

ZURICH  
PREMIERSHIP  
FINAL 2003

# THE ZURICH PREMIERSHIP FINAL



PREMIER RUGBY

31ST MAY 2003 - KICK OFF 3.30PM

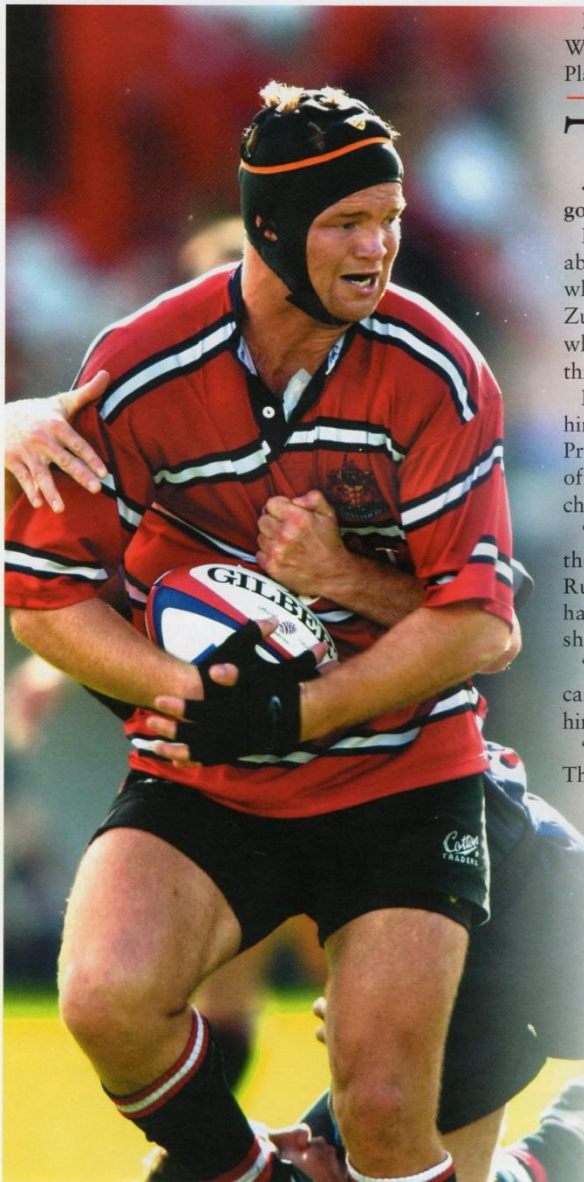
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# Peak Season

by Paul Morgan (Editor, Rugby World Magazine)



Paul Morgan, editor of Rugby World Magazine, profiles the Zurich Premiership's Player of the Season, Gloucester's Jake Boer



**T**HE GREAT thing about Jake Boer is that he is one of a band of exceptionally good players, who actually have no idea how good they are.

Boer has been at the fulcrum of everything good about Gloucester rugby for the past two years and when they finished 15 points clear at the top of the Zurich Premiership table, he is one of the players who should have been carried shoulder high through the streets of the west country town.

But no-one will have been more surprised than him when he was confirmed as the Zurich Premiership's Player of the Season. That is the sort of guy and he is. His modesty and self-effacing character is part of the secret to his success.

"He never seeks the limelight, and never seeks the recognition" says Gloucester's Director of Rugby, Nigel Melville, "but he is a great guy to have around and I'm delighted for him, that he should receive this accolade.

"I was well aware of how good he is before I came to Gloucester and I've been delighted to let him take over the captaincy this season.

"He leads by example, both on and off the field. There is an aura about him and I think he is



Tackled by the Bath defence

getting better and better.

“The great thing about Jake is the way he is an inspiration and role model to the rest of the squad.

“He is an exceptional professional. You’ll never see Jake Boer turning up late for training or in the wrong kit, doing the wrong rehab or attempting anything in a half hearted way.

“As coaches we can only go so far and only tell people what to do so many times. What every club needs is role models as peer pressure is the best pressure.”

His abrasive performances at the back of the scrum, and his amazing try-scoring record (he’s got nine this season) is only part of his influence on the team.

Cape Town-born Boer joined Gloucester after being named London Irish’s player of the season in 2000. A bullocking South African who took a while to settle he has since earned the respect of players and fans alike with his honesty and commitment to the Gloucester cause.

And the only thing that bemuses people who watch Gloucester is why Boer has never featured in the international reckoning.

“Playing outside of South Africa hasn’t helped,” said Melville, “and although there was talk, earlier this season about the South Africans looking at him nothing has come of it, and it is difficult to say why not.”

Although Melville reveals that, if the international call came, it wouldn’t necessarily be in the green of South Africa adding: “I think he has – or will shortly – qualify for England, under the residency rule, so if he doesn’t get his chance with the Springboks it could be with England.” It appears it he is also qualified for Ireland.

Melville added: “Of course, the step up from the Zurich Premiership to international rugby is big but he already plays against international players week in week out and doesn’t do too badly, does he?”

His desire to win, and his never-say-die attitude, combined with strong tackling has won many admirers. Boer captained Gloucester to win this season’s Powergen Cup and is sure to play a key part in today’s Zurich



Munster’s Peter Stringer is upended by Jake Boer during a Heineken Cup match in Limerick, January 2003

Premiership Final.

At times this season, as with most great teams, Gloucester won games when they shouldn’t and squeezed out tight victories, against the odds. Both Bath and Leicester before them had reputations for just doing enough and that was the same of Gloucester. Those kind of victories are more about the leadership, spirit and passion of players like Boer.

Boer’s impact is demonstrated in the way he is regarded by the supporters in

Gloucester, some of the most discerning in the world of rugby. He was honoured this season by the people who really count, the fans, as he was named Player of the Year, for the second year running, by the readers of the Shedhead fanzine. Coaches come and go but supporters are with a side for life so it is a mark of the impression he has made at Kingsholm that the fans made him player of the season, again, in a campaign when the side finished 15 points clear at the top of the table, before qualifying for today’s Twickenham final.

“I am honoured and very proud,” Boer told Shedhead, which in many ways shows why he has been such a success at Gloucester. He’s down to earth, humble and a fearlessly hard worker.

Boer certainly didn’t have it all his own way in the voting for Zurich Premiership player of the year and he was closely followed in the poll by his Gloucester colleague, Ludovic Mercier, and back row rivals, Andrew Blowers and Richard Hill.

The way Mercier has developed since his arrival at Gloucester last season has been nothing short of remarkable. When I first saw him he was a prolific goalkicker but by the end of this season he had become an accomplished tactical kicker and can now control a game from the No 10 shirt.

Blowers has been one of the best overseas signings in the history of the Premiership, picking up plaudits all over Europe while Hill is still one of the most consistent performers in both a Saracens and England jersey.

