

Gloucester

v HARLEQUINS

27th February 1999

Kick Off 3.00pm

£2.00



Inside:
John Fidler
Trevor Woodman Interview
Simon Mannix Poster
and more...

Westbury



EAGLE STAR



TETLEY'S
BITTER
CUP



From the Team Manager

I am sure like me you have all been looking forward to this afternoon's game which is the quarter final of the Tetley Bitter Cup between Gloucester and Harlequins. Both sides have strong traditions in cup rugby and always produce entertaining games when playing in the competition and I am sure today we will witness a very exciting and hard fought game between both sides. Harlequins come to Kingsholm today looking for their sixth consecutive win on the trot at Gloucester in the League and Cup which I am sure must be a record for any side visiting this ground.

Today we need to produce the type of rugby we played in the first 20 minutes against Harlequins in the league two weeks ago. If we can maintain that standard of rugby for 80 minutes then I am sure we can stop harlequins achieving the treble over us this season.

Looking at the harlequins side today there is one player, Keith Wood, who we will have to watch carefully as I am sure you will all agree his last visit to Kingsholm was one of

the best performances I have seen by a hooker for a long time. His tight work in the scrums and line-outs was excellent and he was always a danger when carrying the ball. I am sure like me you were all amazed when he kicked the ball into touch from a penalty.

Today is the second game at Kingsholm under the guidance of Philippe Saint-Andre, our player-coach and I am sure that everybody at the ground today wishes him success for today and for the remainder of the season. He is a player whose reputation goes before him and I am sure that with his knowledge and ability he can take the team forward.

I hope you all get behind the team today and give them all your very loyal support as a victory today will be the tonic to take us through to the end of the season.

John Fidler



Philippe Fact File

Full Name:

Philippe Georges Saint-André

Nickname:

Le Goret (The Piglet)

Born:

19.4.67, Romans, France

Honours:

France - 69 Caps
French Captain 34 times
French Barbarians
South Africa Barbarians

Joined Gloucester:

May 1997 on a two season contract (with a one season option)

Gloucester Record:

39 Appearances, 19 tries
Appointed coach 16/2/99

Philippe Saint-André is one of world's great try-scoring wings - his best remembered try was scored against England at Twickenham in 1991 when France ran the ball from behind their own try line to score.



Peter Arnold

WE GET LETTERS!

All Stations to Waterloo

So we're away in the C and G Cup. It must be the first time that an army led by a Frenchman has visited Waterloo since 1815. And that was in the cricket season.

Of course, the Merseyside club used to be a regular fixture at one time, and stern opposition they were, too. The last time I remember a Cup game in Gloucester featuring that fine old club was when they played Gordon League one year, and were glad to go back home with a narrow victory.

Wonder if Steve Ojomoh will be able to get his hair cut at last. But let's not tempt fate....



Nice letter from Matthew Price this week. For those not in the know, Matthew is the 18 year-old supporter who was stricken with a form of cancer and had to undergo some very unpleasant chemotherapy. But let him speak for himself.

Dear Mr. Arnold,

Many thanks to you for your

'Welcome Home' item in the match programme at the Quins League game. I am so grateful to everyone at the Ground for the warm reception I received, and for Graham Spring's surprise announcement.

May I thank the players for their kind support while I was in hospital.

The letters, cards, signed poster and the autographed baseball cap were much appreciated.

Am I allowed to mention 'Shedhead' in your august publication? They, too, have been very kind and supportive. Special thanks are due to John Cook and Richard Arnold of Impcross Ltd. who kindly invited me, and my girl friend Elin, into their box for the match. As Elin is Swedish and had not been to a rugby match before, I am sure the saga of the Cherry-and-White Warriors will be carried back across the North Sea.

I also wish to thank Pete Wilson at BBC Radio Gloucestershire, Katie Coker at the Citizen and, of course, God's Chosen People, the Kingsholm Faithful for all their support and kindness.

Cheers!

MATTHEW PRICE



Peter Arnold

No Time To Bleed

That famous Harlequin, Mickey ('The Munch') Skinner has a lovely story about Mike Teague, who he likes to refer to as 'the hard man from Gloucester'. It concerns an incident during the World Cup Semi Final at Twickenham seven or eight years ago. Apparently, well on into the game with England beginning to struggle, 'Teaguey' went down in the middle of the field with blood flowing from a cut over his eyebrow.

