

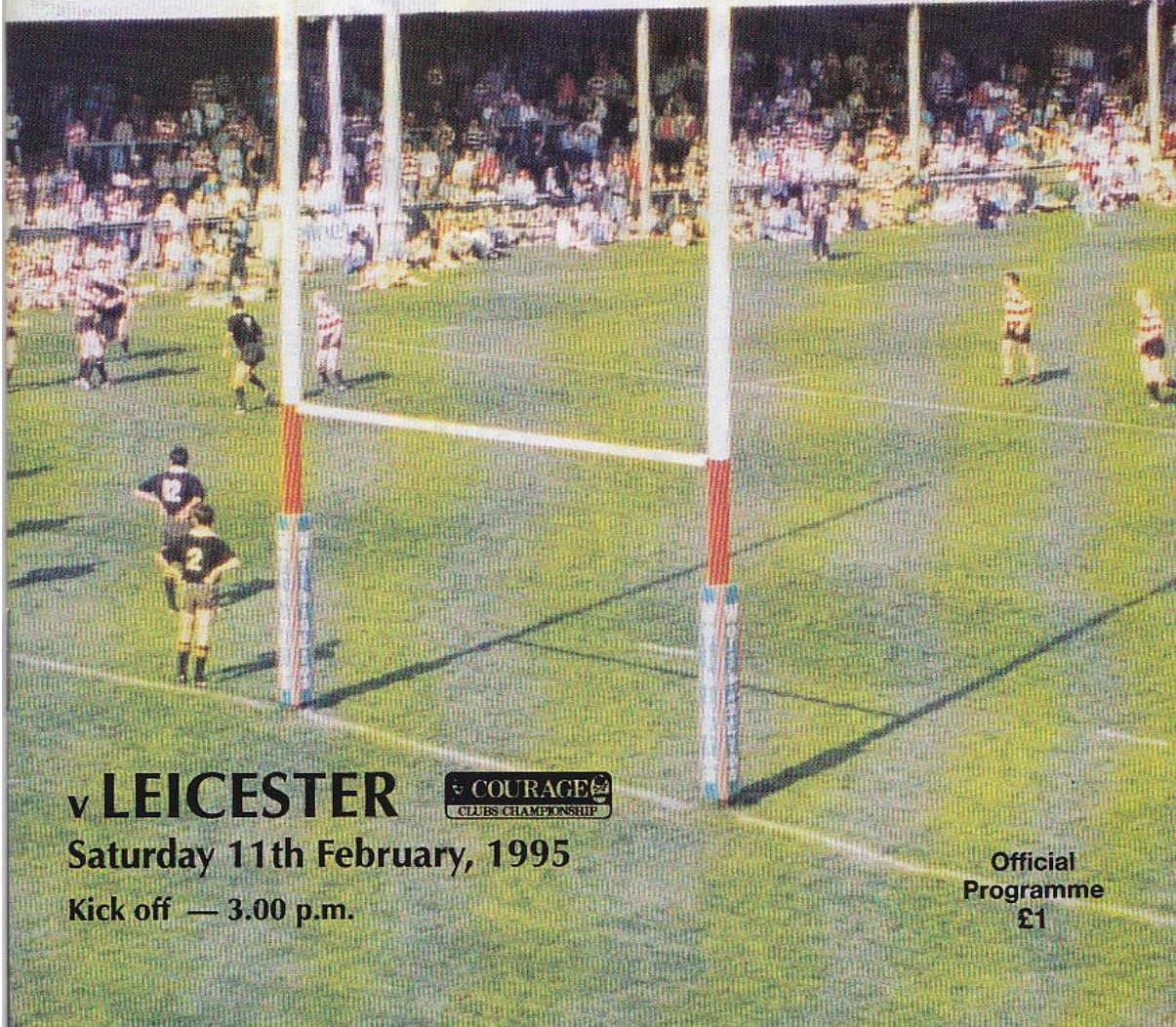
# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



Official Club Sponsors



v **LEICESTER**



Saturday 11th February, 1995

Kick off — 3.00 p.m.

