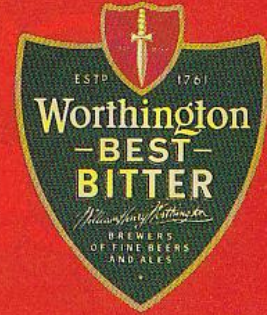




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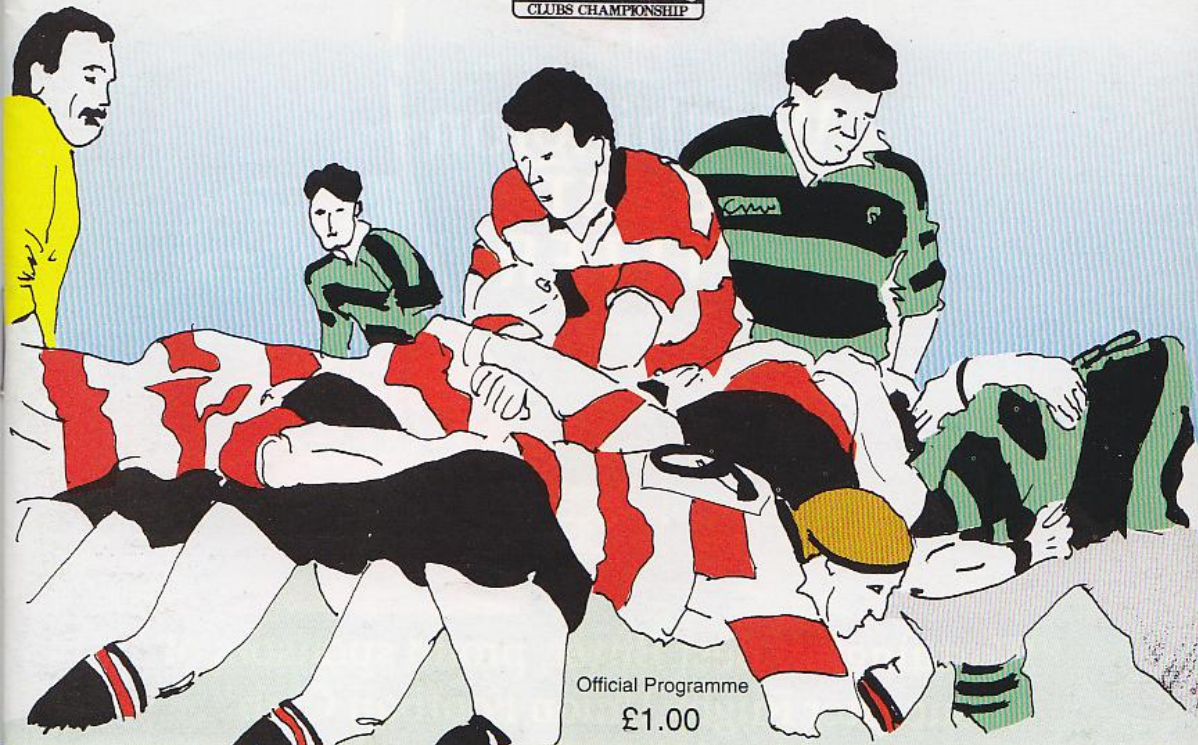
v

BRISTOL



SATURDAY MARCH 26th, 1994

KICK OFF 3.00 pm



Official Programme
£1.00

Peter Arnold

WHO NEEDS LEAGUES?

The late Peter Robbins of Moseley, winner of umpteen Caps at No. 8 in the Eric Evans Grand Slam era, was one of the best after-dinner rugby speakers I have ever heard. His blend of anecdote, wit and wisdom was just about as perfect an accompaniment to a post-prandial brandy as can readily be imagined. One story of his, though obviously apocryphal, is one which I value as much as any other, and was told about our own Mike Burton — who, as a point of information, was present on the occasion he related it.

"I'm glad to see," he commenced, "that Mike and his wife are on very good terms these days. There was a time when his perennial involvement in rugby did put something of a strain on the relationship."

"After all, Mike was away from home a good deal of the time. He went on tours with the British Lions and England. He was playing for Gloucestershire as well as Gloucester, and was coaching at Longlevens. On top of all that, he had already started escorting parties to the Hong Kong Sevens and elsewhere."

