

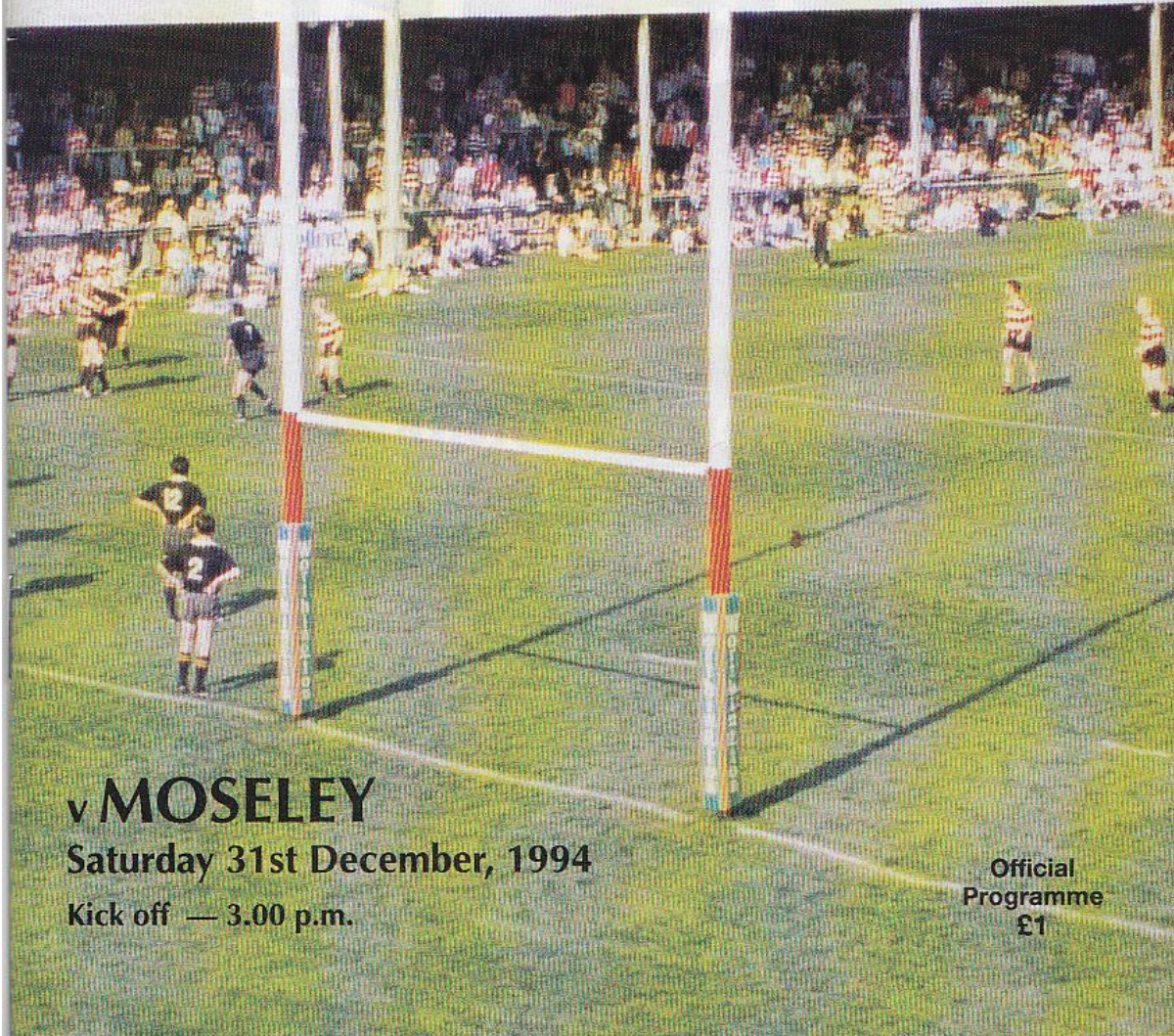
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



Official Club Sponsors



v **MOSELEY**

Saturday 31st December, 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

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H/T		
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- 15. Mark Mapletoft
- 14. Paul Holford
- 13. Don Caskie
- 12. Ben Maslen
- 11. Simon Morris

- 10. Martyn Kimber
- 9. Bruce Fenley

- 1. Adey Powles
- 2. Phil Greening
- 3. Andy Deacon †
- 4. Dave Sims
- 5. Richard West
- 6. Rob Fidler
- 7. Ian Smith
- 8. Mike Teague

