

**GLOUCESTER**  
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

**v ROSSLYN  
PARK**

**SATURDAY**  
**JANUARY 23rd, 1993**  
**Kick Off 3.00 p.m.**

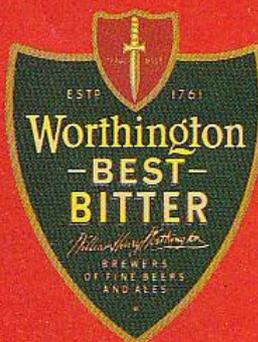


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Canon H. M. Hughes BA

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Game sponsored by  
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Gloucester Rugby Club use  
**GILBERT MATCH BALLS**

**GLOUCESTER**  
(Change Strip)

T	G	Pts
1	16	5

1		5



10	H/T	0

- 15. M. Roberts
- 14. D. Morgan
- 13. D. Caskie
- 12. S. Morris
- 11. T. Smith

- 10. D. Cummins
- 9. L. Beck

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

Replacements:

- I. Morgan
- M. Wadley

**GLOUCESTER**  
**RUGBY FOOTBALL**  
**CLUB**

SPONSORED BY



Cumulative Match Score

7	0		
10	0		
10	3		

Referee: Alan Hughes (DURHAM SOCIETY)

**ROSSLYN PARK**  
(Red/White Hoops)

T	G	Pts




10	F/T	3

- 15. J. Graves
- 14. S. Hunter
- 13. E. Dickinson
- 12. T. Askworth
- 11. L. Porter

- 10. G. Abraham
- 9. R. Moon (Capt.)

- 1. M. Horrocks-Taylor
- 2. S. Davies
- 3. C. McGauley
- 4. J. Fowler
- 5. B. Davison
- 6. M. Shackel
- 7. R. Stratford
- 8. I. Pickup

Replacements:

- A. Holder
- B. Bevin

*Peter Arnold*

## THREE MORE YEARS! THANKS TO BASS!

It's most unusual for me to relegate the traditional and sincere welcome to the Opposition to second place on the teamsheet in these notes, but today's big news is so important to the future well-being of Gloucester RFC, and therefore to all of us that I felt that, just for once, Sponsorship notes must take pride of place today.

In a nutshell, or more appropriately, in a sleeve, Bass have renewed their major sponsorship of the Club for a further three years. And that's the best news we've had this season.

Paul Doubler, the company's new Promotions and Sponsorship Manager waxes lyrical on the subject. He tells me that Bass are 'delighted with the renewal' and that it is probably their largest single club sponsorship in rugby. He also points out that the company is also to sponsor the first National Ten a Side Tournament at Kingsholm on Bank Holiday Monday, May 3rd and suggests you 'watch this space for more details of what should be a great day'.

Although he describes himself as 'a little Welshman' (I wouldn't be so rude) he certainly knows a thing or two about rugby in this part of the world, and has his own ideas about the ale situation locally. I quote:

'Under the Worthington Best Bitter brand, the Sponsorship is seen as being ideal to link Gloucester RFC, the great game of rugby, and one of Britain's fastest-growing ale brands.'

'However, the long and happy relationship between Bass and the Club has been built on Toby Bitter. Indeed, Toby and Gloucestershire Rugby go hand in hand. There are very few local clubs where the after-match refreshment isn't Toby or some of the other fine ales and lagers supplied by Bass. After all, isn't the friendly banter and conviviality over a glass of beer what rugby's all about?'

Having served his time as a local Bass Representative around Gloucester, he has good reason to know. Indeed, he proudly admits to being only one in a whole dynasty of Bass Reps who have been 'real

characters' and 'always part of the local rugby scene, made welcome everywhere from Old Blues to Coney Hill.'

And he had a hard act to follow, 'that hail-fellow-well-met Londoner, Gerry Baker became almost a local legend, and very few people didn't know Gerry. He's lived in Hardwicke for the past twenty years, and expects the locals to start talking to him soon.'

