



**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY**

The Official Programme  
of Gloucester Rugby

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## Gloucester Rugby v Ulster Rugby

20.01.08 13.00

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Meet Ulster's  
new skipper

### Ryan's Review

Gloucester's head coach looks  
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### Stephen Jones

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James  
Simpson-Daniel

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Heineken Cup Round Six



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## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

**Skipper Marco Bortolami knows two defeats does not change the shape of Gloucester's season as he welcomes Ulster to Kingsholm today.**

▶ WE ARE at the end of the pool stages of the Heineken Cup – but in reality our journey is only just beginning.

At the moment, we have yet to win in 2008 following defeats against Bath and then the Ospreys but we need to remember that Gloucester are still on top of the Guinness Premiership and on the verge of qualifying for the knockout stages in Europe.

There are things we need to adapt to, work on and improve but that is no different to any team, in any competition and people need to remember that fact. I think we are learning in the right way, have a young squad that is going to suffer set-backs in its development but is learning and getting better all the time.

It is important what happens is kept in perspective. There were issues against the Ospreys we didn't deal with and have to accept. There were also issues around certain elements of the game we were not satisfied with but that is gone now and we must move on.

Today, we welcome Ulster to Kingsholm and they will represent a new and fresh

challenge. Since we met them at Ravenhill in Round One, they have a new coach and a new intensity to their rugby.

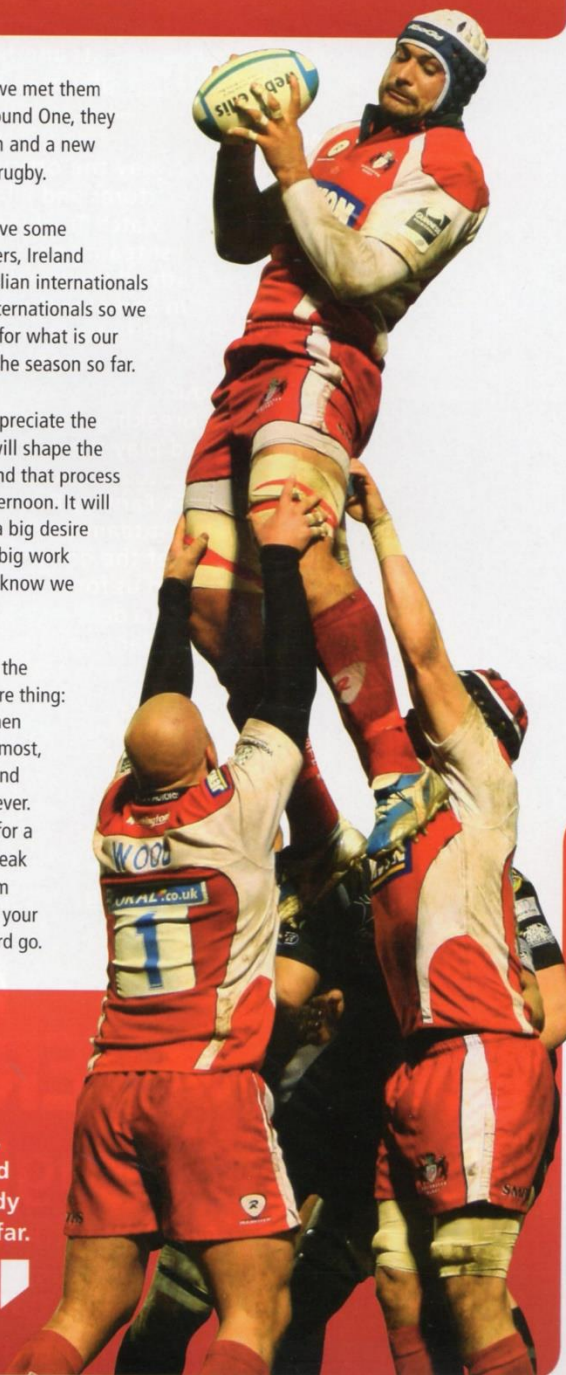
We know they have some outstanding players, Ireland internationals, Italian internationals and Australian internationals so we have to be ready for what is our biggest game of the season so far.

As a group we appreciate the next few weeks will shape the rest of our season and that process continues this afternoon. It will take a big heart, a big desire to succeed and a big work ethic to win but I know we can do it.

I ask, on behalf of the squad, for one more thing: This afternoon, when the team needs it most, raise more noise and atmosphere than ever. Please don't wait for a Simpson-Daniel break or a big tackle from Buxton – we need your input from the word go.



**We know they have some outstanding players, Ireland internationals, Italian internationals and Australian internationals so we have to be ready for what is our biggest game of the season so far.**





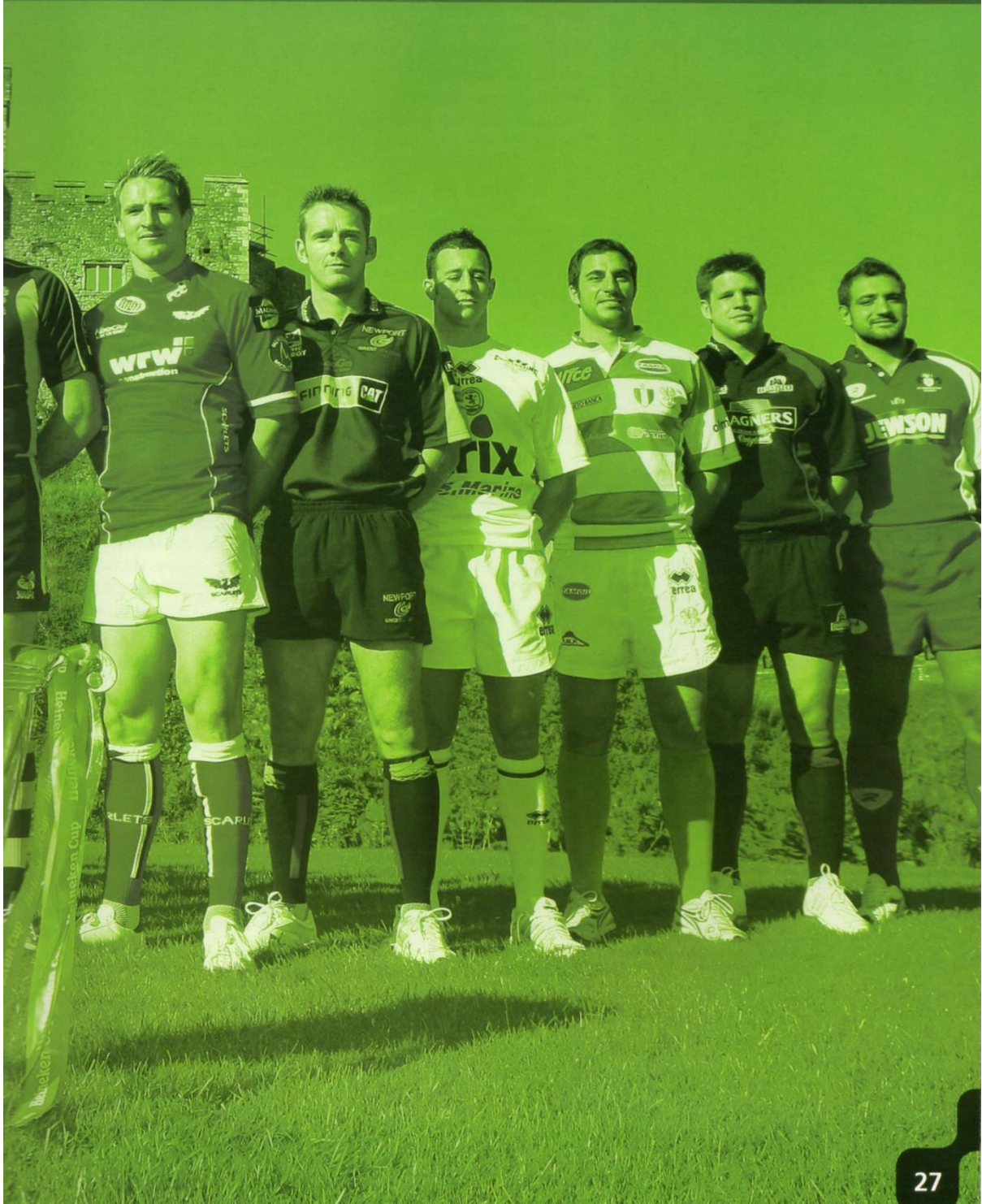
# UP A LEVEL

BY STEPHEN JONES, THE SUNDAY TIMES

There are so many challenges in Europe that even qualifying is a challenge, says Stephen Jones of the Sunday Times. And he believes if Gloucester win today, nobody will fancy a trip to Kingsholm in the knockout stages.

