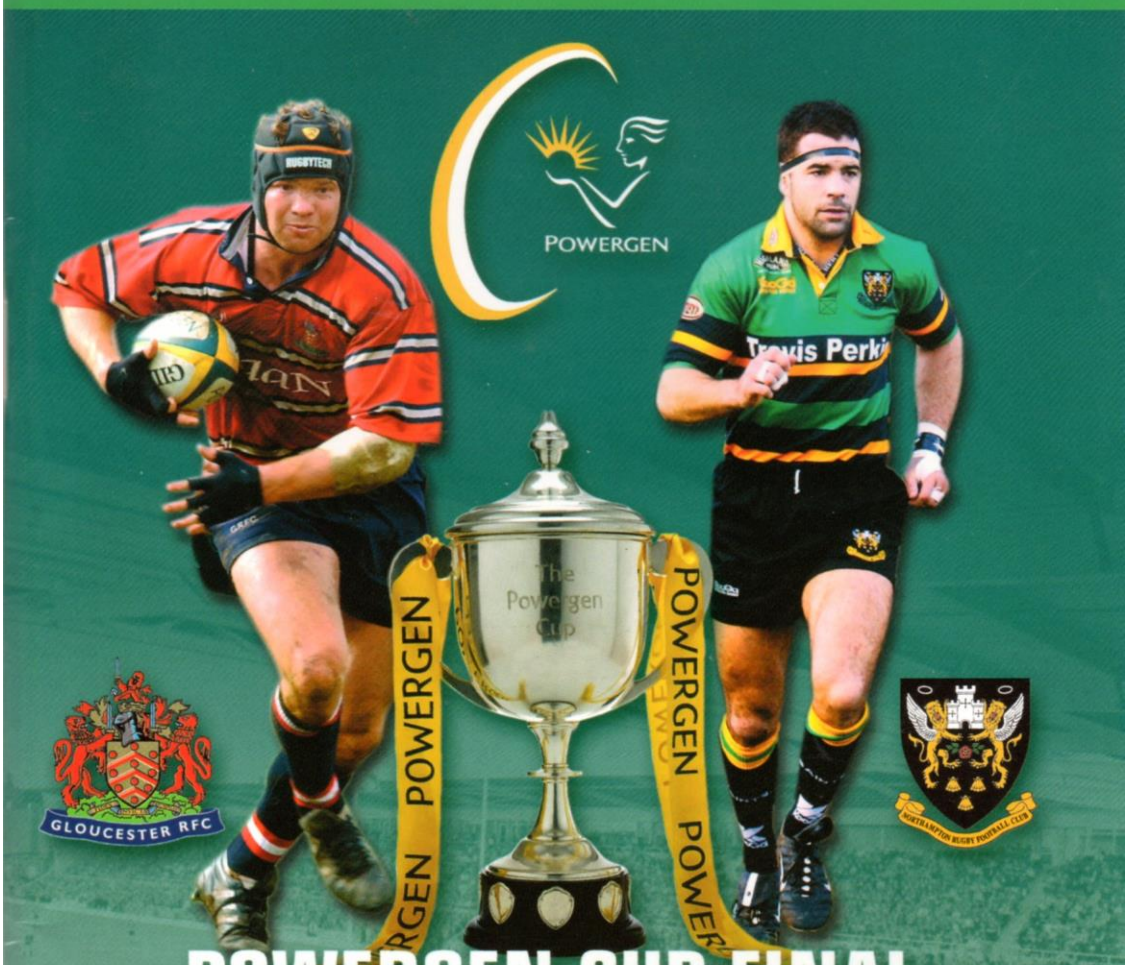
TWICKENHAM
THE HOME OF ENGLAND RUGBY



POWERGEN CUP FINAL

GLOUCESTER v NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

KICK OFF 4.30PM

Powergen Junior Vase Final
SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR v OLD ALLEYNIANS
kick off 10.15am

Powergen Intermediate Cup Final
ST MARY'S OLD BOYS v HERTFORD
kick off 12.15pm

Powergen Shield Final
ORRELL v EXETER CHIEFS
kick off 2.00pm

SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 2003 • OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £4.00

by BARRIE FAIRALL
The Daily Telegraph

ENGLAND RUGBY

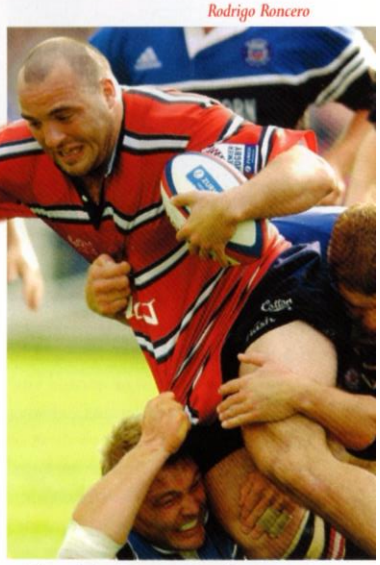
CONSULTATION FOR A CONCLUSION

FUNNY old game. Leicester Tigers were not much more than a whisker away from being here this afternoon and many of their supporters will always regard the non-appearance of their heroes in this 2003 final as a cruel technical KO. What is certain is that events at Franklin's Gardens at the beginning of last month provided a ripping yarn, besides hasty consultations among officials at HQ.

Any match that concludes with uncontested scrums is an unsatisfying state of affairs, let alone a semi final of England's premier domestic cup competition. The situation arose when Gloucester ran out of props as Leicester pressed furiously to make up lost ground and the result was not confirmed until more than 48 hours had passed after the conclusion of the tie played out on neutral territory.

