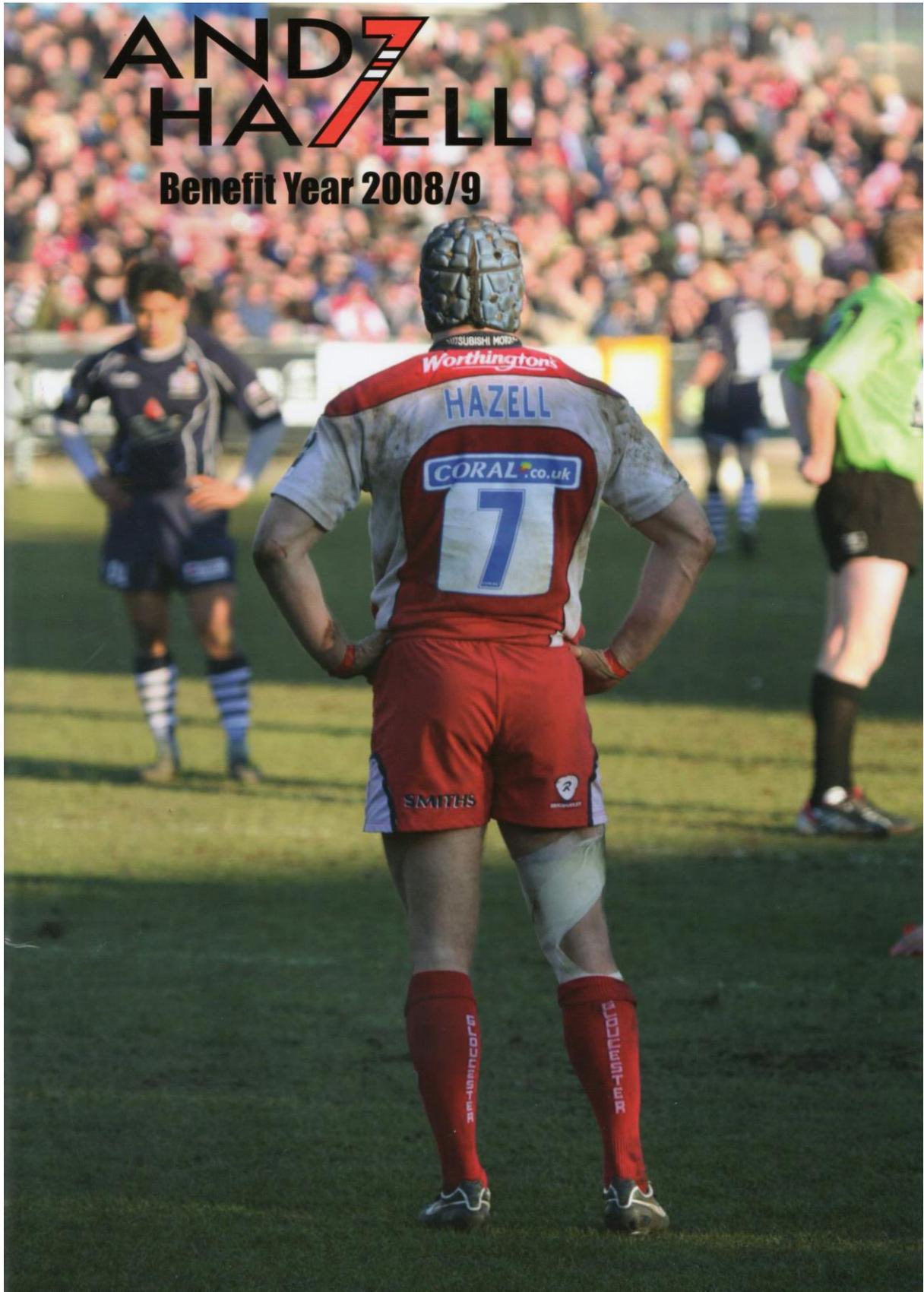


AND 7 HAZELL

Benefit Year 2008/9





A WARM WELCOME FROM THE BENEFIT COMMITTEE

Welcome to the Andrew Hazell Benefit year Brochure. In here you will find comments about Andy from those people who really matter – the players and coaches who have known him best and – allowing for the usual banter – I think you will see how much he is respected throughout the game.

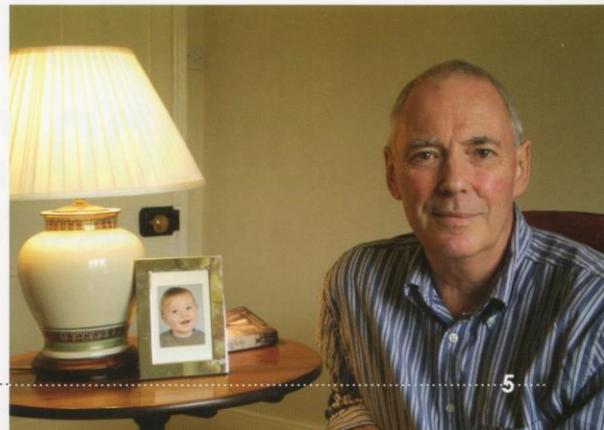
Of course as Gloucester supporters we do not need to be told that. An out and out Gloucester "dog", unafraid to put his body on the line, combined with blistering pace, Andy is a worthy addition to the many great players who have worn the number 7 shirt for the Chery and Whites over the years. It remains a mystery how Andy failed to achieve more international recognition than the few caps that he was awarded. A mystery that does nothing to dispel the long held belief of the true Gloucester fan that Twickenham cannot bring itself to consider good working class boys from the banks of the Severn when it comes to picking a team. Oh what teams England would have had over the years if only the shed had a say in selection policy!

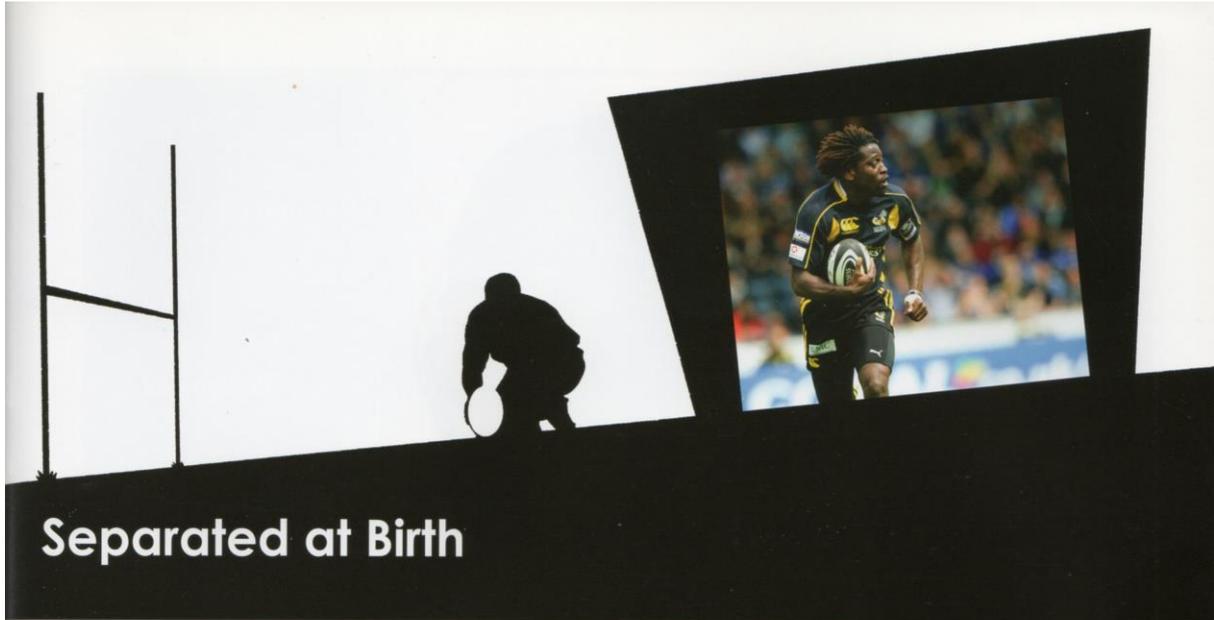
"Oh what teams England would have had over the years if only the shed had a say in selection policy!"

