

GLOUCESTER v BLACKHEATH

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th, 1992

Kick Off 3.00 p.m.



FOUNDED 1873

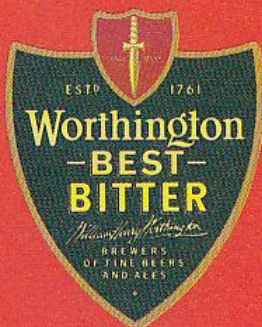
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GLOUCESTER 10

(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts

1		5

1		5

5	H/T	7
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15. T. Smith

14. J. Perrins
13. S. Morris
12. D. Caskie
11. D. Morgan

10. N. Matthews
9. M. Hannaford

1. P. Jones
2. J. Hawker
3. R. Phillips
4. S. Devereaux
5. D. Sims
6. P. Ashmead
7. I. Smith (Capt.)
8. M. Nicholls

Replacements:

P. Salter
M. Sysum
I. Morgan
D. Kearsey
A. Deacon
A. Knox

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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Cumulative Match Score

Referee:

VAUGHAN HOSKINS (Devonshire Society)

BLACKHEATH 7

(Red/Black)

T	G	Pts
	1	2

15. G. Eagle

14. M. Griffiths
13. J. McIntyre
12. O. Coyne
11. P. Jones

Replacements:

N. Cousins
A. Carroll

10	F/T	7
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Peter Arnold

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Not only is this the first home game of the season, but we're starting off the new campaign by taking on 'The Club'; the first Rugby Union club ever to be formed. Not that there was no Rugby before Blackheath, but it was largely a pastime of schools and colleges — that's if you don't count the dangerous old 100-a-side game played over a mile or two of road separating two villages. Imagine Coney Hill v. Matson if that pastime still predominated!

You'd think that two such old and respected outfits would meet regularly, and indeed, for many years we did. Then the advent of Cups, Merit Tables and Leagues got in the way, and Blackheath went through something of a lean spell, so we didn't see today's very welcome guests as often as we would have liked. They then forced themselves into Division One, and it was nice to see the lads from the famous old Rectory Field ground back at Kingsholm again.

If memory serves, Gloucester won handily enough on Blackheath's last visit, but that doesn't mean a thing. You can never tell what will happen at the start of a new season; new faces emerge, old ones depart, Laws change, and almost anything can happen. Eccentricity is often the order of the day, early in September.

Blackheath will soon have an indication of what sort of a season they're likely to have. Not only are they at Kingsholm today, but I gather they're tackling Bath early on, too. The road westward will become a little familiar to them.

Be that as it may, we're delighted to start 1992/3 against such traditional and valued opposition. We hope they have a good time with us, and that their season turns out to be all they would wish it to be.

THANKS TO CORINIUM CARPETS

The notes I have from today's generous Sponsors begin 'Another year gone, and what a tough one!'

That statement reveals more than, I suspect, the writer intended. I mean — can you think of a worse cleft stick for a company such as Corinium Carpets to find themselves in? The housing market flat on its

back, and retail generally not much better off. A carpet company gets it both ways.

Which just makes Corinium's continued sponsorship at Kingsholm that much more generous, and we do appreciate it. The notes continue; 'Like Gloucester, we keep bouncing back. Because of our determination and value for money, people know they get the best from Corinium Carpets.'

There may be one or two people who don't know about Corinium Carpets, even though the firm's Partners, Colin Harvey and Robert Jewkes, have been running their business at 5, Portland Street, Cheltenham, for 13 years, and have 55 years experience of the flooring trade between them. Briefly, the fact that the company is a strictly private one gives them great flexibility; they can offer whichever manufacturer's product best suited, or most economical, for your needs. On the Contract side, they have supplied shops, complexes and small individual offices all over the UK.

Fitters are all experienced specialists, willing and able to do the job over 7 days a week. When called for, they have even worked all night so that premises don't have to close for carpeting.

Such expertise and enthusiasm deserves to be rewarded. The mighty Du-Pont organisation deemed Corinium worthy of their prestigious Masterstore Award for 1991-2, and that's judged on salesmanship, display and product knowledge.

Colin and Robert are actively involved in the day-to-day running of the store, so you can usually get hold of them should you need any sort of flooring. Try ringing 0252 239681.

