

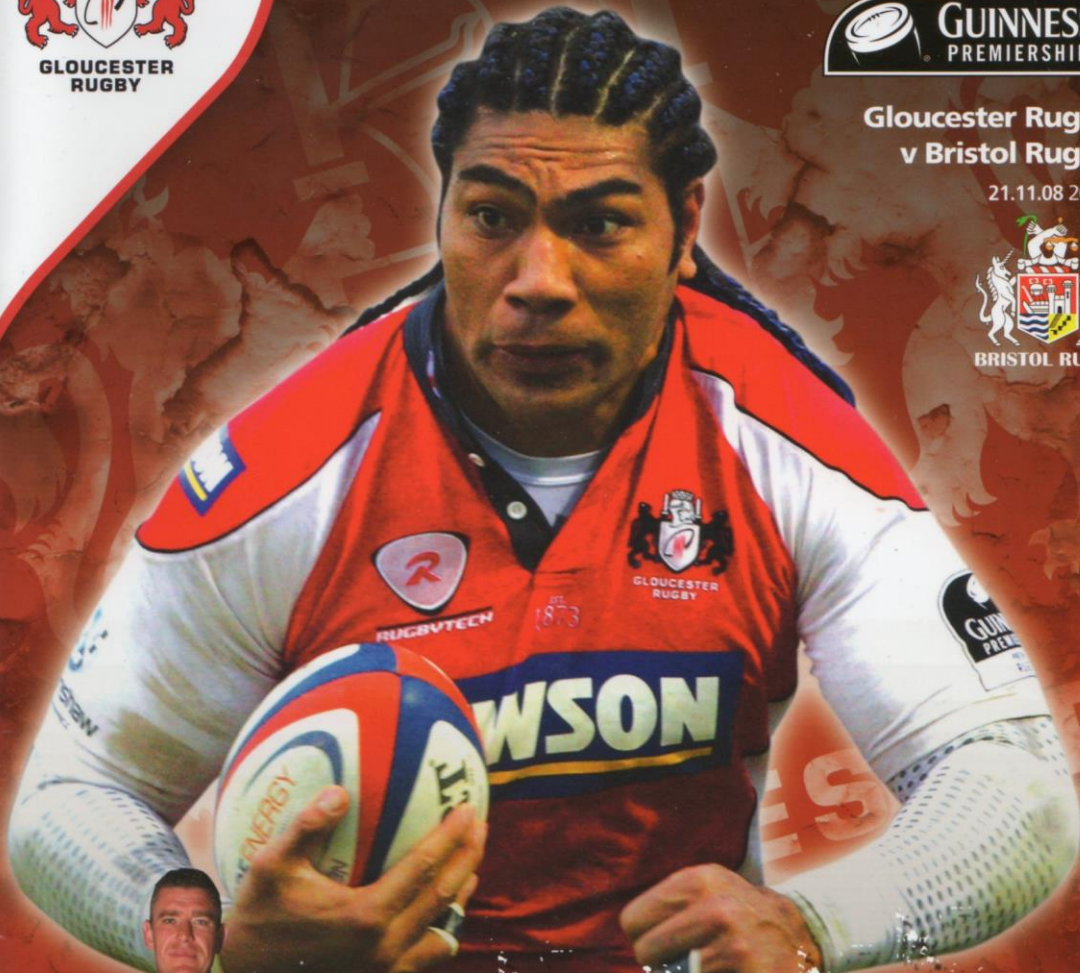


OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF GLOUCESTER RUGBY 2008/2009 ISSUE 07 • £3.00



Gloucester Rugby
v Bristol Rugby

21.11.08 20.00



LESLEY VAINIKOLO

DEAN RYAN

Saracens win was vital

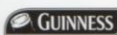
APO SATALA

Meet Gloucester's latest
back rower

BRISTOL

All you need to know about
tonight's opponents

PLUS: Dave King, Fans Zone, Anti Bullying campaign, Peter Arnold and much more.



www.guinnesspremiership.com



CAPTAIN'S CORNER



THAT'S more like it.

While it would be impossible to suggest our victory at Saracens was the complete cure to our indifferent form, it was undoubtedly our best all-round performance of the season.

We had talked all week about the importance of playing the sort of movement game that was the backbone of our success last season and in turn that made us more comfortable in defence. It was not perfect but we looked to use the ball and space, create opportunities and play through phases. We are a pretty dynamic and dangerous side when we do that and the performance enabled us to achieve a very important result.

This is not time to get anywhere near satisfied or carried away. Sunday's result will mean nothing unless we can back it up significantly over the long-term but we are in a healthy position in what is a very congested Guinness Premiership table.

Away victories are pretty priceless but tonight offers us a wholly different challenge in Bristol. Local derbies are notoriously tough, tight, tense affairs and following their first league victory of the season last weekend Bristol will be bang up for the challenge.

