

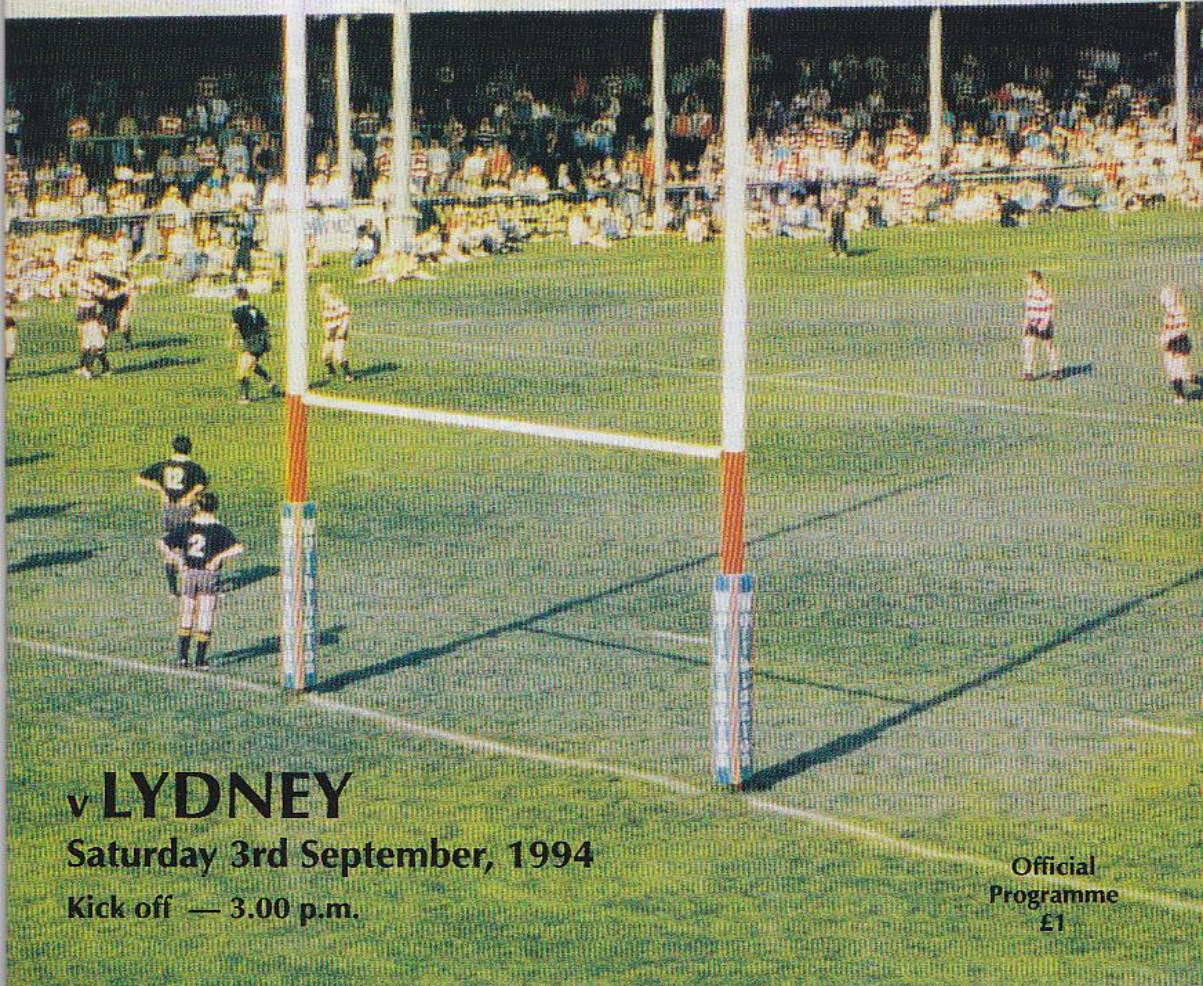
# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



Official Club Sponsors



v **LYDNEY**

Saturday 3rd September, 1994

Kick off — 3.00 p.m.

