

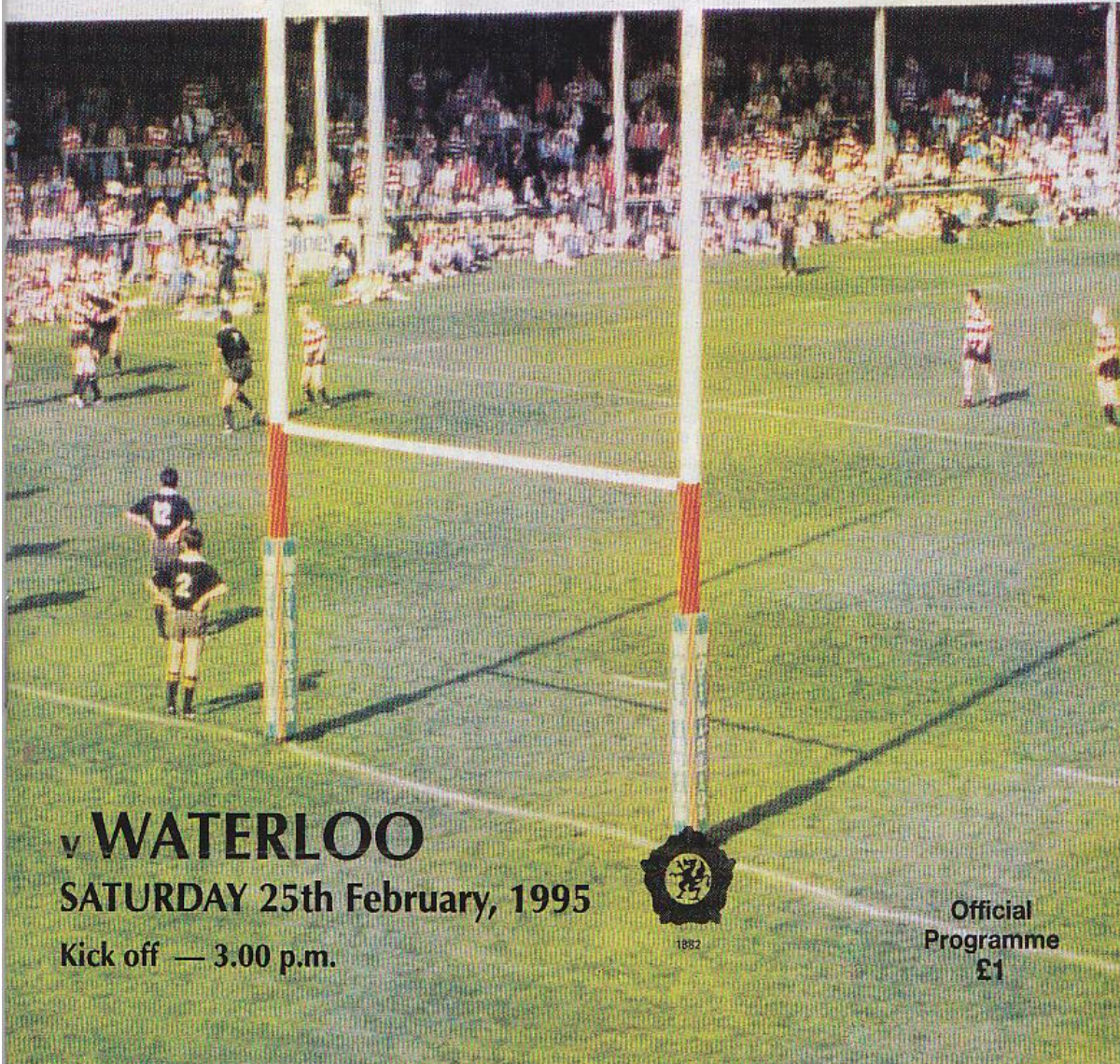
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



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v **WATERLOO**
SATURDAY 25th February, 1995

Kick off — 3.00 p.m.



