

Gloucester RFC official matchday programme 2001-2002

Gloucester

vs Newcastle Falcons

Saturday 18th May 2002 kick-off 3.00pm

[issue] 17
[price] £2.00



ZURICH CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
TWICKENHAM - SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2002

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Coach's Corner

[Nigel Melville]



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Now we have achieved our initial goals we have to move on to our next goal, which is to win the Zurich Championship. Today, we start three games away from a Twickenham final and a trophy. Opportunities like this should never be passed up because they don't come around very often and all the players have

bought in to the idea of winning this competition.

Morale within the squad is high again after two very good wins in the Premiership. We have developed a better balance to our play in recent weeks and that means it is difficult for opposition teams to know where to defend against us. We have tightened up our own defensive line and therefore reduced the points-against column and we continue to turn over a lot of opposition ball, which is also good.

We are scoring tries, more so in the backs than in the forwards, which again shows that we have more to offer than a nine-man game. Our play in wide areas has been very promising and we have shown that we haven't got to rely on the boot to win games.

I said after the Bath game that you can only beat the teams in front of you and I believe we stuck to our task well. However, our opposition in recent weeks has not been of the highest standard and we are still looking for players to prove things to themselves.

I don't see this part of the

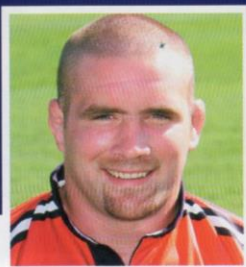
season as the end of term but rather the beginning of next season. We are not going to be downbeat and looking for a holiday, what we achieve in this Championship will be the foundation for what we achieve next season.

"Now we have achieved our initial goals we have to move on to our next goal, which is to win the Zurich Championship".

Of course, there will be much written and spoken surrounding this game today that may not pertain to the rugby. As far as the coaching staff and the players are concerned, what has happened in the past is just that, in the past. It has all been sorted out and the key to finalising things in the minds of the players is to win the game. We need to focus on the game and not let outside influences distract us from the job in hand.

I hope everyone here at Kingsholm today will have a similar attitude.





Club Captain [phil vickery]

D.O.B: 14/03/76
Position: **Tight Head**
Height: **1.91m**
Weight: **125kg**
Former Club: **Bude/Redruth**
Int'l national Honours:
England, British Lions

At the start of this season we said that we wanted to finish in the top three and thus qualify for the Heineken Cup and we have done that. We have finished off our Premiership season well with two very good wins.

The last one was particularly pleasing as it was away from home. Now for us the pressure is off but we have a new focus, we are two games away from a Championship final appearance at Twickenham.

We have finished third, which was our original goal but we could have made second had we not lost some poor games away from home at the start of the season that we should have won. We were deservedly beaten by Wasps and Northampton, but you always go through stages in such a long season where you don't play well and get beaten, but it's the games that we should have won that have come back to haunt us.

That said, I am very pleased with the way all the players have coped with this season. It has been a difficult year for us with Philippe leaving and Nigel coming in and lots of other happenings that I'm sure people don't need reminding of. At the start of the season we introduced twelve new players and it can take months, or even a full season for players to get to know one another and understand how their teammates play. On the back of

that I think we have knitted together very well and if we can keep the nucleus of the squad together for next season, without changing too much, then we will start off next season a few steps ahead of where we were this season.

One of my most abiding memories of this season was the Powergen Cup game at Bristol. It was a great personal game for James Forrester and a lot of younger guys came through. It was much like the Bath game the year before when a lot of young players pulled together and caused an upset.

It has also been nice that towards the end of the season, we have started to run in some tries, with guys playing a lot with the ball in hand. That is not to take anything away from Ludo though, who has kicked us out of lots of trouble this year.

