

Gloucester RFC Official Matchday Programme

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Gloucester

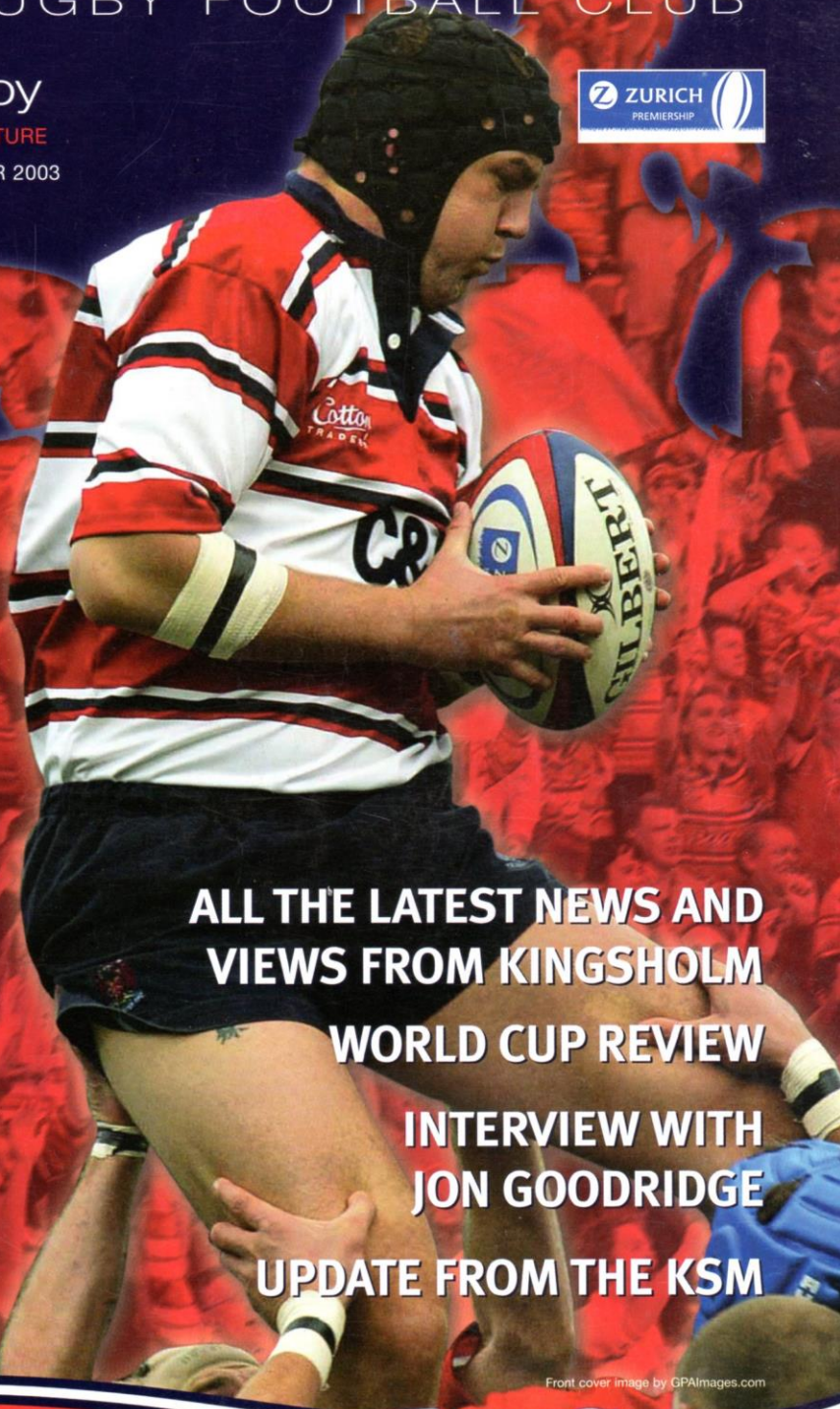
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v Bath Rugby

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE

SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2003

KICK-OFF 3.00PM



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

WORLD CUP REVIEW

**INTERVIEW WITH
JON GOODRIDGE**

UPDATE FROM THE KSM



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NIGEL'S NOTES...

Nigel Melville

Director of Rugby

"Today's game will be an absolute cracker, both teams will be keen to press their claim for a European place..."

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to Kingsholm for this afternoon's West Country derby game. There are few games in the calendar that attract so much excitement in Gloucester, this week has been no exception.

Bath, under the leadership of John Connolly, arrive at Kingsholm this afternoon as Premiership leaders, their form this season has been excellent racking up seven wins and only one loss so far.

The formula for success is a crop of new players and the will to avoid the trauma's of last season's relegation battle. Olly Barkley's goal kicking has been a constant theme throughout, discipline will be key for Gloucester this afternoon.

We will, of course reserve a special welcome back to Kingsholm for Rob Fidler, who joined Bath during the summer. Yes, it will seem strange to see him walk out on to Kingsholm in a Bath shirt – at least he can be certain of one record today, he will become the first Bath player to receive applause by the shed when he takes to the field. But seriously, welcome back Rob, great to see you doing such a great job at your new Club.