The breakdown of events is interesting. Gloucester's starting line-up in the front row consisted of loose-head, Rodrigo Roncero, hooker, Olivier Azam and tight-head, Andy Deacon, with prop, Trevor Woodman and hooker, Chris Fortey on the bench. Roncero was taken off at half time and substituted, not replaced, by Trevor Woodman. The fun, if you can call it that, then started when Deacon left the field with a knee injury.

Rodrigo Roncero



Rod Kafer of Leicester Tigers against Gloucester

This resulted in Roncero having to return to the fray, but he suffered an ankle injury and Fortey was forced into action. Action? Well, not quite as it had been. The game was now into the fifth minute of injury time and Leicester, five points adrift, were about to be thwarted. With two hookers now in the Gloucester front row, referee Steve Lander was forced to call for uncontested scrums on safety grounds.

There were two of them, bang on the Gloucester line and with Leicester 'enjoying' the put in. So

Thinus Delport

Gloucester survived on the day but that was far from being the end of this tale. Initially, rugby correspondents present quoted law 12:3 of the cup regulations, which basically state that the team short of the necessary in the front row "are deemed to have lost the match".

Any scribe worth his laptop was having a field day with this one and, to spice things up, David Llewellyn of *The Independent* came up with some interesting quotes from Azam, the French international, who said: "I am a hooker, I can play loose-head but not tight-head and it is the same for Trevor Woodman."

Llewellyn, a dog with a bone when it comes to matters like this, then picked out a little gem from the Gloucester programme for the home match with Bath only three weeks prior to the cup tie in which Azam was described as someone "who can play comfortably in any of the three front row positions". Meanwhile, my *Daily Telegraph* colleague Brendan Gallagher wrote: "The laws concerning front-row replacements need to be ripped up and rewritten… and penned in English not Double Dutch".

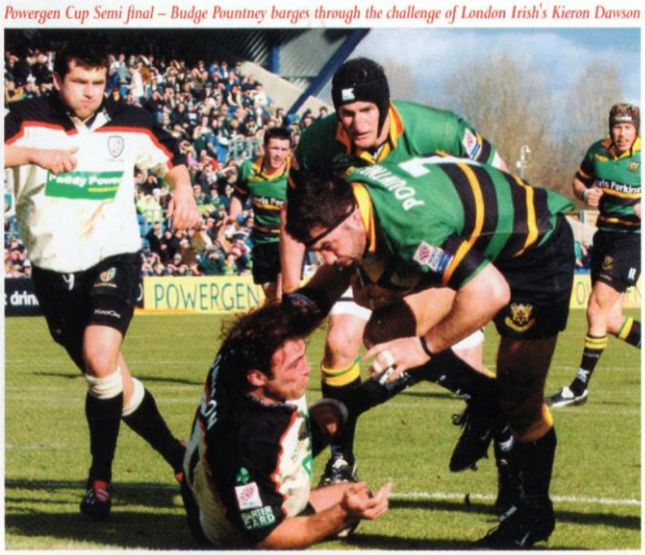
There you go. Eventually, the Rugby Football Union settled the issue by stating: "upon strict interpretation it was concluded that after lengthy deliberations there was insufficient justification to alter the result of the game". Leicester then, for their part decided not to appeal, the club's chairman, Peter Tom, saying: "Under no circumstances would we have been happy winning this match by default." He did, though, call for a review of the regulations.

Of course, not every day of the week do you have a story like this to run with. Time now, though, to return to the rugby. Gloucester, in truth, were well worth their 16-11 victory and owe their first appearance here since 1990 on the back of a try early in the second half by the exciting wing, Marcel Garvey. This was set up by a superb reverse pass from Thinus Delport, the Springbok full-back who then went on to score himself a few minutes later.

It was all rather different in the other semi final at Oxford's Kassam Stadium featuring last season's finalists. Now Northampton had a score to settle, and boy did they settle it by trouncing London Irish 38-9. This was an extraordinary turn around after events last year here as Steve Williams, Budge Pountney, Mark Connors, Peter Jorgensen and Darren Fox helped themselves to tries.

Wayne Smith, the Northampton coach, who last season owned up to allowing his team to become too emotional in the run up to the final, summed things up when he said: "I hope we've learnt that lesson. Certain individuals carried a lot of hurt from last year's final. It's hugely satisfying to be back at Twickenham. But we'll keep those

Powergen Cup Semi final – Budge Pountney barges through the challenge of London Irish's Kieron Dawson



emotions in check."

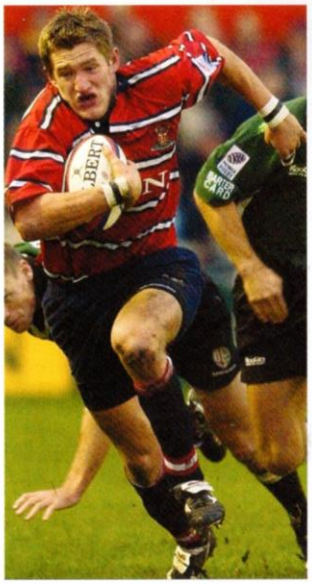
The contrast in fortunes could not have been greater, which has been reflected in the league fortunes of the two clubs; Northampton riding high and the Irish struggling to maintain their Premiership status. Conor O'Shea, the London Irish director of rugby, said: "In every facet Northampton were better than us. We turned over more ball in that one match than we've done in the entire season. They were more physical than us".