"One day, the patient Mrs. Burton, more in sorrow than in anger proclaimed, 'Michael! I think you love the Gloucester Rugby Club more than you love me!'"

"Woman!" answered Mike. "I love the *Bristol* Rugby Club more than I love you!"

None of us believed a word of it of course, but the fact of the story, plus the tone of the laughter which it provoked, encapsulated the relationship between our two great clubs far better than any eulogies by my humble self could ever presume to. And it was told by a Moseley man, which proves that the fame of the series has spread wider than merely Gloucestershire.

There is intense rivalry, of course. There is also respect and affection. There is the appreciation of a long history of games where some of the best players in England have played

both with and against each other with great determination and efficiency. We've seen, for example, Richard Mogg and Alan Morley cancelling each other out of a match from kick-off to final whistle — but the same trenchant brace of players combining as a winger and centre pairing to demolish some of the best County double acts in the land. We've seen the likes of Burton, Fidler and Gadd busting the proverbial gut to obliterate legends such as Shepherd, big Dave Watt and Mike Rafter, then turn out as a Gloucestershire unit to provide a pack which could have matched many an England outfit. And who ever got a bigger cheer at Kingsholm than Dave Rollitt, the original Grey Fox?

No. We don't need Leagues to render a Kingsholm meeting between Gloucester and Bristol a special event. Too many epic deeds on the field, and too many pints of beer together afterwards, have graced the occasion for that.

Nevertheless, the League is here, and we can't ignore it. Today's points are valuable to both sides, and there is the memory of the Bristol victory in November at the Memorial Ground, decided in the end by one refereeing decision and one dropped catch in filthy conditions.

Both sides have come on well since then. Bristol have the possibly unique distinction of supplying their first-choice scrum half to the England squad, and their Number Two in the same position to the 'A' outfit. In reply, Gloucester can point to players in contention from full International level (for Scotland, admittedly) through England 'A' and on to Emerging England.

For all these reasons, I hardly need to extend the usual welcome to today's visitors. They know perfectly well just how pleased we are to entertain them yet again. The Old Enemy they undoubtedly are. But Old Friends first and foremost.

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GOOD ON YA, TIM AND MARCUS!

One battle (not to say, bottle*) scarred stalwart of Gloucester and Bristol occasions is Tim Smith, and I'm sure that, under normal circumstances, this is one game which you could have kept him away from with barbed wire and flame throwers. However, he's not here today and we shall miss him.

In case you'd missed the news, he, along with Marcus Hannaford, have been invited to play in an 'England Classics' side for a Tens tournament which is to precede the Hong Kong Sevens this year. I gather that the description is intended to convey a team which doesn't yet merit the soubriquet of 'Golden Oldies', but is getting on that way.

I suppose that there will be a few people who consider that Tim's priorities should have forced him to turn down the invitation and turn out at Kingsholm instead. However, my own, fairly cursory, researches seem to indicate that those holding that opinion are in a small minority. Personally, I don't blame Our Timothy one bit.

If ever a player has, over the years, lacked the opportunities to progress up the rugby ladder which he deserves it's Tim Smith of Gloucester. For years he has been the equal of any running full back in the country, yet he's never, to my knowledge, received the recognition he deserves. You only have to talk to visiting players to learn how highly he is regarded by the best judges of all — his opponents.

I believe that the root cause of Tim's problem has been the Divisional Championship. We've lived through an era where the likes of Webb and Callard have been the first choice for the South West, and there has only been room for one full back in the side from which the International teams - they keep telling us — have been picked. Under the old County system, there would have been four full backs on view, with the Bath incumbents playing for Somerset. Surely, a decade or two ago, Tim Smith would have had chances to show what he can do.

To be fair, somewhat similar claims could be made on behalf of Marcus Hannaford who has one of the most genuine 'bad luck' stories I can remember. Two World Cups ago, Marcus was England's No. 2 scrum half, behind Bath's Richard Hill. He then received a diabolically-timed injury which precluded him from the trip to Australia and New Zealand.

Bristol's 'Corky' Harding took his place, Hill

got injured in one of the early matches, and Harding took his spot for most of the tournament. He then held on to his place for the domestic season, and finished with a respectable number of Caps. If Marcus had been fit for the World Cup trip, we would undoubtedly have had the first Gloucester scrum half playing for England since Peter Kingston.

