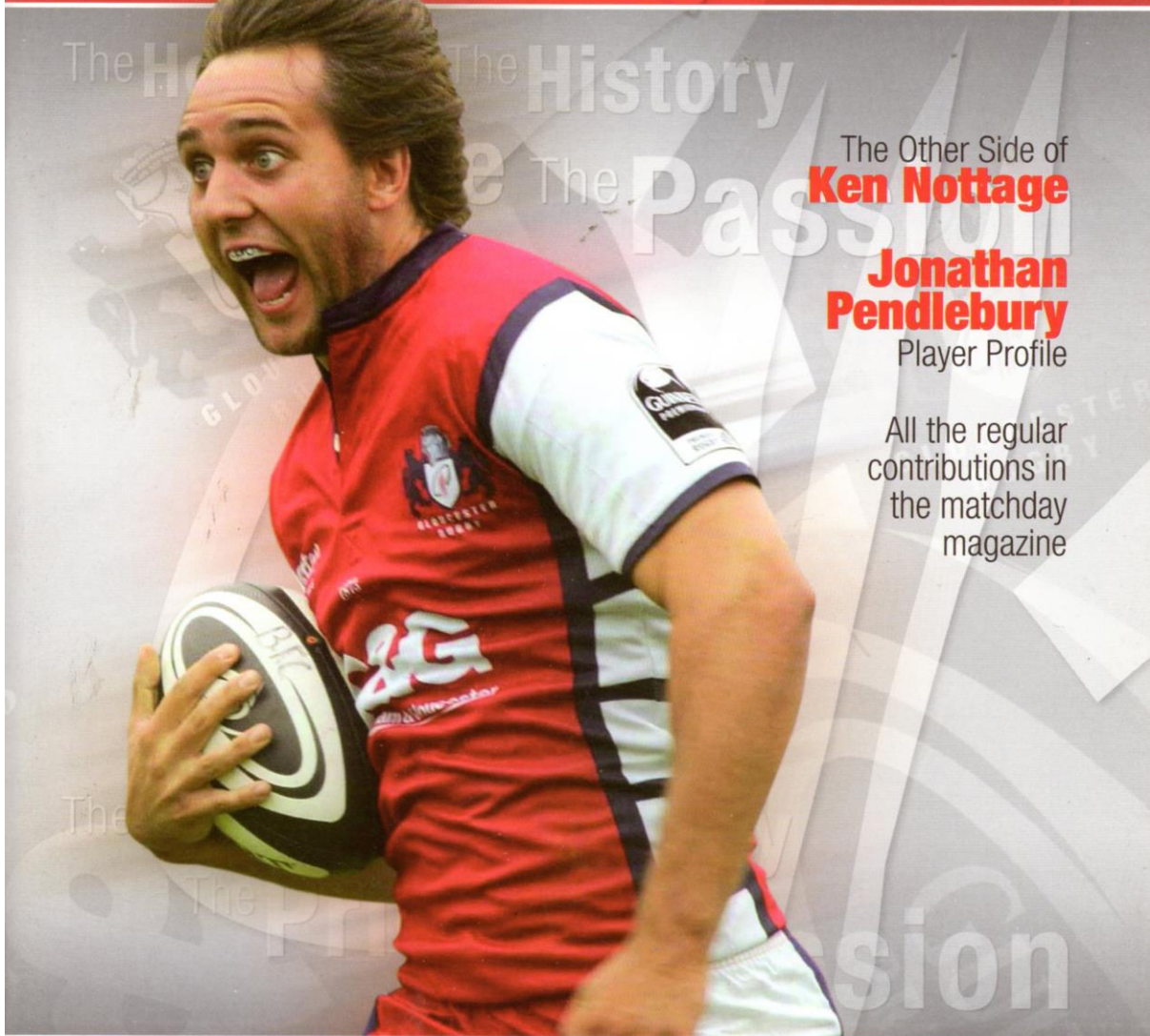


Gloucester Rugby

Gloucester Rugby Official Matchday Magazine | 2005/06 Season | Issue 08 | Price £3.00



The Other Side of **Ken Nottage**

Jonathan Pendlebury

Player Profile

All the regular contributions in the matchday magazine

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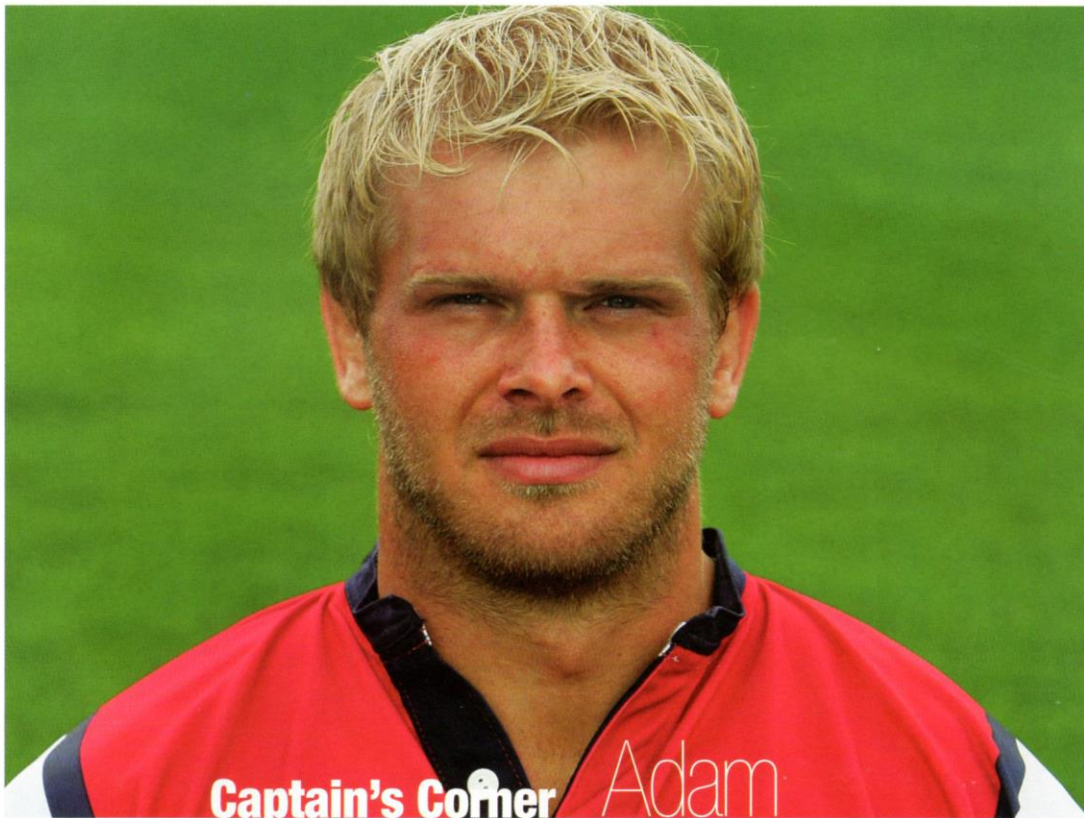


Tom, Martine, Ryan and Sean Walkinshaw would like to wish all Gloucester supporters a very Happy 2006.



The views expressed by contributors to the Gloucester matchday programme are not necessarily those of Gloucester Rugby Ltd

The History



In association with
dair*

Balding

I HAVE been involved in many different types of performances over the years but I cannot recall one containing so much heart and raw emotion as our second half performance did against Wasps on Monday.

There is no getting away from the fact we lost the game – and nobody involved in this squad wants to be remembered as gallant losers – but at one stage we found ourselves 22-3 down against one of the most complete forces in the European game and staring at a real hiding.

That is when you find out about the colleagues and team-mates you have around you. You learn about professional pride, relish for a battle and camaraderie and that shone through in the second half.

We can take an awful lot out of the game – how we fronted up in Wasps' backyard, how we took the game to them and how we genuinely frightened them.

We now need to transfer that performance into consistency and truly believe we have what it takes to win at these places.

Our fightback on Monday will mean nothing unless we carry that on today. We are obviously at home, in front of our own crowd and need to replicate all the good things from our performance at the Causeway Stadium.

Leeds are a combative, organised and powerful side and I am surprised to see them where they are in the Guinness Premiership.

Nobody in the squad needs reminding they came to Kingsholm last season in similar trouble and won by

a bonus point so it is impossible to write off their chances this afternoon.

But I have said it before and I will reiterate it again now. I don't really care what the opposition get up to. We have to think about ourselves, get our own game right, produce a performance and let the result take care of itself.

This is the last game of 2005 so lets make it one to remember. Get behind the team today and give it our all this afternoon.