Talking of discipline, last weekend's game was undoubtedly spoilt by lack of control. Looking back, blame has to be equally apportioned across all three participants in that game, two teams and the officials. I do have strong views on the root cause of the problems that erupted and will be making those points to the relevant parties in the next few days.

Today's game will be an absolute cracker, both teams will be keen to press their claim for a European place at the end of the season, every win is a step closer to that goal.

This week we have trained well, the return of Rodrigo Roncero from World Cup duty has been a boost.

Other news from the World Cup is less encouraging, Terry Fanolua has a broken thumb and will be out for four or five more weeks and Trevor Woodman's back injury appears to be recovering.

The selection/non selection of Andy Gomarsall has caused a few raised eyebrows around the Country, I suppose if your face doesn't fit you have to just wait for an injury no matter how well you're playing – have a word with Simon Shaw, Gomers!

I hope today's game will live up to its billing, there may be a World Cup going on at the other side of the World but there are far more important matters to be dealt with today at Kingsholm.

The crowds for the Zurich Premiership have continued to improve, this indicates demonstrates the growth of the professional game in England, the success of our national team and a growing passion for the Club game.

I hope you enjoy the unique experience of a West Country derby and may the best team win!





CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Jake Boer

Club Captain

“Our West Country neighbours are a good side and have come out with all guns blazing...”

Hello and welcome back to Kingsholm for today's big game against Bath. Our West Country neighbours are a good side and have come out with all guns blazing this season.

John Connolly's team have certainly surprised a few pundits, but they deserve an awful lot of respect for their achievements so far.

All derby games are massive and today is no different. There is history, passion and local rivalry involved. The fans know how important it is and the matches are treated like a cup final on each occasion.

Today will be a big contest and there is an awful lot of pride up for grabs.

Last week we didn't perform. We gave away a lot of penalties and couldn't get into the game in the first half. We made some mistakes and then suddenly we were 16 or 17 points down. We didn't create ourselves a platform to build on.

In the second half against Northampton we adjusted our game and won it 17-3, but the damage had been done much earlier.

This week we've looked at the penalties we've conceded. Some of them were borderline decisions, and as a team, especially back-row players, we need to clean up better.

But we have also looked back at the second half against Northampton and taken some of the positives in the build up to today's game.

Of course today sees our former team mate Rob Fidler come back to Kingsholm. Rob has said it

already, but it is a professional game. He moved on and he's done terrifically well at Bath. He'll want to have a good game, what with all of his history here. We'll all catch up after the game and have a chat.

Which brings me to the World Cup. South Africa have surprised a few people with their recent performances. From which they've received a little more positive press after months of not so good headlines.

The game kicked off this morning, so with me writing this earlier in the week, I can but keep my fingers crossed. Although I know that New Zealand will have come out fired up after their one bad game against Wales. Each team is going to have one bad game, and it's better to have it before the knock-out stages. The Kiwis were favourites for the game, but whoever wanted it more will have won.

Enjoy today.



TIME TO REFLECT

With the return of Rob Fidler to Kingsholm today, David King looks at former Gloucester players and where they're playing their trade these days.

Can our members imagine the consternation within the Fidler family household today? Particularly for John, for the club he served so loyally both on and off the field will this afternoon face a Bath squad containing his son Rob.

As we are aware, Rob was a valued member of this club serving for a period of nine years. Until time arrived that a change of direction and fortune dictated by the professional game handed the Fidler family

“Members of the Cherry and Whites Members Club are always interested in the whereabouts of former players and staff.”

a dilemma. As a young man with a family to support the choice was stark! It was then that Bath handed Rob a life-line. All we can say and endorse is welcome back Rob and thank you.

Life after Gloucester Rugby Club for players is not often spent with other fellow Zurich League Premiership clubs. Casting an eye over the playing squads of the other eleven clubs these are the only names that spring readily to mind. They are Phil Greening at Wasps, Joe Ewens at Rotherham, Diego Albanese at Leeds who can also count Clive Stuart-Smith as one of his team mates. Rob Jewell is at Harlequins along with Karl Rudzki. Ryan Peacey at Saracens, Ben Gollings at Newcastle while Mark Mapletoft at London Irish completes the list.

In a recent conversation with a member of

Bristol Rugby Club, he stated how perplexing it was to see former players of the Memorial Ground Club in every Zurich Premiership line-up! Upon careful mind searching perhaps only one club can refute that claim, London Irish? On second thoughts, no because Michael Horak made three match appearances for the Memorial Ground Club.

Members of the Cherry and Whites Members Club are always interested in the whereabouts of former players and staff. So to fill in a few of the blanks the following may help. At a coaching level Richard Hill is now director of rugby at struggling Bristol. Paul Turner is coach at Harlequins. John Brain and Andy Keast in a similar capacity at Sixways, Worcester. Two of our former Welsh players are in the throes of what is for them a new environment. Kingsley Jones is in charge at Doncaster assisted by Chris Yates. Also, new to this role is Byron Hayward at Ebbw Vale in the Welsh Premier League. Steve Ojomoh is also enjoying a taste of handing his skills onto Moseley as coach.

