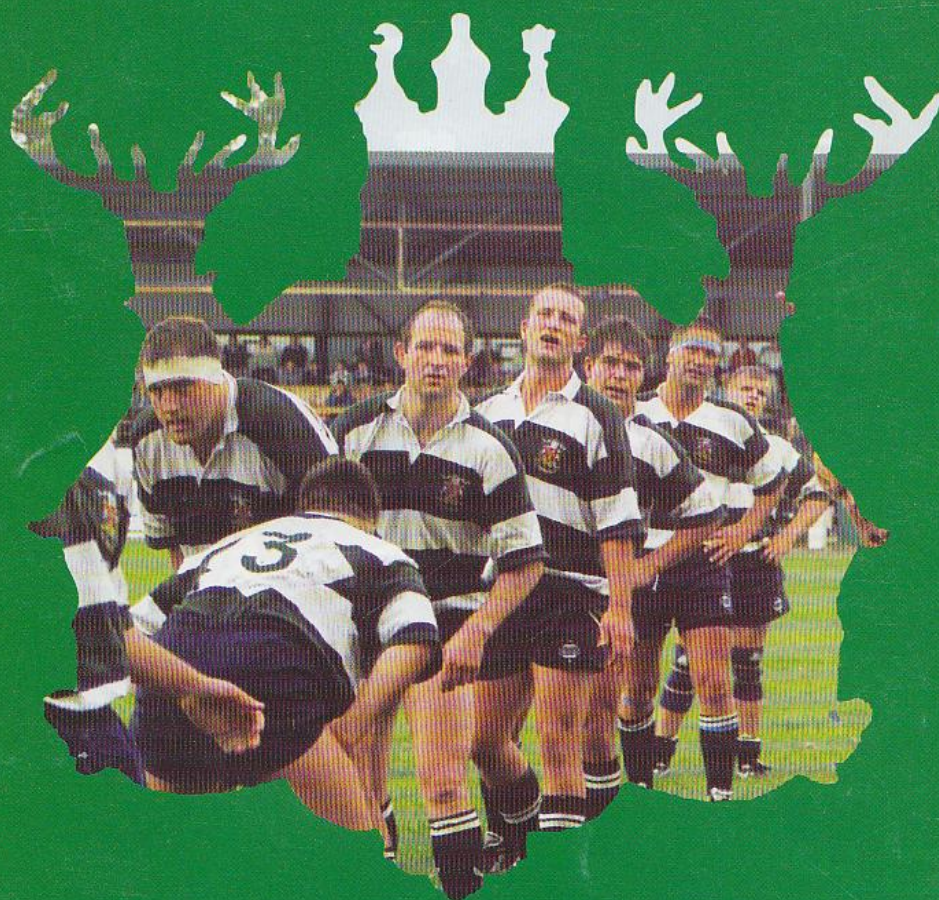


NOTTINGHAM RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1877



v. GLOUCESTER

Saturday, 27th January, 1996

NOTTINGHAM
EVENING
POST

THE
PILKINGTON
CUP

ROUND FIVE


**DIAMOND
CABLE**
COMMUNICATIONS

A warm welcome to

Today's Matchday

Sponsors:

PILKINGTON PLC

Today's Matchday

Hosts:

NOTTINGHAM

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ARKWRIGHT GLASS

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GILBORN

PROPERTIES

Today's Matchball

Sponsors:

CROSLAND FILTERS

We sincerely hope they enjoy our matchday hospitality and the time spent with us today.

NOTTINGHAM Green & White

Matt Gallagher

Steve Reed

Gary Hartley

Richard Bygrave

Andy Smallwood

Simon Hodgkinson*†

Alan Royer

Martin Freer

Mark Ireland

Andrew Jackson

Chris Gray*† (Cpt.)

