

FIRST DIVISION

RUGBY

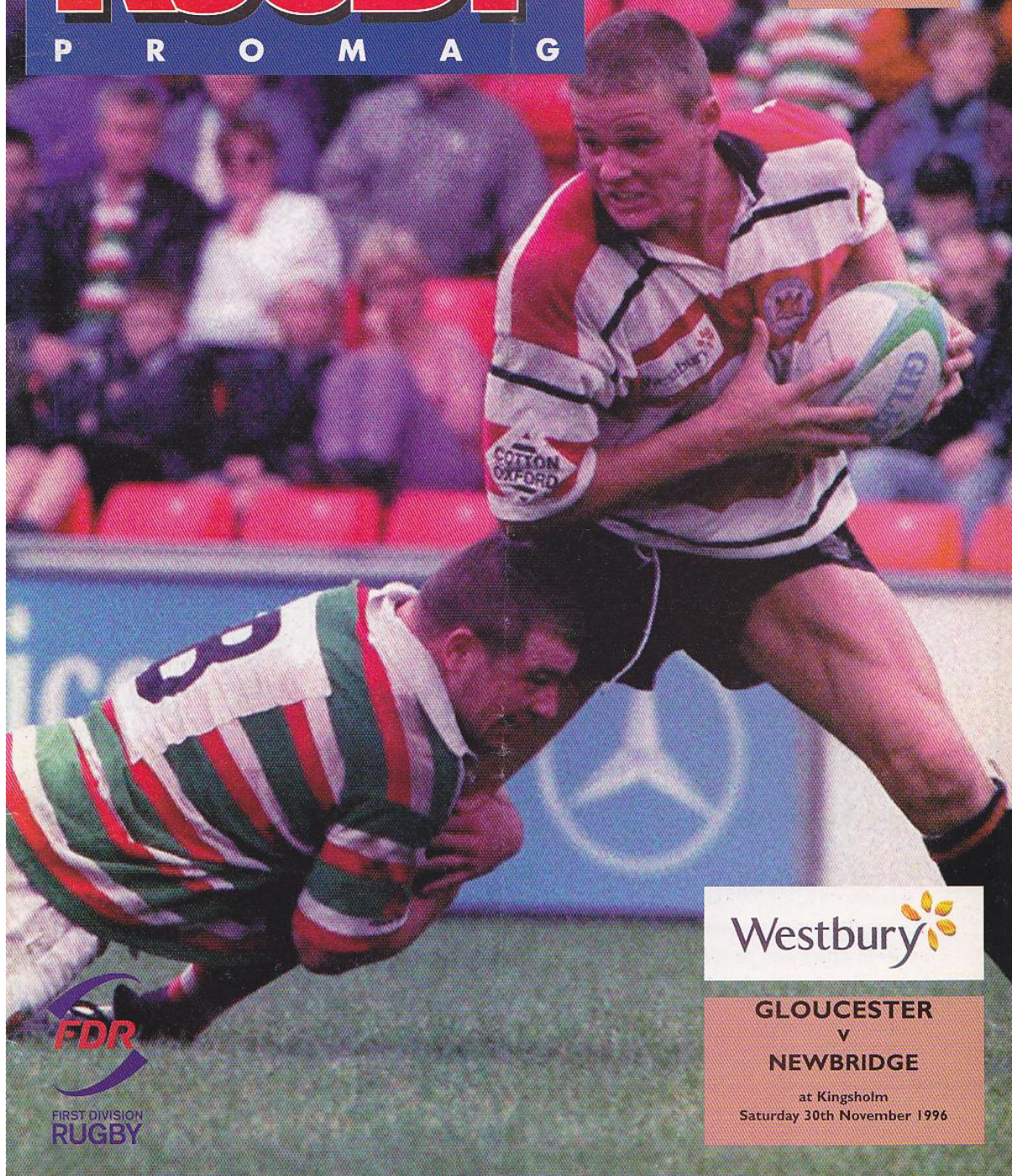
P R O M A G



FOUNDED 1873

Vol 1/9

£1.00



FIRST DIVISION
RUGBY

Westbury 

GLOUCESTER
v
NEWBRIDGE

at Kingsholm
Saturday 30th November 1996



FOUNDED 1873

Saturday 30th November 1996 Kick-off 3.00pm

GLOUCESTER
Cherry & White**NEWBRIDGE**

50
70
120
140
160
210
260
310
360
380
430
450
500
520
570
620
670
690
740
760

15	Chris Catling	Full Back	W Taylor	15
14	Mike Peters	Right Wing	K Williams	14
13	Don Caskie	Centre	A Lucas M Cox	13
12	Martin Robert	Centre	R Clarke	12
11	Mike Lloyd	Left Wing	D Meredith	11

