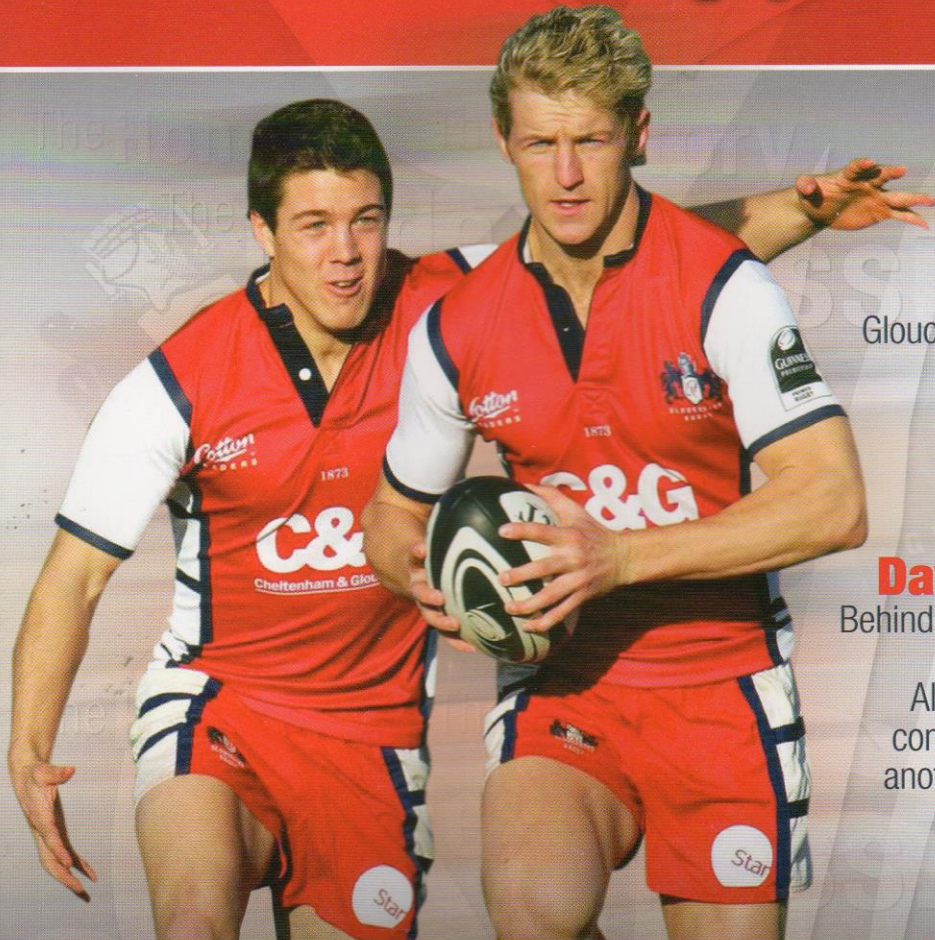


# Gloucester Rugby

Gloucester Rugby Official Matchday Magazine | 2005/06 Season | Issue 08 | Price £3.00



**Rudi Keil's**

Gloucester Arrival

Introducing  
**Denis Betts**

**Dave King**

Behind The Scenes

All the regular contributions in another bumper matchday magazine

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**C&G** Cheltenham & Gloucester

Match Sponsor



vs **Aviron Bayonnais**

Saturday 21st January | Kick Off 14.00pm

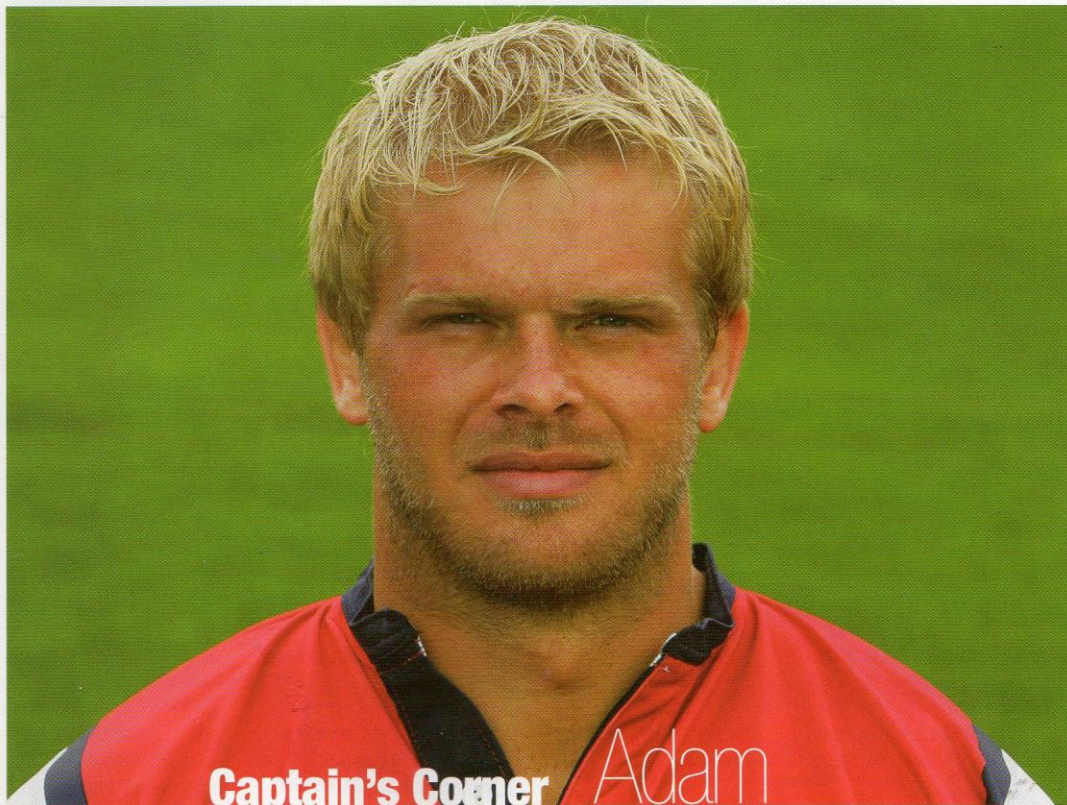
European  
Challenge  
Cup



## European Challenge Cup

[ercrugby.com](http://ercrugby.com)

Round Six



## Captain's Corner Adam

In association with

**dair\***

# Balding

**T**HIS AFTERNOON we welcome Bayonne to Kingsholm as we complete the pool stages of our European Challenge Cup quest.

Our task today is to finish top of our pool by winning and hopefully gaining a bonus point so we can guarantee a home quarter-final.

When we began the tournament way back in October with a trip to France to face today's visitors, we were beginning to gather some real momentum on all fronts and with four victories in our last

five games; our form is starting to return.

The victory we achieved away at Saracens has been pivotal in the last month and has established us back in the top four of the Guinness Premiership.

During these European games our task has been to retain the framework we have put in place despite the fact the team has been drastically changed and new players have been given their chances to impress the coaches.

It is that building process we continue to work on. Although I missed the game against Bucuresti last weekend, the boys got the required result in very hostile conditions and an alien environment.

The performance may not have reached the level we all set ourselves but it keeps us at the head of the pool and that is crucial.

Today we face another stern test against an organised and highly competitive French side who are really running into form.

Nobody needs reminding they thrashed Toulon 62-0 last week and have beaten Toulouse in the French Championship. They can, with a bonus point, still finish top of the pool so nobody in the squad is taking them lightly.

This is a vital game for us in many respects and the ideal build up to next Saturday's Premiership clash against London Irish. There has been no let up in our intensity or work ethic this week because, with the Six Nations just around the corner, we are entering one of the most important phases of the season.

Get behind the team today and cheer us to a home quarter-final, enjoy the game.

The **Passion**

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



# News Round-up

## Today's Matchday Mascot



### Ben Killingback

TODAY'S mascot is 11-year-old Ben Killingback, who celebrated his Birthday on Thursday this week.

