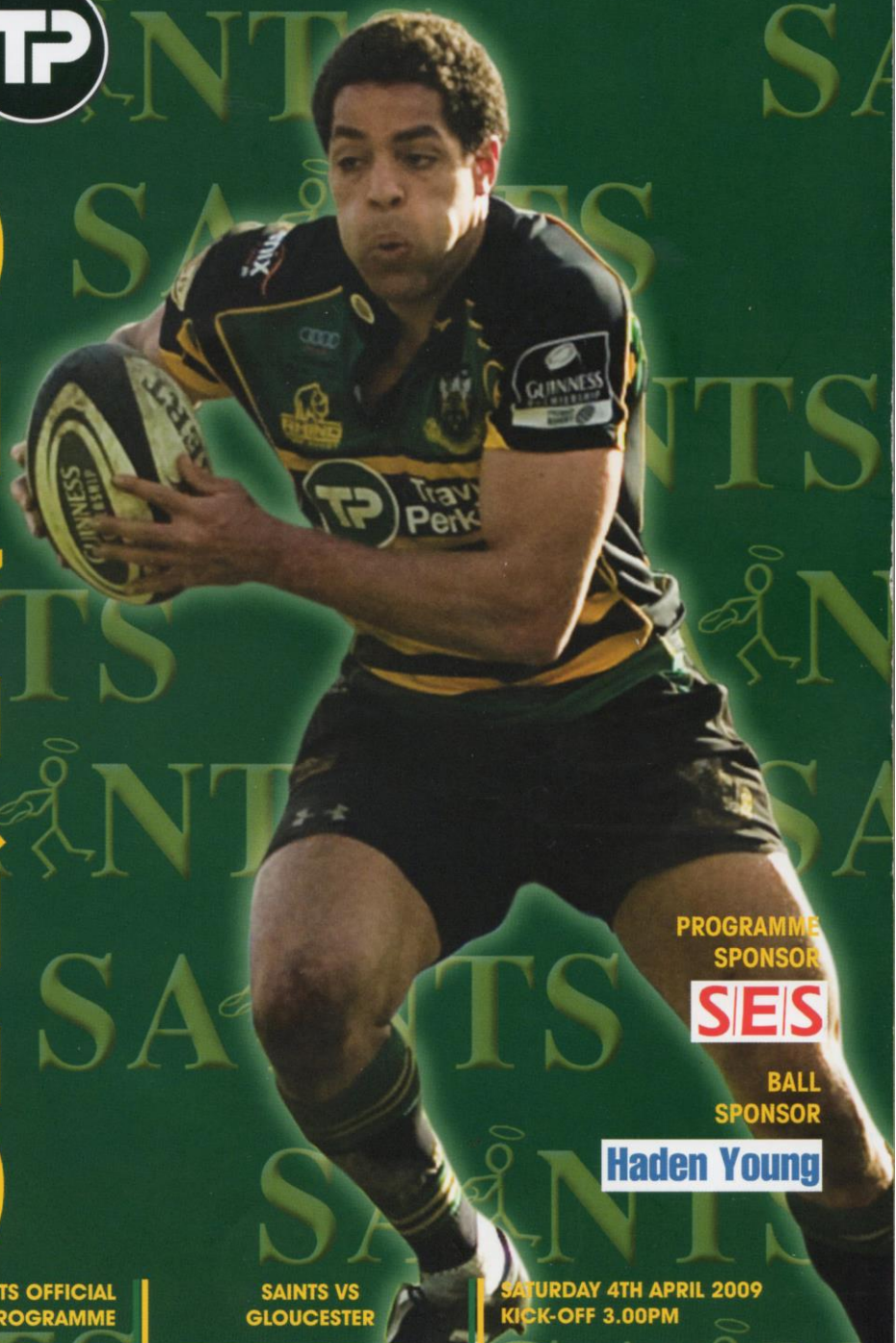




£3.00



# SAINTS



PROGRAMME SPONSOR



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SAINTS OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

SAINTS VS GLOUCESTER

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL 2009 KICK-OFF 3.00PM



www.guinnesspremiership.com

# KEITH BARWELL OBE

CHAIRMAN

UP  
FRONT

"We still want to qualify for next year's Heineken Cup and we have two doors still open to us"