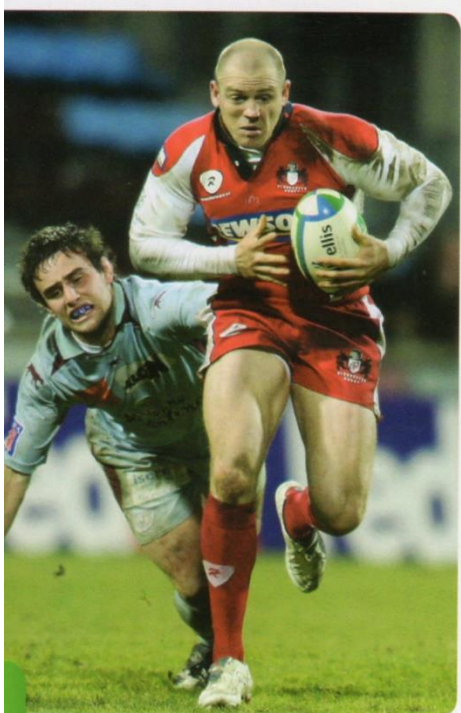
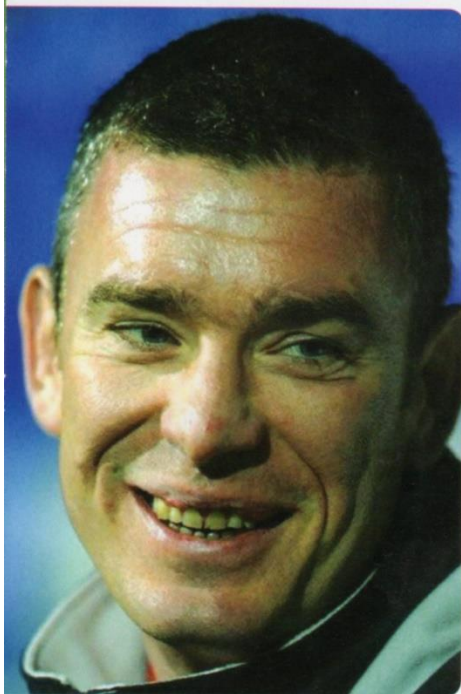








## UP A LEVEL



▶ GLOUCESTER are a step away from the knock-out stages and quite possibly, from a home match against a team that finished only runners-up in another Pool. The evidence suggests that they have learned how to play in Europe - though naturally, against a team as wounded as Ulster, nothing can be taken for granted today.

It might seem a little churlish to point out that Gloucester have had their deficiencies in Europe now and again but it is true, because every club has them. The whole of life in the Heineken European Cup is a work in progress, and work never stops. The Heineken Cup is brilliant, and it is also profoundly different. It sometimes takes teams a few years to realise it.

First, You have to fight like mad to get in to the tournament by finishing high enough up to your domestic league (or with the greatest respect, if you are an Irish, Welsh or Scottish team you get in anyway.) But however you made it, you start as a rank beginner.

You also have to beware the division of resources. You need a bigger and better squad to compete in Europe and often, league form is critically affected because you have to devote so much to Europe. Look at London Irish this year, playing so well in Europe but lowly in the Premiership

Europe is different, you see. The whole thing marches to a different beat. You do not know so much about your opposition, unlike in the Guinness Premiership where the sheer familiarity means that teams can cancel each other out. It seems to me that Dean Ryan has built a team that reacts to what is in front of it, rather than playing by numbers - essential for European play.

But the laws and operation are also

different. The two biggest teams in a Pool really must see their clashes as a two-leg affair because if teams finish level it is the matches between each other that counts as the tie-breaker.

Gloucester still wince when they recall their hammering at the hands of Munster in 2003 at Thomond Park but it is less well remembered that they were almost as dominant against Munster at Kingsholm earlier in the Pool stages but let Munster back into it very late on and while Gloucester still won handsomely, they did give Munster just a sniff.

It may seem that I am on Gloucester's case here. Far from it. I am just underlining that Europe is different. And I can still see that fine player Ludovic Mercier trotting up to the ball after Munster were sensationally penalised in front of their own posts at the end of the return against Munster. The easy goal would have killed Munster off, left them needing two scores inside about 90 seconds, and therefore one of their greatest ever days would have been quickly forgotten.

Ludo took a tap penalty. I was staggered. God knows what the coaches and fans felt. Munster soon lifted the siege and went back and scored the try which gave them passage into the next round. Europe does funny things to the mind.

Gloucester have grown up. If they can get through today, then they should be home in the next round and there is not a team on God's earth that would relish coming to Kingsholm, the way Gloucester have been playing.

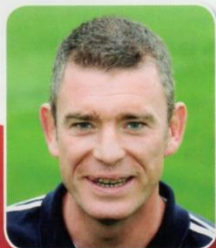
Toulouse at home? Munster at home? Ospreys at home (for the Revenge, Revenge Mission)? Suddenly, we'd find that the fantastic new Kingsholm is already too small! I told you that Europe is different.



Ludo took a tap penalty. I was staggered. God knows what the coaches and fans felt. Munster soon lifted the siege and went back and scored the try which gave them passage into the next round. Europe does funny things to the mind.







## RYAN'S REVIEW

Head Coach Dean Ryan is not over reacting despite back-to-back defeats.



*A lot has been made of our back-to-back defeats against Bath and the Ospreys, how have you and the squad reacted?*

**DR:** WE HAVE a horrible habit of thinking the wheels have come off every time we lose a game. They haven't. We've struggled over the last two weeks and we are not going to escape that fact. The weather conditions have accentuated the physicality of other sides, but the game isn't played like that every week and we have to move forward and keep confident in our own game. I don't think we didn't step up, I think we didn't adapt and that is something we have to manage as a group to ensure it doesn't happen again.

We are not going to jump away from what we have been doing because we have been stung a couple of times. We are in the process of building something at this club and in the development process we are going to suffer set-backs like this.



*There were issues in the game last Saturday you were not happy about, can you explain what they were?*

**DR:** WE WERE not happy with some of the interpretations and certainly not happy with some of the yellow cards. We allowed them to pour all over us but it's a lot easier to see the side that's going backwards as the offender. It was important we got in the contest above the ball. We were late to that contest – there were a lot of people off their feet around the ball and a lot of traffic and we were

too concerned with what would happen next. We got livelier around the ball, but then we had two or three flashpoints and we end up with yellow cards. The one for swearing, not at the referee but when a request was made, I find difficult to accept in a game at this level. If it was something applicable across the game I would understand.



*It doesn't change much in terms of the group though?*

**DR:** I THINK this is the first time in the Heineken Cup's history that by round six



**I THINK this is the first time in the Heineken Cup's history that by round six no team has definitely qualified into for the knockout stages by the last round. That shows how close the competition has been across the board so far this season.**



Action vs The Ospreys





Peter Buxton

no team has definitely qualified into for the knockout stages by the last round. That shows how close the competition has been across the board so far this season. We are in a position that if we win our last pool game we will make it through – I don't think much more can really be expected.

To get in this position we have had to win away in some very tough places – Belfast and France – and that is no mean achievement. You only have to look at the calibre of the teams that have already failed to qualify to understand that the competition is getting tougher.



**What do you expect from Ulster this afternoon?**

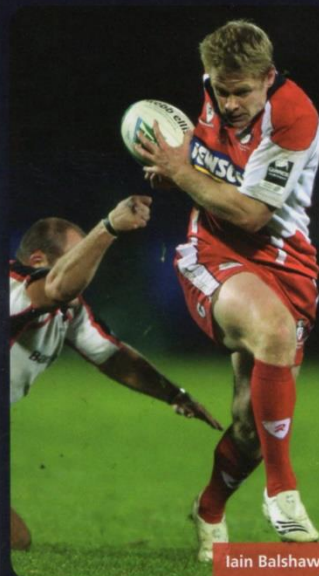
**DR:** THEY have been through a bit of a

rough time this season but seem to be coming through that. They had a good victory last weekend and obviously a new coach in the very experienced Matt Williams coming next month and that will give them a great amount of enthusiasm.

