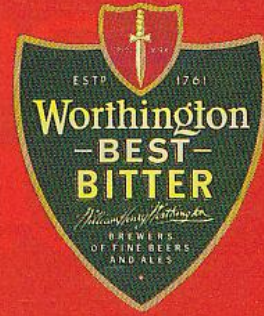




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GLOUCESTER 6 (13G, 6PG)  
(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts	
1	3		15. Tim Smith
			14. Paul Holford
			13. Simon Morris
			12. Ben Maslem
			11. Mark Nicholson

T	G	Pts	
1	3		10. Damian Cummins
			9. Bruce Fenley

		Pts	
			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:  
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Dave Kearsey  
Paul Ashmead

Referee: J. Pearson - RFU  
T/Judges: L. Bryant/J. G. Grindle

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3	7		
3	10		
6	10		
6	13		
6	16		

†Captain  
\*International

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BATH 16 (10, 3PG)  
(Blue, White & Black)

T	G	Pts	
4	11		15. John Callard*
			14. Tony Swift*
			13. Phil De Gianville*
			12. Mike Catt
			11. Adedayo Adebayo

T	G	Pts	
			10. Stuart Barnes
			9. Ian Sanders

		Pts	
			1. Dave Hilton
			2. Graham Dawe
			3. Victor Ubogu
			4. Nigel Redman
			5. Andy Reed
			6. Andy Robinson
			7. John Hall †
			8. Steve Ojomoh

Replacements:  
Marcus Olsen  
Chris Clark  
Tim Beddow

6 F/T 16



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Peter Arnold

## NOT A LOT LEFT TO SAY...

The problem about a visit from Bath these days is finding something at least half-way novel to write about. Over the last few years, the amount of paper expended on analysis, adulation, criticism, sycophancy and downright envy of today's distinguished visitors must have been enough to decimate a minor rain forest.

Of course, my primary duty on these occasions is to offer a sincere welcome to players, officials and supporters who have trotted up from Aquae Sulis today, and this I do quite unreservedly. We've always valued these occasions, and have got to know some of the more regular travelling fans almost as well as we do the players. Which says something about the Bath club. It isn't all the inevitable following which a successful side invariably attracts; there is a genuine spirit among the Bath Faithful which rivals, or at least can be compared with, our own.

We do have a little leeway to make up. After a spell when Gloucester did as well against the Champions as anyone ever has, we lost uncomfortably in the equivalent match last season. That was hardly headline news, but the fact was that Gloucester actually lost a game at Kingsholm without scoring a single point — and that's virtually unheard of. Then, in the game at Bath early in the season, we allowed them to put 46 points on a Gloucester side which was well and truly in the doldrums.

Since then, the scales would appear to have tipped just a little. When we visited Bath last October, the only side Gloucester had beaten were the Italian club, Casale — not one of the jewels in that emerging nation's crown — Blackheath and Cheltenham. Since then, we have added some notable scalps, including Cardiff and Northampton twice.

By contrast, while the Bath record is still an enviable one, they don't appear to have been winning with the fluency to which we have become accustomed. The away game at Orrell

offers a particularly interesting example. Bath won it all right, but had to dig deep to do so. Either the Champions had a rare fall from grace, or the Wigan outfit have come on a lot since we beat them up there. If the latter explanation is the true one, we are in for interesting times in our Cup game in two weeks time.

I don't actually believe that Bath are on the slide, but a niggling doubt does persist. Gloucester are certainly an improved and improving outfit, and an unlooked-for result isn't entirely impossible.

What is certain is that there will be some interesting comparisons to be made today, especially in the pack. Nigel Redman played a stormer for England against New Zealand, and then found himself relegated to the 'A' side in favour of Martin Bayfield who, as we all saw the other week, found our own Richard West and Dave Sims something of a handful here at Kingsholm.

That decision left 'Simsy' on the benches for the 'A' game in Italy, and he's not going to be very happy about that, so will have a point to prove today.

Moving forward a row, Victor Ubogu is something of a golden boy at the moment, but question marks have been levelled at his, albeit much improved, scrummaging, and it will be interesting to see how the Bath front three fare against a young and hungry Gloucester trio who have been forcing some highly rated front rows to pull the scrum down with some regularity lately.

Anyway, all such considerations will be resolved in the next hour or two, and none of them to anything to lessen our sincere welcome to Bath today. Whatever happens on the field, it's always great to see them at Kingsholm, and we hope everyone concerned thoroughly enjoy their visit.

Cont on page 12

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*Peter Arnold cont.*

### CUP GAME

The next First XV match here is the one against Newport, next Friday evening, under our great new floodlights. After that, on Saturday, February 26th we have the Pilkington Cup match against Orrell.

