

# Gloucester Rugby

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Gloucester Rugby  
v Newcastle Falcons  
22.12.06 19.30

## All to play for

Gloucester's season so far with Dean Ryan

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Christmas carols inside

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Jack Adams

## Prop of ages

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# Captain's Corner

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**dair**\*



"Tonight, we are back in **Guinness Premiership** action against **Newcastle** and we want to continue our good form"

**A** REALLY important aspect of rugby for me is having the right attitude and the right mentality and I think in the last two weeks you can really see what playing for Gloucester means to our players.

For me, progression in the Heineken Cup is still a possibility and after two victories over Edinburgh back-to-back it is clear to see how this team is developing.

Sunday's victory at Murrayfield was a great experience – we showed passion for the shirt and a commitment level that meant

nobody let anyone down – and that is what we need in every game.

To see an international ground swelled with so many supporters from Gloucester, the weekend before Christmas, was a humbling experience and it was very important to us.

Tonight, we are back in Guinness Premiership action against Newcastle and we want to continue our good form and try to return to the top of the table.

I was away on international duty for our last Premiership game against Bristol in

November but memories of that defeat are fresh in the minds of the players and we want to put that right.

But we respect Newcastle and the threat they possess. Any team who can beat the leaders of the Premiership and also win away at champions Sale must be taken very seriously and we have prepared exceptionally well for this game.

They have some outstanding players in Jamie Noon and Mathew Tait and have just recruited heavily from the southern hemisphere to boost

their resources.

This is a very significant game for us and we need to be ready for the challenge. Kingsholm will be full tonight and under the floodlights that creates a very special atmosphere and something we want to use to our advantage.

Please get right behind the players, play your part in tonight's entertainment and help us maintain our winning run.

On behalf of all the players and coaches at Gloucester Rugby, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas.



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# All to play for

Gloucester ended last season by winning the European Challenge Cup and Head Coach **Dean Ryan** praises the development of his squad since then.

**F**OR A MAN who has successfully navigated his way through 120 torturous miles in the Tour de France for the sheer fun of it, climbing the rocky road in the Guinness Premiership may seem like a piece of cake in comparison.

But when Dean Ryan munches on his turkey a day or two from now, his mind may just wander to the small matter of Wasps on Boxing Day, the tasks yet remaining at home and abroad and the progress that has been accomplished in the last 12 months.

This time last season Gloucester's campaign was ebbing and flowing – they were too inconsistent to be a concerted force in the Premiership but they gathered momentum and were able to expose their young crop of gifted youngsters to the European Challenge Cup and they flourished.

A year on and the very same are exploring new foreign fields, while maintaining their Premiership form.

"I will keep coming back to the fact that we won't know everything about individuals like Ryan Lamb, Anthony Allen, Oly Morgan and the rest for another 12 to 18 months," Ryan said this week.

"We were prepared to offer them an opportunity and expose them at a senior level and they all responded superbly. We fully expect the odd mistake on their individual learning curves but we are comfortable with that because of what they can offer in the long-term.

"There are not many 20-year-olds like Ryan Lamb playing in such a pivotal position as his in the Heineken Cup but we want Ryan to experience that level of intensity to aid his development – like we do all our young players.

"It is not a surprise now when these guys are named in the team and perform and that is great credit to them. Perhaps they were introduced slightly quicker than we anticipated but you can certainly see the benefits as a result."

The instant result was the aforementioned Challenge Cup final victory when Gloucester beat London Irish – a team who had previously completed a Premiership double over the Kingsholmites.

Perhaps the silverware came slightly quicker than anticipated but the wheels of development were already turning. Italian internationals Marco



Head Coach  
Interview



Dean  
Ryan



Bortolami and Carlos Nieto were already in transit and the recruitment didn't stop there as Gloucester returned to the Heineken Cup.

"There were obviously areas we recognised as needed strengthening and we actively went out to recruit players of Marco's and Carlos's quality," Ryan added. "We wanted to get away from an over reliance on a couple of individuals and in the process make us a better side.

"I said last season we were beginning a journey together and I have been really pleased with the development so far this season. I feel we are examined most during international periods throughout the season but our return from the November games clearly showed we are going in the right direction.

"We were anticipating losing players at that stage but probably not the ones we did and that is when the leadership skills of the senior players comes to the fore."

Bortolami has been a revelation, not only in his consistency levels but also his leadership skills, while the experience of Nieto and the brilliant Christian Califano have provided an edge required to function at the top of the European game.

Combine that with the return of Mike Tindall, who is in a rich seam of form just now, the threatening Iain Balshaw and the finishing prowess of James Simpson-Daniel and Anthony Allen and the mix is potent.

Two back-to-back defeats in Europe

dented momentum and pranged the charge but Gloucester have recovered magnificently.

"It has been the players who do not always guarantee the limelight that have really impressed me. I have said it before and I will say it again that we are not the same side without guys like Peter Buxton and Andy Hazell, while Mark Foster is someone who is developing rapidly," Ryan said.

"When we played Leicester back in September, Brad Davies came off the bench to kick the equalising penalty and I remember saying afterwards that, at some stage of the season, every squad member will have a part to play.

"Nothing has changed my mind on that – we have a group of individuals who have really bought into what we are trying to develop and ultimately achieve and that is all I can ask for."

Against Edinburgh last weekend, Gloucester kept alive their Heineken Cup hopes with a five point victory and will head into 2007 in a play-off place in the Guinness Premiership.