When we played them in Belfast we had a few things run for us early and that established the foundations for us in this competition. This is the Heineken Cup so we are anticipating a tough, physical and determined examination. They have a core of players with a good deal of international experience that runs through the spine of their team so we must be fully focused for the game this afternoon. There is a lot riding on this game and we have to make it happen for us.



When we played them in Belfast we had a few things run for us early and that established the foundations for us in this competition. This is the Heineken Cup so we are anticipating a tough, physical and determined examination.



Iain Balshaw



Luke Narryway



# TODAY'S TEAMS

Sunday 20th January 2008 13.00

Gloucester Rugby  
v Ulster Rugby



29



21

	Iain BALSHAW	15	Full Back	15	Bryn CUNNINGHAM	
	James SIMPSON-DANIEL	14	Right Wing	14	Tommy BOWE	
	Mike TINDALL	13	Centre	13	Andrew TRIMBLE	
	Anthony ALLEN	12	Centre	12	Paddy WALLACE	
	Lesley VAINIKOLO	11	Left Wing	11	Simon DANIELLI	
	Ryan LAMB	10	Fly Half	10	David HUMPHREYS	
	Gareth COOPER	9	Scrum Half	9	Paul MARSHALL	
	Nick WOOD	1	Prop	1	Justin FITZPATRICK	
	Olivier AZAM	2	Hooker	2	Nigel BRADY	
	Carlos NIETO	3	Prop	3	Declan FITZPATRICK	
	Peter BUXTON	4	Lock	4	Carlo DEL FAVA ©	
	Marco BORTOLAMI ©	5	Lock	5	Ryan CALDWELL	
	Alasdair STROKOSCH	6	Flanker	6	Matt McCULLOUGH	
	Akapusi QERA	7	Flanker	7	Neil BEST	
	Gareth DELVE	8	No 8	8	Grant WEBB	

## Replacements

	Andy TITTERRELL	16	16	Bryan YOUNG	
	Patrice COLLAZO	17	17	Stuart PHILPOTT	
	Will JAMES	18	18	Justin HARRISON	
	Luke NARRAWAY	19	19	David POLLOCK	
	Rory LAWSON	20	20	Mark McCREA	
	Chris PATERSON	21	21	Isaac BOSS	
	Leon LLOYD	22	22	Niall O'CONNOR	

Heineken Cup

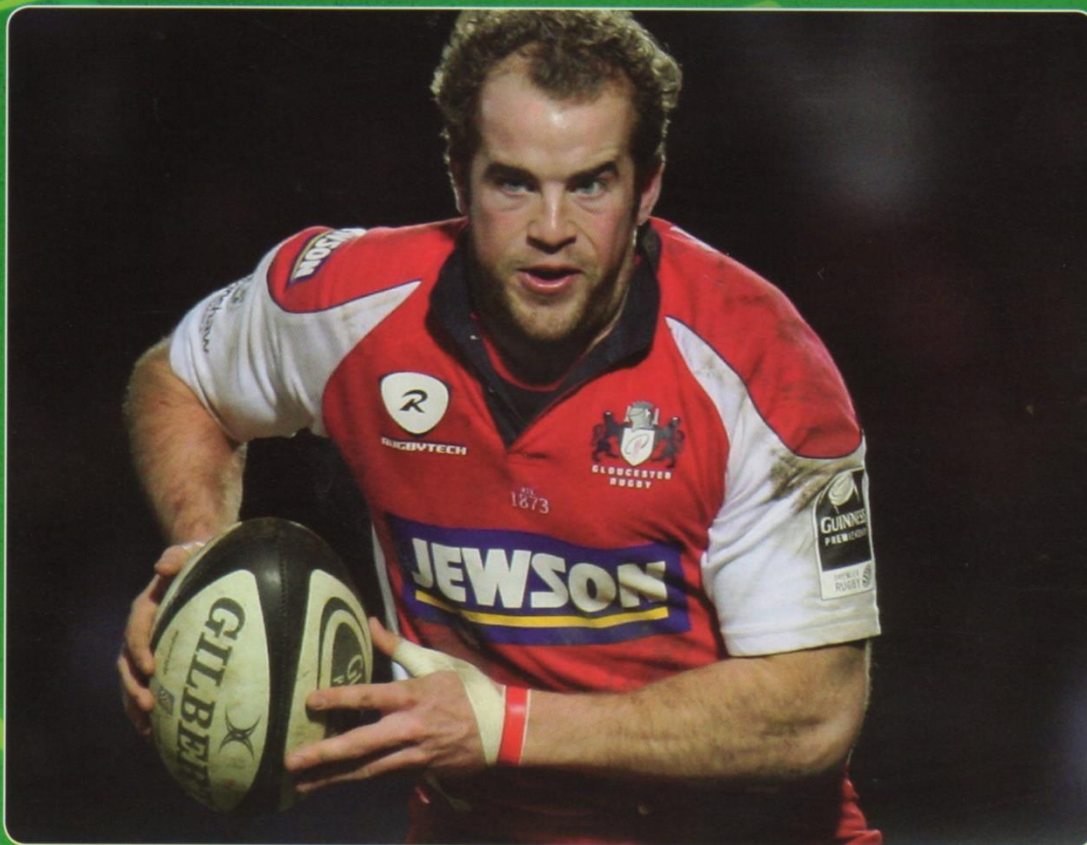




# SPOTLIGHT

with **James Simpson-Daniel**

by Ian Randall



## WHAT'S THE MOTTO YOU LIVE BY?

I like the one that Nick Duncombe used to use, Carpe Diem, it's a classic.



## WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION?

Not as much as I would have thought, probably my World of War craft computer game.



## WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BREAKFAST CEREAL?

Frosted Shredded wheat- also known as toppers.



## ARE YOU A SPENDER OR A SAVER?

Unfortunately a spender and I do very well at being a spender, I manage to burn money in all directions.



## WHAT MADE YOU LAST LOSE YOUR TEMPER?

The last time I got very angry was probably when Ludovic Mercier got the interception against Bath and didn't give the ball to me.



## WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE PERSON ON TV?

Gordon Ramsay from Kitchen Nightmares. I think he's brilliant. He just says what he feels and is quite blunt. I

think Jonathan Ross is hilarious as well.







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

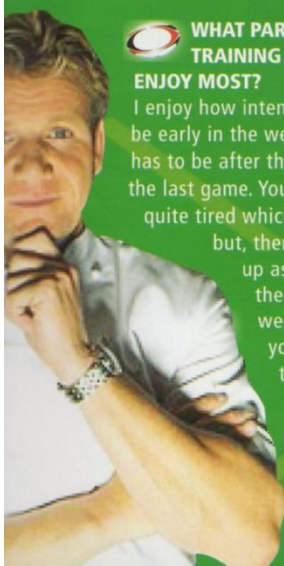
Timbo who does our kit, he can put a smile on your face and comes out with classic lines - I think he's hilarious.

**IF YOU WENT TO UNIVERSITY WHAT DEGREE WOULD YOU DO?**

I was never academic, I never wanted to be academic - it was all about rugby for me.

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

I enjoy how intense things can be early in the week which it has to be after the analysis of the last game. Your body feels quite tired which is natural but, then you freshen up as you get into the end of the week. Then as you do your team runs - you really start to feel like you're getting towards a game.



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

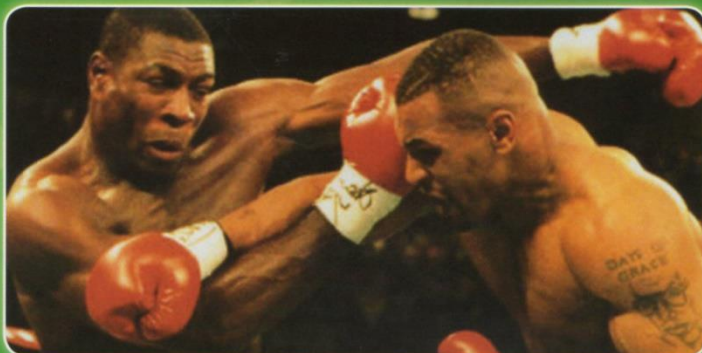
It's the same old faces- Christian Califano or Andy Hazell.