JEMMA'S BACK!

Today's Match Mascot also provides us with a first. She is the first Mascot to do the job twice. Not surprising really, because she's Jemma Jewkes whose Dad is one of today's Sponsors.

The last time we heard of Jemma, she was anxious to go to Stroud High School, firstly because it runs a girl's Rugby team. We're glad to be able to report that she passed the necessary exam with flying colours, and is keenly looking forward to



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BEST FOR THE 1992/1993 SEASON
AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS
TO KINGSHOLM

Peter Arnold (cont.)

playing Rugby in her second year. As her Dad says "National Team — watch this space!"

Good luck, Gemma. Hope your experience at Kingsholm helps.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

A couple of familiar names have disappeared from the Officials list this season. We're lucky, however, that they've been replaced by two that are equally legendary.

Alan Brinn has stepped down from the hottest seat in any club; that of Chairman of Selectors, while Fred Reed has relinquished the post of Team Secretary. Alan's job now goes to Mickey Booth, widely acknowledged as one of the shrewdest judges of a player in the game. Eric Stephens takes over from Fred Reed, and it's hard to think of a better choice for that onerous job, too.

Both Alan and Fred have been, and are, extremely loyal club men, and it would be difficult to overstate their contribution over the past few years. We're grateful for your efforts, chaps, and we hope to see just as much of you in the coming seasons.

While on the subject, the establishment of a manned Club Office has made the office of Membership Secretary redundant. That puts David Foyle out of a job, but it's good to see that he continues as a Committee member. Thanks, David, for doing a tricky old job so conscientiously, over the years.

SEASON TICKETS

Mention of membership reminds me that I should give the usual seasonal plug for Season Tickets. In today's tough economic climate, anything you can do to stretch the old budget a bit is welcome, and if you're even a semi-regular at Kingsholm possession of the magic ticket becomes a value-for-money proposition.

As you'd expect, Season Tickets will be on sale in the Office before every game, but nowadays we can do better than that. Doug Wadley, or the beautiful and talented Geraldine, will be glad to supply you with one from the Office between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, throughout the Season.

INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

Of course, Membership of the Club has fringe benefits, too. Not least, the ability to apply for International Tickets.

The RFU has informed us that the ground capacity at Twickenham will be reduced by a further 6,000 this season, and that — surprise, surprise — tickets

will be in short supply. That means that lucky applicants will be allocated *one* ticket for *one* match per Member, which seems harsh, but what can you do?

Applications for England v. South Africa, and Barbarians v. Australia need to be in the Club Office by October 1st, and for England v. France and England v. Scotland by November 1st, so don't let the matter slip your memory.

TRANSFERS

Just to complete membership matters for this week, it's worth pointing out one decision which came out of this year's Club AGM. It reads as follows:

'Any Grandstand Seat not claimed by a Member 20 minutes before a match commences may be sold by Transfer.'

So there you have it. No transfers for non-Members until 20 minutes before kick-off. And that was proposed by Members — not the Committee.

WE GET LETTERS

I must confess to a certain degree of satisfaction at the arrival of the following epistle during the close season:

We are in the process of trying to improve the standard of our match programme. I am trying to lay my hands on examples of good match programmes in order to demonstrate to those who doubt the need for change just how far we have fallen behind the standards set by the leading clubs Gloucester's programme is one of those which sets a standard which others should follow. I would be most grateful therefore if you would send me a copy of one of your programmes from last season. I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the purpose.

Thank you for your assistance.

With best wishes for the coming season.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Saward

Press Officer, Harlequin Football Club.

So there you have it. The mighty 'Quins coming to us for advice on how to produce a Club Programme. Makes you feel 'umble, doesn't it?

The next letter leaves me at something of a loss:

My name is Nadia and I am 20. I am French and I play rugby in France.

I took my 'A' level in business and now I would like to spend 9 months in England. As I wouldn't like to stop playing rugby I thought it would be good for me

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WHO'S DOING WHAT (and to whom)

Club Officials and Committee Members for 1992/3 are as follows:

President: Canon Mervyn Hughes.

Vice Presidents: Tom Day, Gordon Hudson, Roy 'Digger' Morris.

