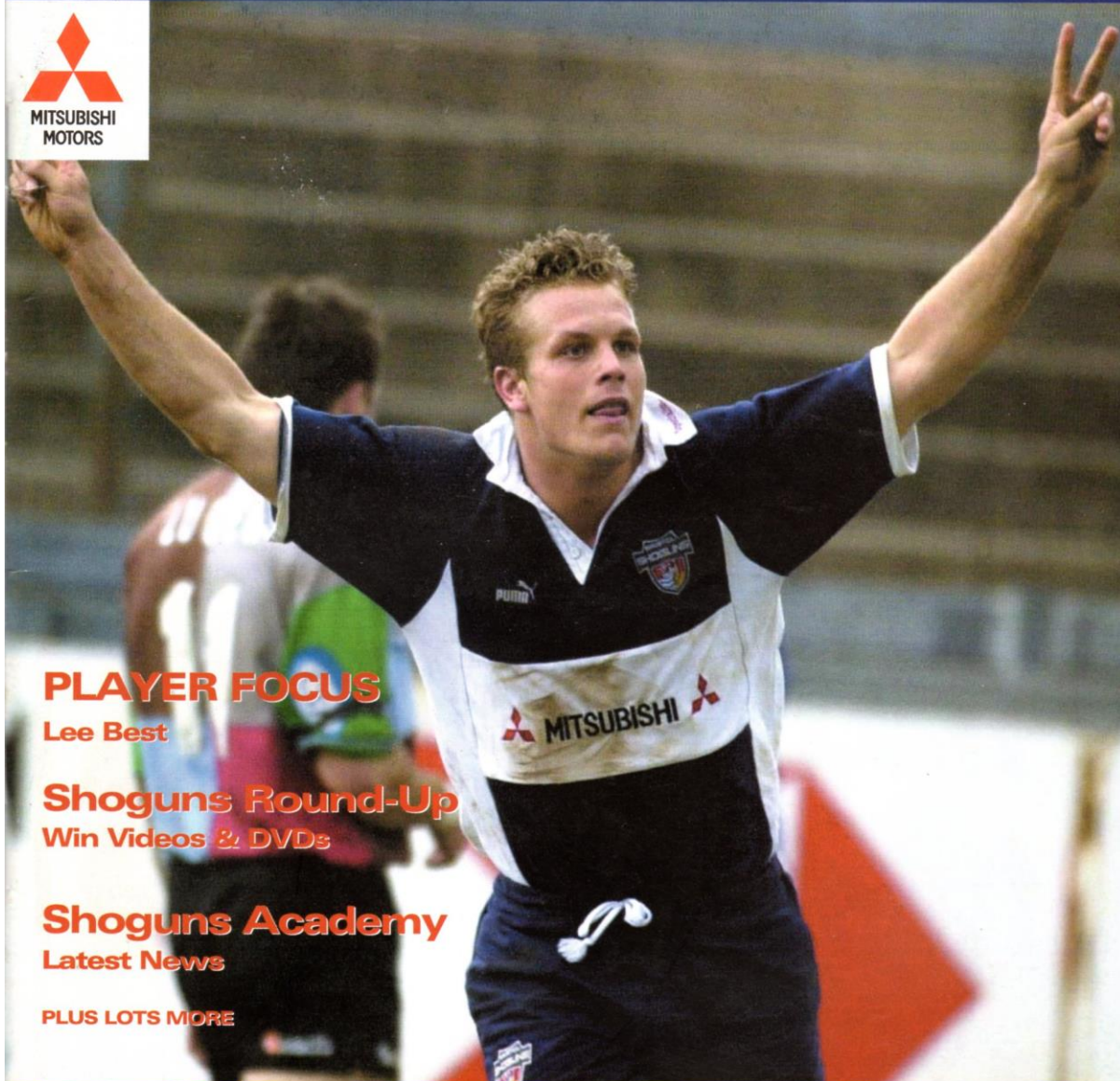


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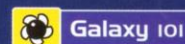


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Bristol Shoguns v Gloucester
Sunday 21st April 2002
3.00pm Kick Off



