

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



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v **SALE**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 25th, 1995

Kick off — 3.00 p.m.



Official  
Programme  
£1



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

## THE CRUCIAL POINT...



Sale v. Gloucester, October 8th, 1994. Having demolished West Hartlepool and gone down, rather unluckily to Bath just the week before, hopes were high for a Gloucester win. It didn't work out that way though. Sale did us, 14-16.

*Photograph by Peter Barton of Sale.*

There is a case for the view that today's game could decide the rest of the season for both sides. Sale are sitting two places, but just one point, above Gloucester in the League table. After today we have the final run in of four games. Today's winners will probably be regarded as 'safe', by most, while the losers will be condemned to the status of what the press

love to call 'the strugglers'.

Mind you, Division One has thrown up some wildly eccentric results this season, I'd be surprised if there weren't a sting or two in the tail as yet, and you'd have to be much braver than yours truly to stake your rent money on anything from here on in.

*Cont on page 12*

*Peter Arnold cont.*

At the start of the season you'd have had trouble finding anyone not closely involved with the two clubs in question who would have given much for the chances of either First Division debutant's staying up in the top echelon. Neither Sale nor West Hartlepool were regarded as serious challengers for the more established sides. Which just shows how wrong you can be. Both sides have beaten Gloucester once, and taken some other prestigious scalps along the way. And both sides have played some pretty impressive rugby while doing it.

This is all as it should be, and what leagues are all about. But it doesn't do any good for the nerves of people like us, who tend to believe that the world would come to an end if we were to be demoted. Sale will be out to fray those nerves even further today, and while I've no doubt they will have noted the results of our two outings against Leicester and Bath with interest, their confidence won't have been shaken at all. To start with, the inspirational Paul Turner, who has wreaked his own particular brand of mayhem at Gloucester in previous incarnations, must consider Kingsholm something of a happy hunting ground.

Let's not get all paranoid about one particular player, however. However good the Newbridge-Newport-Sale outside-half is, today's welcome visitors are by no means a one-man band. There's a lot of pace in the side, and considerable knowledge of how to play the game. All things considered, I suppose that the pundits would regard the two sides as evenly matched, and if the weather holds up, we should be in for an exciting game.

It's also good to see Sale at Kingsholm for historic reasons: we used to have some rare old battles against the Cheshire side, particularly in the days of Steve Smith. We value our old friends, and it's nice to renew acquaintance.

Welcome, Sale. Have a highly enjoyable visit.

#### **AND THE REST....**

Come to think of it, all the Division One games today are pretty crucial. If half-strength Bath were to lose at Wasps, it would throw the top of the table into confusion. And that could be

compounded were West Hartlepool to win their home fixture against Leicester. They must be fairly sanguine about their chances, at that. If I were editing the West programme, I would probably be writing something to the effect that if Gloucester can beat Leicester with Dean Richards, then we can do the same without him.

Bristol must be a bit apprehensive about their trip to Orrell, too. Only one point separates the two sides, and the trip to Wigan, which we face before very long, is never an easy one.

That leaves Harlequins v. Northampton - the match which could just decide who gets the drop this season. Neither side can be viewing their forthcoming visit to Kingsholm with much confidence, and a win today could settle things one way or another.

Or not. Who can say in this see-saw season?


#### **ANYTHING IN THE ATTIC ?**

Andy White gave me a call the other day. You remember Andy - he's the happy soul who is basing his Ph.D. Thesis around Gloucester RFC, and commuting regularly from Southampton in that admirable cause.

A very high proportion of the work consists of researching the history of the Club. Andy's been working on that since the depths of the close season, and has just about reached the turn of the century. Only 95 years to go.

Knocking around in the bowels of the club, in areas where even prop forwards fear to tread, there is an enormous amount of paperwork, giving a quite remarkable insight into the history of Gloucester RFC, and its impact on the social history of the City as a whole. Andy White now has permission to delve into this unique archive, catalogue it, and generally put it into useable order. It's a Herculean labour, and when complete, could well be the basis of the most comprehensive history of a Rugby Club ever compiled. And that's where Andy could do with your help.

If you have any memorabilia tucked away, Mr. White would love to have a sight of it. He'd be most grateful if you would send any letters, documents or whatever - or if you don't want to

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let them out of your hands, a description of them - to him, Andy White, c/o Gloucester RFC, Kingsholm, Gloucester. Geraldine and Doug Wadley will see he gets to hear about them.