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





H/T		
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- 15. Tim Smith
- 14. Paul Holford
- 13. Lee Osborne
- 12. Don Caskie
- 11. Simon Morris

- 10. Martyn Kimber
- 9. Bruce Fenley

- 1. Adey Powles
- 2. John Hawker
- 3. Andy Deacon†
- 4. Dave Sims
- 5. Richard West
- 6. Pete Gianville
- 7. Ian Smith
- 8. Mike Teague

**Replacements**  
 Tony Windo  
 Simon Devereux  
 Ben Maslen

Referee: S. Peacey-RFU  
 T/Judge: A. Reay & J. Lees-RFU

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



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Cumulative Match Score


†-Captain

**LEICESTER**  
(Scarlet/Green/White)

T	G	Pts





9 F/T 3		
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- O John Liley
- N Steve Hackney
- M Dillon Edwards
- L Stuart Potter
- K Andy McAdam

- J Jez Harris
- I Aadel Karooni

- A Graham Rowntree
- B Chris Johnson
- C Darren Garforth
- D Matt Poole
- E Tom Smith
- F John Wells
- G Dean Richards †
- H Neil Back

**Replacements:**  
 P Darren Grewcock  
 Q Richard Cockerill  
 R Oscar Wingham

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

## **IF WE CAN'T DO IT....**

I'm probably speaking for every born-and-bred Gloucester supporter here today when I say that, if Gloucester can't win the Pilkington Cup or the League Championship, then we'd rather Leicester did than anyone else.

I think that most neutrals would agree that it's time someone other than Bath basked in the sunshine, and while we'd be very happy if Bristol worked the oracle (us West Country lads must stick together), I believe that, on balance, the Tigers would win the votes of the vast majority of the Kingsholm faithful as the team we most enjoy, respect and admire.

This isn't just the usual welcoming remark one makes about any visiting side. There is, and always has been, a genuine affection for Leicester here at Kingsholm. My own grandfather - and that's going back a bit - used to reckon that it originally stemmed from an occasion in the thirties, when the whole Leicester side was picked to represent Leicestershire in the old County Championship, a radical solution that struck the imagination of the Kingsholm crowd.

Be that as it may, our own experiences against the Tigers, at home and away, have never been short of entertaining, and have often been downright sensational. Richard Mogg would agree with that: remember his last-gasp try at Twickenham in the Cup Final ?

You'll probably also recall that in the pre-Bath days, it was Leicester who were beating everyone in sight. Except Gloucester, that is. Our matches were usually very close run affairs, and over the period, honours came out just about

even.

It's not beyond the bounds of possibility that this could be Leicester's season. After all, Bath can't keep on winning in the last few seconds - I keep telling myself. Gone are the days when the Tigers had a sparkling set of backs but a relatively soft pack of forwards. Nowadays, they have a genuinely balanced side with talent in all departments. In some former eras, the likes of Karooni and Jez Harris would surely have had an England run-out.

But there's more to the rapport between our two clubs than our respect for Leicester rugby, or their style of playing it. The hospitality at Leicester is legendary, and those of us who have been there at all regularly have had some memorable evenings in the well-appointed clubhouse. Our two sets of supporters have always been on the same wavelength, and Leicester players have always appeared to enjoy the Kingsholm atmosphere. And incidentally, the Leicester Committee is the only one which has ever written to thank me for the piece I wrote about their side on another such occasion as this one, just a few years ago.

This is an important occasion for both sides. Let's face it, we need the win, and so do the Tigers if they are to keep up the pressure at the top of the table. But I hope and believe that such considerations won't detract from the traditional enjoyment which we always get from the pleasure of the company of the Tigers. We welcome them most sincerely, and hope they enjoy their visit at least as much as we intend to.

*Cont on page 12*

*Peter Arnold cont.*

— ONE FROM THE PAST —

Thought you'd like to see this fine old picture, handed to me in the Clubhouse the other week. You'll readily identify some of the players doing their thing.