Replacements
Chris Raymond
Lee Osborne
Tony Windo

Referee: Graham Hughes, Manchester Society

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

SPONSORED BY



Cumulative Match Score

†-Captain

MOSELEY

(Red/Black)

T	G	Pts

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F/T		
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- 15. C. Dossett
- 14. E. Anderson
- 13. J. Bonney
- 12. N. Hill
- 11. D. Payne

- 10. M. Birch
- 9. G. Becconshall

- 1. P. Butler
- 2. D. Ball
- 3. N. Webber
- 4. G. Watson
- 5. M. Skrypec
- 6. N. Topping
- 7. N. Martin
- 8. S. Owen

Replacements:
A. Cahill
A. Houston
D. Protherough
R. Denhart

..... Peter Arnold

IF IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE, IT MUST BE MOSELEY

Forget about League status. Moseley are, without doubt, one of England's great rugby clubs. In terms of history, they can hold up their heads in the presence of such names as Leicester, Northampton and even Gloucester (founded in the same year), and certainly outstrip Johnny-come-latelies like Orrell. A browse through the pages of 'Rothman' will reveal that they can boast as many International players as almost anyone - including, by the way, Barrie Corless, who played at The Reddings as well as at Coundon Road for Moseley's traditional rivals, Coventry, who came rather unstuck here in our last match before Christmas.

Against that background it seems highly appropriate that we usually take on today's very welcome visitors at this time of the year, and especially when the fixture happens to fall on New Year's Eve, of all days in the year, the one for looking back and honouring our traditions.

Not that the Moseley game has ever degenerated into a mere holiday runabout. There is far too much history between the two clubs for that. You won't need reminding, for example, that Gloucester and Moseley are the only two sides ever to tie a Cup Final, even after extra time, which, incidentally, was referred to in those days as 'A replay of fifteen minutes in each half, to start immediately.'

Well, the latest replay between two of England's premier clubs (a phrase I bowdlerised from a Moseley slogan of a few years ago), also starts immediately. So does the celebration of Moseley's visit to Kingsholm.

The Season wouldn't be the Season without a confrontation between Gloucester and the lads from The Reddings. We hope they have a memorably enjoyable visit, and that 1995 brings them all they would wish themselves. That would undoubtedly include a revival of their fortunes, and the beginning of a climb back to their rightful

place in the very highest echelons of the game. Happy New Year, lads!

EARLY START NEXT WEEK

New Year's Eve may be a day for looking back, but it's also one for anticipating the future. In our case, that means no further ahead than next Saturday, when the Courage League programme commences its second phase.

The Opposition is to be provided by Wasps who, you may recall, treated us to a virtuoso beating at Sudbury at the start of the season. They then did the same to someone else the following week, before losing to West Hartlepool, who Gloucester had subjected to a seven-try hammering at Kingsholm. This was the start of some highly eccentric results all over the country, but things do seem to have settled down a bit now, and I wouldn't like to speculate on the outcome of next Saturday's encounter.

The pundits certainly seem to regard the prospect as one to savour. To such an extent that Sky TV are covering the game - their first visit to Kingsholm since they started their regular Saturday League coverage.

That's fine as far as we are concerned, but it does mean a TWO FIFTEEN KICK-OFF. So if you stick to your regular schedule you'll turn up just in time to see the second half kick-off. Which would be a tragedy.

So, don't forget. Early start next week. We'd hate you to miss what is likely to be one of the most attractive fixtures all season.

THERE JUST MIGHT STILL BE ROOM

Printers are peculiar creatures. You see, they have this funny notion that they are entitled to Christmas holidays, just as if they were real people. Stretching a point, I suppose we might go along with that, but such magnanimity does have

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Peter Arnold cont.

unfortunate side effects. Like, for example, the fact that I am writing these notes almost two weeks before the match so that the programme can be produced before everyone goes off to do whatever it is that printers do over Yuletide.

And that means that information given here might be out of date before you read it. Specifically, at the time of writing, there are still seats available on the overnight safari which Andy Mitchell is planning for the weekend of the West Hartlepool game on January 17th. By the time you read this, the situation may have changed, but it's well worth enquiring at the Office, anyway.

The cost of the trip is £40.00 a head. The price includes a Saturday night stay at a very pleasant hotel, as well as the coach up to West Hartlepool on the morning of the match, and a gentle meander home on the Sunday. And I promise you: there are far worse places to spend a Saturday evening than in the West Hartlepool Clubhouse, which is quite one of the most welcoming ones I know.

