

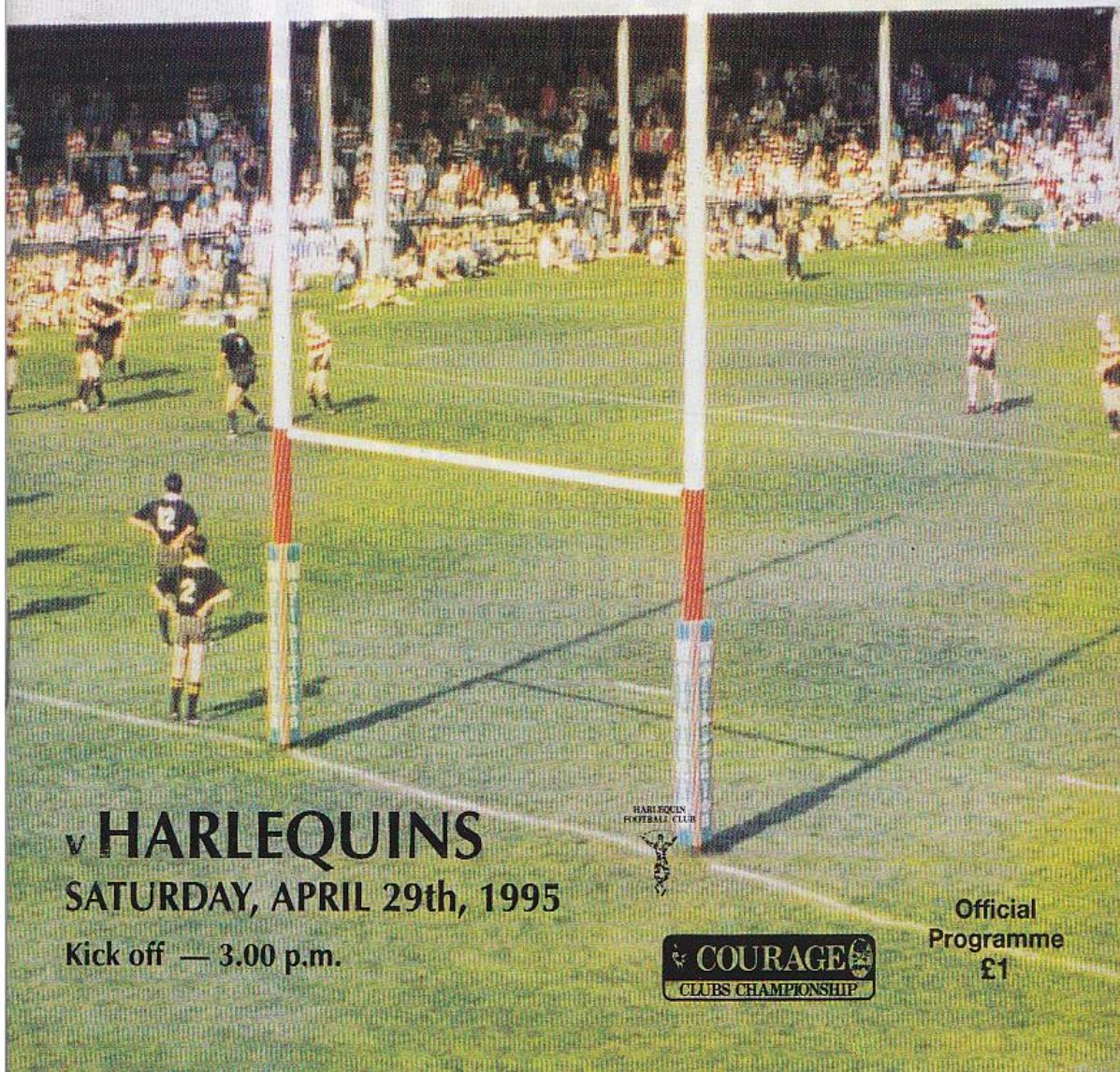
# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



Official Club Sponsors



v **HARLEQUINS**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 29th, 1995

Kick off — 3.00 p.m.



