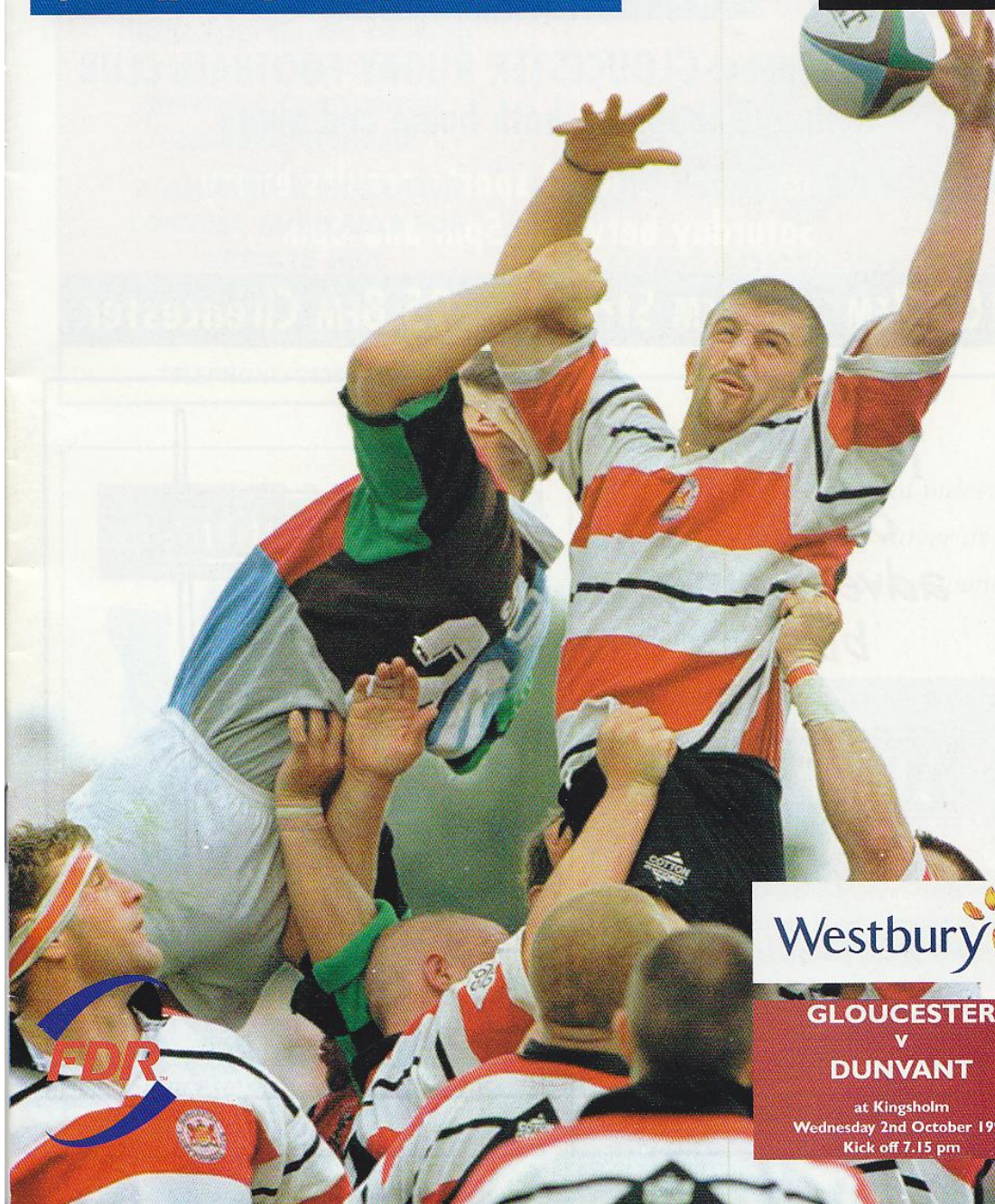


FIRST DIVISION
RUGBY
P R O M A G



FOUNDED 1873

Vol 1/3
£1.00



Westbury

**GLOUCESTER
v
DUNVANT**

at Kingsholm
Wednesday 2nd October 1996
Kick off 7.15 pm

FDR

New Experiences

Peter Arnold

That's about it. This evening's shindig is a new experience for everyone concerned, as is just about everything else in this frantically confusing season. First of all, it's the first home fixture for Gloucester in the new Anglo Welsh competition, which for quite a long time, looked as if it wasn't going to happen at all. The concept is intriguing enough, but for a time it seemed that the whole thing would become just one more casualty in the internal, infernal and seemingly eternal bickering which has infected just about the whole rugby world thus far this season.

If you discount the old 'Daily Mail' Anglo-Welsh Pennant, which, I am happy to remind everyone, Gloucester were the only English club ever to win, then Dunvant are the first Welsh club to play at Kingsholm in any officially competitive match. I say 'officially' because Gloucester versus any side from across the Severn was never anything less than competitive. To call any of that century-long series of games against the best that the Principality could throw at us a 'friendly' game was inevitably a triumph of hope over experience, as that fine old Irish flanker, Oscar Wilde might have said if he'd thought of it.

Ed Martin will probably prove me wrong, but to my knowledge it's also a new experience for Dunvant, who I don't believe have faced Gloucester at this level at Kingsholm before. So we don't know much about them either.

Many heathen Englishmen here this evening, probably won't even know where Dunvant is. I blush to confess that I didn't

until I looked it up. For anyone whose ignorance is as unpardonable as my own, I can tell you that, roughly speaking, Dunvant is about half-way between Llanelli and Swansea, but further south than either, which, I suppose, makes them just about the furthest flung of any Welsh side to come here. And they're all the more welcome for that.

Tonight's visitors are the best current example of the cyclic nature of the game. Sides rise to the top, have their brief hour of glory, and then sink again, sometimes nevermore to scale the dizzy heights. In the Welsh arena, one can think of teams, like South Wales Police and Glamorgan Wanderers, who have proved genuine handfuls (hands full ?) for Gloucester for a decade or so, only to disappear from the scene. In their place arise the Dunvants and the Treorchies of this world. If ever there was a justification for the League system, allowing teams to show what they can do, rather than leaving the fixture list to the whims of fixture secretaries, then Dunvant is it.

