



Vol 1/10
£2.00

FIRST DIVISION

RUGBY

P R O M A G



WATERLOO SUNRISE

A profile of a rising club

STRUCTURE WHAT STRUCTURE?

Alastair Hignell examines the
Rugby International structure



Westbury

GLOUCESTER
v
LONDON IRISH

at Kingsholm
Saturday 7th December 1996
Kick off 3.00 pm



Saturday 7th December 1996 Kick-off 3.00pm

GLoucester

Cherry & White 29

LONDON IRISH

Green & White 19

15	Chris Catling	Full Back	Conor O'Shea (I)	15
14	Mike Peters	Right Wing	Niall Woods (I)	14
13	Alastair Saverimutto	Centre	Rob Henderson	13
12	Martyn Roberts IT	Centre	Sean Burns	12
11	Audley Lumsden	Left Wing	Justin Bishop	11

10	Mark Mapletoft 2c4p10	Outside Half	David Humphreys	10
9	Scott Benton IT	Scrum Half	Peter Richards	9

1	Tony Windo	Prop	Liam Mooney	1
2	Phil Greening (I)	Hooker	Rob Kellam	2
3	Phil Vickery	Prop	Gary Halpin *	3
4	Rob Fidler	Lock	Jeremy Davidson	4
5	Dave Sims *	Lock	Malcolm O'Kelly	5
6	Pete Glanville	Flanker	Ken O'Connell	6
7	Nathan Carter	Flanker	Kieran Dawson	7
8	Simon Deverux	No.8	Victor Costello	8

16	Laurie Beck	Replacements	Justin Fitzpatrick	16
17	Don Caskie		Tony Redmond	17
18	John Hawker		Barry Walsh	18
19	Ed Pearce		Gavin Fraser	19
20				
21				

Referee

B Campsall (RFU)

(I) International
* Captain

Touch Judges

D May (RFU)
M Lambert Gorwyn (RFU)

Back to Business ...

Peter Arnold

There we were, just getting into our stride with a couple of vital Courage League wins to relish, when this oddly fractured season struck again. We had to make do with a friendly up at Wakefield and an Anglo-Welsh fixture against Newbridge. Tasty enough in their way, but a light, cholesterol-free diet, compared with the satisfying sirloin steak of the League.

So here we are. It's sleeves-rolled-up time again. Normal service has been resumed.

It's a pity, in a way, that the opposition has to come from London Irish. Our experience with Hibernian-style rugby has largely been of the, 'never mind the result, let's have a good game', variety, and the Irish Exiles have never disappointed us in that regard. You'll recall the old saying: "In England the situation is always serious but never hopeless, while in Ireland the situation is always hopeless but never serious", and that has always described the attitude to rugby that appears to filter across the Irish Sea to Kingsholm. Remember when we beat the full Irish International side, masquerading as the 'Irish President's XV'?

On that day, the loudest laughs, in the Complex, after the match were emanating from the Ireland squad - the same bunch of boys who ran the eventual World Cup winners, Australia, to a hair's breadth of defeat just a couple of weeks later.

I suppose one must make the distinction between Irish rugby, and that served up by their London Exiles. Today's respected, and extremely welcome, visitors are after all, an English club, even if their sympathies and sentiment start west of Holyhead. They are members of the RFU and EPRUC, and worthy participants in the top League of the premier club competition in the country. They're going to do their damndest to see that things stay that way, come hell, high water or deluges of decibels from the Shed.

We wouldn't have it any other way. Did you see how they came back from the dead to frighten Wasps to death the other week? This game won't be over until the final klaxon goes, if anyone can hear it in the general tumult which will, I confidently expect, be the order of the day if it's a tight finish.

Gloucester are obviously regarding today's

game as one we must win. So are the Irish Exiles. It should be quite an encounter.

We're looking forward to it, and to the company of the whole London Irish contingent, before during and after the game. Nice to see you, Irish.

MAKING OUR POINT

We're obviously very pleased, as always, to welcome everyone from London Irish to Kingsholm, but it doesn't do any harm to spread a little alarm and despondency among the enemy ranks while we're about it. I'll do that simply by pointing out that, last Saturday, the two senior Gloucester sides scored 184 points between them, without conceding a single score in reply.