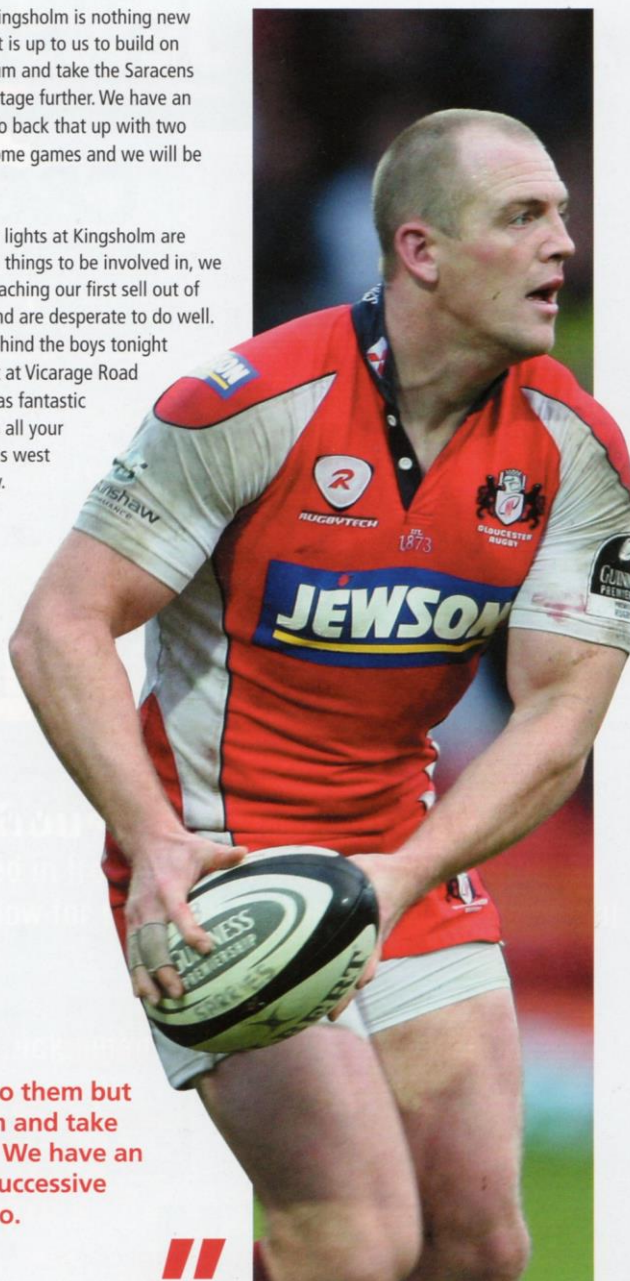


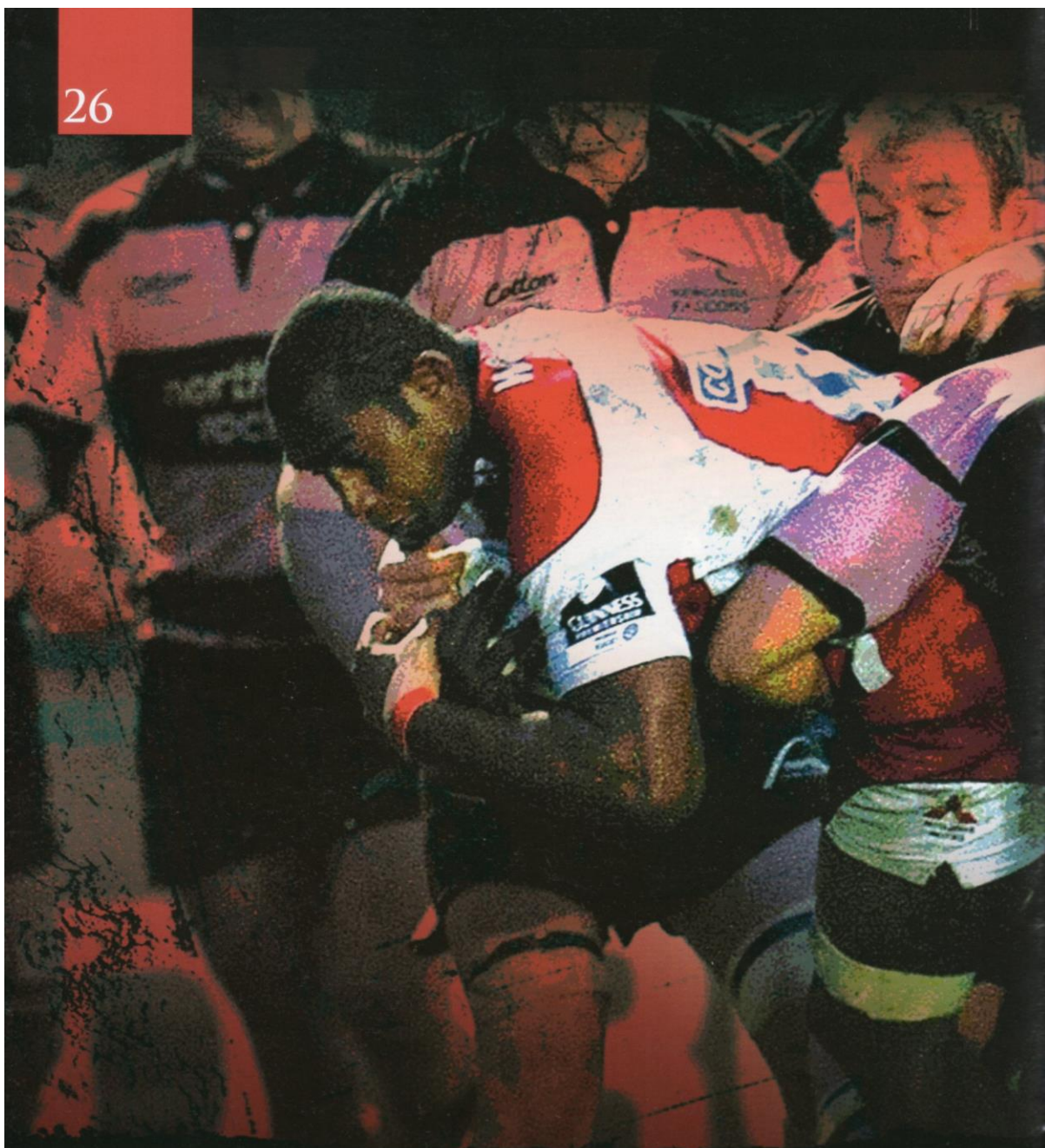
Winning at Kingsholm is nothing new to them but it is up to us to build on our momentum and take the Saracens victory on a stage further. We have an opportunity to back that up with two successive home games and we will be raring to go.




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Games under lights at Kingsholm are pretty special things to be involved in, we will be approaching our first sell out of the season and are desperate to do well. Please get behind the boys tonight – the support at Vicarage Road on Sunday was fantastic – and give us all your support in this west country derby.





 Apo Satala has spent time in Iraq with the British Army and is on a one-year deal with Gloucester. As the Citizen's Gareth Butler reports, he is ready to go for it every day.

The title 'ACTION MAN' is rendered in large, bold, white, block letters. The letters are filled with a detailed, high-contrast image of a person in a dynamic, athletic pose, possibly a rugby player, which is layered over the background image of a crowd. The overall aesthetic is gritty and energetic, with a color palette dominated by reds, oranges, and blacks.

ACTION MAN

ACTION MAN



THERE is something refreshing about Apo Satala's take on the opportunity he has been given at Gloucester this season.

Plucked from relative obscurity playing for the Army in the Middlesex Sevens, but not without a bit of pedigree after a spell at Leeds last season, the Fijian has experienced life in combat as part of the peacekeeping force in Iraq and appreciates the true meaning of hard work.

When he takes the field in cherry and white he is thinking about his colleagues in the Royal Regiment of Scotland and also about his family, some of whom are based in Stoke-on-Trent and the rest back in Fiji.

'Go for it every day' is the motto he leads his life by and he is also a devote Christian, believing God has given him the chances he has been afforded.

"Moving to Gloucester has been a blessing for me, being given a shot to play at one of the best clubs in the UK," he said. "Starting last week was just a bonus. I enjoyed it coming over here. I've learned so many things.

"I thank the Lord for every opportunity I get in not just sport but every walk of life. Gloucester is a step up. It's a challenge coming here and to be part of the starting XV and even on the bench is something I will always cherish."

Satala first came to Britain in 2000, invited to play in that year's Middlesex Sevens. It was there that a friend suggested he join the Army and play rugby for them, which he decided to do.

Private Satala spent Christmas and New Year 2004 in Iraq as part of the British Army peacekeeping force. His unit was fortunate to come home without losing any lives, although a friend was injured in a bomb blast.

"That's the hardest I've worked," he said. "You talk about hardness, you talk to soldiers who have worked in Afghanistan and Iraq. It's a totally different atmosphere. I'm doing this now not only for my family and friends. I'm doing this for soldiers who have lost their lives in a war zone and those still at war.



"I thank the Lord for every opportunity I get in not just sport but every walk of life. Gloucester is a step up. It's a challenge coming here and to be part of the starting XV and even on the bench is something I will always cherish."



"It gives me confidence to push and support every serving soldier around the globe. When I was there it was an enjoyable challenge.

"I enjoyed the peacekeeping and helping the hearts and minds of the public in those areas in Iraq and doing the job for the UK."

