

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME // E3

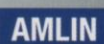
GLOUCESTER RUGBY



NEWPORT
VS NEWPORT
GWENT DRAGONS
FRIDAY 9/10/09
KO 8:00PM



Heineken Cup Round One



GARETH DELVE CAPTAIN'S CORNER

AFTER a couple of tough weeks on the road, it's good to be back in familiar surroundings at Kingsholm this evening.

For me personally, it's been additionally frustrating as I've had to sit out the past two games. For any professional sports player, there's nothing more frustrating than having to sit and watch your team mates and I'm no different.

Of course, I did originally think that I was going to miss out on tonight's game as well so I'm delighted to be back in the mix and available for tonight's game against the Newport Gwent Dragons.

In my absence, the boys have really dug deep after the disappointment of our last home game against Northampton Saints.

I thought we were genuinely unlucky not to get the win up at Saracens. We worked so hard on the day and led for over an hour so it was hugely disappointing to let it slip near the end.

We took an early lead but we couldn't quite shake Saracens off and our indiscipline meant that Glen Jackson was able to keep chipping away at the lead and keep them in touch.

Giving away penalties has been our Achilles heel in recent weeks. It's prevented us getting any momentum in attack and allowed our opponents to accumulate cheap points.

Last weekend at Leeds Carnegie was a huge improvement in that respect but we still made hard

work of getting the win.

Winning away in the Guinness Premiership is never easy. Last Sunday's victory was our first 'on the road' since December 27th last year when we won at Bristol.

However, we should have made more of the possession and territory that we enjoyed at Headingley. Brush (Bryan Redpath) talked about us needing to finish off our chances after we played at Saracens and we were guilty of squandering a lot against Leeds.

I think a lot of it was down to us just pressing too hard. Having made an initial break, we needed to show a little patience rather than trying to force things. But, we got there in the end, and that will give us a lot of confidence going into this evening's game.

The Heineken Cup seems to have come around incredibly quickly but tonight promises to be a great opener.

The Dragons may not have recruited the big names that the other Welsh regions did over the summer but they're a very solid outfit who have been putting in some good performances in recent weeks.

They pushed us really hard here at Kingsholm in the Anglo Welsh Cup last season and are bound to bring quite a few supporters across for what almost amounts to a local derby for them.

It promises to be a great atmosphere and the fact that it's under floodlights will just add to the occasion.

Playing in the Heineken Cup is very important to everyone at Gloucester Rugby. We were gutted not to make the knock out stages last season and a win tonight is vital if we're going to progress from the group stages this time around.

Enjoy the game!



BRYAN REDPATH HEAD COACH



IT'S fair to say that it's been a fairly eventful few weeks since I penned my last column ahead of the last home game against Northampton Saints!

We disappointed on that occasion against the Saints and I made no secret of my dissatisfaction with our effort levels and intensity.

We worked the boys quite hard in training that week and the result was a massive improvement in our performance at Saracens last weekend and I genuinely thought that we were unlucky not to leave Vicarage Road with the win.

Bear in mind that Saracens are still unbeaten this season and you can see what we're capable of when it all comes together. However, we've not played to our potential for any great length of time so far this season

and that's the challenge for us as players and coaches.

You could argue that we've been badly affected by injuries and suspensions so far and that's had an impact on our cohesion as we've rarely been able to field a settled side.

Obviously, players perform better when they have the chance to develop partnerships and the subsequent understanding that comes from that. But, we can't be behind that. Every team suffers from injuries and we're no exception.

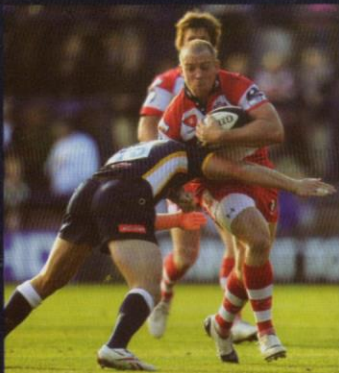
We set high standards here at Gloucester Rugby and we haven't lived up to them often enough this season but there is no lack of hard work going on behind the scenes to help us achieve those standards.

Our game up at Leeds was a welcome return to winning ways

although we did make hard work of it at times! We did the worst possible thing by allowing them to take an early lead which gave them confidence and also brought the crowd into it.

I couldn't fault the way we responded in a bid to get back into the game apart from the fact that we were probably trying too hard at times. I spoke during the week about the fact that we'd created chances at Saracens but not finished them off and yesterday was exactly the same.

I actually think we were pressing a little bit too hard at times and forcing things rather than allowing them to happen. On several occasions, we made the initial line break only for the final pass to go to ground or we tried an ambitious offload when going to ground and recycling would have been the better option.



We had Leeds stretched. They received a warning even before Hendrie Fourie received the yellow card and then the flyhalf Thomas illegally took out Freddie Burns. Freddie assures me that he would have got to the ball and scored otherwise!

When we kept it simple, as we did at the start of the second half, then we made the breakthrough, relaxed a little and went on to score a couple of lovely tries with moves straight off the training ground.

I was also pleased with the improvement in our discipline. Much has been written in the press about the number of citations and yellow cards we've received thus far and I'm not going to go into that here.

What I will admit, however, is that we've been guilty of not playing the referee well enough. We spoke about it in preseason, the fact that every referee runs the game differently and that we have to adapt on a match by match basis.

We haven't done it well enough so far and have been penalised accordingly but yesterday was a big improvement on that front.

It has all made me very grateful for the return of Rob Burgess from the RFU as our Head of

Rugby Operations. Rob has been working hard in recent weeks to prepare for our various hearings with the disciplinary committee work with otherwise would probably have fallen to me!

Rob, of course, was our Team Manager before he moved to the RFU last season as Team Operations Manager for the England team. He's understandably had to work out his notice with the RFU and it's only in the past couple of weeks that he's been back with us full time and it's good to have him on board.

It's a slight change for us this evening as we open our Heineken Cup campaign against the Newport Gwent Dragons.