Northampton, meanwhile, were involved in what one writer described as one of the greatest cup ties in the history of the RFU's knockout competition, the first final of which was staged in 1972, when they travelled to Edge Hall Road to confront Orrell in the sixth round in December.

The game went to extra time and an epic contest lasting 100 minutes produced 14 tries, six of them scored by Orrell and eight by Saints, whose three match winners came in that final period. It was nearly dark by the finish and by then League One Orrell had raised their game to a level not seen at the ground near Wigan since their days as a First Division side ended in 1997.

It was an extraordinary encounter, Orrell moving 41-34 ahead after 88 minutes with a try from Ben Lewitt which Richard Welding converted. Welding then landed a penalty to stretch Orrell's lead to 10 points. Locals must have prayed that it was all over but Northampton stormed back with tries on 95, 98 and 100 minutes, Ian Vass twice breaking a

James Forrester



gallant but tiring defence and Jorgensen completing his hat-trick. What a game.

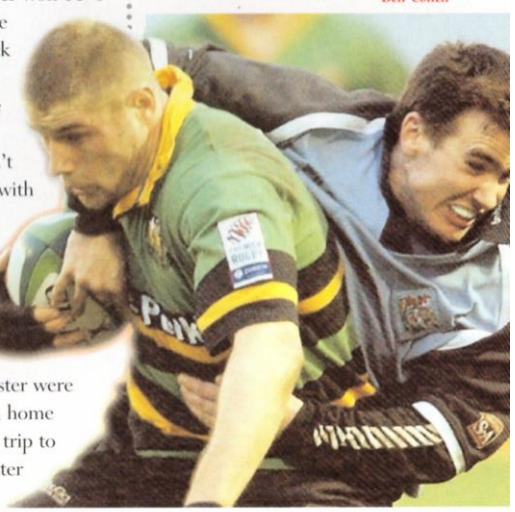
By comparison, Gloucester's passage against Exeter was trouble-free in a tie in which class and pace proved too much for the League One visitors. Gloucester won 35-6 and big Dave Sims, the former Gloucester lock who captains Exeter, said: "Gloucester have moved on in two or three years. They aren't just a set of forwards with a No 10 anymore".

Saracens might have come to the same conclusion after their visit to Kingsholm in the quarter-finals. Gloucester were relieved to be back on home turf after a nightmare trip to Limerick where Munster ended their interest in the Heineken Cup. The backlash to that painful episode was that Sarries were sent packing 51-20, an eight try to three thrashing in which James Forrester and Delport secured two touchdowns apiece.

As for Northampton, they survived by the skin of their teeth in a pulsating match at the Rec, where Bath pushed them all the way before losing out by the odd point as the Saints survived 30-29. The game had a bit of everything, including a set-to between Danny Grewcock and the Aussie, Mark Connors. There was some sparkling stuff from Bath's Mike Catt on his return from injury, and two classy tries from the Saints wing Ben Cohen before Jorgensen's leaping late winner from a Paul Grayson crossfield kick.

So here again was a great advertisement for our domestic competition. And just think, some people a couple of years ago were suggesting it had passed its sell-by date.

Ben Cohen



by JOHN GRIFFITHS

ROAD TO THE FINAL

GLOUCESTER'S PATH TO TWICKENHAM

21st December 2002 – Gloucester 35-6 Exeter

Gloucester: C Catling; D O'Leary (rep M Garvey), T Fanolua (captain), H Paul, T Beim; S Amor, C Stuart-Smith; R Roncero (rep D Molloy), C Collins (rep A Caves), A Deakin, R Fidler, M Cornwell (rep E Pearce), J Boer, J Forrester, P Buxton

Scorers: Tries: Catling (2), Buxton, Boer, O'Leary

Conversions: Paul (5)

Referee: Mr M Fox

25th January 2003 – Gloucester 51-20 Saracens

Gloucester: T Delport; J Simpson-Daniel, T Fanolua, H Paul, T Beim; L Mercier (rep S Amor), A Gomarsall (rep C Stuart-Smith); R Roncero, O Azam (rep C Fortey), A Deacon, A Eustace (rep R Fidler), M Cornwell, J Boer (captain), J Forrester, A Hazell (rep P Buxton)

Scorers: Tries: Delport (2), Forrester (2), Fanolua, Gomarsall, Eustace, Roncero. *Conversions:* Mercier (3), Paul

Penalty Goal: Mercier

Referee: Mr D Pearson

1st March 2003 – Leicester 11-16 Gloucester

Gloucester: T Delport; M Garvey, J Simpson-Daniel, H Paul, T Beim; L Mercier, A Gomarsall; R Roncero (rep T Woodman), O Azam, A Deacon (rep R Roncero rep C Fortey), R Fidler (rep A Eustace), M Cornwell, J Boer (captain), J Forrester (rep J Paramore), A Hazell

Scorers: Tries: Delport, Garvey *Penalty Goals:* Mercier (2)

Referee: Mr S Lander

Gloucester Scorers in Cup 2002-03

	T	C	PG	Pts
T Delport	3	0	0	15
L Mercier	0	3	3	15
H Paul	0	6	0	12
C Catling	2	0	0	10
J Forrester	2	0	0	10
P Buxton	1	0	0	5
D O'Leary	1	0	0	5
J Boer	1	0	0	5
M Garvey	1	0	0	5
A Gomarsall	1	0	0	5
A Eustace	1	0	0	5
R Roncero	1	0	0	5
T Fanolua	1	0	0	5
TOTALS	**15**	**9**	**3**	**102**

