

FIRST DIVISION

# RUGBY

P R O M A G



Vol 1/4

£2.00

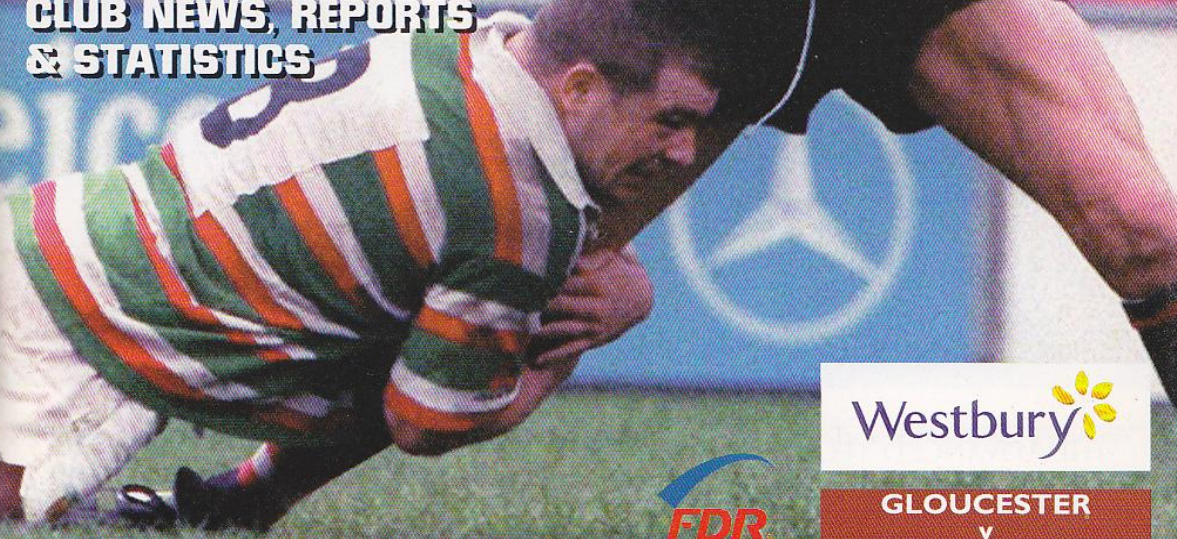
## WALES EXPECTS - AND LEAGUE REINFORCEMENTS ARE ON THE WAY

Alastair Hignell

## COURAGE LEAGUE SELECT FIFTEEN

Robert Armstrong

## CLUB NEWS, REPORTS & STATISTICS



Westbury

**GLOUCESTER  
v  
WASPS**

at Kingsholm  
Sunday 6th October 1996  
Kick off 3.00 pm





FOUNDED 1873



**Sunday 6th October 1996 Kick-off 3.00pm**

**GLOUCESTER** 28  
Cherry & White

**WASPS** 23  
Black with Red Wasp

15	Chris Catling T	Full Back	Gareth Rees (I)	16
14	Audley Lumsden	Right Wing	L Scrase	15
13	Alastair Saverimutto T	Centre	Nick Greenstock	14
12	Martin Roberts	Centre	Va'aiga Tuigamala (I)	12
11	Mike Lloyd	Left Wing	Shane Roiser	11

10	Mark Mapletoft GPG	Outside Half	Alex King	10
9	Scott Benton	Scrum Half	Andy Gomarsall	9

1	Tony Windo	Prop	Darren Molloy	1
2	Phil Greening	Hooker	K Dunn	2
3	Andy Deacon	Prop	W Green	3
4	Rob Fidler	Lock	Damian Cronin (I)	4
5	Dave Sims *	Lock	Matt Greenwood	5
6	Pete Glanville	Flanker	Mike White	6
7	Nathan Carter	Flanker	Lawrence Dallaglio * (I)	7
8	Simon Devereux	No.8	Chris Sheasby	8

16	Laurie Beck	Replacements	M Wood	16
17	Alex Morris		P Sampson	17
18	Phil Vickery		D Macer	18
19	Ed Pearce		P Scrivener	19
20				
21				

Referee

D. A. C. Chapman (RFU)

(I) International  
\* Captain

Touch Judges

J R Wallis (RFU)  
C J Harrison (RFU)





THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH RUGBY FIRST DIVISION LTD

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Front Cover picture: Ed Pearce



# The Buzz !

*Peter Arnold*

Doctor Johnson once said of women preaching that "the wonder is not that it is done well, but that it is done at all." He should have been a Wasps fan.

