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v WASPS
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13. Don Caskie
12. Martin Roberts
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10. Martyn Kimber 2PG
9. Scott Benton

1. Tony Windo
2. Phil Greening
3. Andy Deacon
4. Rob Fidler
5. Dave Sims † 1T
6. Pete Glanville
7. Andy Stanley
8. Chris Raymond

Replacements:
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Adey Powles
Lee Osborne
Bruce Fenley

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RFU Somerset Soc
Touch Judges:
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† = Captain
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12. Arron James
11. Shane Roiser
10. Guy Gregory 3PG
9. Andy Gomarsall

1. Darren Molloy
2. Kevin Dunn
3. Ian Dunstan
4. Matt Greenwood
5. Richard Kinsey
6. Mike White
7. Chris Wilkins
8. Lawrence Dallaglio†

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Peter Arnold ...

HE'S GOT TO GET IT RIGHT SOMETIME!



Perhaps there's too much talk about 'favourites' and 'underdogs' where Cup matches are concerned. When you get to this stage of the most important knock-out competition in the land, there isn't a lot between any of the survivors, and anything can happen, and quite often does.

However, I must confess to being just a little perturbed about one assessment of today's game. The only reasonably informed commentator I have heard tipping Gloucester to win today is one Gareth Chilcott, who you might recall as one of our favourite opponents in the days when he was creating mayhem for Bath. Why should the support of such a luminary worry me? Simply because every time I've heard him coming down on Gloucester's side, we've gone and lost, that's why. Ominous I call it, but perhaps this is the day when Gareth breaks his duck.

But it ain't going to be easy. In fact, it's quite some time since we beat Wasps. Some of us are still smarting from the 45-8 tonking they handed out to Gloucester at Sudbury to start the 1994/5 League programme, and although we could, and should, have won the return game here at Kingsholm, the fact remains that we didn't, coming second on the wrong end of a 21-16 scoreline.

We also went down by eleven points when Wasps visited us earlier on this season, and again, the eventual result didn't really do Gloucester justice. And an awful lot has happened since then. That October 14th meeting was Rob Andrew's last game for Wasps, and a very good one he had, too. Popplewell was extremely effective in the front row, and that formidable campaigner, Dean Ryan was influential too.

It seems unlikely that any side could lose such a trio without feeling it, and Wasps results since then, certainly not excluding last Saturday's 36-point defeat by Bath, would seem to confirm that hypothesis. Conversely, Gloucester are a stronger side than they were back in October, and I don't have to remind you that while Wasps were suffering at the hands of the Cup Holders, Gloucester were putting 27 points on Orell *without letting them get on the scoresheet*.

I'm not saying that the lads from Wigan are a match for the boys from The Rec, but Orrell isn't that bad a side, they had plenty of pace and power in the backs, but never really looked like breaking through the home defences. Which could be significant, when you take a look at the firepower which Wasps can call upon behind the scrum.

Perhaps the psychology of it all could prove decisive. I've no idea of the feelings at Sudbury since the Northern predations, but I do know that the atmosphere at Kingsholm is now totally different from the one which prevailed back in the Autumn. The side now positively radiates confidence, as was extremely evident last Saturday. It probably won't be lost on the Wasps contingent, today, that Gloucester haven't lost since before Christmas, and have scored a positively indigent number of points during that period.

One way and another, this game could go either way. Cup games are always perilous to predict, and this one more than most.

So we won't try. What we will do is welcome Wasps most sincerely, to Kingsholm. We always enjoy their visits, whatever the outcome: we appreciate the way they play the game, finding



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their style refreshing and exciting to watch. We also enjoy their company in the bar, players, officials and supporters alike.

So let's do the Confucian thing, and lay back and enjoy it. Have a pleasurable visit, Wasps. It's great to welcome you again.

FANCY A TRIP TO CALIFORNIA ?

Gloucester's travelling support is legendary. The backing and the boost they give to the side is acknowledged, rather nervously I should add, by clubs all over the country. We all know that, but I never remember an opposing side applying to borrow some of it before. I suppose that's a compliment, however you look at it.

The thought is prompted by a phone call I received from Wasps' Malcolm Sinclair, during the week. The reason for the contact was that Wasps travel to Santa Barbara, California, after the end of the season, to participate in the World Clubs Championship, which is to be staged there from May 15th to May 29th. The club would welcome any Gloucester supporter who would like to join them on this highly attractive safari to the Revolting Colonies.