10	Mark Mapletoft	Outside Half	P Williams	10
9	Scott Benton	Scrum Half	M Rossiter	9

1	Tony Windo	Prop	H Jefferies	1
2	Chris Fortey	Hooker	L Philips	2
3	Phil Vickery	Prop	C Budgeon	3
4	Rob Fidler	Lock	H Gregory	4
5	Dave Sims	Lock	A Gwilliam J Derek	5
6	Pete Glanville	Flanker	D Cooper M LINDFORD	6
7	Ian Smith	Flanker	J Derek J Cooper	7
8	Simon Devereux	No.8	J Powell	8

16	Alastair Saverimutto	Replacements	D Rees	16
17	Laurie Beck		R Williams	17
18	Audley Lumsden			18
19	Trevor Woodman			19
20	Richard Ward			20
21	Nathan Carter			21

Referee
S Piercy (Yorkshire/RFU)(I) International
* CaptainTouch Judges
L Bryant
I Lambert

We Know the Feeling...

Peter Arnold

The last time I looked, Newbridge were holding up the First Division of the Welsh Heineken League, having won just two games in that increasingly competitive competition. Not an enviable spot to be in, and we know the feeling only too well. When you're in that predicament, however, perhaps Kingsholm is a good, reassuring place to visit.

This time last season, (don't tell anyone) Gloucester were staring right down the gun barrel of relegation. Even the most optimistic of us - and I'm frequently accused of being just that - did have the occasional doubt, probably in the dark reaches of a sleepless night, as to whether the good old Elver Eaters could survive in the top bracket.

The rest is, as they say, history, but we were by no means out of the woods for the first period of this season. Even now, we can't honestly say we're safe, but we're certainly more comfortable than we were twelve months ago, and confidence among supporters is higher than it's been for some considerable time. John Major, a good rugby man himself, also knows the feeling. He's relying on the 'feel good' factor, and it's certainly more evident now among the Kingsholm Faithful.

Perhaps the Prime Minister should keep an eye on the fortunes of Gloucester RFC, and use them as one of his parameters when he's deciding when to call his General Election. After all, if you take a look at our fixture list, you'll see that we shall be facing our Moment of Truth at just about the same time as the Government will.

The point, as far as today's welcome visitors are concerned, is that many pundits had Gloucester dead and buried, not so long ago. Reports of our demise, as Mark Twain wrote, proved to be premature, and if we can haul ourselves back from the brink, then surely a fine old club like Newbridge can.

Of course, if it hadn't been for the Anglo-Welsh competition, We wouldn't have had the pleasure of entertaining Newbridge today. We might not have taken the European conference all that seriously (John Major has his Euro Sceptics, too),

but Gloucester used to have the strongest Anglo-Welsh fixture list on either side of the River Severn, and surely we welcome the chance to resume friendly hostilities, if you'll pardon the oxymoron, under whatever banner.

It's good to see Newbridge here again. They did, after all, make a little piece of history when they became the first Welsh club to accept a transfer fee for a defecting player, 10 days or so ago. If anyone was looking forward to seeing Mr. Hawker today, then don't worry: we shall have a chance to give him a going over when we take on Ebbw Vale a bit later.

We wish Newbridge well, and sincerely welcome everyone to Kingsholm. We hope they can start climbing the table during the second half of the season, and that we shall be trying conclusions again before too long.

51st SEASON

To look at my friend Peter Gough, you wouldn't think think he's been married for 50 years. Then take a look at his wife, Barbara, and you can see how he keeps his youthful good looks and vigour.

This weekend, Pete and Barbara celebrate their Golden Wedding, and what's more they intend to do so right here at Kingsholm, a fact which will surprise anyone who knows Pete not in the least.

To put things into perspective, when the Goughs actually tied the knot, Harold Boughton and 'Digger' Morris were playing for Gloucester, and Jack Heaton was Skippering England. Gloucester's sternest opposition were Bedford, Northampton and Bristol, and Bath were an easy Saturday afternoon runabout. A cup of tea on the ground cost 2 1/2p - sixpence in real money. You couldn't get beer at Kingsholm in those days.

As far as Pete Gough is concerned, the only surprising thing about his nuptials was that Barbara managed to drag him away from Kingsholm, during the Season, for her to meet him at the altar.

