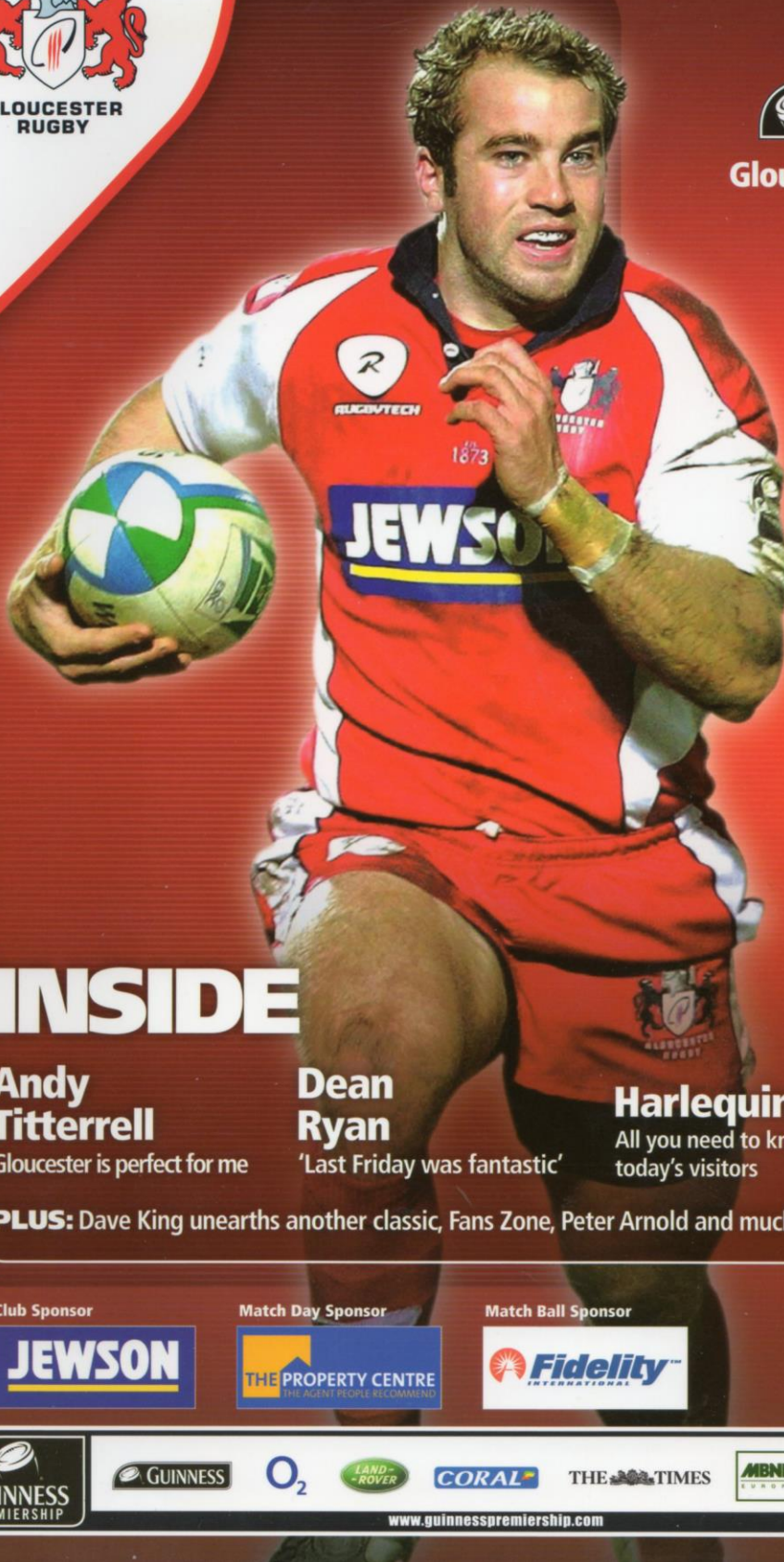




The Official Programme
of Gloucester Rugby
Issue 5 • £3.00



**Gloucester Rugby
v Harlequins**
24.11.07 15.00



INSIDE

**Andy
Titterrell**

Gloucester is perfect for me

**Dean
Ryan**

'Last Friday was fantastic'

Harlequins

All you need to know about
today's visitors

PLUS: Dave King unearths another classic, Fans Zone, Peter Arnold and much more.

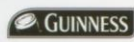
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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

We return to Guinness Premiership action this afternoon but skipper Peter Buxton looks back at a memorable two weeks.

▶ IT HAS been an incredible few weeks for the club, that is for sure.

The Heineken Cup is a big transition for everyone but last Friday was a magnificent occasion at Kingsholm and reaffirmed why it is so special to me and the rest of the squad.

To see the ground full, to feel the atmosphere from the stands and to beat a very good team was a great achievement and I think the reaction from everybody indicated how important it was.

That backed up our fantastic victory in Ulster and we now need to transfer that back to the Guinness Premiership this afternoon. There is tremendous confidence around the squad and we can be very pleased with our physical efforts in the last few weeks.

To me, the last two weeks have shown we are beginning to learn and understand the lessons we faced in Europe last season and over time

that can only make us a better team. We are resilient, hard working and a threat with and without the ball and we must continue our upward curve.

Today, we are back into the Premiership and we need to maintain our excellent start to the season.

Harlequins are a very good team, they are also involved in the Heineken Cup and that exposure will make them a more dangerous team. With the likes of Nick Easter, Andy Gomarsall and De Wet Barry, they have a tremendously strong spine to their team that is experienced and used to these big matches.

To have beaten Wasps already this season just emphasises how dangerous they can be. Last season they also played very well at Kingsholm so we are ready for another very tough afternoon.

What we want to do is recreate the atmospherics of last Friday, the noise and the passion. The supporters

and a full stadium is really vital for us so please get behind the players again today and give us your best.



