

GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v

BRISTOL



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 17th, 1992
Kick Off 3.00 p.m.



FOUNDED 1873

President:
Canon H. M. Hughes BA

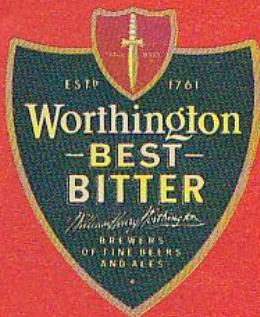
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M) WARNER



WARNERS

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WARNERS OF GLOUCESTER

GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts

15. T. Smith

14. J. Perrins

13. S. Morris

12. D. Cummins

11. D. Morgan

10. N. Matthews

9. M. Hannaford

1. P. Jones

2. J. Hawker

3. R. Phillips

4. D. Sims

5. R. West

6. P. Glanville

7. I. Smith (Capt.)

8. R. Fowke

Replacements:

G. Reayer

M. Wadley

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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Cumulative Match Score

Referee: JERRY WALLIS — SOMERSET SOCIETY

BRISTOL

(Blue/White)

A. H. Duggan (Capt.)

B. S. Crosslan

C. A. Saverimutto

D. D. Wring

E. M. Lloyd

F. A. May

G. G. Becconsall

H. D. Hickey

I. A. Lathrope

J. P. Guttridge

K. J. Morrison

L. P. Stiff

M. R. Armstrong

N. C. Moore

O. J. Pearson

Replacements:

P.

Q.

T	G	Pts

F/T

H/T

Peter Arnold

HOW FRIENDLY IS 'FRIENDLY'?

Bearing in mind the long and pulsating history of matches between Gloucester and Bristol, it would be tempting to cast aspersions on the word 'friendly' as applied to today's little get-together. To do so, however, would be to misunderstand the situation. We're all very aware of the no-quarter-asked-or-given nature of the eagerly anticipated matches, but it's also true to say that the great Bristol club has always been on the most friendly terms with Gloucester.

Cut and thrust, maybe, but very little needle.

In one way, Bristol are just a little further down one particular road than we are. They, too have suffered from mass defections from their ranks. So much so, in fact, that only the other day, I heard Clifton described as 'Bristol Old Boys'. Nowadays, the situation is working itself out, and today's most welcome visitors are bidding fair to be back where they ought to be — right back up there with the best of them.

That can't be anything but good for Gloucester. To have our most traditional friendly rivals fielding a better than good side can only encourage our own fledglings to try their wings that much more enthusiastically. If Bristol can do it, so can Gloucester.

That's a proposition which will be put to the test today. After all, Bristol have a point to prove. Last season, Gloucester won the 'friendly' at Bristol — played on St. Valentine's Day, of all dates to choose — by 19 points to 7. In the Courage League game at Kingsholm, Gloucester were even more severe, straining the limits of hospitality by administering a 29-15 defeat.

I can't see that sort of thing happening today. But, no doubt, we'll see our normal keenly-contested game, and another worthy chapter written into the annals of our most prized regular fixture.

But, whatever happens, the Bristol lads, plus their usual contingent of support, are as welcome to Kingsholm as anyone can possibly be. After all, when did we ever need the stimulus of League points to ensure a good game between Gloucester and Bristol?

0898-121-138

I will repeat that, 0898-121-138. There's no use ringing that number if you fancy a chat with a nubile nymphet, but if you want up-to-date news, match reports, or whatever, on the doings of Gloucester RFC, then that's the one to build into your telephone's memory facility.

The important word is CLUBCALL. If you are addicted to watching top soccer on TV, then you'll have seen the word blazoned on advertising boards. Clubcall is a member of the Ladbroke group of companies, so is obviously an outfit which has muscle behind it, and which knows what it is doing.

This is in something of a contrast to the last time Gloucester RFC had a phone-in line of its own, a year or two ago. As far as most of us were concerned, that was a successful enterprise, but the system just seemed to fold up of its own accord, for no good reason I ever heard. This time round, we have the backing of a much more sizeable operation.