At lower league levels more former Gloucester personnel are also maximising their knowledge. Paul Williams and David Spencer are coaches at Midland Club Stourbridge in National League Two. The list does not end there, for Chris Raymond and Bruce Fenley are guiding Old Patesians over in Cheltenham where Pete Micthell is one of their playing staff.

Just along the road at the Prince of William Stadium former Scotland International Ian Smith is assisted with coaching by fellow Scot Don Caskie. Former Cherry and White stalwart, Peter Glanville is in the same capacity at South West League One Club Cinderford. Andrew Stanley coaches at Hartpury College and Brian Johnson at Cirencester. Bob Fowke

leads Spartans in their quest for Western Counties North honours.

Former Cherry and White players abound in all leagues. Up at nearby Worcester there are Darren O'Leary, Duncan Murray, Matt Evans, Chris Hall, Tony Windo, Craig Gillies and Lee Fortey. At fellow National League One Club, Exeter, Dave Sims, Stephen Ward and Rob Baxter are regular

Ian Morgan, Tom Miclausic and veteran Martin Roberts.

The experienced Lee Osborne still struts for Berry Hill. Lock James Bashford left last season's County Cup Champions, Stroud in the close season for his former club Lydney.

Veteran hooker, Kevin Dunn, late of Gloucester and Wasps still turns out for

Dimitri Yachvili is with Biarritz, Olivier Azam and Ed Pearce at Montferrand. Christian Stoica, the Italian centre moved from last season's Parker Pen Shield Winners Castres to Montpellier. Patrice Collazo is with European Champions Toulouse. Ludovic Mercier is at Grenoble. Koli Sewabu is in Japan. Chris Catling is with French Club, Beziers. Tom Beim is in Italy. Meanwhile, former scrum half Scott Benton is considering Australian options. Peter Finch having left Worcester is believed to be at Hartpury College.

Incidentally, Paul Bailey, the Saracens centre who appeared here at Kingsholm earlier this season attended Bourneside School in Cheltenham. We readily accept many appeared in an amateur era.

For the professional it is pertinent to reflect on the philosophical attitude of Rob Fidler when interviewed by the local Bath newspaper: 'I'd been at Gloucester for nine years and it would have been great to have stayed there what with our family's tradition with the club. Yet, in the world of professional sport these things get thrown at you.' The move of Rob to Bath indicates how professional rugby has changed attitudes.

"With our French connection having now passed into club history, we still retain an interest in their fortunes."

choices. In the same Division Neil McCarthy is with Orrell, Paul and David Knight are accompanied by former open side flanker, Nathan Carter at Pertemp Bees, early pace setters in this division. Last season Warwick Bullock and Nigel Cane were with Coventry. Nigel has now rejoined Plymouth Albion. Rory Greenslade-Jones is with London Welsh.

Outside the Premiership and National One there are numerous former players who have appeared in various Cherry and White line-ups, Richard Stott is at Moseley. Most of the remainder appear with local clubs.

Over at Fromehall Park, Stroud, Chris Dee assists in a coaching capacity. Among his charges, Jeremy Perrins features. The evergreen, Richard Mogg still enjoys the game with Tredworth.

Mark Nicholls, captains Cinderford and in their ranks are numerous former players, the two Goatley brothers, Jon Paul and Joe. Alan Martin, Richard Ward, Rob James,

Gloucester Old Boys alongside Gareth Fenwick and Cass Hannaford. Over at Longlevens Goran Antonijevic plays at fly half. Cormack O'Donoghue turns out for Gordon League.

With our French connection having now passed into club history, we still retain an interest in their fortunes. Philip Saint Andre and Laurent Seigne are at Bourgois as were Frederico Pucciarello and Jawad Djoudi.



Olivier Azam and Ludovic Mercier



KINGSHOLM SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER 2003



GLOUCESTER 24

TRIES: SIMPSON-DANIEL (2), FORRESTER

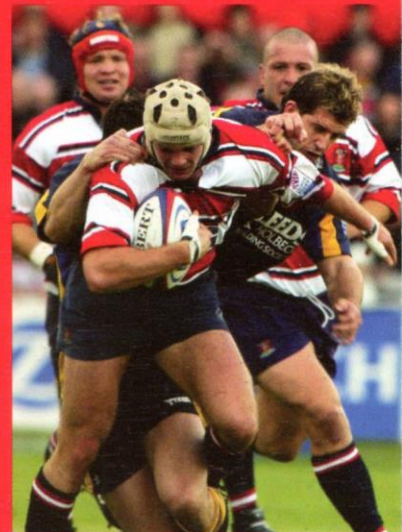
CONVERSIONS: PAUL (3) PENALTIES: PAUL



LEEDS TYKES 19

TRIES: DICKENS CONVERSIONS: HODGE

PENALTIES: HODGE (4)



top left: Robert Todd breaks through the Leeds defence. top right: James Simpson-Daniel crosses for his first try. middle: Andy Hazell.
bottom left: Alex Brown stumbles over Leeds Phil Christophers. bottom right: Gloucester and Leeds scrum down in front of the shed.

Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA Images

Cherry and White Camera Action



Position: Lock
DoB: 09.01.79
Height: 195 cm
Weight: 104.7 kg
Previous Clubs: Wotton Old Boys
Int'l: England (A)
Honours: U21 U19

Adam Eustace

Gloucester
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



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FRANKLIN GARDENS SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2003



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 30

TRIES: **BUDGEN, SLEIGHTHOLME** CONVERSIONS: **DRAHM**

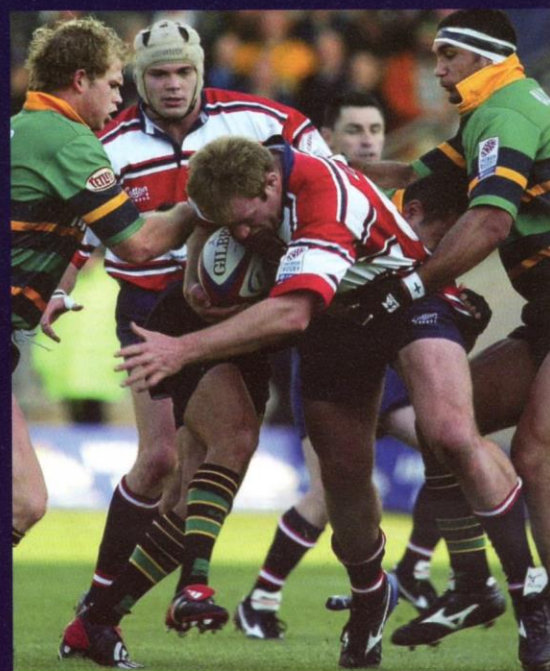
PENALTIES: **DRAHM (4), REIHANA (2)**



GLOUCESTER 17

TRIES: **HAZELL, FORRESTER (2)**

CONVERSIONS: **PAUL**



top left: Jon Goodridge is tackled from behind by Saints Rob Hunter. top right: Andy Hazell scores a second half try.

bottom left: Andy Deacon, Chris Fortey and Nick Wood scrum down. bottom right: Peter Buxton is tackled by Saints Mark Tucker (left) and Andrew Blowers.

Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA Images

Peter Arnold

Resident historian Peter Arnold looks at recent World Cup goings on and pays tribute to former Club secretary Doug Wadley who sadly passed away recently.

MIXED FORTUNES

First the bad news. It was agonisingly bad luck for Terry Fanolua to have to come off during the England-Samoa match. Bad luck for the Islanders that they lost him at a crucial stage of the game, when he had been such an influential element, causing alarm and dissension every time he took the ball, and tackling like a Tiger Tank.

It was also bad luck for Gloucester, because it looks as though his broken thumb will delay his return to cherry-and-white, just when our options at centre are looking a bit stretched.

Not least, bad luck for the lad himself. Who knows what might have happened in the England game if he'd stayed in one piece? And his presence would have

surely reduced South Africa's winning margin in the following game. Perhaps, then, Tezza might have received the international reputation which we have always know he deserves.

Secondly, we must commiserate with Trevor Woodman for missing out on a start by tweaking his back just hours before the Uruguay match. It would have been an ideal chance for him to make his mark in no uncertain terms.

We must, however, congratulate Phil Vickery on skippering England in the Uruguay game, and on his impact against Samoa when he came on to steady the ship. Perhaps I won't say much about his side-step try. By the time he gets home, it will have been scored from his own 22, and featured three dummies, two side steps and a run around the opposing

winner, so let's not encourage him.

Neither will I say too much about Andy Gomersall's superb performance against Uruguay. I don't want to put the mockers on him any further. No doubt Clive Woodward wanted to test Bracken's fitness by bringing him on for Andy, but a cynic (not me of course) might suggest that he was looking a bit good for some people's comfort.

WHAT WAS ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?

Why did everyone in Australia get all steamed up because, at one point, England had sixteen players on the field in the game against Samoa? The incident lasted for all of 34 seconds, when Dan Luger came on the field to replace Mike Tindall who was still on the deck receiving treatment from the physio. OK, so it was a mistake as everyone acknowledges.

The game was already won by then in any case, and the only thing wrong was a bit of over eagerness by Dan Luger. If I had a free pint for every time I have seen that sort of thing happen I would be a raving alcoholic by now.

Yet in the World Cup game, the very next day, all sorts of hysteria erupted to such an extent that you'd have thought that the England camp had set fire to the Sydney Opera House. Talk about a storm in a jockstrap. I suspect that the reaction had





more to do with mind games than it did with any genuine outrage.

I admired the Samoan reaction. Their spokesman was quite clear that the Islanders weren't going to make any sort of complaint, and added, with a smile on his face, "Mind you, we'd rather play against fifteen men than sixteen!"