Subject to availability

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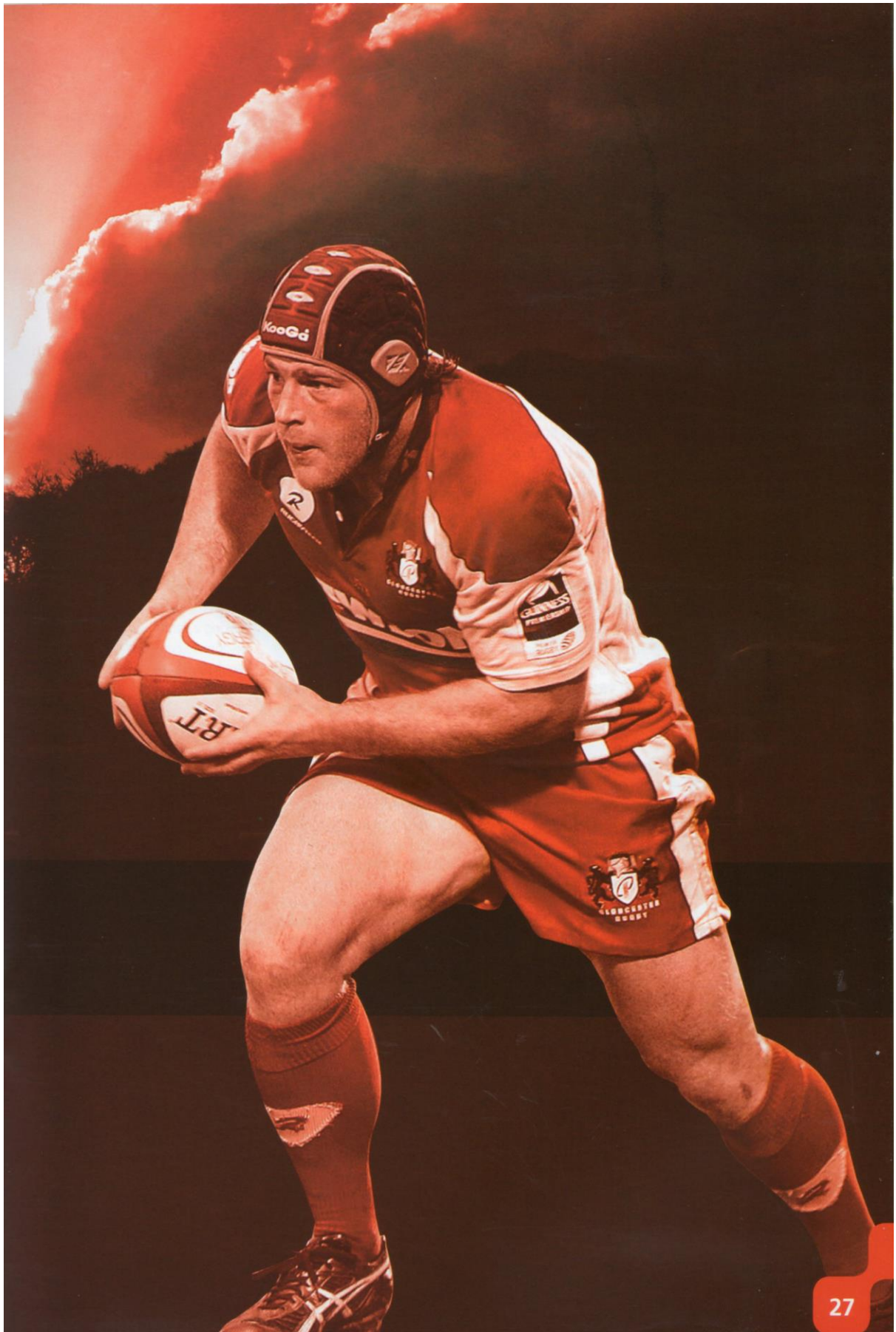
BE PART OF

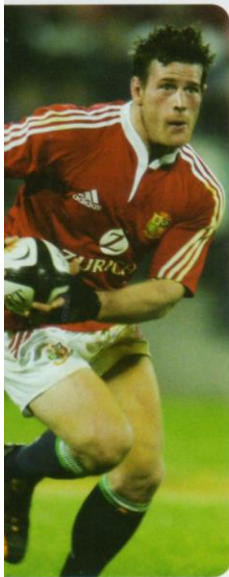
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HOOKED ON BEING THE BEST

He has played for England and represented the British Lions but Andy Titterrell felt his career was going nowhere at Sale and moved to Gloucester. The switch has reinvigorated him as he tells the matchday programme.





ANDY TITTERRELL

▶ WHEN you take a glance through the great and the good of the Gloucester forward pack – that nasty little nest of vipers who have just gone toe to toe with Ulster and the Ospreys – it is impossible to ignore each and every contribution.

Whether it is the evil relish that Carlos Nieto hands out in the scrum, the quiet but ultra tough effort of Alasdair Strokosch or the crazy running of Akapusi Qera, there have been enough eye catching performances to last a lifetime.

One of the more quietly understated but no less damaging efforts this season has come from a 26-year-old hooker who has been around a bit – won the Guinness Premiership title, earned five England caps and been a British Lion.

Andy Titterrell has been a revelation – a dynamic ball carrier and a damaging defender – capable of fitting right in with Gloucester's tried and trusted *modus operandi*, general mayhem-type game.

He switched from Sale Sharks in the summer, disenchanted with the way his seven-year stint with the Sharks petered out into almost nothingness. The way they played the game – plenty of rucks, one-up runners and gallons of boot from Charlie Hodgson did not suit his natural, running style. Gloucester came knocking and he has not looked back – in fact, it maybe one of the best decisions he has ever made.

"I had been up at Sale for seven years, been coached under two directors' of rugby and had seen a few changes and it got

to the stage where I needed to challenge myself as a player again," he said.

"I felt I could have offered the club a lot more than the opportunities I was given and I just felt myself fading away at Sale. I wanted to contribute as a runner and be strong in defence but that was not possible with the way Sale wanted to play. "I had played at the highest level for a few years and desperately wanted to again but that was limited at Sale."

What he did was jump head-long into a new challenge at Kingsholm, move his family south and get his teeth into re-establishing himself as one of the most dynamic practitioners of his art in the business. He teamed up with Olivier Azam – that giant menace from France and Jeremy Paul, the former Wallaby hooker and it has been a revelation.

"At Sale, I was just turning into a club player and I wanted to be so much more than that," Titterrell added. "I have got a huge ambition to play for England again one day and the way I fit into the side down here means I might get that opportunity again. "I am enjoying my rugby again – whether I am starting or from the bench. When I came away from meeting Dean [Ryan] and Bryan [Redpath] I knew straight away I wanted to sign for Gloucester. "It was all sorted out pretty quickly and it's great."

Titterrell came with experience of having worked with Alex Brown and Marco Bortolami and brings a huge amount of energy to the effort. Against Ulster a fortnight ago, he was magnificent – defending superbly in the

second half and finding his man in the line-out.

He also loves to carry ball and nothing gives him greater pleasure than being involved in a move starting deep inside Gloucester's own half.

"As the years went on at Sale we played with a lot more structure but Gloucester are willing to open up inside from inside the 22 and keep the ball alive – that is what I love to see and be involved in," he said.

