

Gloucester

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



vs Newport

FRIDAY 16TH AUGUST 2002
KICK-OFF 7.30PM

Baan Club Sponsor
www.baan.com



NIGELS NOTES...

Nigel Melville
Director of Rugby

Welcome to Kingsholm for this evenings pre-season 'friendly' home game against Newport.

It seems like only yesterday that we were celebrating victory together at Twickenham having won the Zurich Championship Final.

This is the first opportunity I have had to thank everyone for the part they played in the team's success last season. I know it meant so much to so many after such a long wait, I hope that all the effort was worth it in the end! The player's certainly took away many happy memories together with the desire to make sure we don't have to wait another twenty-years to win a major trophy!

So what's been happening at Gloucester during the short off-season?

The arrival of three new players, Thinus Delpont (Natal Sharks), Peter Buxton (Newport), and Simon Amor (Cambridge University), has further strengthened the squad and I am pleased to announce that they have been joined by three new members of the coaching team.

The arrival of Dean Ryan (Bristol), Wayne Diesel (Springboks) and Rudi Meir (Australia), highlights my belief that with improved coaching and support staff every Gloucester player can get better – the result being a better team!

This certainly doesn't mean the players can sit in a comfort zone – far from it- if they don't deliver the desired levels of performance – we are always looking for new talent.

During the latter part of last season we put in place a system of recruitment and development that should see Gloucester RFC produce more home grown talent for future seasons. The Gloucester Academy programme now boasts a strong U21

squad, who are training alongside the 1st XV squad. They will be playing their Premiership home games on Friday evenings, I hope you can come along and follow their progress.

There will also be a number of United games played on Monday nights, the United team will be a blend of youth and experience, providing games for the frequently benched players and experience for the rising 'stars'. Forthcoming fixtures will be placed regularly in our match programmes and on the Club's official Web Site.

Earlier this week we returned from our South African tour having played two fixtures against Durban Rovers and the Natal Sharks. The success of the tour was judged on performance, not results. The opening game was a convincing win against an unofficial Natal B squad, a convincing win that is, with lots to work on.

"THIS IS THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY I HAVE HAD TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THE PART THEY PLAYED IN THE TEAM'S SUCCESS LAST SEASON."

The Natal Sharks game was a huge test, the first forty-minutes was spent chasing shadows whilst we came to terms with the intensity of the contest. In the second half we raised our standards and intensity to new levels, when we looked like we were about to record a notable victory the referee stepped in to restore the balance! ■



Thinus Delpont. Just one of Nigel Melville's summer signings.



CAPTAINS CORNER

Phil Vickery

Club Captain

First of all I would like to welcome everyone back to Kingsholm for tonight's game against Newport. Since that wonderful final at Twickenham we haven't really had chance to thank you all for your support and share with you, the supporters, the pride that we all felt after winning the Championship trophy.

Tonight promises to be another special occasion, the first home game of any season always is and on a personal note, I am very excited about our prospects this year.

Many of you will have kept up to date with our pre-season preparations, on the web site and in the local press. On the whole I feel they have gone very well. The tour to South Africa, was a very good one, and very positive. It is a very good place to go. Training was hard, but no one has moaned about that. We all got our heads down and got on with it.

Of course the game against the Durban Rovers was pretty easy for us, but we were able to use it to get everyone on the pitch, and it served its purpose. The Natal Sharks, though were a different kettle of fish. We showed a lot of character, in the way we came back into the game, but really it highlighted a lot of areas where a lot of work is still to be done on our game. But as I said before the tour started we needed that sort of test. You don't want to go into your first league game without having played against good enough opposition.

We talked a lot last year about staying in the comfort zone. You won't improve unless you keep pushing your limits and testing yourself. The Natal Sharks was certainly a big step up at this time of the season, and it was disappointing to lose, but I'm glad we played the game. Losing in pre-season is not always a bad thing. Sometimes winning against

weak opposition can smear over cracks in the game plan and structure.

Tonight, of course, is another step up for us again. Newport are a club with a strong Welsh history, they have assembled a squad of very strong players, they enjoy great support, and they will be looking to do even better than they did last season.

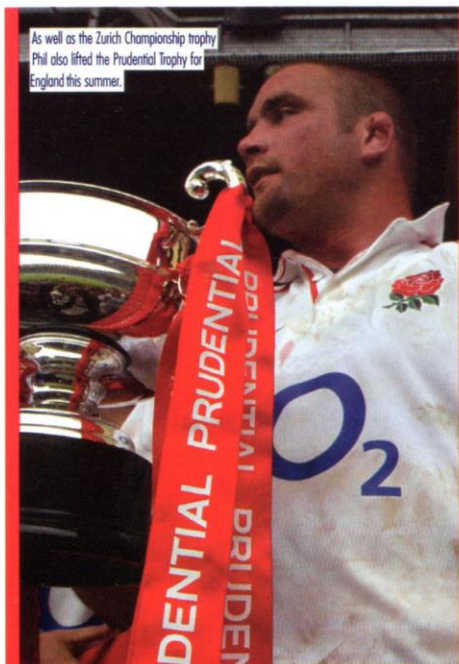
They won't fear anything coming to Kingsholm, they will want to do the same as us, play some good rugby and prepare themselves for the big games in their season.

