

# Bath Rugby

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3 • PRICE £3.00

The Official Matchday Programme Of Bath Rugby

Guinness Premiership  
**Vs Gloucester Rugby**  
Saturday 15 October 2005  
Kick-off 2.45pm

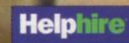
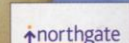
Match Day  
Sponsors



Match Ball  
Sponsors



Sponsors



## INSIDE:

### Gloucester RUGBY

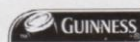
All you need to know  
about today's visitors

### David BORY

Life in the fast lane  
with Bath's rapid winger

### Rob FIDLER

Our lock gets grilled  
on his career to date



[www.guinnesspremiership.com](http://www.guinnesspremiership.com)



# ANDREW'S WELCOME

Gloucester are always welcome visitors to the Rec and I hope that everyone associated with the club enjoys our brand of West Country hospitality.



**W**e know it will be a tough match particularly as the Cherry & Whites have made a better start to the season. However, we have an excellent home record against Gloucester and a growing confidence after our encouraging displays and wins at Newcastle and Swansea.

The media speculation of rifts with the RFU over a number of contentious issues continues to fill column inches. Release of players for training, central contracts and buying stakes in premier clubs are all topics that have aroused passionate debate by concerned



In good faith... supporters pay good money to see top players like Danny Grewcock.

supporters of the game.

The reality is that there are official meetings taking place between the clubs and the RFU over the release of players for training. Informal negotiations should not be conducted through the press! Premier Rugby, for example, have honoured the initial agreement to release players for the training schedule for the autumn internationals and suggested a compromise for the rest of the season.

Supporters and sponsors have paid good money, in good faith, to see the best players in a thrilling and keenly contested domestic competition.

There are no official meetings taking place over central contracts. Unlike County cricket the Premiership has established a vibrant following and can sustain professionalism. The suggestion, from whatever source, of the RFU recruiting the best 50 players is impractical and does not meet with supporters approval.

Bath Rugby has remained loyal to the policy of meeting a player's aspirations to play for his country. We do not want to promote a situation that puts a player in a club v country predicament. Central contracting is not the solution

in my opinion and a sensible working arrangement can be achieved if all parties are willing to discuss a practical way forward.

There has been no contact from the RFU with regards to buying into Bath Rugby. Any offer would be rejected as their motive would be personally unacceptable. When I agreed to take responsibility of the custodianship and stewardship of Bath Rugby it was based on the principle of preserving a great sporting institution for the community. I still have a genuine passion for our city and what the club represents and contributes in so many ways to so many people. We will continue to focus on our commitment to the community but it would be gratifying if our efforts were recognised and given practical support to secure a sound future relationship. We will remain positive and forward-looking.

We also need to move forward and up the league with a good performance this afternoon and I hope you will give the team your full vocal and visual support.

**Enjoy the game**

**Andrew Brownsword  
Chairman**

[today's teams]

## Bath RUGBY



## Gloucester RUGBY

	Matt PERRY	15	Full Back	15	Jon GOODRIDGE	
	David BORY	14	Right Wing	14	James SIMPSON-DANIEL	
	Tom CHEESEMAN	13	Centre	13	Mike TINDALL	
	Olly BARKLEY	12	Centre	12	Henry PAUL	
	Frikkie WELSH	11	Left Wing	11	Mark FOSTER	
	Chris MALONE	10	Fly Half	10	Ludovic MERCIER	
	Martyn WOOD	9	Scrum Half	9	Peter RICHARDS	
	David BARNES	1	Prop	1	Patrice COLLAZO	
	Lee MEARS	2	Hooker	2	Gary POWELL	
	Duncan BELL	3	Prop	3	Phil VICKERY ©	
	Steve BORTHWICK ©	4	Lock	4	Adam EUSTACE	
	Danny GREWCOCK	5	Lock	5	Alex BROWN	
	Andy BEATTIE	6	Flanker	6	Peter BUXTON	
	James SCAYSBROOK	7	Flanker	7	Jake BOER	
	Zak FEUNATI	8	No 8	8	James FORRESTER	
	Pieter DIXON	16		16	Mefin DAVIES	
	Matt STEVENS	17		17	Gary POWELL	
	Gareth DELVE	18		18	Mark CORNWELL	
	James HUDSON	19		19	Luke NARRAWAY	
	Andy WILLIAMS	20		20	Haydn THOMAS	
	Ryan DAVIS	21		21	Brad DAVIES	
	Salesi FINAU	22		22	Marcel GARVEY	



**HEAD COACH**  
John CONNOLLY



**HEAD COACH**  
Dean RYAN

[40]

[visit [www.bathrugby.com](http://www.bathrugby.com) for all the latest on your favourite club]

**Todays Officials** Referee Dave Pearson

**Touch Judges** Andrew Pearce & Huw Jones Williams



# EYEING THE BIG PRIZE



Compiled by: **Dom Rumbles**



**A**fter a two-week break the Guinness Premiership returns this afternoon and what better way to restart the campaign than with a good old Bath versus Gloucester tussle at the Recreation Ground.