**Although it is good for character building, I, like you, am getting a little fed up with being a good loser. Three times recently we have played really well and lost; Wasps and London Irish away and last Saturday against Cardiff. Having said that, I am really proud of the effort our boys are putting in. No one left the field last Saturday with any petrol in the tank. Cardiff are a good side. On the day when the heat was on they were just a bit more composed than us. However we must go on.**

There are reasons to be cheerful. Firstly our next three games are at home, starting today against our old friends Gloucester. We have only lost once in over two years at Franklin's Gardens. We still want to qualify for next year's Heineken Cup and we have two doors still open to us. Firstly by qualifying by our position in the Guinness Premiership. If Cardiff beat Toulouse next weekend the team that finishes seventh in the Premiership could still qualify. For that to be us we must win our remaining three league games. If we keep playing as we are doing that is not beyond our reach.

It will make today's game very lusty. If Gloucester lose today and results go against them they could be out of the top four and out of the play-off positions. Dean Ryan will be aware of that, as will the Gloucester players. They need to win. We need to win. Just to add a little spice there is the Carlos factor. I was very sorry we were not able to give Carlos and his family a proper send off. His departure from Franklin's Gardens was very quick; one side step and he was gone. He will always be a part of our club history and I know the fans will give him a warm welcome before and after the game. During the game might be a different matter! We welcome Carlos here today and all his Gloucester team mates.

Gloucester have a similar club culture to ourselves. A small town with wonderful support where rugby is a big part of the community. Both clubs also have massive ambition although Gloucester are currently further along the road from us. But I know Jim has plans to keep us moving forward and I can see things evolving week by week. Fasten your seat belts and enjoy the game!

We can of course still qualify for the Heineken Cup by winning the

European Challenge Cup. Next week sees the visit of Connacht to the Gardens in the quarter finals. If we can win this we have a home semi-final and a victory there would take us to the final. Who knows, we could qualify for next year's Heineken Cup twice!

I do have to ask for one big favour. All year you have been brilliant. Today will be no different. However there are still plenty of spaces left for the Connacht game. We really need all our supporters to shout the team on during these last few games. The players will be there, giving one hundred percent as usual. Don't let them down. Even better, if you're a season ticket holder take advantage of the great price discount on all your tickets to bring your friends!

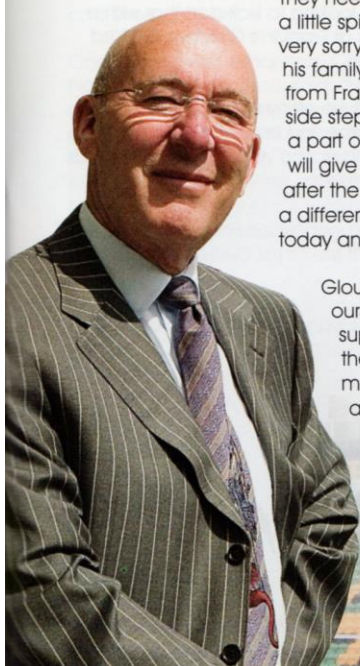
Finally, you are probably aware that our friends at the Rugby Football Union are not looking kindly on the clubs' desire to play more games in the Guinness Premiership. With the credit crunch the clubs need to play more often. As today's game will prove, the Premiership is a great league. But playing only 11 home games doesn't give most clubs enough income to survive.

I would estimate that at least one club will lose close to £3million this year. Ten years ago England played four internationals in the Five Nations. Next season they want to play 12 internationals to raise more funds. It appears that what is good for the goose is not good for the gander.

The future of the England team depends on strong league rugby. The Nigels and Ruperts who run the RFU don't seem to appreciate that. They just want the amateurs to retain the power to control the professional game.

I do have to say that my views are just a tad more hawkish than most of my fellow chairmen. We have all had a vote and I am happy to go along with the majority who think this situation can be resolved by discussion. Personally I believe there is only one long-term solution and it doesn't revolve around jaw jaw.

Keep the faith. Enjoy the game. Jim is talking to players about joining the club for next season. It's all very positive. We just need to stick together as we move forward.



