

# GLOUCESTER

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# v WEST HARTLEPOOL

SATURDAY JANUARY 6TH, 1996

Kick off - 3.00 p.m.



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14. Paul Holford
13. Martin Roberts
12. Don Caskie
11. Tom Beim
10. Martyn Kimber
9. Bruce Fenley
1. Adey Powles
2. Phil Greening
3. Warwick Bullock
4. Dave Sims †
5. Richard West
6. Ian Smith
7. Pete Glanville
8. Pete Miles

Replacements:  
John Hawker  
Andy Deacon  
Laurie Beck  
Lee Osborne

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London Society

Touch Judges:  
C. J. Rees & A. Pomeroy  
RFU

† = Captain



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(2T, 2PG)

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14. Owen Evans
13. Paul Hodder
12. Craig Lee
11. Andrew Blyth
10. Ashley Parker
9. Steve Cook
1. Paul Beal
2. Tim Herbert
3. Mike Shelley
4. Paul Evans
5. Kevin Westgarth
6. Rob Leach
7. Alan Brown
8. Dave Mitchell

Replacements:  
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Peter Arnold ...

## EVERYONE HAS TO WIN



This is the game which Gloucester simply has to win. So does West Hartlepool, and I don't have to spell out the reasons to you in either case. Indeed, the similarities between the two situations are quite striking. Both sides have flattered to deceive at various times in the first half of the season, West Hartlepool even giving Bath plenty to think about on their visit to what the Pink 'Un's Charlie Haddock calls 'The Wreck', before the Cup holders decided to buckle down and do a job, otherwise they might even lose.

Both sides have players who can turn a game, both are going through a period of development, and both have suffered injuries in critical positions throughout the season. And both sides are famous for the thoroughly committed, yet fundamentally friendly, bands of supporters who do their best to spur their own team on, in neither case without a sharp sense of humour. It's a shame that we live so far apart. Those Gloucester people who have braved the trip to the frozen North (notably the hardened trekkies of Andy Mitchell's overnight safaris) have come home full of praise for 'West's' facilities, and for the reception they were afforded up at Brierton Lane. I'm sure that the vice is versa as far as the West Hartlepool contingent is concerned.

I don't think there's much doubt that a fellow feeling exists between the two clubs. Until very recently, for example, some supporters of both 'Glos' and 'West' have felt somewhat out on a limb: somewhat unjustifiably disregarded by some elements in the Powers That Be, in favour of more fashionable parts of the world. How valid that feeling was is a matter for personal judgement, but there's no doubt that it existed. The inexorable march of professionalism seems likely to change all that, largely through the efforts of the new First Division Clubs organisation, which is bidding fair to become the most effective dissenting voice which the hoary old status quo has ever had. And I think we must make special mention, in this respect, of our own Mike Coley, who has become a highly trenchant and articulate voice on the behalf of the new organisation.

We can forget all that for the next hour or two, however. The most pressing item on the agenda is what should be an absorbing encounter between two evenly matched sides who both have an awful lot riding on the result.

When did any right-thinking rugby crowd ask for anything more? Everyone from West Hartlepool is extremely welcome to Kingsholm, and we sincerely hope they thoroughly enjoy the experience.

### WATCH THE GANGWAYS

Let's gert the formalities over right away. Please don't attempt to watch the game from gangways or steps. The Fire Officer wouldn't like it, and neither would the Police, or the Ambulance people.

I know it can be difficult on a day when the ground is as packed as I assume it will be today, but you would help a lot of you accept friendly guidance from the Stewards, without making pointed observations about their physical shortcomings, their mental abilities or their parentage. They do have a job to do, ultimately in everyone's interest.



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### ROLL ON 1996

Let's face it, Gloucester RFC has seen better years than 1995, in the playing sense, anyway. Perhaps the New Year will see a change of fortune.

But the past twelve months have had their up-side. We have seen an influx of new personalities, on the field and off, which has added immeasurably to the interest of watching a club scene which was never a dull one, anyway.

Has it occurred to you that, during 1995, Gloucester has had National representatives at every level of the game, from full International, through England 'A', Under 21, and Colts? Not to mention the Division, and even one in the Varsity match. Not to mention one, naming no names, in the Scottish Schoolboys side.

There can't be much wrong, fundamentally, in a club which can claim such a record. And the vast majority of our players so recognised have been young ones, with many years ahead of them in which to carve out glittering careers.

We wish them all well, in 1996, as we do the officials, paid and unpaid, who have the awesome responsibility of ensuring that all comes right in the end.

I deliberately haven't mentioned any names in this little piece - you know them as well as I do, and I'd hate to miss anyone out.

To them all I say - don't worry too much about us, the Supporters. We'll be here, shouting just as loudly for the old Elver Eaters, at this time next year, as we are today.