Chairman: Peter Ford.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Doug Wadley, 'Byeways', Belmont Avenue, Hucclecote, Tel: 617202 — but please note, Doug is 'in residence' in the Office at the Ground from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. every Monday to Friday throughout the Season. Tel: 381087.

Hon. Fixtures Secretary: Mike Nicholls, 80, Kingsholm Road. Tel: 301879.

Hon. Team Secretary: Eric Stephens, 1, Court Gardens, Hempsted. Tel: 529000.

Chairman of Selectors: Mickey Booth, 5, Insley Gardens, Hucclecote. Tel: 610856.

Hon. Colts Secretary: Reg Collins, 11, Gilpin Avenue, Hucclecote. Tel: 614335.

Committee: John Beaman, Mickey Booth, Alan Brinn, Bob Clewes, Terry Close, Mervyn Elway, David Foyle, Jim Holder, Brian Howells, Richard Jardine, Jim Jarrett, Andy Mitchell, Cecil Pope, Trevor Pritchard, Eric Stephens, Alan Townsend.

Players Representative: Jeremy Bennett.

Captains: First XV: Ian Smith. **United:** Andrew Stanley.

Coach: Keith Richardson.

... **And I nearly forgot:** Programme editor, Peter Arnold, 74, Victoria Street. Tel: 380481, who welcomes news, stories, anecdotes from any supporter, from Gloucester or Opponents. Although the laws of libel or obscenity may deter him from printing them.

Peter Arnold (cont.)

to choose a rugby club.

I have been playing rugby for a year nevertheless I was selected to join a sport training programme in the French team. I have practised athleticism for 4 years, hand-ball for 2 years and volley ball for 3 years.

I have lots of physical qualities to play in France. I would like to play rugby but I am a little too young to play in France. I would like to play rugby in a good English team and that's why I decided to choose your team.

I would like to go to England as well to improve my English but I have to earn my living there. So would it be possible for you to find me a job or a family in England? I am very used to looking after children but I am also ready to do some house keeping. I have also worked for 3 months in a bakery during the summer holidays and in fields (15 days) as well.

If you can not find me a job or a family for me I will ask an agency to do it. But I don't know where I will go and if there is a rugby team there.

I hope you will write to me very soon even if you just want me to play rugby and I would like you to explain to me how to take a rugby licence in England.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon, yours faithfully,

Nadia NOUGARET

NOBBY'S NEWSDESK



Hello Everyone,

My name is Nobby, I am the new mascot for the Gold Bond. My job is to help promote the Scheme for Gloucester Rugby Club and from now on my newsdesk will be appearing in every match programme.

To kick off the new season, two of my helpers will be coming among you with our 'FIND THE BALL' cards so please GIVE IT A BASH TO WIN THE CASH. Winners will be announced over the tannoy and can pick up their winnings at the players entrance.

Well that's all for now, see you soon.

NOBBY

Always room for more Gold Bond Agents. Find out how you can help the Club, and make a little money too, by contacting Mike Burton on 419666



Peter Arnold (cont.)

What's the French for 'the mind boggles'? Obviously, we can't help directly from here, but one or two clubs do have ladies' sides these days — Richmond springs to mind — and I'll try to put Nadia in touch.

Rugby licence? The only one I'm aware of keeps the bar open until 11.00 p.m.

... AND TALKING OF LETTERS

I have a high regard for the beautiful and talented Geraldine Peake, who handles our administrative chores, but she wasn't one of my favourite people, one day last week.

I didn't really appreciate being dragged out of bed at 6.30 one very wet, chilly and windy morning last week, only to have to pay postage due on an envelope that had left Kingsholm without enough stamps on it.

I knew times were hard, but this is ridiculous!

LAYING DOWN THE LAWS

We've been getting a lot of queries about the new Laws coming in this season. With the aid of the RFU's document on the subject, and the considerably more intelligible precis supplied by Keith Richardson, I've been able to sort them out. I can't give you a full run-down in one programme, but I'll work myself steadily through them over the next week or two, and see if all of us can't be enlightened.

Some of the changes are well-known and simple enough — a try now scores five points, and we can have up to four replacements, for example. Others

haven't been so well publicised. The drop goal, for example.

