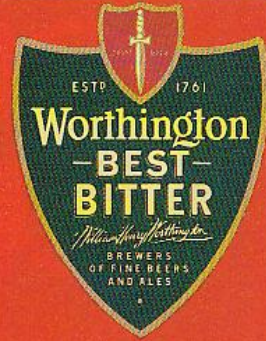




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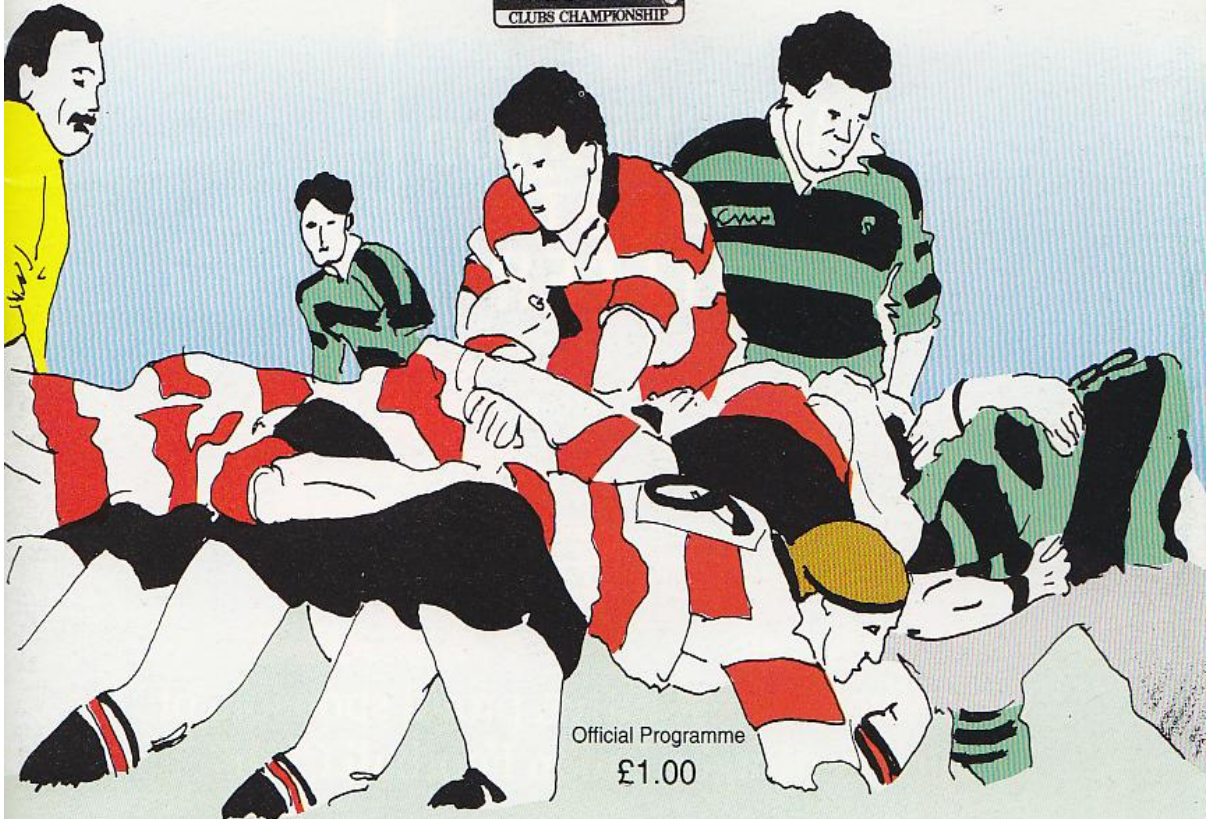
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v

LEICESTER

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 1993

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T G Pts

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3 H/T 15

GLOUCESTER 14 (15; 3P)
(Cherry/White)

15. Tim Smith
14. Paul Holford
13. Damien Cummins
12. Don Caskie
11. Mark Nicholson

10. Paul Beech
9. Marcus Hannaford

1. Bob Phillips
2. John Hawker
3. Pete Jones*
4. Dave Sims
5. Richard West
6. Paul Ashmead
7. Ian Smith †
8. Sam Masters

Replacements
Bobby Fowke
Andy Deacon
Jason Merchant

Referee: E. F. Morrison — RFU
Touch Judges:
D. L. Thomas — RFU M. Cook — RFU

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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Cumulative Match Score

