Welcome to Kingsholm

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v

SOUTH AFRICAN BARBARIANS

TUESDAY OCTOBER 19th, 1993

KICK OFF 7.00 p.m.

Official Programme £1.00
TWO WAY TRAFFIC

Probably the most famous Gloucester player ever to tour South Africa was the late Tom Voyce, pictured left at the end of the 1971/2 season. He appeared 27 times for England, and in 1924, played in two Tests for the British Lions in South Africa.

The late Danie Craven, guru of South African rugby for so many years, described Tom Voyce in an autobiographical article as "the blond destroyer with a smile", and emphatically made him a member of his personal all-time great World XV.

Tom's own favourite memory of that tour, a story I heard him tell once or twice, concerned a South African player whose name he couldn't recall. Apparently, the Springbok was Tommy's opposite number, a player with a fearsome reputation for the mayhem he was liable to inflict on opponents.

Although the two had never met, the South African press of the day made a great story of the anticipated encounter, quoting the player concerned in all sorts of threats about what he wasn't going to do to that whipper-snapper Voyce when the collision eventually occurred.

On the day, the two of them played their hearts out, perfectly fairly and with no unacceptable animosity whatsoever. At the end of the game, they walked off with their arms round each other, and put two fingers up to the press box. Tom still chuckled about that, half a century later.

Tommy Voyce, for the benefit of visitors, went on to become a distinguished administrator. He served as both President of the RFU and of Gloucester RFC.

It's easy to recall previous visits from South African sides to Kingsholm, up to and including the full national side. Still fresh in the memory is last season's game against the formidable Transvaal outfit, which in the event, proved to be the turning point for Gloucester after a miserable start to the season. Perhaps, in that respect, history will repeat itself this evening. It's good, also, that we are able to welcome back one or two friends we made on the memorable occasion, over here with the South African Barbarians party.

However, it's worth remembering that it hasn't all been one way traffic. A whole host of Kingsholm products have made the return journey and played on South African pitches.

Indeed, the cherry-and-white shirts appeared en bloc several years ago, when Gloucester had a South African tour. I'm told that one or two supporters who travelled with the side are still nursing the hangovers.

Around the same time Gloucestershire toured South Africa as County Champions, and there were several Ever Eaters in that party. I'm afraid that my tired old brain cells won't disgorge the names, but I do recall that Richard Mogg was one of them.

In the more rarefied strata of the game, Mike Burton toured with the British Lions, and came back with more enough stories to occupy a whole evening session in the bar. If you haven't heard him on the subject, ask him sometime. Not only are some of the yarns quite unprintable, but they're not the same unless accompanied with all the accents, which Mike renders superbly.

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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 Nichols.
Director of Rugby: Barrie Corless.
Hon. Colts Secretary: Reg Collins.
Team Secretary: Eric Stephens (0452 529000)
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 380461, 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 once again to Kingsholm for what promises to be another memorable night of rugby. Tonight we entertain the might of the South African Barbarians. This will be the first match of their tour and I am sure that you will extend to them the warmest of welcomes.

If you were at the match against Transvaal last season you will remember that match as a bit of a turning point in the lads season. They beat, quite comfortably, a very strong side and then went on to a fine sequence of results in the remaining league fixtures. After last Saturday's win against a fine Cardiff side all we need now is a good performance to send confidence sky high.

Cheers, NOBBY
Peter Arnold cont.

One also recalls the England tour in which Tom Palmer and John Watkins participated. That successful safari was the one where the management came back describing John as the ‘discovery’ of the tour. Maybe so, but the discovery was a little overdue, and having discovered him they promptly forgot him again far too often for a player of his immense skills.

This is not, of course, a definitive list of all Gloucester players who have toured South Africa (see photo and caption). Mike Teague impressed everyone on that controversial tour of two or three years ago, for example. However, the players named are enough to show that Kingsholm’s links with Springbok rugby are deep, long established, and highly valued by Gloucester’s rugby sub-culture, which is probably the strongest in England.

It’s delightful to welcome such a distinguished club as the South African Barbarians. We wish them a highly successful tour, on and off the field, and hope that, on their return home, they can recall their first engagement in England as one of the most memorable of all.

C AnYONE HELP?

From one great rugby nation to another. Barrie Corless asks me to tell you about a significant project he has going, and asks if anyone might help.

Using his contacts in New Zealand, Barrie has arranged for two highly promising young Kiwis to spend the rest of the season here in Gloucester. They are Sean Psychers and Gavin Riley, both about twenty years old. One of them is a winger, and one a flanker, but I’m afraid I neglected to find out from him which is which.

