

Gloucester RFC Official Matchday Programme

Issue 02 | Price £2.50



Gloucester

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v Saracens

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE

SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2003

KICK-OFF 2.45PM



**KINGSHOLM STADIUM
DEVELOPMENT
ALL THE NEWS!**

**PLAYER POSTERS
NEW CAMERA ACTION**

**ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND
VIEWS FROM KINGSHOLM**

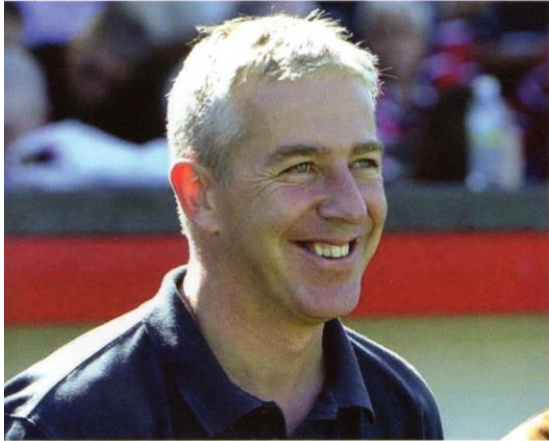
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Front cover image by GPAImages.com



NIGEL'S NOTES...

Nigel Melville

Director of Rugby

"Last week I believe that we stepped forward in terms of defence. But there is still plenty of things to work on..."

Welcome to everyone. Today our visitors are Saracens, who in recent weeks have been playing very well. It looks like both Rod Kafer and Taine Randell are making a big difference to their set-up. They're quite fortunate that they've only lost Richard Hill and Kyrán Bracken to the World Cup and I wish both of them all the best for the tournament.

Last week I believe that we stepped forward in terms of defence. But there is still plenty of things to work on and we've been focussing on those this week. The bonus point we picked up at the Madejski Stadium was down to our defensive efforts, especially after conceding the try in the first minute.

As I've said everyone has been focussed on improving this week and some of the lads have had a real boost with the announcement of England's Elite Player squad. We've got eight players named and it's great news for them, including Marcel being included in the Academy squad.

Although I must admit I'm surprised that Henry Paul wasn't included. I'm convinced he deserves an inclusion in the group and I'm looking forward to hearing the reasons for his absence.

However, on the plus side and a selfish perspective he can be involved with us more, especially with the 32 game limit imposed on players throughout the year, you have to remember that not only do we have the World Cup, but also the Six Nations early next year.

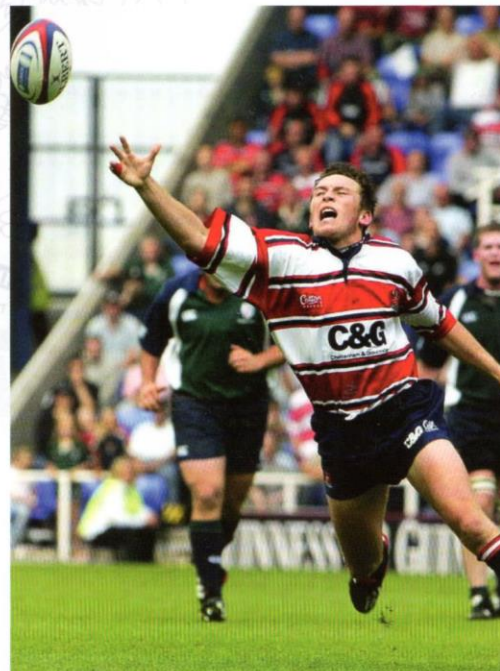
Coming back to Gloucester, it's certainly been an important week for the Club. The whole stadium development and supporters trust project is great for the Club and it is positively trying to improve the entire

infrastructure here.

We want more people to attend, we want better facilities and this development is making every effort to ensure we offer all of you and the city what you want.

I've signed up for the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual this week and I'm looking forward to watching and being part of the project's development.

Enjoy today.





CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Jake Boer

Club Captain

"We need to be a little more streetwise from now..."

Welcome back for the second match of the season at Kingsholm. It's been an interesting week.

We knew last Sunday's match against the Irish would be tough, but when we looked back on it, we were pleased with our defensive performance. For those of you who were there, you could see some of the tackles going in.

Unfortunately, it's not just about that, and we need to start winning. Against London Irish, once we'd let them in early on, we were always chasing the game. They also had a tactical kicking game that put them in good positions.

We need to be a little more streetwise from now on, with some people outside of the club saying this comes with experience. Of course, we have players missing at the World Cup and losing Andy Deacon last Sunday was a big blow.

But we've got to get over this. They're not here, it's a fact and there are some new players finding their feet.

There's no panic. We know everything will click at some point, and when it does, it'll be good.

After last season's results people aren't used to losing. Unfortunately it is part of sport, but eventually things will come right.

Today's visitors Saracens are a very different side to last season. They've had a good start and they'll be happy with the results so far.

Saracens have experienced pretty much all of the emotions in the game, being at the top and at the bottom. They've got some quality players and of

course the big signing for them in the summer was Taine Randell.

Taine is a world-class player who is respected throughout the world and I'm looking forward to coming up against him today.

Saracens will be up for it today and all the lads are looking forward to your support.





