LEICESTER TIGERS
V GLOUCESTER
Saturday 30th August K.O. 3pm
TODAY'S GAME

TIGERS V GLOUCESTER - HEAD TO HEAD

First Meeting: 31 October 1891 at Belgrade Cricket & Cycle Ground - Leicester 0 Gloucester 15
Played: 170 Won: 74 Drawn: 6 Lost: 90

The above record is Leicester's worst against any English opposition, and has been made much better in recent seasons with 5 wins in the last six encounters. At Kingsholm, Tigers have won just on just 18 occasions in 85 games, and until December 1992 had not won for a decade at the ground. At Welford Road the tally is 56 wins from 85 games with two draws.

Best Win: 27-0 at Welford Road on 3/11/1973
Biggest Scores: 32-14 at Welford Road on 28/9/1996
Worst Loss & Most Pts Conceded: 6-41 at Kingsholm on 6/12/1986

Most Points in a game: 23 by Dusty Hare (H) on 12/1/1985, and by Jez Harris (M) ( Courage League) on 21/1/1994
Most Tries in a game: 3 by Ralph Buckingham (H) on 11/12/1930.

A NEW START

Here we are fresh for the new season, a new match programme, new players. We entertain Gloucester today who are in top spot in the new Allied Dunbar Premiership after just one match. Leicester are equal sixth in the table and have a new young side. Tigers are ready for the new season.

FIJIANs AT WELFORD ROAD

As I mentioned earlier Waisale Serevi makes his Tigers debut today, but he is NOT the first Fijian to have played at Welford Road or the first Fijian to play in a League game.

In the seventies Fijian international P.B. Tikoisiwai regularly played on the wing for Harlequins and scored a try to help Quins win 13-9 on 2 March 1974 at Welford Road. He also scored a try five months earlier when the Fiji national team played the Tigers at the ground, Leicester winning an entertaining match 22-17, a victory which the Leicester Mercury at the time described as the greatest achievement in the long and distinguished history of the club.

Tigers have actually played Fijian opponents on four other occasions: on 4 November 1986 the Fiji Barbarians were the visitors to Leicester when Tigers triumphed 39-14, the other three games were all part of the six match Centenary tour in 1980 to Australia and Fiji. On 16 August Leicester beat Lautoka 12-6, four days later also in Suva the Fiji Combined Services were overcome 8-4, and on 23 August Tigers beat the Fiji Chairman's XV 12-0. Players still associated with the club in coaching or administration capacities who played in Fiji on this tour were Dusty Hare, John Duggan, Andy Key, Paul Dodge, Roy Needham, Ian Smith, Steve Kenney, Garry Adey and Peter Wheeler, whilst Leicester Sound's Tim Barnwell and Radio Leicester's Steve Johnson also turned out.

On the question of a Fijian playing a league match? Remember Sam Domoni the Saracens and London Irish lock who played against Tigers at Sunbury in December 1992, he was part of Fiji's 1991 World Cup squad.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

Since our last match we have had an amazing Lions tour, which is featured in depth in this programme's free supplement "V for Victory". Congratulations to Eric Miller, Austin Healey and Neil Back who all made Lions test match debuts. Martin Johnson of course was the victorious skipper. Well done also to Will Greenwood and Graham Rowntree who also formed part of the touring party.

Elsewhere it is congratulations Richard Cockerill picked up his first two test caps in Argentina, and Darren Garforth who now has a total of four caps after playing both tests in Argentina and the one-off game against the Wallabies in Sydney.

Craig Joiner scored two tries in Scotland’s “non cap” win over Zimbabwe in Harare.

On the new player front, Martin Corry picked up his first two England caps in Argentina, whilst Paul Gustard captained England Under 21’s during their tour of Australia.

TIGERS v GLOUCESTER IN THE LEAGUE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Versus</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Tigers Scorers</th>
<th>Gloucester Scorers</th>
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<tr>
<td>14 Jun 91</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Jun 91</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Lost 16-38</td>
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<td>27 Sep 91</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Won 16-4</td>
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<td>16 Nov 91</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Lost 5-1</td>
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<td>26 Nov 91</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Won 22-21</td>
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<td>25 Sep 91</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Won 25-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Jan 91</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Won 26-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Sep 91</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Won 14-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Feb 91</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Lost 3-9</td>
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<td>20 Sep 91</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Won 27-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Apr 91</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Won 16-14</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>Won 30-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Apr 91</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Won 30-12</td>
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THE LAST TIME

Gloucester (9) 32, Leicester (15) 30
Kingsholm, 8 April 1997

After Wasps were held to a draw by Bath on a Sunday afternoon at Loftus Road, having lost at Welford Road earlier in the week, Tigers had a theoretical 1 point advantage over them if they won all their remaining games. Earlier in the season Gloucester had looked sure fire relegation bets, but this victory at Kingsholm proved sweet revenge for the Pilkington Cup semi-final defeat. It was perhaps the start of the end for Leicester's league title hopes.