The idea is that, if the venture is successful, we might be able to send two of our talented Under 21 players on a reciprocal visit during the close season, and that can’t be anything but good.

And that’s where some help is needed. The boys are going to need somewhere to stay while they’re here, not necessarily both together, and preferably, not essentially with families. Similarly, part-time jobs would come in very handy indeed, so if any employer has a need for a husky young New Zealander or two, for a few months, Barrie Corless would dearly love to hear from you. Just so long as they can have time off for playing and training.

Any help or ideas would be very welcome indeed. I’m sure Someone Out There will be able to step into the breach.

BLANK DAY

Of course, next Saturday isn’t a blank day as far as rugby at Kingsholm is concerned, because it’s the day of the ADT Divisional Championship game between the South West and the North. Tickets for that are still available from the office and cost just the same as those for this evening’s game – that is £8.00 for the Stand, £6.00 for the Temporary Stand, and £5.00 for the Ground. Not an all-ticket affair, by the way. You’ll be able to pay at the gate should you feel inclined to chance it.

However, Gloucester First XV don’t have a game, and there’s no intention of trying to arrange one. The feeling is that after a very tough start to the season, the lads will probably benefit from a rest, and I don’t suppose many of us would argue with that.

The following Saturday, October 30th, however, is a different kettle of cod completely. We were originally contracted to entertain Exeter that day, but for their own reasons, the Devonians cried off.

Barrie Corless is keen to arrange a home game of some description on that day, and together with Mike Nicholls, has been attempting to find suitable opposition. At the time of writing, iron is well and truly in the fire, but nothing is firm enough for me to tell you about it. However, it does seem a distinct possibility that something will be arranged.

I can’t even tell you to watch this space, because there won’t be a Gloucester programme between now and then, but I’ve no doubt our local press and radio stations will keep you informed if you keep your eyes and ears open.

EMERGING ENGLAND

The other representative fixture on this ground takes place on Tuesday November 23rd. It’s the match between the touring New Zealanders and the new Emerging England Players side, which is coached by our own Keith Richardson, so there’s local interest even if we don’t have any players in the team.

Tickets will be on sale from the office from October 25th, which I’ve just realised is next Monday, as ever was. The organisers, in their wisdom, have decreed that Stand seats will cost £12.00. Temporary Stand, £8.00 and Ground £6.00.

Boss Lady Geraldine Peake is confidently expecting a big demand. In fact, she muttered...
something to me about a "queue stretching down to the North End Vaults". Hope she's right.

Incidentally, how do you feel about the phrase 'Emerging England Players'? I know what they mean, but to me it conveys a mental image of a group of mules, blinking sleepily as they leave their holes to sample the Spring sunshine. Rather like the first few pages of Wind in the Willows, if your memory stretches that far.

However, 'Emerging Wherever' does seem to be the fashionable phrase in various rugby-playing countries, these days, so I expect I shall learn to love it.

COACHES

The internal combustion kind, this time. Although we now have a fair old break from League rugby, for which the Lord be praised, Trevor Pritchard is already happily engaged in booking transport for the away games when they do arrive. The first such engagement involves the Old Enemy, Bristol, and presents no problem at all. There certainly will be coaches, and you can book your seat any time.

To that's more pressing, occupied with the lengthy trek to Orrell's pleasant Edgehill Road ground in Wigan. He has made arrangements involving a charge of £6.50 for a seat on the coach or coaches. However, he does ask that, if you decide to go, and having made the trip myself, I'd recommend it, that you pay up and look happy by December 1st. In other words, by the Wednesday before the game. If you don't you'll have dipped out.

Seems a good way away, now, but it's surprising how quickly time flies when you're having fun. After that, the next away League fixture isn't until after Christmas, and not even Trevor can face thinking about that one as yet. I'll keep you informed.

Of course, we could get drawn away in the Pilkington Cup on December 16th. Knowing how these things have a habit of working out, would anyone care to bet that it won't mean yet another trip up to Newcastle Gosforth?

GANGWAY

I'm sorry to be boring about this, but I do need to remind you about keeping gangways and steps clear. It is a legal requirement, and you'd never forgive yourself if there were to be an unfortunate incident of some sort and the emergency services were hampered by the crowd standing in the wrong places.

IT'S A DATE

I suppose a visit from the South African Barbarians could be said to be history in rugby terms (Ed Martin, where are you when I need you?), so I thought I'd do a little research and find out if anything else ever happened on this date.

