

FOUNDED 1873

# RUGBY

P R O M A G

Vol 1/18

GLOUCESTER

V

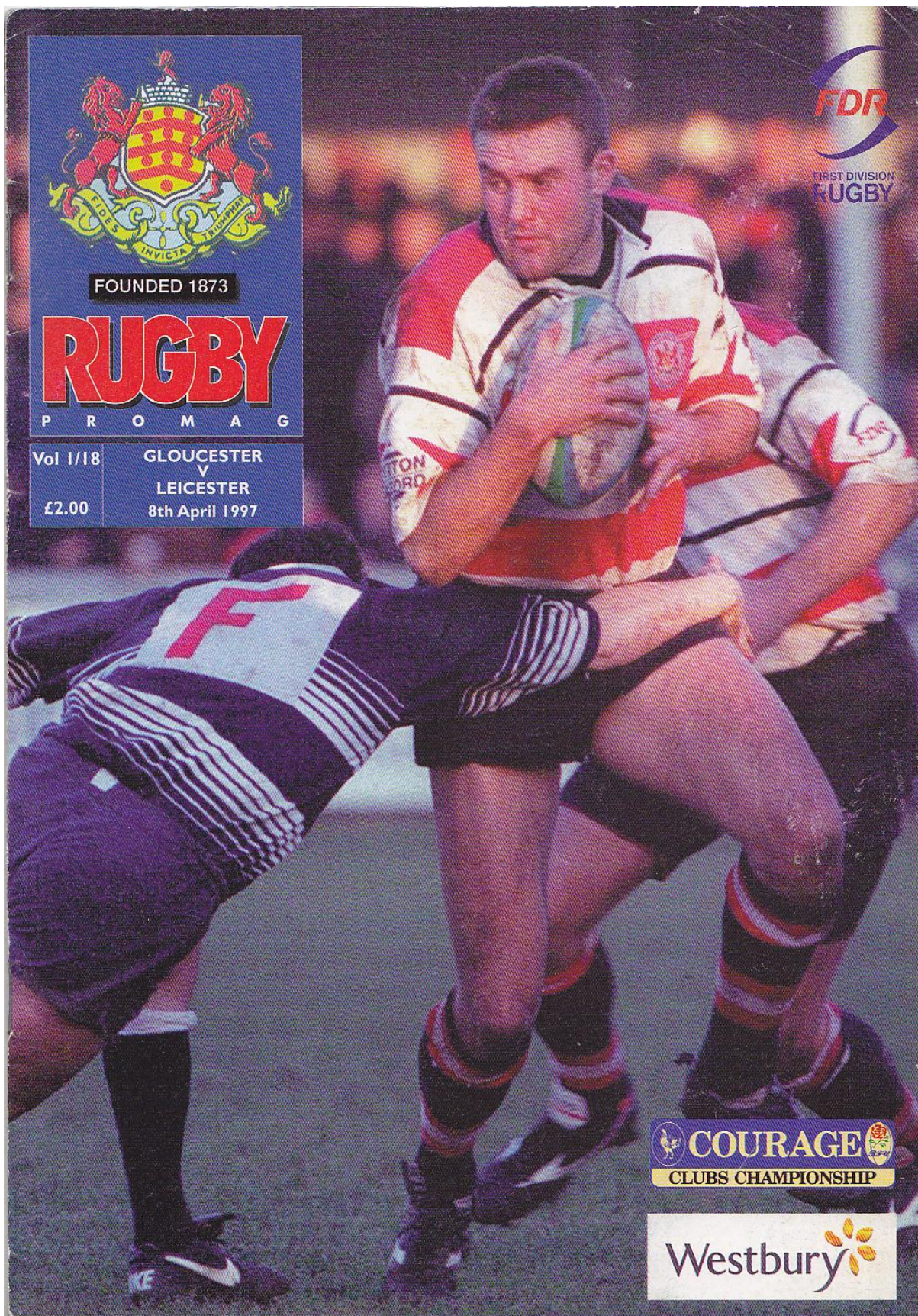
LEICESTER

£2.00


8th April 1997



FIRST DIVISION  
RUGBY



 **COURAGE**   
CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP

Westbury 





FOUNDED 1873



**Congratulations to Dave Sims & his wife Jill on the birth of their son  
Nathaniel at 2.10pm on Saturday 5th April 1997**