If you cast your mind back a scant twelve months, you will recall that we lost to today's visitors at Kingsholm, quite comfortably, mainly through a vintage performance from Rob Andrew. A relatively short time later, we returned the compliment in the Cup Quarter Final, but an awful lot had happened, and was happening, at the Sudbury hive in the interim.

At that point, there were people around who were predicting that Wasps would be playing Second Division rugby this season, and it does have to be said that the defection of Rob Andrew and his circle of friends, to what was seen as greener pastures in the North, would have disembowelled a great many clubs.

Not so the Wasps.

At the time of writing they are perched at the top of Division One, and look as though they're going to take a fair bit of dislodging. They have famous victories under their belt, and will certainly achieve more. They must be approaching today's game with unbounded confidence, but Kingsholm has provided the fall to many exhibitions of pride, and we shall just have to await events out in the middle.

Quite as praiseworthy as Wasps' climb to top spot, is the manner in which they have achieved it. For years, they have been committed to total, running rugby, and it's rare that any game featuring them is anything less than entertaining. It's difficult to think, therefore, of a side more

appropriate to help us stage our first Family Day. If they play the way they can, they could well inspire any youngster, brought along for the occasion by right-minded parents, to try the game for himself. Which is as it should be.

And it's on a Sunday, too. The better the day, the better the deed, they say....

Not the first time we've played on the Sabbath, of course. The earliest such occasion I remember is the one, back in the nostalgically-recalled pre-League days, when Gloucester and London Irish were the only undefeated sides in first-class rugby, quite late in the season, too.

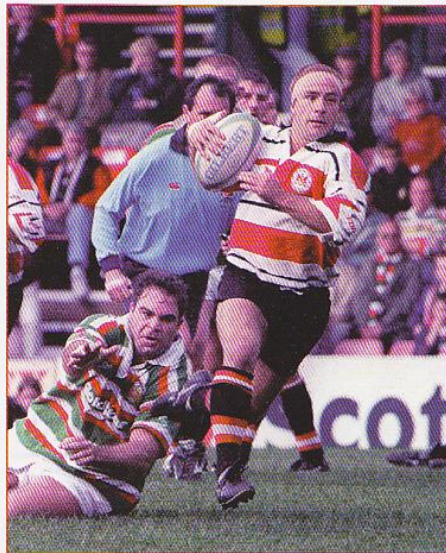
The originally scheduled fixture had been frosted off, but both teams were so keen to try conclusions that they took the virtually unprecedented step of rearranging the affair for a Sunday, amid tuttings from certain sections of the community at large.

Gloucester won, and the Exiles, quite unperturbed by their defeat, took their concertinas off to the Irish Club, where the traditional good time was had by all. My head still aches when I think of it.

"Ah! Well!" said their President to me, "If we had to lose, we'd rather it was to you lot than to some (expletive deleted) Welsh side!" No disrespect. It was him wot said it, not me.

Could that result be a precedent of some sort? An omen of things to come? We shall know in an hour or two.

But, whatever happens out on the field, it's always good to see the Wasps at Kingsholm. We hope they have a great West Country day out, and wish them well for the rest of the season. It would, after all, be nice to see a different name at the top of the table. come April.



The Future's Orange



# DID YOU SPOT THE CLOCK ?

*Peter Arnold*

My generation of Old Cryptians will recall a certain physics master who named his car 'Dorcas', because it was full of good works. The same could be said of the old clock which used to ride proudly over the ground from the old changing rooms at the Worcester Street end. Admittedly, it sighed gently, and gave in to anno domini towards the end of last season: the new one occupying that hallowed spot having been generously sponsored by Laurence and Peter Brown, a magnanimous gesture for which we are all sincerely grateful.

