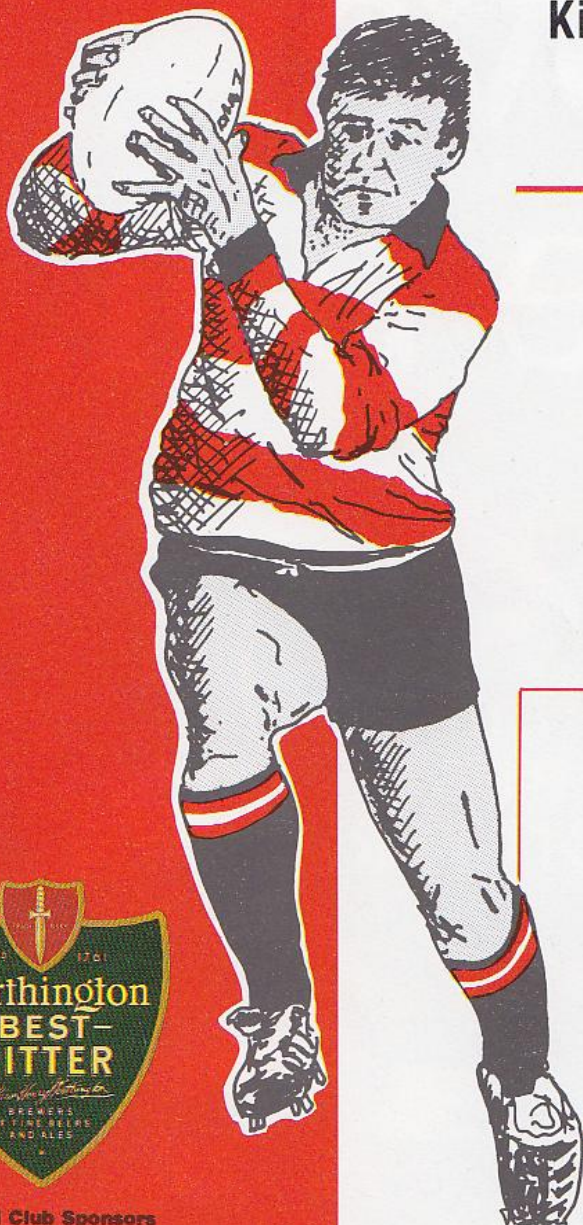


GLOUCESTER v ORRELL

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

SATURDAY
MARCH 27th, 1993

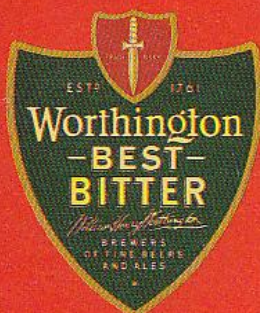
Kick off 3.00 p.m.



FOUNDED 1873

President:
Canon H. M. Hughes BA

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GILBERT MATCH BALLS

GLOUCESTER
(Cherry/White)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

ORRELL
(Amber/Black)

T	G	Pts
1	1p	8

8	H/T	0

- 15. T. Smith
- 14. P. Holford
- 13. D. Caskie
- 12. D. Cummins
- 11. S. Morris
- 10. P. Beech
- 9. L. Beck
- 8. R. Fowke
- 7. I. Smith (Capt.)
- 6. P. Ashmead
- 5. R. West
- 4. D. Sims
- 3. A. Deacon
- 2. D. Kearsy
- 1. P. Jones

Replacements

- G. Mann
- I. Morgan
- P. Salter
- T. Windo

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Cumulative Match Score

3	0		
8	0		
8	7		
8	10		
8	13		

- 15. S. Taberner (Capt)
- 14. P. Hamer
- 13. S. Langford
- 12. P. Horrocks
- 11. P. Halsall
- 10. G. Ainscough
- 9. D. Morris
- 8. S. Gallagher
- 7. C. Ashurst
- 6. P. Manley
- 5. C. Cusani
- 4. B. Kimmins
- 3. D. Southern
- 2. N. Hitchen
- 1. M. Hynes

Replacements

- S. Bibby
- I. Wynn
- M. Ridenhalgh
- J. Ellis

T	G	Pts

8	F/T	13

Referee: C. Harrison - RFU T/Judges C. R.D. Leeke - RFU and T. Beard - RFU

Peter Arnold

THE SIEGE

This year, the City of Gloucester celebrates the 350th Anniversary of the Siege of Gloucester, and we won that one. Today, Gloucester RFC has to withstand one of the most determined onslaughts in the 120-year history of the Club, and from Gloucester's point of view, it was never more vital for history to repeat itself. With both sides glancing anxiously over their shoulders at the relegation zone, there will be precious little quarter asked or given.

