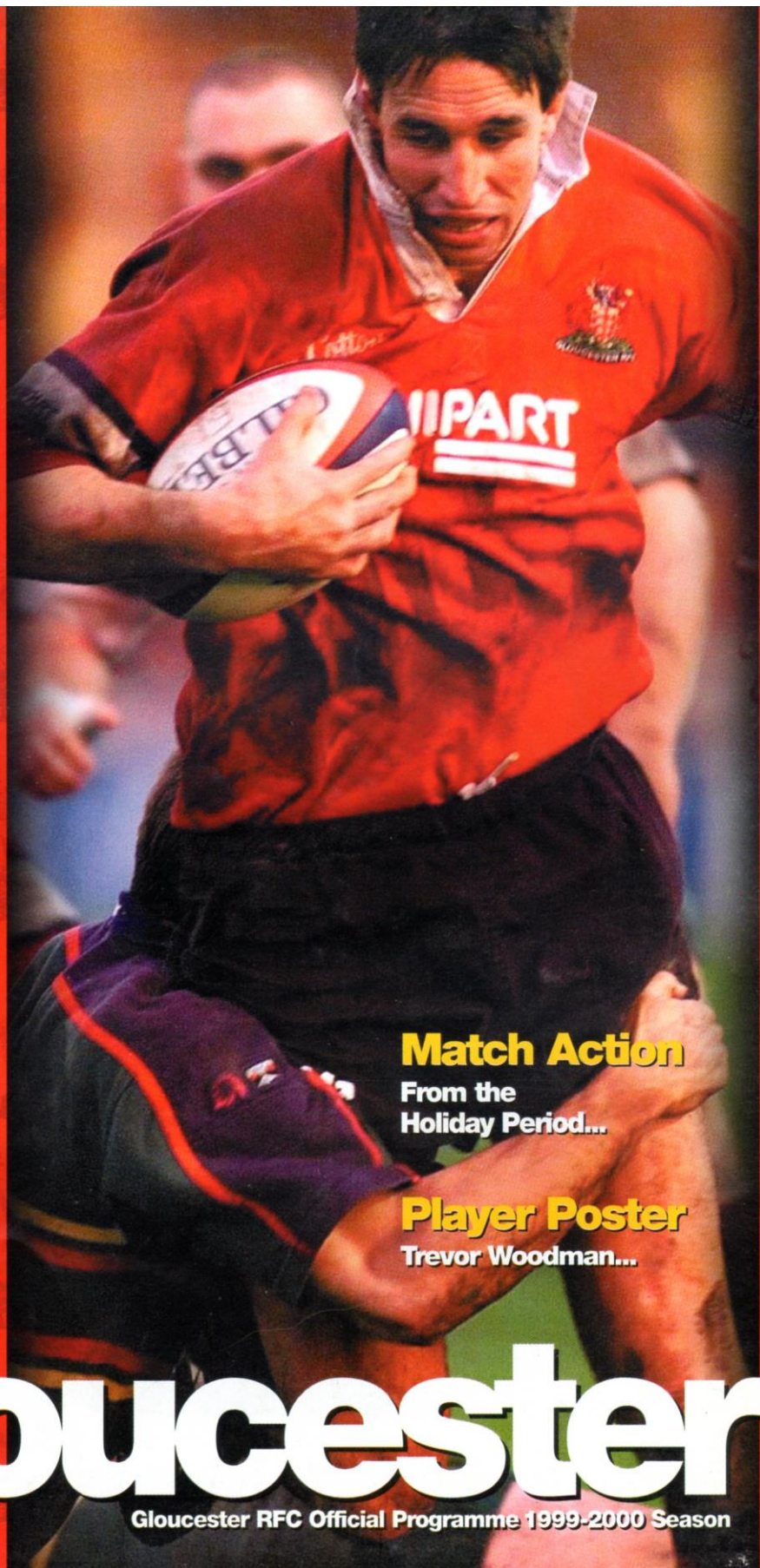




**GLOUCESTER**  
**V**  
**SPAIN**



**Saturday 8**  
**January 2000**  
**Kick-off 3.00pm**



**Match Action**  
From the  
Holiday Period...

**Player Poster**  
Trevor Woodman...

# Gloucester

Issue 10 - £2.00

Gloucester RFC Official Programme 1999-2000 Season



# Welcome from The Editors

## A Warm Welcome

**There seems something strange. It's a feeling of 'is it real'?**

Here we are, the start of a new year and Gloucester is top of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, is in the last 16 of the Tetley's Bitter Cup after sweeping aside Bath (with a very good chance of a place in the Quarter Final), top of our Group in the European Shield ... and unbeaten in all competitions since Saturday October 10 last century! So used are we to expressing our Premiership position as so many from the bottom, it seems unreal that we are now 12th from bottom. We knew, at heart, that Gloucester were better than the average national press prediction of finishing the season in 10th place but then there is something to be said about being tipped as an also ran and then coming good to ruin the form book.