On behalf of the playing squad and management, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Guarantee a ticket at Kingsholm - call 0871 871 8781 **The Passion**

Guarantee a ticket at **Kingsholm** - call **0871 871 8781**

Pendlebury's Persistence



I T WOULD be impossible to say that Jonathan Pendlebury has not waited patiently for his chance to break into Gloucester's first team.

Without an obvious hint of complaint, a shrug of the shoulders or a sloppy attitude, the 22-year-old has dug in his heels, gritted his teeth and simply got on with the job.

He has been rewarded with three successive starts in the middle of Gloucester's forward pack that has completed a journey from the wastes of Rotherham and a club that was literally going under, the Guinness A League with Gloucester to the Premiership.

"It's all come pretty quickly," he acknowledged to the matchday programme. "Having not played for a few weeks, I played against Bath for the United a couple of weeks ago and then went to Toulon that Saturday."

He responded to his first senior start by marshalling the Gloucester line-out during the second half of their 74-3 victory – a considerable achievement on his competitive debut and gave a performance of stature and composure above his years.

"The last two games have gone pretty well – I cannot complain. There are always three places up for grabs and I have just had to concentrate on playing well enough to try and breakthrough.

"I always thought that if I could hang in there I would get a chance and when it came along I knew I had to take it. I just kept my head down and plugged away."

That attitude has summed up Pendlebury's career. He had already seen contemporaries Luke Narraway and Rob Elloway take significant strides from the A League team into the senior ranks this season and was desperate to make a similar leap.

"I knew Naz and Rob were getting their chance and I just had to stick at it. I would like to think that is what Dean [Ryan] and Bryan [Redpath] wanted to see from me. If everything is going to come easy, then what is the point of trying too hard.

"I think working hard for it makes me a better player and it was up to me to try and win them round."

But that only tells half of the story. Pendlebury was contracted at his home-town club of Rotherham during

their distinctly sticky spell in the Premiership a couple of years ago.

When they went down, the club could no longer be sustained and the players faced the very real prospect of losing their jobs as the reality of relegation took over.

"I had a two-year deal when they went down but then everything started to go pips up," he explained.

"The players stuck together and a local businessman came in and took it over.

"A performance of stature and composure above his years."

"It was at that stage that Carl Douglas [Academy manager] became aware of the situation and asked whether I would be interested in coming down and playing some second team games at Gloucester," Pendlebury said.

"Dean and Nigel Melville then got me down to train with the first team on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and then I went back to play for Rotherham on Saturdays.

"That was pretty tough, I can tell you. I played 40-odd

The History

Guarantee a ticket at **Kingsholm** - call **0871 871 8781**

games last season and it was not easy but it was invaluable for me."

But he had done so much in such a short space of time that he earned a two-year deal at Kingsholm. It meant he started this season as the regular lock in the Guinness A League – a competition that Gloucester have taken by storm – and ready to challenge Mark Cornwell and Adam Eustace if a first team spot came up for grabs.

"I have experienced quite a lot. My home club was close to folding and we could have been made redundant and that takes a lot of dealing with. But I was playing senior rugby every week and this season was all about building on that.

"It definitely helped that I was down here last year because I got to know the boys and I could settle in.

"All I can do now is keep training hard

and playing well and hopefully pushing for a place. There is an awful lot of competition for a place in the second row. But I don't want to be carried by the rest of the lads – I want to make my own contribution now.

"I have been pleased with how it has gone in the last few weeks but I know this is only just the start for me. I need to carry it forward now."



"My home club was close to folding and we could have been made redundant and that takes a lot of dealing with."



Ryan's
Review

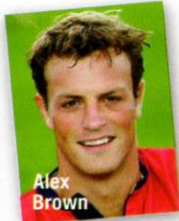
The matchday programme catches up with head coach **Dean Ryan**, who rounds up the fallout from Gloucester's defeat at Wasps.



Alex Brown said in a recent interview that Gloucester needed a 'big scalp' following the victory over Sale at the start of the season. Despite the defeat at Wasps, did your side make the sort of statement you can be proud of?

DR: In essence, the answer to the question is yes. Monday's game was one of the best Guinness Premiership matches I have seen for a long, long time and I was proud we played a part in it. But it took us 20 minutes to realise just exactly the sort of environment we were in against one of the most complete teams in the Premiership, who came at us with pace, power and direction.

The game against Wasps was at a standard we want to achieve consistently but we now know we can do it. We want to get this team into a situation where we expect to take big scalps like Wasps away. Sometimes we don't expect we can do it – I think Monday changed that mindset.



That was the pleasing aspect. But as a group we don't want to be remembered as valiant losers. It is time we started to win those games.



Did the second half performance on Monday, that was full of pride and passion, come just at the right time in terms of the development of the side?

DR: We worked very hard as a group of people, starting in July, at certain aspects of our game off the field that would strengthen us as a squad and we are starting to see that beginning to come through in things we do.

It is very difficult to play at that level week in, week out, but that is the

“We need our top five players to be better than the other teams top five players and on Monday they were close to doing that.””

challenge for us. The confidence we can take from our performance against Wasps, particularly in the second half, was that we can fight equally with these teams.

At times, the game was played at Test match intensity. Against the likes of Lewsey, Abbott and van Gisbergen, we had a back three that has probably less than 20 Premiership matches between them but they didn't look out of place in that company.

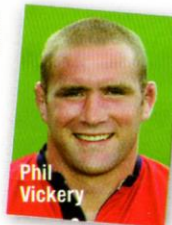
The longer we can stick together in that sort of environment, the better side we will become. I thought that in the second half we made a statement about what this side wants to become in the future.



There were a number of outstanding performances against Wasps. Although it is not your style, what particularly pleased you?

DR: For sometime we have bumped up the young guys and quite rightly so because they have come into the team and done outstandingly well.

But against Wasps we clearly saw the value of having our big five players playing close to the top of their games. Phil Vickery is coming back close to his best and showed the value that a world class tight forward brings to leadership and organisation.



Vicks has been highly unfortunate he has not been able to string together a number of performances for a season or two. Now he is doing it, he is right up there.

I also thought Mike Tindall had his most effective game for the club, Alex Brown is coming back into form and people like Jake Boer and Adam Balding stood up really well.

We need our top five players to be better than the other teams top five players and on Monday they were close to doing that.



We end the year today with a home game against a Leeds side who have beaten Bath away and Perpignan in the Heineken Cup. Are you surprised to see them close to the bottom of the table?

DR: Yes I am surprised to see where Leeds are. I think they are a good, powerful side with some very talented players. I think they are starting to get the best out of those players because there were a lot of changes over the summer.

They are becoming the side they want to be, are well coached and will be a big challenge for us today.



Following the game against Wasps, how do you build on that today?

DR: The challenge for us is to recognise that we played at a standard at times during Monday's game that we need to replicate consistently. Our challenge is to get back to that level immediately, produce it week in, week out so we can start performing at a level we all aspire too.

The History

Match Action

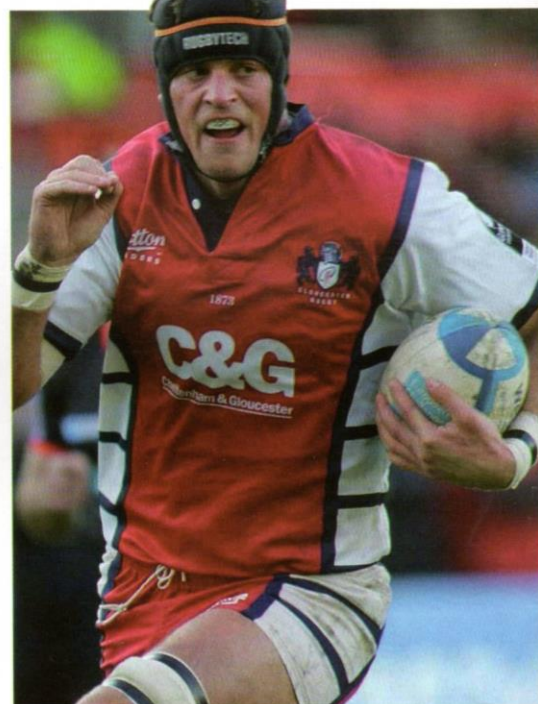
European Challenge Cup 



Gloucester Rugby 66 Toulon 05

Saturday, December 17 Kingsholm
Attendance: 9,037

Pictures by Bruce Seabrook – GPA Images info@gpaimages.com



FOR THE second week running, Gloucester scored 10 tries against Toulon to record another resounding victory in the European Challenge Cup.