LEICESTER (19; 2T; 10G; 1P) 23
(Red with Green & White Band)

T G Pts			
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0. John Liley
- N. Steve Hackney
- M. Ian Bates
- L. Stuart Potter
- K. Tony Underwood*

- J. Jez Harris
- I. Aadel Karooni

- A. Graham Rowntree
- B. Richard Cockerill
- C. Darren Garforth
- D. Martin Johnson*
- E. Matt Poole
- F. John Wells
- H. Neil Back
- G. Dean Richards †

Replacements
P. Darren Grewcock
Q. Chris Johnson
R. John Murphy

14 F/T 23

* Internationals
† Captain



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WINTER DRAWS ON



If it isn't quite winter yet, we've certainly had our fair share of draws. Stalemates against both Wasps at home and Newcastle Gosforth away has left us with just two points in the League table to show for an awful lot of hard work. Mind you, you could also say that Gloucester are one of only three sides unbeaten in Division One this season, which has to be worth something, even if I have a little trouble in thinking just what it is.

It could well be a case of keeping our nerve; expecting that some time soon everything is going to click into place and someone is going to suffer for it. I keep telling myself.

It remains to be seen if today is the day when the deadlock will be broken. If so, it will be entirely typical of the very long and event-filled series between the Elver Eaters and the Tigers. I suppose that if someone were to take a poll of regular Gloucester supporters, then Leicester would emerge as our favourite opposition among England's top half-dozen clubs. There is no side we respect and appreciate more, no one we enjoy welcoming to Kingsholm more sincerely. There may be a touch of the needle in our encounters with one or two other clubs, but I've never detected any when Gloucester and Leicester face each other, whatever is at stake. And you'll recall that the record includes one Cup Final.

In recent seasons the two fixtures have been a little distorted by the demands of the Divisional Championship. The two sides have been at full strength for the Courage match but both considerably weakened for the 'friendly'. Without looking up the results — no doubt Ed Martin will have done that — my impression is that the League games have been reasonably evenly shared, but that Gloucester have won most of the friendlies. Probably because, in the main, we have only had to supply players to the South and

South West, while Leicester have been ravaged by the requirements of both North and Midlands.

That's behind us now. Whether you agree with the new League structure or not, you must concede that it should result in home and away games between two full-strength sides. Which is as it should be. Such old and well matched opponents ought to be able to try conclusions without undue influence from elsewhere.

Today's game? You tell me. Obviously, Gloucester badly need a win, but Leicester will have their own ideas about that. Having lost, somewhat unexpectedly, to Northampton, they will be keen to make up the leeway. As Peter Ford once opined, 'It isn't the games you win, it's the games you lose that decide a League'.

All those considerations apart, history shows us that we don't have boring games against the Tigers. There's every reason to suppose that the turned will continue, and it's to be hoped that then pressures which League rugby bring to bear won't inhibit either side too much.

But whatever happens, it's always great to see Leicester at Kingsholm. We hope that they have a thoroughly enjoyable day with us, and we look forward to the return engagement.

BATH NEXT WEEK

As you undoubtedly know, the First XV are away to Bath next Saturday. You probably won't need reminding, either, that the last time we visited the Recreation Ground we won reasonably handsomely. All right, so the Champions weren't at full strength that day, but neither were Gloucester and Paul Beech had to retire with a broken collar bone, a circumstance which delayed his England U21 Cap.

You'll also recall that in the League game, Bath achieved the almost unheard of feat of not

Cont on page 12



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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.

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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.

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NOBBY'S NEWSDESK



Hello Everyone,

Welcome once again to Kingsholm for today's Courage League match against Leicester. This will be our third successive Saturday league fixture following our two draws at home to Wasps and last weekend away to Newcastle Gosforth. Although it is generally felt that we should have won one, if not both, of those previous matches it is worth remembering that we are one of only three teams to date unbeaten in division one. Today's visitors will be trying very hard to change that but I feel that with the crowd behind them the Lads should tame the Tigers and set us up nicely for next weekends clash with local rivals Bath.