Kingsley Jones understands the euphoria but he is very quick to point out that there is still a long way to go. Currently the target is a top five finish in the Premiership for a place in the European Cup next season.

As this programme went to press, news came through of the details of our Tetley's Bitter Cup fifth round match against Orrell. The match will be played at Kingsholm on Saturday January 29, kick-off is at 3 p.m.. Season tickets will NOT be valid for this match. Prices will be £15 grandstand and £10 ground (£5 concession ground only).

Please listen out for announcements of when tickets will be on sale during today's match. It is also worth noting our new telephone

number for the ticket office - 01452 422422.

As you probably know, there is a video about to come out of our Tetley's Bitter Cup match against Bath. The pictures are from Sky's coverage but the video will contain commentary by Matthew Pick, a Bristol-based freelance broadcaster. The video, which will sell for £12.99, should be available by next weekend.

The Club took the decision to go ahead with the video project irrespective of who won the match! After all, it was a match for the books and the first at Kingsholm in the 21st century, the first sell-out gate of the professional era.

Fortunately, Kingsley and the boys prevailed - Bath and the weather were both beaten! After watching

the game unfold, we thought that it would not make too good a video. But we reckoned without the way that Sky got their cameras right into the mud - and the action.

In fact, the game made good television and in many ways it could be said that it is better than being there! Well, almost as good as being there, if the Pink 'Un will allow us to nick their slogan of a few years ago! Many of you have asked for the opportunity to purchase videos of games. This will, hopefully, be the first of several. To be able to make the Bath game available for you to purchase, we have to thank Sky (BSkyB) who have all the rights, including the videogram rights.

So ... you asked for it! Now it will be available from the Club Shop and, we hope, from local video outlets.







# Manager's Viewpoint

John Fidler

**Three vital wins from three matches! I cannot stress just how important our two Premiership wins were in the days after Christmas.**

The two wins meant that we went into the 21st century top of the tables, and this is having a tremendous effect on us all!

A word has to be said about the Bedford match. John Brain remarked that the Bedford pitch on the Wednesday evening was "the most playable unplayable pitch" he had ever seen. That just about sums up the situation.

From our club's point of view, we did all we could to get the game on, as scheduled. We were all well aware of the number of our supporters who had journeyed across the country - not the easiest of trips - to support us.

But it was not to be. Philippe Saint-André wanted the match played as soon as possible - so it was

arranged for the following afternoon.

We are all well aware that there was considerable disappointment among the supporters. But at the end of the day, we were able to pick up three Premiership points that put us top of the table, which we hope will help to make up for the disappointment of not being able to see the win.

The Gloucester club pulled out all the stops to get the match played on the Thursday afternoon. This even included providing some of our own stewards.

There was considerable inconvenience for everyone. Let us hope that administrators of the game at national level can learn from the experience.

It is appropriate to thank all those

who expressed their support for what the Gloucester club tried to do. Believe me, we do think of our supporters and we do what we can to help them.

Today, we welcome to Kingsholm the players of the Spanish national team, along with their officials. We all hope that they enjoy their brief stay in Gloucester and that they leave here with positive thoughts about having played at what must be the greatest English club ground!

We were looked after very well when we went to Madrid last November and it has to be said that Spain did have the upper hand in the first 30 minutes - they were certainly quick to spot our weakness and to make use of it!