As you probably know, all Cup matches are, under the rules of the Competition, all-pay affairs. Tickets are on sale now to Members only, but that will change at next Friday's Newport game, when it becomes a case of first come gets the magic pasteboard. So if you are a Member, I'd suggest you nip along to the office and avoid any chance of disappointment.

Prices, in line with the Competition organisers' recommendations, are with one exception, the same as last time: £9.00 for the main stand, £7.00 for the temporary stand, and £5.00 for the ground. Concessions are £2.50 for Ground, and — a new one this — £3.50 for the temporary stand.

Obviously, we're expecting a large crowd, so it wouldn't be wise to expect to be able to pick up a ticket on the day. The office will be open from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm each weekday, so most people should be able to arrange to get along. If not, the usual postal application, enclosing the appropriate remittance and the vital SAE, will work wonders. But there isn't all that much time, so I'd see to it fairly soon if I were you.

Should be a good game. And all the players will tell you that really vociferous support does help a lot, so we'll look forward to seeing (and hearing) you on the day.

Oh! And the usual word of warning, applying as much to today as to the Cup day, the Police and the Fire Officer take a dim view of people who are standing on the steps or in the gangways. We really do have to keep them clear on these occasions, so please co-operate, will you?

### COLTS

While on the subject of forthcoming attractions, I would draw your attention to Page 29, where you will find the list of imminent Colts fixtures. There, you will see that the youngsters are due to entertain Cinderford on Tuesday evening next.

The Colts always offer splendid entertainment, of course, and the Forest fire, which always seems to ignite when one of their sides

visit Kingsholm, should be much in evidence. I would suggest that the evening would be better spent right here than in watching the telly.

### HOW DID THEY GET ON?

Last Saturday, we had one player, three replacements, one coach and a near miss involved in various grades of international rugby. As things worked out, two of the replacements got on the field, and the near miss did get called up as a replacement. Furthermore, the coach must have been well satisfied with the results of his endeavours.

First and foremost, our skipper, Ian Smith, took the field in the Scotland v England game. He just about had time to put in one crunching tackle, before finding himself involved in one of the most dramatic finishes to an International in the history of the game.

Like all the Scottish players, he must have been absolutely shattered by the eventual result. However, he can reflect on the fact that it was his tackle which kept Scotland close enough to the English line for Gregor Townsend to put in that super drop goal which seemed to have won the Calcutta Cup for Scotland. At least, when the talk turns to memorable matches, he will be able to tell his grandchildren, "I was there."

Now we must speculate. Rob Wainwright had, in my estimation, been having a fine game until he had to leave the field. One doesn't like to see injuries of any severity, but if he has, as is reported, suffered a broken cheekbone, then it might just let Ian in for the Irish game on March 5th. Unless the Scottish selectors have another surprise up their sleeves of course. The skipper will just have to sweat it out.

Dave Sims also played a part in his brand of International last Saturday. In the England 'A' match against Italy, he replaced Bristol's Andy Blackmore after about 15 minutes of the second half. Indeed, poor Andy seems to be attracting the sort of injury record which distinguishes the career of one or two International-class players, including Ian Hunter of Northampton who, you will recall, left the field here at Kingsholm before the Cup game really got itself going.

Bad luck for Blackmore, but good for Sims, who my spies twll me, had more than a passing interest in the forward move which ended with Harlequin Chris Sheasby going over for the try which effectively won the game for England 'A'.

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No such luck for Andy Deacon, a late call up as a replacement for the Emerging Players side which thrashed Spain by 86 points to 17. At least he has the consolation of knowing that he can't have done too badly in the foregoing squad session, and also of watching Richard West play a full part in the game. Ironically, it was the illness of Andy Blackmore which called 'Westy' into the Emerging England side against the All Blacks here at Kingsholm. Oh! what a tangled web . . .

Of the players, that just leaves winger Paul Holford, who warmed the bench throughout the England 'A' match. I suppose he can't really complain: it was his 'super sub' act during the South West game against New Zealand that brought him into the reckoning in the first place.

And we mustn't forget the Coach. The Spanish side can't have provided all that much in the way of opposition, but an 86 point result is something to write home about at Emerging England level. I'm told that the England side turned in a really sparkling performance, worthy of far sterner opposition. And anyway, a side which turns in thirteen tries must be a sparkle to the eye of any coach, whatever the standard of rugby.

Well done Keith Richardson! Where next? We ask ourselves.

#### APOLOGIES TO WARNERS

You may have been perplexed, a couple of weeks ago, to see that we proffered grateful thanks, on our Sponsors page, to an outfit called

'Warrens Motors'. Never heard of them? Neither have we.

The headline should have — of course — read 'Warners' rather than 'Warrens', and you've certainly heard of them.

The problem is that the time scale involved in producing a programme, week by week, hardly allows proofs to be seen in advance. You wouldn't thank us for producing a publication that isn't as up to date as circumstances allow.