It is all that can be expected of them – with the knowledge more is to come. They are entering a frantic period of the season but hopes remain high.

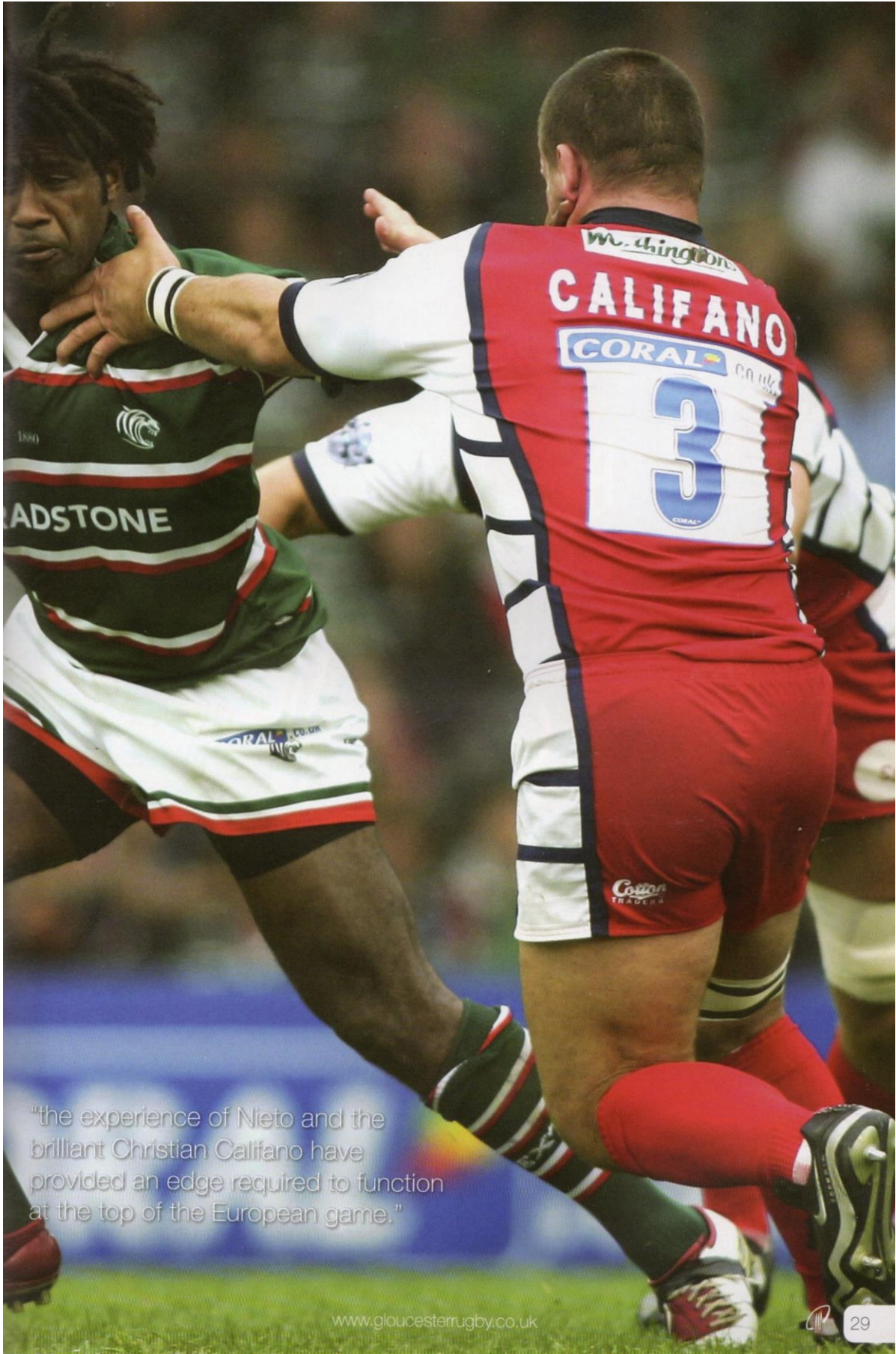
"We are on a learning process and in that process we will suffer a defeat along the way. Nobody is going to go through the entire Premiership season without losing matches – as a group we know that and we deal with it," he said.

"If you ask me whether I am happy with our current position at the present time I would have to say I am because I know we capable of playing even better than we have done, we are a young side with plenty of potential and we are happy and prepared to learn along the way.

"I think that puts us in a really positive position – we just have to make sure we continue to go about things in the right way."







"the experience of Nieto and the brilliant Christian Califano have provided an edge required to function at the top of the European game."



# Ryan's Review

After back to back **Heineken Cup** victories Head Coach **Dean Ryan** targets a successful return to the **Guinness Premiership** tonight.



*It would be impossible to start tonight without a look back at the last fortnight in the Heineken Cup – you must be delighted with the back-to-back results?*

**DR:** A FORTNIGHT ago we had one point in Pool Two and that was a losing bonus point. Now we have 11 and we are very much alive with two games to

go – just four behind leaders Leinster.

At Kingsholm I thought we were clearly the better side but relied too heavily on our set-piece superiority and that acted to the detriment of our overall game. We obviously needed to win first and foremost but to come away with five points gave us the instant momentum we could build on for the return.

But these back-to-back Heineken Cup games are extremely tough, particularly if you play the second match away. We had effectively stuck a big stick into a hornets nest, gone away and left it for a week and then returned seeking to do similar damage.

