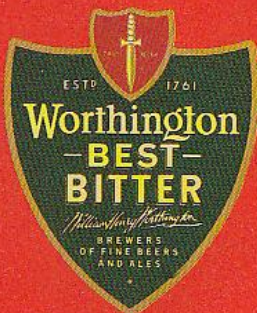


GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

BENETTON TREVISO

SATURDAY APRIL 10th 1993
Kick off 3.00 p.m.

GLOUCESTER UNITED XV
v
BENETTON TREVISO RESERVES
Kick off 1.30 p.m.



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Official Programme
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Peter Arnold

A WHIFF OF CHIANTI

Have you ever noticed how the style of a country's rugby reflects its perceived national characteristics? The English game, for example, has always reminded me of Kipling's immortal line, "But oh! beware my country when my country grows polite!" We have a way of accepting defeat graciously, while seeming slightly embarrassed when we win.

The Scots are full of quiet Highland courtesy, but terrible when the pibroch sounds and the claymores are out. The Welsh reflect their literature and their music; drama, poetry and melancholy in equal parts.

The Irish are the living embodiment of the old saying, "In England the situation is always serious but never hopeless, while in Ireland the situation is always hopeless but never serious", but occasionally, in song, or at Lansdown Road against England, the authentic Celtic passion surfaces and bites you. And the French? Well, they're just French.

But what of Italy? After decades of obscurity, we're now getting to know their rugby rather well, thanks to World Cups, tours and internationals at "A" level, and they, too, support my original thesis. After all, the country itself is boot-shaped.

One or two televised Italian tries have had the authentic bouquet of Chianti about them; all fire and sunshine. There may also be an Asti Spumante sparkling about, but whichever Italian wine you use to draw an allusion, it can leave you in hangover country if you don't treat it with respect.

Add to that a measure of New Zealand down-to-earthiness and a dash of authentic Australian damn-your-eyes independence, and you have a pretty potent cocktail to warm the cockles of an Easter Saturday. And to have it served in doubles as we have today is a quite unlooked-for embellishment to a funny old season. Especially as we didn't know it was to be served up to us until a couple of weeks ago.

Of course, that also means that it's an unexpected visit to our respected and very welcome guests from Benetton Treviso. We hope they're thoroughly enjoying their northern pilgrimage, I'm sure they'll make many friends while they're here, and in Gloucester in particular. And that they take home enough happy memories to spread the Kingsholm legend to a few more far-flung rugby strongholds.

THANKS TO TEWKESBURY PRINTING

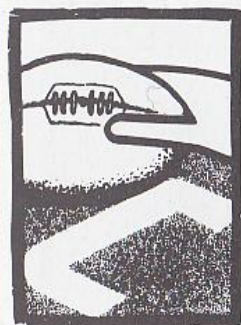
"It's a sad reflection on the printing industry, but buyers of print have come to accept that, sooner or later, their printer will let them down".

Peter Siddall, Managing Director of Tewkesbury Printing, wrote that some time ago, and I suppose it's one of those challenging statements that gets the arguments going, but it's a fact that his company was founded, eight years ago, precisely to redress that reputation, and to provide a comprehensive print service dedicated entirely to the needs of the customer. The formula has worked, too. In one of the most difficult periods that the print industry has ever seen, Tewkesbury Printing hasn't just survived; it's grown from an organisation with just two employees to a major operation, with almost 30 staff, handily based in a high-efficiency building, just off the M5 at Tewkesbury.

At Kingsholm we're very pleased about that, because the firm has shared its success with us to the extent of sponsoring three games in successive seasons. We're very grateful, and hope to welcome them here for many years yet.

They say that virtue brings its own reward, but it's poetic justice that our generous benefactors have come out rather well this season. They thought they were supporting Gloucester v New Brighton, and now find themselves as the official sponsors at one of the most prestigious occasions of the year. What's more, they're

(cont. on page 5)



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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.)

getting two games for the price of one, and not even Tewkesbury Printing themselves could provide better value for money than that.

Not that they don't try. Efficiency and reduced costs have been keys to expansion and increased turnover during a recession which has driven many printers into liquidation. It isn't coincidence that Tewkesbury Printing now has a customer of over 400.

