

GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v

BATH

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 13th, 1993

Kick Off 3.00 p.m.



FOUNDED 1873

President:
Canon H. M. Hughes BA

**Match Kindly Sponsored
By:**

amalgamated plastics



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Official Programme

£1.00

Peter Arnold

NOTHING IS FOREVER

England found that out last Saturday. But how relevant is the thought for this afternoon's proceedings?

As everyone from Auckland to Murrayfield knows, Bath have spent a decade as the outstandingly best side in English rugby. True, there has been the occasional hiccup, as in this season's Cup match against Waterloo, even Gloucester supporters are happy to admit that today's visitors have consistently provided entertainment, and results, unmatched by any first-class club in the country.

And the run of success has been of phenomenal duration. Other clubs, over the years, have had their periods of dominance, but you have to go back to the great Blackheath sides of the 1880's and '90's before you can find any team that can claim so many successive seasons at the very pinnacle.

Between Blackheath and Bath, you can point to the golden years of Northampton, Leicester, Gosforth, Moseley, Coventry and others. All of them, Blackheath and Bath included, have at least one thing in common. While at the height of their powers, they were all beaten by Gloucester.

It would be true to say that Gloucester has a record that no other English club, including Bath, can approach. While never attaining ultimate domination of the scene, Gloucester has been breathing down the neck of the English champions, whoever they may have been, for that whole, long hundred years and more. We have never had a significant period in the doldrums. And I'm tempted to add, we've done it all on home-grown players.

A look at this season's records will readily show you why no pundit is going to give us a light today. They didn't last season, either, and came within a whisker of having to eat their words when Bath won in the last five minutes of extra time in that pulsating Cup Semi-final. The people who rate Gloucester's chances most highly today are probably the fifteen players who are representing Bath. They didn't achieve their present status by becoming complacent, and they'll be well aware that we need the points even more than they do.

It's not easy to resist comparisons with last week's Cardiff International. Then, too, the Champions were expected to beat a side in transition, but had to

contend with home advantage and a highly partisan crowd, and went down to sheer commitment, determination and a slightly unexpected degree of skill.

We'll soon see if lightning can strike twice on successive weeks, but whatever the circumstances and the outcome, Bath were always very welcome visitors to Kingsholm, even before they produced a winning side. That hasn't changed, and we hope they have a thoroughly enjoyable visit.

THANKS TO AMALGAMATED PLASTICS

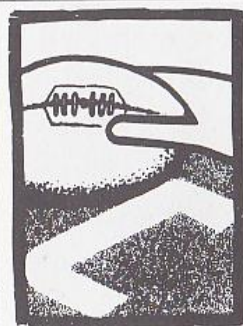
This is the second year in a row that Amalgamated Plastics have generously supported a game at Kingsholm. The way that spokesperson, Judith Millman, puts it is, 'The company enjoyed it so much last season that they immediately booked to return this year.' That's nice to know. While thanking them for their generosity, we certainly hope they have at least as good a time this time round, and that the whole thing becomes an annual event for them.

You may not recognise the name: that's because Amalgamated Plastics are based as far away as Potter's Bar in Hertfordshire, making them just about our farthest-flung Sponsor. But the three brothers who run the company do seem to enjoy the green fields of Gloucestershire — which probably has to do with all those friendly farmer customers they have in our pleasant part of the world.

Those farmers know all about Amalgamated Plastics, or more accurately, about SILAFLEX, a unique plastic material which is used to tightly wrap large bales of grass silage in the summer, used to winter feed cattle and sheep, and protect it through the long winter months. The material comes in black or white, but it also has a 'green' dimension to it. Any liquid effluent is retained inside the SILAFLEX wrap, and doesn't drain away to pollute waterways. That's obviously important environmentally but it has an economic value too. Farm pollution can be expensive these days: fines of £20,000 and more are by no means uncommon.

SILAFLEX represents one of agriculture's success stories. During the last seven years, covering one of the most difficult periods which both industry and

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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.)

agriculture has to face, the product has grown to the point where it wraps the large majority of all large bales in the UK. When you're driving through the countryside — perhaps on your way to Bristol for the Courage League game, just before Easter — those big, black bales in the fields along the road are almost certainly wrapped in SILAFLEX.

But Amalgamated Plastics believe that laurels are for winning, rather than resting on. The company is constantly striving for better results, to the extent that plastic film is now exported to over 25 countries, worldwide. A £4 million investment programme, further to develop its plant, factory and distribution facilities is now underway.

