Excise put the lot up for auction, and it proved so popular that the Company realised that they had a potential winner on the home front too. The rest, like the man said, is history.

All of which makes fascinating reading, but just at the moment, we're more interested in welcoming the happy throng to Kingsholm, thanking them again for their support, and wishing them a very cheerful occasion.

S • E • L • E • C • T

SFS

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Cinderford and other Rugby Clubs

* Suppliers of all lawn seeds *

* Large or small orders catered for *

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MORE TOUCH LINES

BUT THERE'S MORE . . .

The Bass largesse doesn't finish there. They are offering a tray of Bass free to someone who can answer one fairly simple Rugby question, the selection of which they have left to me, so I can't win the beer. Here goes.

Which post-war Gloucester player played in winning England sides against both South Africa and New Zealand in successive years?

Jot down your answer, don't forget to enclose your name, address and phone number, and send it to me, Peter Arnold, at Gloucester RFC, Kingsholm, Gloucester. Please mark your envelope "BASS". The first correct answer I draw out of my outsize bowl on Friday, March 20th, will win the nectar.

RUN OUT FOR MARTIN

Bass have also provided me with details of today's Match Mascot. He is Martin Mawson, and he is eleven years old, which is fairly elderly as mascots have been going lately.

If the name sounds familiar to local Rugby supporters — it should do. Martin's Dad, John, is Captain of All Blues, so Martin obviously has something to live up to. With those antecedents, it isn't surprising that he states that his favourite Gloucester player is Mike Teague.

Young Mr. Mawson is going to have to go some to emulate his idol. But who knows? Stranger things have happened, some of them right here at Kingsholm.

BAD LUCK, SMITHY

It was rotten luck for Ian Smith to have to drop out of the Scotland side, just when his International career was beginning to look very good indeed. At the time of writing, the next Scottish side hasn't been announced, but having watched the France game on the box, I can't see any reason why he shouldn't get his place back, and find a spot on the summer Australian tour. A consummation devoutly to be wished.

While on that sort of subject, I'm told that Dave Sims had a good game for England "B" against Italy. I also gather that it was an extremely rough affair, and one

commentator went so far as to describe the Italian performance as "cynical". I also note that the RFU has lodged an objection to the fact that, apparently, Italy played two suspended players in the side.

All of which is a bit worrying in an emerging country which, after the World Cup, has everything to play for.

GANGWAYS

As usual, anticipating a big crowd today, I must ask you to make sure that you're not standing in a gangway or on stairs. This is an edict of the Police and the Fire Officer, so we must do what we can to comply.

Similarly, Stewards don't like moving people around, but they do have a frequently thankless job to do, and a little tolerance all round would be appreciated.

WHERE ARE YOU PARKED?

While on "duty" notices, I really ought to refer, once again, to street parking. This is a difficult one, I know, and it's a problem which is becoming worse throughout the leisure field, so we're by no means alone.

If you have ever been unable to get into, or out of, your own garage because some twerp has parked across your driveway, then you'll know how infuriating it can be. It's sad, but Kingsholm supporters don't have a God-given right to park where they like, and the neighbours have a right to complain if their lawful occasions are hindered by thoughtless parking.

Perhaps, on big match days like this one, you might consider leaving the car at home for once, if that's possible. It would, after all, allow you to have another pint of bitter before wending your way homewards.

Specifically, don't, whatever you do, leave your car on the green space off Sebert Street. If you do, you're likely to get clamped — or something.

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER



THE THOROUGHbred BANK.

ED MARTIN'S FACT FILE

This afternoon marks the 30th visit to Kingsholm by the Northampton club in a series that goes back to 1898-9 season when contact was first established, with Kingsholm being the venue for the first encounter.

As will be seen from the summary below, Northampton have not exactly fared too well when visiting Kingsholm. Of the 99 matches the Cherry and Whites have won 43 and Northampton just four (two of the fixtures were tied).

In winning percentage terms, Gloucester are 90% at Kingsholm against Northampton — that ties the record against Cheltenham at the ground!

If the bookies realised just how lop-sided the fixture at Kingsholm was, perhaps the price for a Northampton win today might be different! Even going back just ten years or so, visits by Northampton to Kingsholm are best forgotten (by Northampton).

Gloucester's last loss to Northampton on this ground was way back in the 1962-3 season (3-6 was the final score). The Cherry and Whites have posted 12 consecutive wins since that last defeat.

About the sole encouraging factor for Northampton on their visits here is their win in 1958-9. On that occasion, they scored 33 points against Gloucester and recorded their largest ever winning margin against the Cherry and Whites — 30 points.

Turning the tables around, 16 seasons later Gloucester scored 51 points to beat Northampton by 41 points.

When it comes to Gloucester travelling to Franklins Gardens, it is a completely different story. It's a funny old game.

GLoucester v Northampton

1898-9 to date

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA
At Kingsholm	49	43	4	2	719	278
At Northampton	47	18	26	3	376	431
TOTAL	96	61	30	5	1095	709

BACK THEN

WHAT THE BOOKIES SAY

The semi-regular notes I have been able to print, with the aid of my regular odds-setting correspondent, Mike Heasman, about the prices that the betting industry are quoting on Rugby topics have proved very popular. Apparently, the flutter on big games and competitions is becoming very big business for the bookmakers, and Gloucester supporters are by no means immune from the syndrome.

Prices offered also give us a guide to what other supporters, up and down the country, think of our chances, so they're interesting from that point of view too.