We were also aware that both teams were playing knockout rugby and whoever lost would be out of

the competition and that added to the intensity. But I thought we responded magnificently to that pressure and thoroughly deserved another convincing victory. What it does for us is keep us alive in the tournament and means we go to Agen now in January with everything to play for. For me, that's all we could ask for and I am delighted for the players because it clearly shows our line of progression and development.



*Are there any secrets about being successful in the Heineken Cup?*

**DR:** The top sides in the tournament have a huge amount of experience. If you look at the teams who regularly reach the knockout stages, they have a core of senior individuals, have vast knowledge of playing big, one-off matches and are generally very settled.







“We have a senior group of players who are well versed in top level **European rugby** and also **internationally** that means we are on the right path.”

I think we are still learning to adapt to different playing styles, referees and opposition but are developing quickly on that front.

It is totally different to be effective in one-off matches but that is not how to be successful in the long-term. We have a senior group of players who are well versed in top level European rugby and also internationally that means we are on the right path.



**What was particularly satisfying for you last Sunday?**

**DR:** I was thrilled by the professionalism and drive to be successful. They are basic criteria's for any team who want to be at the top end of the European game but there is a real feeling among the group we are capable of winning these games.

I am not a great one at picking out individuals for praise but Peter Buxton's man of the match award was thoroughly deserved for such an outstanding individual.

It is guys who do not always attract the limelight that have really impressed me and Buxton is the heartbeat of that.

In game terms, we didn't panic and that was vital. I believe it is impossible to say before a game we need a bonus point victory - that has to come off the back of a good performance and in the last quarter we pressed home advantage that was laid by our defence and turn-over game. We have guys capable of splitting a



match open from deep and that is exactly what happened.



**We are back in the Guinness Premiership tonight at the busiest time of the season, what are you expecting?**

**DR:** We need to get the mindset and the mentality right. Our last Premiership game was a defeat against Bristol so it is important we remember that fact.

But we have a good record at Kingsholm this season and we have to maintain it. We are entering an extremely tough part of the season and we appreciate we have to prepare for this game in the right way.

The short turn-around also makes it more difficult and we appreciate that Newcastle will be very competitive. They have beaten champions Sale away already this season and that means we will treat them with

respect and prepare in the right way.

Newcastle have a couple of great players in Mathew Tait and Jamie Noon so they are always a threat we take very seriously.

I would also like to take this opportunity to appeal to the Kingsholm support tonight. Games under lights at Kingsholm are very special occasions and the level of dedication and fervour was there for all to see at Murrayfield last Sunday.

Had it not been for the Gloucester following, the 4,000 crowd would have literally been halved – it really does make a difference and tonight we want another great occasion and atmosphere and need you to play your part.

Finally, on behalf of the Gloucester coaches and players, may I wish all of you a very happy Christmas.



# Gloucester RUGBY



# Newcastle FALCONS

	Iain BALSHAW	15	Full Back	15	Matthew BURKE ©	
	James SIMPSON-DANIEL	14	Right Wing	14	Tom MAY	
	Mike TINDALL	13	Centre	13	Mathew TAIT	
	Anthony ALLEN	12	Centre	12	Mark MAYERHOFER	
	Mark FOSTER	11	Left Wing	11	Tim VISSER	
	Willie WALKER	10	Fly Half	10	Toby FLOOD	
	Pete RICHARDS	9	Scrum Half	9	James GRINDAL	
	Patrice COLLAZO	1	Prop	1	Jon GOLDING	
	Olivier AZAM	2	Hooker	2	Matt THOMPSON	
	Christian CALIFANO	3	Prop	3	Micky WARD	
	Adam EUSTACE	4	Lock	4	Andy PERRY	
	Alex BROWN	5	Lock	5	Mark SORENSON	
	© Peter BUXTON	6	Flanker	6	Eni GESINDE	
	Andy HAZELL	7	Flanker	7	Ben WOODS	
	Luke NARRAWAY	8	No 8	8	Russell WINTER	

## Replacements

	Mefin DAVIES	16	Substitute 1	16	Robbie MORRIS	
	Carlos NIETO	17	Substitute 2	17	Rob VICKERS	
	Marco BORTOLAMI	18	Substitute 3	18	Jason OAKES	
	James FORRESTER	19	Substitute 4	19	Brent WILSON	
	Rory LAWSON	20	Substitute 5	20	Lee DICKSON	
	Ryan LAMB	21	Substitute 6	21	Loki CRICHTON	
	Oilly MORGAN	22	Substitute 7	22	Joe SHAW	



# Match Action

## Time line

 12 mins	
Tindall TRY, Walker CON	7-0
 16 mins	
Simpson-Daniel TRY, Walker CON	14-0
 24 mins	
Cairns TRY, Paterson CON	14-7
 29 mins	
Paterson PEN	14-10
 33 mins	
Azam TRY	19-10
 36 mins	
Southwell TRY, Paterson CON	19-17
 40 mins	
Walker PEN	22-17
 41 mins	
Di Rollo TRY	22-22
 46 mins	
Walker DROP-GOAL	25-22
 67 mins	
Lamb PEN	28-22
 71 mins	
Allen TRY	33-22
 80 mins	
Foster TRY	38-22

## Gloucester Line-up

15	Olly Morgan	
14	James Simpson-Daniel	(1t)
13	Mike Tindall	(1t, yellow card)
12	Anthony Allen	(1t)
11	Mark Foster	(1t)
10	Willie Walker	(1p, 2 cons, 1 d/g)
9	Peter Richards	
1	Patrice Collazo	
2	Olivier Azam	
3	Carlos Nieto	
4	Marco Bortolami (capt)	
5	Alex Brown	
6	Peter Buxton	
7	Jake Boer	
8	Luke Narraway	
REPS		
16	Rob Elloway	
17	Christian Califano	(Collazo)
18	Adam Eustace	
19	Adam Balding	(Narraway)
20	Rory Lawson	(Richards)
21	Ryan Lamb	(1p) (Walker)
22	Iain Balshaw	(Morgan)

**Gloucester Rugby**  
**Edinburgh Rugby**

**38**  
**22**



## Heineken Cup, round three

**Saturday, December 9**

**Referee: Tim Hayes (Wales), Attendance: 9,749**

**G**LOUCESTER scored five tries to keep their Heineken Cup dream alive with their first victory in the competition against Edinburgh.