Ben lives in Cornwall but makes the trip to Kingsholm a couple of times a year to watch his heroes play. Naturally, one of his favourite players is Phil Vickery, but he also loves watching James Simpson-Daniel, Marcel Garvey and Terry Fanolua.

When he is not playing rugby at school, he enjoys riding his bike, watching formula one and playing computer games.

Both his mother and grandfather are lifelong Gloucester supporters and it will be a very proud moment when he leads the team onto the field this afternoon.

## Adam Balding

**HAS SEALED** a new two-year contract extension that will keep him at Gloucester until June 2008. He joins youngsters Olly Morgan, Mark Foster and Nick Wood in finalising long-term deals at Kingsholm this season.

"To be honest with you, I am just thrilled," Balding, told [www.gloucester rugby.co.uk](http://www.gloucester rugby.co.uk).

"It seems so long ago since my Leicester days and I like to think I have moved on to bigger and better things.

"I am so pleased with how everything is going and just glad I have the chance to play my part in Gloucester's future for another two years.

"My ambition is to push myself even harder and to play a big part in the team during 2006. My job now is to contribute to the success of this team."

Head coach Dean Ryan added: "Adam is one of our

senior players and it is great to secure him to the club long-term.

"He is a player who leads by example, is supremely competitive and is somebody we want to work with for a long time. I am really pleased it has been concluded so quickly.

"To have someone of Adam's ability at the club is a major boost for us."

Balding, who signed from Leicester two years ago, fractured a cheekbone in three places on the opening day of the season against Worcester Warriors.

But the 26-year-old has recovered to resume his position on the back of the Gloucester scrum. His form, attitude and sheer commitment were the standout features during Gloucester's late charge last season that ended in play-off disappointment against Saracens at Twickenham.

## Will James

**GLOUCESTER** Rugby have continued their recruitment policy ahead of next season by landing highly rated Cornish Pirates second row Will James.

The 6ft, 6in second row, whose contract will start in July, has pledged his future to the Kingsholm club until July 2008, only a day after Gloucester completed a one-year deal with flanker James Merriman.

The former Wales A lock, nicknamed 'Bull', has been watched by Gloucester's head coach Dean Ryan this season and told [www.gloucester rugby.co.uk](http://www.gloucester rugby.co.uk) "I am 29-years-old and it's a great move for me – what can I say – I am delighted.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to have a crack at Premiership rugby and to be joining a club of Gloucester's calibre is a great feeling.

"I have experience of European Cup rugby with Pontypridd and have felt things have been going



Will James

pretty well for me over the last two years.

"I enjoy the physical side of things and hopefully my performances will reflect that. It is just a fantastic opportunity for me and I am really thankful for the chance."

With 15 appearances for the Pirates this season James is an integral part of their side and Gloucester's head coach Dean Ryan could not hide his delight

at his capture.

"We feel Will is a player who has slipped through the net at Premiership level but we have monitored his progress for sometime," Ryan said.

"He has a lot to offer, has Heineken Cup experience and can bring us that physicality in the second row we are keen on.

"He is a big, physical player and will add a lot to the second row options we already have available at the club. It really is good news for us."



# News Round-up

## James Merriman

**G**LOUCESTER Rugby have also completed a one-year contract extension with exciting back row forward James Merriman.

The openside flanker has penned a deal that will keep him at Kingsholm until June 2007 and joins a core of young players who have already sealed their futures with the club.

Merriman, who has skippered Wales at Under-21 level, made his Gloucester debut against London Irish in the Powergen Cup at the end of the 2003 campaign but then ruptured his ACL joint during pre-season training the following year. It ruled him out of action for virtually the entire season but he has made one Guinness Premiership appearance this campaign as a blood replacement against Saracens. He joined the club four years ago through the Academy set-up at Hartpury College and told [www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk](http://www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk) "At times it has been tough for me but I want to provide competition



James Merriman

in the back row at Gloucester. "Hopefully I can keep playing well in the A League games and I will then get an opportunity at first team level. There were opportunities for me back in Wales but I never wanted to leave Gloucester and I am determined to fight for a place.

"I want to be part of Gloucester's future and I am really confident I can be."

Merriman has been an integral part of Gloucester's A League side this season and has scored five tries – only one behind Jason Smithson of Newcastle who is the leading scorer. Head coach Dean Ryan added: "James is a highly talented athlete and we want to see the best of him at Gloucester. We feel he has a bright future and along with a number of other young players, we want that to be at Gloucester.

"He has made a commitment for another year and that is very pleasing for everybody."



**Happy Birthday to**  
**Nick Fenwick and**  
**Tim Fenwick**  
**Alexander Harding**  
**Thomas Henderson**  
**Harry Major**  
**Jamie Park**  
**Daniel Smith**

**Hope you have a**  
**great Birthday!!!**

## Shed Safety

**I**N RESPONSE to a number of complaints from supporters, the club has spent over £44,000 creating improved access to the Shed with walkways into and along the front of the stand.

On completion of the work the club recalculated the capacity of the Shed, including the Clock Terracing and agreed a figure with the Local Authority Safety Advisory Group. This work has been done to improve comfort and safety on the north side of the ground.

The only way to ensure that overcrowding does not occur was to make the Shed side of the ground a restricted area with control of entry. It has now been alleged by a number of supporters that people are leaving the area with the season tickets and or ticket stubs belonging to people who have entered the controlled zone to be handed to others to use to gain access.

There are safety implications to this and defeats the improvements made to ensure spectator comfort. To combat this, staff will be used to observe people leaving the area or handing tickets out for other people to gain entry.

CCTV will also be utilised to watch and record this happening. Any person caught transferring or using another persons ticket to gain improper access to the Shed area will be immediately banned from the Ground and there will be no appeal against the ban.

It is regrettable that this action has to be taken but the club will not compromise on safety or allow any action to be taken to cause discomfort in the Shed. The club is again reviewing control of entry arrangements. Could we ask for the support of people who regularly use the Shed to assist with this issue.

The **History**

# SQUAD: 2005/06



Gloucester Rugby Squad 2005/06



C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester

Jack **ADAMS**

**Position:**  
Centre  
**D.O.B:**  
17.09.86  
**Height:**  
1.82m [6', 0"]  
**Weight:**  
95kg [14st, 8lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England U18



**Player Sponsor:**

Anthony **ALLEN**

**Position:**  
Centre  
**D.O.B:**  
01.09.86  
**Height:**  
1.80m [5', 10"]  
**Weight:**  
90kg [14st, 3lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England U19



**Player Sponsor:**

Simon **AMOR**

**Position:**  
Halfback  
**D.O.B:**  
25.04.79  
**Height:**  
1.69m [5', 7"]  
**Weight:**  
75kg [12st, 0lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England Sevens



**Player Sponsor:**

Olivier **AZAM**

**Position:**  
Hooker  
**D.O.B:**  
21.10.74  
**Height:**  
1.85m [6', 0"]  
**Weight:**  
115kg [18st, 2lb]  
**International Hons:**  
France



**Player Sponsor:**

James **BAILEY**

**Position:**  
Wing  
**D.O.B:**  
05.08.83  
**Height:**  
1.80m [5', 10"]  
**Weight:**  
83kg [13st, 2lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England U21, Sevens



**Player Sponsor:**

**Adam BALDING**

**Position:**  
Number 8  
**D.O.B:**  
07.12.79  
**Height:**  
1.88m [6', 2"]  
**Weight:**  
111kg [17st, 7lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England 'A'

**Player Sponsor:****Jake BOER**

**Position:**  
Flanker  
**D.O.B:**  
01.11.75  
**Height:**  
1.87m [6', 1"]  
**Weight:**  
105kg [16st, 8lb]  
**International Hons:**  
-

**Player Sponsor:****Alex BROWN**

**Position:**  
Lock  
**D.O.B:**  
17.05.79  
**Height:**  
2.00m [6', 7"]  
**Weight:**  
113kg [17st, 5lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England 'A'