They have now scored 39 tries in four pool matches and are well on course for a home quarter-final in the knockout stages of the competition.

There were two tries each for Jake Boer and James Simpson-Daniel as Gloucester turned a 28-5 half-time lead into another comfortable win.

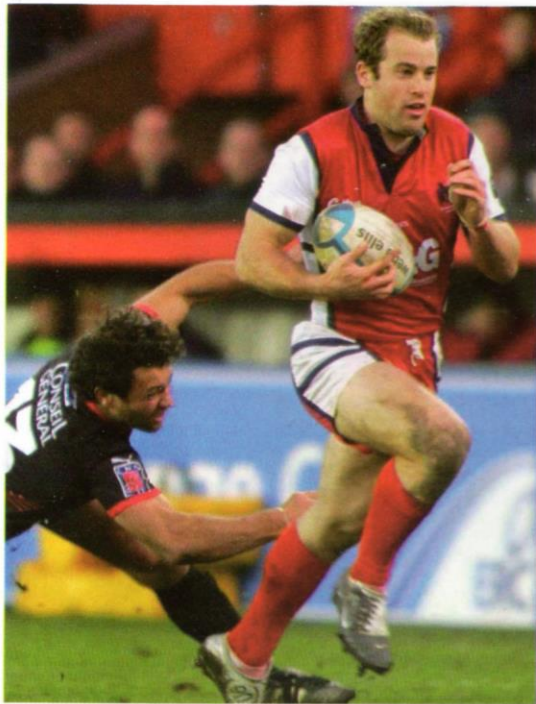
But in truth, Gloucester can take little from the result apart from confidence and another bumper try feast, as head coach Dean Ryan admitted.

"We can't do anything about the opposition [Toulon]. We won 74-3 and 66-5 and I can't ask any more. We kept reasonably solid in defence and didn't make it a sevens game and we worked very hard in attack.

"Toulon never gave up and defended out wide better than they did last week. We could have driven line-outs and just picked and driven all day, but

that wasn't what we wanted to get out of the game.

"But it was an unrealistic environment to what we know we'll be in when we're in the Premiership. So it's limited in terms of value, but we've got to play the games and win well and we've done that." After Boer had given Gloucester the lead, Alex Brown followed it up with a



second shortly after, Gary Powell claimed a third and Boer got the bonus point score following a break by Peter Richards from a scrum.

Franck Comba grabbed a try for Toulon but it was all one-way traffic after the break. Gloucester added six further tries to boost their overall match count.

Adam Balding got the first when he touched down following a quick chip by Ludovic Mercier, Richards followed him home for the next, James Simpson-Daniel then got the first of his brace with a lovely break, Nick Wood powered in from short range, Simpson-Daniel added the ninth and Jack Forster, on his debut, claimed the 10th and final try to complete the rout.



gloucester rugby.co.uk

The History

on-line newsletter **ezine** - visit www.gloucester rugby.co.uk



Q&A with James Forrester

By Ian Randall



Q How did you get introduced to your sport?

A My Dad took me to a local mini club [in] Bicester, just outside Oxford. I started playing from the age of eight. I stayed until I was 16. I was playing school rugby at St. Edwards in Oxford and then I joined Gloucester straight from school.



Q What was the naughtiest thing you did as a child?

A I missed a day off school to go and watch Chelsea play in Europe in midweek. I got caught.

Q What was the first car you owned?

A A light blue Nissan Micra. It was my Mum's and I blew the engine within about six months

Q What was the worst album you ever bought?

A Probably anything by Robbie Williams.

Q Which of your team-mates has the most annoying habit?

A At the moment, probably Sinbad [James Simpson-



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Daniel] because he's always on the phone to Austin Healey. He wants to be the new face of Advanced

Hair Products on the back of The Sun because he's losing his hair.

Q What's the most money you've ever won?

A £200 on Premium Bonds.

Q What makes you angry?

A My housemate Jonny Goodridge is always abusing my dog.

It's getting to the point where I'm considering calling the RSPCA!



Q If you could have four guests around for dinner, who would they be?

A Napoleon, Notorious BIG, Tupac Shakur and John Allen.

Q What mundane task do you struggle with?

A I would say general cleaning - it's got that bad that I've had to employ some cleaners.

Q What will you do when you retire?

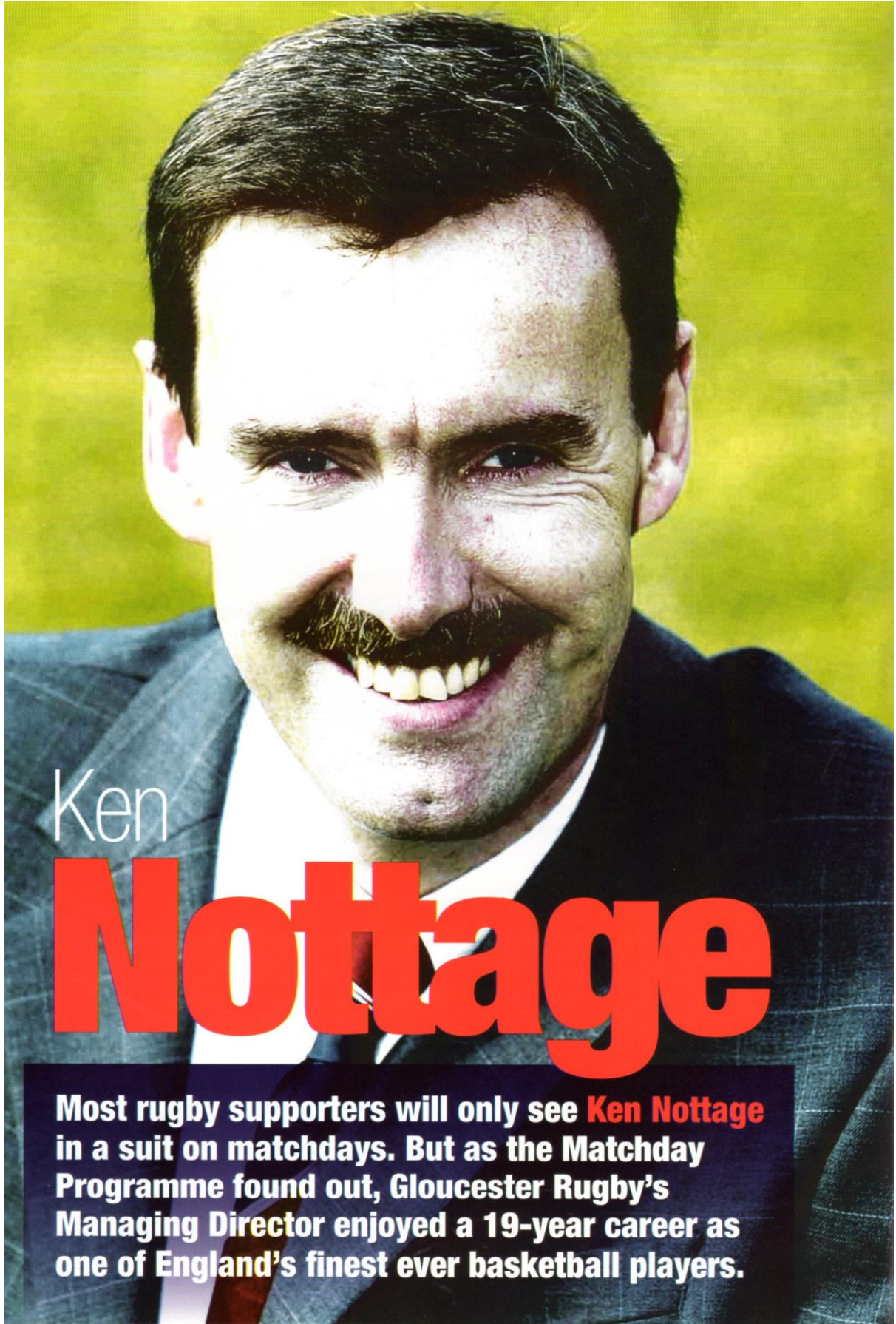
A University. I think that's something I'd like to do whilst I'm still playing rugby through distance learning or something but it's just getting the motivation to sort it out and do it. I don't think I'd have a clue if I'd

have finished a degree now, it's a tough one to answer. I don't know, probably something away from rugby, probably something totally different - I'd like a

new challenge, something different, but I couldn't tell you what at this moment.



The **Passion**



Ken

Nottage

Most rugby supporters will only see **Ken Nottage** in a suit on matchdays. But as the Matchday Programme found out, Gloucester Rugby's Managing Director enjoyed a 19-year career as one of England's finest ever basketball players.



