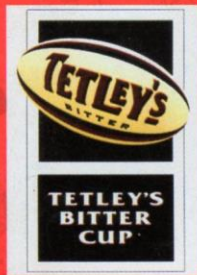




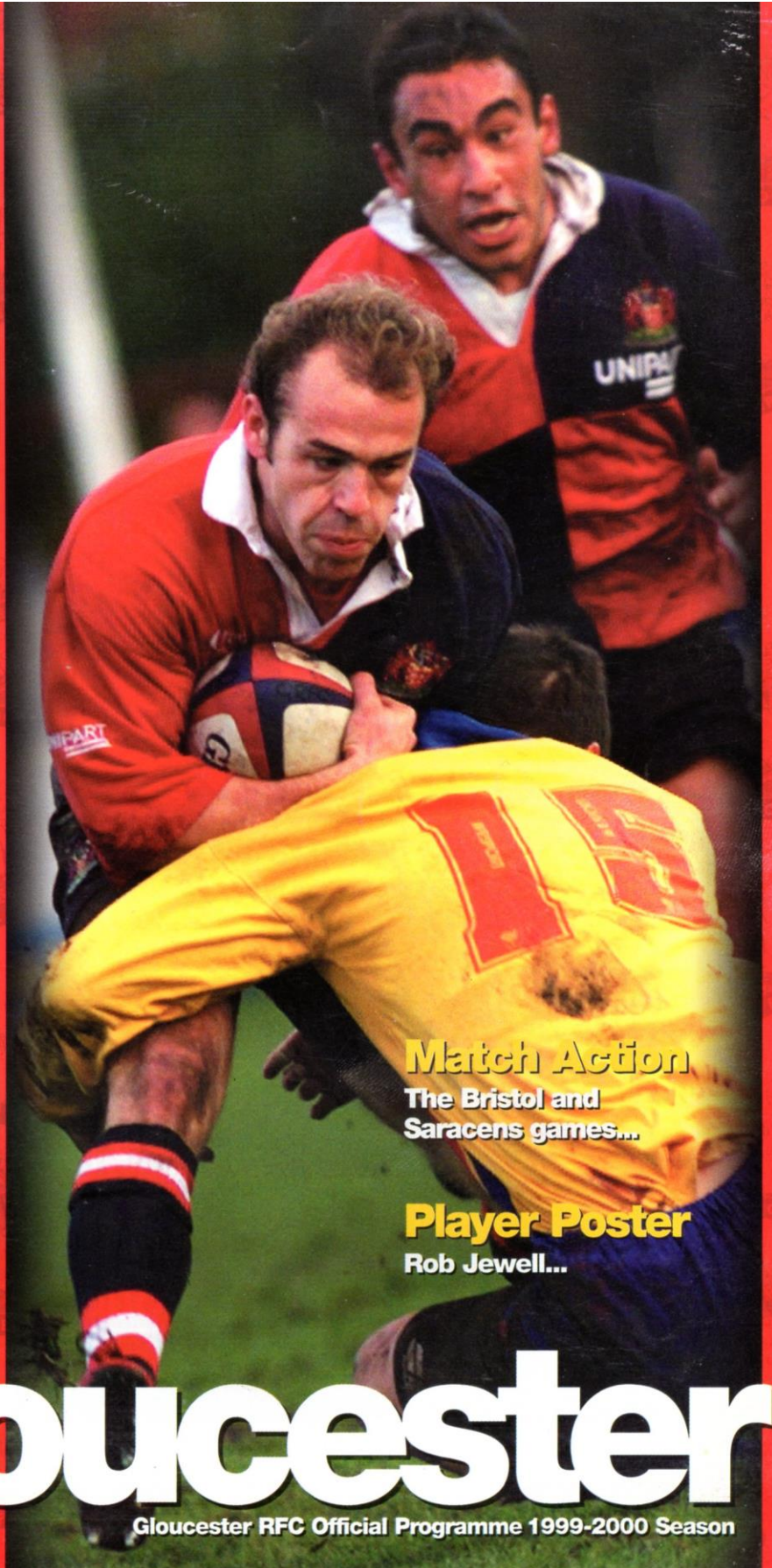
**GLOUCESTER**  
**V**  
**ORRELL**



**Saturday 29**  
**January 2000**  
**Kick-off 3.00pm**

**UNIPART**

CLUB SPONSOR



**Match Action**  
The Bristol and  
Saracens games...

**Player Poster**  
Rob Jewell...

# Gloucester

Issue 12 - £2.00

Gloucester RFC Official Programme 1999-2000 Season



# Action Extra

Gloucester 29 - 21 Bristol



Match Action

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



## Blast from the Past

# Peter Arnold

**One of the best things about the Tetley Bitter Cup is that it, just occasionally, enables us to catch up with old friends who haven't been around lately.**

Today's very welcome visitors provide a case in point. Some of us have fond memories of Gloucester v Orrell games, especially in the Cup, and especially of matches up at their very pleasant ground in Wigan.

