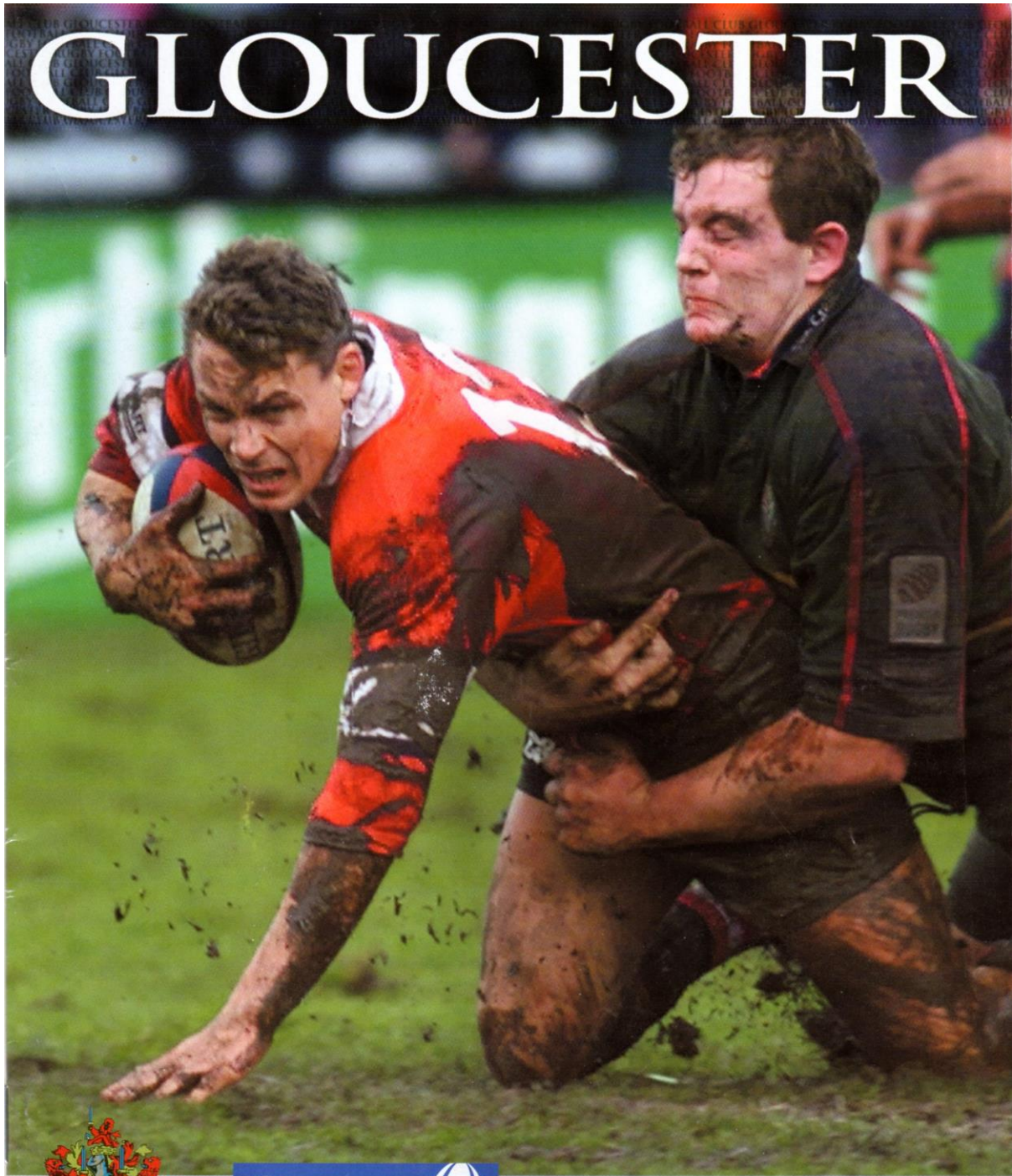


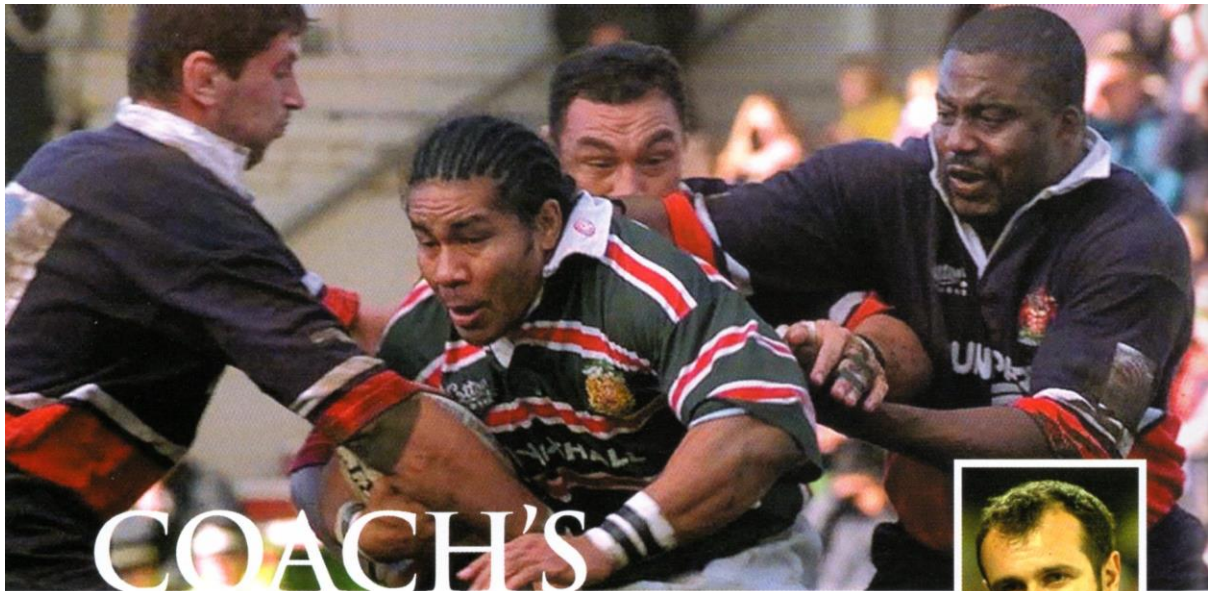
GLOUCESTER



GLOUCESTER V NEWCASTLE



ZURICH PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE
SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER 2000 KICK-OFF 3.00 PM
GLOUCESTER RFC OFFICIAL PROGRAMME
2000-2001 SEASON
ISSUE 10 - £2.00



COACH'S CORNER



WITH PHILIPPE ST ANDRE

"WE HAD A VERY GOOD RESULT AWAY AT NEWCASTLE AT THE START OF THE YEAR, BUT SURE, IF WE WANT TO FINISH IN THE TOP FOUR THEN WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE ANY MORE AT HOME."

THE TARGET FOR THE GAMES LEADING UP TO THE NORTHAMPTON FIXTURE LAST WEEKEND WAS TO HAVE THREE WINS OUT OF THREE.

It was a shame that after controlling the game away at Leicester and scoring three tries, we conceded a try in the eighty-fourth minute and Leicester won the game.

These are all key games at this part of the season. We dropped a lot of points at the start of the season against Bath and Sale, as we had so many injuries in the squad. I'm sure that not a lot of teams will get any points against Leicester, some will get one, but I wanted four. Leicester are the team to beat, they are in front of everybody. The next teams though are very close. It's true you can win one game and climb to third, lose and you will be seventh or lower. For us we must try to win everywhere and we must start at home.

We had a very good result away at Newcastle at the start of the year, but sure, if we want to finish in the top four then we cannot afford to lose any more at home. We now have no other solution than win and keep winning.

We have noticed that in the second half of the last few matches we have not played as

