

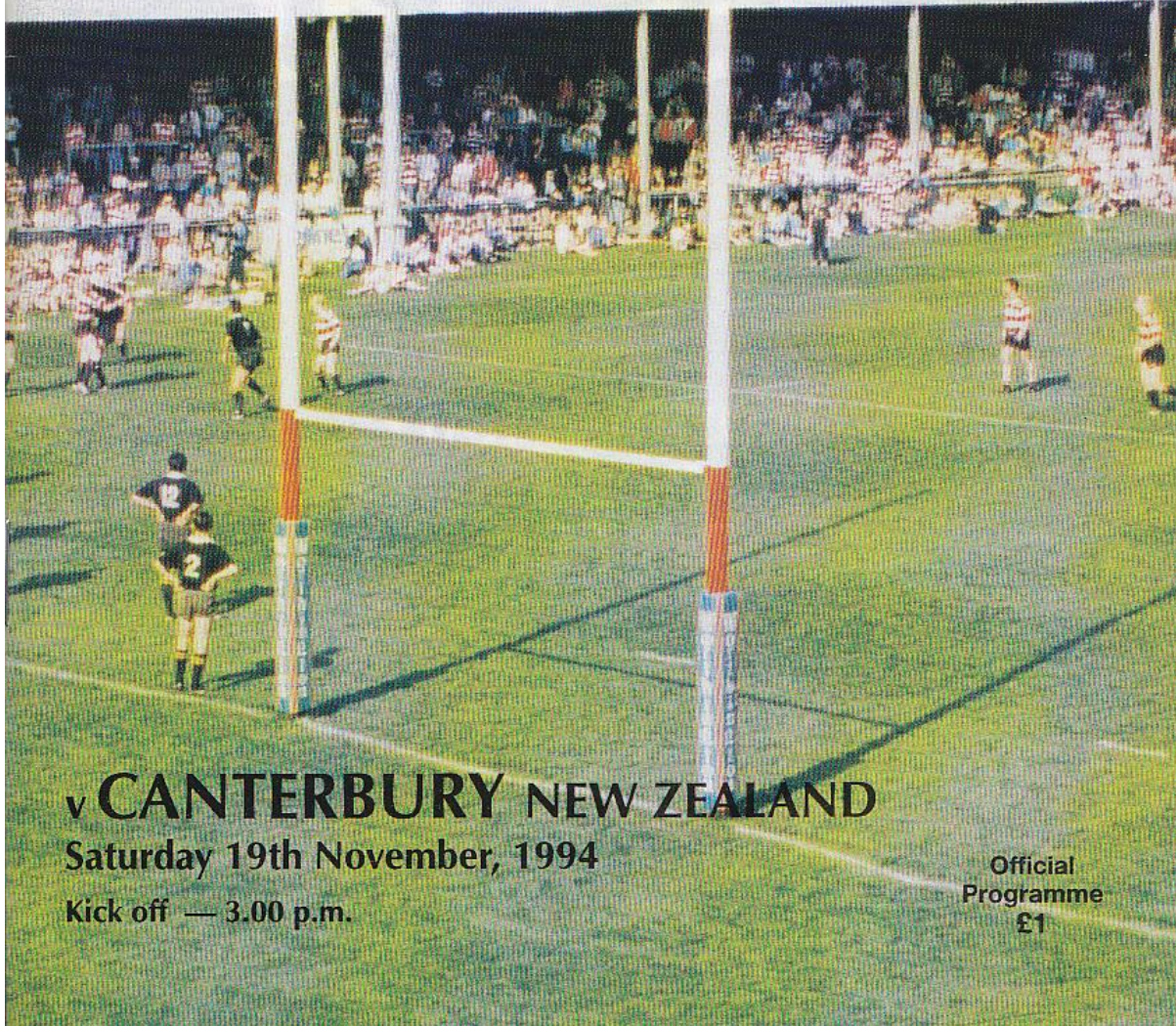
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



Official Club Sponsors



v **CANTERBURY NEW ZEALAND**

Saturday 19th November, 1994

Kick off — 3.00 p.m.