Drop Goals

A drop goal remains at three points, but one interesting change concerns the free kick. From now on, a team awarded a free kick may not drop a goal until after the ball next becomes dead, or the ball has been played or touched by an opposing player.

In other words, no tapped free kick straight to a drop goal specialist for a cheap three points. That will put a crimp in one or two outside-halves I can think of.

I can foresee troubles for the ref, though. What if a free kick is tapped, played along the three-quarter line, and play goes on for a few minutes before someone drops a goal? It would be very easy for the official to forget that a lengthy movement, involving several players, had, in fact, started from a free kick.

Tackles

After a tackle, any player not involved in the tackle must be on his feet when he plays the ball. Presumably, that means that the tacklers (there may be more than one), and the tackled *may* play the ball from the ground, as long as they do it within the Law as it stood last season.

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Peter Arnold (cont.)

Off-side

One welcome change, dear, I know, to the heart of Keith Richardson, concerns a player waiting to receive a ball. Previously, any opponent could advance to a position 10 metres from such a player, but now, no off-side player may advance towards the receiver until he has been put on side. Wherever he is.

This one will make life less dangerous for full-backs, and may reduce the interminable 'up-and-unders' we've been getting lately, particularly at International level.

Scrum

There's a whole raft of amendments to the Laws on the tight scrums. One I rather regret is the outlawing of the Mickey-Booth-style scrum half dummy run, hoping to persuade an opponent to get off-side. But the new Law is more draconian than I had thought.

A half back may no longer take any action at all to convey the impression that the ball is out of the scrum when, in fact, it isn't, in other words, no waving your arms about in a suggestive manner.

Scrum-halves will need to be careful. Waving your outside-half a bit further back, for example, could be construed as infringing this Law. I can't see that, anywhere, the Law states that a misleading move has to be intentional.

One change will bring a wry smile to generations of Gloucester prop forwards. It is now illegal intentionally to lift an opponent off his feet, or force him upwards out of the scrum. Mike Burton, thou should be here to see this day!

Five metre scrums come in for attention, too. They will now be taken where the ball becomes dead, and not where the ball crosses the goal line. In other words, if you're forced to run the ball over your own line, it behoves you to go hell for leather towards the touch-in-goal line to reduce your opponents' options.

That's about all I have room for this week, and I haven't even started on the line out! More, as and when we have space.

SALE NEXT WEEK

Don't forget that the First XV are away to Stroud, next Tuesday. Next Saturday, it will be nice to see our old sparring partners, Sale, back at Kingsholm. The following week, United make their first home appearance when they entertain Moseley.

And don't forget the Colts. Their first home game was, of course, Lydney last Wednesday, but they're home again next Wednesday when they take on

Moseley, who were the only side to beat them last season. Then, on two successive Wednesdays, they entertain Nuneaton and Bath. Nothing like starting with the tough ones.

TAILPIECE

Doug Wadley tells me that he's been sorting out various historic bits and pieces lately. The one which has amused him most so far, is a receipt relating to the first International played at Kingsholm — England v. Wales in 1900.

The receipt is from the Gloucestershire Constabulary, and reveals that the Club hired no fewer than 50 coppers, at one shilling per hour per head. The bill came to around £15.

50 Fuzz! We don't often see more than one Special on carpark duty these days. Doug points out that if we did need to hire policeman, six constables would cost upwards of £1,000 these days. But then, you can never find one when you want one, they say.

IN PERSPECTIVE

(cont.)

the inclusion of Cumberledge and Whetherell, two non-members, in the Blackheath side. 'In the North it would not be allowed that a man should play for any club other than his own . . . and it would be more sportsmanlike if this system of importation were tabooed by public opinion in the South.'

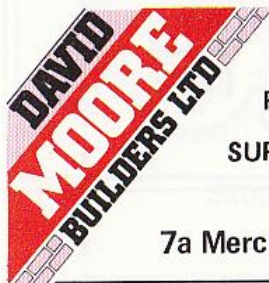
A similar line was taken by the *Daily Chronicle* which pointed out that "when there are vacancies in the fifteens of county clubs, they are filled from the seconds."