We must remember that, whatever the result today, and indeed on Wednesday at Rodney Parade, we know what we want to achieve and we know our philosophy.

"...ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I AM VERY EXCITED ABOUT OUR PROSPECTS THIS YEAR."

We want to take what we do on the training pitch into games and particularly into the Premiership, when points are on offer. These next two games are very important, but only as preparation for the real test that begins away at Harlequins and then back at Kingsholm against the (Sale) Sharks.

I hope everyone enjoys their evening and that we will see you all here again on September 7th. ■



As well as the Zurich Championship trophy Phil also lifted the Prudential Trophy for England this summer.

This week's programme includes a piece from Chris Catling. Not such a budding journalist, Catling is the Gloucester RFC representative of the PRA, the rugby player's union in effect. He was asked to script a review of last year's season and it gives a real insight into the thoughts of the player's minds in that wonderful Championship winning season.



Having read through the articles written for the journal last year by the various player reps, I realised that I may have misinterpreted the brief for the article and my ranting about summer rugby should perhaps have been saved for another time and really a review of the Gloucester season may have been more appropriate. As Gloucester have just completed one of their most successful Premiership campaigns, including winning the first piece of serious silverware for many years, a review of the season seems the best way forward this time round.

If Gloucester is like the other rugby clubs in the Premiership, this journal will be mostly read in the physio room whilst the physiotherapist grapples with the impossible job of treating half a dozen players an hour before training starts. Having spent most of last season on the physio bench myself the journal did actually provide more interesting reading than the other cultured offerings in the medical centre; these included backdated copies of the Sun (never from the actual day you were reading), a French car magazine and an old physiotherapy manual (which had as many Latin words as English ones). Put against these literary masterpieces the journal fairs quite well.

Last season saw the end of the Saint-Andre regime. The club and Phillipe decided to part company just as Gloucester were enjoying a very successful period. Phillipe bought the club a long way and educated players into the style of rugby he wanted to play, however the difficulty of keeping a fresh outlook and motivating players whilst remaining successful on the pitch became apparent. Gloucester were sitting 2nd in the Premiership when Phillipe left the club, perhaps a fitting tribute to the work he had done. The change bought a sense of fresh air and a working environment that should stand us in good stead for the coming season.

The 2001/02 season was a strange one in the fact that most of the recognised heavyweights didn't

perform as people expected them to. With the exception of Leicester the top spots in the league were heavily contested between sides that most pundits would not have tipped at the beginning of the year. Gloucester's success relied on winning all but one (Leicester) of their home games. Picking up a few wins on the road and securing bonus points in almost every defeat was the key to a good year. Winning away from home is probably the biggest development for a Gloucester side – it certainly helps in terms of bonuses!

Not many people would have foreseen the Premiership top spots last year, so it is probably best to steer clear from any predictions for the coming year. The parity between almost all of the clubs in the division lends itself to intense competition week-in, week-out. This makes for interesting encounters throughout the year and a very marketable product.

It did feel strange to play in a game just as the England cricket team were preparing to start their 3rd test of the summer, with this and the distractions of the Football World Cup, the Championship final may not have been the event it could have been. The PRA is influential in structuring the games in the season and may need to look at this closely as it did seem strange for the season to go on so long. Perhaps a remedy would be to play the Championship as a curtain raiser to the new season – a time when clubs are trying to find meaningful pre-season games. The success of the Charity shield in Football would suggest this might be a more sensible time to play it rather than the second week in June.

As I write this, we have been back pre-season training for a week – I have succumbed to the physio bench during the week with a bad back. Nothing to do with the honeymoon I have just returned from I hasten to add. With a few additions to the playing squad and the management team, Gloucester looks set to mount a challenging campaign for 2002/03.

WHO'S NEW AT KINGSHOLM

Simon Amor

Position: Halfback

DoB: 25.04.79

Height: 1.69m

Weight: 72Kg

Previous Club: Cambridge University

International Honours: England 7's

The graduate in Management Studies has joined Gloucester to provide essential cover at both half-back positions. Amor made a name for himself last season by being the only non-contracted player to play regularly in the England 7's squad. He was a member of the squad that triumphed in Hong Kong, where he contributed 13 points including a solo try in the final, and is part of the Commonwealth games squad.