On those occasions Orrell had two major advantages. One of them concerned their formidable pack, which was just about the largest in the country. The gigantic Mr. Kimmins springs to mind, but he wasn't all that much bigger than most of the front eight.

The other concerned the pitch. Nothing wrong with it from the maintenance point of view, but it was – and is, as far as I know – unusual because it had a pronounced slope both ways. Not only did it fall away from end to end of the playing surface, but it also sloped athwartships, as it were.

That meant that there was a decided dip at one corner flag. And didn't the Orrell lads know how to take advantage of it! When you were playing up the slope those ruddy great forwards would keep you penned down in that corner, and you simply couldn't get out. Many a

good side has come to grief through that little piece of topography.

Apart from that, the welcome we always received at Orrell was legendary. They seemed to have more than their fair share of affable personalities, more than willing to swap a yarn and a pint with anyone wearing the cherry-and-white colours. I even remember, with some affection, one lady who never set foot in the ground.

You see, there was always a problem at half-time. In common with a lot of grounds in those days, on full-house occasions, there simply wasn't time, during the ten-minute break, to get into the gents, do the necessary, and get back to your spot before the second-half whistle blew.

Luckily, the back of the stand was adjacent, and positively beckoned bladder-challenged supporters to repair thereto and relieve the situation. Fair enough. After all, we had the same situation at Kingsholm for the best part of a century.

However, the lady concerned didn't see it that way. As half-time progressed she would ring up and complain that she could see these lewd goings-on from her back window, and please would the Orrell club do something to abate the nuisance. Thereafter, the loudspeaker system would carry a splendidly tongue-in-cheek message, inviting visiting supporters to cease and desist.

It was all a bit odd, really. As one club official said to me: "She must have a bloody good pair of binoculars to see anything from where she lives!"

Of such things are club rugby made. Long may they continue.

### WELL SAID BARNESY !

As usual, I taped Sky's coverage of the Bristol game for later analysis and, well, gloating, really. On watching the recording I was struck by one comment from S. Barnes Esq. who does, in his mellow years, seem to have become something of a Gloucester supporter. Referring to the 'terrible trio' in Gloucester's front row, he remarked: "Three good young England front-rowers ! Well – where else would you look for them?"

None of us would argue with that. It was especially nice when the Sky team awarded Trevor Woodman, who is, after all, one of the younger Gloucester players, their 'Man of the Match' award. Coming hard on the heels of his inclusion in the England training squad, it must have sealed a memorable few days for Trevor.

And how about Rob Fidler? With Messrs Grewcock and Johnson carrying injuries, and Mr. Archer having been comprehensively seen off by 'Fids' last Saturday, is there just a glimmer of a chance of a Six Nations spot for Son of John ?

Watch this space.

## Room at the Top

# Peter Arnold

**If you cast your mind back to the start of the season, you'll recall that the club's stated target was to finish in a Premiership top four spot, and so ensure a place in next season's Heineken European Cup.**

All very laudable, understandable and potentially profitable, but we needn't have bothered really. Not for the first time, the Powers That Be have moved the goal posts.

As I read it, English clubs are to have an extra place in the

competition, making five. In addition, the Tetley's Bitter Cup Winners will also be given a spot, which is nice for them, whoever they may be.

But hang about. The chances are high that the eventual Cup Winners will be one of the top five anyway, so the sixth placed English club will probably also hit the road to Europe.

Barring a series of catastrophes of earthquake proportions, the decisions make life much easier for Gloucester, of course. Perhaps we should ask Gloscat for special terms on French, Romanian, Spanish and Italian language courses, if only so we can

order drinks on away trips, but I ask myself, what prompted the changes?