Is this a record? Ed. Martin please respond.

For the archives, Gloucester put 76 points on Newbridge in the Anglo-Welsh Conference, while United scored 108 against Devonport Services.

SHOP !!

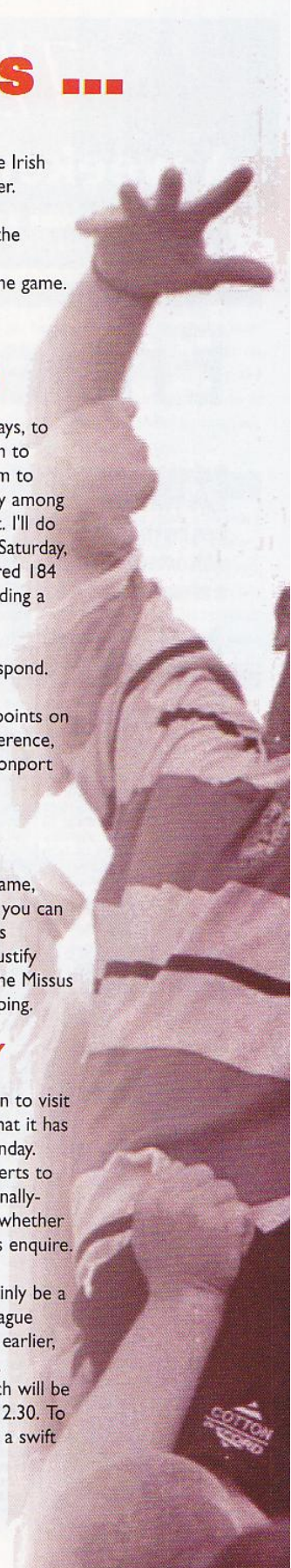
Don't forget, this is your last home game, before December 21st, during which you can buy goodies at the Club Shop, ideal as Christmas Presents. You can always justify your presence here today by telling the Missus that you've been out Christmas shopping.

MOSELEY BACK A DAY

As you probably know, we were down to visit Moseley next Saturday, but I'm told that it has now been put back a day until the Sunday. That means that the kick-off now reverts to the traditional 3.00pm, from the originally-declared 12.00 noon. I haven't heard whether a coach is going, but you could always enquire.

One match for which there will certainly be a coach, or coaches, is the Courage League fixture at Bristol. That, as announced earlier, has also been rescheduled for Sunday, December 29th. The cost of the coach will be £5.00, and it will leave Kingsholm at 12.30. To give time, as Bob Barge says, to "have a swift half in the bar."

Another 'must win' game. Be there.



Cup Tickets

Peter Arnold

By the time you read this, Doug Wadley confidently expects that tickets for the Pilkington Cup tie against Leeds will be on sale at the office. The prices will be £12.00 for the Stand (no concessions), £8.00 for the Ground with a concessionary price of £4.00 for OAP's and Juniors.

Don't forget that all Pilkington Cup matches are all-pay affairs, so Members have to stump up just like everyone else.

Don't blame the club, Gloucester RFC Limited, EPRUC, The Chancellor of the Exchequer, or even Saddam Hussein for this: it's part of the rules of the Competition to enable both sides in any game to receive precisely half of the takings, from whatever source they may come, and that has been so since long before professionalisation became a glint in Sir John Hall's eye.

The lads do need your support on December 21st, so please do pay up and, at least, try to look happy.

As to the game itself, I think it would unwise to place this fixture on a par with last year's equivalent when we entertained Walsall. Leeds could well be a tougher proposition than those very affable Midlanders were.

If you haven't heard of Leeds before, it's not really surprising, but you'll know about the club's antecedents. The present set-up is an amalgamation of the old Headingly and Roundhay clubs, so they have a fair old pedigree. You'll recall that Peter Winterbottom spent around half his career at Headingly, and geriatrics like me will remember Peter Thompson who played in that fine England side, years ago, which included our own George Hastings.

