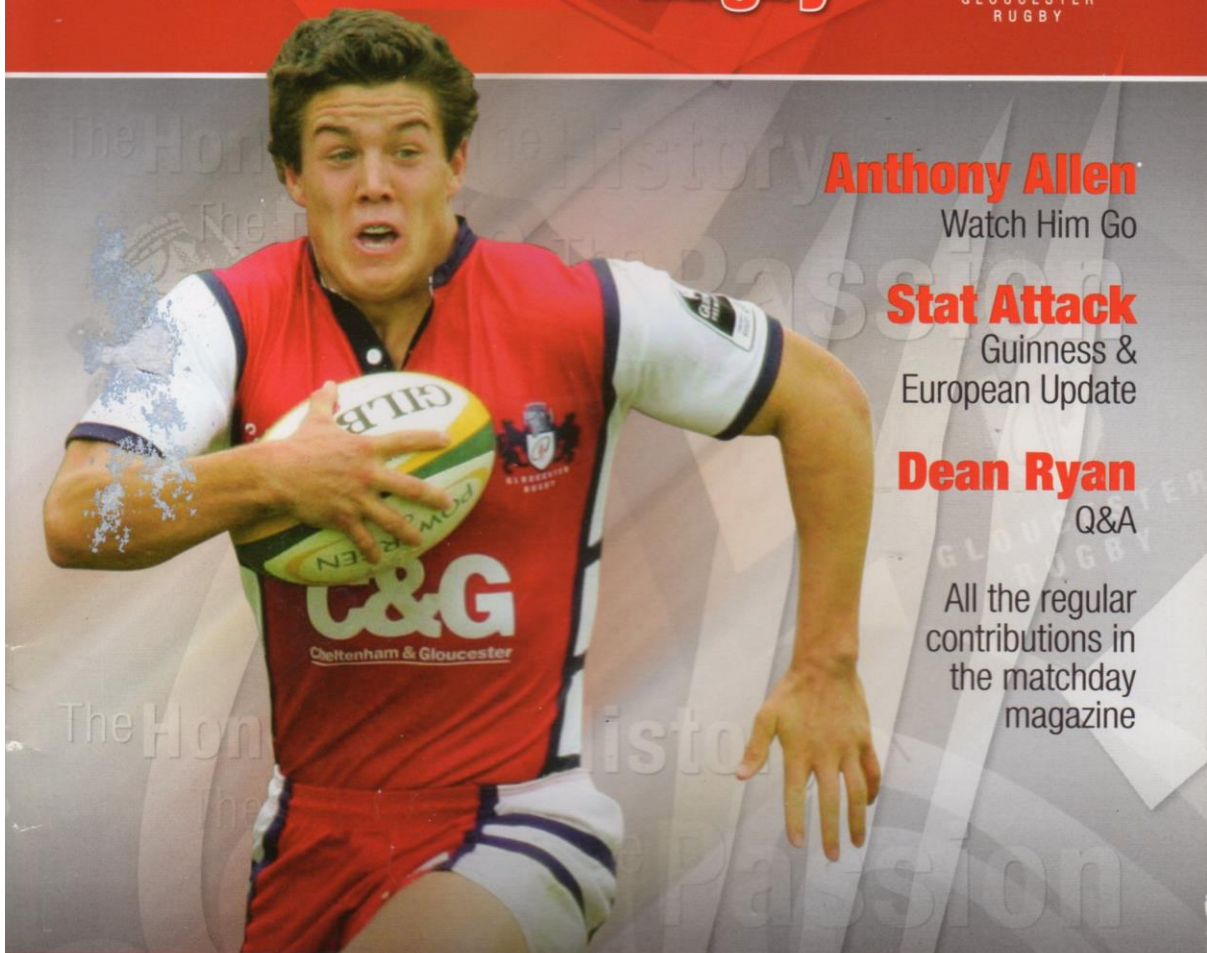


Gloucester Rugby

Gloucester Rugby Official Matchday Magazine | 2005/06 Season | Issue 07 | Price £3.00



GLOUCESTER
RUGBY



Anthony Allen

Watch Him Go

Stat Attack

Guinness &
European Update

Dean Ryan

Q&A

All the regular
contributions in
the matchday
magazine

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vs **Toulon**

Saturday 17th December | Kick Off 15.00pm

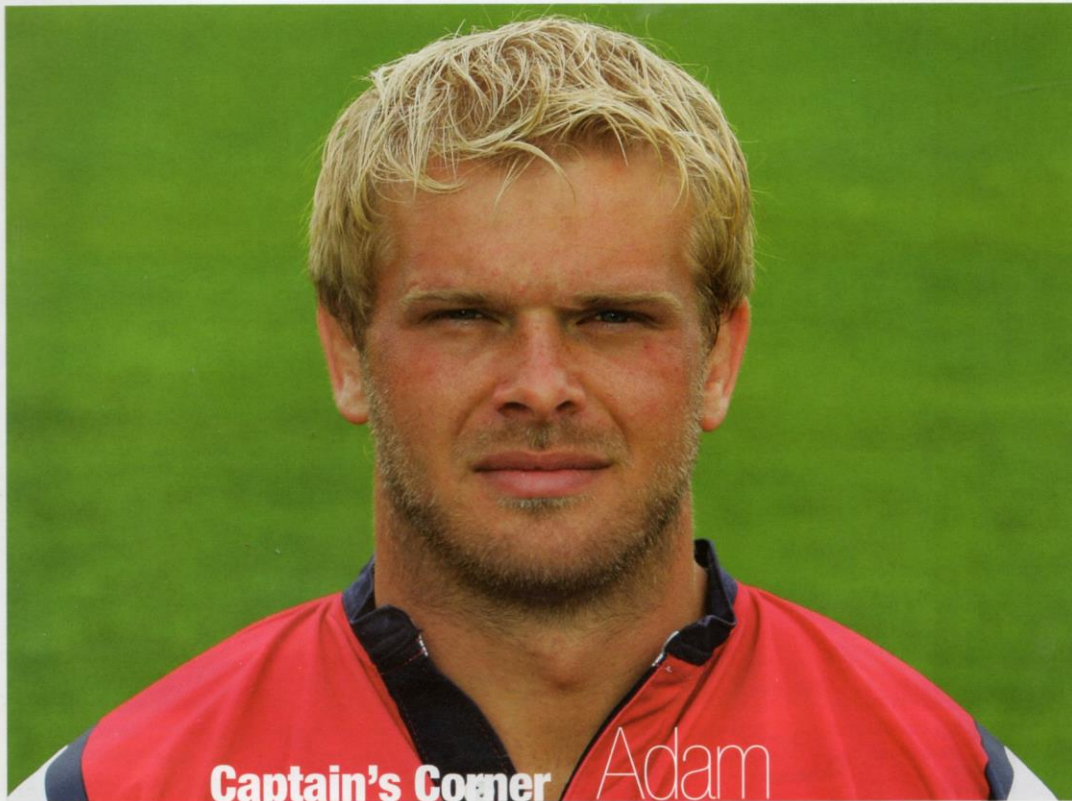
European
Challenge
Cup



European Challenge Cup

ercrugby.com

Round Four



Captain's Corner Adam

In association with
dair*

Balding

THIS AFTERNOON we welcome Toulon to Kingsholm for Round Four of the European Challenge Cup.

We have enjoyed the diversity of the European competition this season and have established a very strong position for ourselves in our pool with three clinical victories.

When we began the tournament away to Bayonne back in October, we were producing some real momentum on all fronts. Our Guinness Premiership campaign was healthy and we were still involved in the Powergen Cup.

We then suffered the disruption of the autumn internationals that deprived us of a number of key and experienced individuals and that slightly dipped our momentum. We now have to rebuild it and that job continues today.