**Player Sponsor:****Peter BUXTON**

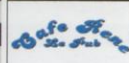
**Position:**  
Back Row  
**D.O.B:**  
21.08.78  
**Height:**  
1.92m [6', 3"]  
**Weight:**  
112kg [17st, 9lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England 'A'

**Player Sponsor:****Patrice COLLAZO**

**Position:**  
Prop  
**D.O.B:**  
27.04.74  
**Height:**  
1.85m [6', 1"]  
**Weight:**  
110kg [17st, 3lb]  
**International Hons:**  
France

**Player Sponsor:****Mark CORNWELL**

**Position:**  
Lock  
**D.O.B:**  
22.03.73  
**Height:**  
2.01m [6', 7"]  
**Weight:**  
117kg [18st, 2lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England 'A'

**Player Sponsor:****Quinton DAVIDS**

**Position:**  
Second Row  
**D.O.B:**  
17.07.75  
**Height:**  
1.98.1 [6', 6"]  
**Weight:**  
122kgs  
**International Hons:**  
South Africa

**Player Sponsor:****Brad DAVIES**

**Position:**  
Outside Half  
**D.O.B:**  
13.02.83  
**Height:**  
1.77m [5', 9"]  
**Weight:**  
89kg [14st, 1lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England U21, U18

**Player Sponsor:****Mefin DAVIES**

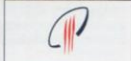
**Position:**  
Hooker  
**D.O.B:**  
02.09.72  
**Height:**  
1.78m [5', 10"]  
**Weight:**  
95kg [16st, 5lb]  
**International Hons:**  
Wales

**Player Sponsor:****Rob ELLOWAY**

**Position:**  
Hooker  
**D.O.B:**  
09.11.83  
**Height:**  
1.83m [6', 0"]  
**Weight:**  
98kg [15st, 4lb]  
**International Hons:**  
-

**Player Sponsor:****Adam EUSTACE**

**Position:**  
Lock  
**D.O.B:**  
09.01.79  
**Height:**  
1.95m [6', 4"]  
**Weight:**  
108kg [17st, 0lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England 'A', U21, U19

**Player Sponsor:****Terry FANOLUA**

**Position:**  
Centre  
**D.O.B:**  
03.07.74  
**Height:**  
1.83m [6', 0"]  
**Weight:**  
94kg [14st, 12lb]  
**International Hons:**  
Manu Samoa

**Player Sponsor:****The Passion**

**James FORRESTER**

**Position:**  
Number 8  
**D.O.B:**  
09.02.81  
**Height:**  
1.95m [6', 5"]  
**Weight:**  
104kg [16st]  
**International Hons:**  
England



**Player Sponsor:**

**Mark FOSTER**

**Position:**  
Wing  
**D.O.B:**  
02.09.83  
**Height:**  
1.83m [6', 0"]  
**Weight:**  
91kg [14st, 3lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England U21



**Player Sponsor:**

**Marcel GARVEY**

**Position:**  
Wing  
**D.O.B:**  
21.04.83  
**Height:**  
1.73m [5', 8"]  
**Weight:**  
89kg [13st, 7lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England 'A'



**Player Sponsor:**

**Jon GOODRIDGE**

**Position:**  
Full-back  
**D.O.B:**  
26.02.81  
**Height:**  
1.86m  
**Weight:**  
86kg  
**International Hons:**  
England U21



**Player Sponsor:**

**Andy HAZELL**

**Position:**  
Flanker  
**D.O.B:**  
25.04.78  
**Height:**  
1.83m  
**Weight:**  
93.1kg  
**International Hons:**  
England



**Player Sponsor:**

**Ryan LAMB**

**Position:**  
Fly-half  
**D.O.B:**  
18.05.86  
**Height:**  
1.76m [5', 9"]  
**Weight:**  
81kg [12st, 10lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England U19



**Player Sponsor:**

**Will MATTHEWS**

**Position:**  
Back Row  
**D.O.B:**  
14.01.85  
**Height:**  
1.88m [6', 2"]  
**Weight:**  
99kg [15st, 6lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England U21



**Player Sponsor:**

**Duncan McRAE**

**Position:**  
Outside Half / Full Back  
**D.O.B:**  
27.09.74  
**Height:**  
1.72m [5', 7"]  
**Weight:**  
81kg [12st, 10lb]  
**International Hons:**  
Australia 'A'



**Player Sponsor:**

**Ludovic MERCIER**

**Position:**  
Fly-half  
**D.O.B:**  
01.11.76  
**Height:**  
1.80m [5', 10"]  
**Weight:**  
90kg [14st, 0lb]  
**International Hons:**  
France 'A'



**Player Sponsor:**

**James MERRIMAN**

**Position:**  
Flanker  
**D.O.B:**  
17.01.84  
**Height:**  
1.83m [6', 0"]  
**Weight:**  
95kg [14st, 7lb]  
**International Hons:**  
Wales U21



**Player Sponsor:**

**Oliver MORGAN**

**Position:**  
Full-back  
**D.O.B:**  
03.11.85  
**Height:**  
1.89m [6', 3"]  
**Weight:**  
89kg [14st, 11lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England U21



**Player Sponsor:**

**Luke NARRAWAY**

**Position:**  
Back-row  
**D.O.B:**  
07.09.83  
**Height:**  
1.90m [6', 3"]  
**Weight:**  
100kg [15st, 8lb]  
**International Hons:**  
England U21



**Player Sponsor:**

**James PARKES**


**Position:**  
Hooker


**D.O.B:**  
30.11.80

**Height:**  
1.78m [5', 10"]

**Weight:**  
98kg [15st, 5lb]

**International Hons:**  
England U21

**Player Sponsor:**  




**Henry PAUL**


**Position:**  
Centre


**D.O.B:**  
10.02.74

**Height:**  
1.80m [5', 11"]

**Weight:**  
97kg [14st, 10lb]

**International Hons:**  
England 'A', Sevens, England

**Player Sponsor:**  




**Jonathan PENDLEBURY**


**Position:**  
Second row


**D.O.B:**  
15.01.83

**Height:**  
1.94m [6', 5"]

**Weight:**  
104kg [16st, 5lb]

**International Hons:**  
England U21

**Player Sponsor:**  




**Gary POWELL**


**Position:**  
Prop


**D.O.B:**  
30.10.79

**Height:**  
1.82m [6', 0"]

**Weight:**  
112kg [17st, 7lb]

**International Hons:**  
Wales Development

**Player Sponsor:**  




**Peter RICHARDS**


**Position:**  
Scrum-half


**D.O.B:**  
10.03.78

**Height:**  
1.75m [5', 9"]

**Weight:**  
94kg [14st, 2lb]

**International Hons:**  
England A

**Player Sponsor:**  




**Terry SIGLEY**


**Position:**  
Prop


**D.O.B:**  
12.10.78

**Height:**  
1.88m [6', 2"]

**Weight:**  
123kg [19st, 2lbs]

**International Hons:**  
England Counties

**Player Sponsor:**  




**James SIMPSON-DANIEL**

**Position:**  
Wing / Centre


**D.O.B:**  
30.05.82

**Height:**  
1.82m [6', 0"]

**Weight:**  
79kg [12st, 7lb]

**International Hons:**  
England, U21, U19, Sevens

**Player Sponsor:**  
dair



**Rob THIRLBY**


**Position:**  
Wing


**D.O.B:**  
02.03.79

**Height:**  
1.86m [6', 2"]

**Weight:**  
89kg [14st, 0lb]

**International Hons:**  
England Sevens

**Player Sponsor:**  




**Haydn THOMAS**


**Position:**  
Scrum-half


**D.O.B:**  
17.09.82

**Height:**  
1.73m [5', 8"]

**Weight:**  
78kg [12st, 4lb]

**International Hons:**  
England Students

**Player Sponsor:**  




**Mike TINDALL**

**Position:**  
Center


**D.O.B:**  
18.10.78

**Height:**  
1.88m [6', 2"]

**Weight:**  
100kg [15st, 8lb]

**International Hons:**  
England

**Player Sponsor:**  
gleeds



**Phil VICKERY**

**Position:**  
Prop


**D.O.B:**  
14.03.76

**Height:**  
1.91m [6', 3"]

**Weight:**  
120kg [18st, 4lb]

**International Hons:**  
England / Lions

**Player Sponsor:**  
B&Q WAREHOUSE GLOUCESTER



**Nick WOOD**


**Position:**  
Prop


**D.O.B:**  
09.01.83

**Height:**  
1.86m [6', 2"]

**Weight:**  
108kg [17st, 0lb]

**International Hons:**  
England U21

**Player Sponsor:**  




The History



# Rudi's New **Awakening**

**He describes himself as a rugby playing gypsy but Rudi Keil's new home is in Gloucester and he is relishing the chance to experience the Guinness Premiership with the Kingsholm club.**

**F**OR A man who hardly takes a breath in between hyperactive sentences about a life addicted to rugby, it is amazing to discover that Rudi Keil was not born with an odd shaped ball tucked under his arm.

