

GRFC

vs **Newcastle
Falcons**

Saturday 25th September

Zurich Premiership

Kick Off 3.00pm



Interview: Fitness guru
Mike Anthony

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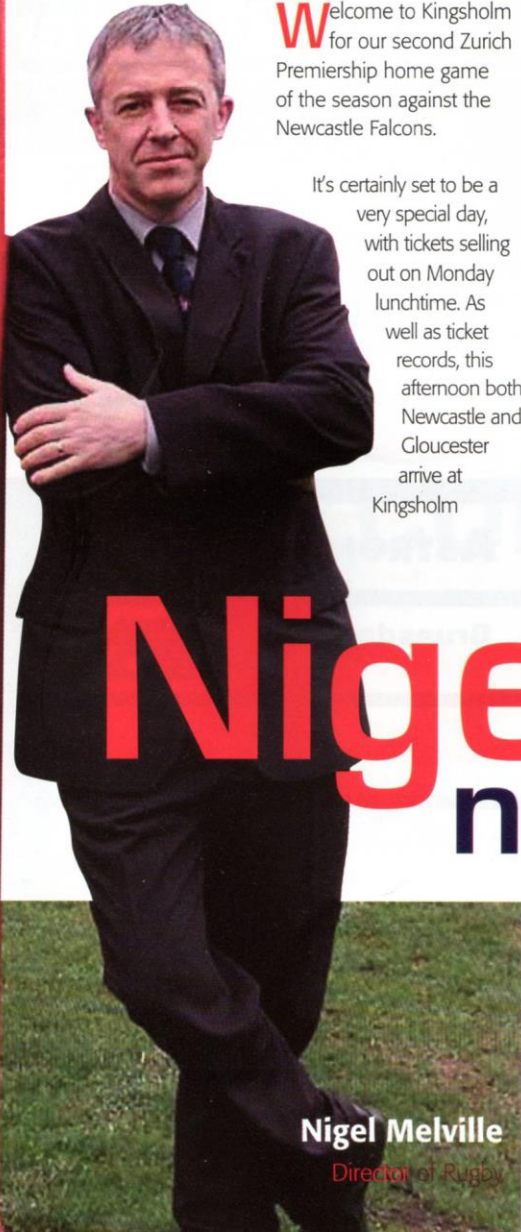
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LAND-ROVER

THE TIMES

“...weekend our victory against Northampton at Franklin’s Gardens was a victory for our tactics on the day...”



Welcome to Kingsholm for our second Zurich Premiership home game of the season against the Newcastle Falcons.

It’s certainly set to be a very special day, with tickets selling out on Monday lunchtime. As well as ticket records, this afternoon both Newcastle and Gloucester arrive at Kingsholm

with unbeaten Premiership records.

Whilst it is too early to predict who will win the Premiership title this season, early results have already started to put teams under pressure.

Take Bath, last year they were well ahead of the pack all season, this year they have managed just one narrow victory over Worcester.

Harlequins and Leeds have failed to convert their

victory for our tactics on the day, a superb defence and the spirit of every single player.

The support from the terraces was magnificent, the result was nothing more than we all deserved on the day. Northampton will be one of the top Premiership sides this year, Krige, Brown, Boom and Kempson have all added a bit of steel to the Saints pack.

Our guests today, Newcastle Falcons, have also had a fantastic opening to their season. Convincing wins over Bath and Worcester were followed by a narrow win over Quins last weekend. Today’s game will give both teams a clearer understanding of what the season may, or may not, hold for us this season.

One record that will certainly be broken today, is the Zurich Premiership attendance record at Kingsholm.

Today we’re all part of a 13,000 sell out crowd at Kingsholm for the first time in the professional era.

The Buildbase Stand is a massive step forward for the Club, not only does it increase the ground capacity, it provides undercover seating with a fantastic view of the game. Well done to everyone involved with this project.

Everything is set up for a superb game today. Enjoy it all.

pre-season talk into points, Worcester are already making a better job of things than Rotherham did, and Saracens have still to justify their off-season spending.

Last weekend our victory against Northampton at Franklin’s Gardens was a

Nigel’s notes

Nigel Melville
Director of Rugby

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“They are three out of three, just like us. And another comparison is the make-up of the teams.”

As always, welcome back, and I hope everyone from Newcastle had a safe journey down here.

It's been a different week for everyone, what with players attending England training on Monday and Tuesday.

It wasn't until Wednesday that everyone got back together again. For Newcastle, as they had a game on Sunday, it was an even shorter week.

But I have no doubt whatsoever that the

good to win at Franklin's Gardens, but the victory at Northampton will mean nothing unless we perform today.

You only have to have read and listened to the media last week in the build-up to the Northampton game, to see how many had predicted a Northampton win.

I believe that the Falcons will be equally as underestimated this Saturday, as Gloucester were at Northampton last weekend.

This will make them even more dangerous opponents. Looking back at the game at Franklin's Gardens, we didn't play a lot of rugby, but what we did was very effective and it produced an exceptional win.

We had to raise our game at Northampton and we raised it. All the decision makers did fantastically, and everybody played their part. It was not a perfect performance but it was still a great game.

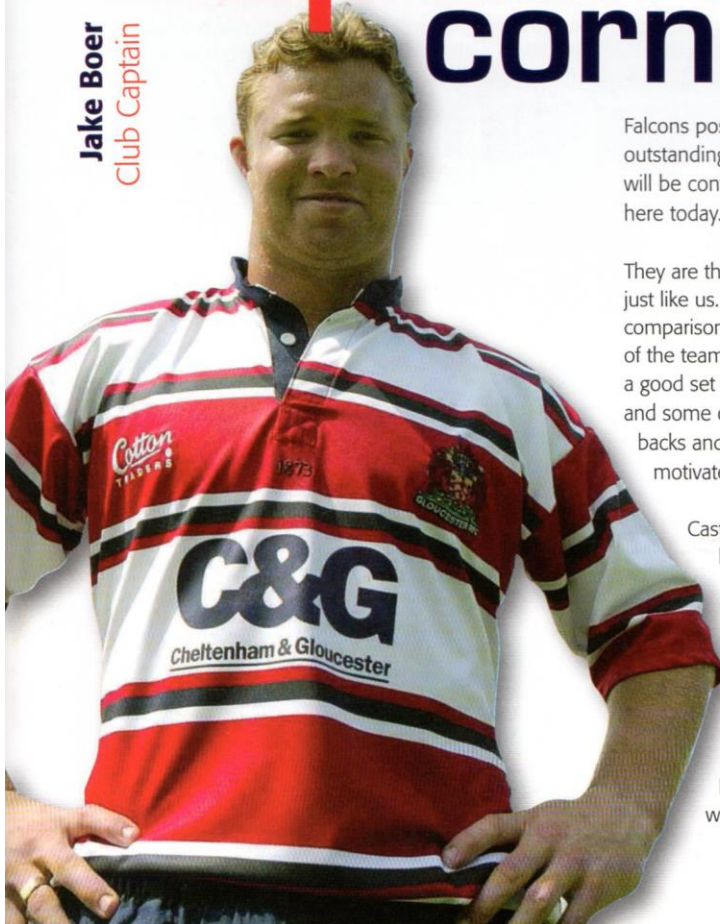
It was a great day for the club but if we don't perform and build on it this weekend, it will all be for nothing.