But for Melville and Gloucester, Boer is a great player. Give any side 15 Jake Boers and they won’t go far wrong.



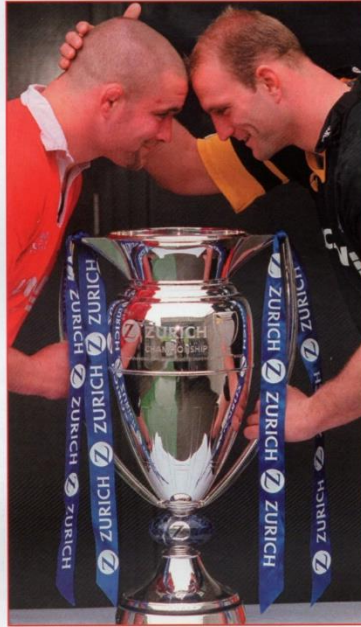
Jake Boer scores a try for Gloucester despite a challenge from Nick Walshe (Sale Sharks), September 2002.

# Head to Head

*Before they pulled on their boots this afternoon, we pitted Phil Vickery against Lawrence Dallaglio to see who was paying the most attention this season...*

## PHIL VICKERY:

1. Easy one to start. Who was your first Zurich Premiership match of the season against and who won?  
Easy. We played Quins at the Stoop and won, Dougie (Woodman) and Marcel got tries.
2. Who won this year's Middlesex Charity Sevens?  
Bradford Bulls.
3. At which Premiership club would you find Flash?  
Is that the Falcons' mascot?
4. Name two Premiership players who have scored hat-tricks this season.  
Marcel (Garvey) and Jango (Forrester).
5. How many draws have there been this season in the Premiership?  
Six draws.
6. Who is playing in this season's Heineken Cup Final?  
Toulouse and Perpignan.
7. Which player has scored the most tries for England this season (Autumn Internationals and Six Nations)?  
Ben Cohen of Northampton Saints.
8. Who won this season's U21s Zurich Premiership?  
The Tigers U21s. They beat Gloucester on the final day of the season.
9. Who is the Premiership's leading try scorer this season?  
Steve Hanley.
10. Which three Premiership players have scored over 1000 Premiership points each?  
Tim Stimpson, Jonny Wilkinson, Paul Grayson.
11. At which ground will the Sharks be playing next season?  
Stockport County's ground.
12. And finally, in case we need a tie breaker, how tall is the Zurich Premiership trophy?  
31 inches including base.



*Phil Vickery (left) of Gloucester and Lawrence Dallaglio (right) of London Wasps go head to head for this year's Zurich Premiership trophy.*

## LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO:

1. Easy one to start. Who was your first Zurich Premiership match of the season against and who won?  
Newcastle Falcons, we lost 24-17
2. Who won this year's Middlesex Charity Sevens?  
Bradford Bulls, London Wasps lost in the final to them.
3. At which Premiership club would you find Flash?  
Newcastle Falcons.
4. Name two Premiership players who have scored hat-tricks this season.  
Simon Shaw and James Forrester.
5. How many draws have there been this season in the Premiership?  
12.
6. Who is playing in this season's Heineken Cup Final?  
Perpignan and Toulouse.
7. Which player has scored the most tries for England this season (Autumn Internationals and Six Nations)?  
Ben Cohen.
8. Who won this season's U21s Zurich Premiership?  
Leicester Tigers.
9. Who is the Premiership's leading try scorer this season?  
Steve Hanley.
10. Which three Premiership players have scored over 1000 Premiership points each?  
Paul Grayson, Jonny Wilkinson, Rob Andrew.
11. At which ground will the Sharks be playing next season?  
Edgeley Park.
12. And finally, in case we need a tie breaker, how tall is the Zurich Premiership trophy?  
26 inches.

So, Phil just claims the 'trophy' with the equivalent of a last minute drop goal by knowing the height of the trophy. Let's hope it's just as close when they get on the field!

**ANSWERS:** 1. Gloucester beat Quins 25 - 19, Wasps lost to Newcastle 24-17. 2. Bradford Bulls. 3. Newcastle Falcons (The mascot). 4. Choice of Garvey, Forrester, Simon Shaw, Brendon Daniel. 5. Six. 6. Perpignan and Toulouse. 7. Ben Cohen. 8. Leicester. 9. Steve Hanley. 10. Choice of Paul Grayson, Jonny Wilkinson and Tim Stimpson this season but Rob Andrew has also passed the mark. 11. Edgeley Park Stadium, in Stockport. 12. 31 inches.

# On an upward curve



PREMIER RUGBY

by Alastair Downey (*The Gloucester Citizen*)

Everyone, absolutely everyone, has an opinion about Henry Paul. According to his director of rugby at Kingsholm, Nigel Melville, they fall into two distinct camps – you either love him or hate him.

Ever since his high-profile switch to Gloucester from the staggeringly successful Bradford Bulls 18 months ago, Paul has cultivated more bar-room debate and terrace talk in this rugby-obsessed town than most players manage in an entire career.

Burdened with a level of expectancy few players have experienced, even the uniquely talented Jason Robinson, Paul walked straight into a haemorrhaging team headed by Philippe Saint-André – the captivating but equally mistrustful director of rugby – when he quit league for union last year.

But amid all the flak and lack of tuition, he refused to make excuses – even when they would have been legitimate – and backed his skill levels to survive in the Premiership jungle.

The fruits of his hard work, dedication and professional attitude are now

paying handsome dividends, so much so that he could even force his way into Clive Woodward's World Cup squad for England's date Down Under later this year.

"I have absolutely no doubt that the level of expectancy on Henry when he joined the club was too great," said Melville, who will face his former club London Wasps today.

"The expectation was that he was going to be instantly able to beat everybody on his own, but he arrived not knowing about the intricacies of the game.

"Henry has taken a hell of an amount of stick this season and you are probably in one of two camps with him. You either love him or are critical of him.

"But the guy is a winner – in the same category as Phil Vickery, Jake Boer, Martin Johnson and Lawrence Dallaglio.