On the far left is one of Gloucester's brainiest scrum-halves ever, the nippy Peter Kingston. In the centre, directly behind the ball, is my old quiz partner, non-stop flank forward, Paul Wood. If he'd only been a few inches taller....

And, of course, on the extreme right we have the mighty Philip Blakeway, probably the strongest prop forward any of us have seen.

Takes you back, doesn't it ? I'm not absolutely sure of the occasion, but I think it must be that time when Lancashire beat Gloucestershire in the County Final on a horrendously wet day up at the Vale of Lune ground. That is going back a bit. I remember I was sitting alongside Budge Rogers that day, and he was still Chairman of England



Next to 'Woody' is Bristol's flanker, Mike Rafter, known throughout the rugby world, with good reason, as 'Rafter the Grafter'. On his left is the unmistakable figure of Big John Fidler, and how proud 'Fid' must be of his son Rob's progress - not that he'd ever show it.

Selectors at the time.

Incidentally, if anyone has any similar pictures, old or more recent, they'd like to bring to a wider audience, I'd be glad to borrow them for publication. I'll be careful to see that they're returned in good order.

### WE GET LETTERS

I think you'll be the next  
William Shakespeare

From Alan Bills  
Age 8

Isn't that a nice compliment from an 8 year-old ? And for a chap of that age, I think the attempt at the word 'Shakespeare' is very creditable.

Alan's letter is one of a bunch I have received from the children of St.Paul's School in New Street, an area which has produced a lot of good players in its time. It has been very nice having some dealings with the School, recently, and I thank all the boys and girls for taking the trouble to write to me.

I have sent a message back to young Master Bills, to the effect that I'm very flattered, but please would he let me off, because I have enough trouble simply being the first Peter Arnold.

It was a nice thought, though.

### WELL DONE CHAPS !

I'd hardly finished writing my opening remarks about Jez Harris when I nipped off to consult Teletext about the various England parties which were picked earlier this week. Lo and behold, there was Mr. Harris featuring in the England 'A' side to meet Italy 'A' right here at

Kingsholm on Sunday, February 19th. So were Messrs Potter, Garforth and Cockerill, all of Leicester. Hardly worthwhile going home, really, is it ?

We congratulate them on their selection, as we do Steve Hackney on his spot in the Emerging England side to play Romania 'A' , up at Hartlepool, two days before. Of course, that's an equivocal blessing for us, because it relegates our own Paul Holford to the benches, leaving Richard West to carry the Gloucester banner on that occasion.

Well, not quite. I was surprised to see that Mark Mapletoft had been selected at full-back in spite of his knee injury and impending surgery. If the 'Citizen' is right, there's no way he'll be fit for the match, and we commiserate with him on a whole trio of unavoidably missed opportunities. The Selectors obviously don't read Katie Coker.

It was also nice to read that Phil Greening is to skipper England Colts this season. No more than he deserves, and it's interesting to note that he got the job as a result of a decision by the squad members themselves, rather than being appointed from On High. That says it all, really.

### LET'S TRY AGAIN !

It seems I'm unable to get the message through about the occasions when Members have to pay for entrance to the Ground, Season Ticket or not, in spite of several attempts to spell the situation out. Apparently, there was at least one vehement complaint on the occasion of

*Cont on page 20*

*Peter Arnold cont.*

the recent Australia v. England U18 game, so we must have another go. Let's see if Doug Wadley can do any better than I can. Here's his latest missive on the subject.