Now there's a sportsman for you.

DOUG WADLEY

We can't let today pass without recording the sad passing of Doug Wadley, who finally surrendered to cancer a couple of weeks ago. Quite simply, he was one of the nicest men I ever met: in the thirty years or so that I knew him, I don't think I ever heard him raise his voice in anger.

If ever there was a Gloucester man through and through it was Doug Wadley. He followed in the footsteps of his father, the famous Fred Wadley who captained the club in the 1920s by playing for Gloucester in the seasons running up to the Second World War. For many years after that he pursued a distinguished career as Club

Treasurer, being pre-eminent in a formidable team of administrators which included such famous names as Terry Tandy, Gordon Hudson, Canon Mervyn Hughes and Peter Ford.

Eventually, he accepted the poisoned chalice of Club Secretary, a very difficult job because it entailed overseeing the transition from amateur to professional rugby. The fact that Gloucester didn't go the way of such great clubs as Coventry and Moseley is due, in no small measure, to the efforts of Doug Wadley and the small band of administrators around him.

His attitude to Gloucester RFC is typified by a conversation I had with him during that period. When the Club decided to stop producing this programme in-house, and hand it to a specialist company, there was some question as to whether I would wish to continue writing for the club under the new system. Doug asked me about it, and I said that of course I would.

"Thought you'd say that," Said Doug. "You're like me. It's not a club or a job, it's a way of life."

Obviously, Doug Wadley had a story for

every occasion. He loved to tell the one where a telephone call shook even his unflappability.

While Doug was Club Secretary, Peter Phillips, the son of the Princess Royal, turned out to train with Gloucester Colts. One morning Doug's phone rang and a voice at the other end said "Anne here."

"Anne who?" queried Doug. "Princess Anne" came the reply. "I've just called to tell you that if my son isn't good enough, you're not to play him just because he's who he is." Doug told me "I nearly fell over. Then I told her that Gloucester isn't like that, "If he's good enough, we'll play him. If not, we won't!"

Young Peter must have learned from the Kingsholm experience, because he went on to play for the Scottish Youth side.

Typical Doug that. Unfailingly polite, but uncompromising when it came to things Gloucester.

Hail and Farewell, Doug Wadley. It was a privilege and a pleasure to know you. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his family.

Jon Goodridge

When the official Gloucester Rugby Club matchday programme sat down with Jon Goodridge for today's article, one of the young full-back's comments was that he didn't think that many supporters knew much about him when he started the current Zurich Premiership campaign.

Going back to that moment against Leeds Tykes two weeks ago when he came off clutching his shoulder certainly proved Goodridge wrong.

The good luck comments and shouts of appreciation as he sat down on the bench said it all. Goodridge has certainly won the hearts of a lot of Cherry and Whites fans.

The 22 year-old has had more than his share of injuries having spent the majority of last season on the sidelines after surgery on his shoulder.

When he clutched his shoulder as he came off against Leeds, even Nigel Melville admitted it was a scare, but fortunately it wasn't serious and Goodridge was back and running for the following week's training.

His current spell in the first team squad is the most action he's seen during his Gloucester career and he's enjoying the moment.

After being educated at St Edwards School in Oxford and growing up alongside James Forrester, Goodridge has been in the Gloucester coach's thoughts all season.

Talking to the official matchday programme Goodridge said: "The longest spell before this season was when Phillipe Saint Andre was here and I was involved in the squad for eight games a few years back."

This season has given Goodridge a real opportunity to show what he is capable of. "I've gained confidence from the run in the side and been able to get up with the pace and speed of the Premiership. It took me a while to get used to it."

With the World Cup still progressing last year's number 15 Thinus Delpoit is still involved with the Springboks, or he was up to this weekend, as the programme went to print.

World Cup commitments have given a number of Kingsholm players the chance to impress at the start of this season, and Goodridge is philosophical about the next few months.

"I'm trying to enjoy it at the moment. I know Thinus will be back but all I can do is prove that I'm up to the Premiership standard."

He's enjoying his time and is part of an exciting and young back three. People forget how young Goodridge, Garvey and Simpson-Daniel are. Despite the three of them being around for a while, they are only 22, 20 and 21 respectively.

"I'm the oldest of all of us. It helps that both Marcel and Sinbad (James Simpson-Daniel) are exceptional players, and I played with both of them in the Gloucester U21s, especially Marcel."

With youth on its side amongst the backline, the team calls on experience from the likes of Henry Paul, Robert Todd,

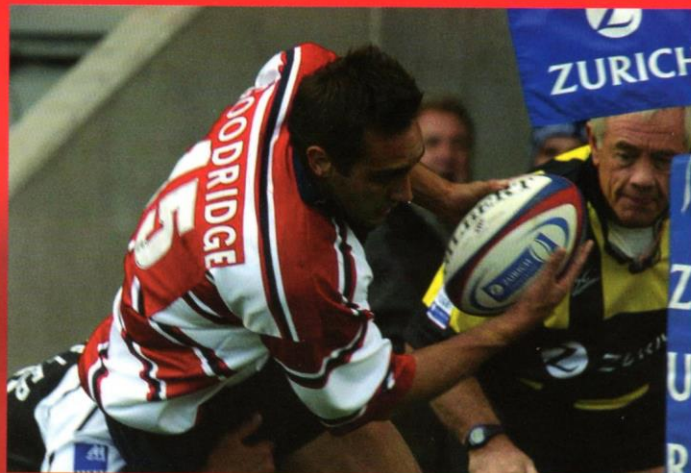
Duncan McRae and the forwards.