Official  
Programme  
£1



All kit used by Gloucester Rugby Club is supplied by



Gloucester Rugby Club use GILBERT MATCH BALLS



**GLOUCESTER**  
(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts
	20	8

1		5
2		10
1		5

	20	4
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1		5

1	10	7
20		H/T 0

15. M. Mapletoft

14. P. Holford

13. S. Morris

12. B. Maslen

11. T. Smith

10. L. Osborne

9. B. Fenley

1. P. Jones

2. J. Hawker

3. A. Deacon†

4. P. Sims

5. R. West

6. P. Glanville

7. I. Smith

8. M. Nicholls

Replacements

D. Kearsey

C. Raymond

S. Cattermole

Referee: Ken Morgan (East Midlands)

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

SPONSORED BY



Cumulative Match Score

3	0		
6	0		
13	0		
20	0		
25	0		
36	0		
37	0		
44	0		

†Captain

**LYDNEY**  
(Black/White)

T	G	Pts

15. J. Edwards

14. M. Stubbs

13. A. James

12. S. Chant

11. A. Saint

10. R. Mills

9. J. Davies

1. R. Wendland

2. N. Nelmes †

3. G. Williams

4. R. Williams

5. T. Hatherall

6. A. Knox

7. S. Wakenham

8. R. Rees

Replacements:

R. Smith

P. Beech

K. Davies


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44		F/T 0

..... **Peter Arnold** .....

## **DOWN TO BUSINESS**

I can't recall many summers when we had quite so many rugby topics to discuss as we had this time round. There was England's drama-packed tour of South Africa, Ian Smith's successes in Argentina, The Return of the Teague, the news that we were going to have to play nine League games off the reel and that relegation and promotion would only involve one side each way this season. There was the emergence of Viv Wooley from the unplumbed depths of Gloucester Old Boys, not to mention the various comings and goings of several players. And you'll think of other rugby subjects which added flavour to your summer Sunday pints while Lesser breeds were salivating over soccer's World Cup.

And there was that climactic South African safari, which everyone who knows anything at all deems to have been an enormous success from just about every point of view. Indeed, I have the permission of Barrie Corless to tell you that it was "The best rugby tour I've ever been on", and for a chap with his experience, that's sure spilling a bibfull.

But the hazy days have to come to an end sometime, leaving us to get down to the sterner stuff. And a game against Lydney was never anything less than that, even on Boxing Day.

Pity about that. My personal hope is that the tradition can be re-established sooner rather than later, but the exigencies of the League programme have to be faced, and can sometimes lead to unwanted consequences.

There really isn't much point in banging on about the sterling qualities of our respected neighbours from West of Severn. You know them at least as well as I do. Suffice it to say that we couldn't have had a better test of the side's mettle than an early encounter with Lydney. We know they'll be out to put us in our place, and

provide themselves with a platform for a season which, all we admirers from Gloucester hope, will be a highly successful season. They certainly have the players, the organisation and the fire in the belly to achieve just that, and we wish them well.

And welcoming Lydney to Kingsholm isn't a bad way to start a season is it?

### **TOUGH WAY TO START**

There are few tougher openings to the League campaign than to have to meet Wasps at Sudbury, but that's exactly what the lads are faced with in one week's time. You could look at it two ways: either you'd prefer a more gentle ease into things, or you could take the view that it's a good thing to take them on while everyone is fit and raring to go.

Either way, it's an excellent way to measure the potential of the side. A win next Saturday would set us up nicely. And you'll want to be there if at all possible, not least because the boyus need as much vocal support as they can get.

In spite of the short notice, the Trevor Pritchardmobile swings into action for the first time for the occasion. Coach seats will cost £6.50, leaving Kingsholm at 11.00 am. See Trevor in the Club, or drop into the office.