In view of the nature of the position it comes as no surprise to know that statistically the open side flanker is the most injury prone player on the field. Andrew has certainly had his share of injuries ranging from the commonplace – concussions – to the bizarre – rupturing ligaments around his great toe when running on the field! He dealt with all of these like a true professional, each time returning stronger and fitter than when he left. He does, however, have one Achilles heel and that is a morbid fear of needles! One image will long remain in my mind and that is of suturing a particularly nasty facial laceration, sustained in training, with Henry Paul bouncing in and out of my field of vision to take close up photos of the repair work on his mobile phone for onward transmission to the boys still out at the training ground. I have to say Professionalism nearly deserted Andy on that occasion but he kept it together and I have no doubt got his own back at a later date!

If you are attending one of the Benefit Year events while you are reading this I do hope you enjoy the occasion. Please dig deep to support Andy's Benefit year Fund by contributing to the auction, raffle or whatever fund raising activity is going on – you know he's worth it!

Best wishes
 Rob Mackay
 (Chairman, Andrew Hazell Benefit Year Committee)





Separated at Birth

"What's Up Boy Boy?" That's the introduction that Hazy makes when he calls me up. We sometimes talk all the time and then it goes for ages before he calls to chat about Hip Hop Music and the latest street news.

It was in my first year in the England Set up, at the Churchill Cup, when I was introduced to Hazy. He took me under his wing and looked after me, acting like he was black and from the streets.

He walked with the obligatory strut, "How ya doin", he bellowed like a Gangsta. However this wasn't in mimicry, he actually takes on the character and loves the music. I introduced him to the sounds of Jayzee and in return, during our conversations, he introduced me to Mystique. We forever ring each other trying to "Outdo" each other with the news of the latest music.

On the pitch as a team-mate, I regard Andy as one of the best 7's ever, putting his head and body into places you wouldn't believe!

As an opponent before the game starts we have a quick chat, me asking him not to hurt me too much and him asking me not to run around him too easily. Its honours even I think.

But the funniest thing that has to be "Outed" in this brochure is the memory of Andy coming back from L.A. thinking he was a Gansta rapper, in a Velour Tracksuit, Wow!, Hazy I love you and wish you a great benefit year, you will always be my brother, but you ain't a black man!!!!

On a serious note Hazy is the best kept secret in the Premiership and should have received much more International recognition. He is a true Gloucester Legend, I appeal to you all, give him your support.

All the best
Paul Sackey



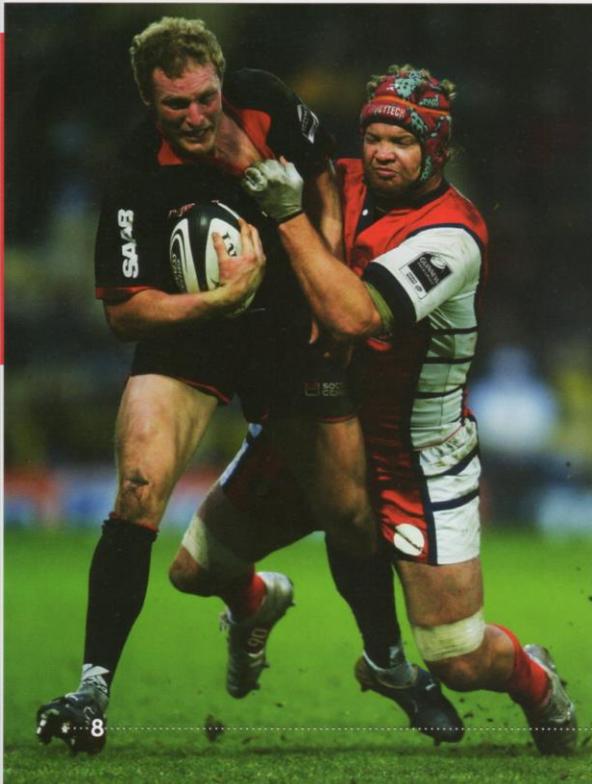
"You will always be my brother, but you ain't a black man"



ALPHA MALE – THE 100% MAN

Most people have used the phrase "Dynamite comes in small packages", but surely the phrase is best used to describe Hazy. The only real difference is that this piece of dynamite can be recharged and re-used for years. There surely can't be a player in recent years, in the Premiership, who offers more explosive energy to the game.

From the day I arrived at Gloucester, to the day I left, Hazy was one of those guys who I could relate to. Watching his commitment to everything he does, except line-outsoh and pushing on the side of the scrum, was nothing short of inspirational. He is one of those guys whose actions speak louder than his words.



He is however not short of a few words and is very often spreading rumours or having banter with one of the boys. Some of the stories he comes up with in his head can only be rivaled by the likes of JK Rowling.

To play at the top level in the Premiership for 10 years is something that many people dream of but, to play at the relentless intensity that Haze plays at, makes his 10 years truly special. The fact that he has often been overlooked at the top level is a mystery to all but they say sport can be cruel and not always fair.

I have no doubt that Hazy will continue to show the same commitment to rugby until he hangs up his boots. His legacy at Gloucester I am sure will live forever.

It's hard to believe that a man who drops so many balls at training, although not as many as Bucko, can be so devastating on the pitch every week.....

Some refer to him as the Alpha male but I like to call him the 100% man.

Cheers Haze
always a pleasure...
Jake
AKA Dog of war

"The fact that he has often been overlooked at the top level is a mystery to all"

Who better
take your



DON'T CALL ME ANDREW

In all sports but especially rugby, one of the most memorable aspects is not just who wins or what happens on the field, but the characters you meet and the relationships you create. To that end, one of the biggest characters I've met and had the pleasure of sharing experiences with is Andy Hazell.

'Haze' has always been the gauge to the team's morale. His glazed eyes are the rubber stamp of a boring meeting, his grumpiness on tour when everyone's missing home and, his energy for having fun is testimony to the fact that we're all fundamentally big kids doing something we love.

On more than a few occasions I've shared a room with Hazell. He hates being called Andrew, Kelly his wife, clearly does all his tidying, and he is obsessed with the latest gadgets and technical wizardry. Being completely fearful of computers and such like, it would be fair to say I'm the complete opposite, but even I can appreciate some of the 'material' he has always had at his disposal. It lightens up an otherwise dull trip!