Needing at the very least a win to maintain their interest in the competition, Gloucester were well worth their success – based as it was on a withering set-piece game and their ability to take half of the chances they created.

There were some outstanding performances from props Carlos Nieto and Patrice Collazo, while hooker Olivier Azam carried possession and threw into the line-out well. Gloucester's first try came when they

shunted Edinburgh back at a five metre scrum and Mike Tindall chased down Willie Walker's kick to touch down beneath the sticks.

And when James Simpson-Daniel brilliantly picked up a wayward pass from stand-off Phil Godman, Gloucester were 14-0 ahead after only 16 minutes.

However, Edinburgh hit back when they retained possession exceptionally well in broken field and winger Ben Cairns crossed after making the most of some poor first-up tackling.

But Azam made it 19-10 when he was







driven over from a line-out after 33 minutes as the points continued to flow. Edinburgh, who caused great discomfort with their broken field running game, then produced a lovely try for full-back Hugo Southwell, who dived in at the far corner.

Only a minute into the second half Marcus Di Rollo levelled the scores at 22-22 following outstanding work from Mike Blair and Godman.

Gloucester required all their levels of concentration now and Walker nudged them back ahead with a drop-goal after 46 minutes and then replacement Ryan Lamb kicked a 64th minute penalty.

It was just the breathing space Gloucester required and with nine minutes to go the scored a sensational try. Full-back Ollly Morgan linked with Simpson-Daniel, who weaved his way forward before possession was driven on by Adam Balding.

Replacement Rory Lawson combined with Lamb, Simpson-Daniel and Anthony Allen cut up more ground in centre field and skipper Marco Bortolami gave the scoring pass back to Allen to make it the score 33-22.

And there was still time for the excellent Mark Foster to cross in injury time to give the score a far more comfortable look.



## Man of the Match...

### Carlos Nieto



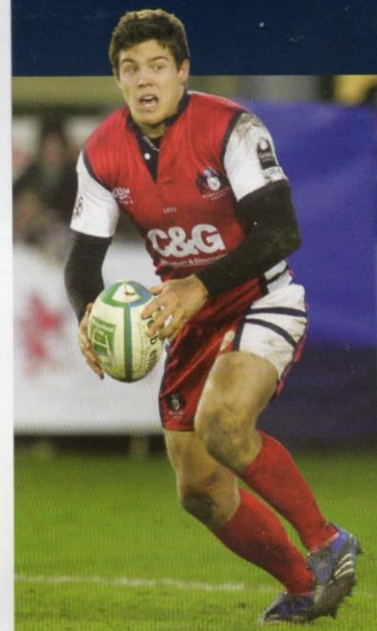
Prop Carlos Nieto produced an outstanding performance to anchor the Gloucester scrum and slowly demolish Edinburgh's forward effort.

## Coaches Comment...

### Dean Ryan



"We created nine chances and took five but I am pretty pleased with the performance. We are in cup final rugby every time we play and I am delighted with how we responded." head coach Dean Ryan.







# Peter Arnold

No doubt a specialist in the art of brandy butter consumption, **Peter Arnold** is preparing for a very Merry Christmas, but he still finds time to wax lyrical over Gloucester's back-to-back victories in the Heineken Cup and looks forward to tonight's game against Newcastle.

**I**F THERE was ever a man the Shed loved to hate it was Rob Andrew. For reasons I won't go into, they disliked him when he was playing, and disliked him even more when he was managing Newcastle Falcons.

Shed humour while never malicious, can sometimes, I'm sure, seem cruel if you happen to be the hapless soul on the receiving end. This time round, the Shedheads will have to find another victim for their alleged wit and wisdom, because Rob Andrew has been transplated to higher spheres. We wish him all the luck in the world. He's sure going to need it. If he is here today, then it will be to look at certain players, on both sides, with international honours in mind.

But did you know that today's welcome visitors are not the only Newcastle Falcons to grace the sporting stage? There's another such club in Australia, but that organisation plays basketball.

Perhaps today's opponents should set up some sort of twinning agreement. Basketball skills would come in handy in the line-out.

## NASTY SHOCK

**I**NEARLY regurgitated my coffee when I switched on Teletext one morning last week. I was appalled to read a headline which read: RYAN TO BE ENGLAND COACH.

Of course, I needn't have worried. The Ryan concerned turned out to be a Ben of that ilk, and he's taking over the Sevens side.

But I wish headline writers would give a thought to decrepit old buffers like me. Such a nasty shock doesn't do my blood pressure any good at all. I actually had to go down the pub early that morning to get over the trauma.

## ON THE CUSP

**T**HIS is the last time I shall be writing to you this year. Where does the time go? They say that it passes quickly when you're having fun, and we've certainly had plenty of that during 2006.

