

BRYAN REDPATH

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

O. THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY SUPPORTERS WILL LAST HAVE SEEN THE TEAM IN ACTION BACK IN APRIL AT HOME TO WORCESTER AND AWAY TO LONDON WASPS. THEY MAY HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE BUT THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF HARD WORK GOING ON OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS. HAS'NT THERE?

"There certainly has. Right from the very off, the players have bought into what we're trying to achieve at Gloucester this season. They had less time off in the close season than they've been used to before and reported back in the first week of June to crack on with pre-season training."

"The squad has obviously reported back in different stages because some of them were on tours - Olly Morgan and Nick Wood were with England, Nicky Robinson away with Wales, we had five players in the England U20 squad for the Junior World Cup in Tokyo and a few on Pacific Nations duty for their respective countries."

"But every single one of them has applied themselves superbly. On the strength and conditioning side, Mark Bitcon has put together a great programme for all of them to follow and the results have been terrific."

"Denis Betts has been focussing on skills and defence whilst Hoggy (Carl Hogg) and myself have been looking after forwards and backs respectively. There's been a lot of hard work but the guys have found it enjoyable and I couldn't be happier with how it's gone."

"What has been really pleasing has been that there has been a tremendous amount of desire to succeed and the players have felt able to speak up and contribute and drive things forward."







Q. A TRAINING CAMP HAS BEEN A REGULAR PART OF GLOUCESTER'S PREPARATIONS IN RECENT TIMES BUT USUALLY IT'S BEEN TO SUNNIER CLIMATES! WHAT WAS THE THINKING BEHIND GOING TO ST ANDREW'S?

"Well, it was nothing to do with golf, honestly! To be serious though, we spoke to Mark (Bitcon) and we realised that there's only so much work you can do if you head off to Spain or Portugal at this time of the year."

"Don't get me wrong, it's a lovely environment to be in but the heat really does limit the physical work you can do. We felt that being in Scotland would allow us to get more done. And, we may be able to slip in a quick 18 holes!"

"But, we did think it was important to get away as a squad. As I mentioned before, the players have reported back at different times and this was the first opportunity for us to go away as a group and start to finalise preparations for the season ahead."

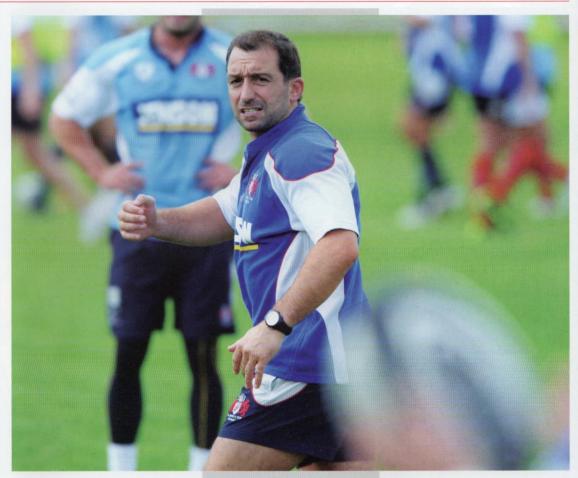
"There is an element of team building or bonding, whatever you like to call it. But we'll get a lot of good work done without any external influences to distract us."

Q. WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO ACHIEVE FROM THE THREE PRESEASON FRIENDLIES?

"We've put in an awful lot of work on the training paddock. Now it is very important that we try and carry that over into a live match scenario."

"We need to look at and evaluate all sorts of different combinations and partnerships before we kick off the Guinness Premiership season at home to Bath and the three friendlies will

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allow us to look at as many different options as possible."

"Now's the time to do that because Guinness Premiership and Heineken Cup matches are not the ideal environment to be experimenting in!"

"It's a real opportunity for players to put their hands up and try and stake a claim for selection. They've worked really hard to get to this point and now they are raring to go."

"We have a number of new players in the first team squad and they will all be looking to make a positive impression in front of their home crowd for the first time."

"But I'm just as excited about the young talent that we have coming up from the Academy and into the senior set up. For Gloucester to have five players in the England U20 "COMMITMENT
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squad in Tokyo is evidence of that and I'm looking forward to seeing them develop."