**GLOUCESTER**

Cherry &amp; White

**LEICESTER**

Scarlet, Green &amp; White

|           |                          |                     |                             |          |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| <b>15</b> | <b>Audley Lumsden</b>    | <b>Full Back</b>    | <b>John Liley</b>           | <b>O</b> |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Mike Peters</b>       | <b>Right Wing</b>   | <b>Steve Hackney</b>        | <b>N</b> |
| <b>13</b> | <b>Craig Emmerson</b>    | <b>Centre</b>       | <b>Niall Malone</b>         | <b>M</b> |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Martin Roberts</b>    | <b>Centre</b>       | <b>Craig Joiner (I)</b>     | <b>L</b> |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Mike Lloyd</b>        | <b>Left Wing</b>    | <b>Leon Lloyd</b>           | <b>K</b> |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Mark Mapletoft</b>    | <b>Outside Half</b> | <b>Joel Stransky (I)</b>    | <b>J</b> |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Scott Benton</b>      | <b>Scrum Half</b>   | <b>Aadel Kardooni</b>       | <b>I</b> |
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Tony Windo</b>        | <b>Prop</b>         | <b>Graham Rowntree (I)</b>  | <b>A</b> |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Phil Greening (I)</b> | <b>Hooker</b>       | <b>Richard Cockerill</b>    | <b>S</b> |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Andy Deacon</b>       | <b>Prop</b>         | <b>Darren Garforth (I)</b>  | <b>C</b> |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Rob Fidler</b>        | <b>Lock</b>         | <b>Martin Johnson (I) *</b> | <b>D</b> |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Dave Sims *</b>       | <b>Lock</b>         | <b>Matt Poole</b>           | <b>E</b> |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Andy Stanley</b>      | <b>Flanker</b>      | <b>Eric Miller (I)</b>      | <b>F</b> |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Nathan Carter</b>     | <b>Flanker</b>      | <b>Neil Back (I)</b>        | <b>H</b> |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Simon Devereux</b>    | <b>No.8</b>         | <b>Dean Richards (I)</b>    | <b>G</b> |
|           | <b>Laurie Beck</b>       | <b>Replacements</b> | <b>Rory Underwood</b>       |          |
|           | <b>Don Caskie</b>        |                     | <b>Roly Edwards</b>         |          |
|           | <b>Peter Hart</b>        |                     | <b>Rob Liley</b>            |          |
|           | <b>John Hawker</b>       |                     | <b>Dorian West</b>          |          |
|           | <b>Trevor Woodman</b>    |                     | <b>Neil Fletcher</b>        |          |
|           | <b>Mark Cornwell</b>     |                     | <b>Bill Drake-Lee</b>       |          |

Referee

G Hughes (Manchester/RFU)

(I) International

\* Captain

Touch Judges

D May (RFU)

J Theedon (RFU)

03

33

38

310

610

415

915

1215

1715

1915

1918

2218

2223

2228

2525

2530

3030

3230



# The Living Floodlights

The other day I wrote to the effect that there is no better scene in sport than a Kingsholm, packed to the rafters, two good teams in contention, and the sun shining. On reflection, I could be wrong. Kingsholm, packed to the rafters, two good teams in contention, *under floodlights* must be at least equally memorable, and possibly more intimidating to the opposition.

Tonight we could get independent confirmation of that. Having been shoved well up the sharp end, on occasion, the other Saturday. This evening's Leicester side will be able to judge whether they'd prefer to play in the arena of Kingsholm in the sun, or the cauldron of Kingsholm under lights.

Of course, the situation is different, this time round. Saturday, March 29th saw one of the great Cup Semi Finals. Tonight, we are gathered here together, in the face of this congregation, to watch an 'ordinary' Courage League game. And it's an important one for both sides. Gloucester would love to win this one, because it would secure our freedom from the dreaded play-off zone. Leicester badly need to keep up the pressure on Wasps at the top of the table, the more so since their hard-earned win over the leaders last Wednesday. So the pressure and the commitment could be just as intense as it was just ten days ago.