NORTHAMPTON'S PATH TO TWICKENHAM

21st December 2002 – Orrell 44-55 Northampton

Northampton: B Reihana; J Sleightholme (rep C Hyndman), P Jorgensen, M Tucker, O Ripol (rep P Grayson); J Brooks, I Vass; R Morris (rep T Smith), D Richmond (rep S Thompson), C Budgen, J Phillips (rep S Williams), M Lord, A Blowers (captain) (rep by R Hunter), M Soden, D Fox

Scorers: Tries: Jorgensen (3), Vass (2), Reihana, Brooks, Richmond

Conversions: Reihana (3), Grayson (3) *Penalty Goal:* Grayson

Referee: Mr G Ashton Jones

25th January 2003 – Bath 29-30 Northampton

Northampton: N Beal; B Reihana, P Jorgensen, J Leslie, B Cohen; P Grayson, M Dawson; T Smith, D Richmond (rep S Thompson), M Stewart (rep C Budgen), R Hunter (rep S Williams), M Lord, A Blowers (rep G Seely), M Connors, B Pountney (captain)

Scorers: Tries: Cohen (2), Jorgensen *Conversions:* Grayson (3)

Penalty Goals: Grayson (3)

Referee: Mr S Lander

2nd March 2003 – London Irish 9-38 Northampton

Northampton: N Beal; J Brooks, C Hyndman (rep P Jorgensen), J Leslie (rep M Tucker), B Reihana; P Grayson, M Dawson (rep J Howard); T Smith (rep C Budgen), S Thompson (rep D Richmond), R Morris, M Lord, S Williams (rep R Hunter), D Fox, M Connors, B Pountney (captain) (rep M Soden)

Scorers: Tries: Williams, Pountney, Connors, Jorgensen, Fox

Conversions: Grayson (5) *Penalty Goal:* Grayson

Referee: Mr C White

Northampton Scorers in Cup 2002-03

	T	C	PG	Pts
P Grayson	0	11	5	37
P Jorgensen	5	0	0	25
B Reihana	1	3	0	11
I Vass	2	0	0	10
B Cohen	2	0	0	10
J Brooks	1	0	0	5
D Richmond	1	0	0	5
M Connors	1	0	0	5
D Fox	1	0	0	5
S Williams	1	0	0	5
B Pountney	1	0	0	5
TOTALS	**16**	**14**	**5**	**123**

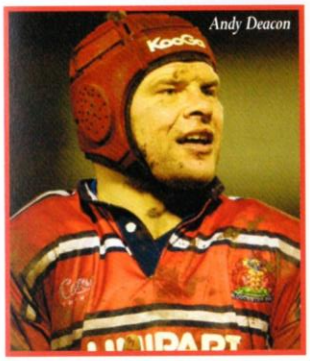
by CHRIS HEWETT
The Independent

ENGLAND RUGBY

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Ludovic Mercier (Gloucester) in the semi-final against Leicester Tigers

All changed, changed utterly. When the professional era dawned, seven long years and a squillion political arguments ago, Gloucester, the most traditional of clubs, could boast a pack of forwards drawn from... well, Gloucester, as it happens. Tony Windo and Andy Deacon were the top props, with Phil Greening at hooker; Dave Sims and Mark Cornwell would have locked the scrum, while Pete Glanville and Ian Smith would have scrummaged down on the flanks; Simon Devereux would have anchored the whole grizzly, pug-ugly thing at No 8. It wouldn't have ended there, either: Chris Fortey, Rob Fidler, Peter Miles and Andrew Stanley would have been among the reinforcements, all greased up and primed to ruck the opposition into the middle of next week given a sniff of an opportunity.



Andy Deacon

Every last one of them a local boy. Remarkable when you look back on it. And now? Deacon is still around, bless him: a one-time drayman, born when the Beatles and the Stones were battling it out for supremacy, just like Gloucester and Bristol in the good old days, when every scrum was an all-in fight and every match a 15-rounder. Fidler remains on the books, as does Cornwell, who may well be playing the best rugby of his career. But the new heroes of the Kingsholm Shed have materialised from far-flung parts. Trevor Woodman and Phil Vickery hail from the far south-west of England, Olivier Azam from the far south-west of France. And compared with Jake Boer, Junior Paramore and Rodrigo Roncero, they are practically home-towners.

Olivier Azam

At the risk of being burned at the stake for heresy, it is clear to all with eyes to see that Gloucester are the better for spreading their wings and embracing the world outside the Cotswolds. In the days when the entire Cherry and White side was drawn from the great clubs of the surrounding

A message from Gloucester

Good afternoon and welcome to Twickenham for today's Powergen Cup Final, between Gloucester and Northampton Saints.

The National Knock-out Cup, sponsored by Powergen, has been one of the highlights of our season. It follows a very simple, successful and proven formula for running a competition, no bonus points, try counts or home and away fixtures – just simply win or you're out.

Another unique quality of the Powergen Cup is the fact that all the National Leagues are included, giving the opportunity for the smaller clubs to test themselves against the 'big guns' and also an opportunity to bring in much needed revenue. Today, at Twickenham, we will see the culmination of three other Powergen sponsored competitions and I would like to wish all the teams taking part the best of luck.

Last weekend we all enjoyed the climax to the RBS Six Nations Championship with England taking that elusive and deserved Grand Slam title in Dublin. This weekend we will witness a celebration of English club rugby at Twickenham. I have no doubt that the success of our National team and the continued growth of the club game in England go hand in hand.