Be all that as it may, our congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gough. It begins to look as if they'll make a go of it.

What do we do now?

Peter Arnold

This really is a stuttering season. We just get a couple of Courage matches under our belts, when everything changes again.

Next Saturday, however, normal service is to be resumed, via another 'must-win' Courage League game, the sacrificial victims on that day being yer men from London Irish. At least, I hope they turn out to be victims, but you can never take the Irish for granted. They're having all sorts of problems, right now, but on paper at least, they can field a more than useful side, and there's no one more dangerous than a wounded Irishman. What's more, they now have a new coach, and signs of revival are already becoming apparent.

Your support on that day is earnestly requested.

After that, we have trips to Ebbw Vale and Moseley in rapid succession. As the 'Ebbw' trip - Anglo-Welsh again - is on Tuesday, December 10th, and the Saturday match at Moseley (December 14th) kicks off at 12 noon, the coach situation is a bit equivocal. In other words, Bob Barge will probably run them if there looks like being sufficient support. So if you fancy either, or both, of those trips, do let Geraldine know so that the decisions can be made in good time.

Plenty going on. No doubt you'll be wanting your share of it.

ONLY TWO MORE SHOPPING DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

Or it could be three, depending on the Pilkington draw, which isn't to hand at the time of writing.

The last time I saw Alan Townsend, he was setting up a travelling version of the Club Shop in a disused bottle store in Barton Street. The occasion was the hilarious production of 'Up 'n' Under' at the New Olympus Theatre. For the few people who didn't go along to see it, the play is based around a pub team, representing a hostelry called the 'Wheatsheaf'.

Being a good prop forward, and always a man with

an eye for a marketing ploy, John Godsell, the Landlord of the Vauxhall, which adjoins the theatre, changed the name of his pub for the run of the play, and offered facilities for GRFC to sell gear at the pub.

Haven't heard how successful the venture was, but to return to where I started, this season's fractured fixture list results in only a couple of opportunities to acquire Gloucester memorabilia to present to right-minded friends and relatives at the Festive Season.

Nudge, nudge, wink, wink.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

So we're at home to Leeds in the Pilkington Cup. Let's face it - we haven't had the best of runs of home games. lately, and we badly wanted to have a home draw this time, for financial reasons, if for no other.

December 21st, and I can't really think of a better way to start the Yuletide festivities than a Cup game at Kingsholm, can you ?

Should remind you that Cup games are all-ticket. Not our fault - part of the rule's of the competition. Can't give you full information about prices, availability etc. just at the moment, but I'll let you know, either here or on the Hot Line, as soon as I can. It'll be a super occasion, and you'll want to support the lads, won't you ?

I do have a tinge of sympathy for the other two Gloucester sides, though. Cheltenham have done very well to get as far as they have, and have been rewarded with a trip to Harlequins. I'm sure the likes of Malcolm Preedy, John Brain, Bobby Fowke and Sam Masters will be relishing the prospect enormously.

Lydney have to beat Newbury, and then face a trip to Leicester. Hard going, but the lads will be looking forward to it, I've no doubt.

But we're going to face the hordes from Leeds. Should be great fun.

Well done, the Lads!

Peter Arnold

The word 'meteoric' is vastly overused in this context, but there really isn't any term which describes Phil Greening's rise through the rugby ranks half as well. Only twelve months or so ago, he was hooking for United, and hoping that he might get a game or two for the First XV sometime that season. The rest, as they say is history.

To be selected to adorn the benches for England, with an assurance of a full Cap if Mark Regan's hand didn't recover, at this stage in his career, is a quite remarkable achievement. And, as things turned out, he actually got on the field, albeit for a very short time.

Good Lord ! The bloke hasn't long recovered from his 21st birthday party hangover !

It's probably a good plan to give him a spell on the benches rather than throwing him in off the deep end. However, I can't help feeling that if Jack Rowell wants to have a look at him before the Five Nations, he is really presenting Philip with a baptism of fire if he puts him in against either Argentina or New Zealand Barbarians. But that's life, I suppose.

But there's one thing of which Our Mr. Greening can be sure. There are thousands of us back here in Glawster who will be rooting for him all the way.

If lack of experience is the order of the day, then in some ways, the case of Mark Mapletoft is equally noteworthy. Just a year ago, he was prostrated by an injury which could well have ended his rugby career. But here we are, looking at an outside-half in both the England 'A' and full England squads.

And he's only played half a season at No.10 having switched from full-back !

