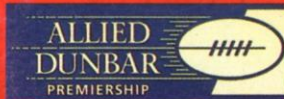
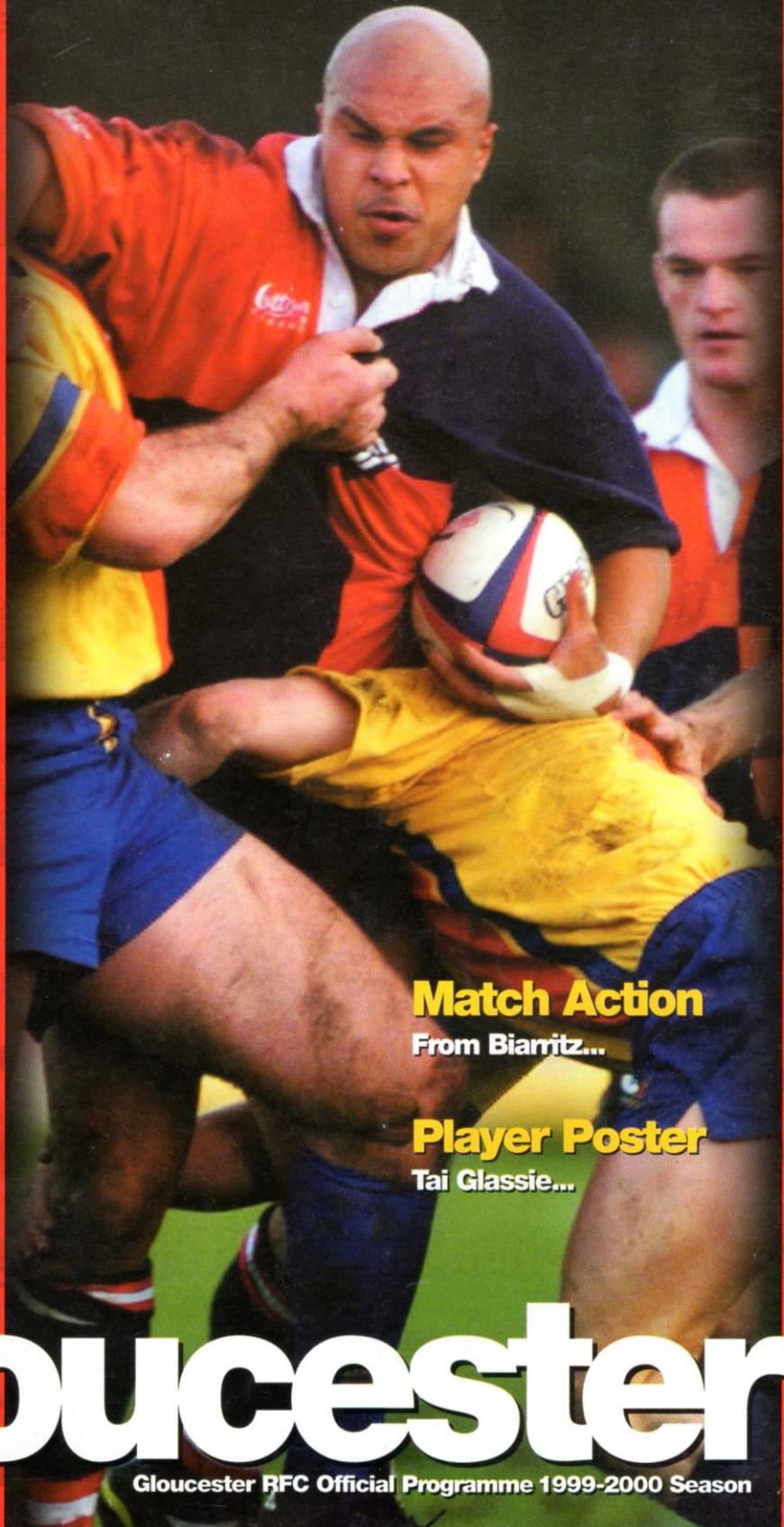




GLOUCESTER
V
BRISTOL



Saturday 22
January 2000
Kick-off 2.00pm



Match Action
From Biarritz...

