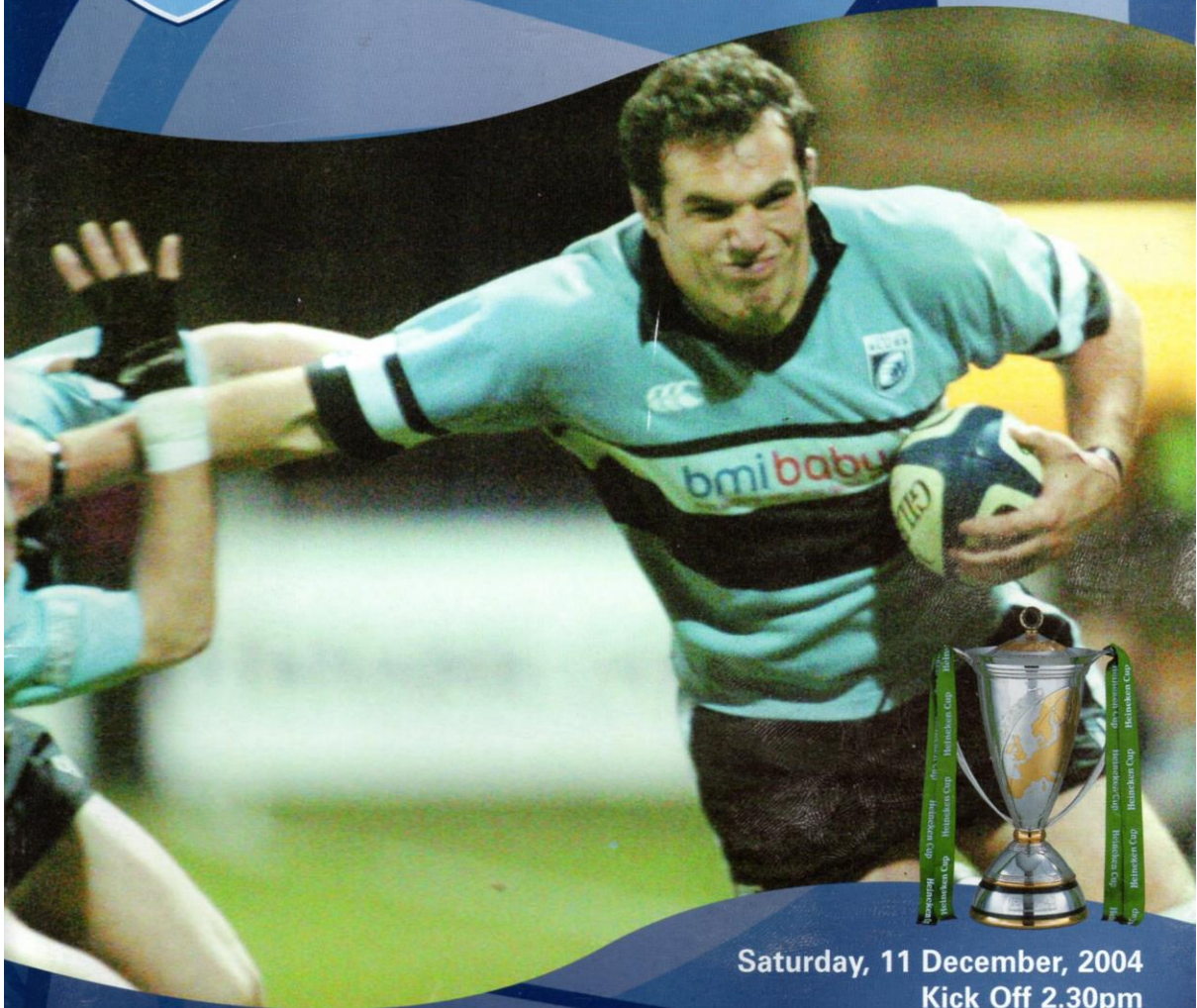




# Cardiff **BLUES** v Gloucester



Saturday, 11 December, 2004  
Kick Off 2.30pm  
Issue 6 £2.50



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Round Four





## The President of Cardiff Athletic Club remembers playing at Gloucester and against the Cherry & Whites

"Gloucester has almost been like a second home to me" says the President of Cardiff Athletic Club, Bleddyn Williams. That must be a very fair assessment from a player who first encountered the special atmosphere of Kingsholm nearly seventy years ago. He played there in 1937 at the tender age of 14, a full 12 months younger than anyone else involved in the Wales v England schools' international. What's more, the youngster who went on to star for Cardiff, the Barbarians, Wales and the British Isles and become known as the Prince of Centres, was in the full back position that day.

