

GLOUCESTER

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



Official Club Sponsors



v VAAL TRIANGLE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND, 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)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

sponsored by



15. Tim Smith
14. Paul Holford
13. Don Caskie
12. Martin Roberts
11. Mike Peters

10. Peter Hart
9. Scott Benton

1. Adey Powles
2. John Hawker
3. Andy Deacon
4. Dave Sims †
5. Mark Cornwell
6. Rob York
7. Herbert Conradie
8. Pete Miles

Replacements:
Pete Jones
Lee Osborne
Marcus Hannaford

NEW SCOREBOARDS

Unfortunately Installation at present on the scoreboards has not been completed. We have two more which are currently being manufactured. When installed everyone in the ground will have a clear view. We will be using the system at the moment for experimental purposes only.

Referee: David May
Cornwall Society

Touch Judges:
Sam Collins & Andy White
Gloucester Society
† = Captain

VAAL TRIANGLE (Turquoise/Orange)

Selected from:

Wayne Barr
Marthinus Cornelis
Francois Coetzee
Ryno De Kock
Charl Cornelius Du Toit
Jan Du Toit
Francois Enslin
Ricardo Erasmus
Fredrich Grobler
Shorty Gungquva
Emmett Holmes
Daniel Marais
Aaron Ndzilent
Andre Delofsen
Mark Osborne
Jan Pieterse
Victor Potgieter
Sipho Sigasa
Andries Snyman
Francois Uys
Philippus Van Den Berg
Leendert Van Riet
Francois Van Tonder
Jaco Visser
Gunder Williamson
Joseph Zondi

Peter Arnold ...

THE SPRINGBOK COLLECTION



You can't have failed to notice the decided South African dimension which has been making itself felt at Kingsholm over the past year or two. There was the game against Transvaal, which we won, and the one against Northern Transvaal which we didn't. Hooker, Hilton Brown, has been distinguishing himself lately, and flanker, Herbert Conradie is steadily making his mark, first under the stern tutelage of Dave Spencer, at United level, and just last week, on his debut for the First XV at Clifton. You'll also recall the highly successful tour which the club made at the beginning of last season, and which culminated in a win over the famous Stellenbosch University side.

These are all very welcome developments, because if you know that the players concerned, whether as teammates or opponents, are from that part of the world, they certainly aren't any mugs when it comes to dealing with the oval ball.

That sort of experience is bound to rub off on home-grown players if they're exposed to it often enough. So it's very good indeed to welcome yet another South African side here today. I gather that Vaal Triangle are having a highly enjoyable tour, and they certainly aren't a team to be taken lightly. If you glance at the Profiles, printed elsewhere in this Programme, you'll find they have players who have turned out for such outfits as Orange Free State, Western Transvaal, South African Barbarians and Emerging Springboks, not to mention the odd Springbok Triallist.

As a matter of local interest, did you notice that Vaal Triangle drew with Cheltenham (8-8), the other week? That was just after an - admittedly United-strength - Gloucester side had struggled a bit to beat our neighbours from up the road. Having faced a pack which probably included such doughty old campaigners as Malcolm Preedy, Bob Phillips, John Brain and Sam Masters, today's very welcome visitors no doubt feel they already know a bit about Gloucester forward play. We shall just have to see about that.

At the time of writing, I haven't seen the Gloucester selection for today, but we all know about Richard Hill's avowed policy of giving everyone a run-out before the Pilkington Cup game on December 23rd, so there could be a few surprises. That factor, combined with completely unknown opposition, as far as the likes of you and I are concerned, augurs well for an enthralling afternoon.

But, quite apart from all that, it's great to welcome such fine ambassadors as Vaal Triangle to Kingsholm. South African rugby is, without doubt, the most talked-about in the world, at the moment; the 'big' sides, such as the touring Transvaal team, get all the publicity, so it's nice to see an outfit from a different stratum of the rugby hierarchy. It's therefore a very real pleasure to welcome Vaal Triangle to Kingsholm, and indeed, to our fair City in general. We're quite confident that they will return home regarding the Gloucester game as one of the highlights of their tour.

Have a great visit, Vaal Triangle!

SORTING THINGS OUT

In terms of forthcoming attractions, life is rapidly becoming a little complicated, so it's probably a good idea to let you know just what is happening here at Kingsholm over the next month or so. Starting with next Saturday, when Gloucester play away to Moseley.

South West v. Western Samoa - Saturday, December 9th.

