



The Official Programme  
of Gloucester Rugby

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## Gloucester Rugby v Worcester Warriors

29.09.07 18.00



# INSIDE

## Meet The Volcano

Big Les unmasked

## Gloucester: Centre Of The Universe

Chris Hewett reports

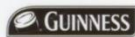
## C&G Grandstand

In pictures

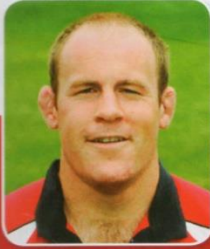
**PLUS:** Match Action, Ryan's Review, Peter Arnold, Fans Zone, Ticket News, Community Update

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## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

It seems almost a life-time ago that I attended the Guinness Premiership launch at Twickenham and got my hands on the prize we are all fighting for – the huge silver Premiership trophy.

WE HAVE obviously got off to a very good start over the last fortnight with victories away to both Leeds and Saracens. Last season I think we generated only three try-bonus points all season and this year we already have two – that is fantastic for us.

Although we were all delighted to come away from Saracens last weekend with five points, we all realise there were elements within our performance that won't stand up to scrutiny within Europe or in knockout rugby and they are things we are working on.

At the moment, it is important we look at our overall performance and not simply the number of points we have gathered in the first two rounds.

But there is no denying the fact we have made a flying start and Lesley's five tries against Leeds a fortnight ago got us up and running in spectacular style.

I think I can speak for every member of the squad when I say we are all thrilled to

be back at Kingsholm today. Since last season's semi-final victory over Saracens, the new C&G Grandstand has been completed and it looks fantastic.

It is the clearest indication possible that Gloucester are not just developing and challenging on the field but off it too – I think Kingsholm will be the envy of a lot of visitors this season and that is great.

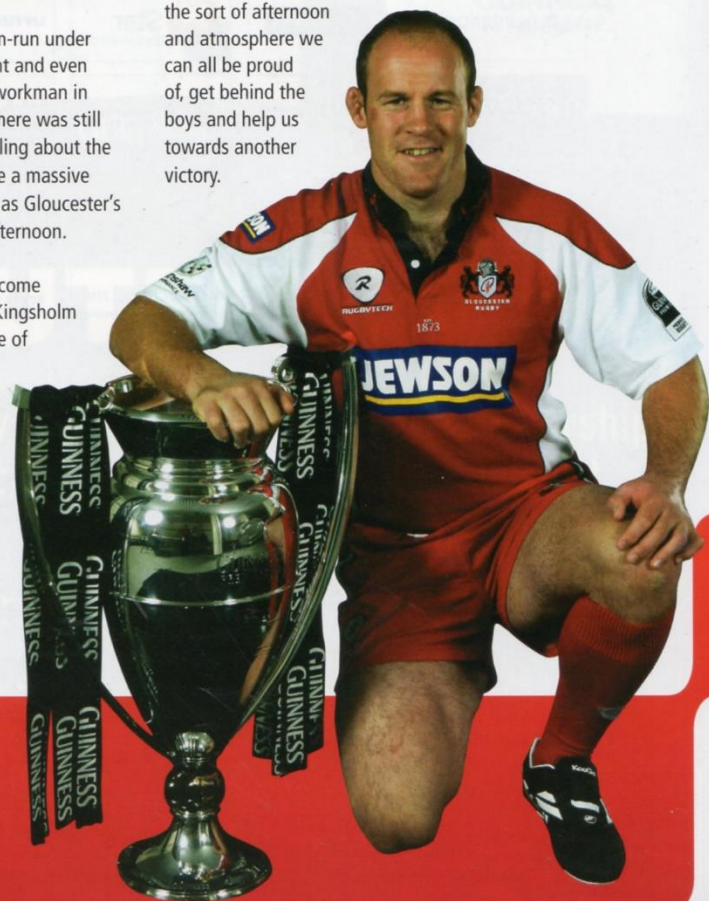
We had a team-run under lights last night and even with the odd workman in the stadium, there was still a fantastic feeling about the place. It will be a massive honour to run as Gloucester's captain this afternoon.

Today, we welcome Worcester to Kingsholm for what is one of biggest derbies of the season. They have recruited brilliantly under Mike Ruddock to compliment what is already

a strong squad, drew with Wasps last weekend and will be going all out today.

Anyone who remembers last season's matches will appreciate what an occasion and contest we have on our hands this afternoon.


But this is a special occasion for Gloucester Rugby, the start of the new era and a place in history. Please make it the sort of afternoon and atmosphere we can all be proud of, get behind the boys and help us towards another victory.



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dair\*


**JACK ADAMS** CENTRE




Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 15st  
DOB: 17.09.86

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**ANTHONY ALLEN** CENTRE





ENGLAND 

Height: 5'11"  
Weight: 14st 7lb  
DOB: 01.09.86


**DEAN CLOSE SCHOOL**

**OLIVIER AZAM** HOOKER

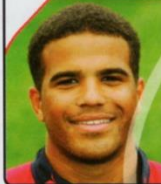


FRANCE 

Height: 6'1"  
Weight: 19st  
DOB: 21.10.74




**JAMES BAILEY** WING



Height: 5'11"  
Weight: 14st 1lb  
DOB: 05.08.83

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**ADAM BALDING** BACK ROW



Height: 6'2"  
Weight: 17st 4lb  
DOB: 07.12.79

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**IAIN BALSHAW** WING/  
FULL-BACK



ENGLAND 

Height: 6'1"  
Weight: 14st 2lb  
DOB: 14.04.79

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**MARCO BORTOLAMI** LOCK





ITALY 

Height: 6'5"  
Weight: 17st 5lb  
DOB: 12.06.80

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**ALEX BROWN** LOCK



ENGLAND 

Height: 6'7"  
Weight: 18st 1lb  
DOB: 17.05.79

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**PETER BUXTON** BACK ROW



Height: 6'4"  
Weight: 18st 1lb  
DOB: 21.08.78

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**CHRISTIAN CALIFANO** PROP



FRANCE 

Height: 5'11"  
Weight: 17st 5lb  
DOB: 16.05.72

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**PATRICE COLLAZO** PROP





FRANCE 

Height: 6'1"  
Weight: 17st 11lb  
DOB: 27.04.74

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**GARETH COOPER** SCRUM-HALF



WALES 

Height: 5'7"  
Weight: 13st  
DOB: 07.05.79

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**MARK DAVIES** STAND-OFF




Height: 5'10"  
Weight: 12st 8lb  
DOB: 16.03.89

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**GARETH DELVE** NUMBER 8





WALES 

Height: 6' 3"  
Weight: 18st 11lb  
DOB: 30.12.82

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**ALASDAIR DICKINSON** PROP





SCOTLAND 

Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 17st 5lb  
DOB: 11.09.83

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**JAMES FORRESTER** NUMBER 8




ENGLAND 

Height: 6'5"  
Weight: 17st 4lb  
DOB: 09.02.81

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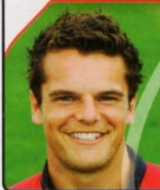
**JACK FORSTER** PROP



Height: 6'1"  
Weight: 18st 11lb  
DOB: 19.03.87

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**MARK FOSTER** WING



Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 15st  
DOB: 02.09.83

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**ANDREW HAZELL** BACK ROW




ENGLAND 

Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 14st 13lb  
DOB: 25.04.78

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**ALI JAMES** CENTRE




Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 14st 13lb  
DOB: 11.10.79

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**WILL JAMES** LOCK




WALES 


Height: 6'6"  
Weight: 19st 8lb  
DOB: 22.12.76

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**RYAN LAMB** STAND-OFF



Height: 5'9"  
Weight: 13st 5lb  
DOB: 18.05.86



NFU Mutual

**RORY LAWSON** SCRUM-HALF




SCOTLAND 

Height: 5'8"  
Weight: 13st 5lb  
DOB: 12.03.81



CAMION

**DAVE LEWIS** SCRUM-HALF



Height: 5'7"  
Weight: 12st 8lb  
DOB: 29.04.89

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LEON LLOYD

WING/  
CENTRE



ENGLAND



Height: 5'11"  
Weight: 15st 4lb  
DOB: 16.05.72

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ROSS MCMILLAN

HOOKER



Height: 6'1"  
Weight: 16st 7lb  
DOB: 02.06.87

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LUDOVIC MERCIER

STAND-OFF



Height: 5' 11"  
Weight: 14st 2lb  
DOB: 01.11.76

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OLLY MORGAN

FULL-BACK



ENGLAND



Height: 6'2"  
Weight: 14st 2lb  
DOB: 03.11.85

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LUKE NARRAWAY

BACK ROW



Height: 6'3"  
Weight: 15st 13lb  
DOB: 07.08.83

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CARLOS NIETO

PROP



ITALY



Height: 6'1"  
Weight: 17st 4lb  
DOB: 28.04.76

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JEREMY PAUL

HOOKER



AUSTRALIA



Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 16st 4lb  
DOB: 14.03.77

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Currently on Tour



CHRIS PATERSON

WING/  
FULL-BACK



SCOTLAND



Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 12st 4lb  
DOB: 30.03.78



CAMION

Currently on Tour



JONATHAN PENDLEBURY

LOCK



Height: 6'4"  
Weight: 17st 4lb  
DOB: 15.01.83

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MIKE PRENDERGAST

SCRUM-HALF



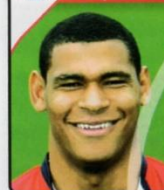
Height: 5'11"  
Weight: 13st 3lb  
DOB: 21.05.77

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PLAYER SPONSOR  
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KARL PRYCE

WING



Height: 6'6"  
Weight: 18st 11lb  
DOB: 27.07.86

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PLAYER SPONSOR  
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AKAPUSI QERA

BACK ROW



FIJI




Height: 6'4"  
Weight: 16st  
DOB: 24.04.84

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PLAYER SPONSOR  
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Currently on Tour


**JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL** WING

ENGLAND 

Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 14st 6lb  
DOB: 30.05.82

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PLAYER SPONSOR  
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**ALASDAIR STROKOSCH** BACK ROW

