

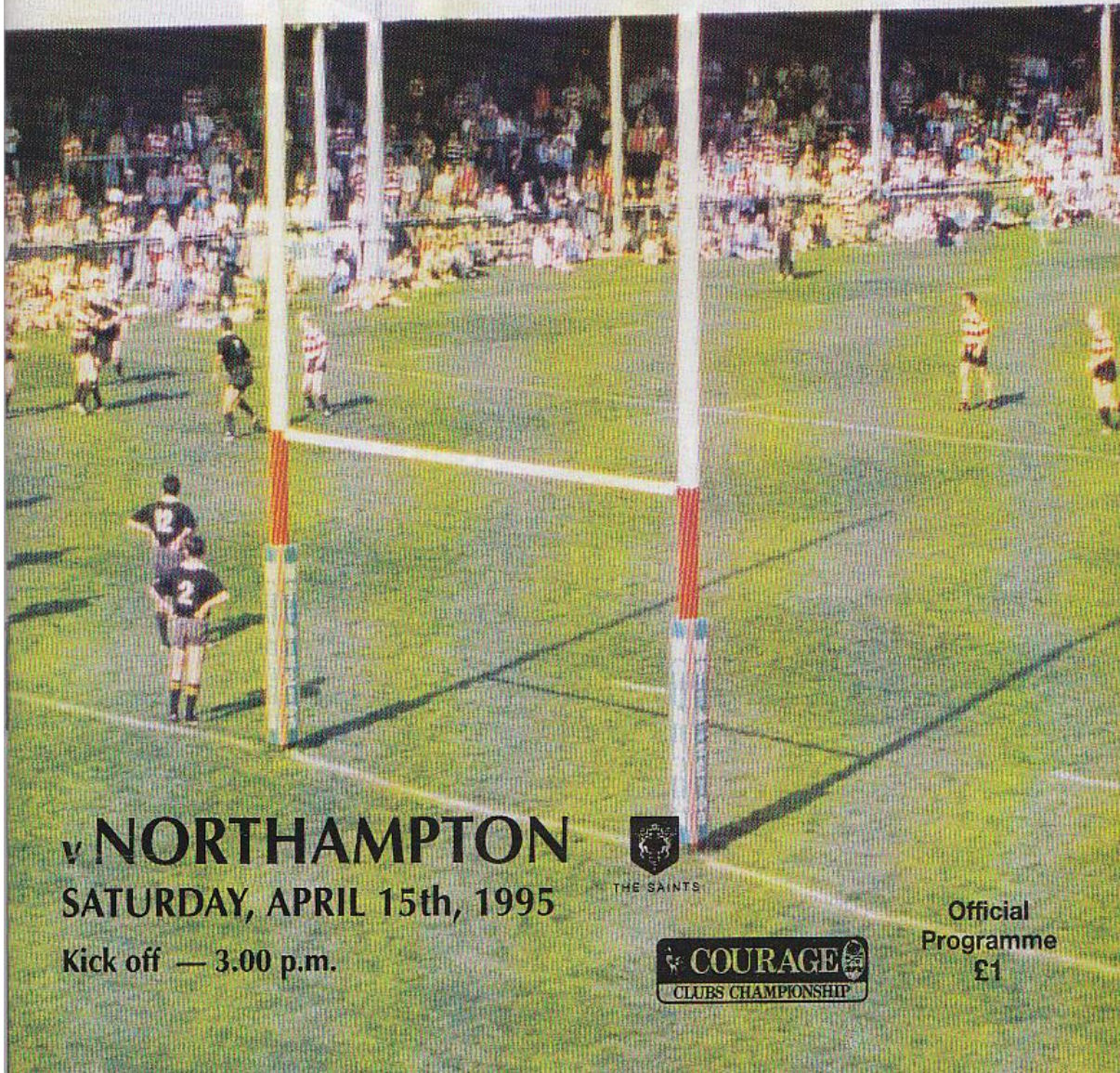
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



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v **NORTHAMPTON**
SATURDAY, APRIL 15th, 1995

Kick off — 3.00 p.m.