We also run our second GOLDEN GAMBLE of the season. The first proved to be very successful and provided Mr. R. Hall of Gloucester with the very tidy sum of £256.00. The draw is only a pound a go and supporters, both home and away, need not worry about claiming their prize as the winner will be announced at half time over the Public Address System. All that he or she needs to do then is come along, with their winning ticket, to the main grandstand to collect their winnings. It couldn't be simpler so please **GIVE IT A BASH TO WIN THE CASH.**

Cheers, NOBBY



Peter Arnold cont.

allowing Gloucester to score a single point at Kingsholm. That eventuality rather masked the fact that they only scored one try themselves that day, and that doesn't happen all that often either.

I don't suppose Bath will be taking Gloucester at all lightly next week. Their supporters will be out in force, so the best service you can provide is to go along and shout for the lads. Just as just about everyone did last season.

Coaches have been arranged, although by the time you read this they may be filling up rapidly. The Fair Geraldine in the Office will, no doubt, be happy to do business with you.

However, a whole lot of people prefer to get to Bath under their own steam. Judging by the decibel level at the Recreation Ground last season, there can't be many people who don't know how to get there, however, just in case there are one or two who haven't made the trip before, the instructions are to head towards the City centre and look for Pulteney Street. Turn off into William Street and you'll find the entrance to the ground down towards the end. The cark park is fairly capacious, but you'll often find that — just as Kingsholm School and the YMCA do for us — various other organisations, notably the cricket club, make their parking facilities available, so it's worth keeping your eye open.

If you can't make it to Bath, you could always come here and watch the two Second XV's doing battle. Usually a highly entertaining game, that.

Other momentous events here at Kingsholm, include a visit from Stroud on October 5th, and before that, Gloucester Colts take on Northampton next Tuesday evening. Barrie Corless is always telling us how much emphasis he places on improving youth rugby, so we'll have a chance to see how much fruit his policy has borne in his earlier incarnation.

WE GET LETTERS

Nice letter, the other week, from a supporter who declines to give his name. I don't usually go much on anonymous letters, but the excuse our 'Shedite' correspondent gives touched my calloused old heart, so I've decided to let him get away with it;

Dear Peter,

Perusing the 'Blackheath' programme and who is doing what at Kingsholm this season, can I on behalf of many supporters in The Shed, stress that you have missed the most important

member of the staff at the club. Well that's our view anyway!

Any business or organisation is usually judged on first impressions and the club can reflect well on the administration at the club. Anyone having contact by telephone or through a personal visit always receives a special welcome from Geraldine Peake in the administration office. Her friendly nature is a sure sign of what Gloucester RFC exudes to everyone. Even when she tells you that you are not to get an international ticket, that you so desperately wanted, she does it in such a manner you feel it is your fault. My season ticket this year was processed in such a quick manner that I hardly blinked before my money had left me. Oh and by the way is her young assistant her daughter as I have been led to believe? If so then she has been moulded in the good art of public relations and we should not overlook her for the future.

By the way I'll remain anonymous if you don't mind in case I do get that illusive international ticket this season. I mean I wouldn't want those fellow supporters who feel Geraldine does much credit to the club, to accuse me of grovelling now, would I!

One of the Shedites!

What's wrong with an abject grovel in a good cause anyway? Works wonders, sometimes.

But the substantive part of 'Shedite's' letter deserves a reply. The reason that Geraldine's name doesn't appear in the piece mentioned is that I took the information directly from the official season ticket, which doesn't mention her either. The other reason is that she doesn't really have a title, other than 'Administration Assistant', which hardly does her justice. And it's difficult to think of one which really describes what she does, and the value we have all come to place on her services.

'Amanuensis'? Nah! 'Mother Hen'? Accurate, but not very complimentary. A pint in the bar for anyone who comes up with just the right suggestion.

And, yes: the young lady assistant is, in fact Geraldine's daughter, name of Rebecca, but prefers 'Becky'. When she's not helping her Mum out at Kingsholm, she sometimes acts as a relief at the Brunswick Road County Library, where she finds herself working for my daughter, Kate. And that's a fate I wouldn't wish on a Bath supporter.

Finally, I think "Shedite" probably means

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'elusive' rather than 'illusive' when he's talking about International tickets. 'Elusive simply means 'hard to find'. 'Illusive' means, 'imaginary', 'impossible'.

