

GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v

RUGBY

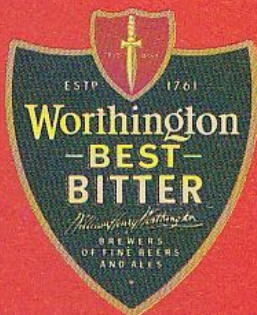
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 3rd, 1992
Kick Off 3.00 p.m.



FOUNDED 1873

President:
Canon H. M. Hughes BA

**Match Kindly Sponsored
By:**



Official Club Sponsors

Official Programme
£1.00

Peter Arnold

CRUNCH!

Make no bones about it. If Gloucester slips up today, we're in trouble.

The reorganisation of the Courage Clubs Championship means that four teams are to be relegated from Division One this season, with one promotion. This stems directly from the idea — warmly supported by many Gloucester fans — that the League should operate on home-and-away basis. Twice as many games means fewer teams can play in each Division, and it would be ironic if Gloucester were one of the clubs to suffer.

If that dreadful possibility were to become a reality, then perhaps we should appoint Norman Lamont as Club Administrator. Gloucester dropping out of Division One would undoubtedly cause more ripples around here than Britain suspending membership of the ERM, and we could do with help from someone who has been through the process before.

Mind you, the Chancellor only has the Bundesbank to worry about. We're faced with the highly ambitious and enthusiastic side from Rugby.

It seems odd that, until last season, a club with our pedigree appears never to have played the side from the town the game was named after. Indeed, Ed Martin will undoubtedly correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe that today's very welcome visitors have never played at Kingsholm before. It's good to have them for our first home League game of the season, although it would have been nice to have played the game in less frenetic circumstances: having lost both our Courage matches to date, albeit narrowly, Gloucester can't afford to give any visitor any leeway at all, much less a side which provided two of last season's most hard-fought games.

You'll remember the circumstances: we travelled to Web Ellis Road in the League and the Cup on successive Saturdays, winning the latter, but not the former. As I say, we have to win today — bit then, so do Rugby for very similar reasons.

So the scene is set for a cracking game. We hope that Rugby's first visit is a pleasant and memorable one, and the first of a long series.

Just so long as they don't actually win.

IT'S WORTHINGTON BEST BITTER DAY

Thanks, once again, to our major Sponsors, Bass,

the manufacturers of Worthington Best Bitter. You'll have been very conscious of their generous involvement in the affairs of Gloucester RFC, and of the fact that our first home League game is one of the ones where they entertain guests in our splendid hospitality suite. But their familiarity doesn't make our gratitude for their generosity any less sincere.

Alan Jenkins, who has made these affairs very much his own, has usually provided me with interesting historical notes for the programme, but we've now just about run out of those. It was my participation in last Saturday's Mock Mayor of Barton celebrations which suggested an alternative. Leaning on the bar (where else?) at the Olympus Theatre, I suddenly realised that their preferred beer is Worthington Best Bitter. This prompted me to talk to Alan about other local hostelries where that very pleasant medicinal compound can be acquired.

"Well, of course," he said, "You have another outlet next door." And we do, of course. What's more, it's one of the few Gloucester pubs which is a listed building. Walk into the lounge at the Vauxhall, and you'll see why. The fine old woodwork stained glass and brass make a quiet drink in there something of time travel experience.

Another famous Worthington dispenser is, of course, the York House in London Road. Jenny, late of the Vauxhall, is now the Landlady, but many Gloucester rugby people still think of it as 'Brian's'. The reference is to Brian Brain, who has now retired but certain to be here today. As you'll know, Brian is the chap who provided us with John Brain, for so long a pillar of our second row, now playing for Bedford.

And while we're on the subject of absent friends, the York House was, for years, the local of Johnny Gadd and Mike Teague.

But you don't have to go, even as far as London Road, to find Worthing Best Bitter. Indeed, the famous Dean's Walk Inn, still known to some of us geriatrics as 'The Quart Pot' even says as much on the gargantuan rugby ball now embedded in the roof of the pub. I don't know what the planners think about it, but it certainly livens up the street scene around Dean's Walk.