well as in the first half. We must try to change our half time routine. Last year it was good but in the last five or six games we have slipped a little in the second half. We must not play for forty minutes but eighty-five minutes.

In December and January the bad conditions are usually good for Gloucester, we have strong forwards who are good in the scrums, we have a good defence. We must use this advantage to gain a lot of points.

Now is an exciting time, but when I look, we lost three points against Bath, Sale and Leicester. If we had an extra nine points we could be top. Last year all the points we could get we got, this year this is not the case and it is very frustrating.

Now I hope we will play well and I get no injuries to my player's so I can perhaps get the same team out in consecutive games. I think numbers two, nine, ten, and fifteen are very important, and we have had to change our half backs each game.

The Newcastle team has very good players in these key positions. Jonny Wilkinson is a key player for them. The scrum half Gary Armstrong is a former captain of Scotland, John Leslie if he is fit, and Doddie Weir in the line out are all very strong players. But we must be better!

ABOVE: LEICESTER'S FERETI TULAGI IS TACKLED BY GLOUCESTER'S ROB FIDLER, JUNIOR PARAMORE AND STEVE OJOMOH.

A MIDDLING CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE,
BY GOLLY.
DISAPPROVAL WOULD BE FOLLY.
DECK THE SHED WITH SPRIGS OF
HOLLY,
FILL THE CUP, AND DON'T
SAY "WHEN".

(WITH APOLOGIES TO
TOM LEHRER)

"OUR MESSAGE
TO SANTA THEN:
PLEASE HELP US
WITH OUR
NEW YEAR
RESOLUTION
TO WIN
SEVEN MORE
LEAGUE GAMES
(PREFERABLY
THE FIRST
SEVEN, NOT THE
LAST SEVEN)."

The festive season has in the past always been regarded as the mid point of the Rugby season, a time to look back, take stock and plan those New Year resolutions.

