

GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v **SARACENS**

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 21st, 1992
Kick Off 3.00 p.m.



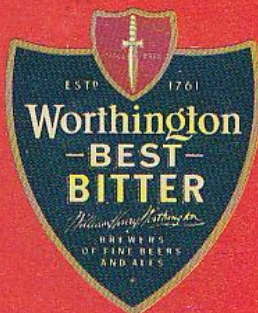
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Canon H. M. Hughes BA

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GLOUCESTER
(Cherry/White)

T	G	Pts
	3p	9

1		5

1		5

14	H/T	0
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- 15. M. Roberts
- 14. D. Morgan
- 13. D. Caskie
- 12. D. Cummins
- 11. S. Morris

- 10. N. Matthews
- 9. M. Hannaford

- 1. T. Windo
- 2. D. Kearsey
- 3. A. Deacon
- 4. D. Sims
- 5. R. West
- 6. P. Ashmead
- 7. I. Smith (Capt.)
- 8. P. Miles

Replacements:

- ~~T. Smith~~ J. PERRINS
- G. Mann

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GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB

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Cumulative Match Score

3	0		
6	0		
11	0		
14	0		
14	5		
19	5		

Referee: F. A. HOWARD (RFU)

Touch Judges: L. C. Little (RFU) C. B. D. Lucas (RFU)

Gloucester Rugby Club use
GILBERT MATCH BALLS

SARACENS

(Black/Red Star/Crescent)

T	G	Pts

19	F/T	5
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- 15. A. Tunngley
- 14. D. O'Leary
- 13. J. Buckton
- 12. D. Dooley
- 11. S. Reed

- 10. B. Rudling
- 9. B. Davies (Capt.)

- 1. R. Andrews
- 2. G. Botterman
- 3. S. Wilson
- 4. M. Langley
- 5. L. Adamson
- 6. C. Tarbuck
- 7. J. Cassell
- 8. B. Crawley

Replacements:

Not known
at this stage

Peter Arnold

WINTER DRAWS ON

The reference isn't to the climate, or even to your underwear; it's more a comment on the fact that today's welcome visitors do seem to have a tendency to hold Gloucester to a draw, just when we could do with a win. That was certainly true in the first season that Saracens achieved their well-merited place in Division One of the Courage League.

When they arrived at Kingsholm that season, you may recall that "Sarries" weren't yet quite coming to terms with their promotion, and Gloucester were expected to gather in another two points without too much trouble. But "Sarries" equalised late in the match and, thereafter, went from strength to strength and have retained their Division One status ever since.

You may also remember that a promising young No. 8 called Ben Clarke had a big influence on that game, and the rest, after a move to Bath, is, as they say, history.

It's right to say that a draw won't be good enough for Gloucester this afternoon. Saracens probably feel the same way, so we should see a highly competitive game today, with everyone willing to take whatever chances are offered.

I suppose that, ten days ago, an impartial observer would have rated the visitors as favourites for this game (not that there will be many of those at Kingsholm today), but the fact that, last weekend, Gloucester scored a total of 65 points in some 19 hours against opposition which was far from insignificant, may have thrown the odds into the melting pot. Of course, neither Transvaal nor Moseley are playing in Courage League Division One, so the amount one can read into that is limited. It would be fair to say, however, that if (a big word) Gloucester can reproduce the spirit and flair which they showed against the acclaimed South African Provincial side, then no one can visit Kingsholm with total confidence, just at the moment.

It's good to see "Sarries" back at Gloucester. I've always enjoyed their style of rugby, and indeed, their company after the game. We have no reason to think that things will be any different today, and we all hope that the lads from Hertfordshire thoroughly enjoy their visit.

TRANSSVAAL

"The most difficult thing in the world is to stand here

and make a speech after your side has just taken a hell of a licking!"

Those were the words of the Transvaal President while making presentations to Gloucester RFC after the game two Fridays ago. It typifies the spirit in which our welcome South African guests took their defeat in a game which, Francois Pienaar, the Captain, told me they had confidently expected to win with some ease. Really — one couldn't have wished to meet a nicer set of blokes, and their sportsmanship in adversity was a lesson to any of us.

I'm quite sure that, had the 31-11 scoreline been reversed, they would have been just as pleasant and good humoured about it all. Pienaar said that they had come here to learn, and that they'd certainly done that. I'm quite sure that someone, in Wales or Italy, is going to have to suffer for that defeat: they're simply too good a side not to bounce back with tremendous panache. They have made a good start already by beating Bridgend on their own turf.

Their Kingsholm visit really was a memorable occasion, for reasons not all connected with Gloucester's win. I'll never believe that Friday 13th is unlucky again.

And, I must add, several Transvaal players and officials commented on the warm and friendly reception they received from the Kingsholm crowd. All things considered, and not wishing to get into the political arena, they didn't know quite what to expect, and they consider that the welcome given them as they ran out on the field got their historic tour off to the best possible start. I'm glad to pass the comments on.

