

# Gloucester

# Rugby

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GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY



## The route through Europe

Gloucester's journey to the semi-finals

## Kings for a day

St Peter's triumph at Twickenham

## How Worcester have reached

the last four

All the latest from Fans Zone, Dave King, Peter Arnold and Perry Perrott

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VS **Worcester Warriors**

Saturday 22nd April | Kick Off 12.35pm



# European Challenge Cup

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Semi-Final



Captain's Corner Adam

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# Balding

**L**AST SATURDAY may not have done much for the nerves but it was great to finally see the boys win at Kingsholm.

At last the youngsters finally got what they deserved - a Guinness Premiership victory - and I think you could tell by the reaction at the end of all the playing staff and coaches just how much it meant to everyone involved.

It had been a long time coming but it was a major breakthrough, and we now have to carry that momentum forward.

Worcester are obviously our

visitors again this afternoon, but we are one game away from a final appearance and they don't come around too often. We are already beginning to plan next and another victory today would only accelerate that development.

Last Saturday was a classic confrontation between a Worcester side who really attacked the set-piece, and ourselves, who attempted to play with great pace and width. The different styles certainly made for an intriguing afternoon's rugby and with a final place at stake, I am sure it will be just as tense this afternoon.

On a personal note, I hope to be involved today. I sat down and worked out this week, that because of injury, I have missed 15 weeks of rugby this season and I cannot begin to describe how frustrating and upsetting that is.

I hope, in the long run, the experiences of this season will make me a better player - someone who has learnt the harsh lessons professional sport dishes out. But we have some very important matches remaining this season, and hopefully a final place, and I want to give myself

every opportunity to make a contribution before the end of the campaign.

Whether I start today or whether I am on the bench doesn't matter. We have one goal and that is to beat Worcester again this afternoon to continue our development forward.

Once again, it will be a passionate, fiery atmosphere and if the same level of noise and support is generated like last week, we stand a great chance.

Please get behind the boys again today - there is only one game at Kingsholm remaining after this afternoon - and hopefully scream us into the final.

gloucester rugby.co.uk

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05 

# Gloucester's Route To The Semi-Finals

**Gloucester** are one match away from a place in the **European Challenge Cup Final**. The matchday programme looks back at their progress to the last four.

## October 22: Aviron Bayonnais 10 Gloucester Rugby 26

**G**LOUCESTER got off to the perfect start in their pool by negotiating a tricky trip to France with three tries. In terrible conditions, Gloucester were organised and committed throughout and took the lead when Andy Hazell was driven over for the opening try following a catch and drive routine from a line-out.

Bayonne could not match Gloucester's superior structure and organisation and it took Gloucester six second half minutes to score again. Ludovic Mercier kicked a little roller in behind Bayonne's defence and when they turned the ball over, Haydn Thomas nipped in to score.

Although Gloucester had to wait until the last quarter for the third try, it was worth waiting for. James Forrester was in the vanguard of a move that straightened an attack and Mark Foster came in off his wing, picked a lovely little angle and shrugged off four or five defenders on his way to the line.

Head coach Dean Ryan said: "I thought it was an outstanding performance, one of the best this season. It was the best shape we have had, we put Bayonne under great pressure and controlled the game.

"Any victory in France is good and we knew we would be under extreme pressure for 80 minutes - I am just delighted we have got back to winning ways and this is a great start for us."

## October 29: Bucuresti 3 Gloucester Rugby 106

**J**AMES-SIMPSON DANIEL scored four times - including a second half hat-trick - as Gloucester scored 16 tries in a ruthless performance against Bucuresti in round two.

There were two tries each for Marcel Garvey and Rob Thirby as Gloucester ran riot after the break. There were seven other scorers - Nick Wood, Adam Eustace, Andy Hazell, Haydn Thomas, James Forrester and Andy Hazell.

Ludovic Mercier landed 10 conversions and Simon Amor

three as Gloucester reached 100 points in a competitive match for the first time in their history. It ensured they would always be ahead on points difference in the group and Ryan added: "It is difficult to know exactly what we can take out of the game because at times it was like a training run.

"But I thought we looked like a good side going forward and we have to build on it.

## December 10: Toulon 3 Gloucester Rugby 74

**T**HE AWAY trip to Toulon was expected to be the defining game of the pool for Gloucester. An away victory would give them an excellent chance of topping the pool but nobody had an idea of what was to come.

Gloucester scored 10 tries - there were two each for Mark Foster, Jake Boer and Peter Richards as Toulon, who were suffering with injuries and a loss of form in the French Championship, fell apart. Gloucester ran riot - their power and pace pulled the hosts all over the field and with Jonathan Pendlebury making an excellent

debut in the second row, the Kingsholm club took a giant step towards the knockout stages.

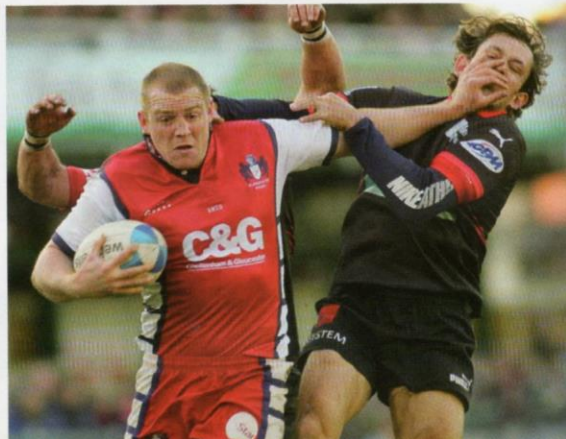
The other try scorers were Forrester, Mike Tindall, Garvey and Gary Powell.

