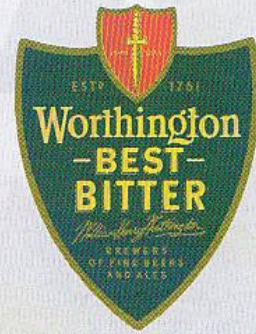


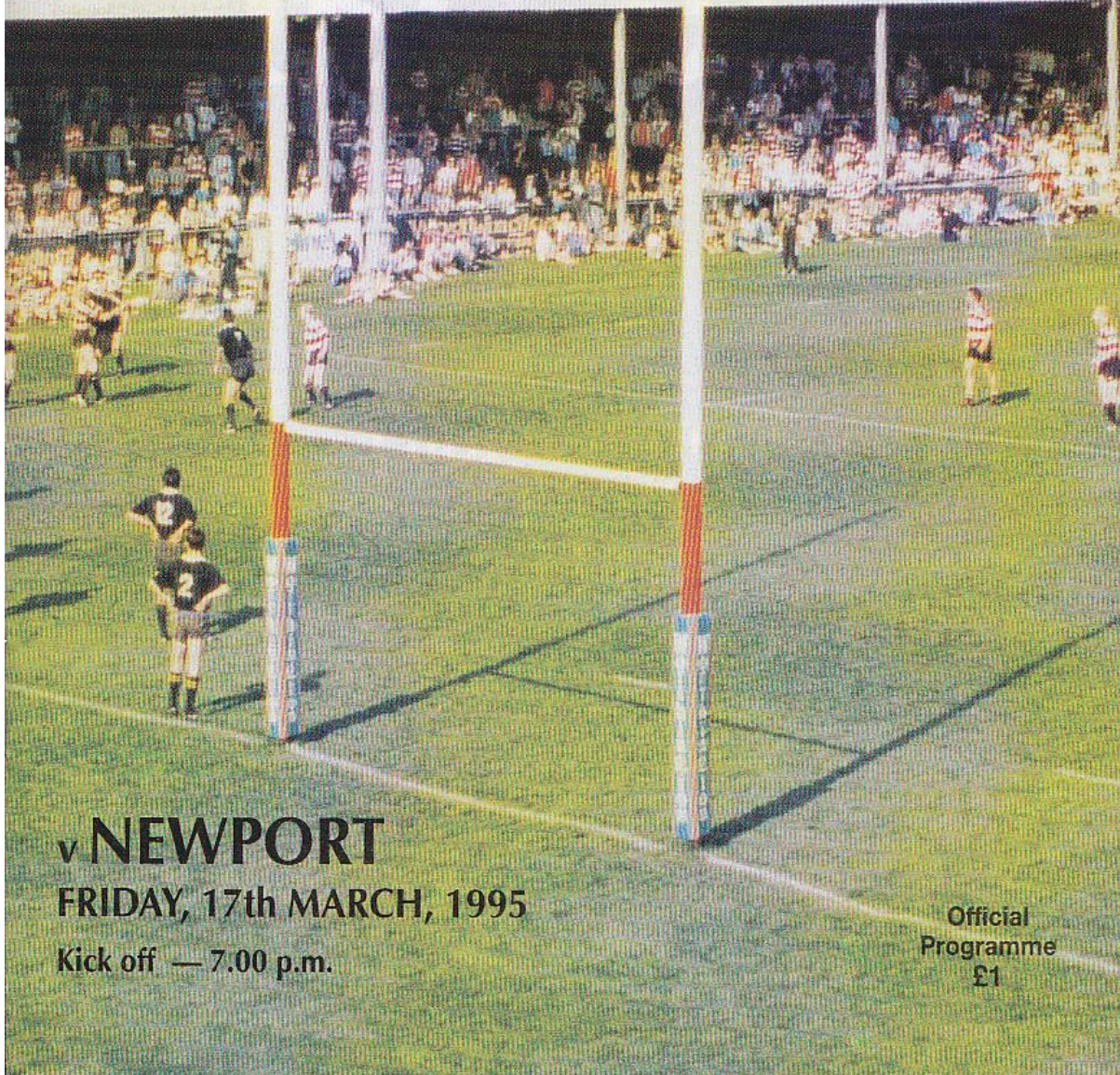
# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



Official Club Sponsors



v **NEWPORT**  
FRIDAY, 17th MARCH, 1995  
Kick off — 7.00 p.m.