At the moment, and it is to be hoped for ever more, there is no doubt that tonight's welcome visitors are right there with the best of Welsh sides. Their climb into the Heineken First Division was spectacular, and they've had their share, and more, of memorable wins since they achieved that status. We are well aware that Dunvant is a side to be reckoned with, and we won't be taking them lightly.

As I say, this will be the first time that many of this evening's visitors will ever have been entertained at Kingsholm. We wish them well for the rest of the season, and hope they thoroughly enjoy tonight's festivities.

'UNDER THE CLOCK'

Peter Arnold

For generations, there was only one spot from which to watch the game if you reckoned you knew your way around Gloucester rugby. That spot was 'under the clock', at the Worcester Street end of the Shed.

The reason was quite simple: in the days before the facilities under the main stand were provided, the changing rooms were over there, and the players would run out from that door and down the steps. It is said that the great Willie Jones once dropped a goal from that concrete area, before he even set foot on the turf - at the Dean's Walk end ! Sadly, Willie is no longer with us, but when I taxed him with the story, a few years ago, he didn't deny it.

Towards the end of last season, the venerable old timepiece disappeared, its works having at long last, succumbed to the pressures of the years. Now, however, it's been replaced, and actually tells the time better than ever it did.

Thanks to Laurence and Peter Brown.

The Brown brothers originally hail from Sweetbriar Street, just a long drop-kick from the ground, the sons of the late Harry Brown, a distinguished Red Ant - Spartan to people not in the know - who supported Gloucester all his life, and made sure his offspring did the same. If it killed them.

Laurence and Peter are both Old Cryptians - (isn't everybody ?), and products of the tender rugby mercies of the great Horace Edwards. David Foyle might remember Laurence as a Founder Member of his infamous 'Extra B's' at Longlevens in the early '70s.