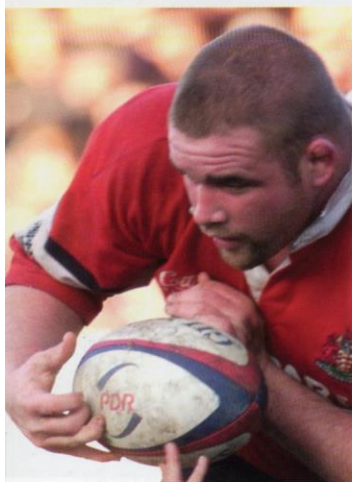
Overall, I would describe our performance as workman-like. We haven't always set the world alight but we have gone about our business in a professional manner. Of course we have disappointed on occasions but that has not been through any

lack of commitment. The players have all worked really hard this season on and off the pitch. Bernard has been a great addition to the coaching squad and we have all reaped the benefits of the hard work.

We have built a foundation at the club that next year will help us challenge for honours once again.

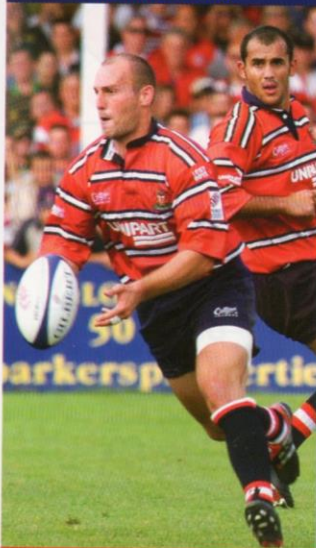
The alleged racism issue will obviously be brought up ahead of this match but, to be honest, I had almost forgotten what it was all about by the time it had all been sorted out. Whatever has happened is in the past. No doubt it will add an extra edge on the match for supporters but we are professional rugby players, we need to go out and play properly. We need to watch our discipline and do all the things that we do for any other match and try to win a game of rugby. For us, that is all we are concerned about.

"We have built a foundation at the club that next year will help us challenge for honours once again".



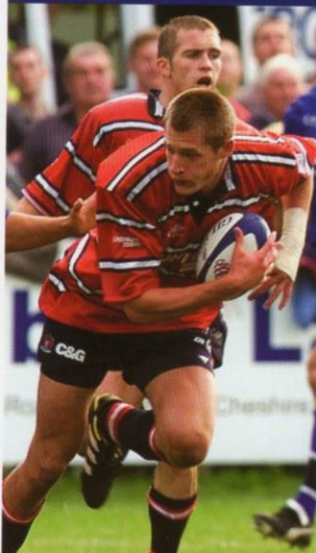
Review of the

Gloucester 22 Northampton 9
01-09-01 Zurich Premiership



Gloucester new boys Ludovic Mercier and Christian Stoica make League debuts as Gloucester get off to a winning start.

Gloucester 44 Sale Sharks 21
22-09-01 Zurich Premiership



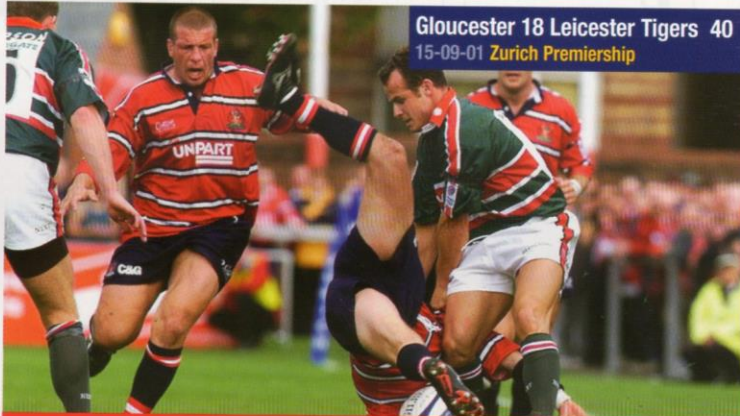
Gloucester Academy Graduate James Forrester bursts through the Sale defence as Gloucester win their first game away from home.

