

GLOUCESTER

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



Official Club Sponsors

v WAKEFIELD

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 1995

Kick off - 3.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME
£1

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873

OFFICIALS

President:

S. T. Day

Chairman:

A. Brinn

Vice Chairman:

M. J. Nicholls

Life Vice-President
Canon H. M. Hughes

Vice President:

R. Morris

Hon. Secretary & Treasurer:

A. D. Wadley

Hon. Fixtures Secretary:

M. J. Nicholls

Chief Executive:

M. L. Coley

Hon. Team Manager

M. Teague

Team Secretary:

J. Fidler

Hon. Colts Secretary:

R. W. Collins

U21 Secretary

J. Jarrett

Tel: 01452 419247

Committee:

J. Beaman, R. Clewes, T. Close,
T. Curtis, H. Davie, M. Elway,
J. Fidler, D. Foyle, T. Heal,
J. Holder, J. Jarrett, A. Mitchell,
C. Pope, T. Pritchard, E. Stephens,
A. Townsend.

Player's Representative:

T. Smith

Captain 1st XV:

D. Sims

Captain United XV:

A. Stanley

Club Coach:

V. Wooley

Programme Editor:

(who welcomes contributions)

Peter Arnold

74 Victoria Street, Gloucester

Tel: 01452 537880



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
KINGSHOLM, GLOUCESTER GL1 3AX
TEL: 01452 381087 FAX: 01452 383321

All kit used by
Gloucester Rugby Club
is supplied by



Gloucester Rugby Club use
GILBERT MATCH BALLS



GLOUCESTER *(Cherry/White)*

15. Peter Hart
14. Paul Holford
13. Lee Osborne
12. Martin Roberts
11. Robin Saltmarsh
10. Martin Kimber
9. Laurie Beck
1. Adey Powles
2. John Hawker
3. Andrew Martin
4. Dave Sims †
5. Richard West
6. Rob Fidler
7. Ian Smith
8. Chris Raymond

Replacements:
Pete Glanville
Andy Deacon
Nigel Richardson
Jerrey Perrings
Gareth Fenwick

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB**

sponsored by



Referee: G. Hughes -
Manchester Society

† = Captain

WAKEFIELD *(Black/Gold)*

15. Marcus Kelly
14. Paul White
13. Phil Maynard
12. Andy Metcalfe
11. Richard Thompson
10. Richard Petyt
9. Dave Scully
1. Rob Latham
2. Terry Garant
3. Andy Day
4. Simon Croft
5. Derek Falkingham
6. Nick Green
7. Kern Yates
8. Mark Sowerby

Replacements:
Andy Hodgkinson
Richard Szabo
Chris Rushworth

Peter Arnold ...

IT'S THAT BUZZ AGAIN!



No matter how long one has been coming to Kingsholm, one never quite gets over the very special buzz that pervades the splendid old Ground before the start of the first game of a new season. There it all is in front of you, like a blank sheet of paper, just ready to be filled with - who knows what? By next May, shall we have written purple prose of Shakespearean majesty and pathos? Or will it be the merest doggerel, more suitable for the walls of certain tiled rooms?

Most probably, the 1995/6 record will fall somewhere between those rather overblown extremes. We shall have our triumphs and disasters, our moments of euphoria and gloom. Very rarely shall we see events reduced to the status of a bored 'ho-hum!'

We certainly won't today. Our very welcome visitors from Wakefield will see to that. Indeed, last season's encounter was a good example of one of those moments of disaster I was just wittering on about. As anyone who hasn't been living in the Sahara Desert for a year or so must know, they had the bad taste to dump us out of the Pilkington Cup, whereof there was much wailing and gnashing of teeth, hereabouts.

Mind you, I wasn't as surprised by that as some people were. I well remember writing, during the run-up to the game, that anyone who had seen Wakefield perform during the two National Tens Competitions held at Kingsholm would have appreciated a lively side with more than their fair share of ideas and sheer inventiveness. They are certainly one of a select few sides which have been emerging from the ranks very quickly in the past few seasons, as outfits such as Sale and Saracens have done. I certainly wouldn't bet against them winning a spot in the top echelons of English rugby, whatever structure eventually evolves from the present period of change and uncertainty.