But there's life in the old timepiece yet. It's up and running again, right here where it should be, at Kingsholm. While recording the Browns' generosity in our last programme, I invited you to see if you could spot where the original clock is now dutifully marking the hours and minutes.

If you didn't do that, then I'll enlighten you. If, after the game, you enter the Clubhouse by way of the double doors closest to the main stand, you'll see it, ticking away over your head. In fact, when waiting to get to the bar that way, you can console yourself with the thought that you are emulating many generations of legendary players by passing in 'under the clock'. Or perhaps passing out... The point is that the great old timepiece is part of the mythology of Kingsholm: analagous to the famous Father Time weathervane at Lord's, if you will. Terry Bray certainly saw it that way when his company generously offered to restore it. "The old thing looked so sad, just lying there in a shed" says Terry. "We felt someone should do something about it."

The company concerned is Pearce Platford, and a great job they have masterminded, too. They are, I am told experts in things electrical, so if you have requirements in that direction, then you may feel that their sensitivity and generosity in this matter warrants your consideration. If you do, ring Terry Bray on 01453 835100.

A word should be said, also, on behalf of horologist, Dave Neno, who strove mightily to get the clock working before the decision was taken to replace it. He'll be as pleased as anyone to see it in full operation again.

## WE GET LETTERS

My apologies to Jamie Etherington of Mitcheldean for not printing the following letter earlier. He wrote to me back in August, and I always intended that his letter receive the attention it merits. Unfortunately, early-season pressure on space, and the exigencies of trying to get a new publication process off the ground, prevented me bringing it to your notice before now. Better late than never, they say, and I do hope Mr. Etherington and his family see it that way.

I think the point is that, at the start of each season, there are people who, sadly, aren't here to celebrate the fact. Famous club servants such as Mervyn Ellway and kegendary former players such as Willie Jones do have their passing recorded in the Press during the close season. Unsung stalwarts such as Cedric Etherington, by and large, don't.

And that's unfair. So in printing a grandson's memorial to his grandfather, I hope the letter will serve to acknowledge the passing of any good old Kingsholm supporter who isn't in his usual spot this season.

Ave atque Vale ! Hail and farewell !

*Dear Mr Arnold*

*It is with great sadness that I write with a request in memory of my late grandfather, Cedric Etherington, who passed away in May after a short illness at the age of 86.*

*As a regular at Kingsholm since the early 1940's, his Saturday afternoons between September and April were spent urging the pack forward and (good naturedly) verbally harassing referees, especially a certain Mr Quittenton. While he had not attended many games in recent years, he always listened to the commentaries on local radio and always read the match programmes. He was, however, very much a man of the old era harking back to the days when Gloucester entertained the Old Merchant Taylors on Boxing Day (the best matches he ever saw, he maintained. Carefree rugby, players tumbling out of the pub only ten minutes before kick-off!). He wasn't reconciled to the idea of the professional game and his views on Rupert Murdoch and Sky remain unprintable!*

**continued on page 17**



# AND FOR OUR NEXT TRICK !

continued from page 17

*Peter Arnold*

In true Nick Hornby fashion. I remember my first Gloucester game, at nine years old, in 1978 against Bradford - much of the game was a blur but I do recall a Gloucester win, blonde John Watkins making a break down the grandstand side of the pitch and Grandad hollering and bellowing from our seats in the main stand. Without getting too misty-eyed, I am eternally indebted to him for that introduction to Kingsholm - Saturday afternoons have become an institution ever since!

I would therefore be most grateful, space and time permitting, if you could make a brief mention of his passing in one of the match programmes. He had many friends and the ground, several of whom have passed on themselves, and I know he would have been delighted to see his name in print in one of the programmes.

Yours sincerely,  
Jamie Etherington.

Doesn't life get complicated ? We just get used to a new order of things, and then someone comes along and imposes, not one, but two new competitions on us. Let's try to sort impending events out a little.

