

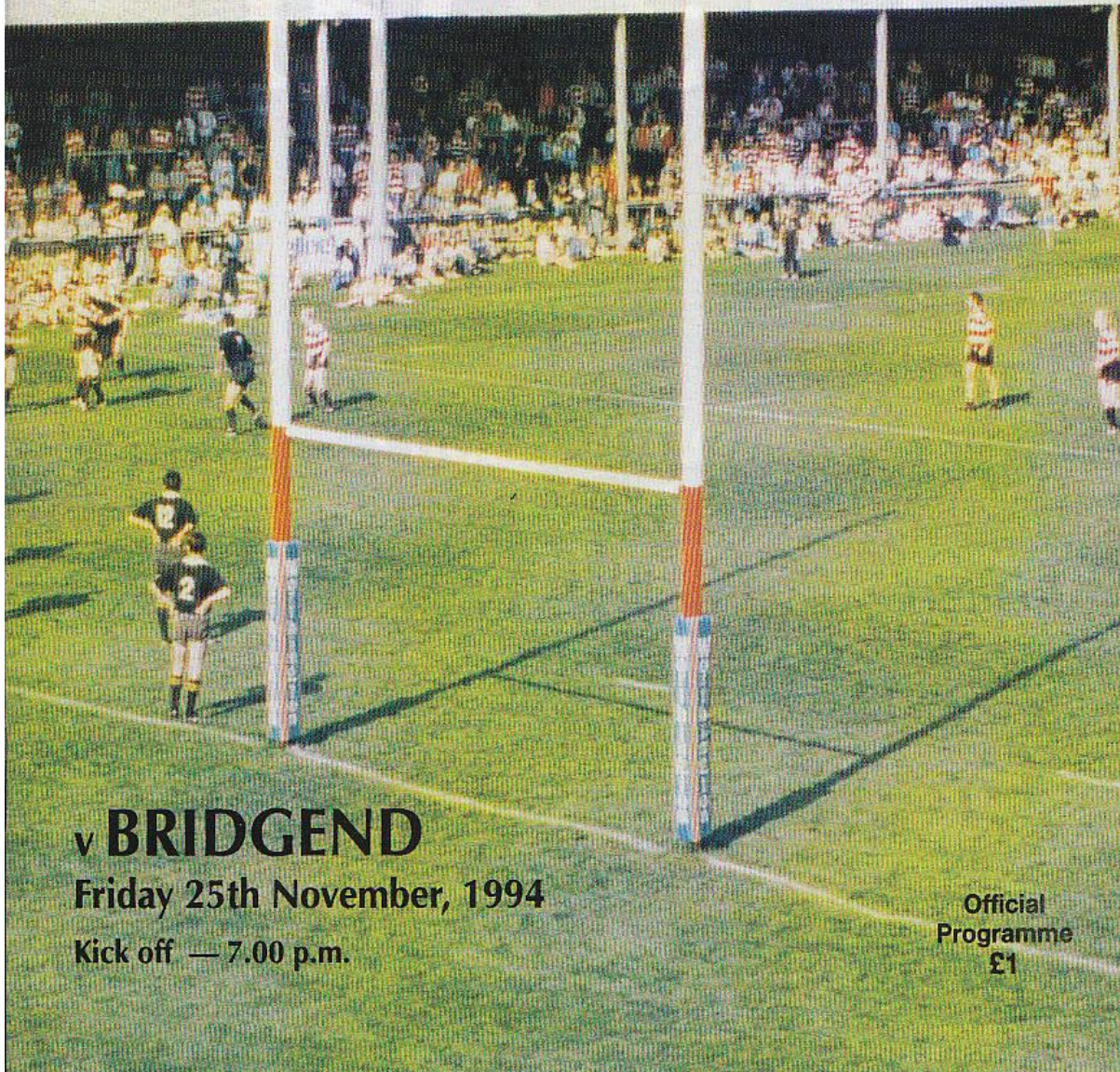
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



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Friday 25th November, 1994

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15. Martin Roberts
14. Lee Osborne
13. Mark Bedney
12. Don Caskie
11. Chris Dee