SCOTLAND 

Height: 6'3"  
Weight: 15st 5lb  
DOB: 21.02.83

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**ANDY TITTERRELL** HOOKER

ENGLAND 

Height: 5'10"  
Weight: 14st 2lb  
DOB: 10.01.81

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**MIKE TINDALL** CENTRE

ENGLAND 

Height: 6'2"  
Weight: 15st 12lb  
DOB: 18.10.78

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**HENRY TRINDER** CENTRE

Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 13st 5lb  
DOB: 14.04.89

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PLAYER SPONSOR  
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**DAN TUOHY** LOCK

Height: 6'5"  
Weight: 17st 8lb  
DOB: 18.06.85

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**LESLEY VAINIKOLO** WING

Height: 6'2"  
Weight: 17st 8lb  
DOB: 04.05.79

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**WILLIE WALKER** STAND-OFF/  
FULL-BACK

Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 13st 12lb  
DOB: 19.05.78

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PLAYER SPONSOR  
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**DAN WILLIAMS** BACK ROW

Height: 6'5"  
Weight: 16st 7lb  
DOB: 01.02.89

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PLAYER SPONSOR  
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**NICK WOOD** PROP

Height: 6'1"  
Weight: 17st 5lb  
DOB: 09.01.83

 **Star**  
The Business ISP

**DEAN RYAN** HEAD COACH

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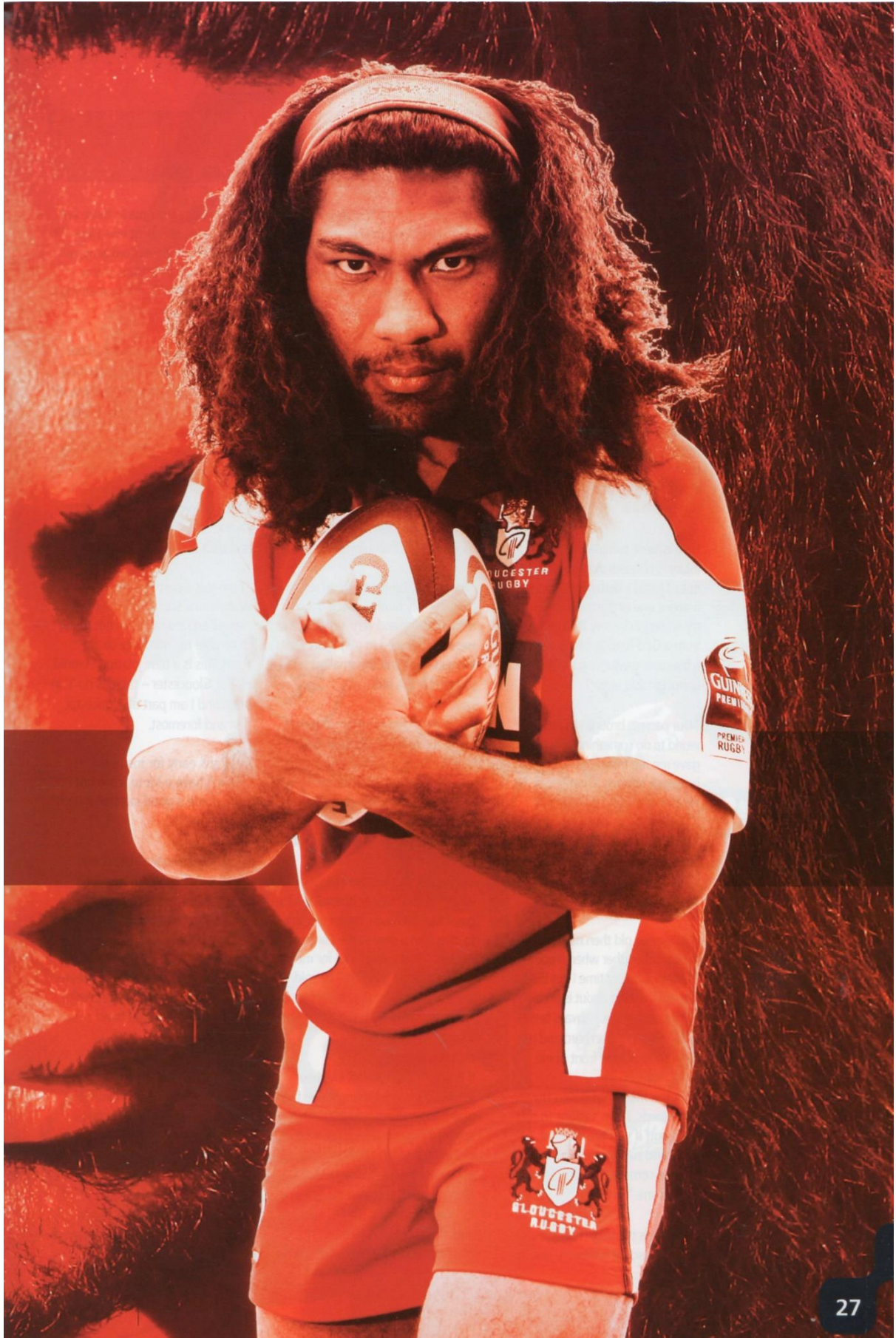
**BRYAN REDPATH** ASSISTANT  
COACH

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# MEET THE VOLCANO

His try-scoring record is legendary, his reputation massive. Lesley Vainikolo announced himself to the Guinness Premiership earlier this month with five tries on his debut. The matchday programme found out what makes the 'Volcano' tick.







## LESLEY VAINIKOLO

▶ IT'S MONDAY lunchtime and the Volcano is only smouldering. Gone is the full war-paint kiss to the heavens, the almost unnatural physicality, power and aggression. For a few moments at least, Lesley Vainikolo is all hair cut and a deep, booming laugh.

The fall-out is still settling after the most remarkable Premiership debut ever – his five tries against Leeds Carnegie helped Gloucester to the top of the table after Round One following his single-handed demolition job at Headingley.

He has since suffered a muscle injury in his neck that rules him out of today's derby, but what is it about one of the most prolific try-scorers in history that turns him from a God-fearing family man into a try-scoring wrecking machine of unimaginable terror?

"Our parents brought us into this world to do something special. God gave me the talent to use what I have got, to have a purpose in my life," he said.

"My philosophy is to stick together as a family, to put a smile on their faces and repay their faith in me – I owe them everything."

The 28-year-old then narrows his theory still further when it comes to his rugby: "Every time I get the ball all I am thinking about is breaking the defensive line. I always feel I have it in me to run hard and run over the people in front of me.

"For me it's about doing the hard yards. I was taught to run hard and if you are tackled, come back and run harder – it's a one on one contest and that is what excites me."

Vainikolo's record in rugby league still takes some believing. His 149

tries came in only 152 appearances – an almost impossible strike-rate – even for a winger with his qualities of size combined with pace. The most remarkable aspect is that he appears totally at ease with his celebrity status and unfazed by the expectation he now faces at Kingsholm.

Tongan by birth, Vainikolo, the youngest of five brothers, moved to South Auckland when he was six and took up rugby league when he was 11. He was also a prodigious sprinter – and was timed at 10.6s for the 100 metres at the 1997 Junior World Championships.

"Four of my brothers played rugby," he said. "My mother was a good netball player and very athletic – we were encouraged to play sport – as the youngest and the smallest I had to fight for the ball.

"Only my eldest brother – Intamoa – had the brains to do something else but Kava, Solomone and Israel all played – they were fit, strong and when Kava and Israel were selected to play for Bay of Plenty it was a massive thing for the family."

Vainikolo's break came in 1998 when his idol, former Australian great Mal Meninga, contacted him to offer him a deal at the Canberra Raiders. "Mal was an idol for me when I was growing up," he said. "I spent five years at the Raiders and it was fantastic. Then Bradford came in and it changed my life."

If Bradford changed his life then Vainikolo's impact changed the face of the Super League. In 2004 he scored 37 tries in 26 appearances, including five hat-tricks. His last appearance was against Leeds Rhinos when he scored the opening try during the Bulls' 38-14 massacre and the last of his 149 tries.

"The decision to come to Gloucester

was a hard one for me to make but I knew it was the right one. I like to think I helped Bradford achieve good things but this was a new challenge in my life and something I wanted to experience.

"I am learning in union it is about doing the little bits right, of getting the forward platform established, of retaining the ball for long periods.

"Things like the training techniques and the systems in place for us to function are much different but it is great to see the young guys like Lamby, Tony [Anthony Allen], Sinbad and Luke Narryway doing well.

"I am just a part of a team. Without the success of the other players around me, I am not going to be able to contribute to the team. This is a new job and I would die for Gloucester – there is no 'I' in team and I am part of Gloucester first and foremost.

