It was important to start the league with a win last week. No doubt the performance could have been improved upon - Ian Smith described it as a 70% performance - but London Irish included eight internationals and had worked extremely hard during the summer realising the tough season that lies ahead so an easy win was needed on the cards. I was delighted by the result because away wins are vital to a side hoping to finish high in the league. It is good to see us scoring points consistently from the kick-off - against Milan and 32 against the Irish - but we are still giving away too many and this is an aspect of the game that we shall certainly be focussing upon. It really is criminal to give penalties away and to allow opponents the opportunity of scoring needless points. Really disciplined sides concentrate on not giving away penalties and are consequently so much harder to beat. I think that the Australian world champions give an excellent example in this respect allowing opponents very few opportunities to score in this way.

Our visitors today are Gloucester who are very unfortunate in that they are required to start the league with two fixtures away from home. After last week's defeat at newly promoted London Scottish they will be very anxious to return to winning ways and a titanic battle can be expected this afternoon. Gloucester beat us twice last season during our disappointing spell in September and October and we are anxious to set that record straight. Gloucester have lost the services of several stalwarts over the summer. Mike Teague has joined Moseley who have also tempted Phil Blakeway, of 1990 grand slam fame, out of retirement. Kevin Dunn has gone to Wasps and Mike Hamlin to London Welsh. Altogether I read in the national press that 12 players have departed from Kingsholm over the summer and this is a worry for the club and for the game in general if one conjectures on the possible motives for some of these changes. Nevertheless few if any of the leavers were first team regulars and Gloucester are still a very considerable force in the game. A win over Gloucester is one of the most highly valued scalps in the game and this is a tribute to the club's consistency over many years.

The curtain raiser to today's game is provided by the cubs and scouts of Market Bosworth and Lutterworth. As a result of consultations and co-operation between the Leicestershire Youth Development Officer, Tim Wood and the Leicestershire Scout Council, Scouts and Cub Scouts throughout the county have been introduced to NEW IMAGE rugby. The LRU has supplied rugby balls for the boys to practice and today the two finalists meet in a twenty minute game. The winners will receive a trophy which will be presented by Mr. Peter Tom of today's sponsors EVERED BARDON whilst the Scout Council will present a trophy to the runners up.

The Leicestershire Scout County Commissioner, Mr. Barrie Percival, will also be presenting a cheque for £300 donated by EVERED BARDON which will be divided equally, as a contribution to Group funds, between the 16 teams which took part in the elimination rounds held at Wigston Rugby Club last Saturday. The Tigers are pleased to welcome the visiting players from Rosario, Argentina last season. I now have a similar request to make in connection with two 19 year olds who are travelling from New Zealand to spend four months playing with the club Youth or Under 21 teams. The boys are completing the exchange started when our England Colts hooker went to spend the summer playing with the Linwood club in Christchurch. Chris was looked after very well and now I am hoping that one or two families will be interested in hosting these boys during their time in Leicester. If you could offer a home to one or both of these boys from mid October to mid February then please get in touch with me at the club on 548159 and I can give you further details. On the occasion of the Rosario visit many members expressed how pleased they were to have the opportunity of helping the club in an active way and so here is another chance to get involved. Please help if you can.

The TIGER CLUB is gathering momentum and today the first Tiger Club page appears towards the rear of the programme. There is a player profile, a competition to be entered for an autographed ball and details about how youngsters can join the rapidly growing supporter club for children aged from 8 to 14. The club organises rugby coaching and outings and the first of these will be a trip to Alton Towers led by Dean Richards during the October half-term. To take part in the competitions or join in the outings you need to be a member of the TIGER CLUB so turn to page 29 for details of the club and how to join.

I have received a letter from Mr. J. T. Cooper who points out the danger that ball boys may be encouraged to intercept the ball rather more quickly after a home touch kick and so deny the opposition the advantage of a quick throw in which can only be done provided the same ball is used and that it has not been touched by any other person. This is a good point and ball boys need to be instructed to place a second ball in front of the touch judge but not to collect the ball which has entered touch until a quick throw in is clearly no longer a possibility. Incidentally I think our ball boys do a jolly good job – thanks to them and to Lancaster Boys School for their support.

Next week the Extras are at home against Wasps at Welford Road and the Under 21's also play Wasps at Oval Park, Osadby, both matches kicking off at 3pm.
After the festive start to the season followed by a visit to that most friendly of venues at Londonderry. I.R.F.C., we are today proud to welcome to our ground the red and whites of Kingsholm.

To the Players, Officials and Supporters of GLOUCESTER R.F.C. we bid you a sincere welcome.