Player Poster
Tai Glassie...

Gloucester

Issue 11 - £2.00

Gloucester RFC Official Programme 1999-2000 Season

Welcome from The Editors

A match against Bristol has always been something to savour. And there have been over 200 of them since Gloucester and Bristol first locked horns on September 24 1892 here at Kingsholm.

Peter Arnold, whose words have been appearing in Gloucester programmes for almost as long, it seems. He has probably seen more Bristol-Gloucester matches than any other living writer.

And our guest writer, David Llewellyn, has seen a few, as well. Before moving to the Independent where he writes on both rugby and cricket, Llewellyn worked in Bristol at the Western Daily Press and regularly ventured up to Kingsholm and into what was then called the Memorial Ground.

"The scars of civil war, when one West Country team smashed head-on into another, were worn proudly," Llewellyn remembers.

There is something about sports writers from the 'Indy'. Not too many seasons ago, the newspaper's chief rugby writer Chris Hewitt - another product of Bristol, this time the Evening Post - was heard to suggest after an unusually tame Bristol-Gloucester affair: "I suppose the spectators will want their money back!"

The great pity of the history of the Bristol-Gloucester fixture is that the oldest English senior club rugby fixture that had been continuously played came to an end last season.

Unfortunately, Bristol failed to survive the promotion/relegation play-offs and had to spend last season in Division Two. There might be intense rivalry between the Gloucester and Bristol clubs that borders on warfare for around 160 minutes each year, but when it came to that relegation play-off, there were more than a few Cherry and White jerseys standing shoulder

to shoulder with blue and white jerseys, united in the West Country rugby cause.

Mention of West Country rivalry would not be complete without using the word 'Bath'! As this programme is being prepared, word comes from the people putting together the official club video of our Tetley's Bitter Cup victory against Bath - the first match of the 21st century - that everything is on target.

That means that subject to any last minute glitches, the video will be on sale in the club shop today.



The rivalry is intense against Bristol

Coach's Comments

Phillipe Saint-André



"I do think that if we can win our home games at Kingsholm, then we will reach our target of a place in the Heineken Cup next season."

This is the first game of the second part of the Premiership season. And there is no need to remind anyone of how important - and difficult - this game against Bristol today is.

It will certainly not be easy. Yes, we beat Bristol away two months ago, but it was a very hard game, and Bristol have some very good players.

Those same good players will be here this afternoon, so I am sure it will be another difficult game - and in some ways it will be harder because Bristol will be wanting to get even with us.

Kingsholm can always produce a good atmosphere and the game against Bristol is a 'derby'. So I am hoping that 'Fortress Kingsholm' will play its part!

We have television here today - and I think that the presence of cameras here actually helps our players. But I am hoping that not too many people will be staying at home today to watch the game on Sky. So there is an extra special 'thank you' to all our supporters here today. I have often spoken about our support - I cannot say too often just how vital it is for the team.

Of course every Premiership game is a vital one. A win today will give us 10 wins in 12 games -

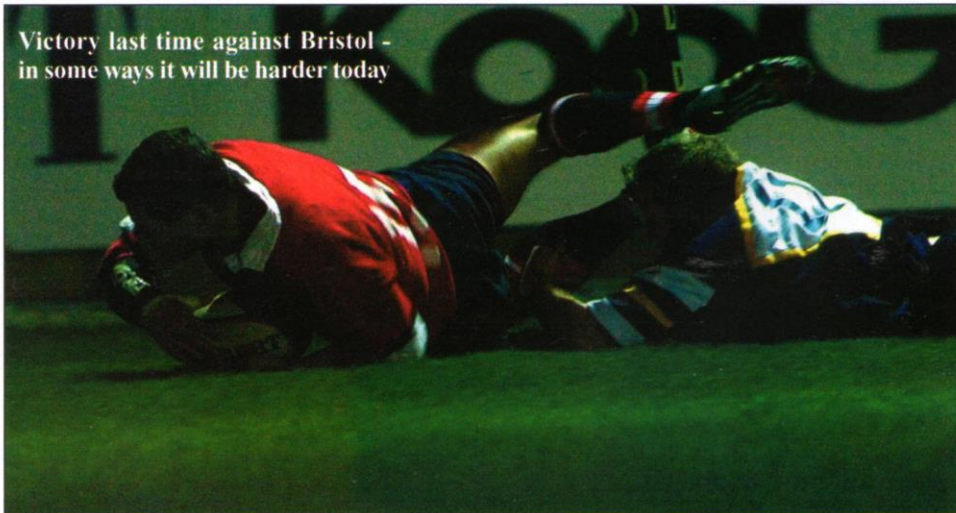
and of course we will stay top. But there is a long way to go.

