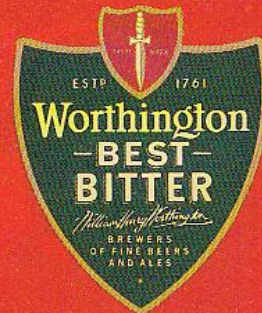




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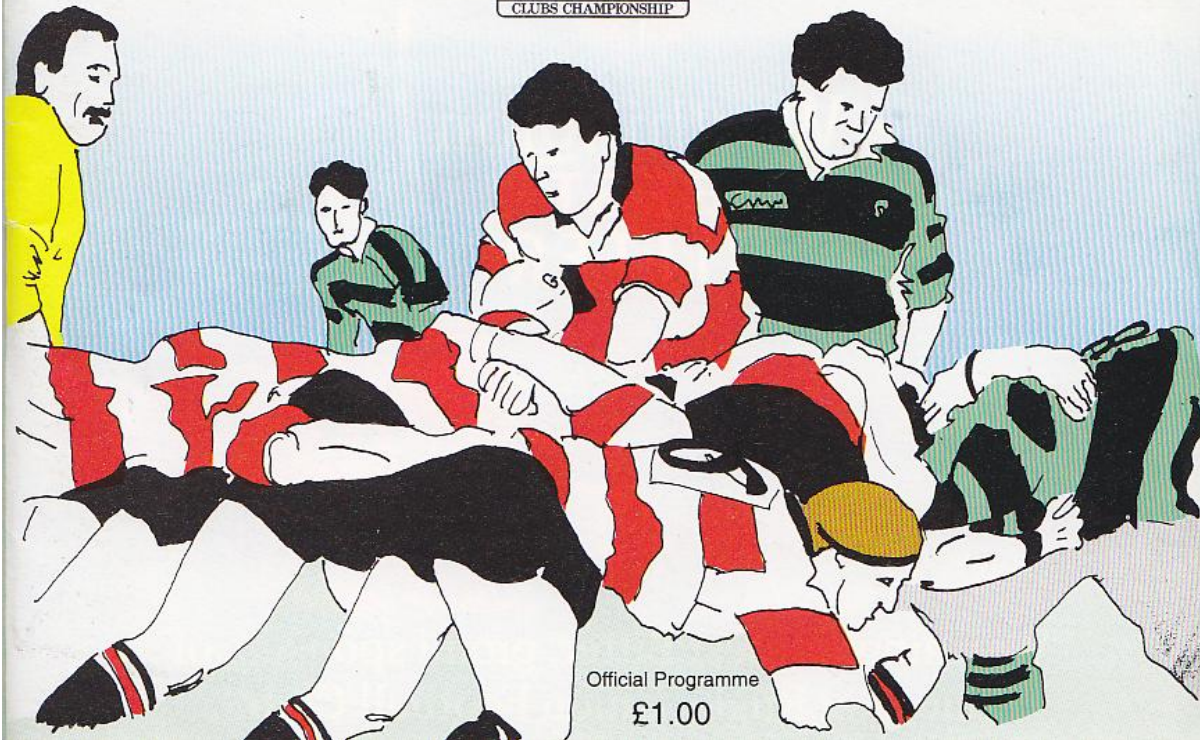
HARLEQUINS

HARLEQUIN
FOOTBALL CLUB



SATURDAY DECEMBER 11th, 1993

KICK OFF 2.30 pm



Official Programme

£1.00

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(Cherry/White)

T	G	Pts
	2c	4

1		5

1		5

1		5
1		5

10	H/T	15

15. Tim Smith

14. ~~Paul Holford~~ *J. PERRINS*

13. Don Caskie

12. Damian Cummins

11. ~~Martin Roberts~~
M. NICHOLSON

10. Ashley Johnson

9. Bruce Fenley

1. Tony Windo

2. John Hawker

3. Andy Deacon

4. Richard West

5. Simon Devereux

6. Rob Fowke

7. Ian Smith †

8. Dave Sims

Replacements

Ady Martin
Ian Morgan
Mark Nicholls

Referee: David Matthews - RFU
T/Judges: J. D. Rees, M. C. Roberts

HARLEQUINS

(Light Blue, Magenta, Chocolate, French Grey, Light Green & Black)

15. Kent Bray

14. Daren O'Leary

13. Will Carling

12. Gavin Thompson

11. Jeff Alexander

10. Paul Challinor

9. Rob Glenister

1. Martin Hobleby

2. Paul Simmonds

3. Andy Mullins

4. Troy Coker

5. Simon Dear

6. Mark Russell

7. Rob Jardine-Brown

8. Chris Sheasby

Replacements:

Jason Kayter
David Thresher
Ben Fennell

T	G	Pts

24	F/T	20

5	0		
5	7		
5	12		
10	12		
10	15		
17	15		
24	15		
24	20		

†Captain

Peter Arnold

AND FOR OUR NEXT TRICK . . .

