



 **COURAGE** 
CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP



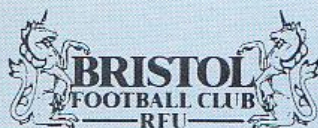
BRISTOL
FOOTBALL CLUB v **GLOUCESTER**
(R.F.U.) **(R.F.C.)**

Saturday 13th November 1993/94 Kick off 3.00pm

Official Programme 5

Official Sponsors HIGGS AND HILL HOMES

£1.00



GLOUCESTER

Saturday November 13th 1993. Kick-off 3pm

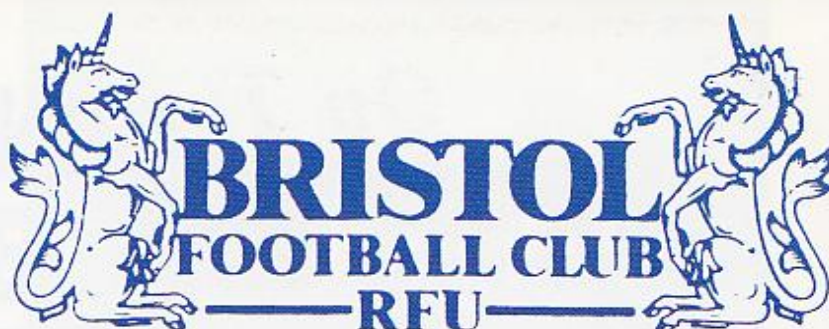
BACKS		
A PAUL HULL	Full Back	TIM SMITH 15
B DAVID JOHN	Right Wing	PAUL HOLFORD 14
C ALASTAIR SAVERIMUTTO	Right Centre	DAMIAN CUMMINS 13
D RALPH KNIBBS	Left Centre	DON CASKIE 12
E BARRY WHITEHEAD	Left Wing	MARK NICHOLSON 11
F MARK TAINTON	Outside Half	ASHLEY JOHNSON 10
G KYRAN BRACKEN	Scrum Half	BRUCE FENLEY 9
FORWARDS		
H PETER SMITH	Drop	PETER JONES 1
I MARK REGAN	Hooker	JOHN HAWKER 2
J DAVID HINKINS	Drop	ANDY DEACON 3
K BOB ARMSTRONG	Lock	DAVE SIMS 4
L SIMON SHAW	Lock	RICHARD WEST 5
M JOEL PEARSON	Flanker	PAUL ASHMEAD 6
N CRAIG BARROW	No. 8	SAM MASTERS 8
O DEREK EVES (Capt.)	Flanker	IAN SMITH (Capt.) 7
P MATT BRAIN	Replacement	T.B.A. 17
Q ANDY LATHROPE	Replacement	T.B.A. 18
R IAN PATTEN	Replacement	T.B.A. 19

REFEREE: STEWART PIERCY (Yorkshire Referees' Society)

TOUCH JUDGES: CHRIS THOMAS (Hampshire/Royal Navy) & TIM PRATT (Hampshire)

ASSESSOR: BILL ADAMS (Gloucester & District)

THE BRISTOL TEAM WEAR KIT SUPPLIED BY UMBRO AND USE GILBERT MATCH BALLS
ON THE BOX: BRISTOL v GLOUCESTER. Highlights of this afternoon's game on HTV West Sunday afternoon.



This afternoon we extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters from Gloucester for the restart of the Courage League programme.

Many things rest on this local derby with Bristol looking for their first home victory of the season and Gloucester searching for their first League win of this campaign.

Last Saturday Bristol had an excellent win over Moseley at The Reddings and amongst the crowd was Gloucester's Director of Rugby Barry Corless. What he, and all of us should remember was that was achieved at the end of a four match in eight day period and without a single training session.

New coaching Coordinator Brian Hanlon has made amends with three sessions this week all concentrating on team play and I can assure you, even standing on the sidelines, these seemed direct and tough periods for the players. I am sure that these will pay dividends.

It's good to see that the Divisional Championship data has now been confirmed as 3rd January at Twickenham but why did we have to suffer the on-off-on-off situation ? More on this later in the programme.

Those that were at Redruth for the All Blacks game should check their match programme. We questioned in our last programme why was the Bristol captain Derek Eves left out of the South West side. But wait, there on page 12 is Bath's Christopher John Clarke looking, to much, like our Del!

Away supporters we missed you at Nottingham and Moseley so lets hope that you will be back in force at Sudbury next Saturday. See you there.

John Harding
Programme Editor

Last season was a competitive struggle for Gloucester. They languished in or just outside of the relegation zone for most of the season but a strong finish with wins against Orrell 21-16, Bristol 22-9 and Harlequins 25-5 ensured that the unthinkable was averted.

