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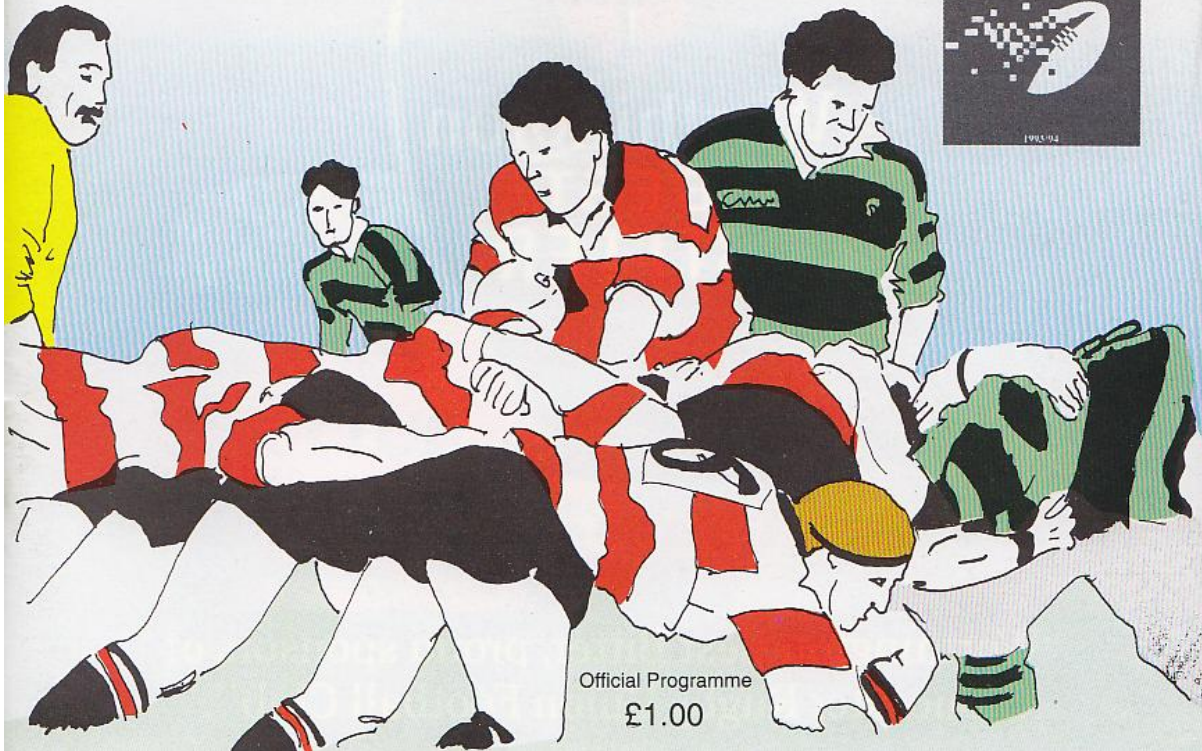


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# NORTHAMPTON

SATURDAY JANUARY 22nd, 1994

KICK OFF 2.00 pm



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GLOUCESTER (Cherry/White) 11 (1T, 2P)

T	G	Pts
	2	6

1	5
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6	H/T	3
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- 15. Tim Smith
- 14. Paul Holford
- 13. Simon Morris
- 12. Don Caskie
- 11. Mark Nicholson
- 10. Damian Cummins
- 9. Bruce Fenley
- 1. Tony Windo
- 2. John Hawker
- 3. Andy Deacon
- 4. Simon Devereux
- 5. Richard West
- 6. Pete Gianville
- 7. Ian Smith †
- 8. Dave Sims

Replacements:  
Ian Morgan  
Adey Knight  
Rob Baxter

Referee: K. M. Ricketts, RFU  
T/Judges: J. D. Rees, M. C. Roberts

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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Cumulative Match Score

0	3
5	3
8	3
11	3
11	6

†Captain

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T	G	Pts
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- 15. Ian Hunter
- 14. Kevin Morgan
- 13. Mike Fielden
- 12. John Fletcher
- 11. Nick Beal

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2	6
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11	F/T	6
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- 10. John Steel†
- 9. Matt Dawson