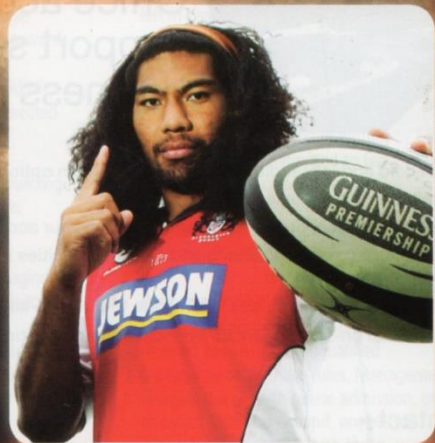
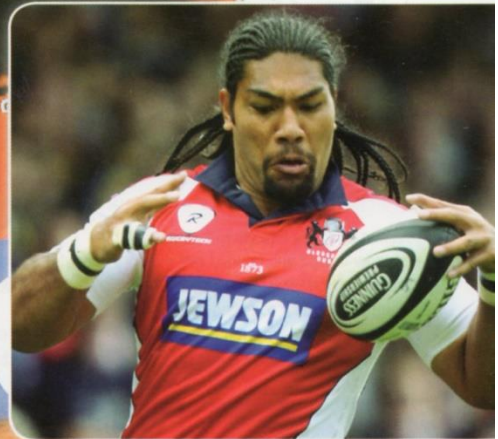
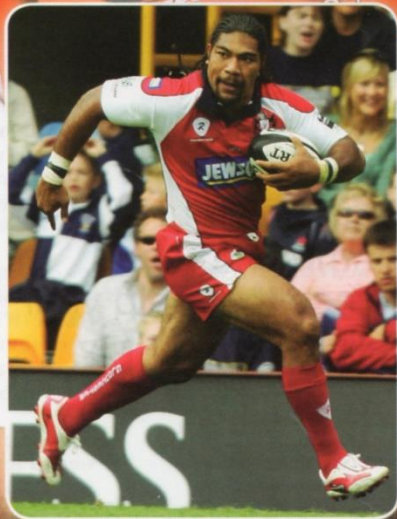
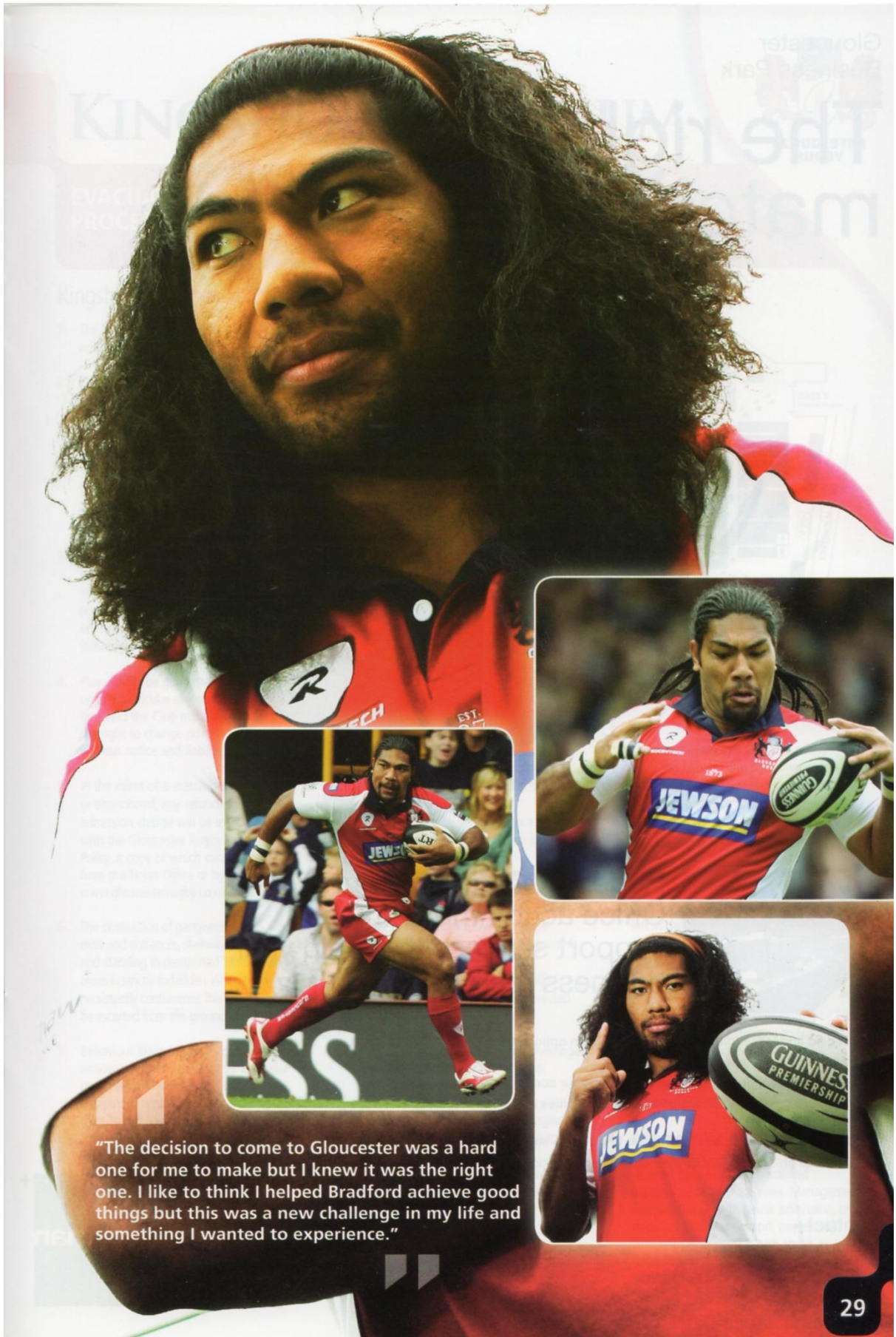
"It is still early for me in my career, I have a lot to learn but I have made a good start and want to continue it."

His influence against Leeds was massive. Although his tries stole the show it was his all-round contribution that helped Gloucester to eight tries.

"The space that Lesley can create is the unhidden factor that we're keen to exploit," said head coach Dean Ryan.

"What we see with him is that his try scoring is fantastic; what we're seeing in terms of him creating space for others is something we're coming to terms with as a team and other players will benefit from it.

"I think we knew straight away that he has things that other players don't have."



“The decision to come to Gloucester was a hard one for me to make but I knew it was the right one. I like to think I helped Bradford achieve good things but this was a new challenge in my life and something I wanted to experience.”



# RYAN'S REVIEW

Gloucester will be back at Kingsholm for the first time this season today and head coach Dean Ryan reviews the first two victories against Leeds and Saracens.



**Two weeks ago we started the Guinness Premiership season with a victory over Leeds, what pleased you with that performance?**

**DR:** Movement. I thought when we operated in space we generated a threat that was very difficult to handle and at times we continued it against Saracens.

The outcome was that Lesley generated the headlines because of his five tries but the threat and discomfort he caused the Leeds defence contributed to extra space for Anthony Allen and allowed more freedom for the likes of Iain Balshaw and James Simpson-Daniel.

Considering it was our first competitive game I thought our attacking threat from distance was excellent and was a real bonus. The contribution of Lesley was also outstanding and five tries was a remarkable way for him to announce himself on the Premiership.

We never made a secret about what Lesley can do. It doesn't hide that we still have a journey to evolve him into being a more complete player. Those five tries

won't be on offer this week and some of the things that he still has to learn may be put under scrutiny."

Last season we only generated three try-scoring bonus points so to start with one a fortnight ago was very satisfying.



**You continued that against Saracens with another bonus point win – is it the perfect start?**

**DR:** IN terms of points, it obviously is but I don't get focused on whether we've got 10 points after two games but on what we did better than last week. Some of those mistakes we made at Vicarage Road we won't get away with in Europe.

Still, it's nice to start like that rather than with two losses. We've been on the road twice because of ground redevelopments, so we're pleased we're going home next week to a record crowd at Kingsholm, hopefully, and we're looking to build on this start.

Once again, when we played with ambition and movement we were very hard to contain. Some of the young players in the squad galvanised what we were trying to be on the front foot but I was also delighted with the contribution and work rate of guys like Alasdair Strokosch, Luke Narraway and Nick Wood.

Saracens are a physical side and difficult to break down so to win away for a



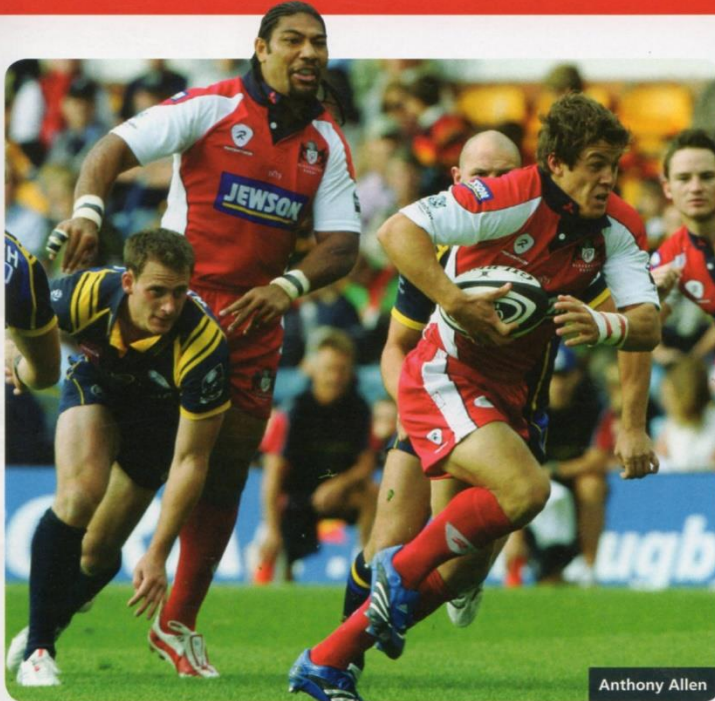
**Still, it's nice to start like that rather than with two losses. We've been on the road twice because of ground redevelopments, so we're pleased we're going home next week to a record crowd at Kingsholm, hopefully, and we're looking to build on this start.**



Luke Narraway



Leon Lloyd



Anthony Allen

second successive week with four tries was great for us.

**Today we are back at Kingsholm for the first time since last season's Guinness Premiership Semi-Final – the old place has changed a bit during the summer?**

**DR:** TO BE back at Kingsholm for a local derby in front of what should be a record Gloucester crowd at Kingsholm for a Premiership match shows exactly where the club wants to be.

I haven't met anyone who hasn't been totally behind the project and we are all tremendously excited about being the first team to experience a huge Kingsholm crowd in this new facility. It will be a history-making occasion for all of us and that is tremendously exciting.

**Worcester are the visitors this afternoon – they are always tough, tense occasions?**

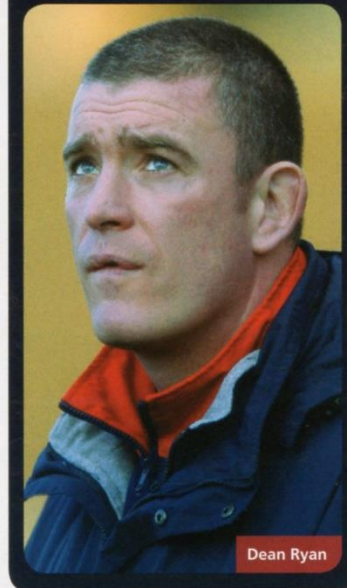
**DR:** THERE have been plenty of changes at Sixways during the summer and Mike Ruddock has recruited some of the finest players in the world. Because of World Cup commitments guys like Rico Gear and other signings Sam Tuitupou, Greg Rawlinson have yet to arrive and they will only add significantly to what is already a strong squad.