In a frantic game which saw the lead change hands 5 times, Gloucester claimed victory by just 2 points, Mapleton's conversion of an injury time try by Phil Greening being the winning margin. Joel Stramsky had kicked Tigers into an early lead which Mapleton equalled before Craig Joiner ran a try in the posts. Joel converted. It was not long before Mapleton kicked another Glou penalty awarded for an infringement at a line out, but again Tigers countered, Joel Stramsky making a great break which set John Liley free to score a try. Another Mapleton penalty saw Tigers turn round 15-9 up, but it was Glou who were in the ascendancy just before half time, and somehow you knew with the crowd very much behind them, that there was more to come from the home side in the second half. Sure enough, a Mapleton penalty in the 50th minute was quickly followed by Audley Lumsden catching a wicked bounce just short of touch to score the try that put Gloucester into the lead for the first time. A Stramsky penalty pulled Tigers to within 1 point but Mapleton replied in kind, before Aaof Kordoomi touched down from the base of a driving maul to swing the pendulum back Tigers way. An offside decision against Eric Miller saw Mapleton level the scores, and with the final whistle fast approaching Joel Stramsky attempted a drop goal then missed a long shot at a penalty trying to win it for Leicester. With only 2 minutes of normal time left Rory Underwood, on for an injured Leon Lloyd, scored in the corner. Again from a break by Joel Stramsky, who unfortunately missed the conversion. This proved decisive, as well into injury time Neil Fletcher, on for Matt Poole, gave away a penalty from which ensuing lineout Gloucester scored. Tigers still fought back as the referee signalled 4 minutes to go, but they couldn't pull this one out of the bag.


Gloucester: Audley Lumsden, Mike Peters, Craig Emmsen, Martin Roberts, Eral Anderson, Mark Mapleton, Scott Benton; Tony Windo, Phil Greening*, Andy Deacon, Rob Filder, Dave Sims (cap), Andy Stanley, Simon Devereux, Nathan Carter.

Replacement: Peter Hart for Anderson 87'.

Scoring: 1st half - 6' Stramsky'P 3-0; 9' Mapleton(P) 3-3; 14' Joiner(T) & Stramsky(C) 10-3; 18' Mapleton(P) 10-6; 23' Liley(T) 15-6; 36' Mapleton(P) 15-9; 2nd half - 50' Mapleton(P) 15-12; 51' Lumsden(T) & Mapleton(C) 5-19; 63' Stramsky(P) 18-19; 67' Mapleton(P) 18-22; 68' Kordoom(T) & Stramsky(C) 25-22; 72' Mapleton(P) 25-25; 78' Underwood(T) 30-25; 83' Greening(T) & Mapleton(C) 30-32.

Referee: Graham Hughes (Manchester).

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP

1997/98 is the first season in this newly-formed Allied Dunbar Premiership rugby competition.

• Allied Dunbar have made a commitment for an initial three years (up to the end of the 1999/2000 season).
• The Premiership comprises divisions one and two from the old league.
• Central to the Allied Dunbar Premiership is Allied Dunbar's work with the clubs to develop a group disability insurance scheme for all players in the 24 clubs.
• The two divisions remain, but have been renamed - Allied Dunbar One and Allied Dunbar Two.
• There are 12 clubs in Allied Dunbar One and 12 in Allied Dunbar Two.
• Each of the 12 clubs in each division will play one another twice - home/away.
• Two clubs in Allied Dunbar Two will be promoted and two clubs in Allied Dunbar One will be relegated. In addition, play-offs will take place between 3rd and 4th placed clubs in Allied Dunbar Two and 9th and 10th placed clubs in Allied Dunbar One.
• A total of 264 matches plus play-offs will played between August and May.
• The Premiership Clubs are governed by English Rugby Partnership - a private limited company owned 50% RU, 33.33% English First Division Rugby and 16.67% by English Secon Division Rugby.
• The Allied Dunbar Premiership also includes sponsorship of the referees and match officials at all Premiership matches.
• This year Allied Dunbar has also sponsored the Playfair Rugby Annual which contains masses of useful information about this year's Premiership.