In fact, Gloucester's new South African centre did not unearth his addiction for the uniquely physical, always full-on game until he was nearly 13 when he saw his school team 'bashing' the living daylights out some poor unfortunates in Johannesburg. Since then it has taken him to four points of the compass in South Africa and to Worcester in England but his latest assignment with Dean Ryan's side has really got him excited.

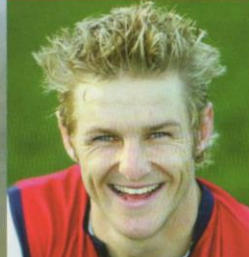
"My first love was football and tennis," he told the matchday programme. "But I saw my school team in a right bash up one-day and I thought there was a little bit more to this game than I thought.

"It just went from there and I have become a bit of a gypsy as far as rugby has >>>





## Get to know...



# Rudi Keil

**Briefly describe yourself.**  
Truthful, loyal, energised

**What is your worst nightmare?**

The taxman catching up with me

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

I would love to be an entrepreneur - maybe Richard Branson's understudy

**Favourite food?**

Anything and everything although I eat healthily - I love vegetables and salad but you cannot beat an Austrian dessert.

**Favourite Film?**

Braveheart.

**Favourite holiday destination?**

Austria and Hawaii - the perfect mixture of hot and cold.

**Best friend in rugby?**

Andre Snyman.



**“We played hard regardless of the weather conditions, we were physical and got stuck into them.”**

concerned – I have been to George, Cape Town and Durban – but now my job is at Gloucester and I am really, really excited about the challenge.”

The emphasis is on the ‘really, really’ because he hardly takes a breath as he explains away his hopes for his time at Gloucester.

Keil puts his naturally competitive ability down to his parents. His father played ice hockey in the 1976 winter Olympics for Austria, while his mother was a tennis player of some quality.

He believes he inherited his

competitiveness from his father and his handling ability from his mother but either way he will bring plenty of experience and influence to Gloucester’s midfield following a career in the Currie Cup and Super 12.

“I see this challenge as rejuvenating,” he said. “I am excited about meeting new people and experiencing different training techniques and it has come at just the right time in my career.

“I detest ego and arrogance and it is my job to adapt to Gloucester and the style of play and work my hardest to try and get everything right. I am certainly going to enjoy the experience of becoming a Premiership rugby player.

“People say I am hyper-active and in the last 10 years I have really enjoyed myself but now I want to offer as much as I can for Gloucester in defence and attack.”

He made his debut in Monday nights A team victory over Leicester and marked the occasion with the last of Gloucester’s four tries when he took a lovely little pass from Henry Paul and crossed from short range.

Keil will now aim for a place along with the likes of England stars Mike Tindall and James Simpson-Daniel, Terry Fanolua, Anthony Allen and Paul in an area where Gloucester have plenty of options and ability.

His first experience of English conditions with Gloucester – he has already represented Worcester – was on a cold and wet Sunday afternoon against Saracens but he was impressed with what he saw.

The victory established Gloucester in the top four of the Guinness Premiership and on target for a place in next season’s Heineken Cup and now Keil wants to lend his experience to the set-up.

“What I was impressed with was the way the guys stuck to the game plan and decision making process to win the game,” he said. “We played hard regardless of the weather conditions, we were physical and got stuck into them.

“In the context of the season it was a massive result and it was great to be a part of that in some small way.

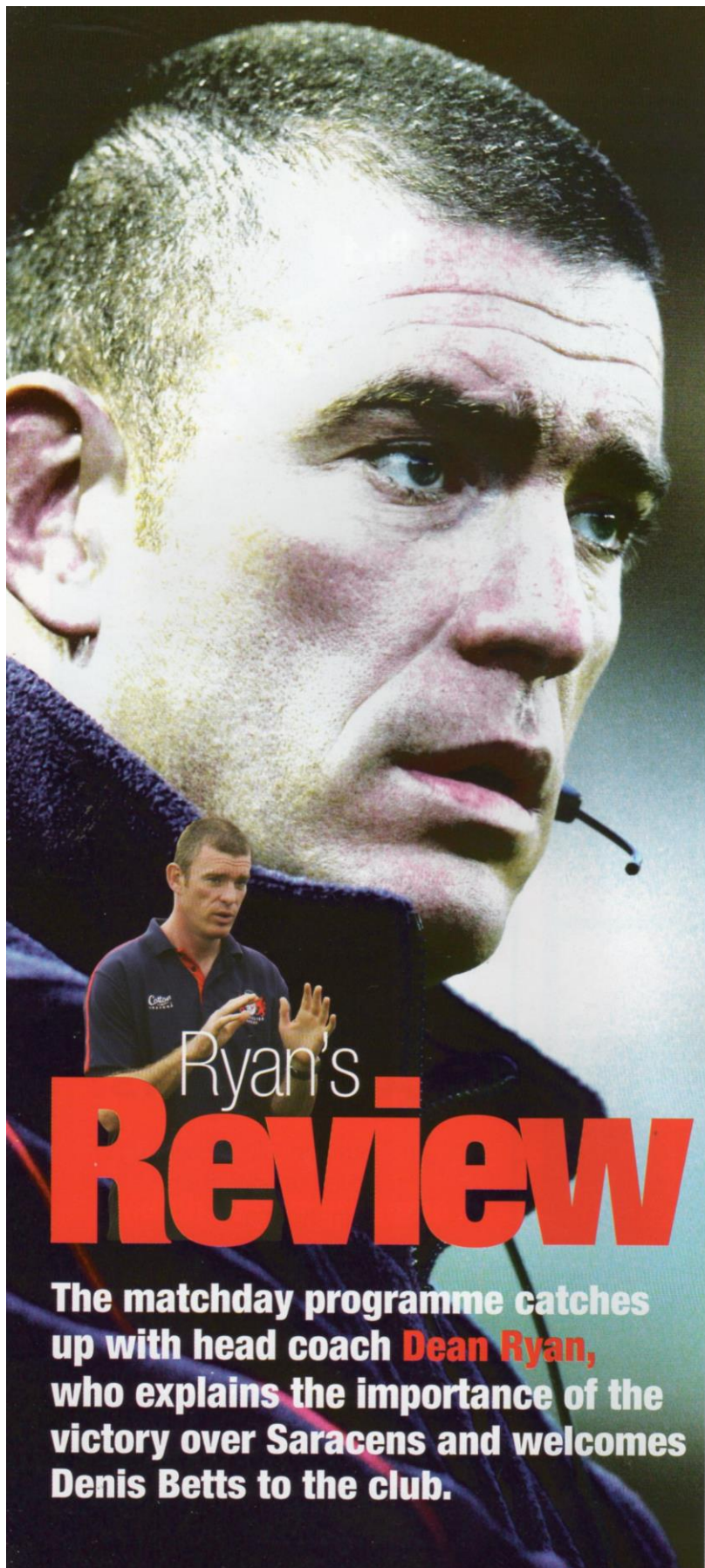
“The guys all want to do their best for the team, they are very honest and all work very hard. I just want a chance myself to be involved.”

Keil is not registered for the group stages of the European Challenge Cup that end today against Bayonne but is likely to come into his own during the Six Nations Championship that begins in February.