Now, at last, they have both been invited to take part in a highly prestigious event; neither of them have all that many seasons to go, and they would have been fools to turn the trip down.

I'm glad they've got their chances, and I hope they knock 'em dead. What's more, I hope that some more recognition comes their way. Any Barbarian Selector who happens to read this, please note.

"The word "bottle" here refers entirely to a container for alcoholic refreshment. No one ever cast aspersions on Tim Smith in the word's other context.

WE GET LETTERS

A very nice letter from Roger Eggleton this week. Before I go any further, I should proffer our congratulations on his imminent appointment, for the 21st time, as City Under Sheriff.

Just in case you don't know what that entails, it's one of those offices which reaches back to the Middle Ages, and at that time you wouldn't have wanted to know Roger, because the duties included doing rather horrid things with a knobbly mace. Nowadays, the City Under Sheriff is an officer of the High Court, appointed annually by the County High Sheriff, at a ceremony which takes place, this year, on April 7th.

Anyway, on with the letter:

Dear Peter,

I am aware that, from time to time, you print letters from a variety of interesting people in the Gloucester Programme. However, I don't think I have ever seen one from anyone who occupies one of the Hospitality Boxes.

Seated, as we are, high above the frantic activity around the ground, we can generally see everything which is going on, on and off the field. It must be one of the finest views on any ground, anywhere, a quite unique panorama of what must now be the finest club ground in England.

I can understand what the average supporter must think of us (if he thinks of us at all), as members of a privileged elite, not really to be

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compared with the 'real' fans. But this isn't true at all. Certainly, now one gets invited to an Eggletons Solicitors box unless he is genuinely interested. It certainly isn't a case of 'only here for the beer.'

I can assure you, and anyone else who reads this, that we are just as rabid supporters of Gloucester as the most regular inhabitants of the good old 'Shed', and can be just as critical of players and even referees!

We may be privileged in terms of our magnificent view of the game, but, first and foremost, we're diehard cherry-and-whites.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Eggleton, Eggleton's Solicitors, Brunswick Square.

Roger makes a perfectly good point. It would be a shame if we regarded the denizens of the Hospitality Boxes as people you either tug your forelock to, or escort to the guillotine, depending on your political affiliation.

Roger himself is a case in point. He may run one of the largest legal practices in the City, but he's a good Gloucester lad for all that, with a firm affection for Barton Street. He's no stranger to the Sacred Turf, having played for both Gloucester and Gloucestershire Schoolboys in the old days.

After that, he turned out for Old Cryptians and Longlevens, and finished his playing career at that grand old club, Painswick. So he has the distinction of wearing cherry-and-white for two different sides. And you may recall that he Chaired the Club AGM, last July.

He wears a lot of other hats, too, including being Chairman of the Gloucester Region of the

County Cricket Club.

So there's nothing rarified about our Roger. After all, anyone who employs Colin Dunford can't be all bad.

Nice to hear from you, Rodge!

PONTYPRIDD OFF, PORTUGUESE ON SATURDAY

It's something of a disappointment to learn that our old friends from Sardis Road, Pontypridd have been forced to call off their scheduled visit to Kingsholm on Easter Saturday because of their continued involvement in the Welsh cup. So we only have one game over the weekend, and you can get out in the garden on Bank Holiday Monday(!)

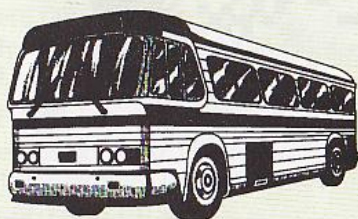
That latter circumstance has been brought about by the fact that the attractive fixture against the Portuguese President's XV has been brought forward to Saturday, much to the delight of the Fair Geraldine in the office, who hasn't had an Easter Monday or a Boxing Day off for yonks.

Should be quite an occasion. I gather that, in effect, the Iberian side is the whole Portugal XV, rather in the same way that Ireland came here disguised as the Irish President's XV a couple of seasons ago.

