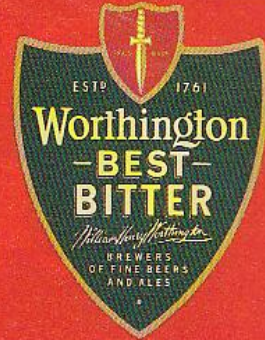




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# GLOUCESTER

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v

# NORTHAMPTON



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20th, 1993

KICK OFF 3.00 p.m.



Official Programme

£1.00



## 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.

**Vice Presidents:** Roy Morris, Tom Day, Gordon Hudson

**Chairman:** Peter Ford.

**Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:** Doug Wadley.

**Hon. Fixtures Secretary:** Mike Nicholls.

**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 Management:** 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

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## NOBBY'S NEWSDESK



Hello Everyone,

Welcome once again to Kingsholm for today's match against Northampton. It has been five weeks since our last home fixture and during the break a lot has been going on with regards to the Gold Bond Lottery Scheme. Starting from the first week in December we will be giving away FIFTEEN extra prizes a week. Every day we will be drawing three extra winning numbers and each winner will receive a bottle of French wine, white or red. It should be a cheap way of stocking up your Christmas drinks cabinet. As well as that I have been finalising plans for the special Christmas draw where the winner will be presented with a smashing hamper. So all in all it has been a very busy period for all the Gold Bond staff, but hopefully a very profitable one as well. See you soon.

Cheers, NOBBY



Peter Arnold



# POTENT B R E W



When anyone mentions Northampton, I immediately think of two respected institutions. One is the Carlsberg Brewery, and the other, of course, is the Saints — Northampton RFC to the uninitiated.

These two pillars of society have something else in common, quite apart from their geographical proximity. They both produce a 'Special Brew', quite lethal in its potency, and treated with the greatest respect by anyone who knows anything about either lager drinking or rugby football.

Northampton has even taken us on at our own favourite pastime before now. Two seasons ago, when they won here in an enthralling contest, dominated by a virtuoso performance from the legendary 'Buck' Shelford, the travelling supporters even managed to outshout the Kingsholm Faithful, and that doesn't happen all that often.

Tut, tut! Don't let it happen again!

Of course, the Saints have sustained one or two losses recently. Shelford has retreated into the realism of legend, John Etheridge has decided he prefers Guinness to lager, and I assume that someone will introduce Barrie Corless to elvers towards the end of the season. On the other hand, Hunter is now fit, they tell us, and Grayson has been kicking goals from all over the park, for example. Like Gloucester they lost last week's game in conditions which turned the whole process of playing rugby into a lottery. The game is intended to be played with a ball rather than an ovoid bar of soap.

There's no point in labouring the point as far as Gloucester is concerned. Everyone knows what has to be done today. Performances recently have been about like that of the British economy: promising signs of recovery, as when we beat Cardiff and then ran the South African

Barbarians closer than anyone else could manage, followed by a dashing of hopes, witness the depth -plumbing exercise against an enthusiastic but mediocre Nottingham outfit.

Last Saturday, though another defeat, did show a considerable improvement. Perhaps, the prospect of taking on the Old Enemy down at Bristol provided the incentive for the sort of kick-start we've all been anticipating. It's a long time coming, but if last week's progress can be maintained, then we could be in for a memorable occasion this afternoon.

Not for the first time. Northampton has always been one of those clubs we're always glad to welcome. Even in their doldrum years, before the Corless/Shelford era, no one at Kingsholm doubted that the Saints would, one day, return to the respected status which they had attained over decades of sparkling rugby. They have always been, quite simply, too good a club not to solve their problems at some stage.

Perhaps there's a lesson in that for Gloucester. While we haven't descended to the level which Northampton had to endure for too many years, their presence today should demonstrate that depths are there to be climbed out of: that the margin between success and failure is a very narrow one, and that a good club remains a good club, just so long as the self-belief is there.

For that reason alone, quite apart from all the usual ones, Northampton are extremely welcome today. We all hope they thoroughly enjoy their visit.

## YOUTH TEAM OF THE MONTH

Isn't it odd how Gloucester sides, Colts, U21's and United, keep smashing all opposition out of sight except at First XV level? Of course, the leap to the highest echelons is a quantum

*Cont on page 12*



THE  
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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.*

jump, but it's a gap which has to, and will be, bridged at some time.

