

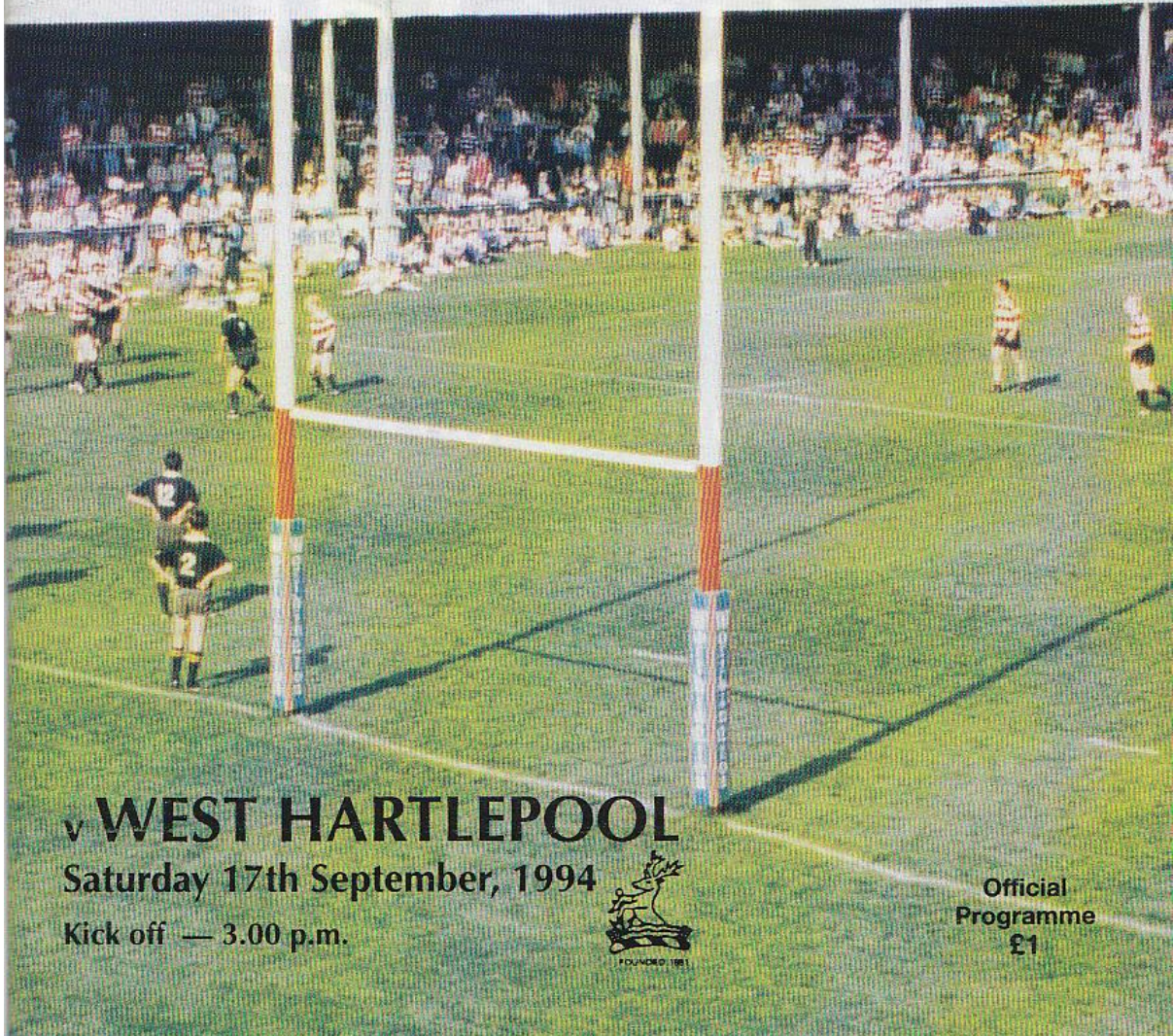
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



Official Club Sponsors



v WEST HARTLEPOOL

Saturday 17th September, 1994

Kick off — 3.00 p.m.