That process has already started and gathered pace in France last Saturday night when we scored 10 tries against today's opponents.

There is a tightness and pride in the squad and we stuck together last weekend. Regardless of the score, it was an extremely tough

and physical place to play and that can only bond further.

Over the last few weeks a number of players have come into the side and really stood up to the challenge.

These guys – Allen, Morgan, Foster, Pendlebury, Elloway and Bailey – represent the future of the club and it has been great to see them combine with the more established individuals in the team.

It is that building process we must continue to work on. The team will make mistakes - that is

natural in any progression, but learning from them is the real secret.

Toulon might be bottom of the Top 14 competition in France but possess a quality about them. Any team who only lose by three points to Toulouse has to be taken serious and that is what we have done this week.

We have not dropped the intensity of our preparation, will respect Toulon but target another home victory this afternoon.

Finally, on behalf of the players and the management at Gloucester Rugby, can I take this opportunity to wish all our supporters a very Merry Christmas, enjoy the game.

Guarantee a ticket at **Kingsholm** - call **0871 871 8781**

The **Passion**



Carl Douglas

GLOUCESTER'S A League side, sponsored by Hartpury College, returned victorious from the Rec last weekend to maintain their lead at the top of the Southern Conference in the Guinness A League.

To the delight of coach Carl Douglas, Gloucester maintained their charge at the top of the table with a 34-17 victory. "Some of these guys had not played much rugby in five or six weeks, so to go out there and immediately get up to speed in a very competitive environment was an excellent achievement," he said.

United take points at the Rec.

"There were a couple of guys who were drafted in from Hartpury College and they did outstandingly well. Tom Rawlins, Mark George and Greg Lines were a great credit.

"Brad Davies and Ryan Lamb controlled the game well and got us on the front foot – it was an excellent result for us."

It was the young Gloucester side that went into a 9-0 lead through the boot of centre

Lamb after Bath were penalised for straying off-side in midfield, guilty of killing the ball and pulling down at the line-out.

Things got a whole lot worse for Bath when Kye Palm intercepted Spencer Davey's speculative pass to touch down in between the sticks. Lamb converted.

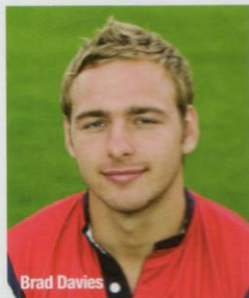
Bath did register a fine score on the stroke of half-time to haul themselves back into the game when hooker Rob Hawkins

picked a tremendous line to step two Gloucester defenders for a try near the posts which was converted by Andy Dunne.

The home side started the second half well and Dunne slotted over a penalty to reduce the deficit to six points, but Gloucester's Lamb cancelled out the advantage a few minutes later before number eight Mark George was driven over the Bath line for a try.

The lead was further extended in the 62nd minute when Lamb added his fifth penalty to give Gloucester an unassailable 27-10 lead. Gloucester added gloss with another converted push over score for number eight George.

Bath did have the final say when Mike Mangeolles skipped past two tackles for a converted try on the stroke of full time.



Brad Davies



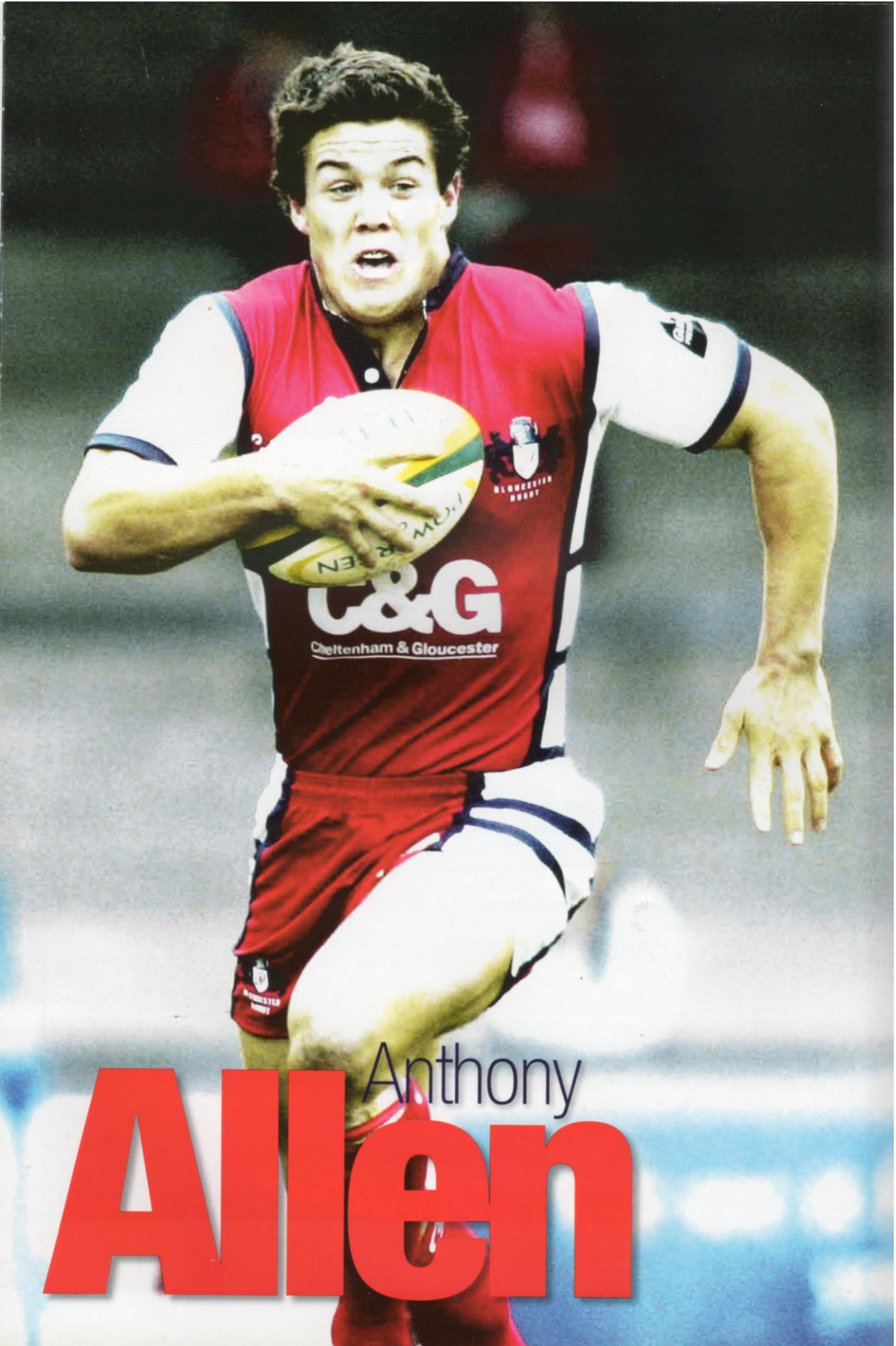
Ryan Lamb

SOUTHERN POS TEAM	▶	Record				Points			Attack					Defence								
		P	W	D	L	TB	LB	Tot	T	C	PG	DG	For	T	C	PG	DG	Agst	TB	LB	PD	
1	GLOUCESTER	▶	7	5	0	2	4	0	24	33	18	14	0	243	17	11	5	0	122	1	0	121
2	Saracens	▶	7	4	0	3	1	3	20	16	12	17	1	158	15	11	6	0	115	1	1	43
3	London Irish	▶	7	4	0	3	3	1	20	24	16	5	0	167	26	20	11	0	203	2	3	-36
4	NEC Harlequins	▶	6	3	0	3	4	2	18	26	21	7	0	193	16	8	7	0	117	2	0	76
5	Bath United	▶	8	3	0	5	2	2	16	20	12	10	0	154	27	20	13	2	220	3	2	-66
6	Bristol United	▶	7	3	0	4	1	0	13	14	9	9	0	115	27	18	16	0	219	2	3	-104
7	London Wasps	▶	6	2	0	4	2	1	11	24	16	4	1	167	29	16	8	0	201	6	0	-34
TOTALS			24	24	0	24	17	9	122	157	104	66	2	1197	157	104	66	2	1197	17	9	