The club took the positive step of appointing a Director of Coaching in the close season, enticing Barry Corless away from Northampton. Whilst there he had turned them around from a club threatened with Division 3 Rugby to Pilkington Cup finalists and Courage League contenders. Corless has a fine pedigree as a player winning 10 England caps during the '70's whilst a new player at Coventry and Moseley, and is obviously very much in tune with the current players of the game. He has already started to build for the future with the import of 2 young New Zealanders and should ensure that players coming into the club are well looked after and well coached. To that end he will be ably assisted by the vastly experienced Keith Richardson.

However, results so far this haven't gone Gloucesters way. Their first 2 League games were drawn, at home to Wasps 9-9, and away to Newcastle Gosforth 12-12. Tim Smith kicked 2 penalties and Damian Cummins a drop goal against Wasps, who replied with 3 Rob Andrew penalties, and the scoring at Newcastle was also courtesy of the boot. Smith and Paul Beech kicked 2 penalties each and the prolific David Johnson landed 4 in reply for the Northerners. Wing Paul Holford scored Gloucesters first League try of the season against Leicester at



THE OPPONENTS

GLOUCESTER

Kingsholm but the 'Tigers' won 23-14. Smith kicked 2 penalties and Beech 1, but between them they had more than enough opportunities to win the game. It was a somewhat niggly game that moved John Reason to write in the Sunday Telegraph – "referee Ed Morrison gave so many lectures... that he could have won Blues for both Oxford and Cambridge...". They moved onto the Rec and lost 17-46 to a Bath side that only contained 10 full Internationals! Cummins and Holford crossed for tries which were converted by Smith and Beech, who also kicked a penalty. In their last league game they lost narrowly at Kingsholm 9-10 to London Irish. Malcolm Roberts playing his first League game of the season kicked 3 penalties.

Gloucester currently lie in 9th place with 2 points from 5 games but clearly have the potential to climb the league. Hopefully they won't start that improvement until after today. In 6 previous league meetings the 'Cherry and Whites' have won 4 and Bristol 2.

Other Gloucesters?

Besides 186 previous games against the Gloucester Club, dating back to September 1892, Bristol have also played some 'other' Gloucester sides. On 17th November 1888 Bristol had home advantage for the game against East Gloucester — it ended 9pts-nil in Bristol favour.

Two years later, 8th November 1890, Bristol travelled up the old dirt track, now called the A38, to be beaten by Gloucester A by 22pts-nil.

Bristol played two games against the Gloucester Regiment on 20th December 1913 and 28th September 1927. Bristol won both games, 41pts-nil and 28pts-nil.

Courage League

There are only four, instead of five, games in the First Division today because the game at Sunbury-on-Thames between London Irish and Wasps has been postponed. The Exiles have three players committed to the Ireland vs Romania match this afternoon. The revised date has to be announced.

In Division Two the top three sides have away fixtures this afternoon. Leaders West Hartlepool are away to Nottingham, who have lost to Bath and Bristol and then beat Gloucester in the past three weeks. Second placed Sale are at the Reddings at play Moseley — who Bristol beat last Saturday whilst third placed Saracens are at fourth placed Otley.

Division Four leaders Clifton are at home to Broughton Park while in Division Five South Lydney are at Basingstoke and Weston-super-Mare entertain Berry Hill.

Heineken League

In Wales this afternoon, Division One leaders Neath are away to Cross Keys who are rooted to the foot of the table without a win in nine League games. Aberavon are home to third placed Swansea, fourth placed Cardiff (47 tries in nine league outings) are home to Newport whilst second placed Llanelli take on Pontypridd at Stradey Park. The other games are Duntvont vs Pontypool and Newbridge vs Bridgend.

In Division Two the unbeaten leaders Treorchy are at home to second placed Tenby who are four points adrift. Division Three leaders Abercynon are at home to Aberavon Quins whilst in Division Four the unbeaten leaders Builth Wells have home advantage over Kidwelly.

We told you so

Remember that we hinted, heavily, that the Divisional Championship was to find a new sponsor well before the announcement. Here are a couple more.

Watch out for another cancellation to come in Division Two for 20th November that could help Bristol find opponents for the following Friday night.

What links Bristol's Kyran Bracken, Bath's Mike Catt and Damien Hopley of Wasps? Could be a "Players to Watch for 1994" tag.



NEWSDESK

Gloucestershire Cup

The draw for the fourth round of the Gloucestershire Cup was held at Clifton last Monday night. Into the bag with the ten sides that have progressed to this stage went the seeded clubs — Berry Hill, Cheltenham, Clifton, Lydney, Matson and Stroud. The draw is — Cheltenham v Cinderford, Clifton v Avonmouth, Coney Hill v Dings, Gloucester OB v Stow, Lydney v Old Patesians, Matsons v Berry Hill, Spartans v Kingswood, Stroud v Brockworth.

