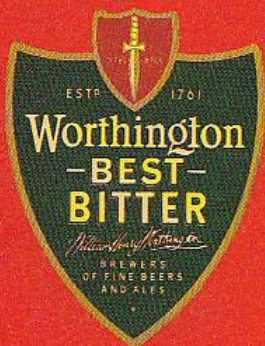


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v

**NEWPORT**



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T	G	Pts
3		15
1		5

T	G	Pts
1		5

T	G	Pts
1		5

15	H/T	0
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**GLOUCESTER 4-2**  
(Cherry/White) (2G; 5T; 1P)

- 15. M. Roberts
  - 14. T. Smith
  - 13. I. Morgan
  - 12. D. Caskie
  - 11. D. Morgan
  - 10. D. Cummins
  - 9. M. Hannaford
  - 1. P. Jones
  - 2. D. Kearsey
  - 3. R. Phillips
  - 4. D. Sims
  - 5. R. West
  - 6. P. Glanville
  - 7. I. Smith (Capt.)
  - 8. P. Ashmead
- Replacements:**
- A. Deacon
  - P. Beech
  - P. Miles
  - J. Perrins

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Cumulative Match Score


Referee: Steve Lande (LIVERPOOL SOCIETY)

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**NEWPORT 7**  
(Black/Amber) (1T)

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts
1		5

T	G	Pts
1		2

T	G	Pts

4-2	F/T	7
-----	-----	---

- 15. S. McCracken
  - 14. J. Westwood
  - 13. M. Yendle
  - 12. D. Rees
  - 11. I. Jeffries
  - 10. J. Williams
  - 9. M. Roderick
  - 1. S. Duggan
  - 2. A. Peacock
  - 3. M. Thomas
  - 4. B. Watkins
  - 5. C. Wyatt
  - 6. M. Arthur
  - 7. H. George
  - 8. G. Pugh
- Replacement:**
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*Peter Arnold*

## FIRST OF THE HORDE

During the dark days of 1940, there was a ban on church bells. They were only to be rung to warn the public at large that the anticipated invasion had started. Perhaps we should have asked our respected President to lay on a similar system for this evening, tonight's very welcome guests are the spearhead of no fewer than six top Welsh sides scheduled to take on Gloucester over the next seven weeks, five of them here at Kingsholm.

As someone once wrote, 'when troubles come they come not as single spies, but in battalions'. Not that we would regard Newport as trouble, except out there on the field, where they are always likely to create problems for any side. Indeed, these fixtures, as Ed Martin will no doubt point out, are among the oldest in Gloucester's calendar, and our close association with the Rodney Road club once actually reshaped the game.

It appears that, a century or so ago, Newport were travelling to play Cheltenham. As happened sometimes in those days, the away nature of the fixture restricted the availability of some players, and the black-and-ambers were a man short. Nothing daunted, they stopped off in Gloucester to see if anyone was short of a game.

At the time, teams played with two outside halves, and three three quarters and it was a half back which Newport really needed. We couldn't help there, but we did have a centre surplus to requirements. He was gratefully accepted, played in his usual position in a four-man back line, and Newport duly won the game. 'Ah!' they said to themselves, 'We're on to something here!', experimented further with the new line-up, and soon everyone was doing it. As you know, they still are.

I'm not sure how much tomorrow's International will have affected the Newport side, but you can be sure that they will have brought a fair old outfit with them. Some few years ago they went through a period in the doldrums, and are still one of the more enigmatic sides in the upper echelons of Welsh rugby. Nevertheless, they are now returning to their formidable old ways, and represent a challenge for anyone.

About the only guideline to the result I can think of

to the likely result is that Transvaal, smarting under the mauling they received here, went on down to Newport and recovered some of their composure by winning. The comparison is not straightforward, however. Transvaal had their Springboks back by the time they reached Rodney Road, and the Kingsholm experience had taught them what to expect from Five Nations rugby, so they were a harder side to beat than they had been a few days before.

Whatever the result, however, Newport are as welcome at Kingsholm as they always have been. The 'home-and-away' League system coming into force next season will make it more difficult to maintain our historic run of matches against top Welsh clubs, but it's to be hoped that Gloucester v. Newport can remain on the fixture list as it always has.