NORTHERN POS TEAM	▶	Record				Points			Attack					Defence								
		P	W	D	L	TB	LB	Tot	T	C	PG	DG	For	T	C	PG	DG	Agst	TB	LB	PD	
1	Leicester Tigers	▶	7	5	1	1	4	0	26	28	19	16	0	226	18	11	11	0	145	2	0	81
2	Northampton W.	▶	7	5	0	2	4	1	25	27	16	5	0	182	11	6	6	1	88	1	1	94
3	Sale Jets	▶	7	4	0	3	3	1	20	23	14	13	0	182	21	10	10	1	158	3	0	24
4	Newcastle F.	▶	7	3	0	4	3	1	16	27	16	2	1	176	21	15	11	1	171	3	1	5
5	Leeds Tykes	▶	7	2	0	5	1	0	9	14	7	11	0	117	40	24	7	0	269	5	1	-152
6	Worcester W.	▶	7	1	1	5	1	1	8	11	6	14	2	115	19	12	16	0	167	2	1	-52
TOTALS			21	20	1	20	16	4	104	130	78	61	3	998	130	78	61	3	998	16	4	

The Passion

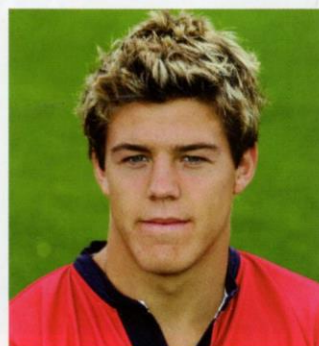
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Anthony
Allen

He is one of the most exciting young talents in the Premiership – and he is only just out of school. Anthony Allen could be on his way to become Gloucester's new sensation.

Centre of **Attention**



REGULARS in the Kingsholm Shed are not much interested in high art – given the choice between a night at the opera or karaoke they would unfailingly opt for the pub – but they recognise a hint of stardust when they see it.

James Simpson-Daniel is positively smothered in the stuff but a new name is beginning to cause similar gasps of anticipation when he gets his play-making hands on the ball.

He goes by the name of Anthony Allen – a Premiership player so young he is still in the kindergarten category – but he has more than a whiff of quality about him.

Dean Ryan, his club coach, who earned his living at the distinctly sharp end of proceedings, is so convinced about his ability he has already thrown him into the choppy waters of the Premiership.

Ryan is never one to dish out verbal bouquets unless they have been earned but he told the matchday programme:

"The big thing for me is that I would say he is the most mature 19-year-old I have seen in his style of play and off-field maturity and I don't say that lightly.

"He has not been exposed in the environment he has found himself in and his contribution has not been out of context with the company he has kept. He has a very big future, not only with Gloucester but also where higher honours are concerned too.

"He has such a quick brain and that speed of thought is his biggest asset. It means he has come into the professional set-up with a rounded game that is not purely based on speed. That speed of thought marks him out as a special player." As for the man himself, Allen is just content to take everything

in his stride. He does not give the impression of a wide-eyed teenager at awe in the company he is keeping and is making a damn good fist of his first senior season.

One of the most impressive aspects of his elevation has been that on-field maturity.

"So convinced about his ability he has already thrown him into the choppy waters of the Premiership."

At times his passing has shown a sophistication beyond his years and the subtlety of his angles is something to behold.

He has quick feet and an even quicker brain – key components in the ever-decreasing circles of the Guinness Premiership. "I never really considered I would get an opportunity

The History

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“During pre-season the biggest shock to the system was the punishment the body took.”

so soon,” he said. “I really had no real idea about what a professional rugby player would be like – it was into the unknown – but I am really pleased with the way it has gone so far.

“It has just been a fantastic learning curve and to be alongside people like Mike Tindall and James Simpson-Daniel has been a great experience.

“Dean [Ryan] just said to me at the start of the season that if I was playing well week in, week out he would pick me on form. I was hoping to get a chance at some point and if the opportunity came I wanted to take it, but it’s probably come sooner than I thought.”

Allen comes from a precocious rugby playing background. His father Tim was good enough to play for England Schools as a fly-half or centre and his brother Thomas also represented the Red Rose at Under-18 level.

His career began at Trojans Rugby Club in Southampton but it really took off once at Millfield School. He progressed rapidly through the England ranks on the back of a natural flair and ease with a rugby ball in his hand.



After representing England Under-19s in the World Cup sevens in Australia, his natural progression was through to the professional ranks.

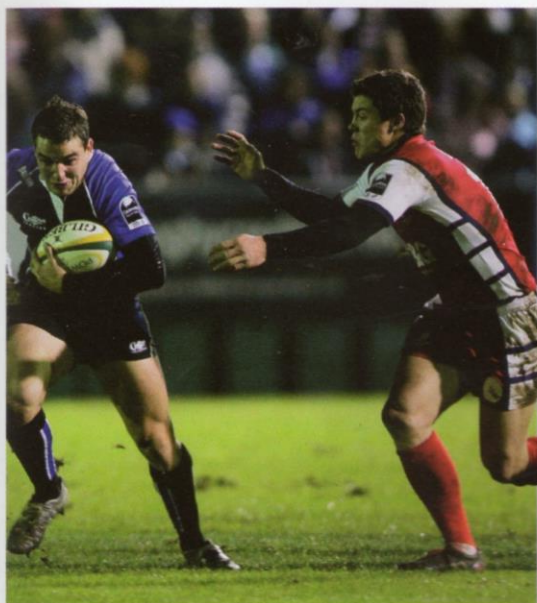
A link to Harlequins through his brother could have taken him to the Stoop and Northampton also displayed an interest but Gloucester became aware of his talents through Ryan Lamb – a team-mate at Under-19 level – who came back from Australia raving about the potential of a young centre. Former director of rugby Nigel Melville moved swiftly and after completing his studies, Allen found himself in the Cotswolds alongside Phil Vickery and co.

“I just felt the opportunity at Gloucester was too good to turn down,” he said. “They came to watch me a couple of times and it just went from there.

“During pre-season the biggest shock to the system was the punishment the body took. I would go home and fall asleep in front of the TV each night because I was so tired.”

But his natural instincts as a ball player and decision maker carried him through.

“There are obviously loads of things I need to work on but I



didn't find the skill level was that different from what I was used to.

"That was a massive help because I have always been quite good at that sort of thing."

After a couple of dextrous, wholly convincing performances in the Guinness A League, Allen made his full Premiership debut against Jonny Wilkinson's Newcastle.

"It was daunting," he said. "I was on the same pitch

as people I used to watch at school but I could not be fazed by it. The experience was unbeatable but I know I face a step up every game."

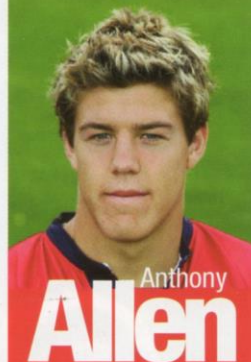
He followed that performance with a dazzling try against Leicester when he and Simpson-Daniel combined so spectacularly at Welford Road.

"We were losing at the time and I was just delighted to get a try. Sinbad got a bit of room and then cut back inside. I just followed him and aimed for a bit of space and in the end it was quite a nice run-in.