All of which makes Wakefield a very good side to meet in the first match of the season. They are certainly more than a mere warm-up, or simply a side to try things out against. They must be taken very seriously indeed, in the knowledge that a good performance against them bodes well for the season ahead. Wakefield, of course, can consider the game in exactly the same light, because a result against Gloucester at Kingsholm would set them up nicely, and send tremors through the sides that have to face them in League competition from here on in.

But, quite apart from all that, Wakefield isn't a side we have seen enough of, over the years. It's good to welcome them to Kingsholm, and we hope the fixture can be made a regular one. Indeed, they may well be visiting us as of right, before too long.

Whatever happens today, we sincerely hope that Wakefield thoroughly enjoy their early-season visit, and we wish them very well indeed for the forthcoming season.

DAVE PROTHEROUGH MEMORIAL MATCH IS OFF

As the song says, 'Tomorrow is only a day away.' And a most interesting day it promised to be, too. Unfortunately, the planned Dave Protherough Memorial match has had to be called off. I'm not going to comment on the reasons, and indeed, I'm not sure of the details, anyway. However, here's what I had intended to write about the respected 'Proth' on that occasion. I don't see why a little appreciation shouldn't be recorded.

Dave Protherough's main claim to fame, as far as Gloucester supporters are concerned, was his highly successful career as both a hard, uncompromising player, and a legendary coach for Gloucestershire, in the days when the County Championship was England's premier competition. Indeed, there weren't many seasons in Dave's tenure of office, when Gloucestershire didn't feature in the County Final. Everyone who ever played with him - or against him for that matter - remembers him for the proficient, no-nonsense player he was, and his record as a coach, for the County and the RFU bears comparison with anyone in the game.

For such a man to die at the age of 53, while simply walking home in an October fog, seems unnecessary, unjust and perhaps even silly. There's nothing we can do about that, but we can pay tribute to his memory, on this, the first weekend of a new season.

You'll probably be more interested in the opinions of someone who fought many battles, both against and alongside, the redoubtable 'Proth'. Here are the few words our old friend Mike Burton penned for the programme we had intended to produce for tomorrow:

FROM THE OLD SCHOOL

Had Dave Protherough played today he would have set the touch judges' flags waving and had the commissioners out of their seats in the front row of the grandstand, calling "Cite him! Cite him!" For Proth was one of the old school. His rough edges were still visible upon retirement and throughout his abrasive career.

He was never an opponent to take lightly and he was a grand hooker for any prop to have tucked under his arm going into a front row battle. Dave played in the days when scrums were scrums. A great competitor who never ever stepped back. When Cheltenham travelled regularly into Wales for a wet Wednesday night in Ebbw Vale or Pontypool, "Proth" was always first on the bus.

Despite his hard-man demeanour, I found him an engaging conversationalist with an intellect far higher than is normally attributed to front row forwards. His amusing stories about the livestock he raised on his smallholding - the disappearing pig, the flock of sheep that accidentally grazed on the neighbouring golf course for twelve months - were always amusing and followed by a tale of "a kid at our school who was about to beat the world". Such was his enthusiasm for the game, that he remained involved for many years after his playing days producing a great crop of youngsters from Chosen Hill School and indeed throughout the county.

The shock upon hearing the news of Dave's fatal accident is still very much with me. He was a larger than life character who I somehow still expect to see at the various matches and social functions that make up a rugby season.

"Proth" was a players' man and I know it would please him hugely to know that he had the respect of his fellow players, both opponents and team-mates alike.

Mike Burton

Anything I could add to that would be superfluous.

BREATH OF FRESH AIR

I've been beavering around the highways and byways of Gloucester RFC for more years than I care to remember, but I'm bound to say that there is an atmosphere around the Club, quite unlike anything I've encountered before, just at the moment. There seems to be a sense of purpose, of direction, even of freshness, which is a real breath of fresh air for anyone who is as committed as I am.