Alex King appears to be ahead of 'Tofty' in the Rowell pecking order at the moment, but we all remember that when the two faced each other at that memorable Wasps game a few weeks ago, it wasn't Mr. King who came off best. Not by any means.

We must also congratulate Chris Catling on his accession to the ranks of England 'A', surely the best vindication of Richard Hill's youth policy to date, and assuredly not the final one.

I frankly admit to never having heard of Chris before he arrived at Kingsholm. With Mark Mapletoft defecting to outside-half, Audley Lumsden seemingly embedded in Bath, and Tim Smith having decided he'd had enough of the Big Time, the full-back situation looked a bit dicey. But as soon as Chris Catling set foot on the Sacred Turf, he looked every inch the part. Then he got injured at exactly the wrong time from his point of view.

However, Jack Rowell kept faith, and we wish Chris all the luck in the world. Can't help thinking he's going to have to keep a sharp eye on young Mr. Paisley, though.

I've left Dave Sims 'til last. Not for any other reason than that I'm certain the Skipper would prefer me to give the first plaudits to his younger aspirants.

Surely Dave Sims must get a full Cap before long. For my money he has been the outstanding lock forward in the country so far this season, and I think I've seen most of his rivals. But he's having to content himself with the England 'A' spot which he's virtually made his own over the past few seasons.

Hang in there, Skipper! I'm sure Mr. Shaw's selection has more to do with altitude than aptitude.

Finally, not wishing to get into the controversy, we would be churlish if we didn't congratulate Ian Smith on his performance for Scotland against Australia. He had a blinder, didn't he? It's very nice to see that peace seems to have been declared on that particular front.

TAILPIECE

Through the good offices of my friend Brian Ward-Ellison, I have acquired a copy of 'West Edition', the West Hartlepool equivalent of our own 'Shedhead'. There's quite a bit I'd like to share with you, and probably will on future occasions. One thing caught my eye, however.

There's a picture of our own escapee, Virgil Hartland, sporting a Kojak haircut, about which he appears to have some misgivings.

"I daren't go down to Glawster for a while !", he is reported as saying.

Come off it, Verge. Haven't you noticed Phil Greening's barnet lately ?

How Barry Preece Sees It

Barry Preece was sporting a glorious multi-hued black eye lately, sustained, he tells me, by walking carelessly into a prop forward. Which is ironic, because he is Gullivers Chilcott's representative here at Kingsholm. This makes him the legendary 'Coochie's' employee, so you'd think he'd have learned to stay out of the way by now.

Herewith are his own notes on his role and how he sees it. There are also some of his personal reflections on things in general, and they are just that - personal. He does, after all, have a right to his own opinions, just as the rest of us have, but his views shouldn't be construed as necessarily representing those of any other individual or organisation.

Anyway, we wouldn't welcome a mere 'yes-man' would we ?

Gullivers Chilcott joined Gloucester RFC at the end of June with a very stiff challenge ahead of them. With the first game only seven weeks away, the Directors had set a huge target for Gareth Chilcott and myself to attain. With no main sponsor, no strip deal, hospitality or perimeter boards sold - and a limited (but vital) commercial database to work in order for the Club to survive - the task appeared more than daunting!

Nevertheless enthusiasm and teamwork and total commitment produced a result which the Club and Gullivers Chilcott were delighted with and we all would like to take the opportunity to thank the main sponsors, local and national companies for advertising contributions, season ticket holders and supporters who have put the Club on a firm financial foundation which is crucial to the Club's success on the field which is what the supporters demand.

The "Cherry & Whites" are now moving up the Courage league table showing some strong performances in their last three league games the "Kingsholm Faithful" should be happier now.

The "Kingsholm Faithful" - "The Shed" - "The Baying Gloucester Fans."

Whatever the press want to call them are dedicated supporters forming the backbone of the Club who turn out regularly in all weather to support.

A quote in the national press three years ago said that **"The Baying Gloucester Fans Were Worth At Least 10 Points Before The Game Had Even Started"** which demonstrates the force and influence they can produce if they want to and their accolades to Richard Hill were immense at the end of last season for turning the Club around from what could have been

relegation had there been the possibility.

"However", and this is a point I would like to stress, those formidable and critical supporters can produce a devastating equal and opposite effect when things are not going well as at the start of this season when out came the lynching party who criticised Richard Hill's team selection policy with one supporter writing in demanding his resignation!!

There is no doubt that at the time the despondency within the Club was immense filtering down throughout the Club into the pitch and it is times like these when the Club needs to turn to the supporters for **"support"** and for the faithful to be **"Faithful"** through the good times and the bad win or loss.