"All I want to do now is to keep getting an opportunity to play and develop in the Premiership. I will see how it goes from there and then you never know what might happen."



Get to know...



Anthony
Allen

Anthony made his Gloucester debut against Bristol in the Powergen Cup on October 9 and has since made four Guinness Premiership appearances. His first try came against Leicester at Welford Road.

Briefly describe yourself.
Easy going and honest.

What is your worst nightmare?

Being stuck in a plane that is about to crash.

If you were not a professional rugby player, what would you be?

I like to think golf - but it needs a bit of work still.

Favourite food?

I like lots of food but if I had to choose it would be Chinese.

Favourite Film?

Saving Private Ryan.

Favourite holiday destination?

The Maldives always look nice.

Best friend in rugby?

I like to think I have lots of them but Morgs [Ollie Morgan] I suppose.



gloucester rugby.co.uk

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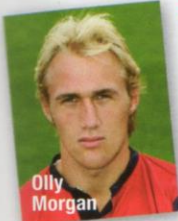


Ryan's
Review

The matchday programme catches up with head coach **Dean Ryan**, who rounds up Gloucester's progress during the hectic autumn international period.



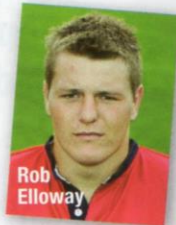
It has been a testing month or so with the demands of the autumn internationals alongside domestic matters, how would you sum up Gloucester's progress?



Ollie Morgan

DR: I think we have been given a good indication that the future going forward for the club is pretty healthy. We have plenty of talent and it's about

developing that in the right way. That development has been centred around people like Anthony Allen, Ollie Morgan, James Bailey and Rob Elloway and they have reacted extremely well to the situations they have found themselves in. During the autumn period we played two sides away from home who had suffered no impact with the loss of international players and that put an awful lot of pressure on the group of inexperienced players we had remaining. We may have lost the two games but there was some real encouragement to come out of the defeats in how the younger players handled themselves.



Rob Elloway



Although you have recently suffered disappointment in the Powergen Cup, is the development of the team where you would like it to be at this stage of the season?

DR: We were developing very well indeed and with considerable purpose before the international period and then all of a sudden that goes on hold. Our task now is to pick it up and get going again. We are a side that is new in its development and the most important factor in that progress is stability. Up until we played Bayonne, we were moving in the right direction fairly well.

“Not many teams go to France in any type of competition and score 10 tries.”

We have a core of senior players back with us and now they are back in the group, we can start moving forward as a unit again. Sometimes, you have to take a backward step or two but during the last few weeks we have discovered a depth to our squad that is very important.



With the changes that have gone on in recent weeks, has that altered the ambition this season?

DR: As a group of people we don't set our stall out and say we are going to win this competition or we want to finish here in the league. The simple fact is, is that we are solely focussed on winning every game we play in. I feel it would be wrong to announce we plan to go so far in one competition. We will get better as individuals and as a team the more games we win and that has to be in every competition.



Today Toulon come to Kingsholm in the European Challenge Cup. it was a tough game last weekend, but what pleased you the most about the 74-3 victory?

DR: Not many teams go to France in any type of competition and score 10 tries, so to do that was a great achievement. To expect another scoreline like last weekend would be arrogant but there were some outstanding contributions last Saturday from players who really stood up to the challenge, guys like Jonathan Pendlebury, Jake Boer and Adam Balding. We may not have really got caught up in this tournament but two of our best performances of the year have been in it. Bayonne was a great platform and we showed good ambition from the off against Toulon. It is credit to the team that they were able to maintain it and that is the challenge we face again.

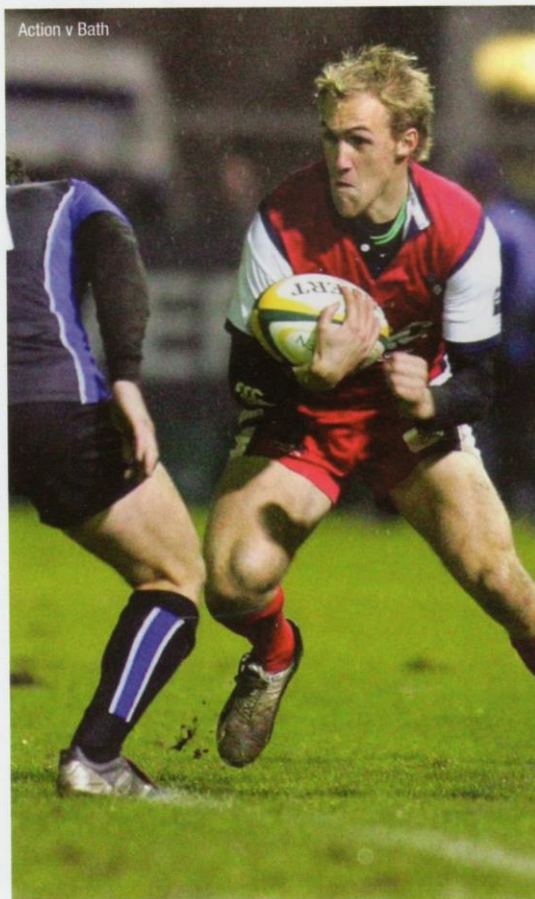


The **History**

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Bob Fenton gets his body clock back in sync today for a 3pm kick-off against Toulon this afternoon and hopes Santa 'Dean' and his not so little elves deliver a late Christmas present against Wasps next week.

Fan Zone



Action v Bath

WELL, AFTER off another overly long break we are back again, thankfully this time for a proper kick off time.

That 12:30pm start against Saracens was a nightmare. For a start it was impossible to amass enough pre-match brownie points to guarantee staying out for a few post-match beers – normally achieved by taking life in hands and heading for the

isn't it? The whole routine is thrown out of kilter, come the end of the match and another beer or two before leaving Kingsholm and it's still only 3pm!

It was like going to the cinema in the daytime, the film ends and you stagger out blinking into the daylight like some mole who has taken wrong turn in his hole. It's just not right.

"I suspect that Toulon will come here expecting a battering, but hopefully they will put up a good fight."

supermarket. Then queuing for the first pint of the black stuff at 11:30... Well it is a bit early

And 5:30pm at Bath wasn't much better for those that went (I was at a wedding so was spared the horrors of that particular trip). Rugby on TV is



Action v Bath



Action v Toulon

great, but let's just keep it to 3pm and not go veering off all over the shop to suit someone else's schedules.

I suppose that after last weekend's result in Toulon everyone will be expecting to see the scoreboard clicking round at a rapid rate of knots as it did against Bucharest a few weeks ago.

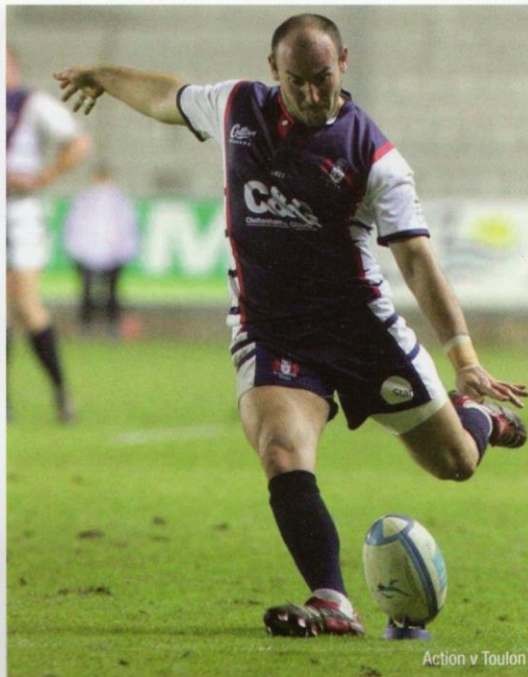
I suspect that Toulon will come here expecting a bit of a battering but hopefully they will put up a good fight to keep it interesting.