FOUNDED 1873

Official
Programme
£1

All kit used by Gloucester Rugby Club is supplied by

RHINO

Gloucester Rugby Club use
GILBERT MATCH BALLS

 **GLOUCESTER**
(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts

H/T

15. Mark Mapletoft

14. Paul Holford

13. Simon Morris

12. Ben Maslen

11. Tim Smith

10. Martin Kimber

9. Bruce Fenley

1. Pete Jones

2. John Hawker

3. Andy Deacon†

4. Dave Sims

5. Richard West

6. Pete Glanville

7. Ian Smith

8. Chris Raymond

Replacements

Tony Windo

Paul Ashmead

Ian Morgan

Referee: R. C. Rees — RFU

Touch Judges: S. Griffiths, RFU & G. Airdrie, RFU

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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Cumulative Match Score

†Captain

 **WEST HARTLEPOOL**
(Green/White)

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts

F/T

15. Kevin Oliphant

14. Glynn Evans

13. Anthony Elwine

12. Paul Hodder †

11. Dave Cooke

10. John Stabler

9. Jonathon Wrigley

1. Phil New

2. Stuart Kneale

3. Dave Rusby

4. Dave Mitchell

Kevin Westgarth

6. Matt Emmerson

7. Alan Brown

8. Paul Evans

Replacements:

Steve Cook

Mike Shelley

Jason Malcom

..... Peter Arnold

HOME IS WHERE THE HARTLEPOOL IS

Third week into the season. First home League match. Opposition, West Hartlepool.

There's a series of bald statements which conceal a whole spectrum of memories of events which we'd probably prefer not to dredge back into the daylight. With hindsight, however, we could say that those particular happenstances were instrumental in causing the trauma which has afflicted most right-thinking Gloucester supporters for much of the last two seasons.

Consider. Our first home League game of last season was the one against Wasps. We could and should have won that one, but allowed Rob Andrew's boot back into the game and had to settle for a 9-9 draw. A win that day might have set up a totally different campaign for us.

On the third week of the season last year, we travelled to Newcastle Gosforth looking for a fairly easy ride against a side which with all due respect, never really looked like avoiding relegation all season. In the end, we were jolly glad to get away with another draw, 12-12 that time.

And as for West Hartlepool . . . Well, if ever a game put the feline amongst the columbidae, it was the encounter on Hallowe'en, right here, two seasons ago. To everyone's surprise, not excluding that, one suspects, of the West Hartlepool contingent, we got what can only be described as a stuffing — a good, old fashioned hammering, by a side which played much better on the day.

That was two years ago, and a great deal has happened to both clubs since. In the case of our respected visitors, you can't do anything but respect a side which bounces right back in the season following relegation. It isn't at all easy to do that and shows commitment, enthusiasm and

not a little talent.

And if one is to believe all one has heard and read, the arrivals at the pleasant West Hartlepool ground over the close season represent the biggest invasion of England by the Scots since 1745. Of course, we do have one or two honorary Jocks of our own, so that aspect might just be interesting.

Of course, West Hartlepool's sabbatical from Division One meant that we didn't have the pleasure of welcoming them here last season. That just makes today's event even more enjoyable, it's good to see them back where they belong, and we hope they have a thoroughly good time with us before departing on the long trek back to the Land of the Geordie.

GOOD OLD "RUGBY SPECIAL"!

If ever an organisation were prone to giving away penalty tries, it's poor old Auntie BBC. Have you noticed that "Rugby Special", the only regular national TV rugby programme for non-satellite users, has been dumped into the 12.00 midday spot on Sundays?