So who has been the biggest influence on Goodridge? "Deacs has made a big impact. I sit next to him in the changing rooms and his experience and knowledge is immense. But it's also good to share a flat with Jango (James Forrester) and live close to Sinbad. It's useful having the two of them around."

Jon and James Forrester know a lot about each others game. "I grew up with him and he told me how good it was at Kingsholm. He's a good player and it helps when you share a flat," said Goodridge.

With the opening weeks of this season putting a smile back on Goodridge's face, what has been his proudest moment so far.

"It has to be picking up the man of the match award against Saracens live on Sky Sports. I hadn't had many highlights in the first team up until that moment. My mum



recorded it for me and I've got the tape at home. I also had a lot of messages afterwards saying people had seen it.

"A lot of people didn't know who I was when I started playing this year. But that Saracens moment and having a run in the team has made it all worth while."



The Real Jon Goodridge

Position: Full-back

DoB: 26.02.81

Height: 186cm

Weight: 86kg

Honours: England U21



Favourites

Film: Top Gun

Music: DMX

Holiday: Thailand

Food: Chicken and chips

Q: Would you say you're a designer clothes man or casual?

JG: I'm not particularly into the designer look.

Q: Greatest player of all time?

JG: Michael Jones (New Zealand flanker)

Q: Greatest Gloucester player of all time?

JG: Andy Deacon

Q: Girlfriend?

JG: Yes, Cari

Q: What do you like to do away from rugby?

JG: Spend time with Cari

BY IAN RANDALL

BBC RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE



BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Ian Randall talks of his soon to be released book on Gloucester's recent times and also looks at times from the mid 1990s.

I spent much of the summer writing a book about recent times here at Kingsholm. The catalyst for it was the cup final win against Northampton, and it covers the period from the defeat by today's opponents in 1990 through until the victory at Twickenham earlier this year.

Called "From Pilkington to Powergen" it went to press last Monday and should be available before the World

jumper in the line out.

His partner on many occasions was Dave Sims, and although partnerships tend to be thought of in terms of the backs – half backs and centres in particular – here was a lock partnership that definitely worked. Fidler was the younger and less demonstrative half of the duo, acknowledging that Sims was a man who led by example and was an inspirational figure to the rest of the team. It proved to be Richard Hill's first choice pairing, and Fidler had a high regard for the former Bath and England scrum half.

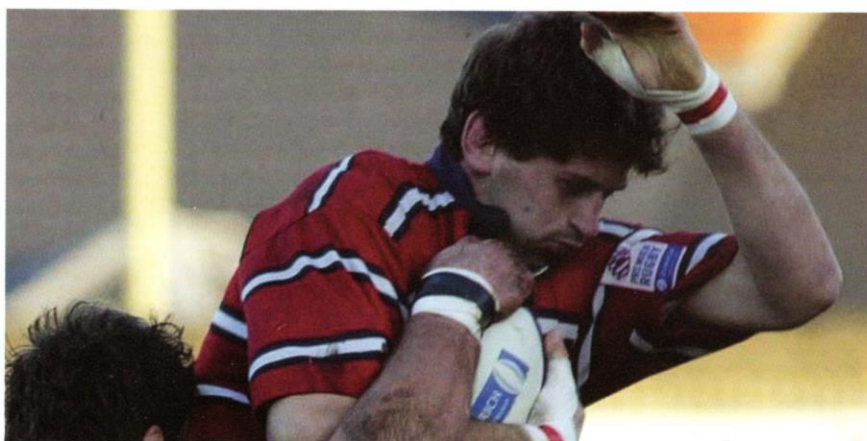
"One of the characters I spoke to for one section of the book returns to the club today. Rob Fidler..."

Cup final on November the 22nd – an ideal Christmas present!

One of the characters I spoke to for one section of the book returns to the club today. Rob Fidler's tally of 142 Premiership starts for the Cherry & Whites is more than any other player, and after nine seasons in Gloucester's first team squad, this afternoon he'll take to the field in the blue, black and white of Bath. His attributes at Gloucester were his application to the honest and often unsung work of a lock forward in tight areas, and winning his fair share of ball as a front

'Richard gave us a real shake. He knew what he wanted and was very dedicated, and I bought into that really because I was just coming into the side and didn't know anything else. Some of the older boys were a bit set in their ways, and were just enjoying being paid to play. To me he brought a lot of good qualities from Bath, where he'd been in a successful team. He tried to convert amateurs into professionals, and instil the winning attitude that he'd experienced at the Rec. He was clever when he went looking for players because he always wanted them to be ones who would fit into the Gloucester mentality. Bearing in mind we'd had no sort of success for quite a while, I thought he did a good job.'