I had intended to launch one of my usual eulogies about the performances of the Colts today, but as I might have expected, Reg Collins has upstaged me. I'm quite happy to defer to his greater experience and expertise in such matters, and have great pleasure in reproducing his latest letter.

*Dear Peter,*

*Thanks for including my last letter to you in the London Irish programme on Oct 9th. I think that it is an excellent idea to keep our members informed of the Colts activities and also to let them know in advance of players who will undoubtedly represent the Club at senior level in the future.*

*Since last writing, you will no doubt have observed that our Colts have been awarded the Rugby World Youth Team of the Month award, and will be featured in the December issue of Rugby World. This is an honour well deserved and our thanks are due to Barrie Corless for forwarding the nomination. You did mention some dedicated souls who spend their time and energy in promoting youth rugby in the club and in this respect there are none more dedicated than John Powell and John Dix. Full marks to them for the success achieved. Of course it is the players on the field who actually produce the results and I can honestly say that we have a most enthusiastic bunch of players with a great team spirit. They train regularly on Monday evenings and on match nights we are never short of replacements. They are lead by an excellent captain in Phil Greening, who also toured New Zealand with the England Under 18 group, and I am sure we have in him a future senior side hooker.*

*Whilst writing, congratulations on his selection for England A, to Dave Sims. He is an ex-Colt from 86/87 and 87/88 who played regularly during those two seasons, together with Neil Matthews, Simon Devereux, Tony Windo and Shaun Bryan. We all know what Dave has achieved since those days.*

*It is interesting to note that, although the Colts have had many successful seasons, their only previous award was winning the Stroud Invitation Seven a Side Tournament on Sept 16th 1979 when they beat Bristol by 10 points to 6. Derek Morgan and Julian Baker scored tries (4pts each) with Clive Dyke adding one conversion. Other members of the*

*team were Ian Smith and Andrew Stanley now captains of our 1st and United teams.*

*Since last writing the Colts have won three more games. The results being:*

<i>Oct 20th</i>	<i>Cinderford</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>27-6</i>
<i>Oct 27th</i>	<i>Barkers Butts</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>65-9</i>
<i>Nov 10th</i>	<i>Coventry</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>7-3</i>

*P8 W8 L0 D0 PF 249 PA 72*

*Tom Beim 5T 4C 33pts. Andrew Bird 5T 25pts. Robert Fidler 4T 20pts. Nick Paisley 1T 4C 2P 19pts.*

*We are now looking forward to our last game of this year against Bath — Away. This is always a difficult fixture but we have had our fair share of success at the recreation Ground. Our record for the last seven encounters:*

*P7 W4 L2 D1 PF 105 PA 88*

*We look forward to increasing our number of wins on this visit.*

*Yours faithfully Reg Collins*

Of course, we'd all wish to add our congratulations to the Colts for a hard-won and extremely well-deserved distinction. I must admit that I didn't know that the nomination had been submitted by Barrie Corless, an initiative which stimulates the old 'why didn't I think of that' syndrome.

Let's hope the Colts can keep on keeping on. After all, we're all going to be depending on them in a few years time.

#### EMERGING ENGLAND

Reg's mention of Dave Sims prompts me to convey commiserations on the eccentric way the national Selectors have been treating him. Starting the season out of the reckoning, he seized his chance when it came in the Divisional matches to such an extent that he was, on merit, selected for England 'A' against the All Blacks. He didn't do very much wrong on that day, and was, unsurprisingly chosen for the 'Emerging England' squad for the game against the same opposition, right here at Kingsholm next Tuesday.

Then not only was he not picked for the final side, but hasn't even made the replacements! I hope someone in authority has told him the reasons, because it's cruel luck to be left out for a

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game of such importance on his home pitch, and he deserves an explanation.

All I can advise is that he keeps on plugging. They can't keep him out for ever. But then, I used to say that about John Gadd. For years and years.

No such condolences for Paul Holford. His rise has been meteoric. Again, it was an injury — the much-discussed one to de Glanville — which really gave him his chance which he accepted gratefully.

On that occasion he hit the awesome All Black winger, Tuigemala, harder than he's been hit by anyone all tour, and perhaps that trenchant answer to the challenge of an attempt to run straight through him by one of the strongest players in world rugby, influenced the Selectors' thinking, and who could argue with that?