Newcastle are three out of three, they're confident and playing well. They are a solid all-round team and in Jonny Wilkinson have one of the best tacticians around.

It's all set for a good match today.

Captain's corner

Jake Boer
Club Captain



Falcons possess some outstanding players who will be confident of winning here today.

They are three out of three, just like us. And another comparison is the make-up of the teams. They have a good set of forwards and some outstanding backs and will be highly motivated to do well.

Casting a thought back to last weekend, it was pretty good on the coach back to Gloucester from Northampton. It's good to win, and it's



GRFC squad 2004/05



Simon Amor



POSITION:
Halfback
D.O.B:
24.04.79
HEIGHT:
1.69m
WEIGHT:
75.6kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England Sevens

Oliver Azam



POSITION:
Hooker
D.O.B:
21.10.74
HEIGHT:
1.85m
WEIGHT:
115kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
France, France 'A'

James Bailey



POSITION:
Wing
D.O.B:
05.08.83
HEIGHT:
1.80m
WEIGHT:
81kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U21



Adam Balding



POSITION:
Number 8
D.O.B:
07.12.79
HEIGHT:
1.88m
WEIGHT:
110kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A', U21

Christo Bezuidenhout



POSITION:
Prop
D.O.B:
14.05.70
HEIGHT:
1.87m
WEIGHT:
117kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
South Africa

Jake Boer



POSITION:
Flanker
D.O.B:
01.11.75
HEIGHT:
1.87m
WEIGHT:
105kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
-

Alex Brown



POSITION:
Lock
D.O.B:
17.05.79
HEIGHT:
2.00m
WEIGHT:
110kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A'

Peter Buxton



POSITION:
Back Row
D.O.B:
21.08.78
HEIGHT:
1.92m
WEIGHT:
112kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A'

Mark Cornwell



POSITION:
Lock
D.O.B:
22.03.73
HEIGHT:
2.01m
WEIGHT:
114.7kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A'

Brad Davies



POSITION:
Fly half
D.O.B:
13.02.83
HEIGHT:
1.77m
WEIGHT:
81.9kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U21, U18

Rob Elloway



POSITION:
Hooker
D.O.B:
09.11.83
HEIGHT:
1.83m
WEIGHT:
99.9kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
-

Simon Emms



POSITION:
Prop
D.O.B:
27.01.75
HEIGHT:
1.79m
WEIGHT:
109kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
-

Adam Eustace



POSITION:
Lock
D.O.B:
09.01.79
HEIGHT:
1.95m
WEIGHT:
104.7kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A', U21, U19

Terry Fanolua



POSITION:
Centre
D.O.B:
03.07.74
HEIGHT:
1.83m
WEIGHT:
93.7kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
Manu Samoa

James Forrester



POSITION:
Number 8
D.O.B:
09.02.81
HEIGHT:
1.95m
WEIGHT:
99.1kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A', U21, Sevens

The History



Chris Fortey



POSITION:	Hooker
D.O.B:	25.08.75
HEIGHT:	1.83m
WEIGHT:	106.4kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:

England 'A'

Mark Foster



POSITION:	Wing
D.O.B:	02.09.83
HEIGHT:	1.83m
WEIGHT:	91.9kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:

England U21, Students

Marcel Garvey



POSITION:	Wing
D.O.B:	21.04.83
HEIGHT:	1.73m
WEIGHT:	85.6kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:

England U21, U19, Schools

Andy Gomarsall



POSITION:	Scrum-half
D.O.B:	20.07.74
HEIGHT:	1.77m
WEIGHT:	90.5kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:

England

Jon Goodridge



POSITION:	Full-back
D.O.B:	26.02.81
HEIGHT:	1.86m
WEIGHT:	86kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:

England U21

Andy Hazell



POSITION:	Flanker
D.O.B:	25.04.78
HEIGHT:	1.83m
WEIGHT:	93.1kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:

England 'A'

Ryan Lamb



POSITION:	Fly-half
D.O.B:	18.05.86
HEIGHT:	1.76m
WEIGHT:	84kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:

England U19

Will Matthews



POSITION:	Back Row
D.O.B:	14.01.85
HEIGHT:	1.84m
WEIGHT:	90kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:

England U19

Nathan Mauger



POSITION:	Centre
D.O.B:	08.04.78
HEIGHT:	1.84m
WEIGHT:	98kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:

New Zealand tour 2001 to Europe

Duncan McRae



POSITION:	Fly-half
D.O.B:	27.09.74
HEIGHT:	1.72m
WEIGHT:	80.7kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:

Australia 'A'

James Merriman



POSITION:	Open-side flanker
D.O.B:	17.01.84
HEIGHT:	1.83m
WEIGHT:	95kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:

Wales U21

Oliver Morgan



POSITION:	Full-back
D.O.B:	03.11.85
HEIGHT:	1.89m
WEIGHT:	88kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:

England U19



Luke Narraway



POSITION:
Back-row
D.O.B:
07.09.83
HEIGHT:
1.90m
WEIGHT:
98kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U21, U18

Alex Page



POSITION:
Scrum half
D.O.B:
29.05.81
HEIGHT:
1.78m
WEIGHT:
80.6kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U21, U19

James Parkes



POSITION:
Hooker
D.O.B:
30.11.80
HEIGHT:
1.78m
WEIGHT:
99kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U21

Henry Paul



POSITION:
Inside centre
D.O.B:
10.02.74
HEIGHT:
1.80m
WEIGHT:
93.4kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England A, Sevens

Gary Powell



POSITION:
Prop
D.O.B:
30.10.79
HEIGHT:
1.82m
WEIGHT:
111kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
Wales U19

Nick Runciman



POSITION:
Scrum-half
D.O.B:
01.09.85
HEIGHT:
1.74m
WEIGHT:
74kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U18, U16

Terry Sigley



POSITION:
Prop
D.O.B:
12.10.78
HEIGHT:
1.88m
WEIGHT:
121kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England Counties

James Simpson-Daniel



POSITION:
Wing
D.O.B:
30.05.82
HEIGHT:
1.82m
WEIGHT:
86kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England, U21, U19, Sevens

Stuart Taylor



POSITION:
Centre
D.O.B:
03.06.84
HEIGHT:
1.90m
WEIGHT:
100kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
Scotland U19, U18

