

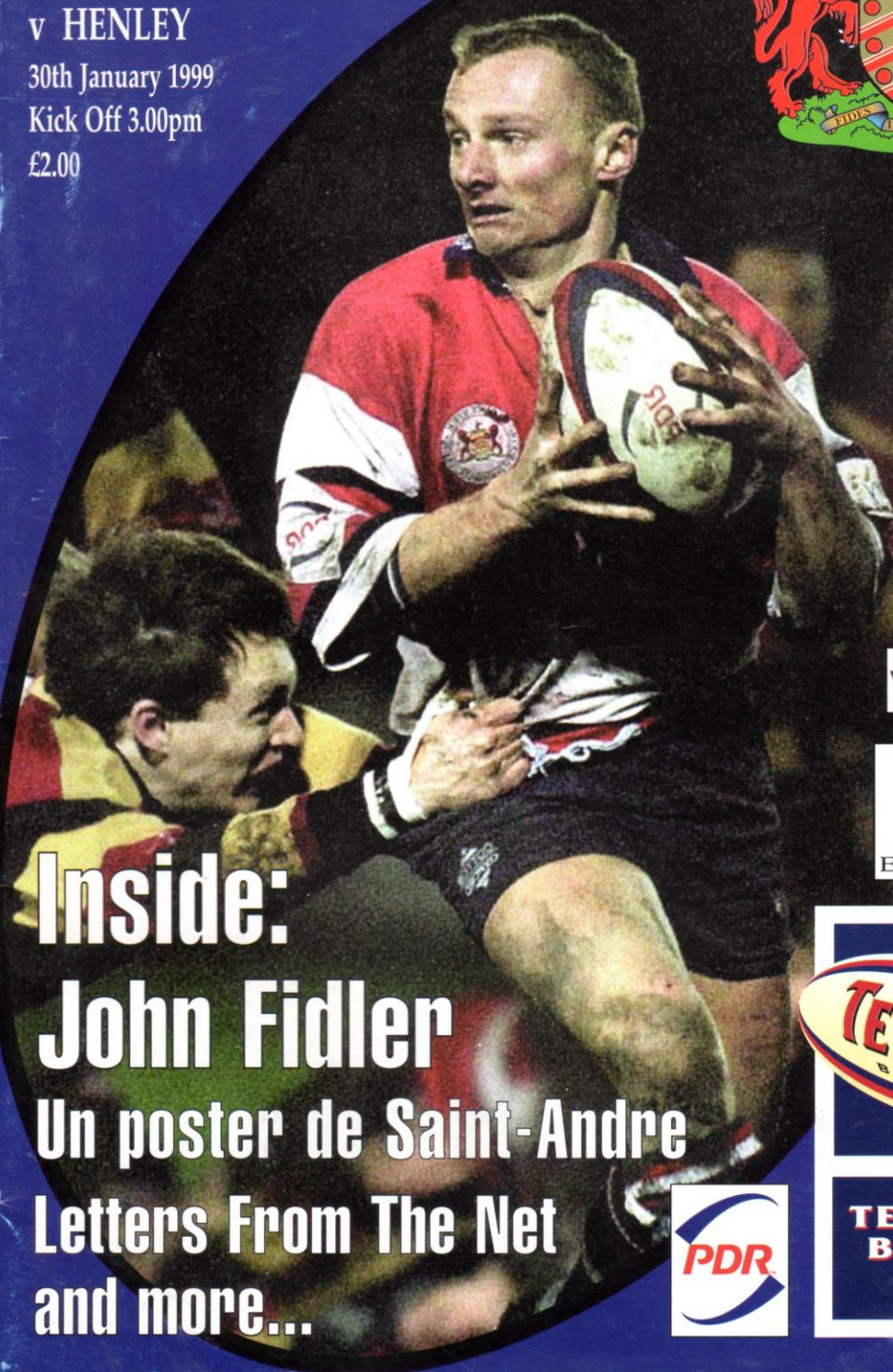
# Gloucester

v HENLEY

30th January 1999

Kick Off 3.00pm

£2.00



**Inside:**

**John Fidler**

**Un poster de Saint-Andre**

**Letters From The Net  
and more...**

Westbury



EAGLE STAR



**TETLEY'S  
BITTER  
CUP**



# From the Team Manager

**I**t has been a frustrating few weeks for Gloucester. I have no doubt that we all share similar feelings about the Richmond game and the less said about that, the better. Inconsistent refereeing has once again seriously affected the outcome of a match and, once again, that effect has not been in Gloucester's favour. However, that said, we should have put the game beyond Richmond a long time before. We must accept that this sort of game is one we really should be winning, especially at home. We did, after all, turn them over at the Madejski stadium and I am sure you will all agree that a side we actually beat away should

be beaten at home also.

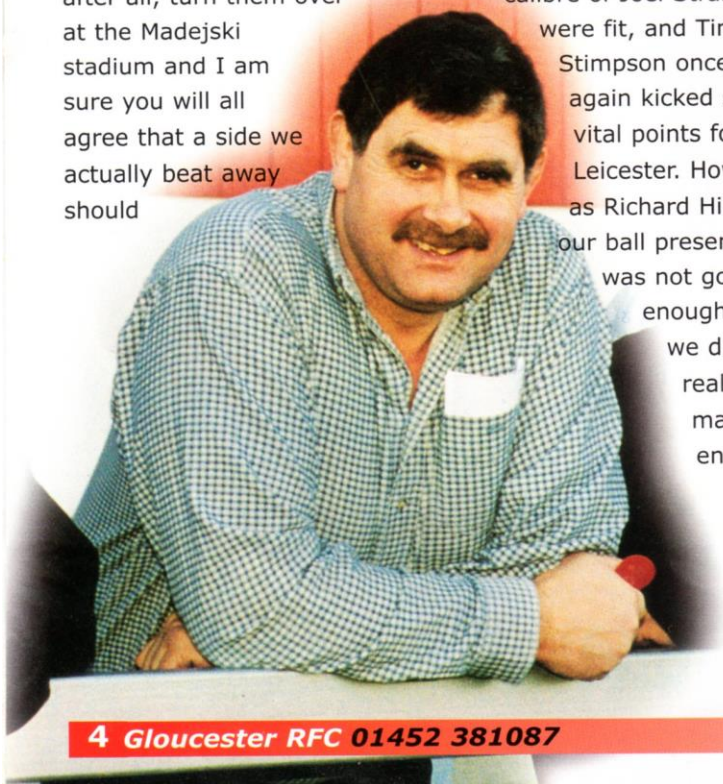
We have also strengthened our squad in the last few weeks and I am pleased to be able to welcome Tom Beim back to Gloucester. This afternoon will be his first 1st XV home game since arriving back at the club and I am sure you will make him feel welcome.

The Leicester match was tough for us as well. After the result in December at Kingsholm, we were eager to set the record straight. This time, Tigers players of the calibre of Joel Stransky were fit, and Tim Stimpson once again kicked some vital points for Leicester. However, as Richard Hill said, our ball presentation was not good enough and we did not really make enough

possession for ourselves in order to create scoring opportunities. However, I thought we played well defensively and our scrummaging was generally good.

Hopefully, though, we can return to winning ways this afternoon, though we should, of course, never underestimate any team who have come so far in the competition. Henley's director of rugby came down to Kingsholm on Tuesday to have a look around and get a feel for the stadium and the pitch. As we stood in The Shed and he surveyed an empty Kingsholm, he looked a little anxious. "We've never played in front of more than 2000 before," he said. I've no doubt however that Henley will bring supporters enough to give them a lift at the right time, and once again, all the players will be looking to all of you for support. Richmond complained of the partisan nature of the Kingsholm crowd, so let's hope Henley have equal cause for complaint!

**John Fidler**







## Good Luck, 'Lyd'

Everyone will agree that Gloucester is expecting a tough challenge from Henley this afternoon, but it's also true that Lydney's mission tomorrow will be even harder. Saracens are a daunting proposition at the best of times, but they go to Lydney as Tetley Bitter Cup Champions, and won't be about to give up their title easily.