#### **ENGLAND U18's v AUSTRALIAN 18's**

*There seems to have been some confusion due to some Season Tickets Holders being under the impression that they would gain admission without paying.*

*The Club Rules state that "Any Special Club game and any other game not directly controlled by the Gloucester Rugby Club, which is deemed to be outside the General Fixtures shall be considered an "ALL PAY" game and upon such occasions Members and Season Ticket Holders will not be entitled to admission without payment".*

*The above game was controlled by the E.R.U.s with the England 'A' v Italy 'A' and consequently are 'ALL PAY'.*

*Due to the high Guarantee the fixture arranged v Northern Transvaal on March 11th 1995 will also be 'ALL PAY' and Tickets are now available for this game.*

*A. D. Wadley, Hon. Secretary*

#### **ROD MITCHELL**

Rod Mitchell, the popular and long-serving driver of the Team Coach, died on Saturday December 10th. His family, to whom we all send our sincere condolences, ask us to thank Dave Spencer, Andrew Stanley, Simon Devereaux and Bobby Fowke for performing the sad duty of acting as Pall Bearers at the funeral.

#### **SOMEBODY HERE HAS SEEN KELLY**

Our old friend and ever-present supporter, the sadly missed Ted Hicks, would have been interested to read about today's Match Mascot. He's Alexander Kelly, who is six years old, and lives in Yate, attending St. Mary's School in that pleasant part of the world. I think I'm right in saying that dear old Ted was Head Teacher at the school before moving to Calton Road and becoming an avid Gloucester supporter.

Before young Alexander's time, of course, but Mr.Hicks' influence obviously still persists, because, while Alex likes both codes of football, rugby comes a long way first in his estimation.

Not that there isn't a rival for his sporting affections. I'm told that he has just returned from a ski-ing holiday and now loves that too. Might come in useful, actually. He'll find, in a few years time, that a knowledge of getting on the piste comes in useful for any self-respecting rugby man.

Alexander has two sisters, Naomi, who is

nine, and Francesca who is just three. They tend to stay with Mum, Julie, while Alexander trots along to Kingsholm with his father, Nigel, who works for Ermin Plant hire.

Nice of you to come, Master Kelly. We hope it's not the last time you run out in the Gloucester strip.

#### **NEW ARRIVAL**

I don't know whether you watch the pleasant Central TV programme, (7.30 on Tuesday evenings) called 'Heart of the Country', which I thoroughly recommend for sheer interest, and for the variety of topics it covers.

The other Tuesday, they began to follow the fortunes of a family called Horsman, from Kentish Town in London, who are upping stakes and moving to Brierly, where they're taking on a big, rambling old house which used to accommodate the Under Manager of the old Trafalgar mine. I wish them luck, but the observation which struck me was the one which stated that Mr. Horsman was looking forward to sussing out the Forest of Dean rugby scene.

Well, why not ? It's a good way of breaking down the traditional insularity of the Foresters, which is probably overstated, anyway. And I'm sure that the family will be welcome at Berry Hill, Bream, Cinderford...

And, if that palls, they could always point their car this way, couldn't they ?

#### **GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL**

We may have lost the match up at West Hartlepool, but one feature of the visit was a resounding success. You may recall that Andy Mitchell organised an overnight coach, stopping in a good hotel and wandering home on the Sunday.

So successful was the trip, so enjoyable both at the hotel and the super West Hartlepool Clubhouse, that Andy has already made a provisional booking at the hotel in the anticipation that we'll be making our next visit there next September, barring accidents.

So if you went on the safari, or would like to, bear it in mind for next season.

#### **TAILPIECE**

I think it was in the West Hartlepool programme that I noticed a page of ads for small companies who sponsor individual players' strips. Good idea.

However, I did note that one such sponsorship was by a vasectomy clinic. Adds a whole new meaning to the phrase 'cutting through the centre'.

## Ed Martin

*Back in April 1922, the Citizen published the full details of why fixtures between Gloucester and Leicester had been cancelled - a referee was the root cause of the argument. Bill Bailey's report, in the edition of Monday April 24 makes fascinating reading not only because full details of the referee's appointment is given, but the verbatim correspondence is published between the two clubs. This is the article, which appeared under the headline "GLOUCESTER - LEICESTER: Next Season's Fixtures Cancelled."*

"Gloucester have cancelled the fixtures arranged with Leicester for next season. This step was taken following correspondence arising out of the appointment of the referee for the match at Kingsholm on March 25th. In order that supporters of the City Club shall be in full possession of the facts, the following correspondence has been handed to me for publication:-

### LEICESTER'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT -

March 29th, 1922

Dear Sir, The question of the appointment of referee for last Saturday's match has been considered by my Committee, and the outcome is that my Committee regret that we must in future discontinue the arrangement of fixtures under these conditions. A regards the fixtures arranged for next year, the question of their cancellation is left with you. Your early reply will oblige.