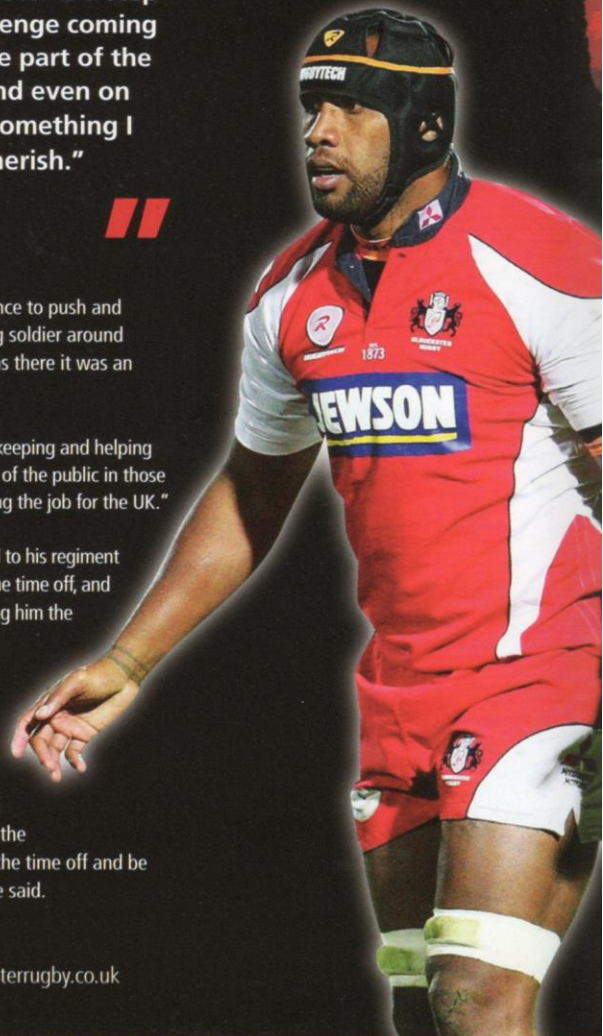
Now Satala is grateful to his regiment for letting him have the time off, and to Gloucester for giving him the chance.

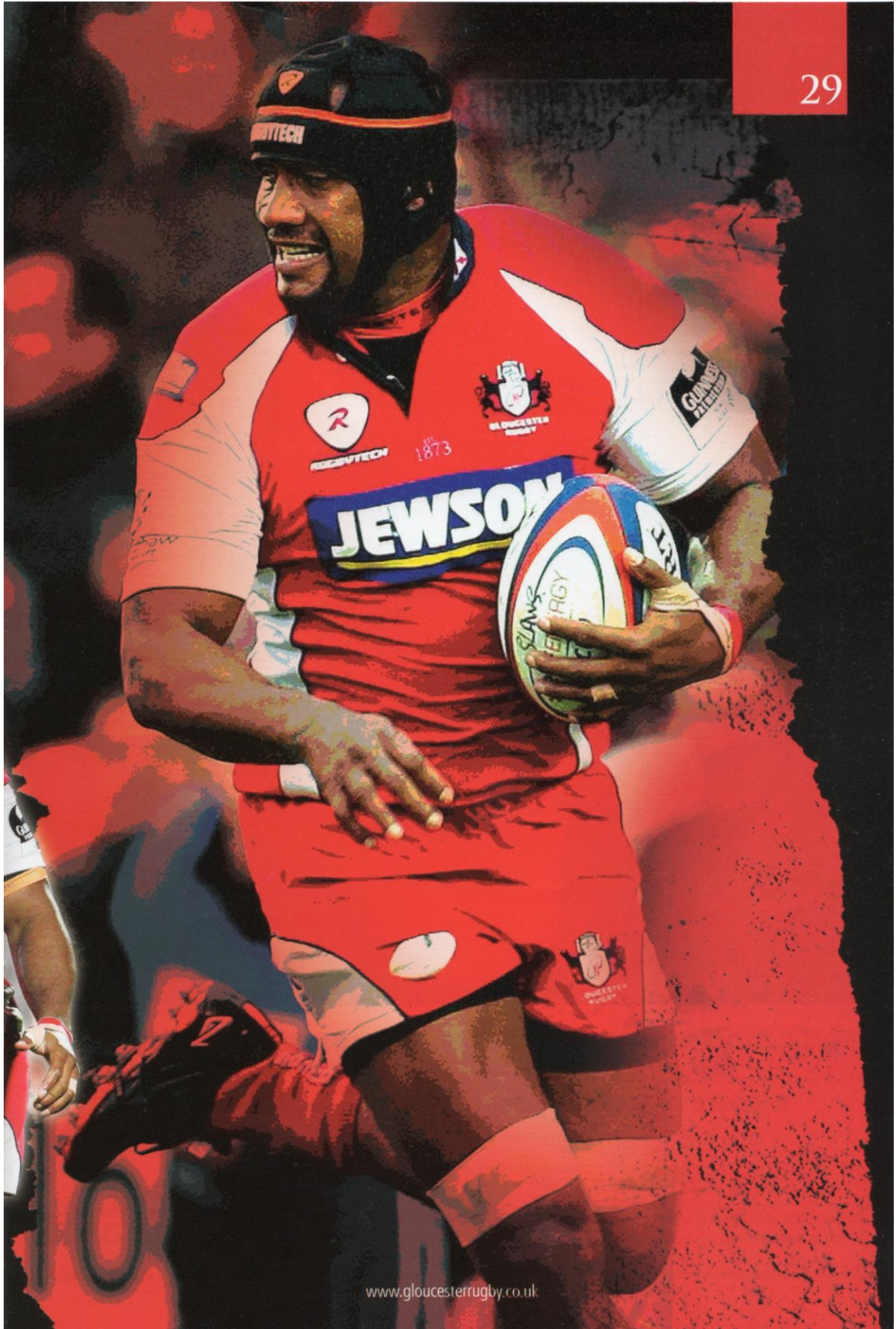
"I think especially about the boys who are up in Edinburgh (where he is based) and my commanding officer who gave me the opportunity to have the time off and be part of this team," he said.

"I want to advertise that there are so many talented boys in the Army who can be successful."

But having his family behind him is what matters most.

"My two boys in Fiji pray for me every game and they always wish me well every time I play," he said. "They're proud of the fact that I'm doing everything for them. The support keeps me pushing forward. I will still enjoy rugby as long as I have that support. I play for my mates who have helped me in life, and for my family most of all."







RYAN'S REVIEW




It would be impossible to start without looking back at Sunday's victory at Saracens – was that the best performance of the season so far?

DR: I DON'T want to get too far ahead of ourselves after Sunday. An away victory at a place like Saracens is a good result for us because it is a tough place to go and perform. They've been in some form and picked up some big results in recent week.

What was important for me is that we looked like Gloucester and we know if we play like Gloucester regularly we're quite difficult to beat. We made some



I SAID when Apo joined us on a trial basis he was a big man who liked to run into people and cause a bit of mayhem and that is what he has done. I think it is massive credit to him that he has made the sort of breakthrough he has. 

key decisions during the week to get back to the movement dominated game we thrive at but at the same time incorporate solid game management and

aspects of the new law variations that have come in.

