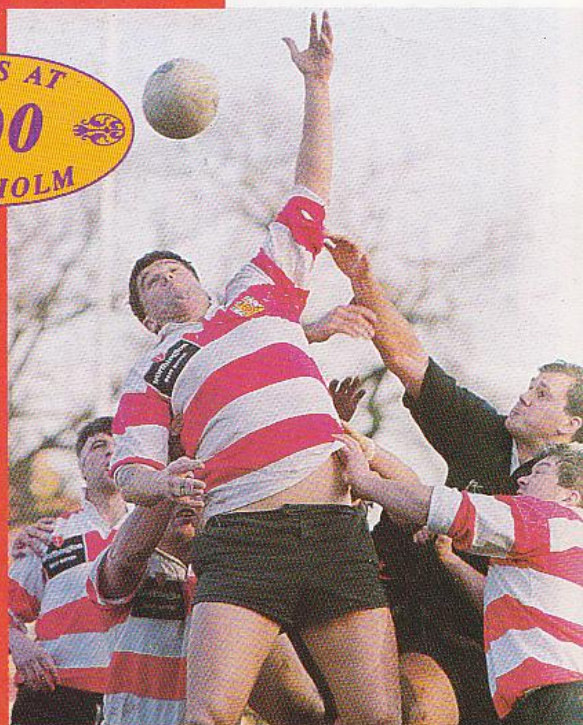
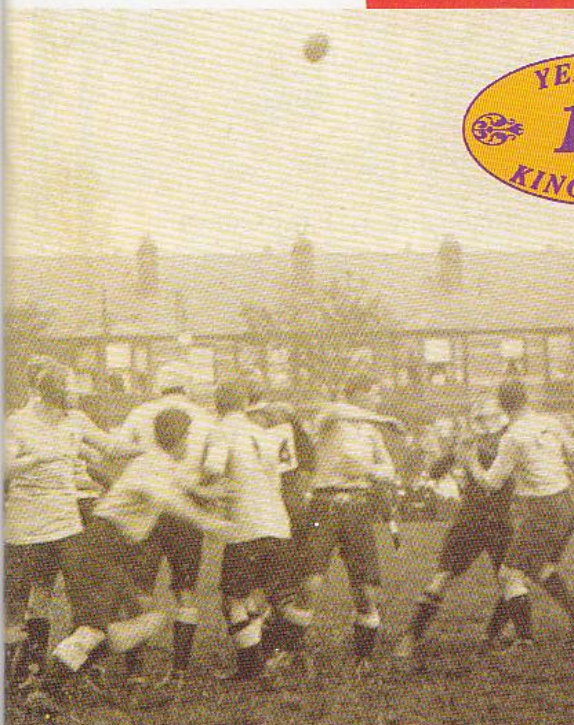


THE
GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB

V
BRISTOL

COURAGE
CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP

YEARS AT
100
KINGSHOLM



80p.
Official Programme



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

Saturday, April 11th 1992
Kick-Off 3.00pm

MATCH KINDLY SPONSORED BY



WAYLAND
SYSTEMS LIMITED

OFFICIAL CLUB SPONSORS



I don't think we can let a plea like that go unanswered, and I don't like to think of loyal supporters like Andrew Welch and his wife feeling that they don't belong. If you'd like to take pity on a serving matelot, then you can contact him by writing to: **Andrew Welch, c/o 35 Fraser Road, Tamerton Foliot, Plymouth, Devon PL5 4PT**, if you're writing before April 29th. After that, the address will be: **RO(T) Welch A. J. D 219409B. RA's Box, HMS Rooke, Gibraltar. BFPO 52.**

TOUCH LINES

by
Peter Arnold

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

Forget Leagues and Cups. This is Bristol, and that's it and all about it, as true Gloucestersians would say.