Like a good Captain, Will Carling was there in a flash, and according to Mr. Skinner, enquired "Mikey, Mikey ! You all right ? You're bleeding !" Mike got to his feet, growled "Ain't got time to bleed!" and roared back into the fray.

I can't help thinking that things are about like that at Gloucester RFC at the moment. We ain't got time to bleed. It wouldn't be appropriate, or especially intelligent, for me to comment on the earthquake which hit the club ten days or so ago, other than to wish Richard Hill well wherever he goes from here. What I do know is that now is not the time for looking back. It's the time to salvage our season. Even without recent events, today's game would have been the

most important of the year so far. It now enters a new dimension.

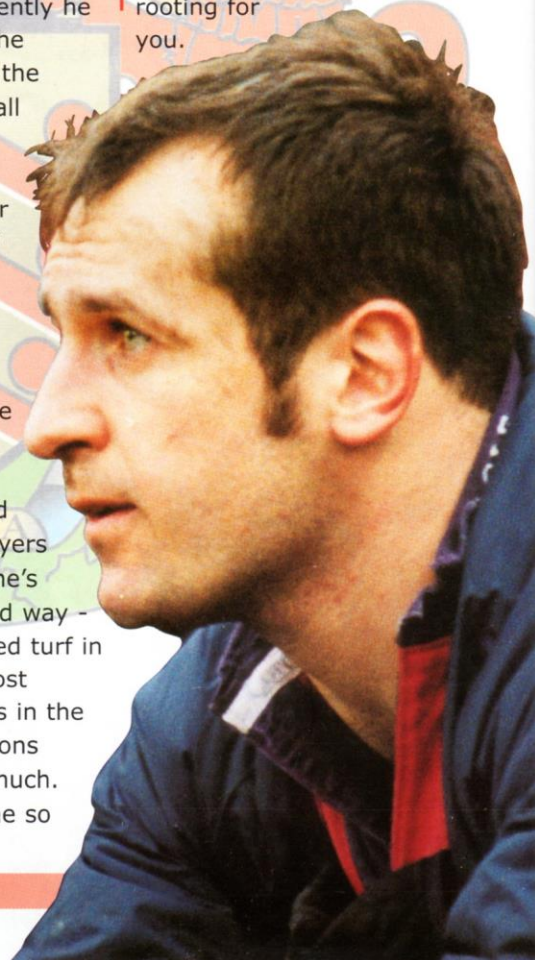
Everyone in Gloucester wants the new regime to succeed. It's up to the players, under the guidance of Philippe Saint Andre, to do the business on the field, but we can all give them all the support we can. If ever they needed our encouragement, it's now.

A French correspondent of mine tells me that he doesn't really think we realise the cult status Philippe has in his native country. Apparently he is revered as one of the greatest players, and the greatest captains, of all time, and one of France's sporting icons, a role model for a whole generation of French youngsters. Apparently, his appointment at Gloucester has gobsmacked the entire French media. He certainly has a great deal of respect around here, among both players and supporters. And he's had to earn it the hard way - out there on the sacred turf in front of one of the most knowledgeable crowds in the game, where reputations don't count for very much. The fact that he's done so

much in such a relatively short time speaks volumes. Now he has a whole new set of challenges and has to meet them under thousands of very critical eyes.

Anyone who could captain France for so many times, in the frequently politics-ridden atmosphere of French rugby, must have a great deal going for him, and it's going to be fascinating to see how he copes. Personally, I think he'll succeed.

'Bon chance!' Philippe. We're rooting for you.



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Peter Arnold

Nice To See His Grace

It was good to see the Bishop of Gloucester maintaining the tradition of visits to Kingsholm the other week. This was his first visit, and was part of the Pilgrimage he is making covering his entire Diocese during 1999.

Gloucester RFC has, of course, a significant ecclesiastical connection. The very ground we play on once belonged to the Diocese, and there have been a fair few good players from among the clergy who have worn the cherry-and-white in anger.