Nevertheless, a visit to the Severnsiders isn't one to be undertaken lightly. As Dewi Morris said on last week's 'The Rugby Club' on Sky Sports, the distinguished visitors will certainly know that they've been in a game.

Lydney never like to lose at home, and I don't suppose that there's anyone at Kingsholm today who wouldn't love to see them win. No doubt, quite a few people will be making a weekend of it, and trotting off down the South Wales road tomorrow. Should be a good afternoon out, whatever the result.

Best of luck, 'Lyd', from all of us to all of you.

## Peter Arnold DON'T TELL ANYONE, BUT...

Anyone who has supported Gloucester for any length of time knows that the rumour mill is ever-present and thoroughly active, but I've seldom endured a time when the thing has gone into overdrive the way it has over the past few weeks. The number of stories I've heard recently - on extremely good authority, mind you - has reached slightly mind-boggling proportions.

You know the sort of thing. Someone's auntie knows Richard Hill's cousin's hairdresser, who says that... and so the story goes on, attracting credibility until it appears to be graven in tablets of stone.

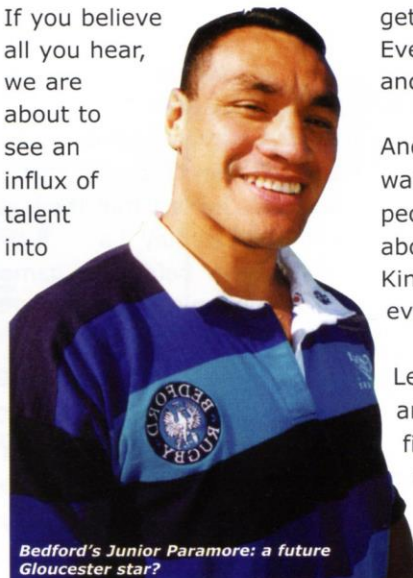
If you believe all you hear, we are about to see an influx of talent into

Kingsholm which will enable us to field a side which could take on the British Lions. Just for your amusement, names mentioned to me include Jack Rowell, Jeremy Guscott, Garath Archer, Craig Quinnell and Shane Howarth, who they say, wants to live closer to Wales.

If you believe that lot, you'll believe anything. Personally I've given up speculating on anything unless I see statements straight from the lips of Richard Hill or John Fidler. If you apply that test, then all you know is that Dave Hinkins and Tom Beim are already here, that there seems to be genuine interest in Joe Ewens from Bedford, and there might be a possibility of Junior Paramore getting into the frame. Everything else is just smoke and hot air. I think.

And I promise you: you don't want to know the list of people who, I've heard, are about to shake the mud of Kingsholm off their boots for ever.

Let's just enjoy our rugby and let the gossips have a field day, if that's what turns them on. As my old friend Owen Earl says, "If things don't alter, they'll remain as they are."



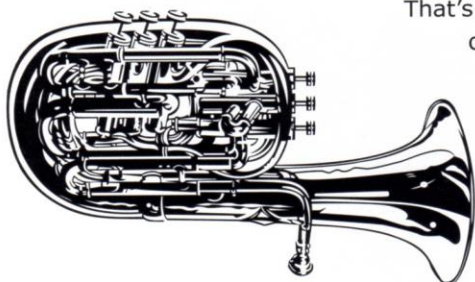
Bedford's Junior Paramore: a future Gloucester star?

Peter Arnold

# Thanks From Lydbrook

Amid the welter of recent comment in the press about pre-match entertainment, one thing stands out clearly. Everyone seems thoroughly to approve the performances of Lydbrook Band. Apparently, the tradition of good old brass band music around Kingsholm has by no means been forgotten by the more senior residents, and those who don't remember such indulgences in the dim and distant past find that they like it.

Some of us recall the balmy days when the Cinderford Band performed the office. Admittedly, that is going back a fair way, but I have a clear mental picture of a diminutive lad marching stoically around the ground, whatever the weather, allowing his bare knees to float wild and free while valiantly blowing on his whatever-it-was. Wonder whatever happened to him. He may have grandsons playing rugby for Cinderford by now.



