

GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v **CLIFTON**

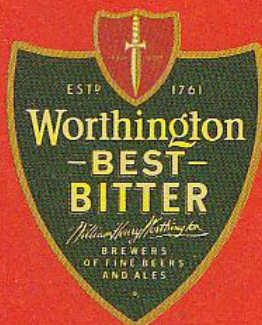
TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 23rd, 1993
Kick Off 7.00 p.m.



FOUNDED 1873

President:
Canon H. M. Hughes BA

**Match Kindly Sponsored
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Peter Arnold

ONE OF THE ATTRACTIONS

When I was knee-high to a scrummaging machine (not that there were such things as long ago as that), if you mentioned the word 'Clifton', one of three things immediately sprang to mind. One was the Zoo, the second was the Suspension Bridge, and the third was Clifton RFC. I'm glad to be able to report that all are still very much with us. Admittedly, zoos seem to be increasingly under attack, these days, and Brunel's famous bridge isn't getting any younger, but the Rugby Club goes from strength to strength, and can readily be considered as one of the success stories of the Courage League.

I don't have to expand on that. Tonight's welcome visitors are having a splendid season, in spite of a hiccup against Stroud in the County Cup, not to mention a few frightening moments against Gloucester Old Boys.

It's tempting to equate the revival of fortunes of a great old club — actually founded a year or two before Gloucester — with the much-publicised influx of players from neighbouring Bristol, but my own feeling is that there's much more to it than that. In 1990, for example, Clifton were advertising themselves as running no fewer than seven senior sides, plus ten youth and mini teams, and you can't organise an infrastructure like that without the benefits working through somewhere along the line.

Ed Martin is the historian around here, but I can't resist stealing his thunder to the extent of saying that Clifton became a power in the land long before Gloucester achieved that status. In 1897, no one scored a point against Gloucester until November 6th, and the first team to do so was Clifton. (Bet you didn't know that, Ed.)

Recent history teaches us that Gloucester mustn't take this evening's engagement lightly. In fact, it's one of those games where Gloucester will be expected to win, but where it could be all too easy to come unstuck. This is one case where we do know better than the pundits; no side with Clifton's record is going to be a pushover, and they'll be going all out to prove the conventional wisdom wrong.

Either way, Clifton are, as always extremely welcome to Kingsholm. I'm sure they'll enjoy their visit, just as much as we enjoy entertaining them once again.

THANKS TO H. A. FOX

It's always nice to welcome, and thank most sincerely, a new Sponsor to Kingsholm, and that pleasure is amplified when said benefactor bears such a prestigious name as H. A. Fox, who are the Jaguar Daimler dealer for the Three Counties — Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

H. A. Fox - Cheltenham, to give the company its full, official title, is a member of the group called Inchcape Motors Retail which has roots in the motor business going back around 100 years — just about as long as the ubiquitous motor car as been with us, in fact. The Group can claim to be the largest motor group in the UK, with over 100 retail locations established all over the country. They have a portfolio of no fewer than 19 different new car franchises which makes Inchcape the largest group of its kind in Europe. It's against this background that the trading name 'H. A. Fox' has become nationally recognised as synonymous with the luxury and specialist car sector.

This evening's Sponsor, H. A. Fox of The Jaguar Centre, is a solus Jaguar Dealer and has been established in Cheltenham since 1986, neatly synchronising its opening with the well-remembered launch of the Jaguar XJ40.

The Company's site at Rutherford Way, Manor Park, Cheltenham, is built especially for the job, and General Manager, Alan Hurley and his team pride themselves on being able to offer customers everything from a replacement light bulb to a brand-new Jaguar XJS Convertible. Alan writes: "Total customer satisfaction is the hallmark, and the Dealership prides itself on offering a total package, second to none."

But no company is any better than its people, and Alan Hurley's team can provide an enormous amount of experience in the motor trade in general, and in Jaguar cars in particular. Everyone has been trained in his own specific field by Jaguar Cars precisely in order to give the customer the high level of service which is expected of everything related to the Jaguar marque.

The Sales Department amply complements the technical side of things. Whether you are looking at a

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AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS
TO KINGSHOLM

Peter Arnold (cont.)

new car, or are interested in the excellent value offered by a pre-owned Jaguar, you won't be short of help and advice. Sales Specialists Paul Speakman and Andrew Teague (where have we heard that name before?), are always on hand to assist.

After Sales services are emphasised too, guided by the capable hands of Peter Dimmock, ably assisted by Workshop Supervisor, Shane Trigg and Parts Supervisor, Jeremy Finlay. They have comprehensive back-up in the competent shape of five factory-trained technicians.

You can't complain about accessibility either. There's plenty of off-road parking at Rutherford Way, and both Service Department and Parts Department are open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday, and from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm on Saturdays.

Or perhaps you don't need to call there at all. There is a free collection and delivery service, and loan cars can be provided by prior arrangement. All work is guaranteed and genuine Jaguar parts are used exclusively. The Parts Department has a comprehensive range of parts and accessories, and in the unlikely event that the item you want isn't on the shelf, it can be obtained overnight from Jaguar Cars. Again there's a delivery service.