Lee Jones

Nick Davies

Gary Rees*†

Mark Bradley

Brian Gabriel

Richard Byrom

Ian Grantham

Bruce Donald

15 Full Back

14 Right Wing

13 Right Centre

12 Left Centre

11 Left Wing

10 Outside Half

9 Scrum Half

1 Prop

2 Hooker

3 Prop

4 Lock

5 Lock

6 Flank

7 Flank

8 Number 8

Replacements

Cherry & White GLOUCESTER

Tom Beim

Paul Holford

Don Caskie

Martin Roberts

Mike Lloyd

Martyn Kimber

Scott Benton

Tony Windo

Phil Greening

Andy Deacon

Rob Fidler

(Cpt.) Dave Sims

Pete Glanville

Andy Stanley

Chris Raymond

Hilton Brown

Laurie Beck

Lee Osborne

Pete Miles

Referee:

MR. BRIAN CAMPSALL
(RFU/Yorkshire Society)

Touch Judges:

MR. PAUL MURGATROYD
(RFU)

MR. CLIVE PARFITT
(RFU)

NEXT HOME GAMES

1st XV v.
LONDON SCOTTISH
(League)

Sat., 10th Feb.

Corsairs v.
STOURBRIDGE
Sat., 3rd Feb.

Development XV v.
ORRELL
Sat., 3rd Feb.

† International Player

* Barbarian Player

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Pilkington Cup — Round 5
NOTTINGHAM v. GLOUCESTER **Saturday, 10th February, 1996**

PILKINGTON CUP — QUARTER FINALS

We now know that the reward for the winner of today's game will be a home draw against Wasps. That shouldn't be too difficult since they no longer have Rob Andrew, Dean Ryan and Steve Bates, all of whom have emigrated to Newcastle. Their forwards haven't been the same since Probyn and Rendall retired, so it was actually a bit of a surprise that they beat Winnington Park fairly easily. Winnington may have been Losington on the day, but they certainly enjoyed themselves and would hardly have expected such a long slot on Rugby Special. Good luck to them.

The other noteworthy draw is, of course, the promise of Bristol at home to Bath, assuming both are successful against League 2 opponents in this round.

The rest of the draw is:

Leeds or Irish v. West Hartlepool or Coventry
Leicester or Saracens v. Newcastle or Harlequins
Bedford or Bristol v. Wakefield or Bath

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT AWAY MATCH

It's not Stourbridge any more: that was last week and you missed it. Next week, climate permitting, we are due to resume League rugby at Sunbury against London Irish. For me that ground will always be memorable for the spectator's anguished appeal to Corcoran in last year's very tight match. "If you kick this one, you can have my missus tonight." He didn't.

Zoom down the motorway to M25, in the direction of Heathrow and Gatwick (but don't go that far). Leave M25 at J12 and take M3 towards London, leaving at J1, A308 signed Kingston. Cross railway bridge and take second right onto The Avenue. The ground is on the right.

SUPPORTERS' NETWORK MEETING

Please note change of date:

Thursday, 22nd February, 7.30 p.m. — Old Clubhouse

TODAY'S TEAMS

NOTTINGHAM

Matt Gallagher
Steve Reed
Gary Hartley
Richard Bygrave
Andy Smallwood
Simon Hodgkinson*†
Alan Royer
Martin Freer
Mark Ireland
Andrew Jackson
Chris Gray*† (Cpt.)
Lee Jones
Bruce Donald
Gary Rees*†
Mark Bradley
Brian Gabriel
Richard Byrom
Ian Grantham
Gareth Beese

15 Full Back
14 Right Wing
13 Right Centre
12 Left Centre
11 Left Wing
10 Outside Half
9 Scrum Half
1 Prop
2 Hooker
3 Prop
4 Lock
5 Lock
6 Flank
7 Flank
8 Number 8

Replacements

GLOUCESTER

Tom Beim
Paul Holford
Don Caskie
Martin Roberts
Mike Lloyd
Martyn Kimber
Scott Benton
Tony Windo
Phil Greening
Andy Deacon
Rob Fidler
(Cpt.) Dave Sims
Pete Glanville
Andy Stanley
Chris Raymond
Adey Powles
John Hawker
Lee Osborne
Bruce Fenley

We thank today's Match Day Sponsors:
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC

Welcome to our Visitors

This afternoon we welcome a large crowd to Ireland Avenue, and in particular the players, supporters and officials from Gloucester.