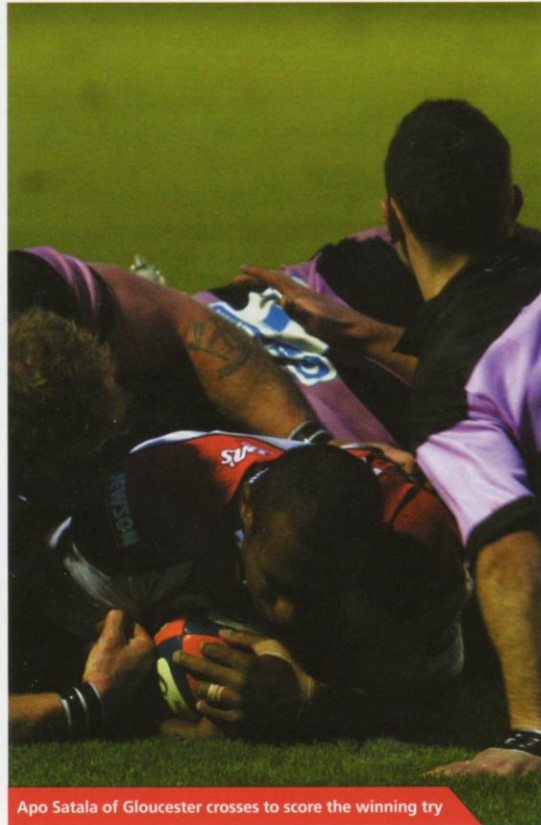
It was a conscious decision to do that and it helped produce our best all-round performance of the season. We know over the stretch of nine months a good Gloucester side will be up there competing at the end but there is still plenty to work on and improve but Sunday's performance was something we all recognise as being much more from the Gloucester mould.



On Sunday you gave first starts to Dave Lewis and Apo Satala – how did you rate their performances?



Dave Lewis



Apo Satala of Gloucester crosses to score the winning try



Bristol against Saracens

DR: I SAID when Apo joined us on a trial basis he was a big man who liked to run into people and cause a bit of mayhem and that is what he has done. I think it is a massive credit to him that he's made the sort of breakthrough he has. He has sat around the professional set-up for a while but has done really well for us. He showed against Saracens that he was able to sit in a structured game for long periods and do what is required in that environment but he is also capable of doing something a little bit different and that is what makes him dangerous.

We have never been shy of giving younger players an opportunity and Dave Lewis is another from the Academy set-up. He has come through the A game structure and then really impressed us with a couple of performances from the bench.

He was really energised against Newcastle, did the basics extremely well and deserved a start last weekend. He responded to that by fitting right into the set-up and that is the biggest compliment you can say.



Bristol won their first Guinness Premiership game of the season on Sunday. Does a local derby make them an even greater threat tonight?

DR: WE know they won't be anything other than competitive – that is their way and they do it very well. They have a recent history of coming to Kingsholm and being able to produce the level of performance to win.

They have a tremendous togetherness and team spirit and will fight for everything. We have just got to make sure we get every aspect of our game right and build on the

good things from last Sunday and take it forward. We are back at Kingsholm, under lights, for a local derby – that is plenty of motivation.



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TODAY'S TEAMS Friday 21st November 20.00
Gloucester Rugby v Bristol Rugby



REPLACEMENTS

GLoucester

- 16 LAWSON
- 17 YOUNG
- 18 EUSTACE
- 19 TITTERSHELL
- 20 PASQUALINI
- 21 BARKLEY
- 22 WATKINS

BRISTOL

- 16 LINKLATER
- 17 CROMPTON
- 18 SAMBUCCETTI
- 19 GREVE
- 20 PERRY
- 21 EVES
- 22 TURNER

Guinness Premiership Table

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Bath Rugby	6	5	0	1	159	120	19	11	2	1	23
2	Harlequins	6	4	0	2	164	119	20	11	2	2	20
3	London Irish	6	4	0	2	144	99	17	10	1	2	19
4	Leicester Tigers	6	4	0	2	132	119	12	11	0	1	17
5	Gloucester Rugby	6	4	0	2	126	124	13	15	0	0	16
6	Sale Sharks	6	4	0	2	79	84	3	5	0	0	16
7	Saracens	6	3	0	3	150	109	12	8	1	3	16
8	Worcester Warriors	6	2	0	4	100	126	9	13	0	2	10
9	Northampton Saints	6	2	0	4	111	194	8	11	0	1	9
10	Newcastle Falcons	6	2	0	4	103	146	10	15	0	1	9
11	London Wasps	6	1	0	5	105	139	8	14	0	3	7
12	Bristol Rugby	6	1	0	5	72	126	6	12	0	2	6

Today's Officials

Referee: Andrew Small

Touch Judges: Bob Mullis & Alan Biggs

4th: Mark Tovey **39-10**

Replacement Ref: Greg Garner



PERSONAL FILES

with Alasdair Dickinson



by Ian Randall

Alasdair Dickinson

One of three players to join from Edinburgh, the prop is a tremendous ball carrier and has been capped by Scotland at every level up to senior level. The 23-year-old plays on the loose-head side of the scrum and featured twice against Gloucester in the 2006/7 Heineken Cup.

He will be looking to force his way into the first team reckoning and has made a number of powerful contributions already this season.

in aid of
CANCER RESEARCH UK

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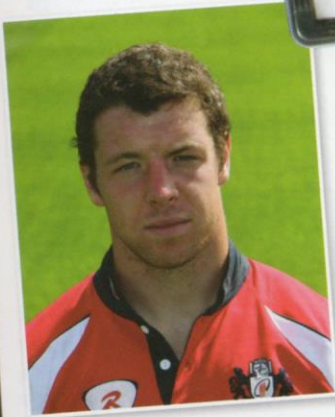
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6



1. What is the first match you remember watching?

Scotland against South Africa at Murrayfield. I can't remember when it was but I know we lost.

2. Who is your sport's best pundit?

Bill McLaren. I know I'm sticking up for another Scot here but he was the best.

3. Can you explain cricket?

No. I couldn't even try because I've never had an interest in it.

4. What's been your worst fashion crime?

Probably my Vicky Pollard outfit at one of the team's fancy dress socials. It was horrendous.

5. Who has the flashiest motor at the club?

I know others have said this, but it's big Les and his Escalade truck. It's pretty flash.

6. If money was no object, what would be the first thing you would buy?

A fully kitted out penthouse flat in Manhattan, New York.

7. Which charity do you support?

Cancer Research. Cancer is so rife these days and it's definitely worth giving money to such a worthy cause.

8. What's your favourite biscuit?

I'm not big into biscuits. Is a Jaffa cake a biscuit? I think it's more of a cake. I'll go for Jammie Dodgers.

9. Who is the most famous person with your Christian name?

There aren't many with my spelling that I know apart from Strokes (Alasdair Strokosch)

10. Can you play a musical instrument?

No. I used to play the bagpipes when I was a boy but I didn't play them very well.

11. If you could be in a band, which one would you choose?

The Killers. They seem to have a pretty good time and I quite like the idea of a rock and roll lifestyle.

12. How would you improve the play offs?

I'm not a huge fan. I think if you play well all season and finish top of the Premiership you should win it. I'd probably get rid of them.

13. What is your nickname at the club and how did it come about?

Dicko. I've been known as that for as long as I can remember.