We don't need artificial flavourings to provide a tang to today's match. Ever since — or even before — the days of the real County Championship, when Gloucester and Bristol, with the help of the occasional player from elsewhere, combined to become the most feared amalgam in the history of that much missed competition, our two sides have enjoyed a special relationship besides which the one purported between Britain and the USA looks like little more than armed neutrality.

But such relationships don't imply that anyone will go easy on the other fella. Anyone who has brothers know that there's no ferocity like that shown when siblings find themselves in direct competition. There is also the point that Bristol are probably the most underrated side in Division One, at the moment. After a rocky start, they are now looking like the formidable outfit we are accustomed to meeting, with some highly creditable wins, and some heartbreakingly close results.

Last season we beat them handily. 28-4 at Kingsholm in November, in what is optimistically called a 'friendly', but in the League game, at Bristol, Gloucester went down by 13 points to 15. Last February, we visited the Memorial Ground and came away with a 19-7 win, but today is a day when League points are at stake, whatever I said earlier, and Bristol are a more organised side than they were then.

All in all, it's a recipe for a good game, and it is to be hoped that the boys aren't feeling too much reaction from last Saturday's disappointment. That can work both ways, of course. Perhaps someone ought to suffer for the frustration of having a Cup Final place so cruelly snatched away from us at the — literally, in some cases — last gasp.

However, none of that was Bristol's fault. As always, no side is more welcome to Kingsholm, and we hope they'll have a super day out with us.

LAST SATURDAY

Just one last word on the Semi Final against Bath.

It's difficult to see what more the lads could have done, and we ought to be proud of all 17 of the players

who got on the field. To have taken on, what some regard, as the best club side in the world, and to be winning until the dying moments of the second period of extra time is an achievement and a half, and should be recognised as such.

Anyway, Cups are like buses, girls and new systems of local government. Don't worry if you miss one, because there will be another along in a minute.

THANKS TO WAYLAND SYSTEMS

It's always good to welcome, and thank, a new Match Sponsor. It's a double pleasure this time, because Wayland Systems are sponsorship virgins. They've never supported anyone in this way before, so we're honoured, and responsible for seeing that the whole operation is successful enough for them to persevere.

Wayland Systems are twelve years old, and based at Ley Court, Barnett Way, in Gloucester. Their field of expertise lies in developing and providing software products to support telecommunications systems.

So successful was the company, that last year it was acquired by the Daretel Group, which is a major USA organisation in the field, based in Chicago. Wayland Systems regard this as highly desirable, because they can now offer new products, based on new technology, emerging from North America. The amalgamation of resources also provides a strong combination of both British and American management experience, technical expertise and commitment to the customer.

Of whom Wayland have many: a wide cross section, which includes FTSE 100 companies, local authorities, water boards and professional firms such as accountants, for example.

A brief run down of the products and services provided would include cost accounting of telephone expenditure, improving telephonists' response time and call handling capability. Messaging systems which provide 'answerphone'-style facilities to large telephone users, and indeed, management of the whole telecom network for large companies.

Wayland tell me that their cross-Atlantic roots give them a sense of commitment to the Community at large, and that they regard today's event as a contribution to that end. They also write that they 'look forward to being a part of future GRFC events'.

S • E • L • E • C • T

SFS

FEEDS & SEEDS

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)

MORE TOUCH LINES

That's a consummation devoutly to be wished, and we fervently hope that today's experience encourages them to become a regular feature of the Kingsholm scene. Meanwhile, while thanking Wayland Systems again, we hope they have a splendid time today.

THANKS TO EVERYONE

Chairman, Peter Ford, asks me to relay the Club's, and the players' thanks for the matchless support which you all provided last Saturday. Furthermore, although there were 12,000 of the most partisan fans in British sport present, the Club isn't aware that there was one trace of unacceptable behaviour in or around the ground, in spite of the obvious disappointment at the final result. Perhaps some other sports could take note of that fact.