But what has all this to with rugby? The answer is that the three Englander brothers, who run the company, are closely involved with the game. Of the joint Managing Directors, Nick, plays for the famous Old Milhillians club, while — although taking a sabbatical this season 'to get himself back in shape' — Simon has achieved a considerable reputation playing on the flank for that fine Cup-fighting outfit, Tabard, of Radlett. We're not sure about Adam, but with that pedigree, he must be involved somehow, and I don't suppose any of them were too pleased that Gloucestershire stopped Hertfordshire's run in the County Championship this season.

To give an indication of how deep the rugby roots run in the Englander family, last season, Thomas Tate Englander, the eldest son of Nick, became our youngest Match Mascot to date when he ran out on the last Sponsorship occasion. But see below.

Anyway, it's good to see them all again. We certainly hope they have great time, and that the company goes from strength to strength.

FOLLOWING THE FAMILY TRADITION

We must have broken one tradition today. At least, I've never written a pen-picture of anyone wearing the cherry-and-white strip who unashamedly lists one of his hobbies as 'loving his mummy'.

Well, when you're five years old, you do, don't you? Even, or perhaps especially, when you're growing up in the family as rugby-orientated as the Englanders, the moving force behind today's generous sponsors.

As today's Match Mascot, William Henry Englander is following in the footsteps of his elder brother, Thomas Tate Englander, who honoured us with his services in the same capacity last season. Apart from maternal fidelity, he also lists bike riding as a hobby.

William attends Lochinvar House School, so he's one Young Lochinvar who's come out of the east, rather than the west, as the poem says. Be that as it may, he's very welcome today, and we hope he finds himself back here in a few years, trying to win himself another, adult, cherry-and-white strip.

GANGWAY!

Usual request. Please make sure that gangways and steps are kept clear today. It is important from several points of view, that this is adhered to on a big match today. We're not expecting any emergencies, but it's better to be safe than sorry.

NICE GESTURE

I was buttonholed by eminent referee, Matt Bayliss, last weekend. His request, to which I'm very happy to accede, was to allow him publicly to thank our old friends, Hartland Motors, for helping him out of something of a hole.

Like so many other people, Matt has recently suffered the misfortune of being made redundant (hint to anyone who needs a good bloke), and one of the by-products of that was that he lost his company car. For a top-flight referee who needs to travel long distances to matches, week by week, that was obviously a disaster.

Enter Hartland Motors who have lent him a vehicle, strictly for rugby purposes, for the rest of the season. End of problem.

This is a very fine gesture by one of our leading motor distributors. I certainly hope that their generosity will yield dividends in the way of extra publicity. They deserve all the credit they can get.

RICHMOND FOR SWANSEA

As most people will have picked up by now, Swansea are still in the Welsh SWALEC Cup. Unfortunately, the next round falls on February 27th, which is the day they were scheduled to come to Kingsholm, so we've lost a highly attractive fixture.

Never fear; all is not lost. Mike Nicholls has been able to arrange a home fixture against Richmond for that day. They're always worth coming to see, even if, with all the respect in the world, they don't have quite the eminence of the Welsh All Whites.

Of course, that is also the day when Tredworth travel to Moseley to take on Fleetwood in the Semi-Final of the Provincial Cup. I haven't had a chance to congratulate the lads from the Lannett on their achievement before, so I wholeheartedly do so now on my own account, and that of everyone at Kingsholm.

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ONE FIRST CLASS TEAM SUPPORTING ANOTHER



Lloyds
Bank

THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.

WHO'S DOING WHAT (and to whom)

Club Officials and Committee Members for 1992/3 are as follows:

President: Canon Mervyn Hughes.

Vice Presidents: Tom Day, Gordon Hudson, 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.)

Come on 'Tred'! You're only 80 minutes away from Twickenham. Now that would be a day out and a half, wouldn't it?

While on the subject of congratulations, I should also acknowledge the victories of Matson and Drybrook in the County Cup, beating Lydney and Cheltenham respectively. Well done chaps! Perhaps we'll see either or both of you in the Final at Kingsholm during March.

NEVER ON FRIDAYS

As you may well know, Kingsholm School are now opening their playground for car parking for all Saturday home First XV matches. The cost is £1.00 per car, and the money, quite rightly, goes to school funds. If you've taken advantage of the initiative today, then don't forget to get back there before 6.30 or you'll have to take a note to the head teacher on Monday morning before you can get your car back.