Fidler's new challenge is to try and help Bath through a



Rob Fidler returns to Kingsholm today, with Bath.

BBC

transitional phase.

Not many players over the years have gone from Gloucester to Bath. Several in the modern era have come the other way – McCarthy, Ojomoh, Pearce and Sanders are the best examples – but Fidler should be assured of a warm welcome. The Gloucester fans, like those of all the top flight teams, have come to realise that players don't often play their entire career at one club any more. He'll be in familiar surroundings though. When training at Gloucester, he always used the away dressing room, with his peg opposite Andy Deacon. The temptation today, if his concentration isn't total, might just be to turn left and go into the one marked 'home'.

As for this afternoon, the match was a sell out by Monday night, a firm indication as to what this fixture means for Gloucester supporters. The first 40 minutes at Northampton last Saturday were far from satisfactory, and the outcome at Franklins Gardens, coupled with Bath's win over Leicester, extended the gap between the teams to nine points. I'm sure Nigel

and Dean won't need to stress the need to cut it back again by 4.40pm

C'mon Glaws!

'Join us for commentary of every game'

BBC Radio Gloucestershire (104.7 FM & 1413 AM)

on the official club website, www.gloucester rugby club.com.

and on the BBC website, www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire



Official Heineken Cup Travel

There's not long to go - this year's Heineken Cup campaign starts in just four weeks. The Cherry and Whites have again teamed up with its official travel partner Mike Burton Sports Travel to offer complete packages for all three away games.

This year sees another visit to Munster, and also exciting ties in Treviso and Bourgoin against former Gloucester coach Phillip Saint Andre.

Treviso v Gloucester
5/6/7 December 2003 - Cup Voucher HH

HOTEL	LOCATION IN TREVISO	STANSTED	SRS*
Hotel Maggior Consiglio	Central	£329	£75

Munster v Gloucester
16/17/18 January 2004 - Cup Voucher KK

Packages for the clash in Munster range from £259 through to £375 for supporters. This package is now on general sale.

Bourgoin v Gloucester

23/24/25 January 2004 - Cup Voucher JJ

HOTEL	LOCATION IN LYON	BIRMINGHAM	HEATHROW	SRS*
Mercure Lumiere	Central	£369	£339	£55
Ibis Lyon La Part Dieu Centre	Central	£329	£299	£40

*SRS = Single room supplement per person

Season ticket holders will be entitled to a £10 per person discount off each package booked. To qualify for your discount please remember to send your completed Cup Voucher, from your season ticket booklet, together with your booking form.

To confirm a seat on the plane and book your matchday ticket contact Mike Burton Travel Group at www.mikeburton.com or call 01452 892057.

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Fans Zone

with
Bob Fenton

This week Cherry and Whites fan Bob Fenton looks at Bath's recent improvement and his views on the Rugby World Cup.

So it's Bath then... Always a game we look forward to, and today it has a bit more of an edge as they are top of the table and we get a chance to welcome back Rob Fidler to Kingsholm. Apparently going into the right changing room is not going to be a problem for Rob, he says he always used the 'Away' facilities

"...there is no doubting that we are in for a tough game today. With only one defeat in seven they will be confident of overcoming the Kingsholm factor..."

whenever he got changed for training while he was here.

What can you say about Bath's performance so far this season – they've managed the greatest turnaround since Lazarus had his scrum wheeled through 180°. It's only the season before last since they left here on the wrong end of a 68 – 12 hammering, but now they are firmly back on track.

Rob Fidler has his own take on the reason for their success, "...and I told them I only do top of the table..." he said. That and the fact that he claims they spend all day drinking cider courtesy of their sponsors.

Whatever the reason behind their success, there is no doubting that we are in for a tough game today. With only one defeat in seven they will be confident of overcoming the Kingsholm factor and

going away with the points. Mind you they will have their work cut out. In the wake of last week's visit to Northampton, a grim faced Jake said after the game "Don't worry, we'll put this right next week." Hope so, I couldn't live with the thought of Bath ending our home record!

And talking of Bath (see, these articles are planned – and you thought I just threw them together), did you see the code of conduct for supporters posted on their web site? Apparently you now have to enter by the gate shown on your ticket, not walk in front of the clubhouse, and swearing and smoking are banned.

Also the eating of burgers and hot dogs is forbidden, and only cucumber sandwiches with the crust cut off are allowed. And all forms of beer are to be banned, with the only acceptable drinks being Pimms and Pink Gin. Most importantly, teams wearing Cherry and White are not allowed to win on their ground.

Okay, I admit it, I made the last paragraph up, (but the last sentence bit is more than true) but really – are they serious? If the no swearing rule is enforced then there will be no supporters inside the place. I know it's not big, and it's not clever, but we all do it from time to time don't we... or is it just me?