My old friend Robert Morgan used to perform with the Cinderford Band, but he always had connections with Lydbrook, and is the Band's Secretary nowadays, and I was very pleased to receive a letter from him a few days ago.

The main purpose of his letter was to thank all the supporters, with a special mention of the Shed, for their appreciation and warm reception of the band's effort. The whole Band, led by their conductor, Brian Howard, were immensely cheered by the whole experience. They also want to thank everyone at the Club for their help and encouragement.

Robert Morgan points out that, to date, the Band have 'beaten' Newcastle, Saracens, Bath and Worcester. The only match they have 'lost' was the close affair against Leicester, and they put that down to the fact that they neglected to play 'La Marseillaise' before the game. That's an omission that won't occur again.

I was also fascinated to learn that Lydbrook Band have an extremely ambitious project



starting on March 31st. Not bad for a happy Forest of Dean Band: they're off on an 18-day tour of South Africa ! Robert tells me that they have concerts booked in Capetown, Durban, Johannesburg and at Victoria Falls, which will be quite an experience. They then finish off with another performance at Harare in Zimbabwe.

That's quite a safari, and the Band needs to find over £20,000 to finance it. And they're not doing badly, either, having already raised over £16,000 towards it.

If you would like to help them in their endeavours, then their last fund-raising concert before they depart is to be held at the New Olympus Theatre in Barton Street on Saturday, March 6th, which is the day of the England v. Ireland match. I'm sure they'd be very pleased to see you, and you'd have a thoroughly entertaining evening, too.



Continued from page 12

Peter Arnold

# So, what happens next?

Complications are setting in. With the arrival of Tetley Bitter Cup, Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup and the Five Nations Championship all at the same time, you might be glad of a brief round-up of affairs scheduled for the next few weeks.

It's back to Premiership matters next weekend, and even that isn't quite straightforward because the away game against London Irish is down for Sunday. Difficult old game it's likely to be, too.

You may recall that we had some problems in defeating them in the first game of the season by 29 points to 22. They were virtually a brand new outfit then, but I think we could all see that here was a

side with considerable potential. So it has proved, and they have acquired some significant scalps as the season has progressed. We're quite capable of beating them, but it will need something of an effort, and the boys could do with all the support they can get.

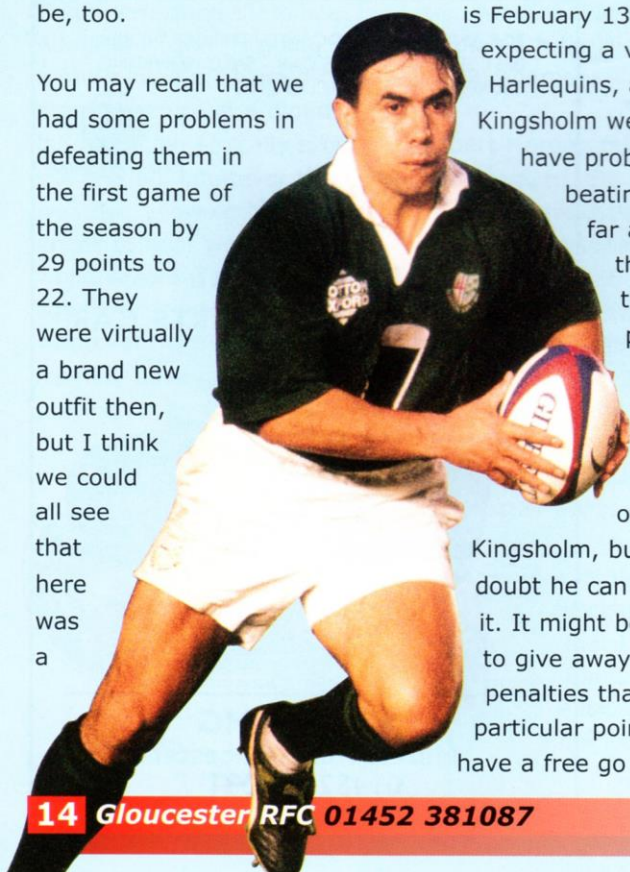
The following Saturday, that is February 13th, we are expecting a visit from Harlequins, and even at Kingsholm we seem to have problems

beating them. As far as I know, this will be the phenomenal Mr.