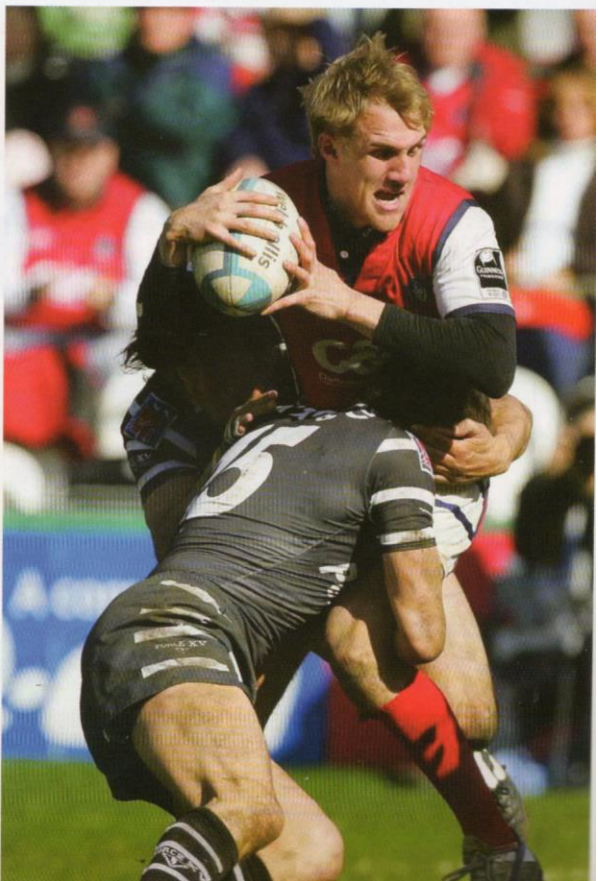
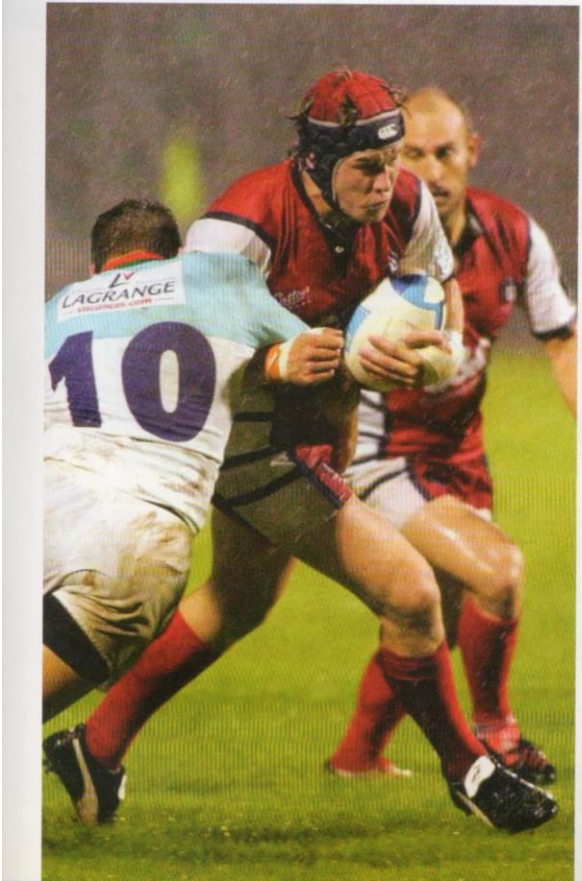
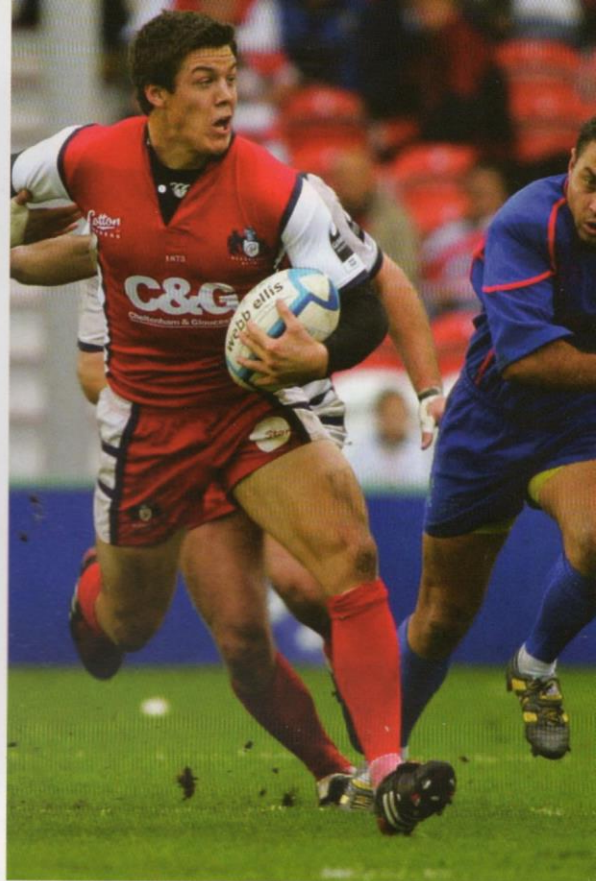
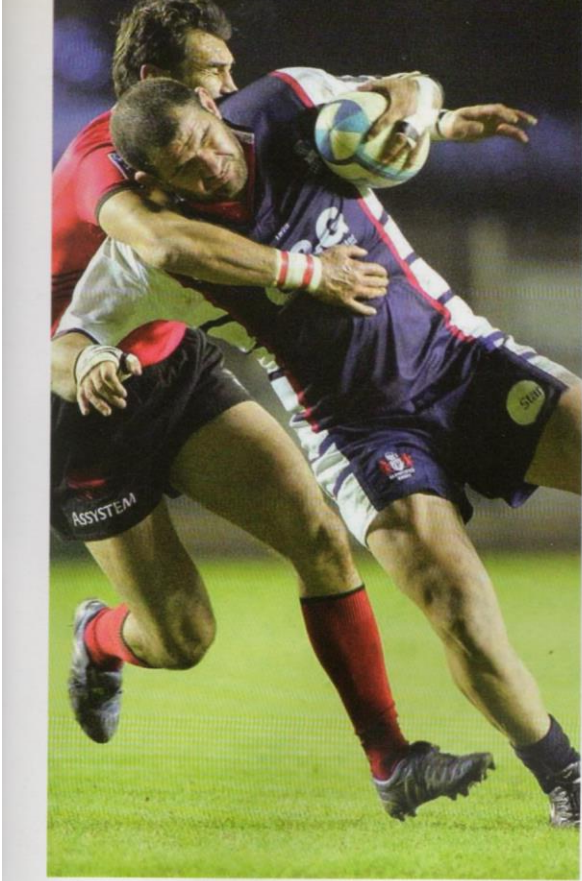
## December 17: Gloucester Rugby 66 Toulon 5

