



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF GLOUCESTER RUGBY 2008/2009 ISSUE 13 • £3.00



Gloucester Rugby  
v Sale Sharks

14.02.09 15.00



# GARETH DELVE

**CARLOS SPENCER**

Meet the man

**IAIN BALSHAW**

Half century of tries

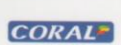
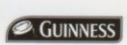
**DEAN RYAN**

On that win over London Irish

**SALE SHARKS**

All you need to know about today's visitors

**PLUS:** Match action, Fans Zone, Peter Arnold, Community news and much more



www.guinnesspremiership.com



## CAPTAIN'S CORNER



I AM not going to dwell too long on our victory over London Irish – except to say one thing.

I don't think anyone in the stadium that afternoon could have been prouder than me and the rest of the team for the way we stuck at our task against a very good team who were playing pretty close to their maximum.

As captain for the first time, it made me realise just how much a part this club has played in my career and my life and I would love to bottle that atmosphere and take it with me everywhere.

Although we can be proud of that performance, particularly in the second half, it is in the past now. Our task is to re-create that fervour, that mentality, that willingness to go the extra yard again this afternoon against Sale.

These games are coming thick and fast and although both teams will be without their internationals it should be another absorbing afternoon at Kingsholm. Sale are an outstanding team – they can mix the ability of their forward pack with Charlie Hodgson's pin-point kicking game and the game-breaking qualities of Luke McAlister to be a pretty complete all-round side.

If you look at some of their recent results they have the ability to be very clinical against the very top teams and that is something we have to be very aware of today because we cannot afford the same start we put together against London Irish.

It is once again a pleasure to be asked

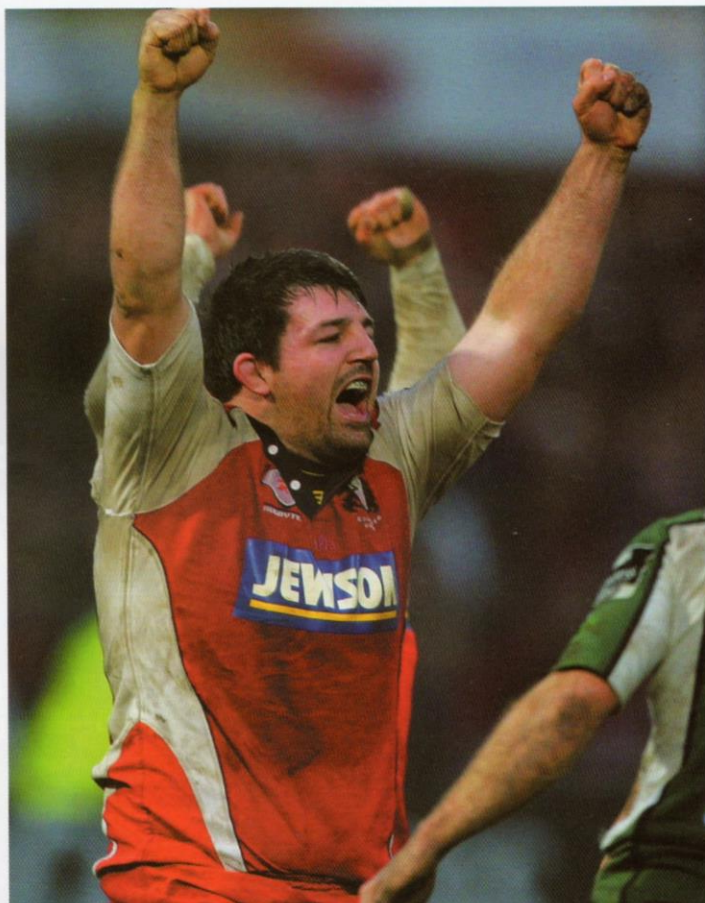


**Although we can be proud of that performance, particularly in the second half, it is in the past now. Our task is to re-create that fervour, that mentality, that willingness to go the extra yard again this afternoon against Sale.**



to captain the side this afternoon and on behalf of all the staff, players and supporters, may I take this opportunity to welcome Carlos Spencer to Kingsholm – it will be a pleasure to have him in the home dressing room for a change.

Finally, please give us that little bit extra for us this afternoon – the atmosphere against Irish was the best I can recall for some time – please help us to get there again.




# GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD



## 1ST XV SQUAD 2008/2009

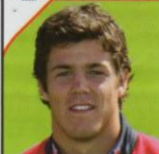
**JACK ADAMS** CENTRE




Height: 6'1"  
Weight: 15st  
DOB: 17.09.86

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**ANTHONY ALLEN** CENTRE





ENGLAND 

Height: 5'11"  
Weight: 14st 7lb  
DOB: 01.09.86

**DEAN CLOSE SCHOOL**

**OLIVIER AZAM** HOOKER





FRANCE 

Height: 6'1"  
Weight: 19st  
DOB: 21.10.74

**Star**  
The Business ISP

**IAN BALSHAW** WING/  
FULL-BACK



ENGLAND 

Height: 6'1"  
Weight: 14st 2lb  
DOB: 14.04.79

**butler silcock**

**OLLY BARKLEY** CENTRE/  
STAND-OFF



ENGLAND 

Height: 5'10"  
Weight: 14st 6lb  
DOB: 28.11.81

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**MARCO BORTOLAMI** LOCK




ITALY 


Height: 6'5"  
Weight: 17st 5lb  
DOB: 12.06.80

**WILT'S**  
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**ALEX BROWN** LOCK

ENGLAND 

Height: 6'7"  
Weight: 18st 11lb  
DOB: 17.05.79

 JAGUAR

**PETER BUXTON** BACK ROW

Height: 6'4"  
Weight: 18st 11lb  
DOB: 21.08.78

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01342 677118


**GARETH COOPER** SCRUM-HALF

WALES 

Height: 5'7"  
Weight: 13st  
DOB: 07.05.79

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**GARETH DELVE** BACK ROW

WALES 

Height: 6'3"  
Weight: 18st 11lb  
DOB: 30.12.82

**Terry, Ann &  
Debbie Short**

**ALASDAIR DICKINSON** PROP

SCOTLAND 

Height: 6"  
Weight: 17st 5lb  
DOB: 11.09.83

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
**ADAM EUSTACE** LOCK

Height: 6'5"  
Weight: 16st 12lb  
DOB: 09.01.79

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**JACK FORSTER** PROP

Height: 6'1"  
Weight: 18st 11lb  
DOB: 19.03.87


 MIKE BURTON

**MARK FOSTER** WING



Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 15st  
DOB: 02.09.83

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**ANDREW HAZELL** BACK-ROW

ENGLAND 


Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 14st 13lb  
DOB: 25.04.78

  WESTBANK K  
SEVERN-SIDE SECURITY

**WILL JAMES** LOCK


WALES 

Height: 6'6"  
Weight: 18st 11lb  
DOB: 22.12.76

 Roberts Limbrick  
ARCHITECTS

**RYAN LAMB** STAND-OFF

Height: 5'9"  
Weight: 13st 5lb  
DOB: 18.05.86

 NFU Mutual

**RORY LAWSON** SCRUM-HALF

SCOTLAND 

Height: 5'8"  
Weight: 13st 5lb  
DOB: 12.03.81

 CAMION

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD

 <p><b>DAVE LEWIS</b> → SCUM-HALF</p>  <p>Height: 5'7" Weight: 12st 8lb DOB: 29.04.89</p> <p><b>TO BECOME A PLAYER SPONSOR PLEASE CALL 0871 8718781</b></p>	 <p><b>ROSS MCMILLAN</b> → HOOKER</p>  <p>Height: 6'1" Weight: 16st 7lb DOB: 02.06.87</p> <p><b>TO BECOME A PLAYER SPONSOR PLEASE CALL 0871 8718781</b></p>
 <p><b>OLLY MORGAN</b> → FULL-BACK</p>  <p>ENGLAND </p> <p>Height: 6'2" Weight: 14st 2lb DOB: 03.11.85</p> <p> www.funpunch.com</p>	 <p><b>LUKE NARRAWAY</b> → BACK ROW</p>  <p>ENGLAND </p> <p>Height: 6'3" Weight: 15st 13lb DOB: 07.08.83</p> <p></p>
 <p><b>CARLOS NIETO</b> → PROP</p>  <p>ITALY </p> <p>Height: 6'1" Weight: 17st 4lb DOB: 28.04.76</p> <p> TRAINING &amp; RECRUITMENT www.trainandrecruit.com</p>	 <p><b>DAN NORTON</b> → WING</p>  <p>Height: 5'10" Weight: 12st 8lb DOB: 22.03.88</p> <p> MIKE BURTON</p>
 <p><b>JORDI PASQUALIN</b> → SCUM-HALF</p>  <p>Height: 6'0" Weight: 12st 10lb DOB: 28.03.90</p> <p><b>TO BECOME A PLAYER SPONSOR PLEASE CALL 0871 8718781</b></p>	 <p><b>APO SATALA</b> → FLANKER</p>  <p>ENGLAND</p> <p>Height: 6'4" Weight: 17st 2lb DOB: 14.08.78</p> <p><b>TO BECOME A PLAYER SPONSOR PLEASE CALL 0871 8718781</b></p>
 <p><b>CHARLIE SHARPLES</b> → WING</p>  <p>Height: 6'0" Weight: 14st 6lb DOB: 30.05.82</p> <p> MIKE BURTON</p>	 <p><b>AKAPUSI QERA</b> → BACK ROW</p>  <p>FIJI </p> <p>Height: 6'4" Weight: 16st DOB: 24.04.84</p> <p> ROBERT MEWELL HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT</p>
 <p><b>JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL</b> → WING</p>  <p>ENGLAND </p> <p>Height: 6" Weight: 14st 6lb DOB: 30.05.82</p> <p></p>	 <p><b>GREG SOMERVILLE</b> → PROP</p>  <p>NEW ZEALAND </p> <p>Height: 6'1" Weight: 18st 2lb DOB: 30.05.82</p> <p> MONTPELLIER CHELTENHAM TEL: 01242 221177</p>



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 SCOTLAND   
 Height: 6'3"  
 Weight: 15st 5lb  
 DOB: 21.02.83  
  
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**ANDY TITTERRELL** HOOKER  
 ENGLAND   
 Height: 5'10"  
 Weight: 14st 2lb  
 DOB: 10.01.81  
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**MIKE TINDALL** CENTRE  
 ENGLAND   
 Height: 6'2"  
 Weight: 15st 12lb  
 DOB: 18.10.78  
  
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**HENRY TRINDER** CENTRE  
 Height: 6'0"  
 Weight: 13st 12lb  
 DOB: 14.04.89  
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 0871 8718781**