Barring a very strange twist of fate we should be okay for a home draw in the quarter-final of the competition in April. I'm not sure how the draw will be made for these games but

it seems highly likely that we'll be facing another Premiership team. Who would bet against our opponents coming from just up the M5 – that would give the game a bit of extra spice.

So our Powergen Cup campaign came to a sticky end (literally given the state of the pitch) down at the Wreck a couple of weeks ago. I'm not sure about the format of this competition. I certainly found it hard to get excited about. I suppose that it guarantees the clubs involved a few more pay-days but it does little for the supporters.

It's an old cliché but the magic of cup competitions was who you were going to be drawn against. We know what it's



Action v Toulon

like to play Bristol or Bath – okay Ospreys were a new addition – but it was all pretty predictable stuff.

Think back a few years to the likes of Wakefield or Henley coming here in the cup and some of the away trips to unheard of places, much more fun. And better for the smaller clubs because not only do they get a bit more much needed cash, their players get to play on a stage that is usually beyond them.

Has anyone been watching the BBC's rugby programme – you may have missed it because it's on in one of the many graveyard spots. I think it's great that they have finally twigged that there are some people out there who do not live for a 24 hour a day diet of soccer, but what about the commentators and presenters?

I quite like John Inverdale

even though he seems to be making a pitch for the Des Lynham lounge lizard gig, but what about messrs Butler, Moore and Guscott... We've been spoilt by getting used to Stuart Barnes, who whatever you may think of him is the best around – humorous, knowledgeable and pithy – everything the beeb's trio aren't.

As for his old team mate Jerry Guscott, I've got some old rotting pieces of timber in my shed that are more dynamic than him. How he has the nerve to criticise any players tackling ability is beyond me. I can't recall him being a particular lover of the rough stuff during all the years I watched him play.

Meanwhile Moore and Butler prattle on like a pair of grumpy old men, they only get animated if they imagine they have found something that could be remotely



John Inverdale, an old favourite

The History

'controversial' and then they bang on about it for hours. If you have to watch rugby on the beeb my suggestion is to watch it live with the sound off and listen to the local radio commentary via the internet.

Nice idea to have the programme and it's good to see club rugby on terrestrial TV. All they need to do now is to get some commentators

and pundits who are up to the job and who understand that the audience want to watch the game and not listen to them drone on incessantly.

Finally as this is the last bit of waffle I will throw together for the programme (oops... I mean carefully craft) before Christmas, I hope Santa is kind to you and delivers everything that you could hope for, that you eat

too much, drink too much and fall asleep in front of the TV for most of the afternoon. Well that's the way my Christmas tends to pan out, anyway.

As for me, four points at Wasps on Boxing Day will be an excellent post Christmas present from Santa Dean and his not-so-little elves! See you back here on New Year's Eve for Leeds...



“As for me, four points at Wasps on Boxing Day will be an excellent post Christmas present from Santa Dean and his not-so-little elves!”

Match

Action



Gloucester Rugby 19 Saracens 8

Saturday, November 26

Attendance: 10,516

Referee: Sean Davey

Pictures by Bruce Seabrook – GPA Images info@gpaimages.com



TRIES from Mark Foster and James Bailey fired Gloucester back into the top half of the Guinness Premiership following a crucial victory over Saracens.

But the real difference was in the quality of the forward play. Gloucester never allowed Saracens the opportunity to get on the front foot - they tore into them at the scrum and had a

real set-to in the line-out. Through Phil Vickery, who was back on club duty following two performances with England, to lock Mark Cornwell, Gloucester were too hot to handle up front and established a platform in the first 20 minutes they would never relinquish.

Ludovic Mercier and Glen Jackson swapped a drop-goal and a penalty respectively in

the opening stages but it did not take long for Gloucester score their first try.

Saracens were always under pressure at the scrum and after they lost the ball forward, Mark Foster, back in the side on the wing, cut through past both wingers and lock Simon Raiwalui and had enough of an angle to beat full-back Dan Scarbrough for a brilliant try.

It established an 8-3 lead and it was soon to be 11-3 when Mercier added another penalty after 33 minutes.

Saracens had offered little in terms of an attacking threat but from their first real attacking position, found themselves 16-3 down. Mercier was able to read Jackson's pass beautifully and intercept it before heading on



a 60 metre break downfield.

With the cover converging, the number 10 was aware enough to see James Bailey, steaming up on his outside shoulder, to take the tackle but give the scoring pass to the winger.

There was never a threat that Saracens might prompt a major fightback but they did score themselves in the

second half when Matt Cairns had a free run to the line following a swift break and recycling from Hugh Vyvyan.

But Gloucester held on and head coach Dean Ryan said: "We got a bit nervous in the second half. But the young guys gave it fantastic energy and the game was decided in the first 20 minutes. "The young lads -

Allen, Morgan, Bailey - were outstanding, Vickery and Cornwell came in and showed their experience and we needed Balding and Buxton to physically front up.

"Saracens are a very physical side and we never allowed them to get on the front foot."

The History

Match

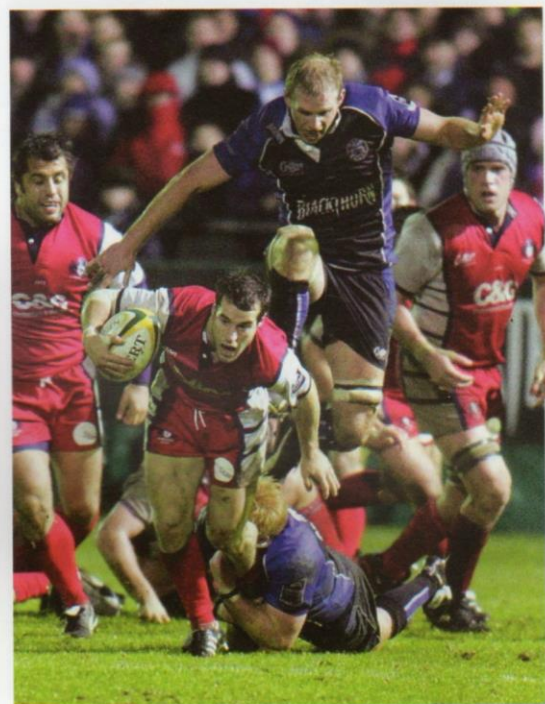
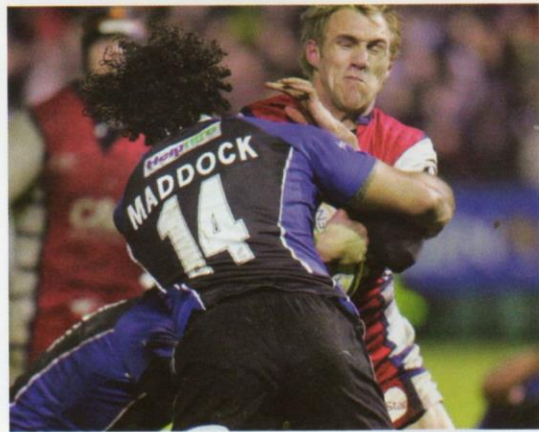
Action



Bath Rugby 21 Gloucester Rugby 12

Saturday, December 3
Attendance: 8,500
Referee: Nigel Whitehouse (Wales)

Pictures by Bruce Seabrook – GPA Images info@gpaimages.com



GLOUCESTER failed to make it through to the knockout stages of the Powergen Cup after their second defeat of the season at the Rec.

Two soft tries in seven first-half minutes cost the men from Kingsholm any realistic chance of progression to the semi-finals, although they did rally to cause Bath a number

of problems in the second half.

