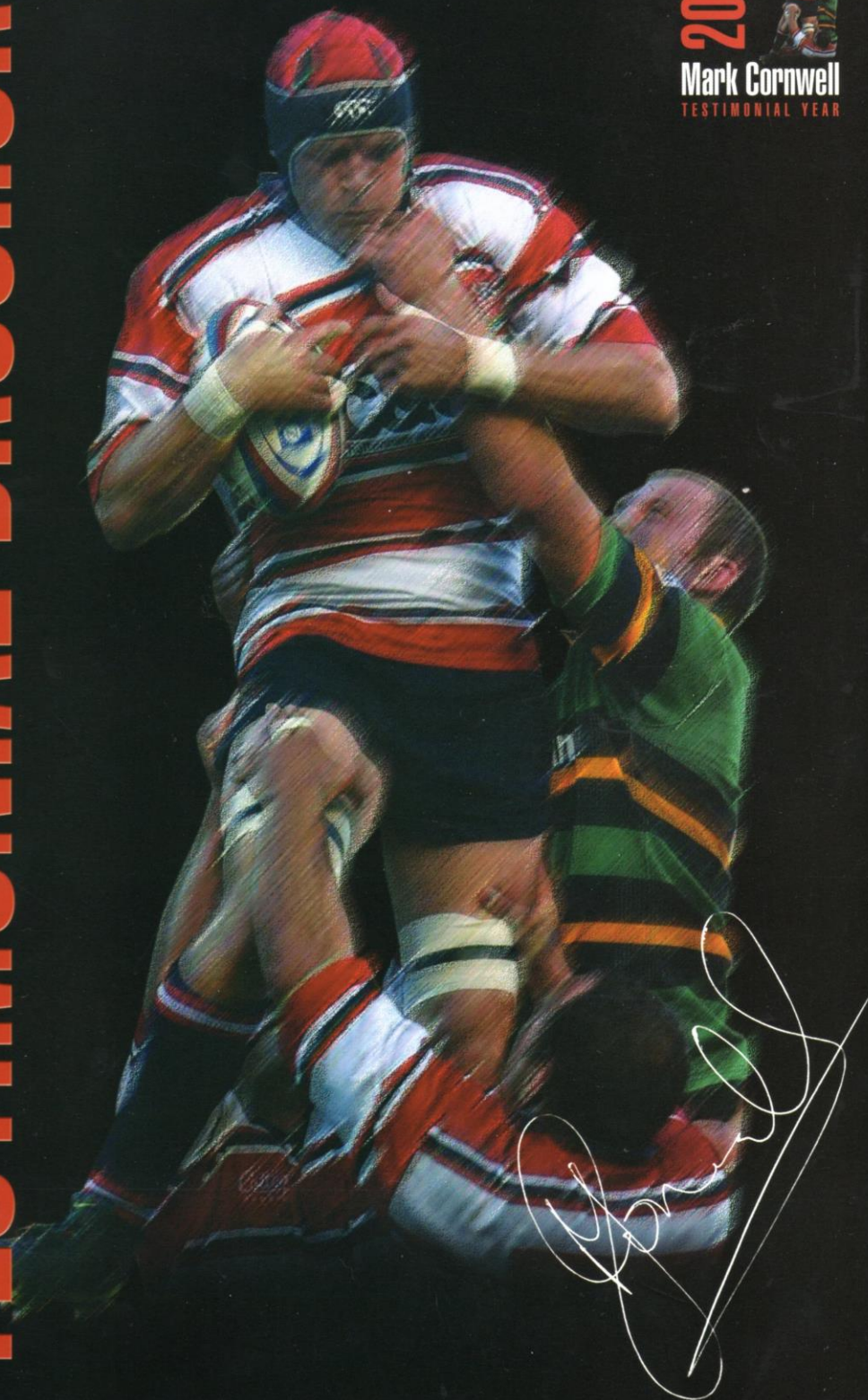


TESTIMONIAL BROCHURE



2005

Mark Cornwell
TESTIMONIAL YEAR



Welcome

I F SOMEONE had said to me 12 years ago that I would be celebrating a Testimonial Year in 2005, I would have advised them to look for the men in white coats.

But time has a habit of catching you up and here I am today, older, hopefully wiser with many experiences under my belt and with many stories to tell.

I would like to take this opportunity to whole-heartedly thank everyone who has helped in organising such an exciting benefit year for me. We have some fantastic events planned and hopefully I will get the opportunity to meet you and thank you personally for all of your support.

I feel so proud and privileged to have remained a Gloucester player throughout the duration of my playing career and will never take for granted what wearing the Cherry and White shirt represents.

Once again, my sincere thanks to everyone and here's to continued success for Gloucester.



Bruce Seabrook/www.gpaimages.co.uk

2005



Mark Cornwell
TESTIMONIAL YEAR

c/o Mr Nick Broady
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A master of the DARK ARTS

BY MIKE TEAGUE, PATRON OF THE TESTIMONIAL COMMITTEE
FORMER GLOUCESTER, ENGLAND & BRITISH LIONS BACK-ROW

I ALWAYS knew when it was time to retire. I was 35, fighting off a few injuries and watching the young lads coming through the ranks at Kingsholm.

One of those lads was Mark Cornwell. I remember seeing him for the first time. He is a big man - 6ft 6in and could play at either second row or number eight - which was in direct competition with me.

My final game was against Harlequins and I knew most of the ways to cheat - some sly some not so sly. But I was particularly pleased with my running lines and defensive work so I could stay ahead of the competition.

But I noticed Mark was always there at the ball before me anyway - cheating or no cheating. I was adamant that he certainly couldn't be as well versed in those dark arts as me at such a young age so it made my mind up for me.

It is therefore very fitting that a player who has given long and loyal service to Gloucester Rugby Club has achieved a Testimonial. Mark is from the last era of players born and bred within the city and that is why this is so special.

I have no doubt that had it not been for a couple of serious injuries, Mark would have made an England tour. There have been some tough times but he has

always remained loyal and true to the club he supported as a boy.