Rory Teague



POSITION:
Full-back
D.O.B:
12.02.85
HEIGHT:
1.82m
WEIGHT:
82kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U19

Phil Vickery



POSITION:
Tight-head prop
D.O.B:
14.03.76
HEIGHT:
1.91m
WEIGHT:
116kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England, British Lions

Nick Wood

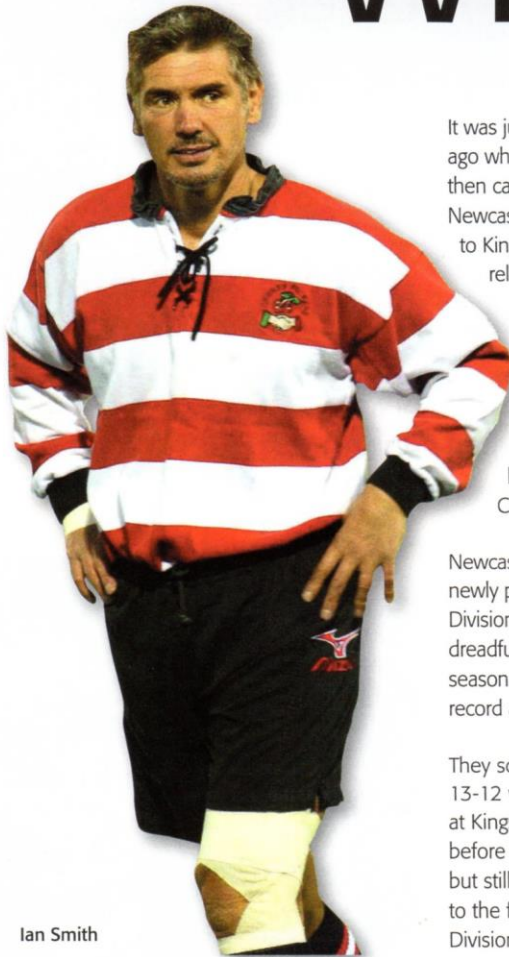


POSITION:
Loose-head prop
D.O.B:
09.01.83
HEIGHT:
1.86m
WEIGHT:
108kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U21

The matchday programme, through the eyes of **Dave King**, looks back to the mid 1990s and a previous encounter between **Gloucester and Newcastle**.

REMEMBER when?



Ian Smith

It was just over 10 years ago when Newcastle, who then carried the title of Newcastle Gosforth, came to Kingsholm in a vital relegation battle in the Courage Club Championship on 15 January 1994. It was Gloucester's first season under the leadership of Barrie Corless.

Newcastle Gosforth were newly promoted from Division Two, and after a dreadful first half of the season they had failed to record a single victory.

They scraped together a 13-12 victory over Orrell at Kingston Park a week before visiting Kingsholm, but still remained rooted to the foot of the National Division One table.

The season was also a struggle for the Kingsholm club, although on a personal note, at its conclusion full back Tim Smith had extended his career points total. As he finished leading scorer for the six successive season

The encounter on a winter's day at Kingsholm was due to be termed as 'Tim Smith's' match. The prolific points scoring fullback was five points short of a career total of 2,500!

Tim had kicked a total of 415 penalties, 427 conversions, with two drop-goals and 78 tries! Along with Peter Butler and Eric Stephens, he had reached the four-figure mark, the only three players to reach this magnificent achievement. It was his 301st appearance in the Club's first team.



Dave Simms

Despite the fact that Newcastle Gosforth was at the foot of the League table they quickly took the ascendancy when David Johnson kicked a penalty after two minutes. Worse was to follow when their lead was stretched to nine points after a line-out offence and then an off-side gave Johnson the opportunity to kick two more penalties.

At the interval a despondent Barrie Corless said: "We are playing very badly. It's one of the most disappointing performances of the season. Our discipline is poor and we are not winning enough possession."

An irate Ian Smith gave his players a half time pep talk. The second half began with more purpose with hooker John

Hawker taking three strikes against the head and it was from this platform that Gloucester began to approach a semblance of form. Referee Roger Quittenton awarded a penalty try after Newcastle Gosforth had collapsed four scrums. Tim Smith converted, the full back then created a try for Paul Holford with a perfectly placed grubber kick to the right hand corner.

Following a fine run from Mark Nicholson, Gloucester was awarded a penalty. Tim Smith duly stepped up and stretched Gloucester's lead to 15-9 and also take his personal points tally to 2,500 for the Club. He failed to add an injury time penalty, when Roger Quittenton fell after slipping in the mud, it brought the loudest cheer of the afternoon.

Gloucester:

T.Smith; P.Holford, S.Morris,
D.Caskie, M.Nicholson;
A.Johnson, B.Fenley;
T.Windo, J.Hawker, A.Deacon,
S.Deveraux, R.West, B.Fowke,
I.Smith (Capt), D.Sims.

Replacements:

D.Kearsey, D.Cummins,
M.Nicholls

Newcastle Gosforth:

D.Bennett; D.Cassado,
M.Tetlow, M.Beattie,
M.White; D.Johnson,
G.Clarkson; P.Vanzandvliet,
A.Hetherington, M.Fraser,
J.Fowler, F.Mitchell, R.Arnold,
M. Corry, G.Clarke.

Replacements:

R.Parker, T.Penn, B.Chick.

DID YOU Know?

There were no ever presents in 1993-1994, with Ian Smith playing in 17 of the 18 League matches.

Gloucester's league playing record read as follows:- Played 18 Won 6 Drew 2 Lost 10. Points for 247, Points against 356.

Tim Smith remained the only Gloucester player to have scored 100 League points.

Damien Cummins' three drop-goals broke the club record for drop goals in a league season of one held jointly by Mike Hamlin and Neil Matthews.

Ian Smith had made the most appearances for the club in League matches with 79, and Tim Smith with 69 by a back.

At the completion of that season Mike Hamlin had completed 40 consecutive League appearances.

Tim Smith completed the season with 82 League points.

Paul Holford and Bruce Fenley were the leading try scorers with three tries each.

At the end of the season Tim Smith had made 69 League appearances, scoring 6 tries, kicking 118 penalties, adding 53 conversions and one dropped goal for the average of 7.10 points from a total of 490 points!



By **Steve Austin-Sparks**,
Gloucester Rugby
Club Chaplain

With the 2004/05 season well under way, today's second home fixture looks set to be a good one. A meeting of the Newcastle Falcons, the current premiership leaders, with Jonny Wilkinson having returned from injury, in front of a record Kingsholm crowd, who could ask for anything more; well, apart from good weather and a win of course?

