

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

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BOSSING
THE SCRUM
GREAT SCRUM HALVES
PART ONEPeter Kingston playing
for Gloucestershire**PETER KINGSTON**

When Lydney born schoolmaster Peter Kingston came to Gloucester from Moseley RFC in 1974, he was already an England trialist and had played county rugby for North Midlands. The 23 year old made his debut for Gloucester in September and for Gloucestershire the following month.

From 1974 until 1981 and occasionally until 1985 he played 178 games for Gloucester and 38 for Gloucestershire. He won 5 England caps.

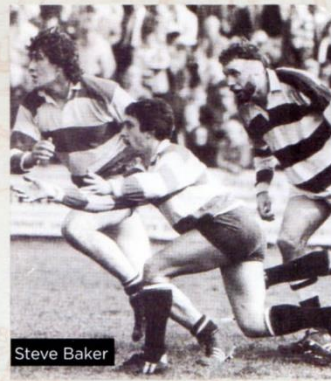
Speed around the scrum, an accurate service and sound kicking were strong features of his game, and he was always looking for attacking options. His performances for Gloucestershire, who won the County Championship that year, gained him selection for the 1975 England tour of Australia where he played in both tests.

Outside half Chris Williams joined the club that autumn and the two resumed an outstanding

partnership which had begun at Lydney Grammar School. In 1976-77, The Times suggested that the pair should play together for England but the idea didn't get beyond selection as reserves for the first trial.

Illness and injury dogged Kingston in 1977-78 but the following season he was back to his best form and played against Ireland, France and Wales.

Although now appearing less often for Gloucester, he took part in two more County Championship Finals, his last county game being the final against Northumberland in 1981.



Steve Baker

STEVE BAKER

Steve Baker was an outstanding young prospect when he joined Gloucester from Sir Thomas Rich's school in 1976, having played for England Schools at Under 16 level. He scored a try on his debut, aged 17, in a 29-18 Gloucester victory at Nottingham in April 1977 and went on to play 206 games for the club.

Steve toured America and Canada with Gloucester in summer 1977 but was understudy to Peter Kingston until his 1st XV breakthrough in 1979. He played in 41 of Gloucester's 48 games in 1981-82, a season when only three games were lost, having a fine game behind a dominant pack in the John Player Cup semi-final at Coventry and playing in the final against Moseley at Twickenham.

Still only 22, he was chosen to play for England Under 23 against England Students and went on their tour to Italy that summer, playing in the 15-0 victory over Italy Under 23 and the 12-7 loss to the Italian national XV.

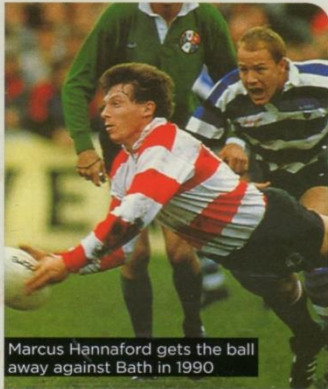
Joining Stroud in 1987, Steve played alongside three other members of the 1982 Cup Final team - Steve Parsloe, John Gadd and, briefly, Mike Teague.

MARCUS HANNAFORD

Marcus Hannaford was a big fiercely competitive scrum half who played 248 games for Gloucester, scoring 76 tries. Born in Gloucester in 1963 he was a product of Widden school and had played for Widden Old Boys and Longlevens before joining Gloucester at the age of 20.

He was always close to England selection early in his career. He toured Italy with England B in 1986 and was one of three scrum halves in the 1986 World Cup training squad until injury put paid to his chances.

Hannaford became club captain in 1987-88, the inaugural year of the Courage Championship, and immediately impressed critics



Marcus Hannahford gets the ball away against Bath in 1990

with his positive attacking attitude. Gloucester started their league season with a 39-3 victory over Coventry and rounded it off with a 61-7 win over Sale, to finish third. Marcus himself scored 15 tries in 34 games.

The following season he captained his club to runners-up position. His last outstanding season was 1990-91 when he was part of Mike Hamlin's team which finished runners-up in both league and cup.

SCOTT BENTON

Bradford born Scott Benton arrived at Kingsholm from Morley RFC midway through the 1995-96 season, having played for England at Colts and Under 21 level. He proved himself to be a busy scrum half who excelled around the base of the scrum and whose grit and determination won him many admirers.



Scott Benton

Scott Benton was a key signing at a time when Gloucester were finding their feet in the new world of professional rugby.

Thrown in at the deep end at a club that had been in relegation trouble all season, he responded magnificently to the challenge, notably with outstanding performances in crucial wins over double-chasing Bath and fellow relegation candidates Saracens.

He went on to make 80 appearances for Gloucester, during which time he played for both for the Barbarians in 1997 and for England against Australia (on the notorious 1998 "Tour from Hell").

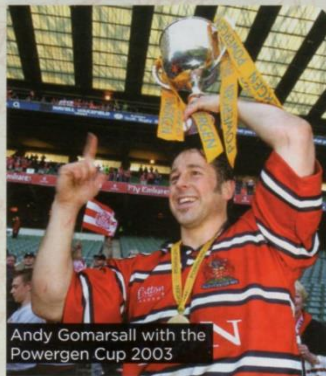
ANDY GOMARSALL

Andy Gomarsall was a scrum half noted for his fine service and attacking style of play. He joined Gloucester from relegated Bedford, where he had been captain, at the start of the 2000-01 season and in the next five years and 130 games was a major factor in the club's success.

Gomarsall started against Leicester in Gloucester's only Heineken Cup semi-final in 2000-01 and against Bristol in the Zurich Championship Final victory at Twickenham in 2001-02. His finest season for the club was 2002-03 when he helped Gloucester to top the Premiership table by 15 points and started in the Powergen Cup Final victory over Northampton.

This success brought him back into England contention and he was one of the three Gloucester members of England's successful World Cup squad in Australia that summer, earning him the MBE.

Another good season in 2004-05, in which he retained



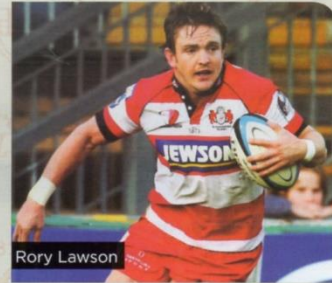
Andy Gomarsall with the Powergen Cup 2003

his England place and helped Gloucester to fourth in the Premiership was followed by disappointment in 2004-05 and, with the departure of Director of Rugby Nigel Melville, he signed a contract with Worcester.

Moving on after a year to Harlequins, he revived his international career, turning in some world class performances for England which culminated in the 2007 World Cup Final in France against South Africa.

RORY LAWSON

Rory Gordon MacGregor Lawson, the grandson of commentator Bill McLaren and son of Scottish international scrum half Alan Lawson, joined Gloucester from Edinburgh in the summer of 2006.



Rory Lawson

Although a Scotland A international, the 25 year old Rory Lawson was number two to British Lion Mike Blair at Edinburgh and it was assumed that he would understudy England scrum half Peter Richards at Gloucester, but he immediately impressed with his determination and work rate and played in 29 out of 33 games, winning his first start for Scotland in Paris in the process. Those qualities brought him 31 Scottish caps and the Scottish captaincy during the six seasons he was with Gloucester.

Rory Lawson played 148 games for Gloucester from 2006 to 2012, including three Premiership semi-finals, the 2006-07 final and 30 Heineken cup ties. After leaving Gloucester, he played one season for Newcastle Falcons before retiring through injury in 2013.