That's all the hard information I have, but anyone who is interested can receive full details of prices, itinerary etcetera, by contacting Wasps FC at Repton Avenue, Sudbury, Wembley, Middlesex. Telephone, 0181 902 4220. Alternatively, I'm sure Malcolm Sinclair would be pleased to answer any queries you may have, and his number is 0181 570 0595.

Tell you what: I'll bet it will be a helluva good trip. Nice to be asked, isn't it ?

AND THERE WAS LIGHT - THANKS TO BOB SILK.

The occasion of another Pilkington Cup game provides an ideal opportunity for the Committee publicly to thank Mr. Bob Silk of MEB for actions above and beyond the call of duty. Indeed, if it hadn't been for Bob's good offices, the previous match, against Walsall, might not even have been finished, and with the fixture congestion which has arisen following the recent weather conditions, that might have been very inconvenient, to say the least.

You may recall that there was a problem with the lights during the Walsall game: nothing of the club's making, but a power failure which affected various parts of the City for a while. Bob's freely-given advice and help given at the crucial time, plus his prompt and informed liaison with MEB, enabled power to be restored with the absolute minimum of delay. We were able to establish precise details on the progress of the necessary repairs, and inform the match officials accordingly.

Consequently, those officials were able to allow the game to continue, when the lack of such information could well have prompted them to call a halt to proceedings.

This was not the only occasion when Bob Silk has been able to help us when electrical problems have arisen, usually at a moment's notice, at a time when he would much have preferred to be simply watching a game, and not thinking about work at all.

The Committee wish to thank him most sincerely, a sentiment with which I am sure we would all like to be associated.

WELL DONE DAVE AND PHIL

It's nice to be able to congratulate Dave Sims and Phil Greening on their inclusion, yet again, in the England 'A' side to meet Italy, away. That should be a most enjoyable trip for them, and we all hope that it's only the precursor of higher things. They both richly deserve it.

WELCOME BACK MR. WARREN !

I was having a chat with Mr. Warren, who refereed last Saturday's game against Orrell, and even managed to gain the approval of the Shed, which takes a bit of doing for any whistle-blower. One interesting piece of information is that he told me that his next pencilled-in visit to Kingsholm is

to control the postponed Bath game in the Courage League on March 9th.

There's a certain symmetry in that, which appeals to me. Gloucester v. Bath with a Bristol Society referee seems exactly in tune with the fitness of things. Glos. v. Bath is always a local affair, whatever the occasion, and at least the appointment would keep it in the family.

As far as Gloucester is concerned, that Saturday afternoon fixture is definitely on, and we're making arrangements accordingly. However, as you probably know, Bath have made further representations on the matter to the RFU, in whose hands it rests at the time of writing.

Of course, by the time you read this, you may know differently.

WE GET LETTERS

Well, not so much of a letter, this time, more a screed, really. It's from Graham Hannaford, brother of Charlie and Bob (Get well soon, Bob. The rugby scene isn't the same without you), and uncle of Marcus. In fact, Graham has supplied me with a quiz, which always goes down well in these pages. What's more, there's a prize. Through the good offices and generosity of Gloucester RFC, the first all-correct, or failing that, the most nearly correct, solution received will win the sender a pair of tickets for that vital last League game of the season Against Saracens.

When you've had a go, send your answers to ME, not Graham, Peter Arnold, at 74, Victoria Street, Gloucester GL1 4EW, and I'll do my best to act as an independent and fair assessor. I intend to print the answers in the Bath programme on March 9th, so obviously you should get your entry to me before then.

Actually, Graham being Graham, and a knock-down, drag-out wheeler-dealer from way back, there are strings attached to his brain work in compiling the quiz. Not to put too fine a point on it, he wants to publicize Old Cryptians events planned for the weekend commencing Friday March 22nd. Knowing my own affiliations, he obviously regards me as a soft touch, and he isn't far wrong.

On that evening, as usual at that time of year, an Old Cryptians Club XV - which is not the same as Old Cryptians RFC - are to play the Crypt School, under lights, at Tuffley Avenue, kick-off 7.00pm. What makes this occasion different, is that the game will be played for the newly instituted Gordon Hudson Trophy, and it's nice to see our old friend Gordon, Gloucester and England, and distinguished Chairman of Gloucester RFC remembered in this way.