THE SAINTS



Official
Programme
£1

..... **Peter Arnold**

DOWN TO THE WIRE

Take a look at the position at the bottom of Courage League Division One at the moment.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Gloucester	15	5	1	9	224	252	11
Harlequins	15	4	1	10	200	296	9
W. Hartlepool	15	4	1	10	260	342	9
Northampton	15	4	0	11	214	296	8

Speaks for itself, doesn't it? If Gloucester lose all three remaining games, then 'Quins and West have to win one and draw one to climb above us, while today's welcome and respected visitors have to win two. Even if we beat Orrell next week, it's still mathematically possible for the other three to catch us. And if there were ever two crunch games, Our encounters with Harlequins and Northampton are certainly them. In effect, victories in either are worth *four* points.

Sorry chaps, but it looks like coronary time again.

All of which adds, not just spice, but a whole chicken tika marsala to an annual Kingsholm event which has always been one of the most pleasurable of the season. Gloucester and the Saints go back an awful long way, and whether League points are at stake or not, we always value their visits immeasurably.

Someone (luckily, only one) has to go down at the end of this season. Obviously, we don't want it to be Gloucester, but I'm probably speaking for the vast majority of home supporters when I say that, of the likely candidates, Northampton is the one we'd least like to see get the chop. We've admired their climb back into the top ranks after years in the wilderness, and would hate to see all that effort negated in what has been a most eccentric season in terms of results.

We should be in for quite a match today. Last

week's win over Orrell will have elevated the Saints tails something rotten, and they're certainly going to be giving it their best shot. In contrast, having failed miserably against Sale, and more honourably against the Old Enemy down at Bristol last weekend, Gloucester have a point or two to prove. The omens are good for a memorable encounter.

But there's nothing new in that, when Northampton and Gloucester try conclusions. Whatever the result, we welcome the lads from Franklins Gardens most sincerely, and that includes the host of supporters who are sure to accompany them.

Have a great visit, everyone.



WELL DONE THE LADS !

As you will have discovered, we have a quartet of congratulations to hand out today. Richard West and Ian Smith have been selected for the England and Scotland World Cup squads respectively, and Paul Holford and Dave Sims have been chosen for the 'A' side who visit Australia and Fiji.

Couldn't happen to a nicer, or more deserving, foursome. Richard West's evolution into one of the most effective locks in the country has been quite spectacular, when we recall the amiable beanpole of a line-out jumper who arrived here just a very few seasons ago. You don't develop that quickly unless you've been working extremely hard, and Richard's inclusion over such contenders as Mr. Redman represents an achievement one can't do anything but admire.

Ian Smith deserves his trip with Scotland for his sheer 'stickability'. The likes of Morrison and Wainwright may have kept him out of recent Scottish sides, but he's stuck to things with great

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<p>THE SOCIETY THAT TRIES HARDER</p>		
<p>WISHES GLOUCESTER R-F-C ALL THE BEST FOR THE 1994/1995 SEASON AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS TO KINGSHOLM</p>		

How Matt Bayliss Sees It



As we all know by now, Matt Bayliss, Gloucester's most prominent referee, has decided to hang up his whistle at the end of the season. He's going out in style, because his final match will be the County Final at Twickenham.

Ironic, isn't it? If Gloucestershire hadn't narrowly lost their Semi, Matt wouldn't have got the job. It's an ill wind....

I thought we couldn't let Matt Bayliss depart this life without letting him have his say, and he's chosen to spell out for us just how referees climb up the ladder to First Division status and beyond. Which is interesting, because to hear some people talk, they must be selected from a panel of blind megalomaniacs.

But Matt, being Matt, doesn't want to leave it at that. He's also taken the opportunity to air a pet grievance of his, the question of referees expenses. And he has a point. As the old saying has it, if you pay peanuts, you get monkeys, and I doubt if any of us realised that our top referees are treated in quite such a miserly fashion.