Leeds have been doing some useful recruiting, too. The player who springs to mind is their Captain, Paul Johnson, who did us a real nasty by scoring a try for

Orrell, right here, a couple of years ago, thereby putting us out of the same competition. So one opponent, at least, knows what it is to win at Kingsholm.

Should be a lovely way to start the Festive Season. See you there.

SMART MOVE

Being a player for a club such as ours doesn't just involve turning out and doing one's damndest on the field. When the side travels to play, for example, they have to be conscious that they are ambassadors, not only of Gloucester RFC, but of the City as a whole. One important factor in that is to present a smart and distinctive appearance - which also has the advantage that, appropriately kitted out, the lads stop being a bunch of individuals and become a team from the moment they step on the coach.

One man who appreciates that more than most is Eric Vick, proprietor of the County's leading road haulage company. He's been a fervent supporter of 'Glaws' as long as I can remember, and has shown his allegiance and generosity in many ways over the years. And now he's done it again, by sponsoring blazers, slacks etc. for the Gloucester squad.

This really is a generous gesture, greatly appreciated by all concerned, and much more important than may appear at first sight, for the reasons stated above. We thank him, most sincerely.

Incidentally, I believe there is no truth in the rumour that it was all part of a crafty ploy by Mr. Vick to ship the Gloucester pack over to France to sort out the French lorry drivers recently. That dispute seems now to be settled, but it must have caused Eric Vick International a fair few bouts of heartburn for a while. In spite of all that, Eric still found time to demonstrate his generosity to the club yet again. You can't get more loyal than that.

Thanks from Jan

Peter Arnold

The 'Jan' concerned prefers to be known as 'Jan Behind-The-Bar', because for some arcane reason, she doesn't like the surname 'Jackson' and indeed, forbids me to use it, so I won't.

It appears that Jan Behind-The-Bar isn't just good at dispensing liquids - she's something of a dab hand when immersed in them, too.

Quite recently, she entered a Sponsored Swim, the proceeds of which were shared between Children in Need, and the Meningitis Trust. I'm sure that both of these excellent causes meet with the thorough approval of all of us, especially in view of the very nasty meningitis outbreak at Cardiff University, which is, after all, only just down the road.

Indeed, Jan's efforts seem to have touched a chord, because she, alone, raised over £300 towards the appeal.

Jan asks me to thank everyone at Gloucester RFC who sponsored her, and without denigrating the generosity of anyone else, she especially mentioned the happy clan who sallied forth to West Hartlepool on Andy Mitchell's famous coach a few weeks ago.

Well done, everyone. And well done Jan Behind-The-Bar. (What is wrong with the name 'Jackson' anyway? It was good enough for the great Peter, after all.)

MATCH MASCOT ?

One reason why I'm a little light on detail about one or two things today is that the Fair Geraldine has been sick of the palsy.

One is so used to Geraldine being an absolute pillar of the day-to-day running of the club, that her absence, albeit briefly, leaves a damned great hole. Rather as though one walked into College Green and found that someone had half-inched the Cathedral tower.

Hope she's better by the time you read this. However, her absence does mean that I don't have information about today's Match Mascot,

if any, that being one of Geraldine's multifarious spheres of influence.

So if we do have a mascot today, I apologise to him, or to her, for not being able to give full details here. I'll rectify matters in a later programme.

TAILPIECE

I mentioned, last week, that my friend Brian Ward-Ellison brought me back a copy of West Hartlepool's version of 'Shedhead', and highly entertaining it is too. I also said that there were one or two stories printed there which I'd like to share with you.

My favourite concerns a carload of 'West' supporters who ventured all the way to Sale, to watch a League game which they confidently expected to win. In the event, they didn't, and the game was nothing special either, two circumstances which drove our voyagers into a state of acute depression.