Well, if the midpoint of this season is Christmas, I must have missed it. Our visitors today, Newcastle, provide the opposition for Gloucester in their 20th game of this season. After today, supporters can be certain of only another 11 games before the curtain closes on the first full season of the 21st century. And of those eleven games, only five are at home!

It could well be that the midpoint turns out to be the day that the Tigers booted us out of the Tetley Bitter Cup on November 11th, indeed a sad day after the heroics a week earlier at The Rec.

Well, you think about all the money you will save.....until you realise that alternative activity might be far more expensive! So, away with these negative thoughts. It's Christmas. Be happy. Be positive.

OK, so we have no further interest in the Tetley, but there are nine Premiership games to play, four at home starting with the Saints next Wednesday, and five away. The Club target is to finish in the top Four - Europe next season, and

all that. 64 points in the Zurich Premiership is likely to be the qualification to achieve that target. That would need seven victories from those nine games, plus a handful of bonus points.

If that sounds unrealistic, then perhaps we should concentrate on finishing in the top Eight, which will ensure a place in the Zurich Cup, and at least one more game. It could be three more games, if we make the Grand Final at Twickenham. That would make 14 games, most of them on the road.

Which brings me to the Heineken Cup, in which we have some unfinished business. Not too long now before the Scarlets come knocking on our door on a revenge mission. It's a game we have to win, otherwise we might as well follow the tourist trail in Rome the following weekend. And, by the way, not only do we have to win both these games, we have to make sure that the Stradey boys beat Colomiers as well when we are Roming.

Our message to Santa then: Please help us with our New Year Resolution to win seven more league games (preferably the first seven, not the last seven), get a few more bonus points, and beat Llanelli "nicely". I mean nothing too physical, because we need them to be at full strength the following week to see off Colomiers.

That would get us to a Heineken quarter-final, which is another game, with a semi final and Final to follow. That's three more matches, which would bring the remaining games up to 17which at least makes Christmas closer to the middle of the Rugby season!

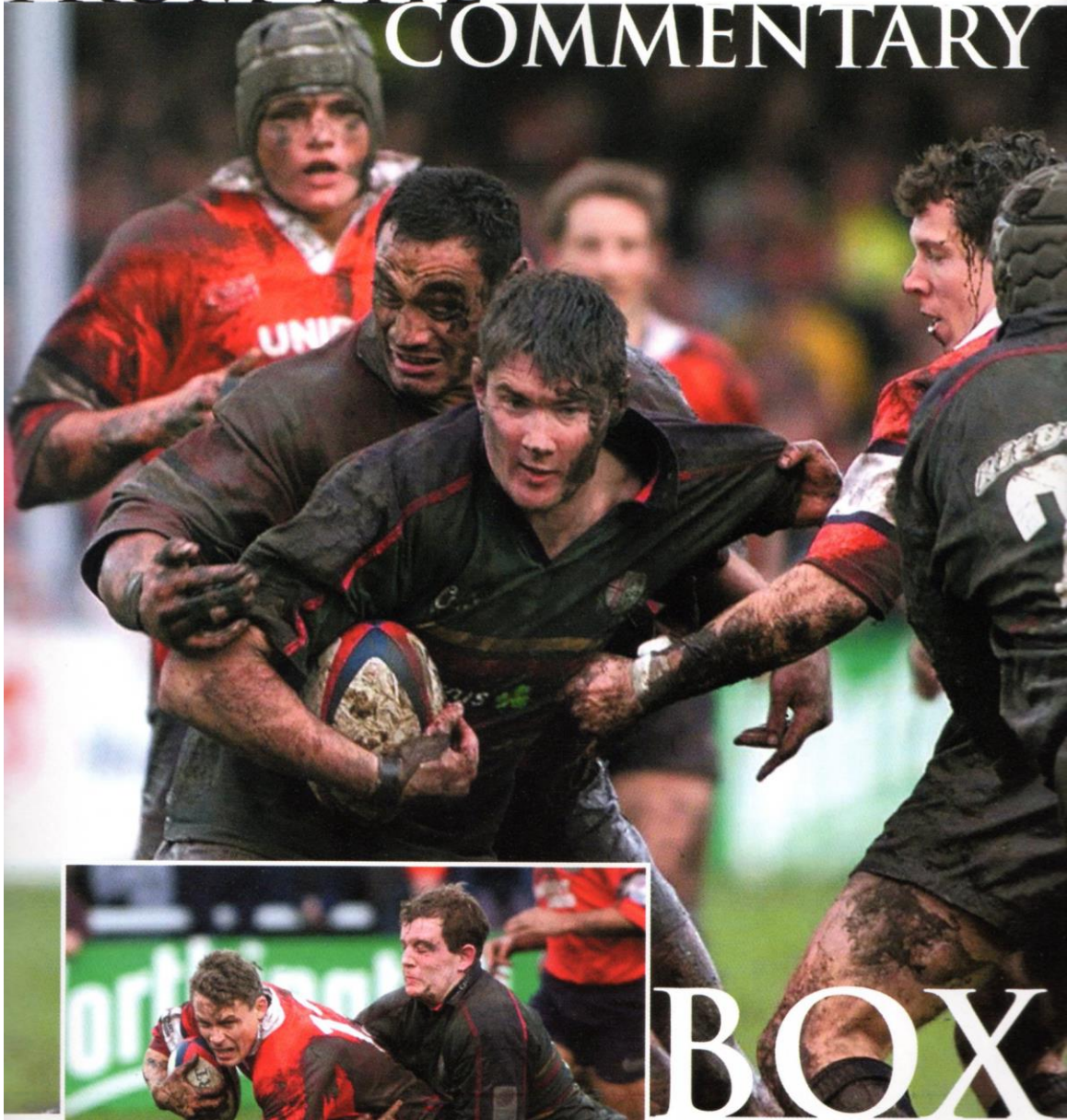
Happy Christmas!



