

GLOUCESTER

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



Official Club Sponsors

v WALSALL
SATURDAY DECEMBER 23RD, 1995
Kick off - 3.00 p.m.



OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME
£1



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB**

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.

Sponsored by:
Terry Warner Sports Ltd.

15. Steve Lazenby

14. Duncan Marshall
13. David Rose
12. Jim Flynne *Jim*
11. Malcolm Walker

10. Richard Mills
9. Richard Moon

1. Gary Taylor †
2. Daren Haley
3. Mark Johnson
4. ~~Mark Ellis~~ Ro R
5. David Godfrey
6. Dave Burns
7. Geraint Tillott
8. Richard Coleman

18 Mike Friar
17 Matt Lane
16 Steve Lea
18 Andy King

Replacements:
1 Simon Devereux
1 ♀ Hilton Brown
Laurie Beck

Referee: D. A. C. Chapman
RFU/Yorks Society

Touch Judges:

Touch Judges:

Touch Judges:

Touch Judges:

Touch Judges:

Touch Judges:

Touch Judges:
D. T. May & L. Prideaux

D. T. May & L. Prideaux
RPU

RFU

† = Captain

Peter Arnold ...

Can they match their counterparts?



Perhaps I have become sensitised to the name "Walsall" over the past few weeks, but it does seem that, whenever I have watched TV sports bulletins lately, someone has been gleefully informing me that Walsall soccer club has scored another hatfull of goals in their latest match. Which could be ominous. In my experience, when a sports club representing such intrinsically proud and community-conscious places as Walsall – and Gloucester, for that matter – gets on to a roll, their success can often be reflected in the performances of other organisations in the area. If that's true in this case, then we could be in for a nail-biting time this afternoon.

Which makes today's visitors even more welcome. Not only is this the first Pilkington Cup game we've had at Kingsholm for what feels like a long time, but it's the first occasion that I can remember when Walsall have visited the home of the Elver Eaters. If I'm wrong, no doubt Ed Martin will put the record straight in short order.

For complicated reasons connected with the onset of the Festive Season, and printing schedules consequent on that, I'm writing this piece quite a long time before the match, so my information may be out of date by now, but the last time I looked, Walsall were lying a handy fourth in their League, having gained promotion as Champions last season. In other words, they're Division Four's version of Sale in the First Division, and we have reason to know how formidable they are.

Apart from the fact that our old mate, Steve Lazenby, plays for Walsall, and has, no doubt, been pouring words of wisdom into the club's coaches, we don't have much to go on, so realistic analysis of the prospects for today are a little difficult. All right, so there's a Division or two's difference between the levels at which our two sides play, but as you know very well, such considerations tend to go out of the window where the Cup is concerned. Walsall will badly want to win, and will probably be reflecting what the Competition usually throws up a surprise result or two, that we were on the receiving end of such a happenstance last season, and why shouldn't it be them this year.

On the other hand, a good Cup run for Gloucester would do much to put a gloss on a season which hasn't exactly gone the way we would wish, so far. Obviously, I haven't seen the selected side at the time of writing, but it will almost certainly look very different from the one which started the season. This is the first realistic opportunity which Richard Hill and his coaches have had to unveil a preferred team to their home supporters, and much depends on their plans come together, as they used to say in 'The A-Team'. There will be no shortage of younger Gloucester players out to secure a permanent place in the side today, that's for sure.

So the will to win won't be lacking on either side today, even against the background of a sudden-death Competition, which always stimulates a great deal of passion, anyway.

All of which makes for an intriguing afternoon, and then some. It's good to welcome new friends to Kingsholm, and we hope that Walsall thoroughly enjoy their visit, whatever the outcome on the field.



THE SOCIETY
THAT TRIES
HARDER

CHELSEA BUILDING SOCIETY EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME
TO THEIR GUESTS HERE TODAY AND WISH ALL THE BEST TO
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB FOR THE 1995/6 SEASON



Principal Office · Thirlestaine Hall · Cheltenham · Glos GL53 7AL · Tel 01242 521391
Local Branch · 137 High Street · Cheltenham · Glos GL50 1DQ · Tel 01242 527893

NOTE FROM THE LAW

I have received a little missive from the Gloucestershire Constabulary. I reproduce it virtually exactly as I got it, for fear of a large gentleman in a blue suit saying 'Cummerlonger me!' and insisting I 'ave me name and address took.