More - Andy is also very interested in what is known as the 'oral history' of the Club. There is a great deal of knowledge which has simply never been written down anywhere, and now only exists as tradition. If you have any tit-bit of knowledge, perhaps passed down to you by your father or grandfather, jot it down, or dictate it on tape, if you'd prefer, and send it along to the Club. Or simply drop in a note to tell Andy you'd like a chat with him.

At the moment, Andy is particularly interested in information relating to events prior to the First World War, but don't let that put you off. Everything will eventually be grist to his academic mill, and it would be a shame if your contribution were to be lost.

Anyway - over to you.

#### **WE GET LETTERS**

For reasons partly to do with space, and partly with incompetence, I've been sitting on the following letter for almost a month. Which is just as well, because one or two events have transpired in the interim which are highly relevant. Take a look at Brian Tebbutt's interesting argument and see what you think. I'll give you my own thoughts on the matter in a minute.

*Dear Peter,*

*A possible programme contribution for you . . . Last Saturday John Davies was sent off and subsequently suspended for 60 days for the illegal use of the boot in the England/Wales international.*

*The following day, England 'A' played Italy at Kingsholm with another French referee. During the second half a penalty awarded to Italy was immediately reversed when the referee spotted an Italian forward stamping. The player was given 'a telling off'.*

*Two incidents in two internationals on following days yet the referees' actions were very different although both were from the same union. Illegal use of the boot (and this includes stamping) is a sending-off offence yet how often do we see referees reacting in the widely different ways outlined above?*

*In a similar vein, the previous Saturday saw Gloucester play Leicester. During that game Adel Kardooni deliberately tackled a Gloucester player without the ball in order to prevent a score. Fair enough, Gloucester were awarded a penalty which Lee Osborne converted but there were spectators at the match who were of the opinion that a penalty try should have been given, certainly Kardooni was given no form of warning by the referee. I personally have no comment, after all its in the past and Gloucester won anyway. The point is, that in the eleven-man game (soccer) this sort of 'professional foul' is an automatic sending-off offence as some goal-*

*Cont on page 20*

*Peter Arnold cont.*

*keepers have recently found to their cost.*

*Earlier in the season the Gloucester crowd were castigated for chanting 'Cheat!' There was a small outbreak of the same chant at the Leicester game - directed at the referee or Kardooni, who can tell? The fact of the matter is that as long as we have refereeing decisions which vary so widely for the same offence there is an inherent problem for both players and supporters. Isn't it about time that the Home Unions took a leaf out of Rugby League's book and appointed a controller of referees? They did it to achieve greater consistency and its working! The players know where they are aso does the crowd.*

*Yours Sincerely,  
Brian Tebbutt*

Since Mr. Tebbutt wrote, we've seen a Northern Transvaal player become the first man to get a red card at Kingsholm for head butting, and then escape further punishment. A few days later, the International Board decreed a 60-day suspension for that offence, and 30 days for stamping. Or did they? Subsequent comments seem to suggest that the decisions were to be seen as those fuzzy things called 'guidelines', which seems a typical IRFB fudge.

Then, last Saturday, in the Wales-Ireland game, it appeared that Eric Elwood received a mighty push in the back, long after the ball had gone, collided with one of his own players, and had to be stretchered off. Neither referee nor touch judge batted an eyelid. Yet a Scottish prop forward, in the Grand Slam game, was given a yellow card and a severe ticking off for what, on TV evidence anyway, appeared to be the sort of 'climbing' incident which many refs, and players for that matter, would regard as good clean fun.

Brian Tebbutt is perfectly right, of course. Variation in refereeing decisions, even among officials from the same Union, certainly seems to be a bugbear, and increasingly so, I stress the word 'seems', because, on the field, things aren't always what they seem to we folk on the terraces.

I don't know whether Brian's suggestion of a Controller of Referees is the answer or not, but it would bear investigation. The first vphrase which springs to mind is *quis custodiet ipsos custodes* - who guards the guardians?

#### **DIG DEEP FOR ALAN**

As I previewed in the Newport programme, there will be a collection on the ground today, raising funds for the Alan Hyett Appeal. I'm sure everyone approached will, as they say, give generously.

