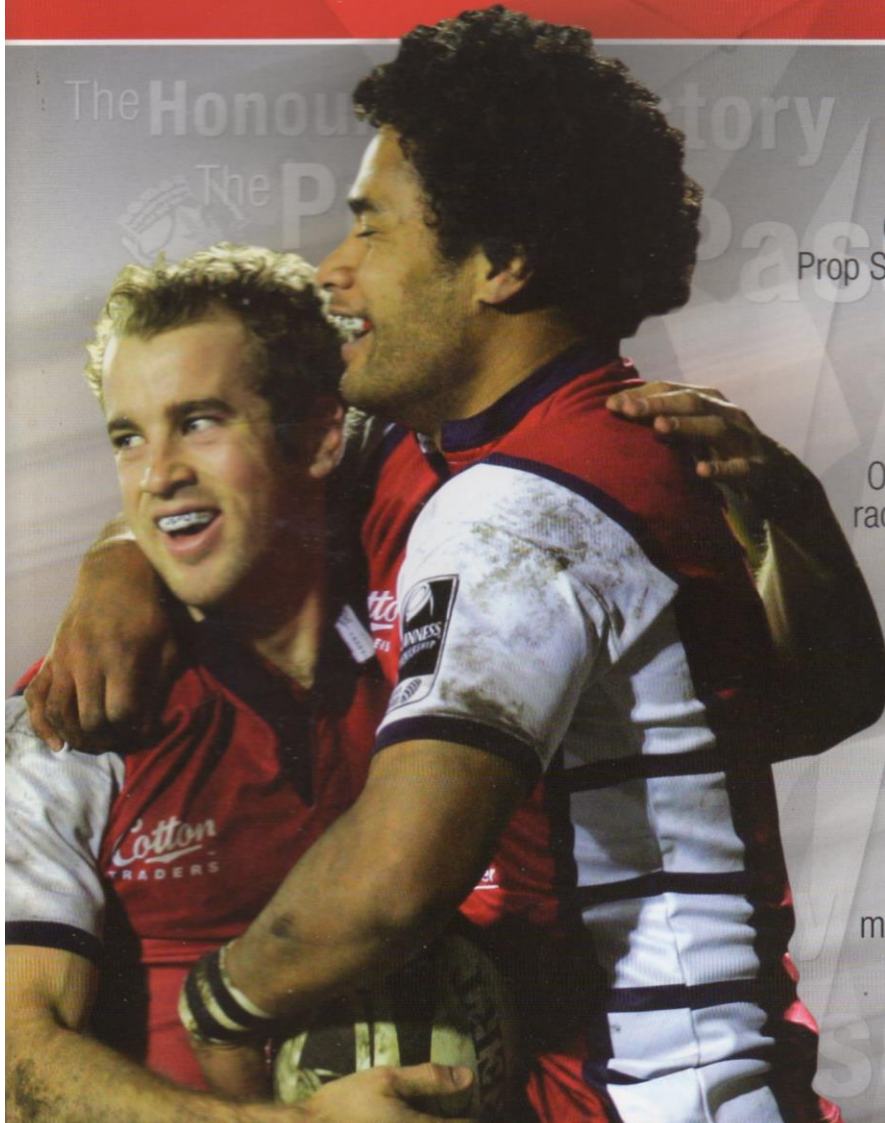


# Gloucester Rugby

Gloucester Rugby Official Matchday Magazine | 2005/06 Season | Issue 13 | Price £3.00



GLOUCESTER RUGBY



The Honourable History

The Premiership

## Jack of All Trades

Gloucester's latest Prop Star talks about life in the front row

## James Forrester

On who will win the race in the Guinness Premiership

## Ryan's Review

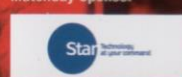
All the latest from the Gloucester coach

Another bumper matchday magazine with Dave King, Fans Zone and Peter Arnold

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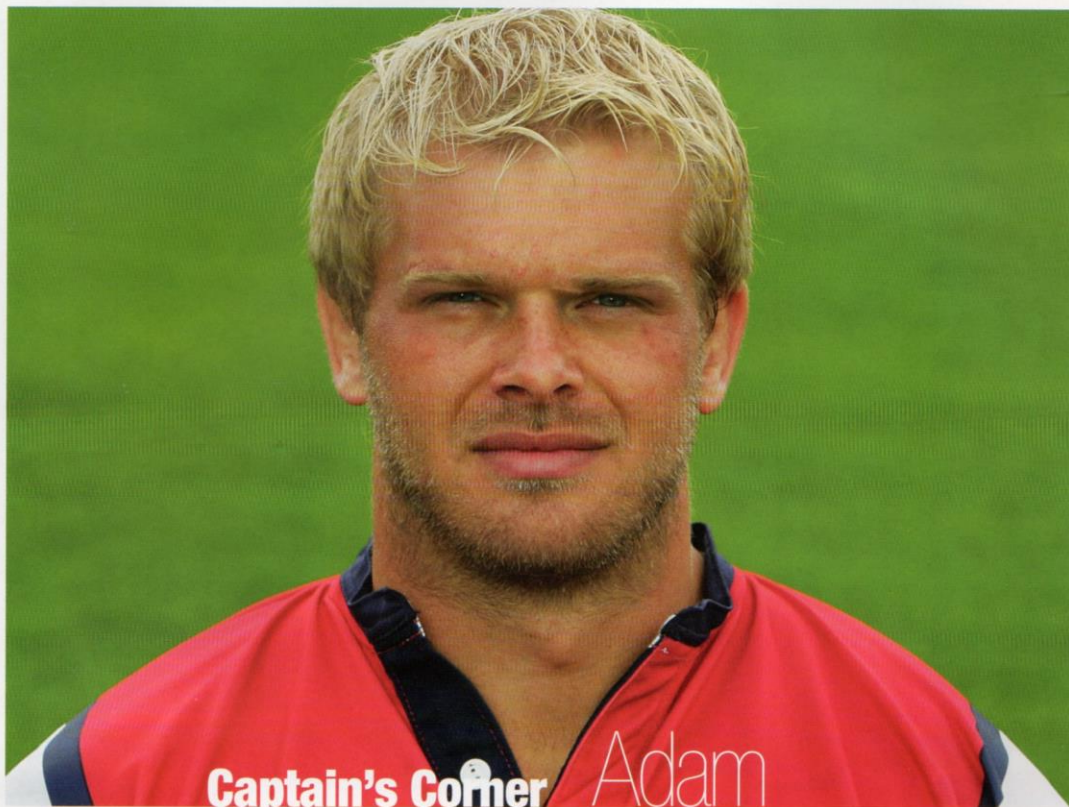


vs **Bristol Rugby**

Saturday 25th March | Kick Off 15.00pm



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



In association with

**dair\***

# Balding

**G**OOD AFTERNOON and welcome to Kingsholm for this west country derby against Bristol.

We have now lost two successive Guinness Premiership matches – at home to Bath and away to Northampton – and both defeats have been exceptionally hard to take.