Let's not worry about that tonight, though. Let's just concentrate on wishing out welcome visitors well, and seeing that they have a highly enjoyable visit.

### THANKS TO PLUMB CENTER (ET AL.)

The last line of the notes with which Bill Beamish has supplied me regarding this evening's Sponsors reads "I owe you one!" I may well take him up on that before the night's over, but the fact is that we owe Bill, and Plumb Center a much bigger debt than that for their continued and generous support of Gloucester RFC.

You know Bill, of course. A former Gloucester player himself, his own brand of coaching at Longlevens has produced a great number of very fine players, not just for Longlevens, but for the Gloucester club itself. Tonight, however, he appears in his professional capacity as 'Mr. Plumb Center' for Gloucester.

We probably think of The Plumb Center as a simple plumbing and heating merchants' business based on Cole Avenue, which is true, of course, but about like saying that Mr. Campese knows a bit about wing three-quarter play. In fact, Plumb Center are an arm of Wolsley Centers Limited who are the

*(cont. on page 5)*



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AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS  
TO KINGSHOLM

## Peter Arnold (cont.)

largest UK organisation in the business. Even that sells them short: the Group also owns Ferguson Enterprises which in turn control a whole series of companies in the United States, and also the French firm, Brosette, whose interests spread over the border into Belgium, so what we have here this evening is a truly significant international organisation.

And Bill and his team aren't on their own tonight. They have persuaded four companies to join them in their support, which is an achievement in itself, and enables us to offer a hearty welcome to a whole set of new friends.

I wouldn't be crass enough to put them in any particular order, but the first piece of paper I pick up relates to Caradon Heating. You probably know it better as Stelrad/Ideal, which is part of M. B. Caradon, one of Europe's leading building products companies. Stelrad is the world's market leader in radiator manufacture, with the new UK-based 'Elite' holding the market's pole position in both private and public housing as well as in commercial buildings. Ideal has over 90 years experience in boiler manufacturing and has the most advanced boiler manufacturing plant in Europe. Who's never heard of an 'Ideal boiler', a phrase used much as you would 'Hoover' for vacuum cleaners or 'Biro' for ball point pens?

Selkirk are also here. The firm actually invented prefabricated insulated gas vents, chimneys and exhaust systems. Selkirk have two plants in Britain, making them the world's largest manufacturer of such items. They have all the appropriate 'kite-marked' BS products, and three-fifths of their manufactured output is exported to fourteen European countries. Selkirk are obviously well situated to take advantage of the Single European Market, and thoroughly deserve every penny they make out of it.

We're also glad to welcome Worcester Heat Systems, one of the largest manufacturers of combination gas boilers in the UK. They have new 240 RSF OF and BF models, plus a 280 RSF Combi, and a 350 RSF for larger houses, so the Worcester range can cover any family residence you like to name.

They also supply oil-fired combi boilers, as well as conventional oil and solid fuel appliances. That's in addition to Acona high-efficiency radiators.

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Indeed, they can — and do — claim to be a household name and a major force in heating controls.

They're certainly a major addition to the Kingsholm Faithful this evening. We offer them our warmest welcome and thanks, and hope that Bill Beamish and all his guests and colleagues have a highly enjoyable, and mutually profitable, visit with us.

### LIAM'S GOT THE PLUM(B) JOB!

There is a connection between tonight's Match Mascot and our generous Sponsors. Liam Hopson's dad, Keith, is Manager of a heating and plumbing firm, and a valued customer of Bill Beamish's organisation. So that's a happy happenstance for all concerned.

I also have a personal fellow feeling for young Liam myself. He's a pupil at Calton Road Infants School, as I was myself, so he can't be all bad, can he?

At six years old, Liam is already into cricket and football, but he has to wait a few months before he can play rugby. As soon as he turns seven, he intends to present himself at Old Richians, so this evening's run out will give him a taste of the atmosphere. He also has a younger brother called Samuel, so perhaps Richians may get two for the price of one, in the fullness of time.