From the Archive

Bristol 16 Gloucester 11 January 10th 1973

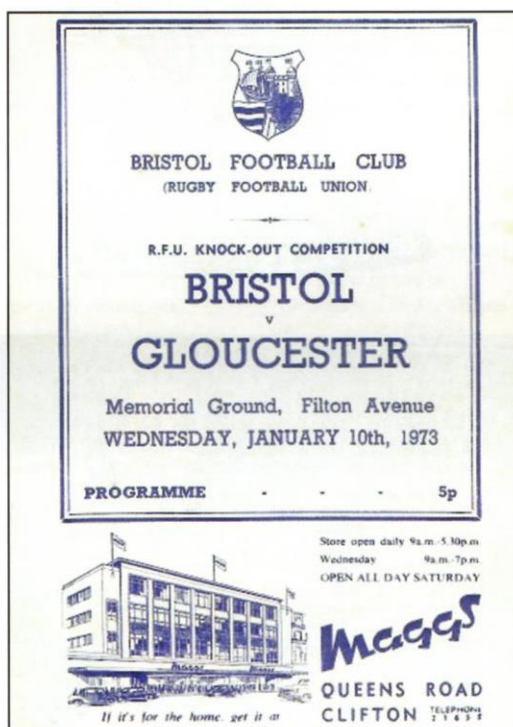
by Mark Hoskins

After years of soul-searching the RFU finally introduced cup rugby in 1971. The early years were not sponsored and it was known as simply 'The RFU Knockout Competition'.

Gloucester RFC was the first winner, and amongst the team's victims en route to the Twickenham final were Bristol. In those days the early rounds were drawn on a regional basis and the following season the clubs met again in the competition, with Bristol thirsting for revenge.

The game was played on a Wednesday evening in January as there were no fixed dates for cup games at that time and clubs were reluctant to disrupt their normal Saturday fixtures. The Bristol team, despite the presence of many great players, was going through a woeful spell of form. They had lost their last three games, an unheard of home defeat against Abertillery, a 50-12 hammering at Llanelli and another home loss, this time to Bedford. Bristol's chances of dethroning the cup holders did not look good.

The match itself turned out to be a real thriller with both sides playing with passionate commitment throughout. Gloucester, with forwards Mike Potter and Alan Brinn outstanding,



had the better of the first half, but Bristol led 9-3 at half time thanks to three penalty goals from scrum-half Alan Pearn. Fullback Peter Butler kicked Gloucester's first half points.

As tension mounted in the second half, two uncharacteristic errors from home centre, Chris Williams, led to Gloucester tries. First he was caught in possession under his posts and wing Bob Clewes scored from the ensuing ruck. Then centre Richard Jardine charged down a

Williams kick for what appeared to be the winning score. Butler failed to convert either try but the scoreboard mistakenly indicated that the second kick was successful. When 13-9 was reduced to 11-9 there was much booing from the away support, but with time running out even 11-9 seemed enough.

But Bristol, with second row Dave Watt and fullback Peter Knight prominent, gradually fought their way back and with just a minute remaining Pearn broke from a scrum and handed on to

number eight Rod Speed. His pass to skipper Tony Nicholls appeared to be fumbled but this was not spotted as that great try-poacher, Alan Morley, picked up, ran, chipped, and just won an exciting race to score amid scenes of wild enthusiasm. Pearn's conversion missed but he added a fourth penalty in injury time to seal the win.

Thus, Bristol became the first team to defeat Gloucester in the cup, just as Gloucester had been their first knockout conquerors the previous season. In fact Bristol beat Gloucester three times in the 1972-3 season but could not win the cup, losing to Coventry in the final.

At the close of the game, Gloucester skipper, John Bayliss, was severely critical of referee Theo Foley. "To say I was disappointed is an understatement. I can only hope he was incompetent and not biased." He wouldn't be allowed to get away with that today, would he!

Bristol became the first team to defeat Gloucester in the cup, just as Gloucester had been their first knockout conquerors the previous season.

