

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME // £3

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



Vs WORCESTER WARRIORS
SATURDAY 2/1/10
KO 3:00PM



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GARETH DELVE CAPTAIN'S CORNER

AS I sat down this week to write my programme notes for today's game against the Worcester Warriors, it was with a feeling of frustration.

Frustration because the defeat against Bath at the Rec last Sunday is still fresh in the memory and it's not a pleasant feeling.

We went into the game in good spirits having put together a good 40 minutes against the Glasgow Warriors the previous week to earn an important Heineken Cup victory.

The Bath game represented the first in a trio of Guinness Premiership matches (today obviously being the second) where we were hoping to secure some serious points to start moving us up the table.

Personally, I was really fired up for the game as it was my first opportunity to play at the Rec in a Gloucester shirt since leaving Bath.

We started reasonably well. It was a stop start game and it felt as though every single scrum had to be set and reset over and over again.

Our defence in the first half was good and we seemed to be able to absorb anything they could throw at us. The crowd were slightly quiet and you could almost sense that a score could shatter their confidence given that they hadn't won at home in the Premiership all season.

But we didn't play enough rugby in their half of the field and Scott Lawson's sinbining gave them a glimmer of hope which they pounced upon.

Once Nicky Little had kicked them into the lead, the momentum was well and truly in their favour and Bath can be a formidable force when they get on a roll with their home crowd behind them.

They did exactly what we were looking to do. They kicked well

stating the obvious when I say that we owe it to ourselves and our supporters to bounce back today against Worcester.

It won't be easy. They are also coming off the back of a defeat and they'll be looking over their shoulders at Bath and Leeds.

They're a well organised, durable outfit under Mike Ruddock and we'll have to work hard to make headway against them.

We know we're capable of it but we have to deliver on the day.

Enjoy the game!

PERSONALLY, I WAS REALLY FIRED UP FOR THE GAME AS IT WAS MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY AT THE REC IN A GLOUCESTER SHIRT

I missed the 10-5 defeat in January 2008 and also the 21-17 win in September of that year because of injury so it was a big game for me.

I still have a lot of friends down in Bath and I desperately wanted myself and the team to put in a good performance.

Sadly, we once again failed to string back to back performances together.

tactically to pin us back, didn't concede anything in their own half and took advantage of any mistakes that we made.

It was a real chance for us to build following the victory over Glasgow and we know it and I'm



GARETH BUTLER VIEW FROM THE CITIZEN

Gareth Butler, Rugby Writer with the Gloucester Citizen, sat down with Gloucester Rugby's Managing Director, Ken Nottage, as 2009 drew to a close to chat about Ken's decade at the helm at Kingsholm.

The question and answer session was far too long to publish in its entirety in the matchday programme so a selection of Ken's responses are included here.

The full interview has been featured in the Citizen.

Compare Gloucester Rugby now to Gloucester Rugby at the turn of the Millennium?

Prior to me joining the club the former club committee were faced with the daunting prospect of professional rugby. This was a very difficult time for everyone involved in rugby union. One day a player was part-time and had another job and the next they were full time players.

Clubs did not know what to play players and also how to cover the costs of player wages which were already increasing due to clubs trying to prevent their players being poached from other clubs across the country. Very soon clubs were in financial trouble and needed help.

With a massive task in front of them Gloucester Rugby formed a Board of Directors consisting of prominent local businessmen with a view to lead the club through these uncertain times. The Board soon realised that they needed a benefactor and recruited Tom Walkinshaw, the widely respected entrepreneur from the world of Formula 1.

Tom was not only exceptionally wealthy in his own right but knew what it took to be successful in sport both on and off the 'field of play'. He had been a European Champion



racing driver and owned and ran the Arrows F1 Racing team.

Prior to working for Gloucester Rugby, I worked for Newcastle United as CEO of their Sporting Club. This included their Rugby, Ice Hockey and Basketball teams plus commercial elements of the football club.

I joined Gloucester Rugby in June 1999 just months after Tom had acquired the club. So much was different then. Professional Rugby was very much in its infancy and with the exception of the fact that players were paid for playing, the sport was amateur in every other respect. The stadium had a

capacity of around 10,000 but only 1260 seats in the old grandstand.

The club had just avoided relegation, Philippe Saint Andre had been appointed as Director of Rugby and informed the Board that the team was not good enough to compete in the premiership and certainly not for honours and that there needed to be substantial changes. An exciting journey was about to follow.

Who is the best player to have graced the Kingsholm turf?

In answering this question I must relate not just to playing ability but every personal aspect including

intelligence, integrity, personality and how they conduct themselves generally. I am sure readers will be expecting me to name players such as Ian Jones or Phil Vickery.

But for me the player I have enjoyed dealing with most of all possibly because he was the only one to buy me lunch when we met was Mefin Davies. He is simply an outstanding individual. But I can honestly say that rugby players in general are a cut above most others sports.



Do you have any printable anecdotes?

People often say that I should write a book about my time in professional sport. When I finish perhaps I will but I would probably have to leave the country and I could never write the true story. Anyway I probably only sell one



copy as the fans would pass it around.

How has the Club's relationship with the fans evolved?

In a previous job in sport, a prominent Board member said to me, "...don't ever ask the fans what they think, tell them how it is going to be..."

This person could not have been more wrong. The fans are our customers and expect a certain standard in everything we do. In the early days this was a difficult thing to deliver as we were in a severe building phase.

Now it is different. The fans have had a taste of the good days and have an expectation of what they require in order for them to buy a ticket.

I have half a dozen fans who I call my barometer group. I often go to them and ask their opinion on matters. They don't always tell me what I hope to hear but they are frank and speak a lot of sense. They are also very demanding.