BY
DAVID REED

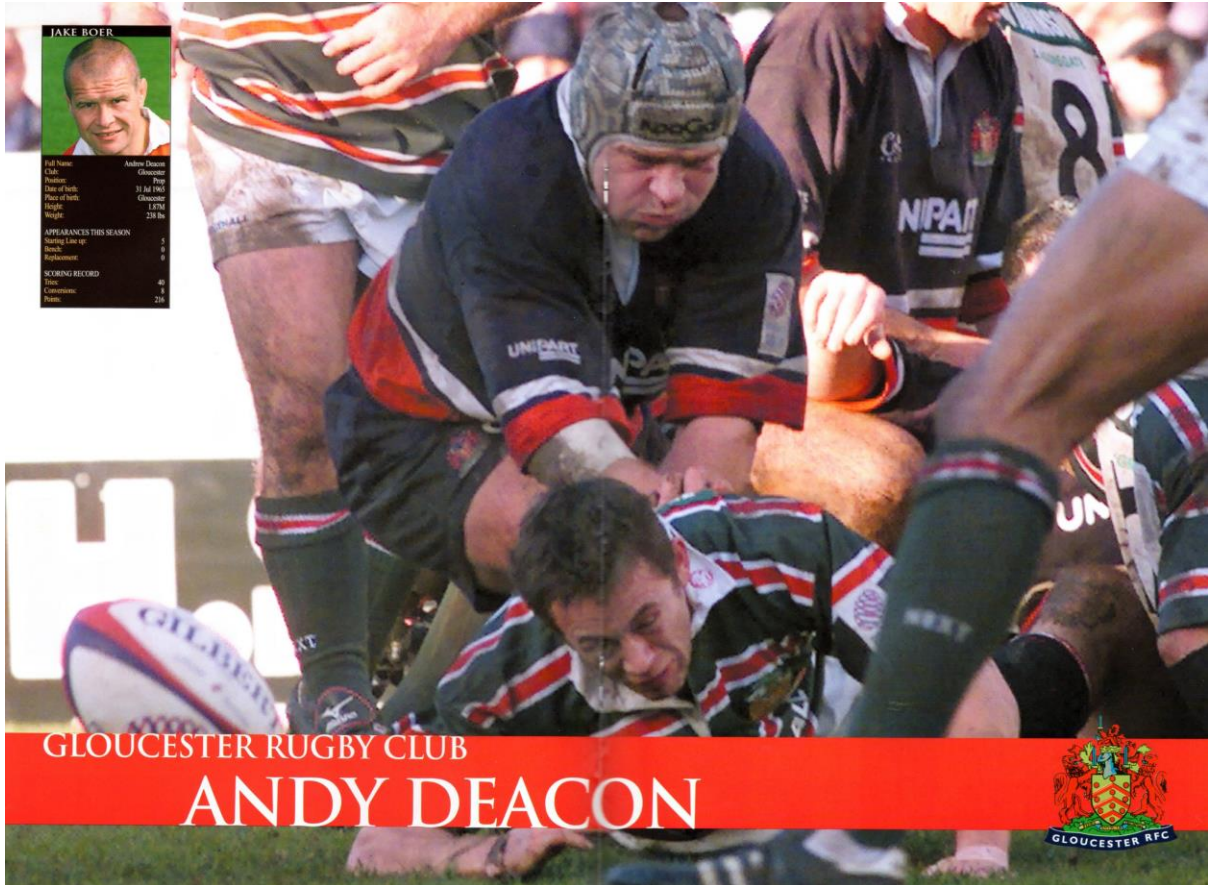
BELOW:
LONDON IRISH EDDIE HALVEY
HAS HIS RUN STOPPED BY
GLOUCESTER'S JUNIOR PARAMORE
(BEHIND) AND TOM BEIM.