Have a fine day as our Guests and a safe - if not too sober - return home.

Gloucester are renowned as a tough nut to crack and the fact that they have lost so many players in recent times I'm sure will do little to alter that fact.

LARK RISE TO ... PARADISE

Following last season's home match against Gloucester, I received a very nice letter from a lady in Bristoll who actually has relatives living in the village of Sheepscombe that I mentioned in the "Scribbles". I recently returned to this charming Cotswold village where my Father (I despise the prefix "step") and his family were brought up. We were attending a meeting of the Sheepscombe Historical Society. Should you ever be travelling through the area then it is well worth a detour from the Cheltenham/Stroud road - although down 2 miles of very narrow lanes; and a stop at the "Butchers Arms" is a must.

There are so many beautiful villages in this area all well worth a visit. We travelled via the scenic route and passed through the village of Slad. Should you know the works of writer/poet LAURIE LEE then you will know of this village from his most famous work "Cider with Rosie".

As we made our way slowly towards Sheepscombe we skirted many places that brought back a multitude of memories. I barely recognised the small town of Painswick (are there still 99 yew trees in the churchyard?) do any of our visitors remember the "Castle Bungalows" (and the "King William") at Cranham Woods - and yes, there is a village called Paradise with its Pub - the "Adam and Eve" (if it's still there!).

Gloucestershire abounds with beautiful villages but sadly, village life in the Cotswolds is not what it used to be. The pinafore and pony has given way to the Barbour and B.M.W. and the "coo-ah" has been replaced by the "OK-YA". This to me is the saddest aspect of the decline in village life following the death of the cottage industries.

I would be most interested to hear the views on the above from Mr. Laurie Lee - whom I understand is still living around the area. Maybe if I'm still scribbling next year then I'll try and seek out Mr. Lee for a few words. Meanwhile, thanks for the memories.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

I finally took charge again of my wonton Time Machine. For the past four months it has been laid up at the Williams-Renault works having a new flux capacitor installed. Climbing inside, I set the controls to send us flying back to the Saturday of January 10th, 1981.

This match preceded by two weeks Tigers opening salvo in the John Player Cup campaign (against Roundhay) in their quest to win and thereby keep for good the trophy that now is proudly displayed in the Tiger room. The following week England took on Wales at the Arms Park and selected for the England squad were Tigers youngsters DUSTY HARE, PAUL DODGE, CLIVE WOODWARD and the evergreen PETER WHEELER. This was the game whereby Woody encroached with 3 minutes to go allowing Steve Fenwick the formality of a kick in front of the posts to "slither" home 21-19!

In the run up to this match, Tigers were further honoured by the call up of Kevin Williams to the Welsh squad and to underline their superiority at that time also had STEVE KENNEY and NICK JOYCE named as non-travelling reserves.

Conditions were appalling as the following teams took to the field:

**LEICESTER**
- KEY
- WILLIAMS
- HALL
- BURWELL
- BARNWELL
- CUSWORTH
- MERRIMAN
- COWLING
- TRESSLER
- REDFERN
- JOYCE
- JACKSON
- JOHNSON
- SMITH
- COLLINGTON

**GLOUCESTER**
- FORD
- CONWAY
- TAYLOR
- HOWELL
- CLEWES
- BAKER
- PREEDY
- MILLS
- ASHMEAD
- BOYLE
- FIDLER
- GADD
- LONGSTAFF
- TEAGUE

The home side played with great commitment from the start, knowing that nothing else would permit survival against the awesome Gloucester pack and were only over-run in their usual "domain of death". the line out. Ironically it was from a rare home success here that led to the opening score for the visitors very early in the run of play. After 10 minutes MILLS, the Gloucester prop stole the ball and eluded Brian Hall to go through under the posts with full back FORD adding the conversion.

Despite this reverse Tigers continued to play with great sparkle and were orchestrated by England "reject" LES CUSWORTH - yet again cooking two fingers towards the selectors. His presence was the major difference between two fine but depleted sides and midway through the first half this paid dividends with a superb try. The fly half embarked on a series of outrageous dummies before passing to TERRY BURWELL and STEVE JOHNSON then popping up at the end to complete a gem of a score. The smile on his face broadened as he stroked the conversion home from the touchline and was heard to mutter something like "... who needs the bald headed old sheep ... (farmer) anyway?"

Only Les would have the audacity to try and repeat a carbon copy move with his very next touch of the ball but with his normal scant regard for protocol ... did precisely that! Only a desperate interception from LONGSTAFF denied ANDY KEY from completing the action replay!