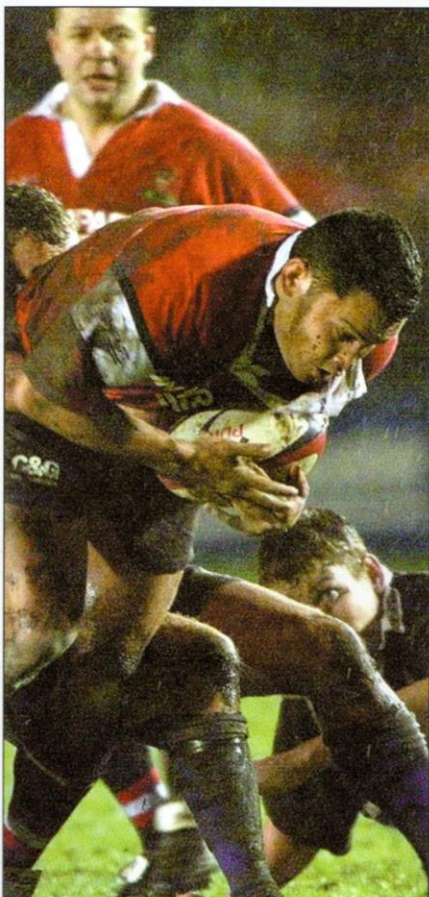
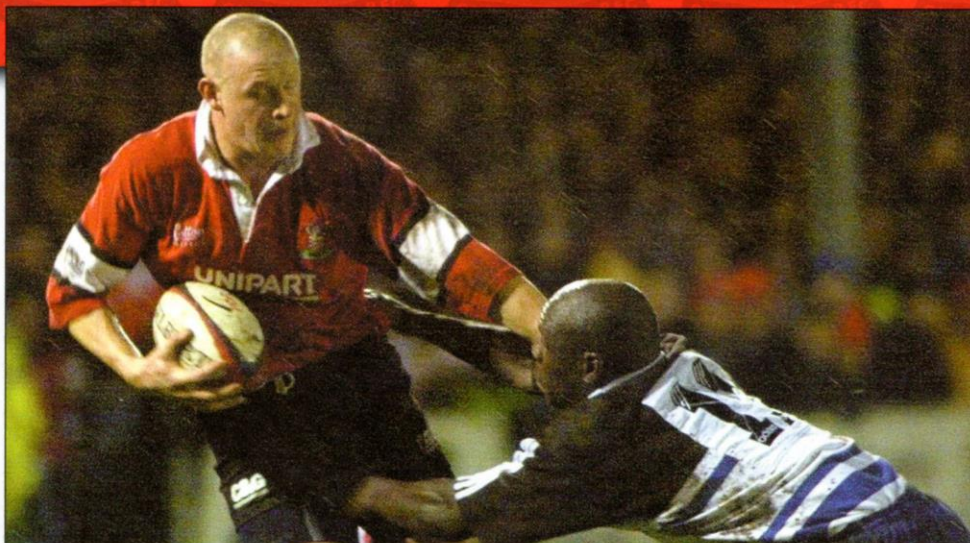
Damp conditions v Bedford...





# Match Action

Gloucester 13 Bath 6



**A win against Bath is always something to savour!**

But the Tetley's Bitter Cup win at the beginning of the week was a little bit special – it set us off on the right note for the 21st century.

It might not have been a "pretty" win, but does anyone really care? Club photographer Bruce Seabrook swears blind that he asked Santa for nice weather on Gloucester match days. Qué será, será, as they say in Madrid!



Read The News And Air Your Views on the Official Gloucester RFC Website  
[www.kingsholm-chronicle.org.uk](http://www.kingsholm-chronicle.org.uk)



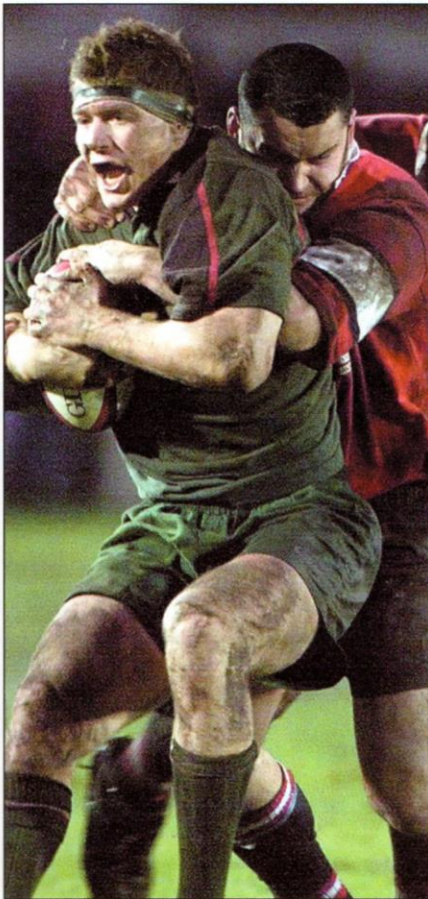
# Match Action

Gloucester 40 London Irish 15



**Gloucester scoring more tries than can be counted on one hand?**

Impossible. But it was the time of year when chestnuts can be found roasting on a open fire.