Tom is very receptive to the fans and feels they know rugby and care about the club. He often asks me what the fans are saying. When the fans congratulate Tom I can tell it really means something to him. When they complain, he wants it fixed.

Is the current situation on the field the most challenging?

It's very frustrating for everyone involved or supporting. We will however get better and I believe challenge for honours in soon. We are in a re-build phase lead by Bryan who has a clear vision of what needs to be done. I believe he is capable of returning the club to winning ways.

Winning the league over past seasons and not being acknowledged as champions is frustrating but I believe that the fans recognise this was an outstanding achievement. It is extremely difficult to recruit a team that wins the play-offs. You have to account for injuries, international periods, and peak at just the right time. It's a complex formula which also requires a bit of luck in my opinion.

BRYAN REDPATH HEAD COACH



ON BEHALF of everyone at Gloucester Rugby, I'd like to wish the players, staff and supporters of the Worcester Warriors a very warm welcome to Kingsholm this afternoon.

And, of course, Happy New Year to everyone!

They're all important but today's game is of great significance to us as we look to get back to winning ways after a couple of matches where our inconsistency has been infuriating.

We've barely been able to string

back to back performances together and I'd hoped following the Heineken Cup win over the Glasgow Warriors that we could kick on and make some serious progress.

First of all I have to pay tribute to everyone who worked to make the Glasgow game playable on the Sunday.

Ironically, the pitch was perfectly playable underneath the covers but all the stewards and ground staff did an amazing job to make sure that we kicked off only 10 minutes late.

And the game itself was, quite literally, a game of two halves. We were all quite frustrated after the first 40 minutes because we'd enjoyed most of the possession and territory yet went in trailing by six points to nil.

Part of that was down to us not finishing off the openings that we'd created and part of it was down to some excellent Glasgow spoiling work at the breakdown. Some of that defensive work was legal and some of it was borderline but you play the referee and carry on until you're penalised.

I was interested to hear the TV commentary saying that we were booed off at half time but we were all convinced that it was Monsieur Garces who had incurred the ire of the Shed and I've received several emails since from supporters telling me that me that the referee was indeed the target of the booing!

The second half was much better. We got off to a good start as Nicky (Robinson) kicked a couple of penalties and you could see the self belief starting to flow through the side.

All of a sudden, the ball was being recycled much quicker, the running lines were better and we could easily have scored a couple more tries.

It did show what we're capable of and I was pleased to see the skills displayed by Luke Narryway and Alasdair Strokosch to create the scores.

It capped a good fightback and sent us into the Christmas period, and the Bath fixture, in good spirits.

Unfortunately, as has often been the case this season, we followed up a good win with a not so good defeat.

I came away from the Rec frustrated by many things but probably most by the way we contributed to our own downfall.

We knew that Sean Davey refereed the contact area strongly but got ourselves into situations in those areas where we could be penalised. We conceded nine points from penalties conceded for penalties for not rolling away or for hands in the ruck.

They were things that we'd spoken about during the week but we didn't put it into practice

on the pitch.

The game was never going to be a classic, a try fest with loads of points. We needed to keep it close but we gave Bath opportunities. They didn't create that much, they took what we gave them and you can't avoid to give away points.

The beauty of this game though is that you get the opportunity to put things right straightaway and this afternoon is that opportunity for us.

We know that it's not going to be easy this afternoon. Worcester come to Kingsholm this afternoon needing to get a win to get their season back on track just as badly as we do.

They've not had a great run of results recently and they'll be hurting from the fact that their last outing was a defeat at home to the Northampton Saints in front of a live television audience. They'll be looking to bounce back from that today.

And, of course, they'll take heart from the fact that they beat us home and away in the Guinness Premiership last season.

We did everything but win up at Sixways and they did a number on us in the return at Kingsholm towards the end of the season.

We'd like to end their winning run against us. Today and next week at Newcastle are two huge games for us if we're to make headway in the Guinness Premiership.

We've talked a lot recently about what we need to do and what we need to avoid doing. It's time for us to back that up on the pitch.

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PLAYER PROFILE: CHARLIE SHARPLES

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT'S THE FIRST GAME YOU REMEMBER WATCHING?

I think it was probably an England match on TV when I was a kid watching it with my Dad. I can't remember the exact match but I can only have been six or seven.

WHO IS YOUR SPORT'S BEST PUNDIT?

Will Greenwood I think. I like him on Rugby Club. He knows where he's coming from.



WHO'S GOT THE FLASHIEST MOTOR AT THE CLUB?

I know everyone says Les but Sinbad had a white BMW 3 Series that he was driving around for a few weeks and I think that was pretty cool.

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

I can't say Rory (Lawson) because everyone says that! I'm going to say Nicky Robinson and then, hopefully, he'll say something nice about me in interviews!

The worst? Jordi Pasqualin because he always wears a horrible tatty pair of trainers with his jeans and I'm always telling him not to wear them but he still does!



IF MONEY WAS NO OBJECT WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?

A helicopter I think as then I'd never have to get stuck in traffic.

BEST TRY YOU'VE EVER SCORED?

I think the most memorable one for me was against Bath last year because it was my first try for the first team. It was such a big game with a big crowd. It was a great occasion. It wasn't necessarily the prettiest but it's my favourite.