One is tempted to observe that any self-respecting rugby man is in the pub at 12.00 on Sundays. And those who aren't, through chronic teetotalism or matrimonial edict, are likely to be hauled away from the telly for meat and two veg, sometime between noon and one o'clock. In fact, it would be difficult to think of a more inconvenient time to screen what many of us regard as required weekly viewing.

If memory serves, this isn't the first time this has happened. However, I believe that wiser counsels did prevail on that occasion, and the programme did revert to its usual tea-time slot. Not this time round, however. A call to the BBC TV

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Peter Arnold cont.

information desk extracted the information — given rather peremptorily, I thought — that “there are no plans to change the timing for at least two months”.

You'd have thought, wouldn't you, that with a new, every-week Saturday afternoon screening of League rugby on satellite TV, the BBC would be doing its level best to protect its spot in the viewing figures. This decision doesn't seem to do anything but militate against that.

It isn't everyone who has, can afford, or wants satellite TV. However, I'm sure that quite a few of us will be pushed further in the direction of the Dread Dish by this piece of insensitivity.

Doesn't the Beeb want us any more?

SO THE WHEELS CAME OFF . . .

I'm writing this, off the top of my head, after listening to the reports of the Wasps game on the radio, but before talking to anyone who was there and saw what actually happened.

My first thought was that perhaps it had to come. Things were simply going too well to be true, and Mother Nature was going to bring us down to earth with a bump sooner or later. And I would suggest that sooner is far better than later in this context.

We could have struggled on, much as we have over the past two seasons, without really appreciating the harsh realities of life in the First Division. At least we can now attempt to do something about things, and address any problems that may be identified while there is ample time to make this season fulfil its early promise.

My second thought was that this is Wasps we are talking about. As you well know, the Sudbury outfit are about the only side around which has consistently given Bath, even at their strongest, far more trouble than they really wanted. I did notice that on the very same evening we were putting 60-odd points on Stroud, Wasps were imposing 90 points on Richmond, so perhaps some writing was on the wall then. Last Saturday's winners could yet be this season's Double winners.

I also reflected that we do have a sort of a precedent. Three seasons ago, I think it was,

United started their season by losing to Rosslyn Park to the tune of 60 points. Since then, they've hardly lost a game. I'm not sure that that is a straw in the wind, or the one the drowning man clutches at, but it's worth a thought.

Finally, confidence and enthusiasm are vital ingredients for any successful side, but they aren't quite enough on their own. It's up to the coaches to make sure that technique and ideas are there, and I'm sure, that as the season goes on, we'll see more and more of them.

As I say, confidence and enthusiasm are vital. But they're also fragile qualities at the best of times: it is to be hoped that this initial setback hasn't done irreparable damage in that respect. I doubt if it has, but this is where you and I come into the picture.

It's now up to us to get behind the side and show that we're with them all the way. Support on the day is an invaluable asset, and one which has never been lacking from the Kingsholm Faithful. Let's show the lads who their friends are in no uncertain manner.

There's another aspect of support which you might like to consider, too. It has been said that whenever Gloucester wins by 50 points, the supporters maintain that it should have been 100. There's enough truth in that to be uncomfortable.

Your good old Gloucester supporter doesn't always give credit where it's due, and a fair few of us are inclined to make profession out of looking for something to criticise.

It does no good at all to go around telling everybody that we have a bunch of no-hopers who ought to take up needlework. Apart from anything else, it isn't true. One defeat, however comprehensive, doesn't make a poor team. The jury will be out for several weeks before we can make any real definitive judgement on just how good Gloucester 1994/5 are. Starting today.

To Viv Wooley, Andy Deacon, and all the rest I say, “Bad luck, lads. Now get down and do the business. You're quite capable of it, and we're right behind you.”

One day soon, someone is going to have to suffer for last Saturday's rout. A lot of us will be there to see it, and we'll be shouting our bloody heads off.

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

AND, FOR OUR NEXT TRICK . . .

A good time to draw veils over last week, I would have thought. We now have to think about today's events, and also look forward to next Saturday.