KINGSHOLM SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2003



GLOUCESTER 22

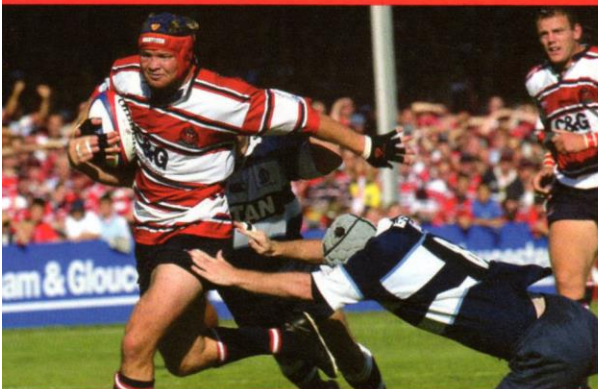
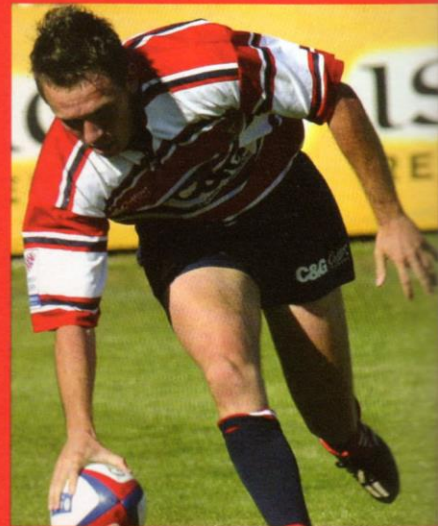
TRIES: TEAGUE CONVERSIONS: PAUL

PENALTIES: PAUL (5)



ROTHERHAM 8

TRIES: LEWIS PENALTIES: STRANGE



top left: Junior Paramore is held by Rotherham's Jacob Rauluni and Leon Spence. top right: Henry Paul breaks away supported by Junior Paramore. middle: Rory Teague scores his second half try. bottom left: Jake Boer. bottom right: Andy Hazell collects a loose ball.

Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA Images



MADEJSKI STADIUM SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2003



LONDON IRISH 16

TRIES: **SACKEY** CONVERSIONS: **MAPLETOFT**

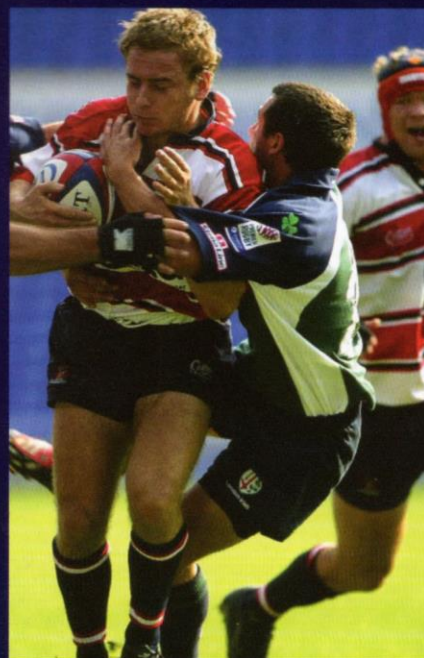
PENALTIES: **EVERITT (2)** DROP GOALS: **EVERITT**



GLOUCESTER 10

TRIES: **PARAMORE**

CONVERSIONS: **PAUL** PENALTIES: **PAUL**



top left: Henry Paul is tackled by London Irish Michael Horak. top right: Junior Paramore runs in his first half try.

bottom left: Rory Teague and Robert Todd chase a loose ball. bottom right: Brad Davies is stopped by London Irish Barry Everitt.

Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook®- GPA Images

The Kingsholm Project

All the details

It has been a busy week and everyone associated with Gloucester Rugby Club is delighted with the new plans for Kingsholm Stadium.

With the launch taking place this week, the official matchday programme rounds up all of the details.

Project Kingsholm – ‘your chance to make a difference’

We would like to introduce to you a new supporters organisation called the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual, and to then outline the proposals for the redevelopment of Kingsholm Stadium.

Many people will be aware that Kingsholm will soon be unable to fully meet the needs and ambitions of Gloucester RFC and its supporters and we have therefore been looking at all of the available options - even moving to another site. However, we can now confirm that we are going to stay at Kingsholm and that we intend to redevelop it and turn it into one of the best club grounds in world rugby.

Everybody has a role to play in the

achievement of this important project and the club will rely upon the support of all of its fans, its commercial partners, the city itself and the wider business community to make it happen.

The Redevelopment Masterplan

We plan to redevelop Kingsholm in three phases with work starting, if the finance is in place, in May 2004. Our team of surveyors, architects and builders advise us that, although the schedule is extremely tight, phase one can be completed before season 2004/2005 starts in September 2004.

The first phase is the most crucial as it will include the demolition of the existing stand and its replacement with a brand new and much larger grandstand complex that will

sit along the whole length of the south side of the pitch. We propose to follow this with improvements to the Shed terracing and the Kingsholm Road end of the ground.

The new stand will contain 3,500 seats, bars, reception rooms, the club shop, improved toilets and match day services, as well as conference and educational facilities. Ground capacity will be increased to almost 14,000, making Kingsholm eligible for international fixtures and even future World Cup games.

We need your support to be able to turn Kingsholm into an even more impressive and atmospheric stadium, with greatly improved spectator facilities throughout. The new stadium will be capable of hosting a wide range of other sporting and non-sporting events and it will help position Gloucester as a progressive and important regional city.



for all the latest visit | www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com

How much will it cost and how will it be paid for?

