

Bath Rugby

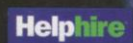
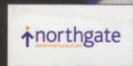
VOLUME 6 ISSUE 7 • PRICE £3.00

The Official Matchday Programme Of Bath Rugby



Powergen Cup
Vs Gloucester Rugby
Saturday 3 December 2005
Kick-off 5.30pm

Sponsors



INSIDE:

David
BARNES

Outlines his plans as
Chairman of the PRA.

Gloucester
RUGBY

All you need to know
about today's opponents

Lee
MEARS

The Bath Rugby hooker
on club and country



Bath RUGBY



Gloucester RUGBY

<input type="checkbox"/>	Lee BEST	15	Full Back	15	Olly MORGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe MADDOCK	14	Right Wing	14	Mark FOSTER	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alex CROCKETT	13	Centre	13	Anthony ALLEN	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Olly BARKLEY	12	Centre	12	Mike TINDALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Frikkie WELSH	11	Left Wing	11	James BAILEY	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris MALONE	10	Fly Half	10	Ludovic MERCIER	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick WALSHE	9	Scrum Half	9	Peter RICHARDS	<input type="checkbox"/>

<input type="checkbox"/>	David BARNES	1	Prop	1	Nick WOOD	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lee MEARS	2	Hooker	2	Mefin DAVIES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Matt STEVENS	3	Prop	3	Phil VICKERY ©	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve BORTHWICK ©	4	Lock	4	Adam EUSTACE	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Danny GREWCOCK	5	Lock	5	Mark CORNWELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Andy BEATTIE	6	Flanker	6	Peter BUXTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael LIPMAN	7	Flanker	7	Andy HAZELL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gareth DELVE	8	No 8	8	Adam BALDING	<input type="checkbox"/>

<input type="checkbox"/>	Pieter DIXON	16		16	Rob ELLOWAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duncan BELL	17		17	Gary POWELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	James SCAYSBROOK	18		18	James FORRESTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rob FIDLER	19		19	Alex BROWN	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andy WILLIAMS	20		20	Haydn THOMAS	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan DAVIS	21		21	Jon GOODRIDGE	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael STEPHENSON	22		22	Brad DAVIES	<input type="checkbox"/>



HEAD COACH
John **CONNOLLY**



HEAD COACH
Dean **RYAN**

Today's Officials Referee Nigel Whitehouse

Touch Judges Tony Hayes & Tony Rowlands



[match centre]

UP FOR THE CUP

Compiled by: Dom Rumbles



Dean Ryan can welcome back up to five international players into the Gloucester squad today, but he has been faced with a really tough decision when coming to select his side for this evening's winner-takes-all Powergen Cup match.

ignored reputations in preparation for the match. Youngsters Olly Morgan, Mark Foster, Anthony Allen and Luke Narraway have been in excellent form of late and were particularly prominent last weekend in the victory over a Saracens side that had been going well in the Guinness Premiership.

Such were the contributions of those who filled in for Gloucester's absent stars over the past couple of weeks that head coach Ryan has

Fullback Morgan has been a revelation in Gloucester colours this season and has made the number fifteen jersey his own, keeping out the talented Jon Goodridge and Rob Thirlby, whilst in Anthony Allen, Ryan believes that he has a future England international centre. It would be hard to disagree. Allen has also impressed in Gloucester colours this season and has matured with every game that he has played. He is a precocious young talent who looks to have an excellent future ahead of him.