Gloucester 34 Saracens 30
08-09-01 Zurich Premiership



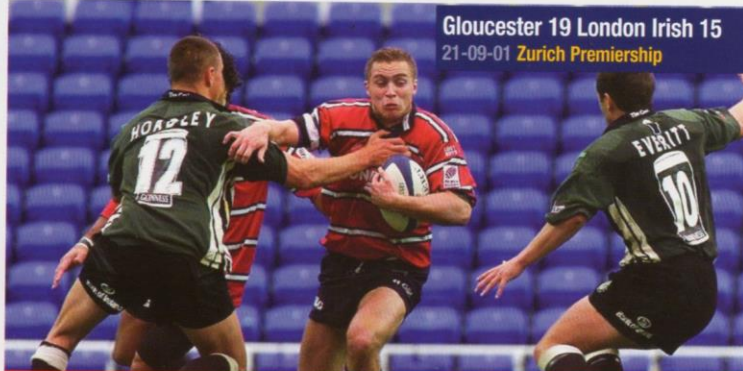
Andy Hazel on the run against Saracens. Luke Smith enjoyed a wonderful day with the boot and Gloucester lost 34-30

Gloucester 18 Leicester Tigers 40
15-09-01 Zurich Premiership



Diego Albanese feels the force of an Austin Healey tackle as the Tigers are the only team to win at Kingsholm this season.

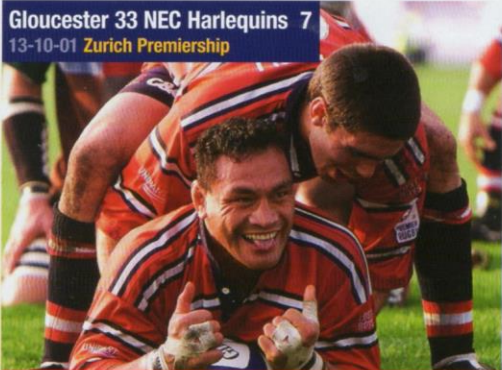
Gloucester 19 London Irish 15
21-09-01 Zurich Premiership



Joe Ewens can find no way through the Exiles defence. Gloucester's away form dips and in a bad tempered match they go down 19-15. At least two Ludovic Mercier kicks appear to go over but are ruled out because they are so high.

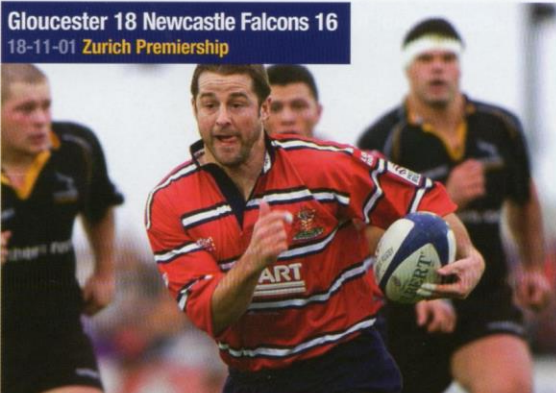
Season [2002/2003]

Gloucester 33 NEC Harlequins 7
13-10-01 Zurich Premiership



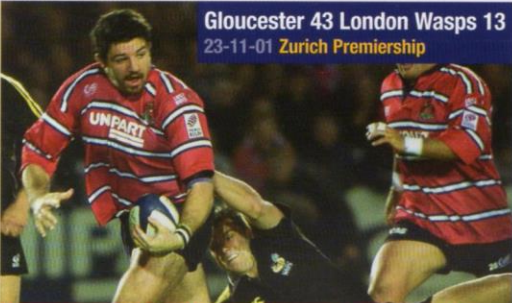
Junior Paramore comes off the bench to score a try as Quins are well beaten. Albanese and Mapletoft later square up and the Argentinean is sent off for the first time in his career.

Gloucester 18 Newcastle Falcons 16
18-11-01 Zurich Premiership



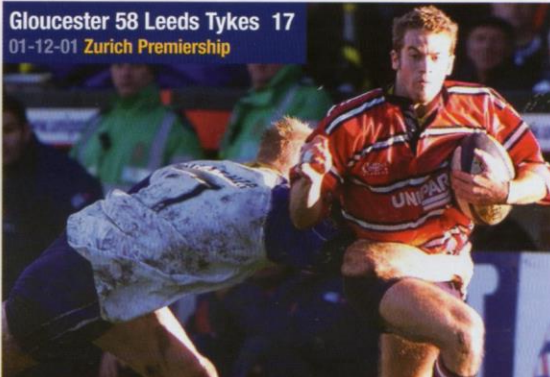
Andy Gomarsall scores a try on his return to the team but it is not enough as the Cherry and Whites fall to another narrow away defeat 18-16.