Gloucester's route to today's final brought fixtures against Exeter Chiefs, Saracens and Leicester, and with each victory the momentum grew. Having sold in excess of 22,000 tickets it would be fair to say that Powergen Cup Final fever has gripped the City of Gloucester and surrounding areas for the past month. It is amazing to think that we could have sold out Kingsholm twice over for just one fixture!

Gloucester RFC have come along way since they won the first ever National Knock-out Cup Final at Twickenham in 1972, beating Moseley 16-6.

The Birmingham post report on the game less than flattered the victorious Gloucester team; *'If Gloucester's ten-man rugby ever gets them to the final again, they might as well keep it at Kingsholm for the benefit of their own supporters. No one else will want to see them.'*

Well, we're here again!

Today is not just about one club, one team or one set of supporters, it is a celebration of the best of English club rugby. The club game continues to grow and flourish in England at all levels because of your support and dedication. Have a fantastic day!

Nigel Melville, Director of Rugby

GLOUCESTER MANAGEMENT

Reg Collins – President
Tom Walkinshaw – Chairman
Ken Nottage, Karen Ellis, Pete Darnbrough, Hamish Brown – Directors
Doug Wadley – Company Secretary
Nigel Melville – Director of Rugby
Phil Vickery – Club Captain
Dean Ryan – Coach
Dave Ellis – Coach
Pete Glanville – Team Manager
Wayne Diesel – Head Physiotherapist
Kim Owen – Physiotherapist
Rudi Meir – Skills & Conditioning
Ed Archer – Fitness & Conditioning
Rob Mackay – Club Doctor
Dave Pointon – Technical Analysis
Adrienne Eley – Team Administrator
Alan Lamb – Kit Manager
Charlie Little – Marketing Manager
Chris Clark – Finance Manager
Dave Balmer – Stadium Manager
Kevin Howie – Community Development Manager

The Gloucester Squad

by Michael Austin

PHIL VICKERY (Captain)

Prop. Born 14.3.76 in Barnstaple. 1.92m (6'3½"), 121kg (19st 2lb).

Phil Vickery was appointed as Gloucester's captain for the first time last season, having made his test debut against Wales five years ago. His forceful scrummaging and power in the loose has been appreciated far beyond the electric atmosphere of Kingsholm. Was appointed as England's joint vice-captain with Jonny Wilkinson last autumn but has missed the entire Six Nations Championship through a disc problem. Played in all three Lions' test matches against Australia the summer before last and has appeared 29 times for England.

Previous finals: None

CHRIS CATLING

Full back. Born 17.6.76 in Coulsdon. 1.87m (6'1½"), 90kg (14st 2lb).

Chris Catling is a counter-attacking full back, who was the Gloucester Supporters' 'Player of the Year' in 2000-01. He signed from Exeter Chiefs in 1996 - the club he scored two Powergen Cup tries against last December - and has recently been recalled from a loan spell at Worcester, who were sorry to lose him. Scored eight tries in 1998-99 after being an ever present in the England Schools Grand Slam team of 1994. Went to Exeter University, was in the England Students' Rugby World Cup squad, toured Australia with England Under-21s and has represented England A.

Previous finals: None

THINUS DELPORT

Full back/Wing. Born 2.2.75 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. 1.88m (6'2"), 98kg (15st 6lb)

Thinus Delport, a Gloucester newcomer this season, has won 12 caps for South Africa, having made his debut against Canada in 2000. He has scored three Powergen Cup tries so far – two in the quarter-final against Saracens in January and the other against Leicester Tigers. He possesses pace and power on the break and, back home, before switching to the Sharks last season, he had gained 39 caps for the Cats. Has also appeared for the Golden Lions' team 63 times and run in 47 tries.

Previous finals: None

JON GOODRIDGE

Fly half/Full back. Born 26.2.81. 1.86m (6'1"), 84kg (13st 3lb)

Jon Goodridge, a willowy full back, made his Gloucester debut two seasons ago at the age of 20 in the 35-10 defeat by London Irish at the Madejski Stadium and started the next match against London Wasps. Played his early rugby at fly half and switched to the number 15 jersey while at the Gloucester Academy. He went with England Under-21 to the SANZAR tournament last summer but a shoulder injury cut short his trip.

Previous finals: None

TOM BEIM

Wing. Born 11.12.75 in Frimley. 1.83m (6'0"), 86kg (13st 8lb).

Tom Beim played two tests for England against New Zealand on tour five years ago while with Sharks. He played for the Sale side beaten 9-3 by Leicester Tigers in the 1997 Twickenham final before leaving the Cheshire club at his own request and returning to Gloucester, for whom he had played three years earlier. Toured Australia with Clive Woodward's England Under-21 squad in 1997 and went to Argentina with the senior party last summer. He is a former Cheltenham College pupil who played hockey for Wales Under-18s and polo as a professional.

Previous finals: 1- 1997 (for Sharks)

JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

Wing. Born 30.5.82 in Stockton-on-Tees. 1.82m (6'0"), 78kg (12st 4lb).

James Simpson-Daniel, a richly exciting prospect, has burst on to the Gloucester and England scene, winning his fourth test cap, against Italy last month and making a maiden touchdown at that level. He had a magnificent tryscoring debut for an England XV against the Barbarians last season soon after running in a hat-trick of tries against Bath. One of his scores was the Zurich Premiership 'Try of the Season'. Also shared in England's Sevens success in Hong Kong but unluckily withdrew from the summer tour of Argentina through injury. Played alongside clubmate, Henry Paul, at centre when England A beat Scotland A last month but missed the Ireland A match through a shoulder injury.