T	G	Pts
1	5	15
1		5

10. Martin Kimber
9. Bruce Fenley

T	G	Pts
1	5	5

1. Adey Powles
2. Hilton Brown
3. Andy Deacon (c)
4. Mark Cornwell
5. Simon Devereux
6. Pete Gianville
7. Paul Ashmead
8. Greg Keyse

T	G	Pts

- Replacements:
Pete Jones
Paul Salter
Mark Nicholls
Bobby Fowke

24 H/T 0

Referee: Paul Murgatroyd - East Midlands Society

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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†-Captain

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15. Adrian Durston
14. Neville Lewis
13. Jason Ball
12. Gwilym Wilkins
11. Nicky Walsh

T	G	Pts

10. Austin Howells
9. Jason Lewis

T	G	Pts

1. Lee Manning
2. Ian Grenslade
3. Sean Gale
4. Simon Jenkins
5. Rhodri Jones
6. Colin Roberts
7. Nathan Thomas
8. Nathan Jones

T	G	Pts

- Replacements:
Gareth Edwards
Matthew Lewis
Anthony Jones
David Rees
Simon Thomas
John Purnell

T	G	Pts

45 F/T 0



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..... **Peter Arnold**

WORTH WAITING FOR

Time was, in simpler days when cups were something you drank tea from, and the only League around was the one which played at Hempstead, half the rugby-going population of Wales would have passed through the turnstiles at Kingsholm by this time of year. Along with Bristol, we could claim the most comprehensive Anglo-Welsh fixture list in either country. And before they went and built the Severn bridge, I'm not sure that even Bristol could match Gloucester in that respect. Yet here we are, with the shops full of Christmas goodies, and Father Christmas ho-ho-hoing all over the place, and we only have a visit to Cardiff to our name. Even there, the weather was foul, and neither side could field a full-strength team.

So, this evening has been worth waiting for. The first visit of a respected, and extremely welcome Welsh outfit of the 1994/95 campaign. We're always glad to see Bridgend, and this season, more than most. The point is that what we have been losing in quantity, we are more than making up for in quality, because as of last Saturday evening, Bridgend are sitting second only to Cardiff in the Heineken League, Division One. To be accurate, our visitors have won six League games, losing just three, and drawing one. What's more, they have scored a highly creditable 23 tries in the process, so we're obviously up against a pretty lively side this evening. Which will come as no surprise to any of us.

It's always a pleasure to welcome a top Welsh side to Kingsholm, for reasons other than what happens on the field. To start with, they always seem to enjoy the experience. It was the great Bobby Windsor, no less who once said, in

my hearing, that Gloucester is the nearest approach to a Welsh club on this side of the Severn. We took it as a compliment at the time, especially as his side had just been beaten, in spite of having turned out the full, legendary Pontypool pack, with the formidable figure of Clive Bishop directing matters from scrum half.

Well, 'nothing propinks like propinquity', as Ian Fleming once wrote in one of the James Bond books, and our geographical proximity to the Principality has, no doubt, encouraged some of that unique Welsh rugby club flavour to rub off on us.

We certainly hope that the Bridgend contingent, players, supporters, camp followers, Officials, and anyone who has come along for the ride, feel well and truly at home this evening. It's great to welcome everyone here once again, and hope that the deprivations of our respective League seasons don't prevent you making the trip again, at very regular intervals.

OUCH

It would be churlish, dog-in-the manger, redolent of sour grapes, and generally improper of me not to make reference to that quite horrible thrashing a half-strength Gloucester took at the hands of the superb Canterbury side last Saturday. In my view, it was, quite simply, a privilege to watch them. I heartily concur with the chap sitting a few places away from me who opined as how he hoped that someone had made a video of the whole game so that it could be used as a training film for aspiring rugby players, be they backs or forwards.