There is also more of a free hand this time round. Anything which is of interest can be sent out over the Clubcall line, not just match reports and team news, but also such events as last night's visit from the Ystradgynlais Male Voice Choir. We also intend to publish the winners of our highly successful 'Gold Bond' draw each week, so if you think someone may owe you £100, then you should be able to check by picking up the phone.

By the way, I don't know whether you will consider it a recommendation or not, but I have been volunteered to the voice-over duties. That means that anyone who knows of anything which is of interest to the Kingsholm Faithful is very welcome to ring me on 0452 380481 and give me the gen. I'll be glad to put it out on the line if it's suitable.

We'd all be grateful if you would spread the word around. By the time you read this, there should be cards available with the Clubcall number on. After all, we have a lot of exiles, living too far away to come along at all regularly, who would be glad of an immediate method of keeping up with things.

Give us a call.



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AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS
TO KINGSHOLM

Peter Arnold (cont.)

THANKS TO WARNERS

It's always nice when a former Sponsor sees fit to repeat the exercise. It's even nicer when so generous a benefactor decides to go just that one step further. That's just what Warners Trust plc has done today, graduating from last season's Cheltenham on a Monday to the relative might of Bristol on a Saturday.

When you're thinking about buying a car, the chances are that, in this area, the name 'Warners' is one of the first which will occur to you. It's nice to know that the name of the respected old Gloucestershire family can be associated with Sponsorship at Kingsholm, and we thank the firm for its generosity.

Nowadays it's 'Warners Trust plc', which is a far cry from the Tewkesbury bicycle shop opened by grandfather Harold Warner in 1925. From those beginnings, the company has grown into one of the largest privately owned vehicle franchises in the country, and that sort of thing doesn't happen without a great deal of hard work and imagination.

Warners of Gloucester, based in Bristol Road, won their Peugeot franchise in 1986. Managing Director, Ian Davies head a team of 55 people — which is a lot for such enterprises — who offer a well-qualified, personal and friendly service to anyone who wants it. There are cars to suit all requirements, with highly competitive finance deals to match. Because the company is a fleet specialist, these deals embrace everything from hire purchase, through leasing, to contract hire. The recipe obviously works because, even in these hard times, sales top 600 new and 350 used cars a year.

Warners Service Department is worthy of mention too. Staff includes Gloucestershire's only Peugeot 'Master Technician', and he is supported by a team of factory-trained technicians who can call upon the latest diagnostic equipment, should you need it. Naturally, this combines with a highly efficient Parts Department and the latest Stock Control System. There's also a newly-opened Bodyshop and Accident Repair Centre.

M. J. Warner, based at Quedgeley until new purpose-built facilities are available, is a horsepower of a very different colour. It provides Warners Trust plc with a specialist marque, having won a Mercedes-Benz franchise. So South Gloucestershire has a genuine luxury car supplier.

The full Mercedes-Benz range is on offer, together with a variety of previously-owned models, and a selection of demonstration cars which you are cordially invited to try for yourself. Service is provided by Mercedes-Benz trained technicians,

and as ever, is based on a personal, friendly way of going about things, including a collection and delivery service from your own premises, with a courtesy car loan system should you need it. Obviously, all cars are fully valeted before their return.

And all that's just for starters. Warners Trust plc also have a Peugeot dealership at Shannon Way, Tewkesbury, and Esso and Gulf Service Stations. The whole thing really is an impressively complete motoring package, and we're delighted to welcome it to Kingsholm. Thanks again!

GO BREAK A LEG SCOT!

No, I'm not being nasty to today's Match Mascot: it's the traditional theatrical good wish to a trouper about to go on stage and wow the audience into the aisles.

Among the rapidly growing ranks of our Mascots, we've had budding sportsmen and women, musicians, voracious readers, and youngsters with a whole host of interests, but I can't remember that we've ever had an up-and-coming thespian before.

Neither, I think, have we ever had a younger Mascot. But the fact is that, at just five years old, Scot Warner — yes, he's adamant that he only spells it with one 'T' — is rehearsing hard for a starring role in his school pantomime, 'The Queen of Hearts'. We hope that the show gets rave reviews, and that Scot steals every scene he's in. At least today's effort should give him experience in handling a large and noisy audience.