I don't know though. Perhaps he's right.

INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

Which brings us neatly to the subject of International ticket availability this time round. As always, we've received a very large number of applications, and Doug Wadley has to warn, again as always, that demand will almost certainly exceed supply by a very large margin.

We're not sure yet just how many tickets will be made available to us, but Doug's experienced judgement, based on what information we have already received, is that no more than about one Gloucester applicant in five will receive one ticket for one International only. Which isn't generous, however you look at it.

What we do know is how those tickets will be made up. The RFU has told us that 43% of what tickets we get will be priced at £30.00. A further 37% will cost £25.00, there will be 6% at £18.00, and the other 14% will be at £10.00.

Don't ask me how those proportions were arrived at. One has a mental picture of some mathematical genius, labouring away with quill pen and abacus, somewhere in the cobwebby bowels of Twickenham, eventually to emerge with shrill shrieks of the North London equivalent of 'Eureka'.

But I'm probably wrong. It's almost certainly all down to a computer somewhere.

SOUTH AFRICAN BARBARIANS

But we can give you news of tickets for the South African Barbarians game, scheduled for Tuesday, October 19th, kick-off 7.00 pm. Should be a memorable occasion, coming back-to-back, you could almost say, with our match against the mighty Transvaal side, almost exactly twelve months earlier: you'll remember that that was one of Gloucester's more memorable victories last season, subjecting our guests to the only defeat they had to endure on tour.

If you want to see if the lads can repeat the dose, then you'll need a ticket: the needs for hefty financial guarantees on these occasions demand that they be 'all-pay' affairs.

A stand ticket will cost £8.00 (which is still less than at least one club charges for a straightforward League game), while a seat in the projected temporary stand will set you back a mere £6.00. You will be able to get on the ground for £5.00, while ground and temporary stand tickets for Juniors and Senior Citizens will be available at half price.

As usual, Members will have an extra crack of the whip, which is only fair. Tickets for Grandstand Members only will be available from the office from Monday next, September 27th. After October 12th, they'll be on sale to anyone.

TICKET ROUND UP

Just to complete the picture, tickets for both the ADT Divisional Championship match, which will see the South West take on the formidable North outfit, on Saturday, October 23rd, and for

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Peter Arnold cont.

the England Emerging Players (coached by our own Keith Richardson, of course) against New Zealand game precisely one month later on ~Saturday November 23rd, will be available shortly, and we'll obviously keep you informed. Watch this space.

Just to complete the ticket picture, Wing Stand tickets for League games are now available from the office during the week prior to the match, or from 1.00 pm on the day of the game. Which is a handy extra service, and would make it just that much easier for everyone at the turnstiles.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

But wouldn't it be easier, and in the long run, less expensive, if you became a Member yourself? Especially when you recall that sufficient seats for Grandstand Members are reserved, nowadays, until 15 minutes before kick-off.

Doug Wadley writes:

"I am pleased to report that there is a healthy increase in Membership. Sincere thanks to all."

Good old Doug. Succinct as ever. What he was really getting at was that there is always room for more, and his usual pleasant and self-effacing way, he wonders just how many supporters really appreciate just how much it costs to run two Senior sides, not to mention Colts and Under 21 sides.

For example, under today's Ground Safety Regulations, Kingsholm is a Designated Ground, which may sound like a compliment, but we have to pay an average of £2,000 per match — Colts, United, League, whatever — for the privilege. That's accounted for by the increased ambulance, police and extra Stewarding cover demanded under the Act of Parliament. We could do an awful lot with that money if we had it to spend.

And, this season alone, the Club has had to spend over £3,000 on extra fire extinguishers.

Nevertheless, we do manage to find the money for improvements. The new training ground at Oxstalls Community School is now up and running, and will be far more useful when the imminent installation of floodlighting is completed. The estimate for that job is somewhere in the region of £40,000.

Furthermore, I doubt if many people realise — I certainly didn't — that a scheduled ground inspection has to be carried out both before and after each game. If any damage is discovered, it has to be repaired immediately, and if it happens to be before the match, the game can't start until it has been. In addition, the various Authorities have the right to make inspections when they

like. Unannounced. And they do avail themselves of that right. Frequently.