After two successive, and hard-earned, wins, you might consider that Gloucester are due for something of a breather. Not so. The Courage League simply doesn't work that way.

Time was when today's respected visitors were admired for their devotion to the more artistic skills of the game, and their adherence to the Corinthian ideal, but weren't really remarkable for their passion and commitment. Like it or not, all that has changed, and in the case of the 'Quins, was doing so long before the advent of League rugby.

And yet, the very word 'Harlequins' still has a certain *frisson* about it. They are still a side everyone likes to watch, and everyone wants to beat, but these days, you're going to have to play very well to come out on top. Wasps to the left of them, Leicester to the right of them, and Bath in front of them, so to speak, may volley and thunder, but the 'Quins carry on along their merry way regardless, leaving notable scalps in their wake.

Which is as it should be. The First Division without Harlequins would be like Christmas without carols. I suppose it would still carry on, but it would be far more boring.

Last week, while Gloucester without Damien Cummins and Pete Jones were grimly disposing of Orrell without Dewi Morris, 'Quins less Messrs. Carling and Leonard were going down narrowly to Bath sans Redman and Callard, which would seem to indicate that there won't be very much between the two sides today. Of course, the last time they met, Gloucester stormed away with a 29-0 win, but on this occasion each side will have five more players than they did last May Bank Holiday, so the comparison is, as Mrs. Malaprop would no doubt have remarked, odorous.

So it should all be interesting to say the least. But when was a Harlequins game ever

anything else?

A glance at the current table will show you that both sides badly want to win today. Two points for the 'Quins would consolidate their position nicely, while a win the other way would allow Gloucester to go into their Christmas break breathing a great deal easier. It could well be that Gloucester - including the supporters - actually *need* to win, while it would not be a nice thing for the Harlequins to lose, but there would be ample time for them to repair the damage. Perhaps the fire-in-the-belly syndrome may prove decisive. Or it may not.

Either way, it's always good to see the lads from the Stoop at Kingsholm, and I have very good reason to believe that they enjoy coming here. The way the Cup draw has worked out, this will be our final home First XV game before Christmas, and we could hardly have more welcome guests to help us usher in the Festive Season. We hope they have a thoroughly enjoyable time.

TYING 'EM UP IN NOTTS

We seem to have been here before. The last time we faced Nottingham twice in a season, we beat them in the Cup but - heartbreakingly - went down in the League a few weeks later, when a win would have won the Championship for us.

This season, we've already lost once at Beeston and shouldn't have done. So the Cup game next Saturday assumes a multidimensional sort of status, with plenty to prove for both sides. I've no doubt that the young, enthusiastic Nottingham side will bust the proverbial gut to prove that their win over Gloucester wasn't any sort of a fluke, while our lads, still smarting from that defeat, will be out to put the record straight and then some. There is also the thought that a decent Cup run would work wonders for every-

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THE
SOCIETY
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.

one associated with the Kingsholm scene, from the youngest ball boy to the most antediluvian supporter.

I've no doubt that a lot of the Faithful will want to travel up and provide their usual vocal support, leaving the Christmas shopping to their better halves. This may cause a little strain on the domestic front, but will be much appreciated by the players, who value the decibel level provided by our own version of the New Age Travellers enormously.

Trevor Pritchard has organised coaches, but I can't give you full details at the time of writing. If you call into the office all will be revealed. Notice is, of course, short, so it would be as well to make your wants known fairly quickly. (Incidentally, coaches have also been arranged for the Wasps game, soon after Christmas).

For people making their own way there, the directions I have are as follows.

Make for the M1, possibly via Lutterworth, and leave it at JUNCTION 25. Follow the signs to Nottingham. Take the THIRD EXIT onto the B6003. At the next T-junction, Turn LEFT on the A6005, passing a dual carriageway. Look for Barton's Bus Garage on the left, and then turn RIGHT at the next crossroads into DOVECOTE LANE. Immediately, turn RIGHT into IRELAND AVENUE. The ground is at the end of the road.