It would have been easier for him to find rugby at other clubs at various stages of his career. Both Harlequins and Wasps have been keen to sign him in the past and that just goes to show how well respected he is by opposing clubs.

Mark is now an astute line-out tactician and has many more good performances in him for Gloucester.

Congratulations Mark in your Testimonial year - just don't ask me to drink Alcopops to celebrate - that was another thing you were better than me at. I will stick to cider and a curry.

Cheers,
Mike Teague.

"I NOTICED MARK WAS ALWAYS THERE AT THE BALL BEFORE ME ANYWAY - CHEATING OR NO CHEATING"





Yellow sportscars & fancy cushions?

BY NICK BROADY, CHAIRMAN OF THE TESTIMONIAL COMMITTEE

WELCOME EVERYBODY to what is going to be a spectacular and fun-packed 2005 Testimonial Year for Mark Cornwell.

It is a big honour for me to have been asked to be chairman of Mark's Testimonial Committee, and I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to help him as well as work with such an enthusiastic, professional and dedicated team.

For those of you who are not aware, Premier Rugby guidelines only allow a club to award a testimonial for outstanding and exceptional service. The PRA (Professional Rugby Players Association) has some very tough guidelines on how to conduct a benefit year, and these must be strictly adhered to.

My relationship with Mark spans more than 12 years. I can always recall when a very tall, lanky young boy came to work at Avenue Cars to earn his pocket money as a driver, whilst training at Kingsholm, just before professionalism had been introduced.

Mark is only the second Gloucester player to be awarded a Testimonial. His nickname to all of his friends and playing colleagues is Pasty - bet you can't work out why! His achievements have included more than 150 league and cup appearances and 14 England A caps. Not bad for some young guy who spent most of his early days

on the bench waiting for his chance! In fact the staff at Avenue Cars had a cushion made for him with the letters "PPP" on it, meaning Pasty's Posterior Position. And believe me he used it!

Pasty was always trying to drive the fastest, smartest cars and sometimes ended up crashing

" PASTY WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO DRIVE THE FASTEST, SMARTEST CARS AND SOMETIMES ENDED UP CRASHING THEM "



them - in fact in a very big way once, in a bright yellow MR2. It was never to go back on the road again after Pasty's adventure. Please ask him the rest of the story and why he crashed that car!

Mark and I had a very good working relationship. He would turn up when he wanted, train when he wanted, but always collected his wages ON TIME! As Chris Forthey and Pasty would say - "standard".

I hope that you all enjoy this brochure and the events that we have planned throughout the year.

On behalf of Pasty, I would like to thank all of the people who have generously given their time and expertise to help prepare this publication.

I would particularly like to thank Elizabeth, my committee and very good friends whose efforts have been outstanding.

Special thanks must also go to Lee Janes for his design and help in creating what I believe to be a wonderful brochure.

Nick Broady



THIS IS my life

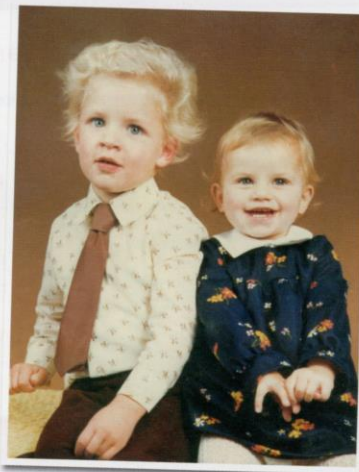
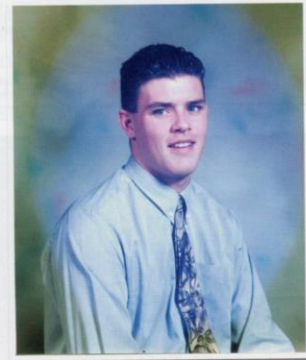
BY MARK CORNWELL (WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM ALASTAIR DOWNEY)



MARK CORNWELL was a big baby. When he popped into the world on the 22nd of February 1973, he weighed 9lb 9oz - and was well on the way to becoming a lock forward.

He was the first son of Diane and John Cornwell, who were later to have a daughter - Natalie, who is 15 months younger. A native of Longlevens, Mark's early schooling was at Elmbridge Infants before he moved to Saintbridge Comprehensive at the age of 11.

After obtaining five GCSE's, Mark started A-Level courses in design and technology, Biology and English but an academic career was not to his liking. "I just decided it was not for me and gave it all up after a year - I was not really one for the class room," he said. "I got a job at Burton's the clothes shop and worked as a suit salesman, travelling between Debenhams in the Cheltenham and Gloucester shops."



Despite going to work in a suit - something barely credible these days - Mark was already playing for Old Richians and had represented their Under-16s before breaking into the Gloucester Colts set-up as his credentials began to grab the attentions of the city club.

He was good enough to earn a tour place to America with Gloucester at the age of 17 alongside city greats like Mike Hamlin, Richard West and Bobby Fowke for a two-week experience that confirmed he was desperate to represent Gloucester.



"I was standing in the kitchen when the phone went; my dad answered and said it was Alan Brinn from the rugby club. He just asked me whether I had a blazer and if I did I better look it out because I was going on tour - to America," he said. "I was 17, going to America for two weeks to play rugby and I couldn't believe it."

"We had a great time, drunk some beer, played some rugby and drunk some more beer. It was just fantastic."

By the age of 21 his telescopic line-out qualities were good enough to earn a place in the notoriously competitive Gloucester United side - the breeding ground to the first team and a set-up littered with excellent players all hoping for a breakthrough into the senior ranks.

"Rugby was becoming even more serious and I realised I wanted to go as far as I could in the game," he



"WE HAD A GREAT TIME, DRUNK SOME BEER, PLAYED SOME RUGBY AND DRUNK SOME MORE BEER. IT WAS JUST FANTASTIC."

said. "A great friend of mine called Rob James, who now plays for Cinderford, and I had the chance to go on an exchange to New Zealand at Nelson Bays Rugby Club."