You'll also be aware that we have a few evening games coming along, including the one against Cardiff on Friday, March 19th. Unfortunately, the school finds that it can't commit itself to opening the playground for those matches largely because other scheduled activities get in the way, so don't turn up expecting to find parking spaces on those evenings.

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Peter Arnold (cont.)

Never mind. We're very grateful for what they are doing on Saturdays.

ARE YOU KITTED OUT?

With the run of League games about to start again, you'll be wanting to show your colours. If there's anything you need, then Alan Twonsend and John Beaman will be very happy to pander to your slightest whim in the Club Shop at the Worcester Street end.

Having already chatted with a Bath supporter wearing a Gloucester shirt once this season, I'm perfectly well aware that the invitation shouldn't be levelled at Gloucester fans alone. Feel free, whoever you are.

ARE YOU READING THIS IN THE BAR?

If so, and if you're a Stand Season Ticket holder, don't forget that a block of seats in the Centre Stand is being held until 15 minutes before kick-off. Not a moment later, so unless you want to stand up today, make sure you get up into the Stand in plenty of time.

You have been (respectfully) warned.

TWO GAMES NEXT WEEKEND

Don't forget that we're back to Friday evening next week, when the welcome opposition will be our old friends from Pontypridd. In fact, we have something of a double header that weekend, because United are at home to Nottingham on the following day.

That's an important game for our magnificent

second string, because it counts towards the Midlands Second XV League, which our lads seem set fair to win yet again.

As I've noted before, it is the style in which the United have been winning their games, as much as the results themselves which impresses. A second visit to Kingsholm in two days is therefore highly recommended.

In fact, why go home at all? Perhaps Doug Wadley's suggestion of sleeping bags in the Stand is a bit extreme at this time of the year, but I'm told that the guest houses in Kingsholm Road can do you a very acceptable bed and breakfast.

MILDLY AMUSING

Had a call from Tony Reeves of Sheepscombe who watched the Barbarians at Leicester just after Christmas. Always a nice occasion, but Tony's enjoyment of the day was somewhat modified by a piece in the Tigers' programme that day. It was in a regular feature entitled 'Wins Whys and Where Fores' (note the lack of apostrophe), and was part of an effort to attach traditional pub names to various clubhouses and individuals up and down the country.

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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

Peter Arnold (cont.)

Quite an intriguing exercise, and the suggestions ranged from the mildly amusing such as *The Skinners' Arms* for Blackheath to the fairly impenetrable *Spit and Sawdust* for Northampton. The nomination for 'The Gloucester Supporters Club' was — wait for it — the *The Bull and Mouth*.

I'm well aware that there is a historic London pub of that name, and I'm prepared to believe that the suggestion was intended as a compliment to the vocal qualities of the most loyal set of travelling supporters in the country. Tony Reeves, however, found it about as amusing as a set of studs in the groin.

I don't take it all that seriously myself, and the last thing I would wish to do is to create friction between two great clubs who have always enjoyed the friendliest of relationships. However, I can't be expected to let that go without at least one wave of

the cudgels, can I?

It occurs to me that it was Gloucester RFC who started doing 'funnies' in their programme, rather than straight information, years before Leicester did. Perhaps the eponymous Win's own pub should be called *The Copy Cat*.

TAILPIECE

The biggest cheer at the Newport game last week came, not in response to any of the seven tries, but after the loudspeaker announcement to Fred Edwards of Stroud Road that he had become a grandfather during the course of the game. I'm told mother and son are fine, and we send our congratulations to all concerned.

The announcement sparked the remark of the night. 'Quick!' someone shouted, 'Get a registration form round there!'

THANKS ED!

You may remember that a few weeks ago I received a letter from a supporter as far away as Bedford, asking if we could occasionally print a chart showing the state of play in the Courage League Division One. Ed Martin has duly obliged, and here is the first one. I think it's fairly self explanatory. Thanks Ed. Can we do it for each home League fixture?