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

I love it in the summer when you can get

to Ascot but if I'm honest a fresh day at Cheltenham races. If it wasn't racing it would have to be some of the big boxing fights that have gone on over the years. My old man went to watch Bruno against Tyson but I would have loved to have gone to watch Ali against Frazier.





# WALK OF LEGENDS

Gloucester will honour two of their greatest players today when the first bricks are laid in the Walk of Legends outside the new C&G Grandstand.

Your Name  
& message here

Your Name  
& three line  
message  
here

**▶** MORE than 40 'Legends' have been put forward via a public vote and today Mike Teague and Peter Butler will become the first players to be laid as the centre stone in each section of the Walkway.

Butler played for Gloucester between 1972 and 1982 and is the club's record points scorer with 2,961 in 216 appearances for the club. He also won two England caps as well as scoring 367 points for Gloucestershire.

Teague played for Gloucester between 1978 and 1995 and won 22 caps for England. In 1989 he was named man of the series for the British Lions during their tour to Australia. He is genuinely regarded as one of the finest number eights to play the game anywhere. Both are Gloucester legends.

There are still bricks available for supporters to purchase in the Walk of

Legends. They can be engraved with your own personal message, which could include your name, your partners name, celebration of an anniversary, birthday, remembering a loved one or celebrating a birth.

Not only will the purchase of a stone ensure your name is forever in the history of Kingsholm, but the funds raised from the Walk of Legends will help pay for the continuing development of the stadium.

Stones are being laid on a 'first-come, first-laid' basis and only a limited number are available, so act now to get your stone to ensure you don't miss out.

There are several types to choose from -

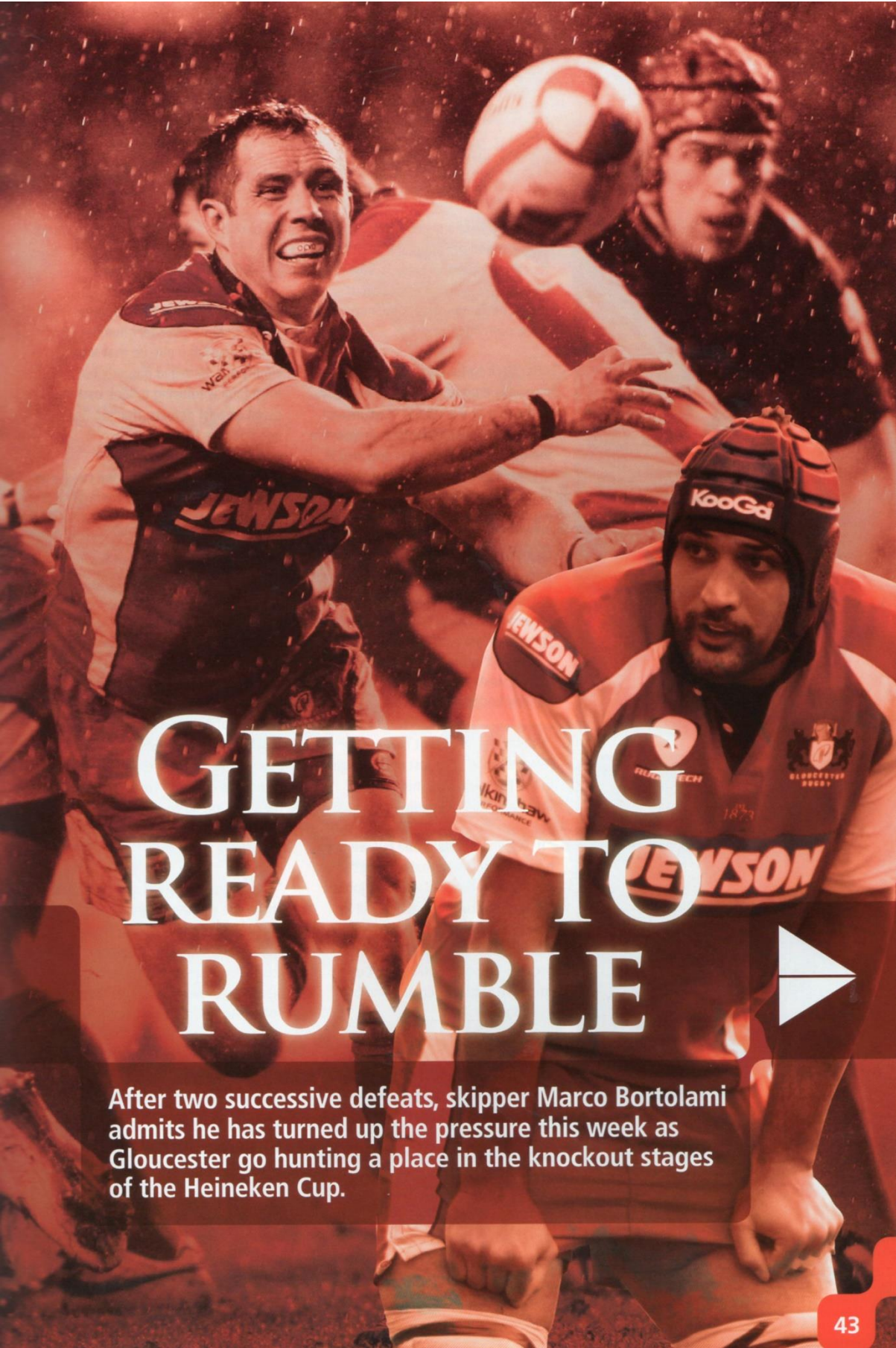
Single (two lines) and double (four lines) bricks, for each brick you will receive

a certificate suitable for framing that will confirm the location of your stone and inscription of up to 15 characters per line. For more information contact the club on **01452 872286**



Gloucester Rugby Walk of Legends





# GETTING READY TO RUMBLE



After two successive defeats, skipper Marco Bortolami admits he has turned up the pressure this week as Gloucester go hunting a place in the knockout stages of the Heineken Cup.



## GETTING READY TO RUMBLE



IF THERE is one thing on the mind of Gloucester and their skipper this week it is beating Ulster and reaching the knockout stages of the Heineken Cup, nothing more, nothing less.

After back-to-back defeats in the atrocious mud at Bath and then again in the rain at the Liberty Stadium last weekend dented immediate progress in the Guinness Premiership and also in the Heineken Cup but did not damage long-term ambitions, Marco Bortolami knows the journey is just beginning.

That journey will take a serious turn today: The next clutch of games will say a great deal about Gloucester's hopes towards the end of the season and Gloucester are ready for the challenge – now and in the future. If it has been a lively week at Hartpury it would be entirely understandable.

"I think it is important that people remember we have lost only one game in the Heineken Cup this season," Bortolami said pointedly.

"It was an important one but we have a lot of confidence that we can still finish top of the pool and that job is today. We know every game will be difficult. There is no difference between playing Toulouse, Wasps or Leinster, because to win the Heineken Cup you have to play everyone and beat everyone."

Bortolami's aim is to earn a home draw in the knockout stages of the competition – a massive incentive for a team who have already won away in Belfast and Bourgoin – but who are perceived to be lacking the required physicality levels against the very best in the competition.

Where Gloucester did struggle last week was keeping a lid on the expert foraging of Marty Holah, an openside

flanker with every little trick in the book and Filo Tiatia, a number eight with a savage ball carrying qualities.

They were also out-gunned at the contact area – the sheer number of bodies causing a pile-up that was simply not managed properly but Bortolami is refusing to look back and dwell on past defeats. That job has been done.

"What is important is that we can be at home, because of the environment and the supporters," he said.

"Who we play then doesn't matter. It would be strange to play Ospreys again but to me it's not a problem. We need to focus on beating Ulster and after that we'll find out who we play next.