14. Which 2 of your team mates would you want with you on a quiz team?

Woody (Nick Wood) is pretty sharp, and I'll go for Plank (Ross McMillan).

15. Has your sport ever brought you to tears?

No, but close. It's always disappointing to lose a big game or pick up a serious injury.

16. Where in the world is the best night out?

I've enjoyed New York, and Las Vegas is good too.



16

SHARING GLOUCESTER'S RUGBY ROOTS



THE FRIENDS of Gloucestershire Archives, Gloucester Rugby and Gloucestershire Archives

have secured a £50,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver the Gloucester Rugby Football Club Community Heritage Project. It will cost £88,000 in total.

The project will make publicly available for the first time a wide range of documents, photographs and sound and video recordings that will cover more than 130 years of the city's rugby history. Much of this material is being provided by Gloucester Rugby and Gloucestershire Archives, but the wider community will also be invited to contribute material at a series of roadshows in the coming months.

The project will be officially launched at Gloucester Rugby's Kingsholm ground before Gloucester's Guinness Premiership match against Northampton on Friday, November 29th.

Project Manager, Malcolm King of the Friends of the Gloucestershire Archives, said: "This major financial contribution from the Heritage Lottery Fund, together with contributions from the three project partners, will enable us over the course of the next three years to build an online archive.

"This will capture, preserve, celebrate and share Gloucester's rich rugby heritage, revealing its impact and importance for the community.

"We could not have reached this point without the unstinting support of Gloucester Rugby, Gary Little in particular, and Jill Shonk at Gloucestershire Archives, who have worked with me for many months planning this project and preparing our bid for funding."

The money from the Heritage Lottery Fund will be spent on hardware and software for the digital archive, sound and video equipment and training of volunteers. It will also be used to promote learning and

outreach activities for audiences of all ages, to produce curriculum-based learning activities for primary and secondary schools, and for interactive displays at the club's Kingsholm ground.

Heather Forbes, Head of Gloucestershire Archives, said: "Gloucester's rugby heritage is something that people care passionately about and is a key part of the county's culture.



This will capture, preserve, celebrate and share Gloucester's rich rugby heritage, revealing its impact and importance for the community.



"Together with our project partners we are looking forward to working with local people to gather and share the unique stories behind the club and its surrounding Kingsholm community."

Community Marketing Manager at Gloucester Rugby Club, Gary Little, said: "Gloucester and its rugby legacy is deeply rooted in the community. It holds a significance, shapes opinion and unites like no other sporting institution in this area and has done so for more than a century.

"During that time much of its heritage has been stored or out of sight at Kingsholm which denies our many thousands of supporters the chance to appreciate, understand and learn about the past and the club.

"This funding will allow us to create a facility that brings Gloucester's rich history to life. This will be a living community online archive that will continue to grow as people upload their contributions. It is a great opportunity to make something really special happen."

Gloucester Rugby's Managing Director, Ken Nottage, said: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gloucestershire Archives for all their help in making this fabulous project possible.

"We are trying to create a modern facility that befits a modern rugby union side but at the same time, it is vital we respect and honour the roots of the club. This project will achieve this ambition perfectly."

Cllr Ron Allen, Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for Archives, said: "What a good example of co-operative effort on behalf of the Gloucestershire community - to get such a useful grant.

"Rugby is important to so many people in our county and is a part of our joint history, so the establishment of this project will arouse interest right across Gloucestershire."

Cllr Jeremy Hilton, county councillor for Elmbridge, Kingsholm and Westgate, said: "Gloucester is so proud of its rugby club. I'm delighted that the people of Gloucester will have access to the club's fascinating history online.

"Supporters' own archive material will feature as part of the digital archive and new material not seen by the public before will make this a wonderful record of the best rugby team in the land."

Cllr Pam Tracey, county councillor for Westgate, said: "I think it is wonderful that such a major grant has been secured to make this exciting project happen. The rugby club is so important to Gloucester and I put a lot of energy into singing its praises.

"It is one of the jewels of the city in the very heart of it and has been so for generations. Its history is intertwined with that of so many of the local rugby clubs in the county and that means that this project will celebrate their heritage too. That can only be a good thing."

RUGBY WORLD

In his first contribution of the season, the match day programme is delighted to welcome back Dave King, who takes a look at what is happening on planet rugby

memory of all those whose ashes had been scattered there over many seasons.

FORMER London Wasps and England tyro Lawrence Dallaglio recently delivered the Prince Obolensky Lecture staged by the All Party Rugby Union Group at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Lawrence achieved a remarkable run of success with England before entering

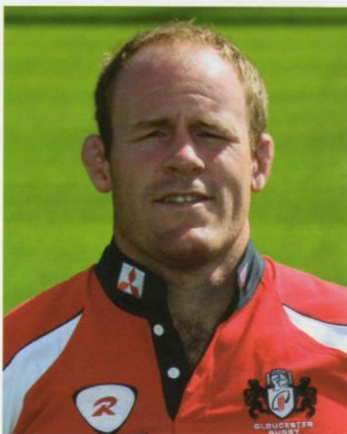


OUR visitors tonight, near neighbours, Bristol, had the recent distinction of being the final visitors to Stradey Park. It was the 2,578th match at the ground before Llanelli Scarlets decamped to the other side of the town to play in their new stadium, the £23 million PRC Y Scarlets. Interestingly the original scoreboard has been dismantled brick upon brick and will re-appear at the new stadium. The remainder of Stradey Park was due to be sold by auction. The actual playing pitch was available for the princely sum of £75,000. Goalposts, seats and signage were all available. Llanelli had been playing at Stradey Park since 1879 but time and progress dictates that tears and nostalgia were swept aside. However, not all sentiment was cast into oblivion. A sample of the Stradey Park soil was sprinkled on the new PRC Y Scarlets in

the public speaking role he has adopted. He was on the winning team in 28 consecutive matches. That sequence began with a victory over South Africa at

Bloemfontein on the 24th June 2000 and concluded when England lost to Ireland at Twickenham in 2004.

WHEN our back row forward Peter Buxton entered the field of play at the Millennium Stadium in last months Heineken Cup match with Cardiff he was making his 34th appearance in the Heineken Cup, Olivier Azam is next on the all-time list for Gloucester.



Next month's visit to Calvisano in the Heineken Cup will be our sixth visit to Italy in European Competition. That sequence began on 12th October 1997 when we recorded a 29-16 victory over Padova in the European Conference match. An attendance of 2,000 witnessed our victory. On the 20th January 2001 we visited Roma and were victorious by



38-29 in front of a meagre 1,200 fans in a Heineken Cup encounter. We returned to Italy the following season in the European Shield on the 7th October 2001 and were convincing visitors in a 48-5 result in front of 1,500 spectators versus Gran Parma. A return to Heineken Cup action on the 18th October 2002 resulted in an overwhelming 80-23 victory; there were 1,750 at the match. Treviso were the hosts on 6th December 2003 in a Heineken Cup pool encounter, an emphatic 33-12 win ensued, a 3,000 crowd was recorded for this match. Can we retain this unbeaten record on Azzurri soil?