Previous finals: None

JOSH FRAPE

Wing/Scrum half. Born 23.2.80. 1.83m (6'0"), 90kg (14st 2lb)

Josh Frape signed for Gloucester from the club's academy. His attempt to break into the senior side was delayed last season but he has attributes that hallmark him as a player for the future. With something reminiscent of Austin Healey, he can play at scrum half but has the blistering pace that also makes him an ideal wing. His versatility should serve him well through a burgeoning career.

Previous finals: None

MARCEL GARVEY

Wing. Born 21.4.83 in Gloucester. 1.73m (5'8"), 86kg (13st 8lb)

Marcel Garvey scored a maiden try against Italy on his second England A appearance last month. He also had a run out with the Under-21s against Wales in February and is a player of rich promise. He won the Zurich Premiership 'Player of the Month' award last October, having scored a stunning hat-trick of tries on his home debut against Bristol Shoguns. Gloucester also rewarded him with a new two-year contract. He has also represented England Under-18s and 19s and scored a Powergen Cup semi-final try against Leicester Tigers.

Previous finals: None

DAREN O'LEARY

Wing. Born 27.6.73 in Rush Green, Essex. 1.82m (6'0"), 91kg (14st 4lb).

Daren O'Leary, a speedy and elusive runner, joined Gloucester the season before last after making a tryscoring impression for both NEC Harlequins and Saracens. Joined 'Quins in 1993 and was soon called into England's training squad for the championship campaign. Toured Argentina with the full England party in 1997. Was educated at Campion School and West London Institute and has represented England Colts, Students, Under-21s, Emerging England, England Sevens, an England XV and London. Scored a Powergen Cup try in the 35-6 win over Exeter Chiefs at Kingsholm last December.

Previous finals: None

TERRY FANOLUA

Centre. Born 3.7.74 in Motoutua, Samoa. 1.83m (6'0"), 87kg (13st 10lb).

Terry Fanolua joined Gloucester six years ago and has been a consistent crowd pleaser. Has won 19 caps for his native Samoa and scored six test tries. Was a member of the 1999 Rugby World Cup squad and has played for Otahuhu, a club in New Zealand. Also captained the Samoa Sevens side, has appeared in every position in the Gloucester backs, except scrum half, and shaved off his 'cult figure' dreadlocks after the 28-23 Zurich Championship final win over Bristol last June. Has recently been suffering from an ankle ligament injury.

Previous finals: None

ROBERT TODD

Centre. Born 19.4.71 in Auckland, New Zealand. 1.80m (5'11"), 96kg (15st 2lb).

Robert Todd played for London Scottish in 1997-98, then London Irish and ACT Brumbies before signing for Gloucester in 2000. He is an explosive runner who can play either centre or wing, his prime ability being a knack of bursting through even the toughest tackles. He chooses some excellent angles of running and is defensively secure. Had the distinction of scoring a hat-trick of tries for London Irish in the 47-22 win over Bath in April 1999.

Previous finals: None

DUNCAN MURRAY

Centre. Born 22.10.81. 1.84m (6'0½"), 94kg (14st 11lb)

Duncan Murray is a former Wales Schools captain, who has also figured in the Wales Youth and Under-21 squads and for England Students. He made his senior debut for Gloucester in the same match as Jon Goodridge against London Irish in April 2001. Adopts an uncompromising approach whether in attack or defence, driving the hard yards when needed and showing his tackling qualities under pressure. A shrewd reader of the game, he also creates space and opportunities for those around him.

Previous finals: None

HENRY PAUL

Utility Back. Born 10.2.74 in Tokoroa, New Zealand. 1.80m (5'11"), 94kg (14st 11lb).

Henry Paul, a mercurial talent, who helped Bradford Bulls Rugby League Club beat Wigan Warriors in the Super League Grand Final in the autumn of 2001, qualifies for England through a grandfather from Liverpool. A prolific goalkicker and gifted player, he won national squad selection after just one game for Gloucester, having begun a four-year contract with club. Won a full cap against France in Paris last season and has excelled for the England Sevens side. First played for England A last year and made his fourth appearance at that level in the 78-6 win over Scotland A at Northampton a fortnight ago.

Previous finals: None

LUDOVIC MERCIER

Fly half. Born 1.11.76 in France. 1.79m (5'10½"), 85kg (13st 3lb).

Ludovic Mercier has enjoyed many golden afternoons for Gloucester since being one of the shrewdest signings in the Premiership last season. He amassed more than 500 points in all competitions in his debut campaign and this year become the second fastest player to reach 500 Premiership points. He achieved it in 36 games, one more than Barry Everitt, of London Irish. Last season, he scored 34 points in the Zurich Championship quarter-final against Newcastle Falcons and 23 against Bristol in the final. He landed seven penalty goals, four conversions and scored one of his side's nine tries against the Falcons.

Previous finals: None

SIMON AMOR

Fly half. Born 25.4.79 in Kingston-upon-Thames. 1.69m (5'6½"), 72kg (11st 5lb)

Simon Amor, a graduate in Management Studies from Cambridge University, has excelled for the England Sevens team since winning a Blue and joining Gloucester. Was a member of the side that triumphed last year in Hong Kong, where he contributed 13 points, including a solo try in the final. He was among the Commonwealth Games squad in Manchester last August. Has played for London Irish, Blackheath, Coventry and Rugby Lions. Also won representative honours for Middlesex, London & South-East and England Schools, Colts, Students and Under-21s.