Paul Turner has been around the game for a long time and has always done a good job with the resources at his disposal.

Newport have a history with Gloucester going back a number of years and are always a tough opponent. I'm under no illusions on that score, they've been steadily improving.

In recent years they've probably had a harder time of it than the other Welsh regions but they've got a good work ethic and team spirit coming through.

Their results in the Magners League have been good so far and they gave us a tough game at home last year.

They'll come to Kingsholm with nothing to lose which makes them dangerous. They work hard for each other and are tough to break down. It'll be tough but we're up for it.

WHAT I WILL ADMIT, HOWEVER, IS THAT WE'VE BEEN GUILTY OF NOT PLAYING THE REFEREE WELL ENOUGH. WE SPOKE ABOUT IT IN PRESEASON, THE FACT THAT EVERY REFEREE RUNS THE GAME DIFFERENTLY AND THAT WE HAVE TO ADAPT ON A MATCH BY MATCH BASIS.



JOHN HARDING GLOUCESTER VS NEWPORT

NEWPORT Gwent Dragons' head coach Paul Turner is no stranger to Kingsholm and even has fond memories of The Shed so he has been warning his players not to have any fears and enjoy the atmosphere rather than challenging it.

"I have great respect for Gloucester as a club both and I enjoyed my times at Kingsholm as a player, when I was probably on the winning side more than quite a few players, and as backs coach under Philippe Saint-André," said Turner.

"To me Gloucester supporters have to be up there with the best in the land. They know their rugby and I have a great admiration for them because they use to make the hairs on the back of my neck stand when you hear their roar for the players.

"They are great supporters and I would go so far as to say that there are probably guys in The Shed who have probably been there for 30 or 40 years so I know that it will be a hell of a game tonight."

Turner had a season as backs coach with Gloucester after receiving a phone call from the then Director of Rugby Philippe Saint-André in September 2001 and he agreed a two-year deal to work alongside David Ellis (defence) and Laurent Seigne (forwards).

In February 2002 Saint-André parted company with the Cherry & Whites, to be replaced by Nigel Melville, and four months later the former Wales fly-half followed him out of the ground to take up a coaching role at Harlequins.

Gloucester's Managing Director, Ken



"TO ME GLOUCESTER SUPPORTERS HAVE TO BE UP THERE WITH THE BEST IN THE LAND. THEY KNOW THEIR RUGBY AND I HAVE A GREAT ADMIRATION FOR THEM BECAUSE THEY USE TO MAKE THE HAIRS ON THE BACK OF MY NECK STAND WHEN YOU HEAR THEIR ROAR FOR THE PLAYERS."

Nottage, said the club was sad to see Turner leave:

"Paul has made a valuable contribution to Gloucester Rugby Club in a very short space of time.

"We are sorry to be losing someone of his quality but we wish him well with his new role at NEC Harlequins. When he came to Gloucester he wanted to win us a trophy and together with the other coaching staff, he has fulfilled that ambition."

GWENT DRAGONS

Independent



Born in Newbridge in February 1959, Turner played fly-half for the club and also for Newport. In 1989 he won three international caps in the defeat by Ireland when he was a replacement and France and the home victory over England.

A brilliant playmaker and goal kicker when the Welsh fly-half production line was at high capacity and quality control was guaranteed, Turner has had spells with Newbridge (twice), Newport, London Welsh, Sale,

Bedford, Saracens and Rugby.

His coaching career began with Sale in 1991 and was director of rugby with Bedford as well as having a spell at Saracens with South African World Cup winning captain Francois Pienaar before he joined Gloucester.

Turner returned to Wales in May 2005 as Newport Gwent Dragons as head coach and this season his side have won their Magners League home games against Ulster,

Glasgow Warriors and last against Connacht but lost the games in Ireland against Leinster and Munster.

The former Wales fly-half added:

"We learnt a great deal about ourselves from the Munster game in Cork because after competing well until half time when we could have been in front. Then, as it does against really good sides, they turned up the heat and blew us away pretty quickly.

"If we can hit the Heineken Cup on the plus side of our Magners League form then that will be good for us. You have to have a strong squad for this competition but we won't be as strong in depth as a lot of the other sides for obvious financial reasons.

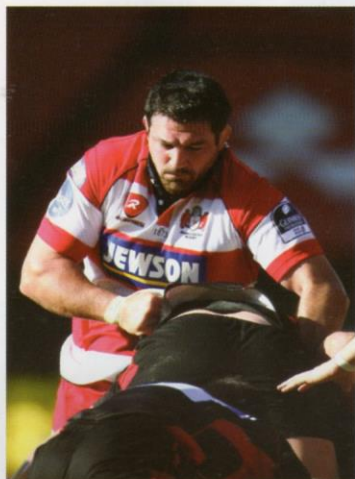
"But we will be competitive and sides won't be able to take us lightly, though we hope they do, as we have some good players. On our day we are capable of mixing it with the best.

"Gloucester have quality in their squad and they have some excellent back-up facilities like the training facilities at Hartpury College which all help with the preparations for this competition.

"We are a little different at the Dragons as we are still threatening to develop, which would make my job a lot easier, but on the field we are hoping that we can give a good account of ourselves tonight.

"If we can win this game at Kingsholm then anything can happen but we will all get a better of how things will shape up as far as the pool stage of the competition after the first two weekends."

BOB FENTON'S KINGSHOLM NEWS



I WAS amused to read Bryan Redpath's comments in the last programme when he talked about comments relating to Dave Attwood on "... a certain internet message board..."

Oh come on Bryan, you can speak its name, well not unless someone has added it to the list of banned words in the backrooms of castle grim!

And what's wrong with giving big Dave the tag of the new enforcer, hopefully this had led to him getting a new nick name (though it may just have too many syllables to work properly), and let's face it - anything has the be better for him than 'The Bore' which certain other players have used when talking about him.

Anyway, I know that there are a number of players out on the park today who are avid readers of the board and are keen to check out the comments, especially after a good game.