Gloucester are in fin fettle at the moment and return to Premiership action on the back of five straight victories and are currently sitting pretty in third place in the Guinness Premiership table with one eye firmly fixed on Wasps and

Leicester above.

A win this afternoon could see Dean Ryan's side go top, but in order to achieve that feat there is the small matter of shaking a rather large monkey off their backs first. It remains one of Gloucester's least proud facts that they are yet to win at the Rec in the Premiership. They have been trying since 1987, and have come close on a number of occasions, but have not managed to break that hoodoo.

This afternoon's match provides the perfect opportunity to finally lay that ghost to rest (not that the Gloucester squad will be thinking about such records).

Gloucester are a stronger side than they were last season, there is no doubt about that. The gritty, hard-nosed edge that has been missing for some time has returned, and once again the Cherry and Whites have a forward pack to shout about.

## SQUADDETAILS



● Team vs Bath Rugby

Name	DOB	Height	Weight	Position	Caps	Name	DOB	Height	Weight	Position	Caps
Adams, Jack	17/9/86	6' 0"	12st 7lb	Centre		● Eustace, Adam	9/1/79	6' 4"	17st	Lock	
Allen, Anthony	1/9/86	5' 10"	14st 3lb	Centre		Fanolua, Terry	3/7/74	6' 0"	14st 12lb	Centre	
Amor, Simon	25/4/79	5' 7"	12st	Half back		● Forrester, James	9/2/81	6' 5"	15st 9lb	Number Eight	
Azam, Olivier	21/10/74	6' 0"	18st 2lb	Hooker		● Foster, Mark	2/9/83	6' 0"	14st 3lb	Wing/Centre	
Bailey, James	5/8/83	5' 10"	13st 2lb	Wing		Garvey, Marcel	21/4/83	5' 8"	13st 7lb	Wing	
Balding, Adam	7/12/79	6' 2"	17st 7lb	Number Eight		● Goodridge, Jon	26/2/81	6' 1"	13st 8lb	Full Back	
● Boer, Jake	1/11/75	6' 1"	17st 4lb	Flanker		Hazell, Andy	25/4/78	6' 0"	14st 9lb	Flanker	
● Brown, Alex	17/5/79	6' 7"	17st 5lb	Lock		Lamb, Ryan	18/5/86	5' 9"	12st 10lb	Fly Half	
● Buxton, Peter	21/8/78	6' 3"	17st 9lb	Back row		Matthews, Will	14/1/85	6' 2"	15st 6lb	Back Row	
● Collazo, Patrice	27/4/74	6' 1"	17st 3lb	Prop		McRae, Duncan	27/9/74	5' 7"	12st 10lb	Outside Half/Full Back	
Cornwell, Mark	22/3/73	6' 7"	18st 2lb	Lock		● Mercier, Ludovic	1/11/76	5' 10"	14st	Fly Half	
Davies, Brad	13/2/83	5' 9"	14st 1lb	Outside Half		Merriman, James	17/1/84	6' 0"	14st 7lb	Flanker	
Davies, Mefin	2/9/72	5' 10"	16st 5lb	Hooker		Morgan, Olly	3/11/85	6' 3"	14st 1lb	Full Back	
Elloway, Rob	9/11/83	6' 0"	15st 4lb	Hooker		Narraway, Luke	7/9/83	6' 3"	15st 8lb	Back Row	

English fans will be happy to see Phil Vickery back to his rampaging best, and combined with Grand Slam winning hooker Mefin Davies, Oliver Azam and Patrice Collazo, Gloucester have a firm platform in the front row this season. South African international Quinton Davids will add beef to the pack when he arrives, whilst England squad member Alex Brown is in fine form in the second row. Adam Balding, Jake Boer are streetwise back row players.

The return of Ludovic Mercier is also a big boost. The Frenchman controls a match well, whilst also possessing a metronomic boot. Last season goal kicking was possibly a weakness for this Gloucester side, but with Mercier having already racked up 60 points in the Guinness Premiership this season, this area has been well addressed.