We all wish him well next Tuesday. He certainly won't let his home supporters down and who knows where he might go from there?

Speaking of the game, I'm told that only Ground tickets are now available. Equally, it's not an all-ticket game, so if you like to take a chance, that's up to you. But it might be better to enquire at the office today.

#### NICE ONE JEZ!

There was I, casually watching what, for my money, is the best quiz programme on television — Channel 4's 'Fifteen to One' — when suddenly, I says to meself 'Ang about! That's a Gloucester shirt!

And so it was. What's more, there was a familiar face atop of it. Our own dedicated

supporter, Jez Halleybone from Longlevens. In fact, I remember him when he was a little lad in Hucclecote, attending, I think, Marcus Hannaford's old school, Dinglewell. In those days he was small enough to be known as 'Jeremy', but I don't suppose he'll thank me for bringing that up again.

Anyway, on the day, he did us proud. Not only did he get into the final, but he actually won it. Unfortunately, he didn't score enough points to make the end-of-season grand Final, but his performance does earn him the chance to have another go in the next series, should he feel so inclined.

Great stuff, Jez. Do have another shot at it: I shall be watching with interest.

#### NOW THE BAD NEWS

Reverting to the New Zealand v. Emerging England match on Tuesday next, I have a little note from Doug Wadley, obviously penned much more in sorrow than in anger, asking me to point out to you that this isn't a Gloucester RFC game, but an occasion organised by the Rugby Football Union. This has certain implications which may not have occurred to you.

The first one is now water under the bridge, but may explain why you couldn't get hold of a Stand ticket. As is their right in such circumstances, the RFU retained the allocation of seats in the Stand for their own use, and only lobbed back a certain proportion to the Club. So there weren't as many for general distribution as usual.

Second, it might be just as well to leave your

*Cont on page 20*

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### THIS MONTHS SPECIALS

Date	Destination	Departure Time:			— Fare:—	
		Chelt	Glos	Others	Adult	Child Snr Cits
Sun 21st	Blackbushe Market	8.30am	9.00am	9.30am	£5.50	£5.00
	Mystery Tour	9.30am	10.00am		£4.50	£4.00
Tues 23rd	Moreton Mrkt/Stratford	9.30am	9.00am		£3.00	£2.50
Wed 24th	Vale of Evesham & Twyford Garden Centre	12.00	12.30pm		£2.50	£2.00
Thurs 25th	Afternoon Mystery Tour	12.00	12.30pm		£2.50	£2.00
Fri 26th	16 Cotswold Villages	11.15am	—		£2.90	£2.90
	Cirencester Market	11.15am	—		£2.90	£2.90
Sat 27th	London for Shopping	8.30am	8.00am		£6.50	£6.00
	Merry Hill Dudley	9.30am	9.00am		£3.50	£3.00
Sun 28th	Wembley Market	8.00am	8.30am		£6.50	£6.00
	Cotswold Tour & Burford Garden Centre	11.00am	11.30am		£3.50	£3.00
	BBC Good Food Show					
	NEC and Birmingham for Shopping	9.30am	9.00am	8.30am	£4.00	£3.50
Tues 30th	Abergavenny Market	9.15am	9.45am		£3.00	£2.50
	Leicester for Shopping	8.30am	9.00am		£6.00	£5.50

61 Clarence Street, Cheltenham Spa, Glos GL53 3LB

## Peter Arnold cont.

car at home. The reason I say that is that, again, the RFU has reserved the car park for the use of their own pass holders and of officials. As Doug writes "It's regrettable but *not* under our control."

The same sort of remark could be used in respect of the Complex. On Tuesday it will only be available to officials and holders of a magic RFU passport of one sort or another. So all you fellows (and ladies, I hurriedly add) used to imbibing in the rarefied under-the-stand atmosphere, complete with redolence of wintergreen, may well find yourself rubbing shoulders with the humbler denizens of the main Clubhouse. People like me, in fact.

Still, it's an ill wind. I imagine that the landlords of the 'White Hart', the 'Queen's Head' and the old 'Jockey' won't mind the restriction at all.

But, I repeat, there's nothing on earth Gloucester RFC can do about it. I'm afraid it's the penalty you pay for staging such a prestigious match.