The pre-season build-up saw the Cherry and Whites come out as winners of the Compass Sevens, runners-up in the Middlesex Sevens, as well the wins over Coventry, Llanelli and Calvisano. These results inspired confidence as Gloucester set out on the long road towards Twickenham and the Zurich Premiership

Divided LOYALTIES

title. An initial away win against Leeds Tykes, followed by another win in the first home match of the season against London Irish made it a positive start to the season.

The new 'Buildbase' stand was finished in time for the first home fixture and has enabled even more people to come and enjoy the game; certainly a welcome addition. Talking of welcome additions, I would like to take this opportunity to add my welcome to the new team members for this season, many of whom have made a significant contribution already. Whilst we won our first two games, it was clear that the sternest test for the team came last Saturday at Franklin's Gardens, where Sky Sports predicted that Northampton would win by at least 10 points. Watching the match on TV, it was great to hear the commentator's change in tone as Gloucester fought every inch of the way to secure a well-deserved victory.

I have to say, I wouldn't have liked to have been the one picking a man of the match, for the team as a whole upped their game and played so well. The front row was said

to be 'inexperienced', but they didn't simply hold their own, they kept the pressure on, with the power of the pack behind them, and were rewarded with an excellent try.

The backs showed class throughout, James Simpson-Daniel confounded his critics, and Marcel Garvey's try showed that he can take opportunities, however slim they appear and turn them into points.

Clearly, I am an ardent Gloucester supporter; it would be hard not to be as club Chaplain! So, you may be asking why I might have divided loyalties when it comes to today's Newcastle Falcons match. It's got nothing to do with the almost God-like status of Jonny Wilkinson, though I'm sure some people will struggle with their loyalties as a result of that! No, my loyalties are tested by the fact that the churches of Gloucester are celebrating Harvest in the centre of the City this afternoon. I realise that for most rugby fans there is no contest between celebrating Harvest and watching today's game, but for me there is, for I am passionate about Christians getting out of their churches to share the good news of Jesus Christ, both in words and deeds, with those in the world around them.

Today, I will enjoy the match, for I have the privilege of being the Chaplain of GRFC and showing by my deeds, in some small way, the friendship, care and concern that I think Jesus would have shown had he been here today.

So, may I welcome you to Kingsholm whether you are an ardent Gloucester supporter or even if your loyalties lie elsewhere, and I hope you enjoy the game. Of course I will be shouting for 'Glaws' today, and tomorrow, Sunday, I may well have lost my voice, and those from my church will recognise that I have been taking the good news out to where people are at, and they will rejoice!

Enjoy the match today, and if you, like me have missed out on celebrating Harvest today, then I'm sure there will be an opportunity to do so in a church near you soon.

Steve Austin-Sparks (Chaplain)
SteveAustin-Sparks@gloucesterrugbyclub.com



BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Ian Randall teams up with Andy Deacon and looks behind the scenes at the Gloucester legend's life.



Did you know?

Did you know that Andy Deacon has teamed up with BBC Radio Gloucestershire's commentary team. The former Gloucester prop has swapped the boots and first team shirt, for a pair of headphones, a microphone and a sheepskin coat, when he lines up alongside the BBC Radio Gloucestershire matchday team at Kingsholm.

In addition to developing his match summary skills Deacs is busy throughout the week. He works at Gloucester-based Nationwide Recruitment, and is also part of the Club's Academy set-up. The 39 year-old can be also seen on the touchlines during the Zurich 'A' League games.

BBC IR: What's the best thing about rugby?



AD: Probably a Saturday, in other words, the day of a match. It was exciting getting up in the morning, knowing you'd done all the training and you'd go to the club having been picked for the game. The ground would be packed, there would be a really good atmosphere and you'd see people you hadn't perhaps seen since the last home game. Then there was the match, how you'd play, the nerves, the result. It was the whole thing.

BBC IR: What was your first job?



AD: I was a trainee welder. I did my City and Guilds but I didn't particularly like it. Being enclosed indoors wasn't really for me. I did a few other things like work on building sites but when I came to Gloucester I was at the Whitbread brewery. I stayed there about 10 years, and then it was all rugby after that.

BBC IR: What would have been your preferred alternative career?



AD: I was doing what I wanted to

do in the end. I thought working for the brewery was a good job but you move on. Being at the brewery and playing rugby as well seemed an ideal life and then when professionalism came along it all changed. If someone said when I was at school you would be a professional sportsman I'd have said it was a dream. In the end it was reality and I'm pleased I did it.

BBC IR: Who has been the biggest influence on your life?



AD: My Mum and Dad, and immediate family. They gave me great support and I hope I haven't worried them too much. As for the rugby, you take bits from each coach you work with in the different eras - Barrie Corless, Richard Hill, Philippe Saint Andre - and now this era. It's then up to you to mix it all together.

BBC IR: What's your worst habit?



AD: Since I've done some coaching, I tend to criticise as opposed to praising people. That's how I was as a player, I was always down on myself, thinking I could have played better. It's a trait I've got and that I can hopefully kick as I go on in my coaching career.

BBC IR: What can you cook to impress people?



AD: Not a lot! That tends to be down



to Karen (my wife). I don't cook a lot and baked beans on toast won't impress anyone.

BBC IR: If you had to go on Mastermind, what subject would you choose?

AD: It would have to be a sporting one. Any sport I suppose, but I'm as interested in football and watching it as I am in rugby.

I'm a big football fan, especially Manchester United, so it might be that. I nearly gave up rugby at one stage so I could watch them all the time but I didn't and

I'm glad I didn't in the end.

BBC IR: What would you like for your next birthday?



AD: At the moment a new back and a new elbow. They're giving me a lot of stick at the moment and I can't work it out. I've stopped playing and I'm a worse state than when I was playing. Above all, it's good health I suppose. I don't want to be a complete cripple like I feel at the moment.

BBC IR: What was the last thing that made you laugh out loud?



AD: It was in the 'A' game against Bath the other week. Bucko (Peter Buxton) had the ball,

he was tackled, and as he went to ground down came his shorts, revealing his back side to the public and his fellow professionals. I did laugh at that.

BBC IR: What is the one piece of advice you would give to a young player?



AD: Take on board the views of respected coaches. Listen, learn, keep your head down, your nose clean and work hard at your game. It's simple really. Players have a great opportunity now because they do nothing else throughout their careers. Don't let anything interfere with what goes on on the pitch. If your head's clear then there's no reason why you can't put in a good performance.



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Regular programme man Peter Arnold looks back at current rugby issues and last Saturday's superb performance at Franklin's Gardens.

Peter ARNOLD

HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

I must be going deaf in my old age. When I was first told that the new Worcester Street stand was to be called the 'Buildbase Stand', I thought my informant had said something else.

Of course, I was soon corrected, and told that we were receiving welcome sponsorship from a noted and highly important organisation in the construction business.

We must obviously thank the company for their kind

and welcome sponsorship, and readily agree that the new stand adds a great deal to the general Kingsholm experience from whichever vantage point you are accustomed to watching the game.