I hope that the experience won't have done our players any harm at all, having given them

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How Reg Colling



Sees It

Dear Peter,

Thanks for your call requesting a review of the Colts progress during the current season. My first reaction was that there was little to write about as so far we have had the most frustrating time with so many cancellations. Two of these have been from teams fearing that they were not strong enough to give us a competitive game and one must sympathise with these clubs as they are unaware each season of what players they may attract, unlike ourselves who with such great strength in local rugby are virtually assured of a fairly strong side each season. Two more teams have cried off because so many players were involved in County fixtures. We are fortunate in this respect as under our present system of midweek fixtures our players still get plenty of rugby with their local clubs and at least seven of them are included in the County squad. So congratulations to Alexander Bennett, Clyan Andrews, Virgil Hartland, Ian Riddell, Colin Stokes, James Bashfield, and Nathan Evans for their achievements and also to Nick Paisley on his selection for the Under 18's County team. I note with pleasure that Clyan Andrews scored three tries in the County Championship quarter final against Surrey recently.

There is a movement afoot to change our format to Saturday Colts rugby. The theory being that they will meet better opposition on a regular basis and be brought into a Gloucester coaching system that is probably superior to their local club system. Personally I think this theory is somewhat flawed. A great many of our Colts play first and second team rugby for their local sides and some are involved in County and Divisional rugby so they are unlikely to meet better opposition elsewhere. The coaching of John Powell and John Dix every Monday evening has certainly brought excellent results and our annual home and away functions against Bath, Coventry, Moseley, Northampton and Worcester are not exactly low grade opposition.

The benefit to the Club of the Colts XV in its present form can be clearly seen and at not too large a strain on its financial resources as no doubt our treasurer will confirm. The contribution on the playing field has been tremendous when one considers that in the first teams recent victory over Harlequins at the Stoop the whole of the pack together with the scrum half were ex Colts and on the same day six of the forwards and two of the backs in the team which defeated Harlequins 2nds at Kingsholm were also ex Colts. When Mike Teague left the field injured at

the Stoop ex Colt Greg Keyse was his replacement. On the same day also three exported Colts who would surely form an excellent front row were performing for other clubs. Malcolm Preedy (Cheltenham), Kevin Dunn (Wasps), Gareth Williams (Lydney). On the following Tuesday 13 ex Colts were in the Under 21's side which defeated Swansea U21's at Worcester in the first round of the MEB floodlit competition.

I feel that not many 1st Division Clubs could equal or get anywhere near that record and I think it shows that we have attracted to the club the best of local players who are able to keep constant contact with their local clubs so that if they do not make the grade in senior rugby they can continue their allegiance to their particular club. At this point it would be a good time to thank all the North Gloucester Combination clubs who have been so co-operative in my seventeen seasons of Gloucester Colts rugby. Without their help and co-operation we could not succeed. Thank you.

It is pleasing to see several other ex Colts emerging into senior rugby with Greg Keyse and Mark Cornwell being thrown in at the deep end against Canterbury. I hope they enjoyed it. Gareth Fenwick, Goran Antronjevic and Nathan Carter seem to be getting games for the United and there are plenty more to follow. A new name this season is Guy Hopson, outside half, I'm sure you are familiar with the surname. Yes its Terry's nephew, son of Roy, so lets hope he develops into as good a player as his uncle. The signs are promising. We are indeed fortunate to be in an area where rugby players grow up faster than weeds. Long may it continue.

On Wendays we meet Bath Colts for a home fixture and hope to redress the balance of last season when Bath completed the double over us for the first time. Previously they had not beaten us for four seasons and that was on April 18th 1990. In our previous sixteen games against them we have won ten, lost five and drawn one with 239 points for and 178 against. We are hoping to have a full side, enjoy the game and come out with a well earned victory.

Hopefully our second half of the season which commences on February 1st with an away fixture against Cinderford and composes ten games will not suffer further cancellations. The amount of effort put in by our two dedicated coaches John Powell and John Dix and the players themselves in training deserves better.

Reg Colling

Peter Arnold cont.

a close-up view of how the game should be played. Understandably, a few heads dropped, towards the end, but the lads shouldn't allow the train of event to shell shock them, or induce any feelings of inferiority for our more 'normal' matches. Gloucester weren't that bad, decimated by the Divisions or not. Canterbury were simply phenomenal.

Let's face it, Gloucester were up against the New Zealand Provincial Champions, on a 'high' because of their performances earlier in their tour. There was a whole clutch of players chasing hard for full All Black honours in the not too distant future. On the day, they would have beaten any of England's four Divisional sides, and we can think of one of two full International sides who would have come second, too.