Official
Programme
£1

..... Peter Arnold

ALL ROADS LEAD TO KINGSHOLM

Long ago, when Britannia ruled the waves and William Webb Ellis waived the rules, they used to say that, if you stood long enough on Piccadilly Circus, everyone in the world would walk past you sooner or later. Never could quite work that out, myself, but if there were a similar story relative to rugby, I'll bet it would feature Kingsholm.

Consider: just in the last three years or so we've been happy to entertain teams from New Zealand, the USA, Portugal, Italy and Ireland. Last May, in the National Tens Tournament, Melrose arrived, slightly to everyone's surprise, as the first side from the Scottish RFU ever to play here. We've even welcomed the full England World Cup squad, and gave them all they could handle for most of the game too. Only a couple of weeks ago, when Orrell were here for the Courage game, an entire coachload of Australian Rugby League supporters arrived. On enquiry after the game as to what we owed the pleasure, I was informed that no Antipodean rugby man, of whichever persuasion, reckons to visit England without making a pilgrimage to Kingsholm.

And that's just over the past 36 months. Go back further, and you'll find a veritable atlas of rugby playing nations who have graced the sacred turf. There are still older members of the Kingsholm Faithful who remember Bill Nepia's All Blacks, and that's going back a fair way. Slightly younger supporters will recall sides from Romania, Japan, Australia, Fiji and others who I've forgotten.

But there's always a special buzz about a side from New Zealand. Remember when Auckland arrived in a fog of pea soup proportions one cold evening? The ground was packed,

despite the fact that no one, including those players not immediately involved with the action, was going to see any rugby at all. The Auckland side was offered the option of calling the game off, that night, but insisted on playing, so their President told me, simply because so many people had turned up.

The names are almost a mythology in themselves. Taranaki, Auckland, Hawkes Bay, Otago, and, of course, Canterbury: there's a ring about them which sends a shiver along the nerve endings of any true rugby man or woman.

It's a shame that the demands of the Divisional Championship means that Gloucester won't be able to greet our distinguished visitors quite as their eminence merits by turning out a full strength side against them. However, the other side of *that* coin is that there could be no better occasion for an aspiring member of the First Team to shine. Do well today, and your claims simply have to be taken seriously. Any player will tell you that there's no fiercer opponent than a young tiger who has a point to prove and reckons that he's at least as good as the man ahead of him in the selectors' pecking order.

So we ought to be in for a highly interesting afternoon. And we couldn't wish to spend it in better company. We all sincerely hope that our most welcome and respected visitors find that their visit to Kingsholm is one of the highlights of an already spectacularly successful tour.

WAKEFIELD IN THE CUP

Personally, I think it's a tricky old draw. All the pundits will be expecting us to win the Cup game at Wakefield on December 17th, and there's very

Cont on page 12

Peter Arnold cont.

little credit in doing so against Second Division opposition. However, it's a game which could very easily be lost, and that would be a nine days wonder.

Anyone who came along to the Tens last May will recognise Wakefield as a nippy side, full of ideas, and with some real pace about them. They have a lively appreciation of where the goal line is, and what constitutes the shortest distance to it.

I suppose the first name which springs to mind when considering Wakefield is that of Mike (The Burglar) Harrison, who skippered England on tour, and won around 15 Caps. There's also the forthright Bryan Barley, Capped seven times in the centre, and still playing.

And then there's Dave Scully, famous for playing at scrum half in the England outfit which won the World Cup Sevens at Edinburgh, and in the news lately for refusing an offer to join the Irish squad, having ambitions to play for England. You could say that he's unlikely to achieve that from a Division Two club, but he mightn't have to. Wakefield are sitting handily in the third spot, at the moment, with London Scottish and Saracens - who I note have their Old Enemy, Harlequins, on the same day - above them. I suppose the 'one up, one down' rule this season does them no good at all, but they might be worth a mild flutter, even so.

And you have to take seriously any club which can beat Orrell, even without Dewi Morris.

So now down to the nitty-gritty. The match will be an all-ticket affair, and our ticket allocation should, so Doug Wadley informs me, arrive shortly. In any case, he expects them to be available for sale, from Wednesday, November 23rd between the witching hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm from the Office. The gate is restricted to 3,000, so there won't be all that many to go around. And don't forget; the kick-off is at 2.30.