OUR visit to the Millennium Stadium in the Heineken Cup pool encounter is believed to be the first time this Club has played under a closed roof. In fact the Millennium Stadium is one of only two grounds with this facility! The other is the Telstra Dome in Melbourne Australia.

OUR former player Mark Mapletoft holds an unusual record in being only one of ten players who have been born on Christmas Day and capped by England. Mark was born on Christmas Day 1971.

OUT of a total of 17 players who have appeared for England on their birthday, two of those appeared for Gloucester. They are Mike Teague on the 8th October 1991 versus Italy at Twickenham, also Mike Tindall on the 18th October 2003 versus South Africa at Perth in Western Australia in a World Cup match.

THE forthcoming Heineken Cup match versus Calvisano in Italy will be the 77th match we have played in European Competitions. To date we have recorded 54 wins, lost 20, drawn 2 matches. Interesting to note the rise in the average attendance over the seasons, the European Conference in 1997-98 saw

an average of 4,336 attend our matches home and away. In the 1999-2000 season there was an average of 3,193 for European Shield encounters. Following the turn of the century they have been as follows (see below)

THE recent Remembrance Day was an apt reminder that Henry Berry was one of 27 England Internationals who died in the First World War. Henry, who sadly died at the age of 23 was capped four times by England and played in the first international match to be staged at Twickenham in 1910.

Christopher "Kit" Tanner who gained five caps for England lost his life in the Second World War. Christopher was one of fourteen England players who forfeited their lives. These two Gloucester players who served this club with pride, both made the ultimate sacrifice for humanity and their country.

2000-2001 Heineken Cup – 6,265
2002-2003 Heineken Cup – 9127
2004-2005 Heineken Cup – 12,427
2006-2007 Heineken Cup – 10,794

2001-2002 European Shield – 6,821.
2003-2004 Heineken Cup – 10,403
2005-2006 European Challenge Cup – 8,386
2007-2008 Heineken Cup – 14,394



PETER ARNOLD

It has been an interesting season so far but as Chapter Two begins to take shape, Peter Arnold reckons there is no better way to launch it than by welcoming Bristol

CHAPTER TWO

WE'RE used to coping with the stresses of so-called must-win matches around these parts. But I think this is the first time I recall such eager anticipation surrounding a no-match weekend. For us all to be welcoming a Saturday when the boys aren't taking the field is unprecedented and somewhat surreal.

That's over now, and we're into Chapter Two of a season which has, until now, seemed like the opening of a rather poorly constructed paperback thriller. We've been winning games – just – but hardly setting the world alight in the process. At the moment, it's a bit hard to put one's finger on just what is going on.

One thing's for sure. You can't fault the players' work rate: they're certainly not just going through the motions, drawing their pay and going home to the wife and kids. If anything, they're working too hard in their determination not to let us all down. It does strike me, however, that the lads don't seem to be enjoying the game as much as they should. When young players have been introduced to the fray, chaps like Dave Lewis and Jack Adams, who don't command a place in the starting line-up most weeks, they've tended to set the game alight. It's as though they're so delighted to be playing alongside legends of the game, that exuberance and sheer sparkle takes over.

Perhaps a refreshing break will have done

the trick. Hope so anyway. By the time you read this we shall have had some indication by the away game at Sarries, I'm sure the players would rather have come back from their brief hols and run out at Kingsholm. However, they're home now, facing of all people, our old Enemy, Bristol.

And if that doesn't get the juices flowing, I don't know what will.

GET IT SORTED

ISN'T it about time the clubs and the unions got their acts together regarding availability of players during the international window? At the moment it seems that no one knows who's doing what and to whom until the morning of the match.

All right, so that's a slight exaggeration, but not by too much. It certainly seems that Dean Ryan didn't know whether Alastair Strokosch, Gareth Cooper and Luke Narraway could be picked for the Saracens game on the previous Friday morning, and that's surely unacceptable to the clubs, and not least, to the players

themselves. How can a chap train properly, or get himself in the right frame of mind, if he doesn't know who he's going to be playing for or against, and where he's going to be doing it, during the week preceding the games?

He answer of course, is that he can't, which probably means that he won't do himself justice when he does turn out, and that could have a significant effect on his subsequent career.

It all appears to be something of a cock-up, and it's time it was sorted.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT SO FAR?

WHAT do you make of England's performance in the Autumn internationals over the last couple of weeks? OK I suppose. They might even have beaten Australia if they had kept their composure a little bit better and not given away so many cheap penalties, although I have to say I thought the ref was a bit hard on them at times, and that he missed quite a few things as well.

As for the players, I think there is decided



Delon Armitage



Riki Flutey



Luke Narraway

promise there. Delon Armitage looks the real deal to me, but in most respects, Olly Morgan would have done just as well, even though I can't quite see him dropping a goal from the position that Armitage did in the Aussie match.

I was interested in Ugo Monye's performance. He's quick, no doubt about that, but I can recall two or three occasions where he got nailed by the defence in situations where Sinbad would have waltzed through them.

In the centre, I've been impressed by Riki Flutey, but am yet to be convinced that Jamie Noon offers anything which Tins doesn't offer more of.

Looking at the front row, surely Nick Wood must get his chance when the Six Nations rolls around. He's just as mobile as Stevens, and Phil Vickery doesn't seem to be quite the force he was.



Delon Armitage looks the real deal to me, but in most respects, Olly Morgan would have done just as well, even though I can't quite see him dropping a goal from the position that Armitage did in the Aussie match

The England pack made no impression on the Australian line-out whatsoever, a circumstance which will have interested our Mr. Brown, and Narraway would have

offered more at the tale than was evident last week. Nick Easter is very strong, but nowhere near as useful around the park as Luke.

We can't expect too much as yet in some respects, these games can be regarded as trial runs for an, as yet, green and untried unit. The crunch will come in the Six Nations. By then we should have an outfit which is coming together as genuinely formidable opposition. Martin Johnson always advocated patience on the field when he was captain, and I suspect he would be making the same plea now.

We'll see.



PIPPED

THE Northampton coach was quoted as being 'gutted' when Bristol pipped them right at the death last week. Good for Bris, I say. Just as long as they don't expect to do it again tonight.

NEWCASTLE FALCONS 10
GLOUCESTER RUGBY 11



Satala seals it

Sunday, Nov 2, Kingston Park

Referee: Sean Davey, Attendance: 3,149



APO SATALA'S try three minutes from time pushed Gloucester into the knockout stages of the EDF Energy Cup for the first time following a tense, frantic afternoon in the north east.

The replacement flanker finished off a sustained period of Gloucester pressure to book a semi-final against the Ospreys in March. But it was a close run thing despite Gloucester's avalanche of possession and territory because Newcastle's defensive effort was outstanding.

Gloucester needed Satala and an injection of energy and enthusiasm from scrum-half Dave Lewis to escape a near death experience in the competition.

