

A visit to Kingsholm

by B.G.Cragg

This is the place where the rugby folk of Gloucester go to worship. I visited the shrine last season, it was certainly homely and I think I met one of their kings — "Digger" Morris. He welcomed us, entertained us, told us about his club and left us with the distinct impression that L.S.H. were not going to win that afternoon at Kingsholm. He was right but only just.

Top class rugby is increasingly competitive, the quest for points, rules and the commercial side of the game is important. However, the game will retain its uniqueness as long as characters like "Digger" are around.

He warned our touch judge about adjudicating on the popular side with his back to the crowd. It nearly paralysed Saints v Wigan on Good Friday, but not quite. He warned us about the ferocity of the forward play at Kingsholm. I hope we didn't tire their pack too much by daring to take the ball into the open parts of their field rarely visited by the heavy mob. He warned us about visiting their sports club after the game dressed in blazer and club tie, very much a case of into the lions den for visiting officials. At about 7.00 p.m. we ventured forth on a tide of beer to visit this den. The debate was noisy, the language colourful but it was also good hearted. They certainly knew a thing or two about forward play but didn't appear to be too certain of what to do with the ball after the pack had won it, except for the good old up and under with the intent to remove the full back from the field of play. Good clean fun and nothing too complicated, incidentally "Tosh" survived the afternoon and also visited parts of Kingsholm where fresh grass was still growing.

Larger than life personalities colour the atmosphere within a club. Nowadays we hear a lot about player transfer. How about swapping our David Boulton for your

"Digger" Morris. Would either club survive the shock? In comparison to Gloucester L.S.H. is still the adolescent but we are learning. Let us hope that today's game will contribute to the learning process but maybe after the game you will find we know a thing or two about being hospitable — a home win would help.

Dave Cusani



Congratulations to Dave Cusani who this afternoon lines up alongside Dewi Morris in the England 'B' team against the Australian tourists.