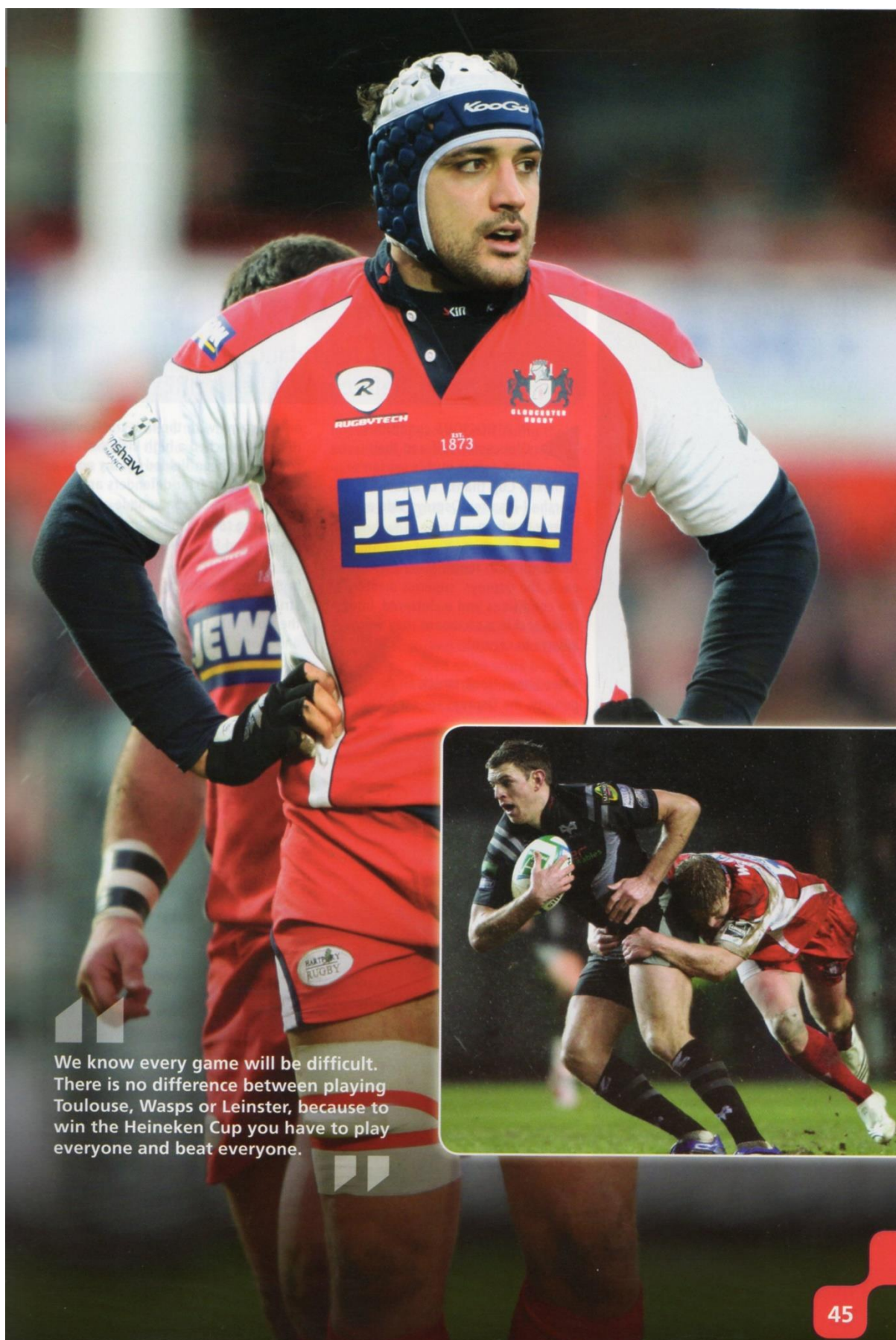
"Ulster cannot reach the next stage but they will have plenty to play for in terms of preparation for their new coach and for that reason we must be ready. After 30 minutes out there the game was over and we must try and do the same job again but it will be harder because they will be expecting a big game from us.

"We cannot give away any easy points. I hope the weather is good and that we can play our rugby. Against Ospreys we had more ball than against Bath and scored two tries, but we have to adapt our game to wet conditions. We must not be surprised if it is a wet day.

"As captain, I am putting everyone under pressure for this game. It was a poor performance last Saturday, and it is important for us to be at the top of our game."

Gloucester are not a team to settle for low standards – from the teak-tough presence of Mike Tindall, the savvy, hard-hitting Gareth Delve to the efforts of the captain – the Kingsholm ranks are ready to rumble this afternoon.





“ We know every game will be difficult. There is no difference between playing Toulouse, Wasps or Leinster, because to win the Heineken Cup you have to play everyone and beat everyone. ”



# MATCH ACTION

Ospreys  
Gloucester Rugby

32  
15



## Time line

5 mins	
Hook PEN	3-0
10 mins	
Williams TRY, Hook CON	10-0
20 mins	
Hook PEN	13-0
26 mins	
Lamb PEN	13-3
28 mins	
Hook PEN	16-3
37 mins	
Hook PEN	19-3
52 mins	
Hook PEN	22-3
56 mins	
Lawson TRY, Paterson CON	22-10
69 mins	
Hook PEN	25-10
80 mins	
Hibbard TRY, Hook CON	32-10
82 mins	
Lamb TRY	32-15

## Gloucester Line-up

15	Iain Balshaw
14	James Simpson-Daniel
13	Mike Tindall
12	Anthony Allen
11	Leon Lloyd
10	Ryan Lamb (1t, 1p)
9	Gareth Cooper
1	Christian Califano
2	Andy Titterrell
3	Carlos Nieto
4	Marco Bortolami (capt)
5	Alex Brown
6	Peter Buxton (yellow card)
7	Akapusi Qera
8	Gareth Delve
REPS	
16	Chris Paterson (1c)
17	Rory Lawson (1t)
18	Patrice Collazo
19	Olivier Azam (yellow card)
20	Alasdair Strokosch
21	Luke Narraway (yellow card)
22	Willie Walker (not used)

## Down But Not Out

Saturday, January 12, Attendance: 18,072  
Liberty Stadium, Referee: Alan Lewis (IRE)

IN ATROCIOUS conditions, Gloucester suffered their first defeat in this season's Heineken Cup thanks to a Justin Marshall-inspired Ospreys side at the Liberty Stadium.

Although both teams scored two tries each, the Ospreys' superior mastery of the conditions and a cluttered, body-laden tackle area meant they were always in control.

After James Hook struck an early penalty, the Ospreys took a real grip

on the game with the first try. Gavin Henson launched a high kick that could have been fielded by any one of three Gloucester defenders and although Iain Balshaw made a brilliant try-saving tackle, the Ospreys swept to the left and Shane Williams scored.

In the wet conditions Gloucester struggled to match the Ospreys on the floor, Filo Tiatia carried hard and Marty Holah was a pain at the tackle area. Consequently, Gloucester continued to fall foul of the referee and Hook kicked three more penalties



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





before the break to take the Ospreys 19-3 ahead – Gloucester's only points a Ryan Lamb penalty.

Gloucester did hit back after the re-start when Alasdair Strokosch and Christian Califano combined at a line-out and replacement scrum-half Rory Lawson shot through a gap and raced 40 metres to score.

It cut the gap to 22-10 but when Olivier Azam and then Luke Narraway were both yellow carded Gloucester's

hopes disappeared. Considering their advantage, it was strange the Ospreys didn't press harder for a bonus point.

But they did grab a second try near the end when replacement Richard Hibbard was bundled over from a line-out to seal the points.

Gloucester had the last word when Mike Tindall kicked through and Lamb raced on to score but it was little more than a consolation.



## Man of the Match

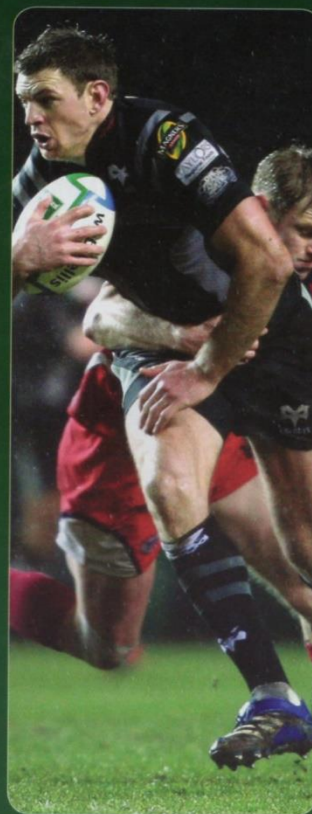


Gareth Delve – worked as hard as anyone on the back of the scrum.

## Coach's Comment



"I thought we were late to the contest in terms of our physicality levels and we failed to deal with high balls in the first 20 minutes and it cost us," head coach Dean Ryan







## PETER ARNOLD

He's big, he's fast, he's knows his way to the line (for a pint). Peter Arnold is back for the first time in 08 to digest all the latest goings-on in Planet Rugby.