Paul handed over the reins to John Say, who was himself a fine player with Matson, and the torch passed from John to the present incumbent, Tim O'Hare. Tim's a young man from Bristol, and Paul is sure he'll live up to the standards set by his predecessors, but there may be a little education needed there. He is apparently a longtime supporter of Bristol Rovers, but is now already looking up the Cherry-and-White results before he turns to the soccer reports, so the old 'Glawster' magic is already beginning to weave its spell.

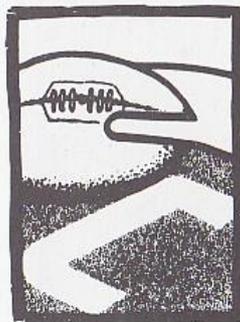
Paul Doubler ends his notes by commenting 'The history and tradition that personal relationships have built up between Bass, its people and its customers over a lot of years make this Sponsorship that little bit extra special. Let's hope that, with Bass, 'help, the Gloucester Club can assume its rightful place in English Rugby — at the top, winning League or Cup or both!'

So say all of us, but the operative word in that last statement is 'help'. We can't over emphasise how important the Bass support is to Gloucester RFC, or our sincere gratitude for their generosity. We'll try to live up to it for the next three seasons, and beyond.

### STOP PRESS!

I rang Paul Doubler on Monday morning last, to thank him for his notes and tell him what I intended to do about them. He did have other things on his mind, in that his wife had just been admitted to his local Maternity Unit to await the arrival of their first child.

*(cont. on page 5)*



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.)*

We earnestly hope that all has gone well by the time you read this, and that Paul will be celebrating appropriately with us this afternoon. And there are far worse ways of wetting the baby's head.

For that matter, there are worse things to be weaned on than Toby.

### **PARK DE PRINCE**

Nothing to do with Paris. More with Priory Lane, Roehampton.

Just for once I thought I'd try and second guess Ed Martin in the historical bit by pointing out that, although we always associate the great Prince Obolensky with Oxford University, he actually played his club rugby with Rosslyn Park, hence the execrable French.

Seems odd, after almost sixty years, but the flying prince only played four times for England. There are still a few supporters around who remember him coming to Kingsholm and being stopped in awesome fashion by 'Digger' Morris, but there are a great many more people who recall some of his illustrious successors in the red-and-white shirts. John Scott, for example won most of his 34 caps for 'Park' before defecting to Cardiff. Commuting Frenchman, Maurice Colclough also learned the first class game at Roehampton, as did the great Andy Ripley, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if 'Ripples' is here this afternoon. He often does come along to these matches, and no one is more welcome.

I could also mention Trevor Wintle, who it is widely believed, kept Mick Booth out of the England side after the retirement of Dicky Jeeps.

As Rosslyn Park have related themselves — in print — they have often suffered from playing in the shadows of Harlequins and Wasps, yet there have been periods when they've outshone both of their London neighbours. Nowadays they play in Division Two of the Courage League, and rather like Gloucester in the Division above, must be nervously eyeing the relegation zone at the moment.

I can't for the life of me believe that that situation will obtain for very much longer. Rosslyn Park are too good a club, with too much pride and tradition to be satisfied with anything but the top levels of the game, as anyone who has watched them play over the years will attest. We hope they're soon back where they should be.

Certainly, no side is more welcome to Kingsholm. Again, I apologise for relegating them to second place today, and I'm sure they won't believe that it

means that we value their visits any less than we have ever done.

Have a great visit, chaps!

### **RUN OUT FOR JAMES**

Our Match Mascot today is James Slatter. He is 11 years old, and has, I am told, wanted to be a Mascot ever since the system was instituted.

James is a rugby man through and through — although his allegiances are a bit mixed. He has the tricky job of skipping Old Richians Under 12's, but actually attends Saintbridge. This must cause some badinage at home because his father, Stuart, I am reliably informed, used to play for Saintbridge F.P. as they are known these days, although to some of us they'll always be 'Old Cents'.