As you know, it's most unusual for charitable collections to be made at Kingsholm, the solitary

exception being the annual one for St. John's Ambulance, without whom we'd be in considerable difficulty. It isn't that Gloucester RFC are unfeeling or insensitive: it's simply that we would be simply overwhelmed if we opened the floodgates. Too many collections would result in diminishing returns, anyway.

However, the Alan Hyett Appeal is a special case, and I'll spell it out for the benefit of our visitors and anyone else who has missed the sad news.

Alan Hyett is a member of Westbury-on-Severn RFC, and he suffered the tragic misfortune of enduring a broken neck in a recent veterans match. I'm told that it seems likely that he will be confined to a wheelchair from here on in. I'm certain that everyone on the ground today will heartily approve the Club's decision to support the Appeal in this way.

Do, please, give what you can. As I said before, anyone who has ever played the game must have the niggling feeling at the back of his mind "You know - that might have been me."

#### **BRISTOL**

Geraldine tells me that she is hoping to have a few stand tickets, at £8.00 a time, for the match at Bristol. But they will only be a very few because, apparently, the Bristol stand is already almost fully booked. I suppose that's a compliment, really. If you want to stand up - pay at the gate.

#### **GREAT PEDIGREE**

Our Match Mascot today is Freddie Collyer-Bristow, and we've rarely been honoured with a lad with such a thoroughgoing rugby background. In fact, for a six year-old he's a positive fanatic, and there's nothing wrong with that.

I ask you. How many of us, devout and practicing rugby men that we are, can claim to have gone on our first tour at the age of six? Yet that's just what young Freddie is about to do. He's been playing for Cirencester Mini RFC since he was five, and this Easter is touring Cornwall with that estimable organisation's Under 8's.

In fact, Freddie's mother, Alison, has a lot of rugby to put up with. Her husband, Simon, gets along to Kingsholm whenever his work allows him to, and is a cousin of Paul Holford. Stepping back a generation, Grandfather, John Fairgrieve, a recently retired surgeon, played for Cambridge University and, I'm told, Scotland.

The Collyer-Bristows live happily at Frampton Mansel, and Freddie attends Oakridge Lynch Parochial School. He has four siblings, Eleanor, who is eight, Archibald, who is four, Clementine, who is three, and Augustus, who at three months is, perhaps, just a little too young for the game

yet, even by Collyer-Bristow standards. However, Sue Eltringham might like to make a note of the names of the distaff side. She might just have a couple of recruits for her Cheltenham Ladies side in a few years time.

Freddie lists his hobbies as "Rugby and anything to do with rugby." and I wouldn't be at all surprised if we hear a lot more of that name in future years. Remember, you saw him here first.

Thanks for coming, Freddie !

### **TAILPIECE**

It must be my day for Latin tags. I only know two, and I've used up one already, in our 'We get letters' section.

The other one is prompted by a lady writing in the Bath programme for Gloucester's match a couple of weeks ago. She lists essential supplies for watchers of League rugby, and includes a transistor radio to 'find out who has done us a favour lately'.

She then concludes with something I never thought I'd hear from the Recreation Ground: "Bless you, Gloucester." an obvious reference to the Gloucester-Leicester result.

*Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.*

If you haven't come across that one, ask me in the bar, afterwards. It's too good to translate in cold blood.

## Ed Martin

With Wales slumping yet again to the depths of despair last weekend and Sale the visitors to Kingsholm this afternoon, this is, perhaps an opportune moment to recall a couple of classic Welsh wins, one of them engineered by a Sale player.

The first match in question was played in Cardiff on December 16, 1905. New Zealand arrived at Arms Park with an unbeaten record on their first-ever British tour. The All Blacks had beaten Ireland, Scotland and England. The Tourists had in all matches on the tour amassed over 800 points \_ and had conceded just twenty-two.

All eyes were on the Welsh. Could the All Blacks against Wales.

Back in 1905, Welsh rugby was considered supreme in the United Kingdom. And with the All Blacks causing such mayhem against everyone they came up against, the individual national pride of every Englishman, Scotsman and Irishman was put to one side on that December afternoon.

There was both faith and hope in the Welsh from all corners in the Kingdom. The mind boggles to think of the hyperbole that Sky Television would have engineered if the match was to have been played in 1995!