THANKS TO STOATE AND BISHOP

10th Year of Sponsorship

This is the tenth time, in successive seasons, that I have had the very pleasant duty of thanking Stoate and Bishop Printers for sponsoring a game at Kingsholm. To put that another way, the firm, which handles Gloucester RFC's printing requirements, has been supporting us in this way in every year during which sponsorship has been available.

You really can't be more generous than that, and the fact that the relationship between Club and commercial organisation is a two-way affair just makes everything that much more pleasant.

(cont. on page 5)



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TRIES
HARDER



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

Peter Arnold (cont.)

My own connections with Stoate and Bishop go back much further than my involvement with the Match Programme. I think that, some 22 years ago in another incarnation entirely, I was probably one of the firm's first customers. I well remember them, at that time, as a new, fire-in-the-belly company with half-a-dozen employees, and it was a pleasure, when taking up this job — some 12 years ago now — I found that my old mates were producing the programme.

Since those days S & B have grown to be a 40-strong outfit, and a decided power in the local print world, and it would be right to say that we've always been strong in that field around Gloucestershire, and that, locally, competition has always been intense. We tend to think of them as people who print programmes, but in fact they can, and do, produce an enormous range of work from simple business stationery to highly prestigious brochure work in as many colours as anyone ever wants.

Any time you want any printing done, ring 0242 236741 and arrange to visit Stoate and Bishop at their impressive plant on Cheltenham's Runnings Trading Estate. You'll be amazed at the facilities on offer.

Quite apart from all that, they are extremely easy people to work with; not averse to talking a little rugby along the way, and very, very good at what they do. For once, having had years of working with a sponsor, I can give them my personal and unreserved recommendation, whenever you need print or allied services.

I hope Mike Stoate and his team, to say nothing of their fortunate guests, enjoy themselves quite immoderately today, They usually do. And I'd like to add my personal thanks, and I'm sure, of Gloucester RFC in general, for all the help they've given us over the years.

OUR MAN BEN

Saracens may have lost their Ben — Clarke of that ilk — to Bath and England, but we have a Ben of our own, just entering the ranks of cherry-and-whites. His full name is Ben Toleman, and he's doing us the honour of acting as Match mascot today.

Young Mr. Toleman is all of eight years old, and plays his mini-rugby for Old Richians Under 9's. Many a player has gone to play for Gloucester and England without that advantage, so he's got a good start in life. He has one brother who is 11 years old, and who's name is Nicholas, which is appropriate in the period preceding Christmas.

Paul Toleman, Nicholas and Ben's Dad, works

for Symphony Kitchens as a Regional Manager. His Mum is one of those invaluable people who operates on behalf of the Citizen's Advice Bureau, so the Tolemans are obviously a highly versatile family. Now, the youngest member can add to the conversational gambits by saying "Of course, when I ran out at Kingsholm . . .", which should upstage everybody.

We thank Ben for his efforts today. Hope he thoroughly enjoys himself.

DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY

John Beaman asks me to remind you that the Club Shop — situated alongside the Worcester Street stand for the benefit of visitors — has a very extensive range of goodies on sale, and that many of them would make highly acceptable additions to any right-minded person's Christmas stocking. That's particularly true of the new Gloucester shirts, which I must say I find highly attractive (hint to Daughter and 'Er Indoors).

Even if you're a descendant of Ebenezer Scrooge and don't hold with all this Christmas lark, you may feel that, with a Cup game coming up next week, and the most intense part of the season still to come, you ought to kit yourself out in the appropriate fashion. If so, John Beaman and Alan Townsend will be delighted to pander to your every need.

GANGWAY!

This being a Courage League game, and therefore likely to attract a fair crowd from both camps, I suppose I ought to make one of my periodic pleas to watch where you're standing.

The Police and the Fire Officer are both adamant that we must keep gangways and steps clear at all times. The reasons are fairly obvious, but I know just how easy it can be to transgress by stepping over the boundary, especially in the heat of the moment.

We'd appreciate it, however, if you'd bear the matter in mind, so that Stewards don't have the embarrassment of moving you along.

GET WELL SOON, DOUG!

Right in the middle of putting these notes together, I learned that our hard-working and universally popular Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Doug Wadley had been admitted to the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

At the time of writing, I'm not sure what the problem is, except that they whipped him in on Sunday last in some considerable degree of pain.

(cont. on page 8)

ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER



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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, 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.

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.)

Naturally, we all hope that he's back to top form as soon as possible, and that whatever it is doesn't turn out to be too serious. One thing's for certain — he'll take a lot of keeping away from this afternoon's festivities.

Why does this sort of thing always seem to happen to the nice blokes?