### NINE MATCH WONDER

I WAS rather afraid that Brian Ashton would take a flyer and pick Big Les Vainikolo in his initial England squad. After all the bloke, talented and formidable as he is, has only played nine meaningful games of union at any reasonable level, so there's a lot of risk involved, not least for Lesley himself. We must not forget, either, that he's had family problems to resolve which can't have helped his concentration.

Of course, he's played League at international level so knows what the big stage is all about. I've no doubt that, given a fair crack of the whip, and an average amount of luck, he is capable of making an enormous impact on the international scene, and we all hope and pray that he does, but with a minimal amount of union experience behind him, we have to admit that Jonah Lomu he ain't. Not yet awhile, anyway.

Class will out – just as long as it's allowed to, but the way that Henry Paul and Anthony Allen were treated before being given a fair chance is still fresh in the minds and bitter in the mouth to many of us. It's to be hoped that England management has learned its lesson where Les is concerned.

I see that various pundits are saying that the Volcano is likely to be used as an impact player, being brought on relatively late in the game, either to smash the opposition, or retrieve a dodgy situation. I suppose that's not a bad way to ease him into the scene, but could be a waste of his formidable talents. It would be infuriating to see Les bench warming when he could be terrifying opposition for us.

So, just at the moment, I'm a little sceptical, but would be overjoyed to see my scepticism demolished. I hope he astonishes the whole world, and he could just do that. Of course, it would help if he

had Sinbad on the other wing...

### AND THE REST

WHICH brings me neatly to my next topic.

There's an old saying that the ways of selectors are like the Peace of God. They passeth all understanding. That's certainly true in the case of James Simpson-Daniel. Here we have a player, in Lesley Vainikolo, who has enormous potential but limited experience being picked ahead of a guy of proven pedigree, and just as deadly, in his own inimitable but vastly different way. There's some pretty strange thinking somewhere along the line.

At least Sinbad has been selected for the Saxons squad, along with six other Gloucester players, so he's still in the frame to some extent. In a way, that's preferable as far as we are concerned, because I'm told it means that we are likely to lose them for only one match each.



Lesley Vainikolo



James Simpson-Daniel





Ospreys scrum half Justin Marshall gets to the ball despite the attentions of Gareth Delve.

Mustn't forget, either, to congratulate the quartet of Gloucester Scottish who have made it into their national squad, not that any of them were what you might call surprise selections. Wonder how Chris Paterson will feel if he finds the Volcano running at him in the Calcutta Cup match.

It was also nice to see our pair of Italian Stallions keeping their spots too. They'll obviously do themselves, and everyone else, proud.

Then there is the Welsh question. Is the WRFU really going to bar England-based players from the national squad? Doesn't seem right to me. It certainly wouldn't be fair to make any such ruling retrospective, banning players who are already established in English clubs from selection. It's one thing restricting players from moving out of Wales, and quite another barring chaps who are already under contract to clubs outside the Principality.

Would Messrs Cooper and Delve have come to Kingsholm if they had known any such ruling was in the offing?

I wonder if the whole thing is quite legal. Might it not come under the Restraint of Trade legislation?

Interesting situation. I expect it will all come out in the Welsh wash.

### BLOODY BUT UNBOWED

I WAS obviously disappointed by last Saturday's result at Swansea - a bonus point would have come in very handy - but I can't honestly say I was surprised. We were, after all, travelling away to try conclusions with what was virtually a full Welsh international fifteen, marshalled, if you'll pardon the pun, by an All Black scrum-half. In addition, to receive three yellow cards and finish the game with thirteen men didn't help the cause at all, and leaves a nasty taste in the mouth.

So we've lost our last two away games, and the scenario for each was similar. Both Bath and Ospreys rested virtually all their preferred starting line-ups the week before taking us on. We, of course, had no such luxury.

I suppose it's a compliment in a way. If

good class opposition, and both Bath and the Ospreys are certainly that, feel constrained to take such dubious measures, then they must be really frightened of us. As they should be, but will this set a pattern for the rest of the season? It is to be hoped not.

Of course, the imminent advent of the Six Nations will confuse the issue further. It's a shame that we have to entertain Leicester, for example, with both sides decimated by international calls, but there you go, and that situation is very different from the one where you rest almost your whole side because you're afraid of the opposition you will be meeting next week.

In fact, I question the morality of the practise. Fans pay very good money for their tickets these days, and it isn't fair to present them with an inferior side because the management has both eyes on next week. There's a case for a refund there.

Anyway, last Saturday's debacle makes today's game much more important. As Confucius said: "Lay back and enjoy it."



# MATCH OF THE DAYS

Gloucester started their European journey in 1996 against Ebbw Vale and it was a remarkable match for Mark Mapletoft, as Dave King discovers.



Mark Mapletoft



kingsley jones

IT IS NOW 12 years since an October weekend in 1996 helped change the course of club rugby across Europe.

The then Courage League clubs were plunged into cross-border activity and Gloucester were paired with Welsh side Ebbw Vale in the European Conference on Saturday, October 12.

Ebbw Vale were then in the bottom half of the Welsh Division One and were captained by Kingsley Jones, although he would not be on playing duty because of injury. "I would have liked to have played at Kingsholm that day – I had heard all about the noise from the Shed and it was something I was looking forward to," he said.

The previous week Gloucester had dispatched a strong Wasps team 28-23 at Kingsholm and so spirits were high Gloucester could maintain their good form.

That they certainly did – running in nine tries in the process – as Mark Mapletoft dominated proceedings with a history-making performance. Fresh

from his first training session with the full England, Mapletoft scored four tries and kicked seven conversions to set a new club record for individual points in a game, 34.

With the little magician in superlative form, Gloucester won 59-7 and had the home side not turned the numerous penalty opportunities that came their way, Mapletoft may well have approached the 50 point mark. As it was, he fell three short of Percy Stout's 1898 club record.

However, this was not his best points haul. Earlier in his career he had scored 39 point for Rugby in a 103-3 win over Nuneaton. At that time his rise to prominence at Kingsholm had been due to Richard Hill's decision to switch him to fly-half from full-back. He had only completed nine matches in his new position before he was drafted into England training sessions.

He scored two tries in each half with Gloucester also forcing injury hit Ebbw Vale into conceding a penalty try. At half-time the men from Kingsholm were 33 points clear thanks to the additional tries

by Simon Devereux, Alistair Saverimutto and four Mapletoft conversions.