Phase 1 (the new grandstand) will cost approximately £6million, financed in two different, but connected, ways. First of all, the club must raise an initial £2million, which we hope to achieve through the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual, sponsorships, debentures and other commercial fund-raising methods.

Then, in January 2004, if we have raised the initial £2million, we shall be able to borrow an additional £4million to complete the financing of the project. The extra revenue generated by the larger stadium capacity, new commercial facilities and 7-day operation will enable us to then repay this loan.

Tom Walkinshaw will be diluting his control of the club by the sale of new GRFC shares to the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual in exchange for the funds it has raised – all of which will go towards enabling the redevelopment go ahead. He fully supports the new Kingsholm Supporters Mutual and its active representation on the Board of Directors.

The club really needs everyone's help and involvement to reach the target of £2million that has to be raised from our supporters, local community organisations and our commercial partners by January 2004.

The Fundraising schemes will include:

- Naming Rights Sponsorship for the stadium and/or the new grandstand
- Naming Rights Sponsorship for individual rooms and facilities
- Supplier sponsorship
- A Vice Presidents Club, or similar
- A Seat Debenture Scheme, or similar
- A 'Buy a Brick' type scheme

Full details about these and other fundraising opportunities will be developed

and announced in the near future and will be listed on the website.

We have just three months to raise the capital but with the performance of our team, the increase in season ticket holders and the growth in corporate members, the club is better placed than ever to achieve this challenging target.

The 'Kingsholm Supporters Mutual'.

The Kingsholm Supporters Mutual is an independent supporters trust that is being established to create closer links between Gloucester Rugby Club, its supporters, the City of Gloucester and the whole of the community it serves. It will:

- have a representative on the GRFC Board of Directors, with full voting rights.
- be run by its members and be independent of Gloucester RFC
- be a not-for-profit organisation
- have a strong and independent legal constitution
- be able to raise funds for a range of club developments

The Kingsholm Supporters Mutual will play a vital role in raising funds for club facilities, including the new grandstand. It represents a major step forward in the way that the club is structured and it will have a real influence on the management of the club.

All monies raised by the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual will be used for stadium improvements and will increase its shareholding in GRFC Ltd. The club also intends to eventually make GRFC Ltd shares available personally to individual members of the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual.

Supporter Mutuals are common now in professional football and they have achieved great results. For instance, AFC Bournemouth recently raised £1million towards the cost of a new 10,000 seat stadium via a supporter's mutual

organisation and they only had 2,000 season ticket holders and gates of 5,000!

A small Steering Group of dedicated GRFC supporters, comprising Peter Ford, Bob Rumble, Terry Short and Darren Stevens has been set up to help the club launch the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual. This group will oversee the use of any funds raised and will ensure that GRFC meets its obligations to the new organisation.

Any individual, organisation or business can join the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual, so long as they have an interest in GRFC, the community it serves, or rugby in general. Members will pay an annual membership fee of £20 and they will then be able to take part in all activities and elect a representative, on a one member-one vote basis, to sit on the GRFC Board of Directors.

Further announcements and information will soon appear on the official club website at www.gloucester rugby club.com. Meanwhile, an application form for the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual, can be downloaded from this website and we urge you to print it off, complete it and return as soon as possible. The club needs your active involvement.



Visit www.gloucester rugby club.com for more details and latest updates on the KSM and new stadium development

The Matchday programme starts a series of articles when it looks at the rugby club's partners in the stadium development project.

The Architects of the new Stadium

Gloucester Rugby Club is working closely with ASTAM GBC Consultancy, a Gloucester practice of architects, engineers and surveyors whose headquarters practically overlook Kingsholm itself. In fact, many of its senior staff are life-long supporters of Gloucester RFC.

It is expected that the redevelopment will take at least three years to complete, after which Gloucester RFC will have a new stadium, that will meet all of the requirements of Premier Rugby and able to host international fixtures, including World Cup games.

ASTAM GBC's Director of Business Developments, Nigel Hawkins says; "We are delighted that our initial approach to the club has matured into such a fantastic scheme for the Club and for Gloucester.

"As a local

company, we are more than pleased to have been given the challenge of upgrading Kingsholm and ensuring its future as one of rugby's great sporting amphitheatres.

"It will be even more dramatic, the atmosphere will be more intense and the players and spectators will be even more 'up-close and personal.

"It will help position Gloucester as a modern and significant city."

Another key partner in the stadium development project is Barr limited, part of the Barr Holdings Group.

Barr is one of the largest privately

owned Construction Companies in the UK and has a turnover in excess of £150m.

More than 1,100 people are employed on a wide variety of projects including more than 40 completed stadia projects, making Barr one of the leaders in this market.

Sandy Milligan, a director at Barr, commented: "Barr Limited is looking forward to working closely with Gloucester Rugby Football Club. We'll be working alongside the Club's advisors, project managers and consultants to design, develop and construct this prestigious development off the pitch, worthy of the Club's achievements and abilities on the pitch."



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Supporters Trusts in Sport

The Kingsholm Supporters Mutual is following hot on the heels of other independent support organisations in sport, most notably in football. One of the leading clubs is Bournemouth AFC and the superb work they've carried out on their stadium.