So let's put the thing into perspective, acknowledge that we were hammered by an excellent side, and console ourselves with the fact that one or two Gloucester players didn't show up at all badly under the circumstances.

Mark Twain once wrote 'Experience is a wise teacher, but his fees are awful high' . . . Well, the Gloucester lads have paid their dues, and should learn from the lesson handed out. That way, everyone wins.

AND ANOTHER TO COME!

I don't want to alarm you unduly, but we have another invasion from the land of the Kiwi and Kia Ora scheduled for ten days time. On Monday, December 5th, the South West Under 21's are taking on their New Zealand counterparts, right here at Kingsholm, kick-off at 7.00 p.m. Tickets are available from the Office now at £4.00 a time.

We now know a little more about U21 rugby that we did a season or two ago, and are well aware that it usually produces some scintillating play. The New Zealand version should therefore be well worth the entrance money. Furthermore, as we discovered when Emerging England entertained New Zealand here at around the same time last season, the home selectors are usually tempted to give a game to a few examples of local talent on these occasions, so perhaps one or two of our home-grown

youngsters could get a run out. So this could be a very interesting little soiree, as well as a prestigious one.

While looking at the comprehensive information so kindly supplied to me by Bob Howitt, who doubles as Tour Organiser as well as editor of New Zealand Rugby News, who are the instigators of the tour, one blast from the past immediately caught my eye. One of the coaches accompanying the party is Sid Going, one of the great All Black Scrum halves of all time. He was a vital member of that almost all-conquering side which contested the legendary All Blacks v. Barbarians game at Cardiff, featuring the famous Gareth Edwards try.


If you were around Kingsholm at the time (22 years ago, gawdelpus!), you will remember that the New Zealanders opened their tour against the South West on this ground. If my memory isn't going the way of some of my other faculties then Sid Going pulled out of the match through injury at the last moment, and Lyn Collinge, a new face to us, stepped in to take his place alongside the likes of Grant Batty and Joe Karam.

Sid is, by now, just a little over the Under 21 age limit, so we shan't actually see the famous scuttling style, knuckles almost scraping the floor, like some aggressive chimpanzee, on December 5th, but it will be good to welcome him, along with all the others back to Kingsholm once again. I commend the occasion for your attention.

WAKEFIELD

Did you notice that Dave Scully, the Wakefield scrum-half made himself unpopular by accusing the Midlands players of cheating last weekend? That's the sort of aggression and forthright behaviour that Gloucester is going to have to counter up there in the Cup match on December 17th. You'll want to be there and lend your support if at all possible.

Tickets for the game are available from the office right now, and you'll need one because its an all-ticket affair. The Wakefield ground is restricted to a gate of 2,900, so our ticket allocation is only around 900 - and they are, for



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practical purposes, all ground tickets. So if you want one, then stand not upon the order of thy going. And, as at all Cup matches, there no concessions for Juniors and OAP's.

Coaches have been arranged, and a seat will cost you £8.50. They are scheduled to leave Kingsholm at 9.30 am, and the 2.30 kick-off (please note, if you're going up under your own steam), means that there will be ample time for the odd beverage before departing Wakefield at 5.30 p.m.

Do get up there if you can. I'm told the Wakefield supporters have a pretty fair set of vocal chords themselves, so your support would be highly valued by the lads.

WAKEFIELD - STOP PRESS

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CANADA

I don't know how he's managed it, but Dastardly Doug Wadley has acquired a few tickets for the England v Canada game on Saturday, December 10th, so you could come along here to watch Coventry on the Friday evening, and then nip off to Twickenham on the Saturday. Hardly worth going to bed, really

The magic pieces of cardboard are priced at

£22.00 and £27.00, and the Fair Geraldine will be very happy to take your money. 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m, any time during the week.

Could be an interesting encounter. Like many people, I wasn't very impressed by the performance of the England forwards against the hapless Romanians, and that tough Canadian outfit should give them a much better test. They did, after all, beat Wales around a year ago.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

We may have reached a hiatus in the League season, but there are interesting games to consider, nevertheless. Next Wednesday evening, as ever was, we are pleased to welcome the grand old Clifton side to Kingsholm, resting from their labours in the Third Division. On the following Saturday, December 3rd, the Firsts are away to Bedford, the current front runners in Division Three, but United take on Saracens at home, and they're a unit worth watching. Those are closely followed by the New Zealand U21 and Coventry matches aforementioned, with the Cup game on the Saturday after that.