FROM THE COMMENTARY



BOX B B C

LEFT:
GLOUCESTER'S JASON
LITTLE CRAWLS AWAY
IN THE MUD.



JAKE BOER



Full Name:	Andy Deacon
Club:	Gloucester
Position:	Prop
Date of Birth:	31 Jul 1969
Place of Birth:	Gloucester
Height:	1.87m
Weight:	238 lbs
APPEARANCES THIS SEASON	
Starting Line Up:	3
Replacements:	0
Substituted:	0
SCORING RECORD	
Goals:	0
Penalties:	1
Points:	21%

GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB
ANDY DEACON



PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

ANDY



ANDY DEACON

Full Name Andrew Deacon
Place of Birth Gloucester
Date of Birth 31/7/65
Height (m) 1.88
Weight (kg) 110
Former Club Longlevens
Position Prop

BELOW: ANDY DEACON CHARGES THROUGH BATH'S GAVIN THOMAS.



PAGE 26

THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL YEAR FOR YOU. HOW DID THE TESTIMONIAL IDEA COME ABOUT?

Well once I'd got to my ten years it was something I was thinking about myself, I knew I was in line for a testimonial because I'd done the ten years of service. So when Ken Nottage suggested it to me obviously I was proud and delighted to accept.

You are probably in a better position than most to judge. Just how different is the life of a rugby player now from say five years ago before the advent of professionalism?

I think when the game went professional every one thought instantly the game would change. From where I see it though it was much more a gradual change year on year. Each season things get more and more professional. Players are sorting their bodies out and the way they play and the game has become faster and much more physical. You can spend so much

more time now getting yourself right, recovering from injuries. The rehab we get now (at the club) is second to none. Players have to start treating this as a job if they want to survive; it's a very competitive environment.

And personally what would you say has been the biggest change you've made?

Probably my body, it's changed dramatically. I'm a stone-and-a-half heavier than when I started. I always wanted to be heavier, but in the right areas. Now I'm faster, stronger and fitter than ever. It's all because I can dedicate more time to my rugby. It's a job now it's my livelihood.

This year we have already had some fantastic experiences. For example we beat Llanelli away and we beat Bath in the Cup. That must have meant an awful lot to someone like yourself?

I wasn't playing at Llanelli but the result made people all over Europe sit up and take notice. To beat Bath though in a local derby was very special. We've been down there so many times and come away with nothing.

More recently against Leicester, you had the opportunity to lead the side out again, what was that like?

When I was Club Captain first time round it was a struggle. I wasn't playing at my best because of my injury and the team wasn't performing. When I got my chance again last weekend it was so different. There are so many decision-makers' on the pitch now everyone knows the game plan and what they have to do. It makes the captain's job much easier. Things are in place to help all along the way.

Your Testimonial Brochure contains pieces from some very famous props, who would you say has been the most difficult to compete against?

That's a difficult question. Jason Leonard is a very good prop he's won eighty-odd caps and quite rightly so. You can play him one day and get no change out of him. On another day though you can play against Jason Leonard and get one over on him.

DEACON



It all depends how you play on the day; you have to give every opponent respect, because in the Premiership now there are no bad props. There's Gary Pagel at Northampton, Jason Leonard, Graham Rowntree and Darren Molloy at Wasps. He is one of the most difficult props I've played against and he's not even an international.

Speaking of internationals do you regret not playing at that level?

Of course, it's always an honour to play for your country. I was lucky enough to get an England 'A' cap and I played for emerging England. I played against Canada and broke my collarbone that was in 1992-1993. If I was going to get my chance it was going to be then or the next year. It took me a long time to get over the injury and it never really happened for me. What happens now that didn't happen when I was first playing is that props start younger. People like Trevor Woodman, and Phil Vickery. I didn't get my chance until I was twenty-five. Vix isn't that old yet and already has nearly twenty Caps. Years ago props didn't come into their own until they were twenty-eight or older. Now with professionalism the young guys develop so much quicker and not only the props. The one that stands out for me is Jonny Wilkinson. He is an outstanding talent. He is so mature for his age, especially in the position he plays where he has to make so many decisions. He is very physical and very brave and he works hard, if I was a coach those are the qualities I'd look for in any player.

When you started and even two years ago Gloucester Rugby Club was synonymous with homegrown talent, local feeder clubs

and no one from outside the city walls. Philippe St Andre was the first big foreign star to come to the club, but since then we've introduced players from all over the world to our squad.

They all fit in very well I don't see an issue. Gloucester have moved on from what they were perceived to be years ago. We now have a squad with contains the second highest number of different nationalities in the Premiership. But we still keep producing good young Gloucester players like Eustace and Hazell.

Do you think that although we attract some of the most high profile international stars to the club, Gloucester remain one of the unfashionable clubs?

Yes I think we do, until Gloucester win something that attitude will remain. We also have the record of never being out of the top division, few clubs can say that, but until we win something that stigma will remain.