Easter is rapidly becoming an exercise in international understanding at Kingsholm, these days. Time was when we could reckon on visits from such eminent Northern clubs as Fylde or Birkenhead Park over the holiday. Now we attract tourist from Italy — Beneton Treviso, last season of course — and Portugal. Oh well. We're all good

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THIS MONTHS SPECIALS

Date	Destination	Departure Time:			— Fare:—	
		Chelt	Glos	Others	Adult	Child Snr Cits
*Child Only						
APRIL						
Sat 2nd	Ideal Home Exbn or London Shopping	8.30am	8.00am	9.00amC	£6.50	£6.00
Thurs 7th	Ideal Home Exbn or London Shopping	8.30am	8.00am	9.00amC	£6.50	£6.00
	Street (Clarks Village Factory Shops)	8.30am	9.00am		£4.50	£4.00
Tues 12th	Northampton Mkt & D.B. Shoe Factory Tour	9.00am	8.30am		£6.50*	£6.00*
* Includes Admission						
C=Cirencester (Beeches Car Park) + Additional 50p charge for Cirencester Passengers						

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Peter Arnold cont.

Europeans these days. What might happen when the Tunnel opens is anyone's guess.

But to recap: it's PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT'S XV on SATURDAY, rather than Pontypridd. NO MATCH on MONDAY. So don't turn up two days late.

NORTHAMPTON

Advance warning for you about the Courage game at Northampton in a fortnight's time. Having beaten them twice at Kingsholm this season, it will be interesting to see how we fare at Franklins Gardens.

There will, as always, be coaches, and this time you'll be leaving at 11.00 am. The cost will be £6.50, and, again as always, tickets will be available from the office. Or you could have a word with Trevor Pritchard.

Leaguewise, we're not quite out of the wood yet, and the lads would be glad of your support. Especially as it will be the first homecoming for Barrie Corless, and the more friendly faces he sees the more comfortable he'll feel.

NO CAR PARK TOMORROW

A note from Doug Wadley tells me that the usual coterie of crib players and others, who regard their Sunday lunchtime visit to the Clubhouse as an essential part of their weekend, will have to find somewhere else to park their cars tomorrow. The car park will be closed for renovation work.

Sorry about that, but the job has to be done, and Sunday is as good a day as any.

NATIONAL TENS

As you probably know, the National Tens Tournament, sponsored by Worthington, currently the only competition in this form of the game in Britain, will be held at Kingsholm on Bank Holiday, May 2nd.

Last year's tournament — the first — was an enormous success, and provided Gloucester (the whole City, not just us) with the best televisual publicity which it had had for years. The gilt on the gingerbread was that Gloucester won the competition, against everyone's expectations, including those of the players.

If you're a regular at Kingsholm, you obviously knew all that, but if Bristol have brought supporters in their usual numbers today, then our visitors might like to have the information. After all, it's a splendid day out, starting at 11.00 am, we're only a short run up the A38, and the Bristol side is, once again, participating.

In fact, we now have the full list of clubs taking part, and you'll note that their one or two innovations. It's a shame that, once again, Leicester, for their own good reasons, have decided not to make the trip, and are the only Division One Club to decline the invitation.

However, there is ample consolation for the Tigers' absence, as you'll see from the full list. Which is:

Gloucester, Bristol, Bath, Harlequins, London Irish, Newcastle Gosforth, Northampton,

Orrell, and Wasps, from the First Division.

From Division Two, which took a while to sort out, Moseley, Sale, Saracens, Wakefield, and West Hartlepool.

And there are two guest sides, namely Cardiff from Wales and Melrose from Scotland.

So it's an interesting line up. And Gloucester will have the advantage of having, in Tim Smith and Marcus Hannaford, two players who have already had extra experience in this form of rugby this season.

I don't have information about tickets yet, but as soon as I do, I'll pass it on to you. It is a highly recommended day's entertainment, and I hope you can come along.

THE DISTAFF SIDE

Our Match Mascot today is Leanne Rees, and if the name is familiar, it's because her brother, Stewart, performed the same service for us at the London Scottish match. After all, as any family knows, young sisters always have to do as well as older brothers at everything.

Leanne is seven years old, and is a budding Lucinda Green, her passion being for horse riding. Her rugby involvement at the moment is watching young Stewart play for Saintbridge juniors on a Sunday morning. I gather she also gives a hand with the refreshments.