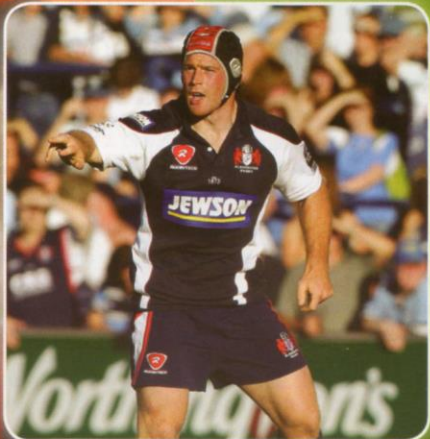
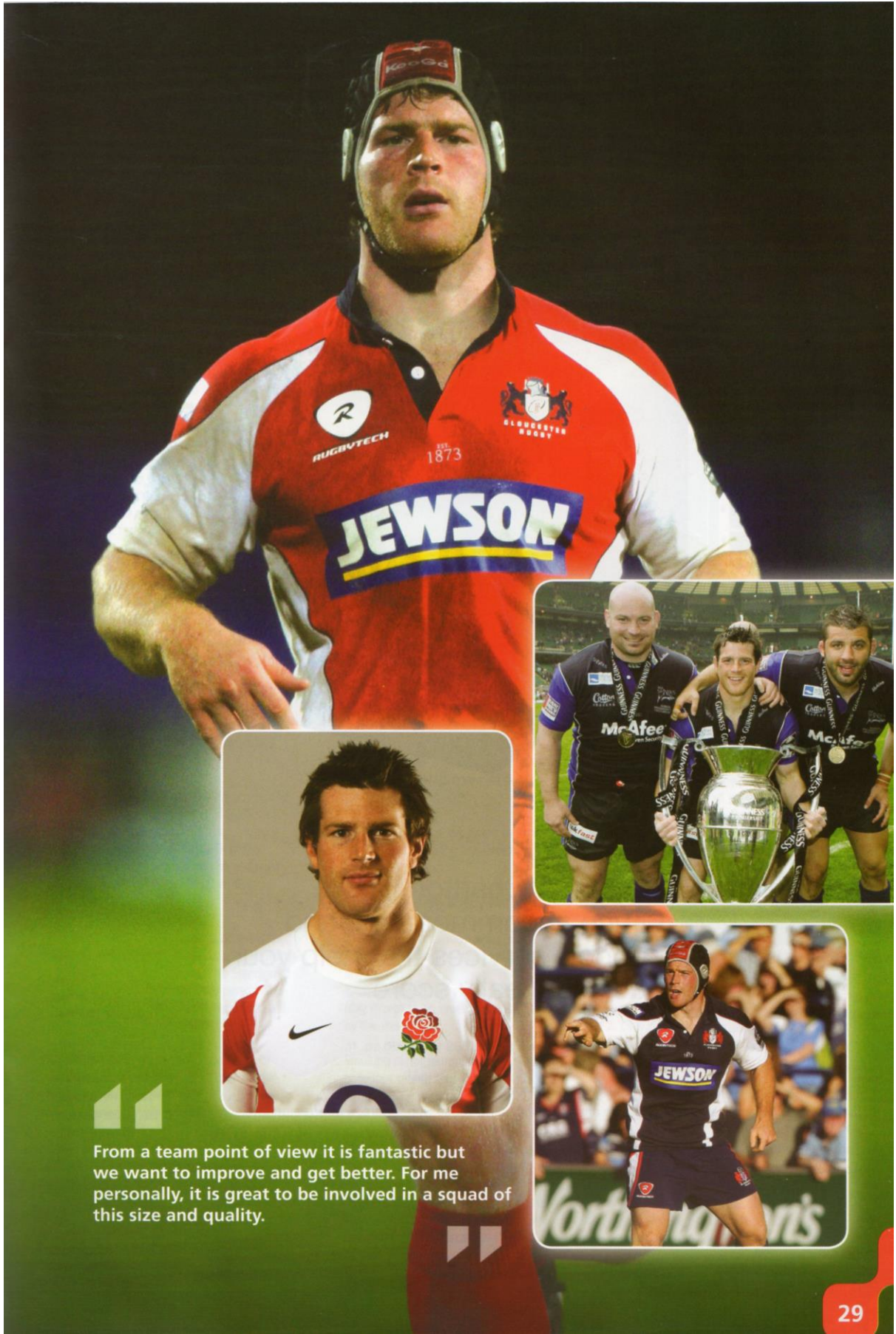
"I came for exactly that reason and that is why I wanted to be involved."

Titterrell's game is all about making a contribution and he does so consistently and regularly. Gloucester are currently top of the Guinness Premiership and have made a very good start in the Heineken Cup, but is he happy?

"There is a lot of emphasis on the Premiership and Heineken Cup and everyone in the club wants to succeed. Nobody wants to fail and the work that has gone in so far, from the players and the coaches, means we should be near the top of these competitions.

"From a team point of view it is fantastic but we want to improve and get better. For me personally, it is great to be involved in a squad of this size and quality.

"I knew Jeremy Paul was coming when I signed and we have three top class hookers at the club – it is just a matter of going from game to game to keep trying to improve. But Gloucester play the rugby I want to play and that is what makes it such a great place to be."



From a team point of view it is fantastic but we want to improve and get better. For me personally, it is great to be involved in a squad of this size and quality.





RYAN'S REVIEW

Head coach Dean Ryan looks back at last Friday night, looks ahead in Europe and previews today's clash with Harlequins.



It was another special night at Kingsholm last weekend – what do you put the development down to?

DR: THE Heineken Cup is a fantastic competition first and foremost and I think Friday, with Kingsholm full to capacity, a great crowd and two excellent teams shows where we want to be. I also saw images of things we have experienced together before in this competition. This tournament is so big and the class of opponents is so high that you can't just stick a load of guys together and say you're going to take it by storm.

It's down to a maturing issue of the group, not necessarily in age, but having experienced it before. We play one way in the Premiership one week and then come into the Heineken Cup. Do we moan or adapt to it? Last Friday we adapted to it and got on with it. You have to ensure you don't expose yourself to making mistakes and that process has been evolving over a number of seasons against different teams and different referees.

Last year we had three 20-year-olds across our backline in Leinster and then came up against what I would describe as a typical European performance from Agen – very powerful and very physical – and we did struggle to adapt. But this group has continually surprised me with the way they have bounced back from disappointments and the start of this season has shown they have responded from what happened last year.

There are some experienced guys in key areas and they help that process. We stayed in the contest which was key and the 10-15 minutes after half-time when we got some of the control going, that's when we saw the lessons we've learned in previous campaigns.



How would you view the group now?

DR: STILL pretty open. Our back-to-back games against Bourgoin will be key now and will be critical in our hopes of progression from the pool. We anticipated that if Bourgoin stayed in against Ospreys and won their first home match they would be a genuine threat and that is exactly what happened.

I found it a bit strange that some of the evaluation of the pools had it cut and dry between ourselves and Ospreys to qualify. Bourgoin are a very good side – they are physical, produce plenty of power and are a threat with the ball. That game for us out there will be a massive examination for us, both in terms of our development and



I found it a bit strange that some of the evaluation of the pools had it cut and dry between ourselves and Ospreys to qualify. Bourgoin are a very good side – they are physical, produce plenty of power and are a threat with the ball.



Andy Gomarsall



Action v Ospreys



Action v Ospreys

attitude. But we have shown we are more than able to stack up in those areas and we are looking forward to that challenge.

I think we could have lost on Friday but remained in the competition. Denying the Ospreys a bonus point was vital too – and we must just try and build on that next month.

This week, Marco Bortolami became the latest player to re-sign with the club. how important is that process?

DR: WE are making it our business to ensure the progression and development of the squad is a long-term process and in that we want to retain the individuals who are key to that. We want to be forward thinking in our recruitment which is why we don't want a mad rush on these things. They are vital for the stability and long-term growth of the squad – these guys want to stay and be part of what we are building for the future and securing Marco was fundamental to us.

At the start of this season we have done a really good job in being able to announce a number of these contract renewals and there will be more to follow in the future as we continue the process. I am pretty sure the success of any club is based on stability and that is what we are creating. The likes of Marco, Will James, Andy Hazell, James Simpson-Daniel and Alex Brown have all pledged their futures to the club

and that is great news for everyone.

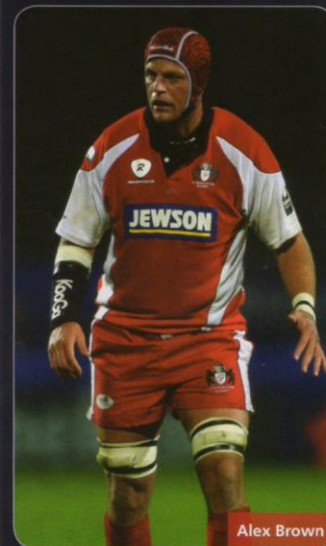
It is back to the Guinness Premiership this afternoon. Harlequins have made a good start to the season?