This one is being covered by satellite television. That means fiddling about with the kick-off time. In fact, the whole thing has become an evening affair, commencing at 7.00pm. So don't turn up in the afternoon, or you'll have a long time to wait, probably to the benefit of the bar takings and the detriment of both your pocket and your liver.

Speaking of which, people who normally take their apres-match libation in the Complex should note that, in effect, the South West Divisional authorities have hired the ground, and all the facilities from us for the day, so unless you've been invited along, you won't be able to get in.

That also means that, although the ground won't be played upon in the afternoon, there is no question of either United or the Under 21 side playing their home fixtures against Moseley at Kingsholm. Not only would no one want to risk damage to the pitch in this very wet part of the season, but there wouldn't be anywhere for them to change and get a meal afterwards. So the old ground will be lying fallow until 7.00pm.

Tickets for that game are available from the office. Stand seats cost £12.00, with no concessions, and ground tickets are £8.00 and £4.00 for OAP's and Juniors.

Gloucester v. Coventry, FRIDAY December 15th

The following weekend, the First XV are away to Coventry, while United and Under 21's both face the same (or similar) opposition at home. But the large, growing and extremely loyal band of United supporters will want to know that the games are scheduled for 7.00pm, on the FRIDAY evening, December 15th, to avoid a clash with the England v. Western Samoa match on the Saturday. Again, don't turn up half a day late.

Gloucester v. Walsall, Saturday, December 23rd.

It's a bit hard on the players, bearing in mind that they also have to cope with Lydney and Bath over the Festive Season, but, personally, I can't think of a better way of kicking off Christmas than by coming along here to watch a Pilkington Cup game.

Tickets for the match v. Walsall, on Saturday, December 23rd, should be available, right now, from the office, if all has gone according to plan. The intention is to give Members a week to acquire their magic passports, before throwing things open to general sale, but the actual timing of that is uncertain at the time of writing, so listen out for announcements, or watch the Press. Either way, better not waste any time getting yours, because they're sure to go like the proverbial pyrotechnic doughnuts.

Prices are as follows. Stand; £8.50, usual concessions, £5.00. Ground; £6.00, and £3.00 for Juniors and OAP's.

Do remember, also, that this means YOU. All Pilkington Cup Matches are all-pay under the rules of the Competition, because it's about the only way that visiting teams can get their fair cut of the profits. And incidentally - this includes the car park.

At the moment, I'm told that kick-off will be at the usual Saturday time of 3.00pm, but I'm inclined not to believe that as absolute Gospel, because as you well know, Pilkington Cup games often commence at around 2.15, especially around this dark time of the year. However, if there's any change to the intended 3.00pm, we'll let you know.

Gloucester v. Lydney, Boxing Day

Back to sanity, at last. As far as anyone knows, the traditional 'Glos. v. Lyd.' game kicks off at 3.00pm, usual prices, Season Tickets valid. And I'm quite certain that, as always, a good time will be had by all. Especially at the height of such a spectacularly successful season as Lydney are having, and good luck to them. 'Sarge's Army' will, no doubt be out in force on Boxing Day, as, I'm sure, will our usual aficionados.

Gloucester v. Bath, Courage League, Saturday, December 30th.

This is obviously one of the most eagerly anticipated games of the season, and will attract a ginormous crowd. With that in mind, tickets are available at the office now. But, please note, this is an 'ordinary', if that's the right word, League match, so you don't positively have to have a ticket in advance, and Season Ticket holders can use theirs as usual. The reason for the advance ticket sales is to try and relieve pressure on the turnstiles, and ensure that all the scrums take place on the pitch.

There is, however, one complication. Sky will be covering the game, as part of their usual League arrangement, so kick-off will be early, at 2.15pm, to be precise. So don't turn up late, or you won't be able to get in.

That's that. It just remains for me to remind you to adhere to the Fire Officer's edict, and avoid watching any of these games from gangways or stairs. You know, as they say, it make sense.

WELL DONE PHIL AND RICHARD !

I must take the opportunity of congratulating Phil Greening and Richard West on forcing themselves into the England 'A' side to play Western Samoa at Gateshead. I write 'forcing' advisedly, because the selection must have come as something as a surprise to both of them.

In 'Westy's' case, he couldn't have been at all confident of selection, after having had quite a lay-off with his damaged ankle. He's obviously taken the limited opportunities he's had to shine in the Divisional matches, and fair play to him for that.

Phil Greening is on record as saying he didn't really expect to achieve 'A' status this season, but those of us who have been watching him at all carefully for the last season or so, won't be as surprised as he obviously is at catching Jack Rowell's eye when he had the chance. I'm sure both Gloucester representatives will do us proud.