They have damaged our chances of finishing in the top four to a certain degree but we today start the countdown until the end of the season and with five games to go, there is still everything to play for.

We first have to re-establish our

winning habit at home and then kick on after today's visit of Bristol.

All season long we have acknowledged the fact that we are not the same side during the international periods in the autumn and then the Six Nations because it disrupts our momentum and erodes our squad strength.

We are certainly not the only club that is hampered in this way but when you throw in the extreme number of injuries we have suffered to key individuals, it is easy to appreciate the difficulties we have faced.

As a result, a number of younger players have come into the side and prospered. Despite the defeat at Northampton, the effort and endeavour of these guys has been fantastic and can only benefit the club in the long term. It might mean we take a loss here and there but as a development tool it is invaluable.

But today is all about winning. With Leicester facing Bath and Sale travelling to London Irish, a couple of teams will certainly drop points this afternoon and we have to ensure we take advantage. Bristol have done terrifically well in their first season back

in the Premiership and have claimed some noticeable scalps – including Leicester and Sale at the Memorial Stadium.

It is up to us to match their pride and passion in what will be a typically full-on derby encounter and if we can do that, I am positive we can win the game.

I have said before and I will reiterate it again now as the season reaches a boiling point. We don't really care what the opposition gets up to – we have to look after our own game, think about ourselves and put all the disappointment and hurt from the last couple of games behind us.

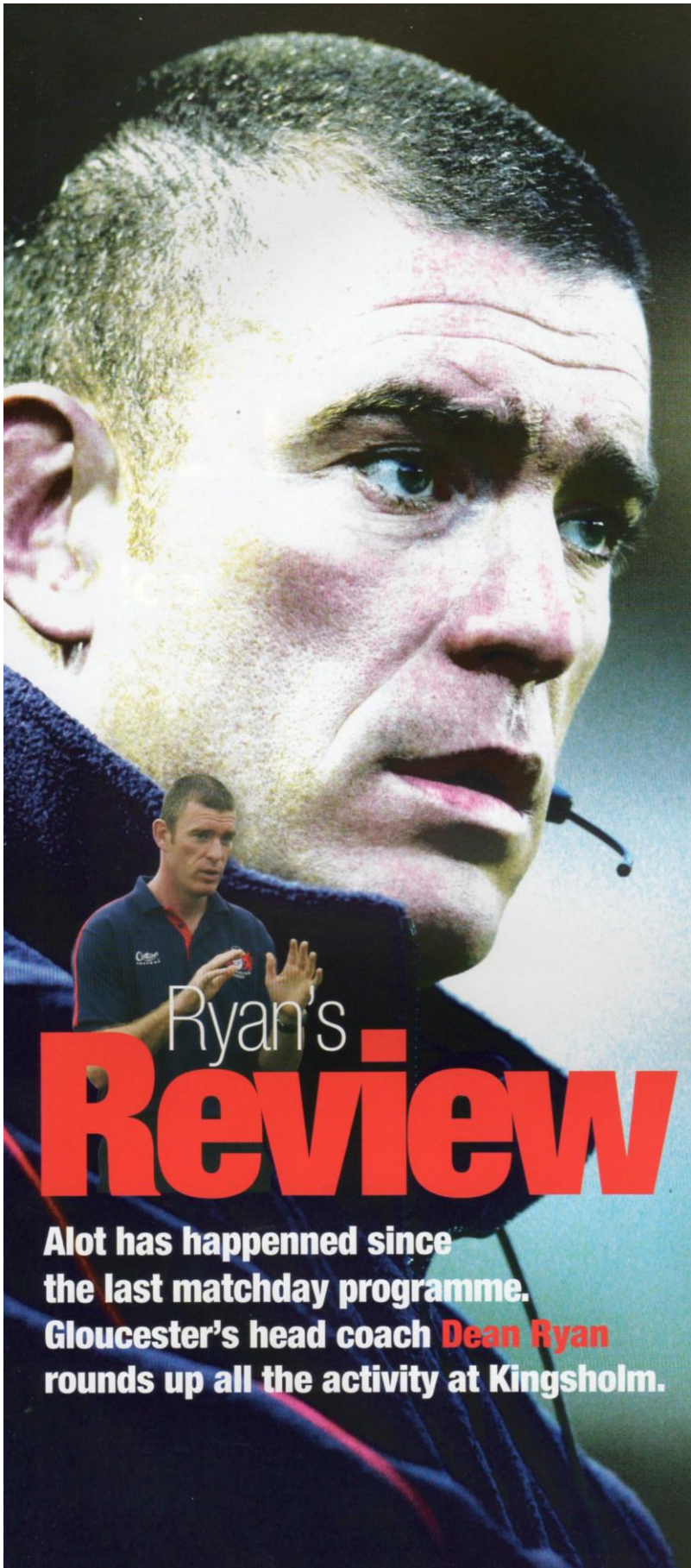
Get behind the boys this afternoon – we will need your vocal support every step of the way – and cheer us to a crucial derby victory.

The Passion

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

05

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# Ryan's Review

**Alot has happended since  
the last matchday programme.  
Gloucester's head coach **Dean Ryan**  
rounds up all the activity at Kingsholm.**



***Plenty has happened since the last Ryan's Review. Can you start by suming up the last two defeats against Bath and Northampton?***

**DR:** My assessment of both games is that they have given us an illustration about the future of Gloucester Rugby and how we want to achieve it.

We have been so stretched on resources that by the Northampton game we gave young players with very little first team exposure the opportunity within the first team environment and the only thing we were disappointed about was that they were unable to deliver a result they deserved.

The Bath game was a massive disappointment and in certain areas a huge Jekyll and Hyde performance from us. The first-half was lacklustre and not something I want to remember too fondly but in the second half we showed a good deal of dynamism and invention which is what we are looking for. Overall, the last couple of games have given us a great insight and a great intention of where we want to be in the future. We might not see the development of these youngsters immediately, but in 12 or 14 months time these guys will be coming through in the Premiership and in that respect it has been highly rewarding.