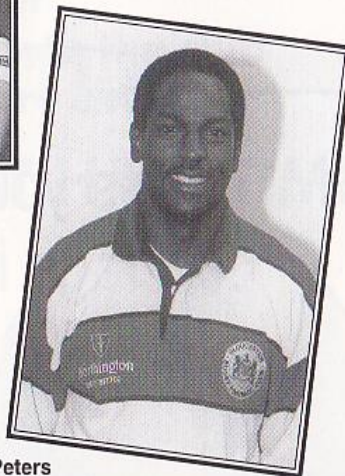
And thanks for all your efforts, which I'm sure will become increasingly more productive as the months roll by.



Hilton Brown



Rob Fidler



Mike Peters

## — STOP PRESS —

In spite of what is stated above Gloucester **WILL NOT** be entertaining London Scottish next Saturday. They have a rearranged league commitment.

Efforts are being made to arrange an alternative game.



#### TYING IT UP IN NOTTS

So it's Nottingham, away, for the Fifth Round of the Pilkington Cup. If you take a look at the Courage League tables, you'll find that, at the moment, they occupy precisely the same position in Division Two as we do one step up, although they have scored two points more than us. Interestingly enough, the side propping them up is Rob Andrew's Newcastle.

We beat Nottingham convincingly enough two years ago, but many people will remember that Beeston hasn't always been our favourite destination. In fact, it was losing there which cost us the League one year, just after having won there in the Cup. So there's still a bit of a gumboil which needs lancing, thereabouts.

Obviously, there will be coaches laid on for the game, in three weeks time, on January 27th. The seat will cost you £6.50 and the coach will probably depart at around 10.30am, depending on kick-off time. I'll let you know about match tickets when I know. See Geraldine.

Incidentally, 'Andy's Army' may like to know that his coach will be running, too. So contact Andy Mitchell at the office.

While on the subject, it is also the intention to run coaches for the Leicester, Wasps and Harlequins Courage League games, plus some for any away Cup games in which we may be involved. Watch this space.

#### NO, IT WON'T BE BATH NEXT WEEK

Contrary to edicts from On High, we shall *not* be entertaining Bath in the League next Saturday. As you probably know, there is an England training weekend over those two days, and Bath are, not unreasonably, invoking their prerogative of postponing the match because they have more than three players committed to it. Can't blame 'em.

We don't really know when the frosted-off game will be rearranged, but the club is trying to arrange it for March 9th, when we should have been travelling to Exeter.

More later. We shall, of course, be expecting a visit from London Scottish, next Saturday, as previously arranged.

#### BEN'S THE BOY

Ben Follis has made the trek from Mitcheldean, where he lives with his Mum, Dad and younger brother Edward, to do us the honour of acting as Match Mascot this afternoon. Nice to have a Forester, again.

Ben is 10 years old, and attends Mitcheldean Endowed Primary School. He plays on the wing for Westbury Under 13's, and also plays cricket for Westbury. Apart from all that, he's a Cub Scout. Obviously, a man of many parts.

Nice to see you Ben. Hope it's not the last time you turn out in cherry-and-white.



Richard West



Richard Hill



#### SORRY SAM.

For some reason which eludes me, the usual little piece about the Match Mascot was omitted from the Walsall programme. This is a great pity, because the lad concerned was none other than Sam Windo, son of the famous Tony, Gloucester, South West and goal kicker extraordinaire.

All I can say is that it wasn't my fault, honest it wasn't. Neither can anyone blame Geraldine (hope you're better, dear.) or anyone in the office.

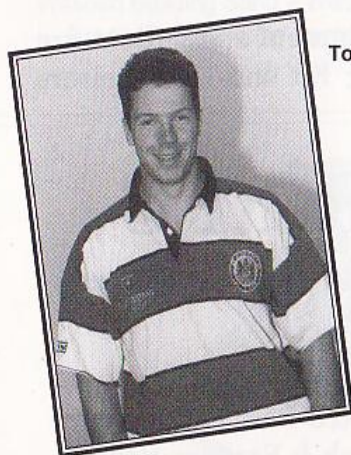
I hope there's another occasion, so that we can do better.

#### ANYONE LOST A WATCH ?

Just after Christmas, I had a call from a lady called Jo Ross who is a supporter of the Walsall club, and came down for the Cup game on December 23rd. What's more, she enjoyed her visit mightily. After the game, like any right-thinking supporter, she trotted into the bar, where she found a gents wrist watch, which someone had obviously mislaid on his way to the bar. Thinking it could be a Walsall traveller's property, she hung on to it until she got home. This proved not to be the case, as far as she can find out.

Accordingly, she made enquiries at this end. Her phone number is 01543 453409, should the loser read this and want to reclaim his property. Jo tells me that the watch bears an inscription on the back, so it should be simple to identify it.