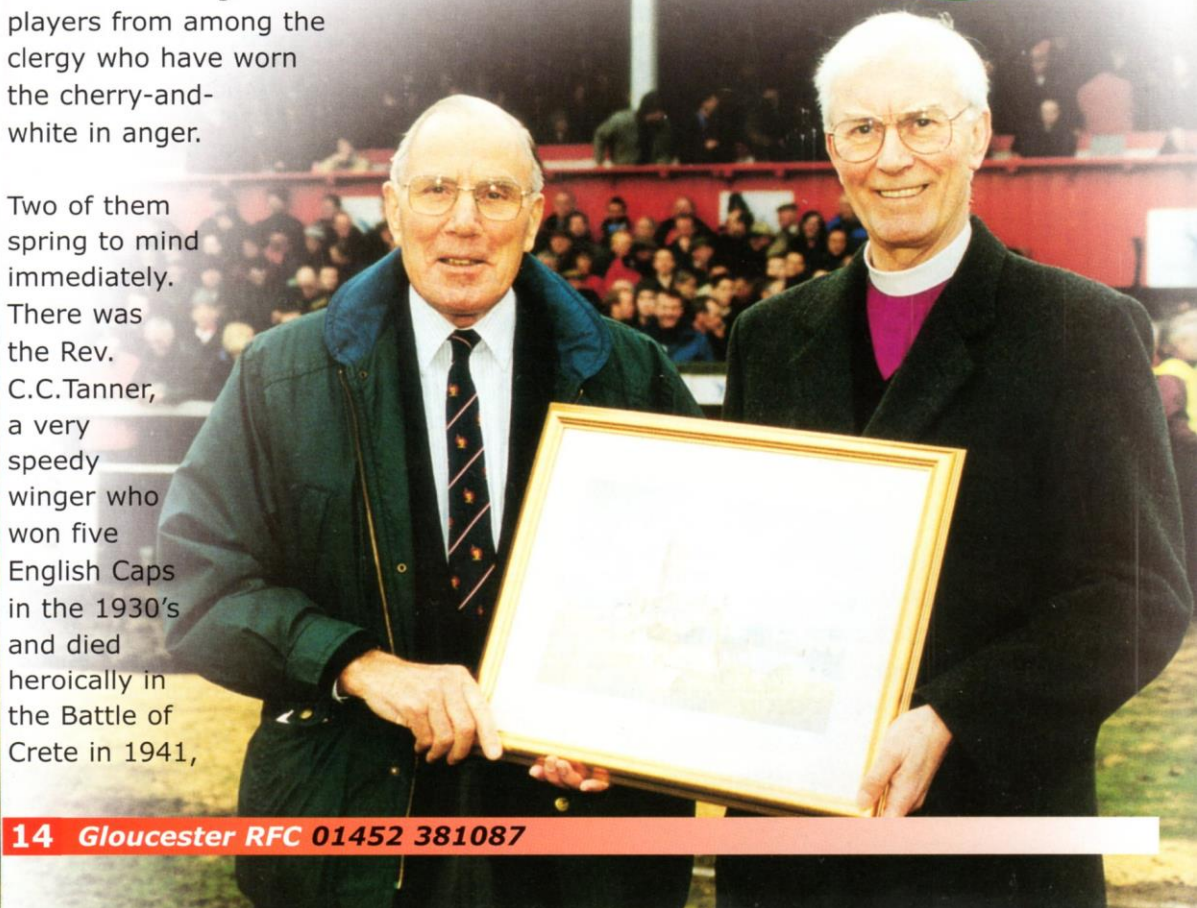
Two of them spring to mind immediately. There was the Rev. C.C.Tanner, a very speedy winger who won five English Caps in the 1930's and died heroically in the Battle of Crete in 1941,

a tragic event recently highlighted in a BBC West documentary. And who can possibly forget Canon Mervyn Hughes who served as President of the Club for years ? He called it "The best job in rugby."

He was vicar at St. Philip and St. James in Hucclecote for many years, and it was always tacitly agreed by all concerned that no one got married in his church after

1.00pm if Gloucester happened to be playing at home on that day.

Anyway, a belated welcome to our current Bishop. We hope he thoroughly enjoyed himself. And that his visit will be the first of many.



WELL DONE ENGLAND A

Nice to see that an England 'A' side, with four Gloucester players and one replacement, reversed the beating they were given by their Scottish counterparts last season.

I only have sketchy details at the time of writing, but I gather that all our lads did well, with Mark Maplettoft's kicking landing him twelve points. I also hear that Scotty Benton can take a lot of the credit for Vander's opening England try.

There are, of course, seven other Gloucester lads in the frame for 'A' games this year. Perhaps they'll get their chance a bit later.