Gloucester 43 London Wasps 13
23-11-01 Zurich Premiership



Kingsholm under floodlights creates a unique atmosphere and in front a packed Shed and Sky TV cameras, Olivier Azam scores two tries whilst carrying the bulk of the Wasps defence with him.

Gloucester 58 Leeds Tykes 17
01-12-01 Zurich Premiership



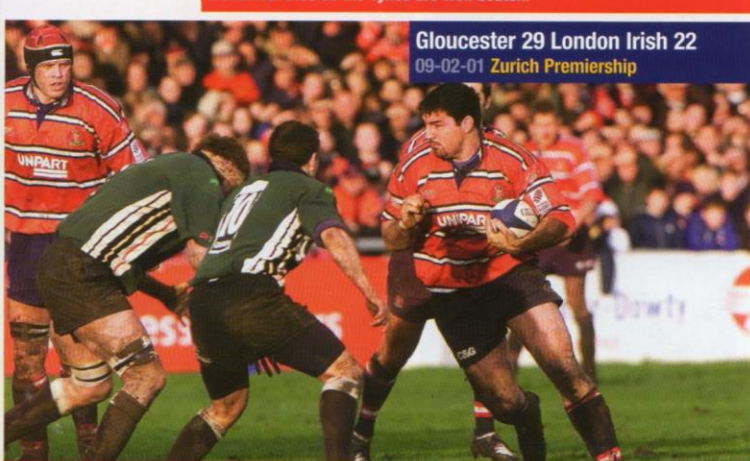
In front of the cameras again, James Simpson-Daniel enjoys a rare Premiership start against whipping boys Leeds Tykes. He scores two wonderful tries as the Tykes are well beaten.

Gloucester 51 Bristol Shoguns 17
10-11-01 Zurich Premiership



Chris Catling dislocates a shoulder whilst scoring a try in the fifty-point drubbing of Gloucester's West Country rivals.

Gloucester 29 London Irish 22
09-02-01 Zurich Premiership



In filthy conditions Olivier Azam and Terry Fanolua score tries and but the game was won by another immaculate kicking display by Ludovic Mercier who notched up 19 points.

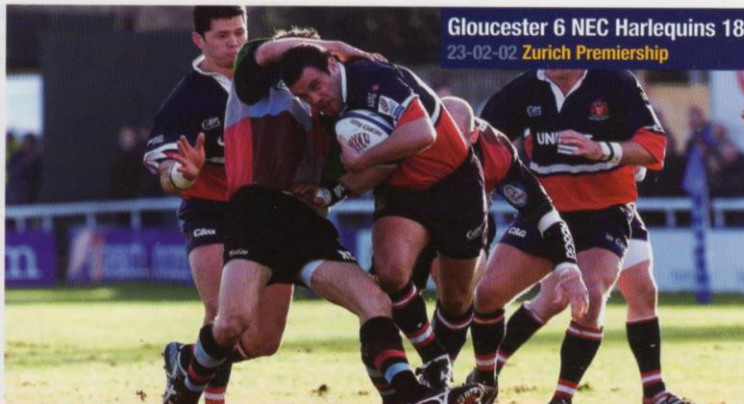
Review of the

Gloucester 12 Bath Rugby 9
08-01-01 **Zurich Premiership**



Mark Cornwell wins a rare lineout but the forward platform was never established at the Rec. Gloucester had high hopes of an away victory but too many mistakes cost them in the end.

Gloucester 6 NEC Harlequins 18
23-02-02 **Zurich Premiership**



A tearful Philippe Saint Andre bids farewell to the Kingsholm faithful and Gloucester win only their second Premiership fixture away from home. Diego Albanese and Olivier Azam scored the tries.

Gloucester 29
Newcastle Falcons 25
29-12-01 **Zurich Premiership**



Adam Eustace scores the first of Gloucester's three tries from a stolen line out. Unfortunately an otherwise excellent game will be remembered for other reasons.