The edifice certainly looks great and it will be interesting to see if it has any effect on the wind patterns, and therefore on the place kickers as similar constructions have in the past at Kingsholm and elsewhere.

At least, if you sit there, you'll have a great view of the ball landing in your lap.

ROOTING FOR ROBBO

Don't know about you, but I hope Andy Robinson gets the England job on a permanent basis. He must be the front runner after being given the three Autumn Internationals to manage, and it does seem to be the general opinion that he has done a great job as number two to Sir Clive Woodward.

Infact, I have heard the opinion expressed that he deserves a lot of the credit which went to Sir Clive after the World Cup win. Furthermore, he has one qualification which

his illustrious predecessor could never claim. He has actually had the experience of managing a top-flight Premiership club before moving onto the national stage.

Many of us, of course, recall him as a player before he took over management of the Bath side. We recall him as a dynamic flank forward who always seemed to be in two or three places at once and never stopped working. He was inclined to push the laws of the game to the extreme, and some would say, even beyond that. He also seemed to have a great deal of influence on referees.

In fact, he was just the sort of guy you would want to see in charge of England when they have to face Australia, New Zealand or South Africa, none of whom see any merit in coming second and aren't too particular about what they have to do to avoid that. Finally, if the decision is made to stick with Andy Robinson, perhaps the RFU will keep their sticky fingers off Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan

...AND HOW ABOUT THE SKIPPER?

It will be interesting to see how Robbo goes about appointing his captain for the Autumn internationals. I hope he gives one chap a proper run at the job for all three games and doesn't fiddle about experimenting on a one-match basis.

The pundits seem to think that Jonny Wilkinson is a dead cert for the job. But while I have great respect for the



Saints Ben Cohen and Steve Thompson are unable to stop Marcel Garvey scoring the last min try.

player's talents and attributes, I think it would be asking a bit much for an outside-half who needs to concentrate on his own game, moment by moment, also has the kicking duties to perform, and who has just returned from an injury which kept him out of the international scene for a year or more.

Steve Borthwick has his supporters, but on recent evidence, can you be sure just how long he's going to stay on the field? It was ironic that just as his coach at Bath was extolling his suitability for the job, he was being cited for foul play in the game against Newcastle.

Obviously, we would all root for Phil Vickery, fitness permitting. He's done the job before with some distinction, including skippering a memorable win over Argentina on their own turf when he only had a young and untried side to call on.

I know Andy Robinson has a high opinion of the Raging Bull, and I hope he takes that opinion just that one step further by naming him as his captain for the Autumn games.

COME ON, ADMIT IT

Honestly now, were you really confident that Gloucester would win at Franklins Gardens last Saturday? I'll freely confess that I had severe doubts on the matter, bearing in mind the conspicuous stuffings that Northampton had been handing out in the first couple of games in the season. They are never an easy side to beat on their own turf at the best of times, and what a game and result it was.

It was a clinical performance. Not exactly pretty, but an object lesson in professionalism, doing the homework, and executing a thoughtfully conceived plan of campaign. Messrs Melville and Ryan are thoroughly entitled to feel pleased with themselves.

Duncan McRae received plaudits from all quarters for his kicking game which pegged the Saints back in their own quarter for most of the match, but he'd be the first to tell you that he couldn't have done it on his own. He had to have good service from his scrum-half, who in turn,

needed a rock-solid scrum in front of him.

That could not have been achieved without a pair of props who could handle an opposition trio which was completely composed of experienced internationals. Bear in mind that one of them is scarcely out of the Academy, and that the other was plying his trade in Division One last season and was playing on the wrong side to boot, and you begin to see the size of their achievement.

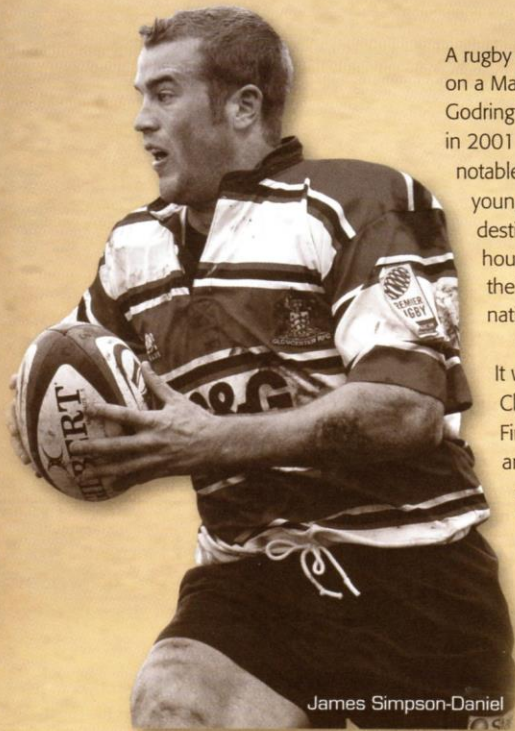
We must all have been impressed, too, by the efficient dismemberment of the Northampton line-out which is by no means to be despised.

But we mustn't give all the credit to the forwards. Sinbad looked like trouble whenever he got the ball, Fanolua was back to his bustling best, and to watch Marcel Garvey give Ben Cohen a head start and then outrun him to score the clinching try was an absolute delight.

In fact, it was a thoroughly satisfactory afternoon. The first of many, one hopes.

Programme contributor Dave King looks back into the archive and brings everyone the details of a Colts fixture, that included a few familiar names

from the ARCHIVE



James Simpson-Daniel

A rugby match played on a May afternoon at Godrington Road, Bedford in 2001 heralded the notable introduction of young players who were destined to become household names in their own locality if not nationwide.

It was the English Clubs 'Colts' Cup Final between Bath and Gloucester, and a Plate Competition Final between Bristol and

Leicester Lions. (Yes, Lions, not Tigers, they were not an offshoot of Leicester Tigers

but formed by a merger between Wigston and Westleigh clubs.)

The Gloucester contingent that year was somewhat exceptional with five players who had played for England Schools. They were Marcel Garvey, Brad Davies, Clive Stuart-Smith, Ben Durham, Ryan Peacey, and James Simpson-Daniel.

No fewer than eight of the players in the Gloucester team have played at National League level. A look at the two teams will show the worth of a youthful set-up to any club and the progress they have made in a relatively short period of time.