# TODAY'S TEAMS

## NORTHAMPTON SAINTS



## GLOUCESTER

## MATCH CENTRE



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Ben **Foden**  
Paul **Diggin**  
Joe **Ansbro**  
James **Downey**  
Bruce **Reihana** (c)  
Stephen **Myler**  
Lee **Dickson**  
Soane **Tonga'uila**  
Dylan **Hartley**  
Euan **Murray**  
Courtney **Lawes**  
Juanita **Kruger**  
Neil **Best**  
Scott **Gray**  
Roger **Wilson**

POSITION

15 Fullback 15  
14 Wing 14  
13 Centre 13  
12 Centre 12  
11 Wing 11  
10 Flyhalf 10  
9 Scrumhalf 9  
1 Prop 1  
2 Hooker 2  
3 Prop 3  
4 Lock 4  
5 Lock 5  
6 Flanker 6  
7 Flanker 7  
8 No. 8 8

Ollie **Morgan**  
Iain **Balshaw**  
Matthew **Watkins**  
Anthony **Allen**  
Charlie **Sharpley**  
Ryan **Lamb**  
Rory **Lawson**  
Nick **Wood**  
Oliver **Azam**  
Greg **Somerville**  
Will **James**  
Alex **Brown**  
Alasdair **Strokosch**  
Andy **Hazell**  
Gareth **Deive** (c)

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Brett **Sharman**  
Tom **Smith**  
Fernandez **Lobbe**  
Mark **Easter**  
Alan **Dickens**  
Barry **Everitt**  
Chris **Mayor**

16 Replacement 16  
17 Replacement 17  
18 Replacement 18  
19 Replacement 19  
20 Replacement 20  
21 Replacement 21  
22 Replacement 22

Scott **Lawson**  
Carlos **Nieto**  
Marco **Bortolami**  
Akapu **Qera**  
Gareth **Cooper**  
Carlos **Spencer**  
Ollie **Barkley**

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Referee: Andrew Small  
Asst refs: Andy Watson, Paul Emerson





Head Coach

## DEAN RYAN

As a former army officer Dean Ryan is accustomed to leading from the front and that has been very much his style since taking over the head coach role at Gloucester after Nigel Melville's departure in 2004.

Ryan's on-field career saw him play for Saracens, Wasps, Newcastle and Bristol and he was also capped six times for England. An abrasive number 8 by trade Ryan was regarded as one of the most competitive and robust forwards of his generation.

As Gloucester head coach Ryan tasted success with a Powergen Cup win in his first season but since then silverware has fell just out of reach. That is something he will be hoping to rectify this season with his side flying high in the Guinness Premiership and after securing a place at Twickenham for the EDF Energy Cup final with last week's 17-0 win over the Ospreys.

# GLOUCESTER

Gloucester travel to Franklin's Gardens today on the back of an EDF Energy Cup semi-final victory against the Ospreys, which isn't bad going for a team that was written off following back-to-back Heineken Cup defeats back in January. Gloucester are also strong contenders for the Guinness Premiership title, their 12 wins from a possible 19 seeing them in the top four for much of the season.

The style of play seen from the Cherry and Whites under Dean Ryan is a far cry from the Gloucester of old. Roared on at Kingsholm by the Shedheads – some of the most passionate supporters in the country – Gloucester's pack, with familiar names like Mike Teague bolstered by some impressive home grown talent, would steamroller one side after another.

Now Gloucester are as famed for their back play. Anthony Allen, James Simpson-Daniel, Olly Morgan and Ryan Lamb are now household names, and like their illustrious forebears in the forwards, have come through the Kingsholm academy system.

Consistency in recent years has never been Gloucester's problem. Indeed, they have finished top of the pile for the last two seasons. What they have not been able to do is take that form into play-off success. Indeed full honours have been few and far between; the 2003 Powergen Cup being the only time silverware has been lifted by a Gloucester captain at Twickenham since the early-1980s.

But this might be the year that momentum shifts again at Kingsholm.

Victories over London Irish and London Wasps showed that Gloucester could win those tight league games. And then with last Saturday's 17-0 win over the Ospreys the Cherry and Whites showed that they could translate this resolve, attitude and belief into knock out games as well. Belief is certainly flying high among Ryan's side at present.