That's irrelevant. I don't know if James' Dad and his Mum, Barbara are along today, or whether their duties as Steward and Stewardess of the Elmbridge Club will have precluded their attendance, but if the record is anything to go by, they could well have plenty of other opportunities to see James running out in Cherry and White in a few years time.

Meanwhile, we all hope he enjoys today's experience enormously.

### **TIME FOR SHOPPING**

A glance at the fixture list on the inside back cover will show you that, although February is the shortest month of the year, we have no fewer than five Firsts games scheduled in the 28-day period. One of those is against Bath, in the Courage League, and I have written before about how I came across a Bath supporter, working on Lundy Island of all places, wearing a Gloucester sweatshirt which he had purchased at our shop at last season's Cup Semi Final.

Now we can't let Bath supporters upstage us in our own gear, can we? The remedy is simple: trot along to the Club Shop, alongside the Worcester Street Stand, and pick up one or two bits of clobber for yourself. They're all high quality items, excellent value for money, and dispensed with great cheerfulness and charm by Alan Townsend and John Beaman.

The range is comprehensive, and my own favourite is the new 'away' strip shirt introduced this season.

The Shop goes from strength to strength, and is well worth patronising. Why don't you do just that.

*(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.

**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.)*

#### **CHILLING MOMENTS**

I've never had such a chilling few moments at Kingsholm as I suffered last Friday evening during the excellent game against Nottingham. You'll recall that, a couple of seasons ago, the Exeter University Captain had the misfortune to break his neck while playing here, and John Hawker's injury on Friday had far too many overtones of that for comfort. I was extremely relieved to watch him walk off under his own steam.

That was bad enough, but the sensation of watching, a bare ten minutes later, Ian Smith go down with what appeared from the Stand to be an identical injury beggars my poor descriptive powers. Again, he walked off, but wearing a collar.

After watching that, it was highly satisfying to see Ian back in the bar a relatively short time after the final whistle. Neck injury he may have had, but the facility with which he was handling his pint indicated to me that his swallowing organs hadn't been constricted.

John Hawker's injury, as you no doubt know, was more serious. He appears to have fractured a small bone in his neck which will keep him out of the game for the rest of the season. Could have been a great deal worse.

I'm told that, with luck, he'll be home from hospital by the time you read this. I'm also told that he's a very

*(cont. on page 9)*

## *Peter Arnold (cont.)*

bad invalid, and that the sheer boredom of having nothing to do but lie on his back and stare at the ceiling was purgatory indeed for him. And he only played as a last-minute replacement . . .

We wish him well, but the whole affair brings home forcibly the incredibly bad luck we've had with the injuries this season. I don't mean the bumps and bruises which all rugby players are heir to, but the really nasty misfortune which keeps players out of the game for more than a match or two.

Just think about it. Pre-season injuries to Marcus Hannaford and Laurie Beck, plus Lloyd Gardner's long-term one, forced us to start the season without a recognised scrum half. Poor Marcus is now on his third such injury. We've been deprived of Neil Matthews' service for two long spells. Sam Masters doesn't look as if he'll get on the field at all this season. Mark Nicholls made a promising start, and was then sidelined with a broken wrist to such extent that he's only just on the way back.

The exciting Matthew Maudsey's problem isn't precisely an injury, but it certainly means he won't be playing this season at least.

Those are just the headlines. I'm sure to have forgotten someone, and if so I apologise, and I haven't taken into account all the more minor injuries and ailments which must have made Mick Booth and his fellow selectors cry into their beer at times. Derek Morgan, Richard West, Dave Sims . . . you can think of the list as well as I can.

If you're feeling a little disgruntled about Gloucester's position in the League at the moment, remember

this factor. Of course, somebody's Law would decree that all this would happen in the only season when four teams are to be relegated, and for the selectors and the coach to have juggled their options so successfully as to keep us out of the relegation zone thus far is a considerable achievement.