"It was simply too good an opportunity to turn down so I again packed in my job and off I went. It was fantastic and I learned a hell of a lot about forward play. By the time I came back in 1994, I got onto the squad as a senior at Gloucester and didn't look back."

He continued to play week in, week out for the United side but made his first team debut that season against Cheltenham at Kingsholm opposite John Brain, the former Cherry and White lock and later coach.

Gloucester were still heavily dependent on local talent before the game switched from amateur to professional and he had to wait for his Courage League debut as



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the likes of the brilliant Dave Sims, Richard West, Rob Fidler and Simon Devereux dominated the lock positions under then coach Barry Corless.

When the game went professional in 1995, Mark made his league debut in a west country derby against Bristol at the Memorial Stadium and capped his first home appearance with two tries against Harlequins on Mike Teague's last appearance for the club.

"IT HAS BEEN SUPERB, WE HAVE LOST SOME GAMES ALONG THE WAY BUT THE EXPERIENCE, FRIENDSHIPS AND CAMARADERIE THAT I HAVE DEVELOPED WITH PLAYERS DOWN THE YEARS IS VERY SPECIAL."

He signed a two-year contract immediately and jostled for a place alongside a host of players. "I have played with a few locks - Simsy, Richard West, Simon Devereux, Rob Fidler, Richard Ward, Ian Jones, Pete Miles, Alex Brown and Adam Eustace."

"When the game went professional it was fantastic because playing

rugby was all I wanted to do. We were getting paid to do something that had been our hobby for the city club."

His qualities did not stop at club level and he was soon attracting the attentions of the national selectors. He made his England A debut against Ireland and has won 14 A team caps.

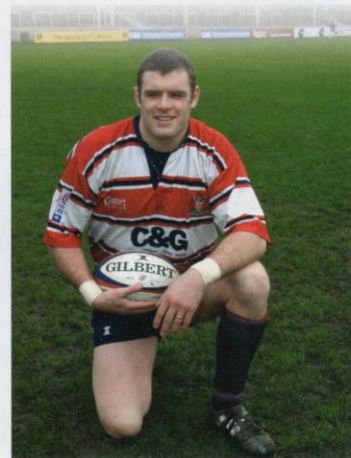
After Corless left the club, Mark has worked with Viv Woolley, Richard Hill, Philippe Saint-Andre and now Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan.

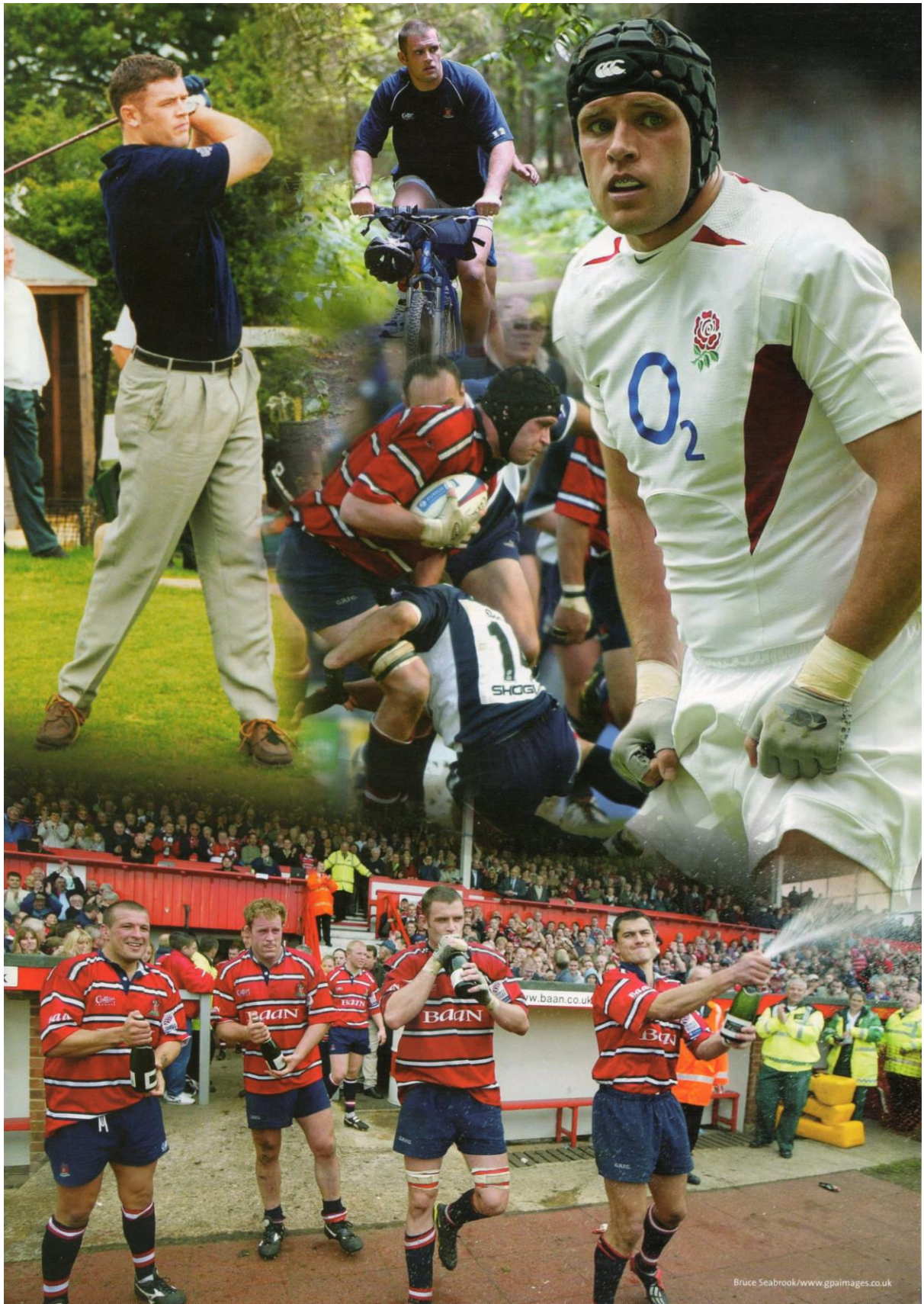
On June 23 2001, he married Claire at Barnwood Church and now has a two-and-a-half year old son Jacob.