"It was the first and last time I played at full back but I still have happy memories of the occasion," he said. "For one thing we had a good win by 29 points to nil. But equally memorable was the tremendous hospitality and welcome we received from the local rugby fans and their families. All the Welsh team were billeted out to stay overnight in their homes and they were really nice people."

That favourable first impression continued during the years of World War Two when Kingsholm was the venue for several Services' Internationals between England and Wales. Bleddyn recalls:

"These were full internationals in all but name and because the union and league divide could not apply in wartime all the players who had gone north in the hard years of the 1930s played union again. In the Welsh team in 1943 we had people like Alban Davies, Alan Edwards, Sid Williams and Tom Sullivan in the backs and among the forwards Eddie Watkins, Bunner Travers, Ike Owen and Trevor Foster. All of them were great players and the atmosphere and big crowds at Kingsholm contributed to the sense of occasion."

After the war matches between Cardiff and Gloucester were something to savour and Bleddyn has particular cause to remember one game at the Arms Park at the end of the 1947-48 season. The Cherry & Whites were the visitors with Bleddyn needing to score three tries to equal an individual club record stretching back to 1893. He went one better scoring four times to set a new mark of 41 tries in a season. "Gloucester were by no means a

bad side that evening", he says. "It was just that we had a 20,000 crowd shouting us on and it was one of the greatest Cardiff teams ever. We lost only two away games in a 41-match fixture list and our opponents felt the full force of our brilliance in that final game".

Typically Bleddyn also pays tribute to the many friends he has made from Gloucester. "They have had great players and people from every period. In the early days there were men like Tom Voyce, the prop Digger Morris and a scrum-half, George Bird, who later played for Llantwit Major. Their Welsh fly-half, Willie Jones, was one of the best kickers of a ball I ever came up against. Then there were people like Bill Hook, Gordon Hudson, George Hastings, Micky Booth and their current president, Peter Ford."

Bleddyn's connections with Gloucester continued after his playing days when he reported matches for *The People*. "I always looked forward to going there because although they were fervent supporters of their own team they also knew their rugby inside out. That was one of the reasons why last week's Heineken Cup match there was so enjoyable. Of course it was good to see the Blues finding some form in what was an exciting game to watch. More than that, though, I was pleased that our modern day players were having the opportunity to play in an intense match at a packed Kingsholm.

"It's a real pleasure to welcome Gloucester's players, officials and supporters to Cardiff Arms Park again."

Bleddyn Williams is a great believer in tradition and remembering old friends. Last month he travelled to Arizona for a special memorial service. He was sent there by the RAF in 1942 to complete his flying training.







**BLUES**

SCORER	TIME	POINTS

FULL BACK	Rhys Williams	15
RIGHT WING	Fereti Tullagi/NickWalne	14
CENTRE	Shaun James	13
CENTRE	Tom Shanklin	12
LEFT WING	Craig Morgan	11
FLY HALF	Lee Thomas	10
SCRUM HALF	Ryan Powell/Dean Dewdney	9
PROP	John Yapp	1
HOOKER	Rhys Thomas	2
PROP	Gethin Jenkins	3
LOCK	Deiniol Jones	4
LOCK	Robert Sidoli	5
FLANKER	Nathan Thomas	6
FLANKER	(c) Marlyn Williams	7
NO.8	Kort Schubert	8

Replacements		
	Ben Evans	16
	Gareth Williams	17
	Martin Jones	18
	Nathan Budgett	19
	Robin Sowden-Taylor	20
	Ryan Powell/Dean Dewdney	21
	22 Nick Macleod	22

OUR NEXT MATCHES AT CARDIFF ARMS PARK

- Next Tuesday 14 December**  
Premier Division  
Cardiff v Neath  
(7.15pm)
- Saturday 19 December**  
Celtic League  
Blues v Leinster  
(5.30 pm)
- Wednesday 22 December**  
Premier Division  
Cardiff v Bedwas  
(7.15pm)
- Thursday 30 December**  
Premier Division  
Cardiff v Cross Keys  
(7.15pm)