Gloucester 36 Saracens 13
30-03-01 **Zurich Premiership**



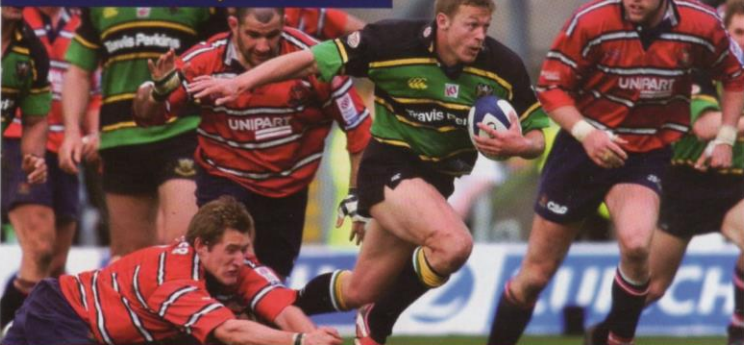
In front of the Sky TV cameras Gloucester give an unconvincing performance but were still too strong for a faltering Saracens side. Terry Fanolua powered through Gerald Arasa to score the first try.

Gloucester 42 Sale Sharks 14
09-03-01 **Zurich Premiership**



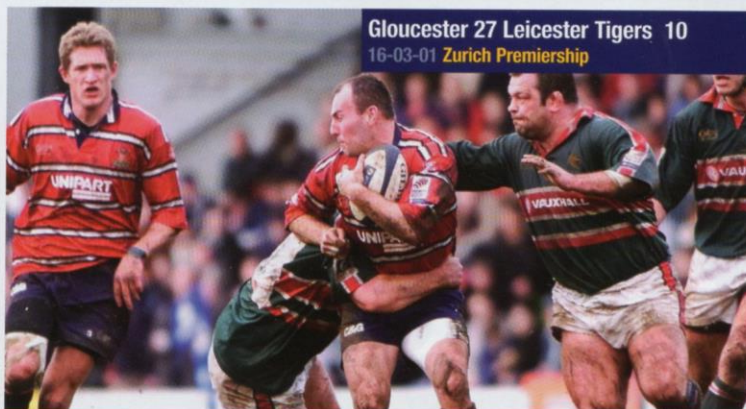
Nigel Melville is announced as Gloucester's new director of rugby. In his first game he sees Rob Fidler and the rest of the Gloucester pack steamroller over the Sale Sharks for an easy win.

Gloucester 58 Northampton 21
13-04-01 **Zurich Premiership**



Gloucester's miserable four days continued as they travelled to Franklin's Gardens and were resoundingly beaten by a resurgent Northampton

Season [2002/2003]



Gloucester 27 Leicester Tigers 10
16-03-01 Zurich Premiership

A Ludovic Mercier chip and chase to score in the corner provides a rare high point in an otherwise forgettable game for the Cherry and Whites who turned the ball over too many times.

Gloucester 43 NLondon Wasps 9
10-04-01 Zurich Premiership



Nigel Melville's first visit to Wasps for this rearranged game will be one that he will want to forget in a hurry. The Cherry and Whites lost Robert Todd, red carded, in the first half and were beaten by five tries to nil by a rampant Wasps side. On the plus side Tom Beim returned to action after eleven months out.



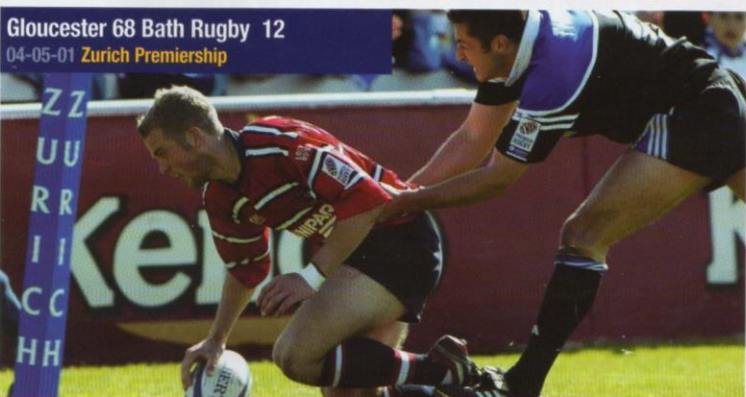
Gloucester 40 Bristol Shoguns 41
21-04-01 Zurich Premiership

Gloucester needed to bounce back from their previous defeats and scored an important away victory against the Shoguns. In a nail biting finish the Cherry and Whites held on by a point.