THE FAMOUS FIVE

You will have noticed by now that Reg Collins, who along with his coaches, has done such a great job with the Gloucester Colts over the years, has done me the honour of filling the 'How So-and-So Sees It' this time round. It's

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Peter Arnold cont.

always nice to get information about the Colts, because in the long run, if you haven't got a decent Colt's set-up, you haven't got anything.

While talking to him about his welcome contribution, he vouchsafed a piece of information that he had omitted to include, and I'm glad to include here. Did you realise, and I confess that it hadn't registered with me, that the most recent *five* Gloucester Captains have all emerged from our own, home-grown Colts squads? They are, in chronological order, Malcolm Preedy, Mike Hamlin, Marcus Hannaford, Ian Smith and Andy Deacon. And they've all gone on to even greater things, with 'Deaks' still very much in the frame. And you'll know that Malcolm went on to skipper Cheltenham, while Mike is currently the County Captain.

I doubt if any other club could point to such a record.

ANYONE SEEN STAN BAXTER?

Now and then, one sees notices in the local press, enquiring if anyone can put the writer in touch with old so-and-so, who used to live at such-and-such, and who they haven't seen for yonks. It's quite a familiar item in the 'Citizen', for example, but I don't recall the subject arising in our Programme before. However, we have one now.

The mislaid friend in question is a Mr. Stan Baxter, who, it is said, played for United in the '50's and '60's. Apparently, he did his National Service at RAF Leeming, with a Mr. Terry Norris who would now like to contact him again. Mr. Norris has an idea that Stan Baxter may have lived somewhere in the Forest, or otherwise West of Severn, and possibly played for a local club in that area, but he's not sure about that.

If you know, know of, or even happen to *be* Stan Baxter, then Geraldine in the Office has the details and will gladly put you in touch.

BIRTHDAY GIFT FROM GRANDMA

Daniel Kwiatkowski has a birthday on Sunday next, as ever was. I'm not sure whether it's his twelfth or thirteenth, but he receives one of his gifts this evening, when he acts as Match Mascot. The generous donor is his Grandmother, Pam Kwiatkowski, who works on an advice panel for the 'Citizen'.

It appears that this an expensive month for the Kwiatkowskis, because young Daniel's sister, Danuta, who is two, has her birthday on Wednesday next. Wonder what Grannie is giving her?

Daniel is a keen sports buff who attends Churchdown School, and lives with Danuta and Mum, Linda, at Barnwood. The rugby

connection is extended by Daniel's Uncle, Tom Mulhern, who will be accompanying him to the game this evening. You may remember Tom for the furore he created when constructing that ginormous rugby ball which projects from the roof of the Dean's Walk Inn. Well, it's different, innit?

Have a good birthday, Daniel, and thanks for giving us the pleasure of your company.

It's a great idea for an unusual birthday present, isn't it? Do you have any young relative - boy or girl- who might enjoy the experience? There are still some vacancies for the job if anyone's interested. As a matter of fact, we don't have a Match Mascot for next Wednesday evening's game against Clifton, and it's by no means too late to nip in.

Anyone who has a candidate in mind for a Match Mascotship would do well to contact Margaret Nelson, and talk about it all. You'll get her at the Mike Burton Group 0451 419666.

MORE DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

After I wrote the 'Forthcoming Attractions' bit, above, I heard that the proposed Northern Transvaal game, organised for March 11th, has now been confirmed. If you look at your fixture list, you'll find that that date is marked 'TBA', for 'To Be Announced', and although the game has been firmly on the cards, only now have the loose ends been tied up.

So it's another good date for your diary. Parenthetically, it falls just a week after we face Bath away in the League, so the boys are in for a testing eight days.

TAILPIECE

Did anyone see the 'Daily Telegraph' of Monday, November 7th? If not, beg, borrow or steal one, or at least, the Sports section. There's a highly complimentary article about Gloucester, and especially about the Harlequins game. The author? One Stuart Barnes. Always knew there was something I liked about that fellow.