***The margins in the Guinness Premiership this season are very small. Have you any idea how many points you will need to finish in the top four?***

**DR:** My honest answer is no - I really cannot put a figure on it. I am not one to talk about targets at the best of times but our task is to simply get the group back together and get on a run. The season can be broken down into clearly defined areas and during international periods it has been no secret we have lost our momentum. What we need to do now is to rediscover it and if we do, we stand a good chance of making the play-offs. What we cannot afford to do is take two weeks finding our feet again

but the timescale we are playing with is now short. We have shown, when everyone is around, that we are capable of winning matches and that is all we can do.



***It has been a busy few weeks or so off the field too. Both Ryan Lamb and Willie Walker have agreed deals with the club - how pleased are you with the signings you have made?***

**DR:** I don't think it is just limited to Willie Walker and Ryan Lamb. I have been delighted with all the signings we have made. We have a vibrant youth development programme that has greatly enhanced the group and they are learning very fast. But I am conscious we have a top-heavy reliance on people at the head of the group and when they are not around for whatever reason, it is very difficult to sustain a nine-month campaign. People like Bortolami and Nieto will not only really enhance the group but they can problem solve and in certain areas, without certain individuals, we have not been strong enough. What I want to achieve is the health of the club going forward.

## **“They have a very solid core to the club and I am personally delighted for them.”**

I have to make unpopular decisions - that is the nature of the squad - but I think Willie Walker is a fantastic signing for us. Without Duncan McRae because of injury, we have been fortunate Ludovic Mercier has remained fit and healthy but I don't want to leave us open like that again next season.

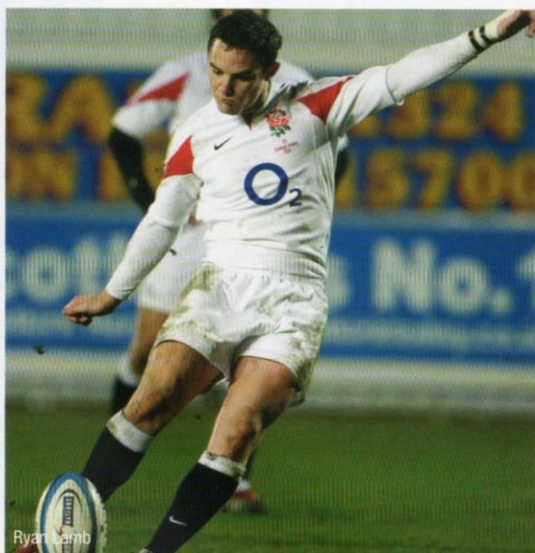
If you add in the development of people like Lamb, Anthony Allen, Olly Morgan, Jack Forster and Luke Narryway, I think we are getting the balance right.



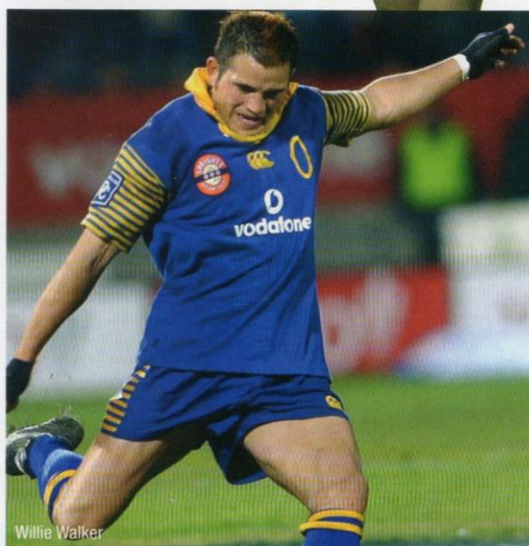
***You know Bristol as well as anybody. Today's visitors have done a great job back in the Premiership. How much respect have you got for their achievements?***

**DR:** The important thing for Bristol is that they have achieved what they have with a group of people who have stayed together and who

are obviously very committed to the club. They have a very solid core to the club and I am personally delighted for them. They are obviously in a healthy condition and Richard Hill has to take a lot of credit for that. I think they have done a great job back in the Premiership.



Ryan Lamb



Willie Walker

gloucester rugby.co.uk

The **History**



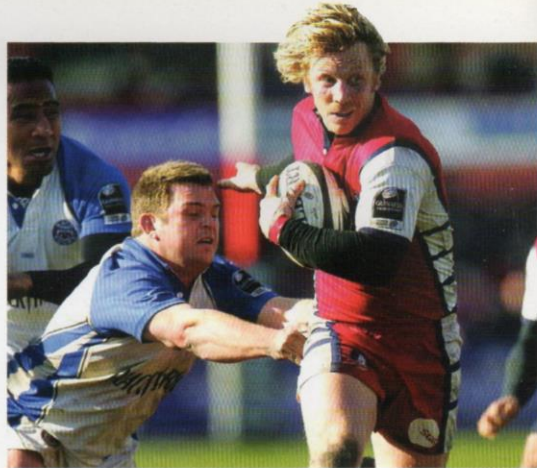
# Match Action



## Gloucester Rugby 15 Bath Rugby 18

Saturday, February 25  
Attendance: 12,500  
Referee: Dave Rose

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



**B**ATH completed a Guinness Premiership double over Gloucester at Kingsholm to drag themselves away from the foot of the table.

Inspired by a monumental performance from hooker Lee Mears and a superb display from scrum-half Nick Walshe, Bath dominated the opening 40 minutes to open up a 12-3 lead that won them the match.

It took Bath a while to get into their stride but after moving up-field through a series of penalties, they struck after 14 minutes.

They controlled a line-out and drove it forward, with Andy Beattie eventually touching down through a thicket of bodies for the opening try.