Gloucester 17 Leeds Tykes 50
13-05-01 Zurich Premiership



Another brace from Simpson-Daniel as Gloucester rampaged through the Leeds defences almost at will in the second half. Fellow Academy Graduate James Forrester opened the scoring.



Gloucester 68 Bath Rugby 12
04-05-01 Zurich Premiership

Gloucester finished their last Premiership game at Kingsholm in style. A James Simpson-Daniel hat trick laid the foundations for a record defeat for West County rivals Bath and went someway to appeasing the fans after the Parker Pen Shield exit the week before.

Alastair Downey

[contributor]

The Zurich Championship - an exciting climax to a riveting domestic season or a cosmetic waste of time and money at the end of a draining campaign?

I will let you make up your own mind at Kingsholm today when the Cherry and Whites entertain Newcastle in the quarter-finals, but I know how I feel.

Gloucester, as usual, will do their utmost to progress to the semi-finals of the competition - you wouldn't expect anything less - but this is a stage and competition too far for most of

the men at Castle Grim. Last Sunday's victory at Leeds ensured Gloucester a third place finish in the Premiership - the result of a seasons work in which two teams - Sale and Leicester - proved superior to Gloucester over a campaign of 22 games.

Gloucester's work is done. They have qualified for the Heineken Cup to ensure Europe's Premier competition returns to Kingsholm next season and now deserve a long rest.

Last year's play-off final between Bath and Leicester was played before a half-empty Twickenham between two teams seriously affected by injury. It does nothing to enhance the reputation of this great game.

Interest is minimal with the supporters and players who, with international tours around the corner, would prefer to be resting while directors of rugby cannot plan ahead for the following season.

If Gloucester get to the final on June 8, Nigel Melville's squad face a season stretching into 11 months. It is no wonder that players

such as Phil Vickery, tremendous for the British Lions and England, has been used sparingly by Gloucester. He has trodden the international and domestic treadmill for over a year and needs a rest. The play-offs add nothing to a season that has already been completed.

Melville, still bedding himself into his job at Gloucester, will only really be able to concentrate on assembling his squad for next season when the rugby finally stops. It is unrealistic to think England have a chance of winning the World Cup when their key players are asked to flog themselves through every month of the calendar year.

The pinnacle of the season should still be around the corner. The Heineken Cup final should be the closing chapter of the season without the play-offs to muddle the issue and get in the way. You would suspect that Mr Melville and the rest of his squad may not shed too many tears if Gloucester did not reach Twickenham next month, but they will probably be too tired to cry.

C'Mon Glaws.

Phil Vickery will be looking forward to a well earned rest after the Championship