Official  
Programme  
£1



All kit used by Gloucester Rugby Club is supplied by



Gloucester Rugby Club use GILBERT MATCH BALLS

**GLOUCESTER**  
(Cherry & White)  
G Pts

--	--	--

15. Tim Smith


14. Paul Holford

13. Don Caskie

12. Martin Roberts

11. Lee Osborne

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10. Martin Kimber

9. Marcus Hannaford


1. Tony Windo

2. Phil Greening

3. Andy Deacon †

4. Mark Cornwell

5. Simon Devereux

6. Pete Glanville

7. Paul Ashmead

8. Mike Teague \*

H/T		

Replacements

Bruce Fenley

John Hawker

Rob Fidler

Referee: S. Piercy, RFU

T/Judges: L. Bryant, J. D. Rees

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

SPONSORED BY



Cumulative Match Score


**HARLEQUINS**  
(L/Blue, mag, choc, grey, green, black)  
T G Pts

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15. Jim Staples \*


14. Crawford Henderson

13. Will Carling \*

12. Peter Mensah

11. Spencer Bromley

--	--	--

10. Paul Challinor

9. Rob Kitchin


1. Jason Leonard \*

2. Brian Moore † \*

3. Andy Mullins \*

4. Alex Snow

5. Peter Thresher

6. Mick Watson

7. Rory Jenkins

8. Chris Sheasby

F/T		

Replacements:

Chris Wright

Mark Russell

Jim Hamilton-Smith

† - Captain

\* - International

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

## **HOME STRAIGHT**

Let's get things into perspective. After a more tortuous League season than we have ever experienced, the situation on the ground floor of Division One is as follows - I think.

If Northampton win at West Hartlepool, a feat that few clubs have accomplished this season, and we beat Harlequins today, then Northampton stay up, and the mighty Quins are relegated. Any other pair of results reverse those two options. Which, I suppose, means that today's respected visitors will be busting the proverbial gut\* to put one over on us this afternoon. More - Harlequins will want to win well, because if they can beat us by the same sort of margin that we conceded to Orrell, last weekend, then they could even catch us. So Gloucester has an incentive to win as well.

So committed supporters both here and up at West Hartlepool will be suffering from mild schizophrenia for the next few hours, trying to keep at least one eye (the one they keep in the back of their heads) on events at the other end of the country. And 'West's' win at home today is by no means a foregone conclusion. We saw for ourselves, just two weeks ago, just how dangerous the wounded Saints can be, and they did surprise everyone at Wasps last Saturday. Everyone, that is, who didn't witness the undoubted skill and passion with which Northampton are playing at the moment. Add to that the fact that West Hartlepool's clan of Scots are World Cup tied, and the stage could well be set for another upset.

Either way, Harlequins are going to be coming at us with all their considerable arsenal blazing. Nothing less than a one-hundred per cent effort by our lads is going to be either sufficient or

acceptable this afternoon. If we get that, and play as we did against Leicester, Bath and - yes - Northampton, then we should be in for one hell of a game. If that happens, then I suggest that we shall all depart into the cricket season quite happy with the way that the 1994/5 campaign climaxed in the end.

Of course, at the time of writing, I don't know how our worrying list of walking wounded is faring. In effect, we finished the Orrell game with six reserves in the pack, one of whom had gone along as a back replacement. It would be nice to think that we could field a full first-choice eight, but with Richard West and Ian Smith out of the reckoning, we shan't be able to do that in any case, so the efforts of the medical fraternity in the last few days could have a huge influence on proceedings.

We live in interesting times. Be that as it may, it's always a great occasion when we welcome Harlequins to Kingsholm, an event which we have been hosting for very many years, since Leagues and Cups were indulgences embraced by lesser breeds such as the Soccer and Rugby League fraternity.

Ah well. I mustn't become curmudgeonly on the last day of a season which has seen triumph and disaster in equal measure. With Rudyard Kipling, I hope we are big enough to 'treat those two impostors just the same', and in doing so, offer the distinguished Harlequins contingent a most sincere Kingsholm welcome.