Of course this probably means that there were not too many 'official' visitors to the Shedweb site (the third

highest ranked rugby site according to the Daily Telegraph) after the Northampton game. Frankly I avoided it too, such was the level of despondency.

The many experts that frequent the board suggested that we were in for a very tough time for our visit to what has to be the worst venue in the Premiership – or Vicarage Road, to you and me.

Fortunately the boy having his tonsils out meant all travel passes were revoked for the weekend and I was taken prisoner and made to drive to Taunton, so could only catch bits on the radio when the signal from Radio Glaws reached the darker parts of Somerset.

Those who were there tell me we turned in a much more spirited display and could easily have walked away with at least a draw. It wasn't to be and a played four, won one record was the result.

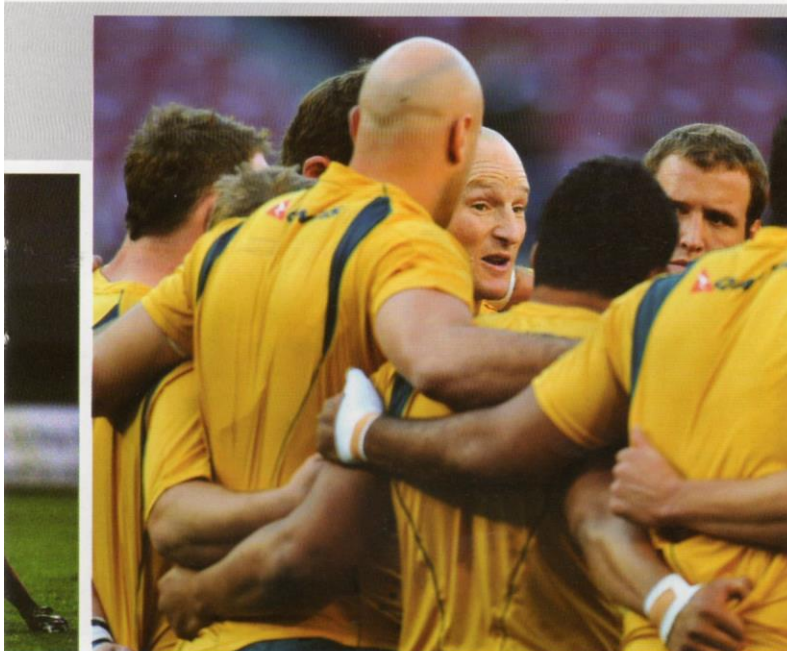
Leeds away is always a good trip and for those that made it, I would have loved to, only my damn car decided

that it would be a good time for every electronic gizmo it contains – and there are lots – to pack up. Twenty five grands worth of junk on my drive and me left with the nerve-shredding experience of listening to the radio. Vorsprung durch technik my rear end.

By the sound of it – and from speaking to one or two people who were there, it wasn't pretty. But a win is a win, and given the last three games that is a very big win indeed. So well done boys, now let's make it a habit.

The only question is, will we have any players fit enough – or not sitting things out for some misdemeanour - to make up a side?

At the time of writing Olly Azam and Adam Eustace have dates with the beak, and Messrs Morgan, Tindall and EFS (I would write his name out in full, but then there wouldn't be enough room for anything else) have reported to the sick bay. Hopefully non of the boys are too badly crocked and will be in the starting line up today.



But on to matters more important... Is it me, or has the Heineken Cup come round that bit quicker this season? We've only had a handful of Premiership games and here we are in the big time European competition.

Having a Welsh side here for an evening kick off will evoke many memories from years gone by, the difference these days is that the floodlights floodlight and we're not watching a bunch of eerie shadows somewhere off in the distance.

Coming on the back of the last five games we all know we have to up the ante a bit here. Lose a home game in this competition and it's pretty much all over as far as qualification for the next round goes.

Being slightly out of touch with the Celtic league I'm not sure how well Newport are going at the moment, their record of three wins and two losses – with one win coming over Glasgow who are also in our Heineken Cup Group – shows they must be doing something right.

But league form is not necessarily a pointer for a game like this, it's a cross border derby (according to my GPS- one of the few things in the car that works – it's 48 miles from Rodney Parade to Kingsholm) for one, and the stakes are about as high as they can be for both clubs – win an away game and the group looks a whole lot rosier, lose a home game and it could be all over.

And this game has more than a little importance for me – much of my working time has been spent around Newport over the last few months, I can't face going back there if things don't go our way tonight.

So come on, lad, spare me that torture and run in a hatful of scores tonight. Please

Finally what about Gloucester v Australia at Kingsholm in a few weeks – how exciting is that? Some are predicting a one-sided massacre, I don't go with that – after all Australia are a pretty experienced outfit and they may manage to get a point or two....



Dedicated to
The memory of
HARRY BROWN



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PLAYER PROFILE: GARETH DELVE

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT'S THE FIRST GAME YOU REMEMBER WATCHING?

I think the first one that really sticks in my mind was Wales vs France, I think it was in 1994 and I remember Scott Quinnell carrying half the French team over the line.

WHO IS YOUR SPORT'S BEST PUNDIT?

I'd have to say Stuart Barnes although I think Will Greenwood is catching him up.

WHO'S GOT THE FLASHIEST MOTOR AT THE CLUB?

I'm going to have to say Les (Lesley Vainikolo) although Mark Bitcon is pushing him close with his Porsche!

WHO'S THE BEST DRESSER IN THE PLAYING DEPARTMENT? WHO'S THE WORST?

Personally, I'm a bit more conservative with my styles but Rory Lawson usually gets the balance right. On the flip side, I'm not a big fan of some of the stuff Les wears.

IF MONEY WAS NO OBJECT WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?

I'd probably buy Necker Island from Richard Branson.

WHICH CHARITIES DO YOU SUPPORT AND WHY?

I support the RSPCA and also the cancer related charities.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BISCUIT?

Chocolate hob nob, definitely!

CAN YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

No. But I do have a pair of DJ decks that I can't play and two guitars that are just gathering dust!