Mercier kicked a penalty

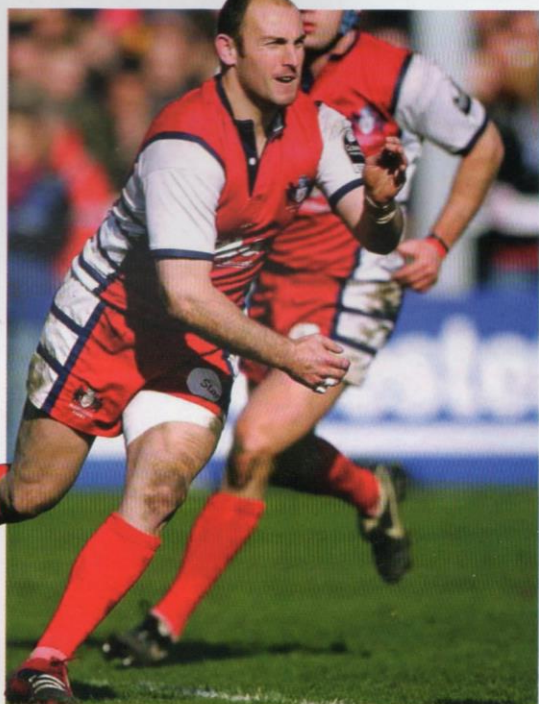
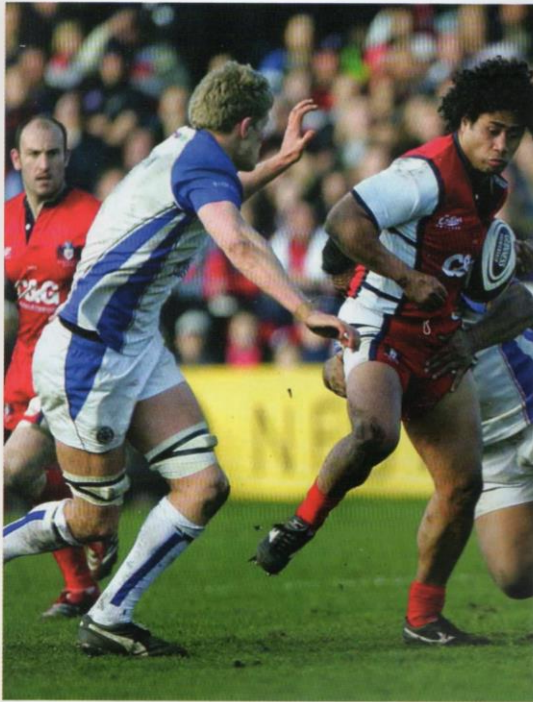
to reduce the deficit to 5-3 but in the last minute of the first-half, Bath scored again. They had made mincemeat of Gloucester's midfield defence and this time it was Alex Crockett who powered away to set the visitors in motion.

Possession was retained through a series of phases and when it emerged, Walshe flicked an inside pass and

Mears scored to cement Bath's advantage.

Gloucester began the second half with renewed vigour but it was not until the 55th minute they got the scoreboard ticking.

It took a powerful burst from replacement Terry Fanolua to set up the attack before Peter Richards burst through a gap to send James Bailey over the line.



Gloucester trailed 15-10 and had Ludovic Mercier sent James Simpson-Daniel to the line following an interception, the home side may well have won.

But as it was, Bath held out to claim yet another victory over their old rivals.

"I'm incredibly disappointed about the first 40 minutes,"

Head coach Dean Ryan said.

"We've got to see if the people who started the game are the people we want to start next time because we were very sluggish and it took us until half-time to put some remedies in.

"Some of our attack was very incisive, but we couldn't defend. We

know we have some great elements of our game, we're just struggling to piece it together week in week out.

"We can lose or win to any side at the moment. We lost because of our first-half performance and because of some actions within the game that could easily have been removed."

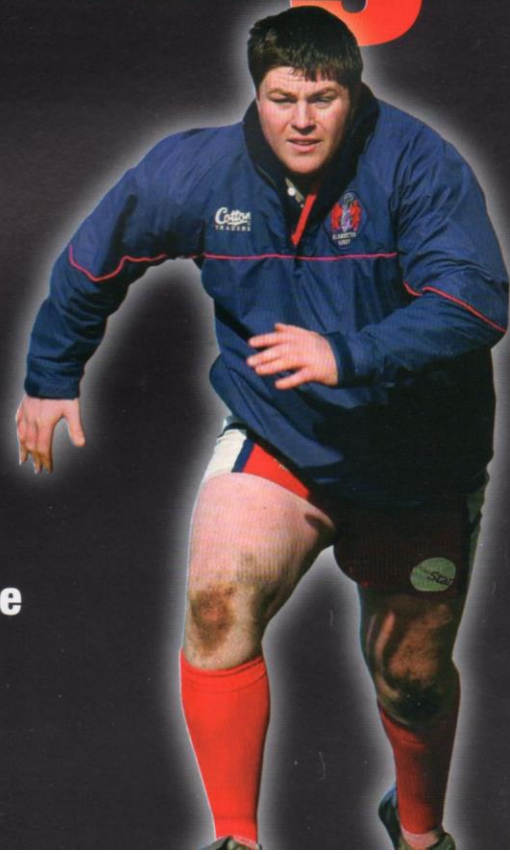
The History



# Jack-ing

Up The Scrum

Gloucester have a long and proud line of producing quality props. **Jack Forster** is a 19-year-old from Wigan who has just arrived on the Premiership scene – with a serious bang. The matchday programme talked to the latest Kingsholm propstar.



**“It was nice to have made such an impact and I have been really pleased with how things have gone, but it’s not just down to me – I had some pretty serious help from the second row behind me.”**

**A**NY GLOUCESTER man worth his salt knows there are not too many more important or beautiful things in the sporting cosmos than the set scrum – which is perhaps why Kingsholm’s history is littered with a whole host of wonderful uglies who have spent their working lives with their heads in areas where the sun doesn’t shine.

Many of these rough and ready diamonds have been reared locally down the ages, in the riotously competitive junior club environment or more recently from Cornwall – a south west outpost where rugby is also king.

The latest man to make a sizeable impression on Kingsholm conscience is a softly-spoken 19-year-old from Wigan, who goes by the name of Jack Forster.

Today, when his club throw open the dungeon doors to Bristol for another bout of M5 mayhem, Forster could be in line to make his first Guinness Premiership start – a serious progression for a man only eight months out of school.

It is easy to get the impression he rather enjoys being here at Kingsholm doing what appears to come rather naturally – namely blasting the living daylight out of the opposition

scrummage with a unique brand of natural strength that is not solely confined to a bloke named Vickery, who has a bit of a reputation in this game.

Forster made his Premiership debut against Bath last month and admitted he ‘ran around like a headless chicken’ for 10 minutes. His second outing, against Northampton a fortnight ago, was far more significant and left a far deeper scar on the opposition.

He made such a mess of the Saints scrum during a 20-minute cameo it was hard to believe he has only just left Bolton School – an environment where the round ball is king and defensive practice means sticking your hand up for off-side.

“To be honest, when we got into the last 10 minutes of the Bath game, I was sure I was going to get on,” he said. “And then Powelly went down and I didn’t have time to think about much – I was straight out there.

“I ran around like a headless chicken for five minutes and just concentrated on getting to rucks. Scrummaging is one of my strong points and I just got on with that without much of a thought.

“The difference at Northampton was that I was far more

involved. I was brought on specifically to do a job and after the first couple of scrummages went well, I could relax a bit and get into the game.

“The set-piece is not something I am worried about – it’s the bread and butter part of my game – and if that goes well I can work on my defensive positioning and things that don’t come as easily to me at the moment.

“It was nice to have made such an impact and I have been really pleased with how things have gone, but it’s not just down to me – I had some pretty serious help from the second row behind me.”