After all, the Referees Society are always telling us how short they are of players willing to take up the whistle. Small wonder.

THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE

I was delighted to be asked by Peter Arnold to write a few words about Referees and the hard work and standards you must achieve to get the opportunity to referee a 1st Division Game at Kingsholm. Only then, of course, are you lucky enough to receive the advice from the infamous fans in the shed.

For the first 2 years you are a Probationary Referee, refereeing 4th, 3rd and occasionally 2nd XV local games for your society. You are then asked to sit an exam. If you pass you will still only do 2nd XV games for the rest of the season with a possibility of a few 1st XV games to see how you are coming along. During this time you will be watched by your local Society Assessor who will be giving advice to help you improve your game.

The following season you will do a majority of 1st local games to gain experience. If you show potential you will be looked at with more interest by the assessors, for the following season you will do 1st XV games plus a number of exchange games so that someone from outside the County can look at you. If you are getting consistently good marks your County will push you. The following season you will be sent out on lots of exchanges and if your marks are still good then your Society will recommend you for the RFU 'A' list. This list consists of the top 100 Referees in the County. If you are successful your career has taken off. By this

time you will be watched by an assessor from the RFU, a Society Assessor and you will be continually monitored. You will be travelling all over the country and doing anything up to 2nd Division Games. Most referees stay on this list for 2-3 seasons to gain experience. By now the top men at H.Q. will know about your strengths and weaknesses. If you impress them enough with your performance then you will be selected for the RFU panel, which is the elite top 40 referees in the country. However, it may have taken you 10-12 seasons to get to this standard. You are monitored throughout by the RFU to see if you have what it takes to referee 1st Div games. The final step is to be selected into the top ten squad. If the RFU believe you to be talented enough, then you will be sent out of the Country to see if you have the potential to be an International Referee.

So any referee who officiates at Kingsholm on a 1st Division game will at least have had 15 years experience. He will have to train at least 2 nights a week and take two fitness tests a year. He will have to achieve 10.4 on the dreaded bleep test, bearing in mind you only have to achieve 8.5 to join the police force, this is a very high standard. You would also be expected to give up a weekend in the summer to attend a Conference about any changes for the coming season. So overall, like all sport, to be successful it takes over your life.

But do you know

Referees do not get a match fee at any standard. They get 20p per mile and have to travel a 300 mile round trip before they are entitled to a meal allowance of £5. They can only stay overnight if they live more than 3 hrs travelling time from their game. Then you must ask for permission from the RFU, but it can only be for a night, either the night before the game or the night after, but not both. We now get free kit from sponsors when we officiate their games, eg Courage and Pilkington. I believe RFU referees are still the only true amateurs left in the game, so give them a break, they only do it for pleasure!

All referees, with the exception of a few from the London Society, love coming to Kingsholm and always comment on the sound advice and the extremely funny one liners from the Shed. On a personal note I have loved every minute of it, but all good things must come to an end. The game is now faster and players are fitter than they have ever been, so its time to bow out at the top and let some of these younger referees have their chance. The game has given me the opportunity to travel all over the world and meet a variety of people.

So keep supporting the team because I want to watch Gloucester in the 1st Div. next season.

Notes - Guidelines only

Officials appointed by the Rugby Football Union may claim up to 20p per mile and if overnight accommodation is necessary it MUST be agreed.

Motor expenses may be claimed on a mileage basis OR a petrol and oil consumed. Whatever method is used **Petrol Vouchers** must be submitted in order to claim the VAT element as well as Hotel and Parking Vouchers where applicable.

Failure to do so will result in the VAT element being deducted.

If Referees and Touch Judges are travelling to a game in the same area, where possible they should arrange to travel together.

Claims for snacks, meals, drinks etc. will not be viewed favourably if the total distance travelled for the round trip is less than 300 miles.

Peter Arnold cont.

application and loyalty, always being exactly where his selectors wanted him precisely when they wanted him. You can't do more than play your best and keep trying, and that's exactly what 'Smithy' has done.