Gloucester could be without both Tindall and Simpson-Daniel, while Paul is expected to be involved with the England sevens squad.

“There are a lot of outstanding players who are capable of playing in the centre and it’s my job to try and put a bit of pressure on them,” he added. “I will work as hard as I can to try and achieve that and prove my worth.

“I just cannot wait to get started and stuck in. I have waited for this opportunity for a long time and I don’t want it to go to waste.”



# Ryan's **Review**

The matchday programme catches up with head coach **Dean Ryan**, who explains the importance of the victory over Saracens and welcomes Denis Betts to the club.



*We have now won four of our last five games and crucially one was at Saracens. From a coach's point of view, was that the most satisfying performance of the season?*

**DR:** What was pleasing from a coach's point of view was that we controlled the game. And that control came from decision-making.

As a coach, I cannot take a great deal of credit if James Simpson-Daniel steps someone and runs 60 metres for the try. But what we have been trying to make more consistent is the decision making process and I can affect that.

In some areas, we are still not at the level I am seeking in terms of execution but if we can continue to get the decisions right, we give ourselves much more of a chance.

Saracens was a performance that made a great statement about ourselves and what we want to become as a side. Our aim is to move up the Premiership table and that performance was crucial in that.



*The framework is now in place but how do you keep that going outside the rigours of the Premiership?*

**DR:** We have enjoyed the challenges outside the Premiership this season and particularly in Europe. We have been asked to adapt more because we are playing opposition we don't know and have difficulty in obtaining information about them.

In the Challenge Cup we have changed the personnel and that in itself throws up new challenges. It is about broadening the understanding of individuals who have not played much rugby so they are ready to step up to a higher-level if required.

We constantly watch the players because there are occasions, like Saturday's game against Bucuresti, when they are pitched into unnatural surroundings in pretty hostile playing conditions.

All this contributes to building the squad and a team we believe can make real progress



*Behind the scenes, progress on contracts appears to be going well. How important is it to make such a positive start on these issues?*

**DR:** Throughout everything, we are striving for stability and that is why we have made decisions that have occurred pretty quickly. Perhaps, in the past, they would not have been made so quickly and for that reason we wanted to take significant strides in signing players we believe can play a role in Gloucester's future.

There is not a huge amount of domestic movement within the Premiership by English players so therefore you have to develop your own and hang on to them.

That is what we have been doing and it has worked well. There are people we still have to deal with at

## **“Bayonne have shown their abilities in this competition and could still top the pool with a bonus point win.”**

the club but those decisions will be made soon.



*Today, Bayonne come to Kingsholm still with a chance of reaching the knockout stages of the European Challenge Cup. What are you expecting from them?*

**DR:** I expect them to have a very similar approach to the game in France. We know they will be big and physical, look to attack the scrum and the line-out. Bayonne have shown their abilities in this competition and could still top the pool with a bonus point win so we have to respect them and approach the game in the right way.

Any team who can beat Toulouse, regardless of their strength, are a threat and that is exactly what we

will be treating them as.



*Finally, Denis Betts has joined the club; can you explain exactly what he will bring to the coaching set-up?*

**DR:** Denis will bring us the ability to get really in-depth at core skills. He comes from a background in rugby league that is based around core skills – and they are excellent at all of them.

They can be very simple, running good lines, passing and timing but when you want to achieve excellence, they are not easy and that is what Denis will strive to do.

He is a great man with a great pedigree and we are all delighted he is on board with us, it's fantastic!

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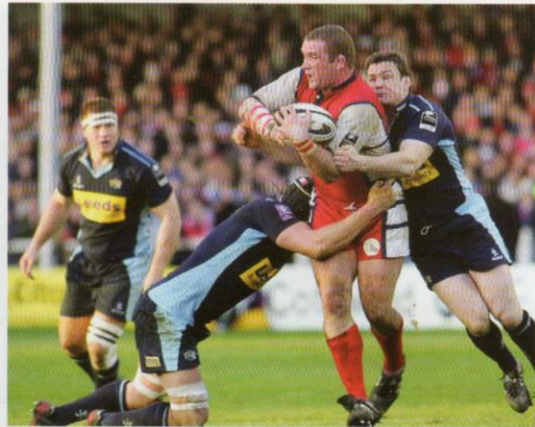
# Match Action



## Gloucester Rugby 31 Leeds Tykes 7

Saturday, December 31  
Attendance: 11,592  
Referee: Rob Debney

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



**G**LOUCESTER moved into the top four of the Guinness Premiership following a scrappy, bonus point victory over Leeds.

Three tries to the good in the opening 30 minutes, Gloucester failed to build on their dominance and it took a last minute try from James Simpson-Daniel to seal the extra point.

They made the perfect start when referee Rob Debney awarded them a penalty try after Leeds stand-off Gordon Ross was adjudged to have deliberately knocked on.

Ludovic Mercier converted and then gathered his own chip and chase to score via a deflection off the post. He again converted to leave Gloucester 17-0 ahead.

It soon became 24-0 when Simpson-Daniel slid in for his first score of the afternoon after 26 minutes.

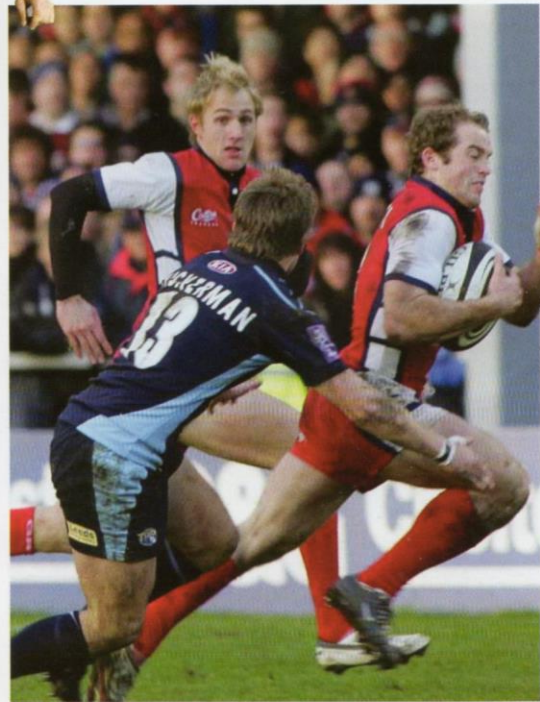
But Gloucester could not build on their advantage and after the break Leeds came back into the contest without ever threatening a victory.

And they were rewarded for their efforts when Jordan Crane

scored from close range following a period of heavy pressure.

It looked as if Gloucester may be denied a bonus point but in the final minute, Mercier prodded through the Leeds defence and Simpson-Daniel followed up to score.

"Leeds threw the ball around but it was desperate stuff



at times and they wanted to make everything as slow as possible when we were attacking. It made for an appalling spectacle," said head coach Dean Ryan.

"The tackle area was poor and it was very difficult to get the ball out. "Only one person can deal with that these days, we can't anymore.

"I applaud the referee for giving the yellow cards [three for Leeds] but we did not see a yellow card at the tackle area until the 79th minute and there were an awful lot of instances before that.

"It says a lot that we still had a problem tackle area in the 85th minute. We are trying to play a faster game but we struggled, through our own

failings but also because of a difficult tackle area.

"There was not a huge amount being done to try to make it a free-flowing game.

"All the onus is now on the referee to keep control of that area but personally, I feel the game was more fluid when the ruck was a livelier place."

The History

# Match Action



SARACENS



## Saracens 9 Gloucester Rugby 19

Sunday, January 8

Attendance: 6,493

Referee: Tony Spreadbury

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



**G**LOUCESTER took a giant stride towards next season's Heineken Cup with a hard earned but fully warranted Guinness Premiership victory over Saracens.

They dominated the game throughout but could not turn their superiority into an even greater points margin their possession and territory deserved.

The only try of the game came in the last minute of the first-half when Peter Richards finished off a powerful line-out catch and drive routine that finally turned Gloucester's control into points.