However, early season defeats against Leicester and Sale Sharks had left one of the most fancied sides in the country staring up from the uncomfortable position of seventh place, struggling to adapt to the new Experimental Law Variations (ELV's) and generally fumbling around for cohesion and reliability at the start of the campaign. That was despite a first ever league win at the Recreation Ground and battling successes over Harlequins and Newcastle.

# CLUB PROFILE



The close season was not so much about what happened at Gloucester as what didn't happen. Despite finishing top of the Guinness Premiership pile again at the end of the regular 2007/08 season, Gloucester again failed to transfer their obvious potential into a dividend during the play-offs – it was a familiar, unfulfilled ending to what threatened to be a triumphant season.

By that time, head coach Ryan had done the majority of his recruiting – a policy that included nabbing one of Bath's diamonds in Olly Barkley, Llanelli centre Matthew Watkins and former Gloucester second row Adam Eustace – also from Stradey Park.

When he completed negotiations to bring Canterbury prop Greg Somerville to Kingsholm, the general thought was that Gloucester's squad was stronger than last season's and well capable of challenging again this season.

But the most striking advances have been made by players already in situ. The increasingly influential Luke Narraway is maturing into a leader, while the safe as houses Olly Morgan is a year older, a year wiser and attracting the attentions of the England selectors.

There are signs that the likes of Gareth Delve and Somerville may match their vaunted reputations given performances so far. Delve's return from a long-term knee injury has given Gloucester a carrier in heavy traffic, while Somerville's mountain of knowledge and all-round expertise have been a galvanising influence.

Throw in new arrival Carlos Spencer and his box of tricks, the game-breaking qualities of James Simpson-Daniel, the running abilities of Iain Balshaw and the marksmanship of Olly Barkley and it is easy to appreciate that Gloucester are feeling pretty good about themselves.

Despite bitter Heineken Cup disappointment, Gloucester have an EDF Energy Cup final against Cardiff Blues to look forward to in a fortnight's time. They also continue to thrive in Guinness Premiership and with four points between the top four clubs they know that winning is their only option going into their last three Guinness Premiership matches.

Captain

## **GARETH DELVE**

The number eight has been a revelation since his return from a cruciate ligament injury in February. Delve sustained the injury on Test duty with Wales last summer but his return has coincided with Gloucester's challenge at the top of the Guinness Premiership.

Delve was a pupil at Rumney High School in Cardiff and accepted a Rugby scholarship from Colston's Collegiate School in Bristol before signing a professional contract with Bath in 2001. He was named in the Welsh squad for the 2006 Six Nations Championship, and earned two caps during the tournament, making his debut against Scotland, and moved to Kingsholm two seasons ago.

His ability at close quarters, carrying qualities and ultra physicality is key in Gloucester's forward armoury. Although Delve's number of appearances have been limited, his value, leadership credentials and sheer hunger to make up for lost time mean he is one of the most valued members of the Gloucester squad.



# GLOUCESTER



## Charlie Sharples

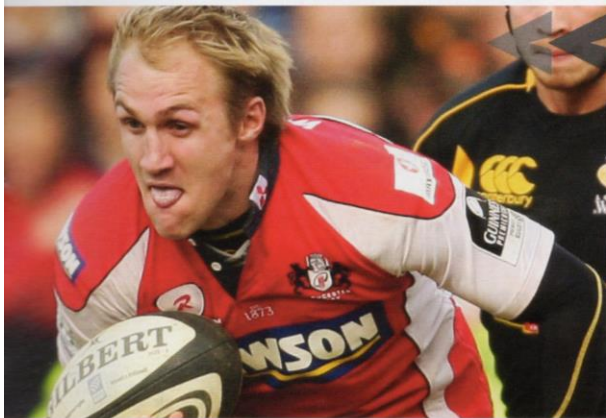
Charlie Sharples is another product of the Kingsholm backline production facility. And despite only being 19 he is already established as one of the brightest wing prospects in English rugby. Dual-registered with Moseley, he is certainly benefiting from his time in National League One.

This season the England Under-20 international has continued that scoring form, crossing in six successive NLI matches. In 2009 has seen Sharples become a regular in Gloucester's first team, and he scored his first Premiership try against Bath in February.