Even printers are human and do, from time to time, make mistakes, and this was a pure printer's error, nothing to do with me, or with anyone at the Mike Burton organisation.

Nevertheless, 'the buck stops here' and the mistake shouldn't have happened. All of us involved offer our sincere and heartfelt apologies for the error, and for the loss of publicity which Warners, undoubtedly one of Gloucester's leaders in their field, inevitably suffered as a result.

We won't let it happen again. I hope.

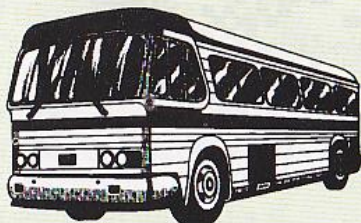
#### TIME TO STOCK UP?

It occurs to me that our current run of home matches provides an excellent opportunity for you to explore the delights of the Club Shop, situated (as the estate agents say), at the Worcester Street end of the ground. Alan Townsend and John Beaman will be only too delighted to display their wares for your delectation, and indeed, take your money. Why not drop in?

Cont on page 20

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### THIS MONTHS SPECIALS HALF TERM

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		Chelt	Glos	Others	Adult	Child Snr Cits
Tues 15th	Bristol (Zoo, Ice skating or Shopping)	9.30am	10am		£3.00	£2.50
	Moreton Mkt & Stratford	9.30am	9.00am		£3.00	£2.50
Wed 16th	Black Country Museum or Merry Hill, Dudley	9.00am	9.30am	8.30C+	£3.50	£3.00
	Cadbury World, Bmghm	8.30am	9.00am		£7.50*	£5.75
Thurs 17th	London & Sightseeing	8.30am	8.00am	9.00am	£6.50	£6.00
	Afternoon Mystery Tour	1.00pm	1.30pm		£2.50	£2.00
Fri 18th	16 Cotswold Villages	11.15am			£2.90	£2.90
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*Peter Arnold cont.*

And, incidentally, it's amazing where our gear gets to. In the recent past, I have spotted GRFC shirts or sweaters in places as diverse as Birmingham, Guernsey, London and, of course of all places, Lundy Island!

Perhaps we should have a species of balloon race, with a small prize for the one spotted furthest afield.

### **GOLDEN GAMBLE**

One of the features of this Kingsholm season has been the Golden Gamble, the simple flutter whereby an investment of £1 can win you a great deal of money, presented to you at half time, right in front of the main Stand.

However, one query has arisen. "Why," I have been asked, "do we quote a maximum prize of £2,000 when the actual winnings at each match, while still very worthwhile, have only been a fraction of that?"

The answer is that it's a legal requirement to quote a maximum prize on any advertisement or literature promoting the scheme, and you can't play ducks and drakes with the Lotteries Act. Not without risking a very heavy fine, you can't.

Obviously, it's desirable to leave as much leeway as possible, so the thinking goes like this.

It doesn't take a Stephen Hawking to work out that we'd have to sell 4,000 Golden Gamble tickets to award a prize of £2,000. If we sold that many, the ground would be packed to the roof of the Hospitality Boxes.

Not that we wouldn't be delighted to do so. After all, the more punters who participate, the higher the prize.

And if you don't enter, you don't win. So why not chance your arm?

### **ENTRANCE TO THE COMPLEX**

Habitues (and son of habitues) of the Complex won't be able to get in via the Players' Entrance again today. The experiment of providing access through the double doors at the lounge end of the Clubhouse has proved successful, and it's been decided to persist with it.

After all, if a thing ain't broke, don't fix it.

### **'GLOUCESTER BOYS'**

In the Pontypool programme. I had occasion to mention that the famous anthem, 'Gloucester Boys', had once again been rendered, with great gusto, in the Members' Dining Room of the House of Commons. I concluded, 'But that's another story'.

Since then, I have been asked just what the story is, so a good few seasons having run their courses since that famous event, I will tell it here.

Many supporters will recall that our former MP, Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, now Baroness

Oppenheim Barnes, was a regular attender at Kingsholm, and still boasts that she never saw Gloucester lose. One famous match she attended was the Cup Final at Twickenham when Gloucester beat Leicester to lift the Trophy. So delighted was she with the result, that she invited the team to be her guests for dinner at the Palace of Westminster. And that was the night on which the famous rendition took place.

Sally, who once, as Minister for Consumer Affairs, wore a Gloucester scarf to a conference in Newcastle on the eve of a Cup match against the then Champions, Gosforth, is still with us, living in Painswick. And I'll bet she still knows the words of the song, too.

Hint to Douglas French MP. What happens if we win the Cup this year?

### **BIG DAY FOR DANIEL**

From one Sally to another. The 'Sally Army' this time. Our Match Mascot for today is Daniel Yeatman who is all of seven years old, and is a member of the Salvation Army, but we don't think he's bringing his trumpet.