Naturally, the Club will be running coaches. A ticket will cost you £8.00, leaving Kingsholm at 9.30. The early kick-off means that coaches will be leaving Wakefield at 5.30.

If you're going up under your own steam, then the best information I have is that the College Grove ground (nice name, that !) is just

over a quarter of a mile from the town centre, proceeding, as they say, towards Pindersfield Hospital.

I'm also told that Wakefield can call upon very vocal support, quite matching The Shed in both commitment and decibel level, so the lads would value your support highly.

FRIDAY NEXT WEEK

While on the subject of fixtures, I should remind you that if you turn up to see the formidable Bridgend side next Saturday, you'll have missed it by around 20 hours. It's a FRIDAY evening game, our first this season.

There's also a change to next Tuesday's opposition compared with that published in some listings publications, as they say on the telly. We shall, in fact, be playing NK Pretoria, who are, they tell me, the South African equivalent of our Loughborough Colleges or Exeter University, although stronger than either.

This is billed as a United game, but there's a chance that the side may be stiffened a little by the insertion of one or two First XV players, so it could be an interesting evening.

One more for your diary. On Monday, December 5th, the South West Under 21's are to take on their New Zealand counterparts, right here at Kingsholm. Kick-off is 7.00pm, and tickets are available from the Office at £4.00 a throw. I suppose that, if things go as normal on this sort of occasion, we may be able to expect some local interest in the team selection, so the game could be worth a couple of hours of your time.

WE GET LETTERS

To be honest, this wasn't a letter intended exclusively for us. As you'll see, it was intended for all rugby club secretaries, everywhere. However, it's fairly obvious that the contents have a much wider application than just the poor, overworked and under-appreciated drudges who slave all week to keep our clubs running for us. Indeed, one small section of the Shed could probably provide enough material for several volumes of the type indicated. I commend it to your attention.

In fact, I spoke to Bill Hicks whose name appears at the foot of the letter. He confesses to a comparative ignorance of the finer points of rugby football, but tells me that he's very rapidly discovered that rugby people are very good at telling their tales over a pint in the Clubhouse, but not quite so proficient at writing them down in intelligible English. Hence the offer to correct your grammar and spelling for you.

Although - if I were feeling uncharitable, I would wonder how that suggestion squares with the fact that RT Books don't appear to be able to spell the word 'secretary'. Let's not knock it, however, it's a thoroughly laudable project, and gives you the chance to get your story, and your name, if you feel you can safely publish it, in print.

So here's the letter, and the poster they kindly provided with it.

R. T Books

Marketing & Design Associates Ltd
10, Oxford Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG13 1PA
Tel. 0635 529111 Fax. 0635 529047

**Rugby World Cup 1995
What A Way To Spend Easter!**

Dear Club Secretary,

How many times have you come back from rugby tour with a host of funny stories, and tales of the exploits of one or more of the team? It seems that every club has it's natural performer who will, at the drop of his trousers, entertain the masses.

Well, now it's your chance to tell the World about his exploits by sending your entry for inclusion in a new book, to be published in time for the World Cup series, called 'What A Way To Spend Easter'. We will be compiling the best of your stories in to a paperback book, and for each book sold we will pass a donation to S.P.I.R.E. (Support Paraplegics in Rugby Enterprise).

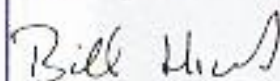
Each story that is used will be credited to the author and the appropriate club which will receive a complementary copy of the book.

We do not have a lot of time to get this off the ground so I would appreciate you letting us know if you wish to contribute, by dropping us a note or a fax as soon as possible. Entries for the book need to be received by the end of December and should be either supplied as typed copy or on a word processed disk. We will check all entries for grammar and spelling so don't worry about not having literary skills, a good story is what we want.

On the reverse of this letter is a poster for your notice board that may help encourage the club members to remember those 'dubious goings on' from past tours.

I hope to hear from you soon and wish you luck in the season ahead.

Best regards,



Bill Hicks
R. T. Books

Peter Arnold cont.

MICKEY-TAKE FOR MICHAEL ?

Our Match Mascot, today, is fairly venerable, as these things go, having achieved the ripe old age of 14. His name is Michael Scott, he has a sister called Karen, who is two years younger, and Terry and Pauline, his father and mother, have been season ticket holders at Kingsholm for yonks, so it's a big day for them, too.