*\* That's if Harlequins will own up to possessing anything so indelicate as a 'gut'.*

*Cont on page 12*



*Peter Arnold cont.*

### **DON'T FORGET WEST HARTLEPOOL NEXT SEASON**

Now that it has been established that both Gloucester and West Hartlepool will be playing First Division rugby next season, it can now be confirmed that Andy Mitchell's legendary overnight safari to West's very pleasant ground will go ahead in September. The form is an early Saturday start, coach to West Hartlepool, watch the game, few beers in the clubhouse, overnight in a good hotel (obviously with a few more beers) and a gentle meander home on Sunday morning.

People who ventured north this season are still talking about it, and it's a trip to be recommended. I gather that Andy Mitchell hopes to take a full coach next time round, and has booked hotel rooms accordingly, but thinks it only fair to give first refusal, as it were, to those who patronised the trip this season. So if you're interested, I wouldn't wait until next season to do something about it. Why not have a word with Geraldine right away?

### **THANKS, LADS**

Margaret and Karen from Mike Burton's organisation charge me to say a very public and sincere 'thank you' to the lads who have been selling match programmes and Golden Gamble tickets this season. They have done a great job, and certainly added something to the Kingsholm season.

This I am very happy to do, and would like to add a word of my own. I would like to tell everyone just how much I have enjoyed working with Mike Burton Management over the last four seasons. Any help or information I have ever needed has always been promptly and efficiently provided, and the whole thing conducted in an extremely cheerful and friendly manner.

You can only speak as you find, they say, and although Mike Burton doesn't appear to be on the English and Scottish hierarchy's Christmas card list, I, personally, won't hear a word against either him or the splendid group of people who work for him.

This isn't the place to go into all that, but all I will say is that anything P.J. Arnold can do for

MBM will be done most readily.

### **NEW ARRIVAL ?**

As a matter of fact, Karen may not be here today - and for the happiest of reasons. Her baby was due on Thursday, so we must await events, and wish her, the new Dad, and the baby all the very best indeed.

I'm told that MBM staff have actually made a book on whether Karen will make today's game or not. She certainly will if it's physically possible. And I am also told that there is no truth in the rumour that if she has a son, born today, that he might be named 'Will'.

### **DOMINIC'S DAY OUT**

Our final Match Mascot of the season is one Dominic Ashworth of Cambridge. No, not the posh one, our own home-grown variety down the Bristol road. He's six years old, and attends Slimbridge Primary School.

Dominic has the usual two parents, and a younger sister named Rosie. However, the family connection most noteworthy today is that he is a nephew of our own 'bouncing Scot', Don Caskie, so it's not surprising that young Dominic lists rugby as one of his overriding interests. He's also well into cycling, and indeed, is keen on most outdoor activities. Which must be nice for any young man living so close to the Wildfowl and Wetlands trust.

With that background, perhaps it won't be the last time we shall see him in the cherry-and-white shirt.

While on the subject, I should also thank all those youngsters, and their sponsors, who have done us the honour of acting as Match Mascot this season. They certainly provide another focus of interest at each home game, and it would be nice to think that the system will continue for many years to come.

With that in mind, if anyone has a youngster who might like to officiate next season, then it's by no means too early to get his, or her, name down. Geraldine, in the office, would be glad to have details.

### **NO TENS**

Mention of Geraldine reminds me that she's been getting a steady stream of enquiries about the National Tens tournament. The short answer is that there isn't going to be one this year. Shame: both the events staged at Kingsholm so far have been memorable, with excellent rugby in an unfamiliar form, and many of the best players around on view.

I've heard conflicting reports about the reason for the absence of the occasion this season, ranging from the proximity of the World Cup, making the England squad members unavailable, to doubts of the commercial viability of the whole thing, so you pays your money and you takes your choice. It would be nice to think, however, that we shall be able to spend such splendid days out again at Kingsholm in future seasons.

But please don't ring poor Geraldine about it any more.