The thoughts of the Gloucester club on the two 'ringers' in the Blackheath team was not recorded by the Press. But there must have been a raised eyebrow or two thousand, as five seasons previously the Gloucester club served a one-month suspension by the County Union for 'borrowing' W. Shewell from the Stroud club for a fixture against Newport!

COMPLETE RECORD AGAINST BLACKHEATH

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA
Home	15	12	3	0	228	75
Away	7	6	1	0	95	55
Overall	22	18	4	0	321	130

• In addition, Gloucester met a combined Blackheath/Richmond team in the second match at Kingsholm following resumption of fixtures after World War II. Gloucester won the match in September 1945 by a margin of 9-5.



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IN PERSPECTIVE

The 'Heathens At Kingsholm ... Gloucester Lose By A Penalty Goal ... Record Attendance. Those are just three of the headlines used in the football edition of the *Citizen* on Saturday October 8, 1898 — the date of the very first meeting between Gloucester and Blackheath.

"The first visit of the famous Blackheath team to the City club's enclosure at Kingsholm created tremendous excitement in local football circles," the forerunner of the Pink 'Un reported.

Back in those days, Blackheath — one of the pioneer clubs of the Union code of football — were 'numero uno' in the rugby world. And the newspapers were quick to point out that while Blackheath lost only three of their 26 matches in the 1897-8 season, Gloucester had lost five of their 35 matches (with six drawn).

Both sides came into the encounter at Kingsholm unbeaten that season. Gloucester had posted three home wins (Clifton, Coventry and Old Edwardians) and were unscored-upon that season. Blackheath had just one outing — a 10-0 win in what was described as a moderate game against Old Leysians.

Gloucester were at full strength with their 'stars' Frank and Percy Stout. But Blackheath were without the services of Percy Royds and H. T. Wallis. However, the visitors had substitutes in W.F. Cumberlege (England and Cambridge University) at centre and Guy's Hospital stand-out halfback F.C. Wetherell.

Arriving with only 14 players, "Whacker" Smith, a three-quarter who had played for Gloucester's first team on several occasions, was 'lent' to the visitors.

Some inspiring forward play by Gloucester set-up a three-quarter move that saw Luce passing to Stephens who then managed to get the ball out to Percy Stout for a try under the posts. Gloucester's international added the extra points for a 5-0 lead (a try was 2 pts. and the conversion 3 pts.).

Minutes later Gloucester captain Walter Taylor, 'putting on his best pace' (he was a Midland Counties sprint champion on the track), breached

the Blackheath line under the posts. But the Blackheath touch-judge 'had his flag up for some infringement' and the try was not allowed by London referee G. Hamett.

An offside decision went against Gloucester and R. Livesay opened the visitors' account with a well-struck penalty. It was the same player who scored a 'smart try' before kicking the conversion to give Blackheath an 8-5 lead at the interval.

There was no scoring in the hotly contested second half. In the final minute, Gloucester were awarded a penalty and had a chance to tie the game. Alas, the kick by Percy Stout went just wide of the posts — and Blackheath scraped home to the first of what was to become three wins at Kingsholm in 15 visits.

Gate receipts that day were £107 — beating the previous Kingsholm record of £100 set the previous season when Cardiff beat Gloucester 10-0. The crowd was estimated at 'over 5,000'.

The *Daily Telegraph* said that 'the Gloucester fifteen made a splendid fight.' After commenting that a draw would have been a proper result, the national daily went on to suggest that it was about time that Gloucester were seen in London — there had been one previous visit to the capital and on that occasion in 1891 London Scottish were beaten 13-4 at the Old Deer Park in Richmond.

'It is perhaps a matter for regret that the two clubs were unable to arrange a return match, but doubtless the Gloucester fifteen will be seen at the Rectory Field next season,' the *Telegraph* reported. (Blackheath had to wait until the 1902-3 season for the first visit by Gloucester.)

The *Times* commented that it was 'curious that two such big clubs in the south as Blackheath and Gloucester should have so long delayed making a fixture.' And the reason that the august daily cited was that the Gloucester club had provided most of the players to the Gloucestershire side that was the only team to ever come close to beating the famous Vassall's fifteen from Oxford.

Comments in the *London Standard* concerned

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