Here at Kingsholm, you enjoy a special relationship with the crowd; does it still give you the buzz?

Oh definitely. I've always loved it. I always wanted play here and I've been lucky enough to fulfil that dream. I think that once the buzz goes it's time to pack up.

And for you how far away do you consider that to be?

I have another job to go to but it isn't in my mind yet. I want to keep playing for as long as possible. As I said earlier I am in the best shape ever but of course I am getting older. As long as I get offered a contract I'll keep going

"WHAT HAPPENS NOW THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN WHEN I WAS FIRST PLAYING IS THAT PROPS START YOUNGER."

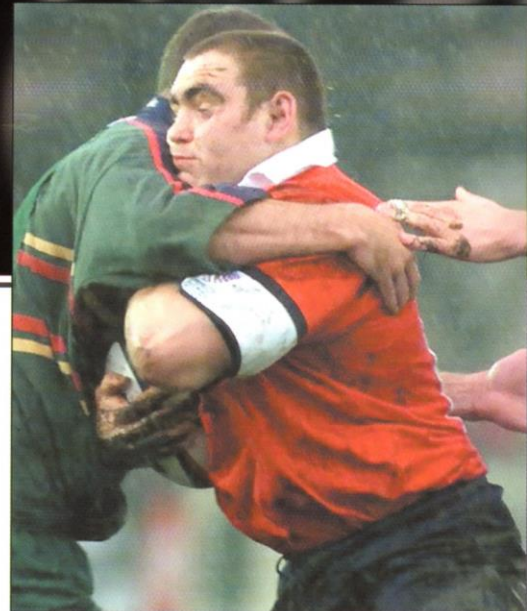
BELOW: ANDY DEACON IS SLOWED DOWN BY COLOMERS GILDAS MORO.



PAGE 27

MATCH ACTION

GLOUCESTER 26-6 LONDON IRISH



MATCH ACTION

GLOUCESTER 28-31 LEICESTER



FAR TOP LEFT: Tom Beim is stopped by London Irish's Justin Bishop.

FAR TOP RIGHT: Trevor Woodman back from injury after 6 months.

FAR BELOW: London Irish's Rob Hardwick crash into the mud following a tackle from Ian Jones (5) and Jason Little.

TOP: Andy Gomarsall is floored by Leicester's Ben Kay.

LEFT BELOW: Terry Fanolua breaks through Leicester's defence.

RIGHT BELOW: Olivier Azam and Trevor Woodman bring down Leicester's Pat Howard.



HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY KINGSHOLM CHRISTMAS

"I FELT AMONG ALISTAIR McHAFFEY THAT DAY, WHO, WHEN HE FELT LIKE IT, WASN'T EXACTLY ONE OF LIFE'S NATURAL TEETOTALLERS."

WE'VE ALWAYS MANAGED TO CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER AT KINGSHOLM.

The annual Boxing Day games against Old Merchant Tailors have passed into the mythology of the game for the entertaining nature of the rugby on offer, and also for the dedicated intensity of the after-match celebrations.

Games have never been so thick on the ground in the immediate run-up to Christmas Day, however. Today's little bun-fight is about as close as we've come to the day itself for quite a few years. However, I do remember one Kingsholm occasion that actually fell on Christmas Eve itself.

The opposition was provided by Plymouth that day, and before you start to look down your nose at that thought, I should point out that the Albion, as they were known in those days, were having their best season for years. They had already acquired some notable scalps,

including if I remember correctly, that of Leicester, so the Kingsholm fixture was eagerly anticipated for solid rugby reasons, as well as for those of a more convivial nature.

In the event, Gloucester won a game in which there was precious little Peace and Goodwill to All Men, let alone prop forwards, so we were quite ready to start the seasonal celebrations when we trooped back into the Clubhouse.

I fell among Alistair McHaffey that day, who, when he felt like it, wasn't exactly one of life's natural teetotalters.

Alistair was, at the time, the City Council's Chief Leisure Officer. He had played on the wing for both Plymouth and Devon, so he had been looking forward to the game more keenly than most. The City's Chief Planning Officer, Ian Stewart, had been appointed at the same time, and he had hooked for Notts Lincs. and Derby.

Digressing for a moment, a little later we appointed Phil Cooke as Alistair's deputy, and in his turn, he had played for Harlequins. Subsequently I received a phone call from one of the local Government magazines. A slightly snide voice enquired "Councillor Arnold, tell me, is experience of first class rugby an essential qualification for a senior officer of Gloucester City Council?"