Today's Opposition

By James Bennett

Photography by: Bruce Seabrook, Gloucestershire Picture Agency





The Bristol versus Gloucester fixture is one of the oldest and one of the most traditional fixtures in the domestic calendar. Whilst Gloucester has already enjoyed two victories over its West Country rivals this year, the team is still plagued by a traditional Gloucester hindrance. No matter how strong the team's home form is, it is still unable to develop any consistency away from home.

A solitary away league win against Sale Sharks is a poor return for a Cherry and Whites' squad that has, save Leicester, conquered all that stood before them at fortress Kingsholm.

Gloucester arrive at the Memorial Ground today on the back of their two worst league defeats of the season. During two games in four days away from Kingsholm they have leaked over one hundred points, thirteen tries and have played for more than eighty minutes with a man less than their opponents

through indiscipline.

It is this indiscipline and away form that new director of rugby, Nigel Melville must address first. After weeks of speculation, he joined Gloucester last month as successor to Philippe Saint Andre at a time when Gloucester had consolidated second place in the Premiership and reached the Parker Pen Shield Semi Final.

Prior to the Northampton fixture last weekend, Melville had maintained a low profile at training. His former club, Wasps were adamant that he should take no part in the preparation for matches until after the rescheduled game between the London side and the Cherry and Whites, which took place on Wednesday 10th April.

Melville did not enjoy his return to London as his former side turned over his current one by five tries to nil. Last Saturday Gloucester conceded eight as the defence and discipline, on which they

had worked so hard, fell apart.

On joining the Kingsholm Club Nigel Melville said: "I just want to go forward and win things. I have won things with Wasps and I would like to do the same here".

After the Northampton game however, he realised that at the centre of Gloucester's recent defeats was a complete lack of discipline and that without a full quota of players on the pitch in away games the team will continue to struggle. Melville said: "Today should have emphasised to all the players just how important it is to keep a full side on the pitch. Discipline was a problem, but we are making moves to sort this out".

Melville has a tough act to follow. Saint-Andre had

assembled a squad that has the potential to achieve much and during his imposed exile from the training pitch Melville concentrated on securing the services of key players for next season.

On Good Friday, the Club announced the re-signing of Captain Phil Vickery and top point scorer Ludovic Mercier. They join Boer, Todd, Pucciariello and Azam as players already signed up. Azam received the extra boost this month as an independent RFU committee cleared him of racism after allegations following the match against Newcastle on December 29th.

Away from domestic competition, the Cherry and Whites have swept all before them. They finished top of their Parker Pen Shield Pool with six wins out of six. In the Quarter Final stages Gloucester disposed of Welsh team Ebbw Vale and they will return to Franklin's Gardens at the end of this month to play Sale Sharks in the semi-final.

Today though, thoughts will be focused on important league points. With Heineken Cup rugby the focal point for next season, Gloucester will want to return to second place before they turn their attention to the European Shield next weekend.



Today's Opposition

OLIVIER AZAM

DATE OF BIRTH 21/10/74
POSITION Hooker/Prop
HEIGHT (M) 1.85
WEIGHT (KG) 115
FORMER CLUB Montferand
INTERNATIONAL HONS
 France, France (A)



Strong French forward who enjoys the game's physical nature. Can play comfortably in any of the front row positions and his versatility was tested to the extreme throughout last season. One of Azam's greatest assets is his strength in the loose, if he is on his game there are few more devastating runners in the Premiership. He is a recognised ball carrier who makes the hard yards look easy. His downfall though this season has been the question mark over his discipline. He was part of the French Grand Slam winning squad and if he wants to remain in Bernard La Porte's plans he needs a cleaner image.

TOM BEIM

DATE OF BIRTH 11/12/76
POSITION Wing
HEIGHT (M) 1.83
WEIGHT (KG) 86.6
FORMER CLUB Sale
INTERNATIONAL HONS
 England 1998 Tour



Although his season was disrupted by injury Tom finished top try scorer with ten touchdowns in the last campaign. He showed his finishing ability with a fantastic solo effort against Bath in the Tetley Bitter Cup and scored a Heineken Cup record five tries against Roma in the pool stages.