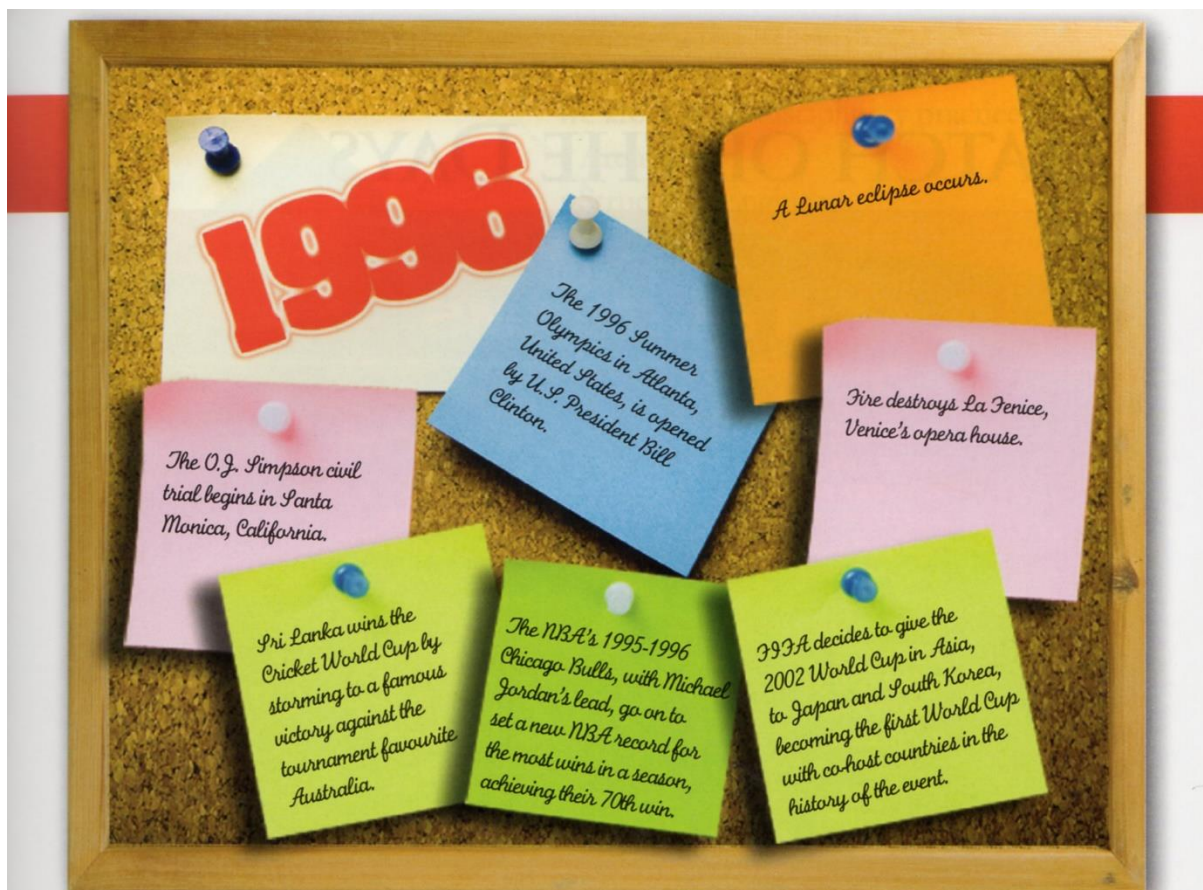
After the interval he completed his hat-trick try with Errol Anderson and Audley Lumsden cashing in on the rout before Mapletoft's superb display was sealed with the best try of the match when scrum-half Scott Benton made a superb break from a scrum deep in Gloucester's half to send Mark Mapletoft over to complete his vintage performance.

Byron Hayward, the Ebbw Vale fly-half was later to join the playing ranks here at Kingsholm as was Kingsley Jones the non playing Vale Club Captain. While the 'Steelmen' had Duncan Bell at prop forward who would later come to prominence with Bath.

Despite his elevation to the England training sessions Mapletoft was realistic about those times: "It was my hope at the time to play some games for England 'A' that year," he said.

Jones who was unavailable for the match after losing teeth the previous week conceded: "English clubs had more strength in depth but it was excellent

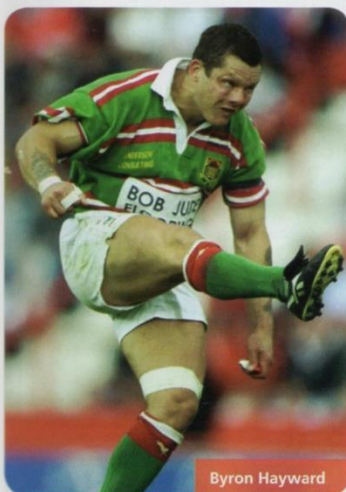




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the conference would be matches to prepare for the winter league battles. European success was an added bonus. So this was the first step on a venture that would see Gloucester travel the length and breadth of Europe visiting France, Italy, Romania and Ireland as well as Spain, some journey that began way back in 1996.



Byron Hayward

to have welcomed the new cross border competition. It was a lot better than just playing each other for the sake of it. We used to travel Bath, Lydney and Cheltenham and it didn't mean a thing at that time. The first choice boys did not want to be there and no one used to play well."

But for Mapletoft it was a dream match: "I enjoyed it. It was the first time I achieved the level of support running I liked. It was a game where it was nice for the backs to have the ball in their hands."

Despite the European venture, Richard Hill considered the Courage League as all important and decided that



Duncan Bell



# MATCH OF THE DAYS

## THE TEAMS

### GLOUCESTER:

C.CATLING  
E.ANDERSON  
A.SAVERIMUTTO  
A.METCALFE  
A.LUMSDEN  
M.MAPLETOFT  
S.BENTON  
T.WINDO  
P.GREENING  
P.VICKERY  
R.FIDLER  
D.SIMS (CAPTAIN)  
R.YORK  
A.STANLEY  
S.DEVEREUX

### REPLACEMENTS:

A.POWLES  
E.PEARCE  
D.TIMMINGTON  
L.BECK

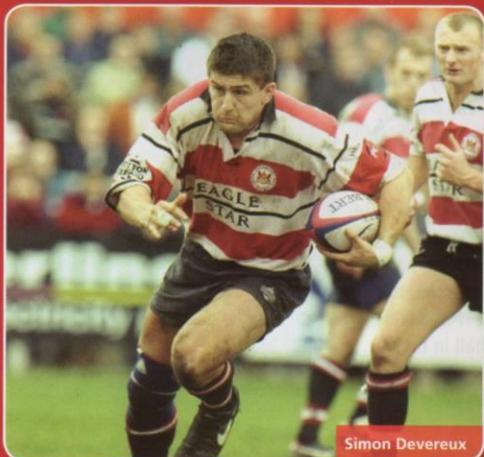
### EBBW VALE:

A.HARRIS  
N.MORGAN  
G.WILLIAMS  
S.MCINTOSH  
S.MARSHALL  
B.HAYWARD  
G.BISP  
D.JONES  
S.JONES  
D.BELL  
M.BOYCOTT  
L.BANKS  
C.BILLEN  
P.POOK  
B.WATKINS.

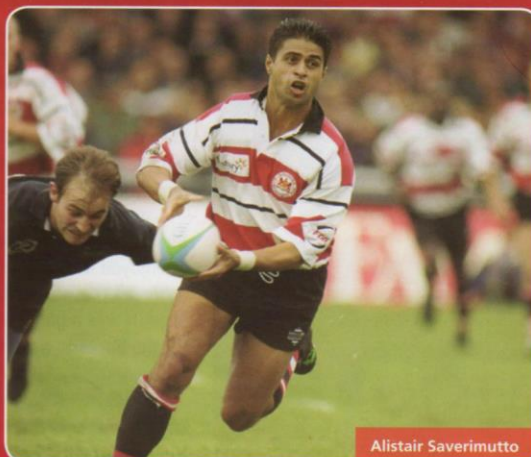
### REPLACEMENTS:

D.MEDDLICOTT  
M.WILSON  
D.CASWELL  
I.JEfferies  
M.BOYS  
G.BONNELL

REFEREE: J.FLEMING (SCOTTISH R.F.C.)



Simon Devereux



Alistair Saverimutto



## FAN ZONE WITH BOB FENTON

**Just for a change, Bob Fenton won't have his calculator this afternoon – just a win will be enough for Gloucester to ensure a place in the quarter-finals of the Heineken Cup.**

▶ MAKE'S A change, this. Last game of our Heineken Cup pool and for once we do not have to work out complicated mathematical formulae to deal with all the different permutations to get us through to the quarter final.

This time it's quite straight forward: win and we go through as group winners and almost certainly a home tie and there ain't nothing anyone can do about it.

Yes, the defeat down at the Liberty Stadium was disappointing but be honest, if at the start of the season you were offered the chance to progress to the quarter-finals by winning the last group game and with only one pool defeat would you have taken it? Of course you would, which kind of makes you wonder why there was so much wailing and gnashing of teeth after last weekend's game.

For sure there were some odd refereeing decisions to say the least, and when Justin Marshall reviews the video and looks at his dive that got Bucco sin-binned he should be hugely embarrassed. I know they play at a soccer ground, and therefore things like his huge swallow dive (and Olympic judge has apparently already awarded him 8.6 – if only he could have thrown in a double twist to go with his arms out, mouth wide open leap to the left) must happen every other week, but this is a different sport and play acting like that is just pitiful. Especially from a class player like that.

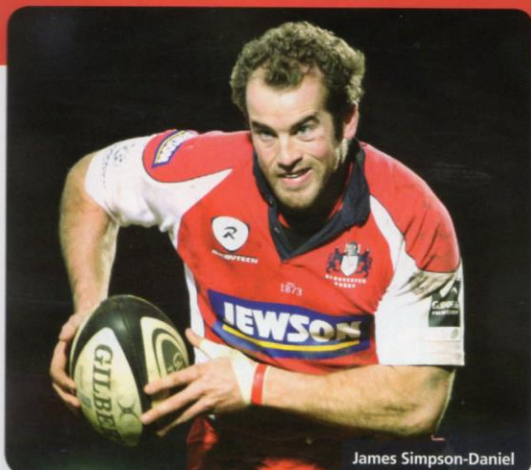
It's mighty hard to get an idea of who we may see in the next round with three or possibly four teams vying for the two best runners-up spots. Whoever it is it's going to be a mighty big encounter, and I wouldn't mind betting we get to see our dear friends from Limerick heading over the water.