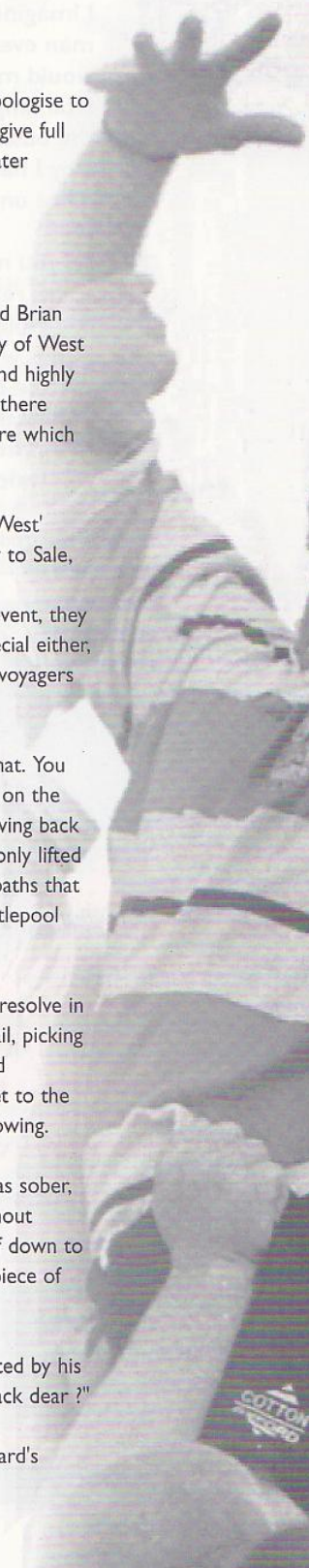
Only one thing to do in a case like that. You drown sorrows at various hostelrys on the way home. This they did, but on arriving back at the clubhouse, the blackness had only lifted marginally, and they swore horrible oaths that they would never support West Hartlepool again.

One of the chaps demonstrated the resolve in some style, by acquiring a six-inch nail, picking up a half-brick from the car park, and ceremonially nailing his season ticket to the club gate. He then went home, sorrowing.

Of course, on Sunday morning he was sober, and realised what he had done. Without wasting a nano-second, he roared off down to the ground to retrieve his precious piece of pasteboard.

On arriving back home, he was greeted by his wife with "Did you get your ticket back dear?"

"Oh yes," he replied, "But some bastard's pinched me six-inch nail!"



How Richard

I imagine that Richard Hill is the man every Gloucester supporter would most like to hear from at this vital hinge of the season. He's also the busiest man in the club, which is why I have hesitated to ask him for a piece until now.

As you might expect, he has lived up to his reputation of being forthright and willing to share his thoughts on things with us, and I'm delighted that he has squeezed some time out of his schedule to tell us how he sees things at the moment. I won't keep you waiting any longer.

The introduction, this season, of many different Laws has caused several problems for

both coaches and players. Most clubs assumed that the game would be drastically altered, and that the ball would be thrown around as if each game was a Barbarians fixture, with scores like 64-40. Early in the season, in Division One, there certainly were some high scores (Gloucester contributed to one such at Harlequins!) and the game has certainly become more exciting to watch, with the ball being in play for longer periods during matches, and players no longer getting away with lying on the ball and killing it by turning the ruck into a pile up.

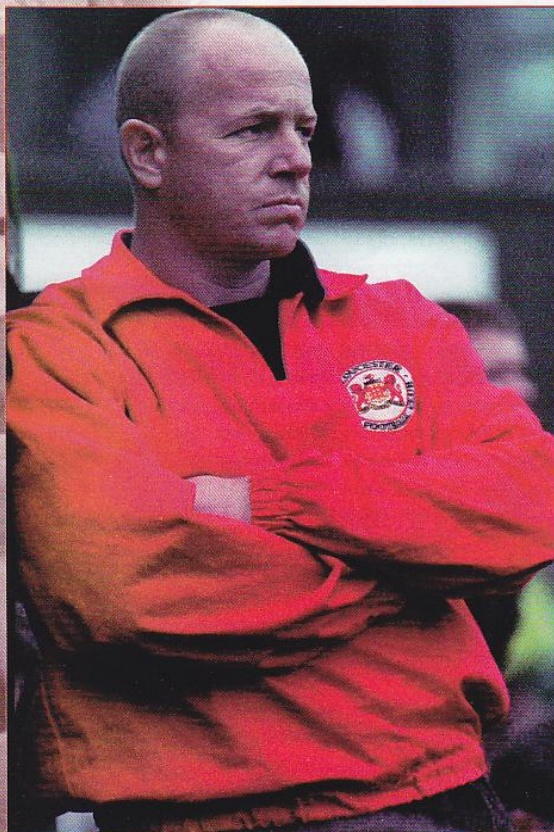
Players are now making an effort to stay on their feet. The game has been speeded up by the increased fitness levels: the professional game has allowed players to train more during the day. Having said all that, the game is still all about winning the ball first, before doing anything else. Clubs must still practice scrummaging, re-starts, and especially line-outs.