Read The News And Air Your Views on the Official Gloucester RFC Website  
[www.kingsholm-chronicle.org.uk](http://www.kingsholm-chronicle.org.uk)



# Captain's Comment

Kingsley Jones



**Well, we're through to the fifth round of the Tetley's Bitter Cup – and what a game it was on Monday.**

It might not have been the greatest spectacle, but as many have said, a win is a win, and a win against Bath is heaven!

In fact, the three matches over the Christmas and New Year holidays have given the club and the city a real boost!

The players - those who took part in the matches and those in the squad who were not fortunate to be selected - all work as a team and the three wins in the three holiday games were something of a 'thank you' to all the supporters.

And we must not forget all our back-up staff at the club -

especially those on the administrative side.

It was really good to see a sold-out Kingsholm on Monday and I can't begin to tell you how much of a privilege it was to play out there in front of close on 11,000 people. Believe me, the atmosphere out there was awesome.

Gloucester has never been frightened of a heavy pitch, rain and slippery ball. But I suppose my only regret was that weather conditions were bad!

So we start the 21st Century top of the league, 2nd in our European Conference pool and a fourth round cup win against Bath. I have said on several occasions that it is too early to start talking about a serious title challenge. We only start thinking about that at the end of the month!

It is appropriate here to thank you all for your support. One thing

that any player coming to Gloucester from 'foreign parts' soon realises is that the Gloucester supporters are the best in English club rugby. From everyone in the playing squad ... a big thank you!

Now to today and the European Shield. It is very nice to welcome Spain to Kingsholm - it is not often that Gloucester has the opportunity to play a national team here. It is not often that the pride of the City of Gloucester is up against the pride of another Nation.

Spain might not be at the forefront of international rugby, but they did not disgrace themselves in last year's World Cup. And as is mentioned elsewhere in this programme, the Spanish rugby authorities are using the European Shield to give their players added experience.

The match in Madrid was a keenly contested one and Spain actually had the upper hand for the first 30 minutes.

Then, in December, Spain had their two matches against Biarritz and, despite losing both, the experience they had will have given them additional resolve to give us a hard time!

However, we are determined to keep our unbeaten run going and to stay top of our group. We will be hoping that down at the Brewery Field this afternoon our friends from Bridgend will beat Biarritz. If they can, we will have won the group and will have qualified for the quarter finals.

If Biarritz win at Brewery Field, then we go to South West France next weekend for a difficult 'winner takes all' encounter!



Rob Jewell in action in Madrid during the first leg.



# Player Profile

## Trevor Woodman



**Trevor Woodman was bitterly disappointed that an injury prevented him from playing in last Monday's Tetley's Bitter Cup clash against Bath.**

"There was a fantastic atmosphere at Kingsholm and I cannot tell you how difficult it was to be among the 10,000 Gloucester supporters, rather than out there playing," he said. "But then, one has to accept that injuries come along."

Woodman is hovering on the fringes of full international recognition. The Plymouth-born loose-head prop has already got an England cap and is now pressing for

a place in the full national squad.

And at the age of 23 he is still young enough to have a full England 'career' ahead of him.