Even Kingsholm's legendary "Sheddie", Charlie Haddock, had he been using a quill ninety years ago might have written: "Never before or since have I known at any match a time of such emotional strain. Twelve years ago I reported that intensely exciting game at Arms Park when Wales beat England by 12 points to 11. Now, I was so excited (when New Zealand took to the field) that I could hardly dictate a line - and tens of thousands of spectators seemed to be in the same mood. For eighty minutes, play was followed with quite painful intensity, and it was with a gasp of relief that we heard the final whistle - and knew that Wales had won."

It was some 23 minutes into the game when Teddy Morgan staked his claim to the Welsh throne by scoring what was to be the only try - nay, points - of the encounter.

Reports of the match suggest that the move that led to the try came as much as a surprise to the Press and public as it was to the All Blacks. "Afterwards, we learned that it was a carefully worked out scheme," wrote the rugby columnist Touch Judge, whose work often appeared in the *Citizen*.

This is, apparently, how the Welsh suckered the virtually invincible All Black defence - it was thought up by Dicky Owen of Swansea: There was a scrum at the New Zealand 25 (yards in those days, remember), 15 yards from the

touchline to the Welsh right - and it was Wales put-in. Owen gathered the ball from the scrum and started off to the right, as did fly-half Percy Bush and right centre Gwyn Nicholls. The tourists naturally expected an attack down the blindside and the defenders moved to meet the attack.

Owen then swung around and threw out a long pass to the left. The ball went to ground, but Cliff Pritchard fielded it cleanly, swerved round his man and passed out to Rhys Gabe, the left centre who then spun the ball out to Morgan.

Welsh sportswriting folklore has it that the only person who could have stopped Morgan from scoring was Arthur Gould who jumped up on the Press table for an impromptu dance, while chanting: "Teddy Morgan! Teddy Morgan! The fastest football sprinter in the world!" (Will The Haddock be able to follow that!)

Teddy Morgan returned to the Arms Park on December 21, 1935, to watch the third meeting between Wales and New Zealand - the second meeting, in 1924 had seen the All Blacks level the series with a comfortable win by two goals and a penalty goal to nil.

A try by N.J. Ball had given New Zealand a slender half time lead. But a couple of minutes into the second period, Claude Davey, whose club affiliations were recorded officially as Sale and Swansea, scored a try between the posts to cap a move involving the Cambridge University pairing of winger W. Wooler and fly-half Cliff Jones following an horrendous diagonal punt by the All Blacks that Ball failed to gather close to the halfway line. With the conversion by Jenkins, Wales were in the lead - and stretched it when winger Rees-Jones won the race for the ball in the in-goal area from a kick ahead by Wooler. Again, the try was converted by Jenkins.

An amazing drop goal by fullback Gilbert from 40 yards range and virtually on the touchline gave reduced the New Zealand deficit. Then a dropped pass by winger Rees-Jones had what could have been a fatal result for Wales. Ball gathered the ball (hard to avoid the pun), kicked ahead, picked up again and ran over for the try which Gilbert converted to give the tourists the lead.

Two minutes from the end, Rees-Jones made amends for his mistake and scored his second try of the match, giving Wales a 13-12 win. Sale had a second player on representative duty that December day in 1935. H.S. Sever was out on the wing for "the Rest" in England's trial at Twickenham. "England", with the all-Harlequins back row of Hamilton-Hill, Dunkley and Swayne, beat "The Rest" by a 26-12 margin, with "flying" Obolenski claiming a try hat-trick.



# How The Chairman           Sees It

After the win over Leicester and the draw at Bath (it was encouraging that our Utd beat Bath 2nd's 44-12 the same day) we approach the final league games with optimism.

The players are aware that they have attained a level of commitment and consistency that they must maintain for each and every league match. Injuries are things to avoid in the last few weeks and it was particularly cruel that Mark Mapletoft had a setback with his knee during the Newport game.

This just illustrates the importance of having a successful Utd and U.21's as back up to the First Team Squad and people like Dave Spencer, Dave Poynton (Utd) and John Fidler, Jim Jarrett, Peter Kingston etc (U.21's) are doing an illustrious job in this respect, perhaps this season neither of these teams have received the

interest and support that they merit and we will certainly do everything possible to correct that.

I look forward with enthusiasm to the remainder of our League Programme and thank you all for your continuing support - well perhaps not all!!!

Alan Brin