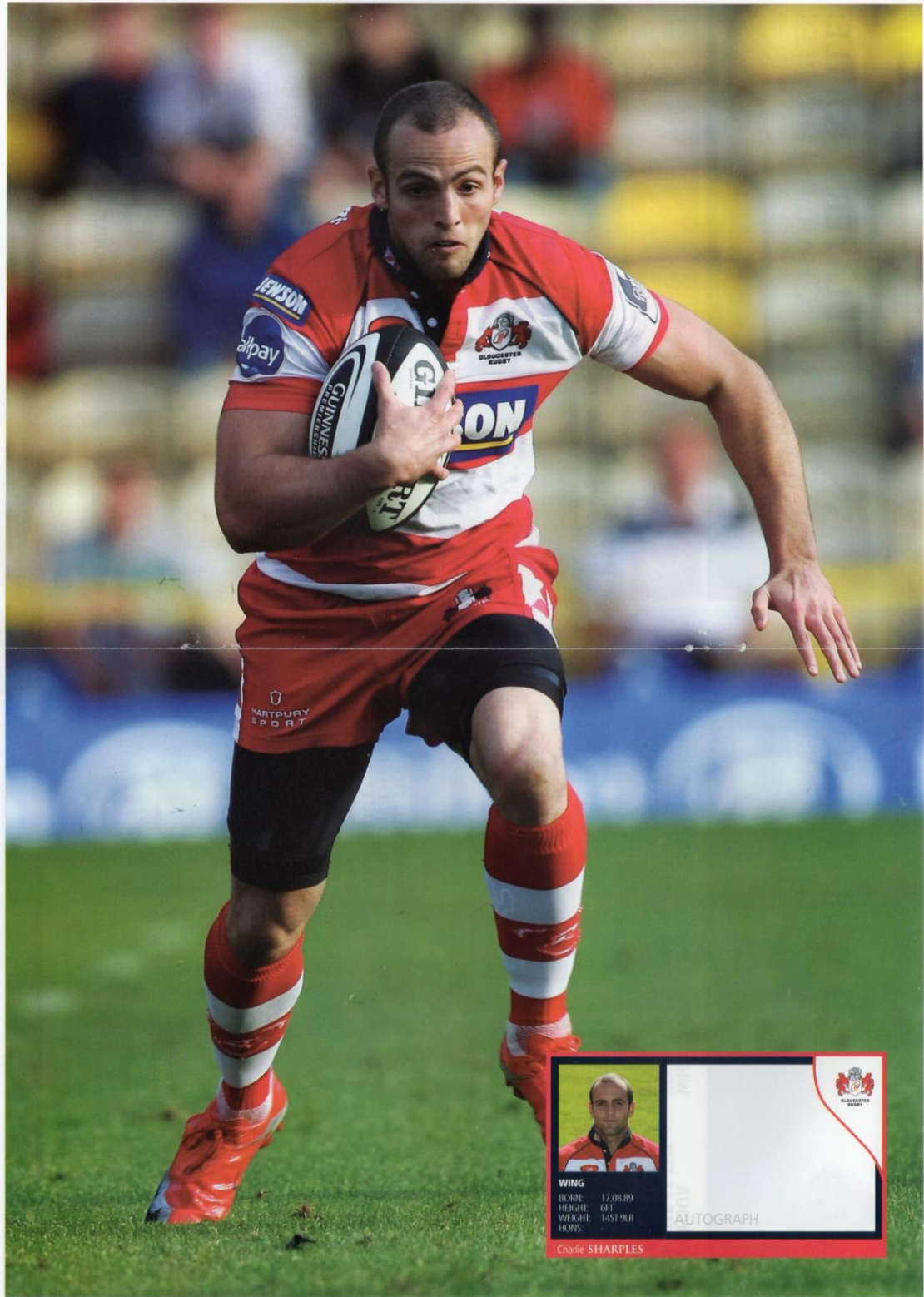



CAN YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Yes, me and Henry Trinder my flat mate are learning to play guitar at the minute. We're getting lessons from Tristan Roberts. He's paying for lessons and then we're learning from him!


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

I think it'd probably be good to be the only male band member in Girls Aloud!





WING
BORN: 17.08.89
HEIGHT: 6'1
WEIGHT: 145.1 LB
HONS:



AUTOGRAPH

Charlie SHARPLES



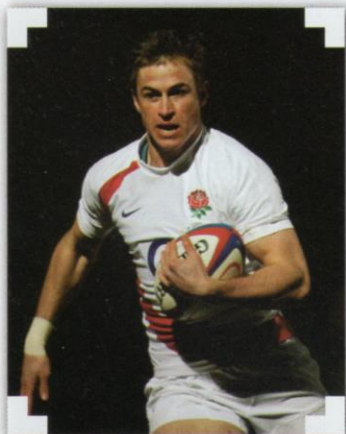
PLAYER PROFILE: CHARLIE SHARPLES

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

My nickname for the past couple of years has been Showbiz which came from Jeremy Paul but in the past couple of weeks, Hazey (Andrew Hazell) has been calling me Soap after the character in the new Call of Duty game.

WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN RUGBY?

Probably Henry Trinder who I share a flat with. We've known each other for quite a while. We played for Stroud Districts under 14s and 15s together and then England U20s and now Gloucester.



DO YOU SUPPORT ANY OTHER SPORTING TEAMS?

Not really. I don't follow football. I guess it's Gloucester from a rugby point of view.

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

To be honest, when I started taking rugby seriously, I was watching Gloucester so I guess it was James Simpson-Daniel. Obviously, he's a great player and has done some fantastic things in the game. I always admired him when I was coming up through the ranks.



HAS SPORT EVER BROUGHT TEARS TO YOUR EYES?

I remember when I was with the England U18s, we toured South Australia. We'd been together for three weeks and it had been a great build up, we'd had a great time.

Then we lost narrowly against Australia in the final Test. You realise that it's the last time that you'll play with a lot of those boys and that's pretty emotional when the reality hits home.

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

I don't think so. I'm pretty happy with things.

