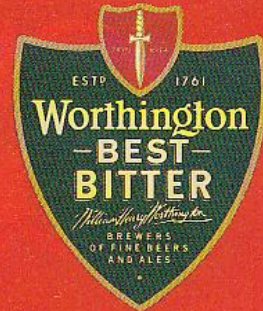




FOUNDED 1873

President:
Canon H. M. Hughes BA

Welcome
to
Kingsholm



Official Club Sponsors

GLOUCESTER

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v



WASPS



WASPS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 1993

KICK OFF 3.00 p.m.



Official Programme
£1.00

All kit used by
Gloucester Rugby Club is supplied by



Gloucester Rugby Club use
GILBERT MATCH BALLS

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB**

SPONSORED BY



Cumulative Match Score

T	G	Pts

H/T

GLOUCESTER
(Cherry/White)

- 15. Tim Smith

- 14. Paul Holford
- 13. Simon Morris
- 12. Don Caskie
- 11. Mark Nicholson

- 10. Damian Cummins
- 9. Marcus Hannaford

- 1. Peter Jones*
- 2. John Hawker
- 3. Andy Deacon
- 4. Richard West
- 5. Dave Sims
- 6. Paul Ashmead
- 7. Ian Smith (Capt.)*
- 8. Bob Fowke

Replacements

- Dave Kearsey
- Simon Devereux
- Paul Beech

Referee: F. A. Howard — RFU
Touch Judges:
P. G. Facey — RFU & L. Newcombe — RFU

* Internationals

WASPS
(Black/Gold Hoops)

- 15. Alan Buzza

- 14. Phil Hopley
- 13. Fran Clough*
- 12. Grahame Childs
- 11. John Abadom

- 10. Rob Andrew*
- 9. Steve Bates*

- 1. Darren Molloy
- 2. Kevin Dunn
- 3. Jeff Probyn*
- 4. Richard Kinsey
- 5. Steve Shortland
- 6. Matt Greenwood
- 7. Michael White
- 8. Dean Ryan (Capt.)*

Replacements

- Ian Dunston
- Michael Skinner
- Chris Wilkins

T	G	Pts

F/T

Peter Arnold

STING IS A LITTLE EARLY THIS YEAR

Did you see the piece on TV last week? Apparently a new breed of European wasp has crossed the Channel and is causing mayhem right across Southern England. They are very large, highly aggressive, and have already been spotted around Bath.

Something a bit allegorical there. Today's welcome and highly respected visiting Wasps tend to be large, especially around the pack, even though the new Canadian variety has yet to be observed in this country, and no one has ever had any doubts about their aggression.

As for Bath: Perhaps I won't reopen old wounds, but Fran Clough will know what I'm talking about. Suffice it to say that there are those, mainly but not exclusively, from around Sudbury, who maintain that Wasps might, and should, have finished one place higher in the League last season.

And just to complete the entomological analogy, you will recall that Rob Andrew had a little flutter around France last season, with the result that, on his return, he missed one or two League games. Rules is rules, but it did seem a little heavy handed.

All that trauma is behind us now, and there doesn't seem any reason why Wasps shouldn't pose a very serious threat to Bath's dominance this time round. Even without the mighty Canadian, Norm Hadley, the front eight look formidable, and no doubt Dean Ryan is looking forward to reverting to No. 8.

Nevertheless, they won't be coming to Kingsholm under any illusions. If one can remember instances of misfortune in their campaign last season, I'm sure that the Middlesex lads would be the first to admit that they had some precious near squeaks at other times. One of them was against Gloucester at Sudbury at just about this stage of the season.

You will, no doubt, recall with feeling that it was only a literally last-gasp effort by Chris Oti that snaffled a victory from the Elver Eaters that day. And early indications are that we have a better organised outfit this time round. But don't forget that Wasps gave Gloucester by far their roughest ride in last May's National Tens Tournament.

But those indications are early. Obviously, just how either side might perform this term is still a matter for speculation, and we'll all know a great deal more by around 4.30 this afternoon.

You could say that, already, Gloucester have a make-or-break occasion. A good performance today, against one of the most formidable sides in Division One, would set us up for the season. If we lost badly . . . well, Barrie Corless would probably not sleep too well tonight.

It's a bit hard on the lads to be faced with such a situation early on, but there aren't going to be any easy games in the League this season, and we might as well get used to it.

And if we have to start the League season with a tough one, then I can't think of a side I'd rather see at Kingsholm than Wasps. We've always liked their style of rugby: you can bank on some entertainment, and the series between our two Clubs goes back so far that we don't really need the stimulus of League points to ensure an enthralling encounter.