Peter Buxton

Position: Back Row

DOB: 21.08.78

Height: 193cm

Weight: 108kg

International Honours: England A

Previous Club: Newport

After chasing his man for some time Nigel Melville was very pleased to announce Buxton as the first of his summer signings. Can play either blind side or number eight. Started his career at Cheltenham before moving to Moseley. After a successful spell there, he moved to Welsh side Newport and was an ever present in the Heineken Cup for the Welsh side last season. Buxton was also called up for the England A Six Nations Squad this season.

Thinus Delport

Position: Fullback/ Wing

DoB: 02.02.75

Height: 188cm

Weight: 98kg

Previous Club: Sharks

International Honours: South Africa, 12caps

Twelve times capped Springbok with blistering pace and powerful running ability. Despite being selected for the end-of-season Springboks Tour to Europe in 1997, Delport had narrowly lost out in 1998, but was back to his best the following year. He scored a staggering 20 tries in 22 matches for the Lions under Laurie Mains. At the beginning of this season's Super 12 series before moving across to the Sharks, Thinus Delport had achieved more caps (38) for the Golden Cats (Super 12), than any other player. He had also represented the Golden Lions provisional side 63 times scoring 47 tries.

Wayne Diesel

PhD, BSc (MED) (HONS) BSc

Position: Physiotherapist

Previous Club: South African Springboks

Head Physiotherapist to the Springboks since 1998 and joins Gloucester after attending his 50th match in charge of the Physiotherapy team. BSc in Physiotherapy and a 1st class BSc (MED) (HONS) in Sports Science, Diesel then went on to read for a PhD in Exercise Physiology. He gained clinical experience in Johannesburg, General hospital, and then private practice. Head Physio at the All-African Games, the Olympics, and Commonwealth Games, Stormers Super 12 and Western Province cricket team. Also worked with many South African national representative teams.

Rudi Meir

Position: Fitness & Conditioning Coach

Previous Club: England U21

The Australian Meir, has previously worked alongside both Melville and Ryan in the England U21 set-up, after working with a number of both Union and League teams as a specialist coaching and skills consultant. Senior Lecturer at Southern Cross University in Australia, Meir with an MSc in exercise physiology, a BSc in Sports Coaching and a Diploma of Sport Science has published more than 70 articles on sports coaching, training and management issues with particular reference to rugby league and rugby union

Dean Ryan

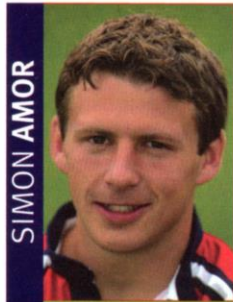
Position: Coach

Previous Club: Bristol

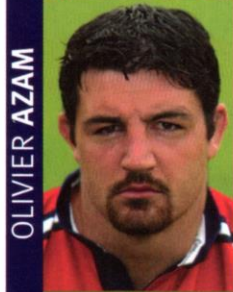
International Honours: England, 4caps

A four-time England International, Ryan left Wasps to take up his first coaching role as player coach, under Rob Andrew, at Newcastle and then moved down to Bristol where he started in the same role before moving up to Director of Rugby. Joins Gloucester after leading Bristol to eighth in the Premiership and the Championship final. Worked with Nigel Melville and Meir within the England U21 structure.