It's always good to see the Tigers at Kingsholm, and it's especially gratifying to be able to meet them, and their excellent travelling support, so soon after as fine a Leicester - Gloucester confrontation as has ever taken place, even against the background of a very long series of games which, over the years, has yielded much more than its fair share of thrills and incident.

It's nice to be able to set the record straight, too. It takes two to tango, as the lady sang, and we would be the first to acknowledge that Leicester's resilience, refusal to panic, and sheer professionalism when faced with a Gloucester XV who were playing out of their skins, contributed greatly to that epic Semi Final. The commentator who referred to the 'toothless Tigers' in his report on the game should be buried at a crossroads at midnight with a corner flag through his heart. He certainly shouldn't be allowed near a rugby ground again.

I was also fascinated to read that Catling scored a consolation try for Leicester in the 77th minute. One really does wonder, sometimes...

Many a lesser side than Leicester would have buckled when that mesmeric Emmerson - Catling try brought Gloucester back to within three points of the lead. I certainly wouldn't have fancied the chances of three or four top First Division sides at that point, but the Tigers stuck to the task in hand, and came away with the win. I do not, therefore, expect them to be any less formidable this evening than they were ten days ago. But then, Bath were at least as formidable, under similar circumstances, just about this time last year.

Thanks for a great Cup match, Leicester. And we hope that you - and all the contingent wearing Calton Road Junior School colours who travel with you - have just as good a time back at Kingsholm as you obviously did last time round.

I don't suppose we could persuade you to confiscate Joel Stransky's kicking boot, could we?

*Peter Arnold*

**5 Gloucester News**



## We Get

We have three interesting pieces of correspondence this time round. Pride of place must, of course, go to a letter from the Captain, Dave Sims. In true 'Times' letter-page style, I'll simply head it:

### FROM MR. DAVID SIMS

*Dear Peter,*

I would be grateful if I could use some space in the programme to thank our magnificent supporters for the way they got behind the team at the Cup Semi Final the other Saturday.

I've said before that I believe we have the best support in the country, and if anyone doubts that, then they should have been at Kingsholm on March 29th.

I'm sorry we couldn't produce a win for everyone, but we really did try our utmost, and certainly gave Leicester a fright or two. I hope and believe that our performance on the day is just a taste of things to come for Gloucester. We can only get better from here on.

The enormous vocal support we receive really does spur us on, and can have a visible effect on opposing teams. I'm sure we can count on more of the same tonight and during our vital run-in to the end of the season.

From all the players, thanks again, everyone.

Yours sincerely,

**DAVE SIMS**

The next letter is a sad one. At least, it is for those of us who like to patronise the Kingsholm Inn, known far and wide as 'The Jockey'.

The news that Rob Gough and his family are to leave the premises which they have certainly established as Gloucester's premier rugby pub over their tenure of the licence, comes as a blow. It is to be hoped that the new Licencees will carry on the way Rob is leaving off. It would be a great pity to lose what has become, in a relatively short time, one of the features of the Kingsholm scene.

But we wish Rob and family all the best for the future, and very much hope that Rob's spot in the shed won't be filled by someone else next season.

### FROM MR ROBERT GOUGH

*Dear Peter,*

I thought I must write and ask you to relay our thanks to all those 'elver-eaters' and 'Shedheads' who have made our time at the 'Jockey' such a memorable one.

*Peter Arnold*

**10 Gloucester News**

# Letters

It has been a great pleasure to renew old rugby acquaintances, and make so many new friends, during our time in Kingsholm Road. I am sure that there is no pub like it in Gloucester, or anywhere else, on match days, and we will certainly miss the occasions.

May I conclude by wishing Gloucester RFC all the very best for the rest of the season, and in the future. There are hard times ahead, but I'm sure that my old regulars from the 'Jockey' will do more than their fair share in keeping the Cherry-and-White's reputation as the best supported club in England very much alive.

Thanks again, everyone. See you around.

Yours sincerely,

**ROB GOUGH**

Our final letter is an odd one. Odd in that it comes from a well-known Gloucester character who isn't normally associated with rugby, or with Kingsholm at all. If I say that he can make as much noise as a full Shed, all by himself, then you'll have an excellent clue as to his identity.