I do think that if we can win our home games at Kingsholm, then we will reach our target of a place in the Heineken Cup next season.

We are still taking one game at a time. We are thinking solely about today and Bristol. When the match is over later today, we will be turning our thoughts to the away game at Saracens on Tuesday evening.

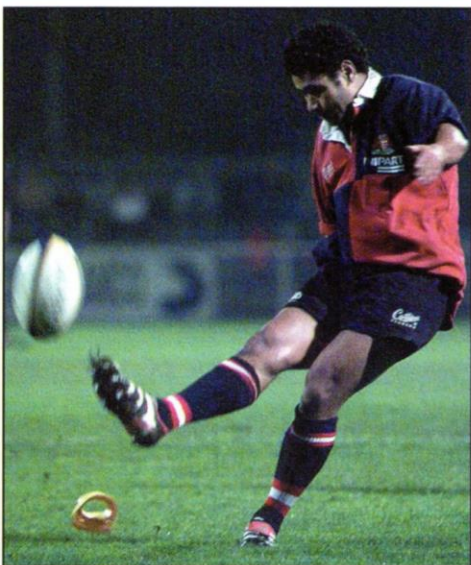
We do have a busy week, with a match in seven days time against Orrell for a place in the Tetley's Bitter Cup quarter final at stake. And we will not be thinking of that until after Saracens!

Victory last time against Bristol - in some ways it will be harder today



Match Action

Biarritz 39 - 25 Gloucester



Match Action

Read The News And Air Your Views on the Official Gloucester RFC Website
www.kingsholm-chronicle.org.uk

Captain's Comment

Kingsley Jones



We are all looking forward to playing Bristol this afternoon - it does not seem long ago since we played them in the Memorial Stadium. That was a tough game and a game that we knew was going to be tough. But I feel that Gloucester played particularly well that day and deserved the win.

I do, of course, realise that Bristol will have a burning ambition to come here and put the score right, from their point of view!

Having beaten Bristol away, there is a trap that we can fall into.

I can assure you that we are not taking them lightly. But we are ready.

Obviously, we were all disappointed about the loss in Biarritz last weekend. What it did show us is that we are not as good as we thought we were - and the boys realise this.

We will be keeping our feet firmly on the ground. And today will be a big challenge for us. One thing we all know is that Bristol is really up for this one!

And with players like Pichot and Honibal in the side, we just cannot afford to let them try to prove a point.

Now to Biarritz - and ironically Bristol face the journey to South West France in the quarter finals next April.

It was just one of those games. Our winning run had to come to an end sometime and on reflection it is perhaps better that it happened in Biarritz.

As you know, I was not on the trip. But I listened to the game on the radio. And when you let a player like Bernat-Salles get the ball and the space so often and he scores two tries in the first 10 minutes you don't expect to win.

But it is over. The damage was done in the first half. But from the disappointment comes the fact that we refused to give up and battled back in the second half to come with a couple of scores.

Kingsley Jones was talking to Andrew Harley



End of our winning run - perhaps better that it happened in Biarritz

Player Profile Tai Glassie



Ask Tai Glassie his nationality, and he might just have to stop and think! If everyone is hassling Australians, he will tell you he is a Kiwi. But if New Zealand is getting the hassle, he's an Aussie. Both answers are true!

Glassie was born in Auckland in 1975, but moved with his parents to Australia after starting his education in New Zealand. "Actually, I consider myself to be a Kiwi," he said.

Although his first taste of rugby was in New Zealand, the 'League' code was the order of the day at his first school in Australia. But as he approached his teens, Glassie moved schools - the new school being firmly

rooted in the 'Union' code.