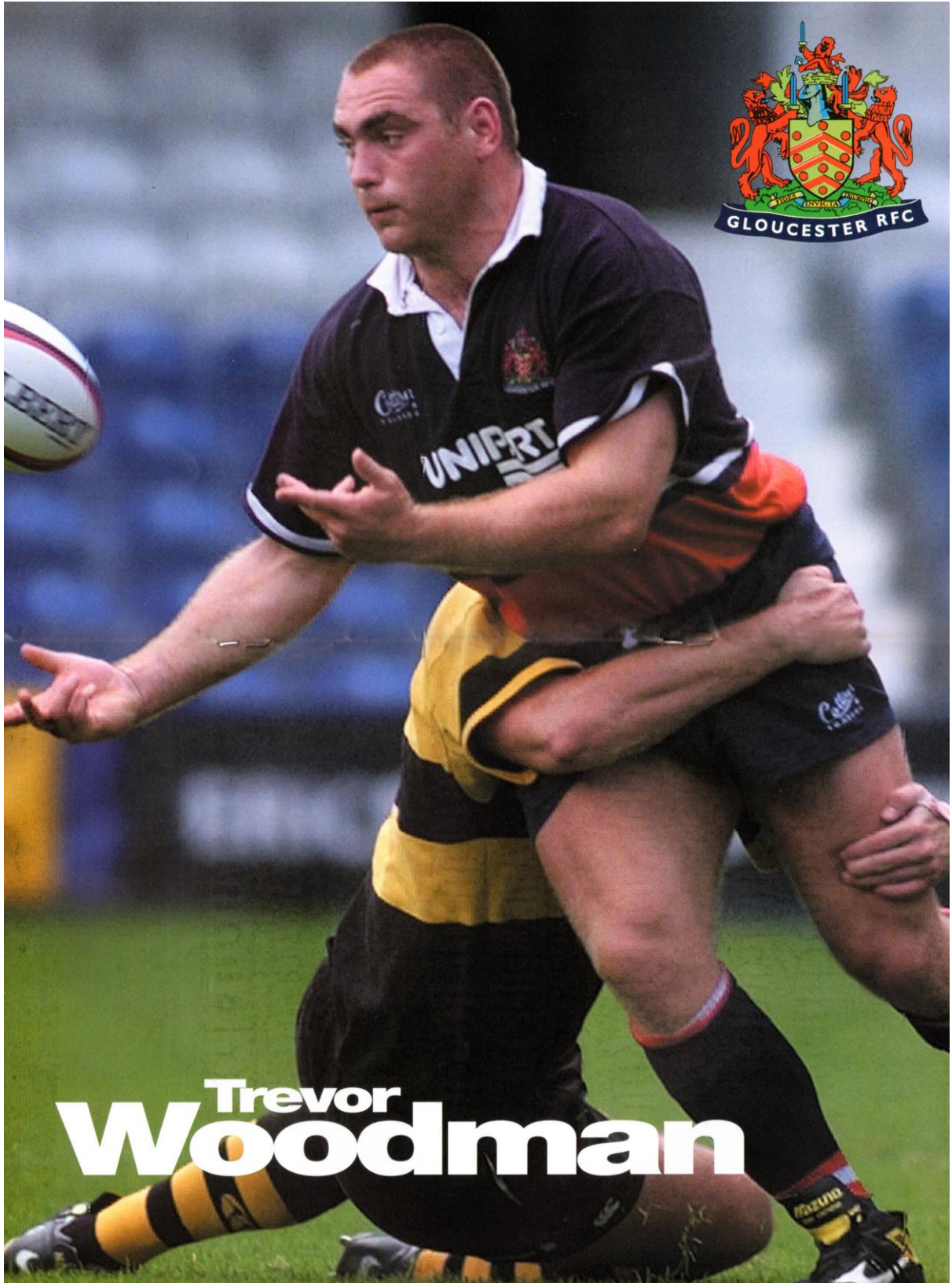
Many of the country's leading rugby writers are already tipping him to be one to watch and, with Gloucester being right up there in the English club pecking order, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that England could, in the future, have both props from Gloucester - Phil Vickery has already staked his claim to the tight-head slot. And who knows, it could even stretch to an all-Gloucester front row!

Like Vickery, Woodman is a product of Cornish rugby - the pair also served England at colts and under 21 level. Woodman played with the Liskeard and Looe club before moving back to his native Plymouth and the Plymouth Albion club.

It was there that he was spotted by Bath, who signed him. And from the Rec, Richard Hill brought him to Kingsholm.

"I am really enjoying my rugby at Kingsholm," he said. "It is all starting to come together here and we are all working together. There is a fantastic atmosphere here."