Whether this aura can be translated into results on the field or not is something which remains to be seen, but the omens are good at the moment.

Much of this atmosphere seems to revolve around our new Chief Executive, Mike Coley, which is no more than you would expect, because he's a new man in a new job, and whether he likes it or not, the buck stops with him. I don't suppose that thought worries him all that much: my dealings with Mike since his arrival has given me the impression of a character who knows what he's doing, and is about to do it, come what may. Anyone who leaves his comfortable office to meet me in the Lounge Bar of the Vauxhall in Barton Street, can't be all bad, and is a chap I feel I can do business with.

Mike Coley's CV has become too well known. over the past few months, for me to have to enumerate here. Suffice it to say that his wide experience of marketing in the sporting world in general, and in rugby in particular, can't be anything but very good indeed in a Club which hasn't always been notable for its sure touch in such matters.

You'll be hearing, seeing, and indeed, reading, a great deal from Mike Coley as the season trundles on. Indeed, he tells me that he intends to watch much of his rugby from the Shed, this season, and that's a circumstance of which we'd all approve. (Treat him gently chaps. He can't help being a Harlequin.)

Our first duty is, of course, to welcome him to our fair City, and express the hope that he, and his family, thoroughly enjoy living here, quite apart from the professional aspects of the situation. We have a great deal to offer as a social base, and there's far more to Gloucester than rugby football, although we may be inclined to forget the fact, now and then. Welcome Coley family ! It's good to have you aboard, and we look forward to getting to know you better.

From a newcomer to someone who is anything but. The appointment of Mike Teague to the new post of Team Manager has been warmly welcomed by everyone, and the imagination involved in that appointment is symptomatic of that new atmosphere I was mentioning just now.

No one knows more about Gloucester RFC than Mike Teague, and no one has more respect, not just around these parts, but just about everywhere the game is played. His vast experience, and his stature as one of the great players, and as a very nice bloke, will stand him in good stead in his new, and challenging, job. I hope that Mike knows he has everyone's full support, and that if he ever needs anything from any of us, he has only to ask.

All of which is all very well, but the chap who really is up the sharp end, is the Club Captain. Dave Sims takes the job on this season, and again, the news of his election was greeted with universal approval, at least, in the circles in which I move.

It's a tough job, and gets tougher. Dave, however, has the personality and the character to do it superbly. We all hope he does just that, and he can be sure that we'll all be rooting for him.

THANKS TO 'DEAKS'

Having eulogised about our new Captain, it would be churlish not to add a word of appreciation about his predecessor. Andy Deacon never gave less than one hundred per cent to the job, and we must thank him for that. Some people, in every sport, thrive on Captaincy (look at Jack Russell), others don't. 'Deaks' probably falls between those two stools.

It's only a personal impression, but I rather got the idea that Andy Deacon's play suffered as a result of his leadership. Which is not to be wondered at, in these days when the burdens, on and off the field, get heavier and heavier. From that point of view, it could well be that Andy will find, as the season progresses, that he is enjoying his rugby more than he did last time round. We certainly hope that that is the case, and as a result, we see the formidable 'Deaks'. back to his rampaging best, and challenging for representative honours once more.

Which is no more than he deserves.

BACK ON THE HOT LINE

You'll be pleased to know that, once again, we're providing a telephone 'hot line' for your information and delectation. This season it's organised by Adcall plc, and I'm very pleased that our old, and highly supportive, friends from BBC Radio Gloucestershire will be supplying First XV match reports. Once more, yours truly will be doing the other bits, including team news, ticket and transport information, and suchlike tit-bits.

So, if you've missed a match, or you want to know what's happening generally around the Club, then the number to ring is:

0839 333 040

I should tell you that calls cost 39p. per minute, cheap rate, and 49p. per minute at other times. And incidentally, if you are one of the people who has switched over to the United Artists Cable Telephone Service since this congregation was last gathered together, then the line still works perfectly well. I know. I've tried it.