AFC Bournemouth Leads the Way

The story of Bournemouth AFC vividly demonstrates how supporter-led organisations like the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual can transform the fortunes of a professional sporting club.

In five short years Bournemouth AFC has emerged from a club in crisis to a club full of confidence for its future. A brand new 10,000-seat stadium has replaced its decaying former ground, close bonds have been developed with the local community, it is financially sound and its fans have a real say in the way the club is managed.

All this has come about because in its darkest days, a small group of devoted fans, led by a Lawyer named Trevor Watkins, approached the club and asked if they could be involved in helping the club resolve its many problems, including an ageing stadium.

The club responded positively and within

six months this fledgling supporter's organisation raised £500,000, persuaded the club's bankers to provide further loans and were planning a new stadium.

The fans started with the belief that their club must be a part of the town it belonged to and, vice versa, that Bournemouth businesses and the local community should value, support and contribute to its football club.

The project overtook Trevor Watkins life and he became driven by the need to find a legal structure to bring his club and its supporters together. Then, he discovered a little used legal device, called an Industrial and Provident Society that enabled the supporters of Bournemouth AFC to become involved in the management of the club and to part-own it through a new share issue to its members.

The plan worked and, in effect, Bournemouth AFC's fans became owners of a significant part of their club and were represented on the Board of Directors. They were then able to raise funds and apply for grants to finance the cost of building of a brand new stadium.

The supporters association raised a substantial amount of money. Shares were sold to its members, local businesses and community organisations made donations and grants were accessed. It was not long before the club was financially stable and able to borrow the remaining money needed

to make the new stadium dream a reality.

Bournemouth AFC is now a community flagship and an example of what can be achieved if fans and management work together. Whilst many other professional football clubs, notably Northampton, and Luton have followed their example, Gloucester RFC will be leading the way as to a rugby club to adopt this strategy.

Trevor Watkins has gone on to become an authority on this subject and he has written a series of authoritative guides to setting up these independent supporters organisations, including a website, commissioned by the Football Association called 'Supporters Direct, which can be downloaded from www.supportersdirect.org.

Trevor is now advising Gloucester RFC on how to set up of the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual. This new organisation will be dedicated to bringing the club, its supporters and the local community closer together; to involve fans in the running of the club and to raise funds for ground improvements.

Bournemouth's new stadium at Dean Court was opened in October 2001, just three years after the creation of the new supporter's trust. The total cost of the project was £5.5million and facilities include a Community Learning Centre, a licensed creche, a Sports Injury Centre, classrooms for local schools and a full range of catering and entertainment opportunities.



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Who's Who at the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual

A small group of dedicated supporters have been asked to form a Steering Committee to take forward the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual, as an independent supporters trust.

The members of this Steering Committee are: Bob Rumble (Chairman), Darren Stevens, Terry Short and Peter Ford.

The official matchday programme brings you all the details of those involved.

Bob Rumble

As a youngster Bob Rumble captained his school rugby team and played the game until his early 20s. Bob comes from a legal and commercial background, and first saw Gloucester play in the 1970s before taking a long sabbatical to help the development of his daughter's show jumping career. During the last 10 years he has missed very few Gloucester games, home or away, and since 2001 has been the chairman of Gloucester Rugby Supporters' Association.

Darren Stevens

Darren Stevens is a season ticket holder and works for Chelsea Building Society as Assistant General Manager, Marketing and Communications, responsible for Marketing and Investment Services. Darren who comes from Gloucester, is also Chairman of Severn Sound 102.4FM, a Trustee for the Severn Sound Money Mountain and a Director of Gloucestershire Crimestoppers.

Terry Short

Terry Short is a retired Police Officer who is Chairman of the Cherry and White Supporters Club (formerly the Season Ticket Holders Association). Terry has supported the Club for more than 40 years and despite being confined to a wheelchair follows Gloucester all over the UK and Europe. His family has been associated with Gloucester RFC since 1900 and his Grandfather and five great uncles all played for the club before WW1.

Peter Ford

Peter Ford is a former Club Captain who played for Gloucester in more than 500 games and won four international caps. Peter has been involved in GRFC for over 50 years and was also Chairman of the Club and Chairman of Selectors. He has now retired from his well known Gloucester based family wholesale fruit and vegetable business.



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The Kingsholm Supporters Mutual

Your Questions Answered

Q. What is the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual?

Pioneered by supporter involvement at Northampton Town FC and AFC Bournemouth, a Supporters Mutual has become the way for ensuring meaningful supporter involvement in sport.

Democratic ("one person one vote") it gives a voice to supporters and the community. Overseen by four well known supporters, the Club has agreed to make available administrative resources to the KSM to help in these initial stages.

The GRSA and Cherry & White Members Club fully support the KSM and will play their own part in backing Project Kingsholm - the KSM however, will lead the way as the main body for fundraising and ensuring full supporter involvement.

Q. What does it cost and what happens to the money?

Application Forms are available from the club and you can join for £20. This membership fee will meet the setting up and running costs and also give you one share in the Mutual and you will have your own personal vote. You will also receive a KSM share certificate.

The balance of the membership fee will be used by the Mutual to buy shares in GRFC so it will then have a block shareholding - if the Mutual raises its target of £800,000 it will have approximately 10% of the club! The club has already put the structure in place to allow up to 30% of the club to be available. Membership fees are payable annually but will be considerably lower in future years.