OFFICERS from Gloucestershire Constabulary are converting information received about people committing crime, into arrests and convictions as part of Operation Gemini – a countrywide initiative to stamp out burglary and car theft.

The hard-hitting operation, which was launched three years ago, targets career criminals, who use intimidation, bullying and crime to terrorise local residents, as they break into homes and cars.

But the tide is turning. Gloucestershire police are scoring regular victories against persistent offenders, and ensuring the fear of crime remains with the criminal, and not with law-abiding members of the community.

At today's game an advertising hoarding, sponsored by Chelsea Building Society, is set to be unveiled at the ground, in a bid to raise awareness of Operation Gemini and to encourage more people to come forward to help the police.

"It is the police and the public working together that has meant we can stamp out crime in the county", said Gloucestershire Constabulary's Head of Crime Prevention Mike Humphries.

"If Operation Gemini is to continue to be successful, we need information from the public about who is committing crime in their area, so that we can act quickly to deal with the problem."

One can't help but endorse everything Mike Humphries says. As you probably know, we've had our share of break-ins and vandalism, over the years, as have many rugby clubs around the area, and it only makes sense to support the Police in their efforts to clobber the morons who indulge in such activities. It isn't clever to steal or destroy things that don't belong to you, and I would certainly provide information to the Police that I thought might be useful to them. Indeed I have already been known to do so, and any thoughts of 'shopping' or 'grassing' cuts no ice with me whatsoever. The criminal idiots who perpetrate such enormities deserve all they get, in my book.

And, not wishing to cast any gloom on the approaching Christmas season, I would point out that certain unpleasant recent events involving our fair City, might have been nipped in the bud far earlier if the police had been given information years ago.

One more thing. Is your house secure while you're here enjoying the rugby? Are you sure your belongings will be safe while you're out celebrating or visiting over the next ten days or so?

I congratulate the Operation Gemini Team on their success so far, and applaud their initiative, and that of Chelsea Building Society for using the facilities offered at Kingsholm in this way.

NEW OLYMPUS THEATRE

GLOUCESTER'S OTHER GREAT ENTERTAINERS

— *For the Christmas Festivities* —

27th December - 2nd January **ROBINSON CRUSOE** Traditional Pantomime at its best

For tickets Tel: Gloucester 505089

LYDNEY AND BATH

Lydney, as always, on Boxing Day, which is next Tuesday, just in case the calendar is already getting a bit confusing. Next Saturday, the mighty Bath, right here, getting the next section of the League programme off to a formidable start. A little information is in order.

The Lydney game is quite straightforward. 3.00 pm kick-off, usual prices. This is always one of Kingsholm's most pleasant occasions, and spice is added, this year, by the absolutely superb season which our Severnside neighbours are having. Should be a great day.

Bath, on Saturday, is a different kettle of cod entirely. To start with, the game kicks off at 2.15 pm, because it is being televised via satellite and cable. Even though many more Gloucester folk can receive their TV by this route than was the case last season, I can't imagine that the gate will be affected, and I'm perfectly certain that the ground will be packed as tightly as Samantha Fox's Christmas stocking. It might, therefore, behove you to get there a little early if you want your usual vantage point.

This is an 'ordinary' League fixture (if there ever is such an animal), so it must be emphasised that this is NOT an all-ticket affair, and that Season Tickets will be honoured as usual. Tickets have, however, been on sale for some time now, just to facilitate the logistics on the day. Ground tickets are still available, but the Stand is now full.

However, once again, the usual system will apply. Stand places will be reserved for Stand Season Ticket holders until 20 minutes before kick-off, after that – first come, first served.

Of course, this is one occasion when the lads could really use your vocal support, so do come along. It isn't a bad way to see the Old Year out, anyway.

WATCH THE GANGWAYS

As the Police are here in force today, for reasons mentioned above, this is a good time for me to remind you that watching the game from steps or gangways is strictly a no-no for safety reasons. This will be equally true next Saturday, or even more so.

LAST CHANCE

If you're anything like me, then it's about now that you will be realising that you've forgotten to buy a Christmas present for someone or other. If so, All, as they say, Is Not Lost. You can always trot along to Maison Townsend at the Club Shop, at the Worcester Street End, where a trawl through the massed shelves of goodies is virtually certain to save the day for you.