This season has been decimated by another shoulder operation last April. He was forced to spend eleven months on the sidelines as the surgeon prescribed a lengthy rehabilitation period.

He returned to first team action against Wasps on April 10th, fitter, stronger and keen to make up for lost time. He is a beautifully balanced runner given space and he has lost none of his hunger for scoring tries.

JAKE BOER

DATE OF BIRTH 01/11/75
POSITION Flanker
HEIGHT (M) 1.87
WEIGHT (KG) 103.4
FORMER CLUB L. Irish



Joined Gloucester after being named London Irish's player of the season 99/00. Bullocking South African who took a while to settle but has since earned the respect of players and fans alike with his honesty and commitment. Has earned the respect of his peers to such an extent that in Club Captain Phil Vickery's absence both Saint-Andre and Nigel Melville did not hesitate in awarding him the Captainscy. He is a strong tackler who works tirelessly in the loose. Will want the international recognition he strives for soon.

CHRIS CATLING

DATE OF BIRTH 17/06/76
POSITION Full Back
HEIGHT (M) 1.87
WEIGHT (KG) 90
FORMER CLUB Exeter
INT HONS Eng (A)



The supporter's player of the year last year. Catling has had spells at wing but has become one of the Premiership's finest full-backs. He is a devastating strike runner in attack and his defence is second to none. Very safe under the high ball and is a fearless tackler. Has missed much of the season after injuring his shoulder whilst scoring a try against Bristol at Kingsholm. After a successful rehabilitation programme though he is back and eager to regain his place in the side. He remains highly rated by many good judges and is desperate to show his obvious ability on an international stage.

JAMES FORRESTER

DATE OF BIRTH 09/02/81
POSITION No.8
HEIGHT 1.95 m
WEIGHT 98.4 kg
FORMER CLUB Bicester
 2000 - 2001 GRFC Academy



Before this season he listed his career highlight to date as scoring a try under the posts on debut against London Irish last year. This season however, he has enjoyed unparalleled success and his career highlights just keep coming. He is a tall, agile player who can play in any of the positions in the back row. James is an excellent ball handler who can provide the essential link between forwards and backs. His ability was never better demonstrated than in the Durban leg of the IRB World Sevens tournament. With his first touch in international colours he sprinted a full fifty yards to touch down. He has shown he is more than capable of scoring magnificent tries this season. He scored a hat trick against Caerphilly before Christmas and repeated the feat against Bristol in the Powergen Cup in January.

From the Archive

County Friends

by Dave Fox

Matches between Bristol and Gloucester are scarcely mild affairs. Traditionally, perhaps, the most fiercely competitive of all local derbies in English rugby. Yet these players, who would cheerfully kick lumps out of each other one Saturday, would combine the following weekend to form a potent rugby force in the guise of the county, Gloucestershire.

To date, Gloucestershire has won the county championship on 16 occasions, a record they share with Lancashire. In addition, Gloucestershire has been runner-up on 13 other occasions.

Although Gloucestershire won three successive titles between 1920 and 1922 and 1930 and 1932, the golden years are undoubtedly the period 1970 to 1984. In these 15 seasons

Gloucestershire won six titles and were runners up on six occasions. They featured in a record seven successive finals from 1970, winning three in succession from 1974 to 1976.

Bristol players have played a crucial part in the history of the county rugby side. In 1972 Gloucestershire won the title for the first time in 37 years. Bristol lock Dave Watt led from the front in a remarkable victory against a Warwickshire side brimming with Coventry players at Coundon Road, with Alan Morley and Charlie Hannaford scoring the visitors tries. Watt's achievement, first successful captain since Bristol's Ronnie Morris in 1937, was continued by John Pullin, then captain of England. He led Gloucestershire in the 22 -