Thanks Jo ! It isn't everyone who would have bothered.



Tom Beim



Paul Holford

#### THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB

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## How Mike Coley Sees It



'May you live in interesting times', runs the old Chinese curse. In a previous incarnation, Mike Coley must have offended some Worthy Oriental Gentleman, because his times since taking over as Chief Executive, last summer, have certainly been interesting.

Perhaps it's something in the genes, because you couldn't say he's been exactly mealy-mouthed in his comments on the present day Mandarins of the game.

What is not always too obvious in Press reports is that he has a nice sense of humour, too, an attribute he amply demonstrates in the following piece, while also giving us some highly interesting information. Happy New Year to you, too, Mike Coley.

**Mike Coley** — Double vision caused by looking both ways at the same time as well as over his shoulder.

I was lying in bed last Saturday morning listening to **Cliff Morgan** — Sport on 4. Its my only lie-in of the week, and I do enjoy hearing Cliff and his guests covering a wide variety of Sporting Topics. One such guest last week was **Michael Green** author of "The Art of Course Rugby" a thirty year-old book which is updating and relaunching. Long gone are the days when the forwards, having had a try scored against them, gathered under the posts, in a huddle to have a quick drag on the communal cigarette. Even 20 years ago, when I first took up refereeing I remember reffing **Richmond Heavies** against Esher Expendables, and because it was so cold port and brandies, instead of the slice of orange were taken at half time, all thirty players participated, and it was obligatory for the ref as well. Such was the game at the lower end in those days. I am sure that all rugby players have a story of similar ilk to tell.

**Tony Bond** of Sale, England, and currently England Classics fame, with whom I toured frequently, is famous for his saying that Rugby is about those things friendship, touring and bonking (he used another word but this is a family publication). With Tony they are not necessarily in the order written. However I digress, **Michael Green** made a comment on the Radio, which I believe, shows how the game at the Top End has moved over the last Four Months. He said "In the past Rugby was a game to which everyone gave — now it has become a game from which everyone takes".

We are fortunate that at Gloucester we have a squad of players who have remained loyal to the Club, even when times are difficult and predators are approaching some of our team with fantastic — some say silly offers. One of our players has been offered £75,000 to go to Newcastle. His comment to the Team Captain greatly heartened me. "I would rather play for Gloucester for 20p than go to Newcastle". Three of our players have been offered a £45,000 package to go to Saracens. They have all turned it down. Such team spirit and loyalty *will* be rewarded, the team *will* start winning and our league position *will* improve, and then we can look to the future. In the meantime I am fighting off the field with the other 1st Division Clubs to have a 12 Club league next season. Things are progressing and we will have that decision at the end of January, when we have the Welsh Clubs' and French Clubs' ideas on an Anglo Welsh league and a European Competition.

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Things are changing so quickly in Rugby Union at the moment that who knows the final outcome? Rest assured, however, that all of us involved at the Club are fighting for our cause.

The recent Pilkington Cup game took me back down memory lane to when I was Marketing Manager at **The RFU** and was negotiating the first sponsorship agreement between Pilkington and the RFU. **John Player** had informed me that they were having to withdraw due to the Government tobacco restrictions, so the race was on to find a new sponsor. In the end we had two candidates, one a big-five bank, the other Pilkington. Pilkington got the contract because, they were keen Rugby supporters and they proposed a launch party to the press of Cumberland Sausage and Kendal Mint cake. Such lateral thinking impressed both **Dudley Wood** and myself, and having given them the contract, they then Sponsored the Pilkington Shield, as well as the RFU referees' training scheme. They became good friends of Rugby; perhaps I am wrong, Rugby may still be a game where people give. Let's all hope it remains so.

I would like to thank Pilkington and all our loyal players, also a big 'thank you' to all our supporters for continuing to come and help by shouting for the team.

Thank you to Geraldine in the office for keeping me on the straight and narrow. May I wish you all a very prosperous and successful New Year.