TAILPIECE

I thought you would be interested to hear about the latest Honourable Member to be appointed to the ancient Court Leet of Barton Saint Mary, the esteemed, alcoholic and thoroughly mythical supporting organisation to the Mayor of Barton.

For the sake of visitors, I should point out that the Mayor of Barton is a 'mock office', played strictly for laughs, and dating back to the days of King Charles II.

The said new Honourable Member is none other than one Michael Coley, Chief Executive of Gloucester RFC. He was recently appointed, live on air on BBC Radio Gloucestershire, by Martin Kirby, Scribe to the Court Leet, with the Mayor of Barton and various other Honourable Members in attendance, in the lounge bar of the Vauxhall Inn in Barton Street.

The Catechism administered to Mr. Coley, before the listening millions, went as follows:

Q . . . Are you Michael Aloysius St. John Coley III?

A . . . I am he.

Q... Are you employed by the Gloucester Rugby Football Club?

A... *I have that honour.*

Q... Are you, or have you ever been, associated with Another Organisation, styling itself Harlequin Football Club? (*Voices off: Rhubarb! Don't know about that, etc.*)

A... *I have to admit – I have.*

Q... Have you ever been afflicted with the Dire Curse of Teetotalism?

A... *Certainly not! The very idea!*

Q... Then, Sir, all depends on your answer to the final question, and I advise you to consider your answer very carefully. Are you going to buy the next round?

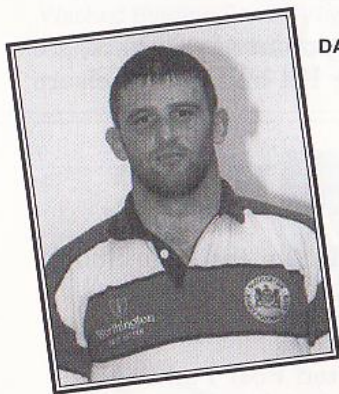
A... *Well, I bought the last two, so I don't see why I shouldn't buy the next bugger!*

At which point, the new appointment was accepted by acclamation.

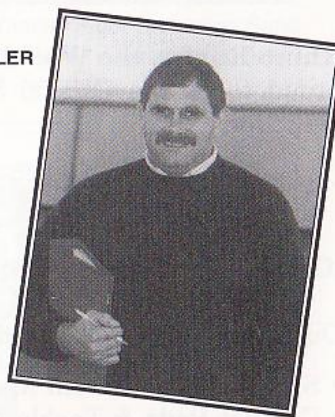
But isn't it nice to see a comparative newcomer to the City entering into the spirit of one of its more eccentric institutions so wholeheartedly?

Seasons Greetings from the Lads

No one appreciates your support more than the players themselves. This year, therefore, they would like to offer you all the appropriate wishes themselves. Here we go, then. The process will be completed over the next two programmes



DAVE SIMS



JOHN FIDLER

THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB

H O T L I N E

0839 33 30 40

The Gloucester Rugby Club Hotline, available round the clock, brings you the latest news of all teams, selections, changes, cancellations and results.

1st XV match reports will be available after each game.

Wherever you are – keep in touch with Gloucester through the Gloucester RFC Hotline

Calls cost 39p min - cheap rate 49p min - all other times inc VAT

GLOUCESTER RFC PO BOX 3000 N209RB

MATCH ACTION

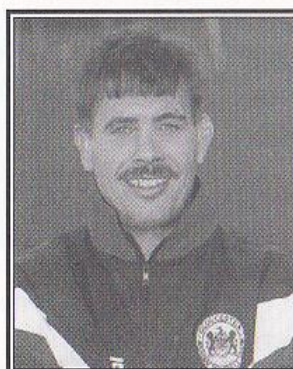


(Photo: Terry Hickey)