KICKED INTO TOUCH

Paul Thorburn is surely the man everyone loves to hate. If you're Welsh you'll have often been incensed by some of his ill-considered remarks and seemingly destructive actions. If you come from anywhere else, you'll be equally infuriated by his habit of winning games with hitherto impossible goal kicks from unprecedented distances.

'Kicked into Touch', (Stanley Paul, £14.99) therefore, is a book that rugby fanatics like us will want to read. It's Paul Thorburn's Autobiography, and includes chapter headings like "Scum of the Earth" and other Regrettable Sayings'. While much has been written and said about him, the player himself has never yet expressed his own point of view in detail.

As usual, it was Gloucestershire County Library's Gwynn Hiatt who alerted me to the book, and he also informs me that sufficient copies have been bought so that you should be able to borrow one from your local library, wherever you happen to hang your hat.

Even if you have to reserve it. Any why not? Great stuff for the close season.

RUN OUT FOR PETER

Our generous Sponsors, Wayland Systems of Barnett Way, have also nominated our Match Mascot today. He's Peter Williams, is eleven years old, and attends the Kings School. Quite a good stable, that. Nick Marment, John Simonett, and a whole clutch of good local players, including Gloucester Old Boy, son of the former Licencee of the White Hart, the one and only Stan Pritchett.

At the moment, however, young Peter has deserted his alma mater at week ends, turning out for the Old Richians Under 11's, who also bid fair to turn out some good players.

Peter says that, for now, he doesn't have a set position, but 'helps out all round the field'. Bit of a Tony Clement there, obviously.

Rugby talent runs in the Williams family. Young Peter has a father, a brother and an uncle playing. So his pedigree is one worth watching. I also hear that, in the close season, he is keen on athletics.

Always glad to hear of an all-round athlete. And equally glad that Wayland Systems have introduced us to him.

GOOD IN THE RUCKS AND MAULS

I now have a contact with the Newcastle university Ladies XV. She's an absolutely terrifying loose head prop called 'Jools'. So if any Ladies side fancies a trip up North next season, get in touch, and I'll put you in contact.

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER



Lloyds
Bank

THE THOROUGHbred BANK.

ED MARTIN'S FACT FILE

This afternoon marks the 95th visit to Kingsholm by Bristol, who first came to the ground in 1892 and returned home after a 14-0 defeat.

All told, Bristol have failed to score on 18 occasions when they have ventured onto the Kingsholm turf — two of the matches have been scoreless draws. And Gloucester have been held scoreless by Bristol just twice.

The fixture has always had its dramas. In 1893-4 after a 7-0 defeat at Bristol, Gloucester RFC took to playing soccer! The entire club was suspended from playing rugby for a month by the County Union, so enter the round ball — and the only known soccer meeting when Gloucester AFC played Gloucester RFC.

According to the Gloucestershire Chronicle report of that soccer match played on March 15, 1894, "the play was more amusing than scientific as some of the Rugbyites could not or would not accustom themselves to the difference in style of play — they were continually penalised for picking up the ball." The result? Six goals to one in favour of Gloucester AFC.

Playing for the soccer club were two brothers from the soccer-playing Crypt School — Frank and Percy Stout. Before the turn of the century, both were to become rugby players of note at Kingsholm and, later, for England.

There was to be no suspension for the club after the notorious riot of Kingsholm when Bristol defeated the Cherry and Whites 8-3.

The highest score posted in the series was in March 1977 when Gloucester scored 34 points at the Memorial Ground for a 25-point win. Bristol's highest score was 29 points when they beat the Cherry and Whites by 12 points in September 1956.

At Kingsholm, the highest score recorded by Bristol is 25 points (25-11 win in September 1959). The highest score by Gloucester at home was the last encounter — a 28-6 win in November 1990. This match also provided the largest winning margin of either side at Kingsholm.