In the second half they used their big forwards to keep Saracens at bay, kicked their goals and were thoroughly worthy winners.

It is almost impossible to split the forwards given their efforts, but Peter Buxton was awarded the Sky man of the match award for his work rate and ceaseless contribution, while Phil Vickery, Alex Brown, Adam Balding and Jake Boer all stood out.

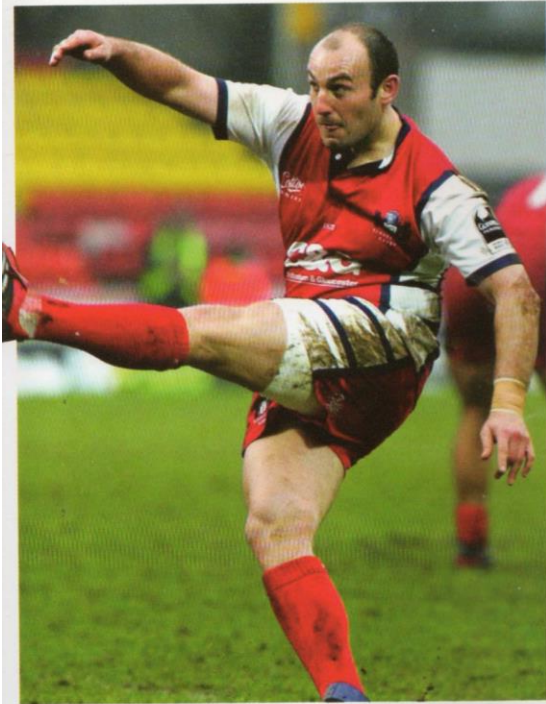
Head coach Dean Ryan said: "It's as complete as we have been all season. We didn't get

the points our superiority would have probably got on another day but the win was crucial. "It was raining and soggy under-foot. What pleases me is we showed great shape and great ambition. We have a great work ethic across the side. Peter Buxton was outstanding - it was his sort of close-quarter game - backed up by Alex Brown, Jake Boer, Adam Eustace, Adam Balding.

gloucester rugby.co.uk

The Honour





"Collectively we showed an element of superiority up front which was very rewarding against a big and attritional side.

"I was delighted with everybody but I thought our control at nine and 10 was outstanding.

"We showed good ambition. I was very critical of us last

week for stopping playing when we went in front but we learned from that lesson this week.

"We continued to win penalties and field position and we saw some big tackles in the last five or 10 minutes from people who had been in an inch of mud for the whole of the game." Ludovic Mercier extended Gloucester's second half lead to 10-0 before Sarries got on the

board with a penalty from Glen Jackson. But Mercier held his nerve to boot Gloucester to a crucial victory.





**A job well done in Romania, four valuable points at Saracens – it's been a hectic couple of weeks or so for Gloucester, as regular contributor Peter Arnold discusses.**

# Peter Arnold



## NOT EASY

**I** SUPPOSE that Dean Ryan had it about right when he described the Bucuresti result as "Job done". To describe the match as a potential banana skin is probably overstating things a bit, but the long trip to Bucharest

in the depths of winter was never going to be easy.

The temperatures, fortunately, weren't quite as low as many people feared, but conditions must have come as a culture shock to players who, less than a week earlier had been

away from Bucharest with a result. Fair play to the home side. They played their little Balkan hearts out, and finished the game with considerable credit and self-respect.

So now, while we're safely in the quarters of the competition,

Action v Saracens



## "Bayonne, and Toulon struggled to come away from Bucharest with a result."

operating in mud, rain and wind at Vicarage Road. A round dozen changes to the side probably didn't help matters either.

In addition, no one knows better than we do how a home fixture can affect the mind-set. After conceding a ton of points here at Kingsholm, the Romanian lads were never going to lie down and let us walk all over them.

It's also worth remembering that today's visitors, Bayonne, and Toulon struggled to come

the little matter of home draw and just who we'll be meeting rests on this weekend's results. Our collective breath will be bated

## DÉJÀ VU

**D** ID YOU enjoy the away win over the Sarries as much as I did? Obviously, the four points were like gold dust, but the aspect of the game which tickled my fancy was the way the game reminded me of the old days.

The scenario reminded me of many happy hours spent watching the team perform, often in filthy conditions, outplaying a heavier pack up front, relying on a feisty, aggravating scrum-half and a top-class kicker behind him.

We used to get reviled something

the ball in the first place.

Everyone likes to see scintillating tries scored from all over the park, but that's not the be-all and end-all of the game, and we can't help it if some people can't appreciate excellent forward play. It's nice to know that the old-fashioned

## “The old-fashioned skills still have a place in these superficial days.”

rotten for playing what was termed 'ten-man rugby' but it was a matter of playing to our strengths. I recall the great John Dawes being very snuffy about that when we beat his star-studded London Welsh side, containing a whole clutch of British Lions.

He didn't seem to realise that there was no way we were going to allow that legendary back line on if we could stop them getting

skills still have a place in these superficial days.

### UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY

**S**O WHY would Gloucester Rugby warrant a mention in a professional journal called 'Anaesthesia Points West'? No, the editors, to whom I am indebted for permission to quote the publication, are not commenting on the

sleep-inducing qualities of our rugby. In fact, it's all Roger Etringham's fault.

Remember Roger? He's the world-renowned consultant anaesthetist who was, for years, the medical officer here at Kingsholm.

He spent a lot of time, in his professional life, with anaesthetists from developing countries who convinced him of the need for an anaesthetic machine which would meet the needs of their particular circumstances.

Roger was able to see for himself this particular requirement, while making professional visits to many far-flung parts of the globe. But he never neglected his Kingsholm duties.

I well remember a conversation with him just before a trip to Kenya. Unfortunately, the safari meant he was to miss a couple of home games, and he had organised some of the chaps from the A&E department at Gloucester Royal to cover for him.

“Don't worry!” he told me “I've given them a briefing. I told them. If one of our lads comes off injured, you get him back on the field as quickly as possible. If it's one of theirs, it's straight down the accident unit!”

Anyway, being the chap he is, Roger set about designing an anaesthetic machine suitable for use in third-world countries. He succeeded brilliantly, and named it the 'Glostavent' with direct reference to the rugby club. He believes that we are the only club in the world to have an anaesthetic machine named after it. “If I'm wrong” he writes, “and other teams have them, I'll be pleased to arrange fixtures.”

After a lot of trials and

frustrations, common to all inventors with a good idea, his design was eventually taken up by an engineering firm in Bideford, who actually formed a new company called Diamedica, to promote it.

As a result, the Glostavent is now being used in 14 countries across the world, and is highly successful in every one.

Nor is interest confined to the developing world. Both the US Navy and the Chinese Air Force have expressed interest. The Americans organised a highly formal presentation at the Walter Reed Memorial Hospital in Washington. By contrast, the fiendishly cunning Chinese, who had obviously done their homework, “sent their entire drinking team to discussions in the ballroom of the Beijing Hilton”

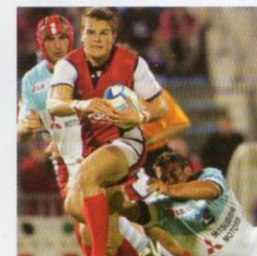
“Fortunately” writes Roger “I was in training for this particular event”. Well, we know where he got his coaching, don't we.

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

**I'M INTRIGUED** to note that the full name of today's welcome and respected visitors is 'Aviron Bayonnais'

I don't wish to be disrespectful, but doesn't that sound a bit like a salad dressing?