Q. Can I contribute more than £20?

Yes! The application form asks for donations - each donation made will increase the amount the KSM has to help to make the new stadium a reality. It will also boost the number of shares the KSM receives in exchange for its contribution to the stadium project.

The club is committed to exploring ways of ensuring KSM members also have an opportunity to purchase shares in GRFC directly.

Q. How can I be sure my money will be used properly?

The KSM has its own bank account and is independent of the Club. Until its first annual meeting it will be run by four well-known supporters of the club and a binding agreement is in place between the Club and

the KSM to ensure that every penny contributed is used for the stadium project.

Q. Will I make money or be able to sell my share in the KSM?

No. The KSM has been launched with the specific purpose of raising funds to help finance the new Kingsholm project. The share in KSM given to a member cannot be sold, transferred and will never receive a dividend.

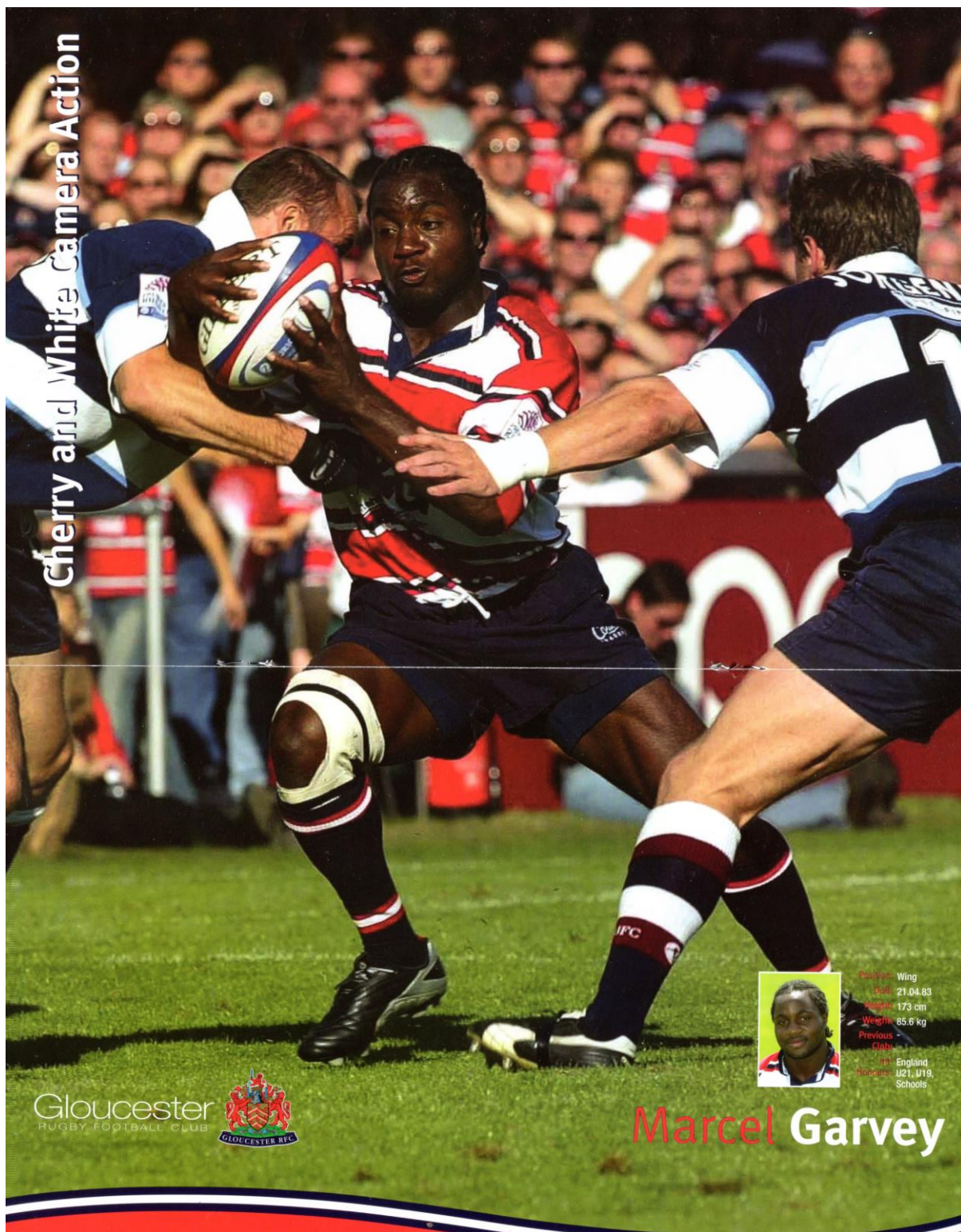
Q. What does Tom Walkinshaw think about the KSM?

Tom has fully backed the KSM, and, no matter how much money is raised, the KSM will get a seat on the board of GRFC Ltd. It will be able to review and influence the way the club is run and it is expected that in this first stage of fundraising Tom's control of GRFC will be significantly diluted.