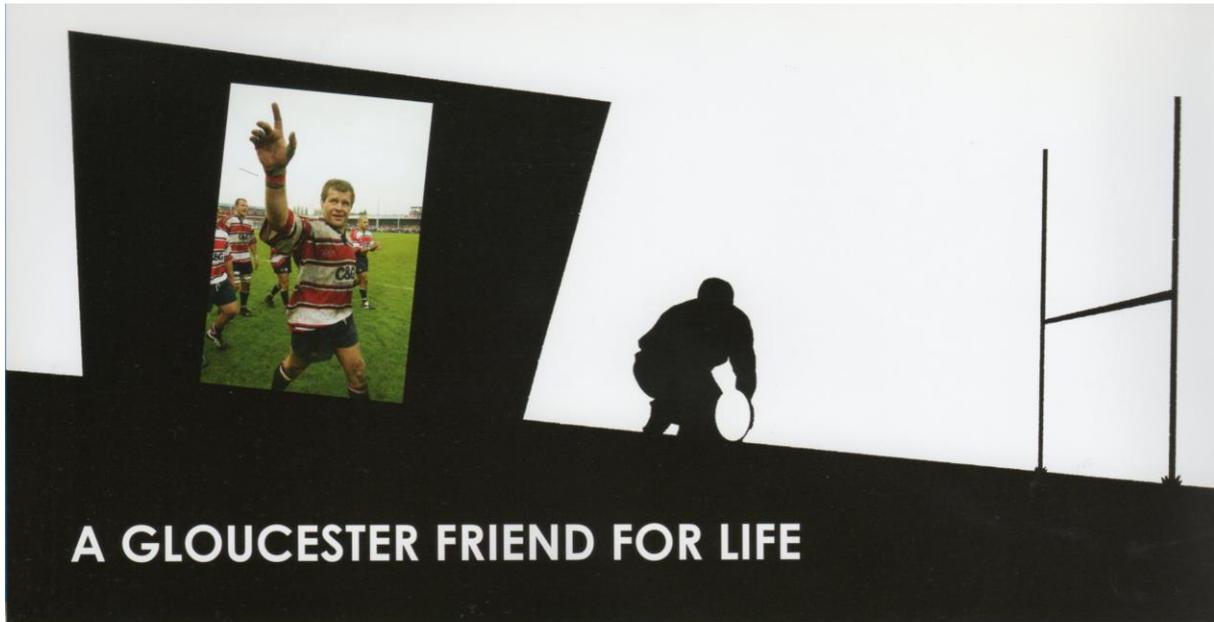
“one of the most popular and respected players on the rugby circuit”.

On the field, it is of no coincidence that he has been granted a testimonial as few would deserve it more than the local boy, who trains as professionally as any, plays with a fervent pride in every game and is also one of the most popular and respected players on the rugby circuit. Perhaps under utilised by England he has always performed when given the White jersey, and regulars at the Shed would be justified in asking why he hasn't played more.

Gloucester is one of the biggest and most famous clubs in the world with an enviable tradition and history. What makes great clubs is great people and when he finally hangs up his boots, being a 'Shed-Head' man and boy, Andy Hazell will for my mind, deservedly take his rightful place alongside the legendary, fabled names of Cherry and White folklore.

Josh Lewsey





A GLOUCESTER FRIEND FOR LIFE

I have now been asked to write several articles about players I have played with and against. They all without exception start the same way.

A young player turns up to training very quiet, slightly intimidated, eager to impress but with bags of talent. Hazy was no exception. He was quick, had a fantastic engine on him, read the game superbly well, always on hand for the off load or for that last gasp tackle to save the day. But what impressed me from a very early age was his bravery. I think all quality rugby players need to be brave. Hazy has this and was never scared to put his head or body where you knew it was going to hurt. But more importantly, he would do it against every opposition anywhere in the world.

That said he also had areas that he had to work on, like the line out! He never enjoyed getting lifted off the ground. Anything above 4" off the ground was scary territory for Hazy, and Bucko always enjoyed telling him how much better he was at it!

As the seasons went by, Hazy started to grow in physical stature and confidence. He was always first in the gym, calculating how much his strength had increased, measuring his protein and carb. intake. Always asking 'Do my arms, legs, and shoulders look bigger?' (The answer of course was no!!!) This made him push himself harder if that were possible. He also had a great trainer in Ed Archer who pushed him to the limit every session. Gradually you could see he was turning into the superb athlete he is today.

As previously mentioned his confidence started to increase and he thought he was the Daddy in with the big boys, always winding people up, playing practical jokes and boasting how much money he was earning. He was continually showing everyone his latest car, clothes, electronic gadget and tattoos!!

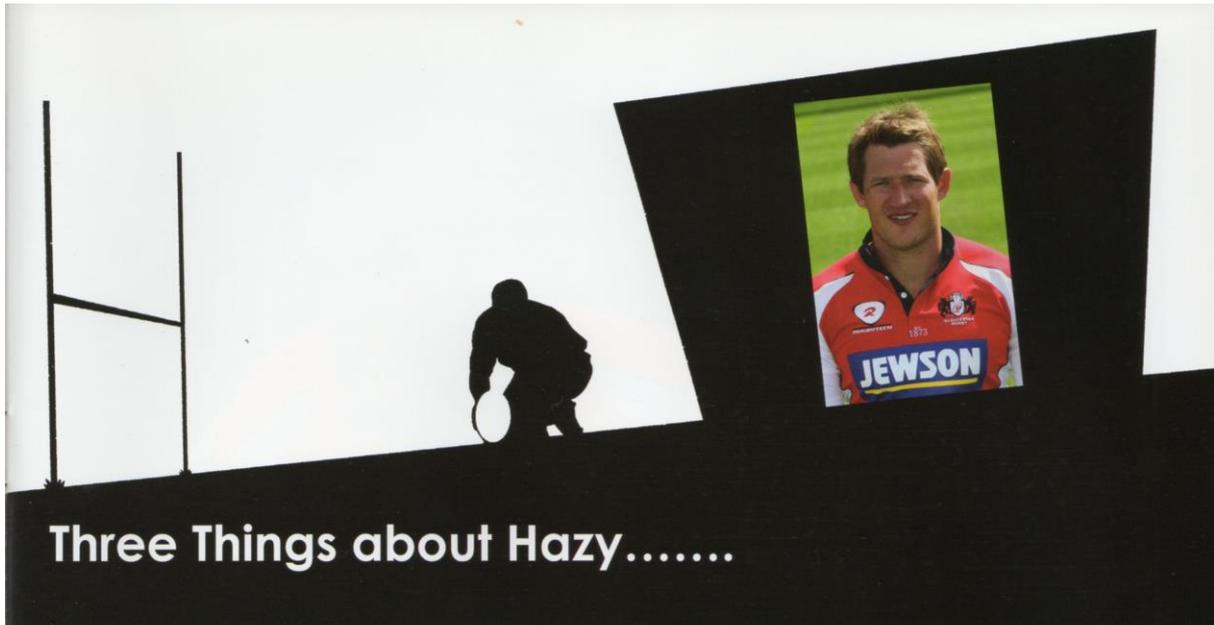
It has been a pleasure for me to write this little piece on Hazy and relive some great memories we had together. He turned into a fantastic professional player and an outstanding man, and I am glad I can call him my friend. Hazy boy enjoy your year. Have a great time and make sure you have special memories of it at the end. Always keep that Gloucester boy flag flying as there are not many of us left.

Put all free event tickets in the post. Good Man

Many thanks
Deacs



“Always keep that Gloucester boy flag flying. There aren't many of us left”.



Three Things about Hazy.....

If you were to ask me to say three things about Hazy, I would firstly tell you of his penchant for gossiping and story telling. If he were ever to say to you "Have you heard the rumour," he actually means "Have you heard my rumour." Or if he were to say "The boys have been saying" he means "I have been saying," and "Have you heard the nickname the boys have come up with for x" he means "The nickname he has come up with". This usually alludes to the persons' biggest insecurities. Peter Buxton has seven nicknames attributed to Hazy... and counting!