So high standards have to be maintained at all times, or we just don't play rugby. It's the best reason I know for asking everyone to keep an eye open for vandals, and report any incident they see without delay.

Against that background, you can see why I am constrained in every 'big' match programme to ask people to keep steps and gangways clear, and not to get annoyed with Stewards who are there to enforce that regulation. It may be boring to keep reading about it, but we simply can't afford not to see that everything the Authorities want is complied with.

CHIP OFF THE OLD BOOT

Our Match Mascot today is Gareth Butler who is eleven years old. If the name sounds familiar, then so it should. He's the second son of that legendary full back and kicker. Peter Butler. In fact, Pete's company, Quaker Chemical Ltd. are generously sponsoring him for the day, which means, among other things, that he gets to keep the kit.

Gareth has just followed in his illustrious Dad's footsteps by joining the Crypt School, nursery for so many great Gloucester players, including Dick Smith and Graham Parker, just to name the first two who came to mind.

At the Crypt, Gareth joins his thirteen year-old brother, Richard, who, my spies tell me, can kick a bit too, Gareth, himself, is just starting his rugby career, having played soccer, until now, with Robinswood Under 12's. He hasn't had the opportunity to try the oval ball game heretofore, but I'm told he's absolutely dead keen to emulate his illustrious parent, and who can blame him for that?

This may be the first time that Gareth Butler has pulled on the cherry-and-white strip, which must be a tremendous kick for his old man, but would anyone like to bet that it won't be the last?

TAILPIECE

Speaking of which, I've been getting my leg pulled a bit recently, because a TV presenter got my name wrong, referring to me over the air waves as 'Peter Butler'. On being told I should complain, I declined, on the grounds that I don't mind in the least being confused with 'Butler the Boot'. Well, would you?

Ed Martin —
IN PERSPECTIVE

When it rains, it pours! Just when there is a match with a considerable history, the thingey in the gizmo goes kaput.

Actually, it is all the fault of our beloved Council's 'highways department'. A loose paving stone the other night sent the computer terminal flying — and into a million pieces. Nothing wrong with the computer or the facts and figures. But the human eye cannot read the bump on the disks.

There is probably a moral somewhere, but fortunately, I do have a written copy of all the matches played against Leicester since Kingsholm opened.

This is the 161st meeting of the two clubs since 1891. And the fixture is one of those that takes note of the 'home ground advantage' theory.

The Cherry and Whites have won 69 of the 79 meetings at Kingsholm, while the Tigers have won 50 of the 80 matches played at Leicester.

As the question of drawn matches is to the forefront with Gloucester fans, the likelihood of no decision today is remote. Of the 160 matches against Leicester just six have ended in stalemate.

And there is the other matter that while Gloucester have drawn matches on two successive Saturdays, never has the team drawn on three Saturdays in a row.

At the risk of tempting providence, the Tigers have not won at Kingsholm since their 21-10 verdict on December 1, 1982.

The first visit to Kingsholm by Leicester was in fact the sixth match to be played on Gloucester's then new ground. After winning 15-0 at Leicester in November 1891, the Cherry and Whites completed the 'double' over the Tigers with a 6-0 verdict at Kingsholm.

It was not until January 1902 that Leicester posted its first win against Gloucester at Kingsholm. After scoreless encounters between

the two clubs on two occasions (1894/5 and 1899/1900), the Tigers won a close affair by three points to nil.

Getting more up to date, the two clubs have met on five occasions in the Courage Clubs Championships, three of the matches being played at Leicester. Gloucester have won on three occasions (once at Leicester).

A query has been received on the playing record of Wally Burrows who turned out for Gloucester immediately after World War Two.

Wally, according to the records, played for six seasons between 1945 and 1951, making 79 appearances. He scored ten tries and kicked four drop goals — and by today's scoring values he was responsible for 82 of the almost 35,000 points scored by the club.

A threequarter, Wally also played for Gloucestershire.

The eagle-eyed will note that a slight adjustment has been made in the career appearances and scoring of some of the players, notably Tim Smith and Ian Smith.

And this is where we get back to computers ...

It would be easy to say that the computer made the mistake. But as we all know computers don't make mistakes, its the human idiots that work the damed machines.

OK. A combination of dyslectic and innumerate fingers caused a slight (actually, monumental) cock-up.

Thank goodness for the manual records!



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