IF YOU COULD BE IN A BAND, WHICH ONE WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Kings of Leon.

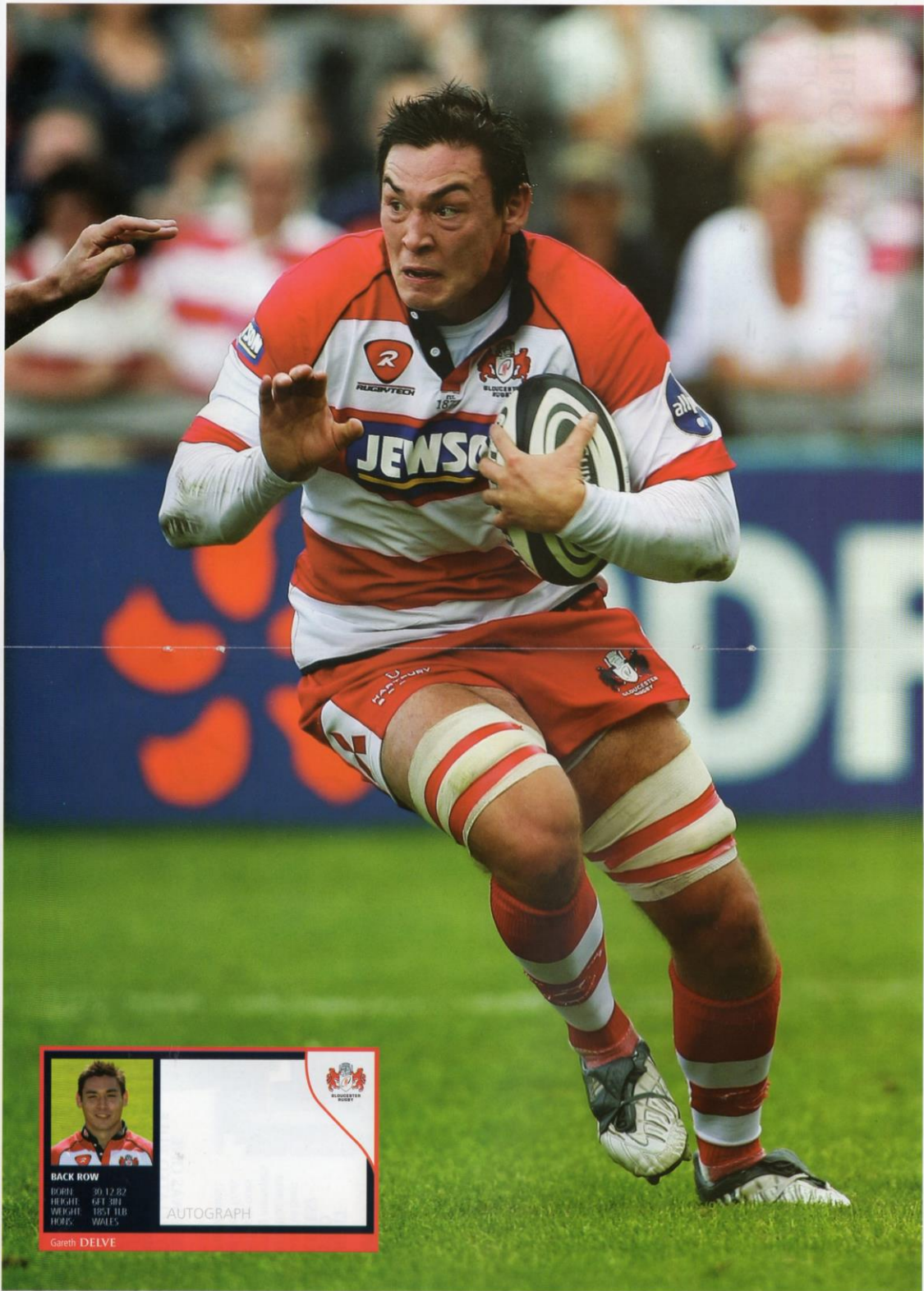
WHAT'S YOUR NICKNAME AT THE CLUB AND HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?

I've got a couple. I picked up the nickname of Big Meat during preseason and Delvey which has followed me around for years.

WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN RUGBY?

I'd say Andy Titterrell. We're close mates.







BACK ROW

DOB:	30.12.82
HEIGHT:	6'7" 3/4"
WEIGHT:	185.5 LB
HOME:	WALLES

Gareth DELVE

AUTOGRAPH



PLAYER PROFILE: GARETH DELVE



DO YOU SUPPORT ANY OTHER SPORTING TEAMS?

Yeah, I support Liverpool FC and also Cardiff City.



WHICH PLAYER DID YOU MOST ADMIRE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?

A mixture of players really. Mainly number eights like Zinzan Brooke and Scott Quinnell. I'd say even Lawrence Dallaglio which probably won't be a popular choice around here!

HAS SPORT EVER BROUGHT TEARS TO YOUR EYES?

Not as such. I've been fairly lucky in that most of my sporting memories have been happy ones. We've lost a few finals but never quite shed tears over it.

IF THERE WAS ONE RUGBY RELATED RULE OR LAW THAT YOU COULD CHANGE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I'd change whatever has come in and caused players to kick the ball so often in open play. Take things back to how they were before the



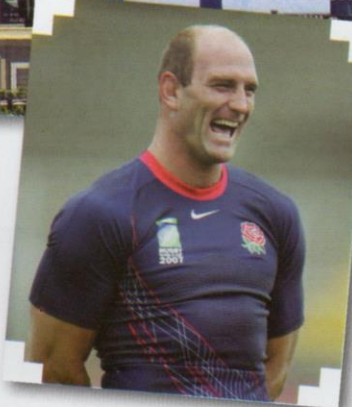
ELVs and go back to the 2007 season which I thought was pretty special.

WHAT'S THE MOST COMMON MISTAKE YOU SEE PEOPLE MAKE WHEN PLAYING YOUR SPORT?