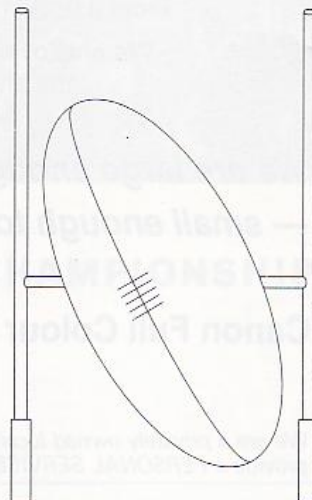
Not surprising really. The children's father is very involved with youth rugby at Saintbridge, and good on him for that.

Who knows: we may be seeing the birth of another rugby dynasty like the Fowkes and the Dixes.

TAILPIECE

You no doubt read about the appalling article in the 'Sunday Times' following the Cromwell Street tragedies. I can make my own representations about that elsewhere, and they're not really relevant here.

However, I note that there were snide, and inaccurate, remarks about Gloucester RFC. By a chap from *Richmond!*



Ed Martin – IN PERSPECTIVE

ON SATURDAY October 4, 1930, the Rugby Football Union made a number of announcements. The Union said that it had decided to demolish the West Stand at Twickenham and replace it with "a double decker to hold 12,250 people" and informal conference between representatives of the English and Welsh Unions would be held to discuss the cancellation of fixtures between English and Welsh clubs.

That afternoon saw, in soccer, Manchester United beaten 4-1 by 'cross town rivals Manchester City (United stayed bottom of the table with not a single win out of the nine games played) and Ft. Lt. H.C. Irwin was making preparations for the 7pm departure of his R101 from RAF Cardington for the first airship flight to Egypt and India.

... And Gloucester visited the Memorial Ground for their annual visit to Bristol.

Both teams had went into the match with five games under their belts for the season. Gloucester had three wins, a draw and a loss (with 69 points scored and 14 points given up), while Bristol were undefeated (93 points scored and 18 allowed).

The previous week, Gloucester had come unstuck against Northampton - the Saints were making their 24th visit to Kingsholm and their 11-8 win was their second on the ground (Northampton won 15-8 in 1919).

So, when Gloucester travelled south to Bristol, there were thoughts of getting back on the winning track. But it was going to be an uphill task as the soothsayers were not too impressed that Gloucester had failed to post a win in the six previous meetings with, whether played out a Kingsholm or the Memorial Ground.

Both clubs, as Bill Bailey reported in the *Football Final* that night, "suffered from absentees - Cecil Carter's defection from the Bristol team owing to an injured hip was a serious loss. But two good sides were fielded.

THE TEAMS

Gloucester: H. Boughton; T.J. Andrews, Roy James (capt), M.A. McCanlis and G. Orpin; F. Price and E. Stephens; F. Wadley, A. Carpenter, E. Comley, J. Hemming, F. Russell, J. Davies, D. Crichton-Miller and T. Hiam.

Bristol: T.W. Brown; A.W. Lillicrap, W. Moncrieffe, D.W. Burland and H. Sherman; T.J.M. Barrington and E.R. Tucker; J.S. Tucker (capt), F. Tucker, P.G. Lambert, O.F. Harley, J.N. Hazell, B. Parsons, C. Broome and C.P. Williams.

The referee was Mr. C.P. Williams.

THE GAME

Early in the game, Burland took advantage of a passing error by Gloucester scrum half Stephens and kicked the ball down field, past full back Boughton. Following up his kick, Burland - the England and Gloucestershire centre - managed to gather the ball and carry it over for the first try of the match. Hazell, playing in the second row, converted for a 5-0 Bristol lead.

Within minutes, Bristol stretched their lead to eight points when Lillicrap just managed the touchdown despite being tackled by Boughton close to the Gloucester line.

In the second half, a Bristol scrum inside the Gloucester 25 led to what Bill Bailey described as "a perfect round of passing" by the home backs "beat the City (Gloucester) defence". This led to Sherman scoring wide out. Hazell's conversion attempt was fortunate - "a kick from which the ball struck the upright, bounded on the cross-bar and fell over on the right side".

The kick might have been lucky, but it was academic as far as the result went. Despite outplaying Bristol "forward and at half-back", the Cherry and Whites just could not score. "Gloucester were one of the unluckiest teams imaginable ... they did everything but score," wrote Bailey.

So Gloucester were now seven successive matches against Bristol without a win. And that is a Gloucester record that stands today - against any club.



England and Gloucestershire centre D.W. Burland scored Bristol's first try.



Centre M.A. McCanlis - returned to the Gloucester side against Bristol.

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