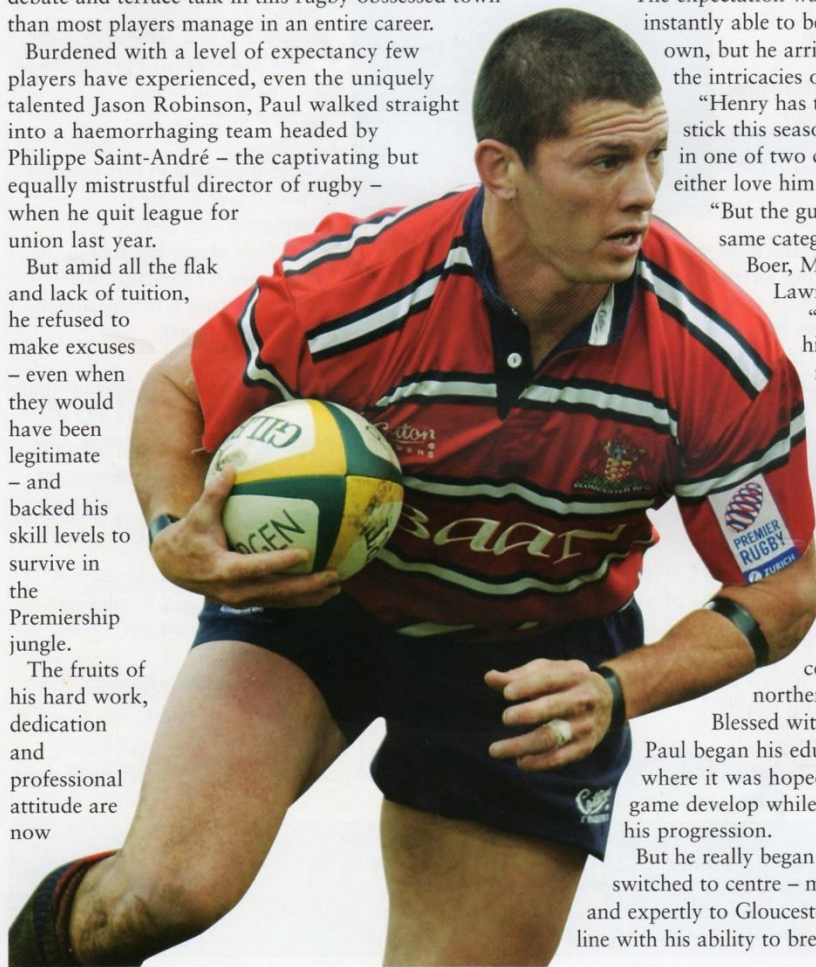
"I am really pleased for him because one of the reasons we have been successful this season has been Henry's input."

Paul's iron will to succeed has been one of the enduring highlights of the season.

He is not a misfit but a union player rather than a league convert thrown into the toughest competition in the northern hemisphere.

Blessed with exceptional ball skills, Paul began his education at full-back where it was hoped he could watch the game develop while the extra time would aid his progression.

But he really began to flourish when he switched to centre – moving possession quickly and expertly to Gloucester's potent attacking back line with his ability to break the game.



Henry Paul in action for Gloucester

Henry Paul scores a try in the Zurich Premiership against Bath



He has the ability to make the killer pass and was the inspiration behind Gloucester's astonishing comeback against Newcastle Falcons last month.

Mix in his quite devastating kicking, as potent as anything around, and it is easy to see why he is such a valued commodity.

"I am a pretty easy going sort of bloke, but I have got the inner fire in whatever I do," said Paul.

"Whether it is kicking for the corner flag among the boys or playing golf, I am really competitive – in a fun way – but I like to enjoy my rugby. If I didn't enjoy it, I wouldn't do it. I just want to win everything," he continued. "I know I make mistakes and I know I am not perfect but it is about shaking them off and doing it again.

"Hopefully, I bring my enthusiasm to the team and help them win. At the end of the day it is about winning trophies.

"There have been a lot of highs and there have been a few lows. But I don't get too cocky with the highs and I don't feel like killing myself when I do badly.

"I am humble and keep the humility. There have been times in my career when I have thought I have played so well, and then the next game, I have been terrible."

I ask Paul to sum his season up in three words and it takes him roughly 10 seconds to come up with the answer.

"I always think 'Can do better'," he said. "If I had to use three words it would be those. We didn't win the Heineken Cup for example. We can always do better and that is something that drives me.

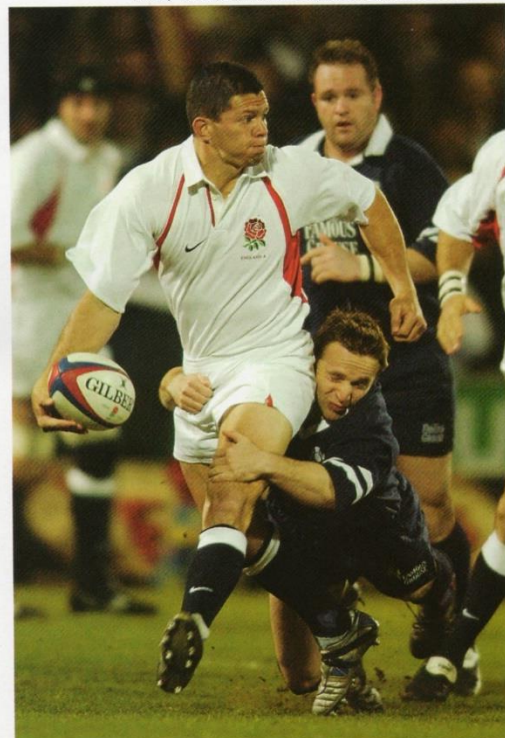
"This year has been great. I have been to Hong Kong for the Sevens and I have won the Brisbane Sevens and have been part of the England A side that put a record score on Scotland."

Paul has ended the season on a phenomenal high and is now an integral part of the Gloucester machinery.

Those in the minority who booed their disapproval of Paul when his name was read out at Kingsholm earlier in the season have now gone distinctly quiet.

They might get rowdy today if Gloucester complete a domestic double but then they are likely to be cheering a new-found hero.

Henry Paul playing for England A against Scotland A





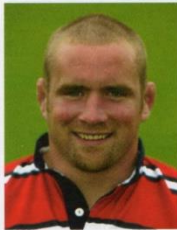
Biographies by Michael Austin

# Gloucester



PREMIER RUGBY

## PHIL VICKERY (Captain)



**Position: Prop.**  
**Born: 14.3.76 in Barnstaple.**  
**Ht: 1.92m (6'3½"), Wt: 121kg (19st 2lb).**

Phil Vickery who was appointed as Gloucester's captain for the first time last season led England against the Barbarians last Sunday, having made his test debut against Wales five years ago. His forceful scrummaging and power in the loose has been appreciated far beyond the electric atmosphere of Kingsholm. Was appointed as England's joint vice-captain with Jonny Wilkinson last autumn but was absent from the entire Six Nations Championship and the Grand Slam through a disc problem. Overall, he missed four months of club rugby with Gloucester. Played in all three Lions' test matches against Australia the summer before last and has appeared 29 times for England.