A member of the Junior National Academy, Forster is studying an agricultural degree at Hartpury College, while his father Chris runs the family owned organic beef and lamb farm back home.

When not required by Gloucester, he has played for Cinderford in National League Three South to further his front row education.

But Gloucester’s head coach Dean Ryan is so convinced about Forster’s potential, he is already part of the immediate planning at Castle Grim.

“You have to remember that

## Get to know...



Jack Forster

### Describe yourself in three words?

Honest, laid back, determined

### What is your worst nightmare?

Probably getting injured not playing rugby

### What would you be if you were not a rugby player?

My father is a farmer so I would definitely follow him - I probably still will

### What do you do in your spare time?

Most of my spare time is spent studying but when I get the chance I like to go fishing.

### Favourite holiday destination?

I have not been too far – probably Tenerife.

The History





**“The big thing for me was ensuring people had confidence in me. I didn’t just want to be seen as another player coming in who didn’t deserve a chance.”**

Jack has been out of school for eight months which means the physical requirements made of him will be huge.

“However, we have all recognised that potentially Jack has shown us all the indicators required to be a Premiership prop. We have to nurture that talent and guard it in the right way because I am sure he will play a significant part in Gloucester’s future.”

Ryan has never been one to mince his words when it comes to the finer points of forward play but there have also been others who have played key roles in his development.

Forster cites the involvement of Patrice Collazo as central to his progress.

The Frenchman knows a thing or two about the craftier acts of war required to survive in the choppy front row waters and Forster has benefited from his words of wisdom.

“To be honest, some of the scrums at England Under-19 level and with Cinderford have been more difficult than at Northampton,” he said. “They are more disjointed and not as tight, which makes it far more difficult. “The big thing for me was

ensuring people had confidence in me. I didn’t just want to be seen as another player coming in who didn’t deserve a chance. I must make sure the Northampton experience was not a one-off.

“I am a scrummager but I have to develop other skills. I have a lot to work on – conditioning and positioning but every opportunity I get I need to try and develop.

“The thing about the front row is that you can hear and learn 101 different things but when you come up against somebody, something clicks in your mind from past lessons learnt and you cope.

“Northampton was a really good experience for me and I thoroughly enjoyed it. My task is to try and do it week in, week out in a first-team environment. I am proud to be playing for the club

– it’s a huge honour for me.”



# Match Action



**Northampton Saints 21**

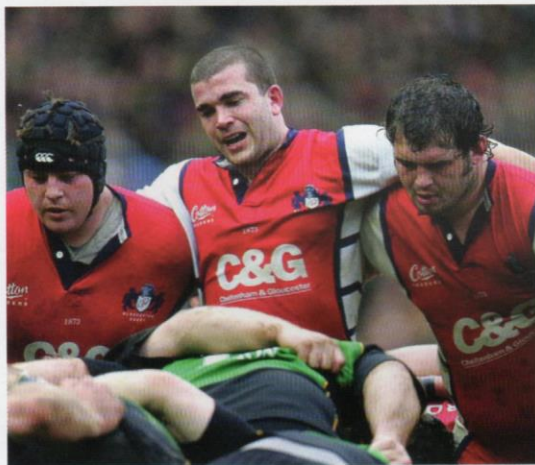
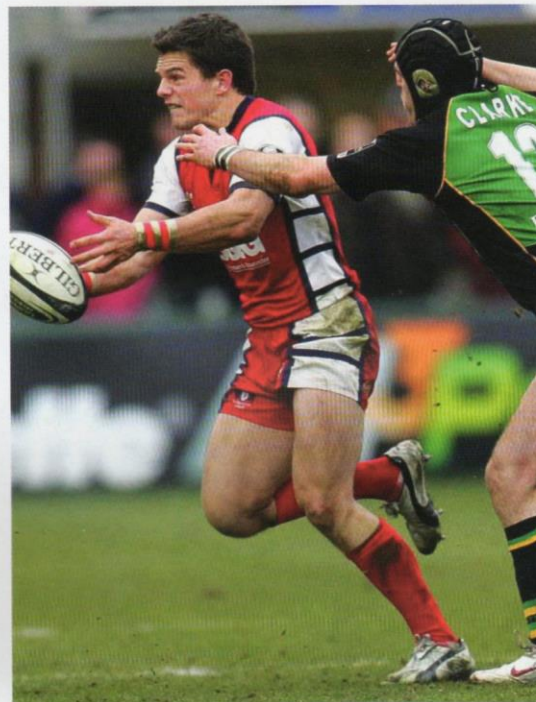
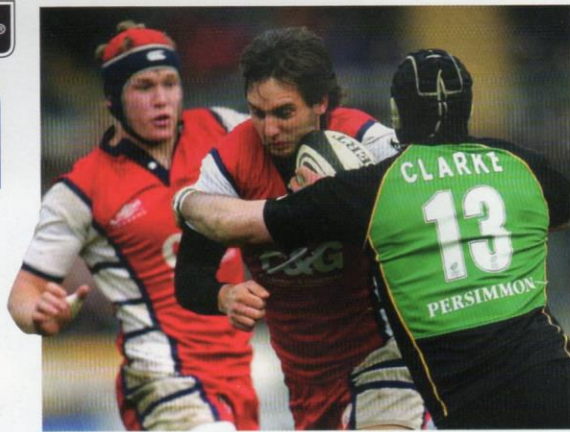
**Gloucester Rugby 20**

Saturday, March 11

Attendance: 13,443

Referee: Dave Pearson

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



**G**LOUCESTER slipped to fifth in the Guinness Premiership following their second successive defeat.

Despite a brave fight back at Franklin's Gardens, Gloucester's young and inexperienced side were denied by a single point in a tense, tough clash against the Saints.

But there were some hugely

encouraging performances from rookie prop Jack Forster, who produced a memorable cameo late in the game, Luke Narryway, Andy Hazell and Peter Richards – who scored Gloucester's first try.

However, Northampton won the match because of their dominance of the set-piece in the first-half that was rewarded with a penalty try and a score early in the second period from

number eight Mark Easter.