Dave Sims deserves some limelight if ever a player did. A few years ago he looked odds on for an England shirt or two, and then fell out of favour for reasons that most of us have never really been able to fathom. But like Ian Smith, he has stuck to it admirably, and his chance of full International recognition has by no means fallen by the wayside.

And then there's Paul Holford. He's had an exemplary season, scoring tries which a lot of wingers wouldn't have attempted. The Underwoods can't go on for ever, and while there are some good wing men around, no one has staked a better claim than Paul. His time will surely come, and we'll all be rooting for him.

The grapevine also tells me that one or two other Gloucester players have caught the eye of the powers-that-be this season. Perhaps I won't mention names, because with my record of picking winners, that would be sure to put the mockers on it.

It's all very encouraging, and perhaps there is some strength in the thought that any player tempted by the bright lights of Bath could just be acting prematurely.

GREAT EFFORT - NOW DO IT AGAIN !

I've had a nice little note from Jim Brass, Chairman of Westbury-on-Severn RFC. You'll recall that, at the Sale match, there was a collection in aid of the Appeal for Alan Hyett, the Westbury player who was unlucky enough to break his neck while playing in a veterans match, and Jim is absolutely over the moon with the result. He is delighted to be able to report that the collection raised the magnificent sum of £1375, and the Appeal organisers wish to thank everyone who contributed.

That's a good omen for the next ground appeal, which takes place today, as ever was. You'll know that each season, at just about this time, we make a collection for St.John's

Ambulance who have been providing first aid cover on the ground since before virtually anyone here today was born.

There are people around, however, who insist that they *wouldn't* be here if it had not been for the prompt and expert attention they received from St.John's in time of trouble. So we owe them a lot. Dig deep, everyone.

FOLLOWING IN FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Today's Match Mascot is Katie Hamlin who is nine years old. If the name is familiar, so it should be: she is the daughter of Mike Hamlin, the legendary outside-half who has given such service as both player and Captain over the years.

Katie attends Beechgreen School at Quedgely where the family lives. She is very much into Music and Dance, and also has the questionable taste to support Manchester United. This is, however, counterpointed by her devotion to Gloucester RFC. Well, you've got to support the old man, haven't you ?


Just a few weeks ago, on March 12th, Katie acquired a new brother, when her Mum, Sandra, gave birth to young Joseph. And thereby hangs a tale, because she learned about the happy event before her Dad did. Little Joe put in an appearance at 12.40pm, while Mike was up in Northumberland skipping the County. He didn't hear of the arrival until after the game.

Perhaps they should have told him earlier. You'll remember that Gloucester lost right at the last gasp, and perhaps a little euphoria engendered by the happy news might just have made the difference. Anyway, I expect it did go some way towards compensating for that most aggravating of defeats.

And we'll be looking out for that name 'Joe Hamlin' in the Colts in about sixteen years time.

AGM

At around this stage of the season we are able to give Members some advance notice about the Club's Annual General Meeting, and 1994/5 is no exception.



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This year's deliberations will be held, once again, at the Birdseye Walls Club at Barnwood. Personally, I think that's a healthy sign, because the switch from the Clubhouse, a couple of years ago, was prompted by the fact that our own facilities were proving too cramped for the number of Members who wanted to turn up and vote. After all, the AGM represents the occasion when the Officers and Committee have to account for their stewardship, and if you have a bee you want to get out of your bonnet, then that's the time you can give it an airing, if you'll pardon the mangled metaphore.

This year the date is Wednesday, July 19th - please note the change of day - and the meeting will be opened at 7.30pm sharp. Voting will, however, commence at 6.30pm, giving you a chance of a pre-discussion drink, available from the Walls Club bar, which we are assured, will be open for that purpose.