SEEN ON THE TELLY

What did you think of England's performance last Saturday? No, neither did I, but it was nice to see Neil McCarthy's smiling mug on the TV screen, appearing there among the familiar faces of the England replacements. Pity he didn't get on for a few minutes.

That's only one step away from a full England Cap. And one report did describe Mr. Cockerill's performance as 'muted'. So you never know.

Peter Arnold

THE HIKING HOOKER

On the weekend when we shall all be fascinated by events up at West Hartlepool, one former Gloucester player will be more concerned with the temperature in the Jordanian desert. John Hawker, who most people will recall as a highly effective hooker in around 150 Gloucester First XV matches, is due to set off on a 100km hike through some of the most inhospitable terrain one can think of.

Obviously, the cause is a good one. It's all part of a sponsored effort in aid of the Meningitis Trust, lately much in the news following the death of a little girl from Tredworth, and the serious outbreak in South Wales.

John will be part of a 32-strong party of hardy souls, one of whom is fellow Brockworth RFC player, Steve Dunn, and he has adapted his usual training schedule, which he has maintained since giving

up the first-class game in 1997, to the needs of the occasion.

Not that John Hawker has abandoned rugby at all. When he left Kingsholm he returned to the lively Brockworth club where he started his career. He is now their player-coach, and even now at the ripe old age of 35, there's no doubt about his fitness at all.

Just as well. The trek from Amman to Aqabar covers both deserts and mountains, and the weather is certain to be a lot warmer than the Gloucester lads can expect up at West Hartlepool. The schedule calls for a hike of around 20km. a day. That's around 13 miles in old money. Not something to be undertaken lightly in those conditions.

John Hawker will make it, though. There was never any doubt about his determination, and we wish him well.

TAILPIECE

I suppose "Allez Cerise et Blanc!" is simple enough, but how do you translate "Come on you Elver Eaters !"?

Trevor Woodman Interview

I think it's probably fair to say that Trevor Woodman doesn't really like doing interviews. "Well, I do them. The way the game is now you have to," he says bluntly. The man of few words looks away and smiles at some of the other players in the corner. He's similarly wary of the press in



general, even the slew of positive comments he's received in recent months: "There have been a few mentions of things I've done in games and that sort of thing; they've been quite good things about the way I've come on and my general game. It's all good but you can't rely on press people and the things they say about you." He looks right at me. Oh dear. Is there a launderette near here?

Mind you, it's not as if Trevor needs the press, good or bad. As a young player in Plymouth, he was spotted by Richard Hill and asked to play for Bath. He only played a couple of games for Bath before Hill made his move to Gloucester and asked Trevor to join too. It was an opportunity which Trevor seized, not least because Gloucester already had players of the calibre of Phil Greening. Recently, he's broken through into the first team and has been attracting plaudits from all and sundry. His performances this season have struck fear into the hearts of opposing front

rows and provoked admiration in the minds of the England A selectors. "I'm pleased with that, I'm happy," he says of his England A call-up, with typical understatement. He claims that the keys to his success both with Gloucester and England A are twofold: "I just try and play well every game. I try and do all the basics well in the line outs and the rucks and mauls. Occasionally, I'll get the ball in hand and try to do something with it." He's also accepting of the way that the Gloucester pack has seen quite a lot of player rotation this season: "You've got to rotate your squad. A player can't play in every game all season. I've played 25 games for the first team and the united this season. You're going to have to rotate players." Having said that, though, Trevor has fared better than some of his counterparts with respect to injury and it's partly down to this that he's managed to maintain a regular first team place. "Last season I was full of injury but I've stayed clear of that this year... touch wood." It's a shame that the same can't be said about players of the quality of

Trevor Woodman Interview

Simon Devereux, Kingsley Jones, Pete Glanville and Trevor's friend Phil Vickery. The two Cornishmen share a flat together in Gloucester and Trevor is optimistic about Phil's progress: "He's doing very well. He's only got another two weeks to go before he can start training again," he says. "I've lived with Phil for three years now. He moved to Gloucester about four or five months before I did. He gave me a call and we got to know each other and became good friends; we've lived with each other since then. It's like we're married! It's quite good. We get on very well." I ask Trevor if Phil has helped him to get into the England A squad? "He helps a bit, but not a lot really. He goes through things mentally and helps me get the right mental attitude. It's just little things really. It's very unfortunate that he's been injured." Characteristically, Trevor's also pretty blunt about Gloucester's chances for the rest of the season. "Well, we've just got to knuckle down and put some good things together. We're making too many basic errors at the moment. Things like tackling

and balls not going to hand, Our defence hasn't been as good as some other sides. Getting to Twickenham is our main aim at the moment. We know that the league is out of our grasp."