We found out last season when Worcester came to Kingsholm that they are capable of causing real disruption – and that was when they were struggling against the back-drop of relegation.

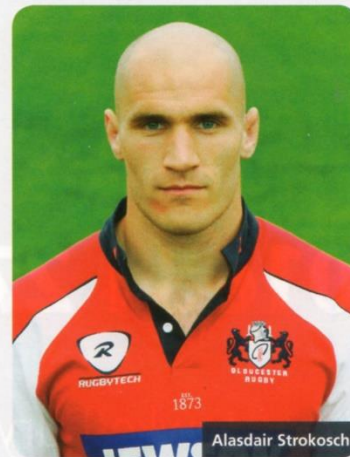
They did wonderfully well to save themselves and I think the appointment of Mike will only enhance what they are trying to do.

He is a hugely experienced coach with international honours behind him. They battled back very well against Wasps last weekend to draw in the final few minutes. A derby of this intensity against a good side is a great way to launch the new stand this afternoon.

“ We found out last season when Worcester came to Kingsholm that they are capable of causing real disruption – and that was when they were struggling against the back-drop of relegation. ”



Dean Ryan



Alasdair Strokosch

# TODAY'S TEAMS

Saturday 29th September 2007 18.00

Gloucester Rugby  
v Worcester Warriors



**Gloucester RUGBY**



29



**Worcester WARRIORS**

7

	Olly MORGAN	15	Full Back	15	Shane DRAHM	
	James SIMPSON-DANIEL	14	Right Wing	14	Thinus DELPORT	
	Mike TINDALL	13	Centre	13	Dale RASMUSSEN	
	Anthony ALLEN	12	Centre	12	Mark TUCKER	
	Iain BALSHAW	11	Left Wing	11	Marcel GARVEY	
	Ryan LAMB	10	Fly Half	10	James BROWN	
	Mike PRENDERGAST	9	Scrum Half	9	Matt POWELL	
	Nick WOOD	1	Prop	1	Darren MORRIS	
	Olivier AZAM	2	Hooker	2	Chris FORTEY	
	Carlos NIETO	3	Prop	3	Tevita TAUMOEPEAU	
	Peter BUXTON (c)	4	Lock	4	Phil MURPHY	
	Alex BROWN	5	Lock	5	Craig GILLIES	
	Alasdair STROKOSCH	6	Flanker	6	Tom WOOD	
	Andy HAZELL	7	Flanker	7	Pat SANDERSON (c)	
	Luke NARRAWAY	8	No 8	8	Kai HORSTMANN	
	Andy TITTERRELL	16		16	Tony WINDO	
	Christian CALIFANO	17		17	Ben GOTTING	
	Jonathan PENDLEBURY	18		18	Will BOWLEY	
	Adam BALDING	19		19	Gavin QUINNELL	
	Dave LEWIS	20		20	Ryan POWELL	
	Willie WALKER	21		21	Dominic FEAUNATI	
	James BAILEY	22		22	Chris PENNELL	



**HEAD COACH**  
Dean RYAN



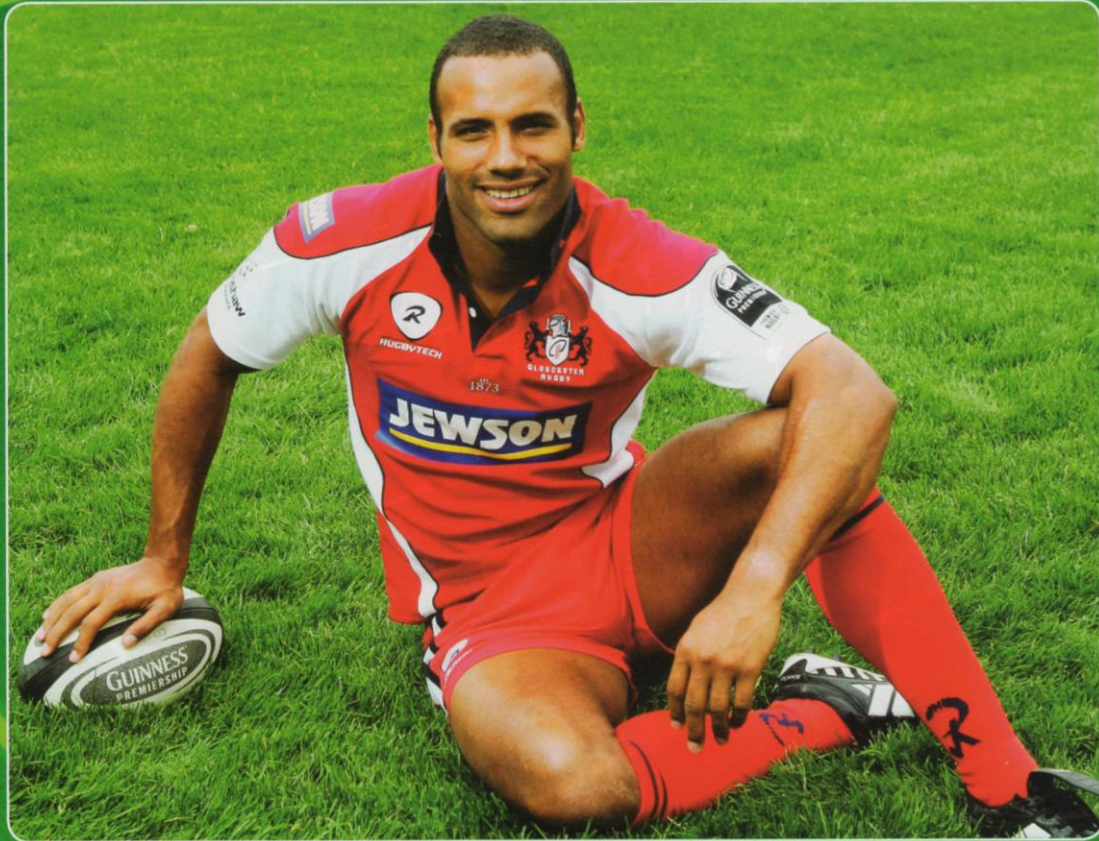
**DIRECTOR OF RUGBY**  
Mike RUDDOCK



# SPOTLIGHT

with **Leon Lloyd**

by Ian Randall



### WHAT'S THE MOTTO YOU LIVE BY?

If at first you don't succeed, cheat!



### WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION?

My family. I have a wife, a boy of 9 and a baby on the way. I can't say any one without the rest.



### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BREAKFAST CEREAL?

Oat so Simple - golden syrup flavour. I was stuffing it down during pre season, trying to put some weight on.



### WHICH COMPANY WOULD BE YOUR IDEAL SPONSOR?

I'm a big fan of Chinese food, so if any Chinese restaurant would like to come forward, I'd gladly accept.



### ARE YOU A SPENDER OR A SAVER?

Definitely a saver, and I get a lot of grief from my wife about that. I'm into property, and always look to the future and save for a rainy day.





**WHAT MADE YOU LAST LOSE YOUR TEMPER**

I lose it a lot when I play because I've got quite a short fuse.

**TELL US SOMETHING YOUR TEAM MATES DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU...**

I have never been in the Leicester Tigers away changing room, so after being there for 12 years, when I go there this year with Gloucester it's something I'm looking forward to.



**WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE PERSON ON TV?**

I like humorous people so I'd go for Ricky Gervais. I do find him funny.

**WHICH TV SHOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A CONTESTANT ON?**

I used to be a huge fan of Countdown and always wanted to be on it, but now it's The Weakest Link.



**WHO IS THE MOST INTERESTING PERSON YOU'VE EVER MET?**

Ian Botham. He came to one of my testimonial dinners at Leicester, and during the question and answer session he said how he'd met so many people around the world that I'd like to meet too.

**IF YOU WENT TO UNIVERSITY, WHICH DEGREE WOULD YOU DO?**

I'm a budding entrepreneur so it would have to be in business management.

**WHAT PART OF TRAINING DO YOU ENJOY MOST ?**

I enjoy the team run, because there is no

more training until after the game at the weekend and I'm in the side!

**IF THERE IS A PRANK BEING PLAYED, WHO IS USUALLY THE CULPRIT?**

Ryan Lamb or Andy Hazell. The person the pranks are normally on is Olly Morgan.



**WHICH OTHER SPORTING EVENT WOULD YOU LOVE A TICKET FOR?**

Either the 100m Mens Final at the Olympics, or a boxing bill in Las Vegas. Both those are on my tick lists of things to do.





# WELCOME TO THE CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE



Chris Hewett contributed to Gloucester's matchday programme last season and here he previews today's little dust-up against Worcester and believes Dean Ryan's squad are on the verge of something special...







## CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE

▶ GLOUCESTER: the capital of the world. No, really, how else are we to explain the fact that all roads lead to Kingsholm these days? Jeremy Paul has made the trip from Australia, Akapusi Qera has legged it here from Fiji - albeit via Pertemps Bees, which undeniably strips away a layer of romance - and Lesley Vainikolo has arrived from rugby league, which really IS a foreign country. The question is: why?

Players join Stade Francais because they can have dinner at Brasserie Lipp and ogle women at the Moulin Rouge. They surface in Toulouse or Cape Town or Sydney because the treatment they receive is almost as good as the wine they drink. But Gloucester? Gloucester used to have all the pulling power of a one-legged roadsweeper with a bad stutter. What is it about the place, suddenly? Andy Hazell's disco nights? Patrice Collazo's yoga courses? Tea and sympathy sessions at Dean Ryan's house?

There is no point asking Chris Paterson. The state Edinburgh were in during the summer, he'd have considered joining anyone. Even Bath. But as a group, the new signings send out the clearest of messages about Gloucester's recent progress and their potential to win trophies - not one, but three or four between now and the next World Cup. They are here for one reason, and one reason only: success.

Of course, Ryan will need a degree of sensitivity when it comes to managing a squad with such depth of quality. There were three high-class centres operating at Kingsholm last season: the battle-hardened Mike Tindall and the two brilliant youngsters, Anthony Allen and Jack Adams. Now, Leon

Lloyd and Ali James have joined the throng. Only two can play.

The same goes for the hooking position, where it will be interesting to see whether Olivier Azam rolls over and dies because two international forwards, the aforementioned Paul and the former Sale scamperer Andy Titterrell, are encroaching on his territory.