Round Four

**GLOUCESTER**



SCORER	TIME	POINTS

15	Jon Goodridge	FULL BACK
14	Marcel Garvey	RIGHT WING
13	Nathan Mauget	CENTRE
12	Terry Fanolua	CENTRE
11	James Bailey	LEFT WING
10	Henry Paul	FLY HALF
9	Andy Gomersall	SCRUM HALF
1	Christo Bezuidenhout	PROP
2	James Parkes	HOOKER
3	Gary Powell	PROP
4	Adam Eustace	LOCK
5	Peter Buxton/Mark Cornwell	LOCK
6	Jake Boer (c)	FLANKER
7	Andy Hazell	FLANKER
8	Adam Balding	NO.8

Replacements		
16	Rob Elloway	
17	Nick Wood	
18	Mark Cornwell/Peter Buxton	
19	James Forrester	
20	Luke Narraway	
21	Alex Page	
22	Brad Davies	

Heineken Cup



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REFEREE:  
Alan Lewis  
(Ireland)

TOUCH JUDGES:  
1. Brian Fitzgerald  
2. Dermot Moloney

4TH OFFICIAL:  
Ken Brackston



Cardiff **BLUES**



## GLOUCESTER IN EUROPE



Gloucester came relatively late into the delightful world of the Heineken Cup. Before the autumn of 2000 their European experience had been exclusively in the Parker Pen, or European Challenge, Cup. In 1996-97 they failed to qualify for the knock-out stages of that competition, finishing fourth in a six-team pool that also included Ebbw Vale (who they beat 59-7 at Kingsholm) and Swansea (who hammered them 62-12 at St Helen's). In the following season they fared much better winning their pool before going down 22-53 in a quarter-final at Stade Francais. The English clubs did not take part in the second tier competition in 1998-99 and when they returned the year after that Gloucester finished second to Biarritz in the pool matches.

Cardiff fans know all about Gloucester's first venture into the Heineken Cup. A double over Llanelli in 2000-01 helped them into a home quarter-final where a fancied Blue & Blacks' team was humbled and flattered by the 21-15 final score. From there the Cherry & Whites lost a very competitive semi-final to eventual champions Leicester Tigers at Watford. By comparison their second taste of Heineken was disappointing as they came up against the unique challenge of Munster at Thomond Park in the group decider. The Irish home bankers sent the men of Glawster packing to the tune of 33-6 and were to inflict even more damage last year with another 35-14 win. But enough had been done to ensure a quarter-final place as best runners-up though their journey ended again against the champions-elect: London Wasps beat them 34-3 at the Causeway Stadium.

This season, however, Gloucester are challenging strongly again. A fine performance in adversity against Stade Francais in Paris thrilled the neutrals watching on television and their two home victories since then have kept their

European hopes very much alive. Under the captaincy of **Jake Boer**, the 29-year-old flanker from Cape Town who has played for England A, they have their traditionally strong pack firing on all cylinders. With him in the back row are **Andy Hazell**, a member of England's squad for the autumn internationals, the former Leicester Tiger **Adam Balding**, and the gifted **James Forrester** who has played for an England XV against the Barbarians.

Elsewhere in the pack **Gary Powell** needs no introduction, nor for that matter does **Peter Buxton** who was formerly with Newport. Alongside Gary in the front row is a capped Springbok, **Christo Bezuidenhout**, all 19-stones of him, though injuries are severely curtailing coach **Nigel Melville's** selection options at the moment.

Gloucester's backs have also been making the headlines in recent seasons. **Terry Fanolua** is in his eighth season at the club and, judging by last week's performance, is as good as ever. We may also see two deadly wingers, **James Simpson-Daniel** and **Marcel Garvey** if they have recovered from injuries sustained against the Blues at Kingsholm. And talking of last week, we should all be braced for a higher success rate from **Henry Paul** in the goal-kicking department.

The team's most experienced international remains scrum-half **Andy Gomersall** who won his 23rd England cap against Australia a fortnight ago. After several seasons of vying for the number 9 shirt with the likes of Matt Dawson and Kyran Bracken he finally looks about to be an automatic choice for the forthcoming Six Nations' matches. First, though, we can be sure that he and his team mates will be hungry for more success here this afternoon.