Pete Miles wins a line-out during Gloucester's match with visiting Val-Triangle



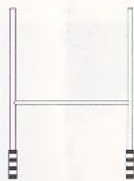
MARCUS
HANNAFORD



DAVE
SPENCER



ANDY DEACON



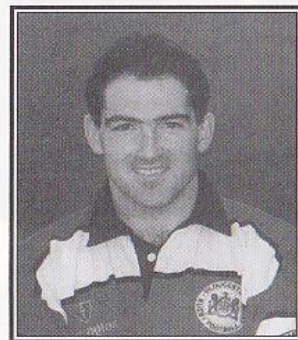
MARTIN KIMBER



CAS HANNAFORD



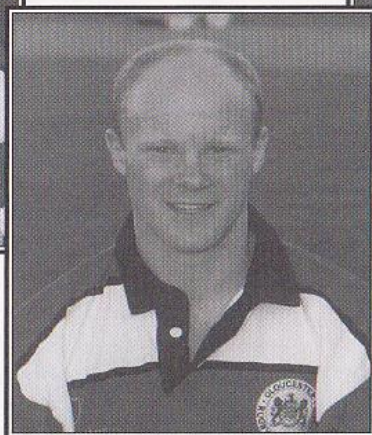
PETE JONES



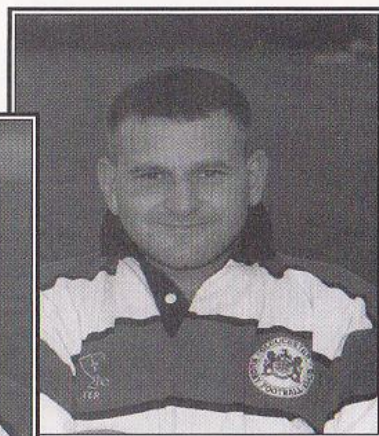
MARK NICHOLSON



MARK CORNWELL



BRUCE FENLEY



TONY WINDO

Peter Arnold (cont.)...

HOW THE MAYOR SEES IT

The association between the Civic Leaders of the City and Gloucester RFC has always been very strong. Indeed, I should be surprised if at least three past Mayors, and at least as many past Sheriffs aren't here today.

As you may recall, last year's Mayor, Councillor Tony Workman sadly died in office, and everyone was delighted when his wife, Councillor Rose Workman, felt she could assume the Mayoral chain this year. Although Tony was a more than useful Soccer man in his youth, he was also a strong supporter of Tredworth RFC, so the rugby connection continues.

It is very pleasing therefore, that The Mayor, in a particularly hectic time of year for the Civics, has found time to send me a letter for inclusion in today's programme, which I reproduce in its entirety.

Her good wishes are wholeheartedly reciprocated by all of us at Kingsholm.

Mayor's Parlour, North Warehouse,
The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP

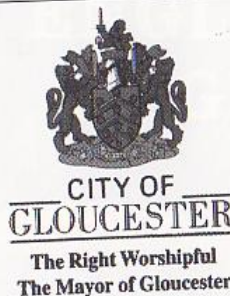
Switchboard: (01452) 522232

Secretary: (01452) 396129

Fax: (01452) 396140

Mr. Peter Arnold,
Match Programme Editor, Gloucester RFC,
Kingsholm, Gloucester.

23rd December, 1995.



Dear Peter,

I would be grateful if you would give me the opportunity, in your excellent Match Programme, of offering seasonal greetings and good wishes to everyone at Kingsholm.

Gloucester Rugby Football Club occupies a very special place in the life of Gloucester as a whole. In fact, our historic City would not be quite the same without it. I am well aware that people visit our famous Kingsholm Ground from all over the world, notably this season, from South Africa and Western Samoa, and I am sure that they return home with an excellent impression of Gloucester in general, its many attractions, and the friendliness of its people.

In sending my best wishes to the players, may I express my confidence that the rest of the 1995/96 season will be highly successful, starting today with the important Pilkington Cup match against Walsall, and carrying on through the next four months or so.

My thanks and good wishes, also, to the officials of the Club, and to everyone who helps at Kingsholm, in whatever capacity. No club such as Gloucester can exist without the dedicated efforts of a great many people, and they all deserve the thanks of everyone in the City.

Finally, season's greetings to Gloucester's famous band of supporters, quite the best, and most knowledgeable in the country, who contribute so much to the special spirit and atmosphere which is unique to Gloucester RFC. I am sure their support is invaluable to everyone who ever runs out in the famous cherry-and-white shirt.

May I, again, wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Rose

Mayor
(Councillor Mrs. Rose Workman)