**LESLEY VAINIKOLO** WING  
 ENGLAND   
 Height: 6'2"  
 Weight: 17st 8lb  
 DOB: 04.05.79  
  
 hightech  
 GROUP

**WILLIE WALKER** STAND-OFF / FULL-BACK  
 Height: 6'0"  
 Weight: 13st 12lb  
 DOB: 19.05.78  
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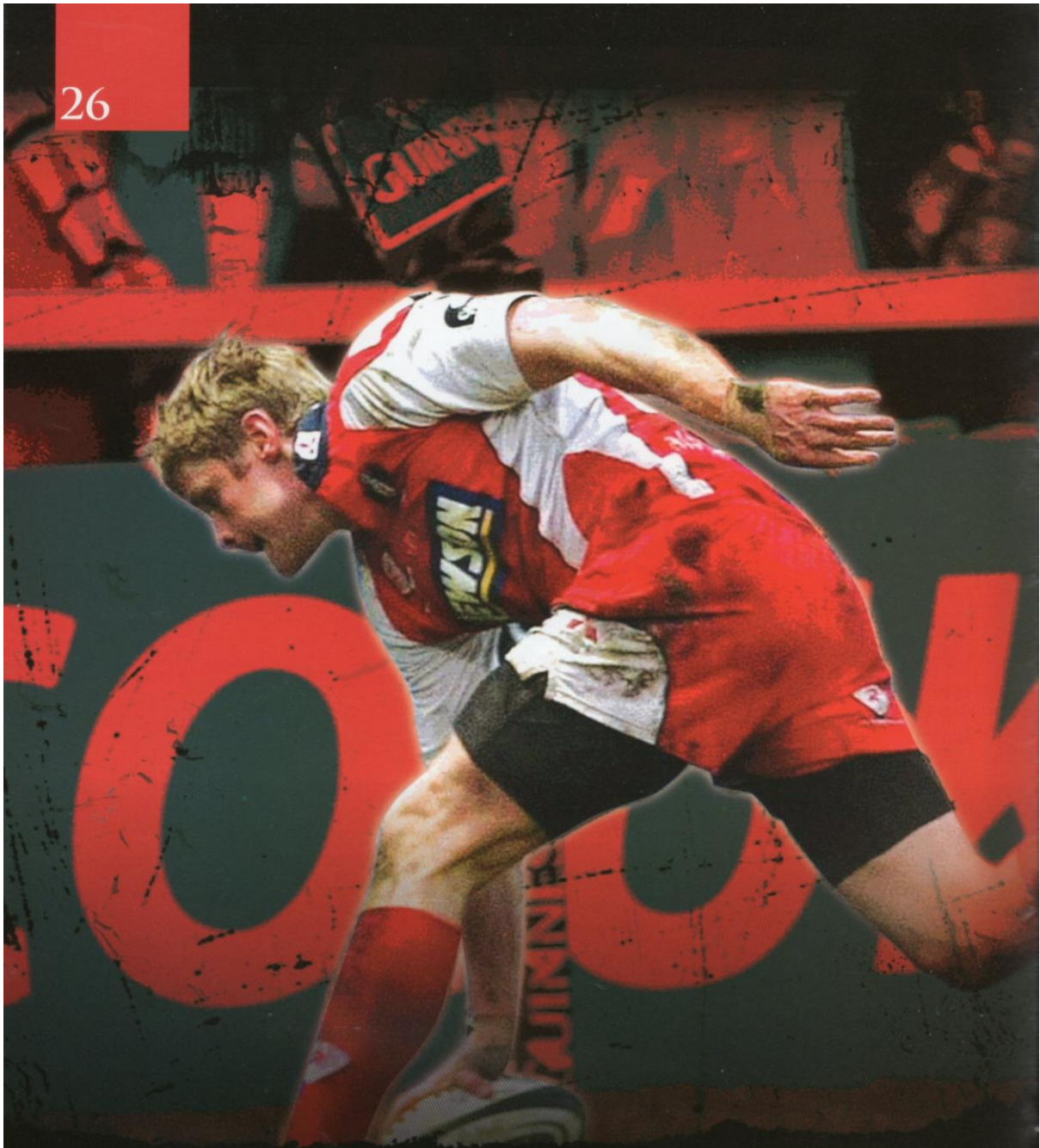
**MATTHEW WATKINS** CENTRE  
 WALES   
 Height: 6'0"  
 Weight: 14st 7lb  
 DOB: 02.09.78  
**TO BECOME A  
 PLAYER SPONSOR  
 PLEASE CALL  
 0871 8718781**


**DAN WILLIAMS** NUMBER 8  
 Height: 6'5"  
 Weight: 16st 7lb  
 DOB: 01.02.89  
  
 allpay-net


**NICK WOOD** PROP  
 Height: 6'1"  
 Weight: 17st 5lb  
 DOB: 09.01.83  
  
 Star  
 The Business ISP

**DAVE YOUNG** PROP  
 Height: 6'0"  
 Weight: 18st 6lb  
 DOB: 18.12.85  
  
 mb  
 MIKE BURTON

**DEAN RYAN** HEAD COACH  
  
 dair\*



 His try against London Irish was his 50th in the Guinness Premiership and as Iain Balshaw tells the match day programme, there is still more to come.



# STRIKE POWER



## STRIKE POWER



IT MIGHT not have registered on the all-time list of dazzling tries but it is doubtful whether there has been a more crucial one for Gloucester this side of the last ice age.

For Iain Balshaw it was nothing more than a run-in for one of the game's more wonderfully free-spirited talents but delve a little deeper and his effort against London Irish a fortnight ago was far more important than that.

Not only was it the 50th Premiership try of his career - and only the elite of the elite have managed that - but it rescued Gloucester from what would have been a fourth successive defeat, a scenario so grisly that the potential repercussions stretched way down Kingsholm Road and back again.

Gloucester's second half recovery against the then leaders of the Guinness Premiership will rank among the modern day 'I was there moments' and if it is too far fetched to say it saved a season then it certainly breathed life into a campaign that was heading up its own nether regions.

In that respect it was fitting Balshaw delivered the vital try. If it hadn't been for a groin injury then Gloucester's most threatening outside back may well have reached the target before now.

And while he might not possess the same box of tricks as a James Simpson-Daniel there are few more beautifully balanced runners in the game, fewer still who can do it from either the wing or full-back and precisely no-one who has made such an impact on the national team as Balshaw did in 2001.

Judging by the way England were reduced to a stodgy mess against Italy last weekend, a Balshaw here and there may be just what they need, not that he is

thinking too much about that.

"I have been around long enough now to look at most things and have a little laugh to myself and there is not much in this game that I have not seen in club or International level" he said.



**If you look around our squad at the moment there are plenty of players with international experience but our minds are focused on taking this club as far as we can and we are not there yet, not by a long way**



"I count myself very lucky to have achieved what I have done for England. I believe anything in this game is a possibility provided you are playing well and that is my priority at Gloucester, pure and simple.

"If you look around our squad at the moment there are plenty of players with international experience but our minds are focused on taking this club as far as we can and we are not there yet, not by a long way.

"My full focus is on playing well for Gloucester. If I can do that on a regular basis then I hope I will be in contention for an international spot. That is all I can do - the rest is out of my hands. I feel there are a number of players playing very well for us at the moment but are not getting a look in. All they can do is keep performing well, keep proving the selectors wrong and they will get their chance."

Balshaw has five Guinness Premiership tries to his name from six league appearances this season - a strike-rate that borders on the stratospheric - but what does he think of his landmark and did he ever think it was possible.

"When you make your debut something like that never even crosses your mind," he said. "In fact, I didn't know until after the game I had reached 50. It was a special moment for me personally obviously but of more significance was the fact it won a hugely tight game for us.

"It is a good feeling to know I have contributed no matter where I have played but I would also like to think there is more to come too - I just want to stay fit, stay sharp and keep working as hard as I have done.