While I'm on the subject, please don't forget the Fire Officer's restriction on blocking gangways and steps, will you?

### INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

Another of Doug Wadley's *billets doux* tells me all about International ticket allocations. In the event, it worked out that we were able to satisfy about one fifth of the applications received, and those tickets have now been distributed.

We expect that our allocation for the remaining matches will prove to be at about the same level, and the Club will do its best to distribute them fairly at the rate of one ticket per Member for one game only. Even so, there is bound to be some further disappointment.

### APOLOGIES

Just to complete Doug's correspondence for this week, he feels that the Club owes an apology to some United supporters. Namely, those hardy souls who turned up expecting to see United take on their opposite numbers from Bristol last Saturday.

As you know, that game was a last-minute affair in the first place, Bristol's scheduled opposition having cried off at short notice — I assume that the arranged fixture on December 4th will still go ahead.

As you'll remember, however, the weather conditions were absolutely filthy, and it was eventually decided that with three important fixtures — Northampton, Harlequins, and Emerging England — fairly imminent, it wouldn't be right to endanger the playing surface at Kingsholm for the sake of what was, after all, a one-off affair. Accordingly, the game was switched to Oxstalls.

So late was the decision that it simply wasn't possible to advise supporters of the change of venue. We do offer a heartfelt apology for that, while thanking those brave souls who abruptly upped stakes and charged off down to Oxstalls.

Sad, but you'll understand the reasons.

### ORRELL ON DECEMBER 4th

Before Harlequins, of course, we have the daunting Courage League trip to Orrell. There will be coaches to that match, but, please, if you're going, will you please let us know as soon as you can, and pay up promptly; in any case before December 1st. At that point, Trevor Pritchard intends to close the books, so to speak. He tells me that the cost of the trip will be £6.50.

If you can go, I'd recommend it. Orrell's Edgehall Road ground is very pleasant, and the welcome you

get cannot be faulted. In any case, the lads could do with your support.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KRYPSTOPHER!

The most surprised regular supporter on the ground today will be Krystopher Stevens-Gardner, who celebrated his eleventh birthday last Thursday.

Krys (if that's an approved diminutive) won't be surprised at being here, because together with his Mum, Helen, and his Dad, John, he doesn't miss a game at Kingsholm. All three of them are confirmed residents of the Shed, which will be music to the ears of the Pink'Un's amiable correspondent, Charlie Haddock.

The surprise will come when he arrives and is abruptly ordered to go off and get changed. He won't know until that point that he has been volunteered to act as Match Mascot today. What's more, he will get to keep the strip as an extra birthday present.

I'm told that Krystopher's great idol is Tim Smith, and that his hero has agreed to present him with a programme signed by himself and as many of the players as he can run to earth. No more than I would have expected from 'Smithy'.

What a marvellous birthday surprise for young Krystopher! He'll certainly have a lot to tell his mates at Elmbridge School come Monday.

And may I add my own humble birthday greetings? I'll buy him a pint when he's old enough.

### GOLDEN GAMBLE

As we've had a break, it's worth reminding you that the Golden Gamble will be back in action. Somewhere along the line, someone will endeavour to prise a pound out of you in exchange for a ticket. At half time, the draw will be made, and the lucky winner will receive half the proceeds. Simple, isn't it.

### TAILPIECE

I've something of a problem next Saturday, when our old friends from Sale pay us a visit, because there's another occasion on that day which I think perhaps I should attend.

As you know, Hucclecote Old Boys have been drawn at home to Chesham in what used to be the Provincial Cup. Hence the dichotomy, because I served as a City Councillor for Hucclecote for seventeen years, and had a modest hand in their long-awaited acquisition of land on which to build a clubhouse.

However, I actually learned the local Councillor game by serving for four years in Chesham, Bucks. So I have a foot in both camps. Furthermore, I'm a Life Member of Hucclecote Community Centre where, I'm told, the Old Boys do their drinking nowadays. It's time I paid that establishment a visit.

One word of warning to the Old Boys. Chesham may not be quite as ignorant of Gloucester rugby as their publicity pretends.

I have a friend called John English who, for several seasons, coached Chiltern, who are Chesham's neighbouring club. John lives just a few minutes away from the Chesham ground.