### **NICE SHOW**

Our thanks to Ken Cuthbert for the super display staged on the ground before today's game. Ken is our local Youth Development Officer and is responsible for the national 'New Image' programme in our neck of the woods. It's nice to see youngsters getting involved in this way.

Of course, we'd like to see all lads - and, these days, many lasses - taking up rugby, but

when you come right down to it, the important thing is that every youngster is encouraged to play *something*.

More power to your elbow, Mr. Cuthbert.

### **SO YOU THINK WE'VE GOT PROBLEMS.**

Spare a thought for the Rugby League fraternity. Can you imagine the reaction if the RFU were to tell us that we had to amalgamate with Bristol ? Coventry with Moseley ? Harlequins with Saracens ? There would be a smoking crater where Headquarters used to be.

Happily, we have a safeguard denied to our professional counterparts. Gloucester RFC, in common with all Rugby Union clubs, are, when you come right down to it, run by and for their members. We can't be dictated to by a bunch of shareholders or a millionaire chairman. One of the major tools which ensures this is the Club Annual General Meeting. At that event, any Member can say his, or her, piece in public and be listened to. Resolutions and amendments can be raised from the floor of the house, and indeed, there have been examples of Committee recommendations being overturned by the Members at the Gloucester AGM in the last few years.

That's healthy. So is the fact that our AGM is now so well attended that it has proved necessary to move away from the Club facilities to a much larger hall, over the past couple of seasons.

*Cont on page 20*



*Peter Arnold cont.*

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Wednesday, (note the change of day), July 19th, at the Birds Eye Walls Club at Barnwood. The meeting will open at 7.30pm, and the ballot boxes for election of Committee Members at 6.30pm. So, I'm told, will the bar.

Doug Wadley asks me to advise Members to read those portions of the Club Rules which are printed in their Membership cards. Briefly, those are the ones which tell you that nominations for the Committee, and for Officers of the Club, must be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary at least 21 days before the Meeting. Such nominations must be proposed and seconded by two fully paid-up Members.

And, incidentally, the Rules also state that no one can attend the Meeting, or vote, unless their subscription has been paid by January 1st of the current year. So you can't join now, just to put your oar in at the AGM.

That rule also goes some way to preventing special interest groups from 'packing' the meeting - another safeguard against such shark-like activities as we are witnessing on the Rugby League front at the moment.

I'd be surprised if this year's AGM proves anything less than lively. Which is as it should be. Do come along if you can. It's important.

### THANKS

I'm asked to thank everyone who contributed to the collection made on behalf of St. John's Ambulance at the Sale match. It raised over £800, which is a pretty fair old effort. And St. Johns deserve every penny of it, and then some.

Incidentally, St. John's are always looking for new members. If you fancy trying your hand at first aid, drop them a line at Heathville Road.

You never know. You might get into Kingsholm for free.

### GET WELL SOON

One of Harlequins' greatest supporters in this neck of the woods is Laurence Hull who lives Ross on Wye way, and in an earlier incarnation, was notable for organising some memorable Sponsorships of Kingsholm games on behalf of his former employers. They were emphatically not teetotal affairs.

Laurence's allegiance to the Quins goes back a generation, to his father, who was a pillar of the London Club for many years, in the days when Twickenham was virtually their home ground.

As you'd expect, Mr.Hull is here today, but it was touch-and-go for a while. Unfortunately, his charming, and cheerful wife, Annie, has had to endure a spell in hospital. She's home now, and I

gather all is going well, but Laurence has had to spend a week or two of what he calls 'wife sitting'.

All of us who have the pleasure of Annie's acquaintance will want me to wish her a speedy recovery, and say that we hope to see her at Kingsholm next season. And she can even bring her husband if she likes.

She does have a representative here, however. Her sister has arrived from Redruth, where they reckon to know just a bit about rugby, and has accompanied Laurence this afternoon. We hope she has a great time on her first visit to Kingsholm.

But, first and foremost ' get well soon, Annie'.