NASTY PROBLEM FOR IAN

We must, once again, congratulate skipper Ian Smith on being selected for the Barbarians. This time it's the big one: Barbarians v. Australia at Twickenham, and to say that the side is star-studded would be about like saying that Einstein could do sums.

But it's a terrible dilemma, especially as "Smithy" captained the Baa-Baas at Newport. The game clashes with the next round of the Pilkington Cup, and Ian is, after all, our own Club Captain too, and we'd miss him on the trip to Newcastle Gosforth.

Only Ian himself can make the decision, and indeed, he's probably made it by the time you read these notes. If he does decide to put Gloucester before Barbarians, then we can only applaud his loyalty. If he decides to go to Twickenham to face the World Champions, then no fair-minded supporter can blame him. It is, after all, the most prestigious match of the season, and I say that with no disrespect to South Africa.

(cont. on page 9)

Peter Arnold (cont.)

It isn't a decision which most of us would relish, to put it mildly, but I'm sure whatever he does, we'll all back him up on it. Perhaps the Powers That Be should have found another date — even mid-week if that's what it takes. After all, Ian Smith isn't the only player affected in this way. I don't suppose Stewart Barnes or Will Carling are very happy, either.

WE GET LETTERS

A very pleasant letter from Alan Walden, writing all the way from Sandy in Bedfordshire this week. Ed Martin and I are very chuffed at his kind remarks, and it's appropriate that I'm able to publish his letter on the day of the match which our printers, Stoa and Bishop are sponsoring, so that they're here in force. After all, they have at least as much influence on the presentation and layout of the programme as I do. I'm sure that they'll want to add their thanks to ours.

As for Alan's suggestion about publishing the League programme on a regular basis, Ed Martin is the statistician round 'ere, so I'll pass the letter and the enclosures on to him. I'm sure we could find room for it with a little juggling.

Wrestlingworth
Sandys
Beds. SG19 2ER
5 November 1992

Dear Peter

Despite the address above, I have been a member of the Gloucester Club for many years, having been born and bred in the city. I cannot get to Kingsholm

as often as I would like, managing about five visits per season, but I always support Gloucester when they play in the London area. In between times, out of academic interest, I occasionally drop in at Bedford, Northampton or Cambridge University.

One thing I can say without contradiction — the Gloucester programme is the most interesting and best value for money I have come across. It contains far more editorial than most, and is certainly no more expensive. Congratulations to you and Ed Martin for your splendid contributions, which certainly enliven my stops at the Little Chef on the way back from Gloucester.

The only enhancement to the programme I can think of, and one that would interest me personally, is if it were possible to publish the full league programme. This could either be done at the start of each season or, as appears in the Wasps and Northampton programmes, a matrix updated after each league match. I enclose a copy of one taken from a Northampton programme two years ago. I think this might prove interesting to our supporters, particularly this season when four teams will be

(cont. on page 28)

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Peter Arnold (cont.)

relegated from division one and Gloucester are struggling. It does of course entail a fair amount of work but if it were possible to do, would enhance still further the value of the programme.

In the meantime, keep up the good work and maintain the Gloucester programme as the most interesting around.

Yours sincerely
A. D. Walden

TOP OF THE LIST

By a classic piece of serendipity, as I was writing the previous paragraph, a letter from Mrs. A. King of Cashes Green, near Stroud arrived on to doormat of Arnold Towers.

It appears that, having a few minutes with time on her hands, she decided to spend them in the company of the latest edition of "Rothmans Rugby Union Yearbook", and I can think of worse ways of willing away a wet Sunday.

Her researches were revealing. She writes, "I have noted that 'dear old Glawster' still remain the top of the South West chart for England International Caps with 37, Bristol are in second position with 34, and would you believe it, Bath have 24 with Ben Clarke the most recent."

Well, well. There's a thing. I imagine that Mrs. King, who admits to being no statistician, refers to actual players rather than individual Caps, and of course, her figures would not include players who have turned out in non-Cap Internationals, such as John Gadd who once scored two tries against Fiji in such a match.

She also points out an apparent imbalance in the favour of London clubs, with Blackheath claiming 120 internationals, and Harlequins 71. Cynics won't be surprised at that, but Blackheath is the oldest club of all, and Mrs. King does concede that Wasps trail with 21.

She completes her survey by writing that Tony Underwood's recent elevation has raised the total of Midlands clubs players to 44, so Moseley, Coventry, Leicester, and whoever, can only muster 10 more players than Gloucester on its own.

Statistician or not, Mrs. King has given us food for thought. It would be interesting to include English players who have appeared for national sides other than England, such as David Sole of Bath and our own Ian Smith. That, bearing in mind the Exiles clubs,

would presumably stretch the London lead even further. Next time you have a few minutes Mrs. King ...