The note I received on the subject from Doug Wadley asks me to ask you to take careful note of the extract from the rules printed in your membership card. 'All a minute, and I'll fish mine out of my back pocket, and elucidate for you. Ah, yes ! I see. That's the bit which tells you that Officers and Committee Members are to be elected at the AGM. Nominations for those posts must be made to the Secretary in writing, with the names of Proposer and Seconder (who must also be paid-up Members) at least 21days before the meeting. By my reckoning, that means the deadline, this year, is June 28th.

So you have been warned.

Incidentally, it's only recently that I discovered that our own Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Doug Wadley is a devout and practicing Gilbert and Sullivan man. So if you're thinking of trying to slope into the AGM without being a paid-up Member, don't bother. He's undoubtedly 'got a little list'.

ANY MEMORABILIA ?

Just to remind you that Andy White, our friend from Southampton who is researching the history of the Club for reasons not unconnected with a Ph.D. thesis, is currently cataloguing and sorting all the documentation which Gloucester has accumulated over the past century and a quarter. Glutton for punishment, is our Andy, because, as if that weren't enough, if you have anything interesting in that line, perhaps bequeathed by a bygone family member, he'd dearly love to have a sight of it. Don't try to find Andy. Drop it - or a description if you don't want to let it out of your hands, - into the Office, where Geraldine will take good care of it and see that Andy knows all about it on his next visit.

Chatting to him recently, I find that, just at the moment, Andy is particularly interested in Tommy Bagwell, who he describes as 'the first working-man Captain of Gloucester RFC.' Apparently, all the skippers before him, starting with the Founder, Fred Hartley himself, were adherents to the Corinthian tradition, as indeed, were most club captains at the time. If you have any

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THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL

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Peter Arnold cont.

information about that old stalwart, who apparently never weighed over ten stone, then Andy would like to hear it. Any relation of yours, Hal ?

YOU COULD SAY THAT

Andy White has come across one little story that I liked. Apparently, at the turn of the century, a party of supporters travelled to Stratford-upon-Avon to watch Gloucester play. They were met at the railway station by a local who enquired " Are you interested in Football in Gloucester then ?", which must have been about like asking a Roman lion if he liked Christians.

Anyway, we're still here, but whatever happened to Stratford-upon-Avon ?

ERIC MARTIN

I'm sorry if this is a bit late, but I have only just heard, with great sadness, of the death of that tremendous Gloucester RFC man, Eric Martin. As long-time supporters will well know, Eric was in charge of the gatemen at Kingsholm for many years, collecting the money at the end of each game, and handing it to the Treasurer, even before the days of Doug Wadley, and he's been our money man for 32 years.

Furthermore, Eric took over that job from his father, Fred Martin, so there can't be many families with a finer record of service to the Club than the Martins.

Eric was a very nice man - a 'gentle-man' in both senses of the word, and he will be sadly missed. Our most sincere condolences go out to his family and wide circle of friends.

COACHES TO ORRELL

Trevor Pritchard and I haven't been able to touch bases lately, so I can't give you chapter and verse, but I'm told that there will be at least one coach to Orrell, and that there's a notice to that effect in the Clubhouse, so if you're interested, take a look.

All games are important from now on, and the lads could do with your support. It's a great trip, anyway.