## CHRIS CATLING



**Full back. Born 17.6.76 in Coulsdon.**  
**1.87m (6'1½"), 90kg (14st 2lb).**

Chris Catling is a counter-attacking full back, who was the Gloucester Supporters' 'Player of the Year' in 2000-01. He signed from Exeter Chiefs in 1996 – the club he scored two Powergen Cup tries against last December – and was recalled in March from a loan spell at Worcester, who were sorry to lose him. Scored eight tries in 1998-99 after being an ever present in the England Schools Grand Slam team of 1994. Went to Exeter University, was in the England Students' Rugby World Cup squad, toured Australia with England Under-21s and has represented England A.

## THINUS DELPORT



**Full back/Wing. Born 2.2.75 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.**  
**1.88m (6'2"), 98kg (15st 6lb)**

Thinus Delport, a Gloucester newcomer this season, has won 12 caps for South Africa, having made his debut against Canada in 2000. He scored three Powergen Cup tries this season – two in the quarter-final against Saracens in January and the other against Leicester Tigers. He possesses pace and power on the break and, back home, before switching to the Sharks last season, he had gained 39 caps for the Cats. Has also appeared for the Golden Lions' team 63 times, run in 47 tries and is a contender for a place in the Springboks' squad for this year's Rugby World Cup.

## TOM BEIM



**Wing. Born 11.12.75 in Frimley.**  
**1.83m (6'0"), 86kg (13st 8lb).**

Tom Beim played two tests for England against New Zealand on tour five years ago while with Sharks. He played for the Sale side beaten 9-3 by Leicester Tigers in the 1997 Twickenham final before leaving the Cheshire club at his own request and returning to Gloucester, for whom he had played three years earlier. Toured Australia with Clive Woodward's England Under-21 squad in 1997 and went to Argentina with the senior party last summer. He is a former Cheltenham College pupil who played hockey for Wales Under-18s and polo as a professional.

## JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL



**Wing. Born 30.5.82 in Stockton-on-Tees.**  
**1.82m (6'0"), 78kg (12st 4lb).**

James Simpson-Daniel has burst onto the Gloucester and England scene, winning his fourth test cap, against Italy in March and making a maiden touchdown at that level. He had a magnificent try-scoring debut for an England XV against the Barbarians last season soon after running in a hat-trick of tries against Bath. Also shared in England's Sevens success in Hong Kong but unluckily withdrew from the summer tour of Argentina through injury. Played alongside clubmate, Henry Paul, at centre when England A beat Scotland A 10 weeks ago but missed the Ireland A match through a shoulder injury. He scored two tries against Northampton in the Powergen Cup final last month and recently signed a new three-year contract.

## MARCEL GARVEY



**Wing. Born 21.4.83 in Gloucester.**  
**1.73m (5'8"), 86kg (13st 8lb)**

Marcel Garvey scored a maiden try against Italy on his second England A appearance in March. He also had a run out with the Under-21s against Wales in February and is a player of rich promise. He won the Zurich Premiership 'Player of the Month' award last September, having scored a stunning hat-trick of tries on his home debut against Bristol Shoguns. Gloucester also rewarded him with a new two-year contract. He has also represented England Under-18s and 19s and scored a Powergen Cup semi-final try against Leicester Tigers and another in the 40-22 triumph over Northampton Saints in the final.



[www.gloucester rugby club.com](http://www.gloucester rugby club.com)



# Gloucester



PREMIER RUGBY

## DAREN O'LEARY



*Wing. Born 27.6.73 in Rush Green, Essex. 1.82m (6'0"), 91kg (14st 4lb).*

Daren O'Leary, a speedy and elusive runner, joined Gloucester the season before last after making a try-scoring impression for both NEC Harlequins and Saracens. Joined 'Quins in 1993 and was soon called into England's training squad for the championship campaign. Toured Argentina with the full England party in 1997. Was educated at Campion School and West London Institute and has represented England Colts, Students, Under-21s, Emerging England, England Sevens, an England XV and London. Scored a Powergen Cup try in the 35-6 win over Exeter Chiefs at Kingsholm last December.

## JOSH FRAPE



*Wing/Scrum half. Born 23.2.80. 1.83m (6'0"), 90kg (14st 2lb)*

Josh Frape signed for Gloucester from the club's academy. His attempt to break into the senior side was delayed last season but he has attributes that hallmark him as a player for the future. With something reminiscent of Austin Healey, he can play at scrum half but has the blistering pace that also makes him an ideal wing. His versatility should serve him well through a burgeoning career.

## TERRY FANOLUA



*Centre. Born 3.7.74 in Motoutua, Samoa. 1.83m (6'0"), 87kg (13st 10lb).*

Terry Fanolua joined Gloucester six years ago and has been a consistent crowd pleaser. Has won 19 caps for his native Samoa and scored six test tries. Was a member of the 1999 Rugby World Cup squad and has played for Otahuhu, a club in New Zealand. Also captained the Samoa Sevens side, has appeared in every position in the Gloucester backs, except scrum half, and shaved off his 'cult figure' dreadlocks after the 28-23 Zurich Championship final win over Bristol last June. He recovered from an ankle ligament injury to share in Gloucester's Powergen Cup triumph last month and a feature of his season has been iron-hard tackling.

## ROBERT TODD



*Centre. Born 19.4.71 in Auckland, New Zealand. 1.80m (5'11"), 96kg (15st 2lb).*

Robert Todd played for London Scottish in 1997-98, then London Irish and ACT Brumbies before signing for Gloucester in 2000. He is an explosive runner who can play either centre or wing, his prime ability being a knack of bursting through even the toughest tackles. He chooses some excellent angles of running and is defensively secure. Had the distinction of scoring a hat-trick of tries for London Irish in the 47-22 win over Bath in April 1999.

## DUNCAN MURRAY



*Centre. Born 22.10.81. 1.84m (6'0 1/2"), 94kg (14st 11lb)*

Duncan Murray is a former Wales Schools captain, who has also figured in the Wales Youth and Under-21 squads and for England Students. He made his senior debut for Gloucester in the same match as Jon Goodridge against London Irish in April 2001. Adopts an uncompromising approach whether in attack or defence, driving the hard yards when needed and showing his tackling qualities under pressure. A shrewd reader of the game, he also creates space and opportunities for those around him.

## HENRY PAUL



*Utility Back. Born 10.2.74 in Tokoroa, New Zealand. 1.80m (5'11"), 94kg (14st 11lb).*

Henry Paul, a mercurial talent, who helped Bradford Bulls beat Wigan Warriors in the Super League Grand Final in 2001, qualifies for England through a grandfather from Liverpool. A prolific goalkicker and gifted player, he won national squad selection after just one game for Gloucester. Won a full cap against France in Paris last season and has excelled for the England Sevens side. First played for England A last year. He has the third best percentage success rate among Zurich Premiership goalkickers this season with 80.95.