MP: *I've heard it said that you were one of the best English basketball players ever and you played over 50 times for England, at what level did you compare to the NBA?*

KN: Well, the NBA is a million miles away and when I first started off there were no players that ever had any aspirations of playing in the NBA.

Now England's had three or four players that have played in the NBA and there's one guy at the moment who came out of the Brixton set up, I believe he's with the Lakers, and he's earning something like 5 million dollars a year, that's outstanding isn't it?



MP: *Could you have done that in your day?*

KN: No, I was never that good. We had American coaches that were familiar with the NBA and that set-up and I asked one of them how would I go against these people and he said at 6ft3in I was too small, I would really need to be about 6ft 6, 6ft 7in in my position, and while I might get to a pro camp it was pretty likely that I would get cut in the early rounds or the late rounds, so the aspirations of playing at the top level in the States would never have happened.



MP: *So despite being one of the best English players there would have been no chance of Nike Air Nottage...*

KN: No, none at all. I know I was one of the highest paid English players and I had a great time, I played in 20-odd countries, met people all around the world and it helped me in my career but I don't think you could say I was the best English player ever.

“Oh that's womens netball sport isn't it!”



MP: *But you had 19 seasons in the English Basketball League and were the only English player to be top scorer in that time in the English League, that says something though...*

KN: It says I was either a fool for sticking with that for so long, or I was having a good time - I really did enjoy it, it was something very, very good.

Sometimes I look back and I'm a little bit embarrassed about how much I put into it. There was a time I remember way, way back when I had a new job, I had a new addition to the family, I was studying a master's degree in business and I was also trying to play.

I had to say to the coach at the time “I'll probably only be able to make one or two training sessions a week, but I will be fit and I will turn up ready” and it meant very often 11, 12 o'clock at night doing an hour and a half of ball drills in my garage and that was the sort of dedication that I had.

I look back at that and think I must have been nuts to actually do that.



MP: *Do you keep a basketball and dribble around the chairs in your office as keen golfers do when they keep a putter in their office?*

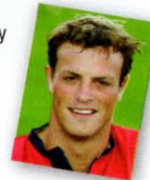
KN: I actually keep it very quiet. It's funny when you work in rugby - which has the image of the big, tough sport - whenever it comes out that I used to play basketball the rugby folk say “oh that's that women's netball sport isn't it!” So it doesn't give you a lot of credibility around a rugby club, so I tend to keep it very, very quiet.



MP: *Do you look at some of the players - say Alex Brown at 6ft, 6in who has a similar build to yourself, is slim and pretty quick and think could he have made it as a basketball player?*

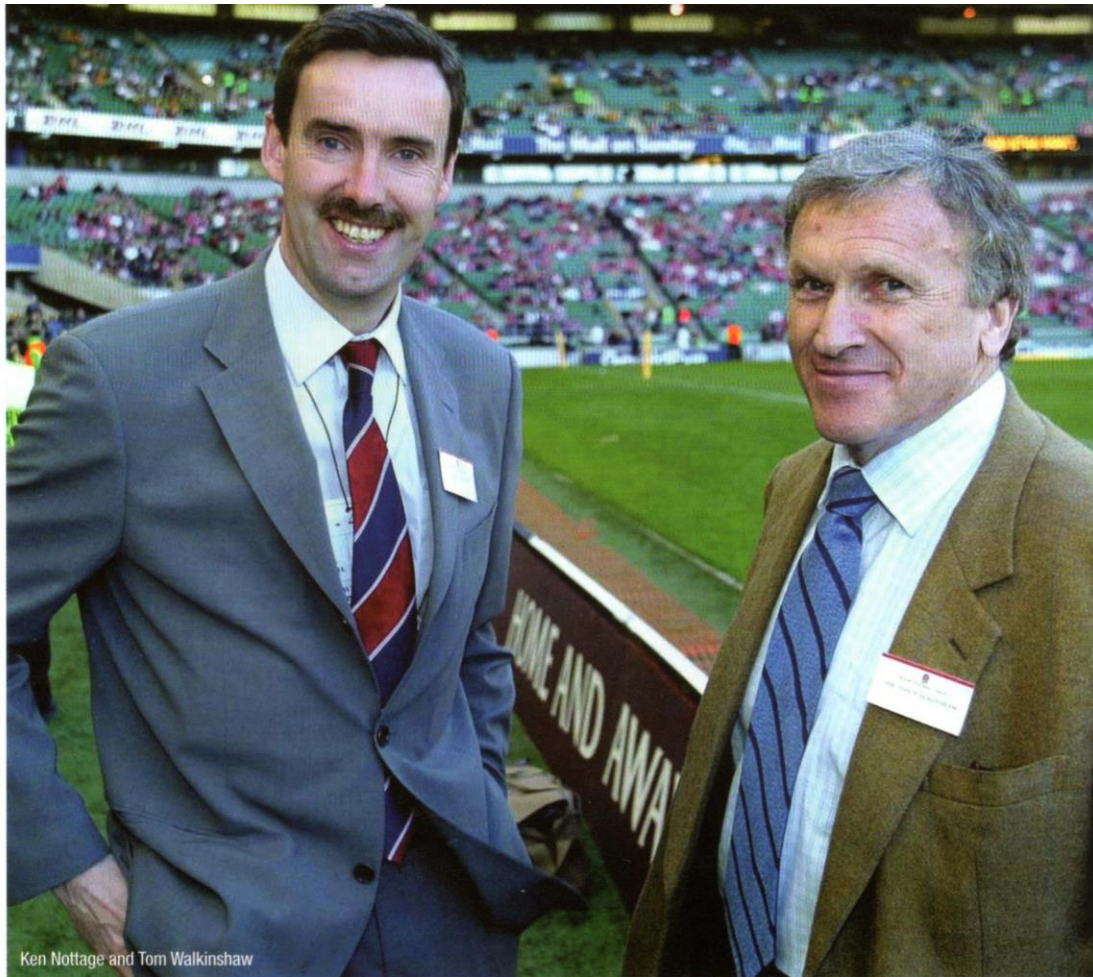
KN: Oh undoubtedly, I'd have given anything to have had a physique and body structure like Alex, that would have been the key to the real big time I think.

With his physique and with how mobile he is and the fact that he's got that grit that makes him a sportsman I think he could have made an exceptional amount of money if he'd have taken up the sport, without question.



MP: *Now you're in rugby, how did you get from basketball to rugby? They're not two sports that obviously go together...*

KN: It was a bit of luck really, I was in the north east, I had quite a serious job working for a university at director level and I'd finished up playing and I was asked whether or not I would help establish the team for Newcastle United. Newcastle United were creating a sporting club; they'd bought rugby, they'd acquired ice hockey and they wanted to acquire basketball, they knew I'd retired, they gave me a call and said “will you set up our basketball team and help us maintain this?” Fantastic! I said “I'd love to do it. They said “well, will you do it full-time?” I wasn't interested in a full-time position, but as the involvement went



Ken Nottage and Tom Walkinshaw

on - just through enjoyment more than anything - I got offered the job as Chief Exec of their sporting club which was the three minority sports that they had, involvement in the football, and that's where you can say being involved in the basketball actually helped my career.

MP: *This was all part of Sir John Hall's 'Geordie Nation' dream wasn't it?*

KN: That's right, he did it and I was very fortunate to be right in the middle of that and help him construct it all and it was a fantastic time.

MP: *Are you still a shareholder of the Eagles?*

KN: I am, yeah I own 26% of the

Eagles and so I keep in touch with them and they're doing extremely well, they won the championship last year and I probably flattered myself with the thought that they want me involved, but they certainly don't need my involvement, they're doing fine without it, but it's just nice to stay in touch with the sport.

MP: *And how do you stay in touch with the sport down here? You are coach of the Gloucester blazers...*

KN: My son who's 17 asked if I would coach his team and he pulled some of his mates together. We're in the under 18's national league and we're doing okay and I coach them.

It's an opportunity to put a little bit back in I suppose. The lads are really responding, Gloucester Blazers is a super club and they were just formed three or four years ago, they've got women's teams, they're involved right throughout Gloucester - I'm flattered to be part of it.

A year ago they asked me if I'd be their Honorary President, I didn't quite know what that meant but I did that and again it's just nice to be involved.