Welcome Wasps! Whatever happens today, and in the reverse fixture a little later on, we hope you have a storming season, and that you thoroughly enjoy your umpteenth visit to Kingsholm.

WINDING UP WILSON

Sorry I couldn't make the Blackheath game. Anyone who listened to BBC Radio Gloucestershire last Saturday morning, watched Central South Television News anytime

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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.

during the day, or was around the City centre about midday will know why.

The reason I mention it is because Nobby, who is taking a well-earned Sabbatical, wasn't here either. (For the uninitiated, 'Nobby' is a facsimile Gloucester lock forward, fabricated from a variety of materials, who has been perambulating around the ground this past couple of seasons.)

But that doesn't mean that Nobby wasn't doing his bit for Gloucester RFC. He was, in fact, taking part in the annual Mayor of Barton's procession, along with about 100 Roundheads from the English Civil War Society, the Ruardean Marching Jazz Band — who have been known to provide pre-match entertainment at Kingsholm — the children from St. James' School and various oddly-dressed eccentrics, some of whom should have been continuing the celebrations when they had, in fact, sloped off to the Blackheath game.

Nobby was being worn by Peter Wilson, who listeners to Radio Gloucestershire will have heard doing commentary, now and then, from far-flung outposts such as Lydney. On Saturday mornings he is the central figure in the station's 'Winding Up Wilson' feature, and the Mayor of Barton would him up by making him don the costume and parade the streets of Gloucester in it.

To put this into context, the outfit consists, in essence, of a plastic body shell, topped off by a pair of metal American Football shoulders, and ginormous shorts and strip. There is also a pair of boots big enough for the nursery-rhyme Old Woman to live in. Not to mention a hot and stuffy rubber mask which encloses the whole head. Just imagine wearing that lot all the way from the Olympus Theatre in Barton Street to the Cathedral and back. Especially when you have to get the 'head' on over a pair of bulky earphones. On a warm, early September day.

But Peter Wilson did just that, and did it nobly, being encased, without a break, for two solid hours. Good on yer Pete!

Personally, I'm sorry Nobby isn't doing his thing at Kingsholm for a while. But I'll bet you'll see him at Twickenham if we reach the Pilkington Cup Final.

GOLDEN GAMBLE

Today sees the launch of a new Kingsholm attraction. It's called 'Golden Gamble', and could provide you with a highly significant augmentation to your beer money.

The whole thing is simplicity itself. Briefly, you buy a common or garden raffle ticket for a pound. The total takings of the 'Gamble' are added up, and half goes to the holder of the winning ticket, and half to Club funds. So it we sell 2,000 tickets today, some lucky punter is going to go home a whole thousand quid to the good.

You shouldn't have any difficulty in buying a ticket or three: if you haven't had a book shoved under your nose somewhere along the line, then I'll be surprised.

Anyway, it's worth a go, isn't it? From everyone's point of view.

LIFE AFTER WASPS

Importantly though it may be, we shouldn't allow the League to dominate our thinking to the exclusion of everything else. Next Tuesday, for example, we are expecting a visit from the next door neighbours.

Life must be very interesting for Malcom Preedy and his boys from Cheltenham RFC at the moment. Not only do they have a fair sprinkling of Kingsholm alumni, but some promising new talent waiting in the wings as well. Add that to the probability that Gloucester will probably be resting quite a few players in preparation for the testing old trip to Newcastle Gosforth next Saturday, and one would seem to have a recipe for a thoroughly satisfying encounter.

Which won't feature Richard Mogg, unfortunately. According to a chat I had with him recently, (well, half of him, actually. He was down a hole in the pavement at the time), he intends to spend his time doing a bit of coaching for his first love in the rugby scene, down Tredworth way. But I'll be surprised if he isn't running out at the Lanett before the season's out.

Next Saturday you'll have an early chance to see the United in action, fiercely determined to win the Midlands West Second Fifteens League for an awe-inspiring fourth successive year. With the influx of new players this season, it should be an instructive experience, especially as the competition is to be provided by those trenchant competitors from Moseley. So it's far from a dull week ahead, even if the Firsts are flying the polar route to Newcastle.