So I feel this is my opportunity to tell a story about him... A couple of years ago a car full of the Gloucester boys was travelling to Penny Hill Park for a week of England training, when a motor bike tore passed us at about 120mph. The guy on the bike had what looked like a one year old baby hanging on for dear life around his neck. Hazy, seeing this, screamed with rage "that's an absolute f***ing disgrace!" Needless to say the 'baby' was a comedy rucksack. The boys were in fits laughter, and Hazy has never lived it down!

Secondly, I would tell you of his knack of avoiding situations that may bring him within close proximity to alcohol, and his astonishing ability to hide his drinks behind pub toilets, plants, chairs, sleeping publicans.....you get the idea. For his stag do, a group of us went away to Spain for a few days. His poor drinking capacity obviously caused him some anxiety but he cleverly countered this by spitting out every drink he was given and then by running home at 10pm every night when nobody was looking. Who said open sides weren't the brightest?

"You can always rely on Hazy to give his all. I don't believe he knows anything else"

Thirdly, I would tell you of his unwavering commitment to his team-mates and to Gloucester Rugby Club. One always hears people talking about turning up and giving 100%, it is very easy to talk about it but very few players manage it. Hazy is almost always one of our best players. No matter what the game, Twickenham Cup Final or a mid-week training session, you can always rely on Hazy to give his all. I don't believe he knows anything else.

Hazy it's been an honour to play with you all this time and I hope you get all the support you deserve in your Benefit year.

Jango





TACKLES LIKE A HEAVYWEIGHT - DRINKS LIKE A LIGHTWEIGHT!

Several years ago, I can't remember who we were playing against, but I was on the bench. The boys were running out onto the pitch when Hazy tripped and stumbled on the rubber floor that had been recently laid down for people to stretch on. He continued to play on and, after a while, asked for someone on the bench to bring him a spare pair of boots because his were hurting his feet.

It turns out, after the game, that he had broken his foot when he stumbled on the rubber floor before the game began. This story shows two things; one being that only Hazy could break his foot running onto the pitch and the other, his sheer grit and determination to play on with a broken foot!

I think everyone will agree that we have seen this grit and determination every time Hazy runs out onto the pitch.

He represents nearly everything that is wished for in a Gloucester Cherry & White. He throws himself recklessly into every tackle and is the first to secure the 50/50 ball that bobbles around on the floor.

For a little guy he can more than hold his own in the gym and is capable of beating most backs over 40 metres!

If you notice, earlier I said that he "represents NEARLY everything that is wished for in a Gloucester Cherry & White." I say nearly because his drinking skills are terrible, we never see him on a night out. He says it's because he is a "professional" but we know it's because he is a lightweight!

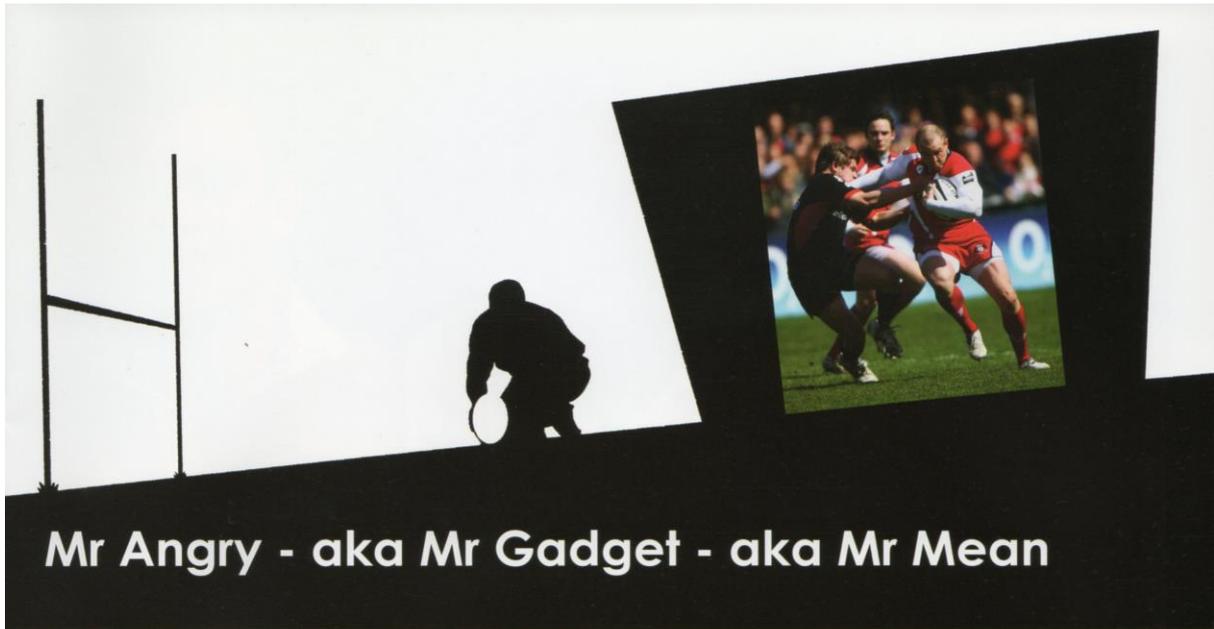
However, if there is the same dedication and commitment shown by all future Gloucester players as there has been from the "Lightweight" over the years, then everyone can rest assured that the future of Gloucester Rugby Club will be a bright and exciting one!

Sinbad

"His drinking skills are terrible. We never see him on a night out".







Mr Angry - aka Mr Gadget - aka Mr Mean

I have been asked to say something nice about Andy Hazell and, if you read this very carefully and right to the end, I do.

Because Hazy is short, underpowered, knock kneed and unable to catch a ball, I've always wondered why he thought that professional rugby was the career for him. Now a very angry man, he spends his life in the gym, moaning, swearing and attempting to lift weights, all in a desperate effort to disguise his physical shortcomings. I have pointed out to him that this is all a bit pointless because on the rare occasions that he is fit enough to play in a game, he immediately gets injured again, which makes him even angrier!

For obvious reasons Hazy is very popular with all our opponents; many of them owe him a lot. For the boys at Gloucester it's a bit different. Every day training starts exactly the same way; Hazy comes in moaning about money. Unbelievably mean, the only thing he is prepared to spend money on is the latest 'gadget', whatever it costs. Most of them are soon back on e-bay but occasionally he manages to combine his two great passions, moaning and technology. Not long ago he bought a device that when you plug it in tells you your electricity bill for the next 12 months. He loved being at home, in the dark of course, watching his new meter and calculating the savings. Then, someone switched on the kettle! Better to take a flask if ever you visit the Hazell household these days.

Anyone who knows Hazy will know that he is constantly farting. This is a result of one of his many obsessions, the 'I want to be bigger' diet. In the odd moment that he's not pumping iron or complaining about something, he's eating. Always surrounded by Tupperware containers, protein bars and supplements, rather than crack eggs he buys litre bottles of egg whites of the internet!

Changing next to Hazy you can't help notice his many tattoos. He wants you to of course; they are his pride and joy, which is why whatever the weather, wherever we are invited, Hazy turns up in a vest. None of the tattoos are in English so he has absolutely no idea what they say, but only the best will do. So, as soon as he discovered the name of David Beckham's tattoo artist, he set off for Manchester to join an eight week waiting list.