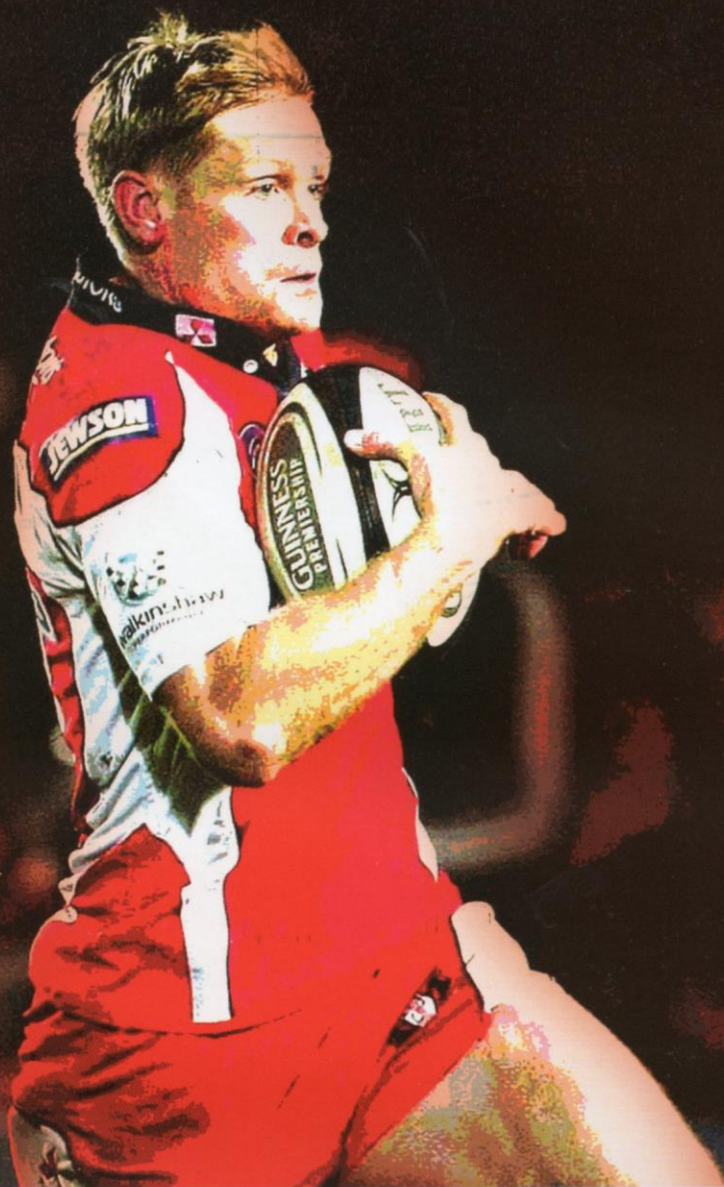
"Whatever has gone on this season, there is no questioning our desire to do well and be successful. If that was the case, I am pretty sure we wouldn't have turned round the game against Irish - that was down to guts, character and belief."

Balshaw became the ninth player in the competitions history to hit the half-century - Steve Hanley heads the list with 75 - and he will be back between the shafts this afternoon when the Sharks come to Kingsholm.

"We are top of the Premiership which means we are doing something right, although we know we can get better," Balshaw said.

"Sale are a fantastically good side, they can produce an exceptional kicking game as well as a cutting edge so we appreciate we will have to be really focused and energised to get the right result."

If that happens, Gloucester may well just have to thank Iain Balshaw and his first step towards his second half century.



### IAIN BALSHAW FACTFILE

Prem debut was v Bristol on 18 Oct 97

### BALSHAW'S MILESTONES

1st try was for Bath v Richmond (Athletic Ground) on 13 Apr 98

10th Premiership try: Bath at Saracens, 28 Mar 99

20th try: Bath at Newcastle Falcons, 25 Jan 00

30th try: Bath at Gloucester, 9 Sep 00

40th try: Gloucester v London Irish, 1 Jan 07

50th try: Gloucester v London Irish, 31 Jan 09

### SCORING 50 PREMIERSHIP TRIES

Steve Hanley

(Sale Sharks v Northampton Saints, 12 Sep 03) 79th game

Neil Back

(Leicester Tigers at Harlequins, 27 Mar 04) 103rd game

Mark Cueto (Sale Sharks v Bath, 28 Apr 06) 93rd game

Paul Sackey

(London Wasps v Harlequins, 17 Sep 06) 138th game

Ben Cohen

(Northampton Saints at Bristol, 25 Mar 07) 145th game

Tom Voyce

(London Wasps v London Irish, 14 Oct 07) 148th game

Josh Lewsey

(London Wasps v Leeds Carnegie, 5 Jan 08) 145th game

Geordan Murphy

(Leicester Tigers at Gloucester, 7 Sep 08) 136th game

Iain Balshaw

(Gloucester v London Irish, 31 Jan 09) 139th game

Stats compiled by Stuart Farmer



## RYAN'S REVIEW



*It would be impossible to start without looking back at the victory over London Irish – it was some comeback?*

**DR:** IRISH were top of the Guinness Premiership, at full strength and playing some excellent rugby based on a sound movement game and astute management of their options.

We conceded a couple of sort tries from first phase ball and although we worked exceptionally hard, Irish dominated the first-half.

I think the key was that we didn't panic or lose control of the game. Just before half-time we managed a couple of penalties that dragged the score back and we got in, we kept our composure and just realised we had to build some territory and possession



**One try was always likely to be the difference – we kept our shape and composure and that paid off with seven minutes to go. I said immediately afterwards a lot of stuff had been thrown at us externally but we sat at took it and are now top of the Guinness Premiership.**



and try and take our opportunities.

I always thought we could get a dividend from our scrum the longer the game went on and eventually that's what happened.

It was a great testament to our resolve that we hung in there and got the result – it was one of those Kingsholm experiences that was pretty special to be involved in – particularly against a side that was previously top of the table.



*Since that game, Carlos Spencer has signed for us and Willie Walker has joined Worcester on loan.*

**DR:** THE opportunity to sign Carlos was simply too good to turn down and I am delighted to be able to bring a player of his calibre to Gloucester.

His impact has been immediate – it raised the impetus and energy levels in training, his has tremendous knowledge and ideas and we all found it really refreshing to get his take on things. It is



Andy Hazell against Falcons



Olly Barkley against London Irish



Gareth Delve in action against London Irish

early days obviously but the players have responded to him and that is great.

To see him in Gloucester colours in the near future is very exciting for everybody involved with the club.



***Despite his arrival, we are still really suffering with injuries.***

**DR:** THIS weekend we will have everyone involved somewhere along the line and that is a situation I cannot ever remember. We have recalled two players back from England Under-20s just so we have enough options so it is pretty tough.

We have operated with reduced numbers in the back five of the scrum for weeks and that situation, when you combine it during an international period, is very hard to get through. But we got Gareth Delve back for the Irish game and I thought his

contribution was outstanding considering he had been out of action for nine months.