- 1. Gavin Baldwin
- 2. Alan Clarke
- 3. Gary Pearce
- 4. Neal Edwards
- 5. Martin Bayfield
- 6. Peter Walton
- 7. Mark Steffert
- 8. Craig Millhouse

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*Peter Arnold*



# THE CUP THAT CHEERS ...



It's now, you may be surprised to realise, over twenty years since Mike Nicholls' 'Immortals' won that very first RFU Cup Competition, before either Pilkington or even John Player had their names bracketed with such endeavours. Ever since then, Cup rugby has had a rather special place in the affections of everyone at Kingsholm, from the Club President right down to the youngest supporter. Which makes it all the more depressing when, as last season, we take the earliest opportunity to depart from the Competition.

It wasn't the first time that that happened. Indeed, one season, owing to the vagaries of the merit table system prevailing at the time, neither Gloucester nor Bristol appeared in the Cup at all. And that's ridiculous.

Northampton have had their ups and downs too. Like Gloucester, their fortunes have ranged from Twickenham appearances all the way down to non appearance during the the currency of Cup rugby. Like us, they have a fiercely loyal band of supporters, and I'm told that our welcome and respected visitors have had no trouble at all in using their allocation of tickets, so the decibel level today should be slightly mind-boggling. Which is as it should be. Indeed, a couple of years ago, the Northampton Faithful actually outshouted us here at Kingsholm. Oh! The shame of it!

Many of us will recall, in 1990, travelling to Northampton for the Semi Final. All the pundits were confidently expecting Gloucester to walk it, but I well remember responding to a pre-match question from a member of the press with the comment: "The man who has most influence on this game may well not be on the field at all. That crafty old so-and-so, Barrie Corless! "He hadn't long been in

office at Franklins Gardens then, and the full implications of a full-time overall supremo on rugby matters wasn't generally realised, but I turned out to be right. Gloucester won in the end, but there were a fair few heart-stopping moments during the course of the game.

Now, of course, Barrie's on our side, a living proof, I suppose, of the old saying, 'If you can't beat 'em, get 'em to join you!' or something like that.

As if Cup tensions weren't enough to cope with, today's game is being played against the background of one of the most momentous and important (four Gloucester) games seen at Kingsholm since the League system was introduced. You won't need reminding about the epic struggle, just a few weeks ago, against the same opposition which Gloucester won with 14 men. Northampton won't take that lying down.

However, all other considerations apart, Northampton have always been among the select group of visitors we most enjoy welcoming to Kingsholm. We sincerely hope that everyone - supporters, officials and players - have a whale of a time with us.

## **WATCH WHERE YOU'RE STANDING**

Let's get the official bit out of the way right from the start. The Police and the Fire Officer both decree that standing in gangways and on steps must not be allowed, for fairly obvious reasons. Furthermore, Stewards are instructed gently to discourage any such practice. So, if someone in authority does ask you to move around a bit, he's only doing his job.

*Cont on page 12*

**THE  
SOCIETY  
THAT TRIES  
HARDER**



**WISHES GLOUCESTER R.F.C ALL THE  
BEST FOR THE 1993/1994 SEASON  
AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS  
TO KINGSHOLM**

*Peter Arnold cont.*

#### **TIGERS NEXT WEEK**

Looking ahead for a moment, the lads travel to Leicester in the League next Saturday. Always a popular trip, that one, to one of the best grounds in the country, with a very welcoming atmosphere. Coaches are being arranged, so if you fancy going, have a word in the office.

If you're driving up, then the directions are as follows:

Get yourself on the A46 going into Leicester. It's Exit 21 from the M1. After one mile, look for the Post House Hotel, and turn RIGHT at the traffic lights. After another mile or so, you'll approach a T-junction, where you'll turn LEFT. After another two miles towards the City, on the one-way system, you'll find the famous Aylestone Road Ground on your RIGHT.

Leicester are, of course, going extremely well this season, and have already beaten us once. Which doesn't mean they're going to do it again. Pity Dean Richards is out with a dislocated elbow.

And speaking of injuries, I wonder if Iain Morrison's unfortunate broken leg, suffered at the Arms Park last Saturday, will give Ian Smith a chance to get back into the frame for Scotland?