However, think again if you believe that Gloucester are

a big pack with a kicking game. The Cheery and Whites have scored nine tries in the Premiership to date and possess some wonderful ball players. The back line is littered with talent. Bath fans will be all too aware of the talent of Mike Tindall; the World Cup winning centre, whose committed approach to his game and work rate is a strong aspect of Gloucester's momentum this season. Add to that the likes of Henry Paul, Peter Richards, James Simpson-Daniel and Marcel Garvey, and it is clear to see that this is a Gloucester backs division not to be sniffed at.

Paul, given the cold shoulder treatment by England coach Robinson, is, on his day a sublime ball player with great skills. The New Zealand born England international has been given a new lease of life alongside Tindall in the centres. Simpson-Daniel, another England squad member, is also a player of undoubted quality. A player

who can make things happen, he has shaken off injury to near his best form this season.

James Forrester, the back row player who was recently named in the England squad, is a superb player. Once thought of as being too lightweight to become a world class back row, Forrester's rise to prominence is a triumph of brains over brawn.

However, there are also some unsung heroes in this

side too. Adam Eustace, Terry Sigley, Nick Wood and Andy Hazell are all quality players, whilst in Haydn Thomas Gloucester have one of the best up and coming players in the Guinness Premiership.

This will be a fascinating encounter, there is little doubt about that. A full house at the Rec will provide a charged atmosphere and with both sides after victory, this is a match that simply cannot be missed.

## THE CAPTAIN

### Phil Vickery



Every successful team should have a number of players who step up to the mark in terms of leadership and direction and Gloucester is no exception. Keen not to name a club captain for this season, the Kingsholm club's head coach Dean Ryan has spread his captaincy around.

With last season's skipper Adam Balding sidelined through injury, Ryan has called upon Mike Tindall and Phil Vickery this term, whilst former skipper Jake Boer has played a prominent role.

Tindall is an obvious choice to lead the side despite only arriving at the club during the summer. Vastly experienced (he is now one of the senior players in the England squad), Mike has held the vice captaincy for both England and former club Bath. He is a physical and vocal presence in midfield and has been a leading light in Gloucester's back play so far this season.

Vickery, another player to have captained his county, epitomises Gloucester's spirit. A hard-nosed competitor, he is one of the strongest scrummagers around, whilst also contributing significantly in the loose. He is hugely respected by the Gloucester squad and with a whole host of experience behind him (including that World Cup victory), Vickery is a natural leader in the pack.

Name	DOB	Height	Weight	Position	Caps
Parkes, James	30/11/80	5' 10"	15st 5lb	Hooker	
● Paul, Henry	10/2/74	5' 11"	14st 10lb	Centre	
Pendlebury, Jon	15/1/83	6' 5"	16st 5lb	Second Row	
● Powell, Gary	30/10/79	6' 0"	17st 7lb	Prop	
● Richards, Peter	10/3/78	5' 9"	14st 12lb	Scrum Half	
Sigley, Terry	12/10/78	6' 2"	19st 2lb	Prop	
● Simpson-Daniel, J.	30/5/82	6' 0"	12st 7lb	Wing/Centre	
Thirlby, Rob	2/3/79	6' 2"	14st	Wing	
Thomas, Haydn	17/9/82	5' 8"	12st 4lb	Scrum Half	
● Tindall, Mike	18/10/78	6' 2"	15st 8lb	Centre	
● Vickery, Phil	14/3/76	6' 3"	18st 4lb	Prop	
Wood, Nick	9/1/83	6' 2"	17st 0lb	Prop	



# MAKING HIS MARK

Compiled by: Dom Rumbles



**T**o many casual observers, Gloucester's James Forrester faces what looks like a difficult task of breaking through to the England side this season.

Despite his unquestionable talent and undoubted footballing ability, the comparably slender frame of this back row player has meant that

when it comes to team selection.

Yet this autumn the number eight could well have the last laugh when England line up to take on Samoa, New Zealand and Australia in the Investec series. Now free of the injuries that have kept his once blossoming career in shackles, Forrester has played a prominent role in his club's revival this season and has raised a few eyebrows along the way with some commanding performances against some very big packs.