On the distaff side, Liam has a Mum called Susan, who works for British Telecom, and an elder sister named Abigail. I don't know whether the whole clan is here tonight to cheer young Liam on, but I hope so. Personally, I shall be shouting for Calton Road School.

### CLEARING UP THE CONFUSION

As you will well know, Bath are our visitors next Saturday in the next round of Courage League matches. There's certain to be a large crowd. Their last visit to Kingsholm was for the Pilkington Cup Semi Final, and it's probably memories of that occasion which have sown a little confusion in the ranks.

Next week's game is a League game, pure and simple. That means that entrance charges will be as normal, and that all season tickets will be honoured just as they are for most other games. To summarise, the game is emphatically not an all-ticket affair, as has been rumoured in some quarters.

Nevertheless, it would be silly not to acknowledge the fact that there is likely to be a great deal of

(cont. on page 8)

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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.)

competition for Stand seats, so the following action has been decided upon.

Enough Centre Stand seats will be reserved so that all Stand members can be assured of a seat, but that will apply only until 15 minutes before the game. After that, it's first come, first served. So produce your Stand season ticket and get up into your place in plenty of time or you could miss out.

In addition, numbered tickets are available to cover the very limited number of Wing seats remaining. I don't know if any are left by now, but it's worth asking at the office. I assume that that means that any Stand member who arrives a few minutes past the 3.45 deadline won't just be able to slip into the Wings, because those seats will have been sold.

So now you know.

### PARKING AT THE SCHOOL

Of course, a 'big' game such as next week's does put a lot of pressure on parking space, both at the ground and in the surrounding streets. It's nice to be able to repeat that the authorities at Kingsholm School are making their playground available for car parking for all First XV home games for the rest of the season.

The playground will be open from 1.30 until 6.30 p.m. (so don't leave the clubhouse too late, or you'll

(cont. on page 9

## NOBBY'S NEWSDESK



Hello everyone

Welcome again to Kingsholm at the beginning of what is going to be a very busy month for all of the people connected with the Cherry and Whites. Back in September 1992 the Gold Bond Lottery launched a competition for our Agents. The rules were that the Agent who increased their membership by the largest number would win a weekend away at the choice of three venues. The winner was Steve Wells of Quedgeley who brought 100 new members and will now travel to Paris, with a guest, to watch the international between France and Wales. CONGRATULATIONS !!!

You can now see the benefits of becoming involved in the scheme both as an Agent and as a member so JOIN US NOW AND BUY THE BOND.

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.)*

be up in front of the Head Teacher on Monday morning). The cost is £1.00 per car, which seems very reasonable, and all proceeds are to be applied to school funds, which is highly enterprising.

This seems a good idea from several points of view. Not only does it provide more space and make money for the school, but it gives your car more protection, in these days of epidemic car crime, than it would have parked on the street. It also means that there will be fewer parked cars to annoy the neighbours, and we have had complaints about that in the past from both residents and the police.

Congratulations to Kingsholm School. It's a fine initiative, and we hope it works well for you.

### **STOP PRESS!**

*I've just heard that a limited number of GROUND tickets are being printed for the Bath game. They'll be on sale at the office during the usual hours. The idea is to ease the likely congestion at the turnstiles.*

### **COME ON UNITED!**

In the current welter of news, rumour, well- and ill-informed speculation and general brouhaha, the achievements of the United side haven't, perhaps, received the attention they deserve. Until last Monday evening, that is, when Terry Phillips drew attention to them in his excellent 'Citizen' report on the game against Harlequins Wanderers. He pointed out that United have now gone 16 games without a loss, and scored 615 points in that time, which gives an average of 38.4 per match. If my own arithmetic is

right, that gives a season's points total of 766 points at an average of 30.6. And they started the season by losing to Richmond, 7-70!

They still have 13 matches to go, so the 1,000 points for the season is well within their reach. Along the way, they may well retain their Second Fifteens Championship, and also become acknowledged as the leading reserve side in the country. Which is no more than they deserve.

The achievement is made even more remarkable by the fact that the First XV's unconscionably long injury list has made it even more difficult than usual for them to field a settled side.