If you're using your own transport, the directions are as follows:

Make for the North Circular (A406) and then look for the A404, which is the Watford to Harrow road. On through Wembley until you hit Sudbury. That road will bring you to a large roundabout with the big, brick-built Swan Inn alongside. Turn right into Rugby Avenue, and at the crossroads look for Repton Avenue. The ground is then fairly obvious.

*Cont on page 12*

<p><b>THE SOCIETY THAT TRIES HARDER</b></p>		 <p><b>WISHES GLOUCESTER R.F.C ALL THE BEST FOR THE 1994/1995 SEASON AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS TO KINGSHOLM</b></p>
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*Peter Arnold cont.*

And incidentally, I'm told that ground entry will be £6.00, with £2.00 stand transfer, which would seem to be about average this season for League matches. Only Orrell and West Hartlepool are cheaper.

#### **AND WHILE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MONEY . . .**

. . . and assuming that you're going to be a Kingsholm regular this season, have you bought your Season Ticket yet? After all, it could save you quite a few quid by the time the next cricket season comes round.

The full Grandstand ticket cost £90.00 this time round, which compares favourably with most top-class clubs, with the usual concessions for juniors (Under 18) and Seniors priced at £45.00. A Ground season will set you back a mere £45.00, with concessions at £22.50.

Drop into the office any time between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm on any weekday (before 1.00 am on Saturdays), or you could ring 0452 381087 for an application form.

And don't forget, you could do the Club quite a big favour by taking that route. It does help the old cash flow along a bit, after all.

#### **ONE TO THINK ABOUT**

Having got the "commercials" over, we can get down to the interesting bits. One small topic that has been exercising the minds of one or two of us over the cricket season, is to try and identify as many people as possible who have played rugby for Gloucester, and also played First Class cricket.

At the moment, my own personal list stands at a total of five, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if there aren't one or two others. No — I won't tell you who my quintet are at the moment: we'll leave you to think about it for a couple of weeks. But if anyone can better that total, I'd be delighted to hear from them, (address details and phone on page 8). I'll return to the subject in the West Hartlepool programme on September 17th, when All Will Be Revealed.

**AAAH!**

Of course, there's nothing unusual about

Rugby Clubs advertising for players in the "Citizen" during the pre-season period. I must, however, admit to an initial feeling of resentment when, on two occasions during July, I noticed ads in our respected local evening paper seeking new players for — would you believe — Bath!

My first reaction was "Oh! Dear! How impertinent!", or Anglo Saxon words to that effect, but on reflection, considered that perhaps I shouldn't be too hard on them. The fact that they've cast their net this wide, and in such a fashion, seems to imply that they're running short of raw material, and can't find sufficient quality or quantity in their own neck of the woods. So they've decided to trawl the waters where they feel they can find the best prospects.

Can't help feeling sorry for them. All together please — "Aaah!"

#### **FIRST OFF THE BLOCKS**

It's always nice to be first at anything, and you Alex Kirby of Churchdown has got away to a flier this season. He's eleven years old, attends Churchdown Village School at the moment, and is doing us the great favour of acting as Match Mascot today.

I'm told that he's absolutely ecstatic about his moment of glory, but that his sporting interests are far wider than just rugby, and that's only right for a lad of his age.

He plays soccer for his school, charges enthusiastically around a tennis court and swims like a fish. In between whiles, he's very much into cycling. And he is also starting to make a name for himself at, would you believe kick boxing. I'm also informed that Simon and Karon, his mum and dad, support him keenly in all his endeavours.

Come to think of it, Alex will have his own small niche in history. He'll be the first chap to run out at Kingsholm in the new strip for the 1994/5 season.

#### **THE GOLDEN GAMBLE**

You'll remember "Golden Gamble" which proved so popular last season. The old "Gold Bond" lottery now having run its course, our all-singing, all-dancing new Golden Gamble

	<p><b>Kingsholm</b> FITNESS CENTRE</p> <p>Inside this ground (The old changing rooms) Phone: 0452 306188</p>	<p><b>WE are THE PERSONAL TRAINERS for the G.R.F.C.</b></p> <p><b>*We are OPEN to the PUBLIC*</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>— Your First Session FREE! —</b></p> <p><b>with this Advert</b></p>
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has been extended and adapted to take its place.