Next Saturday, as ever was, we entertain Ebbw Vale in the European Cup. (We meet them in the Anglo-Welsh competition in November). Still at home, the following Wednesday evening, we are to welcome

French side, Begles Bordeaux in the same competition. That's followed, on the Saturday, by a visit to Swansea, also in the Euro competition, rather than the Anglo-Welsh one, which is confusing. Still in Europe, we are expecting a cross-channel visit from Bourgoin on the following Saturday. Only on Wednesday, October 30th do Courage League hostilities resume, with a tricky old trip to Orrell.

November is equally complicated, so let's not risk mental indigestion, and sort those out a little later. To summarise forthcoming attractions:

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12th  
EBBW VALE - HOME  
EURO2

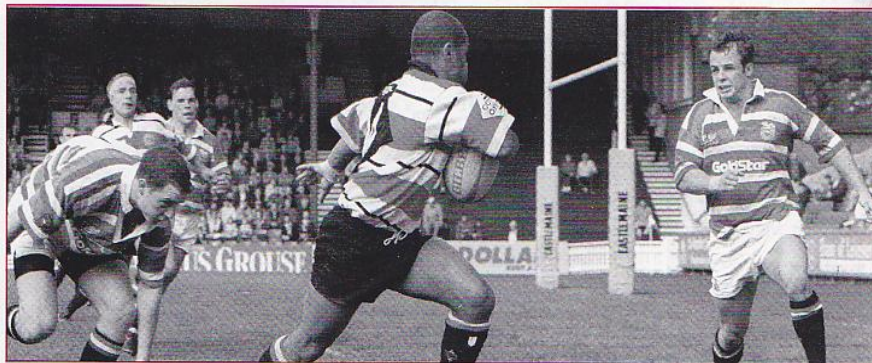
WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 16th  
BEGLES BORDEAUX - HOME  
EURO2

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19th  
SWANSEA - AWAY  
EURO2

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26th  
BOURGAIN - HOME  
EURO2

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30th  
ORELL - AWAY  
COURAGE LEAGUE

I suppose it will sort itself out. One day.





# CATCHING THEM YOUNG

Don't have a great deal of information for you about today's Match Mascot as yet. I do know that she's a young lady called Sarah Jane Bourne, from Cheltenham, and that she attained the ripe old age of six as recently as September 20th. I also know that her brother did us the honour of doing the same job right at the beginning of last season.

Thanks, Sarah Jane ! Any more snippets, and I'll be glad to tell people about them in a later programme.

## TAILPIECE

My eye was caught by Kevin Bowring's comments following the Wales v. France match. Understandably incensed by some of the off-the-ball mayhem on that occasion, he fumed, to the effect that: "This sort of violence must be stamped out !"

Highly commendable sentiments. The phraseology needs work though.

### PRESENTATION FOR TIM

At around 2.30 this afternoon, in front of the Main Stand  
A Presentation of a watch is to be made to

#### TIM SMITH

Full-back extraordinaire, raconteur,  
bon viveur and all-around  
Good Egg

In recognition of his 349 games for  
Gloucester

Good luck, Tim - and thanks from all  
of us!



Richard Hill contemplates his next move after the result at Welford Road last week



## HOW KATIE COKER SEES IT

Not all that many years ago, some dyed-in-the-wool rugby men (not excluding Norman Partridge), saw it as reprehensible, unethical, immoral and an all-around dilution of moral fibre when women were allowed in clubhouses. The very idea that anyone of the female persuasion would ever be able to write authoritatively on the game would have had your average prop forward falling about in helpless hilarity.

Our own KATIE COKER has changed all that. Not only is she the best rugby correspondent to hit the local scene for years, but I know from my conversations with fellow Programme Editors around the country, that she is on the verge of achieving a national reputation, if indeed, she hasn't done so already.

I would therefore, be a mug, as the saying goes, if I didn't persuade her to contribute to our match programme from time to time. Here's her latest.

We are all part of an unusual experiment this weekend. Don't worry - nothing sinister is about to happen to you as far as I know - I am merely talking about the advent of Sunday Courage League rugby matches.