The ties are to be played on Saturday 27th November with the final at Kingsholm during the week of 14 March 1994.

Pilkington Shield

The third round of the Shield saw wins for the following sides in the South West Region — Beaconsfield, Chesham, Blanford (after extra time), Trowbridge, Hucclecote Old Boys, Barton Hill Old Boys, Bristol Telephones, St Agnes, Old Public Oaks, North Petherton, Bishopston, Bodmin, Tetbury and Dartmouth (after their opponents Ilfracombe withdrew).

The next round is Saturday 27th November — the same day as the third round of the Pilkington Cup.

Gloucestershire Under 21's

Bristol provide nine players, including the complete threequarter line, for the Gloucestershire Under 21 side to play Somerset Under 21's at Lydney tomorrow. Wings Aki Sawyer and Nick Gwilliam, centres Nick Marval and Kevin Maggs, flyhalf James Averis, props Kris Fullman and Adam Burns plus hooker Nick Evans will be flying Club colours.

Many visitors have asked why Bristol players still wear letters on their shirts but now is not the time or place to even attempt to pen a reply. Let's just say – that's the Bristol Club!

But delving through *'Rugby . . . Bristol Fashion'* it was Gloucester who requested that Bristol wear numbers. Back in September 1910 they suggested that Bristol try the experiment in the forthcoming local derby. The committee agreed but when and why they changed back is not clear.

In 1962 the RFU sent a circular to clubs and 'recommended' numbers as standard practice. *"As this Club doesn't use figures, it is considered that the recommendation did not apply"* states the committee minutes after a vote in favour of numbers was defeated 12-5.

Later players endorsed the message to the RFU when they lined up for the 1983 John Player Cup Final against Leicester (also men of letters) at Twickenham and the message read out UP BRISTOL.

Now club statisticians will also want to baffle you with facts and figures but according to our man Neil Williams this is the 187th local derby against the Cherry and Whites and the 94th on our ground with Bristol looking for their 50th home victory.

In the 1902-03 season Bristol had their problems on and off the field when they managed just 19 wins, mainly due to the loss of several key players. The Fixture Secretaries at Bristol and Gloucester had agreed to four matches that season – oh what fun!

Rugby . . . Bristol Fashion takes up the tale.

It really was asking for trouble and, sure enough, controversy arose in the first match at Kingsholm. The argument concerned a late try by Lewis Smith, which gave Gloucester a 6-4 victory. Here it should be said that the rugby reporters of the time were a fairly one-eyed lot and interpretations of the winning score varied considerably. One described Smith's try as "a brilliant individual effort five minutes from the end." Elsewhere, the referee was slated for awarding a "ludicrous" try for an offence against Smith.

This is how one journalist saw the affair. "The Bristol team were the victims of the worst luck that could befall a side. At Gloucester, they won their match fairly and squarely as a match could be won and yet, owing to a misapprehension on the part of the referee, Gloucester were awarded a penalty try, which enabled them to gain victory. The facts



BACK IN TIME

leading up to this unpleasant incident are easy enough to explain.

In the last minute of the game, Collett started dribbling towards the Bristol line but so seriously had the crowd encroached upon the field that players and spectators seemed likely to be mixed up. Just as the ball crossed the Bristol line, Oakes kicked it into touch in-goal before Lewis Smith, who had made a dive for it, could get near it. A number of excited spectators rushed up to the referee and shouted: "Is it a try?" and, after some delay, an affirmative answer was given.

The Gloucester Club supporters naturally concluded that Lewis Smith had scored the point and the player named was surrounded with admirers who patted him on the back and cheered for all they were worth. Later on, however, when the people were leaving the ground, it was announced that the try had not been scored at all but that it had been awarded because in the rush for the ball the Gloucester player had been fouled. The decision of the referee was, indeed, a remarkable one, for Oates, who in the eyes of the referee had played unfairly, had done nothing more than kick the ball out of play.

To criticise a referee is never a pleasant task but in this case it would be an injustice to the Bristol players to refrain from emphasising the fact that they were robbed of a hardly-won victory by a decision that was altogether unjustifiable.

Incidentally, Bristol won the remaining fixtures with Gloucester that season. Perhaps justice was done after all.

If you have a particular memory that you think may interest other supporters then drop us a line. Don't worry if you can't remember all the facts – we'll do some delving. Drop a line to The Programme Editor, Bristol Football Club (RFU), Filton Avenue, Bristol BS7 0AQ.