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

Blowing overlaps. It's really frustrating as a winger when you can see a three on two or a two on one developing and then the pass doesn't come.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE BEST NIGHT OUT?

Stroud – I've had some pretty awesome nights out in Stroud!



BOB FENTON'S KINGSHOLM NEWS



THE other day I was having a conversation with someone about the Glasgow match programme. He was commenting that the team sheet did not much resemble the sides that actually played.

Being slightly in the know about these things I pointed out that the deadlines for programmes are sometimes miles ahead of the actual publication date, and as a 'for instance' told him that my stuff for this issue needed to be with the club by 22nd December. I confessed that at the time I had not a clue what to write about.

"That's easy," he said. "Write about Pat Sanderson crowing after they beat us at the end of last season – that

should motivate people." And indeed that is a good point – and one I will return to a bit later on...

But first this. Is it just me, or is time rocketing by now? Perhaps it's a sign of my advancing years but it only seems like yesterday that we were preparing for every computer to blow up, aeroplanes to fall out of the sky and the world as we knew it ending as the 'Millennium Bug' bit us where it hurts.

Where have those ten years gone??? I must have been partially sober for some of them and can't have forgotten everything. So I thought that as we enter the second decade of the century I'd take a swift peek back in time to this point ten years ago.

Back then St Philippe Andre was at the helm propelling us forward with Gallic flair into a brave new world. We were averaging crowds of a little over 5,000 for home games, we had just signed a veritable superstar of the game in the very tall form of Ian Jones, and Trevor Woodman and Phil Vickery were presenting themselves to the world as the new face(s) of the England front row.

Somewhat surprisingly two members of the 1999 – 2000 squad are still playing here today. I'll leave you to guess who they are and put you out of your misery at the end of this piece.

Other notables of that squad were Simon Mannix (if ever a player polarised fans' opinions it was him),

Elton Moncrieff (forever holding a place in Gloucester folklore for that drop goal), Terry Fanolua and Chris 'Dracula' Yates held the centre berths. Chris 'Crazy Legs' Catling was backing them up at fullback, except when Byron Hayward was running out – I use that term lightly as Byron was possibly the slowest back to have ever worn a Gloucester shirt – in the 15 jersey.

And in a parallel of this season, our first home league game (Allied Dunbar League in those days) was a local derby – only this time against Bristol. In a weird quirk of the fixtures Bristol were the one of the last teams we played in the league in the previous century too.

We beat them down at the Memorial Ground 25 – 38 (Dr Serge Simon played in that game for us and a very young Alex Brown was on the bench for Bris!) in early December, and duly did the double over them with a close fought 29 – 23 win. Some bloke called Dean Ryan was in Bristol's second row back then – I wonder what became of him???

The rest of the decade has been a real rollercoaster for us – the inaugural Zurich Premiership trophy found its way to Kingsholm as did the Powergen cup when it was a competition worth winning. We topped the league twice but twice blew out in the Premiership play off final. The Parker Pen European Shield or Cup or odd-shaped trophy was scooped up at The Stoop, and we crashed and burned in a few other big games too. Eventful stuff, being a Gloucester supporter!

Oh and don't forget that three Gloucester boys got to lift the World Cup too!

And here we are today, ten years on and another local derby. I feel fairly confident in predicting that the crowd will be a bit higher than the 8,900

that turned up for the Bristol match.

The fixture fairy threw us a tough test over the holiday period, away to Bath then home to Worcester – two games that would test the metal of any side, but you have to play them at some point, so why not together?

So back to dear old Pat Sanderson and his mates from up the M5. Having beaten us up at Sixways in a game we managed to lose rather than Worcester winning, they came to Kingsholm and did a very professional number on us. We chased four tries from the outset rather than concentrating on winning the game first and they just picked us off.

And seeing the Worcester team complete with its smattering of Gloucester old boys, and with the gappy toothed grin of Mr Sanderson to the fore, celebrating with their fans on the Kingsholm turf... well that was probably the lowest point of the season for me.

Pat is a player that opposition supporters love to hate, but if you dig behind that you will probably find a bit of grudging respect. He's the kind of player that people like to have on their sides, an aggressive, gobby leader who's never afraid to put his body on the line for the Worcester cause. No wonder they love him up there.

But enough of 'bigging him up' already – he can have those laurels when he retires. Mr S can chops away all he likes this afternoon... You and your boys are going down, Pat. It's payback time for last season!

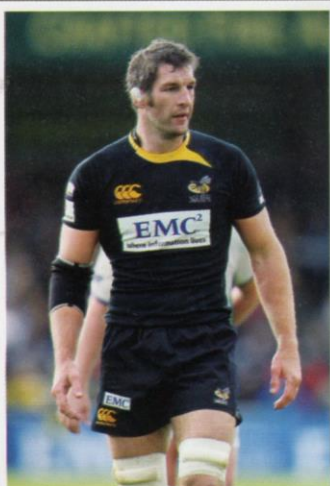
Oh – those two players from the 1999–2000 squad – Andy Hazell and Adam Eustace.

Yes, I know it's three if you count Pasty, but he's not playing now is he...