GLOUCESTER SQUAD 2002/03



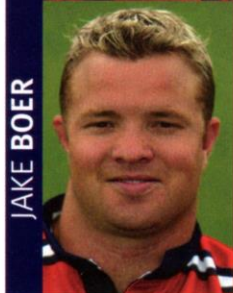
SIMON AMOR



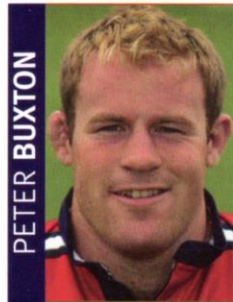
OLIVIER AZAM



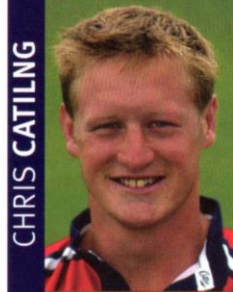
TOM BEIM



JAKE BOER



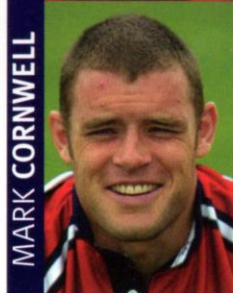
PETER BUXTON



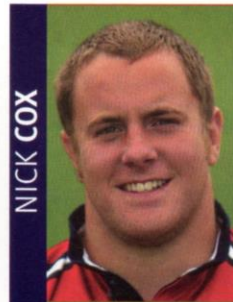
CHRIS CATLING



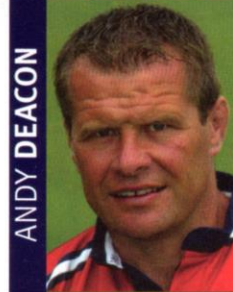
PATRICE COLLAZO



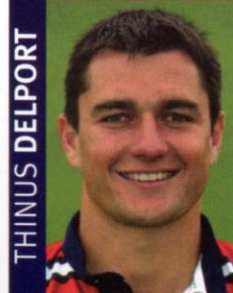
MARK CORNWELL



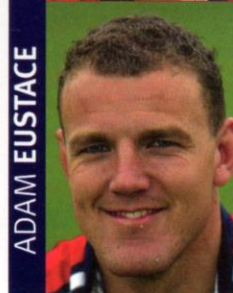
NICK COX



ANDY DEACON



THINUS DELPORT



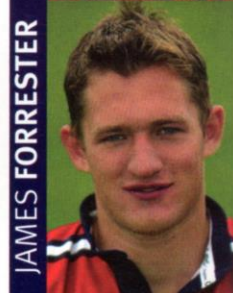
ADAM EUSTACE



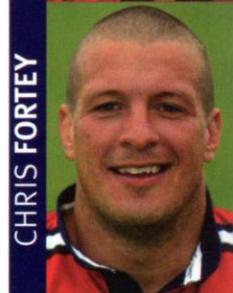
TERRY FANOLUA



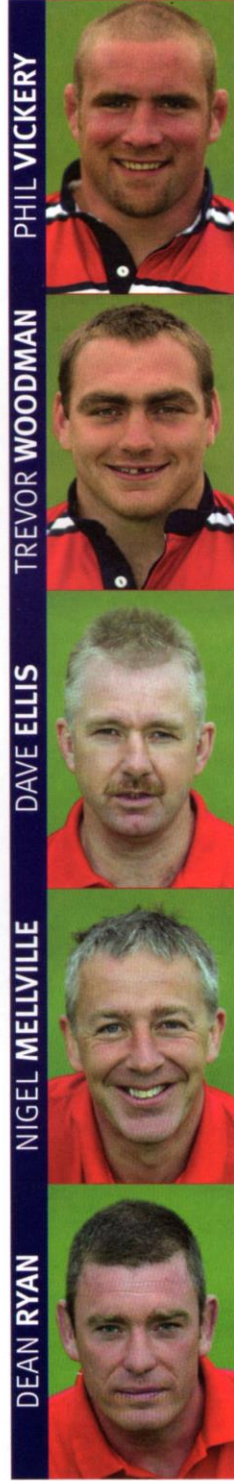
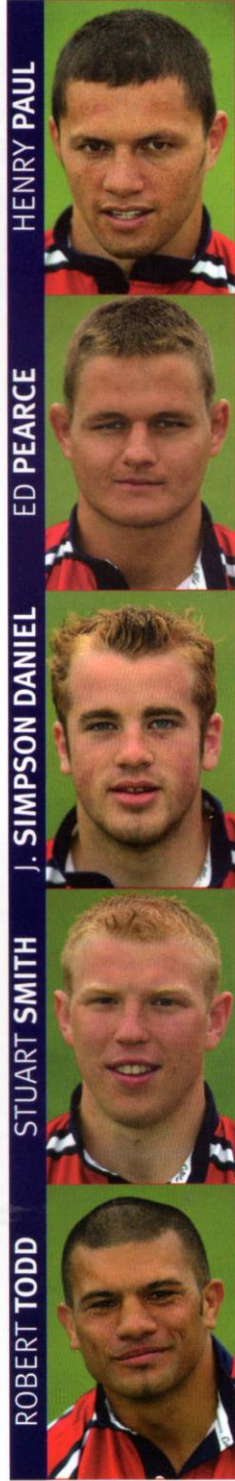
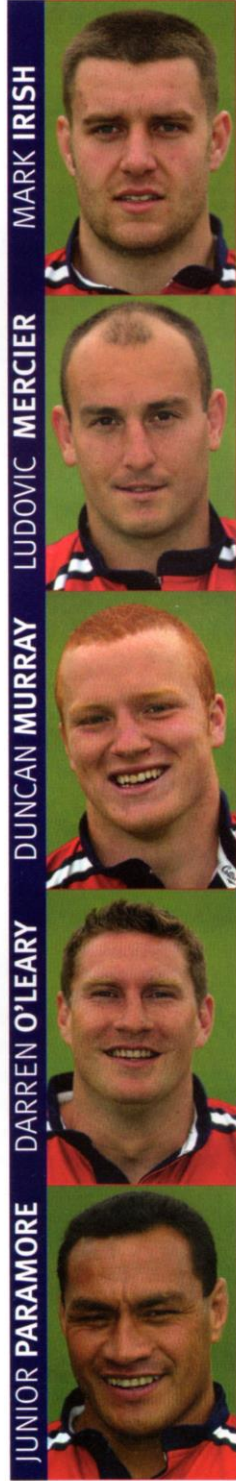
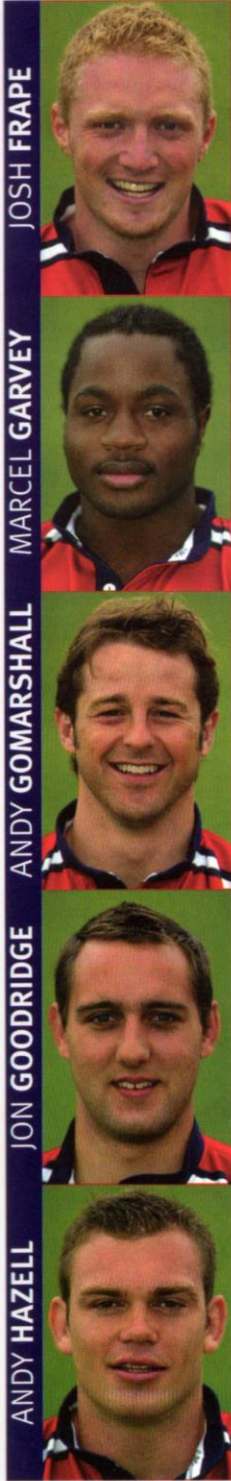
ROB FIDLER