So what about a Gloucester supporters code of conduct then? I'll agree with the no smoking rule, especially in the grandstand because a stray fag could set it ablaze. Hang on, if that happened we could get a new one on the insurance – where's the bloke from the KSM. Have they thought of that. (NB this is a JOKE! Please do not set fire to the grandstand.)

We won't bother with the no swearing



Phil Vickery scoring his first ever England try

rule because that would be a waste of ink, instead we'll have a mandatory chorus of "Weak Bladder" every time anyone attempts to get out of the shed to go to the toilet. The knowledge of at least two verses of Gloucester Boys is required to gain entry to The Shed, spectators must drink at least five pints and the consumption of a burger is obligatory.

Most importantly the guy with the intestinal problem that results in breathing difficulties for those of us within ten metres either side of the half way line has to go and sit in the grandstand.

You get the picture, we'll work on it and I'm sure we can come up with something suitable.

On to other things – wasn't it great to see Vixter charge in to score against Samoa in the World Cup, by the time he gets home his flop over the line will have been on the end of a 50 metre sprint past the Samoan defence with a few sidesteps

and Sinbad-esque dummies thrown in for good measure. Junior and Terry must already be gearing themselves up to have to listen to him talking about it for about the next three years, I guess.

Actually the competition seems to have been going on for ages, and it never really got going in the group stages, this weekend's quarter finals should provide a few fireworks though.

The only debate is the coverage from ITV. Surely they could have got some commentators who knew a bit more about the game to do the coverage.

The pundits are okay – our Nige among them – although Will Carling has all the presence of a plank, but the commentators... I never imagined I would ever yearn to hear the dulcet tones of Stuart Barnes!

And what is it with this seemingly incessant urge to 'Americanise' things –

Scottish Bravehearts???? Fijian Flyers??? Come on, that is just so bad! As for the patronising comments about 'Plucky' Samoa – if they had done their research they would have realised that Samoa have made it through to the quarter finals of the last two competitions, and had it not been for the Samoan RFU's financial problems and the persistent pillaging of talent for the All Blacks the Samoan side would have been a damn site stronger than many others in the competition.

Made it to the end without a single comment about referees – believe me anything I would say today (the Sunday after the Northampton match) would definitely fail the Bath no swearing rule!

And finally... the little lad greatly enjoyed his run out as club mascot at the last game, I greatly enjoyed the comment from a guy behind me who said "I hope your kid gives Simon Amor his kit back, he's on the bench today you know!"

TRY
CONVERSION
PENALTY
DROP GOAL

GLOUCESTER

Jon Goodridge	15
Marcel Garvey	14
Robert Todd	13
Henry Paul	12
James Simpson-Daniel	11
Duncan McRae	10
Alex Page	09
Rodrigo Roncero	01
Chris Fortey	02
Andy Deacon	03
Adam Eustace	04
Alex Brown	05
Jake Boer (c)	06
Andy Hazell	07
Peter Buxton	08
Nick Wood	16
Steve Brotherstone	17
Adrian Olver	18
Mark Cornwell	19
James Forrester	20
Simon Amor	21
Josh Frape	22

fullback
wing
centre
centre
wing
flyhalf
scrumhalf
prop
hooker
prop
lock
lock
flanker
flanker
no. 8

replacements



BATH RUGBY

TRY
CONVERSION
PENALTY
DROP GOAL

Matt Perry	15
Paul Sampson	14
Andrew Higgins	13
Robbie Fleck	12
Jamie Williams	11
Olly Barkley	10
Martyn Wood	09
David Flatman	01
Jonathan Humphries (c)	02
Duncan Bell	03
Steve Borthwick	04
Rob Fidler	05
Andy Beattie	06
Michael Lipman	07
Zak Feaunati	08
Hentie Martens	16
Lee Mears	17
Matt Stevens	18
Robbie Kydd	19
Gareth Knox	20
James Scaysbrook	21
Scott Gray	22

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP 2003/04

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Bath Rugby	8	7	0	1	222	108	2	1	31
Northampton Saints	8	5	1	2	231	173	3	1	26
London Wasps	8	5	0	3	227	167	2	2	24
London Irish	8	5	0	3	196	168	1	2	23
Gloucester	8	5	0	3	165	125	1	1	22
NEC Harlequins	8	5	0	3	193	164	1	1	22
Sale Sharks	8	3	1	4	193	176	1	4	19
Newcastle Falcons	8	3	0	5	168	181	1	4	17
Leeds Tykes	8	3	0	5	196	224	3	1	16
Saracens	8	3	1	4	152	222	0	0	12
Leicester Tigers	8	2	1	5	145	207	0	1	10
Rotherham Titans	8	0	0	8	104	277	0	0	0

4053

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Roy Maybank RFU
1st TJ: David Broadwell RFU
2nd TJ: Andrew Pearce RFU

Replacement Referee: Sean Davey RFU
4th Official: Mark Tovey RFU

Today's Result

Gloucester ☐
Bath ☐

design: paul watkins
dunwoody
sports marketing
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