The old quotation about "no rest for the wicked" seems to have been specially written for this year's League programme. One hardly has time to draw breath before there's another mountain to climb. In our case, the Alp concerned is next week's visit to Leicester, never less than formidable, and always one of the more pleasant trips of the season, as even the Pink 'Un's Charlie Haddock infers in his slightly jaundiced run down of opposing grounds in this season's Rugby Special, (an excellent 40 pence-worth, if you haven't already got one, by the way).

If you're driving to Aylestone Road, go for the M1 and at the M69 junction, head towards Leicester on the A46. Turn right at the Post House, and you'll find the ground on the right-hand side after about two miles.

Of course, for many the preferred option is to take the coach. Usual instructions — see Trevor Pritchard or call into the office, either now or during the week. This trip will cost £6.00, and the coach will leave the ground at about 11.00 am.

The latest information I have is that it will cost you £7.00 to go in (£5.00 for the usual

concessions.)

If you can't make the trip, you could always stay here. As you might expect, United will be taking on their Leicester counterparts on that day, as will the Under 21's, both home matches. One will be played here, and one at Oxstalls. Both sides could use your backing, and would be very pleased to see you.

HOW MANY DID YOU THINK OF?

In the first programme of the season I let you in on an on-going memory teaser which has been engaging the minds of one or two of us over the summer. I asked, how many sportsmen can you think of who played rugby for Gloucester, and also played first class cricket? My own total is five but I wouldn't be a bit surprised if some erudite soul could think of one or two more.

My own quintet is as follows:

Willie Jones

The obvious one, really. Willie, of Neath and Gloucester, was a Glamorgan cricketer, and one of the neatest left-hand bats you ever saw. He was also the best cover point in the country for years.

Dick Stephens

Uncle of Eric, our current Team Secretary, and a member of one of Gloucester's most versatile sporting families — other scions played top-quality

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Peter Arnold cont.

Rugby League and League soccer.

Dick played rugby for Gloucester and cricket for Gloucestershire, and some of our more venerable members might remember his cricket coaching school, which used to operate at Longford, alongside Plock Court.

Graham Parker

Another obvious one. Graham played for Cambridge University, Gloucester, Blackheath and England at full-back, and also turned out for Gloucester City, using the same pair of boots for both games. He was a double blue, like Bristol's Alistair Hignell, playing cricket for Cambridge before moving to Gloucestershire. After years as sports master at Blundell's, he served as Gloucestershire CCC secretary/manager for quite a few years.

Tony Lewis

TV pundit, these days, of course. Played cricket for Glamorgan and England, actually skipping a tour party to India. While doing his National Service at RAF Innsworth, he turned out at full-back for Gloucester.

G. L. Jessop

This is the one I found really surprising. Everyone knows about Gilbert "The Croucher" Jessop, equalled in sheer sporting versatility only by the great Sir Charles Fry. You've undoubtedly heard about his exploits for Gloucestershire and England on the cricket field, with bat, ball and in the field, and you might even know that he was an evens sprinter. Real aficionados will have picked up the fact that he played League soccer, and only missed out on a hockey blue because he had flu on the day of the match.

But he did turn out on the wing for Gloucester a few times, while living at Churchdown. Notta lotta people know that.

We do have some near misses. Trevor Halls played for Gloucestershire Second XI, but I'm not aware that he ever managed full County cricket. I could be wrong, and if so I apologise. Similarly, Bill Hook was, I believe, offered County papers at one time, but didn't take them up.

I'd be delighted if anyone can extend the list. Interesting, isn't it?

THOMAS TROTS OUT

The first Gloucester lad out on the field today will be Thomas Wiggins. He's achieved the ripe old age of eight, and hails from my old stamping ground in Hucclecote, where he attends Hillview School. (That well-known rugby character, ex-referee CAMRA buff and long-distance walker, Tony Williams, used to teach there. Saw him the other day. You'll be relieved to learn that his thirst doesn't seem to have diminished.)