By now you probably have a picture of a small angry man covered in tattoos and wearing a vest. This is accurate but wouldn't be complete without just mentioning Biffer, Hazy's dog and constant companion. Biffer is a Staffie and as so often happens dog and owner have the same attitude to life. They were meant to be together though Biffer's manners are better; the worst he's done is wee on my foot.

As a player it's fair to say that Hazy is the one man that won't be affected by the new laws. That's because he never took any notice of the old ones. Seriously though, everyone knows that Hazy is the heart and soul of the club. Even before I came here whenever I thought about Gloucester I thought about Hazy and I know that's true throughout the game. Week in week out, in games and in training, Hazy gives it his all for Gloucester.

Nobody deserves a Benefit more than Andy Hazell and I sincerely hope this year is a huge success for him.

Mike Tindall.

“Even before I came here, whenever I thought about Gloucester I thought about Hazy and I know that's true throughout the game. Week in week out, in games and in training, Hazy gives it his all for Gloucester.”



FROM BOY TO MAN

It seems a long time ago now that I was head coach at Gloucester Rugby Club, when I first came across a young lad called Andrew Hazell. He played initially for Gloucester Colts but it soon became apparent that he had a special talent and was offered a Senior playing contract at the Club.

In my 13 years as a coach, I have come across many different characters in the rugby World. I have always most admired those players with the right attitude. Andrew had that typical Gloucester mentality and it was easy to recognise that he would soon follow in the footsteps of other great Gloucester forwards who had gone before him.

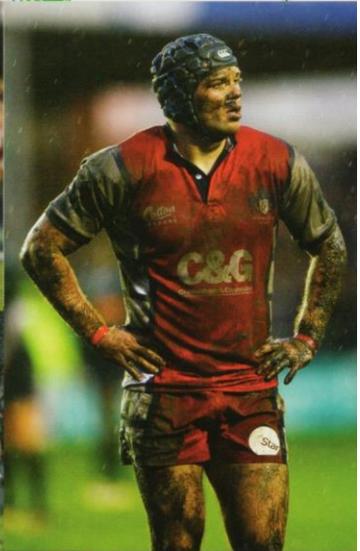
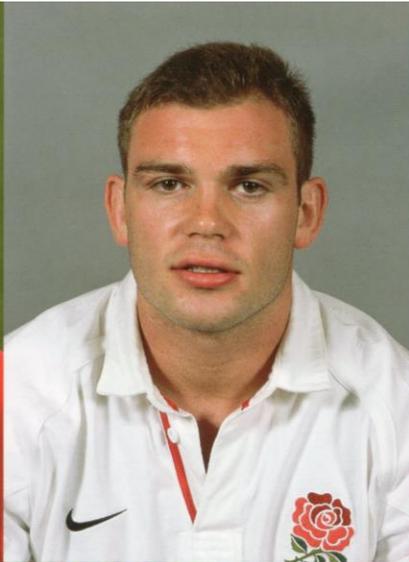
He had huge pride in his Club. He was pleasant 'off' the field but fiercely competitive and aggressive 'on' the field. As with most of the past Gloucester greats, rarely is he seen talking about himself off the field but instead lets his play do the talking for him on the field. I was so pleased when his efforts were rewarded with a cap for his country.

One of the most difficult and tenacious back row forwards in the country, he has remained as modest now as he was when he was 19 years of age. He continues to put his Club first which is commendable and I am sure he has several more seasons of top class rugby to come for Gloucester

Best Wishes
Richard Hill



“Rarely is he seen talking about himself off the field. He lets his play do the talking”





ANDY HAZELL, FRIEND OR FOE?

When I sat down with my wife last year whom I must add for the purpose of the story knows nothing about rugby and doesn't even know any rugby players names outside of the ones I play with) I asked her what she thought of the idea of us leaving Leicester Tigers and moving down south to play for Gloucester. She immediately said "that's the team that, that bloke Andy Hazell plays for isn't it?" This took me by surprise, due to her lack of rugby knowledge. I thought nothing of it and here we are now happily settled into a new club. When I was asked to write an article for Andy I initially thought yes I would love to as it's always an honour to be asked to say a few words about a friend and now team mate. Then I thought back to all my experiences and memories of playing against him whilst I was in a Leicester Jersey and I couldn't think of anything nice or positive to say about him. He was "an orrible bloke" to play against. But strangely enough there was a memory from an England tour back in 2001. My wife reminded me of it almost immediately and I thought now was the time to get to the bottom of the mystery that nearly ruined my marriage!

I was sharing a room with the painfully boring but very talented Josh Lewsey. It was the last day of the tour and everybody was out celebrating the 3 Test wins and the numerous first caps awarded, Andy was one of them. Being a Leicester player at the time I went out in my usual Leicester clique. This consisted of 5 Leicester mates and we drank our selves, in a sensible and professional manner, into a complete pile. At the same time we told each other how good we were. As the tour finished in America we all bought a lot of presents for friends, girlfriends and wives and I was no different. I bought my girlfriend lots of presents. This was mainly because I was not going straight home after the tour and was heading off to Las Vegas with a few of the other lads for a wild few days and, wanted the brownie points for when I got back! I returned to my room in the early hours of the morning and everything seemed normal. My bags that I had already packed the night before, knowing that I would be in no fit state to pack the next morning, were exactly where I had put them. Two bags to go back to England and a smaller bag for me to take to Vegas. It wasn't until breakfast that I heard that the boys had held a party in mine and Josh's room. This again was still fine and a

perfectly normal thing to do on the last day of a long tour, so I thought nothing of it. We all left for the airport and the majority of the squad went back to England. A select few of us went on to Vegas sending our bags home with the squad. I got Graham Rowntree to take my bag back for me and to deliver it to my house with the strict instructions to my girlfriend that under no circumstances was she to go in my bag. I wanted to surprise her and give her the presents myself when I returned a few days later. To cut a long story short we all had a good time in Vegas and returned home to our families. Obviously my girlfriend couldn't wait for me to get back, not to see me but to get her presents. That was the first thing we did once I came through the door.





“NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO COME CLEAN

After feeling quite pleased with myself I kept passing all these presents over to her one by one and then, I pulled out what seemed to be a rather large ladies bra which had carefully been wrapped up within all of the presents. My natural instinct was to quickly put it back in the bag and carry on like nothing strange had happened whilst racking my brain as to how the hell it got in there. During this time of massive panic my girlfriend had noticed the large ladies bra. She had a rather angry face and was waiting for an explanation. I didn't have one. I was totally speechless and getting quite angry myself and also red faced at what had just, in my mind, quite innocently happened. What didn't help was that I had made her promise not to go through my bag until I had returned. I can't even begin to imagine what she might have been thinking. Anyway I called Josh, my room mate from the tour and I could tell straight away that he was in on the prank but wouldn't tell me who put it in there. After 30 minutes of threatening conversation he said he didn't know anything but to ask Andy Hazell if he did, in a nudge nudge, wink wink style, I got Andy's number from Josh and called him whilst my every move was being watched and every word listened to by my girlfriend. After another 30 minutes of threatening conversation Andy said he didn't know anything about it either but to ask Josh Lewsey if he knew anything, again with a nudge nudge wink wink tone in his voice. It was obvious that the whole thing was going to go round in circles as no one seemed to remember anything from that night, which didn't help my cause. I gave up trying and my girlfriend who now happens to be my lovely wife thankfully believed my innocence in the whole thing. She very very rarely ever brings it up when I'm packing my bags to either go away on tour or away with the lads for a weekend or play against Wasps or even sign for Gloucester! Honest!!!!