Fancy the trip? Then pop along to the office without delay.

AWAYDAY FOR MATTHEW

Belated birthday greetings from us to Matthew Durcan, who achieved the ripe old age of six on December 28th, and who has generously agreed to serve as our Match Mascot today. As regular expenders of cash for programmes will know, we've had young lads and girls from all over the place running out in cherry-and-white on these occasions, but I can't remember one who hales from quite so far away as he does, which makes his participation all the more welcome.

Matthew arrives here from Camberley in Surrey, where he lives with his Dad, also called Matthew - a traditional family name, I gather - and Mum, Alison. He also has a younger brother, Andrew. The younger Matthew attends Cheswycks School at Frimley.

Young Master Durcan may be only six, but he's already acquired a passion for rugby, and plays regularly for Farnborough Under 7's. (NOTE to Matthew Minor: Give my regards to Farnborough Cricket Club. I've turned my arm over there a few times in the dim and distant past - just after they added the third stump.)

Just this season, Matthew has started to support Gloucester, and always gets someone - probably Dad - to take him along whenever the boys are playing in the London area.

In fact, the Gloucester connection arises through the distaff side of the family. His mother comes from Gloucester originally, and his grandfather, Vince Mathers, lives in Minsterworth these days, having dwelt, for a long time, just around the corner in Henry Road. Nice and convenient, you may think, but then, you've probably never had to put up with supporters parking their vehicles right outside your front door, Saturday after Saturday, from September until May each year.

Geraldine Peake, our Administration lady, who supplied me with the information, points out that 'Durcan' isn't all that far from 'Durkin', and that there's a 'Mathers' connection, too. Nevertheless, as far as we know, there's no medical connotation.


We have had a fair old influx, lately. Players have arrived from Birkenhead Park, Bristol, Morley, New Zealand, South Africa..... But as far as I know, this is the first one from Darkest Surrey.

Anyway, thanks, Matthew, for turning out for us today. We hope to see a lot more of you as the years go by.

And don't forget: if you have a young candidate for stardom who'd like to act as Match Mascot, sometime or other, then the lady to contact is Margaret Nelson at Mike Burton Management, Bastion House, Brunswick Road, Telephone: 01452 419666.

WE GET LETTERS

A very welcome seasonal contribution from my occasional, and always interesting, correspondent, Mr. D.G. King, of Dudbridge. At least, it was intended to be seasonal, but the fact that our last home game before Christmas was the Coventry one, as early as December 9th, meant that I didn't receive the letter until it was too late to publish it at that time. Nevertheless, it does recommend further reading for the discerning enthusiast, and it's always nice to receive such a recommendation from someone in whose judgement in such matters one can have confidence. And it doesn't positively have to be Christmas for one to treat oneself to a book, does it?

	<p>Kängsholm 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>	

There is a particular point to Mr. King's letter in that it refers to Stewart Barnes, who will, presumably, be here next Saturday when Sky cover the Wasps match. Following his surprised and surprising comments in the 'Daily Telegraph', on that occasion, it will be interesting to see what he makes of *that* little exchange of pleasantries.

And I'm sure that 'Barnesy' will quite appreciate the irony of a situation where he finds himself getting much more publicity in these pages than he ever did when he was playing !

Dear Mr. Arnold,

It was with great interest that I read your recent comment in the club programme with reference to Stuart Barnes column in the "Daily Telegraph". His comment on Gloucester RFC and "The Shed", certainly evoked parochial interest.

I recall reading the column with great interest. Having set aside all local bias may I bring to your attention the excellent publication of his recent book, "Smelling of Roses".

With Christmas approaching faster than some of us may wish, the less prejudiced will find a great deal about Kingsholm and Gloucester RFC to interest them.

For example, Kingsholm was favourite away ground of the current SKY rugby matchday presenter. Stuart Barnes writes further of his "tongue in cheek" banter with the Gloucester faithful. The book also contains interesting comment as to why Bath RFC stormed to such a resounding Pilkington Cup final success against Gloucester RFC in 1990. Not all due to on the field matters!

*A merry Christmas to you.
Yours faithfully, D. G. King*

Thanks for your contribution Mr. King. I'll refer your P.S. to Ed Martin.