*Peter Arnold (cont.)...*

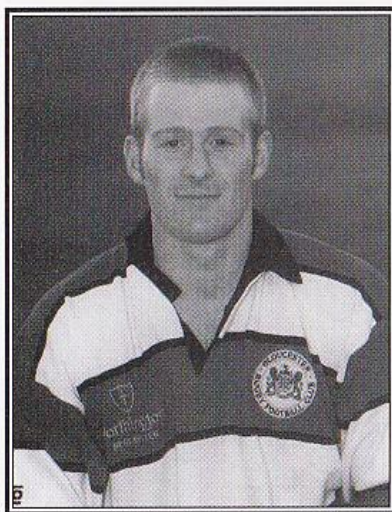
#### TAILPIECE

This is a traditional time for looking back, but I didn't really expect to be reminiscing this far. As anyone who is anyone knows, for years one of the favoured watering holes for Gloucester rugby folk was always the 'York House' in London Road. If you fancied a quiet noggin with the likes of Mike Teague, John Gadd and John Brain, then that was the place to be. It's not too surprising, therefore, that the odd bit of Gloucester memorabilia should show up there, from time to time. The latest such is a Club Membership Card for the Season 1885/6. And before anyone waxes facetious, no it wasn't Brian Brain's original one. But it is fascinating. The sub. that year, for both players and 'Honorary Members' was 5 shillings. For the younger element among us, that's 25p. in today's funny money. What's more, it wasn't necessarily all that easy to get in. Any 'Gentleman' (no ladies, you'll notice) who wanted to join, had to be proposed and seconded at a full Committee Meeting, and would not be 'considered a Member if two black balls appeared against his name.' That would probably have let me out for a start. The strip was as follows. 'red, yellow and black jerseys and stockings, and dark blue knickerbockers'. Ruchard West in knickerbockers ? Now there's a slightly horrible thought to take you into 1996 ! Which brings me to the point where I gladly and sincerely wish you all the best for the New Year. I hope that in turns out to be quite the happiest and most prosperous you've ever experienced.

### *Belated Season's Greetings from the Lads*

*Here's the final clutch of good wishes from the playing strength of the club. We had intended to publish pictures of everyone over the three Christmas games, but the weather intervened. That doesn't seem any reason for abandoning the project, however, so we'll continue.*

*There are probably one or two blokes who haven't had their photies took yet, so we'll try and rectify any omissions later. But just because their pictures haven't appeared, it doesn't mean they aren't equally sincere in their good wishes and thanks for your support.*



Gareth Fenwick



Ian Smith





**WHO'S SAYING WHAT AND TO WHOM ?**

Here's a bit of innocent amusement for you. What do you think the caption for this photograph ought to be ? I'm not really very good at caption competitions, but my first thought is; Andy Stanley " Ooh ! I knew I shouldn't have borrowed Bruce Fenley's spare jockstrap !"

Any ideas ? No prizes; just let me know your thoughts, and I'll print any (printable) captions I get at some later date.



# Ed Martin ...

Saturday January 6, 1926 saw Gloucester playing at Coventry - and Gloucester won the encounter by a 9-6 margin (two tries and a penalty goal to two tries). At Kingsholm on that same day, Hereford beat Gloucester "A" (United in today's vernacular) 18-12. But before the Hereford match, the Gloucester Boys played Bristol Boys in a "curtain raiser".

What a match that turned out to be! The Gloucester youngsters ran in nine tries without reply and, as the headline in the Citizen Football Final that evening was quick to point out, Bristol was totally "outclassed".

The Gloucester team that afternoon was: Ash (Northgate School); Wood (National), Dean (Derby Road), Thomas (Archdeacon) and Morgan (St. Mark's); Gladwin (Linden) and Voyce (Archdeacon); May (National), Jelf (Linden), Orpin (Northgate), Mace (Hatherley), Lambert (Derby Road), Toomey (Derby Road), Vallender (National), and Slim (Wellington).

Bristol managed to contain Gloucester in the opening stages. It was just before half-time that Gloucester opened the scoring with a drop goal by Morgan from 20 yards out. Morgan then scored an unconverted try and just before the interval whistle, Gladwin plunged over for a try to give the home side a 9-0 lead.

It was in the second half that the floodgates were opened. The Citizen reported: "The (Gloucester) forwards now played a stronger game than in the first half, but the three did not show such good form until Voyce got the ball away nicely at the centre, and passing between Gladwin, Thomas and Dean left the ball with Wood who made a brilliant run, only to be brought down on the line. A minute later, however, the home side went further ahead, May getting over from a rush close to the posts for Ash to convert."

Gloucester were now all over their opponents, and play was confined to the Bristol half until the end, tries being added by Voyce (2), Wood, Gladwin, Morgan and May, the last being converted by Gladwin."

Result: Gloucester Boys 3 goals (1d) 7 tries (35 pts) Bristol Boys Nil

The following week's Football Final gave a more considered "opinion" that, in some ways, contradicted the actual match report. "The Gloucester backs in particular," the unsigned "opinion" reads, "played what can best be described as model football. Quick off the mark, tricky, safe in handling and passing, and sound in defence, they played football as it should be played from beginning to end, with scarcely a mistake."

But both articles did agree on one point. The half-back pairing of Voyce (at scrum) and Gladwin (at stand-off) performed exceptionally well.

The unnamed reporter at the match did have his problems. Neither side had numbers on their jerseys. This presented little problem to the Football Final's cartoonist, Teek, whose succinct impression of the match is reproduced for you to savour 70 years on.