Just panicking. Panicking takes away your basics, causes you to drop simple passes etc.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE BEST NIGHT OUT?

Las Vegas. I know Nicky and Eli both said Brisbane but I didn't have the best night out there to be honest!



DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

OUR opponents, Biarritz, in the Heineken Cup has a population of only 30,000 inhabitants. The venue is really an area of Bayonne, Anglet and Biarritz. In the year of 1998 they were known as Biarritz Olympique. Since then they have been known as Biarritz Olympique. This move was not met with acclaim in neighbouring Bayonne. The town is a former Viking settlement. The Vikings arrived in the 9th century and soon exploited the local fishing scene.



BIARRITZ became a prominent rugby club in France due to the sponsorship of Serge Kampf. Serge owned a giant I.T. and Consulting Company, Cap Gemini. Biarritz won the French Championship in 1935 and 1939. They were then bereft of the same honour until this century when they were champions again in 2002 and 2005.



SCOTLAND can boast the youngest cap out of the home nations. N.J. Finlay was capped at 17 years and 36 days in 1875. F.S. Hewitt of Ireland was not far behind when in 1924 he was capped at the age of 17 years and 157 days. The youngest Welsh cap was **N. Biggs** who was capped aged 18 years and 49 days in 1888. While H.C.C. Laird was 18 years and 134 days when he gained International honours, difficult to imagine players being capped at such a young age in the professional era?

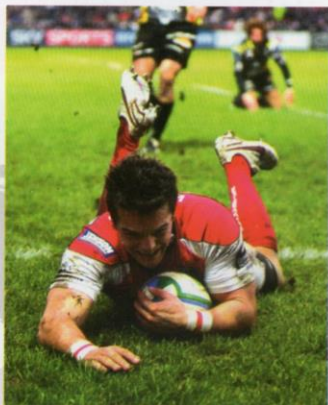


THE move to include rugby union in the Olympics is not without precedent. In 1900 gold was won by France with Great Britain and Germany receiving silver. In 1908 Australia won gold with Great Britain once again awarded silver. Same two countries again repeated the act in 1924. Of course that was the 15 aside version. The intention is to now incorporate 7 aside.

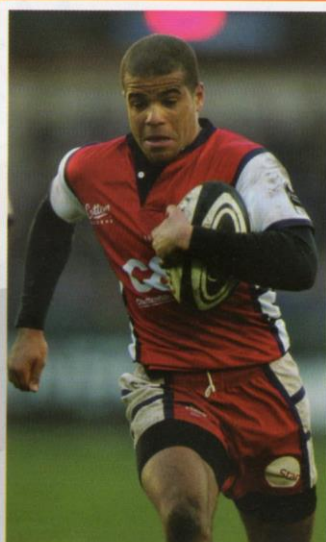


THE debt that Paul Sackey, the Wasps and England International owes our former scrum half, Andy Gomarsall. Paul, was 18 years old when Andy obtained Paul's first contract and boot deal. Both players were at Bedford. Andy joined the Kingsholm ranks at a later date and recommended Paul to join him. The move failed to materialise.

MARK FOSTER'S new club, Exeter Chiefs have formed an amateur club, Exeter Athletic R.F.C. Their base is at Sandy Lane, the home ground of the Chiefs.



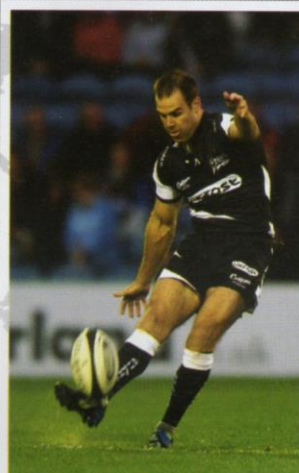
OUR former wing three quarter Daren O'Leary twice topped the try scoring charts in league matches before the game became professional. Daren then played for Harlequins and in the 1993-94 season recorded 11 tries. In the 1995-96 season he scored 14 tries. In the 1994-95 season another of our former players, Paul Holford was joint top try scorer with Phil Hopley of Wasps. Both players recorded 8 tries apiece.



FORMER Gloucester Rugby players released by their clubs in the close season of 2009 include the following: -

Andy Gomarsall
from Harlequins to Leeds,
James Bailey
from London Irish to Lyon (France),
Rudi Keil
from Sale to Montpellier (France),
Mike Prendergast
(retired) from Munster,
Frederico Puccarello
(retired) from Munster.

OUR former club captain and coach, Keith Richardson now writes a weekly column in the Stroud News & Journal on Gloucester Rugby Club. His column is informative and penetrates the areas of the game not always so obvious to the casual onlooker.



CAN Charlie Hodgson, the Sale Sharks and England International top 2,000 points in league matches? At the outset of this current season he had recorded no fewer than 1,556 points.



THIS season marks the 100th anniversary of Twickenham Stadium. The ten and a quarter acre of land was purchased in 1907. The first ever match played there was between Harlequins and Richmond on October 2nd 1909. The first international held at the ground saw England defeat Wales 11 points to six on January 15th 1910. The first England captain was Adrian Stoop. Gloucester Rugby Club provided three players for that international, Dai Gent, William Johns and Henry Berry.

PETER ARNOLD'S GLOUCESTER TALK

WELCOME BACK!

IT'S obviously tremendous news that the Australians are to come here to play Gloucester on November 3rd. The first time since 1908, apparently. Just to put that into context, my father hadn't started coming to Kingsholm then, because he was only four years old.

However, although the Wallabies may not have locked horns with Gloucester in over 100 years, they have certainly played here in the interim.

I remember it well. This was in the days when the County Championship really meant something, being second only to the international scene in terms of importance to English rugby.

Although Gloucestershire were ruling the roost at the time, divisional rugby was beginning to take hold, and Australia played the South and South West at Kingsholm during the week preceding their game against England.

Phil Blakeway will remember it well. The Gloucestershire front row were making a right mess of their Ozzie counterparts, when suddenly a fist appeared from nowhere and broke Phil's nose. Not only did he have to leave the field, but he missed the England game on the following Saturday.