**S**IMPSON-DANIEL was again the leading man with two tries as Gloucester completed an emphatic double over Toulon. Still smarting from their defeat the previous weekend, Gloucester again scored 10 tries with eight different players crossing the line.

Boer also crossed twice as Toulon were once again dealt a serious hammering. Gloucester scored six second half tries to turn a 28-6 interval lead into an even more commanding victory.

There were other scores from Nick Wood, Alex Brown, Jack Forster - on his first appearance - Adam Balding, Peter Richards and Gary Powell as Gloucester made it four wins out of four and crossed the 200-point barrier.





**January 14:  
Bucuresti 13  
Gloucester Rugby 27**

**I**N A CONTEST far removed from the one at Kingsholm earlier in the competition, Bucuresti took Gloucester to great lengths in freezing conditions in the Romanian capital.

On a boggy pitch and against an extremely competitive and combative side, Gloucester required all their resolve and experience to navigate their way through unbeaten.

For the third match running Powell found his way over for a try as Gloucester salvaged a bonus point win. There were also scores for Boer, Richards and Rob Elloway, who started at hooker. The bonus point was Gloucester's fourth in five matches and guaranteed their passage into the knockout stages of the competition.

**January 21:  
Gloucester Rugby 21  
Bayonne 19**

**G**LOUCESTER completed a clean sweep in the pool stages with victory over Bayonne - but the French side pushed them all the way at Kingsholm. Powell, who had been in outstanding scoring form, again crossed for a double to get Gloucester rolling.

And when Boer made a crucial break into the heart of the Bayonne defence, Ollie Morgan finished off the move in the right wing position.

Mike Tindall ensured another bonus point victory when he dropped his shoulder to score close to the sticks as Gloucester ensured a home tie in the quarter-finals, despite a late Bayonne fightback that took the gloss off the victory.

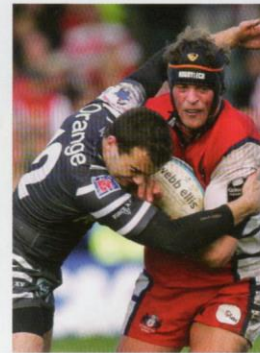
**April 1: Quarter Final  
Gloucester Rugby 46  
Brive 13**

**F**ORMER Heineken Cup champions Brive were the visitors to Kingsholm in the first knockout phase of the competition and Gloucester had little trouble seeing them off.

With youngster Ryan Lamb installed in the stand-off position, Gloucester played an attacking brand of exciting rugby and scored seven tries. Forrester and Richards led the way with a brace of tries each as Gloucester put the game out of reach by half-time.

There were also scores for Simpson-Daniel, Tindall and Hazell to cap a commanding performance that powered Gloucester into today's last four showdown against Worcester.

Lamb kicked four conversions and a penalty to collect 11 points on his senior debut.



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**Bob Fenton** has packed the throat spray this afternoon in readiness for another vocal derby against Worcester – and perhaps a place in the European Challenge Cup final.

# Fan Zone

**H**ERE WE go then, round two of a very important double header.

For the second time in a week

we take on the boys from Worcester. Last weekend – in case you hadn't noticed, we took the points in the Premiership encounter so does that give us an advantage or not?

A bit of both, I reckon. First, in the plus column it was good to get a win after a run of defeats and that has to be good for team spirit, secondly the result should give us a bit more belief in the fact that we are capable of going through and playing in our first final since the Powergen Cup a few years back.

Yes I know we went to the play off final that year, but I don't think anyone could say that we actually played that time...

On the potential negative side of last week's result, Worcester will know that they pushed us hard with a team that showed a lot of absentees from the one that normally comprises their starting fifteen.

Add to that the chance of a Heineken Cup place – the Challenge Cup being the only realistic route for Worcester to get into Europe and I think we're in for another epic encounter.

Last weekend showed the potential we have – Anthony Allen was outstanding, an outside bet for the World Cup

**“It was good to get a win after a run of defeats and that has to be good for team spirit.”**



Anthony Allen



Ryan Lamb

squad perhaps? Oh hang on; he has skill, pace and invention - not a prerequisite for Andy 'Offside' Robinson's England squad these days.

And Ryan Lamb - well we learned last week that he can throw a pretty mean right hook to go with the other skills he has in abundance. In fact there is a school of thought that Ryan became a proper Gloucester player last week when he got his first 'professional' yellow card.

Welcome to the big time, Ryan. A few more like that and you can walk in the footsteps of the legendary Serge Simon. Mind you, when Serge stepped out for Gloucester you were probably not long out of nappies. God that makes me feel old!