Scot's Father, John, you won't be surprised to learn, works for today's Match Sponsor, so it's something of a family affair. His mother, I'm told, is a beautician and electrologist, and I can think of a few prop forwards who could use her professional skills.

Scot isn't just an actor. He's keen on swimming, go-karting and dancing to Michael Jackson. There's no accounting for taste, I suppose.

Nevertheless, we're grateful to young Scot for fitting us in to his obviously crowded schedule.

IT'S THE NOBBY AND SCOT SHOW!

Scot Warner isn't just doing the traditional run-out today. He's sharing the back seat of a vintage Mercedes with 'Nobby', our larger-than-life Gold Bond mascot. The beautiful old vehicle has been provided by Warner's our Match Sponsor, and we thank them for the gesture. Nice to have a bit of class around here.

(cont. on page 8)

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER



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, 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, 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.)

Nobby made his debut at the Rugby game, a couple of weeks ago, but it wasn't certain that he would be available until after the programme had 'gone to bed' as I believe the technical term goes. I was therefore unable to give him an appropriate welcome — an omission I hereby rectify.

Nobby should be a familiar sight at all sorts of events around the City before too long. Keep an eye open for him.

TRANSVAAL

We're obviously very bucked to be able to entertain the powerful Transvaal side on Friday, November 13th. It's a very nice extra spot of entertainment which came along late in the proceedings, and I'm told that the Transvaal lads are equally pleased to be opening their tour on what they regard as one of the most famous grounds in the world.

Unfortunately, these things don't come for free, and the matter of guarantees and things mean that this is one match we're all going to have to pay to see. It won't be an all-ticket affair — you'll be able to pay on the gate if you like to chance it — but tickets will be on sale, if only to minimise the crush and speed in through the turnstiles.

Prices will be £8.00 for the Stand, and £4.00 for the Ground, with OAP's and Juniors getting in for

(cont. on page 9)

Peter Arnold (cont.)

£2.00. Tickets will be on sale at the Club Office from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, from Monday next — that is October 19th. Members only until Monday, November 2nd, after which date anyone can buy some.

While on the subject of tickets, this the last chance I'll sensibly have to remind Members that applications for Home International tickets have to be in by November 1st. To be fair, Doug Wadley tells me that we're heavily over subscribed already, but if you're name isn't in the frame, then it hasn't got any chance of coming up lucky has it?

WELL DONE DAVE, 'WESTY' AND 'DINO'

Bearing in mind how many pundits are writing Gloucester off this season, it's nice to be able to comment on the fact that three of our players are already catching various selector's eyes.

First of all, congratulations to Richard West on retaining his England Under-21 place for the last game for which he qualifies before *anno domini* bars him. Poor old fellow.

It seems certain that he'll have a very distinguished career. As a relative newcomer to the Gloucester ranks, he's certainly made a considerable impression very quickly. Best of luck for the future, 'Westy'.

Second, as is only right, Dave Sims is in the England 'B' squad yet again. He's been an ever-present there, and performed nobly. It just seems a shame that other people seem to be able to leapfrog over him, in spite of his sterling work at the next-to-highest level.

But he must keep plugging. Class will out, in the end, as will genuine athleticism, and Big Dave certainly has that.

Finally, and this is the one which pleases me — and I suspect everyone — most, Bob Phillips has been named in the Welsh Development Squad. Actually, it comes as a surprise to learn that 'Dino' is qualified to play for Wales, and his good 'Glawster' accent will probably come as something of a culture shock to the Taffies he finds himself training with. Still, I suppose that it will be no worse that the effect the dulcet tones of Messrs. Smith and Jones must have had on the Scots. But if ever a man deserved some recognition, it's Bob Phillips. He never gives less than his best, is always a right handful to anyone unfortunate enough to have to push against him, and, to my mind, the very model of a traditional Gloucester prop forward, and you can't have a better recommendation than that.