You can imagine the behind-the-scenes mutterings that went on about that. The County had been doing well up to that point, but couldn't hold their illustrious visitors afterwards. Phil Blakeway really was that influential.



It's a great coup for the club to have secured this match, and all concerned are to be congratulated. I notice that my old friend Mike Burton was very much involved in persuading the Wallabies to come here, and I find that a bit ironic.

'Burto' was, of course, the first English player to be sent off in an international away in Australia. The incident was controversial, coming at the end of a period of sustained mayhem when the ref warned the players that the next guy to transgress would get his marching orders.

Mike had, no doubt, been a bit naughty! But it wasn't a sending-off offence in normal circumstances, a fact tacitly acknowledged by the authorities at the subsequent disciplinary hearing. All has now, clearly, been forgiven and forgotten.

This isn't the first time, of course, that a full international side has played Gloucester. When the World Cup was last in England, the international side came to

Gloucester in a warm-up match. If I remember rightly, Mike Teague was given the honour of leading the visitors out, an experience which must have been strange and gratifying for him.

We did quite well, too, only letting the England boys get away from us in the last quarter or so.

The very next Saturday we went one better. We actually beat a full Irish side, masquerading as the Irish President's XV. The visitors were great about the loss. In fact, the President said to me that, what I had to remember, was that in England the situation is always serious but never hopeless, while in Ireland the situation is always hopeless but never serious!

Then they went on to run the Australians desperately close in their World Cup match, the Wallabies only being saved by a bit of last-minute David Campese magic.

So welcome to the Australians. They'll be writing another page in the proud history of Kingsholm.

I WAS ALSO GRATIFIED TO NOTE THAT IT WAS THE OPPOSITION WHO SUFFERED FROM YELLOW CARD SYNDROME THIS TIME ROUND RATHER THAN GLOS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT PROVED, BUT IT WAS NICE, NEVERTHELESS.



PHEW!

AT LAST! A win!

The victory at Headingley might not have been all we could have wished for, but we're happy to take it, bearing in mind all that had gone before.

I read that the much improved second-half display was inspired by a full and frank discussion (aka a kick up the bum) at half time by either Bryan Redpath or Mike Tindall, depending on which paper you read. A fourth try would have been nice, but we'll settle for three.

I was also gratified to note that it was the opposition who suffered from yellow card syndrome this time round rather than Glos. I don't know what that proved, but it was nice, nevertheless.

Let's not be too pessimistic yet. You'll be aware that, for several

seasons now, we've been up at the top of the table come Christmas time, only to fall away and achieve nothing by the end.

Conversely, both Harlequins and Wasps have had horrendous starts to recent campaigns, only to come back and finish with a roar. Perhaps the wheel is turning? Hope so, anyway.

COULD BE WORSE

IF you think we've had a poor start to the season, thank your lucky stars you're not supporting Manchester. Their record thus far in League Division One is played five, lost five, points for 20, points against 605! Now that is a depressing statistic.

Apparently, the RFU has been in touch with Manchester to ask if there's anything they can do to help. The club replied that they always expected the start of the season to

be rough, because they have a very young but highly enthusiastic squad.

Perhaps their confidence is beginning to be justified. They had a great result last Saturday, only conceding 95 points.

WELCOME NEWPORT

I CAN'T close this week without reminiscing a little about past battles (not too strong a word) between Gloucester and Newport.

When we think of traditional Christmas games at Kingsholm, we tend to remember Old Merchant Taylors and Lydney. However, we always played Newport at around that time too, and there wasn't much goodwill to all men about those encounters!

I don't suppose there will be today, either. However, it's nice to see them back.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 14



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 27

COACH'S COMMENTS

"Our basics weren't good enough, our set piece probably wasn't good enough so we didn't have a platform to give ourselves enough opportunities. I don't think that Northampton really had to do that much to win the game."

"There were some opportunities but Northampton are a very organised team and we couldn't make the most of them."

KEY MOMENT

With half time approaching, Gloucester had overcome a strong Northampton start and fought their way into a 14-11 lead.

Momentum was well and truly behind Bryan Redpath's men but, as Mike Tindall safely took the restart, referee David Rose ruled that the chasers had been illegally blocked. Shane Geraghty nudged Northampton back in front and the Saints never relinquished their lead.



Gloucester Rugby's attempts to bounce back from the disappointment suffered at the Madejski Stadium the previous weekend came up short as Northampton Saints returned to the East Midlands with a rare victory at Kingsholm.

Before the game, it had been hoped that a return to playing action in front of the faithful Kingsholm crowd would inspire a return to winning ways.

However, discipline was once again a factor as Shane Geraghty and Bruce Reihana kicked five penalties between them to send Northampton on their way.

That, combined with an inability to penetrate the Saints defence in the final quarter left Gloucester without even a bonus point to show for their efforts.

Nothing should be taken away from the professional way that Northampton went about their job. They capitalised on the opportunities afforded them, kicked their goals and defended like demons.

Things had actually started promisingly for Gloucester. Lesley Vainikolo was quickly in the thick of things and his ability to attract would be tacklers almost led to an early score for Olly Morgan.

However, as was the case at the Madejski Stadium the weekend before, Gloucester missed a kick at goal and promptly conceded a try from the resulting 22 drop out.

A Reihana penalty extended the lead before Gloucester's best spell of the game saw them score 14 points in 17 minutes to take a 14-13 lead with only five minutes to go until half time.

However, momentum is a strange

POSSIBLE KICKS AT GOAL WERE TURNED DOWN AS GLOUCESTER WENT FOR TRIES BUT THE SAINTS' DEFENCE, BY A MIXTURE OF FAIR MEANS AND FOUL (!), HELD OUT TO LEAVE BRYAN REDPATH'S MEN FRUSTRATED.



thing in sport. Gloucester had fought their way back into the game and looked well set to kick on and clinch the win.