“So how about it Hazy, was it you who stitched me up?”

So now is a good time to come clean now that we are team mates and our wives are friends and I also no longer play for the enemy. So how about it Hazy? was it you who stitched me up? in which case are you *friend or foe?* I hope you have a great year despite the trouble you got me into all those years ago.

You are a Gloucester man through and through, always give 100% on the field and you are a big part of why Gloucester have been so successful over the years. I know the Gloucester fans and the infamous Shed will support you throughout your events and long may you continue to be successful for both club and country, Good luck mate.

Best wishes
Leon Lloyd





WILL THE REAL HAZY STAND UP

Andrew Hazell, Hazy, Sapper, Squirrel, The Dementor, Triple H, are just a few of the names that label such a fine gentleman.

Never the one to moan, sulk or sap, he is the first person to make a positive out of any situation, throwing an arm round his fellow team mates to boost their confidence and enriching general team moral.

A wizard on the computer, he is inundated with requests from the boys. Sometimes it is for the latest Apple downloads, other times it is for the latest movie releases, but nine times out of ten it is for good old "Franky Vaughn".....This guy has a bigger collection than Rocco.

An avid golf enthusiast Hazy spends alot of time on the range perfecting his swing. He also enjoys spending vast sums of money on golf lessons and state-of-art equipment but is still miffed as to why he is not getting any better. Intrigued to better his game Hazy phoned the boys to ask why his golf wasn't improving. The boys replied: "You have a great short game mate.....pity its off the tee".

A work horse in the gym, he has spent hours trying to cultivate his 90kgs of pure fury but, unfortunately to no avail. (He still has the smallest calfs in world rugby....apart from one man.....the Flamingo.....a.k.a Mike Tindall.)

A fierce competitor on the rugby field, Hazy's attitude is first class. Unmatched in his relentless will to win and die hard attitude. In my opinion one of the best servants of the game and one of the greatest 7s to have graced Kingsholm. A true rugby great and a good mate.

Ian Balshaw

"A fierce competitor on the rugby field, with a first class attitude"





ANDY HAZELL. WHAT CAN I SAY?

A Gloucester forward from Gloucester – now there is a dying breed if ever there was one. Andy Hazell is a special individual and I hold him in particularly high regard.

In the game of rugby at professional level these days it is taken for granted players will smash themselves to a standstill, sacrifice their bodies for the good of the team and take a huge amount of punishment in search of an odd shaped ball beneath a pile of 18-stone men.

But I have met very few people who have managed to do it with such courage and determination as Andy. He has been one of the heartbeats of the side for a decade now, I have had the pleasure of playing with him, seeing at firsthand just what he puts himself through for Gloucester and its rugby mad followers.

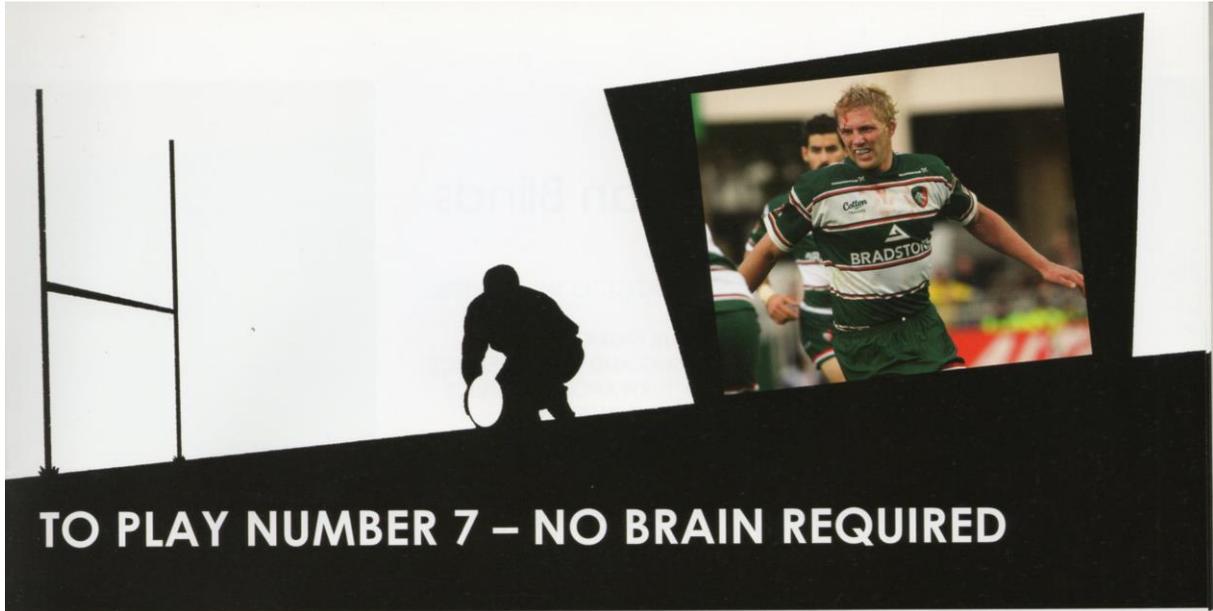
Every team needs guys like Andy. Not only can you take it for granted he will try his guts out on the field but off the pitch he is the sort of man you want in your dressing room. He is a team-man through and through, understands the changing dynamics of the sport and won't ask anything he wouldn't consider doing himself.

He is also an outstanding athlete and has been good enough to wear the England rose. Not only does he love his rugby, he also has a fantastic family behind him and they mean every bit as much to him as pulling on Gloucester's shirt. Whatever is ahead for Andy and Gloucester this season, please ensure this favourite Kingsholm son gets everything he deserves from his benefit year.

Phil Vickery, Wasps and England.



“He has been one of the heartbeats of the side for a decade now”



TO PLAY NUMBER 7 – NO BRAIN REQUIRED

About 20 years ago, when Hazy was ten years old and the same height he is now, a film was released called 'Twins'. Basically the plot went like this. A tall physically perfect man, Arnold Schwarzenegger, goes in search of his twin brother, a short, small time crook played by Danny de Vito. I don't know what it is but whenever I think of my relationship with Hazy, this film always comes to mind. Over the years I haven't had the opportunity to play against Hazy as often as I'd like; as often as we'd all like really. The problem is that unlike me, he's always getting injured. To be honest I think he's been on 'Holby City' more often than 'The Rugby Club' but when we have met it's always been a good, honest, evenly matched contest. Well for the first ten minutes anyway, after that Hazy starts cheating.

Now you can take so much of this, after all we've come to expect it and, I did have several seasons alongside Neil Back. But after about twenty minutes of him niggling away and you've tried a few quiet words with the ref, you realize that you have to take action yourself and thump him. Believe me, for years I've tried, swinging left handers, right hooks the lot, all going way over him. Then, you look down and he's head butting your kneecaps. Now you need a certain mentality to be a 7, or better still no brain at all. Hazy of course went for the second option. This comes out in a number of different ways as I've seen when we have been together with England. One memory stands out. Sat all on his own talking to himself on the back seat of the team bus, Hazy, a former DJ, liked to take charge of the team's pre match motivational music. His carefully selected choices were played on the way to the stadium and this might explain a few disappointing results. After all, there's a limit to how fired up you can get listening to Gareth Gates, even if it is Hazy's own Ibiza mix.

If there is one thing of Hazy's that I've always admired, it is his extensive, carefully catalogued collection of exotic, international films. Many the time on tour that we have admired them together. It has to be said that a fair number involve nuns, jackboots and a goat but, as he always says to me, "so did The Sound of Music".