Good on yer, 'Dino'. We all hope you go all the way.

SORRY, JUST IN CASE

I may be squealing unnecessarily here, but having come unstuck already once this season, it's worth getting my retaliation in first.

(cont. on page 28)

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Peter Arnold (cont.)

The side for today's game was selected late, due mainly to injury problems. At the time of writing, I'm not sure just when it will be selected, but it could be as late as Thursday.

That means that Doug Wadley, in consultation with whoever he could get hold of, has had to make something of an educated guess about the team to print in the programme. The fact that today's game is a 'friendly', and so might be regarded as an opportunity to experiment, can't have helped matters.

However, we had to print something, and if it turns out that Doug's crystal ball is wildly inaccurate, then he intends to run off some photocopies for distribution with this programme.

Hope it doesn't come to that, but if so, we're sorry. Weren't our fault, guv — honest!

LET'S GET IT STRAIGHT

Everyone has cottoned on to the fact that four teams are to be relegated from Courage League Division One this season, in preparation for 10-team leagues, played on a home-and-away basis, in the season 1993/4. However, there does seem to be a fair degree of confusion about what happens elsewhere, and how it's all going to work out.

I have in front of me, courtesy of Doug Wadley, the official RFU document on the subject which spells things out. I thought I should pass the information along to you. As follows.

At the end of this season, *four* clubs will be relegated from National League 1 to National League 2. At the same time, *one* club will be promoted from National League 2 to National League 1.

No fewer than *seven* clubs will be relegated from National League 2 to National League 3. Just *one* club will be promoted to National League 2.

Continuing the process, *eight* clubs will drop from National League 3 to a new National League 4, while *one* club will be promoted from each of the current Leagues 4 South and North to the new League.

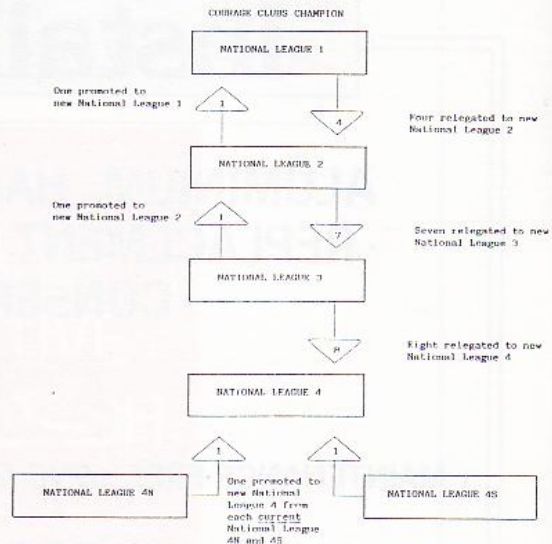
This all means that we will have four leagues of ten clubs each, playing on a home-and-away basis, while the new National Leagues 5, South and North, will remain as 13-club leagues, as in the present structure. The RFU points out that there will be 66 participating clubs under the new structure, compared with 64 in the current four leagues, and that the effect on leagues lower down will be 'minimal'.

What the RFU circular doesn't state, and what no one has told me yet, is what happens at the end of the 1993/4 season. Do we revert to two clubs being relegated and promoted as was the case before the

reorganisation took place? We shall no doubt learn in the fullness of time.

The RFU do provide a useful diagram which sets the whole thing out graphically, and surmising that some people might like to have such a thing to hand, I therefore reproduce it.

PROMOTION/RELEGATION, SEASON 1992/93



TAILPIECE

I was glad to receive a nice letter from John Hopcroft of Longlevens, taking me gently to task for something I said in the programme for the game against Rugby.

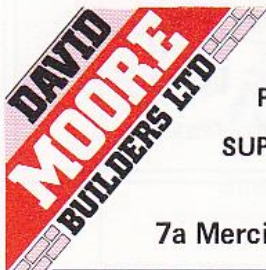
Both Ed Martin and I stated that, until last season, Rugby had never played Gloucester (note the order in which I put the clubs. The other way round might be misconstrued by the evil minded).