The game today marks our third meeting with Gloucester in Cup competition — in December '93 we went down by 29 points to 9, and in February '90 by 26 points to 16. So maybe, third time lucky! Although we record fixtures with Gloucester since 1975, we have achieved minimal success — our last win was in April 1990 (one of only four victories for the Green and Whites), when Gloucester needed only to win to secure the League title. The 12 points to 3 scoreline in our favour saw the title head to Wasps, and much gnashing of teeth amongst those sporting the Cherry and White colours.

Gloucester's strength has traditionally been in the pack, and this season they are captained by a pack member — the exciting lock David Sims, who has toured with England "A", and is knocking on the door of the Senior XV. The seemingly evergreen, but finally retired, Mike Teague is assisting with coaching, and the former Bath and England scrum-half Richard Hill is adding his vast experience and knowledge to Gloucester's ambitious plans to re-emerge as a force in Division 1.

Like ourselves in Division 2, though, Gloucester are currently in ninth position with only West Hartlepool below them — their last League game was a 17-16 victory over West. And, Gloucester must work hard in the second half of League fixtures to maintain their Division 1 status.

But, today's fixture is a one off, and we should look out for, assuming they play, the skilful winger Paul Holford, the always busy scrum-half Martyn Kimber, and in particular, the massive Richard West in the second row. Many of Nottingham's youngsters may learn a lot today from this organised and experienced Gloucester side.

So, let us hope for a hard, but clean game, and to the victors best wishes for the Quarter-Final. Enjoy the day and hospitality at Beeston.

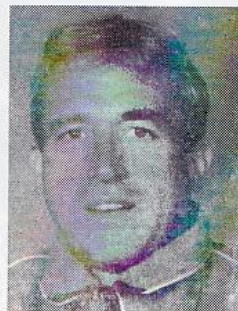
TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

It is again a pleasure to welcome Mr. Campsall to Beeston. His masterly refereeing of last week's Ireland v. Scotland international in Dublin has earned him today's prestigious encounter. He has had quite a lot of TV exposure recently, having starred in the epic battle, and I mean battle, when Leicester ruined Bath's 100% record. He was last with us late in October when we entertained Waterloo, who we always beat at Beeston, but for some strange reason didn't on that occasion. I don't think it was Brian's fault.

Like all referees he is a schoolteacher, in his case from the wilds of Yorkshire, and is married with one daughter. However, he won't have any more children because he's never at home: typical modern ref; have whistle, will travel. Dubai Sevens, Romania and then USA for RWC qualifiers, and Hong Kong Sevens last season.

That he is so highly regarded is reflected in his position on the International Listing, and since he is in his twelfth season of refereeing and fourth on the RFU Panel, it would be wise for the players to refrain from giving him too much advice.

Our touch judges today are Paul Murgatroyd of the East Midlands Society, and Clive Parfitt of Manchester & District Society. We hope all our officials enjoy this cup-tie at Beeston today.



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Fifth Round of the Pilkington Cup.

Actually playing and watching today's cup match provides a welcome reminder that there is a real product called a game of rugby, of which the surreal world of RFU politics seems to have completely lost sight. We, the ones who have paid to see this match, and are the game's enthusiasts, want to see a rousing contest between fit and skilled young men playing a well-controlled team game. And we want to do so in the future. Simple as that.

Well it's not. The RFU has proved to be totally incapable of controlling its member clubs in the aftermath of the decision that people can make money directly from the game, and no one knows what the future will be for either Nottingham or Gloucester. The frantic state of negotiations reached a new level of chaos at the meeting in Birmingham at which the RFU's nomination for Chairman was thrown out and hundreds of junior clubs revolted against the proposals for professionalism. New Chairman Cliff Brittle will hardly know which heads to bang together to bring some order to the chaos that is First Division Clubs (plus Northampton) Ltd., Second Division Clubs (including Northampton) Ltd., Senior Clubs Association, Leagues Three and Four Clubs and the other 2,000 or so grass roots clubs that have a voice.

To judge from the hysteria of top name signings the game is suddenly awash with money, with white knights riding out of the backwoods to the most amazing places. Either we shall see clubs about which one has never previously heard romping around in League 1 quite shortly, or lots of porkies are being told. Certainly many of the present Senior Clubs are saying 'yes, of course we are now professional — but where's the money coming from?'

ALAN HODGKINSON