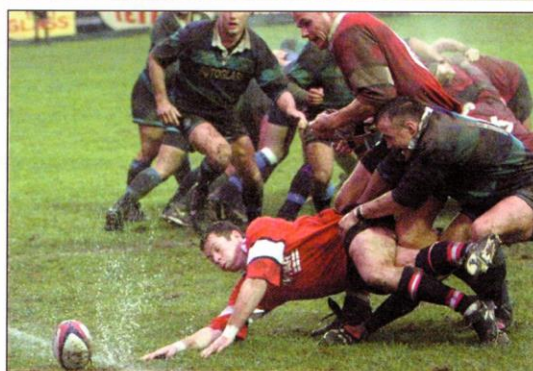


Trevor  
**Woodman**



# Match Action

Bedford 6 Gloucester 18



Match Action





# Roman Rugby and the Grim Castle?

by Pete Wilson

## Happy New Year from all the Rugby team at BBC Radio Gloucestershire.

Here's hoping Gloucester can continue to prosper from the base Philippe has put down.

As the new year gets underway, I thought it appropriate to look back at rugby's origins, and those of the ground which has become a shrine to Gloucester supporters.

It's just possible that the Romans were the instigators of the game. Records show that two groups of players, in the loosest sense of the phrase, tried to catch a ball and carry it over goal lines at either end of a playing area. In reality it looked little more than an organised (or disorganised) brawl.

Commanders of the Roman Legion used it to keep men fit and ready to fight, but the name most associated with the founding of the modern game is William Webb Ellis. Rugby School's most famous pupil is remembered with a plaque which says: "This stone depicts the exploits of William Webb Ellis, who with a fine disregard for the rules of football as played in his time, first took the ball in his arms and ran with it, this originating the distinctive feature of the Rugby game." The year was 1823.

The Rugby Football Union was formed in 1871, but in the intervening years various sets of rules (later to be called laws) came and went. The Cambridge Rules of 1848 allowed a player to be 'hacked on the front of the leg below the knee while running with ball, but that tripping shall not be allowed EXCEPT when running with the ball'.

Fifteen years later, one of London's

most famous clubs, Blackheath, published a set of rules that brought into question the old saying that Rugby is a game for ruffians played by gentlemen. 'It is lawful,' said the publication, 'to hold a player in a scrumage, through this does not include attempts to throttle or strangle, which are totally opposed to the principles of the game.' I'm sure you've seen occasions where you've wondered if this rule is ever adhered to.

As for Kingsholm, Gloucester moved here in 1891, 18 years after they were formed, following a notice to quit The Spa after an incident that has become part of the legend of the club. A game against Swansea was in doubt because of the cold weather, and fearing the frost bound pitch would be unfit, officials and members of the Gloucester club acquired a large quantity of salt, which was then sprinkled onto the ground. The salt precipitated the required thaw, but in their enthusiasm, the grass was ruined. Soon afterwards came the notice to leave and find another site on which to play.

Being asked to move off The Spa was seen as a severe blow to the club, but more than a century later, it has surely proved to be a blessing in disguise. Rugby supporters formed a Company for the purpose of buying a ground and searched the city until a plot of land was found in Worcester Street, which at the time belonged to the Castle Grimm estate.

Four thousand £1 shares were issued, and the ground was bought by the newly formed Gloucester Football and Athletic Club. 3,000 of the shares were retained by the club so that rugby would always be played on what has become known to rugby fans the world over as Kingsholm. Even today's professionals are left in no doubt as to the tradition of the ground, a 'Welcome to Kingsholm' plaque decorating the players tunnel.

Burton Football Club hold the honour of being Gloucester's first ever opponents at Kingsholm. Burton still has a club, and they play in Midlands Division 1...several rungs of the pyramid below Gloucester. Appropriately for such a significant occasion, the match was refereed by Mr Roland Hill, the Honorary Secretary of the Rugby Union. Mr Robinson, MP, kicked off the match, but it was estimated that up to 5,000 stayed away and missed Mr Kilminster and his band providing the pre-match entertainment because of the appalling weather.

Reports at the time detailed 'a good match' and, as was only right, Gloucester won. The takings on the gate - £ 46, 7s and 3d - would barely buy a match-ball today. There's only ever one 'first match' on a ground, but another, more than 70 years later, would run that Burton game close. Some supporters here today will have been present for the switching on of the Gloucester floodlights in November 1967. An invitation side, the Bosuns, provided the opposition, but again, fittingly, Gloucester won, 34-8.