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# Gloucester



PREMIER RUGBY

## JON GOODRIDGE



*Fly half/Full back. Born 26.2.81 in Hull. 1.86m (6'1"), 84kg (13st 3lb)*

Jon Goodridge, a willowy full back, made his Gloucester debut two seasons ago at the age of 20 in the 35-10 defeat by London Irish at the Madejski Stadium and started the next match against London Wasps. Played his early rugby at fly half and switched to the number 15 jersey while at the

Gloucester Academy. He went with England Under-21s to the SANZAR tournament last summer but a shoulder injury cut short his trip.

## SIMON AMOR



*Fly half. Born 25.4.79 in Kingston-upon-Thames. 1.69m (5'6½"), 72kg (11st 5lb)*

Simon Amor, a graduate in Management Studies from Cambridge University, has excelled for, and captained, the England Sevens team since winning a Blue and joining Gloucester. Was a member of the side that triumphed last year in Hong Kong, where he contributed 13 points, including a solo try in the final. He was among the

Commonwealth Games squad in Manchester last August. Has played for London Irish, Blackheath, Coventry and Rugby Lions. Also won representative honours for Middlesex, London & South-East and England Schools, Colts, Students and Under-21s and led Gloucester in the recent Premiership match against Leeds Tykes.

## LUDOVIC MERCIER



*Fly half. Born 1.11.76 in France. 1.79m (5'10½"), 85kg (13st 3lb)*

Ludovic Mercier, who recently signed a two-year deal with Grenoble, has enjoyed many golden afternoons for Gloucester since being one of the shrewdest signings in the Premiership last season. He amassed more than 500 points in all competitions in his debut campaign and this year become the second fastest player to reach

500 Premiership points. He achieved it in 36 games, one more than Barry Everitt, of London Irish. Last season, he scored 34 points in the Zurich Championship quarter-final against Newcastle Falcons and 23 against Bristol in the final. Was top points-scorer, with 255 not including play-offs, in this season's Premiership and contributed 20 in the Powergen Cup final defeat of Northampton.

## ANDY GOMARSALL



*Scrum half. Born 24.7.74 in Durham. 1.77m (5'10"), 86kg (13st 8lb)*

Andy Gomarsall won his 11th cap for England as a replacement against Wales in February. Started against France at Twickenham the previous week and toured Argentina last June. He is in his third season with Gloucester and, in April 2002, signed a new three-year contract. A former Bedford captain, he

has also played for London Wasps and was in their cup winning side in 1999. Seven years earlier, he had led England Schools 18-Group to their first Grand Slam in 11 seasons. Has appeared 12 times for England A and was a try-scorer against Saracens in this season's Powergen Cup quarter-final.

## CLIVE STUART-SMITH



*Scrum half. Born 17.5.83 in Gloucester. 1.73m (5'8"), 80kg (12st 8lb)*

Clive Stuart-Smith graduated to the England A squad last year in his first season as a professional with Gloucester after being an academy player there. His previous club was Cheltenham. Educated at Sir Thomas Rich's School in Gloucester, he played for England Under-16s and 18s and

captained the 19s. Has an excellent pass, is a challenging runner from the base of the scrum and a precise kicker. His great grandfather led England Schools and played for Leicester.

## OLIVIER AZAM



*Hooker. Born 21.10.74 in Tarbes, France. 1.87m (6'1½"), 117kg (18st 6lb)*

Olivier Azam signed for Gloucester in 2001, having earlier played for both his hometown club, Tarbes, and for Montferrand, the club he is rejoining for next season. He made his test debut for France in 1995 when appearing against Romania and Argentina in the Latin Cup in Buenos Aires. Has won ten caps

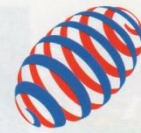
overall. Had a five-year gap between his second and third tests leading up to 2000. He shared in the 16-11 Powergen Cup semi-final win over Leicester Tigers this season and in the final triumph over Northampton



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# Gloucester



PREMIER RUGBY

## DARREN MOLLOY



*Prop. Born 31.8.72 in West Middlesex. 1.87m (6' 1 1/2"), 118kg (18st 9lb)*

Darren Molloy has played in four Twickenham cup finals – all for London Wasps in 1995, 1998, 1999 and 2000. He switched to Kingsholm this season from Wasps. Began playing for them 12 years ago, having been with Old Gaytonians and London Irish. Represented England Colts, Under-21s, Emerging England, Students, A team and London & South-East. Toured Australia with England Under-21s and went to Italy with Middlesex. Was educated at Gunnersbury School and Middlesex & Thames Valley University.

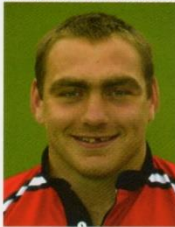
## CHRIS COLLINS



*Hooker. Born 20.5.78 in Mansfield. 1.80m (5'11"), 100kg (15st 10lb)*

Chris Collins made his Zurich Premiership debut for Gloucester against Leeds Tykes at Headingley earlier this month. He had been associated with the club since 1996 and arrived back at Kingsholm after winning a second Blue for Cambridge in the University Match last December. Educated at Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham, he played for the town club from 1993-96 and later for Loughborough Students. Represented England Schools 16-Group, Colts and Students.

## TREVOR WOODMAN



*Prop. Born 4.8.76 in Liskeard. 1.83m (6'0"), 108kg (17st 0lb)*

Trevor Woodman returned after a five-months' absence through a neck injury for the Powergen Cup semi-final against Leicester and the final against Northampton. First played for Gloucester seven years ago and is a prop with not only experience but also technical know-how. He has won eight full test caps, shared in England's Grand Slam winning match against Ireland in March and has played seven times for England A. Was in the full England party for the tour of Argentina last summer and went to North America the previous year. Has also played for Liskeard, Plymouth Albion and Bath.

## RODRIGO RONCERO



*Prop. Born 16.2.77 in Argentina. 1.77m (5'10"), 108kg (17st 0lb)*

Rodrigo Roncero, a powerful and combative prop in the South American mould, has already made an impact on the Powergen Cup, as well as on the Zurich Premiership, in his first season with Gloucester. He scored a terrific second half try in the quarter-final against Saracens in January, confirming his status as a new hero at Kingsholm. Then he sustained an ankle injury in the semi-final against Leicester that kept him out of the Premiership match at Bristol in late March. He has won four test caps and scored a try for Argentina, making his debut in the 35-21 win over Uruguay last year.

## ANDY DEACON



*Prop. Born 31.7.65 in Gloucester. 1.88m (6'2"), 108kg (17st 0lb)*

Andy Deacon is in his 15th season with Gloucester after signing a one-year extension to his contract. He is a vastly experienced prop whose qualities were fully recognised when Gloucester awarded him a testimonial year – the first of its kind at Kingsholm. He first played for Coney Hill and his other former club, Longlevens, with whom he has coaching links, honoured him with a special match to mark his contribution. Has represented England A, played for the Barbarians and, even approaching the age of 38, wants to play on next season.