Of course Ryan will welcome back England's Mike Tindall, Phil Vickery and James Forrester, whilst James Simpson-Daniel should also start if he has overcome the knock

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		Elloway, Rob	9/11/83	6' 0"	15st 4lb	Hooker	
● Allen, Anthony	1/9/86	5' 10"	14st 3lb	Centre		● Eustace, Adam	9/1/79	6' 4"	17st	Lock	
Amor, Simon	25/4/79	5' 7"	12st	Half back		Fanolua, Terry	3/7/74	6' 0"	14st 12lb	Centre	
Azam, Olivier	21/10/74	6' 0"	18st 2lb	Hooker		Forrester, James	9/2/81	6' 5"	15st 9lb	Number Eight	
● Bailey, James	5/8/83	5' 10"	13st 2lb	Wing		● Foster, Mark	2/9/83	6' 0"	14st 3lb	Wing/Centre	
● Balding, Adam	7/12/79	6' 2"	17st 7lb	Number Eight		Garvey, Marcel	21/4/83	5' 8"	13st 7lb	Wing	
Boer, Jake	1/11/75	6' 1"	17st 4lb	Flanker		Goodridge, Jon	26/2/81	6' 1"	13st 8lb	Full Back	
Brown, Alex	17/5/79	6' 7"	17st 5lb	Lock		● Hazell, Andy	25/4/78	6' 0"	14st 9lb	Flanker	
● Buxton, Peter	21/8/78	6' 3"	17st 9lb	Back row		Lamb, Ryan	18/5/86	5' 9"	12st 10lb	Fly Half	
Collazo, Patrice	27/4/74	6' 1"	17st 3lb	Prop		Matthews, Will	14/1/85	6' 2"	15st 6lb	Back Row	
● Cornwell, Mark	22/3/73	6' 7"	18st 2lb	Lock		McRae, Duncan	27/9/74	5' 7"	12st 10lb	Outside Half/Full Back	
Davids, Quinton	17/7/75	6' 6"	19st 6lb	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	

that he took against the Samoans. Peter Richards, who warmed the England bench last weekend should also slot back in at nine despite some outstanding performances by Hayden Thomas. Mefin Davies also returns from Wales duty and he will be needed as despite some good form of late Gloucester have got a number of injuries in key positions.

They will miss Alex Brown's presence this evening. The talented lock sustained a nasty neck injury when many were touting him as a certainty for England's recent internationals. He is an outstanding lineout forward and that is an area where Gloucester will need to nullify the effects of the Steve Borthwick/Danny Grewcock axis.

Other key absentees through injury include France international hooker Olivier Azam (shoulder) and South African back row Jake Boer.

This match will be a tough and fiercely competed one. Encounters between these two sides rarely

disappoint on the blood, guts and determination fronts, whilst the match should also see the first really intense game of this Powergen Cup competition. After all there is so much riding on the game.

Whoever wins goes through to the semi-final, whilst they will be just two matches away from a place in next season's Heineken Cup – something Gloucester will be keen to achieve given their absence from this season's European competition. Gloucester too are still smarting after the defeat to fourteen man Bath in the Guinness Premiership and will feel that they have a point to prove.

It would be fair to say that Gloucester come to the match as slight underdogs despite their good recent form. There is still the 'Rec factor' to overcome and they are still to record a victory here in the league and that will be playing on the players' minds a little.

However, the Powergen should be a completely

different affair. This competition usually serves up riveting matches between the two sides and whilst Gloucester's league form at the Rec may not be good, their Cup form is considerably better. Indeed

the last time that the two sides met at the Rec in the competition it was an under-strength Cherry and Whites that progressed. Dean Ryan will be hoping that result acts as an omen this evening.



Last time out...David Barnes of Bath hands off Gloucester's Mike Tindall.

THE CAPTAIN

One of the great strengths of this Gloucester side has been the number of leadership figures who have come to the fore this season. When last season's club Captain Adam Balding spent a the early part of the season sidelined through injury, Dean Ryan found himself looking around for likely successors – he did not have to hunt for long.

Gloucester have a number of outstanding leaders within their ranks and can call upon Phil Vickery, Mike Tindall and Jake Boer to do an effective job. Vickery was the man charged with the responsibility last weekend after his return from England duty and he is a natural choice.

The tighthead prop wears his heart on his sleeve in England colours and always leads by example on the pitch where he is at the very heart of Gloucester. He oozes commitment, determination and pride and has the ability to inspire those around him by the way in which he plays. Vicks also has experience of captaincy at the highest level having skippered England before.