And we moaned about 'Gloucester Lions'



The History

# Match Action

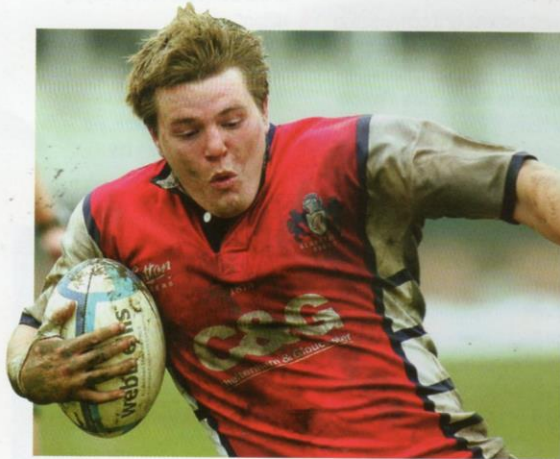
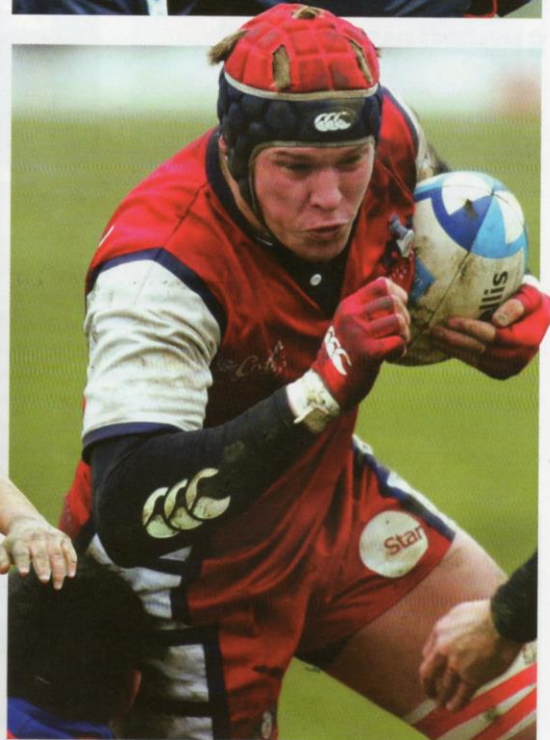
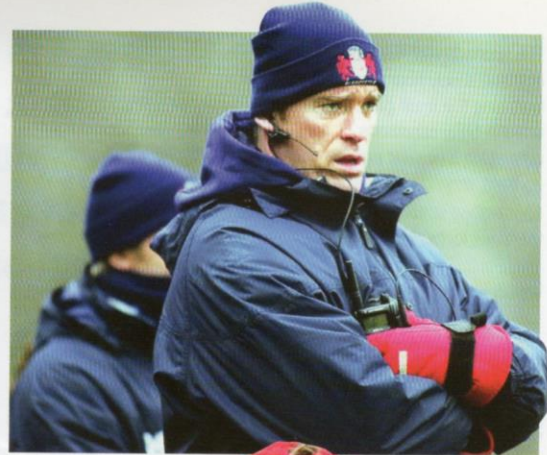
European  
Challenge Cup  
ERC



## Bucuresti 13 Gloucester Rugby 27

European Challenge Cup  
Saturday, January 14  
Referee: D. Rosich (Fra)

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



**G**LOUCESTER got the four tries they needed for a fourth successive bonus point victory over Bucuresti - but it was the Romanian side who deserved all the credit.

Following their 106-3 defeat at Kingsholm, Bucuresti played their hearts out and only trailed 5-0 at half-time in freezing conditions on a bog-like pitch. Gloucester got

the perfect start when flanker Jake Boer was driven over for the opening try after Adam Eustace had held a catch at a line-out.

But Gloucester could not maintain possession or territory for long enough against a side who produced what was probably their performance of the season.

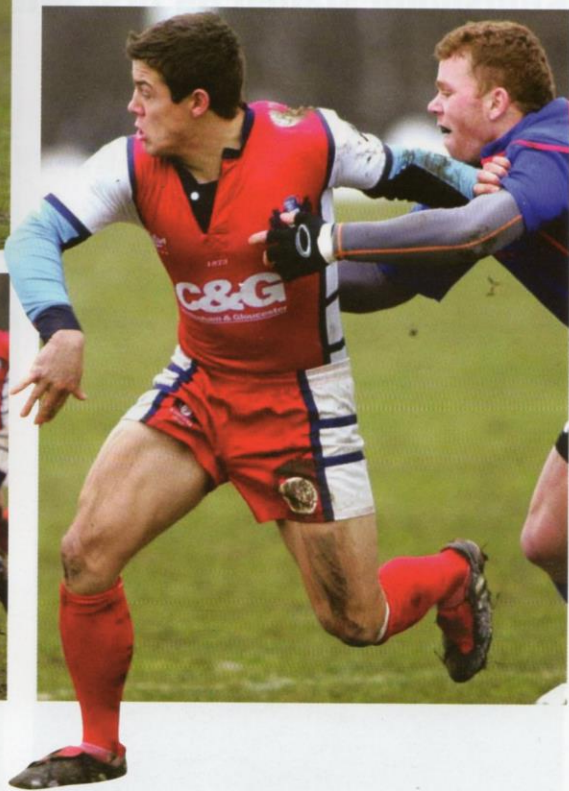
"I think you have to give Bucuresti a huge amount of credit for the way they approached the game," said Gloucester's head coach Dean Ryan.

"From our point of view there was a quality issue and that came because the team contained a number of players who have not been involved week in, week out.

"It was a very difficult game but we got the bonus point and the job done and that was the most important thing. I appreciate it was not a game of great quality, but our supporters, who were once again superb, played a major part on a difficult afternoon."

Gloucester stretched their lead to 12-0 when

The Honour



replacement prop Gary Powell burst through several tackles with a solid carry and his off-load put Rob Elloway in for the score.

But Bucuresti would not lie down and hit back themselves when lock Cornel Tatu forced his way over in the far left corner following a period of home pressure.

However, Ryan rang the changes and the fresh legs played a key role in the final 15 minutes. Peter Richards grabbed the third try when he took Mefin Davies' lovely little flick pass and the fourth try was secured when the referee Davod Rosich awarded a penalty try following constant pressure at a scrum.



The History

# Behind The Scenes

**The battle of Britain was looming and rugby was taking a back seat during the Second World War. But Gloucester were still able to play 20 matches and Kingsholm staged its first international against Wales, Dave King investigates.**

**CAN YOU** imagine what Kingsholm was like in the 1939-40 season?

It was a time when improvisation was required



simply to fulfil fixtures due to the outbreak of the Second World War. Players were rarely available and matches spasmodic.

But Gloucester fared better than most and fulfilled 20 matches even though the season started late.

However, it was always successful. Stroud completed the double over us by winning 11-5 at Kingsholm and then completed an outstanding 11-7 victory at Fromehall Park.

Despite the obvious difficulties, the magnificent

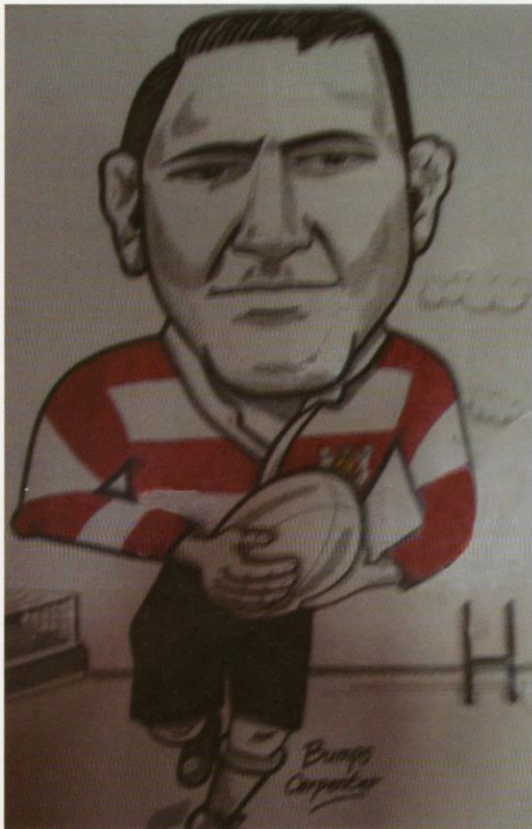
'Bumps' Carpenter captained the club and Francis Edwards won international honours with England as a centre.