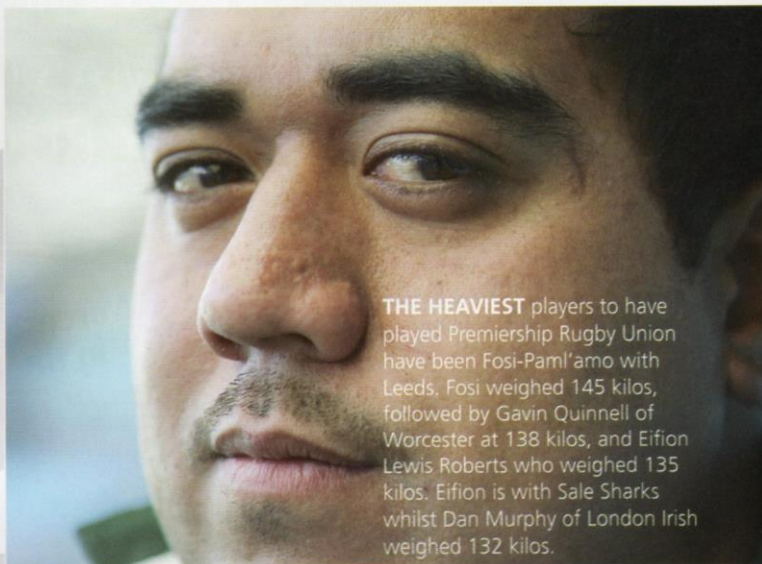
Have a great 2010



DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY



PRIOR to the commencement of the 2009-10 season, Simon Shaw the Wasps lock forward had appeared in 217 league matches, the former Bristol player has appeared more than any other player.



THE HEAVIEST players to have played Premiership Rugby Union have been Fosi-Pam'l'amo with Leeds, Fosi weighed 145 kilos, followed by Gavin Quinnell of Worcester at 138 kilos, and Eifion Lewis Roberts who weighed 135 kilos. Eifion is with Sale Sharks whilst Dan Murphy of London Irish weighed 132 kilos.

BATH made more passes than any other Premiership team in the 2008-09 season, 3,396 in total. This was more than over 500 ahead of Leicester. They made the most carries and made the most metres 11,280.

ALEX BROWN was the leading line out specialist in the Premiership last season. The former Colstons Grammar School student took 70 throws followed by Mark Sorenson of Newcastle with 68, Nick Kennedy of London Irish with 57, Chris Jack of Saracens with 55 and Chris Jones of Sale was in fifth place with 54.

THE HIGHEST number of points recorded in a Premiership match was recorded by Richmond in 1999 when they scored 106 against Bedford.

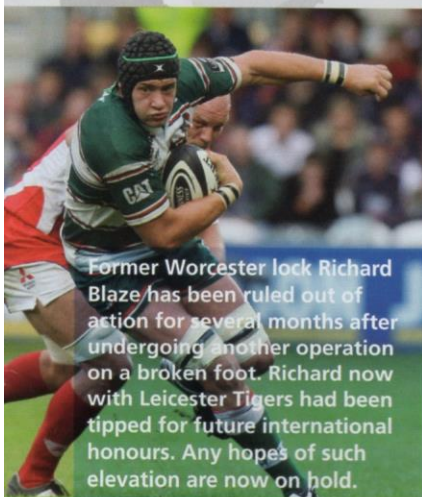
THE PREMIERSHIP leading try scorers since the game became professional have been by season: -

1997-98: Dominic Chapman (Richmond) 17,
1998-99: Neil Back (Leicester) 16,
1999-00: Iain Balshaw (Bath) 15,
2000-01: Paul Sampson (Wasps) 12,
2001-02: Mark Cueto (Sale) 14,
2002-03: Steve Hanley* (Sale) 14,
2003-04: Steve Hanley (Sale) 13
& Bruce Reihana (Northampton) 13,
2004-05: Tom Joyce (Wasps) 12,
2005-06: Tom Varndell (Leicester) 14,
2006-07: David Lemi (Bristol) 11,
2007-08: Tom Varndell (Leicester) 14,
2008-09: Joe Maddock (Bath) 11.





THERE were thirteen players who failed to complete the British and Lions Tour of South Africa last summer. They were Jerry Flannery (Ireland), Tomas O'Leary (Ireland), Tom Shanklin (Wales), Alan Quinlan (Ireland), Stephen Ferris (Ireland), Ryan Jones (Wales), Leigh Halfpenny (Wales), Euan Murray (Scotland), Lee Byrne (Wales), Brian O'Driscoll (Ireland), Adam Jones (Wales), Gethin Jenkins (Wales) and Jamie Roberts (Wales). Some occurred pre tour and some on tour to ensure the tour was the most injury prone in Lions history.



Former Worcester lock Richard Blaze has been ruled out of action for several months after undergoing another operation on a broken foot. Richard now with Leicester Tigers had been tipped for future international honours. Any hopes of such elevation are now on hold.



HARTPURY are dominating the university scene. They won their third consecutive B.U.C.S. Championship title last season after a 49-30 win over U.W.I.C. It was their second victory at Twickenham within a week. Four days previous they had won the EDF Energy Intermediate Cup.



WORCESTER were the first club to put a dent in Saracens' 100 per cent record this season as they held the Premiership leaders to a 12-12 draw at Sixways. They achieved another two points a week later with another draw! This time the score was 16 points apiece against London Irish at the Majdeski Stadium, a match in which the former Australian Chris Latham shone. Chris, who is now 34, gained 29 international caps for the 'Wallabies'.



MANY of the England hopefuls were born outside of the shores of this country. Delon Armitage was born in Trinidad, Nick Abendanon – South Africa, Matt Banahan – Jersey, Riki Flutey – New Zealand, Brad Barritt – South Africa, Joe Simpson – Australia, Dan Ward-Smith – New Zealand, Steffon Armitage – Trinidad, Simon Shaw – Kenya, Dylan Hartley – New Zealand, Dave Paice – Australia, Alex Corbisiero – America.

PETER ARNOLD'S GLOUCESTER TALK



NEW YEAR, OLD FACES

They say that a New Year is the time for getting together with old friends and family. That being so, we couldn't ask for a more appropriate bunch of visitors than Gloucester Former Pupils, aka Worcester Warriors.