We're still in the course of setting things up, but here's how it is intended to work.

You'll still be able to invest a quid on the ground at each home game. However, there is now also a system which enables you to arrange to pay £1.00 a week (or multiples if you prefer), and have your ticket go into the draw each week.

When there's no Saturday home First XV game, a draw will take place on the Friday evening at Mike Burton's HQ in Brunswick road. When we are at home the draw will be made at half time on the ground. On those days the ticket sellers will be around in distinctive caps and jackets, touting for your custom. It is also hoped that we shall have Golden Gamble selling points alongside the programme booths.

There will be ten prizes each week, amounting to around half of the proceeds. So the more Gambles sold, the bigger the prizes.

It's gotta be worth the odd flutter hasn't it? More as the scheme develops.

### **THREE MEN IN THE SAME BOAT (TO SAY NOTHING OF THE COACH)**

... as Jerome K. Jerome might have put it. The characters I'm thinking of are, of course, the ones who have the awesome task of skippering

our three every-week sides this season. Let's start with the youngest.

*Phil Greening* really is stepping into the unknown this season. The concept of Under 21 rugby is reasonably new to Gloucester anyway, and to have to skipper a unit which is playing every week for the first time is a little daunting for anyone, let alone for a player who is still only 18.

Of course, captaincy is nothing new for Phil. He led the England Under 18 Group side which won their version of the Grand Slam last season. Together with his clubmate Robert Fidler (where have we heard that name before?) he's already been invited to join an England U21 training session at Bridgwater this time round.

Phil's ambition for his new side are simple. "I'd like to win every game", he says. Well: last season's U21's very nearly did just that, so who's to say they can't?

*Bobby Fowke* has a very hard act to follow, as he freely admits. He's quoted as saying that "Dave Spencer and Andrew Stanley were such great Captains," and he's absolutely right, of course. Again, his ambitions for United are simple. He just wants to win the Midlands West League for a *fifth* year in a row. Not asking much, is he? However, I think most of us would be surprised if his lads aren't there or thereabouts when it all comes out in the wash at the end of the season.

*Cont on page 20*



*Peter Arnold cont.*

Andy Deacon will, of course, be under the microscope from quarters far removed from Kingsholm all season. Gloucester Captains always are, especially new ones.

Of course, he's no stranger to the big time. He made the South West Divisional squad last season, but had the misfortune of seeing Victor Ubogu blocking his path to the top. He did win the consolation of playing for England Emerging Players, and was playing as stomer when, just before half time, he had to retire with a fractured collar bone which effectively finished his season for him.

"Deaks" always leads by example. If everyone gives the sort of commitment and aggression (in the best possible connotation of that much-abused word) which Andy does, then this season's Gloucester pack is going to take a bit of stopping.

So now we come to the coach. *Viv Wooley* is undoubtedly one of Gloucester rugby's leading personalities, and has been ever since he scored a try in every round of the old John Player Cup except the Final in one memorable season. Indeed, he was in the England Selectors' eyes when a very nasty leg injury put paid to his playing career.

As a lot of players have found to their cost, the transition from player to coach isn't an easy one. Viv managed it brilliantly, however, as the recent record of Gloucester Old Boys eloquently testifies. First and foremost, he's a motivator. As one Old Boys player told me the other day, "If Wooley tells you to do something, you bloody do it!"

Add to that quartet the presence of Barrie Corless, and the sage and experience help and advice of the likes of John Fidler, Mike Teague and one or two others, and you have a recipe which yields a whole spectrum of interesting combinations. In fact, I can't remember a season opening with as much food for speculation or reason for optimism. We wish all of them the very best of good fortune over the next seven months or so, and assure them we'll be in there shouting.