Andy Hazell is also back and he provides another dynamic option at openside, which is also significant at this stage, but hopefully we will get the numbers back in a few weeks when the season enters its crucial phase.



***Today we welcome Sale Sharks to Kingsholm – another side aiming for a play-off place.***

**DR:** WE know what a good side they can be from our game at Edgeley Park earlier in the season. Charlie Hodgson and Luke McAlister provide a variety of kicking options, their forward pack is abrasive and they have genuine cutting edge. They are another very good side who have genuine play-off ambitions.

It means we will have to be at our best

today but it is vital we take forward the really good aspects of our game against London Irish and take another big step towards the top four.



**We have operated with reduced numbers in the back five of the scrum for weeks and that situation, when you combine it during an international period, is very hard to navigate through. But we got Gareth Delve back for the Irish and I thought his contribution was outstanding considering he had been out of action for nine months.**



# TODAY'S TEAMS

Saturday 14th February 2009 15.00  
**Gloucester Rugby v Sale Sharks**



**GLoucester RUGBY**

**SALE SHARKS**

**REPLACEMENTS**

16: TITTERRELL  
 17: FORSTER  
 18: EUSTACE  
 19: WILLIAMS  
 20: LAMB  
 21: ALLEN  
 22: SHARPLES

**REPLACEMENTS**

16: JONES  
 17: O'DONNELL  
 18: ABRAHAM  
 19: TAIT  
 20: LECK  
 21: KEIL  
 22: KUADEY

**Guinness Premiership Table**

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Gloucester Rugby	13	9	0	4	291	243	29	26	4	1	41
2	London Irish	13	8	0	5	321	199	37	16	3	5	40
3	Sale Sharks	12	9	0	3	221	164	19	11	2	1	39
4	Bath Rugby	11	7	1	3	272	227	31	22	2	3	35
5	Leicester Tigers	12	7	1	4	255	238	23	23	0	2	32
6	Harlequins	12	6	1	5	283	239	31	21	2	3	31
7	Saracens	12	6	0	6	280	223	24	17	2	4	30
8	Northampton Saints	13	5	1	7	239	281	21	27	0	1	23
9	London Wasps	11	4	0	7	200	242	14	25	0	4	20
10	Worcester Warriors	11	3	2	6	188	233	15	24	0	2	18
11	Newcastle Falcons	12	3	1	8	168	286	16	29	0	2	16
12	Bristol Rugby	12	1	1	10	146	299	13	32	0	3	9

**Today's Officials**

Referee: Martin Fox

Touch Judges: Martin Buck & Paul Emerson

4th: Mark Tovey

Replacement Ref:



## DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY



**Dave King delves into the record books to dig**

**out Gloucester's hat-trick heroes, the sides who have struggled most against the men at Kingsholm and the football stadiums Gloucester have featured on down the years.**

Since the innovation of professional rugby we have completed the double in league fixtures on 41 occasions. (Home results are the first figure).

1996-97- West Hartlepool; 37-10, 23-14. Orrell; 30-0, 49-3.  
 London Irish; 29-19, 21-20  
 1997-98- Bristol; 35-13, 14-13. Northampton; 20-15, 24-22.  
 1998-99- None  
 1999-00- Sale; 35-14, 31-13. Bristol; 29-23, 38-25. London Irish; 40-15, 42-40. Bedford; 60-17, 18-6. Harlequins; 24-23, 38-24.  
 2000-01- Newcastle; 28-13, 19-18. Rotherham; 50-17, 29-28.  
 2001-02- Sale; 42-14, 44-21. Bristol; 51-17, 41-40. Leeds; 58-7, 50-17. Harlequins; 33-7, 18-6.  
 2002-03- Bristol 45-18, 38-21. Saracens; 44-14, 29-22. London Irish; 25-20, 40-19. Northampton; 18-9, 16-13. Newcastle; 25-23, 22-19. Harlequins; 29-11, 25-19.  
 2003-04- Leicester; 24-3, 28-18. Saracens; 30-7, 16-8. Rotherham; 22-8, 35-21. Harlequins; 18-17, 16-0.  
 2004-05- London Irish; 23-16, 13-12. Worcester; 28-16, 18-13.  
 2005-06- Saracens; 21-12, 19-9. Newcastle; 24-18, 13-9. Leeds; 31-7, 31-7.

2006-07- London Irish; 15-3, 22-11. Northampton; 28-27, 7-5. Worcester; 33-19, 33-24. Harlequins; 34-25, 31-21.  
 2007-08- Wasps; 27-21, 25-17. Saracens; 21-12, 38-21. Newcastle; 24-18, 20-13. Leeds; 39-16, 49-24.  
 2008-09- Bristol; 39-10, 29-10. Saracens; 26-22, 25-21.

The only league clubs that we have not completed the double over since 1997 are London Scottish, who only met Gloucester for one season in 1997-98 and the other is Bath whom we have defeated at the Recreation Ground this season. Obviously we have a golden opportunity to complete not only the double over our west country rivals for the first time but also a full house against all opponents that we have encountered in the professional age that are currently in the Premiership.

**FRANCIS Hartley, the first captain of this club originally played for one of London's clubs – the Flamingoes FC. They were founded in 1865 and were at the time a top class club and included on their fixture list such clubs as Blackheath, Richmond and Harlequins. Their ground was situated at Battersea Park although, their changing were situated at "The Clockhouse" in Battersea Park Road. The club was disbanded in 1877. The majority of their players at that time decided to join Harlequins. Their colours were red and dark blue jerseys, white shorts and red stockings. Francis Hartley, actually arranged for this famous old London club to play Gloucester. The Flamingoes were one of the flounder members of the Rugby Football Union.**

OUR match in the EDF Energy Cup at the Ricoh Stadium, Coventry will be the sixth time we have played at the home of a soccer club. With the Ricoh Stadium utilised by Coventry City we have also

played at the following soccer grounds. At Edgeley Park – home of Stockport County (Sale Sharks), Memorial Ground – now owned by Bristol Rovers (Bristol), Ashton Gate – home of Bristol City (Bristol), Madejski Stadium – home of Reading F.C. (London Irish), Vicarage Road home of Watford F.C. utilised by (Saracens), we actually played Leicester Tigers on this ground in a European Cup Semi-final.

Adams Park is the home of Wycombe Wanderers (London Wasps). While these clubs play their home fixtures on these grounds, it should be remembered we have also played a home fixture on a soccer ground – Ashton Gate where we played Bristol due to the refurbishment of Kingsholm on the 28th April 2007 in a 35-13 victory. A win marred by the career ending injury sustained by the luckless James Forrester. Soccer has been played at the home of Newcastle Falcons Kingstons Park, where Newcastle United have staged some of their reserve matches.