WE GET LETTERS

Two, as a matter of fact. The first one is from my very regular correspondent, Alan Kear of Hucclecote. He's always worth bringing to your attention, and indeed, this time round he's performed a service I intended to undertake myself, namely, a few paragraphs of appreciation on Mike Teague. Any more from me would be superfluous.

GLOUCESTER'S 'IRON MIKE': TO MIKE TEAGUE OUR THANKS

Saturday April 29th, Gloucester v Harlequins, the last home match, the last courage club championship fixture of the 1994/95 season, and Mike Teague's final game for Gloucester.

Mike is a Gloucester man through and through, and a typical product of Kingsholm. A real grafter who never gives up, and does the business through sheer hard work and determination.

"Teaguey" as he's affectionately known at Kingsholm, is something of a folk hero among the club's supporters. He also reached cult status among a wider public during the 1991 World Cup.

They don't come much braver than Teague, he's down on the floor after the ball making tackles, or smashing a path up the blind side to take out opponents and set up his team mates.

Always in the thick of battle, Teague was never known to take a step backwards, flinch or shirk his responsibility. A player's player to the core, he never sought any glory for himself, only victory for his team.

A lasting image of Teague, is to see the ball at his feet in the back of the scrum, as the pack roll relentlessly towards the try line, on and on they go until the moment arrives, for Teague to pick up and drive over.

So whether playing for Gloucester, England and The British Lions, Mike brought pride and pleasure to all of his supporters at Kingsholm.

Alan Kear

Peter Arnold (cont)

BATH AND WEST

Not the agricultural show, but our impending League visits to Bath and West Hartlepool. To wit - coaches therefore.

Obviously, coaches will be arranged for the Bath game on Saturday, September 16th. They will cost you £4.00 for a ticket, and you can acquire same by having a word with Geraldine in the office. Easy enough.

West Hartlepool, on September 23rd, being much closer to the Arctic Circle, presents a different set of problems. The intention is to run a coach at £14.00 a throw, including a stop for (Gawdelpus !) breakfast, but if there isn't enough interest, it won't run. So, if you do fancy the trip, and having sampled 'West's' hospitality, I'd recommend it, contact Geraldine quickly and tell her so.

I don't have timings for these two chariots yet, but the topic will be continued in our next.

ABSENT FRIENDS

Mention of Dave Protherough's tragic death made me realise that there are probably one or two spots on the ground, not occupied by the old familiar face. Our more senior supporters can sometimes leave us, unremarked, over the close season, and that's a pity.

One case in point concerns my neighbour, both at Kingsholm at home, Bob Taylor. Bob was never a great player, but a Gloucester supporter through and through. Until illness took him, he never missed a game, home or away, and he, together with his son, Colin, were ever-presents on the Andy Mitchell coaches, wherever they happened to be going. Never made much noise, didn't Bob. Colin did, though. And does.

Over the years, there have been hundreds, even thousands, like Bob, and indeed, they're the stuff on which the unique Kingsholm atmosphere is founded. Our sincere sympathies go to Bob's wife Elsie, and Colin his son, who, I have no doubt at all, will be in his usual place today. And I can include the families of any other 'Elver Eaters' who have left us over the summer in those condolences.

HOW MIKE COLEY SEES IT

The first programme of the season wouldn't be complete without a few words on things in general from our new Chief Executive. He was more than happy to provide them, even though I caught him at a particularly bad time. Not only was he about to take his family off on a few days well-deserved hols, but he was also doing a lot of mileage, scorching off to various meetings concerning the current Professionalism situation. So, I thank him for his efforts, and for his forbearance.

CHRISTOPHER LEADS THE WAY

Our first Match Mascot of the 1995/6 season is Christopher James Bourne. He has attained the ripe old age of six, and attends Rowanfield Infants School in Cheltenham, where he lives with his parents and his younger sister, Sarah.