DR: SINCE they have come back into the Premiership they have been very consistent and hard to beat. Last season I thought they played very well at Kingsholm and they will be very competitive this afternoon. I think Dean Richards has done a very shrewd job in his recruitment drive and has managed to merge some excellent players with home-grown England internationals who were at the forefront of England's World Cup challenge.

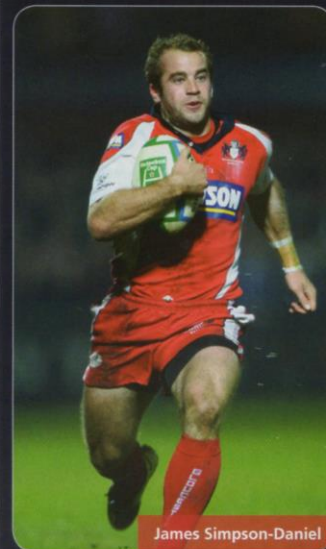
We obviously know Andy Gomarsall well from his time here and he is a key individual for them because his service is so good and number eight Nick Easter has emerged as one of the best number eights in the country. When you add De Wet Barry to that in the centre, it is easy to understand they have a strong and experienced spine to their team and we will need to be totally ready for that challenge.

Quins have already beaten Wasps this season and drew with Cardiff last weekend – that says everything you need to know about them – and for that reason we have to be fully focused for their threat today. It should be a cracking contest.

The likes of Marco, Will James, Andy Hazell, James Simpson-Daniel and Alex Brown have all pledged their futures to the club and that is great news for everyone.



Alex Brown

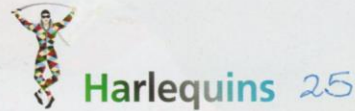


James Simpson-Daniel

TODAY'S TEAMS

Saturday 24th November 2007 15.00

Gloucester Rugby
v Harlequins



	Olly MORGAN	15	Full Back	15	Mike BROWN	
	James SIMPSON-DANIEL	14	Right Wing	14	Simon KEOGH	
	Mike TINDALL	13	Centre	13	David STRETTLE	
	Anthony ALLEN	12	Centre	12	De Wet BARRY	
	Lesley VAINIKOLO	11	Left Wing	11	Ugo MONYE	
	Chris PATERSON	10	Fly Half	10	Chris MALONE	
	Gareth COOPER	9	Scrum Half	9	Andy GOMARSALL	
	Patrice COLLAZO	1	Prop	1	Ceri JONES	
	Andy TITTERRELL	2	Hooker	2	Tani FUGA	
	Carlos NIETO	3	Prop	3	Mike ROSS	
	Will JAMES	4	Lock	4	Ollie KOHN	
	Marco BORTOLAMI	5	Lock	5	Jim EVANS	
	© Peter BUXTON	6	Flanker	6	Chris ROBSHAW	
	Andy HAZELL	7	Flanker	7	Paul VOLLEY ©	
	Gareth DELVE	8	No 8	8	Nick EASTER	

Replacements

	Olivier AZAM	16		16	Chris BROOKER	
	Alasdair DICKINSON	17		17	Ricky NEBBETT	
	Luke NARRAWAY	18		18	James PERCIVAL	
	Alasdair STROKOSCH	19		19	Chris HALA'UFIA	
	Rory LAWSON	20		20	Steven SO'OIALO	
	Ryan LAMB	21		21	Adrian JARVIS	
	Iain BALSCHAW	22		22	Tosh MASSON	



HEAD COACH
Dean RYAN



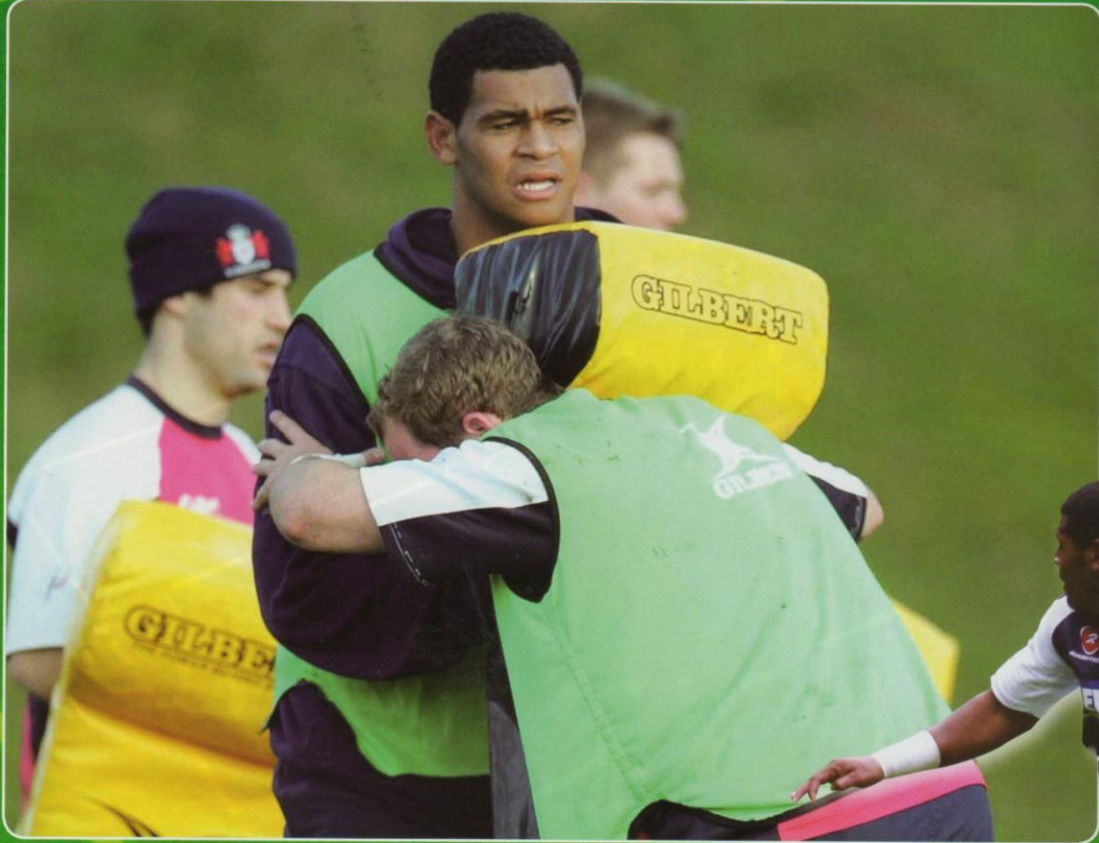
HEAD COACH
Dean RICHARDS



SPOTLIGHT

with Karl Pryce

by Ian Randall



WHAT'S THE MOTTO YOU LIVE BY?
When I was at Bradford we used to use "look good, play good."

WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION?
An emblem my Nan gave me. I keep that quite close to me because she's a lovely person and when she passes on, I'll always have something to remember her by.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BREAKFAST CEREAL?
I go through different ones depending on what sort of mood I'm in. I've got loads



of boxes by the side of my microwave. At the moment I'm into Fruit and Fibre.

WHICH COMPANY WOULD BE YOUR IDEAL SPONSOR?
Probably something car related - maybe BMW or

Ferrari if they'd like to send one my way....