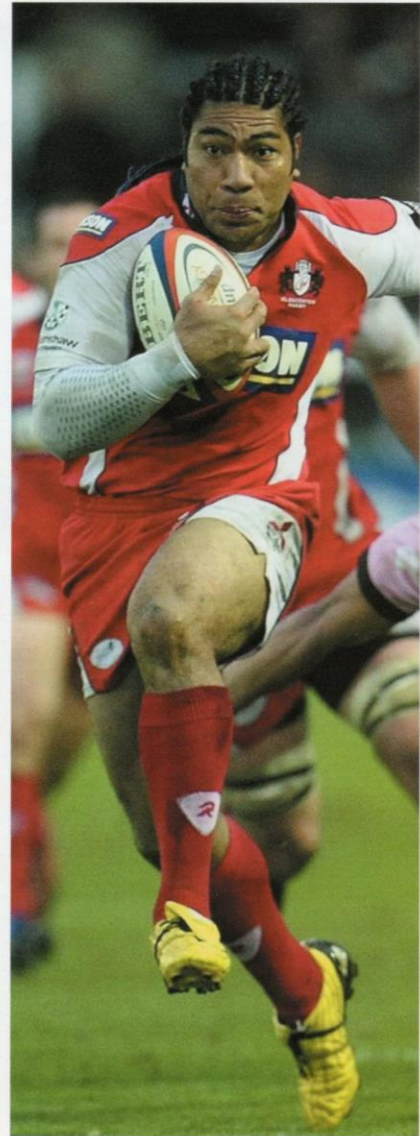
Although the victory was all important, it was another very indifferent performance from Gloucester. It might have been different had they finished off a flowing move after four minutes that involved Ryan Lamb, Olly Barkley and Iain Balshaw down the left but they

could not find the final pass.

But they went 7-0 behind when Steve Jones and Danny Williams made ground following a line-out, Tom May came in to support and prop Jon Golding scored from close range.

Barkley cut the deficit to 7-6 with two penalties before the break but despite a series of good positions, Gloucester simply couldn't break through. Their dominance continued in the second half when Lesley Vainikolo thundered up the middle and off-loaded to Mike Tindall. The England centre was sure he had reached the line but May got back to make a desperate tackle.

And when replacement Rory Clegg landed a 63rd minute penalty to make 10-6, there was a very real danger Gloucester may lose out. But the introduction of Satala and Lewis changed the course of the match and with two minutes to go, Lewis and Lamb exchanged passes from a scrum, Peter Buxton carried well and when possession came back, Satala burst clear to the sticks to seal a very late Gloucester win.



Man of the Match



Dave Lewis may only have featured in the last quarter but his contribution was key.



Coach's Comment

"Dave Lewis and Apo changed the game with their energy and enthusiasm – in the end we can just be thankful we won," head coach Dean Ryan.



Timeline

18 mins	
Golding TRY, Miller CON	7-0
21 mins	
Barkley PEN	7-3
28 mins	
Barkley PEN	7-6
63 mins	
Clegg PEN	10-7
77 mins	
Satala TRY	10-11

Gloucester Line-up

- 15 Willie Walker
- 14 Iain Balshaw
- 13 Mike Tindall (capt)
- 12 Olly Barkley (2p)
- 11 Lesley Vainikolo
- 10 Ryan Lamb
- 9 Gareth Cooper
- 1 Nick Wood
- 2 Andy Titterrell
- 3 Carlos Nieto
- 4 Adam Eustace
- 5 Alex Brown
- 6 Peter Buxton
- 7 Andy Hazell
- 8 Alasdair Strokosch
- REPS
- 16 Olivier Azam (Titterrell)
- 17 Alasdair Dickinson (Wood)
- 18 Dan Williams
- 19 Apo Satala (1t) (Hazell)
- 20 Dave Lewis (Cooper)
- 21 Jack Adams
- 22 Charlie Sharples

FAN ZONE WITH BOB FENTON

Bob Fenton will be back in the Shed tonight (quite possibly his favourite place in the world) for Gloucester's derby clash against Bristol – and is positively thrilled at the thought.

LOCAL derby, under the lights – sounds like my ideal night out... I know evening games are not necessarily good news for supporters from a bit further away, but for us locals it's great news.

This has not been a good season for Bristol, though they did snatch a one-point victory last week which will do their moral the world of good. And if ever

there was a coach who knew about Castle Grim it is Richer Dill. I firmly believe when the modern history of Gloucester Rugby is written, one of the most significant days will be when he put his signature to a contract to become coach and kick start the professional revolution.

So it's always a pleasure to welcome him back, of course I fervently hope that he leaves with nothing tonight...

It has been a funny old season though, stop start Guinness Premiership campaign that is interrupted by one cup or another or some money-making games for the RFU. I know it's the same every season, but it makes it hard to keep up with things – or at least it does if you are as simple as me.

I mean – and I'm going to return to a

hoary old chestnut here – how can it be right to play crucially important league games on the same weekends as an international programme. Like many clubs we are losing players hand over fist to provide some corporate entertainment for a bunch of people who spend more time jumping up and down to go to the toilet or bar than they do watching the game.

I'm not against internationals – just don't run a league programme while they are on. It surely cannot be in the best interest of the Premiership competition, the supporters and even the sponsors to have so many games when the top players are not available. Rant over. For now...

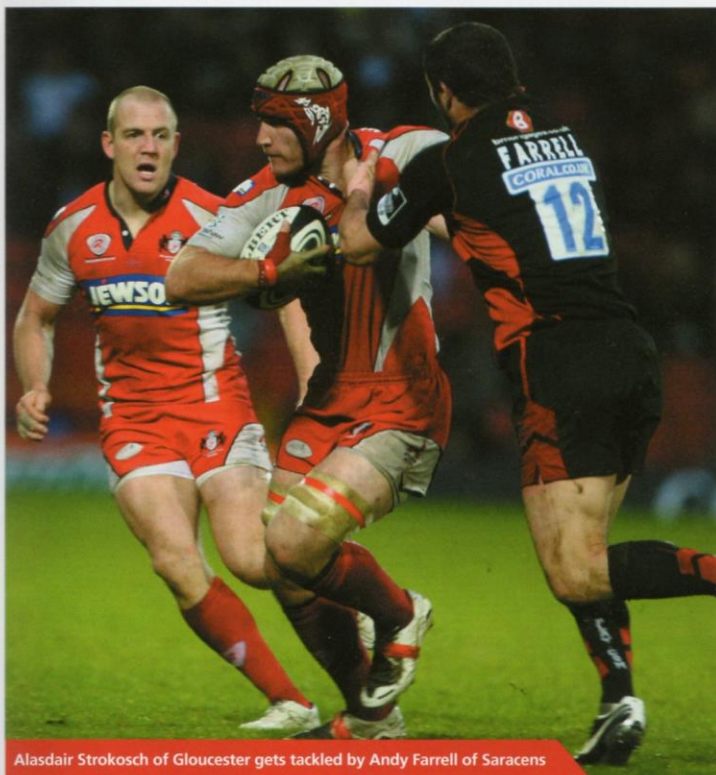
So last week, then. A great result by all accounts, regrettably I wasn't there. I could have gone, but I have made a decision to boycott grounds where they condone a bunch of geeky idiots banging drums through the game. This isn't support, it's mindless rubbish. Getting to these places is expensive enough without having to take an industrial sized pack of pain killers with you.

Heaven help us if people ever started to bring them to Kingsholm – fortunately the vast majority of supporters prefer their entertainment to come from the field of play rather than jokers with drums or trumpets, Blur's 'Song Two' or 'Tom Hark' blasted at ear splitting volume over PA systems after a score or hopeless Smashy and Nicey DJs with too much to say and too little knowledge.