HOW TO GET THERE

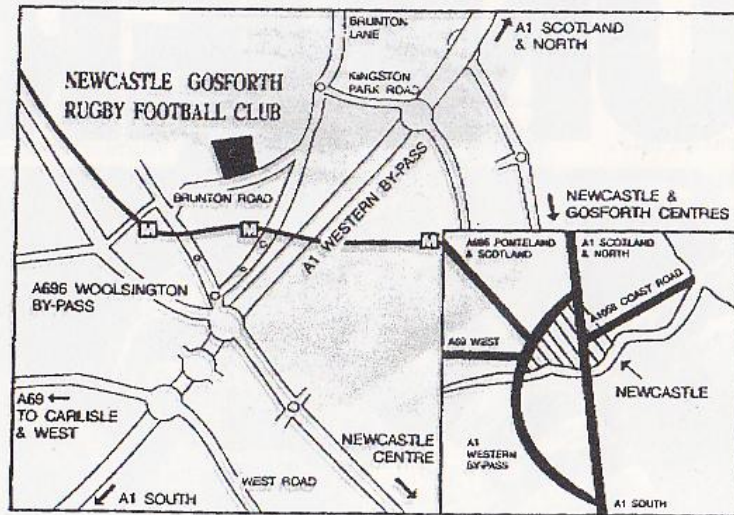
Since last Saturday, I've had two phone calls from supporters who are a little miffed about

the fact that the Club isn't running any coaches to Newcastle Gosforth, largely because of the distances involved. Well, chaps, I don't make the decisions: I just write about them. Sorry I can't give more comfort than that. Talk to Mervyn Ellway if you want to express disapproval.

I suppose that the lack of arranged transport means that a fair few people will be making their own way there. It's also not irrelevant that I've had three distinct and separate request to print instructions on how to reach opponents' grounds ready for away fixtures this season.

We aim to please, but as no directions to the new Newcastle Gosforth ground appear to appear (if you see what I mean) in the Courage League Directory, I was reduced to inflating my own phone bill by ringing the Club. With immediate success. The map which follows was faxed to me withing moments by a nice Newcastle lady called Judith, who I thank.

Must be something about Rugby Club offices which attracts nice ladies: look at our own Geraldine — it's not hard to do, but careful, her husband's a copper.



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WHO'S DOING THE JOB THIS SEASON?

It isn't easy running Gloucester RFC. And it gets harder all the time. Here are the people in the hot seats for 1993/4.

President: Canon H. M. Hughes B.A.

Chairman: Peter Ford.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Doug Wadley.

Hon. Fixtures Secretary: Mike Nicholls.

Director of Rugby: Barrie Corless.

Hon. Colts Secretary: Reg Collins.

Committee: John Beaman, Mickey Booth, Alan Brinn, Bob Clewes, Terry Close, Mervyn Elway, John Fidler, David Foyle, Jim Holder, Jim Jarrett, Andy Mitchell, Cecil Pope, Trevor Pritchard, Fred Reed, Eric Stephens, Alan Townsend.

Players' Representative: Jeremy Bennett.

Captains: First XV: Ian Smith.

United: Andrew Stanley.

Coach: Keith Richardson.

Commercial Managers: Mike Burton Mangement Ltd.

Programme & Lottery Manager: Andrew Benzie (0452 419666).

Programme Editor: Peter Arnold, who is happy to receive contribution, comment, anecdote or insult on 0452 380481, or at 74 Victoria Street, Gloucester GL1 4EW.

Telephones: Complex: 520901.

Social Club: 528385

Office: 381087

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

NOBBY'S NEWSDESK



Hello Everyone,

Welcome to Kingsholm for the first of what promises to be a highly entertaining sequence of Courage league matches. Today we entertain Wasps who, having finished runners up in last years championship, are sure to provide one of the toughest encounters we will face all year. Having spent the summer recharging their batteries and adjusting to a new set up at Kingsholm I know the lads are raring to go and keen to get the league campaign off to a good start.

This match will also provide us with our first GOLDEN GAMBLE winner of the new season. Tickets for the draw will be on sale throughout the ground and the lucky winner will be announced over the public address system at half time. The prize will be half of the amount raised by ticket sales so for just £1 somebody will walk away from the match up to £2000 richer.

See you all again on Tuesday for the game against Cheltenham.

Cheers, NOBBY



Peter Arnold cont.

WHY NOT FLY

Of course, you could go up by air with the players. I'm told there are still a few seats left on the aircraft which departs from Staverton on Friday evening. The trip costs £150.00, which isn't a bad deal when you consider it includes hotel costs too. Contact the Office if you're interested.

SCOTT'S DEBUT

Scott Bosley is creating a 'double first' today. Not only will it be the first time he's ever run out on the pitch at Kingsholm, it will also be the first time he's visited the sacred precincts in any capacity. But don't think he's a late developer: he's just five years old.

By which you'll gather that he's acting as today's Match Mascot, and young even for that brief appearance in the cherry-and-white strip.