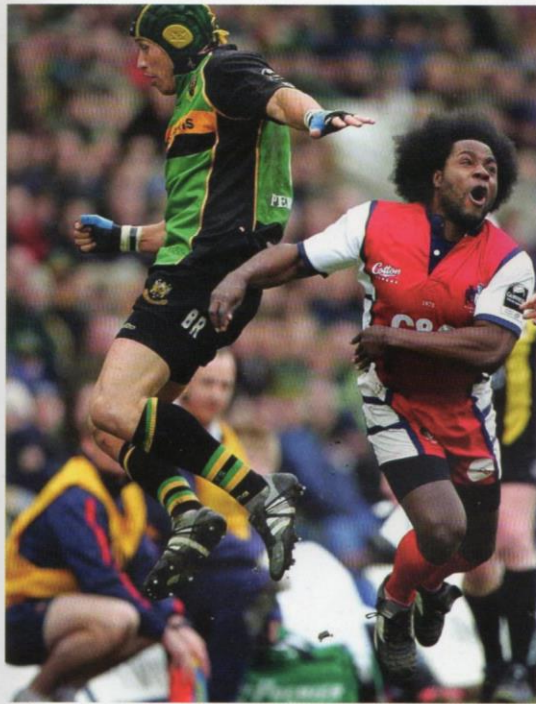
The game was locked at 7-7 at the break Richards' score from short range following great work from Hazell and Terry Fanolua, cancelling out Northampton's penalty try.

But When Easter touched down at the start of the second half and Jon Clarke capitalised on an error by Jon Goodridge to stretch

Northampton's lead to 21-10, the game was virtually up.

Head coach Dean Ryan used all his replacements and Forster made an immediate impact on the Saints scrum.

Gloucester were themselves awarded a penalty try following a Ludovic Mercier penalty that cut the gap to a single point. And although they launched a



ferocious late assault, could not find a way through to grab all the points.

It left Ryan frustrated – but he praised the contribution made by his inexperienced side.

It was tough," he said. "We had a young team out there, we played well and we gave absolutely everything we had. We should have got more out of

the game in my opinion.

"We gave an illustration of the great desire these young guys have got to come in and play for Gloucester," Ryan said. "I'm prepared for them to play consistently unless the senior guys can show a similar amount of courage.

"What I'm disappointed about is that sometimes these young men

don't get the reward they probably should have for a fantastic effort.

"We may not get the rewards in instances like today, but the long-term reward is definitely going to be there.

"We struggled a bit at set-piece which didn't give the foundation, but other than that we were tremendously courageous with a lot of guys who had never been near the Premiership before.

"I'm sad because I so wanted those young players to experience a win of the back off that sort of effort.

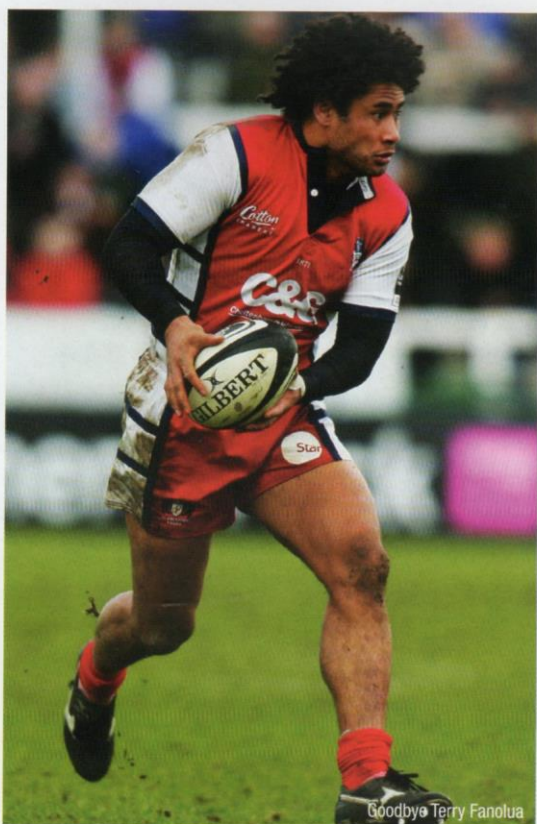
"Away from home we didn't get any favours in that last five minutes. We had two scrums on halfway and there was a clear penalty decision. The laws should be the same in those last five minutes as in the first five minutes."

The History



**Peter Arnold** pays his own tribute to the brilliant Terry Fanolua and Duncan McRae, welcomes Willie Walker and gives a big cheer to St Peter's School, who have reached the Daily Mail Cup final.

# Peter Arnold



Goodbye Terry Fanolua

## HAIL AND FAREWELL

**A**LOT has happened since my last batch of programme notes. This is the time of year when we always hear of players leaving the club and others joining, but this time round, it almost seems as if Kingsholm has been fitted with a revolving door.

There is no doubt, however, about which departing hero deserves pride of place. I can't think that any supporter doesn't regret losing the amazing Terry Fanolua. While not quite a veteran, I suppose that he doesn't have many seasons remaining in the top flight, and it seems a shame that he couldn't see out his playing days at Castle Grim.

Ever since he arrived, nine seasons ago, he has illuminated the place with his undoubted skill, but even more by his evident enthusiasm and determination to give

everything he has to win matches for Gloucester. He's far more than a travelling mercenary, and is as proud to wear the Gloucester shirt as any born and bred lad from Coney Hill or Matson.

You always know when Tezza is around, especially if you happen to be on the receiving end of one of his avalanche tackles.

But I think there is more to Terry Fanolua than merely being a good rugby player. He has also done a very good job for the city as a whole. While playing, and indeed, skipping Samoa, he has travelled all over the rugby-playing world, and everywhere he's been he has taken Gloucester with him. Respected everywhere, he has been a great ambassador for the city, and should, perhaps, be recognised for that.

I'd be surprised if Paul James, Deputy Leader of

The Honour

Gloucester City Council, isn't in his usual spot in the Shed, today (Hi Paul!) so I will make a suggestion to him. Perhaps Honorary Freedom of the City would be going a bit far, but I know that the City Council has silver and gold medallions which are presented to people who have performed meritorious service to Gloucester.

Perhaps Paul could have a word with Lise Noakes, Mayor of Gloucester, and suggest that she arrange a Civic Reception for Terry to present such a medallion. Such an honour would certainly be deserved, and would be highly popular throughout the city.

Over to you, Paul!

### IT'S HARD ON DUNC

**A**NOTHER player who won't be strutting his stuff any more is



Duncan McRae, who has had to hang up his boots because of injury problems. That's a great pity, not just for the lad himself, but also for all of us who like to watch a bit of inventiveness in our rugby.

Like Terry Fanolua, he was a player who always let everyone know he was around. Very much his own man, he did things his way, and got away with it more often than not. Sometimes we weren't quite sure where he was going when he had the ball in hand, and indeed, there were occasions when it almost seemed that he didn't know himself. There was always something a little different about his play. Even when lining up to take a kick at goal, his pose seemed

more appropriate to the Royal Ballet than to Kingsholm.

No one ever likes to see a man's career cut short through injury, and we sympathise with him wholeheartedly. We also hope he prospers in whatever endeavour he decides to undertake now.