WE GET LETTERS (2)

Here's another nice letter, received amid the welter of greetings cards, just before Christmas. It's particularly welcome because it touches on a subject that has caused some comment around these parts over the past couple of seasons. Of course, there's a difference between a midday friendly match on the morning of an International, and a full-blooded League fixture, but the point which David Pryce of Dursley makes is, nevertheless, valid. And anyway, it's a nice convivial story for the holiday season.

Dear Peter,

I would be grateful if you could find room in the programme to include the following article.

LONDON HOSPITALITY

Every now and then there are gripes within the Kingsholm faithful about the cost of entry to matches at grounds in the London area. All is not what it seems.

A friend and I, he is also a Gloucester follower but lives in Bracknell (Southern Counties SW Division of the Courage Leagues), attended the England v Canada match and as a "winter warmer" went along to the Stoop on the morning of the said game to see Harlequins v London Scottish

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Peter Arnold cont.

The entry fee was £3, that included the programme and the option of sitting in the main stand. Both teams were obviously missing 1st XV players, but of the Quins side that played Sarries a week later in the Pilkington Cup, nine turned out that day and eight from Scottish in their match against Bath.

We chose to stand close to the touch line and my dulcet West Country tones soon got us into conversation with an ex patriate Cornishman, who now lived just around the corner from "HQ", worked for BBC News and was a member of Quins (and possibly ground steward) to boot. We discussed the pros and cons of both our sides and in particular the merits of, or otherwise, of Directors of Coaching. Mid way through a very high scoring first half, our Cornish friend wandered off and without asking returned with a tray of drinks from the bar; not to be out done we eventually reciprocated. Three times he went to the bar and we only delved into our pockets once in return.

I am copying this epistle to one Keith Richardson, with the hope that Quins will be able to identify this member of Trewlawney's army who never returned from London to west of the Tamar. If they can put us in touch with him, he will be most welcome at Kingsholm, in the clubhouse and the Shed, on April 25th, where London hospitality will be returned. Note I did not say anything about hospitality on the pitch.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely, David Pryce

Thanks for that, David. Obviously your ambition to reciprocate the hospitality you received is a laudable one - although I'm not sure that dispensing drinks on the touch line would find much favour with the Powers That Be at Kingsholm.

And incidentally, if you do locate your 'Janner' benefactor, and he does decide to hie himself hitherwards on April 25th, do let me know. I'll give him a welcome in these pages.

WELCOME KEVIN

It's always instructive to come across someone who is on the ball and gets his feet under the table as soon as possible, if you'll pardon the mangled metaphore. Such certainly seems to be the case with Kevin Pick, who is the new Sports Editor of the 'Citizen'.

From that, you will gather that Terry Phillips has moved on to pastures new, and good luck to him from all of us. Kevin will undoubtedly find him a hard act to follow, but I don't think Terry would claim to have such a solid Rugby Union background as Our Mr. Pick, and that can't be bad as far as the Kingsholm Mafia is concerned.

Anyway, I invited Kevin Pick to tell us something about himself, and he bit my arm off for the chance. Which is also encouraging, especially as he has accepted my offer of a quiet beer and a chat, sometime in the New Year. (I knew I was on safe ground there. Who ever heard of a teetotal Sports Journalist?)

In short order, he sent me round a note,

here's the very note, and this is what he wrote:

Dear Peter,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Sports Editor of the Gloucestershire Citizen and Pink Un.

I have come from the Rugby League stronghold of Hull, but my roots in school rugby and beyond are firmly in the Union code.

The son of a serviceman, I spent many years travelling around the world and eventually, in search of stability in my secondary years, I went to Trent College, in Nottinghamshire.

There was a strong rugby tradition there and that was underlined by the fact the former England B coach and now Welsh national coach Alan Davies was a teacher there and England flanker Gary Rees was my senior of about three years.

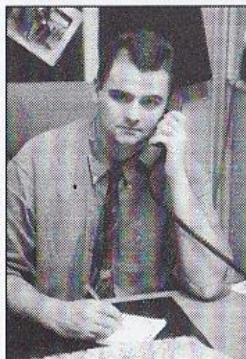
Former England full-back and kicker Simon Hodgkinson was also a teacher there - but that was after I had left.

I arrive in Gloucester after four years at the Hull Daily Mail, as deputy sports editor.

Previously I worked in Derby, Horsham, West Sussex, Lincoln and Louth in Lincolnshire. I am married with a baby daughter.

I hope that in the early part of the year I can meet as many groups, teams and people in the sporting community so that I can continue the tradition of the widest possible coverage of sports throughout the city and county.