1882

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

**FROM GORDON LEAGUE TO
COURAGE LEAGUE ONE**

The last time I saw Waterloo play in Gloucester wasn't at Kingsholm at all. It was at the pleasant Gordon League ground at Hempsted.

You may recall that the League had a good trot in the Cup that season, and having put the Amersham club, Chiltern, handily to the sword, received another home draw a few weeks later, and were glad to entertain the formidable Waterloo outfit in their quest for further glory.

I don't think, to be honest, that Gordon League really expected to win, although hope, as always, sprang eternal. They almost made it, too. The Northerners won in the end, but not before the Hempsted lads had given them a rare old fight, going down by just a few points against a side which was also having one of its best seasons for years. The after-match singing was pretty good too.

In fact, so impressed were Waterloo by the reception they received, on and off the field, that they invited Gordon League to take them on on their own famous Blundellsands ground during the following season. To my shame, I don't know if that match was ever arranged, but the thought was there.

Neither can I recall whether those events took place while Waterloo was still in the First Division, or whether it was just after they had slid down a notch. However, it could just be that the top level is beckoning the Lancashire club once again. Indeed, in any other season but this one, there would have been a very real chance that we would be welcoming them here in the Courage League next season. As we all know, Saracens are walking away with Division Two at the moment, and only one team is to be promoted. 'Sarries' are six points clear of the pack on 20 points, but on 14 points there are four clubs of which Waterloo is one.

Personally, I'd like to see them back. It seems only right that the club of Jack Heaton, Alan Ashcroft, 'Bert' Toft and Gordon Rimmer, all of whom had 14 England Caps, should be up

there competing with the best of them.

We wish them the best of luck in their endeavours. And it's very good to see them at Kingsholm again. They must be the only club to list 'myrtle' among their colours, which makes a nice contrast to our own 'cherry'. There, I suspect the gentle botanical comparison fades, and we can look forward to a good, no-nonsense game.

It was ever thus. We offer them every welcome, and hope they'll have a fine time with us.

!!!**^### ++ ??!
(Expletive deleted)

You might be vaguely amused to see a piece I originally proposed for the ill-fated Army game, which, you'll recall, was both arranged and cancelled at short notice:

'What do you do when the phone rings on Thursday, and someone tells you "Oy ! Did you know we've got a match on Tuesday evening, and that the printers positively must have complete programme copy by Reveille on Monday morning ?"'

I'll enlighten you. The first reaction is to reply "Yer wot ?", and on the statement being repeated, one is inclined to employ a stream of uncharitable language calculated to strip the paintwork off the front door.

Feeling considerably better, one then starts to think more constructively and decide what one is going to do about the situation. After all, National Press people don't even know what's going to appear on their front pages tomorrow morning yet, and to have a whole weekend to tie things together is unheard-of luxury in their case.

Parenthetically, the last time something like this happened, in the late Terry Tandy's days, it proved to be the one and only time (touch wood) that my faithful word processor developed a gremlin, and the whole thing became something of a midnight oil job. That's not going to happen this time, and if that's not tempting Providence, then I don't know what is.'

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**THE
SOCIETY
THAT TRIES
HARDER**



**WISHES GLOUCESTER R-F-C ALL THE
BEST FOR THE 1994/1995 SEASON
AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS
TO KINGSHOLM**



BARRIE CORLESS:

A Message from the Chairman

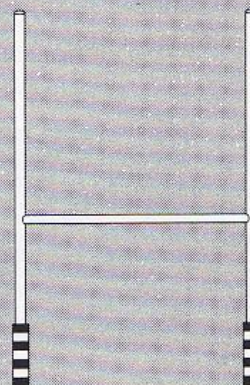
The news about the departure of Barrie Corless broke almost as this programme was going to press. However, our Chairman, Alan Brinn, although under considerable pressure at the time, did provide the following statement on the subject, for which we thank him.

After due consideration, the Gloucester Rugby Club and its Director of Rugby, Barry Corless, have decided by mutual consent to part company.

Both parties regret that things have not worked out between them and the Club thanks Mr. Corless for his past efforts and wishes him well in the future.

The Gloucester Rugby Club are not looking to replace Barry Corless at this moment in time.