The wings? James Simpson-Daniel, who should be on World Cup duty as we speak, is a class act; Mark Foster can finish with the best of them; James Bailey and Iain Balshaw both know an opposition goal-line when they see one. Now Vainikolo is on board, there is something claustrophobic about the contest for starting places. If Karl Pryce turns out to be as good as Ryan hopes, it will take Solomon himself to make the right decisions.

Word has it that the movers and shakers at Premier Rugby Ltd are considering a raising of the salary cap. It seems inevitable. The major powers in the English club game - the likes of Leicester, Sale and, yes, Gloucester - are in no mood to stand still, believing as they do that there is plenty of growth left in the thud-and-blunder business.

Mark McCafferty, who has played a blinder as PRL's chief executive these last couple of years, is a little wary, and with good reason. He points to the predictability of top-flight football - Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal, Liverpool, yawn, yawn - and contrasts it with a Guinness Premiership in which more than 50 per cent of matches are decided by a score or less; in which the likes of Bristol and Saracens can take up residence in the top four against all expectations. Raise the salary cap

by all means, but for heaven's sake think carefully before doing away with it altogether. A little parity never did anyone any harm, as all you good socialists in the Shed will happily confirm.

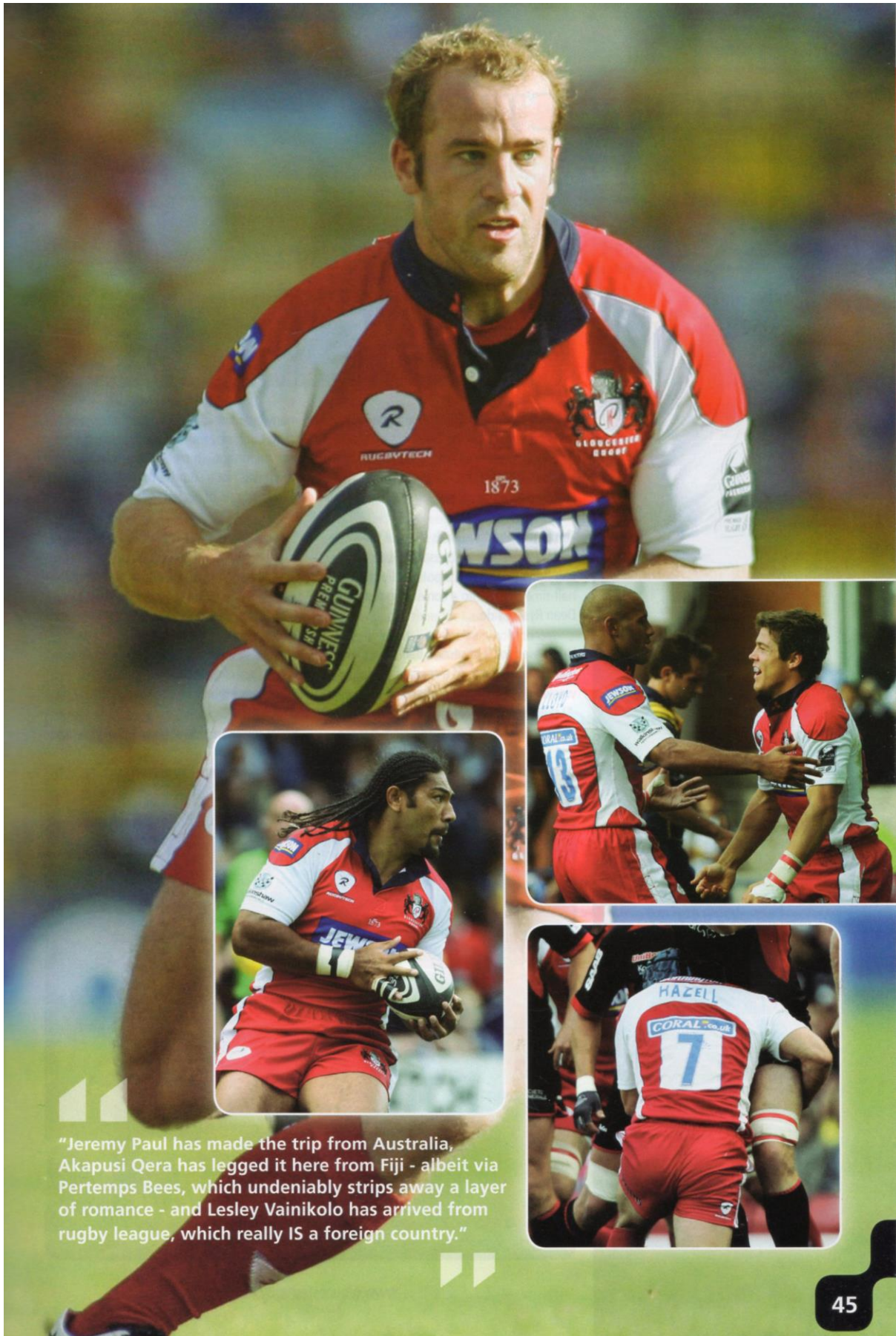
What of this afternoon's little set-to with the lot from up the road? Worcester have signed every bit as brilliantly as Gloucester, but their three recent All Blacks - Sam Tuitupou, Greg Raulinon and the supremely capable Rico Gear - are not due in England for another month or two.

Perhaps it's too warm here just at the moment. However, Mike Ruddock, the new top dog at Sixways, is very definitely in residence, and he has been bold in predicting a new style of rugby from Worcester.

Ruddock knows a thing or two about this daft game of ours - any coach who takes the Welsh to a Grand Slam deserves a part in Lord of the Rings as well as the Premiership - so we can expect him to deliver on his promise.

All things considered, this should be a very decent season for the Cherry and Whites. Wasps are in double figures on the World Cup personnel front, as are Leicester and Sale. Gloucester have lost just rather fewer, thanks to Mr Ashton's selectorial musings, and of the players missing, Gareth Cooper, Qera and Paterson have yet to pull on the shirt. The mathematics make a difference, as we may discover at Welford Road next weekend and here at Kingsholm a fortnight today.

Can the title be won? Let's face it: if the Forest of Dean can produce Wayne Barnes - a top-class referee who is also a barrister - anything is possible.



“Jeremy Paul has made the trip from Australia, Akapusi Qera has legged it here from Fiji - albeit via Pertemps Bees, which undeniably strips away a layer of romance - and Lesley Vainikolo has arrived from rugby league, which really IS a foreign country.”

# MATCH ACTION

Leeds Carnegie  
Gloucester Rugby

24  
49



## Time line

4 min	
Simpson-Daniel TRY	0-5
7 mins	
Hyde TRY, Di Bernardo CON	7-5
14 mins	
Di Bernardo PEN	10-5
20 mins	
Di Bernardo PEN	13-5
27 mins	
Balshaw TRY	13-10
32 mins	
Lamb PEN	13-13
34 mins	
Di Bernardo PEN	16-13
36 mins	
Vainikolo TRY	16-18
40 mins	
Di Bernardo PEN	19-18
49 mins	
Rock TRY	24-25
60 mins	
Vainikolo TRY	24-30
66 mins	
Vainikolo TRY, Lamb CON	24-37
70 mins	
Vainikolo TRY	24-42
78 mins	
Vainikolo TRY, Lamb CON	24-49

## Gloucester Line-up

15	Iain Balshaw	(1t)
14	James Simpson-Daniel	(1t)
13	Leon Lloyd	
12	Anthony Allen	(1t)
11	Lesley Vainikolo	(5t)
10	Ryan Lamb	(1p, 3 cons)
9	Mike Prendergast	
1	Patrice Collazo	
2	Olivier Azam	
3	Carlos Nieto	
4	Jonathan Pendlebury	
5	Alex Brown	
6	Peter Buxton	(captain)
7	Andy Hazell	
8	Luke Narraway	
REPS		
16	Andy Titterrell	(Azam)
17	Christian Califano	(Nieto)
18	Dan Tuohy	
19	Alasdair Strokosch	(Pendlebury)
20	Dave Lewis	
21	Ludovic Mercier	
22	Olly Morgan	

## Five-Star Lesley

Sunday, September 16

Referee: David Rose, Attendance: 10,697

▶ LESLEY VAINIKOLO announced himself on the Guinness Premiership with a debut record five tries as Gloucester ran riot at Headingley.

The former Bradford Bulls star put Leeds to the sword with a devastating second half burst that turned a potentially sticky half-time deficit into a convincing victory for Dean Ryan's side.

He crossed for four second half scores that were the backbone of a crucial opening weekend victory for Gloucester.

"I think his first try was pure Lesley," said head coach Dean Ryan. "There are not too

many individuals who can do that sort of thing but his overall contribution to us was very important – it creates space for others and it was not a surprise to me that Anthony Allen had one of his best games.

"He has fitted in really well, is developing all the time. His overall contribution was far more than the number of tries he scored."

Gloucester got off to the perfect start when James Simpson-Daniel scored after four minutes when Ryan Lamb, Vainikolo and Leon Lloyd combined down the right.

But Leeds hit back immediately with a soft score when Dan Hyde escaped three tackles down the short side of a ruck. Their 7-5 lead



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became 13-5 when Alberto Di Bernardo kicked penalties after 14 and 20 minutes as Gloucester struggled defensively.

However, when Iain Balshaw crossed past Tom Biggs following a period of Gloucester pressure, the tide began to turn. Vainikolo got his first score when he thundered through Tom Rock and had enough strength and speed to beat three other defenders to the corner for Gloucester's third try.

After the break, it was all Gloucester. First, Allen cut a lovely angle from a ruck to take Lamb's pass and score by the posts and although Rock narrowed the gap to 25-24 with Leeds' third try, it soon

became the Vainikolo show.

From a turn-over, Allen surged forward, Luke Narraway came into the line superbly and Vainikolo thundered in at the corner. Gloucester made Leeds pay from turnovers and when Andy Hazell scampered forward he sent the big man in for his hat-trick after 66 minutes.

There was still time for Lamb to kick across field after 70 for Vainikolo to get score number four and then, two minutes from time, the same combination worked again and Vainikolo stepped inside brilliantly twice to score try number five and crush a deflated Leeds.