And I must mention the Dog at Over. Now



**THE
SOCIETY
THAT
TRIES
HARDER**



WISHES GLOUCESTER R.F.C ALL THE
BEST FOR THE 1992/1993 SEASON
AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS
TO KINGSHOLM

Peter Arnold (cont.)

extensively renovated, and highly recommended if you go home that way and fancy a meal.

One tinge of regret about today's proceedings, however. The ever-amiable and helpful Alan Jenkins is leaving the Company, and we shan't have his help again. That doesn't mean he won't be at Kingsholm, but he won't be the bloke in charge any more. Thanks for everything you've done, Alan. You're always sure of a warm welcome at Kingsholm.

If the King is dead, long live the Queen. Alan's ample shoes are to be filled by a lady: Anne-Marie Barnett. She's based in Cardiff, and Alan describes her as a 'dead keen rugby supporter'. That's nice to know, and we'll look forward to working with her. Thanks agin, everyone.

IN GOOD VOICE

Our once-famous list of Anglo-Welsh fixtures may have been diluted by the League structures on both side of the borders, but we do have one engagement worth noting, even if it has more to do with tonsils than touch-kicks.

On Friday, October 16th the famous Ystradgynlais Male Choir are singing in Gloucester Cathedral, with Luise Horrocks (soprano) and Richard Coxon (tenor). Never one to miss an opportunity, Mervyn Elway has invited them to visit our Social Club after the concert. They have agreed to sing for their supper.

I'm told that most of the singers support either Swansea or Llanelli, which must cause some friction in the ranks come Heineken league or Schweppes Cup time.

It wouldn't be a bad idea to go to the Cathedral concert and then nip along to Kingsholm to savour the more informal renditions (is there, I wonder, a Welsh Choral arrangement of 'One Eyed Riley?'). Tickets for the Cathedral at £10, £7, £5 and £3, are available from the Cathedral Shop and the Tourist Information Centre on the Cross. Proceeds are to go to help the animals at the Whitminster Shelter.

Should be a very good evening all round. Highly recommended.

NADIA HAS FIXED HERSELF UP

Remember Nadia Nougaret, who wrote to us from her home in France? She wanted a Ladies Rugby team to play for, and a job for a few months.

I've now received another note from her, telling me that she has fixed herself up with Clifton, and intends to pay us a visit from time to time during the season. I shall look forward to it.

FANCY A TRIP TO WASPS?

Our next League fixture is the away one against Wasps in three weeks time. Trevor Pritchard and Andy Mitchell fully intend to run coaches, but this is entirely contingent on enough support being forthcoming. If the trip appeals to you, may I suggest you have a word with one or the other of them?

HERCULEAN TASK

Our old friend Gwyn Hiatt from the Country Library has again sent me details of an important rugby book acquired by his organisation, and available should you ask for it.

It's called, quite simply, 'The Complete Who's Who of England Rugby Union Internationals' and contains potted biographies of every player who has represented England between 1871 and 1992. That really is a gigantic task, and a work well worth pursuing. One can only admire the fortitude and industry of the Author, Raymond Maule — who certainly has the right name for the job. I certainly intend to put his master work on my Christmas list.



Katie Coker

A FIRST FOR THE 'CITIZEN'

One has been aware, for some time, that the influence of what used to be called 'the weaker sex'

(cont. on page 8)

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER



Lloyds
Bank

THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.

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, Hoy '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, 90, 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.)

(and I've never known what idiot dreamed that one up), has been spreading through rugby with increasing velocity. We have lady secretaries, referees, physios of course, not to mention a thriving ladies game. But, as far as Ed Martin and I can discover — and between us, we know most of the 'big' rugby reporters — the 'Citizen' is the only newspaper to be able to claim an official rugby correspondent who happens to be of the feminine persuasion. That, I feel, is worth further comment, and also gives me a chance to use a further innovation I have this season, namely the ability to print the occasional photograph.