Wasps are playing most of their home games on Sunday this season to make their ground sharing arrangements with Queens Park Rangers simpler, but while the Londoners are probably happy to be able to keep up their Sunday routine for this away match, for Gloucester there was no need to stage this particular fixture today as opposed to yesterday. However, I suspect the Gloucester officials saw this as a good opportunity to test just what kind of market there is locally for Sunday rugby.

In theory, with hundreds of rugby fans actually playing the game themselves on Saturday but not on Sunday, the scope should be there for a big crowd on Sundays.

And Gloucester's new marketing department showed they are not afraid to speculate to accumulate by offering advanced ticket discounts and free entry to children - hopefully the Gloucester public will have responded by streaming through the turnstiles today.

Sunday rugby is just one spin off of the new era we all find ourselves in. I am happy with some of the new trends of the professional game, but not so pleased with others.

Pre-match entertainment is all very well if it is

good, but some rugby clubs have a long way to go before they work out what the definition of 'good' is in that context. Bad entertainment is definitely less desirable than none at all.

And I really loathe the tacky music some clubs are playing when the home side scores a try or puts a kick on target.

At Richmond last weekend a short blast of Roy Orbison crooning 'It's Over' came over the tannoy to accompany every successful conversion. Not only is that kind of thing incredibly irritating and cheap, I think it is also unnecessarily provocative to the away supporters.

Things have changed on the field of play as well as off it, but for Gloucester one thing remains constant - another relegation battle needs to be faced and won.

The improvements Gloucester made in the second half of last season have been swallowed up by the progress made by the other clubs and Gloucester's only consolation at this point must be that they will have played six of the top seven teams in the division by the end of this afternoon, so a lot of the theoretically softer games are still to come.

I reckon about 10 wins will be enough to be safe at the end of the season, so Gloucester have a long way to go and it is imperative that they do the double over teams like Orrell and West Hartlepool for starters.

It may be tough to win away against both teams, but compared to other games in the first division they are easier fixtures and must therefore bring two points to Gloucester if they are to survive.

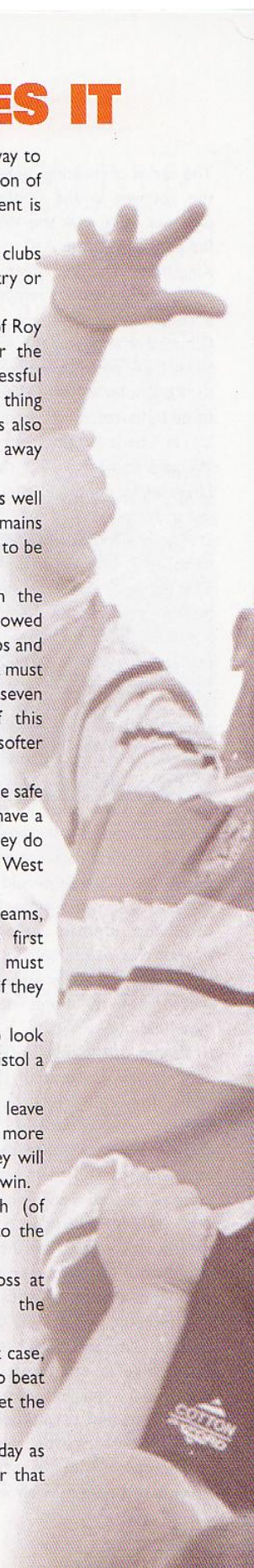
London Irish, although star-studded, also look vulnerable and Gloucester always give Bristol a run for their money whatever the venue.

Even wins against all these sides will leave Gloucester needing to make up a bit more ground, so somewhere along the line they will have to pick up their customary surprise win. Last season Gloucester defeated Bath (of course) when they were on their way to the title.

The season before Leicester fell to a loss at Kingsholm before they too won the championship.

Do I see a pattern emerging here? In that case, I think this season Gloucester will need to beat Wasps or Harlequins if they want to upset the champions-elect.

And today would certainly be as good a day as any to spring such a surprise. Remember that cup match last February?