Over the course of his career, Mark has signed four different contracts at Kingsholm and has made over 100 Premiership appearances - something only equalled in the current squad by Terry Fanolua.

"It has been superb," he said. "We have lost some games along the way but the experience, friendships and camaraderie that I have developed with players down the years is very special."

"It is an honour to represent Gloucester and I hope I can do so for a long time yet."





PLAYING RECORD

MARK CORNWELL STATS*

Team	No. of Games	Tries
Bath	12	0
Bedford	3	1
Bristol	8	0
Leeds Tykes	5	0
Leicester Tigers	14	0
London Irish	7	1
London Scottish	1	0
Newcastle Falcons	11	1
Northampton Saints	10	0
NEC Harlequins	10	2
Richmond	3	0
Rotherham	3	1
Sales Sharks	10	0
Saracens	11	0
Wasps	15	2
West Hartlepool	2	0

Total league appearances: 125 – 40 points

Debut 1992, League debut 1995: Bristol

European Appearances: Heineken(14)

England A debut: 1998 rep for Crag Gillies against Ireland

Total England A appearances: 14

*As of November 2004;



DIARY DATES

2005



Mark Cornwell
TESTIMONIAL EVENTS

Saturday 19 th February	Brochure Launch at Gloucester v Bath
Sunday 20 th March	Cornwell XV v Deacon XV at Longlevens RFC
Friday 22 nd April	Gala Boxing Dinner in association with Raging Bull (SOLD OUT)
Saturday 25 th June	Breakfast with the Lions at GRFC. Open from 8.00am, kick off 9.10am
Saturday 2 nd July	Breakfast with the Lions at GRFC. Open from 8.00am, kick off 9.10am
Saturday 9 th July	Breakfast with the Lions at GRFC. Open from 8.00am, kick off 9.10am
Saturday 29 th July	Golf Day & BBQ at the Gloucester County Club
Friday 30 th September	Promises Auction at Hartpury College

DATES AWAITING CONFIRMATION

May	Lions send off dinner
August	Testimonial Game
November	End of season dinner

PLEASE CHECK ON www.mark-cornwell.com
FOR THESE DATES AND OTHER EVENTS



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The Pasty Dream Team

COMPETITION SPONSORED BY HUDSON & CO. SPORTS OUTFITTERS.

As Part of Mark's Testimonial Programme he has decided to run a competition to select his current favourite dream team. Being a reserved and modest player, he hasn't included himself, but will be the coach.

There are four selections for each team position from the players listed below. The winner will be the person with the selection closest to Mark's. You will also be asked to nominate five replacements. For each correct team member you will get three points and for each replacement two points. The winner will have the highest aggregate score.

The prize for the winner will be £100 of clothing vouchers donated by Hudson & Co. Sports Outfitters to be used at their new larger premises on Northgate Street, Gloucester. The winner will be announced at the Testimonial game in August 2005.



- 1 O Du Randt (SA), Woodman (Eng), Rowntree (Eng), Smith (Sco)
- 2 Paul (Aus), Oliver (NZ), Smit (SA), Thompson (Eng)
- 3 Marconnet (France), Young (Aus), Hayes (Ire), Vickery (Eng)
- 4 Pelous (France), Jack (NZ), O'Kelly (Ire), Johnson (Eng)
- 5 Maxwell (NZ), O'Connell (Ire), Grewcock (Eng), Matfield (SA)
- 6 Betsen (France), Burger (SA), Thorne (NZ), Hill (Eng)
- 7 Magne (France), Smith (Aus), McCaw (NZ), Back (Eng)
- 8 Harinordoquy (France), AJ Venter, (SA) Dallaglio (Eng), Foley (Ire)
- 9 Gregan (Aus), Stringer (Ire), Marshall (NZ), Dawson (Eng)
- 10 Michalak (France), Larkham (Aus), Wilkinson (Eng), Van der Westhuyzen (SA)
- 11 Tuquiri (Aus), Palse (SA), Cohen (Eng), Howlett (NZ)
- 12 Marsh (France), Umaga (NZ), O'Driscoll (Ire), Carter (NZ)
- 13 Mortlock (Aus), D'Arcy (Ire), Greenwood (Eng), De Wet Barry (SA)
- 14 Rathbone (Aus), Rokocoko (NZ), Sailor (Aus), Lewsey (Eng)
- 15 Latham (Aus), Murphy (Ire), Robinson (Eng), Muliaina (NZ)

ENTRIES VIA EMAIL TO: admin@mark-cornwell.com





Ode to "Stan"

BY NIGEL MELVILLE
HEAD COACH, GLOUCESTER RFC

There's a story that's told down at Kingsholm,
About this incredible man,
Who pulled out of the Powergen Final,
I think his nickname is Stan.

You see 'Cirus the Virus' lay dying
The doctor was called to his room,
MacKay's not a man to be panicked,
But relayed to me a story of doom.

There's no question of him playing tomorrow,
At last its all come out,
We know that he's weak and he's feeble,
But he's suffering a bad case of gout.

Late at night Pasty woke feeling better,
Feeling good and not knowing the hour
Decided to make one last effort
But slipped as he climbed in the shower.

Later he woke in the bathroom,
Surrounded by blood from his head
Daylight shone through the window
There was no time to go back to bed

He jumped in a taxi to Twickers
Kit packed and ready to go
His team-mates had gone on without him,
Cursing Pasty, another 'no show'

At Twickers he ran down the tunnel,
And the Final whistle blew,
His mates had done it without him

PASTY ABSENT - NOTHING NEW!

Nigel Melville



The ugly brother

BY DEAN RYAN
HEAD COACH, GLOUCESTER RFC

WHEN I was asked to write a short piece for Pasty's
Testimonial brochure, I thought I would start by
asking a few people who had known him for longer.

It has turned out that Pasty has handed over 60 pages
of 'give us all you have got' license to abuse him.