## ROB FIDLER



*Lock. Born 21.9.74 in Cheltenham. 1.96m (6'5"), 112kg (17st 9lb)*

Rob Fidler won two full England caps on tour in the Southern Hemisphere almost five years ago and has played 14 times for the A team. First appeared at A level against South Africa on his home club ground in 1996 and represented the English Rugby Partnership XV against New Zealand the following year. Previously played for England Schools 18-Group, Colts and Under-21s. Injured a collarbone when helping Gloucester to beat Leicester in the Powergen Cup semi-final but appeared in the final – his first.

[www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com](http://www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com)





# Gloucester



PREMIER RUGBY

## MARK CORNWELL



*Lock. Born 22.3.73 in Gloucester. 2.01m (6'7"), 110kg (17st 4lb).*

Mark Cornwell has made six of his 11 England A appearances as a replacement – the first being against Ireland four years ago and the most recent against Italy in April last year when he scored a try. Had played in the side that also lost to Wales at Ashton Gate, Bristol a fortnight earlier. Known as 'Pasty', he had been an England Colt and joined Gloucester in 1994 from Old Richians. He has benefited from playing overseas with the Hamilton club in South Africa. Celebrated his 100th Premiership appearance when Gloucester beat Bristol Shoguns 38-21 in March. Also made his debut against Bristol – in 1995.

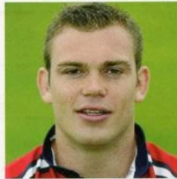
## ADAM EUSTACE



*Lock. Born 9.1.79 in Gloucester. 1.96m (6'5"), 102kg (16st 11lb).*

Adam Eustace has been converted from the back row to lock but is still versatile enough to figure in either role. He had a slow start to last autumn because of injury but has become a prominent player in the end-of-season push for trophies and was in the side that beat Northampton in the Powergen Cup final last month. Made his Gloucester debut in 1998 after switching from Widden Old Boys and has been in the England Under-19s, 21s and A squads. Was invited to join the England Development set-up two seasons ago. Scored a try in the Powergen Cup quarter-final against Saracens.

## ANDY HAZELL



*Flanker. Born 25.4.78 in Gloucester. 1.83m (6'0"), 92kg (14st 7lb).*

Andy Hazell, who earlier this month signed a new two-year contract with Gloucester, has represented England A four times and produced an outstanding two try display against Italy in March. He played in both midweek games on England's tour of North America in 2001, scoring a try in the first against British Columbia. Was previously a member of the highly successful England Under-21 side and played for Old Richians and Gloucester Old Boys before making his Gloucester debut three-and-a-half seasons ago. Has bounced back to top form after a toe injury sidelined him for three months and shared in the Powergen Cup success at Twickenham early last month.

## JAKE BOER



*Flanker. Born 1.11.75 in Cape Town, South Africa. 1.87m (6'1½"), 103kg (16st 3lb).*

Jake Boer led Gloucester in the long-term absence of Phil Vickery and has become the Season Ticket Holders' 'Player of the Year' and the Zurich Premiership 'Player of the Season' nationwide. A dynamic forward, he is qualified for the Netherlands, quick to the breakdown as Gloucester's opponents would testify and has deft handling skills. Had two seasons with London Irish, making 33 Zurich Premiership appearances. Was a tryscoring 'man of the match' in last season's Zurich Championship final and is Gloucester's top Premiership tryscorer this season with nine.

## PETER BUXTON



*Flanker. Born 21.8.78 in Cheltenham. 1.93m (6'4"), 108kg (17st 0lb)*

Peter Buxton was the first signing of last summer by Gloucester director of rugby, Nigel Melville. Played three times last year for England A, appearing against Scotland, Ireland and France while with Newport, the club he joined from Moseley. He showed such consistency and fitness last season that he missed only one of the Welsh club's first 20 matches. A powerful blind-side flanker and staunch tackler, he also has considerable handling skills and a penchant for driving play. Scored a Gloucester try in the Powergen Cup sixth-round win over Exeter Chiefs last December.

## ED PEARCE



*Back Row. Born 2.9.75 in Bristol. 2.01m (6'7"), 118kg (18st 8lb).*

Ed Pearce was with Bath before switching to Kingsholm and making his Gloucester debut seven years ago. Was educated at Clifton College and is the proud possessor of size 16 boots. He was an outstanding age-group international and went on to play twice for England A – his first game being against Wales at Bath three years ago. Then he appeared in the 33-27 win over Italy. He is a valuable member of the Cherry & Whites' squad and had the delight of being a second-half replacement for Junior Paramore in this season's Powergen Cup final.

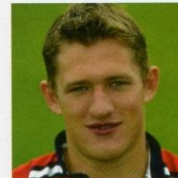
## JUNIOR PARAMORE



*Back Row. Born 18.11.68 in Apia, Samoa. 1.89m (6'2½"), 104kg (16st 5lb).*

Junior Paramore has admirable handling skills and is a devastating tackler. The talisman of the Gloucester pack, he has reshaped his career after playing at centre in his younger days. He has won 29 caps and scored six tries for Manu Samoa and been a member of two Rugby World Cup squads. Made 50 appearances for Bedford and was their 'Player of the Year' before signing for Gloucester four seasons ago. Shared in the tense final minutes of the Powergen Cup semi-final against Leicester as a replacement for James Forrester and took over briefly from Jake Boer and then from Andy Hazell in the final.

## JAMES FORRESTER



*Number 8. Born 9.2.81 in Oxford. 1.95m (6'5"), 98kg (15st 6lb).*

James Forrester will be absent for three months following surgery on his left wrist. He made a stunning debut for an England XV against the Barbarians last season when scoring his side's first try after a 65-metre run in which he even beat Jonah Lomu. First played for England A against Wales in March last year, having joined Gloucester from Bicester and been a member of the Kingsholm Academy two seasons ago. Subsequently embarked on a professional career and won a place in the England Sevens squad. Was the two-try 'man of the match' when England overpowered Scotland 78-6 in the A international in March.



