Orrell v Gloucester

Courage League Division One
Saturday 4th December, 1993
Kick off 2.30pm
Match Sponsors
Pilkington Glass
Wigan & District Incorporated
Chamber of Commerce
Welcome to Edgehall Road

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Today we welcome the players, officials and supporters of Gloucester Rugby Football Club. Gloucester RFC have been a force in English rugby for many years and together with Bath and Bristol are in the vanguard of rugby in the South West.

Today's game will be hard and uncompromising with a lot at stake for both teams.

The win over Quins was well deserved and all credit must go to the lads for a sustained team performance.

There will be a collection today in aid of SPIRE a charity set up to support paraplegics in rugby – please give generously to this most deserving cause.

Thanks to you all for contributing to the bucket collection in aid of Aspull RFC. The money collected will be put to good use in replacing the fire damaged club house. Tickets are available from Pauline Lloyd and Alan Houghton for the New Years Eve Dance, I understand that they are going fast – don't be disappointed, order your tickets now.

The next away game is at Wasps on 11th December 1993, your support is appreciated by the team – come and cheer us to the top of the league.

Bill Huxley
Today’s Visitors Gloucester

Today we welcome to Edgehall Road Gloucester RFC. Gloucester together with Bath and Bristol form the basis of top class rugby in the South West. As far as last season went it was a surprising case of “all well that ends well,” and in the end it all came right for the club. The daunting spectre of relegation was a real possibility for most of the season and so to finish 5th in the Courage League Division 1 was a creditable performance.

From the outset things were never going to be easy the departure of twelve players and injuries left the club woefully short in some departments, especially scrum half. Against that background a lesser club would have struggled to retain their 1st Division status, remembering that four teams were to be relegated. So it bodes well for Gloucester in the future that they could rise from the ashes to fifth place.

Coach Keith Richardson is bullish about the club’s prospects this season, and the appointment of Barrie Corless as Director of Rugby at Kingsholm will sharpen tactical awareness and harden attitudes. Des Seabrook comments “This will be a very hard game. Gloucester haven’t picked up as many points as normal by this time in the season. Their last victory over Northampton will have improved confidence in the side, and Keith Richardson will have the team well motivated for today’s game.”

Phil Moss says “Gloucester are a hard and uncompromising side. We are under no illusions as to the seriousness of today’s game. Two points for us will put us right up in contention, two points to Gloucester will edge them nearer to safety, that is what is at stake today. The sides in Division 1 are on the whole evenly matched and the results often boil down to whoever wants it most on the day usually come out on top. It is up to us to ensure that we are ready physically and mentally to take on the might of Gloucester. We will not be taking much notice of their league position, and we know that Keith Richardson will have them ready and prepared for a hard game.”

Steve Taberner - Capt comments “Gloucester are a good workmanlike side with a lot of spirit and commitment. They are in a way similar to us here at Cirencester, a team built on good solid players not necessarily sprinkled with star names. It is always a hard game against Gloucester but everyone is looking forward to the game.”


Front Row: Graham Commins, Bob Phillips, Derek Morgan, Marcus Hennaford, Ian Smith (Capt), Tim Smith, Dan Quince, Dave Kearsley, Ian Morgan.