Over the last 10 years Pasty has been the Policeman in
Chief of 'Gloucester Banter' in the playing departments
self policing programme, so please don't feel sorry for
him, it's what he wants.

The advent of professionalism combined with the
influx of players and staff from all corners of the globe
has given Pasty previously untried opportunities to
inflict new forms of banter. Sadly, the most high profile
case ended with the self-imposed exile of our last skills
coach, Rudi Meir.

It also hasn't gone unnoticed in certain quarters that a
section of people have started to list a number of
similarities between Mark and myself.

Sadly, this has led me to leaving games early in disguise
to save myself from the many occasions I have had to
run the gauntlet of Gloucester faithful keen to give
their views of the game and Mark's performance. All I
can say is that I never thought he's played that badly!

We've even had the extreme of my children shouting
across the car park: "There's dad," only for my wife to
explain: "No boys, that's Mark Cornwell, dad's the
younger looking one."

With Deacs now gone, Pasty is one of the dwindling
few that can recall Gloucester's hard school of
traditional culture that too many people are prepared
to pay lip service to without true hands on experience.

Mark, good luck in your testimonial year. After 10 years
of great service, you certainly deserve it. As a true
Gloucester forward you still stand up around the game
which is the ultimate compliment.

Dean Ryan



Captain Annoying!

BY ANDY GOMARSALL MBE, WORLD CUP WINNING GLOUCESTER & ENGLAND SCRUM-HALF



Bruce Seabrook/www.gpalmages.co.uk

Before signing for Gloucester in the year 2000, I had not formally met the infamous Mark Cornwell, but it felt like I already knew him.

We did not know it at the time but we already had something in common - I annoyed the hell out of him and he annoyed the hell out of me!

But let's talk shop for a second. Playing against Pasty is a real challenge. He would certainly be captain of the 'World Annoying XV'.

When I played for Wasps against Gloucester he was always the one pulling me head first into the ruck, dragging me back as I supported, strangling me at a tackle and generally cheating around the field at any given time.

So when I joined Gloucester I was excited that this man would now be on my side, he would be annoying other people, not me. How wrong could I be?

I forgot that it was really only twice in the season that I

had to play against him, now I had to train against him every day, and he spent those days cheating and annoying me constantly.

The first thing he said to me was "You're the cretin with the curtains" relating to my past life as a pissed student with a dodgy barnet.

It was at this point that I found his weakness - I annoyed him as much as the other way round.

When the banter commenced, it was on the training field, at the card table, at lunch, in team meetings, when we're at home, when we're on honeymoon - much to the cost of our mobile bills.

As I've got to know Pasty over the last five years, there are some intriguing traits to our Mark...

TRAIT ONE:

He is not a good loser. I would have him in the Gloucester team every day of the week for that fact. He demands the best from his team-mates at a cost of a



CONTRIBUTIONS ANDY GOMARSALL

falling out with them, but that is because he is a winner.

He is also born and bred Gloucester and that is hugely important, particularly for players who have come from outside, who need to learn how important this club is when you take the field with local guys.

TRAIT TWO:

He is not a good loser. If you have ever had the pleasure of playing cards with Pasty you will learn this instantly. Throwing his cards on the floor is the least of your worries! There is no better feeling than beating him, purely because it is a rarity and I think the lads ended up paying for his conservatory extension!

“ I FIRST WANTED TO SEE HIM DRESSED IN HIS OUTFIT FOR THE NIGHT - WHITE LONG JOHNS WITH GREEN WELLIES AND A BALACLAVA!”

TRAIT THREE:

He is not a good loser. Unfortunately as a Southampton supporter, he is an eternal loser. He has spent most of this season claiming he is an Everton fan, denying his allegiance to the team struggling near the bottom of the Premiership.

I am not much better as a Spurs fan but I do have Chris Fortey, Richard Ward and James Broady to help ease the pain.

TRAIT FOUR:

He is not a good drinker. He claims he is but I recall him on his stag week to Tenerife begging me to stay in for a night to recover from a stomach bug he had caught due to his pathetic drinking capabilities.

If the truth be known I first wanted to see him dressed in his outfit for the night - white long johns with green wellies and a balaclava!

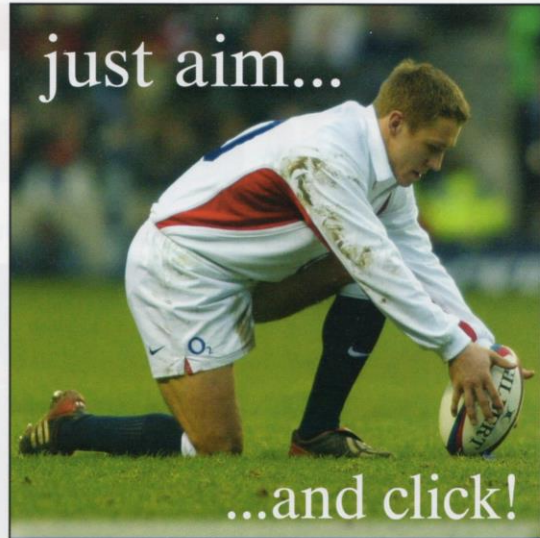
TRAIT FIVE:

Pasty deserves his Testimonial Year. He is Gloucester through and through and I am glad to contribute to his benefit brochure. He very much deserves the support he will get for his services to Gloucester Rugby Club. The longer he continues to play, the better for Gloucester.

All the best Cretin, you deserve it. I'm sure Jacob will grow up to be a far better second row than you.

Cheers boy,

Gomars



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Mark Cornwell

BY **STEPHEN JONES**, THE SUNDAY TIMES, SPORTS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR



My researches for this article on one of Gloucester's greatest and most loyal and consistent forwards, were rigorous. "What's Mark Cornwell really like," I asked a highly-informed source at Kingsholm, who I can't name, though we can give him the secret code-name "Justin Hopwood" for security purposes.

JH "Well, when you first meet him, you find him grumpy and miserable."

SJ "And when you get to know him better?"