**FROM MR. ALAN MYETT**

Dear Sir,

I don't get to Kingsholm very often, these days, but I thought I would write and express

my appreciation for the excellent job that Gloucester RFC are doing for the City of Gloucester these days.

As you will know, I travel all over the country, in my capacity as Town Crier, Toast Master and Master of Ceremonies. I have visited places as far apart as Gateshead, London and Cardiff, just in the past few months. Everywhere I go I hear remarks such as 'Gloucester - great rugby town' and 'Got a promising rugby team down there, haven't you'.

I don't think that Gloucester RFC should underestimate the effect they are having, country wide. Much of it is due to the fact that Gloucester plays in the First Division and against all the best teams in England, so the famous cherry-and-white strip is known wherever rugby is played.

Long may that state of affairs continue, whatever it takes to make sure it does so.

Best wishes, Gloucester !

Yours sincerely,

**ALAN MYETT Town Crier**

Alan, as always, has said a mouthful ! Thanks for that, and also to Rob Gough and Dave Sims for gracing our pages this evening.



# Book by Post

This is also a good time to remind you that, if you wish, you can now acquire tickets for League fixtures by post, just as long as you enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope. In practical terms, that means for Harlequins on April 19th, and Bristol on April 26th. Prices the same as you paid tonight.

## SUPERSTORE !

I don't know if you've noticed, but Allan Townsend and John Beaman are now presiding over a veritable hypermarket of goodies from new premises in the car park. Of course, the original club shop will still be open inside the ground on match days.

The point about having an 'out-of-town supermarket' so to speak, is that trading hours are no longer restricted to those times when the ground is in use. The new store is now open between 10.00am and 4.00pm, Mondays to Fridays, and business is already beginning to roll in, I'm told.

Why not drop in and replenish your stocks ? I know it's getting near the end of the season, but club shirts and T-shirts make excellent summer wear. I actually came across a Gloucester RFC shirt, behind the bar in the pub on Lundy Island a couple of years ago.

## REQUEST FROM SHEDHEAD

I am happy to relay a request from the editorial team (and I use the term loosely) of our fanzine, 'Shedhead'. They have the estimable idea of awarding a 'Shedhead Player of the Year' trophy, based on votes from their readers, or anyone else for that matter, and would value your thoughts on the matter.

You can register your preference by jotting it down and sending it to Shedhead at 59, Dinglewell, Hucclecote, Gloucester, or drop it in over the bar at the 'Jockey'.

Here's an idea, Shedhead. How about Special Awards for Simon Devereaux and Nathan Carter for 'Dignity Amidst Controversy' ?

## GIVE ME A RING

On a similar topic, I'm hoping to have a Question-and-Answer session with Club Secretary, Andy Mitchell towards the end of this week; results to be printed in (hopefully) the Harlequins programme. Do you have any particularly penetrating question, on any topic whatsoever, which you would like elucidated by the guy who is involved in the nitty-gritty of the club on a daily basis ? If so, time's getting a bit short, so I'll have to ask you to ring me on 01452 537880.

*Peter Arnold*

## **THE VIEW FROM OUTER SPACE**

I note that astronomers, and their ilk, are becoming excited because a Gallileo space probe has detected signs of organic compounds on two moons of the planet Jupiter. They speculate that the observation could reveal the possibility of life on those two distant bodies.

If I were them, I wouldn't be getting my Hubble in a twist. It's probably only scouts from Newcastle, Harlequins, Richmond, Bedford....

## **TAILPIECE**

If you read the 'Pink Un', you may have noticed that one of Gloucester's more successful

innovations over this past winter has been the introduction of the Dragon Pub Quiz League, which looks set to go from strength to strength with even more local hostelryes intending to take part next winter. Good luck to all concerned, say I.

However, I think the organisers may well have overstepped themselves. They have instituted a Spring League, played more for fun than anything else, and intended to keep interest alive over the long close season.

Unfortunately, one of the rounds is due to be played this evening. I know at least one pub who are asking for their match to be postponed, on the grounds that they have more than three First Team members required for duty in the Shed at Kingsholm this evening.

*Peter Arnold*