So now you know.

Incidentally, talking about travelling support, I'm asked to thank the sizable contingent who followed the lads to Orrell. The support was tremendous, and provided crucial encouragement in what turned out to be a dour old struggle, and one which we could easily have lost.

WELL DONE ASHLEY!

The understandable euphoria surrounding the England win over New Zealand, followed by the excellent Barbarians match at Cardiff, has rather eclipsed the stirring performance produced by the Combined Services side against the All Blacks in the game which was squeezed between the two glamour fixtures.

That's a shame, because I'm told that our own Ashley Johnson had a lot to do with the decided fright which the servicemen gave their mighty guests on that day. Great stuff, Ashley. Following that with the decisive try against Orrell, created as it was by the disruption of the Orrell eight by our own pack, seems to indicate that

Ashley is on something of a roll. We'd love to see him do something similar today, and again next week for that matter. And I'm not taking bets that he won't.

NICE ONE COACH!

Mention of the England/All Blacks game reminds me to congratulate Keith Richardson on a remarkable piece of perception.

As you know, Keith coached the Emerging England side which took on the All Blacks here at Kingsholm, during the week preceding the Twickenham encounter. It wasn't surprising, therefore, that he devoted much of his regular column in the 'Pink 'Un' to a discussion of that game. It was the paragraph which opened the article which caught my eye.

I'm not attempting to reproduce it verbatim, but a rough transliteration would read that *'The All Blacks came, didn't stay long, duly conquered, and then departed for the big game at Twickenham. By the time you read this, that game will be over, and with a bit of luck, and some good kicking, we may have won.'*

How about that then? Bearing in mind that our respected Coach would have had to submit his copy by about Thursday, he must have been the only commentator in the country who would have had the nerve to make that forecast, just a few days after New Zealand had put a cool 50 points on the full Scotland side.

Nice one, Keith!

CHRISTMAS READING

My thanks, yet again, to Gwyn Hiatt of the County Library and Museum Service for information about new rugby books either ordered or already available for loan. A good read does represent an excellent antidote to the endless diet of telly over a long Christmas weekend, and you'll find that your local branch library usually has a fair old stock of library books to keep you going nicely. On the other hand, it's probably not too late to drop heavy hints to your nearest and dearest about what you'd like in your pillow case this year.

Gwyn has sent me information about three books this time round, and the first is the authorised biography of the England Captain. An 'authorised biography' at 27? How many volumes will it run to by the time he's 80?

The book is simply called 'Will Carling' and it's nice to be able to give it a plug today, of all days,

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when Harlequins are here. It has been written by David Norrie, who has been a sports correspondent for the 'News of the World' since 1980. It is published by Headline and will set you back around £16.99.

If you feel that the 'News of the World' is more famous for its coverage of sports of quite a different kind, then, to be fair, I ought to point out that David Norrie also served a term as Editor of 'Rugby World', and that he has also written biographies of Dusty Hare and Roger Uttley.

Will Carling, of course, has never been averse to saying what he thinks at an appropriate juncture — as the All Blacks management found out very recently. So the book should be a good read.

The second book is wider in its subject matter. It is 'The Whitbread Rugby World, 1994' edited by our old friends Ian Robertson and Nigel Starmer-Smith (Old Boys of Barnwood C. of E. School). In effect it's an anthology of topical information and comment which should contain something to interest just about everyone.

The contents list reveals pieces by such eminent people as Tommy Bedford, the great Springbok Captain, Clem Thomas, Bill McLaren and Glyn Jones. The book costs £9.99.

Finally, here's one which is firmly on my Christmas list, because it's an annual work of reference quite indispensable for anyone who is at all involved with the club scene. It's the 'Official Rugby Union Club Directory' which comprehensively gives details of every club in the Courage League. I was struck by the 'Publisher's Foreword', which has been written

by someone called Tony Williams. I am reliably informed that he is no relation to our own Tony Williams, the famous 'A.G.', erstwhile, and much-missed referee, long distance walker, devotee of CAMRA, raconteur and habitue of the 'County Arms' and other valued watering holes.

Pity. I'll bet he'd have made an entertaining hand at it.