Those "fortunate 400" cover an enormous range of print users. Sales and promotional literature account for a fair percentage of the workload, but then, so do house journals, stationery, business cards, direct mail pieces, and just about any other form of words and pictures on paper you could shake a stick at. All produced on time, with meticulous precision and attention to detail.

Take technical manuals, for example. They're notoriously difficult for a printer to produce economically, because they may run to a hundred pages, but only be required in quantities of about 50. Tewkesbury Printing have a department dedicated to this difficult field, and it has achieved a national reputation for the high-quality, cost-effective work it produces. Many of its clients are household-name multinationals, and they don't throw print business around without considerable thought, as I have very good reason to know.

Anyway we're delighted to see Tewkesbury Printing here once again, we thank them for their continuing support, and hope the operation goes from strength to strength. It certainly deserves to.

Oh! And if you want to buy print yourself, there's an open invitation to call in, have a chat, and meet the people. Ring Peter Siddall on 0684 850666.

DON'T FORGET THE TENS!

I'm told that tickets for the Worthington Best Bitter National Tens Tournament, to be held here on Bank Holiday Monday, May 3rd, are going well. They're available from the office, 9.30 to 1.30, every weekday, and cost £8.00 for the Stand, £5.00. Ground, and £3.00 for the usual concessions.

I'm also told that Bass are erecting their own beer tent, over by the clock, but that pass-out

tickets will be available should you feel the need to venture forth sometime during the day.

Shouldn't someone run a book? Mike Heasman, where are you, now that we need you?

PHEW!

Well, we made it. No Division Two relegation for Gloucester next season And isn't it just the way that history works itself out that it should be a victory against the Old Enemy, Bristol, which secured our place for next season. So now, all three premier West Country sides will be doing battle in Division One in 1993/4.

I'm tempted to say that that's as it should be, but if we've learned one thing this season it's that no one has a God-given right to be in the First Division, and that, as one of the US Presidents said, "the price of security is eternal vigilance."

It wouldn't be right to single out any individual for particular mention, but I think we really must thank Paul Beech for deciding to make himself available for the game, thereby missing the first half of his first England Under 21 training weekend, which is quite a sacrifice for a young player.

And isn't it odd, as Ian Smith pointed out, that we seem to be playing our best rugby away from home recently? Quite a reversal on Glawster tradition.

NICE ONE SKIPPER!

Congratulations to Ian Smith on being selected for the Scottish tour of the Pacific area. It's nice to know that he's still in the frame.

I note that he's quoted as saying that it's going to be a difficult tour. Fancy being forced to visit Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa! My heart bleeds.

TAILPIECE

My thanks to Alan Townsend for a lovely story which emerged during his visit to the Ireland "A" v England "A" game at Donnybrook, the famous Bective Rangers ground.

Having purchased a programme, he was intrigued to find an article about "Unexpected Caps". And he was positively gobsmacked to read the following narrative, which concerns 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.)

late, and much respected Doctor Arnold Alcock who, for the benefit of visitors, was President of Gloucester RFC for something approaching forty years.

It appears that in 1906. Dr. Alcock was a medical student at Guy's Hospital, and playing at hooker (so Alan believes) for both them and the mighty Blackheath club. He wasn't a regular. One match he'd been turning out for the Firsts, and find himself relegated to the Seconds next time out. Everyone seems to agree that he was a good, reliable performer, but never likely to be spoken of in the same breath as, say, Eric Evans or John Pullin.

So everyone, not least Dr. Alcock himself, when he received a letter from the RFU inviting him to represent England against the touring South Africans at Crystal Palace on December 8th, 1906.

Of course, there was no nonsense about squad training, or turning up on the Thursday in those days. You simply rolled along with your kit an hour or so before the match, which was precisely what the young Alcock did.

(cont. on page 9)

NOBBY'S NEWSDESK



Hello everyone welcome to Kingsholm for today's match against the top Italian side Benetton Treviso. It is always a pleasure to see teams from other nations plying their trade at the home of the Cherry and Whites, especially when the visitors line up includes two of the most talented players in the southern hemisphere, both incidentally World Cup winners with their respective countries. I am sure you will give them a great reception and they will in return will provide us with a day to remember.