#### **GIDDY HEIGHTS**

What a difference a day makes! Last Saturday morning we were perilously close to the League relegation zone. By 3.45 we were riding high at fifth in the table. Of course, it's false. Bristol and Wasps have a game in hand over us, and London Irish have two.

Still, it's a nice feeling, as long as it lasts.

#### **WHISTLE BLOWERS**

It's an old saying that, on a given day at Kingsholm, there are likely to be 5,000 referees on the ground, and that doesn't include the one with the whistle.

Not wishing to be controversial, it would be true to say that the referee has provided much food for after-match discussion at each of our last two League fixtures. However, as someone who has been as vociferous as anyone on this score over the years, I am beginning to be a lot more tolerant, these days.

No - Arnold isn't mellowing in his old age, it's just that I have become a devoted reader of Andy Melrose in his 'Whistle Blower' column in the 'Pink 'Un' each week. It's given me an insight into the trials and problems of the man in charge

under today's Laws. For example, Mr. Melrose was asked, last week, what the decision is if a full back takes the ball and claims a mark while on his knees. (The player in question was, it appears, our old mate Nick Marment).

Mr. Melrose was able to give perfectly cogent reasons for giving the decision both ways - although he did plump, in the end, for not awarding the mark. And remember, he only has a split second. He can't keep everyone hanging around for too long on a filthy day like last Saturday.

By no means an easy job, especially when he has a baying crowd casting aspersions on his parentage at the time. And, we would be the first to admit, some referees acquire the sort of reputation which means that they're going to get a going over from the crowd even before the game starts.

I've forgotten the exact circumstances, but there was one occasion last week when everyone was howling for the blood - to name but a few - of Mr. Quittenden for a decision which I, having read the Andy Melrose column, thought was absolutely correct.

Take my word for it. The 'Pink's' 'Whistle Blower' column should be required reading for any committed rugby supporter Long may it continue.

You might also like to know that Mr. Melrose extends an open invitation to write to him at the 'Citizen' if you have any queries about points of Law. I may well take him up on it.

#### **THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR**

All things considered, it seemed only right to give our new Acting Chairman, Alan Brinn, an early chance to tell everyone how he sees things. It was an opportunity he grabbed with two capacious mitts, and the result, as I think you will agree, gives us a valuable insight into the affairs of Gloucester RFC in January 1994.

Here are Alan's thoughts on just about everything. If you know him, you can practically hear him talking.

*Good afternoon everybody - as you are aware I have taken over from Peter Ford for the remainder of the season. The circumstances of this change are well known and the good news is that Peter is much better and will gradually resume an active role in our committee.*

*I have been asked to write some notes for today's programme and I thought I could take*

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the opportunity of acquainting you with the current thinking at Kingsholm. To me, the equation consists of four parts - 1. The playing side. 2. Support and membership. 3. The continuing development of the ground and facilities at both Kingsholm and our training area. 4. Finance.

The playing side is the reason we are all involved and, with the appointment of Barrie Corless, I feel that we have laid the foundation stone for long term success. Next season will see the start of a full-time Saturday U21 side which will be a stepping stone for younger players into United and 1st team squads. We have just set up a Rugby sub-committee with representatives from 1sts, United, U21 and Colts levels and their brief is to look at every aspect of the playing side, and bring their recommendations to the committee. I know we have some difficult games ahead of us in the latter part of this season, but the spirit is good amongst all our players and I would hope that we can continue to improve our position in the League Table.

This brings me to you, our members and supporters, who are quite rightly acclaimed as one of the most loyal and vociferous crowds in the country. When Kingsholm is packed it generates an atmosphere unrivalled in England. After the New Zealand v Emerging England game this was commented on by Dean Ryan, the England captain, in his speech and also by several of the All Blacks. I know that we need a period of solid success to provide the stimulus for improved attendances, but our hard core of support is a vital ingredient in the make up of our

club. I also know that not everything is perfect for our supporters at Kingsholm (although we are constantly trying to improve things) and the Committee will always welcome genuine constructive criticism or suggestions.