Official  
Programme  
£1



..... Peter Arnold .....

## WHAT IF ..... ?

Some years ago, a pair of Newport Committee Men suggested to a group of us in the Clubhouse that Gloucester should apply for membership of the Welsh RFU. Admittedly, we had had a couple of beers by then, but the suggestion was at least half serious.

Gloucester had just won the Newport game, not easily but fairly handily. John Gadd had played a stormer, aided and abetted by Mike Teague and Mike Longstaff. Our guests' point was that Johnny Gadd *always* seemed to do that to Newport, and that if, like them, we had had the dual qualification, he would certainly have won a whole string of Welsh Caps, in contrast to being virtually ignored by the England selectors.

They cited other examples, too. John Watkins, they reckoned, would have been an ever-present for Wales, rather than suffering the stuttering career he endured in the white shirt. John Fidler and John Orwin would have been recognised earlier.

Well, you'll have your own opinions on such matters, but the notion does stimulate a whole series of interesting speculations. Would we have seen Richard Mogg playing outside Phil Bennett? Nigel Scrivens locking alongside Robert Norster? It's a fascinating pastime.

Of course, over the years, the Gloucester-Newport game has thrown up some memorable confrontations. My own favourite occurred in the game just after Mike Burton had lost his England spot to Colin Smart, who, incidentally, is based in Gloucester, these days\* They found themselves propping against each other that day, and both were out to prove a point.

'Burto's' innocent and aggrieved cry of "Hey ref. he's leaning on me!" after a scrum collapse, remains one of my more cherished memories.

In at least one respect, you could regard Newport as the Heineken League equivalent of Gloucester, in that they haven't always seemed to do themselves justice. The last time I looked, they were languishing three from the bottom of the First Division, with, with all due respect, sides such as Treorchy above them. Never in the world is that a true reflection of the abilities of the boys from Rodney Road, and they'll surely come good in the end. Earlier this season, Stuart Barnes, a Newport old boy himself, of course, wrote that Gloucester won't be demoted because we're 'too proud'. I'm personally confident that the same could be said of this evening's respected and welcome visitors.

What goes around, comes around, they say, and if the black-and-ambers have had more distinguished sides, then you can be sure that they'll be back to their pre-eminence before too long.

We all hope that everyone from Newport has a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and are able to put League considerations behind them for this week. After all, they have been visiting Gloucester since the days of yore when we played on the Spa, and the Rugby Football Union itself doesn't go back much further than that.

Have a great time boys. And come back next year.

*"If you fancy a chat, you could well find him in the 'Tailor's House' of a lunchtime.*

*Cont on page 12*

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

# How Richard Pembroke Sees It



*It's nice to have a contribution from a pressman of national influence, occasionally, and I'm delighted to be able to welcome Richard Pembroke to our pages. The amiable Richard is Assistant Editor of that refreshing Journal, "RUGBY NEWS and MONTHLY". In his job, he sees more First Division rugby than most, and you'll undoubtedly be interested in his thoughts on things.*

What a bizarre season. There we were, sitting around the office in August, when somebody piped up: 'Oh, did you hear? Barrie Corless is getting Gloucester to play a wide game, they want to bring their back three into the game as much as possible and start to open the whole thing up.'

A silence spread across the room, conversations were stopped mid-sentence, pies stayed half eaten in mouths, keyboards ceased their chatter, everybody began to digest what they had heard. Then simultaneously and almost unanimously, laughter burst across the scene.

'Oh really' whined the Advertising Manager, 'and Southampton have just signed Baggio, Bath have decided to bring in a home-grown only registration policy and Harlequins are relocating to Walthamstow.'

I must confess, I too possessed a smirk ridden face at what the Editor had to offer as a little insight into Kingsholm rugby 1994-5, and not being one to miss out on a laugh, I decided that I would go and see the opening league fixtures at Sudbury against the Wasps.