Ed Martin

If one goes by the wood panel list in "The Complex" (what is "complex" about The Complex I have yet to appreciate) of Gloucester RFC captains, there was never a 1939-1940 season of rugby played by the club. There is just the legend that club fixtures were suspended for World War II, just as they were for World War I between 1914 and 1918.

This, like the notion that some upper class twit called Ellis invented the game of rugby when he picked up the ball and ran with it during a footy match at Rugby School, is mythology.

Gloucester did in fact have a rugby season that started in September 1939. But club fixtures were suspended just before Christmas 1939 because of the War. Ten matches were played that season - all but three were staged at Kingsholm. The record for the season was 10 wins, five losses and five draws (10 wins, two losses and five draws at Kingsholm).

True, some of the opponents were "scratch" sides - like the Welsh Army and East Yorkshire Regiment. And a rare fixture was arranged with Weston-super-Mare. But there were also fixtures with Oxford University, Stroud, Bath - and Bridgend who visited Kingsholm on Saturday December 16 to inaugurate fairly regular fixtures between the two clubs.

Rupert Cherry reigned supreme in St. Johns Lane and he listed in the Citizen the following Monday, the two teams:

Gloucester - H. Boughton; P. Brown, J.H. Bown, F.G. Edwards and R. Cook; W.D. Kear and E.J. Parfitt; T. Day, A.D. Carpenter (capt), G. Redding, J.G. A'Bear, A.G. Hudson, T. Roe, I. Leach and G. Watkins.

Bridgend - Ronnie Thomas; Chris Matthews, Jack Matthews, Glan James and W.J. Richardson; J.W. Furley and D. Phillips; Cliff Davies, Verdun Eddy, W.G. Hockaday, John Hopkins (capt), Edgar Davies, C.E. Eddy, S. Jenkins and Roy Davies.

A fair-sized crowd braved the biting wind to see the game, Rupert Cherry wrote in the Saturday Football Final. The game opened with a sensation. From the first line out the ball was kicked loose towards the Bridgend line, and several visitors made unsuccessful attempts to gather the ball. Meanwhile, Day followed up, and Thomas failing to touchdown, DAY rushed in and scored near the posts. Bridgend rushed too soon, and Boughton took the kick from the ground, but

surprisingly failed to score.

Almost immediately afterwards Bridgend equalised. Pressure was hard on the home line, when Hudson tried to punt clear, but GLAN JAMES made a mark from his kick, and, Cherry went on with a somewhat lax approach to English style, scored a beautiful goal with his kick.

*This was the end of the scoring - both teams ended with three points each (remember the "goal for a mark"?). There was one piece of glorious Cherry Cliché in his Saturday piece. *Twice (Gloucester) men were caught napping in front of goal when they had ample time to kick clear, and on the first occasion Glan James nearly managed to bullock his way over.**

*Just as today, Monday's Citizen had a more reflective piece. And Cherry was quite scathing in his comments. *Why Bridgend did not win against Gloucester at Kingsholm on Saturday I cannot explain. A try against a goal for a mark certainly flattered Gloucester, for Bridgend had far more of the game territorially, were constantly attacking, had cleverer backs, and with the exception of Boughton, Gloucester's defence was generally weak.**

Somehow or other the City managed to save in the nick of time whenever Bridgend seemed certain to score and the amazing fact remained at the end that Gloucester's line was never crossed. Amazing is the word which describes this game... The Bridgend backs showed their paces. Watching their fast thrusts, the way they passed and sent each other through, and the miserable tackling of the Gloucester threequarter line who left everything to Boughton, most of us thought Gloucester were in for a pretty sound whacking

Well, it did not come off, but Gloucester ought to be very thankful they have Harold Boughton. Every week it seems that I write of the splendid work he does. The truth is of course that he has to do far more than he should...

Another grumble. A first-class club like Gloucester should have centres who can judge their movements so that they take passes at full speed and really cut through... I am sorry to be so devastating about the Gloucester backs, but anyone who did not see the match must realise that they did not show up too well against the real class playing of such threequarters as Chris and Jack Matthews and Glan James.