The Pink Un will take on a new look in the New Year, but the depth and breadth of sport that we follow will continue, as I believe our strength is the unrivalled coverage of the local teams, leagues and sports people, along with the in-depth, responsible way the senior teams in rugby union and football are covered.



I also look forward to following the fortunes of the Cherry and Whites - in person when possible - as I am sure they will continue to develop in the coming years.

May I wish all the Gloucester fans a happy New year and here's hoping 1995 will see the Kingsholm men back amongst the contenders for honours.

KEVIN PICK, new Sports Editor of the 'Citizen'. He has a hard act to follow in Terry Phillips, but no doubt the fair Katie Coker will look after him.

....AND THANKS

While on the subject, it's appropriate to thank our local media for the excellent coverage which they continue to give Gloucester RFC in good times and hard ones.

I believe that the 'Citizen' is still the only paper to lead its sports coverage on Rugby Union, and long may that continue. Special

thanks to Katie Coker, who does seem to have the knack of watching the same match that I've just seen, and I can't say that about all reporters.

We must also send seasonal good wishes to the Pink Un, Keith Richardson, Charlie Haddock, Andy Melrose and all. New look in the New Year? Watch it, Kevin. If a thing ain't broke, don't fix it.

I must also send our good wishes for a speedy recovery to Terry Palin, the guiding hand behind the Pink Un. I'm told that he isn't very well at all, and we all hope he's back in fine form very shortly. Thanks also to BBC Radio Gloucestershire. After the initial spate of comment about the departure of John Hawkins, they do now seem to be in fine form. I listened to the disastrous Cup match on that channel, and

thought the coverage was excellent. After all, it wasn't their fault that the Wakefield officials had placed them behind a pillar ! And it was nice to hear our old mate, Pete Wilson, doing the summarising.

As for Severn Sound - well, there's only one Archie Hartshorne. Keep going mate.

AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 1995

...from all of us, to all of you. Gloucester wouldn't be Gloucester without you.

TAILPIECE

Has it occurred to you that, if we had won that Cup game, we'd have been away to Lydney in the next round ? Now *there's* a thought to curdle your New Year's Day cornflakes.

How Mike Price Sees It



Mike Price is the large fellow with a grey beard who can be seen and heard shouting and gesticulating at the Shed end of the Tump. In fact, so attached has he become to his own particular boundary post, that he is seriously considering sponsoring it, painting it gold, and dubbing it 'Price's Post'.

By trade, Mike is the Mayor's Officer of the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell, a job he secured partly due to his service as a Macebearer for the City of Gloucester. Moseley is therefore on his patch, so to speak, he has a foot in both camps ("Well, sort of", he remarked when I said as much to him).

It has always seemed like a good idea to publish a 'View from the Tump', so Mike's intervention kills several ornithoptera with the same petroglyph, as the posh folk who inhabit the Hospitality Boxes which now soar over the old Tump might put it.

Here's his, very welcome, contribution.

Gloucester and Moseley were founded in the same year, and over the intervening period have been treated with the same apparent indifference by the England Selectors. Cherry-and-White fans have always been royally received at The Reddings, and we can all recall the many titanic struggles which have taken place there in the past.

Moseley supporters often recall the fact that the largest collection outside the Moseley ground itself for the late Sam Doble's Memorial Fund was made at Kingsholm.

One of my most enduring rugby memories concerns that famous tied Cup Final between our two clubs. After 'peace broke out', many Gloucester lads accepted the hearty invitation to return to Kingsholm via The Reddings, where we all enjoyed a highly memorable evening. That experience is typical of the special relationship that exists between Gloucester and Moseley. What a pity that this camaraderie has often not extended to the Birmingham Press.

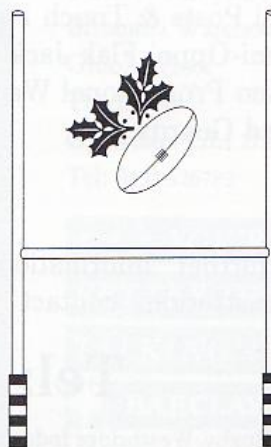
Working for the next Local Authority to Birmingham, I have regular access to all the local papers. The same one which called Mike Teague 'a thug', later acclaimed him as Birmingham's representative in the England side. Phil Blakeway was once called a 'ponderous buffalo charger' but later hailed as a Brummie hero.