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Cherry and White Camera Action



Position: Wing
DOB: 21.04.83
Height: 173 cm
Weight: 85.6 kg
Previous Club:
In: England
Honours: U21, U19, Schools

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Marcel Garvey

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Cherry and White Camera Action

Alex Brown



Position: Lock
DoB: 17.05.79
Height: 200 cm
Weight: 110 kg
Previous Club: Bristol
Previous Club: Shoguns
Int'l Honours: England (A)

Alex Brown signed for the Cherry and Whites in the summer and has had an instant impact on the team. An England 'A' international the talented lock forward will be keen to push his international claims this season. Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan will have plenty of options in the pack with Mark Cornwell and Adam Eustace fighting it out for a starting place.

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Cherry and White Camera Action

Henry Paul



Position: Inside
Centre
DoB: 10.02.74
Height: 180 cm
Weight: 93.4 kg
Previous: Bradford
Club: Bulls
Int: England (A),
Honours: 7's

Henry Paul has become an essential part of the Gloucester set-up. Towards the end of last season the former Bradford Bulls man pulled on the number 12 shirt and from then on has impressed in the red and white.

His kicking success was vital against Rotherham in the opening clash and his many attacks through the opposition's midfield have started to be a key part of the Gloucester attack.

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Cherry and White Camera Action

Brad Davies



Position: Fly Half
DoB: 13.02.83
Height: 177 cm
Weight: 89.1 kg
Previous Club: GRFC Academy
Int: England U21
Honours: England U18

Another in a long list of Gloucester players rolled off the St Peter's School production line. Part of the same side as Marcel Garvey, fly half Davies has been part of the Gloucester Academy for some years. He made his debut for the England U21 side in this summer's World Cup tournament. The talented youngster made his competitive debut for the Cherry and Whites in this season's opener against Rotherham.

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Peter Arnold

This week Peter Arnold, Gloucester Rugby Club's resident historian and fact finder, looks at the roar of the Shed and Division One rugby action.

TWO-EDGED SWORD

I'm going to talk a little heresy here. Have you ever thought that our level of support, acknowledged all over the place as the best around, can sometimes be something of a two-edged sword?

The thought was prompted by a remark from BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Peter Butler concerning the Rotherham game. He described the Gloucester side as 'trying to play the game at 120 miles an hour', and suggested that they should steady things down a bit and consider all the

options before doing something precipitate.

I think he has a point. As the Duke of Wellington said about his Irish soldiers during the Peninsular War, "I don't know what they'll do to the enemy, but by God! They frighten me!"

A young player, or even a more experienced one, who has never had the Shed in full cry behind him, can feel such a weight of expectation behind him that he knows he jolly well must do well, and must do it now. He is inclined to become tense, hurry things a bit, allow his passing to become wayward, snatch at the ball when it comes to him, and generally not do himself justice. It's a baptism of fire that has to be conquered and used to advantage.

I've experienced the syndrome myself in other spheres so I know it exists. Happily, it only lasts for a game or two, and one piece of brilliance can silence it for ever. He player concerned emerges stronger and more confident for the experience.

Please understand, I'm not suggesting that we drop our decibel level, far from it, but we should understand what might be happening, and what is going through the player's mind when something doesn't go right.

After all, we're all on the same side.

PERTEMPS WHO?

I think we all regretted Bristol's relegation last season, because it deprived us of our favourite Derby encounter here at Kingsholm. It seemed such a shame that one of the oldest fixtures on Gloucester's books should fall by the wayside in this way, and we hoped that our ancient rivals would bounce straight back into the Premiership so that friendly hostilities could resume at the earliest opportunity.

It's a bit early in the season to say that those hopes have been dashed, but they have certainly received a dent, over the last couple of weeks. The loss to Coventry was, if nothing else, a blast from the past, which is consolation of a sort, but the events of the previous Sunday raised a quizzical eyebrow or so.

Bristol had 45 points put on them by an outfit whose name suggests a ladies sewing circle rather than an obviously competent rugby team. I must confess that, like most people, I'd never heard of Pertemps Bees before the start of the season, so I tried a little investigation.

I rapidly discovered that Pertemps Bees are, in fact, the old Birmingham Solihull side, who have been labouring manfully in the lower divisions for years. In effect, the whole thing arises from a sponsorship deal: one which appears to go much





Duncan McRae in action

further than simply handing over a wad of green stuff and getting your company name on the players' shirts.

I'm told that Pertemps is a highly respected recruitment company, and the agreement with the club entails swapping the whole strip design to reflect the company's house colours and logo. There is also talk of a spanking new ground.

Fair enough. Nice work if you can get it. One of the stated objectives is to bring top-class rugby back to Birmingham. Once again, fair enough. Britain's second-largest city should have a top rugby club, and if Moseley can't make it, somebody else should have a go.

However, I can't help thinking that other clubs who have gone this route, NEC Harlequins, Bristol Shoguns, for example, have retained their club name in their title. Not to do so relegates the club to the status of a works team.

What would have been wrong with

'Pertemps Birmingham'?

IS THIS A RECORD?

Over the years, various Gloucester players have managed to incur the wrath of referees very early in their Kingsholm careers. If I recall correctly, Ian Smith, who went on to win a very respectable tally of Caps for Scotland, got himself sent off in his very first game for the United; against Rosslyn Park, I seem to remember.

However, our new Aussie outside half, Duncan McRae appears to have earned himself an early bath, and a suspension, even before he got within several thousand miles of the place. That must be some sort of a record.

It was the reason for his dismissal that intrigued me. Apparently, he was found guilty of insulting a touch judge. I hadn't really digested that when I learned that, last weekend, the Bridgend coach was banished to the

stand for a similar offence.