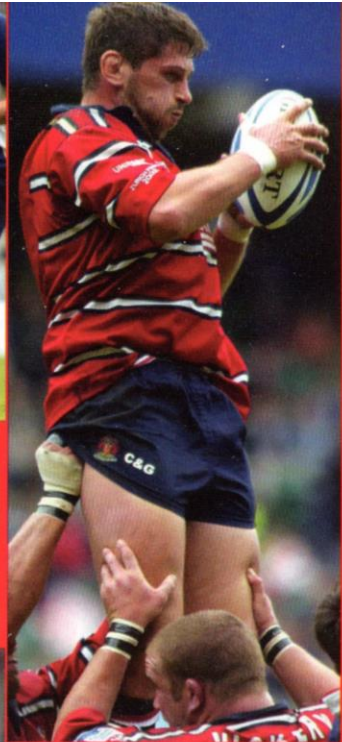


JAMES FORRESTER



CHRIS FORTHEY





Zurich Championship Final
Twickenham, 08 Jun 2002.

Gloucester 28 v Bristol 23





Gloucester Aiming For Seventh Heaven.

The shortened form of the game, invented in Melrose, Scotland, as a funds maker for their hard up Club, will make its annual trip to rugby headquarters tomorrow as a preview of the Premiership Season, which kicks off in earnest at the end of August.

Premier Rugby has signed a five-year agreement with the Middlesex County and have demanded that the Middlesex Charity Sevens is patronised wholly by the respective Premiership teams.

Each side must include at least six first team or international players. Gloucester have done both, and what's more, they have included international sevens players within the squad that promise to be

On paper, with so much sevens experience within the squad Gloucester have a reasonable chance of progressing in this years tournament. Many of the potential squad have played international sevens this season and Paul is hopeful that this experience will count.

"We have a number of players with experience but sevens is a lot about mistakes. We need possession to win and hopefully we can get more possession than our opponents. Sometimes though you need a lot of luck, I hope we are lucky on the day".

Bradford and Wigan rugby league teams have both confirmed their attendance at this year's event. Wigan, of course, famously won the tournament in 1996 but from a neutral's point of view, there can be no greater prospect than that of the two Paul

GLOUCESTER SEVENS TEAM

HENRY PAUL
SIMON AMOR
CHRIS CATLING
JAMES FORRESTER
ANDY HAZELL
MARCEL GARVEY
CLIVE STUART-SMITH
JOSH FRAPE
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL
THINUS DELPORT
ANDY GOMARSALL



World beaters in their own right.

The team will be lead by Henry Paul. Fresh from the Commonwealth Games and a season of international Sevens, Paul is convinced of the benefits of having this form of the game included in the international and domestic season.

"The Commonwealth games showed that there are a lot of youngsters coming through that will benefit from playing sevens. Just look at how New Zealand use sevens as a development ground for players who have gone on to be a success at fifteen-a-side. Now England are seeing the benefits with players like James Simpson-Daniel, James Forrester and Ben Gollins from Quins", Paul points out.

Sevens is a game that is always seen as a light hearted form of rugby, Paul is keen to maintain that perception but also highlights the amount of training that goes into preparing for a tournament these days.

"Now there is a structure, a lot of improvement and a lot more focus on mistakes as teams nullify each other", he said.

brothers going head to head, as will be the case if, injury permitting both Gloucester and Bradford progress past their first tie.

Henry Paul's brother Robbie is in line for a tournament debut with the Bradford Bulls, Henry's old rugby league side. The sibling rivalry that has always been a huge part of the Paul brother's culture has certainly not diminished over time and following Henry's move to Union the chances for 'bragging rights' don't come around too often.