Understandably, there was very minimal travelling and of the 20 fixtures played the only away games were played at Oxford University, Stroud and Bristol.

Notable players in that season of strife were Gordon Hudson, Rev. Hughes, John A'Bear, 'Digger' Morris, Tom Day and Tom Price.

Harold Boughton led the way in the point-scoring tally with





23 conversions and three penalty goals. Gordon Hudson was the top try scorer with eight.

The Gloucester XV that took the field at Kingsholm on 6th April 1940 in the last club fixture for a period of five years, in their match with Somerset Police was:  
H. Boughton; R.E. Hook, W. Hook, S.H. Davies, R.C. Upham; T. Stephens, W.H. Moreland; A. Carpenter, T. Day, J. Robbins, H.O.D. Ricketts, J.G. A'Bear, A.G. Hudson, Dr.G.W. Balfour and

Rev H.M. Hughes. Ninth forward: J. Kingscote. Somerset Police included a former Gloucester forward in their pack in F. Mustoe. He was appearing alongside six Somerset County players and E. Thomas a Welsh International trialist.

Their team was: G. Maunder; E. Williams, E. Thomas, C. Cray, J.H. Goldsworthy; D. Roberts, K. Tremlett; A. Rix, W. Hacking, G. Steer, F. Mustoe, J.H. Hamer, F.W. Williams (Captain), R. Davies, C. Earle.

Gloucester were not expected to win but sprang a surprise by winning by 22-9. Ricketts, Hughes, Day and Bob Hook scored tries. Bob Hook also scored a drop goal with Harold Boughton converting three of the tries.

The curtain fell on Rugby Union at club level for five years. That momentous season had this full record of matches.

Try Scorers: - Hudson 8, Hughes 6, Brown, Bown and R.E.Hook 5 each. Upham, Day 4 each, A'Bear, Price 3 each, Morris, Parfitt, Kear, and W.Hook 2 each. Edwards, Cook, Daly, Balfour, Thornton, Ricketts and Moreland 1 each.

Conversions: - Boughton 23, Stephens 4, R.E.Hook 3.

Penalty Goals: - Stephens 6, Boughton 3, R.E.Hook 1

Dropped Goals: - Stephens 2, Kear, Parfitt & R.E.Hook 1 each.

Although the season was complete at club level there was still the prospect of a momentous occasion - an International match at Kingsholm.

Patience was a virtue when Kingsholm staged the first war-time international between England and Wales on 13th April 1940.

Queues began to form around the ground as early as 10.30am. This was despite

the fact that tickets were not on sale until noon.

The Welsh had travelled mainly by road and the customary leeks and rosettes were prominent as they watched in anticipation to be among the first to buy the 15,000 available tickets at the ticket office. However, the bulk of the crowd arrived at Gloucester railway station.

There was feverish activity among the members of the Gloucester Committee. Extra stands had been placed in position between the permanent stands and the gymnasium. In the car park a large marquee had been erected where the teams and officials were set to have lunch and tea.

Police were everywhere; over a hundred had been drafted into the city. Also utilised with the regular constables were plain clothes officers and 60 special constables.

As 1pm approached, T.A. Kemp the England captain and eight of his team mates arrived on a train from London. They were met by Tom Voyce the chairman of Gloucester RFC and also a committee man of the Rugby Union and Mr Douglas Prentice.

Autograph hunters were in abundance at Gloucester station. After satisfying the signature seekers the players walked to the Kingsholm Ground where they had lunch.

The Welsh team arrived shortly afterwards at the Great Western railway station where they were met by Mr H.J. Belchin on behalf of the City club. The players had taken lunch on the train and

**“It was a time when improvisation was required simply to fulfil fixtures due to the outbreak of the Second World War.”**

The **History**

	Date	Team	Venue	Result
October	14th	Gloucestershire Regiment XV	Home	Won 29-9
	21st	Stroud	Home	Lost 5-11
	28th	Oxford University	Away	Lost 9-21
November	4th	Welsh Army XV	Home	Won 13-8
	11th	Oxford University	Home	Won 28-14
	18th	Weston	Home	Drew 6-6
December	2nd	East Yorkshire Regiment	Home	Won 23-14
	9th	Bath	Home	Drew 3-3
	16th	Bridgend	Home	Drew 3-3
	23rd	Stroud	Away	Lost 7-11
January	6th	Bristol	Away	Lost 0-15
February	10th	Welsh Army XV	Home	Lost 13-16
	24th	South Wales Borders	Home	Won 16-0
March	2nd	Bristol	Home	Drew 11-11
	9th	Royal Artillery Cadets	Home	Won 24-9
	16th	University Athletic Club	Home	Drew 17-17
	23rd	Guys Hospital	Home	Won 19-6
	25th	St Mary's Hospital	Home	Won 24-0
April	30th	Bridgend	Home	Won 18-13
	6th	Somerset Police	Home	Won 22-9

they now had to make their way to Kingsholm through the crowded streets.

Spectators were entertained by the band of the Cotswold Sea Cadets and then by the bands of the Royal Tank Regiment who gave a fine display of marching and counter marching.

Welsh supporters were placing leeks in the centre of the pitch with Police and Special Constables chasing them off with the Welshmen defeating the Police with admirable body swerves.

Nothing could be tied to the posts because they had been

smearred with thick yellow grease as one man found to his cost!

As the kick off took place there were 16,000 spectators in the official attendance figure and the gate receipts were £2,500. After the expenses had been deducted the balance was given to the Red Cross Fund.

The result of all this effort, 'The best in the country' is how Engineer Commander S.F. Cooper Secretary of the Rugby Football Union described the Kingsholm ground in his thanks to the Gloucester Club Committee for their organisation.

He singled out Mr Hudson for his great work and valuable time. The secretary added: "I heard nothing but praise from the R.U. Committee."

Francis Edwards the Wycliffian and Gloucester centre was the club's sole representative. The match itself was won by England a result that seemed irrelevant and immaterial with the 'Battle of Britain' imminent.

It was the last match played at Kingsholm of the 1939-1940 season. It was time for Britons to do their utmost to smash the cruel foe. Such was life in April 1940.

**"It was time for Britons to do their utmost to smash the cruel foe. Such was life in April 1940."**





# Today's Teams



## Gloucester Rugby



## Aviron Bayonnais

T C P D

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- Olly **Morgan**
- James **Simpson-Daniel**
- Mike **Tindall**
- Anthony **Allen**
- Mark **Foster**
- Ludovic **Mercier**
- Peter **Richards**
- Patrice **Collazo**
- Mefin **Davies**
- Gary **Powell**
- Adam **Eustace**
- Alex **Brown**
- Peter **Buxton**
- Jake **Boer**
- Adam **Balding** (c)

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- Rob **Elloway**
- Terry **Sigley**
- Jonathan **Pendlebury**
- Luke **Narraway**
- Haydn **Thomas**
- Simon **Amor**
- Rob **Thirlby**

- 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**

- Clement **Fromont**
- Benjamin **Lhande**
- Sebastien **Roque**
- Henri **Vermis**
- Benjamin **Thierry**
- Gerard **Fraser**
- Gregory **Sudre** (c)
- Jean-Marie **Usandisaga**
- Grant **Hill**
- Jorge **Garcia**
- Thierry **Cleda**
- Steven **Hall**
- Louis **Massabeau**
- Leo **Lafaili'i**
- Yannick **Lamour**

T C P D

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- Eduard **Coetzee**
- Jeremy **Tomuli**
- Christophe **Laurent**
- Mattieu **Silo**
- Cedric **Bergez**
- Vlastcheslav **Gratchev**
- Richard **Dourthe**



**TODAY'S OFFICIALS**  
**REFEREE:** George Clancy (Iri) **TOUCH JUDGE 2:** Trevor Collins  
**TOUCH JUDGE 1:** Alan Rogan **RESERVE OFFICIAL:** Lloyd Jackson

**TODAY'S RESULT**  
**GLOUCESTER:**   
**AVIRON BAYONNAIS:**



# European Challenge Cup

[ercrugby.com](http://ercrugby.com)

Round Six