No doubt there are good and sufficient reasons, but nobody has told them to me. Of course, the fact that the two front runners in the Premiership are Gloucester and Northampton at this stage couldn't have anything to do with it could it? After all, some more fashionable clubs (naming no names) have, at the moment been pushed down the table and are bidding fair to miss out on the competition.

No. Of course not. Naughty me for being so cynical.

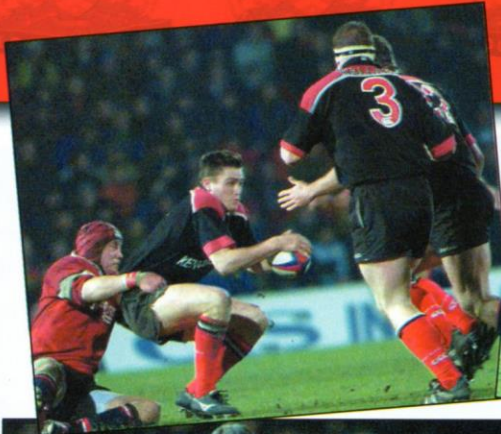


The sixth placed English club will probably also hit the road to Europe.



# Match Action

Saracens 35 - 21 Gloucester



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



# David Reed

of BBC Radio Gloucestershire

**C'EST LA VIE!**  
**In this professional era, most things have changed but it's good to know that some of the old traditions of Rugby clubs on tour still survive.**

Not the type of 'fun' that we old farts (namely, veterans, committee men, etc) reminisce about over a few beers, like the re-arrangement of hotel interiors, the adornments of statues in seaside resorts at Eastertime, or those tales which over the years have grown beyond all credibility. That was in a time before words like 'hooliganism' or 'vandalism' were invented.

It was a special privilege to be invited to join the official Club party on the recent trip to Biarritz. This was, of course, no weekend jolly (well, not for the players, anyway – there was work to be done, a small matter of a match to decide the winner of Pool 5 in the European Shield no less).

There was a sizeable cohort of club officials present, more than for normal away games I guessed, if my interpretation of Philippe's opening remarks when he boarded the coach was correct: "Ah, ze directors are 'ere. We can not be going to Bedford today!"

It is the function of the club officials to fly the flag on behalf

of the Club, to ensure that honour is upheld, and, in the old days, to provide the bail, make the apologies and pay for the damage caused by their young charges before they were allowed to leave the town for the journey home. In the present era, it is more likely to be the other way round!

Another of their duties is to ensure that the organisation of the tour has left no stone unturned, and that all unforeseen situations had been taken into account.

In the past I have frequently and stoically defended the position of Gloucester's Team Manager, John Fidler, (creep) from supporters who ask "What does he do all day?" On the evidence of this trip, I can now add some substance to that defence.

In fact so sound was the planning that the only criticism the seniors could find was in their collective name on the itinerary, where they were described as Directors/Committee (henceforth to be described as Directors slash Committee). They were no longer 'Directors' since Tom's take over they argued, and 'Committee' was seen as an unacceptable relegation of their position. So by general consensus, they would have to be known as 'The Slashes'.

Fids' itinerary was tested before we left Kingsholm, where we were delayed to allow one passport to

catch up with its owner. (Nothing less than a pint will persuade me to name the culprit).

No sooner had we left the Kingsholm car park than the mobile phone took over. Tearful wives and girl friends had to be kept informed of every mile of the coach's progress to Heathrow, but Fids' mobile became essential to the journey, after he learned of a major hold up on the M4 near Membury.

The coach was able to divert to the M40 route, but a number of players of necessity were having to travel to Heathrow by car. (Gloucester's England squad contingent were meeting in Surrey on Sunday evening). Unable to concentrate on the Oxfordshire scenery, Fids was in constant communication with the occupants of three cars, providing interactively alternative routes for them to avoid the problem. So, another prerequisite for the Team Manager is a knowledge of every rat run and back double around the country. In the old days, it was pubs, and the route was left to the coach driver, sometimes with disastrous consequences ("We're going to Teignmouth, drive, OK?") and somewhere pretty close to Northumberland, we were forced to do a U-turn).

The hassle for Fids did not finish there. Having been trapped in the traffic jam for an hour and a half,

*Continued on page 32*



# David Reed

**C'Est La Vie**  
continued from page 31

David Reed

Joe Ewens and Neil McCarthy were in danger of missing the flight, so alternative reservations had to be made on a later flight to Bordeaux. Fortunately, they weren't needed.