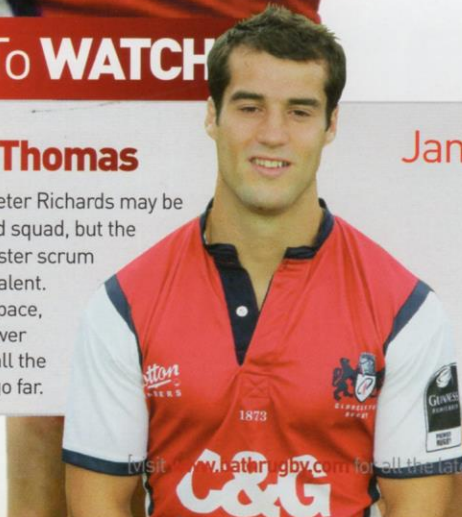
However, James has a lot going in his favour. A player who loves to get the ball in his hands, the Gloucester star has the footballing ability, vision and skills of a centre. This makes him an extremely dangerous man to have on your side. He has the rare ability to be able to put people into space, unlocking opposition defences. However, he is also a fantastic support player. Blessed with the pace of a three-quarter, James is invariably on the shoulder of those who make breaks, whilst he has also established a

James has often fallen foul of coaches' obsession with the big and the physical

## 4 To WATCH

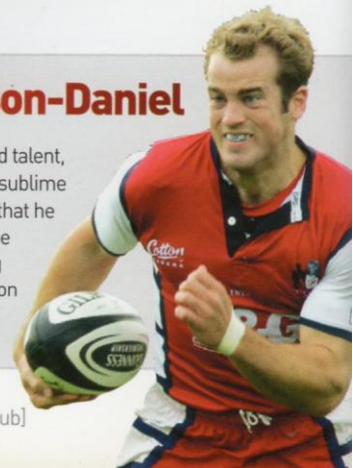
### Haydn Thomas

Team mate Peter Richards may be in the England squad, but the young Gloucester scrum half is a real talent. Blessed with pace, vision and power Thomas has all the attributes to go far.



### James Simpson-Daniel

A player of undoubted talent, Simpson-Daniel is a sublime ball player, and now that he is injury free he will be looking to make a big impression this season whether on the wing or in the centre.





reputation as somewhat of a finisher himself such is his nose for the line.

James burst onto the scene in 2003 in the England A team under the captaincy of Bath's Steve Borthwick. Having already shown glimpses of his vast potential on the Premiership circuit the 6'5" number eight was a towering presence in the lineouts, whilst also playing a prominent part in some extremely good loose play. In those England A appearances he also stamped out thoughts that he was too lightweight to compete at international level.

A full England cap followed, but despite the demise of England A fixtures and ankle and shoulder injuries took their toll on Forrester's international progress over the next couple of seasons, James still managed to impress when taking to the field with Gloucester. However, Clive Woodward's fixation with

forward dominance meant that he had to bide his time.

With England Head coach Andy Robinson openly acknowledging that he is looking to develop a highly mobile pack, there is reason to suggest that this could be Forrester's year. Dean Ryan, his coach at Gloucester, has already stated that the number eight has made significant strides forward with his physical game so far this season, and Gloucester's recent results point to that observation.

His potential is enormous and he is showing increasing signs that he is ready for international rugby at number eight. This afternoon's match promises to be a highly physical one against a strong Bath pack and with Andy Robinson watching closely, the Gloucester player could well cement his place in the England

<b>POSITION:</b>	Back row
<b>HEIGHT:</b>	6'5" (1.95m)
<b>WEIGHT:</b>	15st 9lbs (99kgs)



## Man In Charge



As a player Dean Ryan never took a step backwards; he was tough, he was abrasive and he was hard, but he was also extremely talented, a thinker and a ball player.

It is therefore little surprise that you can see a lot of Ryan in this current Gloucester side. They are an extremely physical up front, a little rough around the edges, but possess the ability to play some sublime rugby. Indeed in Ryan's first season at the helm at Kingsholm, Gloucester have witnessed somewhat of a mini-revival. Currently third in the Guinness Premiership, Ryan's men have not been beaten in the last month and are steadily improving with every game.

Shrewd summer signings have also helped. Ryan brought back Patrice Collazo and brought in Quinton Davids to add some much needed grit up front, whilst the return of Ludovic Mercier has not only proved popular with the shed faithful, but also gives Gloucester direction in a key position. Mike Tindall is a player who can make things happen, whilst remaining impenetrable in defence.

The signs are good for Ryan. If he can keep the squad injury free then there is absolutely no reason why this Gloucester side cannot challenge the established order for a crack at some silverware this season.

## Mike Tindall

England's World Cup winner, returns to the Rec looking to force his way back into England contention after a series of injuries. A class act, Mike underpins Gloucester's back play.



## Ludovic Mercier

The arch-tactician is back and has already made a positive impact on Gloucester's Guinness Premiership campaign. His metronomic boot will punish sides who transgress.