As you know, it's my usual practice to try to be as balanced as I can in this particular section of these notes. There are places to bang the drum on the Club's behalf, and this isn't one of them. However, I am finding it extremely difficult to remain unbiased today. If ever there were a game which we'd dearly love to win, it's this one.

Orrell must be feeling exactly the same way about things. They have now eroded Gloucester's points difference advantage to the extent that they sit just above us in the table, while having won the same number of games. A glance at the respective records will show you that it is only the points difference which separates the two sides:

Orrell won 4 drawn 0 lost 5 points for 137 points against 125

Gloucester won 4 drawn 0 lost 5 points for 118 points against 124

Things could hardly be closer. While a defeat today wouldn't necessarily condemn either side to Division Two next season, a win would virtually assure safety. I'll analyse the state of play a bit more fully a bit later on.

Gloucester's record against Orrell is an equivocal one. We've won some recent games handsomely, and lost some equally disappointingly. We've both beaten and lost to the lads from Wigan in the Cup. So neither side has a track record. There's no 'psychological domination', as they used to say in some sports years ago. Recently, Orrell have been clocking

up some astronomical scores, as both Rugby and Saracens have reason to remember. On the other hand, Gloucester beat Northampton away, and any side which can do that needn't have any inferiority complex about anyone.

Gloucester folk will be pleased that the game is at Kingsholm, for all the usual reasons, but also because Orrell's sloping Edgehall Road ground is proverbially difficult to win on, as Bath found out a season or two ago, and they're not alone in that. That two-dimensional camber, allied to a traditionally strong pack of forwards, has proved the downfall of many a fancied side, Gloucester included.

Sloping, Edgehall Road may be, but it's also very pleasant, and positively exudes hospitality. Although players always know they're in for a tough assignment when they visit Orrell, travelling supporters are unanimous in their appreciation of the knowlegeability and friendliness of the home contingent. The beer's good, too.

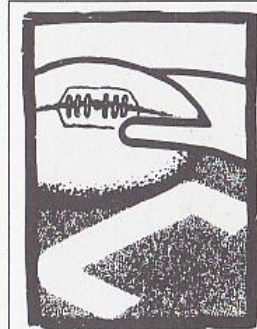
So, quite apart from any other consideration, we have reason to offer a genuine and warm welcome to today's visitors. Those of us with happy memories of the Edgehall Road ground will be delighted of the opportunity to return the compliment, and do what we can to assure that everyone who has made the long journey South has a thoroughly enjoyable day at Kingsholm.

As long as they don't actually win.

THANKS TO THE ROYAL MAIL

I suppose that today's generous Sponsors are among that group of unfortunate organisations which simply can't win. If a letter's late arriving, we moan like crazy, but the Royal Mail get precious little credit for the millions of pieces of correspondence which drop on doormats bang on time every day. Against that background, it must be nice for Area Manager, Ray Bedson, and his colleagues to spend an afternoon where absolutely everyone is delighted to see them, and offers sincere gratitude for their efforts.

(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.)

I don't recall Royal Mail ever sponsoring a game at Kingsholm in their own right, although I believe there were similar occasions before Telecom went their own way. So we have even more grounds for offering thanks.

In fact, I doubt if any larger organisation features on Gloucester's sponsorship list, Royal Mail South Wales and South West is one of nine national Royal Mail Divisions created in April 1992. That's less than a year ago, so today's benefactors haven't wasted any time at all in getting involved. This process of internal reorganisation was known as 'Business Development', and was undertaken to create far greater accountability from local managers and enhanced autonomy for the new divisions. The whole thing has been a great success, aligning Royal Mail's management process much closer to the needs of its customers.