Schuster's first experience of kicking at Kingsholm, but I've no doubt he can cope with it. It might be better not to give away any penalties than let that particular points machine have a free go or two.

Saturday the 20th is, of course, Calcutta Cup day, which is why our C&G Cup fixture against Leeds at Kingsholm is to be played on Sunday the 21st. As you know, that game is the first one in our defence of the Cup which we won last season by beating Bedford, so it would be nice to start with a bang.

The last day of the month is Tetley's Bitter day again, but we'd better not speculate about that. We have to win today first, otherwise it's all irrelevant.



Schuster: Kingsholm debut



## IT'S AN ILL WIND

A nail-biting finish might have justified the decision to delay the kick-off of the Richmond game the other week, but about the only thing of note which happened during Sky's extended coverage of the final South Africa-West Indies test match was the unedifying sight of Courtney Walsh limping off with a hamstringing problem.

Family commitments prevented me from attending that game. We were able, however, to nip down to our local and watch the match on the big screen. As you can imagine, disgruntlement reigned supreme. The outcome was that just about everyone in a packed bar was constrained to purchase at least one extra pint. So the landlord was happy.

Multiply that by all the pubs in the area which were showing the game, and a lot of supplementary beer must have passed over the bridgework around Gloucester on the afternoon of January 16th 1999. It may be true that you can't please everybody. It seems that, equally, you can't offend everyone, either.

## IT'S OFFICIAL!

Peter Arnold

I note that, according to the Press, John Kingston, Chief Ovaltiney of the Richmond side, claimed that his side should have won the game at Kingsholm because they were the better team "by quite a way". He puts the blame for their failure to do that fairly and squarely on The Shed. Apparently, such a "partisan" crowd puts a great deal of pressure on the opposing players, poor dears.

connection with their game against Saracens today.

Come off it, Mr Kingston. Your side is packed with professional players, many of whom have experience of playing in Internationals in front of crowds ten times as big as we get into Kingsholm, and probably a darn sight more partisan, too.

So now it's official. Loud and continuous support from the touchline can affect the outcome of a match. Hooray. And incidentally, that must be good news for Lydney in