### GLOUCESTER'S OVERALL RECORD IN EUROPE

**P 24 W 16 D 1 L 7**  
**Points for: 772 (78 tries)**  
**Points against: 519 (51 tries)**

**Last 10 away games: WLWLLWLWLL**

**Highest score: 80 v Viadana (a) 2002/03**  
**Highest score against: 35 v Munster (a) 2003/04**  
**Leading points scorer: 159 Henry Paul (in 16 matches)**  
**Leading try scorer: 13 James Simpson-Daniel**  
**Most appearances: 22 Terry Fanolua, Andy Gomersall**

### THIS SEASON IN THE HEINEKEN CUP

**STADE FRANCAIS (A) L 31-39**  
**Attendance: 11,800**  
**Tries: Simpson-Daniel (2), Forrester**  
**Cons: Paul (2)**  
**Pens: Paul (4)**

**ULSTER (H) W 55-13**  
**Attendance: 12,469**  
**Tries: McRae (2), Bezuidenhout,**  
**Simpson-Daniel, Garvey, Balding**  
**Cons: Paul (5)**  
**Pens: Paul (4)**  
**DG: Paul**

**BLUES (H) W 23 -19**  
**Attendance: 11,795**  
**Tries: Fanolua (2), Bailey**  
**Con: Paul**  
**Pens: Paul (2)**

### THE SQUAD

AMOR Simon	Half Back
AZAM Olivier	Hooker
BAILEY James	Wing
BALDING Adam	Back Row
BEZUIDENHOUT Christo	Prop
BOER Jake	Back Row
BROWN Alex	Lock
BUXTON Peter	Back Row
CORNWELL Mark	Lock
DAVIES Brad	Outside Half
ELLOWAY Rob	Hooker
EUSTACÉ Adam	Lock
FANOLUA Terry	Centre
FORRESTER James	Back Row
FORTEY Chris	Hooker
FOSTER Mark	Wing / Centre
GARVEY Marcel	Wing
GOMARSALL Andy	Scrum Half
GOODRIDGE Jon	Full Back
HAZELL Andy	Flanker
MCRAE Duncan	Outside Half
MAUGER Nathan	Centre
MATTHEWS Will	Back Row
MORGAN Ollly	Full Back
NARRAWAY Luke	Back Row
PAGE Alex	Scrum Half
PARKES James	Hooker
PAUL Henry	Centre
POWELL Gary	Prop
SIGLEY Terry	Prop
SIMPSON-DANIEL	James Wing
VICKERY Phil	Prop
WOOD Nick	Prop



# C'MON GLAWS

BY ROB FREEMAN (SOUTH WALES ECHO)



**Henry Paul is substituted 24 minutes into England's autumn international against Australia. Do you:**

A: Say: "Oh good, that nice Will Greenwood is coming on. He's ever so good on the telly."?

B: Worry that England no longer have a back-up kicker?

C: Applaud Andy Robinson for ensuring Paul is not injured ahead of Gloucester's next Heineken Cup matches?

If the answer is **A**, you are probably wearing a wax jacket, support Harlequins and are wondering how long before you can head back to your hospitality tent.

If you opted for **B**, you have the gift of hindsight. Get your lottery numbers in now.

And if you opted for **C**, you support Gloucester and were only watching England to make sure Paul, Andy Gomarsall and Andy Hazell come through in one piece - breaking away long enough to tell anyone who would listen that James Simpson-Daniel would have done much better than Mark Cueto if only he hadn't been injured. Again. Or is that just me?

Since the Heineken Cup draw was made,

today has had six letters in big writing in our office diary - ROB OFF. It didn't work last week, work

commitments preventing the short pilgrimage to Kingsholm, although those of you clad in Cherry and White will be glad to know a small corner of a Cardiff pub became a mini Shed, complete with arm waving, stamping of feet, biting of nails, abusing the ref and that horrible feeling of nausea which watching Gloucester so often induces.

When asked to write this piece, I tried to work out when this love affair with all things Cherry and White started. It was always there, not just for me but for generations of us brought up in the city. Born just down the road from the ground with a rugby-playing father, it just sort of seeps in, even before that first trip to Kingsholm.

The first one that comes to mind is an 80 -10 win over Guy's Hospital in 1974 or 75. I was four or five and the only detail that remains is Richard Mogg kicking a conversion over the old Worcester Street stand and into the road.





From there, I followed a traditional Gloucester rugby upbringing, graduating from the grandstand to kicking a ball around on the old tump during games and then, finally, into The Shed itself.

Along the way, I was among the hordes of kids in scarves who invaded the pitch at Twickenham when we thrashed Leicester 6-3 in the John Player Cup final in 1978 - my mum didn't know whether to be proud or tell me off when she spotted me on *Rugby Special*.