Well, laugh it was, not because Gloucester were chucking the ball about, but because Wasps scored six second half tries and won 45-8. I don't expect it was that funny for all you lot that came down from the west Country but I can tell for us neutrals that just popped up from Fulham it was great fun.

The next week I asked if I was going to Kingsholm for the West Hartlepool match. I was sure it would be a tight game but the skies were grey and I could see the whole thing pretty clearly anyway, thirty players wallowing about, victors (whoever they would be) three penalties to two.

Another good decision on my part, the match I opted to see instead finished 9-6, and Gloucester score a bucketful of tries and show off a couple of real gems in Mark Mapletoft and Paul Holford.

If the start to the season was unpredictable then the last few months have simply followed in the same vein. As the pitches continued to deteriorate, the flying Wasps became quieter and quieter, but the Cherry and Whites began to rumble. They may have flirted with the game which involves numbers 12, 13, 14, 11 and 15 but they had not forgotten the way to squeeze a side into submission, how to suffocate them under the mud and bodies of rain-lashed park. The first notable casualty was Leicester, and then Bath barely escaped from a similar fate.

That Gloucester have in the same season won by forty points, beaten Leicester, denied Bath their first victory at the Recreation Ground in three years, set themselves comfortably above the relegation zone while much bigger clubs, in terms of playing personnel, languish at the foot and demonstrated that they have a running game as well as a forward game at their disposal, would to most people, indicate a pretty successful season. But what is the Gloucester reaction to the situation? Well naturally you part company with the Director of Rugby.

Richard Pembroke  
Assistant Editor, Rugby News.

Peter Arnold cont.

## Picture Preview



This excellent photograph was taken by local photographer, Peter Barton, at Gloucester's unsuccessful visit to Sale on October 8th last. It provides an excellent method of reminding you that next Saturday's festivities consist of the return fixture, which opens the run-in to the final matches of the Courage League season. Not one to be missed.

All right, so we've beaten Leicester, and tied with Bath recently, but Sale have been going great guns, too. They're certainly the surprise packet of Division One, this season, although their performances have possibly not astonished us who were able to watch them in the National Tens Tournament at the end of last season.

And, of course, the game marks the return to Kingsholm of a player who tormented us in the past: Paul Turner, who played for Newport after leaving Newbridge. Certainly a class outside-half, Paul has been the inspiration behind Sale's arrival in the top echelon, and it will be good to see him back.

Definitely a game where the lads could do with your support. See you then.



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### ANDY'S ON THE BALL

Andy Mitchell's overnight safari to West Hartlepool has certainly been one of the highlights of the season for those lucky enough to join it. So much so, that he has now booked the same hotel for the equivalent fixture next season - September 23rd, I think he said. The proviso, of course, is that neither side is relegated in the interim, and I'm not going to tempt the Fates by saying that it looks likely at the moment.

If you went last time, and want to go again, or if you have been seduced by the tall tales of the happy band who ventured North this season, it might be as well to have a word with Andy and declare your interest right now - or at least, before we break up for the summer hols.

### DIG DEEP FOR ALAN - BUT NOT TODAY

As you know, it has always been Gloucester RFC policy not to allow collections for worthy causes inside the ground, with the solitary exception of the annual whip-round in aid of St. John's Ambulance, who have been doing a superb job for us for almost as long as the Club itself has been in existence. It's not that Gloucester is callous, or Scrooge-like: simply that, if we abandoned the rule, we'd be simply swamped with requests.

Only on very rare occasions has that policy been waived, as when the Gloucester crowd provided the largest collection made at any ground for the Sam Doble fund, and that's going back a bit.

Next Saturday, however, another such occasion arises. You may have read that Alan Hyett, of Westbury-on-Severn RFC, had the misfortune to break his neck in a veterans match. The last I heard, he was still in Frenchay Hospital, not paralysed, but likely to be confined to a wheel chair.