Back to Worcester... They will no doubt turn up here with a big contingent of their noisy supporters. Although some of their chants we're a bit 'footballish' for me it was good to hear so many away supporters making themselves heard. Not many teams do that these days, probably only Northampton come close when they visit Castle Grim.

Having that extra noise, and the inevitable banter that goes with

it, adds to the overall enjoyment of the day, not to mention inspiring some of the less vocal shed population to get in on the act and stretch their vocal chords a bit. So bring it on you Warriors, we've packed our Fisherman's Friends, we've got the throat sprays so let battle commence!

Elsewhere it's nice to see that the media's fixation with that bloke Jonny someone up at Newcastle continues unabated. The bloke rolls out for one game and it makes the national news on TV - crazy. But he didn't get injured this time so that means that they can all start speculating that he will win the World Cup for them next year.

Do you think they know that there are a few other guys around the country who can play this game a bit?

And it was sad to see Leeds finally lose their fight against relegation, shame, but someone has to go. I enjoy the trips to Leeds so hopefully they will be able to bounce back quickly. It's even sadder to see players already attempting to jump ship rather than face the trips to Orrell, Penzance and the rest.

Ex Kiwi Justin Marshall was

quick out of the blocks wasn't he - the fans had hardly got home after last Sunday's match and he was banging on about wanting to be released. He should take a leaf out of his old mate Andrew Mehrten's book and have the courage to stick with it.

Somewhat laughably Marshall says it would be an act of good faith if Leeds were to let him go. No mate, it would be an act

and then taking away the first number you thought of.

For Gloucester, though, the equation is a simple one: win today's game and then the final and we're in, and we get a nice little cup to go along with all the others (wonder where they are?) that we have collected over the years.

Failing that get a five pointer up at Leeds at the end of the

## "Win today's game and then the final and we're in."

of good faith for you to honour your contract and help them get back into the Premiership.

As for the other end of the table, it's time to consult the calculators and try to work out all the permutations of what you need to do to get a Heineken Cup spot. As ever it's a matter of trying to work out the myriad of permutations of who does what to whom

month and that should be good enough to secure fifth position and an automatic spot. Mind you, as we have only achieved four tries in a Premiership match just twice this season that's not going to be easy.

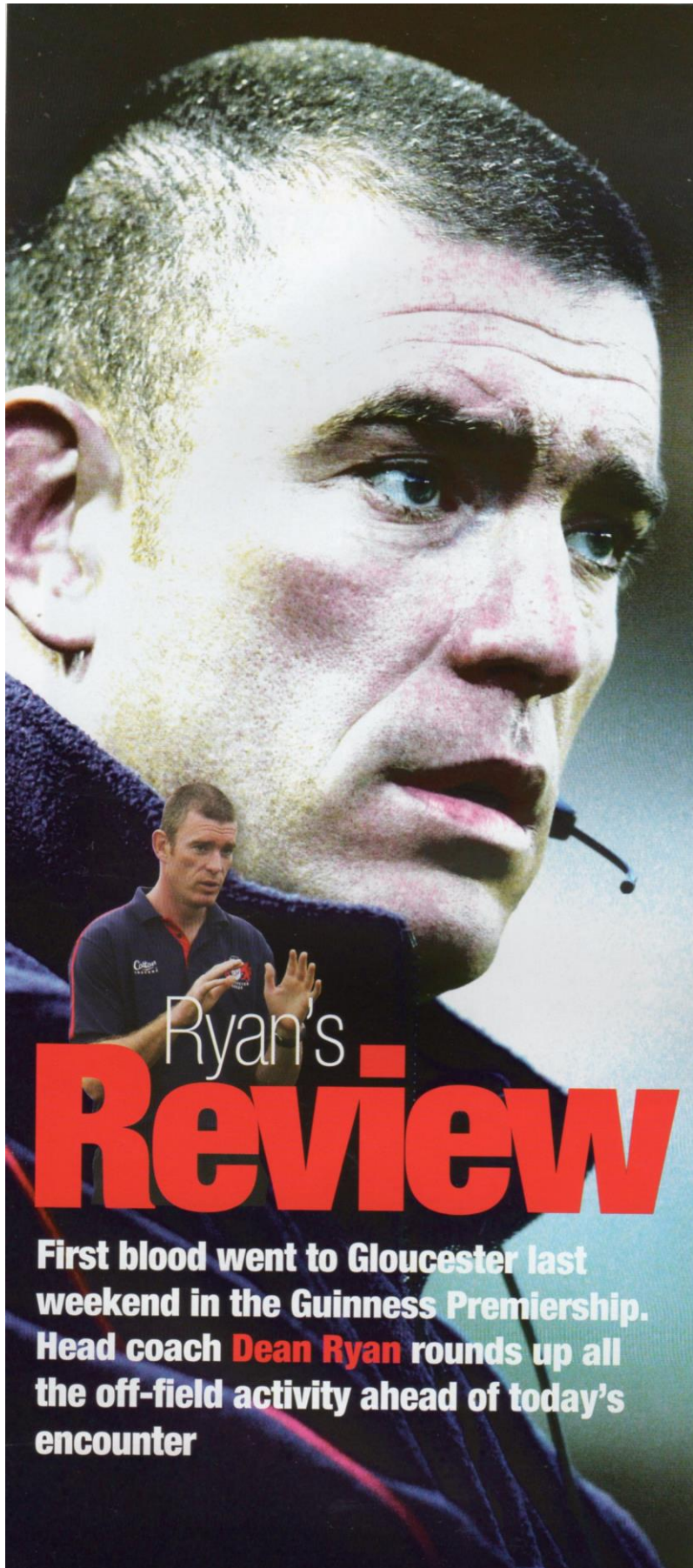
But the Premiership can wait, today's all about the Challenge Cup and a place in the final - wherever that might be!