Today's fixture is an ideal way for our boys to unwind following their tremendous away win at Bristol last weekend. That victory secured our Division one place for next season and I feel that the lads deserve a great deal of praise for their commitment and effort in the last couple of weeks.

See you again on Easter Monday.

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 Benzle on Gloucester 419666



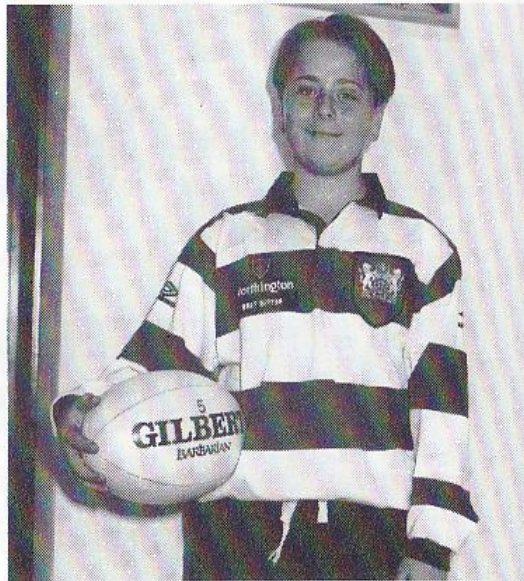
Peter Arnold (cont.)

He was greeted with complete non-comprehension. Percy Coles, the then RFU Secretary, had never heard of him. Neither had anyone else. Prudently, Dr. Alcock had brought his invitation along with him, and with the game only minutes away, there was nothing for it. The records confirm that A. Alcock had just one cap for England against South Africa in 1906.

Obviously there was an investigation, and the mystery was solved. Mr. Coles' secretary had mistakenly sent an invitation to play to Arnold Alcock instead of to the Liverpool hooker, Andrew Slocock, who went on to win eight caps. Of course, such things couldn't happen today. Could they?

Alan Townsend finds another tenuous Gloucester connection too. In the previous England game, a wing spot was filled by the great Gloucester winger, Arthur Hudson, father of our past Chairman, Gordon. He didn't play in the South African game, but was reinstated for the following match against France. So Arthur bracketed his friend Arnold's match, but they never actually played together.

Alan also wonders where Arnold Alcock's cap and shirt went to. If anyone who reads this can throw any light on the matter, we'd love the chance to display them, with all due honour, in the Clubhouse.



Tom Russell

(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

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Peter Arnold (cont.)

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

If you turn back to page 3, you'll find a picture of a ginormous crane, described recently by David Lane of Hewden Stuart Crane Hire as "the best example of page 3 uplift outside certain tabloid newspapers." What isn't obvious is that it's being driven by Vic Russell, erstwhile regular prop forward for Tredworth.

I mention the fact because today's Match Mascot is Vic's son, Tom, who was disappointed by losing out when the Cardiff game was called off.

Tom is 12 years old and shows considerable promise hooking for Gordon League Under-13s. He also plays in the Second Year side at Beaufort School at both rugby and soccer, swims, plays basketball, and enjoys a round of golf too.

Tom's Mum, Diane, helps with the teas on training nights. I haven't heard that his sisters, Dawn and Kerry have any particular sporting aspirations, but with their background, I can't imagine they're couch potatoes.

GLOUCESTER UNITED XV

(Cherry/White)

15. J. Merchant

14. A. Curtis
13. M. Bedney
12. G. Reayer
11. J. Perrins

10. G. Antonijevic
9. P. Salter

1. A. Martin
2. M. Wadley
3. A. Deacon
4. P. Miles
5. S. Bryan
6. A. Knox
7. A. Stanley (Capt.)
8. S. Devereux

Replacements

- L. Beck
- S. Richardson

BENETTON TREVISO 2nd XV

(Emerald Green/White Hoops)

15. F. Donati*

14. G. Piloti
13. S. Zurzi*
12. M. Visentin*
11. A. Pinarello

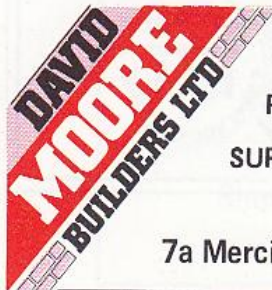
10. G. Cescon
9. A. Troncon*

1. N. De Meneghi
2. A. Sirena
3. S. Kelemenic
4. A. Duodo
5. A. Barattin
6. T. Wickham
7. A. Russo*
8. V. Pesce*

Replacements

Referee: PETER FACEY - Warwickshire Society

* Denotes Internationals



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Ed Martin

This afternoon marks the third occasion that a team from Italy has visited Kingsholm to take on Gloucester. But perhaps the matter at hand today will not be quite as easy as on the two previous occasions.