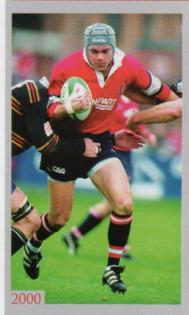
"But what I really want to see, even at this early stage, is evidence of pride in the shirt. I said this on several occasions when I took over as Head Coach but I truly believe that his club is the most important aspect of a player's career."

"Commitment to the club, its supporters and the community is all important to me. We will make mistakes along the way but, if our supporters see that we are giving it everything, then we will continue to receive the magnificent support we have enjoyed in the past."

"I'm really encouraged by what I've seen from the squad in training this summer and very excited about the season in prospect."

ANDY HAZELL

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

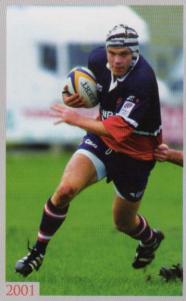


It was a weary looking Andy Hazell who dragged himself into the room to talk on a damp Tuesday afternoon at Hartpury moaning good naturedly about the beasting that the fitness coaches had just dished out.

However, true to form, Hazy bounced back quickly when given the opportunity to talk about his beloved Gloucester, chatting in animated fashion about how quickly time has passed and how his Gloucester career very nearly never got off the ground in the first place.

"It was a hell of a scrap to get my first contract to be honest. I was here as a Colt and the next step up was United level and I was told at one point to go back to local rugby."

"So, that was the dream gone at that point really. But the United team picked up a few injuries before the last game of the season and I got called onto the bench and, within a

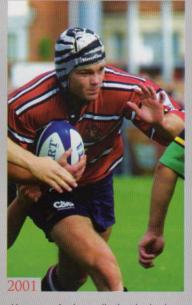


couple of minutes, the guy who was playing seven got injured and I was on at Kingsholm!"

"After the game, Viv Woolley spoke to me and asked me what I was doing the following season and I told him that I'd be going back to Gloucester Old Boys. He then said that he'd talk to Richard Hill and had a feeling that Hilly might keep me on."

"I was planning to work with my uncle and do some roofing but Viv was true to his word and Hilly called me a few weeks later and told me not to go back to local rugby. He couldn't offer me a contract but said to come down for a couple of months and train with the first team."

Rugby union has been a fully professional game for quite some time now and the state of the art set up behind the scenes at Gloucester Rugby is testimony to that.



However, Andy recalls that he had to make some sacrifices in the early days.

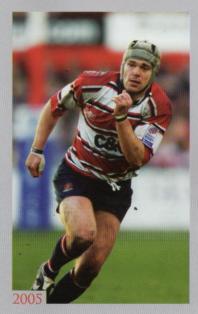
"I wasn't on any money so I'd had to tell my Mum that I wouldn't be bringing in any money for a few months and I was eating anything I could lay my hands on so there was a hell of a food bill."

"But, after about three months, Richard Hill called me in and said that I'd done really well and offered me my first contract."

"So, there was a really fine line between me becoming a professional rugby player or working on a building site and I'm grateful to Richard and Viv for that "

He's seen a few changes during his time at the club. Coaches and players have come and gone. However, one thing that still burns brightly is his desire to be involved with the club he grew up supporting.

"When I first came here, there were a lot of Gloucester people at the club like Glanville and Deacon and you realised **how much it means to play for the club**. And that rubs off on you, Especially for someone local like me."



"It's phenomenal how the club has developed. Every year the club grows and grows, whether it's on the field or behind the scenes or at the stadium. It gets bigger every year."

"It's a lovely thing to be involved with especially when you're a local lad like me and you've grown up with the club. Filling the trophy cabinet would complete things for me now really."

"Kingsholm is a special place. There may be times when you're feeling a bit battered and bruised and not quite ready for the game but, as soon as you get to the ground, you realise that it's a special place to play rugby and that lifts you."

And, of course, it's the Gloucester Rugby supporters who play a large part in making Kingsholm the fortress it is, a fact he quickly acknowledged.

"When we do that lap before the game, all the bumps and bruises seem to disappear. It's a special thing."



"We know what our crowd expect. It comes down to passion in the shirt really. That's what makes the club special."

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"It may be a cliche but it means something every time you pull the jersey on."

And it's only fitting that Kingsholm forms the backdrop for one of the special moments of his career - his testimonial although Hazell confesses that he's happy to share the spotlight for the day with Lee Mears.