### TAILPIECE

From one who is here and supports Harlequins, to one who isn't and doesn't.

I've never quite understood Mike Price's pathological antipathy to today's respected visitors. In his capacity as President and Only Member of the West End Tumpers Association, he misses very few games, and never a Quins game, simply because there's something in his genetic make-up which makes him dearly love to see them beaten at Kingsholm.

He rang me during the week to ask him to relay his apologies to his usual happy coterie on the Tump for his non-attendance today. He really doesn't have any choice, because in his capacity as the Mayor's Officer and Sergeant at Mace to the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell, he has to officiate at an extremely up-market reception in Birmingham, playing host to no fewer than three Lord Mayors, and several other luminaries.

Apologies duly registered. See you next season, Mike.

And to sign off, my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the programme this season. The publication wouldn't be the same without you. Keep 'em coming next season.

Summer well, everyone. See you at the AGM.



# How I



# See It

From the playback I've been getting, one of the most popular features of the programme this season has been the introduction of this page. By throwing it open, we've been able to bring you the views of many interesting people, ranging from nationally known journalists, through Club Officials and coaches, to 'ordinary' supporters. We even had a referee.

For this last game of the season, after a little prompting from various quarters, I've succumbed to the temptation of being self-indulgent enough to fill this page myself. I suppose I should make it clear that the views expressed are entirely my own, and don't necessarily reflect the opinions of the Club, or of anyone else, for that matter.

According to Aesop, there was once a fox who had an exceptionally fine tail. He used to go around showing it off, saying "See what a fine brush I have, so smooth, and red and bushy!" And all the other animals agreed that it was, indeed, a very fine tail.

One day, while out hunting, he was unfortunate enough to catch his tail in a trap. Try as he might, he couldn't get free, and so that he could escape before the farmer came along and caught him, he was forced to gnaw it off, and limp home whimpering.

All the other animals were amazed. "Oh! Mr. Fox!" they exclaimed, "whatever has happened to your fine, red, bushy brush?"

"Oh, that old thing!" he replied, not wishing to reveal that he had been so stupid as to get caught, "I bit it off. It was far too much trouble to look after, continually getting in the way. Life is really much easier and more pleasant without it!"

I am reminded of that childhood fable by the thin chorus of voices which have been heard opining that it wouldn't do Gloucester any harm to have a spell in the Second Division. I think that it was a winge, engendered largely by the fear, possibly subconscious, that such a circumstance might, indeed occur. Making the best of it if we had to bite our tails off.

The idea, in my view, is the sheerest

codswallop. To start with, the financial implications would be horrendous. How do you think we could command the level of sponsorship, which we presently enjoy, from Division Two? And if we were to lose that sort of income, then planned improvements to the Ground would be put on hold indefinitely.

Furthermore, how do you think we could hold on to promising young players, persuade them to resist the blandishments of clubs who top up their strength through, yes, I'll say it, poaching, if we were in Division Two and the lad had the ability and ambition for an International career?

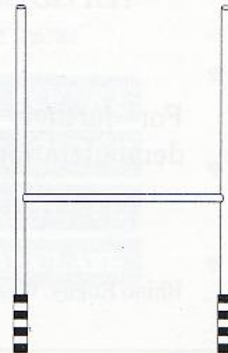
And once down into the Second Division, who's to say we'd ever climb back up? Think of Coventry. Of Moseley.

Our problem this season hasn't rested with the ability, or lack of it, of our players. The Leicester, Bath and (sorry chaps!) Harlequins results prove that. We have the talent, possibly not to win the League, quite yet, but certainly to give everyone else a fright or two. The great imponderable has been our sheer inconsistency. Just how do you explain the miserable displays against Sale and Rugby?

Well, I can't explain it. And I don't think anyone else can, either. All I do know is that it will have to be sorted out, and quickly. Remember, we're back to two-up and two-down next season.

And a spell in the Second Division is no sort of answer at all, so let's stop moaning and get behind the Club. And let's start doing that right now.