AND DON'T FORGET THE SHOP

While on the subject of Christmas presents, don't forget that our own Club Shop, situated alongside the stand at the Worcester Street end, can provide you with a veritable Aladdin's cave of stocking fillers or more durable gifts. Alan Townsend and John Beaman will be happy to show off their wares and generally minister to your every need.

A FEW SEASONAL THANKS

Incidentally, this being the season of goodwill, and all that, it would be right to point out that Alan and John are examples of the veritable army of people who, throughout the year, never mind just the season, do a wide variety of jobs, keeping Kingsholm in its spot as just about the best club ground in the country.

At least, Alan and John are fairly visible; well known faces to anyone who comes to Kingsholm at all regularly. Many of our invaluable helpers beaver away unseen, unnoticed by the vast majority of supporters, ever-present but indispensable. Had you thought, for example, that while you're lazing around on the morning of

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THIS MONTHS SPECIALS

Date	Destination	Departure Time:			— Fare:—	
		Chelt	Glos	Others	Adult	Child/ Snr Cits
Sun 12th	Petticoat Lane and London Sightseeing	8.30am	8.00am	9.00am	£6.50	£6.00
Tues 14th	Abergavenny Market NEC (BBC Clothes Show) or Birmingham for Shopping	9.15am 9.30am	9.45am 9.00am		£3.00 £4.00	£2.50 £3.50
Weds 15th	Redditch (Kingfisher Centre)	9.30am	9.00am		£3.50	£3.00
Thurs 16th	Afternoon Mystery Tour	12.00	12.30pm		£2.50	£2.00
Fri 17th	16 Cotswold Villages Cirencester Market Malvern Market & Tour	11.15am 11.15am 9.15am	— — 9.45am		£2.90 £2.90 £3.00	£2.90 £2.90 £2.50
Sat 18th	Lincoln Christmas Fayre	8.00am	7.30am		£7.00	£6.50
Sun 19th	Mystery Tour	9.30am	10.00am		£4.00	£3.50
Wed 22nd	Cadbury World, B'ham (Free Selection Box)	11.30am	12.00		£7.50*	£5.75*
Thurs. 30th	Afternoon Mystery Tour	12.00	12.30pm		£2.50	£2.00

*includes admission

— The Family and Staff at Marchants Coaches wish all their Passengers
a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year —

61 Clarence Street, Cheltenham Spa, Glos GL53 3LB

Peter Arnold cont.

Boxing Day, quite a few people are going to be getting things ready for the Lydney game. Matches don't just happen by spontaneous combustion.

So our heartfelt Seasonal good wishes and thanks to all of them. Quite literally, we couldn't manage without them.

CLUBCALL'S BACK!

Nice to see that, after recent hiccups, our Clubcall telephone line is back in operation. The number is 0891 121 138, and you can get all the latest news, results etc. simply by ringing that number. It's a good service for supporters, particularly those who can't get along to matches as often as they'd like, and I'm glad to see that we're back on stream again.

BEATING LLANELLI

Llanelli were among the favourites to win the current Under 21 competition, but those hopes have been dashed now. Our own squad, after a little difficulty, it must be admitted, put them away to the tune of 21-14, on a bad night with a very tricky wind.

It's amazing what strides the U21 game has made in a very short time. And it's great to see that our own lads are right in there with the best of them. I keep saying this, but the revealed strength of our Colts, U21's and United sides do give an ominous warning for the future to opposing sides. It won't be that long before we see them coming through to the Senior game, after all.

PILKINGTON

I've waited as long as I can, but at the time of writing there is no information about tickets for the Pilkington Cup game against Nottingham next Saturday. Of course, by the time you read this, details ought to be to hand, and no doubt, the familiar tones of Graham Spring will inform you via the public address system during the course of today. Or you could drop into the office and ask.

Sorry. Best I can do.

'TUG' WILSON

It was very sad to hear of the early death of K. J. ('Tug') Wilson last week. In fact, his career coincided with the period when I was exiled from my native city, so I can't give you any first-hand impressions, but people who knew him tell me that he was a forthright forward who deserved more than his one International Cap, against France in 1963.

Nevertheless, we can't allow the passing of one of Gloucester's Internationals to go by without acknowledging that sad fact, and sending our sincere condolences to his family.

WELCOME JOE!

Just off the top of my head, I can't recall that we've ever welcomed a Match Mascot from St. Peter's Roman Catholic School in Horton Road before. That's an omission which we're very happy to rectify in the person of Joseph Darke, who has achieved the ripe old age of six, so is one of the younger fellows to pull on the cherry-and-white strip.