At the time of writing, which seems an awfully long time ago, I have no idea who is going to start the game for the visitors, but the chances are that the starting line-up will include the stoutest warrior of them all, our old friend Tony Windo.

We can all remember the days when Windo and Deacon were one of the most feared prop combinations in the country, and both of them are still going strong. I think Tony will be as sick as the proverbial parrot if he doesn't feature today, and if I were his coach, I wouldn't want the job of telling him he'd been left out. But I

don't think that's going to happen. Another bloke we shall hope, and perhaps fear, to see today is the formidable Willie Walker. Many of us feel that the previous administration shouldn't have let him go in the first place – we could certainly have done with him at various times this season. And we only have ourselves to blame if he punishes us, yet again, for our improvidence.

I could think of several other old Gloucester names to throw at you. First and foremost, we recall the mercurial Marcel Garvey, who very early in his career scored a scintillating hat-trick against Bristol right here at Kingsholm. One rather odd piece of trivia about Marcel has always intrigued me. Apparently, in spite of his lack of inches, his first choice sport at St. Peter's School was basketball.

It's good to see all the old boys back. Take it easy on us, chaps. Just for old time's sake.

BLOODY JANUARY AGAIN!

In case you're too young to remember, that's a line from a song by Michael Flanders and Donald Swann which managed to say something insulting about every month in the year.

It has nothing whatever to do with rugby, but enables me to comment on the fact that I can't really get my head around the fact that we're into a New Year.

Well, I wouldn't would I? Because I'm actually writing this five days before Christmas!

The reason for that is that printers have as much right as anyone else to have a festive break and that means that deadlines go all to pot.

I do have to say, however, that New Year always was a time for some good rugby here at Kingsholm. The opposition was usually either London Scottish or Moseley, neither of which feature among England's top clubs these days, which is a shame.

Both of them fell victim to the upheaval caused by the onset of the game going professional. As did Coventry, for a century or so one of England's top clubs, but now looking as though it might disappear altogether.

I have fond memories of some of the New Year battles. One of them concerns one of the most exciting games I ever saw. It featured London Scottish, a side packed with internationals at the time. As I recall. It featured a lot of end-to-end stuff, in spite of the brass-monkey conditions.

OBVIOUSLY, WE ALL HOPE THAT CHARLIE'S FORM CONTINUES THROUGHOUT 2010, AND THAT OTHER YOUNG PLAYERS FOLLOW IN HIS RAPID FOOTSTEPS.



Yet the result was incredible. It was a nil-nil draw and when was the last time you saw one of those? I don't think I have since that memorable 1970's occasion.

Somehow or other, I don't think we're going to see a repeat today.

HOW DO YOU SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE CHARLIE SHARPLES?

Not actually our problem though, is it? At the time of writing, he has scored five tries in four matches which makes him about the best finisher we have at the moment, and that's saying a bit with blokes like Sinbad and Big Les in the side.

Talking of James Simpson Daniel, he

may not see centre as his preferred position, but I'm sure that Charlie would be the first to state that a few of his recent tries have come as a result of Sinbad's efforts beforehand. It's all very well being a finisher, but you have to have something to finish off.

Obviously, we all hope that Charlie's form continues throughout 2010, and that other young players follow in his rapid footsteps. Could this be the year for the likes of Messrs Burns, Attwood and Trinder to make their decisive breakthrough? We shall see.

The other chap we should all get behind is Bryan Redpath. He has remarked, many times, about a lack of confidence among the players, but although he puts a brave face

on things, his own must have taken a knock at times, and he can do with all the backing he can get.

Mind you, he mystifies me at times. Last week he was reported as saying, "There have only been two matches in which we underperformed. We've lost others because we didn't play well enough."

Huh? Sorry, Brush, but I don't quite get that. Perhaps the statement lost something in translation from the Gaelic.

However, enough of this badinage. 2009 wasn't one of our better years. I'm quite glad to see it go. Hopefully, 2010 will be much better.

Happy New Year everyone. See you along the way.



SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2009 / 12:45 KO



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 19 GLASGOW WARRIORS 6

COACH'S COMMENTS

"There have only been two games this year that we have underperformed in. Other games we have lost because we have not played well enough."

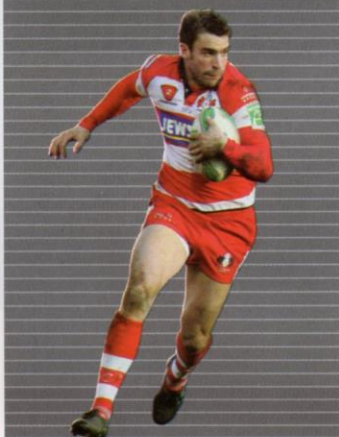
"Today was about us winning and getting confidence and getting back on track."

"We have had six months of ifs and buts, so I am chuffed how we all got something out of it today."

KEY MOMENT

After a scoreless first half, Nicky Robinson got Gloucester onto the scoreboard with a penalty that landed on top of the crossbar before bisecting the posts.

Lady luck hadn't favoured Gloucester to that point and the penalty seemed to signal a change in fortune.



A game of two halves and a welcome win for Gloucester after the setback suffered against the same opponents at Firhill Arena the previous weekend.

It could almost be argued that the victory was delivered as a thank you to the hordes and ground staff and stewards who worked wonders to ensure that the game kicked off only 10 minutes later after the pitch covers froze solid overnight in the arctic conditions.