## Greg Somerville

The most capped prop in All Blacks history, Somerville's record needs no explaining. He joined Gloucester from Canterbury in November after winning 68 caps for the Blacks. A tight-head specialist, Somerville made his debut against London Irish five days before Christmas but suffered a detached retina in his left eye.

However, he recovered ahead of schedule and has been a key element in Gloucester's forward pack. Outstanding at the set-piece, his scrummaging qualities, destructive defending and mountains of experience means he has been one of the most under-stated but most valuable signings of the season.



## Olly Morgan

There is probably no better full-back in the country under the high ball. Morgan has been in the form of his life this season – not only as Gloucester's dependable last line of defence but he has also added an additional attacking threat to his game.

He has been at the forefront of Gloucester's Guinness Premiership try-scoring charts all season and his ability to return possession from deep alongside Iain Balshaw and James Simpson-Daniel have been instrumental for Gloucester. A member of Martin Johnson's Elite Player Squad, Morgan has been close to England recognition this season.

# THREE TO WATCH

# GLOUCESTER SQUAD



**MATCH  
CENTRE**

Surname	Christian Name	Position	DOB	Height	Weight	Honours
Adams	Jack	Centre	17/09/1986	1.82m	96kg	
Allen	Anthony	Centre	01/09/1986	1.80m	92kg	England
Azam	Olivier	Hooker	24/10/1974	1.85m	120kg	France
Balshaw	Iain	Full back/Wing	14/04/1979	1.85m	94kg	England/Lions
Barkley	Olly	Centre/Fly half	28/11/1981	1.78m	92kg	England
Bortolami	Marco	Lock	12/06/1980	1.95m	112kg	Italy
Brown	Alex	Lock	17/05/1979	2.01m	116kg	England
Buxton	Peter	Back row	21/08/1978	1.92m	115kg	
Cooper	Gareth	Scrum-half	07/05/1979	1.72m	84kg	Wales/Lions
Delve	Gareth	Back row	30/12/1982	1.91m	115kg	Wales
Dickinson	Alasdair	Prop	11/09/1983	1.84m	112kg	Scotland
Eustace	Adam	Lock	09/01/1979	1.95m	107kg	
Forster	Jack	Prop	19/03/1987	1.86m	120kg	
Foster	Mark	Wing	02/09/1983	1.83m	100kg	
Hazell	Andrew	Back row	25/04/1978	1.83m	95kg	England
James	Will	Lock	22/12/1976	1.99m	120kg	Wales
Lamb	Ryan	Fly half	18/05/1986	1.76m	85kg	
Lawson	Scott	Hooker	28/09/1981	1.70m	104kg	Scotland
Lawson	Rory	Scrum-half	12/03/1981	1.73m	85kg	Scotland
Lewis	Dave	Scrum-half	29/04/1989	1.70m	80kg	
McMillan	Ross	Hooker	02/06/1987	1.85m	104kg	
Morgan	Olly	Full back/Wing	03/11/1985	1.89m	94kg	England
Naraway	Luke	Back row	07/08/1983	1.90m	108kg	England
Nieto	Carlos	Prop	28/04/1976	1.86m	110kg	Italy
Norton	Dan	Wing	22/03/1988	1.79m	80kg	
Qera	Akapusi	Back row	24/04/1984	1.94m	103kg	Fiji
Sharples	Charlie	Wing	17/08/1989	1.84m	93kg	
Simpson-Daniel	James	Wing	30/05/1982	1.82m	92kg	England
Somerville	Greg	Prop	28/11/1977	1.86m	115kg	New Zealand
Strokosch	Alasdair	Back row	21/02/1983	1.91m	107kg	Scotland
Titterrell	Andy	Hooker	10/01/1981	1.81m	94kg	England/Lions
Tindall	Mike	Centre	18/10/1978	1.88m	102kg	England
Trinder	Henry	Centre	14/04/1989	1.83m	85kg	
Vainikolo	Lesley	Wing	04/05/1979	1.88m	112kg	England
Watkins	Matthew	Centre	02/09/1978	1.83m	92kg	Wales
Williams	Dan	No 8	01/02/1989	1.97m	104kg	
Wood	Nick	Prop	09/01/1983	1.86m	112kg	
Young	Dave	Prop	18/12/1985	1.85m	117kg	