According to Mike, the Courage League betting has now evened out, and you can now get 25/1, bar 4. The four in question are Bath, Orrell, Northampton and Gloucester, in that order, and as Gloucester have the most difficult run-in, and Bath the easiest, the order is probably about right. Prices vary a little across the country, but they average out at, Bath 7/4, Orrell 5/2, Northampton 4/1 and Gloucester 10/1 — which seems a useful bet to me.

As I mentioned a week or two ago, the bookmakers establish their odds by using a species of handicapping, stating the number of points by which they think that one team is better than another for specific matches.

Today's game is a rarity, being regarded as "scratch", or evens, if you prefer. The other League games being played today are rated as follows:

Nottingham, 9 points better than London Irish,
Saracens, 7 points better than Rosslyn Park,
Orrell, 11 points better than Rugby,
Bath, 10 points better than Wasps,
Leicester, 9 points better than Bristol.

Interestingly, for the Cup Semi Finals, Harlequins are rated as 8 points better than Leicester, and Bath as just 3 points better than Gloucester. I think we'd settle for that.

It's in the Cup that Mike Heasman parts company with his colleagues, thinking that there may be a trace of prejudice among the London-based multiples. He doesn't disagree with Harlequins at 6/4, having the easier Semi Final draw, but thinks that Bath would be more realistic at 3/1 than the quoted 7/4. Similarly, he would rate Gloucester at 5/2 rather than the "official" 9/2.

He does admit, however, to having a "big hunch" over the Cup Semi Final. "I'm certain, we'll have a big day out in May!", he writes.

Hope he's right. And it will be interesting to see who's got the odds right, won't it?

TAILPIECE

by
Peter Arnold

BIG NIGHT OUT

Peter Ford tells me that the post-season tour to the USA, which takes in the prestigious Boston Tournament, has now been finalised, and that 40 players and four officials will make the trip, which includes games for United as well as First XV. If you fancy going along, I expect Mike Burton can accommodate you on his Supporters Trip, so it's worth giving him a ring on 419666.

This does mean, however, that the Tour Fund will take a fair old battering, so to help make up the leeway, there will be a very fine Sportsmen's Dinner — gents only — held at ICI, Brockworth, on Friday, April 10th. It should be a wow of an affair.

Seating will be arranged in tables of ten, and the guest speakers are quite a trio.

First of all, there is Tom Graveney, prince of elegant batsmen for Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and England. Most of us would rather have watched Tom make 30, than most batsmen make 100. Nowadays, of course, he's firmly established as a member of the BBC commentary team, and as I know from experience, an entertaining speaker.

Second, there's Peter Wheeler, one of the best hookers most of us have seen, with a highly successful England career, and a thorn in our flesh for years when playing with the great Leicester sides of a few years ago.

Finally, and possibly the most intriguing, is "Crazy Horse" himself, Liverpool and England soccer player, Emlyn Hughes. Star, you may remember, of Question of Sport and Princess Anne's handbag.

It may surprise you to learn that Emlyn is a devout Gloucester supporter. This arises from the fact that his father, "Ginger" Hughes, played Rugby for Gloucestershire before going North and playing the thirteen-man game for Barrow. Emlyn Hughes even has a cherry-and-white Gloucester sweatshirt. I know that, because I gave it to him myself.

Anyway, the Dinner is a black tie affair, and tickets are £35.00 each. You can get yours, singly or in multiples, by sending a cheque to Sue Eltringham, at Gloucester RFC Commercial Dept., Bastion House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JJ. Any queries, ring Sue on Gloucester 419666.

PARK AND RIDE

Further to my comments about the difficulties arising from street parking, I can now confirm that the park-and-ride system which I tralered in the Pontypool

programme, will be up and running for the Pilkington Cup Semi Final game on April 4th.

In fact, the Club, while supporting the initiative wholeheartedly, had little to do with the arrangements. The initiative came from the Leisure Services Department of the City Council — our old mate Derek Brown appears to have been the Chief Ovaltiney for the project — who acquired the good offices of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Bus Company.

Here's how the system will work. The City Council will provide parking space at the Oxleaze. The cost will be £1.00 per car, and that includes travel by double-decker bus to the ground and back. It seems like a good bargain to me.

After all, your car will be considerably safer under the watchful eye of a Council attendant than it would be in some side street: you know the horrendous levels that car crime in all its forms has attained.

Furthermore, you'll have no worries about police or residents, and you won't have a, possibly long trudge to the ground. Remember, what with probable TV cameras and other things, there is most unlikely to be a space left in the Club car park after about 1.00 p.m., and the scrum to get out afterwards will probably be horrendous.

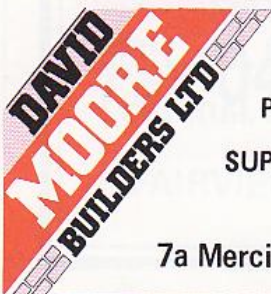
The Club will be informing the Bath club about these arrangements, which should help the congestion local to the ground. Furthermore, the system should be particularly useful to our very large band of supporters who come from the Forest, Ross, Newent and West of Severn generally.

The advantages aren't confined to those people, however. If you're coming in from Stroud, say, it's just as easy for you to make your way to the Oxleaze as it is to beaver around for ages looking for somewhere to park, and then having to rush to get through the turnstiles before kick-off. The same could even be said for people arriving from some of Gloucester's more far-flung suburbs.

As I say, the system will be in operation for the Bath game on April 4th. After that, we'll see how it goes, and I'll keep you posted. After all, there's always another season.

SILLY QUESTION

Someone asked me, the other day, if I could name the player who was called up for an England tour while playing for Broughton Park Thirds. Apparently, it was Frank Hayes, Lancashire batsman who was called into an England cricket tour. Ask a silly question . . .



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