ARE YOU A SPENDER OR A SAVER?
My brother gives me some stick for being a spender. I'm





young and you only live once. In particular I'm a sucker for trainers. If I see a pair and I like them, I'll buy them, even if I only wear them a few times. I like to have clean trainers on.

WHAT MADE YOU LAST LOSE YOUR TEMPER?

I've got a very long fuse so I don't really lose my temper that often.

WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE PERSON ON TV?

I don't watch TV a lot. As my girlfriend will tell you,

I play on X-Box 360 a lot with Anthony Allen. Often.

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

Lesley (Vainikolo) is interesting with some of the stuff he comes out with! His banter is horrendous. He tries to be funny but he's not funny one bit.



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

If I was intelligent enough, I'd probably go for Business Science. My girlfriend's doing that and I'm sure you could go into the stock market and make quite a bit of money doing that.

WHAT PART OF TRAINING DO YOU ENJOY MOST?

The skills drills with Denis Betts. The best bit about rugby for me as a back is playing with the ball and scoring tries.



WHICH TV WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A CONTESTANT ON, AND WHY?

I'd say Big Brother. I'm not sure the public would like to see me in everyday life but it would be fun to have a go at it and meet some new people.

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

Andy Hazell is terrible, and going back, Ludovic Mercier was usually around them as well. Overall though, Hazy.

WHICH OTHER SPORTING EVENT WOULD YOU LIKE A TICKET FOR?

The Superbowl. A few of the lads went to the NFL game at Wembley recently, and the Superbowl is a big game with a big crowd and loads of entertainment.



MATCH ACTION

Gloucester Rugby
Ospreys

26
18



Time line

8 mins	Parker TRY, Hook CON	0-7
11 mins	Lamb PEN	3-7
20 mins	Lamb PEN	6-7
23 mins	Parker TRY	6-12
40 mins	Lamb PEN	9-12
42 mins	Allen TRY, Lamb CON	16-12
45 mins	Hook PEN	16-15
55 mins	Hook PEN	16-18
57 mins	Simpson-Daniel TRY, Paterson CON	23-18
63 mins	Paterson PEN	26-18

Gloucester Line-up

15	Iain Balshaw	
14	James Simpson-Daniel	(1t)
13	Mike Tindall	
12	Anthony Allen	(1t)
11	Lesley Vainikolo	
10	Ryan Lamb	(3p, 1c)
9	Rory Lawson	
1	Nick Wood	
2	Olivier Azam	
3	Carlos Nieto	
4	Peter Buxton (capt)	
5	Marco Bortolami	
6	Alasdair Strokosch	
7	Akapusi Qera	
8	Luke Narryaway	
REPS		
16	Andy Titterrell	(Azam)
17	Christian Califano	(Nieto 60-66)
18	Will James	
19	Gareth Delve	(Qera)
20	Mike Prendergast	
21	Chris Paterson (2p)	(Lamb)
22	Olly Morgan	

Marching on...

Friday November 16, Attendance: 16,379
Kingsholm, Referee: George Clancy (Ireland)

▶ GLOUCESTER collected their second successive Heineken Cup victory in a row with a gutsy second half performance to shut out the Ospreys in a minor Kingsholm classic last Friday.

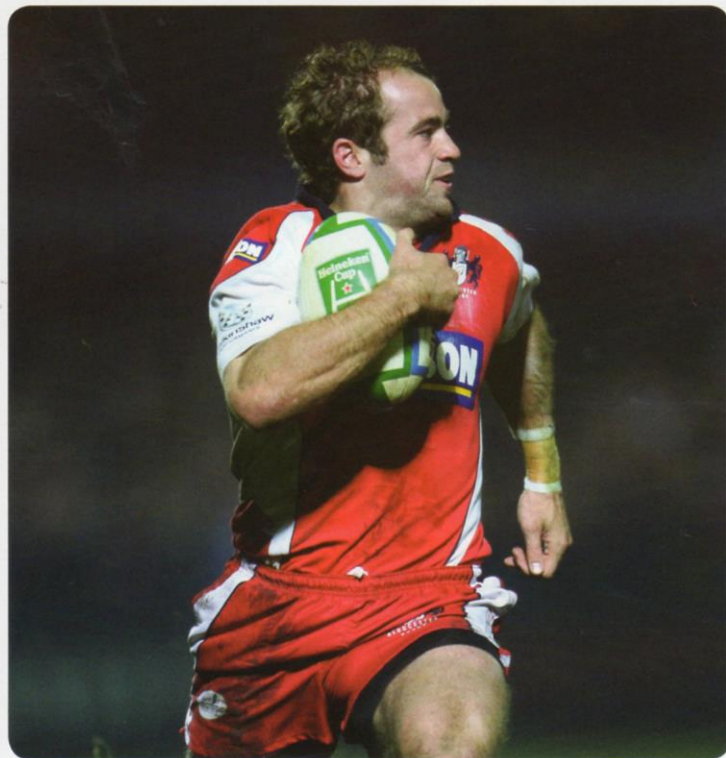
Second half tries from Anthony Allen and James Simpson-Daniel piloted Gloucester to victory – cancelling out two first-half scores from Sonny Parker as the Ospreys threatened a vital away victory.

But Gloucester, maturing fast in terms of experience, produced a clinical last quarter

performance to take the points and establish a vital lead in Pool Two.

It was the Ospreys who started the better and scored after eight minutes. Mike Tindall's high pass was almost impossible for Iain Balshaw to take and Nikki Walker and James Hooker created the space for Parker to score.

Gloucester just had to chip away with a barrage of three points from Ryan Lamb but when the home side were free-kicked from a line-out, Mike Phillips, Marty Holah



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Man of the Match



Number eight Luke Narryway produced exceptional performance on the back of the scrum.

and Filo Tiatia sustained a move to beneath the posts and when the ball came left, Parker brushed off a couple of tackles to score with some comfort.

But it was in the second half that Gloucester into their own – particularly at the tackle area. They worked their socks off up front – particularly Marco Bortolami, Peter Buxton and Alasdair Strokosch – and when they smithereened the Ospreys at the tackle area, Peter Buxton fed Anthony Allen and he stepped away from the overlap and burst his way clear from 50 metres.

A couple of Hook penalties threatened Gloucester's advantage but the home side retained their composure and when Hook's high kick was well fielded by the highly impressive Balshaw, he combined with Tindall who sent Simpson-Daniel haring to the line past Gavin Henson.

Gloucester then proceeded to shut the game out – drawing on their experience to close the game down by keeping the ball and preventing the Ospreys a way back into the match and crucially, a bonus point.

Coach's Comment



I thought we saw an image of what we have faced in previous seasons in the last 20 minutes – we closed the game out very well." head coach Dean Ryan.



ITALIAN SKIPPER SIGNS UP

Marco Bortolami has pledged his future to Gloucester this week – and is the latest player to commit himself to Kingsholm

MARCO BORTOLAMI, one of the most influential and respected players in the Guinness Premiership, has pledged his future to Gloucester Rugby until 2010.

The Italian national captain, a blazing success in his debut season last year after switching from Narbonne, has signed a two-year extension to his existing deal to cement his place at Kingsholm for two further seasons.

Bortolami (27) was made Italy's youngest captain in 2003 when he led the Azzurri into battle against the All Blacks, following his debut as a 20-year-old. He has since won 64 international caps and has developed into one of the best locks in the world.

"What can I say – Gloucester is my new home, my new life and my passion – for me to be able to stay for another two years is fantastic," he said.