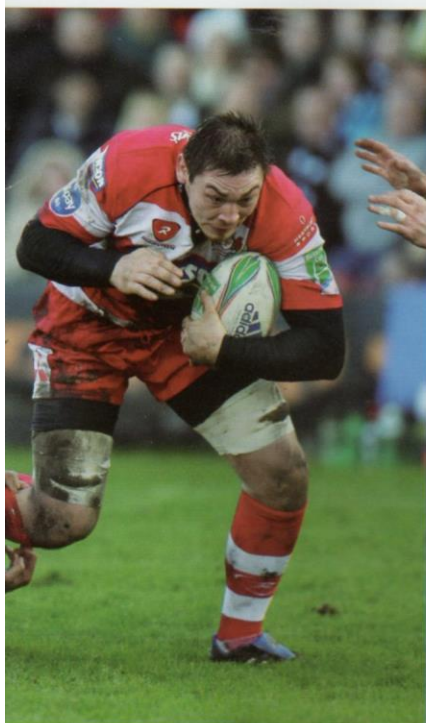
Yet the first half was one of absolute frustration as Gloucester took the game to Glasgow but simply couldn't penetrate the Warriors defence. Possession and territory wasn't an

issue and, time and again, Gloucester moved ominously into the visitors' 22 only to leave with nothing.

Part of the problem was the refereeing of the breakdown where the Glasgow back row simply did what they liked and carried on doing so once they realised that referee Garces' whistle appeared to have suffered the same fate as the pitch covers!

To add insult to injury, Warriors' fly half Dan Parks picked up where he left off last week in terms of goalkicking and slotted a penalty and drop goal from Glasgow's two main forays into Gloucester territory to give the visitors a 6-0 half time lead. It could have been worse, a

HONOURABLE MENTIONS HAVE TO GO TO LUKE NARRAWAY AND ALASDAIR STROKOSCH WHO BOTH DISPLAYED DEFT HANDLING TO ALLOW THE SCORES TO HAPPEN. CHARLIE SHARPLES AND ALEX BROWN WERE THE FINISHERS.



third attempt dipped just under the crossbar...

The teams left the field to a chorus of catcalls from the Kingsholm faithful. "You don't know what you're doing" were the words used – not directed at the Gloucester players, but at the officials!

Whatever was said in the dressing room at half time seemed to work wonders for Gloucester and, crucially, Gloucester started to get the rub of the green.

Nicky Robinson opened Gloucester's account with a penalty that bounced off the cross bar before going over and a few decisions even started to go the way of the home side.



A couple of gilt edged chances were created and spurned before Gloucester really clicked and scored a couple of excellent tries.

Olly Morgan and James Simpson-Daniel were prominent throughout as they made good yardage out wide but honourable mentions have to go to Luke Narraway and Alasdair Strokosch who both displayed deft handling to allow the scores to happen. Charlie Sharples and Alex Brown were the finishers.

Gloucester finished on a high and could even have added more points. Charlie Sharples' swallow dive as he thought he'd added a second try was memorable but sadly called back for a forward pass!

THE TEAMS

GLouceSTER RUGBY

Morgan
Sharples
Simpson-Daniel
Molenaar
Voyce
Robinson
R. Lawson
Wood
S. Lawson
Doran-Jones
Attwood
Brown
Strokosch
Hazell
Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

Fuimaono-Sapolu for Molenaar (48), Lewis for R. Lawson (77), Somerville for Doran-Jones (46), Narraway for Hazell (52), Eustace for Attwood (72).

NOT USED: Dawidiuk, Dickinson, Spencer.



GLASGOW WARRIORS

Stortoni
McCall
M. Evans
Morrison
van der Merwe
Parks
Cusiter
Welsh
Hall
Low
Gray
Kellock
Brown
Barclay
Vernon

REPLACEMENTS:

Gregor for Stortoni (59), Shaw for M. Evans (66), Beattie for Vernon (59), McMillan for Cusiter (62), Tkachuk for Welsh (49), Thomson for Hall (59), Turner for Gray (50), Kalman for Low (69).

vs WORCESTER WARRIORS //063



SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2009 / 14:15 KO

**BATH RUGBY****24****GLOUCESTER RUGBY****8****COACH'S COMMENTS**

"The first half was a bit of a stalemate, and the whole game never really ignited."

"Credit to Bath, Nicky Little slotted his penalties, they took their chances and they deserved the victory."

"We never had a great set-piece game to attack from, and you can't give cheap points away, which I thought we did. It was very frustrating."

KEY MOMENT

As a pretty poor first half of rugby drew to a close, Gloucester looked well set for a half time lead despite only having scored three points through a Nicky Robinson penalty.

Bath hadn't really threatened and were looking like a team low on confidence. Yet Scott Lawson's yellow card for an off the ball tackle gave them a glimmer of an opportunity as they enjoyed a numerical superiority.

Nicky Little took advantage as he kicked Bath into a lead that they would never relinquish as the Scotland international cooled down in the sinbin.



Last season's 21-17 victory notwithstanding, the Rec has not been a happy hunting ground for Gloucester in recent seasons.

And the recent poor record in Bath continued last weekend as Gloucester were unable to make it a truly memorable festive season for their supporters as they slipped to a 24-8 defeat.

Perhaps the most frustrating aspect of this defeat was that the win was very much there for the taking. Bath had only won once in the Guinness Premiership and started out looking

like a team desperately low on confidence.

The first half was hardly a feast of rugby union as play limped from one set piece to another. Each and every scrum seemed to take an age to set and both teams were called back for accidental obstruction when they launched what looked to be perfectly well executed catch and drives.

Neither side had the upper hand in the first half. There was plenty of effort but very little cutting edge and Nicky Robinson's penalty was the only score approaching half time.



GLOUCESTER FINISHED WELL BUT BATH KNEW THE GAME WAS WON AND ALASDAIR DICKINSON'S WELL TAKEN LATE TRY WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A CONSOLATION.