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP						1992 - 1993				NATIONAL DIVISION 1				
HOME TEAM	BA	BR	GL	HA	LE	LI	LS	NO	OR	RU	SA	WA	WH	
Bath		10	10	22-6	10	42-19	3-Apr	10	39-3	61-7	10	13-Mar	10	
Bristol	8-31		3-Apr	10	13-Mar	10	10	10	23-11	10	12-7	10	19-17	
Gloucester	TODAY	10		24-Apr	10	10	10	10	27-Mar	21-12	19-5	10	6-21	
Harlequins	10	TODAY	10		10	47-24	22-22	7-12	10	3-Apr	10	13-15	10	
Leicester	3-13	10	22-21	27-Mar		10	10	10	TODAY	10	30-3	10	21-8	
London Irish	10	9-7	6-18	10	14-30		10	12-3	10	10	3-Apr	10	13-Mar	
London Scottish	10	8-11	8-3	10	11-18	27-Mar		24-Apr	10	10	10	10	10-15	
Northampton	11-8	16-3	13-Mar	10	12-13	10	10		10	10	21-17	10	3-Apr	
Orrell	10	10	10	8-16	10	8-12	13-10	9-10		13-Mar	10	3-Apr	10	
Rugby	10	27-Mar	10	10	24-Apr	0-14	20-45	TODAY	13-Mar		10	3-34	10	
Saracens	24-Apr	10	10	3-18	10	10	13-Mar	10	6-9	14-9		9-13	10	
Wasps	10	24-Apr	14-9	10	14-13	TODAY	10-6	27-Mar	10	10	10		10	
West Hartlepool	27-Mar	10	10	9-12	10	10	10	10	24-Apr	5-6	TODAY	6-19		

Source: MH + P

Table: A. Harley / R. Stevenson

Ed Martin

It would be rather appropriate if Gloucester could reach a definitive milestone in club history with a win against Bath.

Last week, the Cherry and Whites posted their 2,499th win since first taking to the 'field' at Castle Grim in 1873.

There are not many 'senior' clubs around that have clocked 2,500 wins. And to reach this landmark against Bath would add a little modern day spice.

As the number of wins ticked over earlier this season, the calculation was that the 2,500th could well happen with either the New Year's match against Moseley or the away date at London Irish.

The calculations took no account of disasters against clubs from 'geordie-land' or at Exeter — not to mention the weather over Christmas.

Gloucester's current playing record of 2,499 wins, 1,249 losses and 309 draws from their 4,057 matches is as accurate as anyone can get.

Even when the Kingsholm ground opened 101 seasons ago, a note in the *Citizen* said that the playing record of the first three seasons was 'lost'. Both the half centenary and centenary (1973) books listed the overall results of the first three seasons as 'not known'.

But thanks to some diligent research in the pages of the *Gloucester Journal* of the 1870s, John Hopcroft found the missing results. However, before anyone could come up with any figures that could be fairly accurate, all results had to be checked — and double checked.

Yes, some mistakes have been made over the years. And Gloucester RFC of last century has been 'found out'!

Before each season started, Gloucester had a regular fixture with a team usually billed as the 'Next XV' or 'Next XX'. If the 'Gloucester' team won the trial match, then the result was included in the record. On the other hand, if the 'Next' team won the match never statistically took place!

So, out of the record book came all the 'pre-season' trials. But remaining in the record are the

occasional matches against such all-star teams as Old Crocks the President's XV, Gloucester Combination and Forest of Dean Combination which were played during the season.

Also in the record are those out of season tour matches that form part of 'tours' — Washington and Vancouver in the Boston International Tournament last May, for example.

John Hopcroft's records have been checked against the records that I have. Naturally, there have been discrepancies — and when this has happened it has been back to the newspapers and the microfilm for the definitive result.

But we are as confident as anyone can ever be that the record is now correct. There is still a little 'fine tuning' with the points for and against, but not with the win/loss result.

In addition to all the help offered by John Hopcroft, mention must be made of another ardent Cherry and White supporter, Dave Fell. He has learned that is a 'criminal' offence to throw away old Kingsholm programmes.

Wanting to clear his 'den', Dave passed almost a decade of programmes to me for safe keeping, rather than donate them to Gloucestershire County Council Tip at Hempsted (or is it Hempstead)!

With luck, somewhere will be found where the public will have access to these programmes — and others that have come my way — along with other memorabilia that surfaces.

Finally, to Bath, who might themselves reach a landmark today. If Gloucester do not add to their win or draw tallies, then Bath will reach double figures in the win column from all their visits (81) to Kingsholm. Currently they have posted just nine wins from their 80 visits.

These wins have been in 1927, 1938, 1945, 1966, 1967, 1987, 1988, 1990 and 1991 seasons.

GLoucester's HOME RECORD AT KINGSHOLM:
PLAYED 2,168, WON 1,610
LOST 413, DRAWN 145.

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