"We made great progress last season and now it is up to us to build on it and create something very special in Gloucester's history.

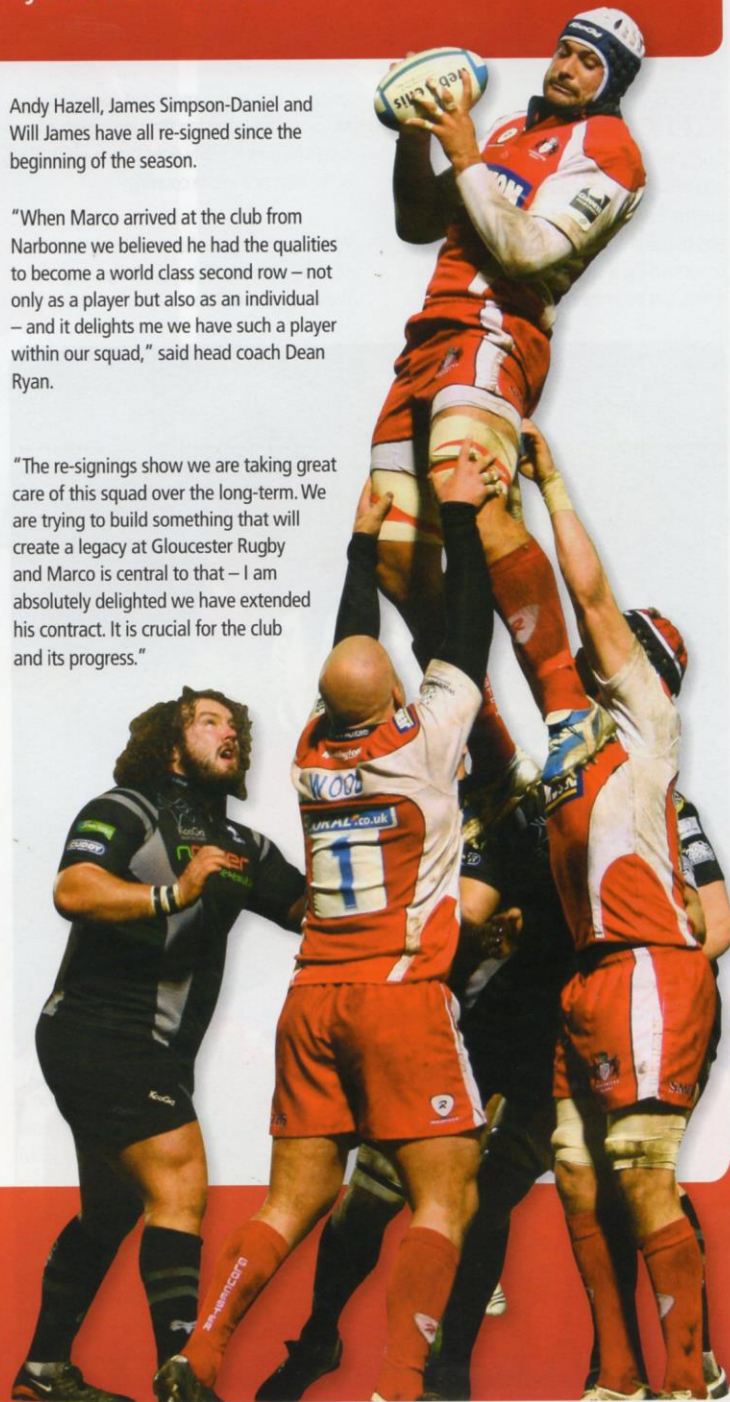
"I believe in what we are trying to achieve and in Dean Ryan's philosophy for the team. We are young, we are ambitious and we want to be successful."

Bortolami's signature follows hot on the heels of a number of key contract extensions already made by Ryan as he creates stability in his playing squad. Alex Brown,

Andy Hazell, James Simpson-Daniel and Will James have all re-signed since the beginning of the season.

"When Marco arrived at the club from Narbonne we believed he had the qualities to become a world class second row – not only as a player but also as an individual – and it delights me we have such a player within our squad," said head coach Dean Ryan.

"The re-signings show we are taking great care of this squad over the long-term. We are trying to build something that will create a legacy at Gloucester Rugby and Marco is central to that – I am absolutely delighted we have extended his contract. It is crucial for the club and its progress."





PETER ARNOLD

Peter Arnold once again mixes his inexhaustible knowledge of the past with the stories of today – just don't ask him to mention last Friday's referee.....

BACK TO THE NITTY-GRITTY

CUPS, European and otherwise, certainly add excitement and tension to the season, but the Guinness Premiership is the bread and butter. A few inspired performances, or conversely, a couple of bad days at the office, can determine how well your side is

going to fare in the knock-out competitions, but a season-long slog through a league as tough as ours is really does prove which side is the best one in the country.

We've had a splendid start to this season's Premiership campaign, but the unexpected loss to London Irish

served as a useful wake-up call. There is plenty of time to absorb and redress the balance. If our guys are as determined and resilient as I think they are, then someone's going to suffer for the Irish reverse. With the greatest of respect, it could even be Harlequins, because it's important to get back on the bicycle as soon as you fall off.



Will James

Not that Quins are going to be anyone's whipping boys. There is too much quality in their squad for that, and in Dean Richards, they have a coach rivalled in shrewdness only by one Dean Ryan.

So it's going to be an interesting afternoon. Wonder what the London lads will make of our new stand?

ABSENT FRIENDS

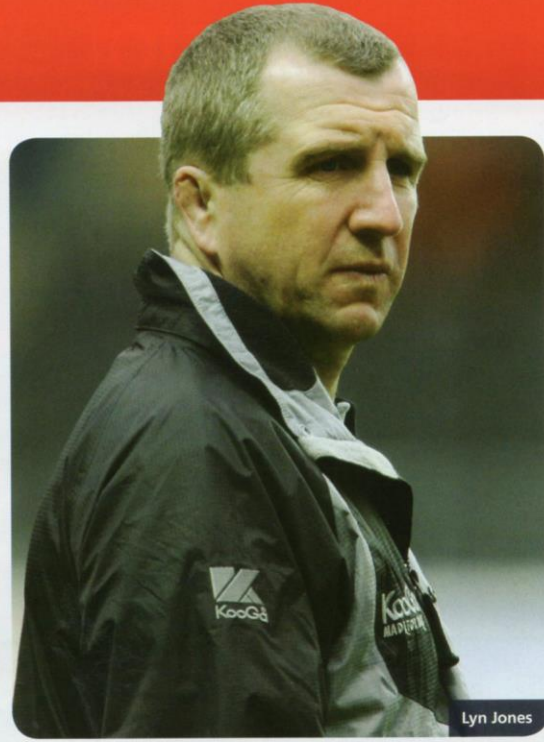
ONE of the nice things about welcoming Harlequins to Kingsholm is that it constitutes a continuation of a series of encounters which stretches back into the dim and distant past. In fact the only break in that series I can remember came recently when the lads from the Stoop were careless enough to get themselves relegated. It didn't take long for our multi-coloured dream-coated friends to bounce back though, did it? I'm sure that another of our most valued old enemies, Northampton, will be just as prompt in restoring themselves to their rightful place in the natural order of things.

But no one has a God-given right to a place in the Premiership. Quite a few clubs which were traditionally anticipated as giving us our sternest tests, year in and year out, have disappeared from the radar since the game went professional.