Ludovic Mercier had booted Gloucester into a second minute lead but that was immediately cancelled out by Olly Barkley. Gloucester survived a period of 10 minutes without Olly Morgan, who was sinbinned for a high tackle on Matt Perry, before shipping their first try after 19 minutes.

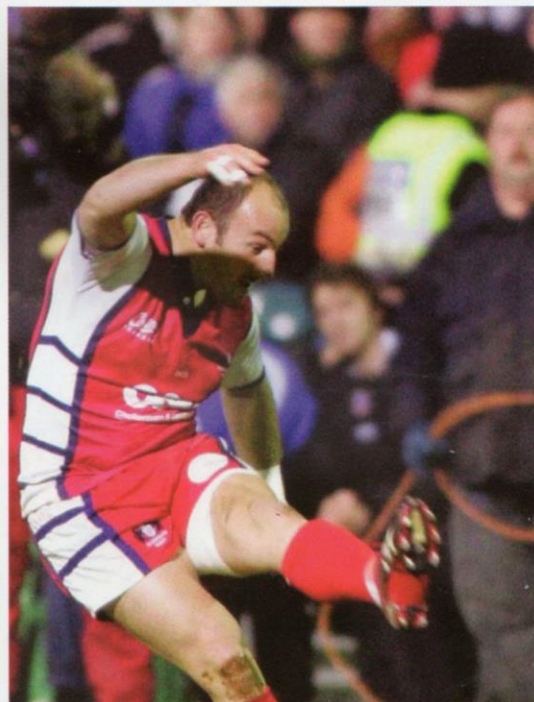
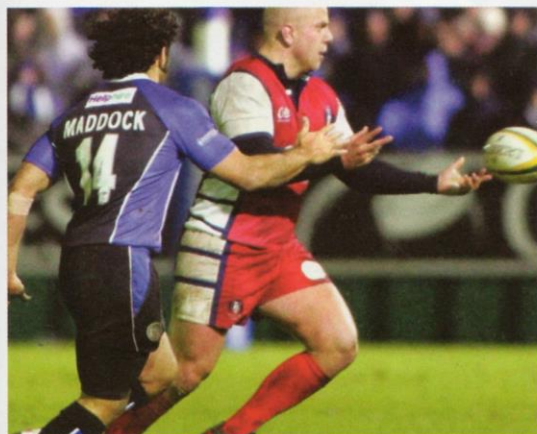
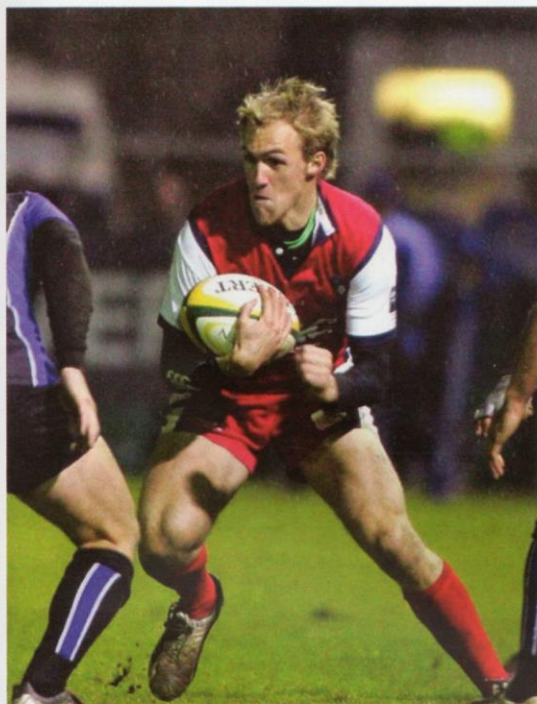
Bath won a penalty in front of the sticks but instead of taking a free shot at goal, Chris Malone chipped over Gloucester's defence and Barkley steamed up to score.

Gloucester simply struggled to cope with Bath's pressurised kick and chase game in the saturated conditions and after Malone had made a clean break, scrum-half Martun

Wood again kicked into space and Joe Maddock followed up to score past James Bailey.

It left Gloucester trailing 15-3 but to their credit they battled back through the work-rate and effort of their forwards and Mercier added six more points before the break.

He then cut the gap to 18-12 with another penalty and it



raised the prospects of a Gloucester victory. Chances were few and far between and Bath were able to weather a period of concerted pressure when hooker Lee Mears made a splendid tackle on Terry Fanolua.

Malone sealed the contest with a late penalty to leave Gloucester cursing their Rec luck again.

"It was a tremendous game of chess, but it was forced on us because we leaked two tries through basics and, on an evening chucking down with rain, it was always going to be tight," said head coach Dean Ryan.

"We did everything right to get back into the game. We made sure we didn't leak any more and we were patient.

"But to play those games your basics have got to be 100% right of the time and we've got to learn the lessons of that."

The History

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Peter Arnold warms up for the visit of Toulon today by hoping there is enough Guinness in Gloucestershire next March to cope with demand and wishes the Kingsholm faithful a very Merry Christmas.

Peter Arnold



England v Australia Under-19s

BEJABERS!

IT'S NICE to see that we have an 'A' International game coming to Kingsholm next March, especially as

fixture congestion and financial considerations have placed the whole competition under threat over the last couple of seasons.

It's especially good to learn that the opposition will be provided by the Irish.

cheerful and friendly bunch of blokes you could wish to meet.

As their President said to me, "You have to remember that in England the situation is always serious but never hopeless, but in Ireland it's

"It's especially good to learn that the opposition will be provided by the Irish."

The last time I remember a side from the land of shamrocks and potheen venturing to Castle Grim was during the World Cup year, when an Irish President's XV, the full international side in all but name, took on Gloucester as part of their warm-up programme.

As I remember, we gave the eminent visitors a very real fright that day, before going down fairly narrowly. Not that it worried the Irish at all. They were among one of the most

always hopeless but never serious!"

He was right, too. A couple of weeks later, the same side scared the life out of the Australian side, only going down to a piece of Campese magic in the dying moments of the match.

But am I alone in thinking that there is something slightly surreal about the Ireland 'A' visit? The match is to be played on the evening of Cheltenham Gold Cup Day,



England v Australia U19s

which seems a remarkable combination of events to me,

We all know what a tribal feast the Gold Cup meeting is to our friends from over the water. People save up all year for their annual pilgrimage to Cheltenham, and a good time

GARY POWELL

THE LURE of one's home turf is always very strong, and I suspect that was a factor in Gary Powell's reported decision to speak to a number of Welsh clubs about a potential return next season.

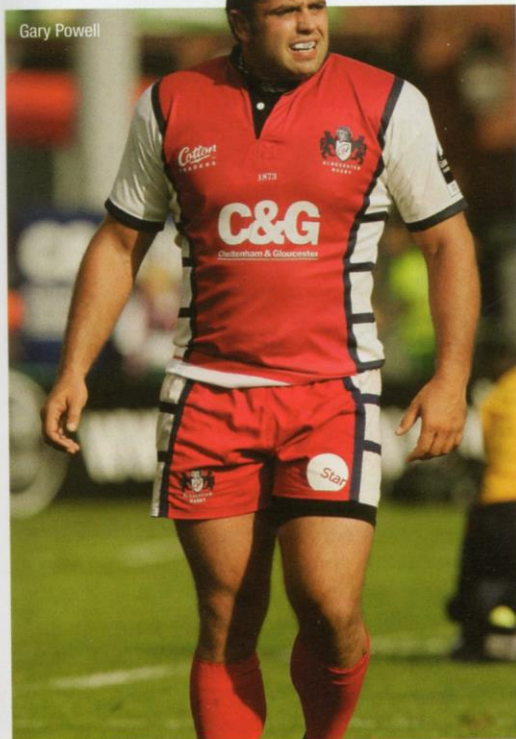
"A solid performer who always gives his utmost to the cause."

is invariably had by all. Draft a representative rugby match on top of that, and you have a recipe for a celebration of gargantuan proportions.