The supporters know how powerful they are and their influence should be constructed for a positive and not negative effect, the Club at the moment is very positive, let's keep it this way with Wasps, West Hartlepool, Orrell all great wins for us earning six valuable points, let's keep it up and the relegation zone is history for us, or should I say the farcical relegation zone which sends up to four teams down or a quarter of the Courage League table!! What's wrong with two up and two down? Finally congratulations to Phil Greening on his First Cap for England and to Dave Sims and Mark Mapletoft for making the squad and to the many players we have training with England "A". I thoroughly believe that the Cherry and Whites will go forward with strength and conviction in 1997 and that the **"Faithful"** will get behind them as only they know how.

Keep the Faith
Barry Preece

Ed Martin

The Royal Air Force were fairly regular visitors to Kingsholm between 1926 and March 10, 1971. Then came the "revival" of the fixture last week. All told, the Airmen have made 32 visits, with Gloucester winning on 25 occasions and the RAF just seven.

On their first visit to Kingsholm in March 1926, the RAF were beaten 21-3. And it was much the same for their second visit on Thursday March 17, 1927 when Gloucester recorded what was to be their second highest score of the 1926-27 season.

Gloucester were on a high - the previous Saturday, Newport had been disposed of 13-8 in a match that saw the Welsh side down to 14 players when the referee suggested that Jerman might like to take a early bath for allegedly kicking Voyce while he was on the ground.

Then came the RAF match on the Thursday afternoon. Bill Bailey recorded in his "Notebook" published in the Citizen Football Final of March 19 that while the Cherry and Whites recorded their biggest score of the season to date, "it was a pity that the match was so poorly patronised, the City club will lose anything up to £15 on the fixture. "The actual gate receipts did not cover the guarantee given to the Airmen and on this return it is evident that there is not a great demand for mid-week fixtures," he wrote. "Those who stayed away missed one of the most entertaining games of the season - fast and open, with clever combination and brilliant individual efforts.

"The Air Force fielded practically their full Service team, but Gloucester had to call on several second-teamers, and the back division had to be re-arranged.

Appearing for the RAF in this match was Maxwell, the Scottish international.

The match against the Royal Air Force on Saturday March 24, 1938 - the seventh visit - saw the Irish international, Squadron-Leader G. Beamish appearing for the Airmen. In addition, some 4,000 spectators were counted through the turnstiles.

Again, Gloucester were on a high - this time, they had beaten Llanelly (as it was then spelled) by a 13-11 margin at Stradey Park. The first win against the Scarlets at Stradey Park was on January 4, 1899 and the second win was in February 1936.

Perhaps the Gloucester team were a little too overconfident as Bill Bailey wrote in the Football Final edition of the Citizen on March 12: "Gloucester had sufficient chances to win by double figures, but there was a lack of finish when near the line. It was hard, keen football and the first half was particularly bright and attractive. The Air Force had some clever individual players, notably Walker and Robinson, but the combination was not good enough. For the City, Meadows, Phillips and Hook were the most successful, but better results should have resulted. Burke was given a few chances in attack, but he tackled exceptionally well. Stephens featured the City's display with a fine all-round performance. Forward, the contest was exceptionally close, Hughes, Morris, Harris and Dick were continually prominent for Gloucester, and Beamish, Simmons and Holland for the Airmen." Gloucester won the encounter 6-0, thanks to first half tries by Morris and Hughes - Stephens failing with both conversions. It was the final Kingsholm appearance for Dr. J. Dick who later in March headed north to Edinburgh to take up an appointment. He played for Gloucester over three seasons, recording 32 appearances, scoring two tries and a drop goal.

THE TEAMS

Gloucester: T. Stephens; R.E. Hook, E.L. Phillips; E.V. Manning and R.E. Burke; D. Meadows and F. Gough; T. Price, A. Carpenter, C. Harris, J.G. A'Bear, R. Morris, Dr. J.M. Dick, F. Mustoe and H.M. Hughes.

Royal Air Force: Sgt. J. Parsons; F/O D.M. Craven, F/O J.M. Thompson; P/O S.J. Robinson and F/O W.G. Moseby; Flt. Lt. G.A. Walker and P/O J.O. Sowerbutts; Cpl. A.E. Simmons, P/O L. Fox, R/O R.N. Waterhouse, Sgt. R.R. McPherson, P/O J.A. Roncormi, Flt. Lt. J.S. Wilson, Sqn Ldr. G. Beamish and Aircraftsman J. Holland.