This time last year there were signs that things were not going as well as we would have liked, but early in the year a new dawn seemed to break. Just when we seemed to be sliding downhill, in a moment of inspiration, Dean Ryan changed everything by inserting the golden boys in the persons of Olly Morgan, Anthony Allen and Ryan Lamb who immediately prospered with the aid of cameo performances by the likes of Jack Forster, Jack Adams and Jonathan Pendlebury.

I've no way of being sure of course, but I suspect that the management took that action around six months earlier than they really would have liked, but were persuaded into it by a perceived downward spiral of performances on the field.

The young guns, as the press with their usual standard of originality, persists in calling our newer performers, took everyone by surprise. This season, most of our opponents know what to expect and the going is becoming more difficult, match by match. The fact that they have performed so well, when not sidetracked by injury, speaks volumes for their talent and determination.

Now, at Christmas, we stand very much at the cusp of the season. Injured players are returning to the fold, but we shall probably be disrupted again by the needs of the England selectors for their Six Nations campaign. That's unfortunate but

Rob Andrew







Marco Bortolami

is the price we pay for success. Even so, present evidence shows that the squad is deep enough to cope, and I for one have confidence in the way that our coaches rotate players and make as sure as they can that everyone gets enough game time to give good accounts of themselves.

The first six weeks or so of 2007 will demonstrate just how far we have come, after which it's on to the play-offs we hope.

It's all a far cry from Christmases of old, when we looked forward to happy seasonal run outs against Old Merchant Tailors or Lydney. Great fun they were too, and some of the after match parties have become legendary.

I must confess I miss all that, but times change and we all have no choice but to move with them, much though some of us would wish that there were time in the season for a few games played purely for fun.

### SCOTS WHAE HAE WI' GLOUCESTER BLED

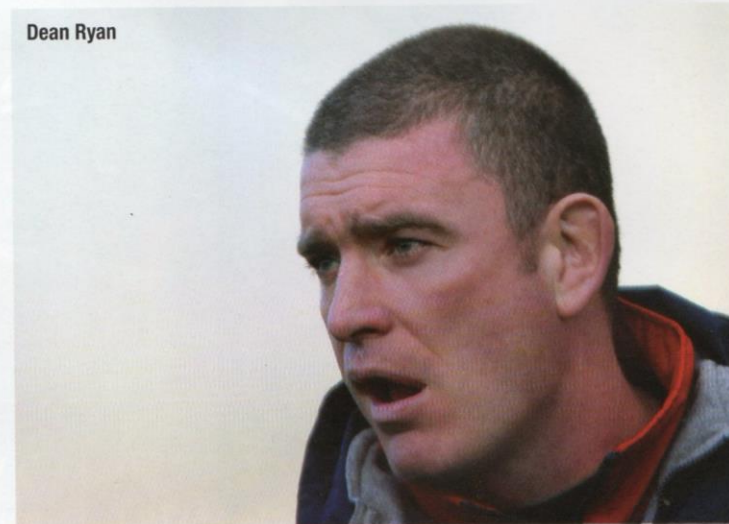
**D**ON'T know about you, but I found the two Heineken encounters with Edinburgh immensely satisfying.

The Murrayfield side are reckoned to be the best side in Scotland, and although they have had something of an up-and-down season they have taken some notable scalps, including those of Leinster and Wasps.

A look at their team sheet reveals quality all over the place, especially in the backs, with international players wherever you look. On paper, they're a tough proposition for anyone. A meeting with present national incumbent Mr Blair, must have had Rory Lawson grinding his gnashers in anticipation, and there were intriguing confrontations all around the park. The chance to compare Olly Morgan with Hugo Southwell, for example, was too good to miss.

As I say, they are a tough proposition,

"The Ryan concerned turned out to be a Ben of that ilk, and he's taking over the Sevens side."



Dean Ryan

but so are Gloucester these days and to emerge from the back-to-back encounters with 10 points is quite admirable.

I suppose we're always likely to believe that we're in with a chance at Kingsholm, but to repeat the dose in the echoing caverns of Murrayfield with only a comparative handful of travelling support, was quite a feat.

I suspect that the mental scars left upon the Scots by the first game may have played a part eight days later. After all, if the local Rotweiler gnaws on your leg, you're not too happy to see the same pooch turning up in your own front garden.

Two good results. Good on you, lads.

### GLADSOME YULE

**O**NLY one way to finish today. Have a great Christmas, and I'll see you in the New Year. Watch out for the mistletoe, lads! Dangerous stuff if you want to keep your Saturdays free for rugby.



# Hall of Fame

with Dave King



## Mike Burton

He was a wonderful character and a great player. **Mike Burton** was a legend even in his playing days at **Gloucester** and today the **England** and **British Lions** prop joins the Hall of Fame.

**M**IKE 'Never Stay Down' Burton, easily one of the greatest Gloucester players in history, also became one of the game's most controversial characters.

Was he a self-made firebrand or one of the game's misunderstood characters and competitors?

No matter what your opinion, it is impossible to ignore Burton's fierce competitive instinct and attitude. His

strength of character made him a Kingsholm legend – he was a player who had personality in abundance.

Burton was born on 18th December 1945 in Maidenhead, Berkshire and was educated at Longlevens School in Gloucester. He was actually christened Michael Alan Harrop, using his mother's name when he lived in Maidenhead until his mother later married Denis Burton from Gloucester.