Anyway, Laurence and Peter have generously sponsored a replacement for the old clock, and we're extremely grateful for their open-handedness, and general sensitivity to the traditions of Kingsholm.

By trade, Peter Brown runs his own Insurance Consultancy in Cheltenham, and numbers many of the Kingsholm Faithful amongst his

clients. If you'd like to join them, you'll get Peter on 01242 584845. Not that he would mind you ringing him at home - 01452 713862.

Laurence Brown, by contrast, is more of an outdoor type. His company, Brown and Sons, is involved in all forms of garden contracting. Useful chap to know. His ministrations could get you along to Kingsholm when you thought you'd be clearing a jungle. If the thought tempts, get him on 01452 856387. He also supplies a huge range of indoor plants and containers if your office needs brightening up.

Thanks again Laurence and Peter. Your generosity will be on view for decades to come.

One more thing. The old clock is working again, and on view at Kingsholm. Have you spotted it ? To Be Continued, as they say, In Our Next.

'GLAWSTER' ON THE WEB

If you're a cyber spaceman you might like to know that there's an Internet equivalent of 'Shedhead', just blossoming into its full glory. Check it out on <http://www.glawster.demon.co.uk>.

WHO'S DOING WHAT, AND TO WHOM ?

This season gets more confusing as it goes along. Tonight, for example, we are taking part in the new Anglo Welsh Competition. Our next home game will be against the unbeaten Wasps in the Courage League on Sunday. Note that: SUNDAY. I'd hate you to turn up a day early, although watching our slightly incredible Colts side would be more than ample consolation, I suggest.

Then on the following Saturday, that is October 12th, we're entertaining Ebbw Vale in yet another competition which is new to us.

These days, the prefix 'Euro' in front of any

Peter Arnold

phrase is more likely to produce an expression of glazed boredom than anything, but in this case you might want to make an exception. I don't fully understand the system, and frankly I don't care very much. It's sufficient to know that the expanded European Cup is bringing Ebbw Vale and two French sides in Begles Bordeaux and Bourgoin to Kingsholm in rapid succession, with an away trip to Swansea thrown in for good measure. Incidentally, I'm told that the European Cup competition will be going ahead even though the withdrawal of ITV from the affair must have come as a severe blow to European Rugby Cup Limited.

Just to finish the programme for October, please note that the away game at Orrell in the Courage League is a midweek affair, now scheduled for Wednesday, October 30th rather than for the following evening as formerly advertised.

WELL DONE DAVE AND PHIL

Just a quick nod of congratulation to Dave Sims and Phil Greening for keeping their places in Jack Rowell's England training squad, through all the trials and tribulations which have attended it. Best of luck to both of them. I suppose the fact that they both scored tries against Bath in the presence of selector, Mike Slemen, won't have done their chances any harm.

CATCHING 'EM YOUNG

Robert Smith, this evening's Match Mascot is all of 13 years old. It's particularly appropriate that he does us the honours on this occasion, because he was actually born just a few miles from Dunvant. Don't let that fool you, however. He's been living in Cam for the past twelve years, and is fanatical in his support of Gloucester.

His ambition, I'm told is to play for Gloucester, and he's certainly going the right way about it.

While at Woodfield School, he captained their side to the first New Image Rugby Trophy in the Dursley Inter-Schools competition in 1994. Nowadays, he skips the Rednock School (which he attends with his younger sister, Zoe) U14 side from his position at outside-half. Better start looking over your shoulder, 'Tofty'!

On Sundays, Robert turns out for the fine, old Dursley club's U15s. All of which makes you wonder how he also finds time for football and computer games.

Thanks for turning out, Robert. It probably won't be the last time we see you in cherry and white!

FAMILY DAY AT KINGSHOLM !

GLOUCESTER v. WASPS

Sunday October 6th

All tickets reduced by £2.00 if purchased before the match.