As a result, Royal Mail South Wales and South West now employ over 19,000 staff, including postmen and women, of course, but also engineering, processing and administrative staff as well as local managers. The area covered encompasses Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Avon, Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, plus the Welsh counties of Mid, South and West Glamorgan, Powys, Gwent and Dyfed. And there isn't a doorstep in that whole area which today's sponsors don't stand on, no matter how remote. What's more, the old commitment, dating from Rowland Hill's Penny Post of 1832, to do so for a uniform price still holds true.

To put that into perspective, the Royal Mail's South Wales and South West Division covers a geographical area of 15,500 square miles with 7 million customers and 24,000 business accounts at 2,141,000 addresses. Yet 91.5% of first class letters arrive on the day after posting. And it's all organised from divisional headquarters in our own Eastern Avenue, which houses 300 staff, and also accommodates the Gloucester mechanised letter office which has a further 600 people operating just about the most ultra modern facility of its type in the country.

Most of those 900 people were born and bred in Gloucester, so, I am reliably informed, 'Royal Mail, will be rooting for Gloucester today'. That's nice to know, and in thanking them yet again, we hope that this will be just the first of many highly enjoyable occasions.

TWO TO TROT OUT

We have, not one, but two Match Mascots today, one in the colours of each side.

Doing the job for Gloucester is Thomas Davidson, who is 11 years old and will be attending Marling School next September. He is already playing for Tetbury Under 12's, and could hardly be going to a better nursery than his new school. Marling has a long string of eminent players to its credit, of course, including past England winger and RFU President, J. V. Smith. I have good reason to know that, because he once dumped me unceremoniously on the back of my neck during a school match.

Thomas enjoys all sports especially rugby, fishing and cricket, although his 5 year-old sister claims to be better at rugby than he is. Thomas's father, James works for Williams Kitchen at Nailsworth, and his Mum, Kelly, is a full-time housewife.

The Orrell Mascot is Andrew Ead who is 7 and attends Hannah Moore Infants School at Nailsea near Bristol. He is a great bike rider and computer buff, enjoys both rugby and football and swims a lot.

His Dad, John, is National Account Manager for Royal Mail, and his Mum, Lorena, is a nurse.

Now look here, you two lads. Thomas may come from Stroud, and Andrew may have associations with Bristol, and as from today, with Orrell, but we saw you first. Just remember who gave you your first run out when the time comes to play the senior game!

HOW DO WE STAND?

I don't have to tell you that the excellent win at Northampton has eased our relegation worries somewhat. However, we're not out of the wood yet, and it's worth chewing over the remaining games in the competition to see just how we, and the clubs whose fortunes most closely affect us, are placed. The exercise is intriguing, and demonstrates that affairs at the bottom of the table are sure to be at least as interesting as those at the top.

You'll know that, after today, we have to travel next week, to an in-form Bristol, and then face Harlequins, at home, in the last match of the season. Not an easy prospect, but it's no more difficult than our nearest rivals have. At least, all the teams we have to play are above us in the table. What would be worrying would be the

(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.)

opportunity to concede points to clubs who are behind us.

Orrell has one of those in the shape of West Hartlepool, who they visit on the day we entertain Harlequins. That might not be as easy as it sounds being a match between two North Country rivals, at least one of whom is staring relegation in the face. Orrell's other game is at home to Wasps, who are quite capable of beating anyone, anywhere, as they showed in that controversial game against Bath the other week.

Of the clubs behind us, we can probably discount Rugby, and West Hartlepool, who entertain Bath today and then travel to Northampton, as well as facing Orrell at the end of the season, but the fortunes of Saracens and London Scottish could well have a bearing on Gloucester's fate. Luckily for us, neither of them would appear to have an easy ride.

Just two points behind us are Saracens, but they only have two games left to play. One is at home to Bath, which isn't what they'd have chosen at this stage, and next week they're away to London Irish, which could go either way.

London Scottish are one point further back still, and must have high hopes of overtaking Saracens, at least. They also have to play

(cont. on page 9)

Peter Arnold (cont.)