With regard to Kingsholm itself, our ground committee is constantly involved with general maintenance and improvement, while major projects come before the full Committee. We have in place at the moment plans to extend the grandstand, and as Peter Ford explained at the AGM, it is not just to provide extra seats but also badly needed space. For example, we need a larger medical room and also more changing facilities for the extra linesmen appointed by the Rugby Union for all league matches. These are just a couple of the things we need to do, but unfortunately having to provide a new floodlight system has pushed this project back until the necessary finance can be found.

Of course, running a major club is now a very expensive business and, in spite of sponsorship and various commercial projects, we are always in need of finance. We will always strive as a committee to keep our membership and entrance prices as low as possible, but with the few points I have mentioned I hope you will understand that, when we feel it is necessary to increase these prices from time to time, it is only because we want to ensure that the standards of the club are maintained and improved in all the areas I have outlined above.

Anyway, enough of me - let's all enjoy today and hope we can celebrate a good win and

Cont on page 20

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*Peter Arnold cont.*

*another home draw - not much to ask for!!*

*Regards to you all, Alan Brinn.*

Thanks Alan. Same to you from all of us. Just shout if you need any help - and the best of luck in your endeavours.

#### **DIFFERENT WAY IN**

Anyone used to quaffing his after-match ale in the Complex will find a different mode of entry this week. In other words, you won't be able to get in via the Players entrance.

For this week only (until next time), entrance to the Complex for supporters will be through the double doors alongside Graham Spring's loudspeaker system box. That is, the ones which lead directly into the old Clubhouse lounge. Go in through there, and turn either left or right, depending on whether you want to go to the Social Club or the Lounge.

The reason for this has to do with the number of people likely to be around today. Not only are we expecting quite a crush at the entrances, but with the TV cameras here, there are likely to be various chaps doing various interviews right outside the Players Entrance after the game.

Apparently, the Police, and organisers, weren't too happy with the situation at the Emerging England v. All Blacks game, and this is an attempt to find a compromise solution. Not easy, but we'll see how it goes.

#### **FAMILY AFFAIR**

Could be wrong, but I can't recall us having a Match Mascot from Upton St. Leonards before. We have one today, he's nine years old, his name is James Knights and he attends Upton Primary School.

Actually, he was down to do the job a few weeks ago, but circumstances which are too long to go into now conspired to prevent that happening. However, it does mean that young James gets to run out on a Cup day, which is a bigger occasion than the one originally earmarked for him.

James is no stranger to Kingsholm, being a semi-regular attender, invariably inviting his Dad, Roger to come along too, which is nice of him.

The family connection is extended by the fact that it was his Uncle Sid, (Pritchard of that ilk), another devout and practising supporter, who nominated James for the job. His mother, Jeanette gets into the act too. She is the sister of one Mike Teague, of whom you may possibly have heard.

One way and another, Master Knights has an impeccable rugby background. Which could well mean that we shall hear more of him in a few years' time.

#### **TOM BARNFIELD**

It's always sad to hear of the passing of one of our long-time supporters, and I'm sorry to have to report to you one such occasion today. Tom Barnfield was one of those ever-present Kingsholm regulars who are part of the very

fabric of the Club. Just the sort of man Alan Brinn was referring to in his article a page or so back.

Tom died in Cheltenham at the age of 73, not a great age as things go, but most of those years were spent following the fortunes of the Elver Eaters, and his absence will certainly leave a gap in his own particular circle of rugby-going friends. Our sincere sympathies are extended to his family, and it's nice to know that at least one grandson is carrying on his grandfathers tradition of always supporting Gloucester.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

The Bath game, on February 12th, seems a long way ahead, but here's advance notice to the effect that the size of the crowd expected prompts Doug Wadley to have tickets printed beforehand.

Obviously, the game is an ordinary League affair, so it's not an all-ticket occasion: the idea is to ease congestion on the day.

Stand season ticket holders needn't worry. A Centre-Stand block will be reserved for them until 20 minutes before kick-off. Just so long as you know.

#### **WATCH YOUR CAR**

Just a word of warning. We've had a couple of incidents of cars being stolen from the car park. Not during the game, I hasten to add, but when Stewards have not been on duty, notably when supporters have left their cars here while travelling to away matches.

Obviously the car can't be policed on every occasion when people may choose to leave their cars there, so it might be a good idea to make sure that all appropriate security measures are taken.