Obviously, Westbury-on-Severn have launched an appeal for him, and just for once, it has been decided to run a collection, here at Kingsholm, on Saturday next, at the Sale game. I'm sure you'll approve of the gesture, and that the sum collected will be considerable.

Just thought I'd let you know a week in advance so that you can make sure you have ample cash to contribute next week. After all, anyone who has ever played the game must have the niggling thought, "That might have been me."

### GREETINGS FROM THE REVOLTING COLONIES

I was introduced to an interesting bloke the other evening: one who sends greetings to everyone at Kingsholm. Apparently, he's met quite a few of us on previous visits to our fair City.

His name is Alan Sharpley, statistician by trade, and he is a member of the Austin, Texas, Rugby Club. They're on tour over here at the moment, and were due to play a game against Gordon League last Tuesday.

Cont on page 20

## THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL

# Club Shop

Our shop stocks a wide selection of items including:

Sweaters : Rugby Shirts : Polo Shirts : Sweat Shirts : Body Warmers

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

— ALL AT REASONABLE PRICES —

*Support our Club*

**OPEN BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER EVERY GAME**

*Call in Today!*

Run by John Beaman and Allan Townsend

*Peter Arnold cont.*

He did tell me one interesting fact. Austin is, of course, the State Capital of Texas, and the city's rugby club is one of only two in the whole U.S. of A which actually owns its own ground. It also has a Clubhouse in which any British rugby person would feel right at home., and any Gloucester man (or girl) who finds himself in that neck of the woods would be assured of a very warm welcome indeed.

I'll bet the songs are the same, too.

#### **MIKE PACKING IT IN ?**

You have no doubt heard that Mike Burton's organisation is to relinquish its commercial responsibilities to the Club, having served - and served well - for a year longer than the original contract envisaged.

Doubtless, we shall hear a very great deal more about this in the months ahead, and I don't want to get into the argument at this point. However, I would like to put on record, at the earliest possible moment, that I have thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated working with Mike, and not least, with his efficient and pleasant staff, over the past four years. From that point of view, I'm sorry to see them go, and MBM can be assured that I will do anything I can to help the organisation at any time at all.

#### **LANGUAGE BARRIER**

Did you notice the press report which stated that the Northern Transvaal side had been taking advantage of their ethnic roots by shouting indecipherable instructions to each other in Afrikaans ? It's by no means the first time we've heard of South African teams doing this of course, and Welsh sides have been using *their* mother tongue similarly for yonks. Anyway, on this occasion the ploy was foiled by the presence of Hilton Brown on the Gloucester bench, who was able to provide an instant translation service.

It does give me an idea, however. Perhaps Lee Osborne and Adey Powles should give the lads a crash course of Forest of Dean.

That'd larn 'em !

#### **WELL, IT IS A BIT COLD**

We don't have a match mascot this evening, but the weather hasn't exactly encouraged loving mums to allow their offspring to come out and

play with us these cold, dark nights. However, for the Sale game, Margaret Nelson has promised me a 'real smasher'. We'll look forward to that.

#### **LIGHTNING STRIKING TWICE**

Can't help but feel sorry for the County side. It's almost unbelievable that they should lose Championship Semi-Finals by a solitary point, at the last gasp, in two successive seasons. Both times in the Far North.

Keep plugging lads ! Your luck must change soon.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

As already stated, it's the vital Sale match next week. After that, we're away on two successive Saturdays: to London Scottish on April 1st, and then there's the intriguing League game at Bristol, whose season appears to be just about as eccentric as ours, on April 8th. No decision about a coach for that one, at the time of writing, but if there's enough interest, one will be arranged.

And, incidentally, if you'd like to save a little time at the turnstiles next Saturday, Geraldine will be happy to supply tickets from the office this evening.

#### **TONY WORKMAN**

We should, I think, make reference to the sudden and sad death of our Mayor, Tony Workman.

Although Tony didn't get along to Kingsholm very often, he had a keen interest in the game, and was a great supporter of Tredworth RFC. When they lost narrowly in their Cup Semi-Final, recently, Tony was quite inconsolable for a while, and would probably have followed them to Twickenham if things had turned out differently.