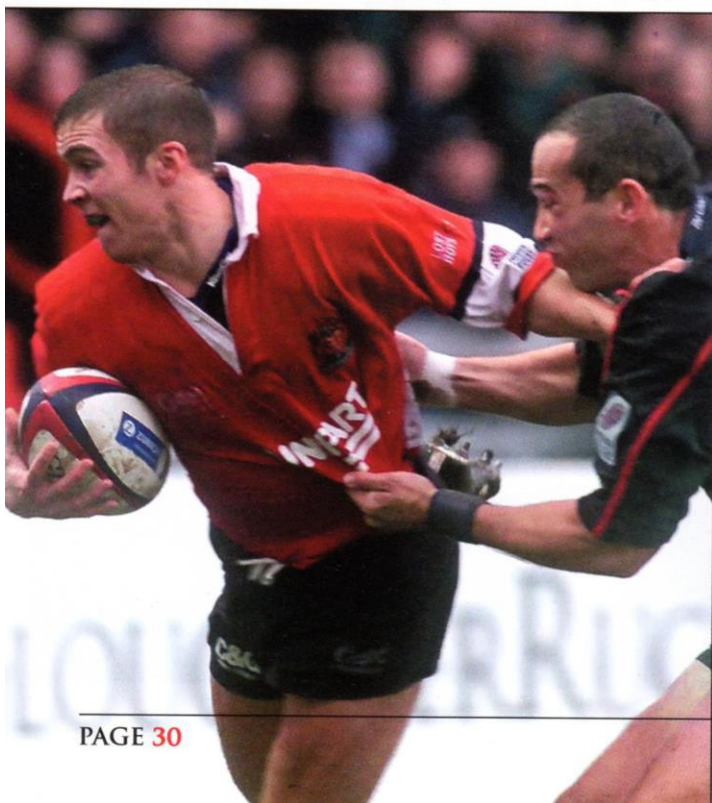
"Well, if you put it that way - yes, actually!" I replied, at which point the caller rang off and I never heard another word about it.

Anyway, after that Plymouth game, Alistair went in search of old friends and colleagues. He found them, too, and the evening passed, all too quickly, on a golden daze of glorious Devonshire accents with much West Country conviviality and singing, which even included a few carols. The rest is a bit of a blur.

Can't remember who gave me a lift home that evening. All I do seem to recall is that he had whiskers and went HO ! HO ! HO ! a lot.

But it was a great way to start Christmas.

**BELOW:
JOE EWENS BREAKS
AWAY FROM LONDON
IRISH CONOR O'SHEA.**





AND AFTER THE ADESTES...

AS I SAY, THE ANNUAL BOXING DAY GAME AGAINST OLD MERCHANT TAILORS IS PART OF HISTORY, AND MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN AND SPOKEN ABOUT IT.

Their final visit, to help celebrate their Centenary Year was a great event, which will not easily be forgotten by anyone - and there was a ground full of us - who was there.

I suppose that that occasion was the last Kingsholm visit from one of that splendid stratum of opponents who we just don't hear about any more. I don't mean the Moseleys and the Coventrys of this world who have, for now at any rate, fallen by the professional wayside. I'm thinking about clubs which were only loosely connected with any particular locality, owing their existence to some organisation or other who thought it was a good idea to run a rugby team. One thinks of the Old Blues, Guy's Hospital, United Services and perhaps even St. Luke's College.

I can't help regretting the passing of those fixtures, even though they were the relics of a bygone age. You can't blame the professional era for their departure from the scene: they had faded into the mists long before the game was dragged into its modern format.

On or about New Year's Day we always seemed to entertain either Moseley or London Scottish, and those games, which always seemed to be played in freezing cold weather, often produced some excellent rugby.

On our such occasion, are attention was caught by a small, bouncing, table-tennis ball

of a centre who was by far the best back that Scottish had on view that day. His name was Don Caskie, who arrived in Barnwood with his parents a little while later, and had a very noteworthy career with Gloucester before moving on to Cheltenham. I think Lewis Dick first visited Kingsholm in one of those matches while still an International winger, and he, of course, also played for us for a few seasons.

However, one always tends to forget that there was usually a game in between Boxing Day and the New Year. For some reason, it always seemed to be against Newport, and some blood and thunder affairs they could be, too. Many people may recall an especially ferocious encounter between Mike Burton and Colin Smart, who had been unwise enough to come to Kingsholm just after he'd taken Burto's England spot.

But my favourite memory of those fixtures concerns my friend David. It wasn't that he was a cold fish - it was just that every time he opened his mouth a light came on. If he'd been any more laid back he'd have fallen off his seat.

At one point in the game one of the large Welsh contingent disagreed with one of the official decisions. "Jesus Christ referee!" he bellowed.

David took the pipe out of his mouth and vouchsafed, "No. That's the English half of your affiliation old boy!"

And if you don't see the joke, well, it's too good to explain.

Finally, I hope you all have as splendid a Christmas as I fully intend to.

ABOVE: JAMIE HAMILTON IS UNABLE TO STOP CHRIS YATES AS HE GOES OVER FOR GLOUCESTERS 2ND TRY.