But it isn't just the size of their victories which astonishes — it's the style in which they've been winning them. Normally, about now, I'd be urging you to come along and watch them if you want to see some very fine rugby, but unfortunately, all this month is taken up by home fixtures for the Firsts. The only occasion in February when you'll be able to see them is on February 20th, which is the day that Nottingham Seconds are due to arrive. It's also an International day, which is why the First team game against Pontypridd is on the previous evening. However, England aren't playing on that afternoon,

*(cont. on page 28)*

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## Ed Martin

Gone are the days when a meeting between Gloucester and one of the 'big four' of Wales meant special trains, thousands of travelling supporters and an almost 'international' atmosphere between Central Station and Kingsholm.

The passing of time — and the 'leagues' — has meant that the classic England vs Wales derbies at club level are no longer tradition but a fixture filler when there is no 'cockrel trying to reach the parts of the fixture list that lagers can' matches.

In short, Gloucester vs Newport (or matches against Cardiff, Swansea or Llanelli) are no longer 'games that matter'. One hundred seasons ago, things were different. In these parts, the encounters with the 'Hooray Henries' of London were insignificant — a good season was measured on how the Cherry and Whites did against clubs such as outfits like 'the mustard and blacking' brigade, as Newport was known as in the ale houses of Clapham back in the 1890s.

On Guy Fawkes afternoon of 1892, Gloucester visited Newport amid speculation as to whether the Welsh club, already billed by the Press as 'the best club in the world', would run up another big score — in their seven outings so far that season, unbeaten Newport had posted 18 goals and 24 tries, allowing their opponents to register a meagre two tries!

One thing in Gloucester's favour was that Arthur Gould, one of the best centres to have ever played the game thus far, was unavailable for Newport.

But Gloucester were themselves depleted — even having to 'requisition' former Cherry and White fullback A. F. Hughes from his new Burton-on-Trent club.

Gloucester took a thumping — the official score was Newport 29, Gloucester 0. And that translates, in today's currency, as Newport 41, Gloucester 0! Well, perhaps things would be different in the return engagement on the Saturday before Christmas.

The football edition of the *Citizen* for Saturday December 17, 1892, recapped that 'the first encounter at Newport will ever be remembered by Gloucesterians as one of, if not the most, disastrous defeats ever sustained by the club.

'Since that encounter, the Welshmen have continued their brilliant career unchecked and have

administered crushing reverses to Dublin Wanderers, Cardiff, Oxford University and Moseley, the only team giving them trouble being Swansea who were, however, beaten by one goal and one try to nil.'

Newport were at full strength, including Arthur Gould. Gloucester had a far from 'settled' side, there were nine changes, with Bagwell, Hughes and Jackson among those absent. Another routing was in the offing . . .

'Mention of a victory . . . was considered out of the question,' Bill Bailey of the *Citizen* suggested. 'The chief topic amongst local supporters has been as to what would be the extent of Newport's victory.

'An enormous crowd, swelled by a large influx of excursionists from Newport and other places, lined the ropes . . . and when the rival teams entered the arena at 3.10, having previously gone under the ordeal of being photographed, they were greeted with loud cheers, the champions coming in for a rare reception.'

Warfare was waged in no man's land for long periods of the first half, But with minutes to go before the interval, 'a grand round of passing' by the three quarters led to a try in the corner by Cooper to give Newport a 2-0 edge.

The second half turned out to be a classic — and the newly-installed telegraph at Kingsholm was 'dot-dashing' the incredible news throughout the land . . . Gloucester was holding mighty Newport.

By the end of the match, Gloucester was looking the most likely team to score. Newport were glad to hear Mr. Tratt of Stroud blow the final whistle!

'One of the most grandly contested games ever witnessed in Gloucester,' screamed the *Citizen* in reporting Newport's 2-0 win on the Monday. And a Welsh paper reminded its readers that Gloucester had been the first club to hold Newport to a single try since February 20 that year (24 matches during which 82 goals and 81 tries were scored, and just two goals and four tries were allowed).