# GLOUCESTER

### GLOUCESTER MANAGEMENT

Tom Walkinshaw – **Chairman**  
 Reg Collins – **President**  
 Ken Nottage, Karen Ellis, Pete Darnbrough, Hamish Brown – **Directors**  
 Doug Wadley – **Company Secretary**  
 Nigel Melville – **Director of Rugby**  
 Dean Ryan, Dave Ellis – **Coaches**  
 Pete Gianville – **Team Manager**



### OLIVIER AZAM

Pick three words to describe yourself  
 Committed, Enjoyment, French  
 Who is your sporting hero?  
 Michael Jordan

What advertising slogan would best describe you?  
 (Stella Artois) Reassuringly Expensive!!!  
 What are your fears?  
 A life-threatening disease  
 What did you have for breakfast today?  
 Cereal, milk



15	THINUS DELPORT	Full Back	MARK VAN GISBERGEN	15
14	MARCEL GARVEY	Right Wing	JOSH LEWSEY	14
13	TERRY FANOLUA	Centre	FRASER WATERS	13
12	HENRY PAUL	Centre	STUART ABBOTT	12
11	JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	Left Wing	KENNY LOGAN	11
10	LUDOVIC MERCIER	Fly Half	ALEX KING	10
9	ANDY GOMARSALL	Scrum-Half	ROB HOWLEY	9
1	TREVOR WOODMAN	Prop	CRAIG DOWD	1
2	OLIVIER AZAM	Hooker	TREVOR LEOTA	2
3	PHIL VICKERY (CAPTAIN)	Prop	WILL GREEN	3
4	ADAM EUSTACE	Lock	SIMON SHAW	4
5	MARK CORNWELL	Lock	RICHARD BIRKETT	5
6	JAKE BOER	Flanker	JOE WORSLEY	6
7	ANDY HAZELL	Flanker	PAUL VOLLEY	7
8	JUNIOR PARAMORE	No 8	(CAPTAIN) LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO	8

### REPLACEMENTS

16	CLIVE STUART-SMITH
17	SIMON AMOR
18	ROBERT TODD
19	CHRIS COLLINS
20	ANDY DEACON
21	ROB FIDLER
22	PETER BUXTON



### REPLACEMENTS

MARTYN WOOD	16
PHIL GREENING	17
MARK DENNEY	18
AYOOLA ERINLE	19
MARK LOCK	20
PETER SCRIVENER	21
ALISTAIR MCKENZIE	22

REFEREE: Tony Spreadbury  
 TOUCH JUDGES: Paul Emerson & Ashley Reay VIDEO REFEREE: Brian Campsall



# LONDON WASPS

### LONDON WASPS MANAGEMENT

Warren Gatland – **Director of Rugby**  
 Shaun Edwards OBE – **First Team Coach**  
 Tony Hanks – **Technical Analyst**  
 Craig White – **Fitness Manager**  
 Roger Knibbs, Ben Ashworth – **Physiotherapists**  
 Mark Bitcon, Paul Stridgeon – **Fitness Team**  
 Malcolm Sinclair – **Team Manager**  
 Ben Gilfeather – **Doctor**



### TREVOR LEOTA

Pick three words to describe yourself  
 Strong, Fearless, Caring  
 Who is your sporting hero?  
 New Zealand flank, Michael Jones

What advertising slogan would best describe you?  
 Go Hard or Go Home!  
 What are your fears?  
 My wife, Ruth  
 What did you have for breakfast today?  
 Toast and corn flakes with a protein shake

Zurich Man of the Match - Test "Mile" and the player's surname to 81145. You could win a family season ticket to a Zurich Premiership club of your choice. Voting charged at your normal text tariff.  
 If after 40 minutes each way the scores are level, there will be extra time of ten minutes each way with a one minute interval. If the scores are still level, Gloucester, as the higher seeded team, will be declared champions and will win the Zurich Premiership Trophy.

# A good thing

by Nick Mullins,  
BBC Sport rugby union commentator



PREMIER RUGBY



Nick Mullins

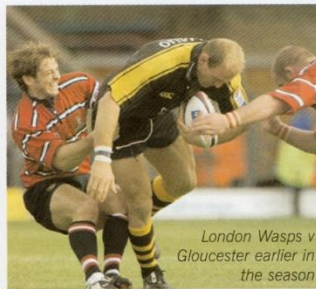
At the start of the Zurich Premiership last August, I thought the play-off final was nothing more than a money-making, fan-exploiting, utterly pointless charade.

But now I'm now beginning to wonder if there might be something in it

after all.

I can't think of a more appropriate way for a season full of theatre to reach its conclusion than on the biggest stage of all with a match between two teams who've provided the best entertainment.

Whoever came up with the idea of a finale between Gloucester and London Wasps watched by a crowd of more than 40,000 deserves a bigger pat on the back than I, and most others, have been prepared to administer so far.



London Wasps v Gloucester earlier in the season

It is a tough admission to make – especially with a sometimes heated early-season conversation with Leicester's chief executive Peter Wheeler when I ranted vehemently

against the play-offs still fresh in my mind.

Providing both teams can hold off the withering effects of a murderous season for just one more weekend (and there lies another unconnected issue), then Saturday's game promises to be an absolute classic.

There is star quality and panache wherever you look in the probable line-ups of both teams.

Think of the players who have run the most vivid patterns across your mind in the last 10 months and there's a fair chance the likes of Jake Boer, Ludovic Mercier, James Simpson-Daniel and Marcel Garvey will be floating around in Cherry and White.

Saturday's Twickenham exchanges between the respective 6s, 7s and 8s ought to be magnificent.

Boer, Hazell and Paramore against Worsley, Volley and Dallaglio.

Wasps' pack – including unsung grafters like Richard Birkett and Will Green – have provided a muscular, determined platform for a blistering end to the campaign.

Rob Howley, Alex King, Stuart Abbott and Josh Lewsey have created the twinkling lines.

Kiwi, Mark van Gisbergen has also created enough of an impression from full-back to be offered a new contract.



Rob Howley scores a try for London Wasps

So who will win?

After seeing Wasps dismantle Bath in the Parker Pen Cup final at Reading last weekend, I just wonder if they're the ones carrying the force with them into Twickenham's showpiece.

Sure, Gloucester have had the opportunity for rest and recuperation over the last three weeks.

But has it also given them time to lose their match sharpness?

It is a weakness in the system that the team finishing top of the tree at the end of the regular season then have to kick their heels before the final.

While Gloucester carry most of the floating voters with them after finishing a West Country mile clear of the rest at the top of the Premiership, Wasps are utterly determined to round-off an outstanding season by lifting two cups within seven days.

There are many rugby hearts and minds already happy with the idea that Gloucester are the true champions whatever happens.

Proper titles are won in the driving December rain at Kingsholm and in the March mud at Heywood Road, they say.

But give the idea time. Within a couple of seasons I reckon we'll begin to see the value and added drama of a championship won in the Twickenham sunshine.