He had a variety of occupations in Gloucester as a young man - as an apprentice panel beater, vacuum cleaner salesman, building labourer, Co-op milkman, bread delivery salesman, relief rent collector and electrical sales representative. The list did not end there for he was also a junior negotiator in an estate agents.

At this time, the young Burton was developing a very serious taste as a front row forward and was another in the long line of players to have been nurtured by Longlevens RFC.

This fine club has provided Gloucester Rugby with many of its players through the years. After serving his apprenticeship at junior level, Burton made his debut for Gloucester on the 14th November 1964 versus Moseley at the Reddings. His first immediate opponent was a player who won nine caps for England – Mike Coulman.

Burton made rapid progress at Kingsholm and was soon selected for a series of trial matches – West versus North – Probables versus Possibles and then England versus The Rest. Eventually he was awarded his first cap against Wales in 1972 at Twickenham alongside his Gloucester colleague Alan Brinn, who was also making his debut for his country. The team was: -

R. Hillier (Harlequins, Captain); J.P.A.G. Jannion (Bedford), M.C. Beese (Liverpool),







D.J. Duckham (Coventry), K.J. Fielding (Moseley); A.G.B. Old (Middlesrough), J.G. Webster (Moseley); C.B. Stevens (Harlequins), J.V. Pullin (Bristol), **M.A.H. Burton (Gloucester)**, A. Brinn (Gloucester), C.W. Ralston (Richmond), P.J. Dixon (Harlequins), A.G. Ripley (Rosslyn Park), A. Neary (Broughton Park).

Referee: Mr J. Young (Scotland).

After representing England on seven occasions Burton was named in a party of 32 players who were chosen to represent the British Lions party for the 1974 tour to South Africa.

It was hoped that he would follow in the footsteps of previous Gloucester players – Frank Stout and Don Rutherford and become the third player from Kingsholm to play in a Lions Test match.

However, this honour eluded him and Burton had to be satisfied to be a member of a party of players who returned to

these shores with an unblemished record, having won 21 of the 22 matches with the other game a draw.

Injury was the main reason Burton missed a large chunk of the tour. He only appeared in three of the first 14 matches and was therefore unable to get a foothold on the tight-head position and was restricted to appearing in the Lions midweek teams - an eye and leg injury also hampering his fight for full fitness.

Burton's career was not without its controversy and he did attract the wrath of some match officials. He was sent off in the second Test of England's tour of Australia and made Rugby Football Union history by becoming the first England player to be sent off in an international.

This followed an altercation with Stuart MacDougall, the Australian prop forward. Controversy courted Mike for he was sent off four times in his playing career. Two occurred in the colours of Gloucester

and one when he was representing Gloucestershire versus Hertfordshire.

The prop also rejected several offers from rugby league clubs and showed his allegiance to Gloucester. Even the Rugby Union suspended Mike from its activities at a later date stating 'He was an ineligible person for accepting profits from four books that he has written'.

Mike's character was aptly described by Tony Body of the Daily Express when he wrote, 'I know Burton as one of the most delightful travelling companions. He is a born comedian but there is little doubt that he regarded a foul against his pack as a personal attack against himself.'

Mike captained Gloucester in the 1975-1976 season and in total made 360 appearances for the club during his playing career. His final match at Kingsholm came at the age of 32 against Exeter, only days previous he had been in the victorious Gloucester XV that had won



# Hall of Fame...

the John Player Cup, when they defeated Leicester 6-3 at Twickenham.

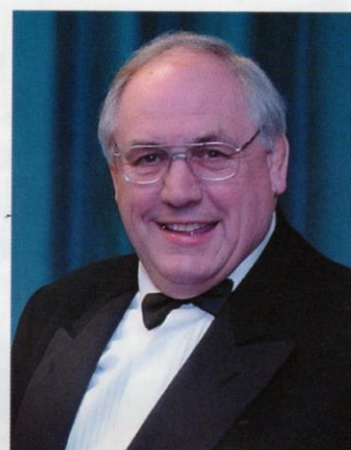
Burton, a one man clubman, describes playing for Gloucester Rugby Club as such: "I have been involved in some hard games and enjoyed some deeply satisfying times both on and off the field. I love Kingsholm and the crowd."

A petition was launched to persuade him not to retire but he could not be budged. From the humble beginnings of playing his first match at Victory Park, Cainscross he made 17 appearances for England, played seven times for the Barbarians, made 40

appearances for Gloucestershire, eight for the British Lions on the 1974 tour to South Africa and 360 appearances for Gloucester including two knock out finals victories in 1972 and 1978.

He did eventually become commercial manager for the club but pressing business commitments with his sports travel business caused him to relinquish the post. Today, his company are the club's official travel agents. In November 2006 he was invited onto the Barbarians Committee an honour bestowed to few players.

**David King**



## CAPS

YEAR	VERSUS	DATE	VENUE	RESULT
1972	Wales	15th January	Twickenham	Lost 3-12
	Ireland	12th February	Twickenham	Lost 12-16
	France	26th February	Stade Colombes	Lost 12-37
	Scotland	18th March	Murrayfield	Lost 9-23
	South Africa	3rd June	Johannesburg	Won 18-9
1974	France	2nd March	Parc de Princes	Drew 12-12
	Wales	16th March	Twickenham	Won 16-12
1975	Scotland	15th March	Twickenham	Won 7-6
	1st Test Australia	24th May	Sydney C.G.	Lost 9-16
	2nd Test Australia	31st May	Brisbane	Lost 21-30
1976	Australia	3rd January	Twickenham	Won 23-6
	Wales	17th January	Twickenham	Lost 9-21
	Scotland	21st February	Murrayfield	Lost 12-22
	Ireland	6th March	Twickenham	Lost 12-13
	France	20th March	Parc de Princes	Lost 9-30
1978	France	21st January	Parc de Princes	Lost 6-15
	Wales	4th February	Twickenham	Lost 6-9





# Fan Zone with Bob Fenton

It is fair to say **Gloucester** and **Newcastle** have a bit of previous down the years and as Shed dweller **Bob Fenton** fondly remembers, there have been some classic encounters.