Both teams seemed to be searching for a spark and, unfortunately, it went Bath's way with the sinbining of Scott Lawson.

In his absence, Nicky Little nudged Bath level and then ahead. The self belief of the Bath players rose visibly as did the volume at the Rec.

Bath played it smart and, backed by a crowd who were increasingly excited at the prospect of witnessing a first home Guinness Premiership win of the season, played the game in the Gloucester half.

Julian Salvi was at the heart of the best of Bath's play. His canny

quickly taken 22 drop out gave the home team field position and the Australian flanker almost barged his way over before Jack Cuthbert crossed for the first and crucial try.

Gloucester spun the ball wide in a bid to get back into the game but, in a strange reversal of the first meeting between the two sides, Matt Banahan intercepted and ran it back all the way to make the game safe.

Gloucester finished well but Bath knew the game was won and Alasdair Dickinson's well taken late try was little more than a consolation.

THE TEAMS

BATH RUGBY

Nick Abendanon
Michael Stephenson
Matt Carraro
Shontayne Hape
Matt Banahan
Nicky Little
Michael Claassens
David Flatman
Lee Mears
Duncan Bell
Stuart Hooper
Peter Short
Andy Beattie
Julian Salvi
Luke Watson

REPLACEMENTS:

Cuthbert for Abendanon (41), Davis for Hape (74), Bemand for Claassens (74), Barnes for Flatman (72), Dixon for Mears (74), Wilson for Bell (55), Grewcock for Short (55), Skirving for Salvi (74).



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Olly Morgan
Charlie Sharples
James Simpson-Daniel
Tim Molenaar
Tom Voyce
Nicky Robinson
Rory Lawson
Nick Wood
Scott Lawson
Greg Somerville
Dave Attwood
Alex Brown
Alasdair Strokosch
Andrew Hazell
Gareth Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

F-Sapolu for Molenaar (55), Lewis for R. Lawson (16), Dickinson for Wood (70), Capdevielle for Somerville (70), Eustace for Attwood (55), Narraway for Hazell (62), Dawidiuk for S. Lawson (37-47)

NOT USED: Spencer.

TODAY'S LINE-UPS



Vs WORCESTER WARRIORS
SATURDAY 2/1/10
KO 3:00PM

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

**Vs WORCESTER
WARRIORS**

**GUINNESS
PREMIERSHIP**



OLLY MORGAN

15

FULLBACK

CHRIS LATHAM

CHARLIE SHARPLES

14

WING

RICO GEAR *T*

JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

13

CENTRE

ALEX GROVE

ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU

12

CENTRE

SAM TUITUPOU *27m muller*

LESLEY VAINIKOLO

11

WING

MILES BENJAMIN

NICKY ROBINSON

10

FLY-HALF

WILLIE WALKER *F*

DAVE LEWIS

9

SCRUM-HALF

JONNY ARR *T*

NICK WOOD

1

PROP

MATT MULLAN *B-LACK*

SCOTT LAWSON

2

HOOKER

ALEKI LUTUI *C. Fienster*

GREG SOMERVILLE

3

PROP

TEVITA TAUMOEPEAU *Son Higgins*

ADAM EUSTACE

4

LOCK

GREG RAWLINSON

ALEX BROWN

5

LOCK

CRAIG GILLIES

ALASDAIR STROKOSCH

6

FLANKER

TOM WOOD

ANDREW HAZELL *T*

7

FLANKER

PAT SANDERSON (C)

GARETH DELVE (C)

8

NO.8

KAI HORSTMANN

REPLACEMENTS

16 OLIVIER AZAM
17 ALASDAIR DICKINSON
18 PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE
19 PETER BUXTON
20 LUKE NARRAWAY
21 ANDY WILLIAMS
22 CARLOS SPENCER
23 TOM VOYCE

16 ADAM BLACK
17 CHRIS FORTEY
18 OLIVIER SOURGENS
19 GRAHAM KITCHENER
20 JAMES COLLINS
21 RYAN POWELL
22 MATTHEW JONES
23 DALE RASMUSSEN

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
1 Saracens	11	9	1	1	201	150	1	39
2 London Irish	11	7	2	2	242	130	4	36
3 Northampton	11	8	0	3	239	169	3	35
4 Leicester	11	6	1	4	224	145	6	32
5 London Wasps	10	7	0	3	197	161	2	30
6 Harlequins	11	4	2	5	200	225	3	23
7 Newcastle	11	3	3	5	155	178	3	21
8 GLOUCESTER	11	4	0	7	193	245	3	19
9 Sale Sharks	10	3	1	6	156	196	4	18
10 Worcester	11	2	3	6	156	193	3	17
11 Bath Rugby	11	2	2	7	152	176	4	16
12 Leeds Carnegie	11	2	1	8	139	286	3	13

TOP POINTS SCORERS: 2009-2010

116	Ryan Lamb	London Irish
111	Willie Walker	Worcester Warriors
105	Jeremy Staunton	Leicester Tigers

TOP TRY SCORERS: 2009-2010

8	Chris Ashton	Northampton Saints
6	Sailosi Tagicakibau	London Irish
5	Tom Vardell	London Wasps

TOP PENALTY KICKERS: 2009-2010

30	Jeremy Staunton	Leicester Tigers
27	Willie Walker	Worcester Warriors
27	Ryan Lamb	London Irish

MOST APPEARANCES : 2008-2009

24	Chris Hala'ufia	London Irish
24	Richard Thorpe	London Irish
23	Steffon Armitage	London Irish

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

Dean Richards

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

Andrew Pearce and Bob Mullis

4TH OFFICIAL:

Martin Fox