His club rugby has centred around the Gordon club, just outside Sydney. He played in their colts and under-20 teams and a year ago was helping Gordon to win the New South Wales Premiership title.

Glassie admits that it was a bit of a shock to find Gloucester after his services. "I came here for a trial last spring and then everything happened very quickly," he said.

And there are no regrets at moving his family half way around the world. And no regrets from the rugby side.

"I am really glad to the part of Gloucester," he said. "And it goes

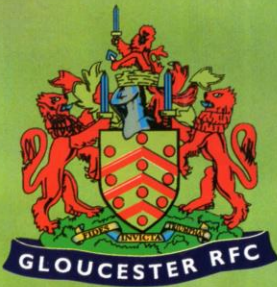
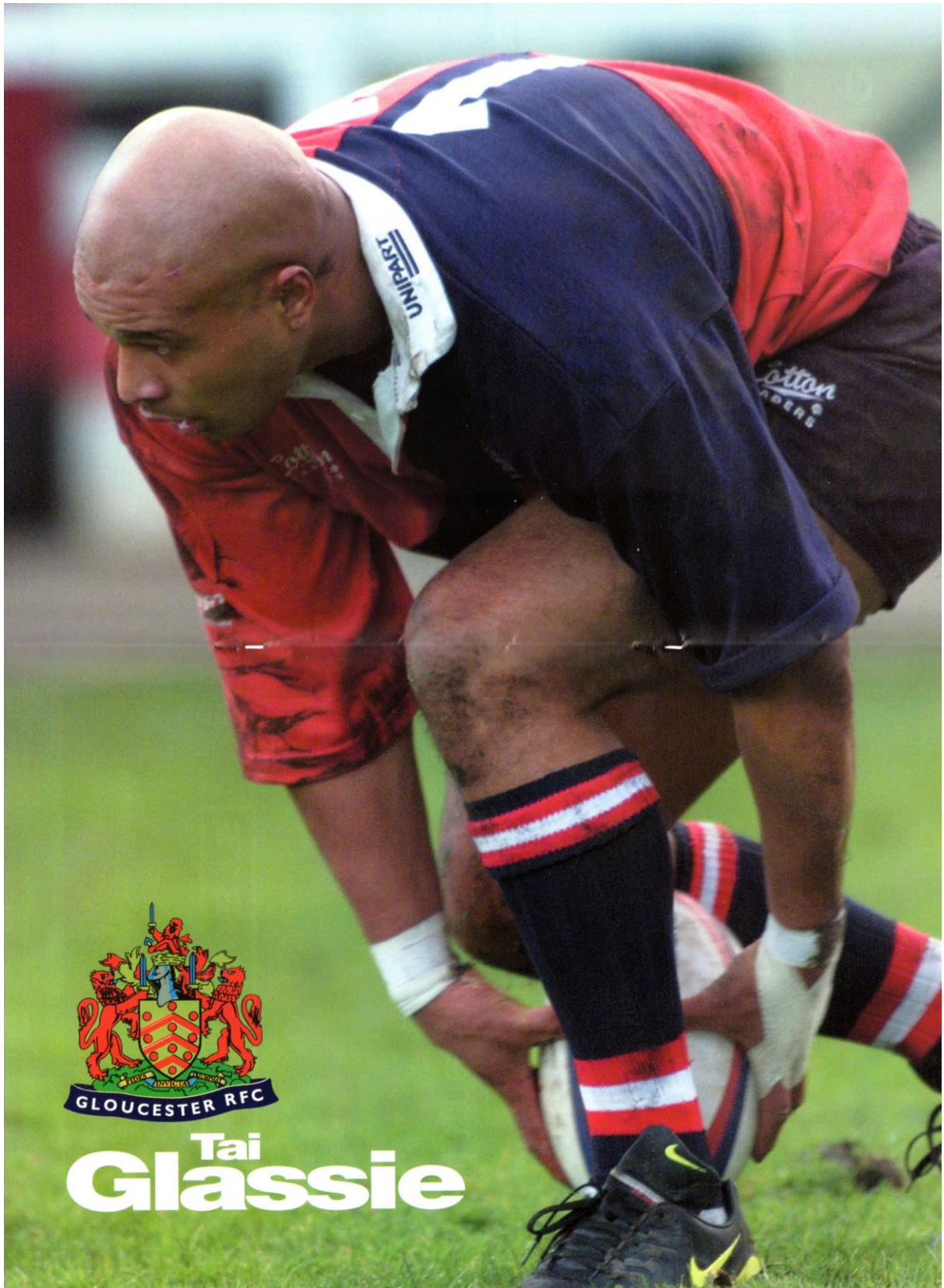
further than being glad ... I am proud to wear the Gloucester jersey - we all are proud on the team."