Justin Marshall

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





James Simpson-Daniel



Andy Hazell

**I know I am not alone in wondering what James Simpson-Daniel has to do to get a place in the squad. Almost every pundit in the game believes he is one the brightest talents in the English game at the moment.**

If, and I know it's a big if, that were to be the case, wouldn't it be nice to exact sweet revenge for that defeat (or both of those defeats) over there. Still, let's not start counting chickens yet, we have to win this game first and although Ulster come to us with nothing but pride to play for, that's quite a big thing in itself. And they will be doubly motivated to get a bit of revenge for the beating we handed out to them at the start of the competition,

No prizes for what TV will regard as THE match to be at though, Wasps visit to Thomond Park. That promises to be some encounter with qualification for either side dependent on a win. Munster fought back well to get a losing bonus point last week, and Wasps have hit a rich vein of form recently (wonderful considering they are coming down here next week) and as we know to our cost they could be very capable of getting a result over there.

That would seriously blow a hole through Sky's general love-in with everything to do with Munster and Leinster. I've never really

understood that obsession they have, but at times their commentary verges on the embarrassing when it comes to those two provinces – perhaps Stuart Barnes has a holiday home over there...

Elsewhere the England squad for the six nations was announced and big cheers for The Volcano for his inclusion. We're used to Andy Hazell being overlooked – though I still reckon his omission over the last few years is another huge mistake. The apparent argument that he is not tall enough and doesn't offer a line-out option is weak, I mean, Neil Back was only about four foot six inches tall, and couldn't jump to save his life but he managed ok.

But I know I am not alone in wondering what James Simpson-Daniel has to do to get a place in the squad. Almost every pundit in the game believes he is one of the brightest talents in the English game at the moment, and there cannot be a more skilful or versatile English-qualified back playing in the Premiership at the moment, yet he is nothing more than a bit-part actor

when it comes to the international scene.

Blimey Sinbad, what have you done wrong – did you let Francis Baron's tires down last time you were at HQ, wear your England blazer inside out or, heaven forbid, put too much ice or the wrong tonic in someone's gin? Whatever it was it must be serious. England's loss is Gloucester's gain, but you have to feel sorry for him – every time that team is announced he must think to himself 'what more must I do...'

Of course whether Big Les gets to run out wearing an England jersey is another thing altogether. If he does, though, the impact will be huge. Twickenham has not seen a man-mountain like him on the wing before – well not in an England jersey anyway – let's just hope that the new south stand foundations are up to the task of coping with the vibrations of his huge frame moving at full tilt.

Let's not be England-centric though – congratulations to all the other boys who have been selected to represent their countries during the tournament.

It's going to be an interesting few weeks as the Premiership playing field tilts towards the teams that have packed their ranks with southern hemisphere, or non-home nations, players.

That's all for the future, let's just have five points today and worry about the future later...



# MATCH ACTION

Gloucester Rugby  
Bristol Rugby

27  
0



## Gloucester Line-up

15	Walker	
14	Simpson-Daniel	(1t)
13	Tindall	
12	Allen	
11	Vainikolo	
10	Lamb	(2c, 1p)
9	Lawson	
1	Wood	
2	Azam	(1t)
3	Califano	
4	Bortolami	(1t)
5	Brown	
6	Strokosch	
7	Qera	
8	Narraway	
REPS		
16	Lloyd 2t	(Tindall)
17	Paterson	(Allen)
18	Prendergast	(Lawson)
19	Paul	(Azam)
20	Forster	(Califano)
21	James	(Brown)
22	Buxton	(Strokosch)



## What A Bonus

Saturday, December 29, Kingsholm  
Attendance: 16,500

▶ GLOUCESTER took the honours in the last west country derby of 2008 with a convincing bonus point victory over local rivals Bristol.

Once they got to grips with Andrew Blowers and the hugely difficult underfoot conditions and swirling wind, Gloucester knitted together a highly convincing victory.

In a game not blessed with a huge number of attacking opportunities, Gloucester took the majority that came their way, defended superbly when they had to and re-organised their structure because of injuries.

They led 15-0 at the break thanks to two tries. Olivier Azam was the go-to man – the hooker produced a punishing carrying performance and it was he who grabbed the first score when he reacted quickest from a Bristol line-out tapped back by Alex Brown to pounce and score.

The next try came from Leon Lloyd, who held a brilliant catch running forward to take Ryan Lamb's cross-field kick following good work by James Simpson-Daniel and Lesley Vainikolo.

Gloucester went in search of a bonus point at the start of the second half but it took them until the last quarter to find it. Azam was at the forefront of a move that also involved Willie Walker from full-back and he found Simpson-Daniel with a long pass. The winger had Vainikolo outside him but dummied brilliantly and slid home to score.

The home side were motoring now and scored a brilliant fourth. Again Azam was involved, launching the move that also involved Peter Buxton and a brilliant off-load from scrum-half Rory Lawson, who found Lloyd on his way to score try number four and wrap up Gloucester's victory.



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



# MATCH ACTION

**Bath Rugby**  
**Gloucester Rugby**

**10**  
**5**



## Wash Out

**Friday, January 5, The Rec,**  
**Referee: Wayne Barnes, Attendance: 10,600**

▶ NOT EVEN a brilliant individual try from Chris Paterson could save Gloucester from another away defeat to Bath – the Kingsholm club sliding to their second Guinness Premiership defeat of the season.

In conditions that dragged the game back almost to the dark ages and forced a 15 minute delay from referee Wayne Barnes as water was cleared from the surface, Bath started the brighter and their dominance never wavered.

Despite such a lack of ball and territory, Gloucester's defence was truly remarkable. They made tackle after tackle to deny Bath's forwards around the fringes and only trailed 3-0 at half-time to a single Ollly Barkley penalty.

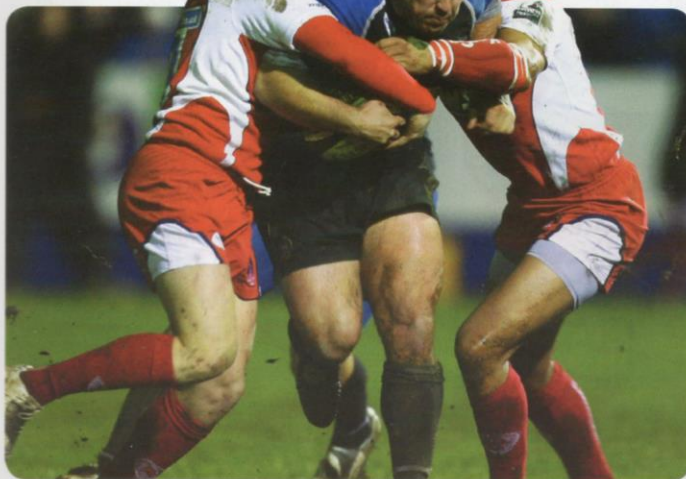
The game turned 10 minutes after the re-start when Bath

scored their only try. Gloucester had initially defended brilliantly and turned the ball over but Nick Abendanon kicked brilliantly across field for Joe Maddock and he slid into score.

Barkley knocked over the conversion – a great kick given the conditions – and the 10-0 lead was worth far more given the nature of the contest and Gloucester's lack of possession and territory.

However, Gloucester did manage a try and it was a beauty. Rory Lawson took a quick tap penalty, Alex Brown joined the line and when the ball came back, Paterson burst through a gap and had the gas to reach the line.

Had his conversion not hit the post, the last quarter may well have been more break-neck but as it was Bath closed to the game out to cut Gloucester's lead at the top of the table.



## Time Line

32 mins	
Barkley PEN	3-0
50 mins	
Maddock TRY, Barkley CON	10-0
60 mins	
Paterson TRY	10-5







GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY

SPONSOR  
GLAUC



MARCO BORTOLAMI

DOB: 12.06.80

Weight: 17st 5lb

Height: 6'5"

Position: Lock