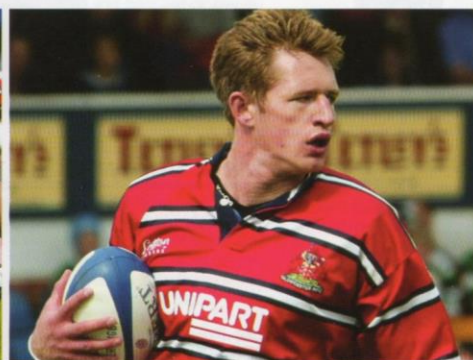
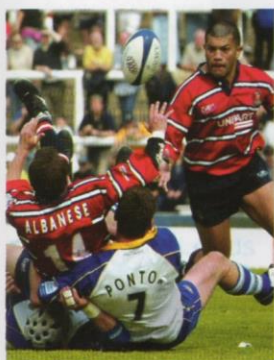
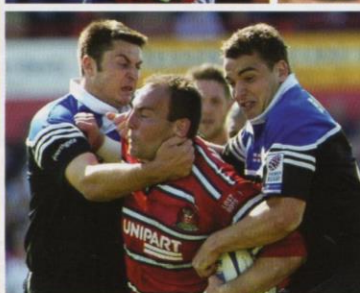
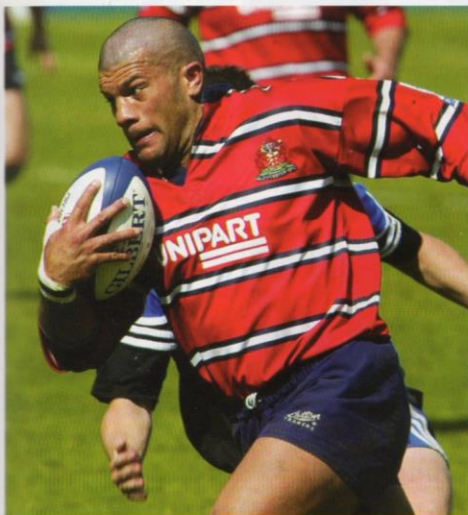


Match Action

[bath rugby and leeds tykes]

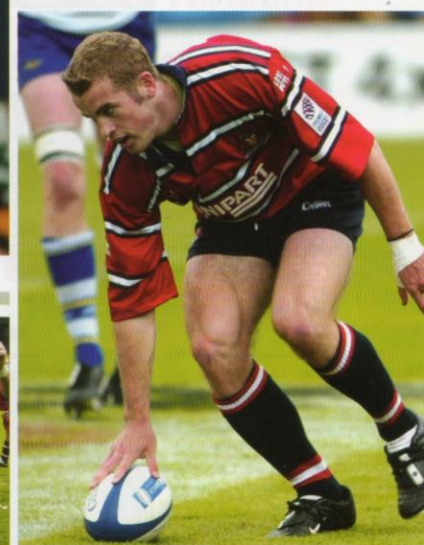
Gloucester 68 Bath 12 04-05-02 Zurich Premiership

Photography Supplied by Bruce Seabrook GPA



Leeds Tykes 17 Gloucester 50 11-05-02 Zurich Premiership

Photography Supplied by Bruce Seabrook GPA



Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781

[match action]

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Peter Arnold

[contributor]

THE BULL AND THE PASTY

Before I do anything else, I must convey our sincere sympathy to Mark Cornwall, whose broken arm, suffered during the complete obliteration of Bath the other week, deprived him of his place in the England squad to meet the Barbarians, and almost certainly, a berth on the plane to Argentina.

'Pasty' has been on the brink of such honours for so long that it is a particularly savage stab of fate for a highly likeable bloke who so conspicuously deserves such recognition. I can think of periods when Mark would have walked into the England side, and it is just his bad luck to be playing in the era of the Johnsons, Grewcocks and Kays of this world. To have had the door opened to him in the

way that it has, and then have it slammed shut so cruelly is particularly galling. We must just hope that his chance comes again - and soon. The reverse side of the penny is the news that Phil Vickery has been given the England Captaincy, following the injury to Lawrence Dallaglio's hand.

This is very hard on 'Dally' who, as all the world knows, has missed most of the season

through injury, and has now had the chance of skipping his country on tour snatched away from him. Hard luck, but he's probably right to have the damage repaired right now, rather than risk serious problems should he have played on.

"It's an ill wind" as they say, and I'm sure that our own 'Raging Bull' will do a hell of a job when he gets down to it.

The other thought is that, Phil's elevation to a higher plane might just be good news for one or two other Gloucester hopefuls. In any sport, a national captain likes to have a few familiar faces around him when he goes into battle, and a wise manager tries to see that he gets them. I've no doubt that 'Vicks' will be making his feelings clear on the matter at the appropriate time and place.

NOT THE FIRST

You probably know that Phil Vickery will be the first Gloucester player to lead England since John Orwin, who also took the side on tour; to Australia if my memory serves me correctly.

You may not, however, recall that Phil won't be the first Elver Eater to skipper England on a tour to Argentina.