Early in the season, I think Gloucester concentrated on playing this 'so-say' new game we were all about to witness, throwing the ball about and scoring tries, rather than on the basics of defence and ball retention. This has now been addressed sharply, and we are seeing an improvement in performances.

The scrummage and the driving maul are still powerful weapons to have in your armoury, along with a well organised and determined defence.

Despite heavy defeats against Harlequins, Sale, Saracens, Bath and Leicester (5 out of 5!), we were at least, able to watch how the top sides in the country were adapting to the new game, and we could begin to assess who, out of the new talent to join GRFC, who would, in fact, form the First XV Squad, and who would need further development in the United. We were able to 'cut our teeth' on the big clubs, and analyse our own strategy in detail. In short, we learned a tremendous amount about ourselves.

The unexpected (by some) win against Wasps demonstrated to everyone that, despite the depressing run of defeats, the players had character and confidence to succeed. After



Hill Sees It

that win, all our minds were on the next League fixture away to West Hartlepool, and this, in the main, accounted for a lack-lustre performance in the European campaign. Quite clearly, the main aim this season is to finish clear of the relegation zone in Division One.

Fortunately, we followed up the Wasps win with two very crucial victories, which as everyone was keen to point out to us, were 'four pointers'. Psychologically, these were difficult hurdles to overcome, but the players responded well - and although we could never say we played fantastic rugby - we did something which Saracens couldn't do - win at West Hartlepool. AND we inflicted Orrell's biggest home defeat for a long, long time.

We now have a total of 51 players in the senior squad, to run First XV and United, and everyone has settled in well. Some of the players are developing particularly well, and though I don't usually single people out, I would like to mention Chris Catling, Mark Mapletoft, Andy Deacon, Phil Greening, Rob Fidler, Nathan Carter and Simon Devereaux, all of whom have demonstrated substantial improvement. Providing the squad remains relatively injury free, as it has done so far, we are now on course to keep out of the bottom four clubs.

In the meantime, there is plenty of young talent developing, and ready to come through - the likes of Trevor Woodman, Phil Vickery, Ed

Pearce, Lee and Chris Fortey, and many, many more.

The Colts have a particularly strong side, and proof of that has been the emergence of Tim Lacey, Chris Hall, Alex Gallagher and Sam Pearman for the First XV against the RAF recently.

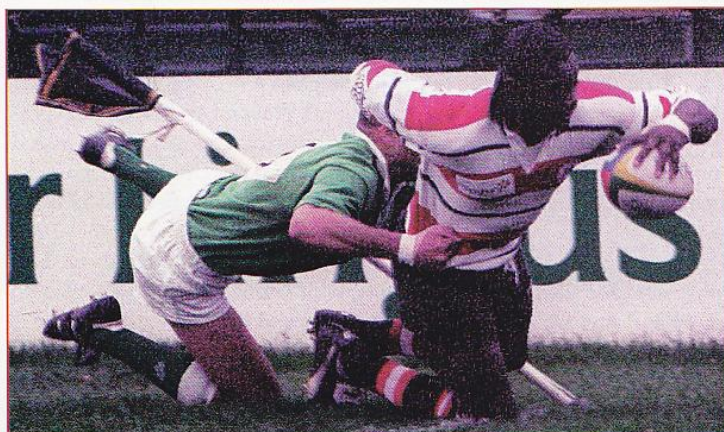
Well - we have made life a bit easier for ourselves, and have had two weeks to assess things. We have 6 points in the League, and today face another massive hurdle against a strong London Irish side. I believe 18 points will keep us in Division One - so another 12 to go. We need 2 today to keep us on course.