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP RESULTS ROUND-UP

AUGUST 23

Bath (0) 13
Newcastle (6) 20
Perry(T) Catt(C2P) T.Simpson(2C2P)
Gloucester (0) 35
Bristol (6) 13
FG;Saint Andre(2T) Windo(T) Fidler(T) Mapleton(2C2P)
Richmond (19) 52
London Irish (9) 12
Vander(2T) Whitt(2T) S Quinnell(T) Davies(2C2P)
Northampton (1) 23
Harlequins (10) 26
Dawson(T) Phillipps(T) Tetapu(T) Townsend(2P)
Sale (7) 10
Saracens (6) 19
Erskine(T) Howarth(CD) Diprose(T) Lyragh(C4P)

AUGUST 24
ALL CHANGE AT KINGSHOLM

So much has changed about rugby union in such a short space of time. Not so long ago it was Gloucester who were always renowned as having a formidable pack of forwards and nothing much else. When Leicester had a star-studded back division including the likes of Hare, Dodge, Woodward, Underwood, Cusworth and Evans there were some rare old battles with the Cherry & Whites. Now it is Leicester who are looked upon as having all the forward power, whilst Gloucester in the last couple of seasons have entertained all corners with a band of back play the like of which has rarely been seen at Kingsholm.

Just when you think that this is all you can take, Gloucester go and announce a liaison with Arrows formula one boss Tom Walker Shaw, and no sooner is this announcement made public announced than the chequebook has been pressed into service. Low and behold France's captain since 1994, and their most capped wing Philippe Saint-Andre, has been lured away after a long association from Montferrand. And it doesn't stop there, Philippe's younger brother Raphael follows, as does Western Samoan international centre Tony Fanoula as well as Wallaby centre Richard Tombs. Tombs played in the Tri-Nations tour last season and toured Britain with the Australians last winter.

Last season was a turning point for the Gloucester side, everpresent in division one but with a best finish of 2nd in 1989 and 1990, and no better than 7th in the last four campaigns. Richard Hill joined the club from rivals Bath and immediately shrouded himself in controversy by fielding a virtual second string in the opening game of the season at the Stoop saying that he wished to concentrate on matches that he believed Gloucester had a chance of winning. The idea had the air of one of Baldwin's plans from Blackadder and spectacularly back fired as Harlequins rattled up a mammoth 75 points. The Cherry & Whites really got off on the wrong foot and ended up losing their opening five games. The doom-mongers prophesied on certain relegation, however, Richard Hill and his men turned it around, won their next seven league games and improved their try scoring productivity from 3 in the first half a dozen games to 15 in the next six.

If last week was anything to go by Gloucester eclipsed near rivals Bristol 35-13 at Kingsholm, and sat at the top of the table for the first time since 1990. They will be a force to be reckoned with, maybe not for the title but certainly on outside bet for Europe.

FORM GUIDE - Gloucester's last ten League results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Ven</th>
<th>Opponents</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Scorers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Mar</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>Won 19-6</td>
<td>S.Brown(T) M.Mapleton(C/IDP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Mar</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Wasps</td>
<td>Last 10-36</td>
<td>C.Stirling(T) M.Mapleton(C/IDP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Apr</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Saracens</td>
<td>Won 9-6</td>
<td>M.Mapleton(C/IDP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Apr</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Leicester</td>
<td>Won 32-20</td>
<td>P.Green(T) A.Lundy(T) M.Mapleton(C/IDP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Apr</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Sale</td>
<td>Last 12-32</td>
<td>M.Mapleton(TC) A.Lundy(T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Apr</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Harlequins</td>
<td>Last 11-27</td>
<td>S.Brown(T) M.Mapleton(TC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Apr</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>Draw 00-00</td>
<td>M.Lloyd(T) N.Carter(T) M.Mapleton(TC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Apr</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Bath</td>
<td>Last 21-71</td>
<td>A.Senir(van(t) M.Mapleton(TC/IDP) A.Dean(T)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>Won 27-25</td>
<td>A.Lundy(T) C.Stirling(T) M.Mapleton(TC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Aug</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>Won 89-00</td>
<td>P.Saint-Andre(T) T.Windsor(T) R.Fisher(T) M.Mapleton(TC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GLoucester

Phil Greening

Full name: Philip Bradley Thomas Greening
Born: 3 October 1975 in Gloucester
Position: Hooker
Physique: 5ft 11in, 17st 6lb
Honours: 3 England caps, 3 England 'A' caps
Dynamic, aggressive hooker who made his international debut as a 76th minute replacement for Mark Regan against Italy at Twickenham last November and started the first test on tour against Argentina in May before being concussion and being replaced by Leicester's own Richard Cockerill for his own first cap. Captained England Schools and Colts and earned England A selection during his first season of senior rugby in 1995/96. Educated at Kingsholm Junior, Chosen Hill and Gloucester College, Phil originally played centre for the junior sides at Spartans (a top Gloucester club team) before switching to hooker.