That honour goes to that efficient lock forward from between the Wars, John A'Bear. That tour does not seem to feature in the official lists, so I imagine it was a non-Cap affair, played in the early

stages of Argentina's development into the tough opposition they are nowadays.

John A'Bear, an accountant by trade, was one half of one of the more legendary Gloucester second-row partnerships. The other component was the late Roy 'Digger' Morris. To quote the press of the time, they 'hunted as a pair. One could

throw a blanket over them'. That closeness even persisted off the field: John acted as best man at the Digger's wedding.

Actually, according to Roy himself, the proximity didn't have much to do with deep strategic thinking. He once told me that, as a beginner at the game at first team level, he

didn't really know what he was about. John, on the other hand, knew everything there was to know, but was as blind as a bat without his glasses. John would tell Digger where to go, and stick by him while he went there.

Nice story, but the Digger, of course, could have been pulling my leg. He was like that.

FULL CIRCLE

I was interested to read that James Simpson-Daniel's hat trick against Bath obliged Zurich to pay £2,000 to charity under the terms of the sponsorship agreement. A little investigation attracted yet more of my attention.



Apparently, the money was split between Three charities, one of which was the Tommy Joyce Youth Trust.

What could be more appropriate? Tommy was, of course, one of Gloucester's legendary players (he also turned out for Cheltenham, Blackheath and Richmond). He virtually invented wing-forward play, or at least, raised it to new levels. Dubbed the 'blonde destroyer with a smile' by one contemporary South African commentator, Tommy played 27 times for England, a huge number for an era which didn't see half as many international games as we do these days, and in the process scored five tries. Later, he became a

distinguished administrator, and served as President of the RFU. Older supporters will get the point if I say that he once bought me a drink.

His first Cap was won against Ireland in 1920, so I only ever saw him on fairly rare archive film. However, I am bound to say that the young James Forester does remind me quite a lot of what I have seen of Tommy Joyce - all speed, energy and ferocity.

Tom complete the circle, when JSD scored his hat trick in the demolition of Bath, there, on the opposing wing, was young Tom Joyce, great nephew of the great Tommy. Odd how things work out, sometimes.

SUMMER WELL

One minor consequence of our getting a bronze medal, rather than a silver in the Premiership, is that these will be my final jottings for the season.

One minor consequence of our getting a bronze medal, rather than a silver in the Premiership, is that these will be my final jottings for the season. Can't say

it's been difficult this time round. There has always been plenty to write about from day one. Do have a good summer. Shouldn't be difficult with the various tours

on the horizon, and a potentially fascinating cricket season already in hand.

See you next season.

Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781

[contributor]

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Line-ups



Gloucester VS Newcastle Falcons

i	Henry Paul	15	Dave Walder	i
i	Diego Albanese	14	Liam Botham	
i	Terry Fanolua	13	Jamie Noon	i
	Robert Todd	12	Tom May	
	James Simpson-Daniel	11	Michael Stephenson	i
	Ludovic Mercier	10	Jonny Wilkinson	ic
i	Andy Gomarsall	9	Hall Charlton	
i	Trevor Woodman	1	Micky Ward	
i	Chris Fortey	2	Steve Brotherstone	
i	Federico Pucciariello	3	Marius Hurter	i
i	Rob Fidler	4	Hugh Vyvyan	
i	Mark Cornwell	5	Stuart Grimes	i
	James Forrester	6	Pat Lam	i
c	Jake Boer	7	Rob Devonshire	
i	Junior Paramore	8	Richard Arnold	

[replacements]

	Dimitri Yachvili	16	T.B.C	
i	Tom Beim	17	T.B.C	
i	Chris Fortey	18	T.B.C	
i	Trevor Woodman	19	T.B.C	
i	Federico Pucciariello	20	T.B.C	
i	Koli sewabu	21	T.B.C	
i	Ed Pearce	22	T.B.C	

[teams correct at 15/05/02]

i [denotes international]

c [denotes captain]

[today's officials]

[referee] Steve Lander RFU

[touch judges] Roy Maybank RFU, Steve Savage RFU