While on the subject, I think I'd like to congratulate Bruce Fenley, Pete Glanville and Rob Fidler for their respective parts in the Divisional game last week. Both Bruce and Peter made the odd mistake, but both looked as though they thoroughly deserved their selection, even if Bruce's came late as a result of injury. When Rob came on as a replacement, he acquitted himself nobly.

And no, I haven't forgotten Paul Holford. He didn't get the chances to catch the eye which the other trio did, in the absolutely awful conditions. Never mind - his time will undoubtedly come.

GRAHAM PARKER

It's with sadness that I have to record the death, in Devon, of one of the giants of Gloucester and Gloucestershire sport. Graham Parker played rugby for Cambridge University, Gloucester, Blackheath and England, and cricket for Cambridge and Gloucestershire. He also turned out at soccer for Gloucester City, playing in the same boots - the old, heavy, steel toe-capped football boots - which he wore at Kingsholm. Not surprisingly, he gained a reputation for kicking the old leather ball prodigious distances.

That earned him a mild rebuke when he started playing for England. Some lofty Mandarin of the game came to him after his first International, against Ireland, and intimated that, if he was going to represent his country, then he'd better get himself a decent pair of boots. "So I had to," he told me. "But I could never put 'em over like I did with the old ones !"

Graham was an Old Cryptian who taught, and coached rugby and cricket, at Bludell's School. After retiring from that job, he became Manager of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, and was instrumental in attracting such stars as Mike Proctor, Zaheer Abbas and Sadiq Mohammed to the County. He was a very nice man, but could be stern, and even tetchy. I think some of the younger County cricketers were in awe, and perhaps a little frightened of him.

Yet he was fundamentally a kind man, and could have a quirky sense of humour. When Alistair Hignell was appointed Captain of Cambridge University at either cricket or rugby (I forget which), the Press made a great thing about his being the first sportsman to have skippered the University at both sports since Graham Parker. "Bloody nonsense !" quoth Graham. "I wasn't the University Captain at rugby. "We'd have won the Varsity Match that year if I had been !"

The point, apparently, was that the Cambridge skipper elected to take a vital kick, which Graham thought should have been entrusted to him, and duly missed it.

He may have been a defector to Blackheath, but Graham Parker always had a very strong affection for Kingsholm, and always questioned me closely about the doings of the club whenever I met him. The reason for his departure to the Metropolis was, largely, because, at Gloucester, he was the perpetual no.2 full-back to the great Harold Boughton, and one of his best stories, I think, arose from that circumstance.

He once told me that, in the days before loudspeaker systems at grounds, the crowd often didn't know the composition of the side before it ran out on to the field. Apparently, it became a standing joke that, when it became clear that Boughton wasn't playing, for some reason or other, a cry would go up from all parts of the ground: a universal chorus of "Where's

Harold?"

Graham Parker swore that, as he ran out at Lansdowne Road, for his first International, someone not far from the player's tunnel, shouted "Where's Harold?" Not the most confidence-building way to start your International career.

Anyone who knew Graham, and there will be quite a few here today, will remember Graham Parker with affection and respect. We don't see his like today, and in these frenetic times, aren't likely to do so again. The Renaissance combination of sportsman, scholar, and when he was needed, soldier, has probably gone for ever. More's the pity.

Our sincere sympathies go out to his family.

RICHARD'S DONE HIS BIT

There is an apocryphal story that, on the occasion of one of Gloucester's famous away matches against Gosforth, one carload of supporters turned the wrong way on leaving Kingsholm, and ended up in Gosport, Hampshire. They then, so the story goes, rang back to Kingsholm for instructions on finding the rugby ground.

For the benefit of such supporters whose geography is of the same calibre, I should point out that the Dominican Republic is the other half of the island of Hispaniola, the bit which isn't Haiti.

I mention the fact because ardent member and Gloucester supporter, Dick Thomas, tells me that a group of Venture Scouts, based on Beaufort Community School, are to visit that impoverished country, next July, to help build a much-needed extension on a local school. Quite apart from the benefits to the locals, there are obviously potentially enormous educational advantages to the Gloucester lads.

Obviously, this is an expensive undertaking, and needs a pretty determined fund-raising effort. Enter our own Richard West, who has got his capacious hands on a rugby ball, bearing the signatures of the entire English squad for the recent South African game. The intention is to raffle said ball, and make the draw at the Bath game on December 30th.

You may, therefore, be buttonholed, outside the ground, or in one of the local pubs, any time between now and the end of the year, with earnest entreaties to purchase a ticket or three.

When you are, I hope you'll dig deep.