Not to be eclipsed for long however, shortly before half time he wafted through the midfield, piercing the mesmeric Gloucester defence with a slide rule kick to place TIM BARNWELL over in the corner. Not wishing to put his old mate, the Hare Bear, out of a job, he duly missed the conversion to end an excellent first half at 10-6.

Gloucester threw everything into the opening moments of the second half but the home side dealt tartanously with all that they could muster and after soaking up tremendous pressure for ten minutes, Leicester turned the tails and set up camp in the visitors 25 for the next ten minutes - the crucial difference being that Leicester converted their pressure into points as ROBIN COWLING superbly marshalled the rolling maul to allow STEVE REDFERN, amid enormous cheers, to forge his way over.

Gloucester replied with a Ford penalty following a little "over exertion" by NICK JOYCE but despite the relative closeness of the final 14-9 scoreline the home side held on and were full value for their excellent display.

Footnote (or bootnote): despite being many miles away
in Cardiff, Dusty possibly had the final word over his comrade Cusworth in that despite being on the losing side, also played a blinder and scored all of England's 19 points that day.

CONGRATULATIONS "LIL"O"

With his superb all round display against Mediolanum two weeks ago our England B full back JOHN LILEY became the second highest points scorer in the Club's history; second, of course, only to the legendary Dusty Hare. With his 20 point haul against the Milan Club John passed the total of my magazine colleague BOB BARKER of 1117pts to leave him on 1128 against Dusty's record of 4507.

Following the incredible performance during his first season with the Club of beating Dusty's "best ever points in a season" record (because of his exposed position as the Club's goalkicker), John has suffered more than his fair share of criticism - but he has proved on each occasion that he has just what it takes to bounce back.

Congratulations from us all John - now go for the all time record! The very best of luck.

TIGERS' NEW SCRUM HALF?

I don't know if he realised that it was him to whom I was referring in the England XV magazine or if he even read the article but I am so pleased that our England B scrum half AADEL KARDOOMI is finally realising his potential. He has certainly taken good advantage of the new law (re: quick penalties) this season but certainly of greater value to the Club and himself, Aadel has maintained the rise in standard of play befitting his international status.

I would like to think of Aadel as a very good mate and would equally like to think that he would accept what I have said as being, at the very least, an honest assessment. He is one of the nicest guys that you could ever wish to meet in the game and it is only recently that I feel he is doing himself justice and playing with a greater degree of authority and arrogance in his play and thereby realising the self belief that he is, per my prior scribbles "one of the leading players in his position in the Country".

Aadel, me old mate, you fully deserve the recognition that you have received. Keep it going. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see you don the no. 9 shirt of the full England team. If you do - wherever it be - I would move hell and high water to be there; 'cos I'm your greatest fan! Congratulations on your achievements and all the very best during this season's domestic and international scene.

To everyone, have a great day.

Stuart Roscoe

For supporters travelling to Tigers away game against Wasps on Saturday 6 October, the following route and map will, we hope, prove to be of use.

LEICESTER TO WASPS R.F.C.
1. Take M1 to junction 5.
2. Take A468 (Nth Circular Rd) in direction of Heathrow & M4 (approx 3 miles)
3. Take A404 right turn to WEMBLEY (approx 2 miles)
4. Take A404 right turn for approx 1 mile
5. At Harrow Rd (A4020) and Watford Rd (A404) roundabout turn right into Rugby Ave or Eton Ave, thence Repton Ave and WASPS R.F.C.

WASPS R.F.C.,
Repton Avenue, Sudbury,
Middlesex.
081-902-4220

FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS
Saturday 10 October - Disco in the Clubhouse after the West Hartlepool match. Starts 8.00pm - everybody welcome. Tickets £2.00

ENGLAND v CANADA at Wembley
Saturday October 17th, 1992
For tickets apply to:
England V Canada Box Office, Wembley Stadium, Wembley,
Middx. HA9 0DW. Tel: 081-900 1234

Avoid the usual scrum for those elusive Twickenham tickets.
The Rugby World Cup has created tremendous interest in the game, so there will be even more demand for the seats at Twickenham. Here is an opportunity for you to avoid the usual scramble for tickets.

Apply now for a debenture seat in the new East Stand. There are a limited number of individual debentures at £6,100 plus VAT and business debentures at £6,100 plus VAT.

To qualify you must belong to one of our member clubs.

Apply to the Hon. Sec., Leicester Football Club for Brochure and Application Form.
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<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>J. Liley</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>N. Hackney</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>K. Underwood*</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>J. Harris</td>
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Repl: P – S. Wills  
Q – R. Wareham

* denotes International