**HAT-TRICKS**, are more prevalent in league soccer but we have witnessed this amazing feat in league matches on various occasions. In the 1996-97 season, Mike Lloyd, recorded 3 tries against West Hartlepool at home on the 18th January 1997 in an Allied Dunbar fixture.

Two seasons later, in the 1998-99 season, Chris Catling repeated this feat with three against Newcastle on the 17th October at Kingsholm again in a Allied Dunbar encounter.

The following season of 1999-00, Elton Moncrieff, went one better than his predecessors by scoring four against Bedford in a Zurich League fixture on the 6th May 1999. In the 2000-01 season Frank Schisano, scored a hat-trick against Rotherham on 2nd September 2000 in an away fixture in the Zurich League.

James Simpson-Daniel, joined this

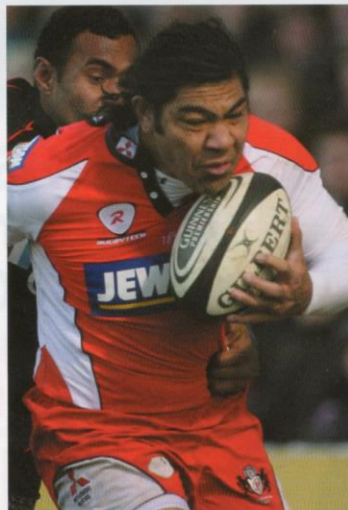


illustrious group by recording a coveted hat-trick of tries against Bath in a resounding 68-12 victory on 4th May 2002 in a Zurich League fixture at Kingsholm.

The 2002-03 season opened with a bang for winger Marcel Garvey when he scored three against Bristol at Kingsholm on 21st September in a Zurich League fixture. James Forrester also found the same opponents to his liking when he scored a hat-trick at the Memorial Ground on 16th March 2003 in that same season.

We had to wait until the commencement of 2007-08 season in the Guinness League for Lesley Vainikolo to not only pass his predecessors but also set a club record in League fixtures by scoring 5 tries on his club league debut at Leeds in an away encounter on 16th September 2007.

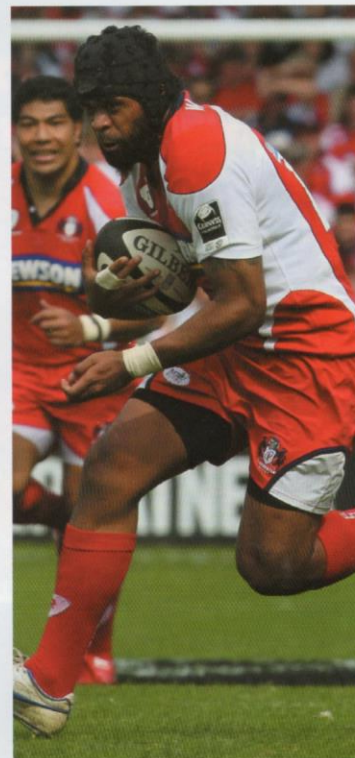
Just over 6 months later Akapusi Quera found the northern based club to his liking by scoring 3 tries versus Leeds at Kingsholm on 19th April in the dying throes of the Guinness League season of



2007-08.

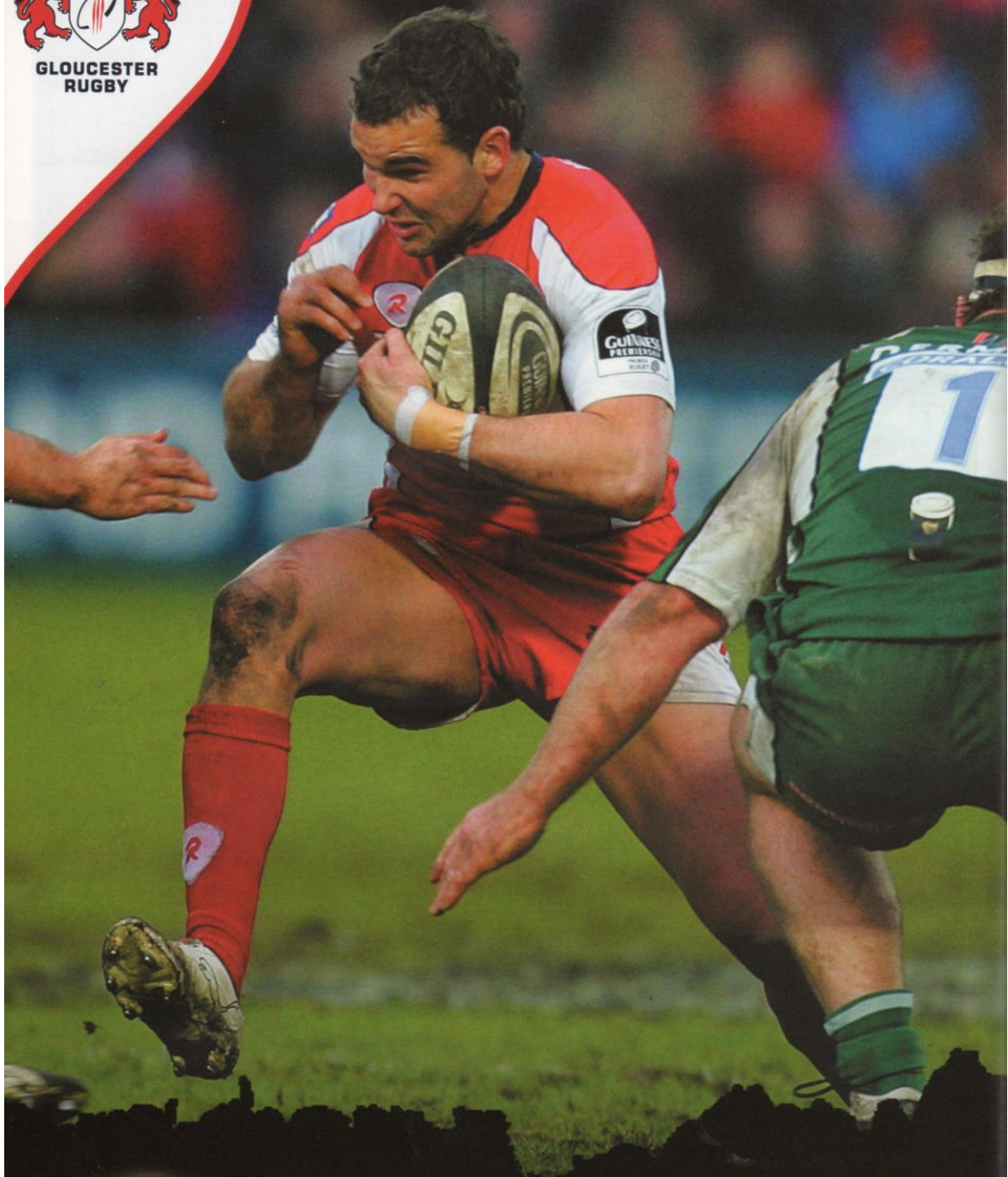
We patiently await others to join these nine players who have found fame in the club's records since we witnessed the change from amateur to professional status.