Gloucester's Ten Year Record

GLOUCESTER SQUAD

Player
Laurie Beck
Sean Bilton
Warwick Bullock
Chris Catling
Mark Cornwall
Andy Daven
Simon Deveraux
Craig Emmerson
Terry Fanu
Rob Fuller
Chris Fowles
Andrew Gibbs
Pete Glines
Phil Greening
Martin Kimber
Mike Lloyd
Audley Lumsden
Neil McCarthy
Mark Mapletoft
Ed Pearson
Martin Roberts
Phillippe Saint-Andre
Raphael Saint-Andre
Ian Sanders
Dave Sims
Andy Stanley
Richard Tombs
Phil Vickery
Tony Winder

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Birthdate
3 Jan 71
3 Jan 71
9 Feb 70
17 Jun 76
22 Feb 73
31 Jul 68
20 Oct 68
14 Apr 71
3 Jul 74
21 Sep 74
25 Aug 75
25 Aug 75
10 Jun 77
3 Oct 75
20 Sep 68
23 Jul 70
6 Jun 67
29 Nov 73
25 Dec 71
2 Sep 75
26 Jan 68
19 Apr 67
11 May 71
22 Jan 71
22 Nov 69
15 Sep 68
4 Jan 68
14 Mar 76
30 Apr 69

Height
5'10"
5'11"
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6'1"
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Weight
13st 5lbs
13st 2lbs
17st 0lbs
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12st 0lbs
14st 0lbs
16st 8lbs
16st 7lbs
19st 0lbs
16st 2lbs
17st 0lbs
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12st 0lbs
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Appearances and scoring pertain to this season's Allied Dunbar Premiership only.
Philippe Saint-Andre

Born: 19 April 1967 in Romans-sur-Isere, France
Position: wing
Physique: 5ft 11 in, 13st 8lb.
Honours: 64 France caps (1990-97) 30 tries 142 pts.

Caused a sensation in April when he left Montferrand and became Gloucester's first major overseas signing, having inspired a flurry of speculation the previous week when he visited Kingsholm and watched Gloucester's astonishing win over Leicester. Philippe has been one of the world's great try scoring wings and also captained France for 29 successive games between 1994-96. He hardly played last year following surgery on a groin injury, although did return in time to appear in their unexpected defeat against Italy in Grenoble in March for his 64th cap. Originally joined Montferrand from his home club Romans in 1988, and was soon capped at a level before making a full debut against Romania in Auch in May 1990 - an inauspicious day as France slipped to a 6-12 defeat. Scored THAT sensational try at Twickenham in 1991 when France counter attacked from behind their own line. In 1994 he became the first wing since Christian Darroch (1967) to captain France and went on to become France's most successful captain in history as well as their most capped wing. Philippe also owns an Irish pub in Montferrand. Scored two tries on his Gloucester league debut last week.

Richard John Hill
Born: 4 May 1961 in Birmingham.
Educated: Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School, Salisbury and Exeter University.
Playing honours: 29 England caps (1984-91), 2 tries, 8 pts. 8 Cup winners medals and 5 League championships with Bath.

36 year old Richard Hill, former Bath and England scrum-half, became Director of Rugby at Gloucester in September 1995. Much criticised at the start of last season for putting out what was considered a "second team" for the first league encounter away to Quins at the Stoop. He admitted his mistake rectified it, and since that unfortunate start led Gloucester to 7th place in the Courage League, and to the semi-final of the Pilkington Cup. Not bad for a man who many in The Shed regarded as the worst type of outsider, a Bath man!

A member of England's 1991 Grand slam side and former national captain, Hill was also in charge of England A last year, and again had an impressive season. They were the team whom many considered had played the expensive innovative rugby, not the England senior side, and Hill was the man credited with that success. His name has been put forward as a favourite for the senior England coach, he has charisma and pedigree to hold down such a high profile position, but since the involvement of motor racing's Tom Walkinshaw at Gloucester he has now signed a six year contract.

In an interview in the February edition of Rugby News, talking about the struggle Gloucester were facing to survive in the First Division without a big money backer, Hill said: "I think that for once, Gloucester are extremely popular around the country with the press and the rest of the clubs. "They all say they admire what we are doing. They wish they had gone down the same route. But not many clubs have risked what we are doing. They have gone for the superstars, but we are respected for not doing that. In any case, with my England A coaching hat on, I believe it is to the detriment of the game in this country to have the Courage League filled with overseas players. The clubs should be offering the chance for young English players to develop."

Either the influx of money, the influence of Walkinshaw, or the realisation that you have to compete on an equal footing, something has prompted Hill to recruit some of the best foreign talent around in what is now an impressive back line. Richard Hill has overcome the barriers of the Gloucester faithful to become one of their favourite sons, and by all reports his new imported players have had the same effect in their first game last week. All that remains now is to see how long it takes Philippe Saint-Andre to learn to speak English with a West Country drawl!!