PETER ARNOLD





## Ed Martin

Another season completed - well, almost. And what a traumatic eight months or so! In reality, it has not been such a bad season - the club has, not counting today's result, a 72.22 per cent winning record at Kingsholm, scoring 73 tries and yielding 32 to opponents. Not too bad. As for the away record, that is not too good \_ but since when has Gloucester travelled well?

While the club has an abysmal winning record of 37.50 per cent when "on the road", that is only on the win/loss/draw. Interestingly, if you look at the number of tries scored in Gloucester's way games, then things are not too bad. The club recorded 52 \_ and that is 14 more than opponents did.

The bottom line suggests that Gloucester's "kicking game" is not as good as that of opponents, or that Gloucester gives away too many penalties (or is penalised more than opponents). And on that latter point, the May edition of one of the rugby magazines gave a referee who lives not too far away down the A38, a "free lunch" at a swank London eatery in return for some quotes - along with a player and a coach - which makes interesting reading...

There is no need to point out that Gloucester's main problem was that there was a poor display in "the games that mattered". Oh, dear - another season of nail-biting, the "r" word on our lips. At the turn of the year, things looked pretty safe. Having given Wakefield a cup win, Gloucester could then concentrate on the league, right?

Wrong! Leicester, who look as though they will be the champions by late afternoon, might have been beaten, and did that victory taste sweet! But losses against West Hartlepool and Sale made the problem rear its ugly head again. But clinging onto a lead two weeks ago and scraping home to a one-point lead against the Saints ensured Gloucester a place in next season's first division.

Had Northampton of booted that late penalty attempt, and with Orrell literally stuffing Gloucester last week, this game could well have been off-limits to those with a dicky heart. Even so, for Harlequins, today is make or break. For if Northampton win and Gloucester win...

As our Arnie (of the front of this book) says, if you've got it, flaunt it... Well, the few Glawster die-hards who came to the Clifton match back on St. Andrew's Day will not have been shocked at Rupert Murdoch's scheme for rugby that has been

getting considerable publicity in the past month. There were a few raised eyebrows when this page in the Clifton programme dwelt at length on how Mr. M. was trying to win a bitter battle with Mr. Packer over rugby league TV rights "down under" and how the guy that gave us Page Three was, long term, wanting to invent a hybrid game involving league and union codes.

Never say the Gloucester RFC programme cannot bring you items before they have reached other English publications (except the excellent daily, The International Herald Tribune, which carried the original story that I cribbed - the original was in the financial section, not the sports pages!). Of course, if I were anything like a good "hack", that particular page would have borne the tag-line (Murdoch-style): "World Exclusive", but Arnie and I are too honest for those sort of wapping (or Wapping) tricks.

So, at the end of the season, here is a "Cyber-Exclusive" for you to ponder... You guessed it, Murdoch and Glawster RFC in cyberspace - both have, interestingly, featured in "bulletins" on the Internet. A few quotes from the unknown wags (is the Haddock one of them?) who can be found up there on the information super-highway in-between "starved" Yanks pleading for the latest cricket scores from West Indies or Canadians wanting to know how their rugby team is doing in New Zealand. Come 'n' surf...

*Gloucester are going to do a demolition job on Will Carling and his bunch of clowns... - Who are Gloucester? Whenever they come to the Valley's they take a pasting!!!!!! - Anyway, Bath's time will come. when the 2 "Foreigner" rule is brought in, they will only be able to run 1 side! - Harlequins would then go down. Sob, Sob! - What on earth is happening at Gloucester? One man can't make a class act - ...and bloody Bath won again, but then so did Leicester, thank goodness. ..- .you must appreciate how reluctant the dead wood (or should I say Wood ) in the English RFU and Welsh RFU will be to admit professionalism. - Bloody hell, Will Carling playing at Kingsholm? \_ Yes, I'm an Aussie - a resident of beautiful downtown Canberra. As for the Murdoch Press - consider Rupert a non returnable gift. - Where's Canberra, is it anywhere near Summer Bay?*

I'm outahere! Have a good summer...and is Summer Bay near Canberra?