The lady's name is Katie Coker, and she's no dewy-eyed amateur. Neither is she any relation to the Aussie, Troy Coker, or to the other members of the clan who played for Cardiff and Harlequins respectively.

Katie gives me permission to tell you that she's just 24 years old, and that she hails originally from Welling, which makes her a Kentish Maid.

Her involvement with rugby stems from her time at Leicester University. While taking her degree, she was introduced to Welford Road and immediately became hooked on the game. However, she never, at

(cont. on page 9)

NOBBY'S NEWSDESK



Hello Everyone,

Nobby here again, welcome to Kingsholm for our first home league fixture of the season.

Until now I have been so busy working behind the scenes that I haven't been able to introduce myself to you in person. To put this right I'm here today to present a £100 cheque to one of our lucky Gold Bond winners. I say one of our winners because as you may know we have over £500 every week to give away in prize money. Are you in the Gold Bond? if not, why not? YOU CAN'T WIN IT IF YOU'RE NOT IN IT!!!

Well I must be off now, see you all again on the 17th October when we entertain Bristol.

*Cheers
NOBBY*

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



Peter Arnold (cont.)

that time, had any thought of making a profession out of it.

Her studies over, she took a year off, and visited Australia and Hong Kong, although she missed the famous 'Sevens'. When harsh reality intervened, and she had to start working for a living, she returned home, and after making a bee-line for a Leicester game, got a job as a reporter on a local paper around Stow-on-the-Wold.

She rapidly found that she liked the area, and that she also liked Stow-on-the-Wold rugby. So keen did she become that she was press-ganged into writing the rugby reports for that fine old club.

That went along merrily for some two-and-a-half years, until she decided that the time had come to make a career move. This she did by approaching newspapers in various rugby-orientated towns, including Bath and Gloucester.

For once, Bath's famous recruiting system failed them, and the 'Citizen' nipped around the blind side and took her on. So it wasn't a question of the office girl getting the job because no one else wanted it. It was a considered decision to take a fairly radical step. For once, Bath's loss is our gain.

I rather suspect that Katie was left a bit breathless by the speed with which it all happened, but having got herself established, she's now thoroughly enjoying herself — and good luck to her.

It's nice to have Katie aboard. At least she's better looking than Terry Phillips.

JOHNNY THORNTON

I had almost finished writing these notes when I heard the news of the sudden death of Johnny Thornton, and obviously couldn't let the occasion pass without comment.

More senior supporters will remember Johnny as an aggressive, fast and mobile flank forward who would undoubtedly have had a distinguished England career had the War not intervened. As it was, he had wartime Internationals against Scotland, Wales, New Zealand and Australia, and was also one of Gloucester's long list of Barbarians.

He was well known away from Kingsholm too, as the popular licensee of the old 'Marquis of Gransby' in Eastgate Street. Indeed, everyone liked him, in whatever capacity they knew him.

Gloucester has lost one of its undoubted characters, at the age of 75. We shall all be the poorer without him, and our sincere sympathy goes to his family.

INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

Doug Wadley asks me to tell you that our allocation of tickets for the England v. South Africa game and the Barbarians v Australia game has been 'extremely disappointing'. I'm sure that if Doug weren't the gentleman that he is, his language would

(cont. on page 28)

GLOUCESTER RFC IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER RESPECTFULLY REQUEST PATRONS TO EXERCISE EVERY CARE IN THE DISPOSAL OF CIGARETTE ENDS AND OTHER INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL

Entertaining

AT KINGSHOLM

Sporting hospitality is part of every Company's marketing mix. At Kingsholm we offer superb executive restaurant facilities on a no minimum numbers basis or exclusive hospitality boxes which may be reserved for single matches.

Creative sponsorship programmes available combined with perimeter and programme advertising call:

GLOUCESTER RFC

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT ON (0452) 419666

or write for full colour brochure "**Entertaining at Kingsholm**" to Bastion House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JJ.