Michael attends Severn Vale School at Quedgeley, but plays his rugby, most enthusiastically, I'm told, for Old Cryptians. Good for you Scotty. I have been known to pull the maroon, old gold and black shirt on myself.

Thereby, according to his Dad, hangs the only small fly in the ointment, as far as young Michael is concerned. "He could get his leg pulled at the match because the ball boys come from Old Cryptians, too !" says Terry.

Maybe so. It would quite fit in with the sense of humour of rugby players in general, and young ones in particular, if his on-the-field colleagues were to give him a hard time. But if, so young Michael, take a tip from me. Simply tell them that at least you're running out on the sacred turf, wearing the cherry-and-white strip, with an opposing side from New Zealand. That's more than any of your tormentors will be able to claim.

And let's hope it's by no means the last time that Michael wears the Gloucester colours. Thanks for your contribution, Michael Scott. Especially in such trying circumstances.

CONGRATULATIONS ALL ROUND

As you know, today sees the first instalment of the Divisional Championship. It's only right to send our felicitations and good wishes to those Gloucester players who are taking part.

Simon Morris would have played last season had it not been for injury, and it's great to see him back. Paul Holford is in the eye of more senior Selectors than the Divisional ones, and we wish him well. After all, Rory Underwood can't go on for ever. Dave Sims is playing his socks off this season, and deserves more recognition than he's had so far.

And don't forget the Midlands side. Richard West certainly has his jumping boots on this season, and has, I think, acquired a little extra pace around the field, lately. And, of course, Mark Mapletoft has been an enormous revelation since joining Gloucester and could raise more than a few eyebrows around the country.

Let's not forget the 'nearly made its' either. Good to see John Hawker on the replacements bench, and I, for one, wouldn't write off his chances of a full place before the competition's over. And you can never write off Mike Teague, either, advancing anno domini or not. It would be nice to see him get a run-out in what he says is

his final season. Although, I'll believe that when I see it.

Well done, everyone !

CHRISTMAS IS COMING !

...and the Club Shop is open. Alan Townsend and John Beaman are happy to dispense their usual cornucopia of goodies. You'll see their advertisement elsewhere in this programme, but I thought it wouldn't go amiss to point out that it's a great excuse to warble "Just going Christmas shopping, Dear !" and then nip off to Kingsholm, isn't it ?

TAILPIECE

I must confess to a certain thrill of superstitious terror when I read the Romanian team sheet for last Saturday's International. Did you notice that they were playing a prop forward called 'Vlad' ?

That name will ring a bell with devotees of the horror genre. I hope the England front row had taken their garlic, and had 'stake' on the menu rather than 'steak'.

Mind you, I can recall one or two Gloucester forwards who looked as though they had to be back in their coffins by sunrise.

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15th OCTOBER**

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How Bass



Sees It

Who's Round Next?

A View from Paul Doubler, Regional Sponsorship Manager, Bass Wales & West Ltd.

Its with great pleasure that I have the honour of filling this page for todays very special match. To be honest though I think its only because Barrie Corless was late with his notes. Thanks to Peter Arnold for the opportunity and I hope these few words can be up to his own high standards.

Speaking of todays visitors a warm welcome to Kingsholm to all in the Canterbury party. It was said at the start of the tour (I think by Mike Burton) that the boys had come over to enjoy their rugby and have some fun. Judging by the results I've seen they must be having a fabulous time! Still even though we have'nt got our strongest side out I am sure the Gloucester boys will give a good account of themselves. Perhaps with four games in a week and a few Toby's and Worthingtons consumed during their stay in the area, our friends from New Zealand might just be getting a little tired!

Besides being main club sponsors we are also sponsoring todays match. So it gives me particular pleasure to welcome our party of guests to the hospitality complex today. We have with us almost seventy direct customers of Bass. These are Publicans and Club people from all around the area who dispence to you the consumer the Bass range of products. So a sincere thank you to them for what they do for us, from myself and my colleagues from Bass and we hope they enjoy the day.