"It would be good to get one over on each other, there is lots of sibling rivalry between myself and Robbie".

Henry will potentially face a number of ex-colleagues from Bradford and his sense of one-upmanship does not end with his brother.

"I would love to kick their butts", he admits "But first they have got to get there, they will have a lot to prove, so we will have to wait and see", he said.

Gloucester's first game is against Harlequins, who they play in the first Premiership game of the season on Saturday 31st August.

Durban 2002 Tour Diary

Departure/ Arrival.

We left Heathrow in good spirits, with Robert Todd and his motivational team working their magic. Senior members of the squad were peeved however, that James Simpson-Daniel, young superstar and Jonah Lomu tamer, had earned himself the only Business Class seat in the entire tour party. Arrival of the food seemed to banish the grumblings.

On arrival, the Durban Head of Police, gave us talk on the do's and don'ts of Durban life. The squad was slightly surprised to be going training just a couple of hours after arrival, it was made very clear that it was 'down to business' from here. Squad turned in an excellent training session with progress being made by both forwards and backs. If the squad was surprised at training on arrival it was further shocked by a fitness session at the end of training, everyone put in 100% effort and players and coaches alike were delighted with the effort at the session.

With a long journey very well run out of our legs the squad returned to the hotel for diner and a well deserved early night.

Day 2, 3rd August. Down to business

The next day it kicked off where it finished the previous evening; with a very hard training session. The forwards did their first scrummage session of the season on a pre first-world-war scrummage machine.

The afternoon session was run by new Gloucester coach Dean Ryan and Defence Guru Dave Ellis. Out came the shoulder pads and gumshields. Trainer of the day was Trevor Woodman. James Forrester.

Day 3, 4th August. Shark Watching

When you think of shark watching, you imagine what you see on the Discovery channel; Great Whites chewing lumps of flesh off the back of a boat thrashing around in the water. Now 5:30 am on a damp Sunday morning, on a boat with 'Booze Cruise' written on the side we wondered where our Tour Manager's Priorities lay. After two hours, 1 dolphin and 3 brown seagulls the squad returned to land, limping on one engine at an all time tour low Robert Todd and his motivational team left with a lot of work to do.

With a good hearty breakfast and an hour back in bed we met for our first session of the day. A unit session at a near by school in a Durban drizzle. Tempers were still frayed after the morning's fiasco but after some personal feelings were vented a good session was achieved.

After lunch, we had a few hours to put our feet up before we set off for our final team run, before the Durban Rover's game. This was a high quality session, as we can see that some of our patterns of play are coming together.
Rob Fidler.

Day 4, 5th August. Game Day v Durban Rovers. Rovers 7-67 GRFC

Enjoyed a relaxing morning as a lot of the team decided to have well-deserved lie in after a hard training session the day before. While some of the team were in bed a few of us decided to go shopping and to see what the mall was like.

Lunch at twelve, then personal preparation time, where we did what we would normally do the day of a game e.g. sleep, read etc.

At four we had our pre match meal, including a good supply of carbohydrates and protein. Then had a team meeting to discuss our game plan and strategy for the game. After the meeting we then dispersed to the ground for the game. The game started off at a frantic pace and the Durban Rovers took us by surprise by scoring a soft try through a weakened defence but 'the guru' Dave Ellis sorted it in the talk at half time. The team grew in confidence and put in a strong performance with debutants Thinus, Peter and Rodriguez putting in good performances. Marcel Garvey.

Day 5, 6th August. Post Match

After a convincing, but hard fought win the night before against Durban Rovers, the season was now underway. There was not much time to rest however, as at 9.45 compensation training began. It involved running into the sea, getting knocked down by the waves, swimming a bit and then repeating this again and again until you drowned.

The afternoon was somewhat at leisure, Some went to play golf, others simply relaxed, enjoying the beach and all it had to offer. This was followed by an afternoon weights session before having a team meeting about the game the night before, to sort out a few things that didn't quite work from the previous night. Most people then got an early night knowing that they had a hard day coming up... especially defence.

Clive Stuart Smith

Day 6, 7th August, Defence

This was a hard day of training focusing initially on skills and running lines. The afternoon session was a hard, full-on contact drill, working on defence. Things looked like they were progressing well. It was to be an early night looking forward to a hard encounter with Natal Sharks on Friday.

Clive Stuart-Smith

Day 7, 8th August Pre-Match

Much of the day was devoted to an inter-squad pool and table tennis tournament in the hotel. Felt quietly confident. Pasty knocked out within twenty minutes of both competitions! Team run lacked a bit of intensity, but back at hotel all were feeling confident after a good week's training. Doc Mackay was not happy after missing a golfing opportunity to go with a player to buy a gumshield.

James Simpson-Daniel.