Marcel Garvey

Bath

Tom Luke
Victor Oniyide-Frampton
Gareth Knox
Alex Crockett
Scott Baker
Dan Gray
Hadyn Thomas
John Potts
Matt Parfitt
Steve Salvin
Wayne Sprangle
James Hudson
Alan Miller
James Scaysbrook
Ross Aitcheson

Replacements

Dave Martin
Marc Hayward
Ali Lund, Nick Williams,
Joe Goodman
Sam Roach, Johnny Moss
Lachlan Radnedge
Gareth Jones

Gloucester

Adrian Hand
Marcel Garvey
John-Paul Goatley
James Simpson-Daniel
Duncan Murray
Brad Davies
Clive Stuart-Smith
Roy Davies
Luke Thomson (C)
Nick Cox
Mark Rimmer
Tom Skelding
Nick Southern
Ryan Peacey
Ben Durham

Replacements

Ollie Sills
Tryfan Edwards
Joe Pointon
Rob Tipper
Ryan Gwillam
Nick Kibble
Ben Olsen

Analysing the two teams, Gareth Knox, Alex Crockett, James Hudson and James Scaysbrook are all forging professional careers at the Recreation Ground with Bath. Danny Gray is now with Bristol Shoguns. As we are all aware Marcel Garvey, James Simpson-Daniel, Brad Davies and Clive Stuart-Smith have all appeared regularly for Gloucester.

Duncan Murray and Nick Cox both had fleeting minutes at first team level. Ryan Peacey made frequent appearances for Saracens last season before joining Penzance and Newlyn this season in National League One.

Many felt Ben Durham was a first class prospect at this level but he chose an academic career and entered university. The previous year, Bath, who were the defending champions, fielded Tom Voyce and Olly Barkley, who have since played for England, as did James Simpson-Daniel from this particular match.

In the plate competition, the Bristol Shoguns team that met Leicester Lions threw up one name that may be familiar to everyone, with Jon Clarke playing, who is now with Northampton. It was a season where the West Country clubs produced three finalists, therefore showing the strength and talent that was available.

Those no longer involved in the present Kingsholm set-up

are still heavily involved in the game. Adrian Hands, who went on to university, plays for Stroud RFC in the Powergen South West 2 West League. John-Paul Goatley is a valued member of Cinderford RFC so ably directed by former Gloucester favourite Pete Glanville in Powergen South West.

Duncan Murray left Worcester in the summer to join Penzance and Newlyn in National League One. Duncan represented Gloucestershire in last season's County Cup Final versus Devon at Twickenham.

Clive Stuart-Smith departed Leeds Tykes to join Worcester Warriors in the close season. Nick Cox chose to pursue an academic career in the teaching profession. Mark Rimmer has linked up with Spartans this season, ably coached by former Cherry and White back row forward Bob Fowke.

Nick Southern has joined Moseley in National League Two, who are led by former Scotland international open-side and Gloucester captain, Ian Smith.

The class of 2001 certainly proved that Gloucester Rugby Club has set the foundations of what has proved to be a more than worthwhile venture. There appears to be another batch on the horizon with the displays on show in the Zurich 'A' League team this season.

David King



As always the man from the Shed, Bob Fenton, is back. Although word on the street is that he took some comments for his photo in the Irish programme. See if this week's is better!

Fanzone

BOB FENTON

Maybe it's just me, but in the couple of hours you spend standing around waiting for kick off every other Saturday, your mind starts to wander. Okay, it probably is just me.

Before the London Irish match I stood their feeling slightly disorientated for a while – all the usual suspects were in position, regular Shed man John was offering kind words of advice to Mark Mapletoft, someone had already shouted "It was Blowers!" so all should have been well in the world.

But no, something was not right. The, trusty footprints

worn into MY step were no longer there, the pitch was in the wrong position and worst of all someone had moved the grandstand along a bit.

Finally I realised, it was the impressive looking Buildbase Stand, that has meant the pitch has moved slightly to our right. We won, so I must now be standing in a lucky spot, so that's good enough for me.

Looking over at the new Buildbase Stand, you couldn't help think how good it looked. Before the game I went and sat up in the top row and you do get

a really good view of things – I'll try it one day. But for now, joining the heaving mass of that is the shed is good enough for me.

You couldn't help wonder how wet people at the front of the East – or should I say Buildbase – Stand were going to get when it started to rain, but also how dry the majority of the people in it were, unlike being on some of the terrace. Although word on the street is that there could be some plastic ponchos hitting the Kingsholm shop very soon...

Standing around watching the players warm up you

think how much things have changed. I'm old enough to remember when warming up required you to finish your pint, blow on your hands and then run on and get on with it. If you were lucky someone would have a tub of that evil wintergreen stuff – I don't know what that was supposed to achieve but I know it never came off in the (usually cold) shower – had a consistency of axle grease, that stuff.

Anyway, referees. Watching Dave Pearson warming up the other week made me wonder what they do for training. A bit of running around, the (very) occasional eye test I can understand. But do they do a sort of one-arm weightlifting routine to make sure they can get their arms up quickly to award penalties, some special aerobic stuff for indicating what penalties are for?

And what about puffing and blowing exercises for the whistle.....

No, that's not fair. They are serious professionals who do everything properly, and it's about time we all recognised that. Difficult job, difficult circumstances blah blah blah

And talking of referees, poor old Steve Lander got a bit last weekend, didn't he. For those not at Northampton (and where were you – you missed an absolute classic) when Steve's name was read out by the PA operator he was roundly jeered by everyone in the stadium. "At least that's one thing Gloucester and Northampton fans agree about!" said the guy with the mike, before following up with: "They



Irish's Barry Everitt goes over the top as Jake Boer scores his first half try.

were only joking...".

So Newcastle, then. Whenever I write something about the opposition poor old Justin who edits the programme gets a bit nervous – I can see his editors pencil hovering over this page already. He doesn't want me to say anything that the visitors could use to wind themselves up.

Understandable, but sometimes it makes my life a bit difficult. In Football parlance Gloucester and Newcastle have got a 'bit of previous' but let's leave it there shall we, it's all a long time ago now.

Actually putting everything aside it is good to see Johnny Wilkinson back where he should be, all the rumours

circulating about him not playing again have proved, thankfully, to be untrue. He is a great player – a world-class player – and I don't know about you but I enjoy watching these guys. True, I enjoy watching them even more when they lose at Kingsholm – have a 'mare today Johnny... Pretty please.

Last time Newcastle came to Town JW was injured, this came as a massive let down for the vast army of pre-pubescent girls who arrived clutching their pictures of him.

I have to confess that Newcastle are bringing with them one of my all time favourite players – one Matthew Burke. I have always rated him as a great player, he seems to have been around for years. As no mean kicker himself, wouldn't you like to

be a fly on the wall if he and Johnny Wilkinson ever decide to have a kicking competition. But again, to mirror my comments above – I hope he has a nightmare today!!

Final comment before leaving you to enjoy the match/pint/whatever, did you read the "Look Back" feature in the last programme?

If you did, you would have seen that in 1998/9 season – that's just six years ago – we had an average attendance at Kingsholm of a little under 6,000. We've got more season ticket holders than that now. Clearly we are doing something right – long may it continue.