Mr. Hopcroft maintains that Rugby did visit Gloucester in late September or early October of 1890, and that the game was played on the Spa.

In fact, that was the season before the points system was introduced, which I assume, is why the game doesn't appear in Ed. Martin's meticulous records. For the record, Gloucester won by five goals to nil, which was a fair old tonking by the standards of the time.

Thanks John. But I'm bound to point out that the actual phrase I used was that Rugby had 'never played at Kingsholm.' Which is of course, the case.

Still, it's nice to live and learn.



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Ed Martin

Today's clash with Bristol is a milestone. It was just 100 years ago that the two clubs first met — the date was September 24, 1892 and the place was Kingsholm, which was then entering its second season. That first encounter with Bristol brought a 14-0 win for Gloucester, and later in the season at Bristol the two teams were even at two points each. It was in the 1893-4 season opener at Kingsholm that Bristol posted their first win against the Cherry and Whites.

Now I have to admit that I was astonished to find that the two clubs separated by some 35 miles did not meet each other until 1892. Surely, there must have been some matches played at the Spa before Kingsholm became the mecca for Gloucester rugby?

It appears that Bristol were not good enough for the Gloucester fifteen! "This is the first time that the Bristol organisation has encountered the Gloucester Senior fifteen," the Citizen proclaimed.

Now, did that mean that Gloucester United (then known as Gloucester "A" had a date with the Bristol club previously?

"Two or three seasons ago, the Second team played Bristol at the Spa and won somewhat easily," another article in the Citizen reported.

On Monday September 26, 1892, the Citizen report of the game noted . . . "This was Bristol's first appearance against the premier organisation of this city, but before the present (Bristol) club was in existence several teams from the sister city have been encountered by the Gloucesterians in days gone by.

"Redland Park and Bristol Medicals were on the Gloucester fixture card for two or three seasons several years ago, when the Spa used to be the scene of battle. But (those two sides) got so weak that it was found useless to continue the matches, and they were consequently cancelled.

"Then an amalgamation took place and the Bristol club sprung up. It was not until last year, however, that they came into prominence in the football world, then accomplishing (sic) some smart things during the season of 1891-2."

Bristol, who had opened their 1892-3 season with a spirited performance — but a loss — at Neath. And it was the same team that gave the Welshmen a

difficult time that ventured north to Gloucester. The weather was, according to the Citizen, "again of the most delightful description" — they don't write like that anymore — and "was largely attended" with many supporters making the journey by train from Bristol.

A. Collins, a Gloucester forward, opened the scoring with a goal scored with a kick from just inside the Bristol 25. Then came unconverted tries from another forward, H. G. Brown, and three-quarter W. H. Taylor before the popular centre W. Jackson scored a solo try under the posts which scrum half J. Watts converted for a 12-0 interval lead. The second half brought one score — a second try by Collins who fell on the ball which was dribbled across the line by J. Watts in a powerful forward move.

Bristol, according to the Citizen report, were unlucky not to score. It was a solid defence by "the homesters" that halted several Bristol scoring chances.

It was not a memorable day from Bristol full back G. V. Gibbs. He was forced to leave the field with injury after a tackle on Gloucester H.V. Page as he crossed the Bristol line with the ball. There had been a forward pass, the try was not allowed and Gibbs was taken to the Infirmary where it was discovered that he had dislocated his shoulder!

Since that opening match 100 years ago, Gloucester and Bristol have met on a total of 188 occasions. This is the most meetings Gloucester has had with any clubs since 1891 when points were introduced. Cheltenham (181 meetings) is second.

The series is pretty level, Gloucester has won on 95 occasions, Bristol 75 times and there have been 18 drawn meetings. Things are so evenly balanced that both clubs have identical percentage success rates when playing at home. Gloucester could well post its 1,000th point against Bristol at Kingsholm this afternoon — currently they are 13 short.

COMPLETE RECORD AGAINST BRISTOL

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA
Home	95	59	25	11	987	605
Away	93	36	50	7	593	782
Overall	188	95	75	18	1580	1387

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