Cheers and many thanks, Mac. We shall miss you

### SPREADING THE NET

**Y**OU CAN'T say that Dean Ryan doesn't spread his net widely when recruiting for next season. In 2006/7 we shall be welcoming a lock from Penzance, two Italians, a Scot and a New Zealand Maori who comes to Kingsholm via Japan.

Like most people, I suspect, I have been keeping an eye on the two new boys from Italy during the Six Nations, and while we can't say much about Signor Nieto, because he's been and gone and done his knee in, the skipper, Marco Bortolami, does seem to be the genuine article to me, big, strong, a decided handful in the line-out and lively around the park, too.

Rory Lawson might be an interesting character too, if only for his pedigree. He's Scotland's No.3 scrum-half, behind Mike Blair and Chris Cussiter, who would be tough competition for anyone. He's also the son of Scottish hero, Alan Lawson and the grandson of the greatest rugby commentator of all time, Bill MacLaren, who was always an unashamed Gloucester supporter.

But young Rory mustn't think he's going to stroll straight into the side. With Peter Richards in the England frame, and Haydn Thomas looking decidedly

## "You can't say that Dean Ryan doesn't spread his net widely when recruiting for next season."

promising, to say nothing of Simon Amor, the No.9 area looks very competitive.

Willie Walker is something of an enigma thus far, but no one plays for the New Zealand Maori side unless he's got a lot going for him.

We live in interesting times, but I'd better not say that too loudly or DR might start recruiting in China.

### WELL DONE MARCEL

**W**ASN'T IT nice to see Marcel Garvey turning out for the Barbarians. His quicksilver feet and general elusiveness make him a natural Baa-Baa, and it's good that we can now add his name to the long and honourable list of Gloucester players who have played for the most prestigious Corinthian club of them all.

Can anyone tell me? Is he the first St Peter's Old Boy to have become a Barbarian?

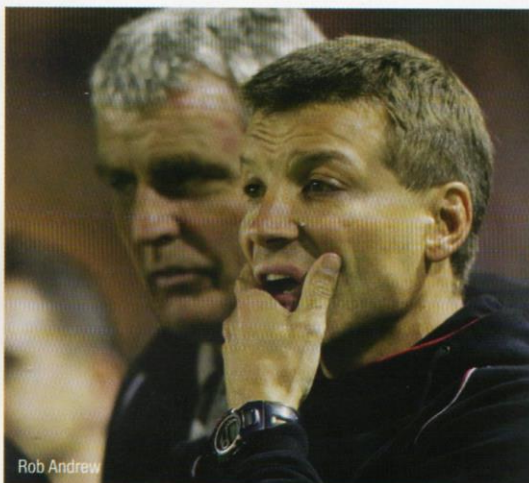
### COME ON THE LADS!

**T**ALKING of St Peter's, we must congratulate the school side for reaching their national final at Twickenham. They've been knocking on the door for some time now, and it must be an enormous pleasure for our old friend, Dave Pointon, who some of us remember as a very useful outside-half with an educated left boot. Especially as his son, Danny, will be part of the side.

Well done, lads.

### NOT IN THE RUNNING

**D**O YOU see that Rob Andrew has ruled himself out of the running for an England management job? Pity, really. At least we'd get a better class of excuses when we lose.



Rob Andrew

The **History**

# Behind The Scenes

**Phil Vickery is a one-club man. Nobody in Gloucester's history has won more international caps or developed such a world class career than the proud Cornishman. Dave King charts his rise to the top.**



**P**HIL VICKERY heads the list of Gloucester players who have won the most England caps – with 47. Phil is well in the lead and it would appear that he is likely to be so for

some considerable time to come.

It is always difficult or probably even impossible to compare players or records from different eras.

Looking back in time it may be possible to make a case for Tom Voyce as Gloucester's all-time leading international as a fearless and brilliant wing-forward in the 1920s. It must be recognised that the modern rugby union player has a much greater chance of gaining caps with the overcrowded international fixture list and the added fact that replacements are used to an extortionate extent in the modern game.

Neither option was available in the era when Voyce graced the sport. If Tom Voyce had experienced those added bonuses of extra matches and the replacement option he would surely have added to his 27 caps.

Vickery has an enviable record with England. Of his 47 appearances for England they have won 34 matches and lost 13, scoring 1636 points and conceding 873. When you

take into consideration that injury has curtailed so much of Phil's career, both at club and international status, his achievement is even more praiseworthy.

We will all be left wondering how many more caps the tighthead prop would have gained had he remained fitter for longer. It would not be beyond the bounds of comprehension to have imagined that he would have gained more than 70 by now.

Phil's misfortune with injury has not only robbed England of the cornerstone of their pack at vital times in the last decade. It has also disrupted the best hatched plans of all the coaches that have been in charge at Kingsholm.

Phil has seen Richard Hill, Philippe St Andre, Nigel Melville and now Dean Ryan revise their strategy for Gloucester matches. Many scribes lament his loss for the national team but surely nowhere is the loss of one of the world's finest front row forwards felt more keenly than here at Kingsholm.

His presence on return from



either injury or international duty is always emphasised with his stature.

Vickery made his debut for the club's senior team on 6th March 1995 versus The Army here at Kingsholm, although his League debut came against Harlequins on 31st August 1995 at the Stoop in a 75-19 defeat.

An inexperienced team was sent to the Stoop that afternoon under Hill's policy of targeting certain matches. It gave the fledgling Phil an opportunity to relish although many of the club's supporters were not totally supportive of Hill's policy.