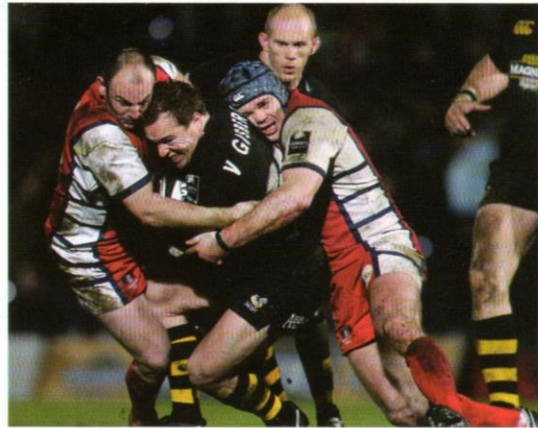
In addition to all that I still play a bit, there's a bunch of old fellers that play in South West Division 1 and we've won it 5 out of the last 6 years, we get up and down the court at snail pace, but between us we keep turning teams over - to the frustration of others.

Match Action



London Wasps 32 Gloucester Rugby 25

Monday, December 26 Causeway Stadium
Attendance: 10,000
Referee: Roy Maybank



DEAN RYAN praised the heart and emotion of his Gloucester side after they over-turned a 22-3 deficit to claim a crucial bonus point against Wasps on Boxing Day.

Gloucester scored two second half tries at the Causeway Stadium to rescue what looked like a hopeless situation after Wasps had breezed into a commanding

lead with four first-half tries. But roared on a terrific display of scrummaging and invention outside, Gloucester came within an ace of capturing an outstanding victory.

"The primary emotion is being very proud of a side which pushed Wasps to the extreme on their home ground when they're full of confidence.

When we analyse, we will look at that 15 minutes and we won't just look at ourselves.

"That's an impressive Wasps side and for a large part of the second half we were a pretty impressive Gloucester side matching them in every area.

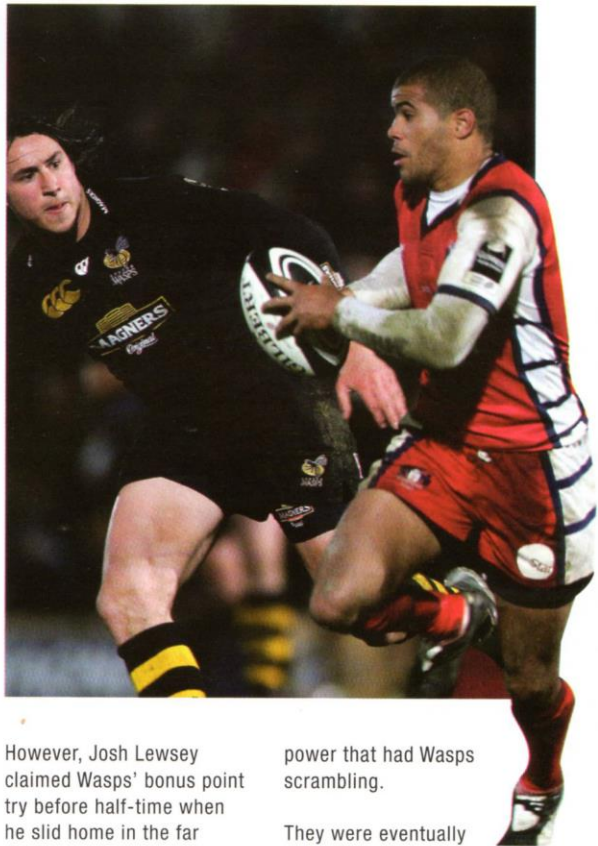
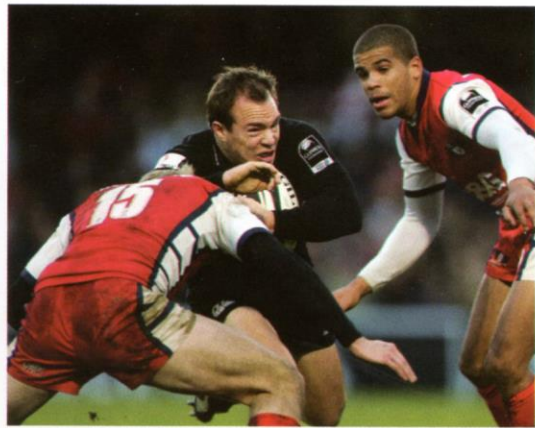
"We missed one or two opportunities, but that comes with being a

developing young side. We put one down under the posts which would have turned it round to 22-17. But we played and we were ourselves and that's something we're proud of.

"There have been a lot of games when we haven't and sadly it doesn't always bring you wins because this is top level competition.

gloucester.rugby.co.uk

The Honour



"We've been very proud of our defence and therefore the first 15 minutes hurt us hugely. We gave away soft tries and we demonstrated towards the end of the game more of what we are about and if we can develop on from there, then we'll be a pretty good side."

Wasps were up and running immediately when flanker John Hart was driven over

from a line-out. Paul Sackey added the second following good work by Eoin Reddan and Alex King.

And when Simon Shaw made it 22-3 after 19 minutes, Gloucester were staring at a hiding. But Ludovic Mercier cut the gap when he picked an attacking line following a period of concerted pressure to make it 22-10.

However, Josh Lewsey claimed Wasps' bonus point try before half-time when he slid home in the far right corner.

It had been a nightmare start for Gloucester but in the second half they gave an indication of what this team is all about. Defensively, they were remarkable and attacked with a verve and

power that had Wasps scrambling.

They were eventually rewarded with a penalty try after 58 minutes and with time running out, James Bailey took Olly Morgan's pass to cut the gap to only seven points and earn a much deserved bonus point.





Peter Arnold completes another year as one of the main contributors to the matchday programme and acknowledges Dean Ryan's work in progress has made real strides since the start of the season.

Peter Arnold



James Bailey against Wasps

DONE AND DUSTED

SO THAT'S it then. 2005 done and dusted. Apart, that is, from today's assignation with the

lads from Headingley, and if recent results are any guide, it can't be regarded as a mere afterthought.

Premiership radar, and there's no sign of them returning any time soon.

After a period when they were regarded as the Premiership whipping boys and a safe home banker, they have put together a string of performances which

That's a pity. It's never nice to see the comparative demise of such respected and formidable opposition, and their fate is a timely reminder that no club has a divine right to a place in

"It's never nice to see the comparative demise of such respected competition."

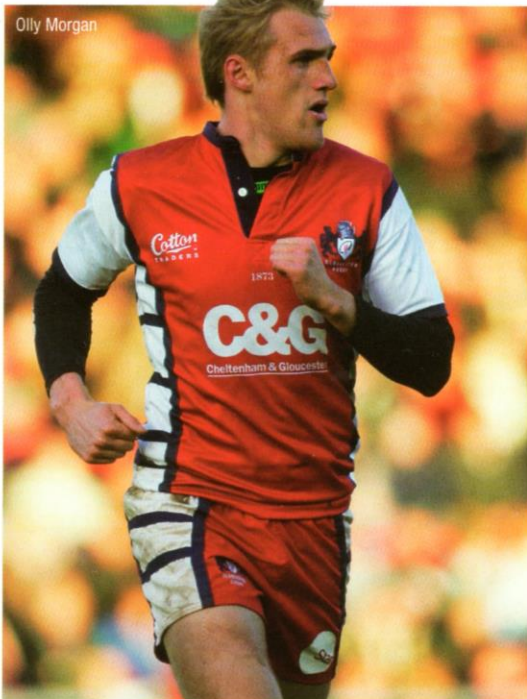
have raised the eyebrows of a few wisecracks who had written them off. And don't forget, they are the reigning Powergen Cup champions.

the top flight. I know that some commercially-minded people are advocating a policy of no relegation and promotion, but that sort of closed shop doesn't appeal to me, nor I suspect to the vast majority of Gloucester supporters. After all, if such a policy were in place, we wouldn't be welcoming Leeds today, and Worcester would be a pleasant rugby backwater.

At this time of year, however, I can't help thinking back to the time when the New Year was the signal for the arrival of London Scottish and/or Moseley, two sides packed with international players and who could be a match for anyone.

If today's game is as exciting as one London Scottish encounter I remember, the cash

Where are they now? Both clubs have slipped off the



Ollie Morgan

customers will have no reason for complaint. It was a gripping match with a lot of talent on view and no quarter asked or given. Things ended all square in that unheard of scoreline, a nil-nil draw.

I don't think I've seen one since, and probably never will again. Certainly not today.

“Give us another twelve months or so, and then watch things fizz.”