Oh dear. I hope that this sort of thing doesn't become fashionable among English referees. I can remember occasions when the entire Shed would have been in danger of suspension for like transgressions.

SOMETHING NEW?

Congratulations to Jake Boer and James Forrester for winning their Premiership Awards, and my commiserations to Nigel Melville on the (in my opinion wrong) decision that just pipped him to a similar honour. Marcel Garvey was in the frame, too.

I note that young James reckons that he will now be a marked man, and that he will have to try some new things to counter the problem.

Now there's a terrifying thought. No one has sorted out the old things yet.

Cherry and WhiteCamera Action

Steve Brotherstone



Position: Hooker
DoB: 16.04.71
Height: 184 cm
Weight: 104.7 kg
Previous Club: Newcastle
Int: Imt
Nationality: Scotland

Steve signed for the Cherry and Whites in the summer after spells at Newcastle Falcons and Northampton Saints. The former Scottish international started both of the opening two games against Rotherham and London Irish. With Chris Forsey back from suspension, the competition for the number two shirt really starts to rise.

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Fans Zone

with
Bob Fenton

Sometimes we can face hard choices in life, other times things are a bit more black and white.

Take this weekend, for example. Several weeks ago she who must be obeyed (i.e. my wife) said that the in-laws had planned a weekend out with grandchildren and families in London (trips on the London Eye, Tower of London, nice meal out – the lot). Sounds great, that is until I realised that the date clashed with this match...

In those circumstances you have to make a choice. Do you take the risk of upsetting the wife and other members of

some point, but then sometimes we must suffer for our art. And let's face it, the 'artists' I will be with while you are reading this will ensure that I drink enough to dull any pain that might come my way in the next few days.

Still, that's my problem... What of Duncan McRae though – getting himself a ban for abusing a referee. Really who does he think he is, that's our job. Come to think of it, though, as he's going to be here a bit earlier than expected, and as he can't play for a week or two, he could come and join us in the Shed and abuse anyone he likes from a safe distance. And we could teach him how to do it properly... Mind you, it's lucky we can't get banned for abuse, there would be nobody inside the ground after a couple of matches.

Talking of referees, what are we to make of their new outfits??? Man alive they looked different prancing around in what looked like a cross between a high-visibility safety vest and an old Wasps cast off.

Talking of referees, what are we to make of their new outfits??? Man alive they looked different prancing around in what looked like a cross between a high-visibility safety vest and an old Wasps cast off. That said, there could be method in the madness. Let's face it, Florence thinks he's a referee, so why not let him dress up like one to avoid some unnecessary confusion.

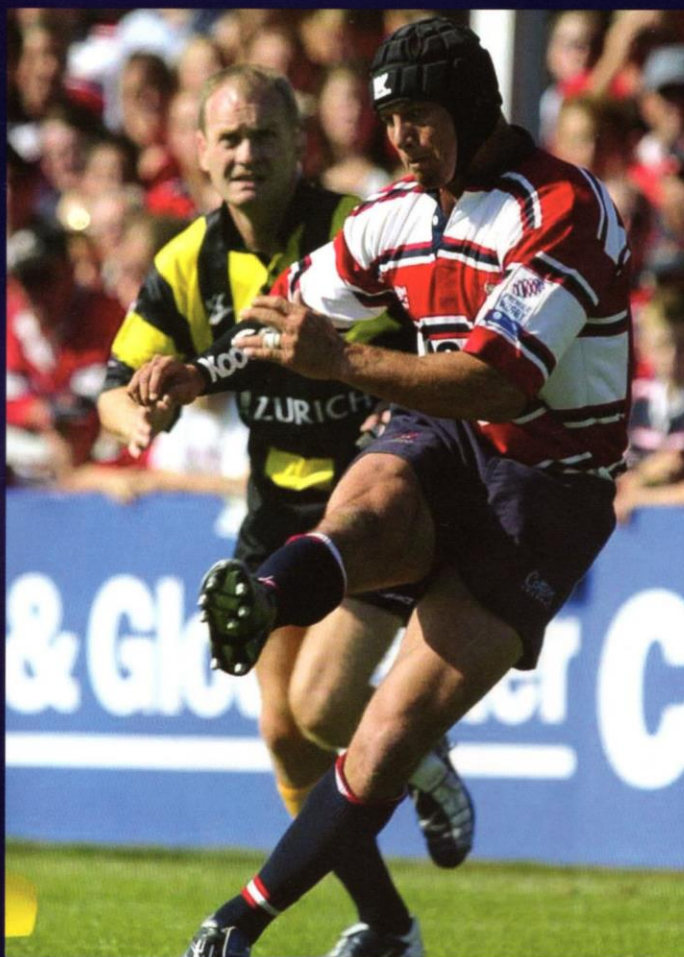
the extended family, or do you say "...Sorry, we've got Saracens at home on the Saturday... haven't missed a home game in eight years... can't make London..." and accept the strife that goes with it.

They do need to tone things down a bit though, when the sunshine hits those jerseys - or perhaps we should call them uniforms now - it bounces the light around the place like a spotlight hitting a 70s disco ball or Phil Greening's head and you can't see a damn thing for a few minutes!

No contest is it. I'm here and she's there. And she took Matthew (our son) prisoner and made him go with her, though not without him putting up a bit of a fight. As Spike in the Tom and Jerry cartoons (yes, I watch all the quality TV) would say 'That's mah boy!'