First to experience the wonders of Kingsholm was the Milano club back in 1958 at the start of a three-game swing through England arranged by Tom Voyce.

Players and officials left Northern Italy on the afternoon of Tuesday April 16 and, travelling by train, arrived in Gloucester late on Wednesday evening.

Maybe it was "train lag", but on Thursday evening the Italians were beaten 23-3 by the Cherry and Whites in Gloucester's second outing of the new season (Lydney had been dispatched 40-8 in the opener at Kingsholm on the previous Saturday).

That Milano side was captained - and coached - by Nando Barbini, the Italian international.

Whether there was a little embellishment - or even journalistic licence - or not, the *Citizen* in its post-match reporting quoted the Milano secretary, Dr. Roberto Vassellatti as saying: "From what we have seen of Gloucester, it is a jolly good side".

Sixteen seasons later, the Italian knockout cup champions - and runners-up in the club competition (league) - L'Aquila came to Gloucester full of hope after a 12-4 win against Combined Services.

Not only were Gloucester determined to keep a clean sheet against Italian clubs, but tried for a "point a minute" match as they had done the previous Christmas when OMTs were thrashed 82-12 for a then ground record.

By the end of the match on September 9, 1974, L'Aquila had become joint number two in the Gloucester list of visitors conceding the most points.

The pride of Italian rugby was torn to shreds in the 75-0 final score. (Castleford conceded the same number of points on Easter Saturday April 10, 1909, but managed to score five for a ground record that stood for 66 years.)

"From start to finish," wrote Alan Watkins in the *Citizen*, "it was a simple question of whether the home team, the former English Club Champions, could keep up with the clock by scoring a point a minute.

"They only just failed, and had they scored one of the three tries which somehow went astray, or been a little more successful with their place kicks, L'Aquila would have helped them past the 82 points record score set in the centenary season against Old Merchant Taylors."

The L'Aquila match was a personal triumph for the Gloucester vice-captain Bob Clewes. He scored five tries (three short of Whacker Smith's record set in the 74-0 thumping of Clifton on September 21, 1901).

After 50 minutes of play, Gloucester had 51 points on the board. "At this point, Gloucester's crowd began to exhort L'Aquila with (chants of) *Avanti, Avanti*," Watkins reported.

Centre Bob White scored a hat-trick and among the other try-scorers were Richard Jardine, John Watkins, Phil Blakeway, Alan Brinn, Peter Kingston and John Dix.

Ah, that try by John Dix! It was perhaps one of the most unselfish scores seen at Kingsholm. It was Brinn who carried the ball over the line and after crossing, he passed to Dix who just had to fall to the ground to score.

Today's match will not be so easy for Gloucester, despite an enviable 82.38 per cent winning record at Kingsholm this season.

Benetton Treviso comes with impeccable credentials in the Italian domestic game. But, before you say that L'Aquila came to Gloucester with just as good a record (which they did), that club back in 1974 did not have the OZ and NZ factor.

Back in 1974, we never really got to know if the L'Aquila backs division was any good - because they rarely got the ball. And all attempts at kicking penalties failed.

Kickable penalties conceded by Gloucester are sure to be punished today. And if the visitors get the ball out to the wing, Gloucester had better watch out!

Michael Patrick Lynagh has been known to kick the ball between the posts a few times - well more than 200 times in international play for the Aussies worth some 600 points for world international records.

And when it comes to try-scoring John Joseph Kirwan has accounted for more than 30 on behalf of the All Blacks.

Both "southern stars" are, as far as I am aware, making their Kingsholm debut. Last season, the All Blacks rested Kirwan in their World Cup clash against USA at this ground.

While at the time of writing names of players in the team are not known, there could be three other veterans of the 1992 World Cup here. Benetton Treviso provided lock Roberto Favaro, prop Giovanni Grespan and flanker Gianni Zanon to the Italian squad.

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