One thing's for sure. The bars and pubs will need to order enormous quantities of Guinness that evening. Starting today, one hopes.

Of course, there is also the thought that a Welsh base might improve his chances of playing international rugby. He has, after all, already represented the Principality at Under-21 level, and you can't blame the bloke for trying.

He would by no means be the first Gloucester



Gary Powell

player to move to Cardiff. Mike Teague did, rather unsuccessfully, before returning to Kingsholm via Stroud, where his old partner, John Gadd, was performing at the time. The result of that was a tour to Australia with the Lions and a Man of the Series award, even though he only played in two of the three Tests. Going back a bit further, George Hastings also moved to Cardiff after a distinguished Gloucester and England career. He was working for the National Coal Board at the time, out at Stoke Orchard. Somewhat suspiciously (we thought) an NCB job opened up for him in Cardiff, and away he went.

I'm not sure what happened to George after that, although I did hear a report that he was in Lincolnshire.

Gary has never had the publicity that some of his front-row colleagues have received, but has been a solid performer who always gives his utmost to the cause. There's no better training ground for a prop forward after all, and I'm sure we're returning a better player than we received a few years ago.

We all wish him well – if he goes!

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

LETS START with a horror story. Suppose a French side, about whom we knew very little, came to Kingsholm for the first time. Let's say the ground was packed and the Shed in full cry.

Then, if you can bear it, imagine that the visitors were to run riot and put 74 points on us. Then, after the carnage is over, the realisation dawns that we have to play the return

fixture on their patch, in front of a crowd at least as passionate as our own. What happens then?

Knowing our lads, the reaction would probably be one of sheer bloody-mindedness. They would go out on to the pitch busting a gut to prove that they're not 70 points worse than the opposition.

I don't have any reason to think that today's visitors are any different. Should be interesting.

GAME OF THE NAME

IHAD A call from Peter Ford, former club chairman and international flank forward, the other day. It appears that, in the welter of controversy about the loss of the City Coat of Arms from the club strip, many people have asked him what the Latin motto means, and could I please elucidate for anyone who wants to know.

I'm happy to oblige. As far as I know, the motto 'Fides Invicta Triumphat', dates back to the English Civil War and the Siege of Gloucester, and may be translated as 'Faith triumphs unconquered'. In other words, 'Keep the faith lads! It'll all come right in the end'

Not a bad thing to remember when things go pear shaped.


COMES ROUND QUICKLY, DOESN'T IT?

THIS IS our last home game before Christmas, so it is my considerable pleasure to wish you and yours all you would wish yourselves at this, the happiest time of the year.

Of course, if you're missing your rugby, you could always go ice skating. Have a good one!

The History

Match Action

European Challenge Cup 



Toulon 3 Gloucester Rugby 74

Saturday, December 10
Attendance: 4,200
Referee: Alan Watkins (Wal)

Pictures by Bruce Seabrook – GPA Images info@gpaimages.com



GLOUCESTER took a giant step towards the knockout stages of the European Challenge Cup with a 10-try demolition act against Toulon last weekend.

Against an aggressive backdrop of provocation, Gloucester stood firm to collect their third successive European Challenge Cup victory that leaves them four points clear

at the top of Pool Three.

There were two tries each for Mark Foster, Jake Boer and Peter Richards as Gloucester build on a powerful, fully controlled forward effort to make the most of the possession they created.

They scored four first-half tries – Foster crossing twice, followed by Boer and Marcel

Garvey as the Kingsholm side had the bonus point tied up before the break.

Among a host of impressive performances, lock Jonathan Pendlebury stood out on his debut in the line-out, Alex Brown made a safe return from injury, Jake Boer and Adam Balding were both full-on, while Peter Richards never stopped breaking, running and encouraging.

Terry Fanolua and Mike Tindall were teak-tough in the centre, while Ludovic Mercier and Duncan McRae missed only one kick at goal between them in the 12 that were taken.

“We knew what we would be up against when we came to an environment like this but I thought we stuck together superbly,” said head coach Dean Ryan.



"We needed the experienced players like Boer, Balding and Phil Vickery to stand up and lead the side and that is exactly what they did. From the base, people like Jonathan Pendlebury came into the side and performed superbly.

"To score 10 tries in France is a fantastic achievement under any circumstances and we

can be very pleased with our efforts."

Toulon simply could not match Gloucester's expertise at the driving maul or in the scrums and it allowed them to score six more tries after the break.

Boer claimed his second from a line-out before Richards finished off powerful

approach work by Gary Powell, Vickery and Fanolua for try number six.

Tindall got the next and there was still time for Powell, James Forrester and Richards to complete Gloucester's second successive European Challenge Cup rout in succession.

The History

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Behind The Scenes

Dave King looks back at Toulon's last visit to Kingsholm when Gloucester were armed with a young stand-off by the name of Mapletoft and also charts Gloucester's progress against French clubs in Europe.

HERE IS a little question for you. What do Terry Fanolua, Phil Vickery, Mark Cornwell and Noel Curnier have in common?

Give up? The answer is that all four were named in the squads of Gloucester and Toulon when the French club made their first and only visit to Kingsholm on Saturday, September 13th 1997.

Curnier, who spent a brief period at Kingsholm last season and left quite an impression, was named as one of Toulon's replacements that afternoon.

Just over eight years later he is set to return to Kingsholm today after rejoining Toulon in the summer. Fanolua, Vickery and Cornwell all have very

good chances of featuring for Gloucester this afternoon. Before their last trips to the delights of the Cotswolds, Toulon had not been champions of France since 1992. But we had been warned prior to their visit that they would be a difficult team to beat by our French wingers Raphael and Philippe Saint-Andre.

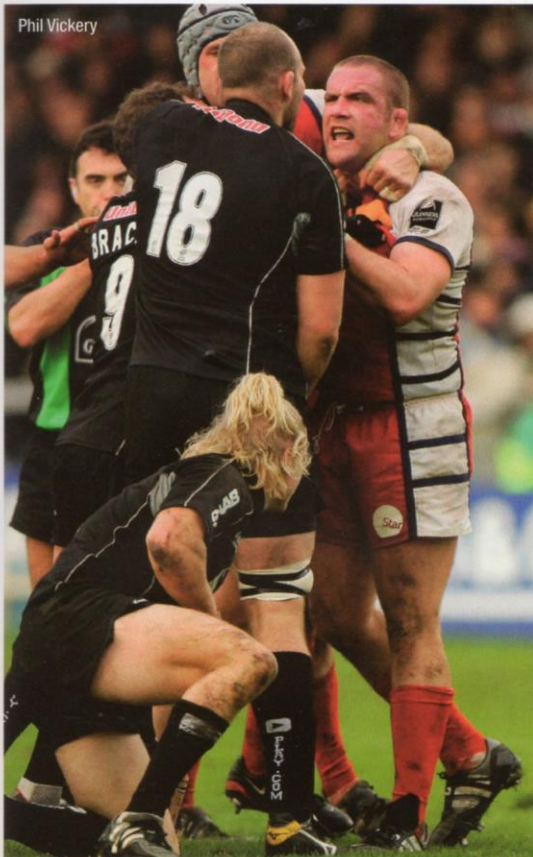
Both had experience of the club in the French Championship. Therefore, they were expected to become our toughest opponents in



Terry Fanolua



Mark Cornwell



Phil Vickery

the European Conference Pool F encounter. Their prediction was spot on; unfortunately it was a match where Raphael joined his brother Philippe on the casualty list.