As we're on telly today we get another official. So let's count 'em up – three on the pitch, a fourth one in case one of the real ones goes lame on us (or gets taken out by Jake - remember that, Mr Lander?), another in the stand as an

No doubt I will have to pay the price at



assessor and finally the guy working on the TV replays. So six of them - what are we supposed to sing now? You try 'Six Blind Mice'...

Today we get to welcome Saracens to Castle Grim, bringing with them their usual collection of flowerpot wearing fans. Though anyone who wants to call the very well known and more than slightly infamous Jason Harris - or 'Large' as he is known on web site guest books throughout the land - Little Weed has my best wishes for a speedy recovery.

On the playing side their numbers will be swelled by the presence of one of the greatest of modern back row forwards in the rather formidable shape of Taine

Randell. Surely I can't be alone in wondering how this guy has failed to miss out in a place in the All Black squad for the World Cup.

He's an outstanding player and must be a racing certainty to be second in the 'best overseas signing of the season' category come next May. Second? Well our Dunk's bound to win, isn't he. Seriously, this guy is class, and if he keeps learning and making progress one day he's going to be nearly as good as Jake!

Even more seriously, Saracens are going to pose a very real threat to our long-standing home record today. While they have lost a couple of players to Uncle Clive's World Cup Army, they have recruited well and will be a tough unit to

crack - and one with a point to prove after a number of disappointing seasons.

Our poor result at London Irish last weekend showed that things are very different to this time last year, and the absence of our World Cup players, plus a few prominent departures at the end of last season have left us exposed in some key areas.

No doubt Saracens will, having had their spies at the Mad Jet Ski running an eye over us and will have watched the video closely, arrive at Kingsholm believing they can cause a bit of an upset. Time for the big players to step up to the plate, and I am confident that they will.

It's good to see that in one area we are still as strong as ever, that's the travelling support. Once again the M4 was packed with cars, coaches and mini busses carrying the cherry and white army on their travels.

Apparently the attendance at last Sunday's game was around 9,500 - I would venture that a third of that support were wearing Gloucester colours. It's a shame that we were spread out through the length of the East Stand, had we been together I am sure could have easily silenced that annoying bunch of drummers pounding away all through the match. That said, if Danny (Foghorn) Rumble had sat a bit closer to them he could have drowned them out on his own.

I don't think they really need them, London Irish supporters are more than capable of creating a decent atmosphere with their singing, and don't need this migraine-inducing racket. Thank the stars that we don't go down this road at Gloucester, we'll get by with good old fashioned vocal support if that's okay with you.

And if our marketeers want a quick money-earning venture, they should start selling Gloucester-branded throat sweets over the bars on a match day - there is a potential fortune to be made here!



TRY
CONVERSION
PENALTY
DROP GOAL

GLOUCESTER

Jon Goodridge	15	fullback
Marcel Garvey	14	wing
Robert Todd	13	centre
Henry Paul	12	centre
James Simpson-Daniel	11	wing
Simon Amor	10	flyhalf
Alex Page	09	scrumhalf
Paul Johnstone	01	prop
Steve Brotherstone	02	hooker
Adrian Olver	03	prop
Adam Eustace	04	lock
Alex Brown	05	lock
Jake Boer (c)	06	flanker
Andy Hazell	07	flanker
Junior Paramore	08	no. 8
Nicholas Wood	16	replacements
Chris Fortey	17	
Mark Cornwell	18	
James Forrester	19	
Pete Buxton	20	
Josh Frape	21	
Rory Teague	22	

SARACENS

TRY
CONVERSION
PENALTY
DROP GOAL

Thomas Castaignede	15	
Richard Haughton	14	
Paul Bailey	13	
Ben Johnston	12	
Nathan McAvoy	11	
Andy Goode	10	
Morgan Williams	09	
Steven Sparks	01	
Joe Ross	02	
Emiliano Bergamaschi	03	
Simon Raiwalui	04	
Kris Chesney	05	
Tony Roques	06	
Ryan Peacey	07	
Taine Randell	08	
Andy Kershaw	16	
Aston Croall	17	
Ben Broster	18	
Ben Skirving	19	
Dan Kirton	20	
Kevin Sorrell	21	
Adryan Winnan	22	

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP 2003/04

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
NEC Harlequins	2	2	0	0	76	42	1	0	9
Bath Rugby	2	2	0	0	68	38	1	0	9
Leicester Tigers	2	1	1	0	48	38	0	0	6
Saracens	2	1	1	0	44	39	0	0	6
London Wasps	2	1	0	1	60	43	0	1	5
Gloucester	2	1	0	1	32	24	0	1	5
Newcastle Falcons	2	1	0	1	29	33	0	1	5
London Irish	2	1	0	1	35	39	0	0	4
Sale Sharks	2	0	1	1	45	46	1	1	4
Northampton Saints	2	0	1	1	43	61	1	0	3
Leeds Tykes	2	0	0	2	42	77	1	0	1
Rotherham Titans	2	0	0	2	23	65	0	0	0

2030

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Steve Leyshon RFU

1st TJ: Andy Melrose RFU

2nd TJ: Andrew Pearce RFU

TV official: Tony Spreadbury

TV official: Geoff Warren

Today's Result

Gloucester

Saracens

design: paul watkins
dunwoody
sports marketing
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