Christopher is keenly interested in rugby, a preoccupation he received through his *nephew*, it says here. That defeats me somewhat, but no doubt someone will enlighten me, somewhere along the line.

I also learn that Christopher is well into Power Rangers, at the moment, but like any healthy six-year-old lad, he really enjoys all outdoor activities.

He can't get much more outdoor than in the job he's doing for us today, for which we thank him. He also has the distinction of being the first Mascot to run out alongside Dave Sims as Captain - something he might tell his own children about in the fullness of time.

Hope you thoroughly enjoy the experience, Christopher James Bourne.

Peter Arnold (cont)

TAILPIECE

You may have read in the local press, or heard on the radio, that I have been having dealings, lately, with the Austin Rugby Club, Texas. They are, apparently, one of only two clubs in the USA who own their own ground, and their own clubhouse, which they try to maintain as close to the atmosphere as an English club as possible.

My contact in Austin is one Alan D. Sharpley, Club Secretary, and a thoroughly good bloke with it. He's been on tour once or twice, in this part of the world, notably to Gordon League, and he asks me to relay his regards, and those of the whole Austin club to all his old friends in and around Gloucester, with special reference to Cormac O'Donahue and Tim Smith.

This, I do, gladly. And incidentally, if you see anyone wandering around Kingsholm with a TEXAS RUGBY UNION sweatshirt on, it'll probably be me.



Peter Arnold (cont)

The second billet doux comes from the furthest reaches of darkest Hemel Hempstead, but concerns an avid supporter from Malvern, and it just goes to prove (if further proof were needed), that the lads from the Shed know their rugby. Anyway, the final sentence or so positively forces me to print the letter. Here goes.

I am writing to you on behalf and unbeknown to my friend, Mr. Richard Oakley of Sheinstone Close, Malvern, Worcestershire. Both myself and Richard have been life long fans of Glos. and travel to Kingsholm and around the country, proudly supporting the best side in the Land, ever since Woody, Fidler, Bulter, Sargeant and all the other great names began playing. (And Teaguey was just a lad!)

It is because of this and I know your workload is great before, after and during the Season, but it would be a great honour to my mate if he was recognised in some small mention, perhaps in a 'Tailpiece' of a programme maybe for the enclosed item, from the Daily Telegraph dated June 4th, 1994.

Under the name of 'Gloucester Shed Boys' which we both are, Richard came equal 30th in the Rugby World Cup Fantasy competition out of the hundreds that entered. It wasn't quite enough to win a prize and a trip to South Africa, to see England and Richard West play, but was still a great effort, I think, and continues the great name of Gloucester Rugby and their supporters.

If this wish could be granted, you would get us both out of the White Hart a bit earlier to buy at least 300 programmes each for the sake of posterity!

Yours sincerely, Patrick Hutchings

FINAL WEEK: TOP COACHES

P	TEAM NAME	MANAGER	PTS
1	Travelling Chameleons	M R Arnell	244
1	Barbarian Fantasy	R M McCrae	244
3	Border Reivers	R Hopkinson	236
4	Old Leather Balls	D Stevenson	234
4	Kenya Try Your Best	D J Sullivan	234
6	In Gavin We Trust	A W S Smith	227
6	Don't Like It Up Em	M P Dorrell	227
8	Jonathons Scrum	H Jacobs	226
9	Friends of Gus	M E Rogers	225
9	Tilehurst Super XV	S Hinds	225
9	Dougies Dynamos	D A Law	225
12	The Bayonets	G J M Simpson	224
12	Zinzan And The Zealots	N A Parker	224
12	Not The Marryingkind	N. G. Alway	224
12	Whirlow Warriors	R. T. Eustace	224
16	Hook Select XV	S A Hook	223
16	Remember Kyle	M Campling	223
16	Big Gavs Flourish	J R C Grant	223
16	Brothers of Bruise	W E Jamieeson	223
16	Up And Under	J Wyass	223
21	Doyles Dodgers	G P Doyle	222
21	Cocky Spaniels	R Walters	222
23	Old Parrishonians	R G Parish	221
23	Rambomania Cs	D N Ramus	221
23	Wessex Walk On Water	G T Fordham	221
23	Maddogs Swap Shop	N J Maddison	221
23	Hermistons Tigers	A Herminston	221
23	Old Hollshawians	P Hollaman	221
23	Crowborough RFC	M E Jenner	221
30	Tocapital Johannes	J M Jordan	220
30	Gloucester Shed Boys	R V Oakley	220

How Mike Coley Sees It

A Professional Game Run by Professionals?