Ed Martin

There is no history in the series between Gloucester Rugby Football Club and The Rugby Football Club. The two sides have met just twice and it requires no memory to recall those two meetings in Warwickshire on consecutive Saturdays way back in . . . 1991!

Gloucester posted a three point win in the League clash (16-19) and then turned on the defence in the Cup clash a week later to restrict Rugby to just three points in a 20-point win. So, it's played two and two — both away matches, played not too far from the scene of that complete disregard of the rules by a school kid who thought he was back home where you certainly could carry the ball in those inter village *derbies* that had been going on since Edward II banned the game in 1314, the ban being continued by Edward III (as footy was interrupting archery practice in the Army), Richard II, Henry IV, Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

The very first visit to Kingsholm by Rugby is the 2,161st game to be played by Gloucester on the ground.

Over the 101 years since the ground was opened, Gloucester has only failed to post a winning season at Kingsholm on one occasion — in 1895-6 when 17 matches were played with the club managing six wins and four draws to counter the seven losses.

Overall, in that season almost 100 years ago, Gloucester lost 12 of its 27 matches for a 44.44% record. Even the 1955-6 season, regarded as the season best forgotten with an all-time club low of 41.86% (23 losses from 43 matches), brought a winning record at Kingsholm (8 losses from 23 matches — 58.70%).

Much has been written over the decades that Kingsholm is the toughest club ground for a visiting team to get a win. And crunching the numbers for the 101 seasons can prove the fact.

The table below shows that Gloucester has a staggering 77.52 winning percentage at Kingsholm — not to mention the points difference being nearly 50% higher than opponents points!

There have been three seasons when Gloucester had a home record at Kingsholm that included a

"zero" in the loss column — 1920-1 when 19 of the 21 matches were won, 1971-2 when 22 of the 23 matches were won, and the *daddy of 'em all* — the *double "O"* season 1981-2 when all 28 matches at Kingsholm were won.

Gloucester have failed to score on 104 occasions at Kingsholm — 31 of the matches have been scoreless draws. And the last time Gloucester were held scoreless by the visitors was when Moseley romped to a 28-0 win on January 22, 1977.

That game is ranked sixth in the list of heaviest defeats at home and Moseley's score of 28 points is 16th in the rankings of highest scores by visitors at Kingsholm.

When it comes to travelling, Gloucester's report card for the past 101 years reads "*could do better!*" In fact, it should, perhaps, be: *could do a lot better.*

The winning record *on the road* is just 47.76% — and even the overall points difference has a minus sign!

Putting aside the three losses in the three way away games of the war-interrupted 1939-40 season, the depths were reached in 1926-7 when 13 of 15 away matches were lost (13.33%). But the 21 wins from 26 home outings meant that Gloucester ended the season with 23 wins and 18 losses from 41 games.

A home record of 77.08% saved the day in 1931 when only one win was managed from 13 away matches (15.38%). The worst away record since 1945 was exactly ten seasons ago when 20 of the 27 matches were lost (22.22%). But even a respectable 75.93% home record could not prevent an overall losing season.

Up to, and including last Saturday's visit to Leicester, Gloucester's records since points were introduced in 1891-2 are as follows:

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA
Home	2160	1602	413	145	35,207	14,634
Away	1586	696	767	123	15,890	15,984
Total	3746	2298	1180	268	51,097	30,618

WHY NOT JOIN THE SCRUM AT THE Y.M.C.A. SEBERT STREET?

The King's Home Christian Fellowship

Meets every Sunday at 10.45am - 11.45am

All Welcome. For further information: Telephone: 372282 / 414920

Peter Arnold (cont.)

have been considerably stronger.

In fact, he tells me that all we got for the Springbok game was 6 tickets, and for the Barbarians match, 3 tickets — all at £30.00.

There is one ray of hope. If Twickenham's East Stand receives its Certificate of Safety in time, and that does seem to be a strong possibility, then we may get a further allocation. If so, they will be for uncovered accommodation in the East Stand and will cost £23.00. I leave it to you to decide whether you think that's worth the money or not.