On the following evening, Saturday March 23rd, there is to be an Old Cryptians Club Dinner, held in the School hall. The important thing is that the Guest of Honour is to be the great Horace Edwards, certainly one of the most respected sports masters in the City for around thirty years. The feeling is that there may be many Old Cryptians, not usually interested in such affairs, who would like to renew acquaintance with the man who taught them to play rugby, cricket or hockey, and who can claim to have turned out international players.

Anyone interested can get a ticket by applying to the School.

So now for the quiz itself. Remember, it has been set by an Old Cryptian in association with an Old Cryptians event, which may give you a clue to some of the answers.

Best of luck !

GRAHAM HANNAFORD'S RUGBY QUIZ

- 1.... In which year did MIKE BURTON first play in all England's Five Nations matches ?
- 2....And can you name the other two Gloucester players who also won Caps in that year ?
- 3....In that same year, England played just one overseas International. Who against, and why was it significant ?
- 4....PETER BUTLER (a Horace Edwards product), won two England Caps, and neither game was at Twickenham. On which grounds were they ?
- 5....Which Gloucester player won a Blue, played County rugby for Durham, won three Caps for England, and scored one try ?

6....And on which ground did he score the try ?

7....Who played for Old Cryptians, Gloucester, scored four tries for England, and never won a Cap ?

8....Before 1900, there was only one England International game played against non-British Isles opposition for which Caps were awarded. Who provided the Opposition ?

9.... In which season did Richard Hill Captain England ?

10....Which Forester propped for Gloucester, and won 6 England Caps between 1948 and 1949 ?

So there you are. Remember, entries to me by Saturday, March 9th.

TWICE AS NICE !

As befits such an important occasion, we have, not one, but two Match Mascots this afternoon. The Brothers Pascoe, no less, and we thank them, most sincerely for their support, and for the pleasure of their company.

The old man of the couple is Daniel, who is eight years old, and attends Longlevens Junior School. He's also a prominent member of the Panther Pack of Longlevens Cubs.

Kid brother is Simon who admits to being all of five-and-a-half, and that 'half' is important when you're that age. He's still at Longlevens Junior School.

Both brothers enjoy watching their rugby, as they would, of course, and are both keen on swimming. They also have a shared penchant for motor sport.

Longlevens ? The Pascoe boys are certainly in the right place when they start looking around for a rugby club to join. It would be hard to think of a more famous nursery of the game in local terms.

And don't forget, Danny and Sy. You wouldn't be the first pair of brothers to turn out for Gloucester. Perhaps, one day, we shall be able to add the name 'Pascoe' to the likes of 'Dix' and 'Jones'.

WELL, WHY NOT ?

Have you noticed the ad. elsewhere in this programme, for the forthcoming Twickenham game between Leicester, as League Champions, against an International XV ? I suppose when you've put as much capital investment into a facility as the RFU have into the old Cabbage Patch, then it only makes sense to maximise it.

The other point which strikes me is that, until now, the only two major clubs to play at Twickenham are, as far as I know, the two Pilkington Cup Finalists, and that doesn't seem right. At

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HOW JOE PICKEN SEES IT



When I heard that Gloucester were to take on a full-time fitness trainer, I nodded approvingly. When I heard that he is an ex-Royal Marine PTL, who was also a member of the Royal Marine Field Gun Team, I shuddered slightly. "Are our lads ready for this?" I asked myself.

I put the thought to Joe Picken himself, and his reaction was immediate. "You'd better believe it!" he said. "They're more than ready. I was pleasantly surprised."

Further investigation reveals that Joe has a quirky sense of humour, which goes down well with the players, and everyone else. As he reveals at the beginning of this piece which he has very kindly supplied during, what must be, a very busy period for him.

Since my arrival on the 1st February, the question I have been asked most is 'How do you find Gloucester?'

Well, firstly I used an AA map of the road until I reached a roundabout on the A417 then I followed the signs for the Town Centre. In no time at all there on the right was Gloucester RFC.

That Thursday was my first visit to Kingsholm and having entered the ground on the Gym side, I was impressed by the size of the ground. But what impressed me more was when I entered the changing rooms that evening, there was an air of enthusiasm, good natured banter and camaraderie, all the ingredients for a healthy environment.