## ED MARTIN

The series of meetings against Wasps is one of the younger in the books. It was not until October 1946 that the Wasps ventured forth for a trip down the A40 to test the "water" at Kingsholm. That very first encounter between the two clubs, as was remembered on this page a couple of seasons ago, a close affair, with Gloucester emerging 8-5 winners.

Since then, there have been a total of 23 visits to Kingsholm by the Wasps, who have won three (Gloucester has won 18 and drawn one). Up in London, things are almost even, with Wasps ahead 11 to 10 in the 21 matches.

Now, let us continue where we left off in the last programme....

St. Thomas' Hospital were dispatched 20-14 on October 2, 1926, their first visit to Kingsholm. The following Saturday (October 9) another fifteen medical students stopped off at Kingsholm to test the beer - and play rugby.

Bill Bailey's remarks in that evening's "Football Final" of a 19-3 Gloucester win...

Guy's Hospital, whose only victory over Gloucester at Kingsholm was in 1924, when they defeated a weak City team by five points to nil, had several new players in their ranks for their match with the City club today.

It was a remarkable result, for Gloucester's form in the first half suggested the City, instead of a substantial win, would have all their work cut out to save the game. Both teams showed their best football against the wind. Guy's, though two points behind at the interval, had the better of the play, and if their work had had more finish, the home defence could hardly have held out.

With the turf greasy on the surface, and the wind playing tricks with the ball, the players were often in difficulties, especially in handling and gathering. Gloucester were often at fault, and the Kingsholm men took an exceptionally long time to find their true form. Errors in judgement, too, were frequent, and altogether the first half, except for a few isolated movements, was, to say the least, very scrappy. Guy's were fully expected to show superiority after the change of ends, but the Hospital players could not last the pace, and in the last quarter Gloucester had the game well in hand. Tries came in rapid succession, and but for Hutchinson's plucky saving the score would have been added to appreciably.

Easily the best try of the afternoon was credited to Thompson, with Millington the prime mover in what was truly a lovely effort. Guy's were

certainly caught napping when Crowther crossed with his first try, but credit must be given the Gloucester winger for his opportunism.

It was a keen struggle forward this afternoon, with the Gloucester pack second best for a long period. But when the City attained something like cohesion, Guy's were out of it, and they finished like a well beaten set. I did not like the tackling of the home players at times: it was much too high and the opponents all too often got out of their clutches. The home eight still lack complete understanding in the scrums, and in the heeling there is still a weakness that must be overcome if the back division is to be properly supplied with opportunities.

Gloucester's team: G. Thomas; R. Thompson, Roy James, E.H. Hughes and S.R. Crowther; R. Millner and T. Millington; A.T. Voyce (capt), M. Short, G. McIlwaine, G. Foulkes, G.R. Shaw, H. Roberts, A.J. Owner and E. Triggs-Herbert. Scorers: Tries: Millington (Voyce conversion), Crowther (Millington conversion), Thompson, Crowther and Voyce.

There are also a couple of other interesting sporting items in the Saturday October 9 issue of the Citizen's "Football Final"...

"The management of the Picturedrome has secured the big Dempsey-Tunney fight film for exhibition next week when it will be shown three times each day, and should prove an attractive booking in view of the interest which was evinced in the fight. The progress of the contest can be followed very closely as the whole of the 10 rounds has been filmed." The Picturedrome became the Ritz which became a bingo palace which became today's New Olympus Theatre. Dempsey, of course, lost his title to Gene Tunney on a unanimous decision after 10 rounds in Philadelphia on September 23. Back then it took 15 days for the moving pictures to reach Gloucester.

Secondly, in the Gloster Ex-Scholars League (yes, nothing new about leagues and league tables in these 'ere parts!), Archdeacon EPTS thrashed Widden EPTS 55 points to three. Much of the damage was inflicted by Don Meadows (four tries) and Harold Boughton (three tries, eight conversions and one penalty). In today's points "currency", the result would have been 79-3. Boughton was on the verge of making his Gloucester debut, while Meadows was a season away from his debut. Both players notched up in excess of 300 appearances each for Gloucester.