[www.bbc.co.uk/sport](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport)




# NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK




## Who is he?


**MARCEL GARVEY**  
 Club: Gloucester  
 Position: Wing  
 Born: 21.04.83  
 Height: 1.73m  
 Weight: 86kg




**CHRIS JONES**  
 Club: Sharks  
 Position: Second Row  
 Born: 24.06.80  
 Height: 1.55m  
 Weight: 95kg



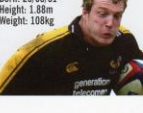
**JAMES FORRESTER**  
 Club: Gloucester  
 Position: Back row  
 Born: 14.08.80  
 Height: 1.55m  
 Weight: 98.4kg



**OLLIE SMITH**  
 Club: Leicester Tigers  
 Position: Centre  
 Born: 14.08.82  
 Height: 1.85m  
 Weight: 94.5kg



**JOHN RUDD**  
 Club: London Wasps  
 Position: Wing  
 Born: 26.05.81  
 Height: 1.55m  
 Weight: 108kg



## What has he done?

Garvey, just 20, has set the Zurich Premiership alight this season with some inspiring running and an early season try-scoring explosion. Scored his first league hat-trick against Bristol Shogrens at Kingsholm in September. He has played England U18 and U19 and played in the Six Nations as part of the England A team. Voted Zurich Premiership Player of the month for September.

Made a rapid transfer from playing for Sheffield Hallam University side to being selected for England's Lloyds TSB match against the Barbarians this year. Been nominated for Young Player of the Year for the PFA Awards.

Gradually introduced into a powerful Gloucester back row over the past two years. Made his debut for the Cherry & Whites against London Irish in April 2001 after coming through the Gloucester Academy ranks. Has played England A and England 7s as well as against the Barbarians.

Ollie Smith was nominated for the Young Player of the year award by the Professional Rugby Players Association this year. Ollie was selected for the England Elite Development squad last year and started for England A against France A in the 2003 Six Nations. Won first full cap against Italy.

John "Rhino" Rudd played for England at U16A, U18 Club Elite, U19 and U21 level. He also played for England 7's and Great Britain 7's. He was a member of the London Wasps U21s winning side at Twickenham in 2002 and was a member of the England U21 World Cup Squad.

## What does he do well?

A difficult player to keep quiet, Garvey can strike from anywhere on the park. His short, stocky build allows him to jink and accelerate to make the half break and his strength sees him break tackles. Dangerous on attack for sure, his defence continues to improve, has shown some deft touches with the boot too.

Very athletic and probably one of the quickest forwards in the game today.

Not short of size and technical ability Forrester gets through more than his share around the set piece and has the handy knack of appearing in the right place at the right time in the loose. This asset in combination with an outrageous dose of both strength and pace means Forrester scores tries. A hat-trick at Bristol in March was evidence of his all round abilities.

Deceptively quick and a particularly strong, powerful centre. Became really noticed at the start of this season for his outstanding defence.

Big, strong and quick, he is ideal on the wing and able to run through a lot of tackles with great strength. Despite strong competition at Wasps he is establishing himself as a regular starter.

## What do others think?

Gloucester's Director of Rugby Nigel Melville said: "He is a special talent. He has got incredible pace and power - he is so very strong. His step and his balance means that he can move forward with incredible power, and I am just glad that he is wearing a Gloucester shirt."

"Sharks' second row Chris Jones sprinted so impressively for his try against Leicester at Heywood Road. Despite being chased by Austin Healey, Jones managed to stretch out and cross the line. The try led to Clive Woodward calling Jones up to the senior England training squad."  
*(Manchester Evening News)*

"A Zizan Brooke-cum-Andy Ripley on the move"  
*(The Daily Telegraph)*  
Clive Woodward paid tribute to his performance in the recent Six Nations A games: "Leading the way was James Forrester. He was in a different class."

"Smith showed he has the ability to claim one of England's perceived problem positions"  
*(The Guardian)*

Warren Gatland, Director of Rugby at London Wasps believes Rudd to be "one of the most exciting players to come out of the London Wasps' Academy". He goes on to add "Ruddy was given a chance to stake a claim in the first team this season and has grasped his opportunity with both hands. This shows me if keeps fit and stays injury free, 'Rhino Rudd' has the potential to go on to greater things."

## The highlight so far?

Garvey's hat-trick try in front of the Kingsholm faithful against Bristol in September. Taking a fantastic pass from Henry Paul, Garvey accelerated making a go out of nothing and put an inch perfect chip over the final Shagan defender to chase to the line and touch down, confirming his arrival as a player with supreme potential.

Breathtaking try against Leicester Tigers at Heywood Road. Despite being chased by Austin Healey, Jones managed to stretch out and cross the line. The try led to Clive Woodward calling Jones up to the senior England training squad.

Playing for England against the Barbarians last year Forrester scored a try from sixty-metres. In this season's England A Six Nations tournament his two tries helped demish Scotland A.

Winning his first cap for England against Italy at Twickenham on 9 March. Smith created the break which led to Dan Luger's try.

Scored a hat-trick on his first start of this season against Parma Rugby in the Parker Pen Challenge Cup.

## THE VERDICT

"Marcel Garvey is different, and that makes him dangerous. Many wings are equipped with unusual leg speed and unusual upper-body strength, but Garvey is unique in that he crosses contact, aware that he can break virtually any tackle in a one-on-one situation. He is blessed with pace, power, a low centre of gravity and confidence in his own physical supremacy. Full England honours beckon, sooner rather than later."  
*(Chris Hewett, The Independent)*

"In the old days you knew where you were with a second row - lumbering, agoraphobic and with a tackle count measured in binary. Chris Jones is the complete antithesis. An extra flanker for the Sharks with his mobility, he has still managed to be their major inmost presence, picking off countless balls against his elders and supposed betters this season. Into the back row with him - and quickly!"  
*(Neil Squires, Express)*

"Big, powerful and with great hands, James Forrester is one of the most exciting young talents in the rugby world. I fully expect him to go on and establish himself in the England team, so look out world, Forrester is coming!"  
*(Paul Morgan, Editor, Rugby World Magazine)*

"Since Ollie Smith's first appearance in the Zurich Premiership, it has been clear he possesses star quality - that little bit extra which sets him apart. He has all the attributes of a top-class centre - strength, pace and a great awareness of space and how to make the best use of it. Once Smith is back to full fitness, England will surely benefit greatly from his skills. Against Italy we had a taste of what he is capable of achieving."  
*(Miles Harrison, Sky Sports Commentator)*

"John has forced his way into a Wasps team that has enjoyed a marvellous finale to the season and kept Scotland wing Kerry Logan on the sidelines in the process. Coach Warren Gatland is a pragmatic man and Rudd only made it into the team because the former All Black thought he could take the pressure. John responded by producing, particularly with a try in the Parker Pen clash with Portgual at Adams Park, the kind of hard running and physical threat that makes him a very dangerous prospect. There are quick wingers and also strong runners in the Premiership but very few combine both attributes and that gives John a head start."  
*(Chris Jones, Evening Standard)*