It's a sad reflection on the times we live in though, isn't it?

#### **TAILPIECE**

On the same subject, I hear that one supporter (I'll spare his blushes by allowing him to remain anonymous), returned by coach from Nottingham after the last cup game, to find his car had gone walkies. Naturally, it was straight off to the phone in the Clubhouse to report the matter. After some wait, the ensuing conversation with the police went as follows:

"I'm ringing to report my car has been stolen."

"Sorry to hear that. Sir! Where are you phoning from?"

"Kingsholm Rugby Ground."

"Oh yeah! How'd they get on today?"

Now who says our police don't get their priorities right?



## *Ed Martin* – IN PERSPECTIVE

LOOKING THROUGH the club records for 1983 to pull out the facts for the notes on Tim Smith in last week's programme, I came across one of those useless pieces of information that will always stick in my mind.

And as Gloucester have never played Northampton in a Pilkington/John Player Cup match in the more than 20 seasons of the competition, this afternoon seems a good a time as any to pass on what could win you a bet — and there is a connection with today's proceedings.

I tried it out on a player after last week's Newcastle match . . .

"Sir," I said to Ashley Johnson — as a former Brylcream boy, old habits die hard . . . "In which match did you score your first points at Kingsholm?"

He scratched his head in thought. Something told me that he was about to fall for it.

To be honest, he did need a slight nudge in the memory department. His first ever points at Kingsholm were a penalty and a drop goal, both booted on Friday March 4, 1983 when Northampton came down for a desperately close match that Gloucester won 12-10 when full back Paul Ford landed his fourth penalty of the evening 14 minutes from the end.

It all then came back to him — his Kingsholm debut as a 17 year-old. "Yes, I remember the match — and I also remember being told off for missing a conversion," he said.

Gloucester, who had recorded, according to the Citizen match report, a run of seven defeats, went into a lead with nine unanswered points by Ford. It could have been more, but the ball slipped from the hands of Kevin White as he crossed the line for what should have been the only Gloucester try of the match.

Andrew Wise, the Citizen's "man at Kingsholm" of the day observed that the match typified the fortunes of both clubs that season. "There was very much an end of the season atmosphere about the game, played before one of the smallest crowds at Kingsholm this season," he wrote.

"Gloucester had built up a healthy 9-0 lead by the 26th minute despite never having stayed too long in the Saints 22. But (this lead) was chipped away by Northampton, whose belief in

themselves steadily increased as the game wore on.

"A penalty and neat drop goal from 17-year old Ashley Johnson put (Northampton) back in the game before half time and 14 minutes into the second half winger Nigel Underwood ghosted over for a fine try — his 17th of the season," Wise observed in his Citizen report the following day.

Northampton were now 10-9 ahead. The conversion failed and then Gloucester started to play with more than a little urgency. And lady luck shone on the Cherry and Whites with a lucky penalty.

"(Gloucester) clinched victory with a 26th minute penalty from Paul Ford — his fourth success of the night — with the aid of the cross bar," was how the Citizen reported the kick (note these days, the timing would probably be recorded as 66th minute).

Among the Gloucester team that match were Baker, Ford, Mogg, O'Donoghue, Orwin, Price, Pritchard, Scrivens, Teague and White. As there are more than a fair few supporters from Northampton present — a few names for the Saints team that were mentioned — Vince Canon, who did well in the shortened lines out and veteran "Jacko" Page, who dictated play at scrum half.

While Northampton failed to record their tenth win of that season, Gloucester managed to end their barren spell as they recorded their 18th win of the season. The Cherry and Whites went on to post 24 wins from their 54 matches (there were 24 losses and five draws).

There is one other thing that needs clarification for the record. Gloucester did not, in fact, go into the Northampton match with a run of seven defeats. The record shows that there were losses to Liverpool (February 26) and Nottingham (February 19). But on February 12 there was a 7-7 draw against Bath, which followed three consecutive losses (Bristol Bridgend and London Welsh) and a win against Wasps.

Obviously a typographical error — but the season had been a bad one by Gloucester's standards and wins could have been hard to remember when the Liverpool loss was by 18 points to, er, four and Gloucester had lost to Stroud and Lydney!

### **The GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

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