**THANKS TO TONY**

Our nice new cover picture comes to us courtesy of the photographer himself, our old friend Tony Hickey of Brockworth. Thanks a bundle, Tony. We hope to use more of your work as the season progresses.

**TAILPIECE**

Did you see the story about people praising the Lord and falling over at Bream Parish Church during the summer? Nothing new about that, They've been singing and falling over in Bream RFC's clubhouse for years.

**Action from last seasons match  
v Orrell**



Photographs by  
Tony Hickey



## — . — Ed Martin — In Perspective — . —

Another new season. And perhaps the habitués of the shed will burst into song, having, of course, modified the lyrics of Mr. Hammerstein The Second...

*Captain Andy, Captain Andy,  
We've been hearing all about your dandy  
Team. Is this year's better than last year?  
Won't you tell us what's new?*

Well, Mr. Deacon could well start with the new "cherry and white - with a touch of black" jerseys. Apart from the adverts on the front and the numbers on the back, this is the first change of the club colours since the 1894/95 season when the famous red and white (now affectionately called "cherry and white") was first seen at Kingsholm.

These colours were the fourth that Gloucester Football Club (yes, we were an FC back then) adopted since the club was founded in 1873 by Francis Hartley.

With all these changes of colour, the Citizen's rugby correspondent of the day, the legendary Bill Bailey who kept impeccable records, could have been forgiven for not recording the day when the team took to the field for the first time wearing their new red and white colours.

In fact in the season review of 1894/5, Bill Bailey did not even think it worth mentioning the change of colours. How was he to know the chosen colours were to become so cherished 100 years on!

The fifth set of club colours sees a thin band of black between the cherry hoops and the white hoops. Barbara Cartland could well call this "halfway back to basics".

The original club colours were black and mauve - apparently this was the only combination of colours that were readily available for the playing kit. For the 1881/2 season came the dark blue jersey - and for the first time, the City crest appeared in the colours.

Becoming the "dark blues" set the stage for the club's only "invincible" season - at the end of the 1882/2 season, the loss column read "0" as the final tally of the 14-match campaign ended with 11 wins and three draws. The nearest the club has got to this record was 99 seasons later (1981/2) when only three losses were posted in a 48-match season that brought 41 wins - the most wins in a single season posted in Gloucester (R)FC history.

The third set of club colours came in September 1886 when players trotted out onto The Spa enclosure wearing red, yellow and black - the colours originally selected by Francis Hartley.

Doing a little research for the historian at Harlequin FC (no, nothing to do with His Premiership) during the summer hiatus, I came across a Kingsholm cricket article that makes me wonder about our Arnie - he of the front of this book where all the important things are.

Now anyone who has ever spoken to Arnie for more than, say, 30 seconds will know that he is a dedicated fan of the summer game and has been known to swing the wooden shillelagh at a small leather-coated hardball.

Well, in the summer of '49 a certain Arnold was credited, according to the Pink Un, as "scoring the first century recorded by the (Kingsholm Cricket) club with a 100 against Eastcombe." Now there's a thought!

The past two seasons, as if anyone at Kingsholm needs reminding, has been full of doom and gloom, not to mention all the talk from the Press about relegation.

Last season was the 20th worst season since the club moved to Kingsholm in 1891 in terms of overall percentage wins. With a percentage of 56.10, the Cherry and Whites were, overall, a winning team. At Kingsholm, Gloucester won 71.74 percent of all games with six losses from the 23 games played. But a close look at the records reveals that, because of the high standards set by Gloucester at Kingsholm, a 71.74 winning percentage is the 24th worst season at the ground.

Fair enough, many of the games that Gloucester lost were, in this day and age, "games that matter" - Courage Clubs Championship.

Now, here's something for "those that matter" to mull over in the next few days. Gloucester have never won the Courage Championship title. Gloucester have never won a Courage Championship match at Wasps home ground in Sudbury.

If the Cherry and White With A Touch Of Blacks can post a win in Middlesex next Saturday, will they win the whole caboodle?

Here's hoping...