[www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk](http://www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk) [gloucesterrugby.com](http://gloucesterrugby.com)

## Man of the Match

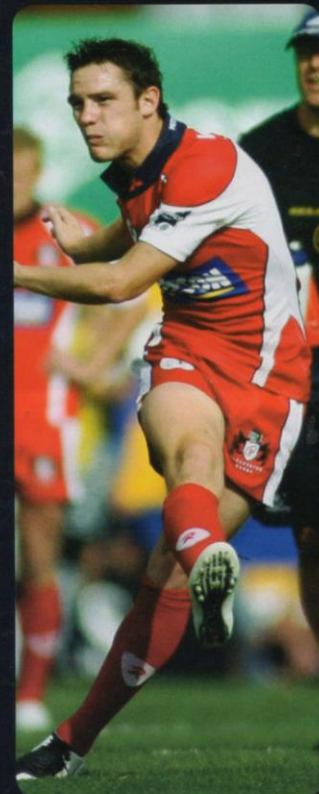


There were impressive forward performances up front, but VAINIKOLO'S five tries stole the show

## Coaches Comment



"The contribution of Lesley was also outstanding and five tries was a remarkable way for him to announce himself on the Premiership," head coach Dean Ryan.



# REACH FOR THE SKIES

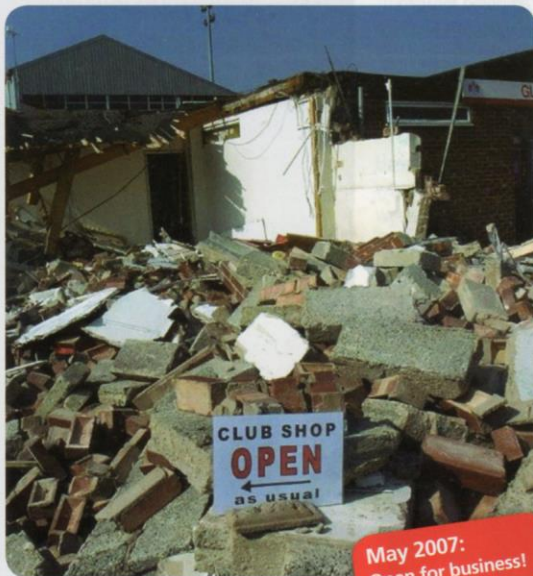
Gloucester's new C&G Grandstand will be launched for the first time – taking Kingsholm's capacity from 12,500 to more than 16,500.

▶ HERE, the matchday programme looks back at the biggest development in Gloucester's history from the first signs of demolition to the final completion of the stand this week. The picture archives detail the amount of work undertaken at Gloucester Rugby this season and of the momentous change at the ground. The 7,000 seats will make Kingsholm the second biggest all-purpose rugby stadium in the country and will be in use for the first time today against Worcester Warriors.

Many thanks to GPA Images and the Citizen Newspaper for the use these Images.



April 2007:  
Demolition begins



May 2007:  
Open for business!



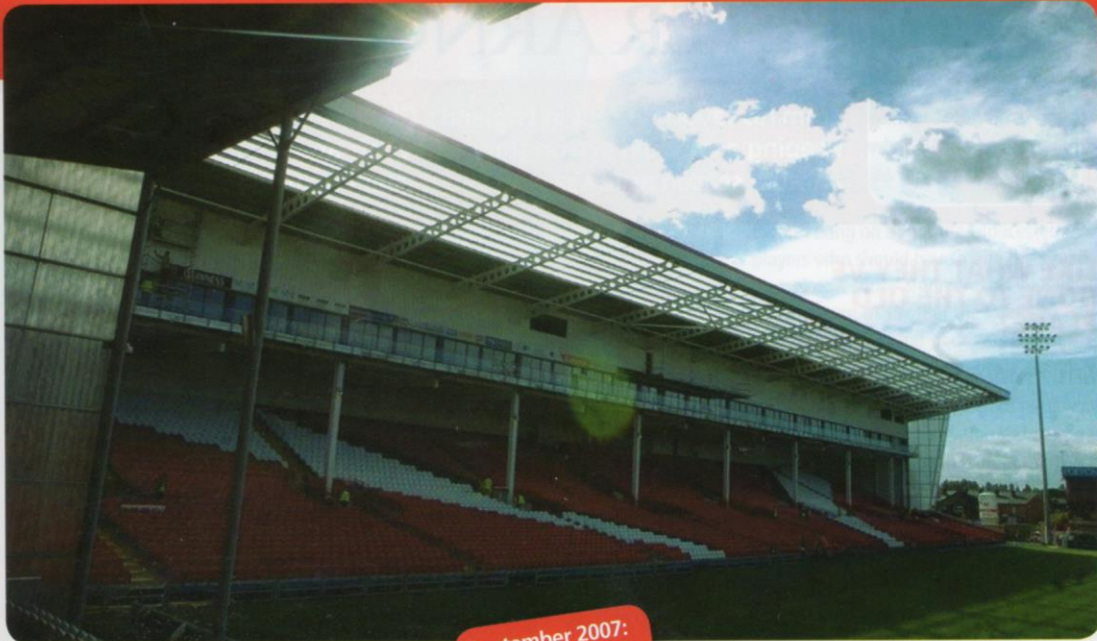
May 2007:  
Clear-up begins



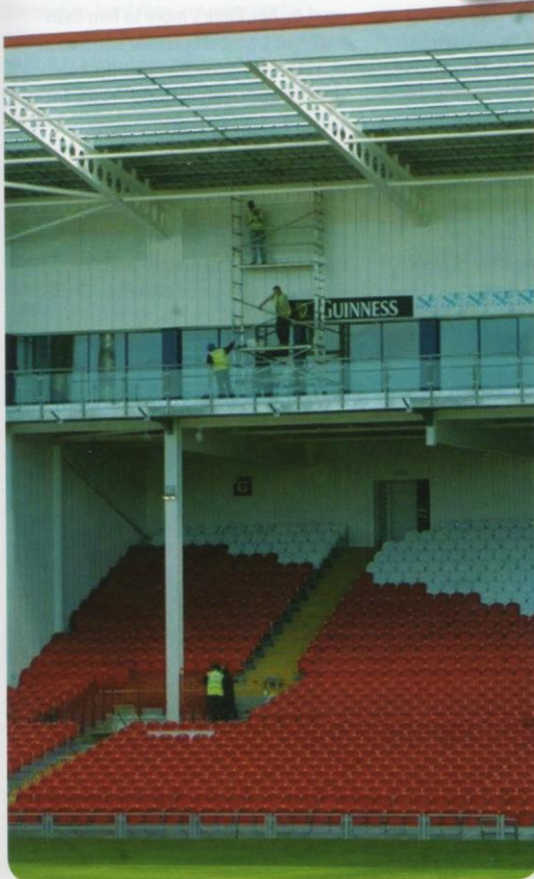
June 2007:  
Foundations set



June 2007:  
Construction begins



September 2007:  
Nearing completion



# MATCH OF THE DAYS

They are the games that have defined Gloucester's history. In a new series this season, Dave King unearths gems from the past.



▶ THE YEAR – 1972, the competition – the RFU National Cup Competition, the opposition – London Welsh, the venue – Old Deer Park, Richmond. The result? One of the most outstanding achievements in Gloucester's history.

The quality of the opposition was so outstanding that it was sprinkled with Welsh international household names that included six of the 1971 British Lions Team – John Dawes, Mike Roberts, Geoff Evans, Mervyn Davis and John Taylor. Other internationals in the London Welsh team were almost incidental. These players were the greats of the game and London Welsh a star-studded dream team of the age.

Such was the local interest that it was reported that there were no coaches available within Gloucester and trains to the capital were booked solid. The team were set fair as the club had booked the Kingsholm party to stay at Richmond Hill Hotel.

Those were the days when the players had been honed on cup rugby, many had experienced the North Gloucestershire Combination so a typically tough and rugged bunch of players approached the game. It was not in the mentality of Gloucester players to fear anyone.

Old Deer Park in Richmond was unique in that it meant the players had to cross the wide expanse of the adjoining cricket field which separated the club house at Old Deer Park from the rugby pitch. The atmosphere was incredible with 'Glawster' folk to the forefront.

The match was played with a strong wind and the men from Kingsholm had to face the vagaries of the elements in the first half but only conceded a Billy Hullin try.

Tenacious tackling kept the hosts at bay despite the concerted efforts of F.J. Williams and Gerald Davies. The efforts of the Gloucester players were superb, the team

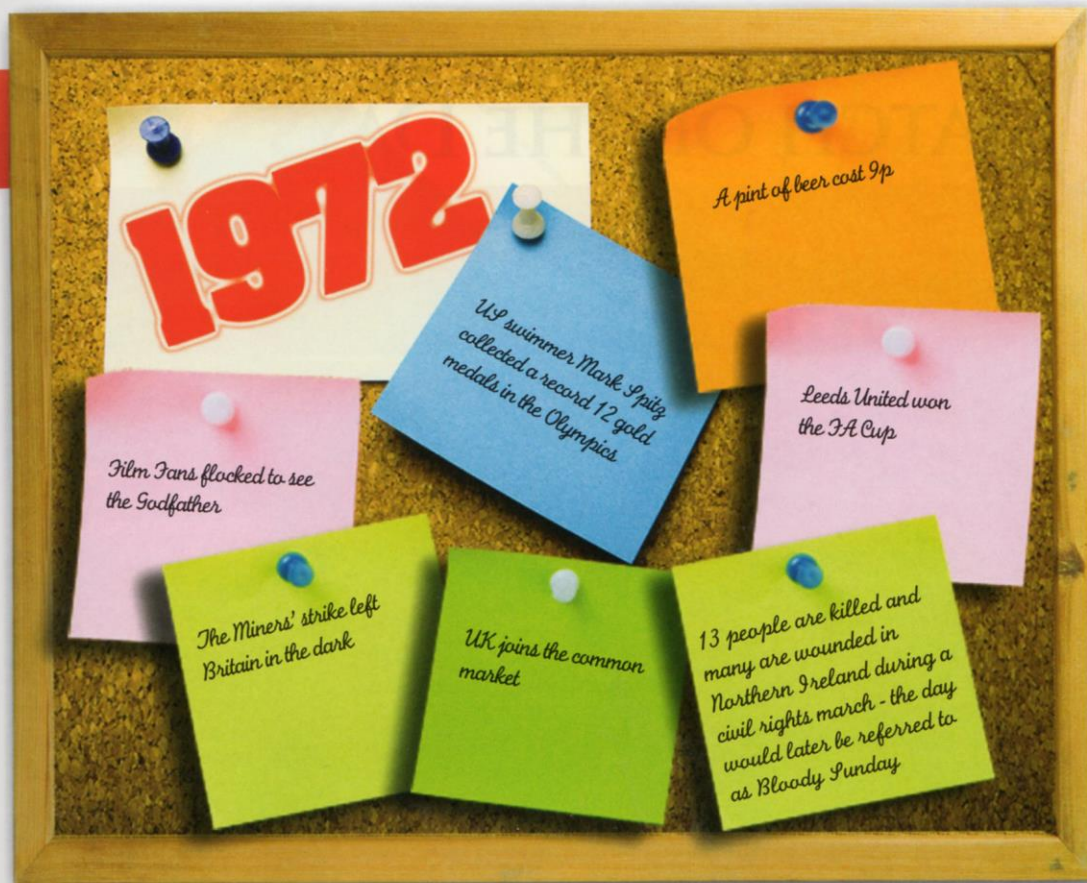
had been rocked pre-match by the late withdrawal of influential forwards Alan Brinn and Dick Smith, the replacements Nigel Jackson and John Haines than rose to the occasion.