Yours faithfully,

T.H. Crumble,

Hon. Secretary, Leicester FC

### - AND GLOUCESTER'S REPLY

April 5th, 1922

Dear Sir,

Your letter of March 29th was placed before my Committee, and they unanimously considered that the fixtures arranged for next year should be cancelled. If you were dissatisfied with the referee, the proper quarter for you to make complaint was the Secretary of the Gloucestershire Referees' Society, who makes the appointments for our matches.

We regret the unsportsmanlike attitude shown by your Secretary after the match, but came to the conclusion that the remarks he then made were due to bad temper through disappointment at being so decisively beaten. I presume that you have no objection to this correspondence being published in the Press, so that our supporters will be acquainted with the facts.

Yours faithfully,

A. Hudson

Secretary, Gloucester FC

### THE FINAL LETTER

April 12th 1922

Dear Sir,

I am obliged for your letter of the 5th inst., which has been placed before my Committee. Beyond pointing out that the question of appointment of referees is a matter between the Clubs and not with your Referees' Society, we have no further comment to offer. They note your personal remarks regarding the writer - an ingenious way of side-tracking the issue - but they would point out that you are the last people they would consider a tribunal on "sportsmanship".

The action of my Committee was taken at the unanimous request of our players.

Yours faithfully,

T.H. Crumble

Hon. Secretary,

Leicester FC

PS - We have no objection to your publishing this correspondence.

In a letter dated Mar. 13th Mr. Crumble wrote asking for the name of the referee for the match, adding: "It was suggested that we should have the same gentleman who refereed here (Leicester) - Major Wilkins, from London." If this suggestion was ever made - and it certainly did not reach Mr. Arthur Hudson - Gloucester could not have entertained it, as Mr. A.E. Freethy (Neath) had previously been appointed, with, it is stated, Mr. Crumble's approval, and had provisionally consented to take the match. This appointment held good until the Wednesday (three days) before the fixture when Mr. Freethy notified his inability to come to Gloucester. All the referees for Gloucester matches are appointed through the Gloucestershire Referees' Society, and Mr. E. Browning (Hon. Secretary), on being acquainted of Mr. Freethy's defection, inquired what should be done. "Get the best referee you can outside the county," was the City Club's request, and Mr. Browning at once got into communication with the Somerset County Union, who appointed Mr. J.H. Burge.

The Leicester Club are keen enough in securing referees from the West for their home matches; what possible objection, therefore, could there be to a Somerset man at Kingsholm, and why all the fuss? Gloucester have never raised any objection to any referee provided by Leicester, or any other club for that matter, relying on good sportsmanship of the home officials to obtain an impartial gentleman. The City Club, on their part, make every effort to secure the services of well-qualified referees, and in many instances have gone to considerable trouble in obtaining suggested gentlemen to meet the wishes of visiting teams.

In the case of the Leicester match on March 25th, no club could possibly have done more than Gloucester, and with such a letter before them from Leicester as that of March 29th, the Gloucester Committee will, I am sure, have the full support of the Club members in taking the decided action of cancelling next season's fixtures. Naturally regret will be generally felt that such old opponents as Leicester should disappear from the card under the circumstances indicated - the "Tigers" seem to have forgotten that Gloucester were among their best friends when they were struggling to gain recognition in first-class football in the early Nineties. But the City had to have some regard for the dignity of the Club, and Leicester's dictatorial attitude in this matter - suggestive of wanting things their own way - was certainly one that could not be accepted "lying down".

*Gloucester won that fateful match of March 25, 1922 by a comfortable 17-3 margin. Fixtures between the two clubs were not resumed until the autumn of 1926.*