The plus side of the situation is that it has enabled one or two players to reveal their potential in unaccustomed — to us at least — positions, Damian Cummins had a stormer at outside half last Friday, and Paul Ashmead displays distinct possibilities at No. 8. We've seen Tim Smith on the wing before, on occasion, but his incisive running and tackling was a significant factor in the wins over both London Irish and Nottingham.

So every cloud . . . All we can do is soldier on.

### **NEW PARKING**

With a string of home games coming up shortly, it's nice to be able to tell you that we now have some extra parking space. The playground at Kingsholm School will be available for that purpose for all Home First XV matches from here on in.

*(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**

## **The GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

*Applications are now being  
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Perimeter Advertising Boards,  
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Interested Companies should contact*

## **Gloucester RFC**

*Commercial Department on (0452) 419666  
or write to Mike Burton, Bastion House  
Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JJ*

*Peter Arnold (cont.)*

The service will be available from 1.30 to 6.30 at each game (don't be tempted to linger too long in the Clubhouse or you won't be able to get your car back until Monday), and the cost will be a meagre £1.00 per car. Well worth it, I would have thought, and far better than risking the car criminals, or possibly offending the neighbours, or even the Police, by leaving your limousine in the street.

All proceeds from this system will go to the School funds. We thank them for thinking of us, and congratulate them on their enterprise. It's a valuable addition to Kingsholm facilities.

While on the subject of parking, you may recall that the City Council ran a 'park and ride' system on a couple of occasions last season, designed to ease the load from surrounding roads when the nature of the game indicated a very large attendance at Kingsholm. You could park your car at the Oxlease and be ferried to the ground by bus.

With the Bath game coming up in a few weeks, a couple of regular supporters from the Forest asked me if the Council were thinking of repeating the exercise. Having, quite frankly, forgotten the whole thing, I rang our old friend Derek Brown from the Leisure Services Department and asked the appropriate question.

The tenor of his reply was 'Sure, we'd love to. If you don't mind parking your car six feet under water!'

Yes. Well.

For people who don't know the area, I should explain that the Oxlease is officially described as a 'water meadow', and that's exactly what it is. The weather recently has been extreme, to say the least, and there's no immediate prospect of the surface water draining away fast enough for any practical purposes. Even should the weather relent overnight, it will take some time for the ground to become firm enough to park cars on.

However, Derek tells me that the Council has every intention of considering providing the service again when (if) conditions allow. But don't hold your breath.

#### **ENGLAND v. SCOTLAND TICKETS**

We haven't got any. Not yet, anyway. There seems to have been some hiatus at Twickenham, no doubt for

good and sufficient reasons, although I haven't been told what they are, and our allocation has still to arrive.

Rest assured, as soon as the magic parcel of pasteboard arrives at the office, we'll flash them out quickly. So I'm afraid there's nothing left to do but sit at home and salivate.

#### **COMPLIMENT?**

Talking of Leisure Services, I had occasion, the other day, to meet that department's hard-working Chairman, Councillor Jon Holmes on a matter quite unrelated to rugby. Quite naturally, we arranged to foregather on licenced premises (the 'Tailor's House', if you must know).

As I walked in, I was greeted by a supporter who threatens to kick me somewhere indelicate if I reveal his name.

'Ah!' he yodelled, 'The guru of Kingsholm!'

Not being quite sure if that was a compliment or not, I looked the word up, finding that the Oxford English Dictionary defines a 'guru' as:

*'Hindu spiritual teacher or head of religious sect: influential teacher, revered mentor.'*

Oh my goodness. All these years I have been regarding myself as a simple programme-writing hack, and it appears that I have now achieved the status of a sort of cherry-and-white Mahatma Gandhi. And look what happened to him.

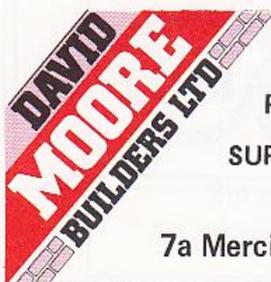
Mind you, one of those incredibly fierce looking deities with multiple arms would come in very handy in the back row.