Previous finals: None

ANDY GOMARSALL

Scrum half. Born 24.7.74 in Durham. 1.77m (5'10"), 86kg (13st 8lb).

Andy Gomarsall won his 11th cap for England as a replacement against Wales in February. Started against France at Twickenham the previous week and toured Argentina last June. He is in his third season with Gloucester and last April, signed a new three-year contract. A former Bedford captain, he has also played for London Wasps and was in their cup winning side in 1999. Seven years earlier, he had led England Schools 18-Group to their first Grand Slam in 11 seasons. Has appeared 12 times for England A and was a tryscorer against Saracens in this season's Powergen Cup quarter-final.

Previous finals: 2 – 1998, 1999 (both for London Wasps)

CLIVE STUART-SMITH

Scrum half. Born 17.5.83 in Gloucester. 1.73m (5'8"), 80kg (12st 8lb).

Clive Stuart-Smith graduated to the England A squad last year in his first season as a professional with Gloucester after being an academy player there. His previous club was Cheltenham. Educated at Sir Thomas Rich's School in Gloucester, he played for England Under-16s and 18s and captained the 19s. Has an excellent pass, is a challenging runner from the base of the scrum and a precise kicker. His great grandfather led England Schools and played for Leicester.

Previous finals: None

OLIVIER AZAM

Hooker. Born 21.10.74 in Tarbes, France. 1.87m (6'1½"), 117kg (18st 6lb).

Olivier Azam signed for Gloucester in 2001, having earlier played for both his hometown club, Tarbes, and for Montferrand. He made his test debut for France in 1995 when appearing against Romania and Argentina in the Latin Cup in Buenos Aires. Has won ten caps overall and also played for France A, his first game at that level being against Wales in 1996. Had a five-year gap between his second and third tests leading up to 2000. He shared in the 16-11 semi-final win over Leicester Tigers at Northampton last month.

Previous finals: None

CHRIS FORTEY

Hooker. Born 25.8.75 in Gloucester. 1.83m (6'0"), 106kg (16st 10lb).

Chris Fortey signed for Gloucester seven years ago after playing for Gordon League, a local club. He toured Canada and the United States with the England squad in 2001 and won a fifth A cap against France at Limoges in March last year. A Barbarian in 1998, he had become the understudy at Gloucester to Phil Greening, now with London Wasps. The formidable Olivier Azam is his rival for the hooking role nowadays. Was a replacement in the fifth minute of tantalising injury time when Leicester Tigers were beaten 16-11 in the semi-final last month. His twin brother, Lee, is a former England Under-21 prop.

Previous finals: None

ANDY DEACON

Prop. Born 31.7.65 in Gloucester. 1.88m (6'2"), 108kg (17st 0lb).

Andy Deacon is in his 15th season with Gloucester after signing a one-year extension to his contract. He is a vastly experienced prop whose qualities were fully recognised when Gloucester awarded him a testimonial year – the first of its kind at Kingsholm. He first played for Coney Hill and his other former club, Longlevens, with whom he has coaching links, honoured him with a special match to mark his contribution. Has represented England A, played for the Barbarians and, even approaching the age of 38, wants to play on next season.

Previous finals: None

GLOUCESTER

This team was accurate on 3 April 2003

15	THINUS DELPORT	Full Back
14	MARCEL GARVEY	Right Wing
13	TERRY FANOLUA	Centre
12	HENRY PAUL	Centre
11	JAMES SIMPSON–DANIEL	Left Wing
10	LUDOVIC MERCIER	Fly Half
9	ANDY GOMARSALL	Scrum Half
1	TREVOR WOODMAN	Prop
2	OLIVIER AZAM	Hooker
3	ANDY DEACON	Prop
4	ADAM EUSTACE	Lock
5	MARK CORNWELL	Lock
6	JAKE BOER (CAPTAIN)	Flanker
7	ANDY HAZELL	Flanker
8	JAMES FORRESTER	No.8

REPLACEMENTS

16	CLIVE STUART-SMITH
17	SIMON AMOR
18	ROBERT TODD
19	CHRIS FORTEY
20	RODRIGO RONCERO
21	JUNIOR PARAMORE
22	ED PEARCE

Tries	Score / Conv.	Penalties
	Drop Goals	

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

This team was accurate on 3 April 2003

NICK BEAL	15	Full Back
BRUCE REIHANA	14	Right Wing
PETER JORGENSEN	13	Centre
(CO-CAPTAIN) JOHN LESLIE	12	Centre
BEN COHEN	11	Left Wing
PAUL GRAYSON	10	Fly Half
MATT DAWSON	9	Scrum Half
TOM SMITH	1	Prop
STEVE THOMPSON	2	Hooker
ROBBIE MORRIS	3	Prop
MATT LORD	4	Lock
STEVE WILLIAMS	5	Lock
MARK CONNORS	6	Flanker
(CO-CAPTAIN) BUDGE POUNTNEY	7	Flanker
ANDREW BLOWERS	8	No.8

REPLACEMENTS

DAN RICHMOND	16
MATTIE STEWART	17
GRANT SEELY	18
DARREN FOX	19
JOHNNY HOWARD	20
JAMES BROOKS	21
CHRIS HYNDMAN	22

Tries	Score / Conv.	Penalties
	Drop Goals	

Referee: ***Tony Spreadbury*** *can be heard today on* **Ref!Link**

Touch Judges: ***Ashley Reay*** *&* ***Stuart Terheerge***

No 4: ***Steve Leyshon***

by JOHN GRIFFITHS

GLOUCESTER V NORTHAMPTON SAINTS
IN FOCUS

Today's Final . . .