A very nice man, with a quirky sense of humour, Tony Workman was one 'gentle-man' whom I respected, and whose friendship I valued. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife, Rose, and all his considerable family.

#### **TAILPIECE**

Our old mate, Tony Williams, notable referee and long-distance walker, gave me a valuable insight into the technicalities of the refereeing art, the other day. One I thought I'd like to pass on.

Perhaps I won't identify the club or the referee concerned, but on one occasion, Tony was despatched off to one of our more outlying grounds to assess the progress of a relatively inexperienced official in charge of a third team match on a reserve pitch. The young hopeful did quite well, and the venerable Mr. Williams really had no criticisms of any note to make. However, one always likes to pass on a tip or two on these occasions, so Tony proffered the following advice.

"If I were you, I'd always do an early pitch

inspection when you come down here."

"Why's that then ? It's a nice day, the pitch is in good condition. There's no problem at all."

Tony smiled gently. " Yes. I know. But if you'd had a look an hour or so before the game, you'd have had a pound-and-a-half of mushrooms for nothing !"



## Ed Martin

It is, as near as damnit, the Diamond Anniversary of the debut of Harold Boughton as England's full back. He first played for England on Saturday January 19, 1935 against Wales. And what a debut that was in front of a then record 72,000 spectators!

The match itself was described by most writers as "one of the grimmest of the whole series between the countries". Wales had scored what was to be the only try of the match - it came from a classic movement between Cliff Jones (Cambridge University-scrum half) and Wilf Wooller (Cambridge University-centre) that left the English defence in tatters.

With time running out and the Welsh defence as steady as a rock, an English defeat was certainly in everyone's minds - especially those from West of the Severn. Newspaper reports tell of "the impetuosity of Powell and Skym at the scrum gave away a penalty", though the "culprit" was later officially stated to be Skym, the Cardiff forward.

D.A. Kendrew (The Army and Leicester), the English captain, had no hesitation. The Welsh hearts sank when they saw that Boughton was going to take the kick at goal - with regular fixtures between Gloucester and most of the better Welsh clubs, Boughton had inflicted considerable pain on Welsh pride over the years with his boot. Even in his Gloucester first team debut at Stradey Park in 1926/7 at the age of 16 he caught the eye of the sound Welsh judges as Gloucester were again defeated by Llanelli.

The former Archdeacon schoolboy, one of and astonishing eight new "caps" for England that day, duly slotted the ball between the posts, tied the game at 3-3 and saved England embarrassment.

After the match, Boughton, in a press interview, described those few seconds leading up to the kick that saved England's blushes as "the worst in my life - the fact that the result of the match depended on my kick was rather frightening."

The *Daily Mirror* reported: "The ultimate choice of Boughton for England proved to be a very happy one. No full back in his first international could have had a more severe test, but Boughton came through with such distinction that one feels a real successor to Tom Brown has been found."

J.P. Jordan, writing in the *Daily Mail* said that "H. Boughton has obviously made his place secure at full back for England..."

A number of rugby writers were describing Boughton as a "veteran" full back from Gloucester. Certainly, he had been the first choice full back at Kingsholm for more than eight seasons. But could a player who was born on September 10, 1910 be called a "veteran" in January 1935? He was just 24 years and four months when he received his England call!

Boughton's second England match was on Saturday February 9, 1935 against Ireland, again at Twickenham - and he again hit the headlines... England won the game 14-3, with 11 of the points coming from Boughton. He converted an early try by Giles and later added three penalty goals.

By now, Boughton had virtually ensured his England place at full back. He was selected for the Scotland game at Murrayfield. While England maintained their "record" of never posting a win at Murrayfield (their last win in Scotland had been the 8-6 decision at Inverleith in 1923), Boughton distinguished himself with some daring tackles.

Now, while England, the defending "Four Nations" Champions were being beaten by Scotland to give Ireland the title, Newport were at Kingsholm handing out an 11-8 defeat to Gloucester. The Cherry and Whites had gained a rare away win at Newport on the Saturday before Boughton's England debut.



Harold Boughton - England, Gloucestershire and Gloucester