In any case, don't put in an application if you haven't done so already. Doug will make a further allocation, if the need arises, from applications already received.

What do you make of all that, when the last I heard, they had only sold 10,000 tickets for the Canada game at Wembley?

Of course, Members still have time to apply for one ticket to one Home International. Applications by November 1st, please. And I wish you luck.

APOLOGIES

I was as incensed as anyone when I acquired my programme for the Sale game to find that the teams printed bore no resemblance to the sides which actually ran out. Don't blame the printer — it had more to do with Gloucester's long list of injuries.

As Chairman of Selectors, Mick Booth said to me after the game, "We had to pick from those players available, and we didn't know that until Thursday evening."

Obviously, our printers had to print something, and the only thing the club could tell them was to print the previous week's team and hope for the best.

Doug Wadley asks me to apologise to you for that, but obviously can't guarantee that the circumstance won't arise again. However, he is in the process of setting up a system whereby we'll print a fly-sheet for insertion into the programme, at the last minute, should the need arise. And of course, we hope it doesn't.

RUN OUT FOR GARETH

Our Match Mascot today is Gareth Hending. If the surname rings a bell, it's not surprising: his father, Ken, is well known in local rugby circles as a former Chairman of Longlevens RFC.

So the pedigree is right. On the distaff side, Gareth's Mum is. I am reliably informed, an employee

of Customs and Excise, and I hope you won't wince too much when I remind you that the description sometimes has something to do with VAT. Either that, or with making sure that nobody's been watering your whisky, so Lyn Hending is a lady to be reckoned with, either way.

Gareth, himself, has now reached the ripe old age of seven, and is rapidly acquiring an interest in all sports. At the moment, however, he loves animals, especially farm animals, so this afternoon's festivities may give him an insight into the species *homo sapiens rugbiensis* when at large in its natural habitat. I hope the experience doesn't put him off zoology for life.

It certainly won't put him off rugby. Thanks, Gareth, for performing the function for us.

THERE IS A CHANGE TO OUR ADVERTISED PROGRAMME . . .

If you look at the list of Colts fixtures, opposite, you'll notice that the lads were scheduled to entertain a team from the Exeter Combination on Wednesday next, October 7th.

I now have to tell you that the game has been cancelled owing to the regrettable, and I find surprising, fact that the Devonians have not been able to raise a side. Incidentally, that means that the training session arranged for Monday has also been cancelled.

We do, however have a more than adequate substitute. On that self-same evening, our Under-21 team has arranged a fixture against their counterparts from Bristol, which should be a prospect to savour. The idea is to seize the opportunity for a warm-up to the forthcoming MEB Under-21 competition.

Please note, however, that kick-off will be 7.15, and not 7.00 p.m. as is usual.

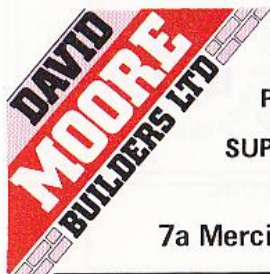
TAILPIECE

You'll have read — or more likely, heard — about the plethora of Town Criers from all over the country who descended on Gloucester as part of the Mock Mayor of Barton celebrations last Saturday. The centre point of the proceedings was the delivery of greetings, at umpteen decibels, which each stentorian visitor made from the podium outside the Guild-hall.

All went happily and noisily, until the Crier from Powys took the stand. He cried on at some length about the 'land of valleys and streams', until interrupted by a voice from the gallery.

'Can't play rugby, though!'

Quite put the poor fellow off.



ALL TYPES OF BUILDING & REPAIRS UNDERTAKEN
PLUMBING AND CENTRAL HEATING DECORATING
SUPPLIERS & INSTALLERS OF MOST KITCHEN FURNITURE
& APPLIANCES

7a Mercia Road, Gloucester.

Tel: 0452 414000