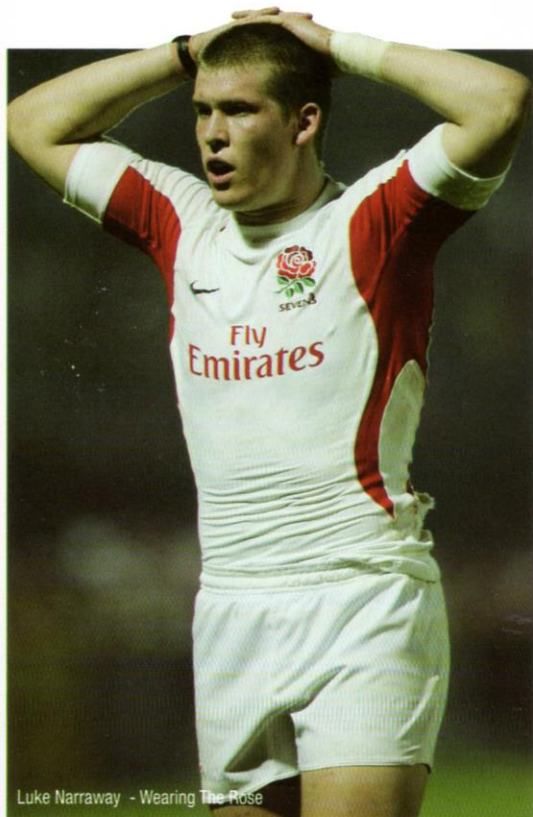
FUNNY OLD YEAR

2005 has certainly been a very odd one. Twelve months ago, we were sitting comparatively pretty, and could look forward to the rest of

the season with a fair degree of confidence. Then everything went avocado shaped, with some poor performances and, to the average supporter, some inexplicable losses.

Hindsight is a marvellous thing, and looking back now, we might have realised that something was wrong. The

atmosphere simply didn't feel right: we had slipped into a mind set where the players seemed sometimes to be going through the motions and that was about all.



Luke Narraway - Wearing The Rose

No doubt I'm being unjust when I say that, but it was the impression which was getting through to many of us, rightly or wrongly. Drastic surgery was needed, and we got it.

As soon as the new regime took over, Kingsholm seemed to be a happier ship. A sense of determination arose, and changes in personnel, both on and off the field, appear to have added a new momentum throughout the whole outfit. Yes, we've had the odd blip, as in the London Irish game, but in general, the trend has been upwards.

Perhaps we shouldn't expect too much from season 2005/6, but give us another twelve months or so, and then watch things fizz.

Optimism, like hindsight, is a marvellous thing.

NOT BAD

TO BE brutally honest, I doubt whether many of us expected to come away from High Wycombe with a win under our belts last Monday. Not many sides beat Wasps on their own turf, and it was a hard ask for the lads to try and do so, so soon after the turkey and mince pies and with the inevitable disruption that the Christmas season entails. In such circumstances, to bring back an invaluable bonus point to Kingsholm was a creditable achievement.

What's more, I'm told that the lads gave Florence's boys a genuine fright in the second half.

Things are decidedly tight tablewise at the moment, and Worcester's first home defeat of the season didn't do us any harm at all. Who knows?

That solitary bonus point could make all the difference come next May when Heineken Cup qualification is being sorted out. Time, as they say, will tell.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

SO WE can plunge into 2006 with a fair degree of confidence, and some decidedly high hopes. Dean Ryan is consistent in telling us, and anyone else fair-minded enough to listen, that Gloucester is, at the moment, a work in progress, an emerging and developing side who are by no means anywhere near their full potential as yet. It will probably take longer than this season for the full picture to emerge.

I wonder. It could well be that Gloucester's 2005/6 season will be categorised as the Year of the Young Guns, the season when future superstars started to come to everyone's notice. The names of Allen, Morgan, Narraway, among others, are already beginning to attract attention. Others, such as Forster, Lamb and Davies are waiting for their chances.

Who would have thought, back last August, that players such as Andy Hazell and James Forrester would come to be regarded as senior citizens?

Regardless of results, it's great to see all these young players strutting their stuff on the sacred turf of Kingsholm.

ALL THE BEST

I HOPE you had a memorable Christmas, and may I humbly proffer my best wishes to you and yours for the coming year. You can buy me a pint whenever you feel like it.

TheHistory

Behind The Scenes

Dave King delves into the history books and unearths the first time Gloucester met today's Guinness Premiership opponents.



HAVE YOU ever wondered when we first met the current members of the Guinness Premier League – the teams, the season and the result?

Some encounters were played before our oldest supporter was born.



Our first encounter with Leicester occurred on 31st October 1891 at Leicester. There were 7,000 spectators present to witness a 15-0 victory for Gloucester. Tries were scored by Ball, Watts and Jackson against a Tigers side who included four curates.

Leicester: A. McKechnie; Rev. C. Barham, Rev. E. Farmer, C. Barnes, J. Ball; Rev. R.S. Ley, Rev. O. Wynne; W.H. Sturges, L.F. Ward, H. Brockbank, J. Yorke, J. Edmona, J.W. Sill, J. Meek, J. Stewart.

Gloucester: A.F. Hughes; T.B. Powell, T. Bagwell (Capt), W. Jackson, W.H. Taylor; J. Watts, S.A. Ball; R.C. Jenkins, A. Cromwell, W. Collins, A. Collins, H.G. Brown, R.W. Pearson, H. Thornett, G. Jones.



We first met Bristol on 24th September 1892 at Kingsholm and it was again a match where the opposition failed to register a point during a 14-0 victory.

First-half tries from Taylor, Brown and Jackson gave Gloucester an unassailable interval lead. Walter Jackson with a second half try and a Watts goal in the second half enhanced the scoreline.

Gloucester: W. Gough; W. Jackson (Capt), W.H. Taylor, A. James, T. Bagwell; W.H. Goodman, J. Watts; R.C. Jenkins, C.J. Click, T. Collins, A. Collins, J. Williams, D. Phelps, H.G. Brown, H.V. Page.

Bristol: G.V. Gibbs; H.B. Turner, Mackay, Gibson, Fenner; Hunt, W.T. Pearce; Thomson (Capt), Davies, Ford, Birch, Vosper, Duffet, Lockyer, Denar,

The Bristol full-back Gibbs was taken to Gloucester Infirmary with a dislocated shoulder.

A winter's afternoon staged our initial meeting with Bath on Saturday 14th December 1895 at Bath.

A meagre crowd of only 482 watched the match played in a quagmire with rain falling throughout. Nothing could split the teams and the game ended in a 3-3 draw. Wellings scored for Gloucester with Seers putting the home team level.



Bath: J. Long; W.F. Long, A.E. Fry, F.C. Belson, G.G. Vincent; E.H. Seers, P.M. Heath; F. Sloane (Capt), J.B.S. D'Aguiar, B.H. Belson, J. Ruddick, L.J. Fry, F. Derrick, R.A. Bartlett, C. Williams.

Gloucester: A.F. Hughes; W.H. Taylor, C.T. Bourne, H. Broady, F. Phipps; A. Morgan, F. Jackson; C. Williams

(Captain), A. Wellings, C. Rose, A.C. Chadborn, J.G. Howarth, W. Beard, W. Stinchcombe, W. Spiers.



Our first meeting with Northampton came on 1st April 1899. An 18-point victory was the result of the season's finest match at Kingsholm. C.Hall scored the first try for Gloucester. Kingston replied for the visitors.

Jack Lewis, who hailed from Newent, put the City ahead by scoring under the posts. Cook kicked a goal before the east Midland club cut the deficit with a brilliant try by Kingston.

Cook kicked a second half goal with a try by Simmonds reducing the arrears. Jack Lewis increased the lead for the 'City' and Gloucester were triumphant. The teams were: -

Gloucester: G. Romans; W.H. Taylor (Capt), J. Cook, W. Dovey, C. Smith; G. Hall, B. Parham, C. Hall, F.M. Stout, A.H. Click, G.H. Smith, F. Oswell, H. Manley, J. Lewis, A. White.

Northampton: W.J. Dixon; W.H. Kingston, C. Leigh, F. Simmonds, A. Smith; W. Patrick, H.E. Kingston; T. Barnfield, B.I. Swanwell, R.P. Swanwell, J.F. Stops, H. Atterbury, J. Maynard, W. Slatter, W. Marsden.



Spring witnessed our first encounter with Sale on 15th April 1933. It was a match we won by 18-7, with two tries from Sheppard and two penalties and a conversion from Harold Boughton.

Sale included Wilf Wooller the former Welsh International and Glamorgan C.C.C. captain in

their line up.
Gloucester: H. Boughton; A.E. Brookes, F.G. Edwards, G.R. James, W. Sheppard; C. Fifield, D. Meadows; F. Wadley (Captain), A.D. Carpenter, E. Comley, K. Smith, R. Morris, A. Welshman, J. Clift, T. Hiam.