That sort of result today would be satisfactory, but maybe not enough to prevent next weekend's game in Biarritz being the group decider. Bridgend must beat the Frenchmen at the Brewery Field for Gloucester to win the group outright this afternoon ...and from our games against the two sides so far, that doesn't look very likely. A warm welcome to Spain. We enjoyed the sunshine in Madrid and we hope they appreciate the warmth of the Kingsholm hospitality.

*Pete Wilson is a freelance radio presenter who can be heard on BBC Radio Gloucestershire on Saturday mornings. He also assists in the broadcast commentaries of most of Gloucester's home games.*



# Peter Arnold

## Change of Pace

Peter Arnold

### We certainly can't complain about lack of variety.

Since the week before Christmas we have watched wins in the European Shield, in the Premiership (twice) and, most satisfactorily, in the Cup against Bath. Now the season has thrown some Spaniards in the works, and very welcome they are too.

Already, some of the sniffier pundits are muttering about flashes in the pan, and purple patches which won't last, but the figures don't seem to support that jaundiced view. Take a look at the Premiership table and you'll see that we've won more matches than anyone else and that only Bristol have scored more points than Gloucester – and only a handful at that.

That's more than offset by the fact that Bristol have conceded well over 300 points, while Gloucester is the only side in the competition to have let in less than 200. That's not a record which indicates a team going through a rush of blood to the head. It all looks a bit professional to me.

There are some tough ones coming up. Biarritz next week will be a very

difficult proposition on their own patch, and then we have a vengeful Bristol side to contend with. Saracens away in mid week is quite a proposition, too, and then we face Orrell in the Cup. The Wigan lads may not be the force they once were but *Glos. v. Orrell* on Cup day will take some of us back a few years. Tough encounters they were too.

Ah well! No peace for the wicked.

### SHORT MEMORIES

This point was brought home to me by an encounter, in a pub, naturally, on Christmas Eve.

There I was, just about to sup my first pint of the Festive Season, when a voice behind me called "Hello Pete!" I turned, and there, pool cue in hand, was John Watkins. We exchanged the usual pleasantries and insults, and John relayed appropriate greetings to all at Kingsholm.

I returned to the bar and said to the two chaps behind it: "I suppose you know you've got a celebrity in the pub this morning". "Who's that?" they asked. "Johnny Watkins!" quoth I, all

bright eyed and bushy tailed.

"Huh?" they replied, complete incomprehension on both faces.

Now, I chat about rugby with both those guys on a regular basis, but both of them had forgotten one of the greatest flank forwards of all time. They didn't recall 'Benghazi', or that epic game when England beat the All Blacks on their own turf, or the psychic understanding that John had with Peter Butler at kick-off time.

Fame is fleeting indeed. Nevertheless, my own opinion is that John Watkins would find a regular place in any Gloucester back row, even against the competition of today's formidable practitioners.

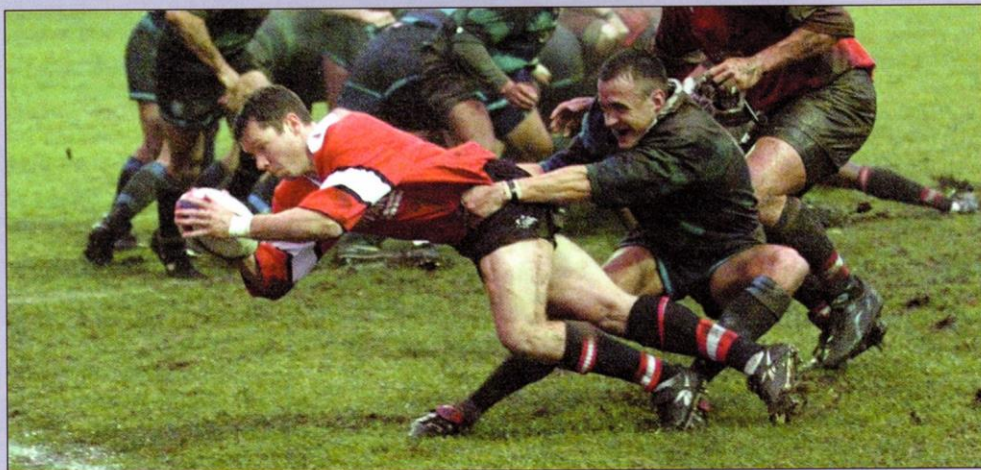
### IN THE VERNACULAR

Heard in the gents, all crowded and dark, during half time at the Bath game.