Alan Brinn, Chairman 22.2.95



Peter Arnold cont.

I really should have known better. Having sweated to get my copy out by Friday lunchtime, I arrived at the Ground for the Leicester game the following afternoon, where almost the first person I met was Doug Wadley. Smiling in his usual gentle way he informed me " Of course, you know that Tuesday night's game is 99% certain to be called off, don't you ?"

Not only had Providence been tempted, but it had succumbed. Oh well.....

WE GET LETTERS

It's always nice to get a letter from my frequent correspondent, Mr. D.G.King of Dudbridge, near Stroud. He always has something useful to say, and usually some thoughtful comment to make. This time round, he has latched on to the contentious subject of player registration which is always likely to provoke widely varying points of view depending on whether you've just lost someone good or gained one from somewhere else.

Anyway, let Mr. King speak for himself.

Dear Mr. Arnold,

Once again we have witnessed the mini merry go round of registrations for next season. To date the more conspicuous have been Gareth Archer and Martin Corry of Newcastle Gosforth to Bristol along with Peter Naivalura of Clifton. Jonathon Bell to Northampton who have also registered Wasps openside 'Buster' White and Bath hooker Tim Beddow. The 'Saints' attempts at recruiting Scotland stand off Gregor Townsend may be thwarted by London Scottish who have signed the Gala player Leicester have added West Hartlepool full back Tim Stimpson to their ranks.

Wasps have recruited lock Rob Scott from London Scottish while Sean O'Leary once of Bath is leaving the Sudbury club to join Second Divisions leaders Saracens.

Orrell have added Waterloo prop Peter Mitchell to their considerable playing strength. These are the obvious signings which have to be registered before the end of January to enable these players to commence in the league matches which begin in September of this year.

However, could you through your column enlighten myself and I presume countless others on the following intricacies of registration, what happens in the following eventualities?

a) A player who registers after January 31st. When is he allowed to play for his new club?

b) Are players currently outside the First Division made to comply to the criteria as First Division players?

c) What regulations occur to a player with i.e. local lower league clubs, who move to the First Division clubs? On a parochial note are players who appear for Lydney, Berry Hill or lower down the scale, Cheltenham, Stroud or Gloucester Old Boys able to move to the First Division with no restriction and appear on the inaugural day of the 1995/96 season?

d) Is there any restriction in the movement of players from Welsh clubs to England? It as always amazed me that in the modern day recruitment of players that our own club Gloucester have not sought to recruit from just over the bridge. Maybe, attempts have been made? The addition of Tom Morgan from Bridgend and the recent failure of recruiting Matthew McCarthy from Neath moves in the right direction in my humble opinion.

Yours sincerely, D. G. King.

I haven't had time to get definitive answers to the queries Mr.King presents. I will, however, present them to whoever is our fount of all knowledge on such matters, and print the answers in some future programme.

'Til then, thanks for writing, Mr.King.

Next we have not quite such a welcome letter from Mrs. June Keane of Leicester. I'll let you read it for yourself, and then make my own comment.

Dear Mr. Arnold,

I am sorry to have to say this but the remarks you made in your article in this weeks programme about 'Rapport' and 'Same Wavelength' between your club and ours are way out of line.

A few years ago I came down with Leicester Tigers Away Supporters Club and sat in the stand where a female 'supporter' of yours had such a personal go at me (I still dont know why as Gloucester won!) that I ended up in tears and vowed never to come down there again. On reflection I decided to give it another go a couple of seasons later as I feel the lads deserve to have their supporters there in strong voice. That time I stood beneath the stand and had to move to behind the goal because of the uncouthness and bad manners of some male 'supporters' of yours.

	<h1>Kängsholm</h1> <p>FITNESS CENTRE</p>	<p>WE are THE PERSONAL TRAINERS for the G.R.F.C.</p> <p>*We are OPEN to the PUBLIC*</p> <p>.....</p> <p>— Your First Session FREE! —</p> <p>with this Advert</p>
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This year we were in the standing area across from the stand, and we were there at least an hour before kick off to ensure we had a good sport. The game started and Aadel was a bit naughty (no excuses!) but to have these abusive idiots shouting "Cheat, Cheat" (I bet they were quiet when Steve Hackney was brought down near the end of the game!!) and the racist innuendos were too much for me and I was again forced to move to a place where there were no Gloucester supporters so that I could watch the game as a game.