Which brings me to my final topic. Today is the end of an era for Bass in Gloucestershire. A man who has virtually been Mr. Bass for some twenty years has officially hung his boots up and played his last game for us. I refer to my long standing friend and colleague Gerald Ernest Baker. Yes its true no longer will Gerry be out and about all over Gloucestershire bringing his own distinctive brand of humour and wit! To Chris (Gerry's wife of some 31 rugby seasons) and Gerry himself from all of us at Bass, Good luck for the future and its your round next.

In closing can I wish the club well, lets hope we can improve on our current fifth position, have a good run in the cup, perhaps, who knows, even get to HQ for the final. Now that really would be a day!

Cheers, Paul Doubler

KIA ORA

This is the fifth visit to Kingsholm by a team from New Zealand to play Gloucester. And, so far, the series is levelled at two wins for the Cherry and Whites and two wins for those from "down under and along a bit".

The first visit was made by the legendary All Blacks of 1905/6 who won a lot of friends during their first-ever tour of England - oh yes, they won a lot of matches as well!

One of the wins was at Kingsholm - the 44-0 win remains to this day as the biggest thrashing ever inflicted on Gloucester at Kingsholm. The nearest any other team has got to beating the Cherry and Whites on this 'ere ground by 44 points was the Oxford University team of 1961/2 season who won 39-8 and the 34-3 win eleven years ago by Auckland - that was "the fog" match where the Citizen boldly announced the scoreline as: "Gloucester 3, Auckland 34 (we think!)"

But back to the All Blacks match at the beginning of the century... Under the headline "DECISIVE WIN FOR THE COLONIALS", Bill Bailey reported in the Citizen on Thursday October 19, 1905 - the day of the match: "The great game is over, and Gloucester, like the other English teams who have met the New Zealanders, have had to acknowledge the immense superiority of the Colonial combination.

"Forty-four points to nil is a terrific beating; but whilst the score in some degree flatters the winners, there could be no two opi nions that Gloucester were hopelessly out-manoeuvred in almost every phase of play," Bailey continued.

"That the visitors are a wonderful combination will be recognised by all who witnessed their superb exhibition today, and greatly as some of the Welsh teams have shone at Kingsholm on occasions, we never remember any side reaching the perfection attained by the All Blacks."

Gloucester put on what Bailey described as "a brave show" for the first quarter of the match - then came disaster when Arthur Hudson was injured and had to leave the field. By half time, the All Blacks were well in command. But, with Hudson returning in the second half, Gloucester managed to prevent their powerful visitors from scoring for some thirty minutes.

Bill Bailey described the entire All Blacks forwards as "men of fine physique, fast, and full of dash". But it was the backs that impressed

everyone. "Hunter, at five-eighth, was wonderfully effective and most of ... the opening came through him," Bailey wrote.

"At times (Hunter) went on his own, and he frequently beat half a dozen opponents by his clever swerving and dodging. At three-quarter, Deans, Smith and Wallace were a brilliant line, the latter taking the eye most. He is an artist in every sense of the word, possessing trickiness, kicking powers and good pace. Another star performer was Gillett at full back, who gave one of the finest displays imaginable. His kicking was on fine length, whilst his ability to recover the slightest mistake was marvellous."

That match attracted more spectators than did the England v Wales encounter. Over £550 was taken on the gate - a record at the time for a club match and only just short of the receipts for the international when the admission was considerably higher.

After the match, the teams were given a full "Civic Reception" by the "Mayor and Corporation" at the Guildhall, with the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, the High Commissioner of New Zealand also among the guests. And after the "Civic Tea" everyone went to the Theatre Royal to see Henry Herbert in the title role of Shakespeare's "Hamlet".

The following day, Mr. A. Slater, presiding at the City Petty Sessions (Magistrates Court) congratulated the City's police chief, D. C. Harrison, and his officers "for receiving and dealing with probably the greatest concourse of people that ever congregated in a small space in Gloucester."

Gloucester's Record At Kingsholm Against Teams From New Zealand

1905 All Blacks L 0 - 44
1966 Wellington W 9 - 6
1978 Taranaki W 18 - 6
1983 Auckland L 3 - 34

In case you thought that the headline for this page was in fact an advertisement ... If you want to impress the visitors in the bar afterwards, say Kia Ora! No, your beer won't get watered down with orange squash as Kia Ora is in the Maori language what "Good Health" is in English. Cheers!