"MANY PEOPLE MAY RECALL AN ESPECIALLY FEROCIOUS ENCOUNTER BETWEEN MIKE BURTON AND COLIN SMART, WHO HAD BEEN UNWISE ENOUGH TO COME TO KINGSHOLM JUST AFTER HE'D TAKEN BURTO'S ENGLAND SPOT."

BY PETER ARNOLD

MATCH CAPTAIN

KINGSLEY JONES



BEFORE THE NORTHAMPTON FIXTURE LAST WEEK, WE HAD SET OURSELVES THE TARGET OF WINNING ALL THREE MATCHES AGAINST SARACENS, LONDON IRISH AND THEN LEICESTER.

We won two and lost the third, well two out of three isn't bad. The manner in which we lost the game against Leicester was tragic. To concede a try in the eighty-fourth minute was a great shame but we all realise that we didn't play that well in the second half and wasted a golden opportunity to come away with four points. It would have been wonderful to have done what no other team has managed in the last two years but our second half performance didn't deserve it.

The other games were very enjoyable and they were very good wins. Saracens came back at us but we held on and against London Irish I thought we played very well, Simon Mannix and Chris Catling in particular.

This current sequence of games, before and during the Christmas period, are now very important for us. We have got to set ourselves targets. We don't see the three games as a whole but break them down and focus on them individually.

I'm confident that throughout the team we have a strong enough defence to cope with most teams. When Newcastle take the field today though we will be concentrating on our own game. We will have to work very hard in defence, we are fully expecting that, but on the other hand we are confident that at the moment we have the ability to score tries against anyone. If we can get hold of the ball for long enough and sustain any type of pressure we can score points and today we will be looking to do just that.

The conditions are probably not going to suit great running rugby. But rugby is a game played in all conditions. People have said it

in the past, sometimes to offend us, that the rain suits us. We can take it as a compliment though, because it means that our pack is strong.

We have a great squad at the moment, mention any of our front row players like Azam, Deacon, Fortey, Woodman and Vickery and not one if he is asked to play will do anything to weaken the team. That's the key to success though, look at Manchester United, they change their starting line up continuously but always perform well. It's not only in the pack where we are strong either, our backs have improved each season I have been here and continue to improve with each game.

People watching today will obviously highlight Jonny Wilkinson as a threat. He is a great player and can hurt you if you let him. He won't come in for any special treatment though. Newcastle, like all teams now have lots of quality players throughout. If we concentrate on Wilkinson someone else will come through a gap.

Today is a time for us to get our pack moving forward, and our backs to ignite and score lots of tries. And then wish every supporter a very Merry Christmas.

"I'M CONFIDENT THAT THROUGHOUT THE TEAM WE HAVE A STRONG ENOUGH DEFENCE TO COPE WITH MOST TEAMS."

BELOW: CHRIS CATLING BREAKS THROUGH THE LEICESTERS DEFENCE.



TODAY'S TEAMS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 23RD, 2000

GLOUCESTER*

	BYRON HAYWARD	15
	RORY GREENSLADE-JONES	14
(I)	JASON LITTLE	13
	CHRIS YATES	12
	CHRIS CATLING	11
(I)	SIMON MANNIX	10
	ELTON MONCREIFF	9
(I)	TREVOR WOODMAN	1
(I)	OLIVIER AZAM	2
(I)	PHIL VICKERY	3
(I)	ROB FIDLER	4
(I)	IAN JONES	5
(I)	STEVE OJOMOH	6
(I)(C)	KINGSLEY JONES	7
(I)	JUNIOR PARAMORE	8

NEWCASTLE*

	MICHAEL STEPHENSON
	EPI TAIONE
	LIAM BOTHAM
	TOM MAY
	INGA TUIGAMALA
	JONNY WILKINSON
	GARY ARMSTRONG
	MICKEY WARD
	ROSS NESDALE
	MARIUS HUNTER
	STUART GRIMES
	DODDIE WEIR
	RICHARD ARNOLD
	ANDREW MOWER
	JIM JENNER



REPLACEMENTS



(I)	ANDY GOMARSALL	16	IAN PEEL
	JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	17	MIKE HOWE
	ADAM EUSTACE	18	GEORGE GRAHAM
	MARK CORNWELL	19	HUGH VYVYAN
	ANDY DEACON	20	JIMMY CARTNELL
	CHRIS FORTEY	21	HALL CHARLTON
	JAKE BOER	22	DAVE WALDER

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: TBA
TOUCH JUDGES: TBA
FOURTH OFFICIAL: TBA



(I) DENOTES INTERNATIONAL
(C) DENOTES TEAM CAPTAIN
*TEAMS CORRECT AT 15-12-00

the Official Gloucester Matchday Programme is brought to you by

PIA SPORT

tel: 01635 35599
the views expressed in the GRFC Matchday Programme are not necessarily the views of PIA SPORT or Gloucester Rugby Football Club. ©2000