"Another thing is that we all gel together here very well. In other clubs you have some great players, but they have different styles.

Here there is more of an emphasis on whether a player will fit in to the Gloucester way rather than the star value."

When it comes to the Kingsholm atmosphere, Glassie is adamant. "There is nothing that can compare with Kingsholm, other than the atmosphere at some internationals," he insists. "It's unbelievable - it really is!"

Player Profile



Tai
Glassie

Ian Randall

of BBC Radio Gloucestershire

FALLERS AND RISERS

It's amazing to think that after today there is only one Premiership match at Kingsholm until April - and this in a season that now contains 22 League fixtures. It is a far cry from the first season of top flight league rugby, back in 1987-8, and the shape of the League has changed quite a bit in the intervening years.

Gloucester can proudly boast constant membership of the elite, though it is now 10 seasons since they last threatened to be champions. It is an honour they share with just four other teams - Bath, Harlequins, Leicester and Wasps. Outside this quintet, I thought it was worth looking at what has happened to those that have flirted with English rugby's heavyweights.

Seven of the founder members of Division One are in Premiership One this season. Bristol's only blemish on their record was their relegation the season before last, while Sale, bottom in that first season, took six years to regain their place. Arguably now, they are one of the teams who face a tense finale to the season.

Interestingly, the five sides who made up the top division back in 1987 - Coventry, Moseley, Nottingham, Orrell and Waterloo - have all failed to regain their place having lost it; and it seems

unlikely any of them will back in the near future.

Waterloo missed the drop by one place in the first year, but was relegated 12 months later, and are now closer to the Jewson Leagues than Premiership One. Coventry have endured a decade in the relative wilderness, but former Gloucester Coach Keith Richardson has been among those who have steered them to more promising waters, while Moseley, their great midland rivals, are also battling to get out of Premiership Two after a period of financial uncertainty.

There's been a downward spiral too at Nottingham, whose win over Gloucester in the last match of the 89-90 season saw Wasps sneak the Championship. The East Midlanders survived until the spring of 1992, but they're now alongside Lydney in National Division One, and it looks a long climb back.

This leaves us with a team a good number of Gloucester fans have a soft spot for - it could be the pies and the warm welcome that was always extended at Orrell. Unfashionable maybe, but we shouldn't forget that in 1992 they came within a whisker of pipping Bath for the title. The lost their place in 1997, and Premiership Two is proving a test for them at the moment - I for one hope they can stand still long enough to turn it round.

And so what of the rest? 11 other teams have had spells at the highest level in English rugby, and in the case of London Irish and West

Hartlepool, three separate ones. The Irish, having linked up with Richmond and London Scottish (two seasons apiece in Division One) now look stronger than ever before, while West are in danger of a second successive relegation that would see them back in the National Leagues.

Northampton is perhaps the best example of a traditional club who rebuilt well in their one season outside the Premiership, and a new broom at Saracens and Newcastle has swept through to good effect.

Rosslyn Park and Rugby were both in Division One eight seasons ago, but both now ply their wares at lower levels, while Bedford, as we all know, are back this season after ten years away, but their stay may short. All this leaves the real fall guys, Liverpool St Helens. Those with good memories will recall their solitary season in Division One, but now they're in National Division Two North. Gloucester, Wasps and the rest are now three levels above them.