We lost fair and square, no getting away from that, and of course I along with all the other Leicester supporters was disappointed BUT never bitter or nasty! We didnt sample the 'hospitality' of your club-house but went to a local pub where the atmosphere was welcoming!!

Maybe one of these days you will be able to get through to your supporters that there is such a thing as loyalty to the team and courtesy to the opposition, then you might be right about our two sets of supporters being on the same 'wavelength'.

Yours sincerely, June P. Keane (Mrs.)

Well now. It's ironic that Mrs. Keane's letter arrived on the same day that Margaret Nelson rang me to tell me that she'd just received a phone call from Leicester at her desk. It was made specifically to congratulate Gloucester on the behaviour of our supporters. Apparently, the chap in question had brought his small son to Kingsholm for the first time, and reckoned he hadn't heard any bad language all day. So you pays your money, and you takes your choice.

But to the substance of Mrs Keane's complaint. I don't take back a word I wrote in the Leicester programme. We do have great affection for the 'Tigers', and our two sets of - highly committed - supporters have always got on extremely well together, as she would have found if she had visited the Clubhouse, and obviously did find in which ever of our excellent local pubs she patronised.

Much of Mrs Keane's comment is historic. Her complaint this time round appears to revolve around the incident involving Aadel Kardooni and Paul Holford. I'm bound to say that what she describes as 'a bit naughty', was seen by many as a cynical professional foul, perpetrated because it was the only way that Paul was going to be stopped from going over under the posts. Sin, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.

Nevertheless, we can only apologise, most sincerely, for Mrs. Keane's discomfiture. As our Chairman, Alan Brinn, has made it abundantly clear, cries of 'Cheat !', whatever the provocation, are completely unacceptable, as is any other behaviour of the sort. We simply don't want it at Kingsholm.

Mrs Keane: when you come again, give me a ring first. You'll find my number elsewhere in this programme. I'll make sure you see the real Gloucester supporters, and have a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. Even if Leicester win.

NICE GESTURE

It's always nice to have one's efforts appreciated, as the beautiful and talented Margaret Nelson of the Mike Burton organisation

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THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL

Club Shop

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Ties : Hats : Posters : Pens : Mugs : Keyrings : etc.

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Run by John Beaman and Allan Townsend

Peter Arnold cont.

would agree. She certainly thought so when a bouquet of flowers arrived at Bastion House in Brunswick Road from where she operates. It was addressed to her, and the accompanying message made it clear that they were a gesture of appreciation from the family of a recent Match Mascot who had had such a good time on his big day that they thought they should acknowledge the fact. Nice of them wasn't it ?

While on the subject, I have been asked what will happen in the case of the young Mascot who missed out on his eagerly-awaited treat because the Saracens match fell victim to the horrible weather. The answer is that, in a case like that, we try to slot the disappointed youngster in for some appropriate game, as soon as we can. And for young Richard Scrivens, who should have been running out for that Saracens game, that means he's with us today.

Richard is eleven years old and comes from Ruardean. The note I received describes watching Gloucester rugby as his 'first love' and I gather that his Dad, Doug is allowed to accompany him on his frequent visits to Kingsholm, leaving his Mum, Marion and his sister, Kelly, who is 14, at home.

I'm also told that Richard fills in his time between rugby matches by operating his model trains, which is his other great passion, although I suspect that, like fathers everywhere, Doug isn't far behind him in that respect.

Anyway, thanks for turning out, Richard. Sorry for the delay.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Do you remember Bryan Barron ? Probably not, although he did have occasion to meet quite a few Kingsholm folk at the start of the 1991/2 season.

Bryan is the controlling hand behind Byline Publishing, who produced our 'Kingsholm - the First 100 Years' book to celebrate our Ground Centenary. He is also the guy who edits and publishes the Northampton club's programme.