Jackson had to cope with three British Lions who were expected to reign supreme in the line-out, namely Davies, Evans and Roberts.

However, it was the Gloucester man who won good line-out ball in the second half that helped lay the foundations.

From one Gloucester attack, scrum-half Mickey Booth kicked the ball high and John Haines sprinted forward, arriving at the same time as a London Welsh defender. Amongst the bodies, Mike Potter wrenched the ball from the grasps of the tackled defender and dived over to score a try. Eric Stephens converted and then his ever reliable boot added a penalty to take Gloucester ahead 9-4.





**"Those who disliked Gloucester's approach rooted for the Welsh. That game became the one which typified Gloucester more than any of the 360 in which I played. The game showed the Club in all its effectiveness."**



It was the turning point of the game and Gloucester held out for a remarkable victory.

Although 35-years have passed since the event for Booth, born within sight of the hallowed Kingsholm turf at No. 7 Sebert Street, the memory is still vivid: "I recall the sheer after match joy with tears streaming down faces of our players, mine included.

"This was in contrast to the dismay evident on John Dawes' face. There was nothing fancy about our tactics, it was a simple case of winning the ball, tackle everything and keep the pressure on the London Welsh team."

"Yes, I was so proud as I ran down these steps and I used to think to myself I am the best scrum-half in Gloucester to hold my position in the club – that is what it meant to us all involved."

This was a result totally unexpected outside the confines of Gloucester. The press were forecasting a formality for the London Welsh team. It was one of the truly great days in the club's history for players and supporters alike.

For Potter, who scored that invaluable second half try, it was headline time. Mike was an unsung hero who had moved to Kingsholm from nearby Coney Hill and his moment of glory epitomised the entire local rugby scene represented within the city.

It could be argued that the day was equivalent to any cup final success that ensued. Names and reputations had been spread to the four winds. It was local success, a parochial determination that surpassed national fervour for that was the considered strength of London Welsh.

Mike Burton said: 'Their playing philosophy was the complete opposite to ours. Although they had the forwards they preferred to run and they had the players who could make the policy work. They thought that cup and festival rugby was the same thing.

"Those who disliked Gloucester's approach rooted for the Welsh. That game became the one which typified Gloucester more than any of the 360 in which I played. The game showed the Club in all its effectiveness. We encountered accusations that we were unattractive and downright dirty players and that we were killing the cup baby before it had chance to grow up. It hurt but we stuck to our formula.'

# MATCH OF THE DAYS

## THE TEAMS

### LONDON WELSH:

D.LLEWELLYN  
T.G.R.DAVIES  
S.J.DAWES  
K.HUGHES  
J.L.SHANKLIN  
R.H.PHILLIPS  
W.G.HULLIN  
F.J.WILLIAMS  
M.BAKER  
I.C.JONES  
M.G.ROBERTS  
T.G.EVANS  
J.TAYLOR  
T.M.DAVIES  
A.J.GRAY (CAPTAIN)

### GLOUCESTER:

E.J.F.STEPHENS  
R.J.CLEWES  
J.A.BAYLISS  
R.J.JARDINE  
J.DIX  
T.PALMER  
M.H.BOOTH  
M.A.BURTON  
M.J.NICHOLLS (CAPTAIN)  
R.F.COWLING  
N.A.JACKSON  
J.S.JARRETT  
J.A.WATKINS  
M.J.POTTER  
J.HAINES  
RESERVES:  
R.E.WHITE  
K.RICHARDSON

### LONDON WELSH:

As well as their Lions, this team contained 6 Barbarians, 11 Internationals and 3 Oxford – and two Cambridge Varsity players. Jim Shanklin is the father of current Welsh International Tom Shanklin.

### GLOUCESTER:

All of the pre-match practice had been held at Wycliffe College, Stonehouse, due to power cuts which meant that the Kingsholm floodlights were out of action. A deputation including Gloucester stalwart Peter Ford had watched London Welsh the previous week. Their pre-match report bore the maximum dividends in the club's outstanding triumph – that remains part of Gloucester's history.



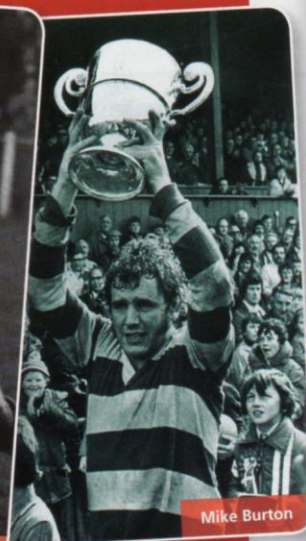
John Taylor



John Dawes



Mickey Booth



Mike Burton

## FAN ZONE WITH BOB FENTON

England might be flattering to deceive at the World Cup but Bob Fenton will be off the leash at Kingsholm this afternoon in his new Gloucester shirt, cheering on the boys against Worcester.

▶ WELL AT LAST, we're back... it seems a heck of a long time since we gave Saracens a drubbing in the play-off semi-final, and hasn't the old place changed.

The old Grandstand has finally gone to be replaced with a thoroughly splendid replacement – the new C&G Grandstand. Despite some cynicism in some quarters – and I know that some people might be a bit surprised to learn of cynicism among Gloucester supporters – it was finished pretty much on time despite the terrible weather we had over what passed for the summer.

I did think about getting a season ticket 'over there' this time around, given my advancing age and creaking back standing around for hours before the match kicks off is a bit of pain at times, but it's more than made up for by being able to stand around catching up on the latest gossip with all my mates. Maybe next year...

And to go with the new stand, we've got a new strip. As ever you can't please all the people all the time, and some people will hate it, others will love it. Frankly the boys can play in their pyjamas for all I care, as long as they win.

Anyway the strip isn't half as bad as some of the terrible things that have been sported at the World Cup. Sometimes when you are watching it's like being a gate crasher at some bad taste ball. The current England strip looks like they have all been attacked by a mad axe man and left them splattered with blood, Scotland's is – well horrible really. Some have bucked the trend and kept some semblance of respectability and tradition though.

So far the World Cup has been good – unless you are from the northern hemisphere where things are sticky to say the least. The All Blacks, South Africans

and Australians have raised the bar a bit and we have been left behind.

I have some sympathy for Brian Ashton who has seen his side thoroughly depleted by injury, but he hasn't helped himself by picking a squad of pensioners.

There are so many bright young players

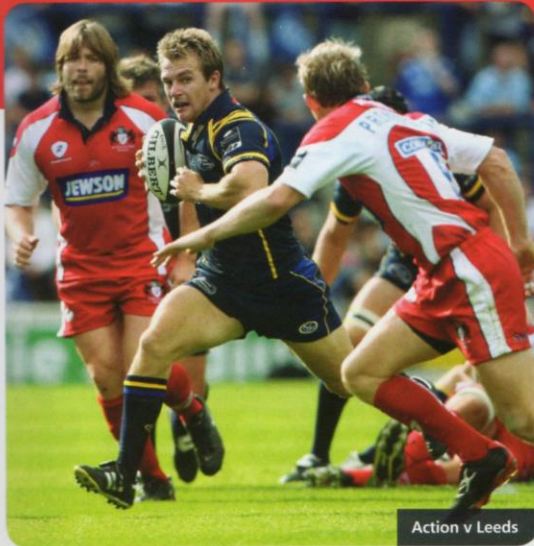
who are qualified to play for England around the Guinness premiership at the moment that should have been considered but were left at home so the Dad's Army brigade could have another run out.

We should have been realistic – and brave – enough to go to this World Cup with a large contingent of young players to give



Lawrence Dallaglio

[www.gloucester rugby.co.uk](http://www.gloucester rugby.co.uk)



Action v Leeds



Mike Prendergrast



**“Two games, two wins and two bonus points is mighty impressive, especially the bonus points when you remember that out of the 15 games we won last season we only managed to score four tries on three occasions.”**



them valuable experience at that level. Sure we would have struggled against the likes of South Africa (the Old Boy's didn't do that brightly, did they) but at least they would have played with some pride.

Only someone with major delusional tendencies could think that England were going to win the competition again, so why not go in with the objective of giving the younger guys a go. Of course this planning should have started ages ago during some of the many pointless friendlies that have been played over the last few years.

Instead we missed the opportunity... But then as my darling wife constantly points out, I didn't apply for the position of England coach, so who am I to criticise!

Enough of the international stuff, things closer to home have got off to an almost perfect start. Two games, two wins and two bonus points is mighty impressive, especially the bonus points when you remember that out of the 15 games we won last season we only managed to

score four tries on three occasions.

The summer recruitment has paid immediate dividends with Big Les scoring five on his debut. Apparently one other player has gone one better and scored six (someone for Saracens, I believe) so it's not unique. It's still a heck of an achievement though. Anyone who saw Les at the open day will know that he is one huge lump of humanity. Opposing wingers will not be looking forward to trying to stop him.