**S**O HERE we are then, last game before Christmas and we get an early bird to tuck into. It would be too easy to make a list of suitable Christmas-style puns here, you know: Falcons are going to get plucked and stuffed, that sort of thing. Nah, I won't go there...

It's fair to say that Newcastle have a bit of an odd history in the Premiership. Ten years ago they fought – though some would say bought – their way to the title,

winning an impressive 19 out of 22 games along the way. Since then the fall from grace in Premiership terms has been rapid, and the men from the north east have failed to finish the season in the top half of the table.

This year it's looking no better for them, currently struggling along just above Worcester and Northampton at the wrong end of the table. It's hard to see why they are in that position, check out their squad details elsewhere

in the programme – more players with international experience than you can shake a stick at, some brilliant up and coming youngsters all mixed with some experienced hands that should be able to keep the ship steady.

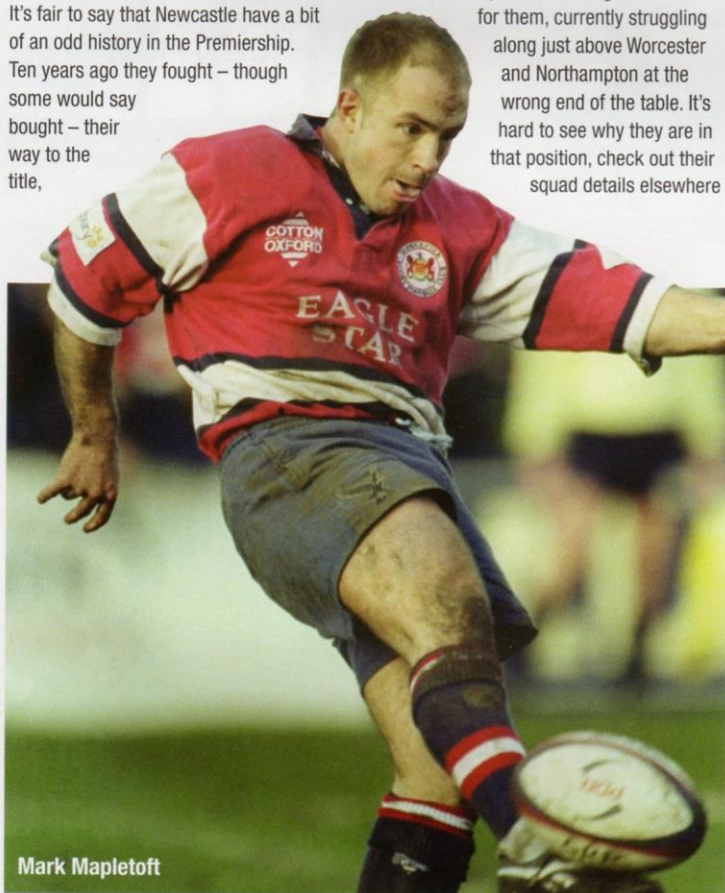
But for some reason the blend doesn't seem to work – all the players and none of the team, perhaps.

They have some great facilities up there in the frozen north. Those with long memories will remember the old Newcastle Gosforth ground, and not so long memories will remember the dump that was Kingston Park when the Falcons first flew in. But look at it now, a great stadium in a sports mad part of the country.

Which makes it somewhat surprising that they attract such a small crowd. They average around 7,000 this season in a stadium that can comfortably cope with around 10,000 people.

Games between Gloucester and Newcastle have a bit of an edge to them that sometimes boils over a bit. Remember Serge Simon making his debut for Gloucester some years ago – that was against Newcastle and pretty much the first thing he did was lay out one of their forwards with a sweet right hand.

In their championship winning season Newcastle did the double over us, though their win at Kingsholm was gained in a controversial encounter that was only decided when Mark Mapletoft was blatantly tripped by prop Paul Van Zandvliet as Mapletoft headed for the line. The ref missed it and we lost the game by two points.



Mark Mapletoft

**“Mark Mapletoft was blatantly tripped by prop Paul Van Zandvliet as Mapletoft headed for the line.”**





Joe Ewens

“He ran out of gas on the 22 but handed off to **Joe Ewens** who finished things off next to the posts.”

I seem to remember a certain Dean Ryan playing a rather significant role in that match too. It couldn't be the same one could it?

But there have been some really exciting games between the clubs in fact two of my favourite 'come-back' games have been against the falcons.

The first was an evening match at Kingston Park in September 2000. With only seconds left on the clock we were trailing by 18 points to 13. We were awarded a penalty on our own goal line and while Newcastle were still getting themselves

organised we tapped and went.

The ball found it's way to winger Franck Schisano – remember him? He looked older than my Dad but could run like the wind. If he could have played rugby he could have been brilliant. But this time he hurtled down the right wing at twice the speed of light. He ran out of gas on the 22 but handed off to Joe Ewens who finished things off next to the posts.