What does all this show? Perhaps that in the professional era, if the league structure stays as it is, the Premiership will contain a solid core of clubs (including Gloucester) and a handful battling to survive with them, possibly yo-yoing between Divisions One and Two. There are lies, damn lies and statistics, but it seems that once out of the top division, it is not a status that is easily restored.

Ian Randall is sports producer at BBC Radio Gloucestershire.

Peter Arnold

Oh Dear. What a Pity. Never Mind.

Peter Arnold

I hate to say, 'I told you so', but I did, you know. When the draw for the European Shield was announced I wrote that, in my judgement, we would beat Spain twice, that the Biarritz matches would go with home advantage, that we would take care of Bridgend all right at Kingsholm, but the whole thing would hinge on the game at Rectory Field.

And so it has proved. That solitary point which slipped away from us on December 11 was enough to deny us further progress in the competition.

I do have to say, however, that I haven't detected much wailing and gnashing of teeth among supporters over our departure from Europe. Most people have their minds much more firmly concentrated on affairs in the Cup and the Premiership, and a defeat today would be regarded as much more of a disaster. Of course, if we were to win a place in next season's Heineken Cup, opinions might change. Or they might not.

Quite right too. You can talk about Bath all you like, but the long rivalry between Gloucester and Bristol is one of the features of the English rugby scene, and the Kingsholm half of that awesome series of matches is certainly one of the most eagerly awaited each year. The games often go with home advantage, and the

circumstance of Gloucester's victory down at Bristol will have stiffened the sinews of today's most welcome opponents even more than usual. And that's without even thinking about Premiership points.

There's also a nice irony in the way the European Shield draw has worked out. If Biarritz think they've seen the last of West Country rugby this season, they've got a rude awakening coming. Given the run of the ball, Bristol are certainly capable of beating the French giants on their own patch - look at what Bath did to the mighty Toulouse outfit - and we wish our respected neighbours the very best of luck in that endeavour.

But for now, let's worry about today's game. Should be a cracker.

ROTARY CLUB

When 'Le Patron' announced his side for last Saturday's Biarritz game most of the press attention focused on the selection of Tom Beim at full-back. Not surprising, I suppose, although the equally creative decision to play Richard Tombs at outside-half was just as worthy of comment.

Like most of us, I have cocked the odd quizzical eyebrow at some of Philippe's selections and positioning this season, although I have long given up criticising them because he has, almost invariably, been proved right.

One commentator succinctly wrote that "St. André continues to rotate his

squad". Rotate ? Blimey! If they gyrated any more they'd have to take vertigo tablets. Both Richard Tombs and Terry Fanolua have played at full-back, centre and outside-half.

Byron Hayward appears unconcerned at being asked to perform at full-back or outside-half. Chris Catling has starred at both wing and full-back, and I see that he is now being termed a 'utility back'. Rob Jewell has turned out at wing and centre. And so on.

Even the forwards aren't safe. Jawad Djoudi appears in both the front and back rows, which would have some of the old Gloucester props spluttering into their beer at the thought of all that running about. Adam Eustace has played in both second and back rows.

This is all, of course, part of the St. André 'collective' philosophy, which has been more than justified by results so far. However, there have been times, not least at the Bath Cup match (No Moncreiff, Fanolua or Mannix) when a glance at the line-up has sent quivers up the spine of the more nervous of us.

I suppose that the system does make it difficult for the Opposition to do their homework, but I can't help being reminded about the Duke of Wellington's famous remark about one of his Irish regiments.

'I don't know what they'll do to the enemy, but by God, they frighten me!'



Today's Mascot:

FIONA CROWTHER



Saturday January 22, 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

Bristol

15	Matthew Back
14	Dean Dewdney
13	Jamie Mayer
12	Paul Whittaker
11	Spencer Brown
10	Henry Honiball
9	Agustin Pichot
1	Paul Johnstone
2	Barry Williams
3	Pablo Lemoine
4	Garath Archer
5	Ockert Booyse
6	Craig Short
7	Adam Vander
8	Dean Ryan (C)

Replacements

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

16	Gareth Baber
17	Lee Best
18	Darren Crompton
19	Damien Ruham
20	Christian Evans
21	Scott Morgan
22	Jim Brownrigg

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