That was before Thomas's time of course, but, nevertheless he's an athletic character himself, absolutely bonkers about rugby, although playing soccer at the moment.

I'm told that he's been badgering his nearest and dearest, including his Dad, Tim, and Jenny his Mother to get him into the Match Mascot scene. Well, he's got his chance today. Perhaps it won't be the last time he runs out in the Gloucester strip.

INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

This season there's a new system for allocating International tickets. The form, which covers all matches this season, is available from the office, and explains how things will work. Hopefully things will be easier this time round, especially for Geraldine, who has found the whole matter a real headache in the past few seasons.

Basically, members aren't going to have to pay in advance, hoping the magic ticket will come their way. However, the deadlines will be applied strictly once a ticket is allocated. Geraldine can tell you all about it when you drop into the office — or you could write, enclosing the usual SAE, and a form will be sent to you.

GET INTO THE STAND EARLY

Obviously, Gloucester v. Bath won't be an all ticket affair, but CENTRE STAND will be reserved for STAND MEMBERS ONLY until 2.40 pm on that day. Wing Stand seats only will be available for non-members. Either way, it would be as well to get into your seat early on October 1st.

Gates will be open at 1.00 pm, and the office will be operating from 12.00 noon.

TAILPIECE

It was nice of Ed Martin, in our last programme, to infer that I might have scored a ton for Kingsholm Cricket Club way back when. Wasn't me though. I preferred to do the bowling bit and in fact, was a ferret — the man who goes in after the rabbits.

I'm not so sure about Ed's habit of referring to me as "Arnie". There are a few people around who still call me "Barney", but "Arnie" never.

I only know one "Arnie" — Mr. Schwarzenegger of that ilk. Of course, there may be a superficial resemblance. . .

How Viv



Sees It

My brief is to occasionally sit down and come up with 500 words for the programme - and what a difficult task. What I will endeavour to do is to speak honestly to you.

It would be very wrong to sit back and totally ignore last week. It was some baptism for me personally.

The Wasps match was very disappointing for me - it left me very deflated and remembering what a heavy defeat was like as a Gloucester player. Yes, there were a couple of occasions in my Kingsholm playing days when we ventured into Wales to have 50 points scored against us.

So I know just how the players felt after Wasps had scored seven tries against us.

All of us on the playing side were also very disappointed for the supporters who travelled to Sudbury. There is considerable anticipation within all sections of the club and last Saturday was a bitter blow for our expectations, whether we are players or supporters.

On the playing side, we let the dust settle a bit and after time for personal reflection we all met for a heart to heart. To a man, the players were self-critical - they did not need me to tell them that they had let themselves down as they already knew it.

If one of us fails, then we all fail. And the "we" ranges from the skipper to the groundsman, including myself and Barrie Corless.

But out of that meeting came a very positive training session on Tuesday evening. Everyone worked hard and I honestly believe that we are on the right road.

The squad has certainly got strength and depth. When you look at who is knocking at the door, trying to catch the eye of the selectors...

Chris Raymond and Martin Kimber both come into the team today and make their League debuts as Gloucester players.

And still waiting in the wings are a host of others, including Mike Teague who is playing No 8 for United this afternoon.

As you all know, we have a few injuries. But

I expect that the squad will be back at virtual full strength within a couple of Weeks.

The only disappointment on the injury recovery front is Ashley Johnson. We need patience - it is taking longer than we thought.