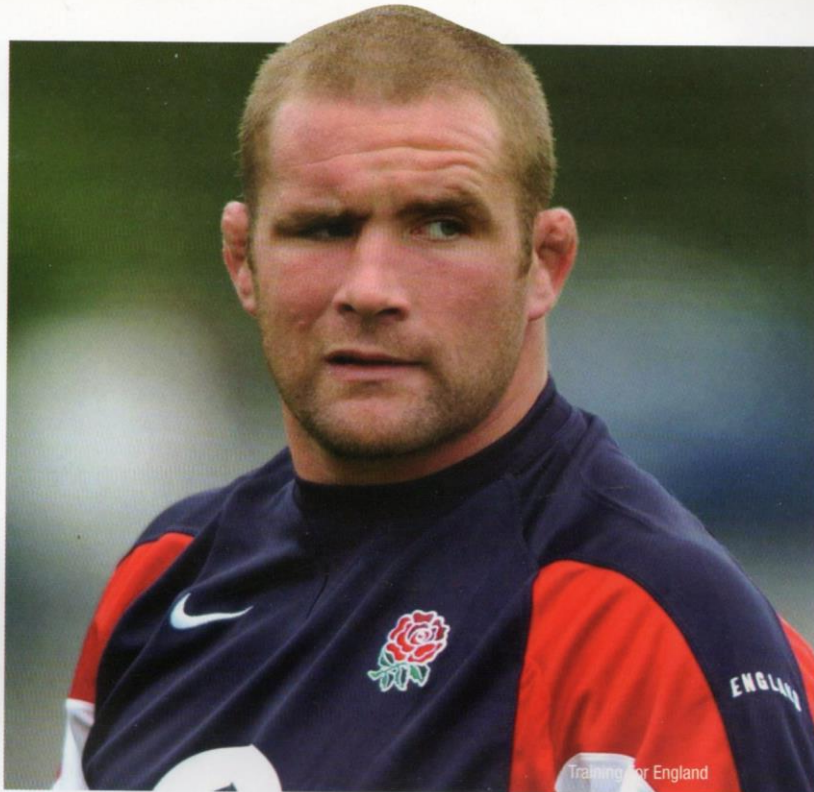
Vicks is one of only two Gloucester players to have captained their country, John Gwilliam of Wales the other. Phil made his England debut in a comprehensive defeat of Wales at Twickenham on 21st February 1998 in the following line up: -

M.B. Perry (Bath); D.L. Rees (Sale), W.J.H. Greenwood (Harlequins), J.C. Guscott (Bath), A.S. Healey (Leicester); P.J. Grayson (Northampton), K.P.P. Bracken (Saracens); J. Leonard (Harlequins), R. Cockerill (Leicester), G.S. Archer (Newcastle), L.B.N. Dallaglio (Wasps, Captain), R.A. Hill (Saracens), N.A. Back (Leicester).

The replacements were:

- D.J. Grewcock (Saracens), D.J. Garforth (Leicester), A.J. Diprose (Saracens), M.J. Catt (Bath), P.R.de Glanville (Bath), M.J.S. Dawson (Northampton).

Nine of those players are now retired from the game with only Phil, Danny Grewcock and Matt Dawson figuring in Andy Robinson's recent plans. It was a meteoric rise to prominence



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at the highest level for our very own Raging Bull. After only 34 appearances for Gloucester and a mere eighty-one days after his England 'A' team debut, he was pulling on the Red Rose for real.

Honours continued to be bestowed upon the Cornishman. In 2001 he equalled Frank Stout's long standing Gloucester Rugby record of three Test caps for the British Lions when he was included in all of the Test matches in the touring party that visited Australia.

Starting in the number three shirt he featured in the 29-13

victory in the first Test at The Gabba, Brisbane. Also in the 35-14 defeat in the second match at the Colonial Stadium in Melbourne and in the final third Test where the Lions encountered a heart breaking 29-3 defeat.

The British and Irish Lion Team versus Australia on his debut on 30th June 2001 was as follows: -

M.B. Perry (England); D.R. James (Wales), B.G. O'Driscoll (Ireland), R.A.J. Henderson (Ireland), J. Robinson (England); J.P. Wilkinson (England), R. Howley (Wales), T.J. Smith (Scotland), K.G.M.

Wood (Ireland), P.J. Vickery (Gloucester & England), M.O. Johnson (Leicester, Captain), D.J. Grewcock (England), M.E. Corry (England), L.S. Quinnett (Wales), R.A. Hill (England).

Replacements: - I.R. Balshaw (England), C. Charvis (Wales), G. Bulloch (Scotland), J. Leonard (England).

One of Phil's proudest moments came when he led an England touring party to Argentina on their summer tour of 2002 and in doing so became the first player from Gloucester Rugby to lead a somewhat depleted England team to a stirring 26-18 victory in Buenos Aires.

The **History**



Included in that England touring party were several of Phil's Gloucester ream mates. The party consisted of: -

M.J. Horak (London Irish), T.R.G. Stimpson (Leicester), T.D. Beim (Gloucester), M. Cueto (Sale), P. Christophers (Bristol), D.L. Rees (Bristol), G. Appleford (London Irish), B. Johnston (Saracens), K.J. Sorrell (Saracens), T.A. May (Newcastle), C. Hodgson (Sale), D.J.H. Walder (Newcastle), A.C.T. Gomarsall (Gloucester), N.P.J. Walshe (Sale) S. Thompson (Northampton), M.P. Regan (Bath), D.L. Flatman (Saracens), R. Morris (Northampton), T.J.

Woodman (Gloucester), P.J. Vickery (Gloucester) Captain, B.J. Kay (Leicester), J.P.R. Worsley (Wasps), A. Codling (Harlequins), H.D. Vyvyan (Newcastle), R.J. Fidler (Gloucester), A. Sanderson (Sale), L.W. Moody (Leicester), D. Danaher (London Irish), P. Anglesea (Sale) and A.L. Balding (Leicester).

The actual team that took the field in the only Test match played on that tour at the Velez Sarsfield Stadium was: - Horak; Stimpson, Appleford, Johnston, Christophers; Hodgson, Gomarsall; Flatman, Thompson, Vickery (Captain), Codling, Kay, Sanderson, Worsley, Moody.

Upon his return from Argentina, Phil was appointed joint vice captain of England alongside Jonny Wilkinson. As we are all aware further honours followed with a World Cup Winners Medal in the outstanding 2003 World Cup Final in Australia.

The outstanding career of Philip Vickery has seen him take his place in winning England teams that have defeated France, New Zealand, Australia, Wales and Argentina on their own soil.

That is quite an achievement which all began in modest terms on 18th March 1997 in a Gloucester line-up that was: - N. Paisley (A. Lumsden 18 min); E. Anderson, N. Matthews, A. Metcalf, P. Holford; M. Kimber, L. Beck; T. Woodman, C. Fortey, P. Vickery, N. Yelland, R. Ward, (A. Harris 40 min), W. Gay, A. Stanley (Captain), S. Edwards (H. Dawson 40 min).

Replacements not used: - L. Fortey, C. Hall, J. Hayward.

With his testimonial year launched it is an apt time to reflect upon the value that this proud Cornishman has brought to Gloucester and England. It will take a player of outstanding ability, devotion and most of all an injury free career to surpass Phil's proud record.

Gloucester Rugby has abounded with notable prop forwards of international class, from Tom Price, George Hastings, Ken Wilson, Mike Burton, Phil Blakeway and Trevor Woodman. None have represented their country as many times as Philip John Vickery, a man proud to play for Gloucester Rugby Club, a club proud to have encompassed his whole career.

**“With his testimonial year launched it is an apt time to reflect upon the value that this proud Cornishman has brought to Gloucester and England .”**



Vicks runs at the Leeds Tykes defence