***Tickets available from the office,
10am - 4pm, Monday to Friday.***

Further information, tel: 01452 381087

TAILPIECE

Best remark of the season so far. Early in the Bath game, carrot-headed Mark Mapletoft put in a nice little jink, beat his man, and got the game moving. Shout from the Shed:

"The future's Orange !"

How Andy Mitchell sees it

Since he achieved the Olympian grandeur of becoming Club Secretary, I have been trying to get Andy Mitchell to stand still long enough to write me a 'HOW HE SEES IT' piece. That has proved impossible thus far. Much of his time has been spent threading his way through the impenetrable maze of registration procedures for the Senior Squad, which marries in quite nicely with a couple of requests I've had.

It appears that the comings and goings within the Squad since the end of last

season has left most of us ordinary supporters quite bemused as to who's here and who isn't. I therefore persuaded Andy to fumble around in the bowels of the club computer and produce a list of the Squad as it stands at the time of writing. He's also added various players' former clubs where they are not, as yet, quite such familiar faces as longer-standing members are.

Here's the list for your education and delectation. I'll repeat it from time to time.

Eral Anderson – Moseley	Wing	Audley Lumsden – Bath	Full back
Laurie Beck	Scrum-half	Mark Mapletoft	Outside half
Scott Benton – Morley	Scrum-half	Andy Metcalfe – Wakefield	Outside half
Warwick Bullock	Prop	Alex Morris – Wakefield	Centre
Nathan Carter – Gordon League	Flank forward	Simon Morris	Centre/Wing
Don Caskie	Centre	Charlie Mulraine – Moseley	Scrum half
Chris Catling – Exeter	Full back	Bill Nicholas – Bath	Flank
Nick Cooper – Clifton	Lock	Lee Osborne	Wing/Centre
Mark Cornwall	Lock	Ed Pearce – Bath	No. 8/Flank
Howard Dawson	Flank	Mike Peters	Wing
Andy Deacon	Prop	Adey Powles	Prop
Simon Devereux	Lock/No. 8	Paul Price	Hooker
Scott Edwards – Lydney	No. 8	Martin Roberts	Centre
Craig Emmerson – Morley	Centre	Alastair Saverimutto	Centre
Rob Fidler	Lock	Dave Simms (Captain)	Lock
Chris Fortey – Gordon League	Hooker	Ian Smith	Flank
Lee Fortey – Gordon League	Prop	Nick Smith	Centre
Colin Gibson	No. 8	Andy Stanley	Flank
Pete Glanville	Flank	Dave Timmington	Wing
Phil Greening	Hooker	Phil Vickery	Prop
Peter Hart	Full-Back	Richard Ward	Lock
John Hawker	Hooker	Kester Wilkinson – Cirencester	Lock
Paul Holford	Wing	Tony Windo	Prop
Martyn Mimer	Outside-half	Trevor Woodman	Prop
Mike Lloyd	Wing	Rob York	Flank/No. 8



FOUNDED 1873

Wednesday 2nd October 1996 Kick-off 7.15pm

GLOUCESTER 64

Cherry & White

DUNVANT 16

7G 3T

2T 3PG

15	Audley Lumsden	1T	Full Back	Jon Williams	16
14	Mike Peters	2T	Right Wing	Emyr Harris	15
13	Alastair Saverimutto	2T	Centre	Mark Sutton	14
12	Andy Metcalfe		Centre	Greg Ellison	12
11	Mike Lloyd		Left Wing	Chris Arnold	11

10	Mark Mapletoft	7G 1T	Outside Half	Mark Thomas *	10
9	Scott Benton	1T	Scrum Half	Adrian Killa	9

1	Adey Powles		Prop	Richard Furneaux	1
2	Phil Greening		Hooker	Mefin Davies	2
3	Phil Vickery		Prop	Andrew Howell	3
4	Rob Fidler		Lock	Steve Dixon	4
5	Dave Sims *		Lock	Duncan Larcombe	5
6	Rob York	3T	Flanker	Stuart Jenkins	6
7	Nathan Carter		Flanker	Ceri Davies	7
8	Simon Devereux		No.8	Darran Jones	8

16	Martyn Kimber	Replacements	Darran Chick	16
17	Laurie Beck		Geraint Jeffries	17
18	Tony Windo		Mike Davies	18
19	Mark Cornwell		Colin Butler	19
20			James Richards	
21			Jon Dodd	

Referee
G. Warren (RFU/Bristol)

(I) International
* Captain

Touch Judges
C. J. Reeks (RFU)
S. Leyshun (RFU)

ED MARTIN

NEW TERRITORY - OR IS IT?