Oh, and no more comments about that photo, please!

MATCH action



Northampton Saints
12



Gloucester
18

Saturday 18 Sept 2004, Franklin's Gardens

Referee: Steve Lander

Attendance: 12,093

Gloucester maintained their title credentials and a 100 per cent record with a superb 18-12 victory at Franklin's Gardens last Saturday.

Drahm added another penalty to keep the home team within a score at the break, and booted another after Azam was penalised.

Gloucester started to dominate with the forwards winning the battle of the packs, and the half-backs, including Duncan McRae, the Sky Sports man of the match, dictating play.

In a physical opening, Gloucester centre Henry Paul was the only name on the scoreboard, after a sweetly-struck penalty in the third minute.

Gloucester looked the more threatening, and after fly-half Duncan McRae had been foiled by a horrible bounce when following up a hack-through, Gloucester finally made their superior team play count.

When James Forrester was sin-binned for killing the ball during a Northampton counter-attack, the Gloucester defence stepped up a gear.

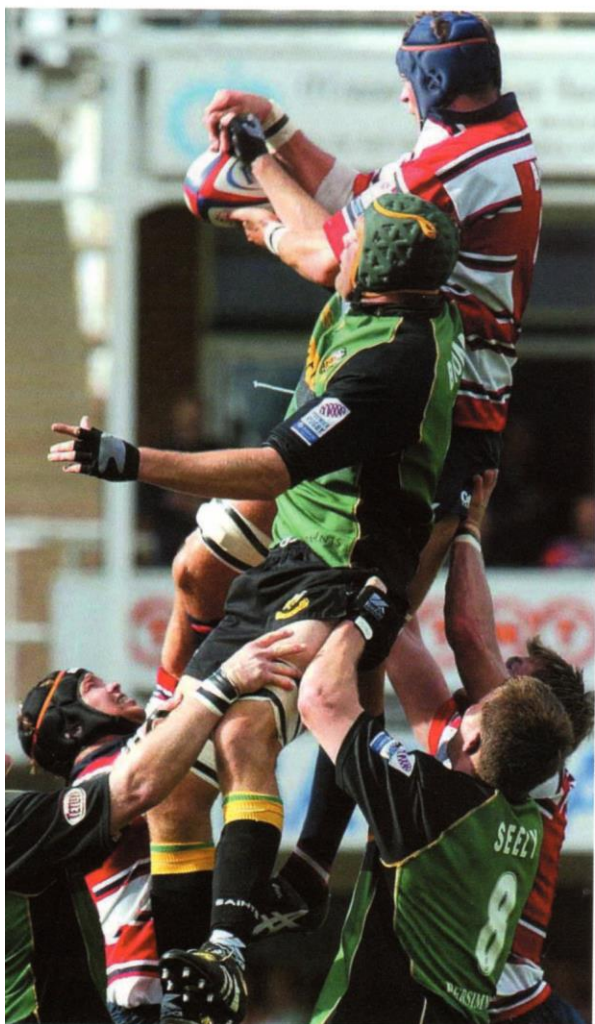
Marcel Garvey broke away up the middle and from the resulting ruck, prop Terry Sigley was sent into space. The prop drew Saints fullback Bruce Reihana superbly before releasing hooker Olivier Azam, whose try was comfortably converted by Paul.

From the resulting penalty, Drahm reduced the gap to a point, then missed a long-range effort.

A minute into injury time, and with Northampton's attempts to get the winning score becoming increasingly frantic, Gloucester held their cool and sealed the win.

In between Shane Drahm, on for injured fly-half Paul Grayson, had put the Saints on the board with a penalty, and McRae's drop goal increased the lead to 13-3 shortly before half-time.

McRae chipped through to the corner from halfway for the excellent Garvey to clinch it, beating both Ben Cohen and Steve Thompson to the ball.





The Honour

Main Man
Duncan McRae 

Aussie stand-off Duncan McRae was in control throughout. With the support of the forwards, who put on the best performance of the season so far, McRae played an intelligent game, and his last kick of the game, saw Garvey grab the second try.

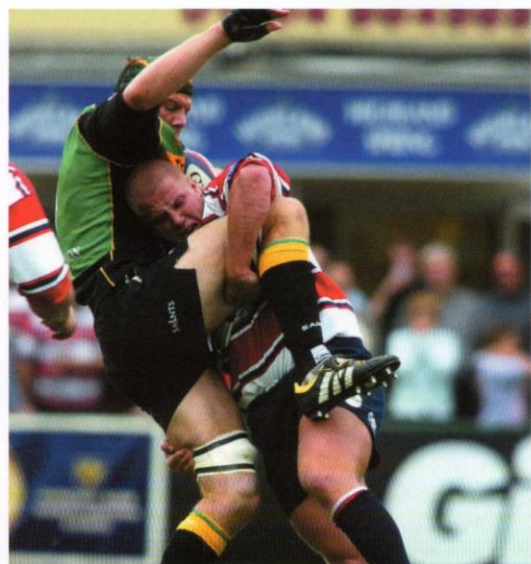


Name	Tries	Conv	PK	DG	Points
Northampton Saints Scorers					
Shane Drahm	0	0	4	0	12

Gloucester Scorers					
Henry Paul	0	1	1	0	5
Olivia Azam	1	0	0	0	5
Marcel Garvey	1	0	0	0	5
Duncan McRae	0	0	0	1	3



Northampton	Teams	Gloucester
Bruce Reihana		Jon Goodridge
John Rudd		Marcel Garvey
Mark Tucker		Terry Fanolua
Marc Stcherbina		Henry Paul
Ben Cohen		James Simpson-Daniel
Paul Grayson		Duncan McRae
(13, Shane Drahm)		Andy Gomarsall
Johnny Howard		Nick Wood
Tom Smith		Olivier Azam
Steve Thompson		(53, Chris Fortey)
Robbie Kempson		Terry Sigley
Selborne Boome		Peter Buxton
Damien Browne		Alex Brown
(58, Matt Lord)		Jake Boer (c)
Andrew Blowers		Andy Hazell
(58, Darren Fox)		(53, Adam Balding)
Corne Krige (c)		James Forrester,
Grant Seely,		



Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA images

MATCH action



Gloucester
23



London Irish
16

Saturday 11 Sept 2004, Kingsholm

Referee: Dave Pearson

Attendance: 11,265

Gloucester kicked off their first home game of the Zurich Premiership season with a good win against London Irish in front of a record top-flight attendance of 11,265.

impressive James Forrester, stole a line-out ball and crashed over for Gloucester's second try a couple of minutes later, and Henry Paul clipped over the conversion to bring the Cherry and Whites to within a point.