Richmond, officially scared of The Shed

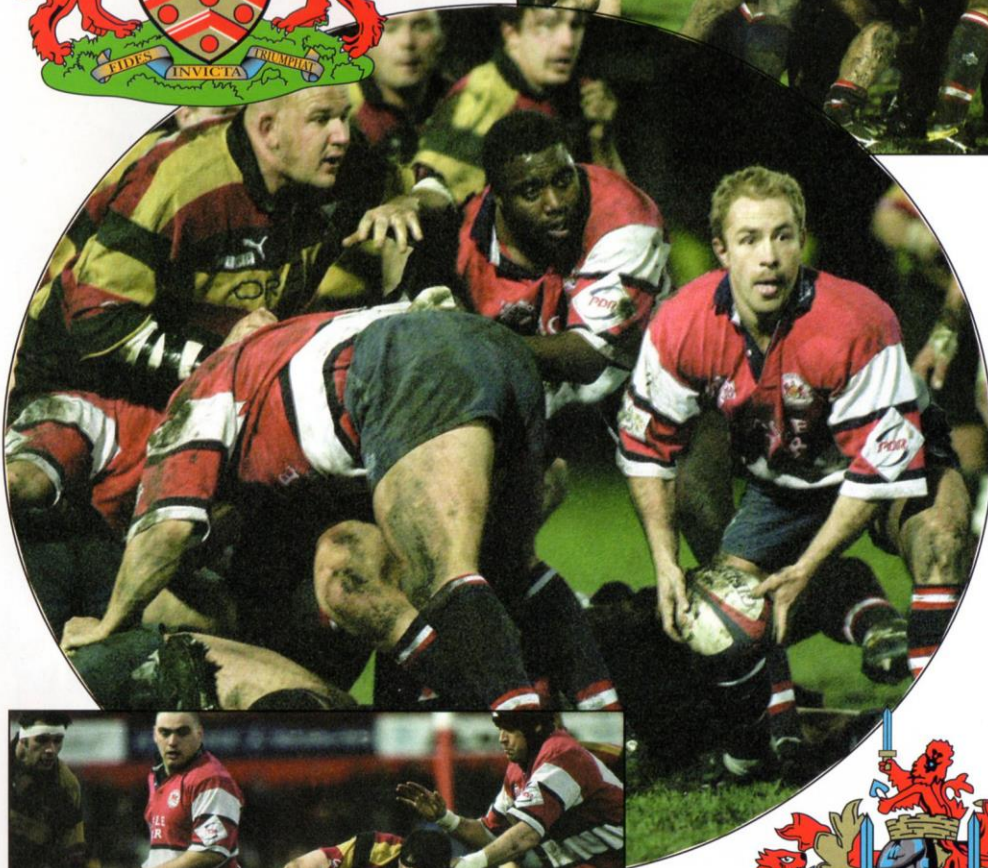
## TAILPIECE

I heard one story concerning today's visitors during the week. It relates to a visit by Matson to Henley, some years ago, and features toilet seats and a roll of clingfilm.

Perhaps I shouldn't go into details in what is, after all, supposed to be a family publication.



# Action Special





# vs Letters From The Net



Gloucester RFC 01452 381087



I have to agree with John Brain's comments. We were stood in The Shed and clearly saw Clarke drop the ball - if the ref didn't see it, the touch judge should have done! Most of the press seemed happy to ignore the sending off, but if it had been a Gloucester player I'm sure something would have been said.  
Forest Green, Glos, UK

Big improvement on Saturday at Leicester, but we allowed them to get away a bit in the third quarter. But the team showed real character to come back and finish strongly. A real pleasure to give Pearson some stick, who was running (or rather waddling) the line and trying his best to influence the ref against Glos. Keep playing like that and we will come away from other grounds with wins.  
Theescombe, Glaws, UK, 24.01.99



Did anyone really think that England would end up out of the Five Nations?  
Leatherhead, Surrey, UK  
20.01.99

The merry-go-round (or farce) goes on. England are back in.  
Stroud, Glaws, 19.01.99



If I could have a One 2 One with Scott Benton, I'd ask him what on earth he talked about with the opposition hooker at a line-out.  
Dorset, UK, 19.01.99





# GLOUCESTER



# HENLEY HAWKS



*Gloucester's mascot today is  
Guy Morgan Aged 9*

15	Audley Lumsden
14	Tom Beim*
13	Terry Fanolua*
12	Rory Greenslade-Jones
11	Philippe Saint-Andre*
10	Simon Mannix*
9	Nigel Cane
1	Tony Windo
2	Chris Fortey
3	Adey Powles
4	Rob Fidler*
5	Dave Sims (c)
6	Andy Hazell
7	Ed Pearce
8	Steve Ojomoh*
16	Scott Benton*
17	Mark Mapletoft*
18	Richard Tombs*
19	Dave Hinkins
20	Richard Ward
21	Chris Hall
22	Pete Glanville

Full Back  
Right Wing  
Centre  
Centre  
Left Wing

Outside Half  
Scrum Half

Prop  
Hooker  
Prop  
Lock  
Lock  
Flanker  
Flanker  
No. 8

Replacements

\*Denotes International

Andy Parton	15
Mat Maudsley	14
Russell Osman	13
Trevor Walsh	12
Gavin Sharp	11
Phil Osman	20
Ben Ayres	9
Rowan Fuller	1
Willie Phillips	2
Ray Lehner*	3
Jerry Sampson	4
Janik Hendriksz	5
Steve Barnes	6
Mark Venner	7
Ali Mortimore	8
Rob Heginbotham	16
Darren Cassidy	17
Ali Ramus	18
Jon Stebbings	19
Ben Hobbs	21
Duncan Roke	22
Rob Walker	23

Referee  
Geraint Ashton-Jones

Touch Judges  
John Barnard  
Laurie Bryant