And the great thing about Les is the fact that he is the first rightful heir – sorry heir – to take on the Dodgy barnet mantle first worn so illustriously by Richard Tombs.

There are other signings who will make an impact. When Chris Paterson arrives post World Cup we will have in our midst one of the most consistent goal kickers in world rugby. The media is fixated with Jonny Wilkinson, Paterson's record is equally impressive.

Leon Lloyd is a great player to pick up,

and I can't wait to see Jeremy Paul in a Gloucester jersey.

I would guess that this is the most complete squad – and with over 400 caps between them the most experienced - we have ever assembled at Kingsholm, we have a fantastic blend of youth and experience and have options in every position on the field to cover injury, international call ups and – heaven forbid – suspensions.

But other teams have strengthened spectacularly, not least our visitors today from Sixways. Under Mike Ruddock they will play a very different style of rugby than last season, and when their overseas contingent arrives they will be a force to be reckoned with. Fortunately we are playing them before they arrive so will not have to worry about the destructive power of the likes of Rico Gear, Sam Tuitupou and Greg Rawlinson just yet.

But being a local derby you can be sure that Worcester will be well up for it, and will be keen to build on their hard-fought draw with Wasps last weekend.

They will bring their usual bunch of noisy supporters with them. And with the special evening kick off atmosphere that we get at Kingsholm you can be sure that this will be a cracker and a great way to start the new season.

Enjoy.

# MATCH ACTION

Saracens  
Gloucester Rugby

31  
38



## Time line

4 min	Ross PEN	3-0
7 mins	Lamb PEN	3-3
14 mins	Powell TRY	11-3
20 mins	Ross PEN	14-3
23 mins	Lamb PEN	14-6
26 mins	Hazell Y/C	
32 mins	Lamb PEN	14-9
35 mins	Allen TRY, Lamb CON	14-16
40 mins	Lamb PEN	14-19
46 mins	Sorrell TRY, Ross CON	21-19
52 mins	Lamb TRY and CON	21-26
60 mins	Narraway TRY, Lamb CON	21-33
65 mins	Thrower TRY, Ross CON	28-33
69 mins	Morgan TRY, Lamb CON	28-38
77 mins	Ross PEN	31-38

## Gloucester Line-up

15	Iain Balshaw	
14	James Simpson-Daniel	
13	Leon Lloyd	
12	Anthony Allen	(1t)
11	Lesley Vainikolo	
10	Ryan Lamb	(1t, 4p, 3c)
9	Mike Prendergast	
1	Nick Wood	
2	Andy Titterrell	
3	Carlos Nieto	
4	Peter Buxton	(capt)
5	Alex Brown	
6	Alasdair Strokosch	
7	Andy Hazell	
8	Luke Narraway	(1t)
REPS		
16	Olivier Azam	(Titterrell)
17	Christian Califano	
18	Jonathan Pendlebury	
19	Adam Balding	
20	Dave Lewis	
21	Willie Walker	(Lamb)
22	Oilly Morgan	(1t) (Vainikolo)

## Bonus Point Win

Sunday, September 23

Referee: Martin Fox, Attendance: 6,976

FOR THE second successive game, Gloucester claimed maximum points with a four-try show against Saracens last Sunday.

Once again they had to survive a rocky opening when their line-out struggled, their re-start work was not up to standard and Saracens dominated but during their mid-game purple patch Gloucester's movement was something to behold.

Saracens built themselves a 14-3 lead thanks to a lovely try from Adam Powell when Gordon Ross cut an angle from a line-out drive and Dan Scarbrough gave

the scoring pass. But the hosts then coughed up two very good chances when first Francisco Leonelli's pass was ruled forward and then Nick Lloyd dropped an inside ball as the pressure mounted.

It didn't look good for Gloucester, particularly after they lost the influential Andy Hazell to the sinbin for a late tackle on Ross. However, Ryan Lamb kept Gloucester in the hunt with a succession of penalties and when the impressive Anthony Allen carved through the Sarries defence, the tide began to change.

Gloucester shifted possession from a



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line-out to the left where Lesley Vainikolo and Iain Balshaw sustained the move before Lamb and James Simpson-Daniel combined to put Allen away on the outside.

The try put Gloucester ahead at the break and although Kevin Sorrell hit back with a try for Sarries straight after the re-start, Gloucester's all-court game was beginning to tell. Lamb picked off a flat pass by Ross and ran the thick end of 80 metres to score after 52 minutes and then eight minutes later another break by Allen created a ruck from where the hugely competitive Luke Narraway broke to grab the third try.

Gloucester were 33-21 ahead and although Edd Thrower burst onto a pass from Tom Ryder with 15 minutes to go, Gloucester just about maintained their control and grabbed a bonus point four minutes later.

Olivier Azam stole a line-out and Hazell bundled forward before Balshaw attacked a gap inside the 22 and Leon Lloyd sent Ollie Morgan in at the corner.

There was still time for Saracens to cut the gap to seven points with another Ross penalty, but Gloucester were worthy winners on the road again.



## Man of the Match

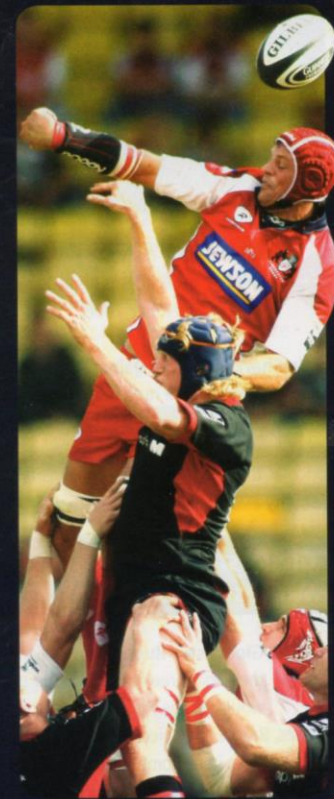


There were many impressive performances but for workrate, application and his defensive effort, ALASDAIR STROKOSCH stood out.

## Coaches Comment

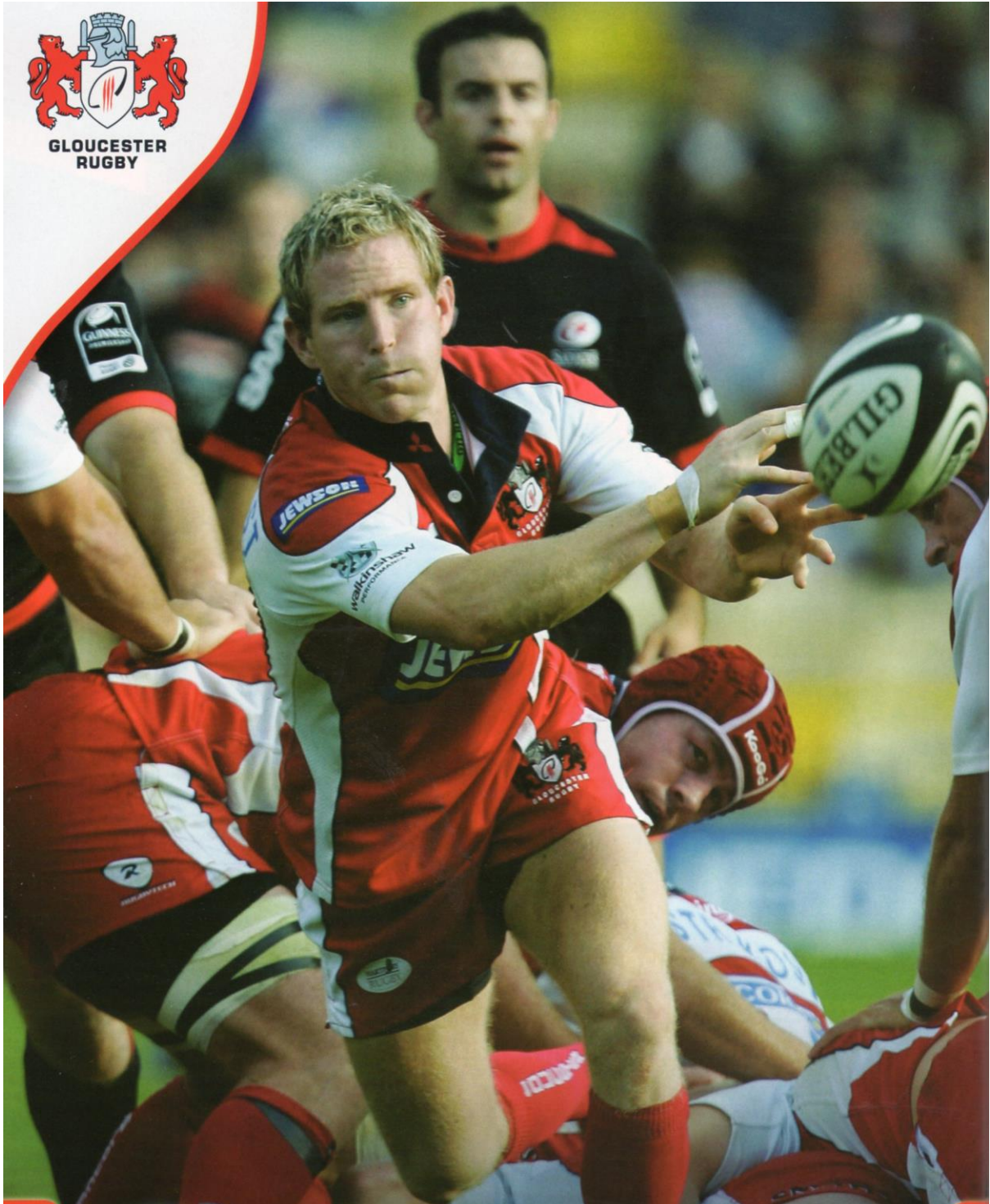


"Of more importance to me than the 10 points is the way we played under pressure. We need to keep building and improving," head coach Dean Ryan.





GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY



## MIKE PRENDERGAST

**DOB:** 21st May 1977

**Height:** 1.80 m

**Weight:** 84 kg

**Position :** Scrum Half