#### **TAILPIECE**

Harking back to my notes about Bass renewing their three-year sponsorship, one snippet emerged from Paul Doubler's notes which I haven't revealed yet.

It appears that, as the local Bass representative, he was, on one occasion, invited to the Widden Old Boys Dinner. He writes "After which, having enjoyed a little too much hospitality, I woke up next morning in the middle of their pitch!"

I know the feeling well, Paul. Don't worry — we've all been there.



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## Ed Martin

As was the case last week, there is little to comment on from the historical point of view concerning the Rosslyn Park fixture. Today is the 13th meeting between the two clubs — and so far Gloucester has posted nine wins, with Rosslyn Park gaining the upper hand on three occasions.

As was the case with Nottingham, the very first fixture between the two clubs (on March 8, 1980) saw what might be described as an over confident Gloucester taken to task by the first-time visitors!

The 'problem' for Gloucester in that first encounter with Rosslyn Park was that the 6-3 defeat threw the Cherry and Whites out of the Clubs Knockout Cup (then sponsored by a tobacco company). That loss has been the only one thus far at Kingsholm — Gloucester has posted two losses from their four visits to Roehampton.

### COMPLETE RECORD AGAINST ROSSLYN PARK

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA
At Kingsholm	8	7	1	0	178	71
At Roehampton	4	2	2	0	72	52
Overall	12	9	3	0	249	109

### FROM CHERRY AND WHITE TO RED AND BLACK!

It appears that the saga of the rumoured Arthur Hudson move to Cheltenham in 1903 mentioned here last week got people thinking about actual moves by Gloucester players of the past.

'What about Romans, then,' asked a supporter in the clubhouse after the Nottingham match?

Indeed, George Romans was perhaps the most notable 'deserter' from Kingsholm in the history of the club.

It was halfway through the 1906-7 season that he suddenly decided to move to the Cheltenham club, joining forward H. Quixley who had made the move the previous summer.

The popular fullback, who first appeared for Gloucester in 1897 and made a then record 268 appearances for Gloucester, converted 352 tries and had kicked 24 penalties in a Cherry and White

jersey. By today's values, Romans scored 829 points for the Cherry and Whites at the time of his defection.

And that points tally was (again by today's reckoning) at the time 200 points more than the legendary right winger Whacker Smith.

'The season has witnessed the resignation of George Romans at fullbacks after a long and valuable service to the Club,' wrote Bill Bailey in his end of term report in the *Citizen*. 'The circumstances of the veteran's defection occasioned a good deal of regret, but no useful purpose will be served by re-opening an old wound. All the same it seemed a great pity that Romans' severance with his old club should have been attended by any unpleasantness.'

On to other matters... and what amounts to an All Star team that played at Kingsholm in the spring of 1894. It was billed as Wales and Gloucester (they always said that Kingsholm was an enclave of Wales) vs Yorkshire.

The *Gloucester Journal* reported 'interest and excitement at the prospect of witnessing a great game increases, not only in the city but in the whole district round. Tickets are being rapidly purchased and as excursions and cheap trains are announced from various parts, given fine weather, a record crowd will surely be present...'

The Yorkshire team included Walter Jackson, a nimble-footed and speedy three-quarter who had been a regular Gloucester player until he moved north and joined Halifax after the 1892-3 season. Halifax had just beaten Castleford 38-6 in the Yorkshire Cup Final (with Jackson scoring one of the tries) before this Wales/Gloucester v Yorkshire match.

There was also an apres game soiree, presided over by one Sir Lionel Darell at the Gloucester Corn Exchange. Entertainment that evening included a variety of singers, some fisticuffs between the Gloucester boxing, er rugby captain, Mr. J. Harman and Morgan Crowther. Oh yes, also billed in the entertainment was Mr. J. Batt who, according to a straight-faced reporter from the *Citizen*, 'will give performances on the fairy bells.'

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

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