I had occasion to speak to Bryan, for the first time in yonks, the other day, and he asked me to give his regards to everyone he met or had dealings with four years ago. He also says that we might even see him when Northampton visit us in a few weeks time.

I'll look forward to that.

HISTORY ?

Bryan Barron also told me that he has published a 250-page, hardback history of Northampton RFC, which I'll bet is fascinating, and which has proved very successful. He wondered if there was a possibility of a similar exercise being undertaken for Gloucester. Having worked with Bryan before, and found it very easy to do, I would naturally be very pleased to co-operate, but I did have to tell him about Andy White.

Andy, you may recall, is the character who is deep into a Ph.D. thesis based around Gloucester RFC. From the outset, he has speculated that the results of his research could

well make a good basis for such a history.

"No hurry !" said Bryan Barron. "When you two are ready, let me know. I'd be glad to handle it for you !"

So there you are, Andy. We have a Publisher already.

And incidentally, I'm told that Andy White, who hales from Southampton, is to be seen fairly regularly in the reference and history departments of the County Library in Brunswick Road*, digging out the facts and figures he needs for his researches. He's full of admiration for the expertise of the staff there and greatly appreciates the open-handed help he is getting. Nice to give credit where it's due, especially to Local Government staff, who get more than their fair share of brickbats, these days.

*He's also to be seen regularly in the 'Dean's Walk', but that's another story.

MARKETING OPPORTUNITY ?

One can't help but be filled with admiration for the achievements of England in the Five Nations Championship this year. You certainly can't write off a team which put 30 points on the side which actually performed the near-impossible by winning a Test series in New Zealand last summer.

However, Pete Jones, jovial Landlord of the Blenheim Inn in Barton Street, does have a problem with the matter. Like other right-thinking Guv'nors, he likes to switch on his bar's telly, and provide sandwiches and things on Match afternoons, for the benefit of those who want to watch the games in convivial company, and with glasses in their hands.

So that there is no doubt whatever about his allegiance, he would like to festoon his pub with England flags on those occasions. But do you think he can find any ? Not on your nelly. Union Jacks are easy enough to get, but the traditional red-on-white Cross of Saint George appears to be a vanishing species. Actually, I tell a lie. He did find one, and it cost him all of twelve quid.

Flags of the other nations aren't so hard to find. When England played Ireland, the Hibernian contingent of regulars at the 'Blenheim' produce Irish flags like there's a breeding farm somewhere. So there was a plethora of green, white and orange, but just one solitary red on white, which offended Pete Jones mightily.

Mind you, when I got into the pub, not all that long after the match, the Cross of Saint George was reigning supreme, in solitary splendour. Not an Irish Tricolour in sight. Wonder why ?

So if you have an England flag, surplus to requirements, or know of a source of them, Pete Jones of the Blenheim Inn in Barton Street would be delighted to hear from you.

BATH, AWAY

We've been getting enquiries about a possible coach to Bath for the League game on March 4th. I've consulted Trevor Pritchard on the subject, and he tells me that he has booked a coach, provisionally, but that he must make the decision to run it or not by Thursday next. It will cost £4.00, and leave Kingsholm at 12.30.

You might also like to know that we have a limited number of tickets for the game. So you could save yourself some hassle by going along to the office, which Geraldine, out of the kindness of her heart, will be keeping open for that purpose after the match.

TAILPIECE

Christmas does seem a long time ago now, but I have been looking for a little space to share one little anecdote with you.

I spent the Festive Season with family in Streatham, South London. Not, with all the respect in the world to the good old Streatham and Croydon Club, the area you first think of as a hotbed of rugby. On the first morning we were there, I went out to do a little shopping at the local Sainsburys.

Well, you know what shopping is like at that

time of the year. I staggered out, heavily laden, gasping for a pint, and turned gratefully into the nearest hostelry. As a matter of fact, I was the first one in there.

I put down my bags, and slipped off my jacket. As I wandered up to the bar, the chap in charge took a look at my sweater and remarked, "Ah! Gloucester! How's Mike Teague?"