I suppose it was inevitable, really. His Dad and Grandad are both avid supporters who never miss a match, so the sins of the fathers are already being visited even unto the third generation.

And it doesn't stop there. Scott's auntie is Natasha Wheatley, herself all of seventeen years old, is if anything, even more fanatical than Dad and Grandad, attending absolutely everything that moves at Kingsholm. In fact, it was Natasha who drew Scott to our attention. Incidentally, the Bosley family live in Frampton Road. Didn't that grand old between-the-Wars forward, 'Biddy' Halford hale from around there somewhere? For the younger generation's edification, 'Biddy' had so many sons, it was said he was raising his own rugby team.

It's stories like that which must make Barrie Corless wonder what he's got himself into. But I'm sure our highly respected Director of Coaching will, henceforth, keep an eye on young Scott Bosley. Nothing beats a good pedigree.

WANT A PROGRAMME MISTER?

Or Mrs. or Miss, or Ms. I don't know whether you've noticed, but our new Programme Manager, Battling Benzie, has instituted a root-and-branch reorganisation of the way our programmes are distributed around the ground and beyond. In fact, I'm told you don't even have to leave the pub to get one before the match, these days.

But there's always room for improvement. If you've seen a dead spot, or find that your own route to your usual vantage point doesn't involve being ambushed by an eager programme seller, please let us know and we'll try to rectify the omission. The lads concerned would be glad of the information: they get paid by results these days.

You can reach Andrew Benzie on 419666, or myself on 380481.

WHEN WAS A SHED NOT A SHED?

Have you noticed that the Saturday 'Pink 'Un'

edition of the 'Citizen' now has a column called 'The View from the Shed'? It's apparently written by a character called 'Charlie Haddock', who I simply don't believe. 'Kipper' perhaps, 'Bloater' possibly. Even 'Squid' I could stomach, but 'Charlie Haddock' is too overtly pseudonymous to contemplate seriously.

Anyway, it's a jolly good column, aiming to reflect the views of the average supporter, which is a highly laudable aim. The reason I mention it is that, a couple of weeks ago, after saying something nice about my Ground Centenary book, he pointed out that, therein, I had 'legitimised' the name 'The Shed' for the terraces on the side opposite the main stand, and that the appellation was of fairly recent origin.

Mr. Haddock (or Skate, or Turbot), is absolutely right, of course. I don't recall the name being used until a few years ago. He also asks for information about what The Shed was called before it acquired that title. And I find myself unable to help.

I remember people talking about 'down from the Clock', as different from "Under the Clock". I also recall 'the Popular Side' and even 'the Cheap Side'. More officially, reference was made to 'the St. Mark's Street Side', but I don't remember any universally acknowledged name for the area. And before anyone writes and tells me about 'The Tins', my impression is that that name was specifically for the corner between the old Tump and the Shed, but I'm open to correction.

Anyhow, it would be nice to know what the regulars called it in those days. It would also be nice to learn what unsung genius coined the name 'The Shed' more recently. We'll probably never know that. It was probably some disgruntled linesman who had fallen foul of that most eloquent part of the ground.

SEASON TICKETS

Perhaps a commercial wouldn't come amiss at this point. You'll probably have read that sales of season tickets are up this year, which is gratifying, but there's always room for more.

In fact, if you're not already a holder of the Magic passport, then you'll have had a salutary lesson today. It's now standard that entry to First Division grounds costs £1.00 more than admission on 'ordinary' days. But our season ticket prices didn't go up this season, so they're an even more attractive economic proposition than ever. Geraldine will be glad to do business with you in the office.

TAILPIECE

Comment from one of the Roundheads from the English Civil War Society who were with us last weekend. 'I've just seen some of your forwards in the Bar. Blimey! No wonder you won the Siege of Gloucester with blokes like that around!

I suppose it's a compliment. Sort of.

Ed Martin —
IN PERSPECTIVE



An appropriate fifteen international players past and present, who all gained their "caps" while playing for Gloucester, were on hand to help landlord Rob Gough mark the opening of the refurbished Kingsholm Inn (alias "The Jockey" to old-timers) on Wednesday. For many years, the pub acted as the changing room for Gloucester and their opponents who had to walk across the road to get to and from the ground. Assisting Rob (fourth from left) behind the bar are former players John Watkins, Peter

Kingston and Steve Mills (all capped for England) together with current Gloucester internationals Ian Smith and Pete Jones (both capped for Scotland). Among other internationals attending the opening were George Hastings, Bill Hook and Peter Ford.

To date, the Wasps have only ever posted one win at Kingsholm — that was the 13-24 "double whammy" Cup and league clash on February 13, 1988.