The men who wore the Cherry and White were - and still are - local heroes, so when you actually meet one, it really is a thrill. There were several brief encounters with my heroes over the years - to my dad's delight I even briefly went out with a distant cousin of Malcolm Preedy when he was club captain - but the thrill of one of them coming to teach at our school was unbelievable.

Ruari McLean was a solid centre who had a Scottish trial and worked wonders with our school first XV until he kicked the ball straight to Jon Webb in the last minute of a derby with Bristol and, in the eyes of his watching pupils, cost us the game.

In a playing career for Gloucester Old Boys which always sounds a lot more illustrious after a few pints and if I'm fairly confident you'll never meet anybody who saw

me play, I came up against many of the men who had been my idols. I played against Mike Longstaff (one third of the best back row you'll ever see), Mogg, Steve Boyle, Brian Russell and Les 'Bumble' Jones, had my only game at outside-half against an out-of-position Longlevens flanker by the name of Andy Deacon - he flattened me - and was coached in the arts of forward play and tippit (bar game involving 5p pieces, a crib board and beer) by Viv Wooley.

They may not be well known further afield, but they are Kingsholm legends. The fact newspapers quite like their rugby writers to work on Saturdays knocked playing on the head. And via a couple of years on the Gloucester Citizen, I have drifted down to South Wales.

En route, I have interviewed scores of internationals, many of the current Cardiff Blues side, upset Jonah Lomu in the Angel Hotel and watched an England-Wales international over a cup of tea with Barry John.

But two interviews stand out - the two which really made me nervous, the other two members of that immortal back row: Mike Teague and the great John Gadd. And to a football-writing colleague who asked if I'd have any split loyalties over tonight's game, that's why there can be only one team in it.

*Ed's note: As you may have gathered Rob leads a double life as an Echo sportswriter and a Gloucester fanatic*





# A GREAT OCCASION AT KINGSHOLM

## Gloucester 23 Cardiff Blues 19

This is what top-class club rugby is all about. A packed ground, two competitive teams, a contest that went right down to the wire, even a swirling mist...everything helped to create an atmosphere that we see all too rarely these days.

Playing at Kingsholm was never going to be easy and there was a real fear that the Blues might sink without trace after the opening exchanges. Did they, heck! Full marks to Martyn Williams and his team for responding to the call to arms by David Young and Geraint John earlier in the week. Not even the concession of a soft converted try, well-taken by Terry Fanolua in the third minute, fazed the boys in Blue. Lee Thomas soon kicked the first of three long-range penalties to reduce the arrears and then it was all systems go.

In the 17th minute turnover ball was clinically exploited as Rhys Williams headed for the open spaces and Tom Shanklin was on hand to use all his power and pace from 40 metres out to touch down for his second try of this season's European campaign. With 'Bomber' Lee converting, adding a second penalty goal and, on the brink of half-time dropping a towering goal it looked as if the Blues had survived the early storm.

Not quite. Kort Schubert had been yellow-carded on the half-hour (the Blues won the next 10-minute spell 6-nil) and late in the game Shaun James suffered the same fate. And Gloucester, being Gloucester, never gave up either. Two second half tries by replacement James Bailey and Fanolua and a couple of penalties

from Henry Paul were enough to shade them ahead by four points with time running out. The Blues almost came back again, looked fitter at the end, but failed to turn their late attacks into points. Disappointment, then, for the Blues' faithful - but it was a great occasion!

**Blues:** R Williams; F Tuilagi, S James, T Shanklin, C Morgan; L Thomas, D Dewdney; J Yapp (M Jones 75), R Thomas, G Jenkins, D Jones, R Sidoli, N Thomas (R Sowden-Taylor 70), K Schubert, M Williams, capt  
**Scorers:** Try - Shanklin; Conv - L Thomas; PGs - L Thomas (3); DG - L Thomas

**Gloucester:** J Goodridge (A Page 59); M Garvey (J Bailey 20), N Mauger, T Fanolua, J Simpson-Daniel (B Davies 40); H Paul, A Gomersall; C Bezuidenhout, J Parkes (R Elloway 81), G Powell (N Wood 81), A Eustace, P Buxton (M Cornwell 81), J Boer, capt, A Balding, A Hazell (J Forrester 53)  
**Scorers:** Tries - Fanolua (2), Bailey; Conv - Paul; PGs - Paul (2)

**Referee:** Donal Courtney (Ireland)

**Attendance:** 11,795

**Heineken Man of the Match:** Robert Sidoli