As I hope to play in front of The Shed again and to leave Kingsholm alive, I should just put on record my great respect for Andy Hazell. After all he is the definitive local hero and home town boy made good. Yes he has driven me mad over the years, we have battered the living daylights out of each other and he has actually head butted me in the more traditional areas. Good over the ball and a high speed menace he's a great rival and a great mate.

I wish you well this year Hazy. It's my Benefit Year too, so let's hope 7 is lucky for us both.

Lewis Moody

"I should just put on record my great respect for Andy Hazell. After all he is the definitive local hero and home town boy made good."





Well Haze how things have changed...

Well Haze how things have changed since those cold Wednesday nights running swansongs and team plays round the fields of Old Richians RFC...

Then half the team piling into the back of our Dad's ford Cortina estate where he'd proceed to drive round half of Gloucester dropping everyone back!!!

We were truly professional players from U13s mid week training, medical cover from Big Mart (he's still looking after you at Gloucester now! - I know he's proud of your achievements) and a support base headed up by your mum (Gail - my 2nd Mum!) Uncle Dillwyn and Nan Olga (My 3rd Nan!) - You make sure you win and play well when they are around let me tell you!!

Those Formative years at Severnvale school, and Old Richians will always remain special, we transformed the school rugby programme, well basically forced the school into letting us play - along with Simon Morgan and our coach Tony Wainwright, Sundays with Old Richians travelling around the country and into Wales saw us play some great rugby - beating up Bucko (Pete Buxton) when playing against Cheltenham, being tested in Wales against 16 men, titanic battles with Clifton and Playing Hucclecotte where the result had large sums of money riding on it courtesy of a certain uncle.... Cheers Dil no pressure, this was after all a U'15 County Cup semi (for the record think we won 100-0)

Still waiting for my share! Think you used yours to buy your first car - the Green Beetle didn't you?!!!!

Tour with Richians was always good - even in Sarajevo.. Aka South Wales... in bleak winter minus 10, snow, and only Richy Hayward's farm house scrumpy for comfort... full on boxing bouts took place where you decided to smash ten bells into a 4 stone 2nd row not sure Coxy has forgiven you even now!! We made a tour video which is, I'm sure what Living with the Lions was based on.... Our 'original' remains great viewing, timeless.

I look back with fond memories when we left school at lunchtime before representative matches and have Pasta and Pesto at your house - Thanks Gail and then also catching the bus from school to go training at Kingsholm Fitness - which is now the Lions Den bar at the ground.... Our motivation... to Play for Gloucester and England (or was it Wales Haze?!!!!)

Gloucester Colts was the next stop... remember playing against Bath at Kingsholm and smashing them 69-0 after the first team had lost to them earlier... good times.

Richard Hill signed you up for the senior squad and you have not looked back.... playing 10 seasons for your home town club is special and the shirt still means as much as it did when you were a kid... you have lived a dream Haze and everyone is proud of you.

I remember being at Twickenham seeing you play against France, Clare and I laughing as your biggest supporter your mum telling everyone in the East stand that you were her Son and that I was your friend since school and how good we are etc... she failed to realise that you had actually made it onto the field to win another cap!!! Think it was the Gin!

Playing success hasn't changed you, marriage and fatherhood most definately have! Kelly is a wonderful person and Alana is beautiful and I know how much they support and believe in you, still hard to think of you as a Dad... but you are bloody good at that aswell!

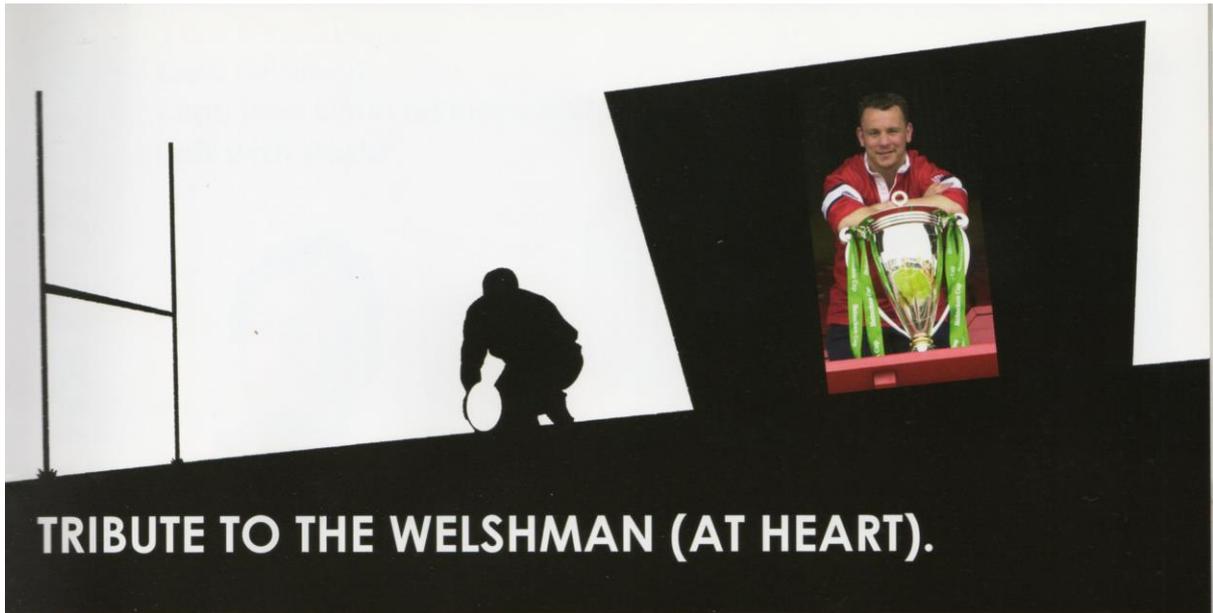
This testimonial is richly deserved, an honest, loyal and passionate wannabe DJ from Hempstead has done well, as is truly a great friend, Congratulations Haze.

Clare and I wish you a Successful testimonial year

Love to Kelly, Alana and No.2

Tank
Ian Gibbons
Assistant Conditioning Coach
Saracens Rugby

"Playing success hasn't changed you, marriage and fatherhood most definately have!"



TRIBUTE TO THE WELSHMAN (AT HEART).

I first met Andrew in Gloucester when he was a 20 year old. I arrived from Ebbw Vale, just two months into the season. I played an athletic game, my first game against Leicester away and Andrew was there. I saw him play, a fantastic young player, and as soon as I saw him play I realised that it was going to be a matter of when not if, he took over in the first team. I was fortunate to play 2 or 3 seasons along side him and I was just ahead of him, probably at the time due to my leadership and experience, but whenever he played he was often the best player on the field.

Andrew is someone with amazing pace, commitment and a fantastic attitude. For someone who played in the same position as myself I took an instant liking to him. His grandmother is Welsh from Blackwood, a village not too far from me, possibly a big factor in us getting on so well (he is a Welshman at heart)!

I helped him as much as I could, I passed on a few things but didn't tell him everything because I knew it wouldn't be long before he had my job. We also played together at 6 and 7, not the biggest backrow Gloucester has ever seen, but committed! Obviously since I left the club he has gone onto great things. He has a number of England caps and hopefully this chapter is not closed. I think he is a player that will get better with age, who will use his experience as much as his heart. He is a fantastic player and a great person. What an amazing achievement to play 10 years for your home town club. A humble proud Gloucester guy who lives no more than 500m from Kingsholm, he is obviously a person everyone in Gloucester should be very proud of and thoroughly deserves his testimonial year. I am proud to know and to have played with Andrew and wish him every success in the future.