So H. A. Fox - Cheltenham certainly keep themselves busy. It's nice to see that they can take a little time off to join us this evening, and we hope that everyone has a thoroughly entertaining and memorable visit. Why not lets do it again some time?

WORTH WAITING FOR

Seven weeks is an eternity when you're just four years old. I don't know whether Liam Dance has, by now, attained the ripe old age of five, but he has been waiting to run out as Match Mascot at Kingsholm ever since January 2nd, when he would have been our youngest-ever holder of that office. Indeed, he may still be able to claim that distinction.

The problem, as you'll remember, was that our scheduled New Year game against Moseley was frosted off. We were all disappointed by that, of course, no one more so than young Liam, who in spite of his tender years, is an avid rugby fan. Indeed, he doesn't miss many Gloucester home games and already has ambitions to play for England, so we'll be watching his progress. He attends Longlevens Infants School, so he's in the right neck of the woods when he acquires enough years to look for a club.

The addiction to the game runs in the family. His Mum, Karen, is a familiar sight making teas in the Clubhouse — the rest of the time she does

something administrative at Asda — and his uncle plays for my old club, Old Cryptians.

So Liam Dance has made it at last. Moseley's loss is Clifton's gain.

CAN ANYONE HELP?

Coach Keith Richardson was approached, the other day, by a nice lady named Sharon Trotman who had a request to make of us. Knowing what a kind-hearted set of supporters we have, he passed the ball on to me, and I hereby spin it on out to you. I'm sure someone out there will complete the move in fine Glawster style.

Sharon is very involved with an organisation called 'Lifestyles' which exists to help people with disabilities lead as active a life as possible within the community, and just at the moment she has a problem which someone living around the Wheatridge area may be able to solve.

Living in that neck of the woods is a young man who, a few years ago, was unfortunate enough to be involved in a serious motor accident. He has made a good recovery, but has been left with severe weaknesses in both legs which prevent him from getting around as easily as he would like. He's a very keen supporter of rugby in general, and Gloucester in particular. Indeed, I believe he was a player until his accident.

What he would like is a lift to and from Kingsholm, now and then, so that he can come along and watch the cherry-and-whites as he used to. Would anyone like to help out?

You will have noted that I haven't mentioned the fellow's name. There isn't anything sinister in this; it's simply Lifestyles policy to guarantee complete confidentiality to anyone who seeks their help. After all, it isn't everyone who wants to see their name blazoned all over the Gloucester RFC programme.

If you feel you would like to help, or would simply like to know more, please ring Sharon Trotman on 0453 758050. She'll give you full information and generally start the ball rolling. You'd be doing one lad an enormous service — and increasing the vocal level of our support by another, quite healthy, pair of lungs.

While talking to Sharon, we went on to discuss her organisation in general, and the whole thing took on another dimension. It could well be that there are other would-be supporters who would appreciate a similar service. If you're familiar with the telephone system, you'll have noted that the number is a Dursley one, and I gather that the lion's share of

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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.)

Lifestyles activities is concentrated, at the moment in that area, although not exclusively so. If you have sympathies with Ms Trotman's very worthwhile efforts, then you may like to get in touch with her. In fact, she could do with all the help she can get, rugby orientated or not.

It also occurs to me that it's just as easy to get to Clifton from Dursley as it is to travel to Gloucester. Is there any warm-hearted visiting supporter who'd like to give Sharon Trotman a ring?

I'll give you that number again, just to save you hunting through the copy. It's Sharon Trotman, 0453 758050.

LET'S GET THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE

We were all very disappointed by the Bath result, naturally, but some of the comments, discussions and post mortems I have heard since the event do seem to me to have gone over the top.

In fact, the result didn't make any differences to our League standing at all, except in the matter of points difference, where we are still far more favourably placed than any of our immediate rivals. To be honest, a win over Bath would have been a bonus. We certainly couldn't count on it.

The other thing which occurs to me is that Bath scored a very well-worked early try, and after that,

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NOBBY'S NEWSDESK



Hello everyone welcome to Kingsholm for tonight's match against Clifton. This game provides the lads with an ideal opportunity to boost their confidence after the disappointment of losing to Bath last weekend.

As you may know you can pay your subscriptions into the Gold Bond on a yearly basis, just £26.00 secures you 1,820 chances to win throughout the year. In the last two weeks we have had 4 winners who pay yearly, and payment couldn't be easier simply send your name and address along with your payment to us at

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Or alternatively drop it in at the club office any weekday between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm.

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.)

although they threw everything at us, couldn't cross the Gloucester line again, a fact which was remarked upon in several sections of the national press. By Bath's recent standards, a mere 20-point win is almost a failure.

There aren't many — if any — club defences which could have kept the Bath backs out for 75 minutes in such circumstances. So, disappointment or not, let's keep things in perspective.