"Lee's a really honest player. That's why I'm very happy that we're sharing the testimonial game. He's obviously done really well with England and the Lions and, a bit



like me, has probably taken a bit of a battering over the years through being a bit smaller than the average for his position!"

"But, he's a top guy. He's not too chopsy, he's got some banter but nothing over the mark. He plays hard and he trains hard and I've got a lot of respect for him."

And the fact that Gloucester kick off the Guinness Premiership season at home to Bath a mere three weeks after the testimonial match offers an interesting backdrop to proceedings.

"That'll be interesting! It'll be a bit of laugh and giggles for my game and then I'll want to rip his head off! And the feeling will probably be mutual."

"That's the nature of it and the first Guinness Premiership game of the season being Bath at Kingsholm will be massive. Every year, the first game is a huge one but Bath is that little bit extra special."

PRE-SEASON SQUADS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY PRE-SEASON SQUAD



BATH RUGBY Pre-season squad



DAVE ATTIMOOD	BCO	NICK ABENDANON	FULLBACK/ WING	
DAVE ATTWOOD SECOND ROW OLIVIER AZAM HOOKER		MATT BANAHAN	WING	
		OLLY BARKLEY	CENTRE/FLY HALF	
MARCO BORTOLAMI LOCK ALEX BROWN LOCK		DAVID BARNES	PROP	
FREDDIE BURNS FLY HALF		MIKE BAXTER	SCRUM HALF	
PETER BUXTON BACK ROW		ANDY BEATTIE	BACK ROW	
PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE PROP		DUNCAN BELL	PROP	
DARREN DAWIDUIK HOOKER		SCOTT BEMAND	SCRUM HALF	
GARETH DELVE BACK ROW		DANIEL BROWNE	NUMBER EIGHT	
ALASDAIR DICKINSON PROP		MATT CARRARO	CENTRE/WING	
PAUL DORAN-JONES PROP		NATHAN CATT	PROP	
ADAM EUSTACE LOCK		TOM CHEESEMAN	CENTRE	
ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU CENTRE		MICHAEL CLAASSENS	SCRUM HALF	
RUPERT HARDEN PROP		RHYS CRANE	WING	
ANDREW HAZELL BACK ROW		JAMES CURRIE	PROP	
WILL JAMES LOCK		JACK CUTHBERT	WING	
RORY LAWSON SCRUM-HALF		RYAN DAVIS	FULLBACK	
SCOTT LAWSON HOOKER	000	PIETER DIXON	HOOKER	
DAVE LEWIS SCRUM-HALF	000	JONNY FAAMATUAINU	LOCK	
OLLY MORGAN FULL-BACK	000	DAVID FLATMAN	PROP	
LUKE NARRAWAY BACK ROW	000	DANNY GREWCOCK	LOCK	
JORDI PASQUALIN SCRUM HALF	000	SHONTAYNE HAPE	CENTRE/ WING	
AKAPUSI QERA BACK ROW		ROB HAWKINS	HOOKER	
SERU RABENI CENTRE		SCOTT HOBSON	LOCK	
TRISTAN ROBERTS FLY HALF		STUART HOOPER	LOCK	
NICKY ROBINSON FLY HALF		EDWARD JACKSON	NUMBER EIGHT	
APO SATALA BACK ROW		BUTCH JAMES	FLY HALF	
CHARLIE SHARPLES WING	000	AARON JARVIS	PROP	
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL WING		MARK LILLEY	PROP	
GREG SOMERVILLE PROP	000	JOE MADDOCK	FULLBACK/ WING	
CARLOS SPENCER FLY HALF		LEE MEARS	HOOKER	
ALASDAIR STROKOSCH BACK ROW		BILLY MOSS	PROP	
YANN THOMAS PROP		JOSH OVENS	BACK ROW	
MIKE TINDALL CENTRE		JULIAN SALVI	BACK ROW	
HENRY TRINDER CENTRE		PETER SHORT	BACK ROW	
LESLEY VAINIKOLO WING		BEN SKIRVING	BACK ROW	
TOM VOYCE WING		MICHAEL STEPHENSON	WING	
DAN WILLIAMS NUMBER EIGHT		LUKE WATSON	BACK ROW	
NICK WOOD PROP		BEN WILLIAMS	CENTRE	
		DAVID WILSON	PROP	