Yet, the lead was conceded just as quickly as it had been gained and two Shane Geraghty penalties gave the Saints the edge going into the half term break and the visitors continued in that vein as the beginning of the second half, extending their lead through a Jon Clarke try.

Gloucester, backed by a vociferous Kingsholm crowd, did hit back and spent the best part of the final quarter camped in the Northampton 22 in a desperate attempt to get back into the game.

Possible kicks at goal were turned down as Gloucester went for tries but the Saints' defence, by a mixture of fair means and foul (!), held out to leave Bryan Redpath's men frustrated.

THE TEAMS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Morgan
Voyce
Tindall
Fuimaono-Sapolu
Vainikolo
Robinson
Lewis
Dickinson
S. Lawson
Somerville
Attwood
Bortolami
Buxton
Qera
Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

Sharples for Morgan (40),
R Lawson for Lewis (57),
Azam for S. Lawson (57),
Doran-Jones for Somerville (64),
Brown for Attwood (51),
Strokosch for Buxton (57),
Burns for Voyce (74).

NOT USED: Capdevielle.



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

Foden
Ashton
Clarke
Downey
Reihana
Geraghty
Dickson
Tonga'uiha
Hartley
Gonzalez Bonorino
Fernandez Lobbe
Kruger
Best
S Gray
Dowson

REPLACEMENTS:

Mayor for Downey (56),
Dickens for Dickson (63),
Sharman for Hartley (78),
Lawes for Fernandez Lobbe (55),
Wilson for Best (55),
Mujati for Bonorino (60)

NOT USED: Dreyer, Everitt.



SARACENS

19



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

16

COACH'S COMMENTS

"I thought we had done enough to win the game."

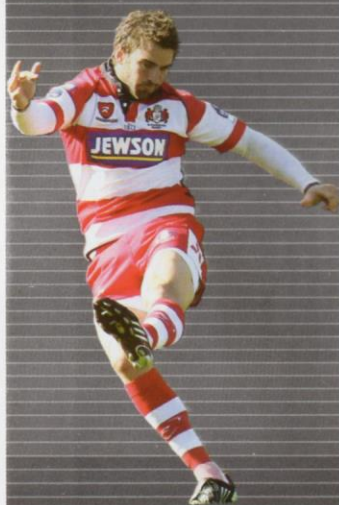
"We put a huge amount in but didn't get a huge amount out of it."

KEY MOMENT

With Gloucester hanging on to a four point lead shortly into the second half, Mike Tindall chased an up and under from Nicky Robinson and delivered a shuddering hit to jar the ball loose and force a turnover.

Lesley Vainikolo and Alasdair Dickinson then combined to free Robinson who looked set to make the corner until Saracens full back Alex Goode came across

Gloucester didn't score again, Saracens did...



Gloucester left Vicarage Road wondering how they'd left without the victory as Saracens struck late to snatch the points.

Gloucester lead from the 2nd minute to the 67th but couldn't quite hold the Men in Black at bay and the home team timed their comeback perfectly in that they were in the lead when it counted – at the final whistle.

Saracens therefore made it four from four in the Guinness Premiership although the manner of victory didn't please everybody with their own supporters resorting to slow hand clapping and booing midway through the second half as yet another aerial bombardment was launched on the Gloucester 22.

However, the jeers turned to cheers once former All Black scrum half Justin Marshall master minded a rare foray into Gloucester territory and Springbok international hooker Schalk Brits plunged over for the vital score.

Gloucester were left wondering what might have been and, when reviewing the match footage, particular focus would have been applied to the refereeing as Bryan Redpath's men notched up their sixth yellow card of the season and were very much on the wrong end of the penalty count.

Despite the defeat, however, Redpath could take heart from the fact that his side had fronted up and gone toe to toe with the league leaders and, on another day, would

GLOUCESTER LEAD FROM THE 2ND MINUTE TO THE 67TH BUT COULDN'T QUITE HOLD THE MEN IN BLACK AT BAY AND THE HOME TEAM TIMED THEIR COMEBACK PERFECTLY IN THAT THEY WERE IN THE LEAD WHEN IT COUNTED - AT THE FINAL WHISTLE.



have closed out the win.

After two defeats following the opening day victory over Bath, Gloucester needed an early confidence boost and it was duly delivered as Alasdair Strokosch nicked a Saracens lineout near their own line and Rory Lawson was able to dart over.

Yet, while Gloucester were able to maintain their lead, they were never able to open up a significant gap. The lead was only ever one point or four points as Saracens kept in touch thanks to the unerring boot of Glen Jackson, no great surprise given his scoring exploits in recent seasons.

Gloucester's big opportunity came when Nicky Robinson pinned back

his ears and headed for the corner after Mike Tindall's big hit forced a turnover in midfield. However, Alex Goode got across to bundle Robinson into touch and, although we didn't know it at the time, that was it for Gloucester's scoring for the afternoon.

With the home crowd getting restless, Saracens emptied their bench as they sought to shake things up and, despite valiant defence, Justin Marshall finally engineered the go ahead score for Shalk Brits.

There was one last chance for Gloucester but Nicky Robinson's attempted drop goal off his right foot drifted wide and the team were left with the bitter taste of defeat.

THE TEAMS

SARACENS

Goode
Cato
Ratuvou
Barritt
Wyles
Jackson
de Kock
Gill
Ongaro
Nieto
Borthwick
Botha
van Heerden
Saul
Joubert

REPLACEMENTS:

Haughton for Cato (64),
Marshall for de Kock (63),
Aguero for Gill (49),
Brits for Ongaro (49),
Skuse for Nieto (49),
Vyvan for Borthwick (12),
Owen for Saul (63).

NOT USED: Hougaard.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Voyce
Simpson-Daniel
Tindall
Molenaar
Vainikolo
Robinson
R Lawson
Dickinson
Azam
Doran-Jones
Buxton
Brown
Strokosch
Qera
Eustace

REPLACEMENTS:

Sharples for Tindall (75),
S Lawson for Azam (57),
Capdevielle for Doran-Jones (53),
Hazell for Qera (53).