RICHMOND ON SATURDAY

It's a shame that Swansea's continued interest in the Welsh Cup has prevented them from visiting us on Saturday, but I suppose it was always on the cards. However, the silver lining to that cloud is that Mike Nichols has been able to arrange a visit from our old friends from Richmond, so you will have a decent game to come along to.

One of the unfortunate effects of the League system is that we don't see grand old clubs such as Richmond as often as we used to, and it's nice that the long series of games between our two sides is to be continued for at least one more match.

It's also worth reminding you that it was Richmond Vikings who imposed that horrendous 70 points to 7 defeat on United at the start of the season, and we can't let that go without some appropriate response, especially in the light of our magnificent second-string record since. Rather a case of "I'll tell my big brother of you!"

While on the subject of next Saturday's festivities, I gather that Tredworth can confidently expect a

large number of supporters to make the trip to Moseley's Reddings ground for the Provincial Cup Semi Final on that day. Good thing too, but not particularly surprising when you consider that some 1500 people turned up to the Lannett, on a very wet and inhospitable day, for the last round tie against Stow.

Anyway, we wish them all the best in their efforts to beat Fleetwood. Wouldn't it be great to see good old 'Tred' at Twickenham?

WE GET LETTERS

My occasional, and always very interesting, correspondent from Cashes Green, Mrs. A. King has been in touch again. This time, she's been reading an article which revealed the membership tally for all the Courage League Division One sides. She tells me that the figures are as follows:

Leicester	7,515
Bath	3,200
West Hartlepool	2,600
Harlequins	2,350
Gloucester	2,250
Northampton	2,200
London Irish	1,960
Wasps	1,600
Bristol	1,400
London Scottish	1,400
Rugby	1,100
Orrell	1,000
Saracens	950

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The GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

*Applications are now being
considered for the placement of
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Interested Companies should contact*

Gloucester RFC

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or write to Mike Burton, Bastion House
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Ed Martin

AH, Clifton! Clifton has been on the fixture list since the 1875/1876 season, though there are significant gaps, notably from 1924 to 1948. And as Gloucester no longer has fixtures with Hereford, Ross, Newent, White Cross (Cheltenham), Swindon Rangers and Rockleaze (Bristol), the Clifton date is the oldest fixture still played.

And when it comes to scoring records at Kingsholm, it was against Clifton that the Cherry and Whites twice piled on the points to set a ground record.

The second occasion was the season opener at Kingsholm on September 21, 1901. The visitors were Clifton, who had been hammered 66-0 twelve months earlier to smash the record 50 points scored against Weston-super-Mare in 1897.

By the end of that 1901 match, Gloucester had scored 74 points (18 tries and 10 conversions) without reply to set a new ground record.

The record stood until April 10, 1909, when Castleford were disposed of by a 75-5 margin (16 tries, 12 conversions and 1 penalty to 1 try and 1 conversion).

Mathematicians will translate these two scorelines into 111-0 (Clifton) and 107-7 (Castleford) using today's "new improved" rugby currency.

Effectively, these two matches remain the top two for Gloucester scoring.

When it comes to the overall results since the arrival of points for scores in 1891, the Clifton fixture provides all the superlatives for the Gloucester record book.

Gloucester's overall winning percentage is 97.83 for the 69 meetings since 1891. Of those 69 matches, Clifton has posted just one win — and in early 1967 one match ended in a 6-6 tie.

Clifton's "big day" in the series came on Saturday, September 26, 1903 — the second game of the

season at Kingsholm. The Cherry and Whites were obviously over confident — well, the previous visits by Clifton had produced scorelines of 66-0, 74-0 and 45-0 (45 tries without reply in three matches)!

The 1903 match saw Clifton defending superbly, restricting Gloucester to a single unconverted try. But the form book was thrown out of the window when Clifton booted the conversion after levelling the score with a try of their own to post a famous 5-3 win — their only success at Kingsholm.

Since that Clifton win, Gloucester have gone 53 matches against the club without defeat — and the Cherry and Whites' home winning streak against Clifton is 29 matches.

COMPLETE RECORD AGAINST CLIFTON (1891-2 to date)

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	Win%
At Kingsholm	38	37	1	0	1216	132	97.37
At Clifton	31	30	0	1	700	144	98.39
Overall	69	67	1	1	1916	276	97.83

A few notes about the Bath match earlier this month that affect the record book . . .

Prior to the 20-0 defeat, Gloucester had produced at least the minimum three points in 419 consecutive matches at Kingsholm — the previous occasion that the Cherry and Whites were held scoreless by a visiting team was on January 22, 1977, when Moseley scored 28 unanswered points.

It was the 105th occasion in Kingsholm history that Gloucester were held scoreless, 30 of those occasions were scoreless tries. And to put that piece of trivia into perspective, there have been 2,169 matches played by Gloucester at Kingsholm.

The 20-point defeat ranks joint 18th in the list of the heaviest defeats of Gloucester at Kingsholm. October 12, 1983, saw Newbridge beating the Cherry and Whites by a 20-point margin (36-16).

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