In fact, young Joseph gets to keep the kit, because he is sponsored in his endeavours on our behalf today by Bass Brewers, who are, of course, our principal sponsors. So there's something else we have to be grateful to them for.

Joseph is the son of Simon Darke, who is the Operations Director of Cheltenham's 'Everyman' Theatre, and it's nice to see the County's primary professional theatrical organisation officially represented here today. To my knowledge, that hasn't happened before, either.

I don't know whether it is permitted, in the Darke family, to call him 'Joe', but I intend to do so just this once, because it's a dead certainty that, in about 20 years time, when he's performing for the First XV, we shall be shouting 'Come on Joe!'

KEEP 'EM COMING!

Just a personal word of thanks to everyone who reads these notes regularly, and especially those who take the time and trouble to write to me about things in general. It's nice to be able to print such letters when I can, and, I have to confess, it does make the job easier. So keep 'em coming.

And an extraordinarily Merry Christmas from me to you.

TAILPIECE

Did you know that today is the 57th anniversary of the Abdication of King Edward VIII? Not a lot of people know that.

I only mention the fact because I well remember an elderly relative of mine, who was at one time in the employ of the King when he was Prince of Wales, used still to complain, many years later, that he used to miss Soccer matches at White Hart Lane because His Royal Highness wanted to be driven to Twickenham to watch Harlequins.

Have a great Christmas!



Ed Martin — IN PERSPECTIVE

IT HAS often been pointed out - and rightly - that the historical win-loss record against a particular team over a period of many years does not reflect the state of the fixture in this modern era of cups and leagues.

A good case in point is the Bath fixture. Now, Bath have only 10 wins to show for their 81 visits to Kingsholm since 1895.

The problem with this impressive statistic is that five of those elusive wins have been in their last seven visits!

Harlequins, however, manage to stay reasonably consistent with the overall numbers, though it could be argued that Gloucester's performance against the club in the past 10 years has improved.

This is their 37th visit to Kingsholm since the fixture was inaugurated in 1912. And of the 36 previous visits, the Quins have posted 10 wins. With the two drawn encounters, this gives Gloucester a 70 per cent winning record.

The last ten years has seen seven visits by Harlequins, and the Cherry and Whites have won all of them except the 16-10 and 13-15 defeats in 1986-7 and 1990-1 respectively. That gives Gloucester a home winning record of 71 per cent since 1983-4.

Gloucester vs Harlequins:

Series Record

	Overall	Home	Away
Played	68	36	32
Won	39	24	15
Lost	25	10	15
Drawn	4	2	2
Pts For	836	504	332
Pts Against	763	345	418
Gloucester %	60.29	69.44	50.00

Those numbers might not impress the Harlequins, but for once I do offer a little morsel that will bring a smile to the faces of the visitors. No, not 43-6 whipping they handed out to Gloucester on October 12 1985 in a "merit table" clash.

Rather an item from overseas that indirectly Will Carling, who is preferred by The Shed when he is wearing a white jersey with a rose on it

rather than the Will of Amazing Technicolor Dreamjersey.

Rugby rarely gets a mention in American newspapers. But a couple of weeks ago the following was spotted in the sports section of the August Washington Post . . .

Jolly Good for England

from The Associated Press

LONDON — It was the upset of the year, and just the tonic for a victory-starved nation.

"Our greatest win," England's captain, Will Carling, said after Saturday's 15-9 victory over the New Zealand All Blacks, regarded as the best rugby union team in the world.

After a year of humiliation in the two sports it boasts as its own — cricket and soccer — England finally had something to crow about.

"The All Blacks must have thought they were going to roast us, but I hope that they are well and truly humbled," said kicker Jonathan Callard, who recovered from two poor performances in earlier tour matches to score 12 of the team's 15 points.

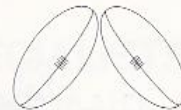
Other heroes were veteran Rob Andrew, whose drop goal accounted for three crucial second-half points, and Victor Ubogu, who forced New Zealand fullback John Timu out of bounds just one meter from what would have been the game's only try.

"It was the tackle of a desperate man," Ubogu said.

As for New Zealand, coach Laurie Mains wasn't looking forward to reading the headlines when he gets back home.

"In New Zealand, this will be a national disaster," he said.

. . . Back to Gloucester, and all that I can add is game, set and match to His Premiership and his merry band of men.



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