OUCH!

Did you notice that Bath were beaten by Loughborough Colleges last weekend? All right, we all know the reasons, and are perfectly aware that players resting, and coaches trying new combinations at this rather peculiar stage of the season, are going to throw up some odd results. Nevertheless, that won't cut much ice in a couple of years time. The Students are always going to be able to say, with justification, 'We beat the mighty Bath!'

The result is now a matter of record, and 'in the book' as they say.

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

If you're one of the people who regards Summer as an irritating interlude between rugby seasons, you'll be interested in a little advance information that a little bird (named Peter Bicknell) told me.

Next June, we are to be regaled by a major Beer Festival, organised by Rotary, with the active help, connivance, and I've no doubt at all, keen enjoyment, of the Spartans Club. Can you think of a more appropriate place to run a Beer Festival?

I'll remind you again, at the end of the season.

TIME'S RUNNING OUT

Have you ransacked the Club Shop yet? This is the last home First XV game until December 23rd, so the chances to fill your Christmas shopping list with goodies from the Worcester Street End Hypermarket are rapidly becoming limited. And there's no check-out to battle through, either.

Highly recommended.

UNTO THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION

If there were ever any doubt that Gloucester RFC is a family affair, it will be well and truly dispelled today. In fact, the chances are that you will have seen either end of a four-generation dynasty before the game gets under way.

Today's Match Mascot is Mark Fanning, who lives in Gloucester with his Mum and Dad, and his sister, Annie. Somewhere around will be his Great Grandfather, none other than that pillar of Kingsholm, George Holder.

On top of that, everyone knows his Uncle Alan Holder, and his Dad, Billy, turned out for Gordon league. Now, you can't have a better pedigree than that, can you? Mark attends St. Peter's Junior School and is obviously a keen rugby man. Moreover, in his spare moments, he is a fan of Manchester United.

Well, we were all young once.

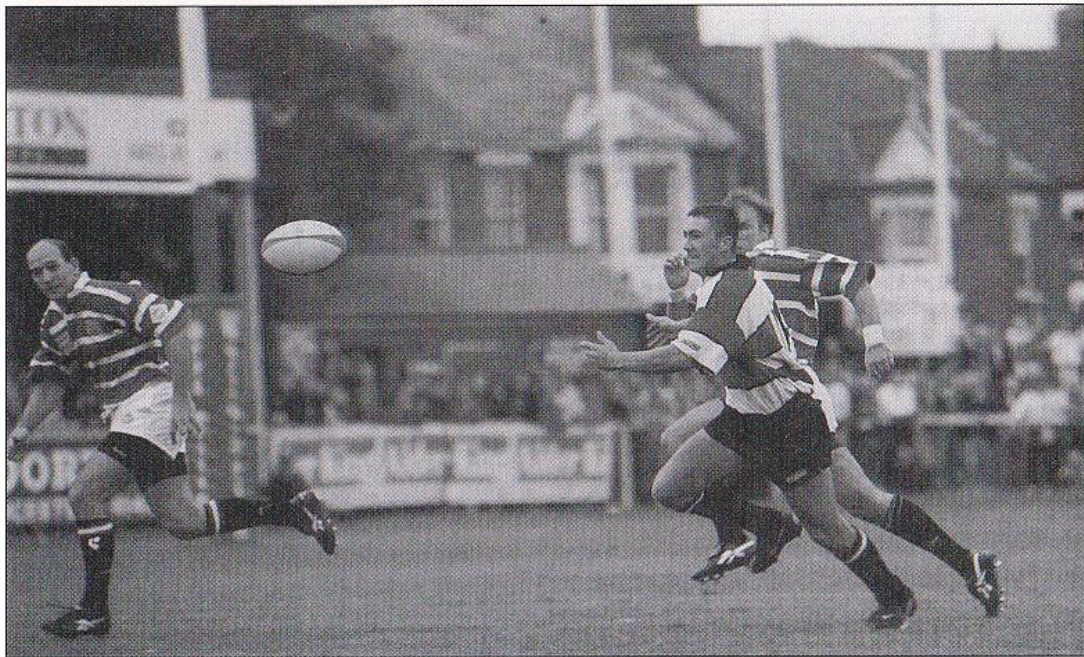
TAILPIECE

I suppose that any rugby man is likely to suffer a broken collar bone, at some time in his career. But to do it by falling off a motor bike in Bermuda - that's style!



FANS . . . support like this for Cup Match on 23rd December — please.

(Photo: Tony Hickey)



Action from Leicester Match

(Photo: Tony Hickey)