There have been 31 RFU Cup finals since 1972. Bath, with ten successes, have won the title most often. Leicester have lifted the Cup five times, Newcastle (previously known as Gosforth) three times, Coventry, Gloucester, Wasps and Harlequins twice, and Bedford, Bristol, Saracens and London Irish (against Northampton last year) once. Gloucester and Moseley shared the Cup in 1982.

Cup records of today's finalists . . .

	Overall Cup Record	*Cup Winners*	*Runners Up*
Gloucester	*P92 W64 D1 L27*	*1972, 1978, 1982**	*1990*
Northampton	*P77 W47 L30*		*1991, 2000, 2002*

YEAR	*Glouc.*	*Northants*	*YEAR*	*Glouc.*	*Northants*
1972	W	1	1988	4	3
1973	2	1	1989	SF	3
1974	2	QF	1990	RU	SF
1975	2	1	1991	4	RU
1976	2	QF	1992	SF	4
1977	QF	2	1993	3	SF
1978	W	QF	1994	QF	5
1979	1	1	1995	4	QF
1980	QF	1	1996	SF	4
1981	QF	3	1997	SF	QF
1982	W*	4	1998	5	SF
1983	3	2	1999	SF	5
1984	-	4	2000	QF	RU
1985	SF	3	2001	5	QF
1986	QF	4	2002	QF	RU
1987	QF	-			

* The 1982 Cup Final between Gloucester and Moseley was drawn 12-all. The clubs shared the Cup.

Gloucester-Northampton Cup ties . . .

Past Encounters

1989-90	Gloucester	17-12	(Semi-final)
1993-94	Gloucester	11-6	(Fifth round)
1997-98	Northampton	30-11	(Fifth round)

Three Tim Smith penalties and tries by Mike Teague and Derrick Morgan saw Gloucester through at Franklin's Gardens when the sides first met in the Cup, in 1990. Northampton's points in that semi-final tie came from an Ian Hunter try and a conversion and two penalty goals kicked by John Steele.

Tim Smith's place-kicking was again important when the clubs were re-matched at the fifth round stage in January 1994. His two penalties, and Paul Holford's try, took Gloucester to an 11-6 win in front of the Kingsholm faithful, Paul Grayson (penalty) and Steele (drop) scoring for the Saints.

Northampton finally turned the tables on their old rivals with a convincing 30-11 home win in the fifth round in January 1998. That was the famous occasion when Richard Hill, then director of coaching at Gloucester, took his boys to a country club during the week to unwind. "We will not be doing that again," said Hill at the post-match press conference.

Paul Grayson and Matt Dawson exercised an early grip on the match while Matt Allen's two first-half tries took the Saints into a commanding lead. Full back Richard Jackson also crossed and Paul Grayson, with an assortment of goal kicks, chipped in with 15 points. Mike Lloyd scored a consolation try for Gloucester, Mark Mapletoft kicking two penalties.

by JOHN GRIFFITHS

CUP FINAL SCRAPBOOK

GLOUCESTER WIN THE FIRST RFU CUP FINAL

TWICKENHAM, APRIL 29th 1972

GLOUCESTER ..... 17 MOSELEY 6

FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY after its foundation in 1871, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) steadfastly rejected all manner of proposals for making the game in England more competitive. National leagues or knockout cups, it was argued, were not in the best interests of the game.

It was in the year after the Union celebrated its centenary that a pilot scheme was adopted to launch an RFU Cup competition for senior clubs. There were difficulties. Squabbles regarding venues, kick-off times and even dates for arranging matches took some of the gloss off the inaugural event. More positively, however, the Cup ties brought together leading sides that had never previously met and gave the club season a distinct climax. By the time that Gloucester and Moseley reached Twickenham for that first final in April 1972, the idea had been embraced as a resounding success.

A crowd of 15,000 – a far cry from the 70,000 full houses that would follow in the 1990s – turned up to witness the novelty of a Cup Final for England's senior rugby clubs. Gloucester had come through the more difficult half of the draw, defeating Bath, Bristol, London Welsh and Coventry. In the final they were popular winners by 17-6 against Moseley, though it was only with a flurry of scores in the dying minutes of the match that they consolidated their victory.

The one blot on the day was that Ron Lewis, the only Welsh referee who has controlled an RFU Cup final, had to dismiss Moseley's England lock, Nigel Horton, for punching. It was the first time for nearly fifty years that a player had been ordered off on a big Twickenham occasion.

Gloucester: E J F Stephens; R J Clewes, J A Bayliss, R Morris, J Dix; T Palmer, M H Booth; M A Burton, M J Nicholls (captain), R J Cowling, A Brinn, J S Jarrett, J A Watkins, M J Potter, R Smith
Scorers Tries: Dix, Morris *Penalty Goal:* Stephens *Dropped Goals:* Palmer, Booth
Moseley: S A Doble; K Hatter, M K Swain, C W McFadyean, R Kerr; J F Finlan, J G Webster (captain); C C Morrell, D E Lane, J Griffiths, R Morris, N E Horton, T J Smith, J C White, I N Pringle
Scorers Try: Swain *Conversion:* Doble
Referee: R Lewis (Wales)