Apart from Chris Yates' shoes leaving the plane at Bilbao Airport before his feet, the flight and subsequent two hour coach journey through Northern Spain to Biarritz proved less eventful for Fids. All he had to do on this stage of the journey was to phone ahead to the hotel to book the pasta dinner for the players.

No problem here you would think, until he discovered that our three star hotel did not have a restaurant. However by the time the group reached Biarritz, the

problem had been resolved, and the team went off for their usual Friday diet pasta. Very sensibly, Fids did not ask the Slashes if they wanted to accompany the players to this restaurant. And since there is no need, in this day and age, to ensure that Rugby players are tucked up in bed by 10 o'clock on the eve of a big match, the Slashes were left to their own devices. It was perhaps surprising that the players on their early morning run did not report a sighting of the Slashes returning to the hotel, but then Slashes are wily old birds!

As for the match, you will have seen the reports (hopefully you listened to BBC Radio Gloucestershire's commentary). A pity about the result, but the only criticism I can make is that

the Team Management had not warned the players of the danger of an opponent with a hyphenated surname. Three times in the first 26 minutes, the former French winger Philippe Bernat-Salles mesmerised our defence and scored a hat trick of tries.

Just as the Slashes would remember the dazzling runs of England's Phil Horrocks-Taylor in the Sixties, our defenders in Biarritz saw Bernat go one way, Salles the other, and they were left holding the hyphen!

C'est la vie!

*David Reed is a free-lance sports commentator who covers most of Gloucester's matches for BBC Radio Gloucestershire.*



**Biarritz - Beware an opponent with a hyphenated surname.**

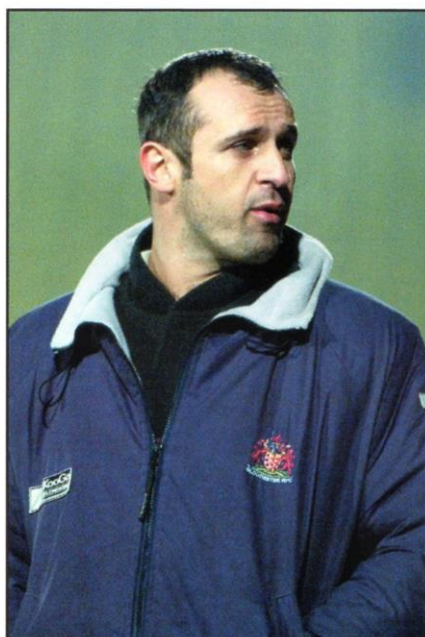


**Gloucester vs Bristol**  
January 22 2000

# Action Extra



**Saracens vs Gloucester**  
January 25 2000







## Today's Officials

**Referee:**  
Robin Goodlife

**Touch Judges:**  
Steve Leyshon  
Fred Spong

Saturday January 29, 2000

# Today's Line-Ups

## Gloucester

15	Chris Catling
14	Tai Glassie
13	Joe Ewens
12	Rob Jewell
11	Brian Johnson
10	Terry Fanolua
9	Ian Sanders
1	Adey Powles
2	Jawad Djoudi
3	Andy Deacon (C)
4	Adam Eustace
5	Mark Cornwell
6	Pete Glanville
7	Tom Miklausic
8	Junior Paramore

## Orrell

Rob Hitchmough	15
Lee Wakelam	14
Mark Bolton	13
Ian Wynn(C)	12
Neil Kerfoot	11
Paul Newton	10
Iain Pearce	9
Jason Cundick	1
Jon Hitchen	2
Steve Nicholas	3
Chris Bentley	4
Anton Cramant	5
Alex Bennett	6
Peter Millachip	7
Matt Lacey	8

## Replacements

16	Laurie Beck
17	Tom Beim
18	Darren Carr
19	Stephane Sanchez
20	Ian Jones
21	Ed Pearce
22	Neil McCarthy

Ian Welding	16
Matthew Brown	17
Paul Clayton	18
Alistair Lewsley	19
Alex Moffat	20
John Duggan	21
TBA	22

the Official Gloucester  
Matchday Programme is  
brought to you by

**PIA SPORT**

tel: 01635 35546

the views expressed in the GRFC  
Matchday Programme are not  
necessarily the views of PIA SPORT  
or Gloucester Rugby Football Club.  
©1999