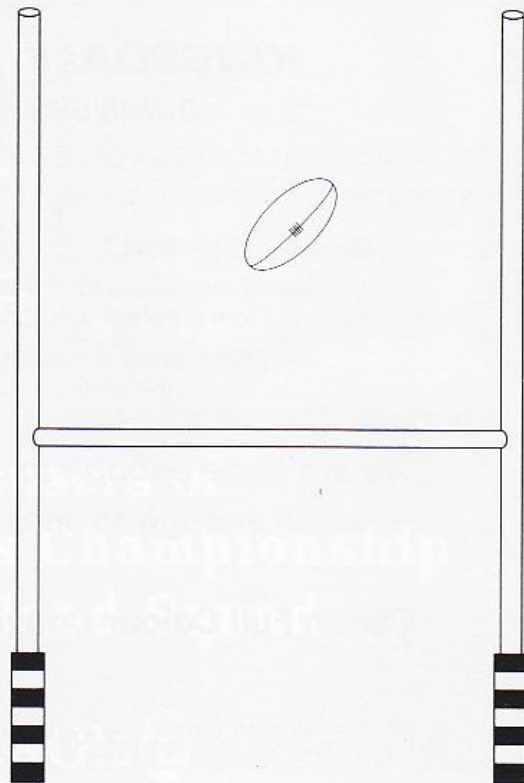
TAILPIECE

I suppose I should report an encounter I had in the Imperial in Northgate Street, after the Sale game. There was I, crying gently into my beer, when a chap came up to me and said "Good God I thought you were dead !"

Obviously he'd got confused between my 'mock' Mayor of Barton status, and the sad death

of the real Mayor of Gloucester, the late Councillor Tony Workman, supporter of Tredworth RFC.

Anyway, I'm here to tell you that, to quote Mark Twain, "Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."



Ed Martin

It is fifty-six years ago that George Romans, who captained Gloucester at the turn of the century, left the city for Bournemouth. The "Football Final" of April 8, 1939 carried the news, under the headline . . .

MR. GEORGE ROMANS LEAVING GLO'STER LONG AND VARIED RECORD IN SPORT

Few Gloucester men can claim such a long and varied career in sport as Mr. George Romans, of the Lamprey hotel, Gloucester, who is leaving the City on April 18 for Bournemouth, where he and his wife are to run a business.

For over 40 years Mr. Romans, who spent all his life in Gloucester, has maintained an active interest in rugby football. His introduction to the game began when he played for St. George's and Barnwood. Then he joined the Gloucester City Club, played in the second fifteen and later became captain of the club from 1901 to 1905.

In his first two years as captain there were only 12 defeats in 65 matches. The season 1900-1901 was remarkable for the phenomenal scoring against Clifton, when Gloucester won the first match 66-0 and the return 72-3, Mr. Romans converting 11 out of 15 tries in the second game.

He also turned out for Cheltenham for a couple of seasons, and played for the county and in international trials.

"In his day," wrote "W.B." in the Jubilee Souvenir of the club, "Romans had few superiors at full-back in the country, but he was unfortunate that a super-custodian in H.T. Gamlin was playing at the same time. On seven or eight occasions the Gloucester captain was chosen as reserve, but he was never called upon to represent England. During the eight seasons he represented Gloucester, Romans met with remarkable success in goal-kicking, converting 344 tries out of 716 attempts, in addition to kicking 29 other goals - a grand record of 737".

Since his playing days, which finished 25 years ago, Mr. Romans has maintained a close contact with the game, chiefly through his services as a referee. He has controlled such games as the semi-final of the county championship.

As a cricketer, Mr. Romans found almost equal renown. He captained the Wagon works, Gloucester City Second XI, and later the first XI for seven seasons, and played in 15 matches for the County. There was one memorable game when at the last moment he was asked to play for Gloucestershire against the County of London, and made the top score of 67, with such players

as W. G. Grace, Beldam, O'Dell, Llewellyn and J. W. H. T. Douglas in the match.

During Mr. Roman's captaincy of the City, Wally Hammond, England's present captain, often stayed with him and turned out for the City Club.

Mr. Romans has represented Gloucester at hockey, water polo and tennis and played soccer for the Gloucester Thursday team. As an athlete, too, he attained distinction and won a large number of prizes on the running track.

Mr. Romans will be sadly missed in the world of amateur entertainment. A life member of the Gloucester Operatic Society (as he is of the Gloucester Football and Cricket Clubs) he has appeared in all their musical productions except one. He has also done a great deal of work in connection with the Infirmary Entertainment Committee, of which he is joint secretary, and raised a large sum with his concert parties at carnivals.

Formerly in the timber trade with Messrs. J. Romans and Co., and afterwards on his own account, Mr. Romans became the host of the Lamprey about two years ago. He has a large circle of friends in the city and county who will deeply regret his leaving Gloucester after so many years.



Mr. George Romans