Action v Worcester

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The History



# Ryan's **Review**

**First blood went to Gloucester last weekend in the Guinness Premiership. Head coach **Dean Ryan** rounds up all the off-field activity ahead of today's encounter**



***It has taken a bit of time but last Saturday was a major step forward for the squad?***

**DR:** I was just so delighted for the youngsters. We have said for some time that their next step in terms of development was to get a victory – they had been close in a number of weeks but they finally achieved it – and it was very satisfying for them. We are a young side that is currently on a very steep learning curve, and they are not going to take nine out of 10 chances, but what they are going to do is create those opportunities. I thought Anthony Allen was outstanding – he didn't put a foot wrong, Ryan Lamb is maturing quickly and it was great for Mark Foster's confidence to get two tries. We have played with ambition and instinct and I want that to continue.



***What is the next stage for their development?***

**DR:** Myself and the rest of the coaching team must take a great deal of pressure off them – that is part of our job. Some of these players are new to this environment and level of intensity and it can be a shock to the system. But if you look at someone like Jack Forster, the experience he gained against Tony Windo last weekend will be a massive benefit in 12 months time. At the moment we are without a group of senior guys who are capable of leading the side, but we are unearthing individuals who are now willing and able to stand up and act as figureheads. These guys are the new generation of players – people like Andy Hazell and Alex Brown – who are taking on more responsibility. I think the contribution of Hazell has been outstanding – he has been one of our stand-out players and his next step is leadership.





**Will today's game be much different from last week?**

**DR:** I obviously hope the result is the same but playing back-to-back games against the same team is never an easy task. It was imperative last week that we got a victory in the Premiership because then, hopefully, the second week will take care of itself.

Last Saturday relieved a bit of pressure on everyone and that is a good thing.

Worcester gave us a tough time at the set-piece, particularly the scrummage but I thought it was a classic encounter between a very powerful pack of forwards that had us under pressure and a young, exciting set of backs.

## **“I don't care how we achieve it, but a club like Gloucester with its ambition, quality and support base need to be in Europe's premier competition.”**

We are obviously looking to broaden the way we play the game and that involves width and pace so I would anticipate a similar contest this week.

I don't care how we achieve it, but a club like Gloucester, with its ambition, quality of squad and support base needs to be in Europe's premier competition.



**We are one game away from a final, how significant would that be this season?**

**DR:** The most important thing for me – and I have said this since the beginning of the season – was getting back in the Heineken Cup.

On the back of that, if it meant we got in via the Premiership then great because it shows a tremendous level of consistency but the chance to win some silverware is also a great incentive.



Outstanding Anthony Allen



Mark Foster

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The **History**

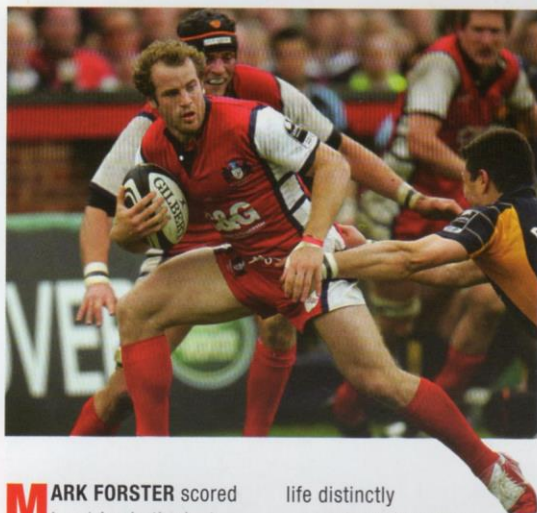
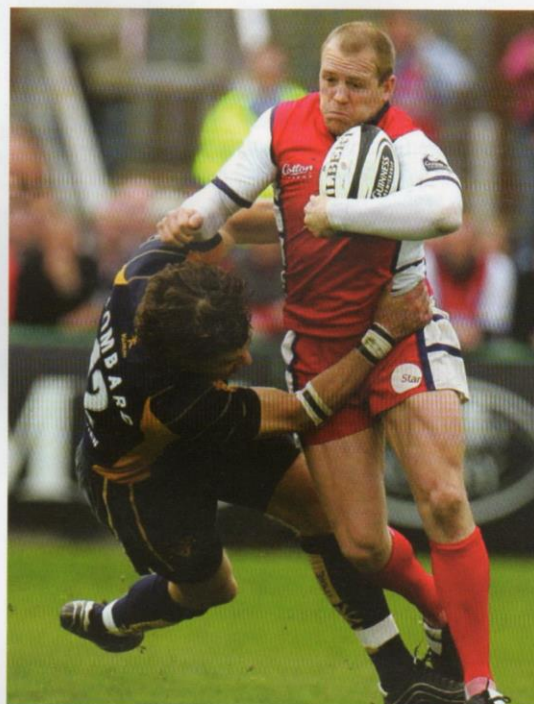
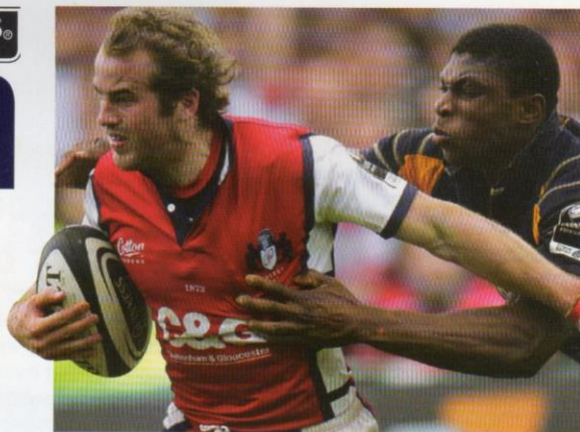
# Match Action



**Gloucester Rugby 27**  
**Worcester Warriors 16**

Saturday, April 15  
Attendance: 12,500  
Referee: David Rose

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



**M**ARK FORSTER scored two tries in the last eight minutes to hand Gloucester the first victory in their back-to-back meetings with Worcester Warriors.