NOT USED: Knight, Satala,
Lewis, Burns.

LEEDS **CARNEGIE** 10**GLOUCESTER RUGBY** 26

COACH'S COMMENTS

"Certainly our first-half performance was dreadful."

"At half-time I didn't hide from any of that because I thought it was important that the players understood it wasn't acceptable."

"It was difficult to blame everyone but I thought in the second half we did what we had talked about and executed far better."

KEY MOMENT

Gloucester had created but spurned countless chances in the first half and went into half time trailing due to Leeds having converted the one opportunity they had carved out.

The second half started in similarly frustrating fashion until the forwards took control, battering the Leeds fringe defence until Olivier Azam powered his way over from short range and Gloucester didn't look back.



It was a case of job done for Gloucester at Headingley against Leeds Carnegie last Sunday but they were given some very nervy moments by the Premiership's basement club.

Despite tasting defeat in their previous three Guinness Premiership outings, everyone expected Gloucester to return with a win from their trip up North.

Everyone seemingly included the Leeds support as the crowd numbered just over 5,000, a figure which took into account the travelling Gloucester faithful, although the Leeds Rhinos playoff game on the previous Friday

evening may have been a factor.

And Gloucester started brightly but were completely sucker punched by Leeds who struck from deep following a line break from the unlikely figure of second row Marco Wentzel who gave the scoring pass to the supporting flanker Tom Denton.

A score to settle the nerves was desperately required and there was no lack of effort with James Simpson-Daniel so nearly breaking clear on several occasions. Perhaps there was a little bit too much effort as, on too many occasions, the final pass was forced or an offload attempted when it wasn't on.

GLOUCESTER NOW SWITCH THEIR ATTENTIONS TO THE HEINEKEN CUP ALTHOUGH THE INJURIES SUFFERED BY VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE BACK LINE WILL BE A CONCERN.



Frustratingly, half time came with Gloucester still trailing but replacement Freddie Burns gave the side a vital spark when his counter attack from deep was only denied a try by an illegal tackle from Leeds fly half half Ceiron Thomas.

Thomas was sinbinned and the Gloucester pack took control. Olivier Azam smashed his way over from close range and the sigh of relief could be heard at Kingsholm!

Mike Tindall immediately put James

Simpson-Daniel in for the second score and, despite some spirited Leeds resistance, the Gloucester defence held them at bay until Nicky Robinson's late penalty and Tindall's try as time expired clinched matters.

The four points will come in very useful and the boost of morale will be even more crucial as Gloucester now switch their attentions to the Heineken Cup although the injuries suffered by various members of the back line will be a concern.

THE TEAMS

LEEDS CARNEGIE

Goodridge
Welding
Hepworth
Rabeni
Blackett
Thomas
Gomarsall
Hardy
Nilsen
Gomez
Lund
Wentzel
Denton
Fa'afili
To'oala.

REPLACEMENTS:

Burrell for Welding (34),
Mathie for Gomarsall (50),
Moreno for Hardy (73),
Ma'asi for Nilsen (58),
McGee for Gomez (58),
Clark for Denton (58).

NOT USED: Oakley, H Paul.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Voyce
Simpson-Daniel
Tindall
Fuimaono-Sapolu
Vainikolo
Robinson
R Lawson
Dickinson
Azam
Doran-Jones
Attwood
Brown
Strokosch
Hazell
Eustace
Morgan.

REPLACEMENTS:

Morgan for Fuimaono-Sapolu (11),
Capdevielle for Doran-Jones (63),
Buxton for Attwood (70),
Qera for Hazell (45),
Burns for Morgan (36).

NOT USED: Dawidiuk, Knight,
Pasqualin.

TODAY'S LINE-UPS

VS NEWPORT GWENT DRAGONS
FRIDAY 9/10/09
KO 8:00PM

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

VS

**NEWPORT
GWENT DRAGONS**

**HEINEKEN CUP:
POOL 2**



TOM VOYCE	15	JASON TOVEY
CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	ALED BREW
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	13	TOM RILEY
TIM MOLENAAR	12	ASHLEY SMITH
LESLEY VAINIKOLO	11	RICHARD FUSSELL
<i>C.P.P.P.</i> NICKY ROBINSON	10	JAMES ARLIDGE <i>T.C.C.P.</i>
RORY LAWSON	9	WAYNE EVANS
ALASDAIR DICKINSON	1	HUGH GUSTAFSON <i>Mellor 15</i>
SCOTT LAWSON	2	STEVE JONES
GREG SOMERVILLE	3	GETHIN ROBINSON <i>Hazell</i>
DAVE ATTWOOD	4	ADAM JONES <i>Siddons</i>
ALEX BROWN	5	LUKE CHARTERIS (C)
ALASDAIR STROKOSCH	6	DAN LYDIATE <i>#</i>
<i>T</i> AKAPUSI QERA	7	GAVIN THOMAS
GARETH DELVE (C)	8	JOE BEARMAN <i>T</i>

Pos	Team	Pld	Pts
1	Biarritz	0	0
2	Glasgow Warriors	0	0
3	GLOUCESTER RUGBY	0	0
4	Newport Gwent Dragons	0	0

REPLACEMENTS

GLOUCESTER BENCH

16	DARREN DAWIDUIK
17	PAUL DORAN-JONES
18	PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE
19	PETER BUXTON <i>James</i>
20	ANDREW HAZELL
21	DAVE LEWIS
22	FREDDIE BURNS
23	JONNY MAY

NEWPORT BENCH

16	DUANE GOODFIELD
17	PETER BRACKEN
18	NIGEL HALL
19	HOANI MACDONALD
20	JAMES HARRIS
21	RHODRI GOMER DAVIES
22	SHAUN CONNOR
23	DANNY LEE

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

Peter Fitzgibbon

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

David Keane, Seamus Flannery

4TH OFFICIAL:

Andrew Pearce

Heineken Cup Round One

7-0
7-7
7-14
10-14

13-14 19-17

16-14
16-17