Kingsley Jones



"I passed on a few things but didn't tell him everything because I knew it wouldn't be long before he had my job"



Small bodies – BIG hearts!

As you would expect, down at Bath we spend a lot of our time thinking of nice things to say about our fellow professionals at Gloucester. So, it's great to have the opportunity to share a few thoughts on Andy Hazell.

Funnily enough, it's also my Benefit Year this year and Hazy and I have always had a lot in common. You're probably thinking skill, pace, ball handling, all of course true, but the thing that really unites us is that we've both spent all our rugby careers being told we are too small. At times you feel like Ronnie Corbett and Bernie Ecclestone but we like to think we've done OK!

I think Hazy and I first got together with England Under 21's. Desperate for selection I'm sure he lied about his age. Over the years we played a fair bit of representative rugby together and probably the most revealing times were on tour in Canada. Because I play for Bath I'd never seen how Hazy reacted after a victory away from Home so, following our first success, I anticipated a big night out with a Gloucester legend.



What a disappointment. 'Always first to the breakdown, always last to the Bar' sums him up. A social disaster, he is in fact even worse on the odd occasion he does have a drink. A pint of shandy and he wants to argue with everyone, we often had to hold him back and he soon earned the nickname 'muzzle'. On the plus side he does have an outstanding collection of 'specialist' movies; always good news on tour.

To be fair to Hazy he is the man that all fellow professional rugby players go to for advice. Not because he knows anything about the game, it's just that he's the one bloke who can always fix your computer. Actually even that's changed since he finally "shot one past the goalie" and became a Dad. No time for the boys since Alana came along.

I hope you have a fantastic Benefit Year Hazy. Not as good as mine of course but still a great success.

Lee Mears.

“Always first to the breakdown, always last to the Bar’ sums him up”



HAZYWHERE DO I START?

Do I start with PROTEIN SHAKES, SQUATTING heavy weights for the GB Olympic Team (or trying), TIPPING his drinks when out on the town???? having the latest mobile phone every month (I think this was a must hahaha) or the bragger who went on about being the champion at LILYBROOK GOLF CLUB (when he was 10yrs old) or how much he loved BIFFO or how BIG he got so fast and quick (thanks to the PROTEIN shakes) Not.

I first met Andrew along with his double chined pigeon chested friend Adam Eustace Aka Butter Bean a year after I arrived and was still trying to understand the Gloucester accent. The duo was nicknamed on their first pre-season tour away to France with the first team.... DUSTPAN & BRUSH, they used to take the piss out of each other while on the protein shakes under the strict instructions of Ed Archer. Hazy was a committed & hard working loose forward who was always willing to learn until I BUMPED him off at one of our training sessions HA HA HA sorry bro, but that's enough piss taking.

On a serious note - You were the kind of person that I could rely on, that wouldn't take a backward step when the goings got tough. You always got the boys going with your loud hip hop sounds in the changing rooms, you're a joy to watch and to play along side you was an honor.

We wish you all the best and congratulate you on your well deserved testimonial.

Cheers
Tezza

"You were the kind of person I could rely on"



Hazy's Top 100

All time world XV

Chris Latham, Jonah Lomu, Brian Habana, Phillippe Sella, Tana Umaga, Dan Carter, George Gregan, Trevor Woodman, Sean Fitzpatrick, Phill Vickery, Ian Jones, Martin Johnson, George Smith, Richie McCaw, Andre Venter.

Top 5 dishes

Anything with Scallops, Green Thai Curry, Steak & Chips, Chicken Tikka Masala, Mums Roast Beef Dinner.

Top 5 Holiday Destinations.

Portugal, New York, Dubai, Mauritius, Vancouver.

5 Favorite Rugby Grounds and why

Kingsholm, I've been going to the ground since I was ten, and now to be playing on my home ground is a dream. Twickenham where I earned my first cap so that makes it very special. Munster Thomund Park. I've never got a result there but the atmosphere is second to none, Welford Road I love the hostility there as a player it gets you very focused. Marseille France. The noise here is unbelievable and the moat around the pitch makes me smile.

Top 5 Likes

Watching Movies. Playing Golf (Beating Iain Balshaw) listening to music. Eating Out and Holidays.

Top 5 Dislikes

Bad Manners, SOME rugby writers, losing, cheating (Pete Buxton) Talking behind peoples backs.

5 Desert island discs (albums)

Jay z the blueprint, James Morrison Undiscovered, David Gray white ladder, Dr dre 2001 and John Legend get lifted.

All time top 10 singles with artist

Tupac Changes, Davis Gray Babylon, Jay z girls girls, Al green lets stay together, John Legend Ordinary People, Kanye west All falls down, Red Carpet Alright, Stereophonics Dakota, John Cafferty Hearts on fire, Snoop Dog beautiful.

5 people to be stuck on an island with.

Gordon Ramsay for culinary reasons, Ricky Gervais for humour, Mark foster to keep my sprits high and his stories, My wife to keep me in shape and tiger woods golf coach.

Top 10 non-rugby sportspeople

Steve Redgrave, Tiger Woods, Mohammed Ali, Rodger Federer, Michael Jordon, David Beckham, Michael Johnson, Usain Bolt, Lewis Hamilton, Michael Phelps

Top 5 cars

Bentley Continental, Hummer h2, Lamborghini Murcielago , Mercedes G wagon, TVR Tuscan

Top 5 golf courses played

The Royal Valle de lobo, the old course Villamoura, The players club Bath, Hyatt Regency La Manga, Castle Combe Bath

Top 10 all time Movies

Shawshank redemption, Any given Sunday, dumb and Dumber, snatch, Enter the dragon. Raging bull, Pumping Iron, Rambo first blood. Terminator 2, Predator, Full metal jacket.

Top 5 Restaurants

Rick stein Bistro Padstow, Saffrans Mauritius, Mercer Kitchen New York, Boxwood café London, Passage to India, Nailsworth.

Top 5 Achievements

My daughter Alana, Winning the Powergen cup, Representing England, Playing 10 years at Gloucester rugby and being voted players player for two seasons running.



THE SQUIRREL – CAN PLAY BUT CAN'T DRINK

I've known Hazy for a long time now, firstly when we were about 14 playing against him when he was at Old Richians. After firstly trying to run over him I spent the rest of the game trying to run away from him. Then over the years we played together in various representative teams Hazy, like now, is always at the centre of anything happening around the team and has always got a story to tell. What I've learnt over the years is that these stories are always loosely based on fact and the more times you hear them, the better they get. How he links for example Adam Eustace and a runway together or James Forrester and a toucan bird and a potato is beyond me, but he finds a back-story and a rumour is born.

Hazy is also a very committed trainer he takes his conditioning and diet very seriously, so much so he's been known to take a suitcase full of tuna away on holiday to insure his protein intake stays high. He has also been known to take the club conditioning coach away on holiday to ensure he stays in best shape.

Hazy is also a bit of an alcohol connoisseur. He likes to talk a lot about drinking and he likes to collect drinks so much so we call him the squirrel.

During the time I've been at Gloucester Hazy always been a focal point for the team. If that's off the field around the squad making the prank calls, his strange fascination with wwe wrestling or more importantly his example on the field making his trademark hits. His commitment and passion has embodied what Gloucester rugby is all about.

Bucko

“Hazy is also a very committed trainer”