The Kingsholm winger was on hand to finish clinically twice in the far left corner to finally subdue a Worcester side who had made it their business to make

life distinctly uncomfortable at the set-piece.

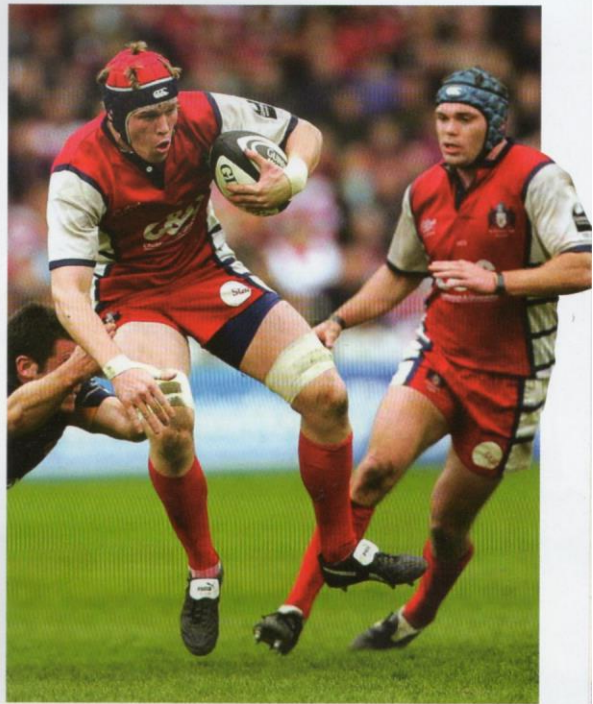
Gloucester's victory was one of youthful spark and inventiveness and a vindication of the selection policy that has three of England's Under-21 Grand Slam winning team in the backline and a 19-year-old at prop.

Ryan Lamb played a considerable part at stand-off. Capable of mixing his game up nicely, he produced the sort of front-foot ball Anthony Allen, Mike Tindall and James Simpson-Daniel thrive on.

Allen was superb in the first-half as Gloucester recovered from an early Shane Drahm penalty to hit back with two of their own from Lamb and then

a try from Simpson-Daniel, who finished off a powerful move that had Allen and Peter Buxton at its heart.

It put Gloucester 11-3 ahead but Worcester hit the decks running in the second half and after Drahm had pulled Worcester to within two points, former Gloucester scrum-half Andy Gomarsall nipped in for a try from



a five-metre scrum and Drahm's conversion handed the Warriors a 16-14 lead.

But Gloucester rallied. They retained their composure and possession for long enough and when Andy Hazell and Ludovic Mercier were involved in a move to the left of the sticks, Mercier's pass sent Foster hurtling in at the corner.

And with time ticking down, Foster went over again following lovely approach work from Tindall to hand Gloucester their first victory in five Guinness Premiership matches.

"We're a side at the beginning of our development that's creating chances and that's a massive positive," said head coach Dean Ryan.

"We can't put pressure on these guys and say we should be converting nine out of 10.

"The fact that they're creating chances is the exciting thing and as we get better and more clinical we will start to close out more of those tries.

"We always said that the

next stage for these young guys is to get a win and I am delighted for them because they have worked really hard and deserve it.

It will take time but we will get better with every game.

"We could have been 21 points in the first-half but we will learn - I am thrilled for them all."

TheHistory



**Peter Arnold** reviews an enthralling Premiership encounter against Worcester last weekend, remembers the good old days when John Brain's father ran the York House and hopes he gets plenty of feedback on his 'Greatest Gloucester XV'.

# Peter Arnold



John Brain

## SHORT TIME NO SEE

**H**ARDLY worth going home, was it? Not that the trawl down from Worcester is too much of a chore, I suppose.

However, I find that there is another rugby club called Worcester which is just a bit further away: in Massachusetts, in fact. Apparently, the club is known as 'Wormtown', for no reason that anyone, including the locals, seems able to tell me.

As for today's little bunfight, if we get a game which lives up to last week's standards, we shall have no grounds to complain.

The contrast between Worcester's sterling set-piece play and the brilliance displayed by our young backs, made for an enthralling encounter. Win or lose, more of the same and we shall have had our moneys worth.

Cup rugby is a different cauldron of kippers, of

course, and a repeat of last Saturday's defeat is certainly not on Worcester's agenda. John Brain is reported as saying that he will not be a nice man to be around if his side loses again.

He remarks that he doesn't like losing, and especially doesn't like losing at Kingsholm.

All very understandable, but if he could find time to take a trip down memory lane, or more accurately, up London Road, then his feelings of bile might become even more intense. His old home, that fine old pub the York House, closed at Christmas, and shows no signs of reopening any time soon.

A great pity, that. In the days when John's father, the amiable Brian, kept the pub, it became a real Mecca for rugby people, fondly remembered by many of us.

Sorry John. But our feelings of sympathy don't extend to hoping that your lads win today.

## MUST HAVE BEEN A SHOCK

**I**'VE BEEN away for a few days, but was able to catch the commentary on the Sale game via BBC Radio Gloucester's excellent service. I've also spoken to one or two people since.

The overall impression I get is that our relatively inexperienced side gave the league leaders, touted as the best side in England and sporting as many internationals as there are raisins in a hot cross bun, one hell of a shock.

We didn't win in the end, but to come away with a bonus point on the ground where it is notoriously difficult to get a result is quite an achievement. Had the lads not found themselves playing against a blizzard of Siberian proportions in the second half, who knows what might have happened?

The whole thing might be viewed as a considerable confidence booster.