Trevor may not like doing interviews, but as long as he keeps on tearing opposition front rows to pieces, that hardly matters.



View From The Balcony

Kingsholm - parochial or pan-global?

On Rugby Club last week, Dewi Morris said something crass about Gloucester finding it difficult to accommodate a Frenchman as coach and Stuart Barnes slurred about how the Shed might find it difficult to understand Philippe. Just how condescending and out of touch can you get? And, give me Clermont-Ferrand over Barf any day!

Gloucester supporters will, on the the evidence of their reaction to PSA, Terry Fanolua, Richard Tombs - or even Scott Benton - accept anyone good enough to wear the Cherry and White (or should that be the Eagle Star and complementary background?)

There is a greater aggregate IQ on display in The Shed than in any other sporting institution I have ever encountered. Much as I like the atmosphere at Franklins Gardens, I cannot imagine them summoning up the 'Marseillaise' or, for that matter, anything other than the bloody 'Marching Saints'!

You don't have to be Galilean to be a Christian, Bolivian to be a follower of Ché, Polish to be a Catholic or Gloucesterian to love GRFC. (Although maybe it helps a bit)

Malcolm Price

A box has many advantages (orthopaedics and rugby seem traditionally to go together). It is an excellent way to entertain customers - lunch, a few drinks and convivial conversation, especially when the customers are also supporters of the visiting team.

The overall strategic pattern of the game may be better witnessed from the balcony and, certainly, inside can be warmer than out. But, for sheer involvement and atmosphere, I would rather be on the terrace or in the Shed. My customers, however, prefer to stay in the box!

Peter J Gibson
Chairman, Corin Medical Group

Glevum Windows, one of the leading suppliers of windows, doors and conservatories in the South West would like it to be known that on many occasions they very often have spaces in their hospitality box at Kingsholm. We therefore invite NEW customers with an appetite for rugby to make themselves known and we will endeavour to entertain you in what is regarded as one of the best views in the stadium. The burning question is this: why does a company who resents employing anyone who is not a rugby fan have problems filling this hospitality box? This question was put to the company's Marketing Manager Richard Goad who explained,

"It's all down to The Shed. We just can't compete. Our staff obviously get the opportunity to watch games from this vantage point but very often they prefer to be giving it plenty from The Shed and having been in there I can see the attraction. They love it! As a company that prides itself on its marketing ability we recognise the Shed for what it is - a much-loved institution. The comments and banter that come from within are as important in many ways as the game itself. We trust that in this commercial age the club can capitalise and still retain what is surely a rugby marketing magnet. No matter where they watch from, one thing is for sure: all involved at Glevum windows will be right behind the boys at today's cup-tie.
COME ON GLAWS!



GLOUCESTER



15 Chris Catling
14 Brian Johnson
13 Simon Mannix*
12 Richard Tombs*
11 Philippe Saint-Andre*

10 Mark Mapletoft*
9 Scott Benton*

1 Trevor Woodman
2 Neil McCarthy
3 Andy Deacon
4 Rob Fidler* (c)
5 Mark Cornwell
6 Ed Pearce
7 Nathan Carter
8 Steve Ojomoh*

16 tba
17 tba
18 tba
19 tba
20 tba
21 tba
22 tba

Full Back
Right Wing
Centre
Centre
Left Wing

Outside Half
Scrum Half

Prop
Hooker
Prop
Lock
Lock
Flanker
Flanker
No. 8

Replacements

*Denotes International

HARLEQUINS



Jamie Williams 15
Darren O'Leary 14
Peter Mensch 13
John Schuster 12
Dan Luger 11

Thierry Lacroix 10
Huw Harries 9

Jason Leonard 1
Tom Murphy 2
Gary Halpin 3
Gareth Llewellyn 4
Garrick Morgan 5
Rory Jenkins 6
Adam Leach 7
Chris Sheasby 8

Colin Ridgway 16
Bill Davison 17
Alan Yates 18
Steve White-Cooper 19
Jason Keyter 20
Will Carling 21
Nick Walshe 22