Day 8, 9th August. Game Day 2 Natal Sharks 42-34 GRFC

Left to own devices through the morning to prepare for the game. Pre-match meeting to discuss game, strategy and tactics, and then pre-match meal to take on the carbohydrates and proteins needed for the game. Mood within the camp very positive, although we all knew it would be a tough test against the Sharks. Everyone though was eager to play. Boiling hot day. Poor first half, defensive performance, and stern talking to by Vickery, Melville and Ellis at half time. Showed a lot of character in second half and on the whole, although disappointed by the result, glad of the run out and second half come back.

Chris Catling

Day 9 10th August. Springboks v All Black test.

An Amazing day. Burton's hospitality was great, atmosphere was awesome and the game was fantastic. Seen by all as a great reward for a very hard week's training. After the match some essential team bonding took place as the guys relaxed a little bit.

Chris Catling

Day 10, 11th August The morning after.

No let up in training, although it consisted of running on the beach and swimming in the sea, which everyone agreed was a great way to clear any thick heads. Long flight ahead but experience thoroughly worthwhile. Facilities were good, rugby was good. Can't wait until next year!

Chris Catling



Peter Arnold

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT SO FAR ?

Rugby certainly has a hard act to follow in the action-packed summer of sport we've just enjoyed. The Soccer World Cup, Commonwealth and European Games and some enthralling Test and domestic cricket means that we've hardly had time to think.

In fact, as I write, the second Test Match between England and India is just getting into a tense and fascinating stage, with two more matches to go. Things didn't always be like this: you had your cricket season and your rugby season, and while the twain did meet, the overlap was minimal. Perhaps it has something to do with global warming, as the gardeners are always telling us when their flora and fauna go awry.

However, in the competing-for-attention stakes, early omens are good as far as Gloucester RFC is concerned. The game against Natal certainly laid down a marker from that point of view.

I don't suppose the many people, in their heart of hearts, really expected us to beat the Sharks in their home waters. After all, as a Super Twelve side, they are, by definition, one of the dozen best teams in the Southern Hemisphere, and that's saying a great deal. What's more, they are battle-hardened, having already played a fair few games in preparation for the Currie Cup, while the Gloucester lads hadn't picked up a ball in anger (if you disregard the Durban runabout) since that epic day at Twickenham last May when we accounted for Bristol.

I was able to read a report from a home-town newspaper, which, understandably enough, tended to lean

in the direction of their own outfit, but was very generous in its praise for its English visitors. It acknowledged that Gloucester gave the Sharks rather more than they could handle in the second half, and even implied that Natal was, in the end, lucky to come away with a comparatively narrow win.

They put this down to a loss of momentum caused by frequent substitutions, but Gloucester swapped personnel around, too, and, what's more, had an inexperienced hooker in Trevor Woodman.

One comment I noted was that the correspondent described Gloucester as 'one of the best teams in Europe' which was nice of him. He also claimed that Phil Vickery was 'a candidate' for Man of the Match, and gave extremely honourable mention to Robert Todd.

Oddly enough, there was little mention of Thinus Delport. It was all very satisfactory from our point of view, but I did notice one circumstance which must be causing the coaching staff some concern. Jake Boer, Andrew Hazell and James Forester all scored tries. With Junior Paramore and young Buxton also in the equation, just who do you pick in the back row ?

Nice problem to have, and the extra cover in those most demanding of positions will be very welcome as the tough old season winds on.

Anyway, if anything can solve that particular brain teaser, the combined shrewdness of Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan should provide the answer. We could be in for a cracker of a season, but I won't say too much along those lines for fear of putting the mockers on the whole thing.



The Natal Sharks mascot.



WELCOME BACK !

It's very good to see Newport back at Kingsholm after far too long an absence. Many Shedheads, and others, will remember when the annual visit of the Black-and-Ambers was one of the more eagerly anticipated occasions of the year. Some of us even (just) recall the great Ken Jones !

For a long period Newport, then regarded as, with Cardiff, one of the two best teams in Wales, used to come along just after Christmas, but there was precious little peace and goodwill about the encounters. People like 'Spikey' Watkins and Colin Smart (Working in Gloucester and drinking at the 'Tailor's House' the last I saw of him) made sure that there was little to choose between the two packs, and that was especially true when Colin had nicked Mike Burton's spot in the England side.

Which brings me to another point; one which brings to mind one of my all-time favourite pieces of Kingsholm badinage. You see, Newport was in Monmouthshire, in those days an English county. Yet no one in their right minds would deny the inhabitants of the area their claim to 'Welshness' so to speak. This resulted in Newport players receiving a dual qualification: they could play for England or Wales.

During one of the post-Christmas games the referee, who I think was Mr. Welsby, a well-known 'hanging judge' of the time, made a decision which incensed some of the large contingent of Newport supporters. A Welsh voice in front of me rang out "Jesus Christ, refereee !"