On the training ground the moods changed to commitment and dedication to the respective drills any reservations I may have had prior to my arrival were dispelled by the end of the evening.

The result against Nottingham on Saturday 10th was testament to the attitude of the players, this positive attitude continued through the week culminating in the authoritative performance against Orrell last Saturday.

My task is to work with Richard Hill and his coaching staff in order to compliment the quality work they have already done. To develop further individual mobility and fitness levels to maintain the positive!

With regard to today's opponents, I have admired their style of play for some time and tipped them to win the league two seasons ago. They are a team who deserve respect, and that I hope is what Gloucester will show the today. (*But not too much I hope! P.A.*) I believe that no matter what the contest, the greatest respect you can show to your opponent, is to perform to the best of your ability from start to finish.

To maintain discipline and commitment in the belief that you will emerge victorious.

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- The photo (left) is a certain excuse for a competition. What is the ref saying to the hooker – or what is the hooker saying to the ref. Send your thoughts to Geraldine Peak in the office. the funniest will receive a pair of tickets to a future game.

Peter Arnold (cont.)...

least, in the days when Harlequins used to play some of their matches at Headquarters, most sides used to get a crack of the whip, now and then. There must be an awful lot of very good and loyal players who haven't reached International status who have never had the experience of running out at Twickenham, and that's a pity.

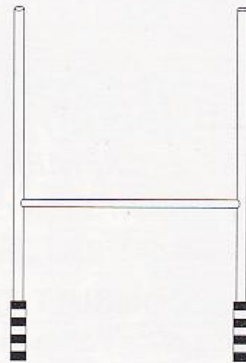
I hope the principle is extended.

TAILPIECE

A conversation overheard in the Clubhouse, not long ago.

"D'you see that Glawster have taken on a Sports Psychologist?"

"Ar! 'E ought to come and talk to us in yer. Anyone who supports Glawster needs their yuds lookin' at!"



Ed Martin ...

Saturday February 20, 1926 was quite a disastrous day. Still reflecting on a win that almost materialised at the Arms Park the previous weekend, Gloucester entertained Llanelly (back in those days the "i" had not replaced the "y") at Kingsholm. And the full strength Welsh club completed the "double" the Cherry and Whites by 11 points to six.

Now rugby is very good at offering excuses when things go wrong. Just take a look at last weekend's 142-0 Courage League result. Now the team that failed to score were very quick to point out that they were missing a lot of first team players. It was much the same seventy years ago when the Llanelly match was on the same day as the County semi final.

Seven of Gloucestershire's starting fifteen were from Gloucester. So that meant that at Kingsholm, Gloucester had to call-up some United players to meet Llanelly. And sure enough, the Citizen trotted out the old excuse...

"Llanelly can shake hands with themselves that on the two occasions they have met Gloucester this season the City have been without a large proportion of their regular players," D.G.C. was quick to point out in that Saturday's "Football Final". (Of course, it could be said that at least Gloucester put out a team rather than cancelling!)

While there was a disaster at Kingsholm, then down at Southampton came the end of the world. *"The most*

important Rugby fixture set for decision this afternoon was the meeting of Gloucestershire and Hampshire in the semi-final of the county Championship," wrote Bill Bailey.

Gloucestershire were old campaigners in the competition, Hampshire had never managed to reach the semis before. Gloucestershire were firm favourites. Hampshire won the match.

Excuses? There were none. *"Gloucestershire were well beaten on point,"* Bailey wrote after the 16-6 defeat. He observed that the Gloucestershire forwards played well and could not be faulted. *"They did magnificently in all departments and were the stronger pack. Behind, however, the advantage rested with Hampshire,"* he added.

And coming back to today... It seems that every time Wasps visit, Gloucester have a two point lead and a certain player with a number 10 jersey steps up to take a penalty kick from the touchline in injury time to clinch the game for Wasps. Not totally true, but Mr. Andrew has certainly won a game or two for Wasps at this ground. It will be strange to see a Wasps team at Kingsholm without Rob Andrew.

● The ink had hardly dried on last week's musings when I discovered the first Web site on the Internet of a European rugby union. The Scottish Rugby Union can be found on <http://www.sru.org.uk/sru/>.