JH "When you get to know him better, you find him grumpy and miserable."

That bestowed the final stamp of approval on Pasty Cornwell in my eyes. I have always admired him massively. Maybe it was a hereditary admiration, in a sense, because Dave Sims, who came before him as a mid-line jumper, was always one of my favourite

players. It is very difficult to recall Cornwell ever turning in a poor performance.

And I have seen a few Gloucester games in his time and in my time. When deciding which game to cover, I tend to gravitate to somewhere where rugby is in the heart and soul. Or to put this sacred philosophy another way: Bollocks to the Stoop Memorial Ground and the Madejski Stadium. Kingsholm? Fervour, passion, physicality. And that's only in the media room when the bacon rolls arrive.

Grumpy and miserable? Perfect. That's how Glosser forwards should be. I think the arrival of professionalism in rugby has finally seen the old sport push on and maximise itself. But what underpins the pro game are those things that made it great and launched it into professionalism in the first place. In Gloucester's case, what made the club great were

generations of tough forwards born and bred locally, and whose passions came not from a salary, but from the pull of history. Players like Andy Deacon and Mark Cornwell are merely the latest in a proud line.

Yet it would also be a mistake, I feel, to see Cornwell as some kind of throwback. With his athleticism and dexterity in the line-out, with his obvious leadership qualities, he is also the thoroughly-modern lock. Just as in the case of Dave Sims, there is no doubt that many locks who were inferior to Cornwell have won England caps by the hatful.

He has rarely been allowed the luxury of feeling settled in the first team. Players like Dave Sims, Ian Jones and Alex Brown, all great players, have arrived to challenge him. No doubt, he has had to bash on with frustration a constant companion.

However, I would definitely play Cornwell in the same class of all those players, and in terms of willpower, pride in performance of himself and his club, I have seen very few superior players on the England scene in 20 years of scribbling for that nice Mr Murdoch. His testimonial season is richly-deserved, let's hope that the grumpy guard is allowed to drop, just occasionally, so that he can join in his own celebrations.

Stephen Jones



Born in the USA

BY **ANDY DEACON** FORMER GLOUCESTER PROP

WHEN I first met Mark it was on a tour to America in 1990. Looking very young and green, but unmistakably tall, this tour set the tone for a great friendship to come.

Like every good sportsman they have to have attitude, dedication and the ability to improve. I think Mark has these three traits in abundance. But most of all he has attitude and an opinion which he is always keen to express to anyone willing to listen.

Like myself, Mark has dedicated his life to the good of Gloucester Rugby Club and is willing to do anything to ensure the club is successful.

As a player, Mark has improved from a 'standard' Old Richian into a very powerful athlete, with an intelligent rugby brain.

To sum Mark up, he is a great professional and a true friend with whom it's been a pleasure to play alongside. He deserves all the success he gets this year.

Best of luck,

Deacs.

To 4 eyes

I THOUGHT I would start by congratulating Pasty on his Testimonial Year, but he wouldn't do the same for me so I will just get on with abusing him.

Pasty and I have known each other since our days at secondary school and although he was a few years older than me, I instantly realised he was a loser because he was a prefect and wore tri-focal National Health glasses.

I first met Pasty on a rugby field when we became involved with the Gloucester Colts set up under the guiding eyes of John Powell and John Dix - two great coaches.

It is at that stage when you begin to learn a lot about players, you understand temperament, physicality and skill levels. Pasty has come a long way since those days because back then he had sod all going for him, apart from being a good line-out forward and that was because he was so tall.



es from 40

BY **CHRIS FORTEY**
GLOUCESTER
HOOKER
& FORMER ROOMIE

I am a firm believer that all second rows are only as good as the person throwing them the ball, so I feel he owes me, and all the hookers he has played with down the years, a great deal for getting him where he is today.

As we moved through the ranks, Pasty and I often became room mates on tour and I feel I know his sleeping habits off by heart. I feel very sorry for his wife Claire for having to put up with a serious case of wind, his grinding teeth and his bad breath. All three combined are not a pleasant experience.

We have gathered a large number of stories together but one on England A duty in France really sticks out.

After the match we were on a big round table with a few of the new lads back then - Ben Kay, Ben Johnstone and Lee Best - when Pasty thought it would be a good idea to go on a red wine mission.

But our hero was put to bed long before anybody else. Tony Diprose and I even had to help him onto the coach and his credibility as a drinker never recovered.

I also know Pasty well away from the rugby field and he loves a gamble. The toys have come out of the pram on a number of occasions when he loses and it never fails to make me laugh. When the card schools get going on away trips and he starts losing, everybody else is dying to laugh but don't dare in case it fuels one of his famous reactions.

But the best punch I have ever seen him throw, come to think of it the only punch I have seen him throw, was in a game of touch and he broke a former team mate's nose.

I sometimes have to remind him he is not too big for a slap himself so with his short temper it amazes me where he gets his patience from to go fishing.

It was just my bad luck that I failed to get out of bed one Sunday morning and missed the funniest moment ever.

Our fishing club were involved in a match on Gloucester Canal when there was this massive splash from Pasty's peg. All that was visible were a pair of size 13 Wellingtons sticking out of the water.

Apparently, he was reaching for something when he lost his balance and ended up head first in the canal, cutting his leg and dragging all his kit with him - I am just gutted I missed it.

But Pasty is a player who has done exceptionally well throughout his career. That is down to the serious amount of hard work he has put in while all that brown-nosing has served him well down the years.

I wish him all the best for the coming year and the rest of his career. He deserves all the success he gets because he is a great professional and a great friend.

Chris Fortey



"I INSTANTLY REALISED HE WAS A LOSER BECAUSE HE WAS A PREFECT AND WORE TRI-FOCAL NATIONAL HEALTH GLASSES."



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SERVICE WITH A SMILE

BY **BEN KAY** MBE LEICESTER & ENGLAND



"HE PUKED,
PASSED OUT
AND WET
THE BED"

Bruce Seabrook/www.gpaimages.co.uk

MET Pasty in my first year at the Tigers while we were both playing for England A.