GLoucester v BRISTOL

1891-2 to date

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA
At Kingsholm	94	58	26	10	941	593
At Bristol	93	39	46	7	610	767
TOTAL	187	97	72	17	1551	1360

TAILPIECE

by
Peter Arnold

NOT LETTING THE GRASS GROW

As mentioned earlier, Wayland Systems are today's official Sponsors, but another company is also providing hospitality today, and they have been such good friends to the Club, over the years, that we can't let the occasion pass with a remark or two.

Bob Osborne, of Select Feeds and Seeds, can't remember whether this is the seventh or eighth game he has supported at Kingsholm, which makes him one of our longer-standing benefactors. But there's much more to SFS's munificence than that. A couple of years ago, they provided the blue training shirts the players wear, which is generous enough, but much more obvious to ordinary supporters like you and me are the programme booths which have sprung up around the ground this season. Again, they were provided by Select Feeds and Seeds.

But, over the past few years, the most significant contribution made by the company is to supply, free of charge, the all-important grass seed for the sacred turf. And, incidentally, they provide the same service for Cinderford RFC.

To put that into perspective, last grass-sowing season, SFS supplied 38 tons of seed, making them the largest independent supplier in the South West. 9 bags of it came to Kingsholm. This year, in six weeks, they have already moved 11 tons of the stuff, and again, 9 bags are earmarked for Kingsholm. You can't play about with grass seed. Remember Moseley's problems last season?

Today, Bob Osborne and Robert Hart are entertaining 35 people, all of them are farmers, and they include the great John Pullen, the legendary Bristol, Gloucestershire, England, and British Lions hooker, so we know which side at least one guest will be shouting for. I also happen to know that an invitation has gone out to at least one vet, so perhaps Roger Eltringham can take the day off.

We certainly owe our thanks to Select Feeds and Seeds — who you can contact on Gloucester 760511 — and also hope they have their usual uproarious occasion.

BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

With everything Mike Teague has on his plate at the moment, you'd think he'd be glad of a little time to himself. It's impossible for him to move anywhere near Kingsholm without hordes of autograph hunters descending, he's much in demand elsewhere, and is also trying hard to run his building company. And I happen to know that he's due to present something or

other in Windsor this evening.

Yet he's willing to give some of his time to help sick children, this afternoon. I believe the All Blues connection has something to do with it, because the aforementioned Robert Hart is still playing down there, at 'Golden Oldie' status, he tells me. Robert has a diabetic son, so obviously has a great interest in children's charities. Learning of this, Mike Teague has donated one of his shirts, which will be raffled to the Select Feeds and Seeds guests this afternoon. One of those fivers-in-an-envelope jobs, I believe. Mike will then make the draw later today.

Robert Hart and Bob Osborne don't want to take full credit for this, and the proceeds will be donated to one of the children's charities — to be decided — under the joint names of SF Seeds and Teague & Davis. Which seems very fair to me.

NO TROUBLE IN SEBERT STREET

I'm told that the parking on the grass problem in Sebert Street seems to have evaporated. Although the City Council had two attendants there, last Saturday, and about a zillion plastic cones, no one really tried it on, in spite of the horrendous parking situation throughout the City.

Derek Brown, of the City Council, asks me to thank everyone who took the fairly heavy hints and stayed away from the area. He points out that the Council will continue to warden the place for the remainder of the season.

So that seems to be satisfactory for this session, anyway. I would like to think that the local residents who, quite understandably, were very forceful in voicing their complaints in the Press and elsewhere, would like to join Derek in his thanks.

SERVES HIM RIGHT!

Talking of Derek Brown, if there's ever a case of a bloke being hoist with his own petard, he's it.

Having spent a lot of time organising last Saturday's Oxleaze Park-and-Ride scheme, he was down there at around 11.30 on the morning, making sure the signs were up, that the attendant was in position, and the baker's dozen or so of other details were attended to.

Having done that, he felt constrained to visit the Sebert Street site to see that all was well there, which it was. This was at around 12.30. He then couldn't find anywhere to park, and had to go back to the Oxleaze and use his own bus system. I trust he paid his quid.