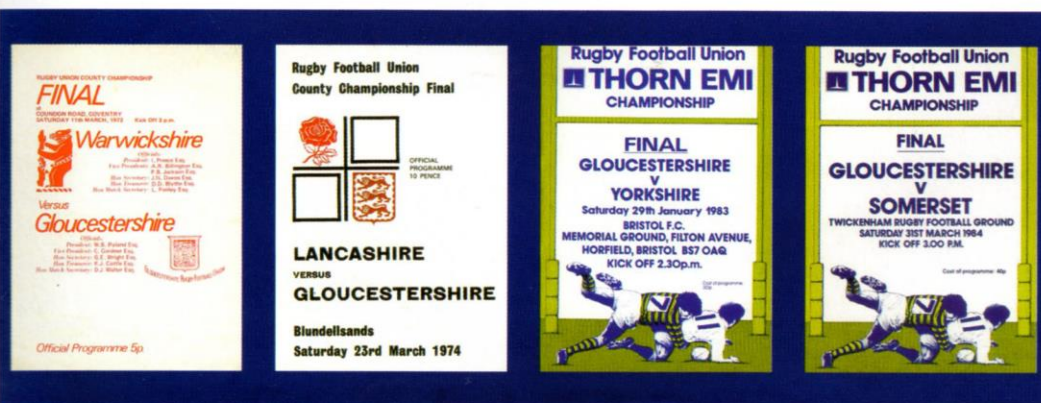
12 victory over Lancashire in 1974 in which Morley scored two tries.

Gloucester centre John Bayliss captained the successful 1975 and 1976 sides before Bristol's Mike Rafter took over the helm, and led the side in a record five finals, including the 1983 and 1984 victories. All eight backs in the 1983 final were Bristol players, this final was the last of the five played at the Memorial Ground. All six tries in the 36 - 18 win over Somerset were scored by Bristol players, with the remarkable Morley scoring a brace. Morley played in eight finals, scoring tries in four of the victories.

Sadly, the county championship has been severely devalued since the advent of league rugby in England. The leading clubs are reluctant to release their

players to represent the county these days. As a result the likelihood of so many Bristol and Gloucester players donning the Gloucestershire jersey together again is remote. A great tradition lost.

Bristol lock Dave Watt led from the front in a remarkable victory against a Warwickshire side brimming with Coventry players at Coundon Road, with Alan Morley and Charlie Hannaford scoring the visitors tries.



Bristol Shoguns



Gloucester

1	Darren Crompton	Loosehead	Patrice Collazo	1
2	Neil McCarthy*	Hooker	Olivier Azam	2
3	Julian White*	Tighthead	Federico Pucciariello	3
4	Garath Archer	Lock	Rob Fidler	4
5	Alex Brown	Lock	Mark Cornwell	5
6	Andrew Sheridan	Blindside	James Forrester	6
7	Michael Lipman	Openside	Jake Boer C	7
8	Ben Sturnham*	No.8	Junior Paramore	8
9	Agustin Pichot*	Scrum Half	Andy Gomarsall	9
10	Felipe Contepomi*	Fly Half	Ludovic Mercier	10
11	Phil Christophers	Left Wing	Tom Beim	11
12	Jason Little (c)*	Centre	Terry Fanolua	12
13	Andrew Higgins	Centre	James Simpson-Daniel	13
14	David Rees*	Right Wing	Daren O'Leary	14
15	Lee Best	Fullback	Chris Catling	15
16	Saul Nelson*	REPLACEMENT	Dimitri Yachvili	16
17	Emiliano Bergamaschi*	REPLACEMENT	Henry Paul	17
18	Craig Short	REPLACEMENT	Joe Ewens	18
19	Chris Morgan	REPLACEMENT	Andy Deacon	19
20	Ross Blake	REPLACEMENT	Trevor Woodman	20
21	Shane Drahm	REPLACEMENT	Koli Sewabu	21
22	Jamie Williams	REPLACEMENT	Craig Gillies	22

* denotes international

REFEREE:
Tony Spreadbury

Touch Judges:
Roy Maybank (Snr)
Ashley Reay (Jnr)

4th Official:
Mark Doran



**BRISTOL
SHOGLUNS**



**HOTEL du VIN
&
BISTRO**