"No. That's the English half of your affiliation, old boy." came the reply from behind me.

You gotta admit. That was pretty good for the heat of the moment. Be that as it may, it's great to see Newport back at Kingsholm. Pity it can't happen every season.

GOOD BYE NICK

I can't let this occasion pass without recording the passing of my old friend, trenchant rugby man, and legendary shopkeeper, Nick Healey who died a couple of weeks ago.

Anyone who knew Nick would agree that he was the very last man to expect, or to want, lots of flowery phrases to pay tribute to him. Nevertheless, as an archetypal Gloucester rugby man from his back teeth to his bootlaces we must acknowledge the contribution he made to local rugby and to City life in general. A past President of the County RFU, he would talk rugby with you until the cows came home, even when he had a shop full of customers.

Not that it took many people to fill his establishment. Based in London Road, alongside St. Margaret's, it really was the 'Little Shop' that everyone called it. Nick was always there, and his opening hours were famous City-wide.

I can vouch for that. One Christmas we had a house guest who had, for reasons of incompetence or hangover, neglected to stock himself up with enough tobacco to see him through the holiday. "Not to worry" I said, and took him off down to the Little Shop at around midday on Christmas morning. There was Nick, happy to supply my guests needs, and enquiring whether we would be attending the match on Boxing Day.

Nick was an Old Cryptian, like me, and I played a few games with him in our young days. A nice, gentle soul by nature, I still would much rather have him on my side than playing against me. If there is rugby in heaven, and if there isn't, I doubt if Nick would want to go there, he'll be creating absolute mayhem amongst the celestial forwards.

Hail and Farewell, Nick Healey. We've been proud to know you.



GLOUCESTER

Thinus Delpont	15
Marcel Garvey	14
James Simpson-Daniel	13
Terry Fanolua	12
Tom Beim	11
Henry Paul	10
Andy Gomarsall	09

Trevor Woodman	01
Chris Fortey	02
C Phil Vickery	03
Adam Eustace	04
Mark Cornwell	05
Jake Boer	06
Andy Hazell	07
Junior Paramore	08

Simon Amor	
Clive Stuart Smith	
Chris Catling	
Daren O'Leary	
Patrice Collazo	
Olivier Azam	
James Forrester	
Peter Buxton	
Rob Fidler	
Ed Pearce	



NEWPORT

Matt Pini	
Andrew Wagstaff	
Hal Luscombe	
Andy Marinos	
Ben Breeze	
Shane Howarth	
Llyr Lane	

Ceri Jones	
Paul Young	
Chris Anthony	
Simon Raiwalui	
Mike Voyle	
Steve Ojomoh	
Gareth Gravell	
Andy Powell	

Nathan Brew	
Scott Williams	
Jason Strange	
Matthew Thomas	
David Pattison	
James Richards	
Adrian Garvey	
Matthew Veater	
Rhys Jones	
Jason Forster	

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP 2001/02

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Leicester Tigers	22	18	0	4	658	349	10	1	83
Sale Sharks	22	14	1	7	589	517	9	2	69
Gloucester	22	14	0	8	692	485	8	4	68
London Irish	22	11	3	8	574	465	3	4	57
N'hampton Saints	22	12	1	9	506	426	4	2	56
N'castle Falcons	22	12	1	9	490	458	3	3	56
London Wasps	22	12	0	10	519	507	3	3	54
Bristol Shoguns	22	9	1	12	591	632	7	5	50
NEC Harlequins	22	5	3	14	434	507	5	4	35
Saracens	22	7	0	15	425	671	1	5	34
Bath Rugby	22	7	0	15	311	524	0	5	33
Leeds Tykes	22	6	0	16	406	654	2	2	28



The official GRFC matchday magazine is brought to you by:

The views expressed in the official GRFC matchday magazine are not necessarily the views of Dunwoody Sports Marketing or Gloucester Rugby Football Club. ©2001



01635 35599 | www.d-sport.co.uk



GRFC NEXT THREE MATCHES



NEWPORT

Pre-season Friendly
Wednesday 21 Aug 2002
Rodney Parade **KO 7.30**



NEC HARLEQUINS

Zurich Premiership
Saturday 31 Aug 2002
The Stoop **KO 3.00**



SHARKS

Zurich Premiership
Saturday 7 Sep 2002
Kingsholm **KO 3.00**



OPENING WEEKEND FIXTURES

Fri 30 Aug 2002
Sale Sharks vs N'hampton Saints

Sat 31 Aug 2002
Leeds Tykes vs Leicester Tigers
NEC Harlequins vs Gloucester

Sun 1 Sep 2002
N'castle Falcons vs London Wasps
London Irish vs Bath
Bristol vs Saracens

Ref! Link

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Steve Leyshon
1st TJ: Eric Woodmason
2nd TJ: Huw Jones Williams