Sale: T. Hart; H.S. Sever, C. Davey, A.J. Groston, W. Wooller; G.C. Noden, P.G. Street; W.F. Scott (Capt), L.D. Wheeden, N.M. Cookson, R.V. Reynolds, F.A. Kister, C.G. Seddon, F.S. Crosland, H.D. Morten.

An autumn visit heralded our first encounter with Wasps on Saturday 18th October 1946. Gloucester sprung a surprise by omitting half-back Willie Jones, his place was taken by K. Daniell.

Admission prices to Kingsholm with today's equivalent in brackets were: - Grandstand 3/- (15 pence), Wings 2/- (10 pence), Enclosure 1/6d (7 pence), Worcester Street 1 shilling (5 pence) Deans Walk 6d.

Gloucester recorded a fortunate victory 8-5. Malcolm gave Wasps the lead with a try which Till converted. Crabtree scored a try for the 'Citizens' before Daniell scored a brilliant try that Hook converted.

Gloucester: W. Hook; C. Crabtree, S. Dangerfield, S.H. Davies, W.D. Kear; K. Daniell, D.D. Evans; T. Day, J. Hopson, D. Whitmore, R. Morris, S. Smart, J. Thornton, C. Dunn, G. Hudson.



Wasps: M.C. Morgan; R.R. Seel, G.R. Evans, P.R. Till, J. Doubleday; R. Morgan, P.W. Sykes; C.R. Lee, J.C.



Peter Ford

Hudspith, J.B. Bland, D.W. Malcolm, N. Compton (Capt), V.R. Malempre A.A. Edwards, R.A. Daniells.



The visit of London Irish on 24th November 1973 saw the team debut of 22-year-old Steve Boyle who joined the club from the Old Richians.



Saracens' first visit to Kingsholm came on Saturday 23rd March 1968 saw them secure a 3-3 draw.

The burly lock moved up to

“This was a match where the patriarchal Peter Ford returned to the Gloucester line up from retirement.”

This was a match where the patriarchal Peter Ford returned to the Gloucester line up from retirement. Don Rutherford put the hosts ahead but Geoff Hunt the Saracens skipper replied with a penalty two minutes from time.

Gloucester: D. Rutherford (Capt); D.J. Medcroft, R. Jardine, J.A. Bayliss, J. Groves; T.J. Palmer, J.H. Spalding; R.J. Cowling, M.J. Nicholls, J.L. Fowke, A. Brinn, N.A. Jackson, P.J. Ford, D.W. Owen, R. Smith.

Saracens: Geoff Hunt; Tony Janaway, Vic Dobbs, Roger Weaver, Phil Clark; Mike Alder, Maurice Palmer, Roger Bloom, John Syskiewicz, John Heggadon, Brian Goodchild, Ian Palmer, John Evans, George Sheriff.

the front row to partner Mike Nicholls and Keith Richardson in the inaugural visit of the London club. A power crisis saw the match kick off at 2.30pm but Gloucester secured a comfortable victory 27-9.

Tries from John Dix, Bob White and Dick Smith wiped out an Exiles lead of 9-6 with ten minutes of play remaining. Eric Stephens contributed 15 points by kicking three penalties and converting each of the three tries. Harry Rea scored a try for the Exiles and Mike Heal converted. Heal also landed a 6th minute penalty.

Gloucester: E.J.F. Stephens; J. Dix, R.E. White, R. Jardine, R. Etheridge; N.D. Evans, J.H. Spalding; K. Richardson, M.J. Nicholls (Capt), S.B. Boyle, P.J. Winnell, N.A. Jackson,

The History

D.W. Owen, J.S. Jarrett,
R. Smith.



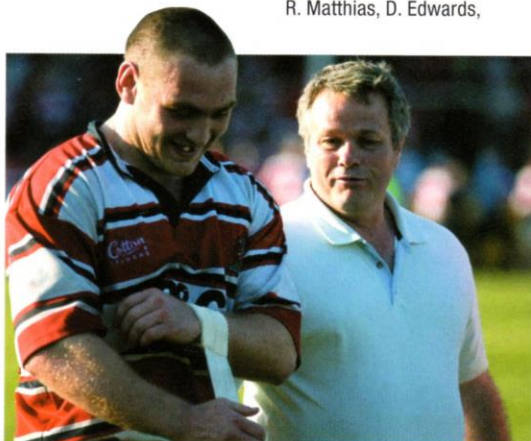
Our first meeting with Leeds came on 21st December 1996 at Kingsholm in a Tetley's Bitter Cup tie. Leeds were then in Courage League Division 3, the club having been formed in 1992.

We enjoyed a comfortable 55-20 victory. Mark Mapletoft scored 30 points from two tries, four conversions and four penalties.

Mike Lloyd with a brace of tries, Tim Smith, Scott Benton and Peter Glanville completed the scoring. On a freezing afternoon we held a 21-6 interval lead. Gerry Ainscough with two penalties, Morgan and Tuipolutu scored tries and two conversions by Ainscough completed the scoring for our Yorkshire visitors.

Gloucester: C. Catling;
M. Peters, D. Caskie,
M. Roberts, M. Lloyd;
M. Mapletoft, S. Benton;
T. Windo, P. Greening,
A. Deacon, R. Fidler, D. Sims,
P. Glanville, I. Smith,
S. Devereux.

Leeds: S. Tuipolutu;
R. Matthias, D. Edwards,



P. Johnson (Capt),
M. Appleson; G. Ainscough (rep
half time R. Morgan),
M. Canthorn; G. Baldwin,
M. Luffman, M. Shelley,
P. Davies, C. Radalano,
N. Green, P. Griffin,
J. Ashcroft.

Do you recognise the long-term contributions of Mike Shelley and Phil Davies to the Tykes, who are still involved at Headingley.

We defeated Worcester in our first meeting on 9th January 1999 in a 31-17 victory in a Tetley's Bitter Cup tie.

Tries from Philippe Saint-Andre, Mark Mapletoft, Steve Ojomoh and Chris Fortey along with a try, conversion and two penalties from Mark Mapletoft outstripped Nigel Richardson and Jim Jenners' tries. A penalty and two conversions by John Liley replied for the visitors.

Gloucester: C. Catling;
T. Fanolua, R. Greenslade-Jones,
P.St. Andre, (A. Lumsden 74th
min); M. Mapletoft, N. Cain;
T. Woodman, N. McCarthy,
(C. Fortey 40th min), A. Deacon
(A. Powles 40th min), R. Fidler
(Capt), M. Cornwell
(D. Sims 40th min), E. Pearce,
S. Ojomoh, N. Carter (A. Hazell
60th min).



Worcester: J. Liley;
S. Morris, D. Hughes
(P. Holford 54th
min), R. Myer,

N. Baxter (N. Malone 54th min);
R. Lebas, B. Fenley (Capt),
S. Powell 77th min), M. Linnett,
D. Ball (G. Houston 77th min),
P. Mitchell (J. Broaby 28th
-35th min), R. Denhart,
C. Raymond, G. Clark
(M. Gilbert 74th min), J. Jenner
(E. Orgee 54th min).
N. Richardson.



The one blip on an almost impeccable record in our first ever meeting with any of this season's Guinness Premiership clubs came when we were met with a 3-0 defeat at Gosforth on 19th March 1977 in a John Player Cup tie.

The North East club later became known as Newcastle Gosforth and today are Newcastle Falcons.

A controversial penalty goal decision ten minutes from time settled this tie, Malcolm Young settling the match with a 35 yard penalty. The teams were: -

Gosforth: B. Patrick;
S. Gustard, H. Patrick,
K. Britton, S. Archer;
R. Breakey, M. Young;
C. White, D. Madsen,
A. Cutter, T. Roberts, J. Hedley,
I. Richardson, P. Dixon,
D. Robinson. Replacements:
A. Moor, D. Pledger, P. Levinson,
R. Mahoney, A. Blackett.

Gloucester: P. Butler; R. Clewes,
R. Jardine, D. Pointon,
R. Mogg; C. Williams, P. Howell,
G. Sargent, S. Mills, M. Burton,
S. Boyle, P. Winnell, J. Watkins
(Capt), E. Pinkney, J. Haines.
Replacements: R. Etheridge,
B. Vine, W. Birchley,
P. Blakeway, F. Reed,
J. Simonett.

Shed dweller **Bob Fenton** wishes everyone at Kingsholm a prosperous 2006 in his last programme notes of the year – apart from visiting teams of course – who he hopes have a pretty miserable coach journey home.

Fan Zone



Action v London Wasps

AT ONE stage or another we have probably all wished we could all become rugby superstars and trade places with one of the 15 who run out in front of us every Saturday afternoon. That eighty minutes of glory – it's got to be worth the odd spot of training, hasn't it.