This evening, Gloucester enters new territory. Not only is it the first official "Anglo-Welsh" fixture to be played at Kingsholm, but it is also the very first occasion that the Cherry and Whites have met Duvant. Over the past century, there have been a whole host of clubs from the Principality that have played Gloucester. Some of these clubs still remain in the top flight of the Welsh game, while others are now among the "junior" ranks. So tonight's game kicks-off with a completely clean sheet. The other aspect of this game is the "Anglo-Welsh" part. I used the word "official" for a very good reason. This is because as long ago as 100 years there was a sort of Anglo-Welsh league. The top four Welsh clubs of the day and the top four English clubs near to the border (Gloucester, Bristol, Moseley and Coventry) all met each other home and away every season. This prompted the legendary Bill Bailey to devise a "league" table of the eight clubs. Highly unofficial, but it augers the question: Was this the earliest attempt in rugby union to produce a "table" as we know it today?

Looking at this day in Gloucester history, we find that seventy years ago, on Saturday October 2, 1926, the visitors to Kingsholm were St. Thomas' Hospital who at the time were the holders of the Hospital Cup, a competition between the great London "teaching" hospitals when medical students were hard-drinking, hard rugby-playing "doctors in the house". The "Hospital" ended the match with 13 players (injuries, not red-cards!) and were dispatched 20-14 by the Cherry and Whites. Bill Bailey remarks in that evenings "Pink 'Un"...

It was a game in patches this afternoon, some entertaining football being intermixed with numerous mistakes in handling which put an end to some promising combined movements. Gloucester again scored freely, obtaining six tries to their opponents' two, but the goal kicking was poor, only one place kick being successful.

Gloucester, as in the Moseley match, did all their best work in the first half. The Hospital were by no means outclassed, but in actual play the City held a big

advantage, and three tries did not indicate the home team's superiority. But there was a falling off after the change of ends, and though many attacks were initiated, finishing was often wanted. On the other hand, Hospital worked surprisingly well after losing their second player, and the dropped goal by Cooper and the try by Robinson were well deserved scores. The Gloucester forwards did well up to a point, but there was a lack of cohesion... In the open, the Hospital men were quite the equals of the home eight, but were beaten in the loose, where the Gloucester men showed skilful dribbling at times. Hemming, in the long line out, did some effective work, but the pack failed to keep up the form displayed in the early stages.

Behind, the City were faulty in combination, and the passing broke down badly on occasions. Milliner accomplished a lot of good things at the scrum, and Taylor, though obviously suffering from lack of training, made one or two good openings and kicked well. Hughes and Thompson formed the strongest wing at three-quarter in attack and the latter's three tries stood out amongst the features of the game...

Like Gloucester, the Hospital have several players on the injured list, and were unlucky to have two more casualties this afternoon. However, it was an enjoyable game, if the play did not reach a high standard at times, and St. Thomas's will be welcome visitors to Kingsholm again.

Gloucester team: W. Guest; R. Thompson, Roy James, E.H. Hughes and J. Howell; R. Milner and Dr. Taylor; M. Short, G. McIlwaine, A.J. Owner, J. Hemming, G. Foulkes, E. Triggs-Herbert, L. Bartlett and H. Pitt.

If there are any frustrated internet surfers trying to get the unofficial Gloucester RFC web site, then blame the printers of this tome. They corrected the spelling 'glawster' to Gloucester. The correct internet URL is as follows:

<http://www.glawster.demon.co.uk>. Oh yes, the webmaster for this site is checking out rugby in Dallas at the moment so the updates to the pages are about a week behind.