I was especially pleased that Andy Hazell was the stand-out performer yet again, in spite of the presence of some highly proficient back-row performers among the opposition.

When, oh when, is he going to get the recognition he deserves?

Did anyone playing in the back row for England during the Six Nations do enough to keep him out?



James Simpson Daniel

## BRIVE AGAIN

**W**E WOULD all want to send our best wishes to Terry Fanolua in his new venture playing for the French club, Brive. It would seem to be a good signing for them. We may have demolished them at Kingsholm, but their nippy backs did show quite a lot of potential. Tezza's inclusion could well add that extra touch of steel that they need.

Best of luck, Terry. Just so long as we don't get drawn against Brive next season.

## SITE TO BEHOLD

**H**AVE YOU explored the club's new web site yet? Quite an improvement on the old one which wasn't bad anyway. I must confess to having a vested interest in the new facility, because it actually carries a picture of yours truly, but don't let that put you off.

The reason for my presence is that I was honoured to be asked to provide my best-ever Gloucester XV for your criticism and interest. Everyone will disagree with my selection, of course, which is as it should be.

Anyway, the exercise is quite impossible. I have long been of the opinion that today's players can't really be compared with their illustrious predecessors. Laws are constantly changing, standards of fitness improve, techniques and styles of play evolve all the time. And that's without even considering the quantum leap stimulated by professionalism.

However, it's something we have all indulged in from time to time, and I couldn't resist this latest opportunity. So I did set myself a couple of ground rules. First, I confined myself to people I

had actually watched play.

That, in my view, is essential. How can one compare, say, Andy Hazell with the great Tommy Voyce who virtually invented wing forward play, but who I've only ever seen on film and briefly at that?

Similarly, Dai Gent was one of the great pioneers of the scrum-half role but was before my time. So I stuck to players I've watched.

Second, the professional game changed everything, so I've only selected players who are either career professionals, or who, I believe, could have successfully made the leap from the old amateur days.

No, I'm not going to name my fifteen here. You'll need to visit the site to see that and the reasons for my selection.

As I say, you'll inevitably disagree with me, so why not Email me on [petearnold@aol.com](mailto:petearnold@aol.com) with your thoughts? I'll be fascinated to receive them.

**"Best wishes to Terry Fanolua in his new venture playing for the French club, Brive."**

The History

# Behind The Scenes

**It has been quite a journey. Gloucester started their European adventure 10 years ago this year and are closing in on a final appearance. Dave King charts their progress throughout the seasons.**

**F**ROM a spectators point of view, the Challenge Cup offers a real variety of travel options.

In the past we have played at Swansea, London Irish,

Beziers, Padova, Toulon, Stade Francais, Madrid, Bridgend, Ebbw Vale, Biarritz, Gran Parma, Caerphilly, La Rochelle, Bayonne, Bucharest and Bordeaux, which is quite a variation.

gained a narrow 29-27 victory thanks to tries from Tony Windo, Phil Greening and Peter Glanville.

The trusty kicking prowess of Mapletoft ensured a further 14 points from four penalties and a conversion. We completed our first double in the competition that season of 1997-1998 when we defeated Beziers at Kingsholm 38-17 in front of an attendance of 4,548.

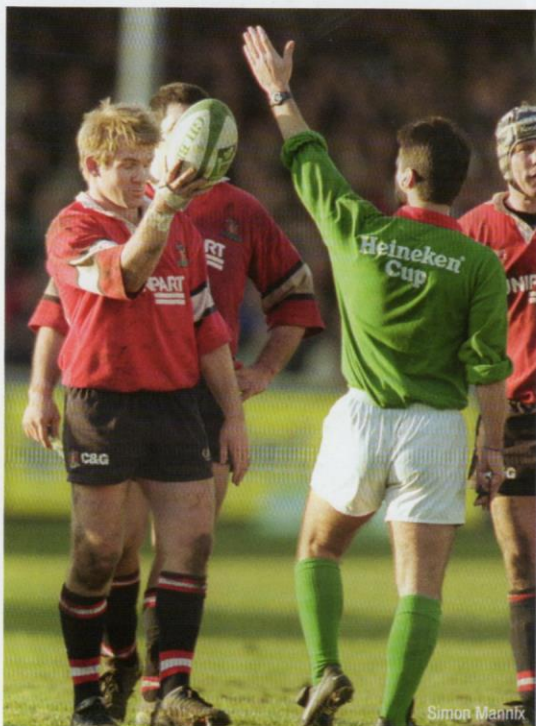
A brace of tries from Philippe Saint-Andre, one each from Chris Catling and Mapletoft were added to by Mapletoft's four penalties and three conversions. Seven days later on 12th October we completed another double - this time over Padova. Gloucester won 43-10 at Kingsholm in September, a match highlighted by Peter Glanville's hat trick of tries in front of 4,151 spectators and then triumphing by 29 points to sixteen in front of 2000 fans. Ed Pearce, Saint-Andre, Glanville, Nick Osman and Scott Benton contributed 25 of the points

The Challenge Cup in its various guises has thrown up some interesting individual and club records.

Who can forget fly-half Mark Mapletoft's 34 points out of a total of 59 in our European Conference win over Ebbw Vale on 12th October 1996. In the same season Alex Morris kicked four penalties, the only reply to Swansea's 62 points at St Helen's only seven days later.

We were in a group where we suffered the indignity of two home defeats by French clubs. Begles Bordeaux won 17-10 at Kingsholm followed by a 24-9 defeat to Bourgoin.

Our first venture onto European soil came the following September when we travelled to Beziers and in front of 3,000 spectators



Simon Maghix

with Terry Fanolua adding two conversions.