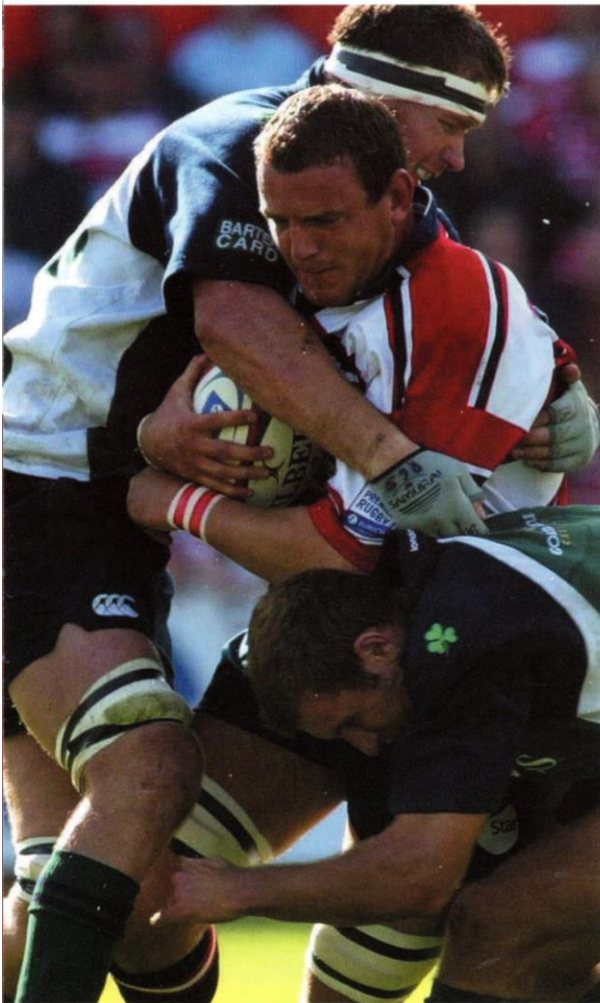
The Exiles came storming out of the tunnel, and raced into a 10-0 lead within seven minutes; first fly-half Barry Everitt landed an early penalty, and then centre Geoff Appleford crossed the line for a try which Everitt converted.

The second half began as the first had left off, with Gloucester slowly turning the screw and Irish finding no way through, but spirited defence kept Gloucester away from the try-line - Paul's two penalties the only reward for Gloucester's work.

But Gloucester soon steadied the ship, and some good grafting from the pack saw hooker Olivier Azam over after a quarter of an hour.

The Exiles replacement Mark Mapletoft landed a penalty seven minutes from the end to make the score 18-16, but Gloucester stepped up a gear, and flanker Andy Hazell touched down for a well worked try in the final couple of minutes for the clinching score.

Everitt landed another goal for a 13-5 lead, but Gloucester flanker Jake Boer, assisted by the





The Honour

Main Man

Alex Brown 

Alex Brown was everywhere against the Irish. One of his tackles had everyone on their feet, and took the team up a level, going into the final quarter.



Name	Tries	Conv	PK	DG	Points
Gloucester Scorers					
Olivier Azam	1	0	0	0	5
Jake Boer	1	0	0	0	5
Andy Hazell	1	0	0	0	5
Henry Paul	0	1	2	0	8

London Irish Scorers					
Geoff Appleford	1	0	0	0	5
Barry Everitt	0	1	2	0	8
Mark Mapletoft	0	0	1	0	3

Gloucester	Teams	London Irish
Jon Goodridge		Delon Armitage
Marcel Garvey		Paul Sackey
Terry Fanolua		Geoff Appleford
Henry Paul		Mike Catt
James Simpson-Daniel		Scott Staniforth
Duncan McRae		Barry Everitt
Andy Gomarsall		(69, Mark Mapletoft)
Terry Sigley		Darren Edwards
(72, Nick Wood)		(51, Paul Hodgson)
Olivier Azam		Neal Hatley
(58, Chris Fortey)		Adrian Flavin
Gary Powell		(59, Robbie Russell)
Peter Buxton		Rob Hardwick
Alex Brown		Ryan Strudwick (c)
Adam Balding		Bob Casey
(72, Adam Eustace)		Paul Gustard
Jake Boer (c)		(31-39,58, Nick Kennedy)
James Forrester		Kieron Dawson
(31, Nick Wood)		(68, Phil Murphy)
		Kieran Roche



Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA images

Zurich Premiership Round 4, Saturday 25th September 2004, KO 3.00pm

Gloucester					Newcastle Falcons					
T	C	P	D		T	C	P	D		
				Jon Goodridge	15				Joe Shaw	
				Marcel Garvey	14				Tom May	
				Terry Fanolua	13				Jamie Noon	
				Henry Paul	12				Matthew Burke	
				James Simpson-Daniel	11				Michael Stephenson	
				Duncan McRae	10				Jonny Wilkinson (joint captain)	
				Andy Gomarsall	09				Hall Charlton	
				Nick Wood	01				Ian Peel (joint captain)	
				Olivier Azam	02				Andy Long	
				Terry Sigley	03				Marius Hurter	
				Peter Buxton	04				Luke Gross	
				Alex Brown	05				Stuart Grimes	
				Jake Boer (c)	06				Mike McCarthy	
				Andy Hazell	07				Colin Charvis	
				James Forrester	08				Phil Dowson	
				replacements						
				Chris Fortey	16				Micky Ward	
				Simon Emms	17				Matt Thompson	
				Adam Eustace	18				Craig Hamilton	
				Adam Balding	19				Semo Sititi	
				Alex Page	20				James Grindal	
				Nathan Mauger	21				Epi Taione	
				James Bailey	22				Dave Walder	

Zurich Premiership 2004/05

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Newcastle Falcons	3	3	0	0	85	48	1	0	13
Sale Sharks	3	3	0	0	84	64	0	0	12
Gloucester	3	3	0	0	62	44	0	0	12
Northampton Saints	3	2	0	1	86	45	2	1	11
Leicester Tigers	3	2	0	1	100	68	2	1	11
Saracens	3	2	0	1	44	46	0	0	8
London Wasps	3	1	0	2	54	55	0	2	6
London Irish	3	1	0	2	56	74	0	1	5
Bath Rugby	3	1	0	2	58	84	0	0	4
Leeds Tykes	3	0	0	3	45	76	0	2	2
Worcester Warriors	3	0	0	3	41	72	0	2	2
NEC Harlequins	3	0	0	3	46	85	0	2	2

Today's Match Officials

Referee: Ashley Rowden RFU
 1st TJ: Brian Campsall RFU
 2nd TJ: Bob Mullis RFU

Replacement Ref: Robin Goodliffe RFU
 4th Official: Mark Tovey Glos Soc
 Assessor: Brian Leigh RFU


Today's Result

Gloucester



Newcastle Falcons



design: paul watkins

 sports marketing

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