A few years ago, you may recall, Chiltern visited Gordon League in the Pilkington Cup and got hammered. John English was there, and knowing him, I would be very surprised if he hasn't poured a few words of wisdom into the collective Chesham ear.

Anyway, best of luck to Hucclecote Old Boys. I'm sure they can do anything Tredworth can, and it's time they had some of the limelight.

## *Ed Martin* — IN PERSPECTIVE

The first encounter between Gloucester and Northampton was on Saturday April 1, 1899 at Kingsholm. Northampton were on an Easter tour and came to Kingsholm with 24 wins and six losses from their 33 matches that season. They had scored 506 points and had given up 104.

The Citizen used the headline:

AN INTERESTING GAME  
EAST MIDLANDERS MAKE A GOOD SHOW  
GLOUCESTER VICTORIOUS BY TEN POINTS

It was fine, open game, and one of the most interesting seen at Kingsholm this season. Both teams set themselves to give the ball as much air as possible, with the result that one or the other set of backs was continually on the go. At the start, Gloucester went off with a big rush and the first try by C. Hall was the result of a brilliant bit of combination among the forwards. After this, the game went up and down the field at a great rate, and though the home men had the better of the exchanges, the visitors showed that they were anything but novices at the passing game.

On the contrary, the East Midlanders handled the ball with dexterity fully up to the Welsh standard and nothing finer than the combined effort which led to W. Kingston scoring could be imagined. Gloucester led at the interval by three points, but though the City team maintained their advantage throughout, it looked more likely halfway through the second portion of the game, that they would get on terms. For something like ten minutes the Northampton men made things particularly uncomfortable for the Gloucester team, but the defence proved very sound. The a miss by one of the visiting backs enabled Gloucester to relieve the tension, and the visitors were not allowed to gain such a dangerous position again.

The Northampton forwards — a fine athletic set of players — proved a very smart pack, and gave the home eight many an anxious moment. Taking the game as a whole the Gloucester men held the upper hand, but it must be admitted the City had to work for it. Individually, Hall, Stout, Oswald, Lewis and Smith were the most conspicuous on the home side, Lewis being quick to utilise any opening which came his way. At half-back [for Northampton] H. Kingston and [W] Patrick were exceptionally clever in getting away from the scrum and feeding their three-quarters. The Northampton pair did not get so many chances as [George] Hall and [Bert] Parham, and perhaps it was as well for Gloucester they did not, for they were very dangerous in the open. Both

the Gloucester half-backs did some smart individual work, but they were slow at times in parting with the ball, a failing which made the play of the centres somewhat difficult. Despite this disadvantage, however, Jim Cook played a marvellous game and, with Simmonds (the Northampton centre), carried off the honours of the game. The old St. Mark's man could not seem to do anything wrong in attack, and the way in which he dodged the opposition time after time was a treat to witness.

The teams for that first encounter between between Gloucester and Northampton were:

Gloucester: G. Romans, back; W. H. Taylor (Capt), J. Cook, W. Dovey and C. Smith, three-quarter backs; G. Hall and Bert Parham, half-backs; C. Hall, F. M. Stout, A. H. Click, G. H. Smith, F. Oswald, H. Manley, J. Lewis and A. White, forwards.

Northampton: W. J. Dixon, back; W. H. Kingston, C. Leigh, F. Simmonds and A. Smith (three-quarter backs); W. Patrick and H. Kingston (half-backs); T. Bamfield, B. J. Swannell, R. P. Swannell, J. F. Stops, H. Atterbury, J. Mynard, W. Slater and W. Marsden.

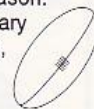
Referee: Mr. W. Bower (Welsh Referees' Society).

### Gloucester vs Northampton:

	Overall	Home	Away
Played	99	52	46
Won	63	44	19
Lost	30	7	23
Drawn	5	1	4
Pts For	1131	745	386
Pts Against	744	332	412
Percent	66.84	85.58	45.65

### TRIVIA ANSWER

Regular habitués of Kingsholm will remember the trivia question "how many times has Gloucester played the three major London "Exile" Clubs (Irish, Scots and Welsh) at Kingsholm in the same season?" The answer is once. That was in 1973/4 season. November 24th, London Irish (27-9); January 5, London Scottish (cup 9-12); March 30, London Welsh (10-10).



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