If a week in politics is a long time, what I wonder is this last week in Rugby Union to be classed as? On Sunday in Paris, the International Board threw open the doors to total professionalism; on Tuesday the England players agreed a contract in principle with the RFU to be paid for playing for their Country; on Wednesday we had the launch of the Courage Leagues at Twickenham for the 1995/96 season with the RFU telling us that Welshman, Scotsman and Irish are now all foreigners as far as playing in the leagues, and are to be counted along the same lines as New Zealanders, Australians, and other overseas players. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the 1st Division clubs who want now to meet with the RFU to find out how this is all going to be paid for. What Thursday and Friday is going to bring you will know by the time you are reading this piece which is being written on Wednesday evening.

The demise of the amateur game should have come as no surprise to the powers that be. Anyone who was in South Africa, or who has been reading the papers, would have been aware of the commercial activities of the southern hemisphere unions. Desperate to keep the game under their wing and control, they would stop at nothing to make sure that their players were kept in the game that they ran. Player payment has been rife for a number of years down South. At least the advent of professionalism brings the whole thing out in the open - or does it? I think it opens a whole new can of worms.

What disappointed, at Wednesdays Press Conference, was the lack of urgency given by the RFU in the way that the Senior Clubs are going to be able to sustain a professional game. It's all very well the top 21 players in the England squad earning £40,000 a year out of the RFU, what about their Club team mates who helped them get to where he is now? We are told by Mr Carling that the players want a Provincial set up, as they have down south. What about grounds? What about those Clubs that are spending millions improving their ground to accommodate the increase in interest in Rugby following Three World Cups? Who is going to pay for it all? Not Mr. Murdock or Mr. Packer if they don't get the jewel in the crown - coverage of the five nations championship.

Finally who is going to bring on, and coach the new generation of Rugby Players? With the greatest of respect (I always say that when I am going to be rude) since when have players been remotely interested in becoming an ailicado? Certainly not now when their main occupation will to see how much money they can make before retirement. The advent of Player Power is not something to be recommended. Sure, I believe that most rugby followers are comfortable about players getting some reward for their efforts, but have the Players understood their responsibilities? Being under contract to Country or Club means that no longer will they be able to go to a Wedding in the Rugby season; no longer will they be able to skip training because the girlfriend wants to go to the pictures, and if the Coach wants an extra training session because they played badly last week, they have to turn up. No excuse.

'This brave new Rugby World', as Bill Bishop the RFU President opened his speech with on Wednesday, has not yet taken on the enormity of what is about to hit them. The short term 'sorting out' of the England Players does not come anywhere near to solving the fundamental question of who is going to pay for it all? There is not one Senior Club in England who has the money to pay an average Squad of 40 players a living wage and I count Bath, Leicester and ourselves in that category. Also it has to be asked, how much say are the senior clubs going to get in this brave new Rugby World? This new world may be a little different to that viewed by the RFU if the senior club's view is listened too. We are not happy that we haven't even been consulted over what is in this new England Players contract. Are the international players members of a club? or are they now individuals playing for England?

If the England team Management dictate that they only play when allowed to do so, does that mean that any club who wants an England player to play in a league game against the England Management's wishes, could be held to be encouraging a breach of contract? Just one example of the lack of information.

I headed this piece 'A Professional game Run By Professionals'. The question mark button on my computer is now worn out. I am told that it will take a week to fix. Who knows what will happen by then?