David King.





GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY



## OLLY BARKLEY

**DOB:** 28.11.81

**Weight:** 14st 6lb

**Height:** 5'10"

**Position:** Centre



## FAN ZONE WITH BOB FENTON

**Bob Fenton wants his beer back – the gallon or so he wagered with a mate that King Carlos would one day be at Kingsholm. His dream came true last week and there may be no better place to start than against Sale today.**

ABOUT 10 days ago I got an odd text from a mate: "Stop bloody grinning" was all it said. This was, I admit, confusing. A bit of detective work – or sending a text back asking what he was on about, drew the response "Carlos has signed".

So it was finally true, as I predicted many years ago to anyone who would listen, the great Mr Spencer would one day play for Gloucester. Well better late than never, Carlos!

Of course it is a bit late to cash in on my bet with a Kiwi mate that the overly-tattooed one would one day don the cherry and white jersey. I had paid up on the wager (one gallon of beer) last year, just before said mate returned to Auckland. Well I demand a refund – anyone heading that way let me know, I'll give you his address and you can go round and drink it for me.

I can imagine that Carlos is the kind of player that would drive coaches and teammates crazy as he just seems to do anything that comes into his head. I'm sure he really is a bit more structured than that really, but the 'wizard' tag was probably never more deserving.

Just watching some of the old footage of him brings a smile to your face. He's been there, seen it and done it – our

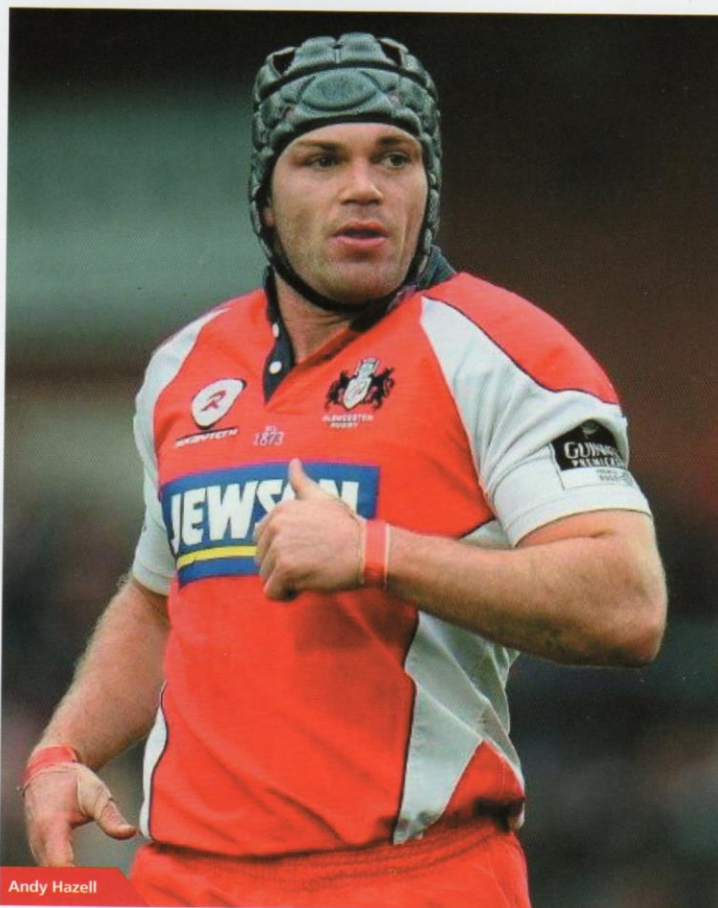
young players will learn heaps from him – providing that he actually knows what he is doing himself.

I look forward to hearing the roar of his huge Harley Davidson motorcycle as he rips into the Castle Grim car park. I wonder if he'll be able to keep up when the team jogs round the pitch. He's getting on a bit now but I think he'll just about make it. Maybe we'll find out today...

Yes, today... The big games are coming thick and fast now, it's a run of fixtures

from hell really – just about all the top sides in the space of a few weeks. If we come out in the same position as we have gone in, i.e. top – let me say that again as it sounds good – top of the table I'll return from the desert a very happy chappy.

As expected London Irish put up a stern test and at the end of the first half seemed to be on the verge of running in a cricket score against us. Instead, though, we came back like a Gloucester side of old – plenty of spirit and fight and a refusal to take a backward step.



Andy Hazell

Much has been said about the Irish tactics on the day. It's a rough, confrontational sport that we love to watch, but at times it did seem that they were bending the limits to breaking point. From my admittedly one-eyed viewpoint there were a lot of 'no arms' tackles flying in – Ryan Lamb being the lucky recipient of one moment after coming on – and a lot of high shots went unpunished.

Perhaps it was a collective refusal not to be bullied any more that pushed our boys forward, we certainly knocked Irish out

of their stride when we took the fight to them. Come to think of it, the arrival of Andy Hazell – and how good was it to see him run back onto the turf after so long out – may have had something to do with it.

More of the same today, please. Sale have developed into a quality side, and one that plays a good 'brand' of rugby. They also have one Luke McAlister among their ranks. This guy is a quality player with a capital 'Q'. I think many people were surprised when he opted to leave New Zealand to play up here

for a couple of years.

He seemed to have established himself in the All Black side and has over 20 Tests under his belt, so he's taken quite a risk if he thinks that he'll be able to go home at some point and get back into the national side. After all with the likes of Conrad Smith, Stephan Donald and Ma'a Nonu scrapping for the centre positions, and some bloke called Dan Carter holding down the 10 spot, he's going to have a fight on his hands to get back in.