NEWCASTLE GOSFORTH

I waited as long as I could before writing this piece, but the deadline is now so near that I simply must tell you something, even if it's a bit messy. The problem is that, for good reasons no doubt, Newcastle Gosforth didn't give us information about tickets and prices until well into Wednesday last, and even then it wasn't really complete. But here goes.

At the time of writing, we have a fairly small supply of Grandstand tickets at £5.00 each. Ground tickets at £3.00 will be available when you get up there. There is, apparently, another stand for which tickets will cost £4.00, and they may well, if asked, send us some of those too, but as of Wednesday, that hadn't happened yet.

As to transport, coaches will be going at £12.00 a ticket, and the distance we have to travel means an indecently early 8.00 a.m. start. They are on sale at the office, and at the time of writing were being taken up rapidly.

Newcastle Gosforth are riding high in their division, and a chap phoning from there the other day told me that they're playing great rugby, and will be a very difficult side to beat on their own ground.

I'm quite prepared to believe it. Although they have slipped from their eminence of a few years ago, they always were a fair old side, and I know our lads won't be underestimating them.

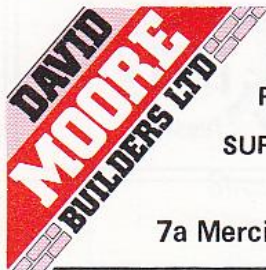
That's Cup rugby for you. We've had some epics in the past — not least against next Saturday's opposition — and this season looks set fair to give us some more of the same. And of course, the players would be glad of all the support they can get.

DON'T FORGET TO PHONE

One advantage we do have these days is our "Clubcall" telephone line. As things develop, regarding the Cup trip and everything else, I'm now able to keep you updated day by day. The number is 0898 121 138. If in doubt — check by dialling that number.

TAILPIECE

A final word on the Transvaal game. As he was leaving, Mr. Van Prinsloo remarked: "Thanks for a great time. But next time we come over, we're going to make sure we play your lads *last!*"



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Ed Martin

The age difference between the Gloucester and Saracens clubs is just three years — Gloucester being the older. But it was not until 1968 that the two faced each other for the start of what is now a 20-match rivalry in which the Cherry and Whites dominate.

The first match, played at Kingsholm, ended in a 3-3 deadlock. And since then, Saracens have been unsuccessful in their quest for a win on this ground — three seasons ago they came close with a 21-21 tie in the League.

The second meeting at Kingsholm, on December 23, 1972, provided Gloucester's largest winning margin — 32 points in a 35-3 win. Old timers will remember 1972-3 as being Gloucester's very first 1,000 point season (1,145 points were scored by the Cherry and Whites, the third most in club history).

Gloucester's heaviest defeat by the Saracens — and the match that Saracens have run-up the most points — was the 1974-5 meeting in London when the Cherry and Whites were blown away 30-0 — their last loss against Saracens.

The only other time that Gloucester has lost to Saracens was in the first visit to the London club in 1971-2 — the final score was 20-12 in favour of the Saracens.

SERIES RECORD vs SARACENS

	Total	Home	Away
Played	20	11	9
Won	15	9	6
Lost	2	0	2
Draw	3	2	1
Points For	345	247	98
Points Against	229	113	116

Anyone looking at the booklets commemorating the 50th and Centenary anniversaries of the Gloucester club will notice that the playing records for the first contain the dreaded words "no records available". Go back even further, and it is much the same words that were used by the *Citizen* 101 years ago

when the hype was on for the opening of the Kingsholm ground.

It is one thing to be able to say that this afternoon's match is the 2,165th to be played by Gloucester on their Kingsholm ground. But for more than 101 years it has not been possible to give a match number in club history.

That is, until today . . . and thanks to some diligent research by long-time Gloucester supporter John Hopcroft. In amongst the dust and the faded newsprint of copies of the *Gloucester Journal* from the 1870s in the Gloucester Collection of the City Library were the elusive results — all 18 of them in amongst the ordinary news stories of the day. Back then, it appears that sport did not warrant a special section, but was slotted in where there was space for a couple of lines.

So, thanks to John, it can be said that today's match is the 4,044 th to be played by the club. The 4,000th match turned out to be Gloucester's famous 11-6 win against Cardiff at the Arms Park last season.

Gloucester's overall winning percentage since 1873 is a respectable 65.38%. And for home matches at Kingsholm, the figure jumps to an incredible 77.51%.

Just how good both percentage figures are when compared with other rugby clubs is not yet known. But the University of Notre Dame in the USA claims to have the best home winning record of any outdoor stadium in America — their gridiron team (founded in 1887) has a 77.43% record at home.

Gloucester's Kingsholm record as it stands at kickoff today is:

Played.....	2,164
Won.....	1,605
Lost.....	414
Draw.....	145
Points For.....	35,303
Points Against.....	14,689
Percentage win/draw.....	77.52%

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