Since then I have had the pleasure of being on the end of countless shoeings and cheap shots from him when Leicester and Gloucester have met.

I've never held any bitterness towards him because the pain was always dished out with a smile and a real sense of enjoyment.

Having said that he can also take a cheap shot pretty well but when that cheeky smile returns to his face, I've never worked out if that was in appreciation for the quality of the shot or whether he was just planning his revenge.

I'd like to be able to tell you some dodgy drinking tales about Pasty but unfortunately he holds a loaded gun to my head on such subjects. But there is the one where he puked, passed out and wet the bed, but I am sure somebody can fill you in on that one.

It only remains for me to wish Pasty the best of luck in his Testimonial Year. I'm sure you'll all get behind him as I don't think you could find a player who better epitomises what makes Gloucester such a great club.

Ben Kay



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The school of Hard Knocks

BY **TONY DIPROSE** HARLEQUINS, ENGLAND & BRITISH LIONS

I T SEEMS a long time ago now that I played with 'Pasty' Cornwell for England A.

I'll have to be honest and admit I didn't know too much about him at that stage as a player or a bloke. But I did get to know both sides of Pasty over the next couple of years.

I would often find myself at the back of the bus surrounded by the 'Gloucester Mafia' - Cornwell, Chris Fortey, Dave Sims and Tony Windo. The company certainly made for interesting journeys as I learned about nights out in Gloucester and Cheltenham along with how much money they had made in the latest card school.

The A team card school was a tough environment for many and a few of the younger pups left with their tails between their legs when Pasty scooped another pot.

He was always a shrewd man in the card world, but how was he in the drinking stakes? You would expect a Gloucester forward to set the pace and I was not disappointed. At an away match against France in Blagnac near Toulouse, I was not to be let down.

A roasting hot drinking pace was set at the after-match function and with Mark Mapletoft as captain it was always going to be a lively night. Few who were there will forget the great night - and morning - we had out in Toulouse.

Unfortunately, Pasty was not there to remember it because he was safely tucked up in bed by mid-night having lost his post-match meal on the pavement outside the hotel.

On the field though, Pasty has always shown remarkable reliability. He is a great line-out forward who is not afraid to put his head where it hurts. He has been a tremendous forward, week in - week out, for many years and always remained incredibly loyal.

Good luck in your Testimonial Year, but please take my advice at the dinner, stay off the red wine!

Tony Diprose.



"A FEW OF THE YOUNGER PUPS LEFT WITH THEIR TAILS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS WHEN PASTY SCOOPED ANOTHER POT"



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CONTRIBUTIONS PHIL VICKERY

A FISHERMAN'S FRIEND

BY **PHIL VICKERY** MBE
GLOUCESTER, ENGLAND & BRITISH LIONS PROP

I HAVE known Pasty since I joined the club in the 1994/95 season. He has been an outstanding player for Gloucester down the years, who has given his heart and soul to the club.

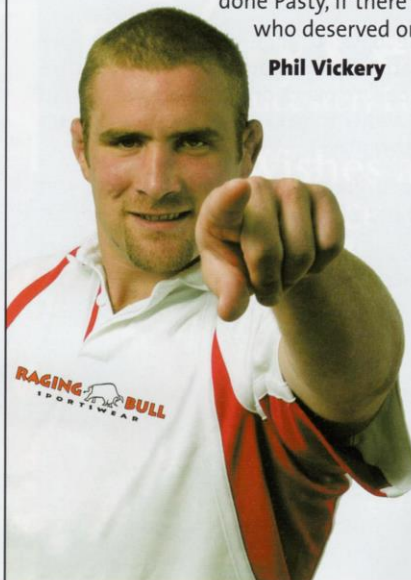
He has the respect of the players - always a sign of a top professional and a top bloke. On the field we have our fair share of memories, victories and set-backs but he has always been hugely consistent throughout his time at the club.

Off the field, he is always one of the first to stick his hand up if somebody needs help and I have a huge amount of respect for him in the way he has helped out Raging Bull over the years.

No task too big or too small. Pasty is a real salt of the earth type of guy. He likes his fishing and skittles and we have spent many an hour trying to out-fish each other on Gloucester Canal.

His Testimonial Year is well and truly deserved. Well done Pasty, if there was ever a bloke who deserved one, it's you.

Phil Vickery



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**Have a great Testimonial
year, Mark.**

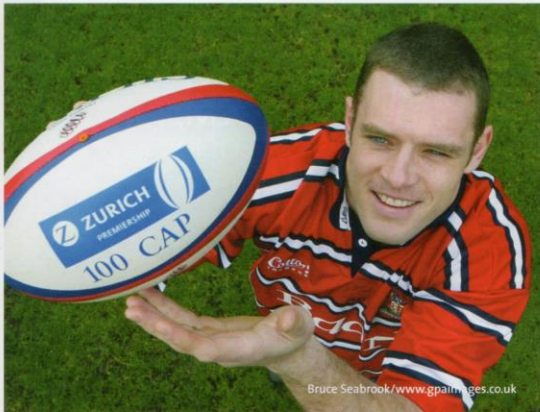
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A word from "The Boss"

BY TOM WALKINSHAW GLOUCESTER CHAIRMAN



Bruce Seabrook/www.gpimages.co.uk

Mark Cornwell has made more than 100 appearances for Gloucester, and many of those have been since I was involved at the club.

I can't remember when his name wasn't on the team sheet on a matchday, and to say that, it brings him into the same class as Andy Deacon and other club stalwarts that are so few and far between in the modern game.

When we first started talking about a testimonial year for Pasty, it didn't take much thought, we were delighted to rubber stamp it.

That was the easy bit. Having spoken to Pasty over the last few months his commitment into the planning of these 12 months has mirrored his efforts and enthusiasm towards Gloucester Rugby Club over the last 10 years.

Looking at the events on his schedule, there should be some good moments to savour and I hope that everyone will support him and his team in making this a year he can enjoy.