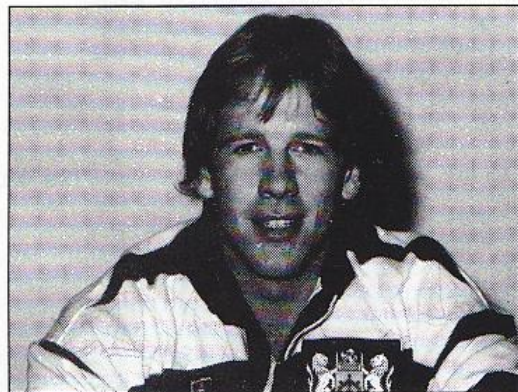
Of today's team, I would single out two who are looking particularly good - the second row pairing of Richard West and Dave Sims.

South Africa is now a long way away and we have got to settle into the approach that is needed for the League. And that is, effectively, that we take no prisoners.

We know that NOTHING must be taken for granted in the modern competitive game. We know that there is no such thing as an easy game.

It is all a matter of confidence. We have all got to really believe in ourselves.

There is a very talented squad of players at Kingsholm, that is for sure.



Don Caskie, one several players due back from injury in the next two weeks.

— . — Ed Martin — In Perspective — . —

There was something missing at the Lydney match a couple of weeks back. You noticed it too!

For the first time in thirteen seasons, the "Voice of Kingsholm" was not heard over the airwaves of Gloucestershire commentating on the happenings involving thirty players and a guy with a whistle on the most famous piece of grass in these 'ere parts.

It is very tempting to say that "The Voice is dead!" In a way it is. But John Hawkins, like the late Arthur Russell, knows a thing or two about literature and would probably write something along the lines: "reports of my death are premature."

But "The Voice" has certainly been silenced - for the time being, at least. The Beeb has decided that while the games that the "boys and girls of Gloucestershire" will play are still to be reported, the county's number one sports club does not warrant the coverage that has been given for the past 13 seasons by two broadcasting organisations ever since local radio first came to the county with the now almost forgotten slogan "music, news and a lot of Gloucestershire".

It all started with Mike Burton, who was a director of Severn Sound when the then Independent Broadcasting Authority awarded the radio franchise to the company.

Burton's influence made sure that the station had a strong sports department, led by Nigel Dean who had cut his sporting journalistic teeth in Gloucester as the Citizen's man at Gloucester City soccer club before moving to Derby and Sheffield.

One of the first things that Dean did as Severn Sound's head of Sports was to cajole John Hawkins into "doing a bit for radio". Gloucester Rugby Club was to be the "flagship" sports team of Severn Sound's output.

And it was a reluctant Hawkins who headed north on the morning of Saturday September 5, 1981 to cover Gloucester's 58-4 win at New Brighton for the radio.

Seven days later, Hawkins was doing his first full-blown commentary match - Gloucester's 21-15 win at Kingsholm against Coventry.

Since then, Dean moved to television, Severn Sound altered direction when the BBC came to town and Hawkins transferred to Radio Gloucestershire's "commercial-free zone".

We will probably get used to life without

Hawkins on a Saturday afternoon between September and April. But will it really be the same?

During those 13 years, Hawkins has developed into arguably the best English rugby voice on British radio (yes, the Scots still have the edge). He is (who knows, it might be "was") a superb play-by-play rugby announcer, and with Pete Butler as his expert "colour" man, there was little more that we could have asked for.

When players "hang up their boots", the statistics are rolled out. So, why not for "The Voice of Kingsholm" who should go down in GRFC history alongside the other media greats like Bill Bailey, Arthur Russell and Rupert Cherry.

John Hawkins reported, for radio, no less than 597 Gloucester matches, of which 406 were wins and 171 were losses (a 70 percent winning average). At Kingsholm, he presided over the airwaves for 329 matches of which just 55 were losses (82 per cent winning record).

One can but hope that the Beeb realise their Boob and Hawkins will be heard again, with rugby coverage of the Gloucester club restored to what it was.

Yes, he was - and is - in the Press "box" - the print media still appreciate his services.

The irony of the whole matter is that the BBC has just demanded another eighty-something quid from me. Still no stereo sound on TV and no John Hawkins. The cheek of it...



John Hawkins:
The Voice of Kingsholm