With a one point lead and no time left on the clock, Byron Heyward attempted a drop-goal conversion and nearly killed someone by the corner flag.

Actually I've been a bit harsh on old Franck – he only made four league appearances for the club and had four tries to his name which must give him the best strike rate of anyone who has ever played for Gloucester!

And the other great thing about that game was the fact that the daft Falcon's mascot 'Flash' had the misfortune of finding that his little car had broken down right in front of the Gloucester fans who had made the trip north. He took some terrible stick that is best left to your imagination. Suffice to say I think the bloke who was trapped inside the costume is still undergoing some pretty serious therapy...

The other great come back game was slightly more recent, 12th April 2003. Newcastle were 15-0 up at half-time and were seemingly cruising to victory, when James Grindall extended the lead five minutes after half-time victory for the men in black was looking pretty much a certainty.

Ludo got the first points for Gloucester with a penalty and then Andy Hazell started the recovery in earnest with about 20 minutes to go. Jonny Wilkinson (remember him?) widened the gap again with a penalty before Dougie Woodman smashed his way over the line.

Both sides lost players to red cards – Chris Fortey and Stuart Grimes paying the penalty for a fierce set to. That resulted in a ton of stoppage time, six minutes of which had elapsed when Thinus Delpoit scored to level the scores at 25 apiece. Amid the cacophony of celebrations Ludo somehow held his nerve to bang over the conversion to seal a famous win. Magic – not good for the heart rate, but I'll take a result like that today.

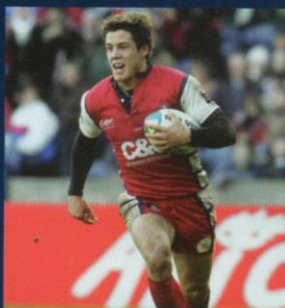
So finally happy Christmas to everyone at Kingsholm, and here's to a great 2007.



# Match Action

## Time line

 9 mins	
Lamb PEN	0-3
 36 mins	
Narraway TRY Lamb CON	0-10
 43 mins	
Strokosch TRY Paterson CON	7-10
 59 mins	
Tindall TRY Walker CON	7-17
 69 mins	
Allen TRY Walker CON	7-24
 75 mins	
Morgan TRY Walker CON	7-31
 80 mins	
Cairns TRY Paterson CON	14-31



## Gloucester Line-up

15	Iain Balshaw	
14	James Simpson-Daniel	
13	Mike Tindall	(1t)
12	Anthony Allen	(1t)
11	Mark Foster	
10	Ryan Lamb	(1 con, 1 pen)
9	Rory Lawson	
1	Nick Wood	
2	Olivier Azam	
3	Carlos Nieto	
4	Marco Bortolami	(capt)
5	Alex Brown	
6	Peter Buxton	(yellow card)
7	Andy Hazell	
8	Luke Narraway	(1t)
REPS		
16	Rob Elloway	(Azam)
17	Christian Califano	(Wood)
18	Adam Eustace	(Brown)
19	Adam Balding	(Narraway)
20	Pete Richards	(Lawson)
21	Willie Walker	(3 cons) (Lamb)
22	Ollie Morgan	(1t) (Balshaw)

Edinburgh Rugby  
Gloucester Rugby

14  
31



## Heineken Cup, round four

Sunday, December 17

Ref: Romain Poite (Fra) Att: 4,125

**F**OR THE second week running, Gloucester collected five match points thanks to a bonus point victory over Edinburgh to keep their Heineken Cup qualification hopes alive.

It means they make the trip to Agen in January only four points behind pool leaders Leinster after a second half blitz tore Edinburgh apart.

The seeds for this victory had been laid at Kingsholm and once again Gloucester dominated the set phases – out muscling the hosts at the scrum and dismantling their line-out.

In Peter Buxton they had the player of the

match but there were also telling contributions from Alex Brown, Marco Bortolami, Carlos Nieto, Andy Hazell and Luke Narraway.

And with Mike Tindall patrolling the midfield with power and determination the only question they had to answer was whether they could turn their dominance into four tries. Gloucester controlled the first-half but only had one try to show for their efforts – Narraway sliding over in the far left corner after Anthony Allen had chased up on a clever box kick by Rory Lawson and Buxton had bundled possession further forward.

That, added to a Ryan Lamb penalty, handed







## Man of the Match...

### Peter Buxton



Peter Buxton continued his outstanding form with another powerful, all-action contribution to Gloucester's cause.

## Coaches Comment...

### Dean Ryan



"Any away win in the Heineken Cup is special and full credit to the players – they have responded magnificently and we are still alive in the competition," head coach Dean Ryan.

Gloucester a 10-0 lead but Edinburgh hit back immediately after the break when Alasdair Stokosch capitalised on good work by Simon Taylor and Allan Jacobsen. But Gloucester raised themselves and Tindall got the try he deserved when he chased down a little chip from Willie Walker and beat Ben Cairns to touchdown.

There were only 11 minutes remaining when Gloucester scored their third try. It came from turnover possession when Walker found Allen on the burst and he linked with Mark Foster, who kept play moving before

sending Tindall away with an inside pass. The England centre waited before releasing Allen, who had the gas to reach the line.

Even though they lost Buxton to the sinbin – Gloucester, roared on by huge travelling support, claimed the bonus point score with five minutes left. Again it came from turnover ball from Walker's little kick was picked off by Morgan, who broke from half-way to seal a famous win.

Edinburgh raised themselves in the final stages for Cairns to score but Gloucester were well worth their victory.