London Irish, at home, today, but they have to travel to Bath next week, and then entertain Northampton right at the end. It looks as if today's encounter with their fellow exiles is vital to their cause.

To complete the picture, the two other teams we have to play both have still to meet Rugby, which shouldn't worry them unduly, but Bristol have to face Wasps, away, and Harlequins have to meet Leicester at Welford Road.

So Gloucester's chances look fairly bright against that background, barring disasters, but, to paraphrase 'Stingray', anything can happen in the next few weeks.

ALL DAY AT THE TENS!

I'm glad to be able to tell you that tickets for that fascinating Worthington Best Bitter National Tens Competition, to be played here on Bank Holiday Monday, May 3rd are on sale now. And they'll be available from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm from the office every weekday until they're all gone.

In case you hadn't caught up with things, the tournament features sides from all the Division One sides, except Leicester, who have declined for their own good reasons, and the top teams from Division Two. Wakefield step in to fill the 'Tiger's' spot, and I don't recall them visiting Kingsholm before.

Play starts at 11.00 am, and the Final is scheduled to kick off at 6.00 pm. Grandstand

tickets cost £8.00, Ground £5.00, with £3.00 for the usual concessions.

Sounds like a great day out to finish the season, especially as I'm told that Bass are erecting an extra beer tent for the day. Unfortunately, I'm on holiday that week, or I'd buy you a pint.

BRISTOL NEXT WEEK

You'll be happy to know that there will be coaches going to Bristol for next Saturday's game. Call into the office during the usual opening hours - shell out £3.00, arrange to turn up here at 11.00 am on the day, and you'll be off down the A38, tonsils tuned to the appropriate decibel level.

**GLOUCESTER UNITED v BRISTOL UNITED
ON MARCH 30TH
CANCELLED DUE TO INJURIES IN
BRISTOL SQUAD**

(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

Peter Arnold (cont.)

While on the subject of the United, we have a fixture change. On April 3rd, they were down to play Nuneaton at home. That now won't happen, I'm told, but Blackheath have stepped into the breach, and will now be paying United a visit on that day. So if you can't get down to Bristol to see the Firsts, then keep in touch by coming along here and shout for United while you're about it.

And I'll just remind you that there is an extra fixture scheduled for Easter Monday, which was to be a blank day. It's nice to record that our old friends from Fylde are coming down.

Incidentally, I should acknowledge that the date of that match is Monday April 12th, and not the 19th as I announced a week or two ago, and I'm grateful to Graham Spring who proclaimed my lapse from accuracy to the whole world via the loudspeaker system.

Sorry about that. I must have been hungover when I wrote it.

THANKS FROM THE LADS

I'm asked to relay the gratitude of the players for the quite incredible level of support which they received during the memorable win at Northampton. As we know from experience, it isn't easy to out-shout the 'Saints' supporters, but we managed it at Franklin Gardens on March 13th.

I'm told that a healthy roar of encouragement really does help when you're out there on the field, and the boys sincerely appreciate your efforts.

Now - let's do it again at Bristol next week.

NEW LOOK AT EASTER

This is a bit of a 'stop press' because I've only just heard about it.

Apparently, New Brighton have now decided that they can't come to Kingsholm on Easter Saturday. But before you start foaming at the mouth, arrangements for a replacement game are at an advanced stage. I can't say more than that, on the 'twixt cup and lip' principle, but if all goes well, then it will be a very attractive fixture indeed.

Watch the press. Indeed, the news may already have broken by the time you read this.

UNNECESSARY JOURNEY

Doug Wadley has received an understandably aggrieved, letter from some supporters from Worcester who turned up expecting to see Cardiff the other Friday evening. All I can say is that the cancellation was advertised as quickly and as widely as possible.

I could add that, if the people concerned had phoned our Clubcall line on 0891 121 138 they would have received the bad news before they could have read it in the press.

I'm told that some Cardiff supporters turned up too, Oh dear!

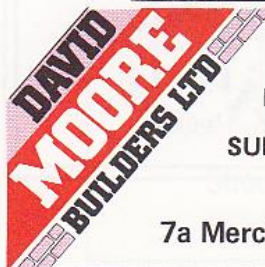
TAILPIECE

Seen in a North London Newspaper:
FOR SALE: Three sets of Rugby League studs. Used once.