It turned out that he was a former London Irish player who now supports Wasps, and he was quite grateful to have someone to chat rugby with in his comparative exile.

My son's reaction, when I told him of the encounter, was typical. "Trust you," he carolled. "I could drop you in the middle of the Sahara Desert, and you'd find a bloody rugby pub!"

"Instinct, my boy," I countered. "Sheer instinct."

Ed Martin

While the reasons for the cancellation of the Army match last week were obvious to all, there was a certain amount of disappointment. It has been many seasons since the Army has sent its team to Kingsholm - it was on January 19, 1977 to be precise when the Soldiers last appeared here. And that was also the last time a military side came to these parts, unless you count the Bucharest team packed with Rumanian military types that visited in September 1978.

That January encounter was the 20th in a series with Gloucester that started on January 8, 1948 when a star-studded Army side was shown just how tough a game at Kingsholm could be - Gloucester gaining an impressive 25-9 victory.

No less than six full internationals helped to make-up the Army fifteen that day - and there was also a trialist in the side. The "all-international" back row featured Lt. A.G.M. Watt (Scotland), Capt. F.H. Coutts (Scotland) and Capt. D.F. White (England). At fly half was Officer Cadet Glyn Davies (Wales), and completing the internationals were the centre Capt. Jack Matthews (Wales) and right winger Capt. T.G.H. Jackson the Gloucestershire-born Scottish international who played centre for Scotland. For good measure, Lt. J.M.H. Roberts, the Welsh trialist, was at full back.

The Army team were, of course for those days, all officers. So that meant that Gloucester could play Warrant Officer E. Beavan whose career with The Gloucestershire Regiment allowed him to make 30 appearances at wing forward for Gloucester in the 1946/47 and 1947/48 seasons.

Gloucester scored four tries that day - Tom Price, Bill Moreland, Steve Davies and Ken Daniell all crossed the Army line while Willie Jones three conversions, a penalty and a drop goal. Stilemen, a late replacement to the announced team, scored all the Army points - two tries and a penalty.

In all, Gloucester and the Army have met on 20 occasions - all matches being played at Kingsholm, with Gloucester winning 10 times, the Army seven occasions and three matches were drawn. All told, Gloucester out-scored the Army 261-198.

Of the three Service teams, the Royal Air Force were the most regular visitors to Kingsholm. Their first visit was in March 1926 and fixtures were dropped after the visit of March 10, 1971. In all, 31 matches were played with Gloucester having the upper hand with 24 wins against seven by the Airmen.

The most successful of the full Service teams to come to Kingsholm, in terms of winning percentages, was the Royal Navy. Just four matches were played between 1956 and 1965 that produced two wins apiece. The only time that Gloucester have ever played away to a full Service team was in January 1936 against the Royal Navy - and that was an 8-8 draw.

There have only been three occasions when Gloucester have played all three full Service teams in a season - 1956/57, 1958/59 and 1964/65. The 1958/59 saw the Services sweep Gloucester - 3-0 win by Army, 20-12 win by Navy and 19-16 win by Air Force. But in 1964, Gloucester claimed the clean sweep against the Services - 21-11 against Army, 36-3 against Air Force and 13-12 against Navy. The 1956/57 season saw a 6-3 Army win, and 8-6 Air Force win, but a 10-0 Gloucester win against Navy.

There have, of course, been many other matches against service teams - the first on record at Kingsholm is the visit of United Services in 1908/05, when Gloucester went on the rampage to win 51-3. Next in were the Second Gloucesters in 1910 (a 14-0 win for Gloucester). There have been 48 fixtures with Devonport Services, 32 with United Services, four with the Gloucestershire Regiment and a string of single fixtures with Army regiments and corps, including the Royal Tank Corps in 1927/28 and the East Yorkshire Regiment in the war-shortened 1939/40 season.



Warrant Officer E. L. Bevan, a company Sgt. Major with the Gloucestershire Regiment, played for Gloucester in the club's first-ever fixture with the Army