Silverware eluded the club when Stade Francais romped to a 53-22 victory in Paris. So depleted were our front row options that Pete Jones, the former Scotland International prop was forced into a return to action in front of 7,513 spectators following his retirement.

In the 1999-2000 season the second tier competition was now called something new – the European Shield. Between a Saturday evening in Bridgend, Gloucester travelled to the delights of Biarritz and Madrid.

Only 3,218 spectators turned up to see Biarritz lose 22-13 at Kingsholm. The trip to Madrid to face Spain again saw Fanolua kick 12 points with three conversions and two penalties. Two tries from Brian Johnson, one apiece from Catling, Tai Glassie, Rob Jewell and replacement Kingsley Jones accounted for our 42 points.

One of the quirks of that season was that more spectators came to watch Spain at Kingsholm than they did to watch Biarritz - 3,361 watched a 47-7 home victory.

The following season Gloucester made their debut in the Heineken Cup and despite reaching the semi-final of the competition we were once again facing European Shield action the following season of 2001-2002.

It was a campaign that saw Gloucester record their highest score in the competition with an emphatic 98-14 victory over Welsh



## **“The Challenge Cup in its various guises has thrown up some interesting individual and club records.”**

club Caerphilly on 27th October. Crowds were on the increase following our valiant Heineken Cup exploits of the previous season. There was an attendance of 7,336 to see Henry Paul mark his debut for the club with 28 points from ten conversions, a try and a penalty.

James Simpson-Daniel and James Forrester registered a hat-trick of tries each in this encounter. Not to be outdone, the following January Gloucester registered 99 points against Gran Parma here at Kingsholm.

Paul was once again in imperious form with 12

conversions and a try to record 29 points. But pride of place went to former Harlequins winger Daren O’Leary who scored five tries in the point’s bonanza.

We lost an agonising semi-final in the competition as Sale pipped us by one point 28-27 at Northampton.

So, in this season of 2005-2006, after three consecutive seasons of Heineken Cup rugby, we are once again in the revamped European Challenge Cup.

Somewhat surprisingly there have been larger attendances to watch Bucuresti, Toulon



and Bayonne this season at Kingsholm than Perpignan attracted to Kingsholm in the Heineken Cup in the 2002-2003 season.

A total of 8,112 watched Perpignan on 8th December 2002 yet Bucuresti (8,806), Toulon (9,037) and Bayonne (8,582) have surpassed, that this campaign.

The highlight of this season's European adventure was our record 106 points recorded here at Kingsholm on 29th October last season. No player even in this record score managed to surpass O'Leary's record of five tries in one match. Simpson-Daniel came close with four tries.

We repeated our feat of the 2001-2002 season when we won all three of our away fixtures in our Pool. That season we defeated Gran Parma 48-5, Caerphilly 47-16 and La Rochelle 36-12. This season we have been

successful in defeating Bayonne 26-10, Toulon 74-3 and Bucuresti 27-13.

We have only once been involved in a drawn match in this competition when we drew 29-29 at the Brewery Field against Bridgend in a pre-Christmas affair of 11th December 1999. It was a Saturday evening kick off and Simon Mannix contributed nine points from three conversions and a penalty. Simon eventually played for the Welsh club at a later date before retiring from the game.

Chris Collins scored his only try in the competition that evening. Simon was one of two former All Blacks in our line up, the other being the magnificent Ian Jones.

Our highest attendance in this competition was recorded this season when we entertained Toulon on 17th December when 9,037 witnessed our 66-5 victory.

The importance of today's match cannot be over-emphasised.

There is an air of expectancy to every European adventure whatever its status. Yes, it is a fact that there are four English clubs competing in the semi-finals and the European travel or continental participation has evaporated but this only emphasises the strength of the English entry.

For Gloucester, Worcester, Newcastle or London Irish the gain and glory is very real. It may have begun at Kingsholm one October afternoon in 1996.

The cynics can easily point to the fact that 10 years later we are still participating in the same competition.

Yet, Stade Francais, Brive, Biarritz, Wasps and Sale have all been involved in the competition – and just look at them now.

ThePride

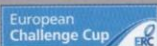




# Today's Teams



## Gloucester Rugby



## Worcester Warriors

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- Olly **Morgan**
- James **Simpson-Daniel**
- Mike **Tindall**
- Anthony **Allen**
- Mark **Foster**
- Ryan **Lamb**
- Peter **Richards**
- Patrice **Collazo**
- Mefin **Davies**
- Gary **Powell**
- Jonathan **Pendlebury**
- Alex **Brown**
- Peter **Buxton** (c)
- Andy **Hazell**
- 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**

- Rob **Elloway**
- Jack **Forster**
- Jonathan **Pendlebury**
- Adam **Balding**
- Haydn **Thomas**
- Ludovic **Mercier**
- James **Bailey**

T C P D

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- Thinus **Delport**
- Uche **Oduoza**
- Dale **Rasmussen**
- Thomas **Lombard**
- Gary **Trueman**
- Shane **Drahm**
- Matt **Powell**
- Tony **Windo**
- Chris **Fortey**
- Tevita **Taumoepau**
- Phil **Murphy**
- Ed **O'Donoghue**
- Pat **Sanderson** (c)
- Tom **Harding**
- Kai **Horstmann**

- Andre **Van Niekerk**
- Mike **Macdonald**
- Richard **Blaze**
- Lee **Fortey**
- Siaosi **Vaili**
- Andy **Gomarsall**
- Simon **Whatling**



**TODAY'S OFFICIALS**

REFEREE: Christophe Berdos (F) TOUCH JUDGE 2: Jean-Michel Schutz  
TOUCH JUDGE 1: Romain Polte ASSESSOR: Jim Bailey

**TODAY'S RESULT**

GLOUCESTER:   
 WORCESTER WARRIORS:



# European Challenge Cup



ercrugby.com

Semi-Final