In the backs, Mike 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.

Name	DOB	Height	Weight	Position	Caps
Narraway, Luke	7/9/83	6' 3"	15st 8lb	Back Row	
Parkes, James	30/11/80	5' 10"	15st 5lb	Hooker	
Paul, Henry	10/2/74	5' 11"	14st 10lb	Centre	
Pendlebury, Jonathan	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, James	30/5/82	6' 0"	12st 7lb	Wing/Centre	
Thirby, 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	



[match centre]

PETER RICHARDS

Compiled by: **Dom Rumbles**



A move to Kingsholm over the summer after two successful seasons with Premiership champions London Wasps has proven to be the making of this highly-talented scrum half.

Playing out of position at centre for Wasps, Richards may well have proven what a talented all-round footballer he is, but he was unable to showcase the class that we had previously seen glimpses of in Bristol colours. However, since his move to Gloucester, the twenty-seven year old has produced a series of excellent

performances that have not only coincided with an upturn in Gloucester's form in the Guinness Premiership, but have also put the former Bristol player back on the international map.

Three seasons ago, whilst a Bristol player, the scrum half caught the eye whilst battling with Argentine international Augustin Pichot. It was then that the England selectors began to stand up and take note of this talented player who had represented the club at a number of junior levels. However, Bristol's demise handed Peter his big time chance as he was snapped up by Premiership champions London Wasps.

In his first season at the Causeway Stadium, Richards found his path blocked by the evergreen Rob Howley, but took his chances when they came and impressed along the way. He also learned a lot from the old master, whilst being involved with the England sevens squad helped round his game.

4 To WATCH

Anthony Allen

A sublime talent in the centre, Allen's recent showings have prompted Gloucester head coach Dean Ryan to call for his inclusion in the England squad. One to watch for the future.



Mefin Davies

The old man of the team at thirty-three, Davies is like a fine wine which just seems to get better and better. A strong scrummager, the Wales international has been outstanding for Gloucester over the past two seasons.



Last season was a frustrating one for the scrum half, who found himself playing in the centre as Wasps experienced a plethora of injuries in the centres. With Stuart Abbott, Josh Lewsey and Aiola Erindle all injured, the scrum half was drafted in owing to his good all round skill levels and footballing ability. It was great testament to Richards that he played extremely well in the centres helping Wasps to another Premiership title.

Richards though desired more game time in his favoured position and when Gloucester came calling he jumped at the chance of joining an ambitious Guinness Premiership outfit. Having settled well in his new surrounds the scrum half is enjoying life playing at nine again and has experienced a good fight for his place with former Bath and Exeter player Hayden Thomas.

On the international front recent seasons have seen Richards climb the England ranks with appearances for England A, Churchill Cup and the England Sevens squad. However, whilst playing centre with Wasps, Richards was always going to struggle making the next step that his undoubted talent deserved.

However, he was patient and the move to Gloucester has elevated him to the full England squad, and last weekend he sat on the bench after Matt Dawson's late withdrawal owing to a calf strain. At twenty-seven the former Bristol player has time on his side and a good run over the winter in the Gloucester nine jersey will surely leave Andy Robinson something to think about when he comes to selecting his squad for the RBS Six Nations.

POSITION:	Scrum Half
BORN:	10 March 1978
HEIGHT:	5' 9"
WEIGHT:	14st 12lb



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 has 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.

Olly Morgan

Another young talent in Gloucester's back line, Fullback Morgan has established himself in the side after a number of good showings in the Guinness Premiership. Currently keeping Jon Goodridge out of the side, he is one to watch for the future.



Mike Tindall

A world cup winning centre, Tindall's contribution to the sides in which he plays are often overlooked. A highly effective and powerful outside centre, the former Bath man will be looking for a strong showing on his second visit to the Rec in Gloucester colours.



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