Odds of 3 to 1 were laid before the match that Newport would win by 20 points or more. And when the Gloucester team was announced on the previous Wednesday, the points 'spread' doubled! Even so, spectators shelled out £86 16s 6d at the gate — a Kingsholm record.

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Peter Arnola

so I do recommend you make your way to Kingsholm on two successive days that week.

It's all great stuff, but that Richmond defeat still rankles.

#### QUO VADIS?

... which, as any GCSE Latin student knows, means 'Whither goest thou?'

The recent flood of news about players registering for other clubs, rumours about chaps being approached, not singly but in fours and sixes, press cuttings pinned on the club notice boards alleging that interesting players have enquired about joining Gloucester and not even receiving the courtesy of a reply certainly prompts the above question. If I didn't comment, that fact alone would probably start another rumour about Arnold getting nobbled by the Committee.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. The remarks I am about to make are my own personal opinions, made from a basis of no more information than you probably have yourself.

First of all, I'd put the registration stories into perspective, if I were you. Under the current RFU rulings, if players aren't registered to affiliated clubs by about now, then they won't be able to play competition matches from the start of next season. By registering for more than one club they keep their options open. Of course, if the RFU go ahead with their proposal to stretch the registration period from four months to twelve, it will open a whole new bag of worms.

Second — about the proposed Director of Rugby, advertised in the 'Daily Telegraph' and 'The Independent' last week.

Those of us who were brought up in the days when a pre-match warm-up was a jump up and down in front of the dressing room stove must inevitably view such proposals with suspicion. Then we look at what — say — Barry Corless has achieved for Northampton, dragging them from the depths to the status of one of the country's most formidable sides in a very few short years, and we begin to see that, like it or not, that's the way the game is going, and that if Gloucester doesn't go the same way then — well — the alternative is too awful to contemplate.

I gather that the policy behind the new appointment is twofold. We have to broaden our playing strength, but also defend the very considerable advantages we already have. After all, virtually all our great players, from Tommy Voyce and before to Mike Teague, have been products of the local rugby

scene. To do anything which would weaken the links we have in that direction would be the rankest sort of idiocy.

And anyway, no one wants to put unnecessary barriers in the way of young players who have ambitions to make it in the first class game. It's vital that youngsters can see a way forward via Kingsholm, and I'm sure the new Director, whoever he may be, will heartily agree.

Finally, I would hate anything to happen which degrades the cherry-and-white shirt. Many great players, notably Mike Burton, have gone on record as having felt extreme pride at being allowed to wear it; as believing it to be something special. I imagine there are many old players here this evening who would have given their left legs to have had the ability to run out on Kingsholm clad in the world-famous Gloucester strip.

The cherry-and white is something to be won, not something to be swapped like an usherette's uniform, just because the working conditions in the cinema down the road are a bit better.

Used properly, our new Director of Rugby will be able to take advantage of that feeling. Certainly among the local talent, and also in his negotiations with anyone he tries to recruit from elsewhere. You don't throw 130 years of tradition out with the bathwater. Anyone who plays for Gloucester, whatever his pedigree, should be proud to do so.

There. That's got that off my chest.

#### INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

We've had another pronouncement from the RFU:

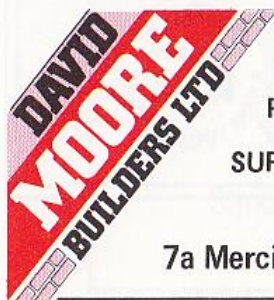
*'The reduced capacity of the ground during re-building work at Twickenham, the increased sales of debentures and the introduction of a new and fairer system for the distribution of tickets have collectively given rise to considerable concern and resentment in member clubs and schools, and this is regretted.*

*However, the availability of nearly 10,000 more places in the East Stand in time for the main matches next season should go a long way to resolving this difficulty.'*

Which, being interpreted, means that we haven't got very many tickets for the England v Scotland game, and we're not happy about it. Such as they are, they'll be distributed during next week.

#### TAILPIECE

I came across an old supporter reading John Reason's latest article the other day. 'Ah!' he said, 'He'll never be another Katie Coker!'



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