It isn't, apparently, a vintage day. However, it is the 222nd anniversary of General Cornwallis surrendering to the revolting colonists, thus ending the American War of Independence. Bad taste, really. If they'd stayed with the Empire, they would probably be playing far better rugby now. Might even have staged the World Cup.

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THIS MONTHS SPECIALS

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Peter Arnold cont.

Apropos of noting all, but it's so odd that I can't resist mentioning it, it's also the anniversary, I haven't been able to find out which, of the death of a German poet called Von Thummel, who had himself buried in the heart of an oak tree. Wonder if he's still there?

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

In times of a dearth of First XV rugby one's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of how the United and the Colts are getting on. The short answer is 'very nicely thank you'. Not only are they winning, as are the Under 21's, but all three sides are playing some excellent rugby.

So, the next question is, when and where can you see them?

Unfortunately, United are away on both of the dates when the Firsts are not playing - to Bedford on Saturday, and to Bristol University the week after. Their next home fixture is on November 6th, when, again, Bedford are the opposition. The First XV are at Nottingham that day, so you might like to take the opportunity to come along to Kingsholm.

You don't have to wait that long to see the Colts, who Reg Collins maintains have had their best start to the season in his distinguished 15 years of involvement with them. In fact, you could trot over to Cinderford tomorrow evening, if you feel so inclined.

One week after that, the Colts have an interesting occasion right here at Kingsholm. Their opposition that evening will be provided by that grand old Coventry club, Barker's Butts.

There was a time, years ago, when Barker's Butts was a very familiar name, locally. Several Gloucester clubs had fixtures against them at one time, and I know at least one old local player who has very fond memories of away fixtures there. I gather it wasn't exactly unknown for alcoholic refreshment to be taken in fairly significant quantities.

I notice that, two or three years ago, Barker's Butts won the Warwickshire Colts Cup, so they're obviously no mugs, and may give our Colts some stiff opposition. An occasion worth patronising, I'd say.

OUT TO LUNCH

I've just received notice of a super event to be held on Friday, December 10th, proceeds in aid of a projected Club tour to South Africa.

The event is a superb Christmas Luncheon to be held at the ICI Club at Brockworth. It features two fascinating speakers, to wit, England Captain, Will Carling and the BBC's Ian Robertson. Lounge suits, time 11.30 to 2.30.

And, unlike most Gloucester RFC dinners and the like in the past, it's to be a mixed do, rather than gents only.

A table for ten will cost £420.00 (plus VAT), and there are only five left. If you're interested, contact Mike Burton on Gloucester 419666. And incidentally, Mike is going to act as MC himself, so you're assured of an entertaining lunch time.

This has to be a great promotional opportunity for any go-ahead company. Especially as such firms will have their names prominently displayed on the souvenir menu.

DEBUTANT FROM LIDNEY

Our Match Mascot today is eight year-old Christopher Aldridge, who lives in Grove Road, Lydney, with Mum and Dad, Hugh, who works for Tewkesbury District Council, and Lorraine, who has her hands full looking after Hugh, Christopher and his elder sister, Jennifer.

It's Christopher's first visit to Kingsholm, and if you're wondering why he's come all the way from Lydney, the fact that our Groundsman, Bob Park, happens to be his uncle. So if young Chris digs up the turf too much on his debut, he's likely to get his ear bent a little.

TAILPIECE

Did you notice how the national press gleefully picked up the fact that a London Irish supporter who gave us a trumpet solo of 'Cockles and Mussels' the other week? But none of them bettered the chap not far from me, who commented 'Should have been the Last Post!'
SOUTH AFRICAN BARBARIANS – MEET THE SQUAD

Eden MEYER (wing)
Namibia, ex South Western Districts

Jacobus "Jaapie" MULDER (centre)
Transvaal

Francois "FP" NAUDE (wing)
Northern Transvaal

Ryno OPPERMAN (lock)
Orange Free State

Krynauw OTTO (lock/flank)
Northern Transvaal, ex SE Transvaal

Kevin PUTT (scrum half)
Natal, ex Waikato (New Zealand)

Harry ROBERTS (hooker)
South Africa, Transvaal

Heinrich RODGERS (prop)
South Africa, Transvaal, ex North Transvaal

Johannes ROUX (scrum half)
Transvaal, ex North Transvaal

Christian SCHOLTZ (centre)
Western Province

Philipus SCHUTTE (lock)
South Africa, Northern Transvaal

Rudolf STRAUßELI (lock forward)
Transvaal, ex Northern Transvaal

Albert "Tocks" VAN DER LINDE (prop)
Natal, ex North Orange Free State

Daniel "Danie" VAN DER WALT (hooker)
Northern Transvaal

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