*Bath supporter:* "Hurry up ! I'm getting claustrophobia in here !"

*Glos. supporter:* "We calls that 'Glawsterphobia' round yer !"

English as she is spoke.





# Gloucester Rugby Supporters Association

An Independent Voice for the Supporter

## Definition of a Gloucester Supporter No3: The First Time Supporter

- \* Spends 20 minutes trying to find the Shed
- \* Knows why earplugs were invented
- \* Never realised there were so many "W's" in GLAAWWWWSTERR
- \* Asks for a half of Blackthorn cider in the bar
- \* After 10 minutes, knows why Kingsholm is feared by the opposition
- \* Realises that it is not sensible to volunteer for the opposition's tug-of-war team
- \* Came to watch a game of rugby, but left with Cherry and White blood, a sense that the ref was on the opposition's side and an urge to buy a Cherry and White shirt - NOW!

## Supporting Away from Home

It's not often that you can welcome supporters from a national team to your ground, so it is with delight that all Gloucester supporters welcome the Team from Spain and their followers today. Perhaps we have had a little more practice at the undoubted mischief, pleasure and general high-jinks that can accompany a delightful foreign trip.

For our trips to sunnier climes, tales of pasta, paella or pabulum abound. Stories of Cherry and White undergarments and 'Holes in Buckets' become apocryphal. Then again there are rumours of Cherry and White supporters travelling for 'twenty something hours' only to fall asleep at the match.

Ferraris (or was it a Porsche in Paris) and the such-like go into the history of true travelling supporters.

So what can we recommend to the newer Spain supporter?

Don't look for a Porsche, try a tractor in Gloucester - be careful of which brand of cider you request (those without brand names and supplied by the gallon are safest!!) . Don't worry about rat-tails - it's a local custom.

You have paella; we have PIES, try an assortment with an accompanying brown or red sauce and the local CHIPS (not French fries)

Visit the Jockey / Queens Head / White Heart - but only after the Club Bar.

A local equivalent to 'vin nouveau' is called 'Depthcharge'

- try several but remember that the local "Ah ate ze Bass" is about tribal warfare and not a reflection that you prefer lager!

So welcome to the friendliest and most fervent set of supporters in the world - join us for the fun!

GRSA: We're there for you (whoever you are, wherever you are from) The Gloucester Rugby Supporters Association (GRSA) was formed to provide a focal point for all supporters of the club on important issues - by arranging events, providing a forum for discussion with the Club, increasing our knowledge and understanding of the game and giving all supporters a voice.

An Independent Voice, Run by Supporters - For Supporters

For more information or stories for inclusion, please phone Trevor on 01452 857077 or write to: PO Box 95, Stroud, Glos GL6 0YH





# Today's Official

**Referee:**  
F Maciello (F)



the Official Gloucester Matchday Programme is brought to you by

**PIA SPORT**

tel: 01635 35546

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Saturday January 8, 2000

# Today's Line-Ups

## Gloucester

- 15 Terry Fanolua
- 14 Brian Johnson
- 13 Joe Ewens
- 12 Rob Jewell
- 11 Tai Glassie
- 10 Simon Mannix
- 9 Elton Moncrieff
- 1 Stephane Sanchez
- 2 Chris Fortey
- 3 Andy Deacon
- 4 Richard Ward
- 5 Mark Cornwell
- 6 Pete Glanville (C)
- 7 Jawad Djoudi
- 8 Adam Eustace

## Spain

- José Ignacio Zapatero (C)
- Antonio Ortega
- David Monreal
- Diego Zarzosa
- Carlos Jimenez
- Sergio Souto
- Miguel Abril
- Carlos Benito
- Carlos Souto
- Asís García-Mazariegos
- Alfonso Mata
- Javier Izquierdo
- Jamie Alonso-Lasheras
- Jorge De Urquiza
- Andrei Kovalenco

## Replacements

- 16 Ian Sanders
- 17 Chris Yates
- 18 Chris Catling
- 19 Adey Powles
- 20 Neil McCarthy
- 21 Rob Fidler
- 22 Ed Pearce

- Alfonso Martínez
- Alvar Enciso
- Fernando Díez
- Alberto Socias
- Miguel Angel Frechilla
- Antonio Socias
- Ferrán Velazco