Want an example from Kingsholm – anyone remember the party in the old clubhouse and the berk behind the decks shouting for someone called 'Dave Bower' after the PowerGen cup final win a few seasons back. Turns out he was hoping to get a word from Jake Boer (who wasn't



Richard Hill



Alasdair Strokosch of Gloucester gets tackled by Andy Farrell of Saracens

even there)... An embarrassment to the pristine brand new Glaws shirt he had bought for the occasion.

Yes I am an old fuddy duddy, and yes I would be comfortable on the 'Grumpy Old Men' programme. Tell me I'm wrong though...

But the game, yes the game. I watched the final few minutes on the internet, watching the score that is. I was half way through yet another ridiculously hard session in Epsortia up at Brockworth, and dashed downstairs to the bar to get the result. I don't know whether it was the closing few minutes or the previous 90 minutes of exertion that produced the

most sweat. I do know I should apologise to all those who were around me at the time...

Actually I don't know why anyone went when the score was known in advance of kick off. You're confused, I can tell. So was I when I read the Mail on Sunday – it was the only paper I could find in the place – last Sunday. Gloucester 25 – Saracens 21 it said, even though they got the home team wrong the score was bang on. Spooky or what!

It was great to see the first of our walking wounded returning to the field too – Will James and Anthony Allen stepping back onto the pitch. It can't be long before

Gareth Delve and Akapusi Qera are back, and if the newspaper reports of 'Q' bulking up even more are to be believed he is going to be a site well worth seeing. Unless you are an opponent trying to stop him, that is...

So back to today. Being a local derby we know Bristol will raise their game – cliché time: no easy games in the Premiership. We know their pack will be strong, and



So back to today. Being a local derby we know Bristol will raise their game – cliché time: no easy games in the Premiership. We know their pack will be strong, and they have some decent backs, but I'll be mortified if we don't come away with the points.



they have some decent backs, but I'll be mortified if we don't come away with the points. With two of the sides playing each other there is a good chance for us to continue our march into the play off positions. As always, put me down for a home win.

Finally I have to mention my charity trek next March (www.bobinthedesert.co.uk for details), only to say a huge thank you to everyone who has pledged sponsorship already. So far my total stands at well over £2,500 with a few months of fundraising in front of me.

Thanks again everyone, I'll take pictures of blisters to prove I did it...

SARACENS
GLOUCESTER RUGBY

21
25



Gloucester stun Saracens

Sunday, November 16

Referee: Sean Davey, Attendance: 8,535



GLOUCESTER produced a much more convincing endorsement of their play-off credentials with a three-try victory over Saracens last Sunday.

They were back to a game based on movement and phases and for the vast majority of a totally full-on contest dominated possession and territory for long periods and could have won by an even greater margin.

Gloucester were already 6-0 ahead thanks to two Ryan Lamb penalties before they scored their opening try. Will James and Anthony Allen helped launch the attack, Olly Morgan and Iain Balshaw sustained it to the left and when possession came back to the right, Dave Lewis and Lamb fed Apo Satala and he off-loaded brilliantly for Allen to score in the corner.

As Lamb grew in confidence, he landed the conversion from the touchline to establish a 13-3 lead. However, three minutes before the break, Saracens cut the gap when Andy Farrell's kick was turned over close to the line and Ben Skirving dived in via two passes to score. Glen Jackson cut the deficit to 13-11 with

a 42nd minute penalty as Gloucester's lead looked shaky but they responded with a brilliant score. Alasdair Strokosch got the ball away to Lewis from a scrum, Lamb fed Mike Tindall and the skipper off-loaded towards Olly Morgan, who hit the line perfectly to break past Kevin Sorrell to score.

Gloucester then scored a third try and it was another beauty. Allen started it off with a good break, Strokosch took over up the middle and then Morgan and Balshaw clattered play deep into Saracens territory. Lamb then kicked across field towards Lesley Vainikolo and the winger took the catch to score his first Guinness Premiership try of the season.

That took Gloucester 25-11 ahead but they then had to withstand a ferocious Saracens recovery in the closing stages. Jackson landed a penalty to set up a barn-storming finish. The tempo was raised even further when Saracens were awarded a penalty try following a powerful scrum that cut the gap to four points.

But Gloucester's defensive organisation held out and they claimed a hugely important victory.



Man of the Match

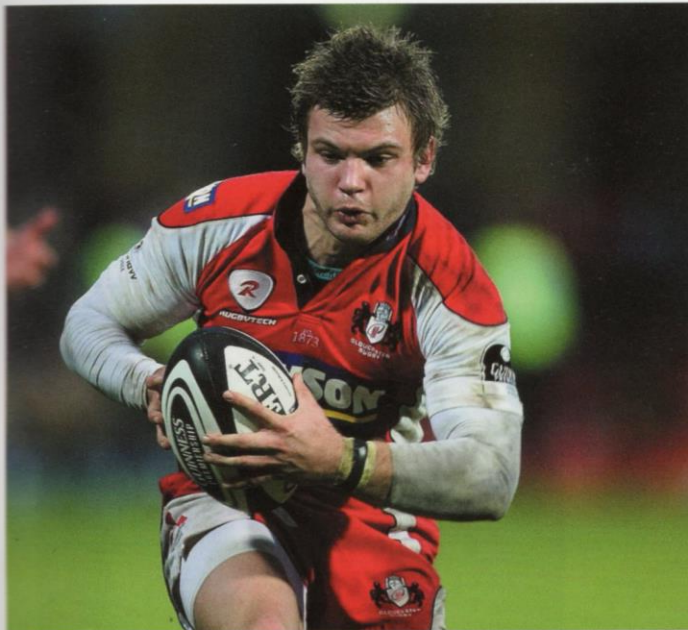


Considering it was his first game back, Anthony Allen produced an excellent performance.

Coach's Comment



"I thought we played really well and it was back to the Gloucester of old," head coach Dean Ryan.



Timeline

10 mins	
Lamb PEN	0-3
17 mins	
Lamb PEN	0-6
20 mins	
Jackson PEN	3-6
24 mins	
Allen TRY, Lamb CON	3-13
37 mins	
Skirving TRY	8-13
42 mins	
Jackson PEN	11-13
49 mins	
Morgan TRY	11-18
62 mins	
Vainikolo TRY, Lamb CON	11-25
62 mins	
Jackson PEN	14-25
70 mins	
Penalty TRY, Jackson CON	21-25

Gloucester Line-up

15	Olly Morgan	(1t)
14	Iain Balshaw	
13	Mike Tindall	(capt)
12	Anthony Allen	(1t)
11	Lesley Vainikolo	(1t)
10	Ryan Lamb	(2p, 2c)
9	Dave Lewis	
1	Nick Wood	
2	Olivier Azam	
3	Jack Forster	
4	Will James	
5	Alex Brown	
6	Peter Buxton	
7	Apo Satala	
8	Alasdair Strokosch	
REPS		
16	Scott Lawson	
17	Dave Young	
18	Adam Eustace	(James)
19	Andy Titterrell	
20	Gareth Cooper	
21	Olly Barkley	(Allen)
22	Matthew Watkins	