Daniel comes to us because his family made the highest donation to the Severn Sound Money Mountain in a competition organised by Nat West Bank, who are supporting us today, and also sponsor the said Money Mountain. Archie Hartshorne, please note.

Daniel is a Beaver Scout, and attends his local Longlevens Junior School, and as we all know, Longlevens is a super hotbed of young rugby players.

With all his activities, it's hardly surprising that this is only Daniel's second attendance at Kingsholm. Not so his grandfather or his father, who happens to be a policeman as well as a fervent supporter of Gloucester. With a two-generation pedigree behind him, it would be surprising if he didn't become a regular before he's all that much older.

### **TAILPIECE**

Last week, I found myself talking to a visitor to Gloucester who knows as much about rugby as I do about Chinese metaphysics. Having listened in to a previous discussion, he enquired about the significance of the Gloucester v Bath game. Having learned more, he quoth "I see, rather like Manchester United visiting Liverpool."

Not a bad analogy, I suppose. But bearing in mind what happened to Graham Souness, I hope no one tells Barrie Corless.



## *Ed Martin* – **IN PERSPECTIVE**

A LETTER requesting information on the playing record of a relative arrived at the club the other day. What separated this one from others of a similar nature that arrive regularly was that it was from the grandson of a former Gloucester captain that clocked a massive 320 appearances for the club on both sides of the Great War.

The player in question was forward George Holford, who captained Gloucester in 1913-4 and in 1919-20. In addition, Holford represented Gloucestershire on 34 occasions — including four winning County Championship finals teams. In 1921-2 season, Holford was capped twice for England along with two other Gloucester forwards.

Had it not been for the Great War, Holford could well have represented Gloucester some 500 times, and would be in the club's Top Ten for appearances. From the time of his first team debut until he finally hung up his "first class" rugby boots, Gloucester were involved in 447 fixtures, giving him a 71.58 per cent appearance rate.

The club's Fiftieth Anniversary book suggests that Holford was lucky to be playing rugby after the war. "Holford was severely wounded in the early stages of the war, but fortunately recovered, and was able to take over the captaincy again in 1919-20," the book reported.

On page 28 is a photograph of Gloucester's three international forwards, selected for England in 1920-1 — Sid Smart, Holford and Tom Voyce. Doug Wadley, the present club secretary/treasurer remembers George Holford well. He worked for many years for Bristol Tramways in their London Road depot as a bus driver and at Kingsholm he had the nickname "Biddy". It is thanks to Doug that the team photo appears on this page.

WHILE LOOKING up Bill Bailey's "Season Review" in the Citizen for the two years that Holford captained the "Red and Whites", as they were then called (cherry is a recent innovation), an amusing match report from Bath, in the "We wuz robbed" vein, caught my eye alongside the 1919 season wrap-up that appeared on the last day of the season, Saturday April 24, 1920. Especially for those from Bath, here is the report, headline, warts and all!

### GENERAL MATCHES

#### **Bath v London Welsh**

#### **SENSATIONAL INCIDENT AT BATH**

#### **Visiting captain takes his team off the field**

Played at Bath before a good crowd, in fair weather. Bath opened well despite a lack of finish, and Hope scored. Rodgers converted. The Welsh threequarters shone at times, Davis and Llewellyn being dominant, but Bath had the better of the game up to the interval. The visitors' full back saved brilliantly. Half-time: Bath 5 points, London Welsh nil.

There was a sensational end to the match, the referee Mr. Hancock (Gloucestershire Rugby Union), after cautioning the London Welshman for alleged rough play, ordered Williams off, and later Michael, the London Welsh captain, who criticised him, took the whole visiting team with him. The game was abandoned fifteen minutes before time, Bath leading by 18 points to nil.

(That was the day when, in Association Football, Blackburn hammered Manchester United 5-0 in a League Division One match.)

NOW WHEN it comes to a visit by Bath to Kingsholm, it is very easy to mention that Gloucester have only lost at Kingsholm on just 10 occasions in the 81 previous visits of Bath. The problem is that five of those losses have been in the last seven years!

Overall, Gloucester and Bath have met on 159 occasions since 1895 (as has been recorded on previous occasions, the first fixture was in Bath and the match ended in a 3-3 draw on December 14). Of these matches, Gloucester have won on 99 occasions, while Bath have posted 45 wins. Fifteen of the encounters have ended in draws.

When it comes to the Courage Clubs Championships, then Bath wins the "bragging rights" hands down. Of the seven previous meetings in the competition, Bath have won six times.

Before tempting providence too much, I had better shut up! But not before acknowledging Mr. J. Callard whose boot saved His Premiership — and the entire nation of St. George — from total embarrassment against Scotland last weekend.

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