Tom Walkinshaw

Alder King wish Mark success in his testimonial year



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TAKING THE PISTE

BY JOHN BRAIN, WORCESTER DIRECTOR OF RUGBY AND FORMER GLOUCESTER SECOND ROW

I first came across Mark on a cold Tuesday night in Matson about 12 years ago. For those of you who don't know, Matson is a small 'ski village' on the outskirts of Gloucester, famous for a large artificial ski slope and what used to be an uncompromising local rugby team.

I was still playing at the time, but I'd been asked to do some coaching that evening. Mark stood out. He was tall and athletic and was obviously going to be a good line-out forward.

He also struck me as very confident, even cocky. Not a bad thing in a young lock I thought, providing he listens to the right people at the right time.

I next encountered Mark four years later. This time I was in direct opposition to him on the pitch. I was in the last season of my playing career and I trotted out for Cheltenham against Gloucester at Kingsholm.

Just to give the game a nice edge, there were a few former Gloucester players in the Cheltenham team. The line-out battle between this old stager and the young Pasty was very competitive. I soon realised he was good, because I had to call on all my experience to deal with him. I think that both of us left the field tested, but with our pride intact. At least that's my story and I'm sticking to it!

Three years later I was coaching Mark at Gloucester. Mark's career at Gloucester has not been an easy one. He has had to work for everything. No sooner had he established himself as first choice over the Gloucester legend Dave Sims, than he had to deal with the arrival of All Black Ian Jones.

Mark could easily have moved to another Premiership club, but his goal has always been to be a key player for the city in which he grew up.

So he's toughed it out and emerged a better player and stronger character for it all. Unfortunately, he will probably be one of the last Gloucester players to emerge from the local rugby scene. As such and for all the hard work he's put in, I wish him every success in his thoroughly deserved testimonial season.

John Brain

"HE ALSO STRUCK ME AS VERY CONFIDENT, EVEN COCKY"





Mark Cornwell

BY ALASTAIR DOWNEY, GLOUCESTER CITIZEN RUGBY WRITER

ASK YOURSELF what makes Gloucester rugby special, what distinguishes it from the run-of-the-mill, everyday goings on at less celebrated institutions, and it is easy to come up with answers.

It is a club that glories in its tribalism and history. It is ferociously parochial - even now in this multi-national professional age - and is supported fervently by a growing number of partisan supporters.

But rub away a bit deeper, get inside the mechanics of the team and you realise that what truly makes it unique is its rich history in attracting the best local talent to represent the city team.

Years ago, any player attempting to break in from the comparative proximity of Cheltenham, Stroud or the Forest of Dean required a passport as Gloucester built their foundations on players from Longlevens, Gloucester Old Boys, Spartans and Old Richians - to name only four junior breeding grounds.

They were townie heroes you saw shopping in Tesco's, not opening them, which is why, even now, they are guaranteed their own slice of celebrity.

Andy Deacon, the brilliant former prop who retired at the end of last season, represented Gloucester for 16 years and is one of a dying breed of local men who made good.

He was rewarded with a Testimonial - the first in Kingsholm history - and it's fitting another home-grown forward becomes the second to achieve the honour.

Mark Cornwell may not have won an England cap; he may not have his own range of clothing or a website, but consider this. In three, five, 10 years' time, there may not be any more Cornwells, Deacons, Forteys, Hazells or Eustaces in the Cherry and White pack.

That is not because they won't be good enough but because the demands of professional rugby mean the market will have changed.

So, as they pound away in the Premiership and the Heineken Cup, think what it means to have men like Cornwell - a highly competitive second row - in the team during the professional age against the best England, France, Wales and Ireland has to offer.

Think of the blood they have spilt, and the pain they have suffered in the cause of Gloucester Rugby Club.

They may lose games - probably more than they have won over the years - but remember the effort, determination and sheer bloody mindedness.

Even during the course of a debilitating series of November internationals and 10 injuries to Nigel Melville's squad last year, the form of Cornwell, severely restricted by a knee injury, was outstanding.

So, in years to come, when Cornwell has followed Deacon, Teague, Burton, Boyle and Morris into the history books, remember the contribution of the Gloucester forward to its place in history.

Alastair Downey



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As at 27/01/05



IAN JONES CONTRIBUTIONS

Respect

BY IAN JONES
FORMER GLOUCESTER SECOND ROW
& NEW ZEALAND ALL-BLACK LEGEND

CONGRATULATIONS Mark on a wonderful career at Gloucester and now your testimonial year. In this modern era of our game it is fantastic to see a player of your status remain a 'one club, one player' person and somebody who has been a cornerstone of the Gloucester pack for the past 10 years.

Your career has seen the introduction of the professional era; narrow pitches at Kingsholm, Kiwis, Samoans and Frenchmen wear your beloved Cherry & White but throughout you have remained a crowd favourite with the Shed, and their continued support of you is the greatest acknowledgement you can get as a Gloucester player.

I wish you every success in this your testimonial year and would remind you I have not thrown away my boots if you need anyone for your testimonial game!

All the very best - it's been a true pleasure playing alongside you for Gloucester.

Cheers

Ian Jones



Best Wishes
to
Mark Cornwell
in his
Testimonial Year
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THE FRENCH CONNECTION

BY PHILLIPE SAINT-ANDRE
DIRECTOR OF RUGBY, SALE SHARKS

Mark was part of the squad that I played with and coached. As a coach it is sometimes difficult to make that transition from playing to coaching, especially at the same club.

But Mark's outstanding attitude made it a lot easier to coach a player that I'd played alongside for a couple of years previous.

He has a big heart and he's a winner. He played for the collective that means so much to me and his team mates.

I'm delighted for Mark to reach his testimonial year. He is a player who would have been valuable to any team in the Premiership, you only have to look at how many games he's played.

Maybe one day he will become a very good coach I wish him every success for the future.

Phillipe Saint Andre

"HE HAS A BIG HEART AND HE'S A WINNER. HE PLAYED FOR THE COLLECTIVE THAT MEANS SO MUCH TO ME AND HIS TEAM MATES"



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Best Wishes Mark,
it is well deserved!

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