I'm thinking of great outfits like London Welsh, who once provided us with one of the most epic Cup battles of all time,



Gareth Cooper



Lyn Jones

and Moseley, who were our Cup Final opponents twice and held us to a draw on one of those occasions.

Some of us also recall, with affection, memorable games against such formidable sides as Coventry, for decades considered to be among the top sides in Britain, and Bedford, whose reputation was scarcely less. Among the slightly lesser sides who used to grace our fixture lists year after year are Exeter, Plymouth, Rosslyn Park (who could give anyone a good game for years), and the oldest club of them all, Blackheath.

I've obviously missed someone, but if you're interested, chat to some of the oldies in the bar. You'll get a conversation going which will last until Tuesday.

Meanwhile, we still have Harlequins at the party, and hopefully it will give us a chance to congratulate our old mate, Andy Gomarsall, on his fantastic feats at the World Cup. His introduction was a major factor in England's reaching the final, and there are those of us who will be saying "Told you so!" on the grounds that he should have had the same

spot four years previously.

BAD LUCK BOYS!

I WAS sorry to see that neither Gareth Cooper nor Will James made the final cut for the Wales squad for the Springboks game. I tell a lie: I'm pleased that they will both be available for Gloucester instead.

I don't suppose it will be any consolation, but they should remember that they are the latest in a whole line of Welsh players who have turned out at Kingsholm. That dynasty stretches way back, and includes Dai Gent, who also played for Gloucester Old Boys, and is credited with having invented modern scrum-half play.

Since then the array is a glittering one. Some would say that Gloucester's most formidable half-back pairing was Welsh. The duo concerned were outside-half Willie Jones, who possessed the fastest drop goal boot in rugby and Danny Evans who supplied him with the longest pass out – the old leather ball remember – that anyone in the game at the time had ever seen.

The roll of honour goes on. We had John

Gwilliam, who captained Wales from No.8 while representing Gloucester at lock, and was famed for his line-out prowess. There was Jim Jarrett, who I'm told, skippered Pontypool, and quite a few more if I had space to acknowledge them. So Messrs Cooper and James have a mighty tradition to uphold. I'm sure they will prove themselves more than capable.

MYSTERY SOLVED

I SEE that coach Lyn Jones confesses that he was 'mystified' by the Ospreys defeat at Kingsholm last week. I can solve the problem for him. Gloucester won because they were simply more professional than his side, even if it did contain more international stars than you can shake a leek at.

We went behind by two needless tries early on, refused to panic, hung on in there until the chances came and then took them. We then proceeded to strangle them out of the game. No mystery, really: just an assured and savvy performance.

And incidentally, it is reckoned bad form to criticise the referee. So I won't.

MATCH OF THE DAYS

He may have had to wait 71 games to break his try-scoring duck but Adey Powles more than made up for it – guiding Gloucester to a vital last-day victory on an emotional final afternoon at the Stoop against London Irish, as Dave King remembers.

IT IS NOT often that a former gas fitter with eight screws in his leg is a double-try match winner – but then again this Gloucester classic was no ordinary match.

Adey Powles was the hero – the Forest of Dean prop crashed over with minutes to go – to cap a remarkable Gloucester turnaround and seal third place for former boss Philippe Saint-Andre.

For the hundreds of Gloucester supporters who travelled to West London on Saturday, May 20 2000, they will rarely have witnessed such a pulsating encounter. The score line – London Irish 40, Gloucester 42 – befits such a climax to a season. It was no end of season jolly, for a third place position in the Allied Dunbar Premiership One was at stake and both teams went for each other throughout.

And while every match has their heroes, none were more deserving than Powles. He chose the perfect moment to break a 71-game try duck and it helped him in some small way erase the memory of his fractured leg on the same ground two years previous. It was his 79th minute try that secured third place for Gloucester – their best finish for a decade.

Ironically, Powles was drafted into the team as a replacement for England loose-head prop Trevor Woodman. The 33-year-old from Berry Hill, who had only signed a one-year contract 24 hours prior to the match scored twice in a match that embraced every emotion. They were his first tries in a six year barren period. He scored the first and last of the seven tries Gloucester scored. He also spent a 10 minute period in the sinbin for dropping his knee on London Irish flanker – Andrew Mower.

There were joyous scenes at the end of the match as various items of kit, including boots, were distributed among the faithful



Adey Powles



Chris Catling

who had travelled. The game began with Powles surprising the hosts when he took a quick tap penalty and drove over. The first-half was a five-try thriller which enabled Irish to hold a 25-13 advantage at the interval. It was a half which had seen Powles and Andy Deacon sinbinned – the latter for kicking the ball away in an offside position.

Mike Worsley, once briefly of Gloucester, cancelled out Powles try and another former Bristol player, Michael Horak, followed with another score to take Irish ahead. These were interspersed with Chris Catling taking a short ball from Eustace and scoring. Justin Bishop, now of Doncaster, cut a perfect angle off the late Jarrod Cunningham's pass to score the final try of the half.

Not to be deterred, Gloucester hit back with two tries in two minutes at the start of the second period. The first saw Rob Jewell take Chris Yates' pass for the simplest of run-ins and then lock forward Ian Jones made a 30-yard sprint downfield. The ball was moved left to Deacon who threw a long pass to Chris Catling to cross the line.

That levelled the score at 25-25 but Rob Hoadley restored the Irish lead with a try and

then Bishop followed up from a tap penalty with his second try. However, Gloucester and Powles were not about to succumb to defeat. With the 'Fields of Athenry' resounding in their ears they conjured up a remarkable recovery after trailing by 40-25 with 10 minutes of play remaining.

First, Adam Eustace deceived Rob Hunter with a dummy to score, then a mix up by the Irish allowed Mark Cornwell to run home and then with minutes on the clock remaining, Powles took Joe Ewen's pass to bundle his way over the try-line from 10 metres

There was a heart stopping moment with seconds remaining when referee Robin Goodliffe awarded the home side a penalty. Even the late Cunningham, the top points scorer in the country, could not sneak victory with an injury-time-long-range penalty. This miss sparked delirious scenes among Gloucester players and supporters.

For Powles it was a ground of bitter sweet memory: "Do you know in March 1998 I was put out of the game for 16 weeks," he said. "I made a tackle and Keith Wood knocked me over a ruck and I broke my leg. I played on for 20 minutes because Gloucester



I made a tackle and Keith Wood knocked me over a ruck and I broke my leg. I played on for 20 minutes because Gloucester had already lost Tony Windo injured.

Adey Powles



had already lost Tony Windo injured. The first try was my first in about 70 games – not exactly a great strike rate.

"But it was fantastic for me and fantastic for the club to get their highest position for 10 years."

Two players moved to Kingsholm from London Irish the following season and both Robert Todd and Jake Boer established themselves as key individuals in Gloucester's recent history. For Frenchman, Philippe Saint-Andre, it was a match that spoke volumes for his development. "To have brought European Rugby to Kingsholm with its unique atmosphere was a joy. My target was fifth place so I was delighted to finish in third."

The win gave Gloucester their best placing in the league table since they finished runners-up to Wasps in the 1989-90 season, not a point missed by present Sale Sharks coach, Kingsley Jones. "To be captain of a team that finished third in the Allied Dunbar Premiership was a great honour and I thought it was a realistic place for us to enable us to get into Europe which was a great achievement."