A win against London Irish, and then a win at home against Leeds in the Cup, would give us all a good Christmas. We are under no illusions, however, how difficult London Irish will be to beat. A number of Irish Internationals and the fighting spirit which is typical of an Irish team. They will either be dreadful - or brilliant. Let's hope they are not the latter today.

Always a very courteous team, and with an honest approach to the game. We can all expect no less than total commitment from both sides.

May the best team on the day win !

(Editor's Note: As long as it's Gloucester!)



Audley Lumsden, one of Richard Hill's new signings

Ed Martin

Pity Mark Mapletoft. Twice this season he has come within sight of breaking the club's individual single game scoring record - a record that is 98 years old.

Both occasions were ironically against Welsh opposition. In October, Ebbw Vale were pounded 59-7 in the European Conference, with 34 of the points coming from Mapletoft. Then, last Saturday Newbridge came to town for a 76-0 shutout in the Anglo Welsh - young Mark again in the points with a personal tally of 31.

The record points scored in a single match is held by three-quarter Percy Stout who scored 35 of Gloucester's 50-0 win against Weston-super-Mare at Kingsholm on March 19, 1898. Percy Stout and his brother forward Frank were both raised in the 'round ball' game, being educated at that bastion of soccer, Crypt School. They arrived at Kingsholm from Sudbrook, the home of Gloucester soccer club 100 years ago, after making a name for themselves locally in the Association code. Both brothers went on to play rugby for England - and they played on the same England team together. like the Stoop brothers and the Underwoods. In terms of winning margin, the 76-0 win ranks third on the club's all-time list. the top spot is shared between the September 1985 meeting with Exeter University and the April 1990 meeting with Birkenhead Park - both those matches saw Gloucester to an 84 point win.

As far as the most points scored by Gloucester in a match, the table is as follows:

1	87	vs Exeter University	Sep 28, 1985
2	84	vs Birkenhead Park	Apr 16, 1990
3	82	vs OMT	Dec 26, 1973
4	80	vs Guy's Hospital	Mar 19, 1977
5	79	vs Exeter University	Mar 9, 1994
6	78	vs Torquay	Apr 16, 1994
7	76	vs Newbridge	Nov 30, 1996
	76	at Rugby Lions	Mar 9, 1996

76	vs Exeter	Nov 8, 1975
10	75 vs L'Aquila	Sep 9, 1974
75	vs Castleford	1909

With the exception of the 76 points scored against Rugby Lions last season, all the above scores were recorded at Kingsholm. The Rugby Lions score tops the 'away' charts, with the 70 points scored against Camborne in 1973 in second place and the 64 points against Clifton back at the beginning of the century is third.

There was one interesting aspect of the Newbridge game - and there are no records on this! Neither team took a kick at goal from a penalty. All penalties - and there were a lot of them - resulted in either a positional kick into touch or a quick 'tap'. I cannot remember the last time I saw a game with no kicks at goal. London Irish are relative newcomers to Gloucester's fixture list - in fact they were the last of the three famous London 'exile' clubs to discover the delights of Kingsholm.

The first of the exiles was London Scottish who came to Gloucester in the first season of play at Kingsholm in 1891/92. Gloucester won the encounter 2-0.

Then, in 1901/02 season, along came London Welsh who were beaten at Kingsholm 14-3 in the very first fixture between the clubs.

It was not until November 1973 that fixtures were started against London Irish. Again, the inaugural match-up was at Kingsholm, London Irish suffering a 27-9 defeat.

Since 1973, the two clubs have met on 20 occasions, with Gloucester winning 12 of the encounters and London Irish eight. The last time that the club played at Kingsholm was on October 9, 1993. The Courage League match was something of a thriller - but one that Gloucester fans might prefer to forget! London Irish won 10-9.