Philippe was already sidelined with a torn thigh muscle sustained against Padova a week earlier and Raphael only lasted 29 minutes against Toulon before twisting his ankle.

That we were able to defeat Toulon was due to a total

of 18 points from the boot of Mark Mapletoft which enabled us to stay undefeated and top of Group F in the European Conference. It was a hair-raising experience and it took two drop-goals in the last seven minutes from the number 10 to secure the points.

The match itself was entertaining in patches and Gloucester needed plenty of tenacity and fighting spirit. Mapletoft put the hosts ahead with his first penalty after 12

minutes and Warren Burton missed two penalties for the visitors.

The home forwards' mauling and rucking were a feature of the first half and after illegal use of the boot by Jean-Luc Aqua another penalty by Mapletoft put the home side 6-0 ahead.

A late tackle by Ed Pearce gave Aubin Hueber the opportunity to reduce the arrears from just outside the 22 and he successfully converted the penalty. Immediately from the re-start Gloucester were penalised and full-back Patrick Tesseire kicked a huge penalty from a metre within his own half to level the score at 6-6 after 25 minutes.

Raphael St Andre's injury saw Craig Emmerson enter the fray two minutes later. Tesseire and Mapletoft missed a penalty apiece before the interval as Gloucester made several strong attacks that were repelled by the visitors.

With the wind in their favour Gloucester were expected to dominate in the second period. Toulon conceded a penalty for offside and Mapletoft put the home side back ahead after 42 minutes.

But Burton levelled the scores once again, five minutes later. In a game now dominated by the kickers, Mapletoft increased the lead once again in the 43rd minute. Gloucester

were under pressure and Phil Greening and Andy Deacon were introduced into the action to inject new energy into a tiring pack.

However, it did not deter the French visitors for Burton made the score line 12-12 after 67 minutes. They were a strong and resourceful side and Hueber kicked them ahead with a drop-goal as time ebbed away.

Not to be out done the dependable Mapletoft also slotted a drop-goal to level the scores with seven minutes remaining. A period of strong pressure saw the mercurial fly-half repeat the action with another drop-goal to give the hosts a hard-fought victory.

GLOUCESTER: Chris Catling; Raphael St Andre (Craig Emmerson 27), Terry Fanolua, Richard Tombs, Mike Lloyd; Mark Mapletoft, Ian Sanders; Tony Windo, Neil McCarthy (Phil Greening 63), Phil Vickery (Andy Deacon 63), Rob Fidler, Mark Cornwell, Ed Pearce, Peter Glanville (Captain), Simon Devereux.

Replacements Not Used: Alex Morris, Laurie Beck, Richard Ward, Trevor Woodman.

TOULON: P. Tesseire; D. Douy, G. Delmotte, C. Paille, P. Salacroux; W. Burton, A. Hueber (Captain), M. Pujolle, J.M. Casalini, M. Perie, S. Franchini, G. Jeannard, J.L. Aqua, C. Descailot (S. Guyot 73), O. Arancio.

Replacements Not Used: C. Schuner, C. Tonini, F. Tornato, S. Nouchi, Noel Curnier, P. Galassot.

Referee: C. Muir (Scottish R.F.U.)

“The match itself was entertaining in patches and Gloucester needed plenty of tenacity and fighting spirit.”

Pool F

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
Gloucester	2	2	0	0	61	25	4
Beziers	2	1	0	1	54	42	2
Toulon	2	1	0	1	34	32	2
Padova	2	0	0	2	33	83	0



Philippe Saint-Andre

Overall our record against French clubs in European competition stands as 10 victories and seven defeats with one drawn match.

Toulon were our first French opponents in 1997, at Kingsholm, and we won 18-15. We travelled to Beziers seven days later and won 29-27 in front of 3,000 spectators. A fortnight after dispatching Toulon at Kingsholm we were defeated 16-13 in Toulon.

The following week on 4th October, Beziers were on the receiving end of a 38-17 defeat before 4,548 spectators here at Kingsholm. This brought a semi-final defeat in the European Shield when 7,513 people witnessed a 53-22 victory for Stade Francais.

We had a two-year period before we entertained Biarritz in front of 3,218 spectators recording a 22 points to 13 victory. Our return trip to Basque territory on 15th January 2000 saw a 39-25.

Later that year, Gloucester drew 22-22 with Colomiers under the Kingsholm floodlights in the European Cup. Matters were even more difficult a week later when 7,036 spectators saw the French team defeat us 30-19.

A double over La Rochelle offered some consolation in the European Shield. Gloucester won 34-15 at Kingsholm, before we triumphed in a fierce match 36-12 in France.

By 2002, Gloucester were back in the Heineken Cup and faced games against the Catalan might of Perpignan. They were put to the sword at Kingsholm 33-16 but six days later Gloucester suffered 31-23 defeat.

In December 2003 we welcomed Philippe Saint-Andre's Bourgoin in front of 9,492 spectators. A convincing 49-13 victory was a prelude to an outstanding Gloucester display in France as the club romped home 37-18 under the Bourgoin floodlights.

Last season, Gloucester almost snatched a victory over Stade in Paris but were out-gunned 39-31, before we suffered our worst defeat in European competition when the soon to be finalists beat us 27-0 at Kingsholm.

This season we have already recorded a convincing 26-10 victory in Bayonne in front of 5,000 spectators that was our fourth victory on French soil. But today is about maintaining our fine record at Kingsholm that has seen us lose only once in European competition.

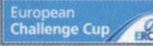
“Today is about maintaining our fine record at Kingsholm that has seen us lose only once in European competition.”



Today's Teams



Gloucester Rugby



Toulon

T C P D

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- Jon **Goodridge**
- Rob **Thirlby**
- James **Simpson-Daniel**
- Mike **Tindall**
- Mark **Foster**
- Ludovic **Mercier**
- Peter **Richards**
- Nick **Wood**
- Mefin **Davies**
- Gary **Powell**
- Jonathan **Pendlebury**
- Alex **Brown**
- Adam **Balding** (c)
- Jake **Boer**
- James **Forrester**

- 15 Full-Back**
- 14 Wing**
- 13 Centre**
- 12 Centre**
- 11 Wing**
- 10 Fly-Half**
- 9 Scrum-Half**
- 1 Prop**
- 2 Hooker**
- 3 Prop**
- 4 Lock**
- 5 Lock**
- 6 Flanker**
- 7 Flanker**
- 8 No.8**

Replacements

- 16**
- 17**
- 18**
- 19**
- 20**
- 21**
- 22**

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- Rob **Elloway**
- Jack **Forster**
- Adam **Eustace**
- Peter **Buxton**
- Duncan **McRae**
- Anthony **Allen**
- Terry **Fanolua**

T C P D

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- Olivier **Grimaud**
- Laurent **Bochet**
- Franck **Comba** (c)
- Gregory **Tutard**
- Guillaume **Liabeuf**
- Chris **Rossouw**
- Benoit **Marfaing**
- Sylvain **Martin**
- Philip **Fitzgerald**
- Eusebio **Guinazu**
- Gregory **Bernard**
- Franck **Sourice**
- Eric **Espagno**
- Thomas **Sourice**
- Soane **Toevalu**

- Camille **Traversa**
- Mehoi **Merabet**
- Olivier **Roseplatt**
- Mohamed **Dridi**
- Benjamin **Servien**
- Ludovic **Laustau**
- Rachid **Ourak**



TODAY'S OFFICIALS
 REFEREE: Simon McDowell
 TOUCH JUDGE 1: Colin Stanley
 TOUCH JUDGE 2: Paul Haycock

TODAY'S RESULT
 GLOUCESTER:
 TOULON:



European Challenge Cup

ercrugby.com

Round Four