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MATCH OF THE DAYS

THE TEAMS

LONDON IRISH:

C.O'SHEA (CAPTAIN)
R.HOADLEY
J.CUNNINGHAM
J.BISHOP
M.HORAK
S.BACHOP
K.PUTT
M.WORLSEY
R.KIRKE
K.FULLMAN
R.STRUDWICK
N.HARVEY
M.GABEY
A.MOWER
R.GALLAGHER

REPLACEMENTS:

K.TONU'U
N.HATLEY
R.HUNTER
B.COCKBAIN
A.FLAVIN
S.HATLEY
I.FEAUNATI

GLOUCESTER:

C.CATLING
J.EWENS
T.FANOLUA
C.YATES
R.JEWELL
S.MANNIX
E.MONCRIEFF
A.POWLES
J.DJOUDI
A.DEACON
R.FIDLER
I.JONES
A.EUSTACE
K.JONES
E.PEARCE

REPLACEMENTS:

B.JOHNSON
B.HAYWARD
I.SANDERS
S.SANCHEZ
M.CORNWELL
N.MCCARTHY

REFEREE: R.GOODLIFFE (SHEFFIELD)



MG ROVER
Michael Horak



Justin Bishop



Conor O'Shea



M F Rob Hoadley

FAN ZONE WITH BOB FENTON

It is back to the Guinness Premiership today after two breathless weeks in the Heineken Cup and Bob Fenton reckons the match-up between the two Deans this afternoon will be an enthralling encounter.

WITH ALL due respect to the Guinness Premiership and to our visitors Harlequins, today has a bit of a '... after the Lord Mayor's Show...' feel about it.

The last two weeks of Heineken Cup action have raised the bar in terms of intensity and excitement. A great win in Ulster, and an enthralling game against the Ospreys, have left everyone wanting more. Whether we can get to the same level of performance today remains to be seen, let's hope so because while the Heineken Cup is the icing on the cake, the Premiership provides the bread and butter.

But two dwell on last week's performance for a moment, it was a great team effort and a match that will live long in the memory. Ospreys are a very good side, yet we out thought and outfought them over the 80 minutes. At times we looked to be a bit off-colour – especially in the first half – but we held on when it mattered. Then, after the break turned up the heat and showed real power to grind them down.

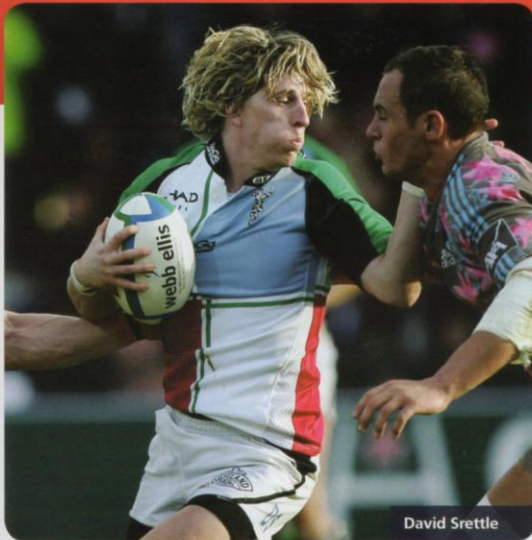
And while the last few minutes of 'Agen Rugby' may not have appealed to everyone who wanted to see the ball flying around all over the place, from where I stood it was a thing of beauty as we kept the ball and ran down the clock.

Sat in the High Tec Stand for that game was a mate of mine from Swansea with his nine-year-old son. They have moved away from Wales now and live in the midlands – as a result he has been going to watch Leicester. Well there's no accounting for taste is there.

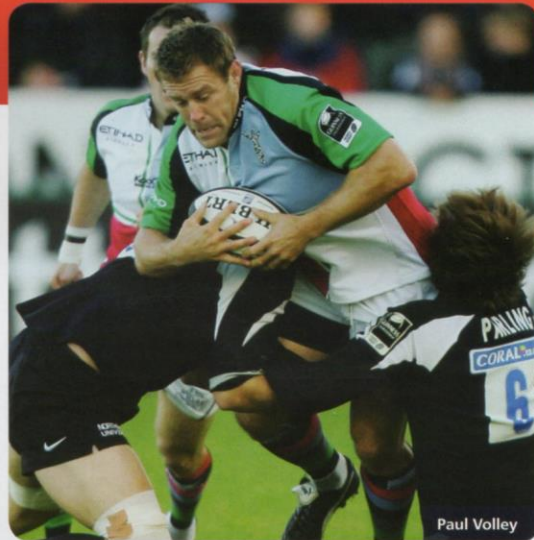
He said that pretty much all the way home his lad was singing 'Gloucester, Gloucester' and asking when they could come back to another game. Poor old Simon is a die-hard Ospreys fan, so that was rubbing salt in the wounds a bit. But



Dean Richards



David Srettle



Paul Volley



Dean Richards has shown what a great coach he is. I suspect that many people thought that keeping Leicester at the top with the talent he had at his disposal at the time was an easy job, but he reinvented that team several times.

Bob Fenton on Dean Richards



even he had to admit that the atmosphere at Kingsholm last Friday was something special. He's already talking about getting Bourgoin tickets, so another couple of converts to the cause are in the making.

But that was then and this is now, and if we are to compete in the European competition next season we have to win these games. Harlequins have made a good start to the season, sitting pretty in fourth place in the table. Like us they are developing a rich vein of young talent.

David Srettle is the obvious stand out player among the young talent at their disposal but take a read through their squad details in the programme and count the number of players under 25. They're not all spring chickens though – there's a certain 33-year-old scrum-half that we'll need to keep an eye on.

Andy Gomarsall is playing some great rugby at the moment, he was pretty much the spark that set fire to England's World Cup campaign, and with ex-Bath man Chris Malone standing outside him they

have a half-back pairing with bags of experience. And we shouldn't forget their club captain, that old friend of Gloucester, Paul Volley.

But perhaps the most captivating match-up is in the backroom areas and the two Deans. Dean Richards has shown what a great coach he is. I suspect that many people thought that keeping Leicester at the top with the talent he had at his disposal at the time was an easy job, but he reinvented that team several times.

After a bit of break in France he came back to Harlequins and is working his magic there, slowly creating a team that – in much the same way as our own Dean has done – blended exciting talent with some experienced old hands.

He has also dragged in a few players from overseas too, not least the iron hard De Wet Barry from South Africa. If you are going to go shopping for a centre, you may as well get the most capped South African international. The match-up between him and – probably – Anthony

Allen is going to be interesting.

One of the great things about both Deans is the style of play they have got their teams to employ. I think it's fair to say that neither was the greatest of open field runners, preferring the darker reaches of the forwards to the wide open spaces of the wings. But both have assembled teams who can play both games, keeping it tight when they have to and letting the ball fly round the paddock when the opportunity presents itself.

Small wonder that both coaches names are high on the list of favourites when the all too regular speculation over potential leaders for the national squad hits the press. While both are committed to achieving success for their respective clubs, it would be hardly a surprise if one of them didn't, at some point in the future, rock up to take over the mantle at Twickenham.

Heaven help the men in blazers when that happens, you get the feeling that both Deans would not take kindly to the kind of back room shenanigans that others have had to put up with.

Thinking about it that might be a good thing, but much as I wouldn't want to be seen as putting the brakes on our Dean's future, I'd quite like it if he stayed where he is for a bit longer.

If that's ok with you, Dean...