To Moseley RFC - welcome. Have a great game. To their supporters, look forward to renewing old friendships; the Tump-Enders will be waiting to make you feel at home, as will everyone else. To the Birmingham Press, I say - write what you see and not what you mistakenly imagine your readers want to read.

After all, the Good Book states "The Truth will set you free."

Biblical quotations yet ! Mike Price must be mellowing in his old age. It is on record that he once turned up to a Moseley game which was being filmed for 'Rugby Special'. It was only with difficulty that the Stewards separated him from a banner which read 'FORGET THIS RUBBISH. GLOUCESTER'S HERE NEXT WEEK !'

Of course, that was before he started working for the Mayor of Sandwell...



Ed Martin

E.V. Manning was one of Gloucester's band of players that were full of potential - but never quite made it into "the big time".

Arriving at Kingsholm from Wycliffe College, Welsh-born Edward Manning served the usual Kingsholm apprenticeship in United before making his first team debut in 1937. All told, he appeared on 33 occasions during the 1937-8 and 1938-9 seasons for the First XV and scored six tries.

It was the Second World War that put a stop to his development as a rugby player. But in those two seasons with the First XV, he was often praised by the "Bard of Kingsholm", Bill Bailey.

One of his better performances it seems was the 1938 visit to Kingsholm of Moseley. Gloucester had already "warmed up" for the season with a win against Lydney (18-5) and a loss to Stroud (6-11). But the first test of the season was the visit of Moseley on Saturday September 17, 1938.

In his "From W.B.'s Notebook" column in the Football Final a week later, Bailey wrote under the headline "Manning's Aggressiveness": *Manning was the City's best three-quarter, for in addition to scoring a very good try he covered well and wasted no ground when moving the ball. He made several capital attempts to cut through the centre, and if not attended with the best results they indicated an aggressive forcefulness which carries conviction.*

That good performance by Manning against Moseley was repeated in the Gloucester's next match - a visit to the Memorial Ground for the "big" match of the season - Bristol. While Manning emerged from the match with considerable praise for his handling of the slippery ball, it was Gloucester's teenage full back who got all the attention - seventeen years old Tommy Rich's schoolboy Bill Hook made his debut that day, joining brother Bob Hook who played out on the wing.

Bill Hook got his chance because, in the Moseley match, Gloucester's international full back Harold Boughton got knocked out by what the Citizen described as *a heavy tackle from behind*. On the Monday, the Citizen reported on its front page that Boughton *left the Glo'shire Royal Infirmary this morning*. According to "W.B.'s Notebook", Boughton, Gloucester's vice-captain, was *laid out suffering from concussion*. Reporting the incident on the front page, the news department said that Boughton *did not regain consciousness until nine o'clock in the evening*.

Another match that Manning played a vital part in securing a win was the April 9, 1938 visit to Kingsholm by Harlequins who included four internationals in their side - R.E. Prescott, E.A. Hamilton-Hill and R. Boulton (all England

forwards), and the Irish winger M .J. Daly.

Gloucester were two tries and a conversion to a penalty goal down to the 'Quins in the second half when Manning engineered the come back. *Then came the best constructive move by the Gloucester backs. Day started it, and the ball came to Manning by way of Meadows and Phillips.*

With a strong burst Manning beat his immediate opponents and ran up to (Harlequins fullback) Goodall, when he gave a nice pass to R. E. Burke for the latter to score wide out. The angle proved too difficult for Boughton to convert and the 'Quins still led by two points.

Gloucester played up desperately on the restart and there was some keen exchanges at the centre, with honours fairly even. At the half-way line Meadows cross-punted to the right where Burke charged over Goodall just as he gathered the ball, which he lost. Manning picked up and punted high towards the goal mouth where Mabbett, coming through at full speed, gathered the ball and raced over under the posts. Boughton converted and Gloucester gained the lead for the first time.

After Bob Hook added an unconverted try three minutes from the end, the 'Quins needed to score twice as time ran out. But a splendid effort from Manning looked promising for another try, but Phillips mishandled. But in the final minutes of the game, Quigley raced home for a try under the posts which was easily converted to bring Harlequins to within one point. The 14-13 Gloucester win was credited by Bailey to the efforts of Manning.

Edward Vivian Manning, who had a great sense of humour and a wealth of "Kingsholm" stories at his fingertips, died at St. Monica's Home, Bristol, on December 6.



Edward Vivian Manning in 1938