HOW DO WE STAND?

Here's the updated chart on what's happened in the Courage League so far. Thanks to Ed Martin.

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



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Ed Martin

(One of the lesser disappointments at the cancellation of the Cardiff fixture was Ed. Martin's look back at one of the memorable fixtures with the Welsh club. The words have been hanging round for about a year and, if predictions by the press come true, the article might never see the light of day. In case the unthinkable happens and the Cardiff fixture is dropped, here is what should have appeared in this space on Friday of last week.)

Let's not beat about the bush . . . As far as the Gloucester club is concerned, the Cardiff fixture is 'the mother of 'em all!'

Since Kingsholm opened and points values were introduced by the RFU in 1892, there have been 140 meetings between the two clubs. Cardiff have notched up 1,581 points and in reply Gloucester have scored just 745 - all in the wins-losses it's 97-32 to Cardiff, with 11 draws.

Yes, the mother of them all . . . a 26.79 per cent winning record against 'The Taffies' from the Arms Park.

There are however some occasions that are worth remembering, including last season's visit to Cardiff for a rare Arms Park win - the first since BEFORE World War II.

One of the most memorable moments of the rivalry - and one that is well remembered by Kingsholm old timers - happened on Saturday February 23, 1952.

Glorious Gloucester not only whipped Cardiff 14-0 - the Welsh club's heaviest defeat since the Second World War, but one of the Arms Park most favourite sons of all time was completely shut down.

It is the one match that Cliff Morgan really wishes he never played in.

The outstanding Welsh fly half was harassed all day by Gloucester's back row - and Dennis Ibbotson in particular.

According to to the *Pink 'Un*, 'twelve thousand spectators - the biggest crowd of the season - saw a thrill-packed game at Kingsholm today when Gloucester, six points in front at the interval, made an all-out bid to end Cardiff's run of post war successes.'

Early in the game, Hudson led a forwards rush that took the ball inside the Cardiff 25 (pre-metric days, remember). But the visitors responded in similar fashion and the ball was soon dangerously close to

the Gloucester line.

The ball went into touch only yards from the Gloucester line. Here Cardiff won the line-out, but a dropped pass by Morgan enabled Gloucester to retrieve the situation, 'Gilshenan wrote.

'With Gloucester maintaining their pressure,' the report went on, 'the crowd went wild with excitement when one of Cartmell's elusive runs had Cardiff guessing a few yards out from their line. The outside half gave a poor pass however, and the chance was lost.

'A great cheer went up when Cardiff were penalised for not playing the ball with the foot after a tackle and (Bill) Hook landed a 30 yards penalty goal after 20 minutes of play.

'When Cardiff gained possession inside the Gloucester 25, Dennis Ibbotson disorganised the visitors' high-speed scoring machine by bringing down Morgan with a flying tackle.

'Gloucester went further ahead when Taylor scored amid scenes of tremendous excitement. He broke away inside his own half with the ball at his feet, continued to kick forward and still going at full speed gathered inside the Cardiff 25 and dashed over for a grand try wide out.'

Although Cardiff had more of the play as half time approached, the Gloucester defence stood rock firm - and the home side boasted a 6-0 lead at the break.

By now, the pen of Brian Gilshenan was in full flow. 'Amid still greater excitement Gloucester soon increased their lead. Following up a punt ahead, Cartmell gained possession near the Cardiff 25 and with one of his 'specials' dodged first the full back and then another Cardiff defender before touching down for a fine try close in. Hook added the goal points.'

By now, things were looking very ominous for Cardiff. The Cardiff backs appeared, according to the *Pink 'Un*, 'to be getting rattled in the face of Gloucester's deadly marking and tackling. On more than one occasion, movements broke down through faulty handling.'

A dropped goal by Mike Baker sealed the fate of Cardiff. This was one of 26 wins at Kingsholm for Gloucester in the 71 visits by Cardiff, who have won on 35 occasions - the worst record Gloucester has against ANY club.

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