Yeah right.

If you were lucky enough to be me (if you can call that lucky) it was ending work at midday on 16th December, off for the obligatory overblown lunch

with colleagues before heading home to do not very much for a week.

How does that compare with the teams build up to the Christmas and New Year period? Not for them the incessant rounds of pre-Christmas drinks – not unless

his elves had worked hard enough so they could have a day off. But it was back to work on Monday for the men from Gloucester.

And before today's game, it was back to the mill. One good thing, the game is today and not tomorrow, that would put

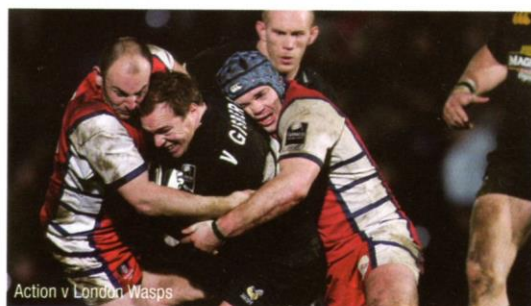
“Pre-Christmas it was a full week's training, with the exception of Christmas Day.”

you like the energy variety. Not for them the huge meals – unless you fancy some high-protein macrobiotic thing from Gwyneth Paltrow's cook book (man that must be a slim volume!). Not for them lazing around doing not very much except having to decide whether to drink red or white wine.

Pre-Christmas it was a full week's training, with the exception of Christmas Day when Santa Dean decided that

a complete brake on any kind of New Years Eve drinking! I feel sorry for Leeds, a long haul back up the motorway is hardly likely to put you in a good frame of mind for a few pints. Best stay down here, boys – I'm sure someone will show you the way to Jumping Jacks... Or if you're really unlucky – Crackers!

Our European campaign keeps on rolling the total demolition of Toulon a few weeks ago keeps us well placed for top seeding



Action v London Wasps



– I guess that it will be either us or Newcastle, who managed score about 1,000 points against an Italian side.

Toulon's performance shows what a gulf there is in French rugby, and I suppose how strong the Guinness Premiership is. It seems as soon as you drop out of the top four or five teams in the French set up you are into sides that would probably struggle against a decent Division one side. Meanwhile our league sports a strong batting order right down to the bottom few.

The fact that the last eight teams in the Challenge Cup are – with probably only one exception – going to be English makes you question the future of the competition. I hope it carries on though, mind you I would rather we were competing in the proper European Cup next season.

Regrettably Santa's little helpers failed to deliver the four points on Boxing Day, but what a second half fight back. For a while it looked like the highlight of the day was going to be the girl from Westbury-on-Severn winning the case of ale and it looked like we were going to be on the wrong end of a cricket score at one point.

But in the second period we conceded just one penalty kick – and that after holding out Wasps through what seemed like a zillion phases of play.

The trip up to Wasps always seems to happen over the Christmas period, or at least when the temperature is hovering somewhere just above the freezing mark, so it was doubly encouraging to read that away supporters are now persona non-grata in the only bar at the stadium.

This has gone down well with everyone as somehow standing in a freezing marquee with your hands glued to

a cold beer is somewhat unappealing to the average supporter. For what it's worth I think Wasps current home is streets ahead of the old plastic dustbin of Loftus Road, but in terms of facilities it's hopeless.

The stadium was obviously built for a football club and therefore follows the model of small bars on the basis that only home fans would want to go in there, and most of them on corporate tickets. Rugby's not like that, though, and half the fun is the pre and post match conversation with the opposing fans over a pint or two.

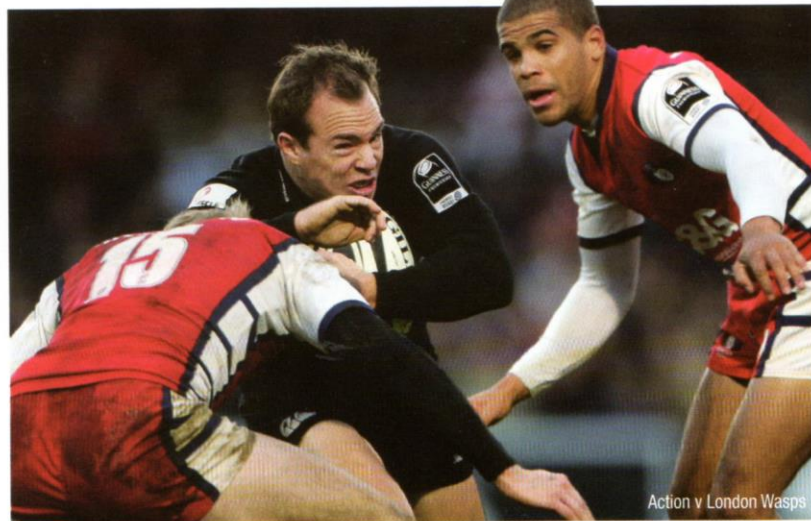
I actually feel a bit sorry for Wasps supporters here, they didn't ask to be shunted around from pillar to post in search of an appropriate stadium, and we should thank our lucky stars that we are not in the same predicament.

At Wycombe they have built a fan base and are attracting new support – this has to be a good thing. My parents lived in the area and it is actually a strong rugby playing part of the world. My school

spurned the round ball for an odd-shaped one as did many others in the area. Wycombe Grammar school has produced many fine players – not least Matt Dawson, though I would hesitate to use the word 'fine' (unless accompanied by a suitable and unprintable expletive) to describe him!

They have been good for the area, and I hope they stay there – I just hope for the sake of visiting and their own supporters they can sort out the hospitality. At the moment, though, the fans are doing it for themselves, and the fine array of parties going on in the car park before the game was incredible. One guy even had his own generator hooked up, and the talk in the fields was all about the possibility of getting hold of an inflatable pub! If such a thing exists I want one now!

All that's left now is for me to wish everyone a very happy New Year, may it be peaceful and prosperous – except for any teams visiting Kingsholm during 2006 when I wish them untold mayhem, no points and a very quiet coach journey home.



TheHistory



Today's Teams



Gloucester Rugby



Leeds Tykes

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Olly Morgan

Mark Foster

Mike Tindall

James Simpson-Daniel

James Bailey

Ludovic Mercier

Peter Richards

Patrice Collazo

Mefin Davies

Phil Vickery (C)

Jonathan Pendlebury

Alex Brown

Adam Balding

Andy Hazell

James Forrester

15 Full-Back

14 Wing

13 Centre

12 Centre

11 Wing

10 Fly-Half

9 Scrum-Half

1 Prop

2 Hooker

3 Prop

4 Lock

5 Lock

6 Flanker

7 Flanker

8 No.8

Replacements

16

17

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T C P D

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David Doherty

Andre Snyman

Chris Jones

Rob Vickerman

Tom Biggs

Gordon Ross

Justin Marshall

Kees Lensing

Rob Rawlinson

Rayno Gerber

Stuart Hooper (C)

Tom Palmer

Jon Dunbar

Richard Parks

Jordan Crane

Michael Cusack

Gordon Bulloch

Scott Morgan

Nathan Thomas

Danny Care

Roland De Marigny

Chris Bell

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Rob Elloway

Gary Powell

Adam Eustace

Peter Buxton

Haydn Thomas

Brad Davies

Terry Fanolua



Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Sale Sharks	9	7	0	2	210	153	19	14	2	1	31
2	London Wasps	9	6	1	2	228	167	23	12	2	1	29
3	Leicester Tigers	9	5	2	2	232	153	24	11	3	1	28
4	Worcester Warriors	9	6	1	2	176	174	13	17	0	0	26
5	GLoucester Rugby	9	5	1	3	197	162	17	12	1	2	25
6	London Irish	9	5	0	4	179	185	17	18	2	2	24
7	Saracens	9	4	1	4	199	186	20	19	3	1	22
8	Bristol Rugby	9	4	0	5	162	183	10	16	0	2	18
9	Newcastle Falcons	9	2	1	6	162	186	15	17	0	4	14
10	Bath Rugby	9	2	1	6	153	200	9	16	1	2	13
11	Northampton Saints	9	2	0	7	156	207	16	18	0	5	13
12	Leeds Tykes	9	2	0	7	146	244	11	24	0	2	10

Table correct on 23/12/05

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Rob Debney

TOUCH JUDGE 1: Lloyd Jackson

TOUCH JUDGE 2: Huw Jones Williams

RESERVE REF: Wayne Barnes

ASSESSOR: Brian Leigh

TODAY'S RESULT

GLoucester:

Leeds Tykes:

designed and produced by

 for enquiries and sales
 please call 01635 35599