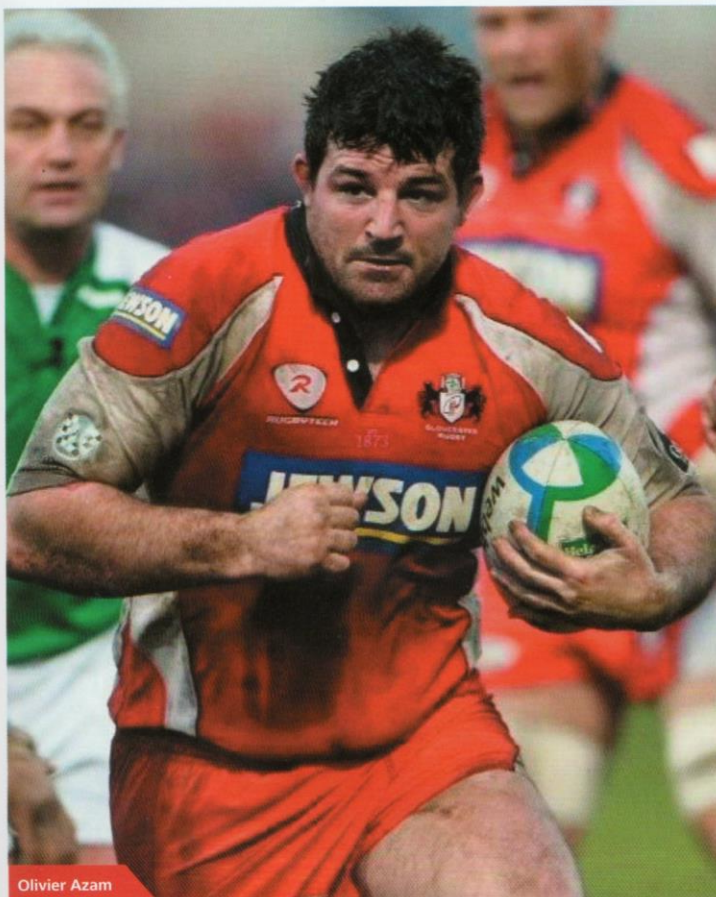
I look forward to seeing him play today – I hope he has a nightmare of course, but it's always good to see world class players on the Kingsholm turf.

Sale's visit will not only provide a mini-All Black's reunion with Carlos and Greg hooking up with young Mr McAlister, it'll also be a what I imagine will be a fairly poignant last visit for a certain Mr St Andre'.

The blessed Philippe is finally going back to France to take over the helm of the massively under-performing Toulon side. They paid a king's ransom to get Tana Umanga over there to coach, while it has not worked out for him, I reckon PSA will work some magic and we'll see that club start to achieve its potential.

Philippe is a pivotal figure in the modern history of Gloucester rugby, without him we would not be where we are now. He picked up the reins after Richer Dill's departure and led us forward – and kept us amused with a few dodgy signings among the many more excellent players he convinced to come to Gloucester.

So good luck in your new job, Philippe – maybe we'll see you in a European competition at some point. But you're not taking Olly Azam with you – understand.



Olivier Azam

GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
LONDON IRISH

23  
21



## Balshaw's try earns remarkable win

Saturday, January 31, Attendance: 14,291

Referee: Dave Pearson



IN ONE of those 'I was there moments' Gloucester produced a comeback from almost beyond the grave to secure a priceless Guinness Premiership victory over London Irish.

Iain Balshaw's 50th Premiership try of his career capped a memorable fight-back from Gloucester, who at one stage were 18-3 behind.

However, it was London Irish who made the far more purposeful start. They were dynamic from first phase ball and competitive against Gloucester's line-out. Irish took the lead when Paul Hodgson chipped from a scrum and when Rory Lawson failed to gather, Irish piled over and two phases later winger Adam Thompstone burst through from first receiver to score behind the sticks.

It was hardly the start Gloucester wanted and it was to get worse before it got better. Thompstone was again involved with a good carry and when Peter Hewat shifted possession to the right with a flat pass and Delon Armitage put Topsy Ojo in the for the score.

That made the score 15-0 and Irish were flying. Gloucester clung to the fact Olly Barkley was in solid goal-kicking form



and before the break he was to land three penalties to drag Gloucester back to 18-9 behind.

Gloucester started the second half with much more purpose and drive, although it was Irish who threatened first when Hewat launched a counter-attack from behind his line and it needed Iain Balshaw and Anthony Allen to mop up the danger – although Allen was dispatched to the cooler for killing the ball.

Hewat made it 21-9 and then Barkley dragged it back to 21-12 before Gloucester's scrum went into over-drive. With Greg Somerville, Nick Wood, Gareth

Delve and everyone else in red battering on, the home side started to turn the screw.

Barkley cut the gap to six points with another penalty and then to three when he slotted three points when Mapusua was binned for killing the ball. What Gloucester needed was a try and with time ticking by, they got one.

Delve plundered forward from a scrum, replacement scrum-half Ryan Lamb fed Barkley and then Allen produced a lovely miss-pass in midfield, Willie Walker steamed up and sent Balshaw in for the score. Kingsholm burst at the seams and the victory and comeback were complete.

### Man of the Match



Considering it was his first club game for nine months, Gareth Delve's performance was outstanding.



"You only had to see the dressing room to appreciate what it meant to people," head coach Dean Ryan



## Timeline

8 mins	
Hewat pen	0-3
11 mins:	
Thompston try, Hewat con	0-10
21 mins:	
Ojo try	0-15
29 mins:	
Barkley pen	3-15
36 mins:	
Hewat pen	3-18
38 mins:	
Barkley pen	6-18
40 mins:	
Barkley pen	9-18
53 mins:	
Hewat pen	9-21
57 mins:	
Barkley pen	12-21
60 mins:	
Barkley pen	15-21
63 mins:	
Barkley pen	18-21
73 mins:	
Balshaw try	23-21

## Gloucester Line-up

15	Willie Walker	
14	Iain Balshaw	(1t)
13	Henry Trinder	
12	Anthony Allen	
11	James Simpson-Daniel	
10	Olly Barkley	(6p)
9	Rory Lawson	
1	Alasdair Dickinson	
2	Olivier Azam	(capt)
3	Greg Somerville	
4	Adam Eustace	
5	Alex Brown	
6	Alasdair Strokosch	
7	Apolosi Satala	
8	Gareth Delve	
REPS		
16	Andy Titterrell	
17	Nick Wood	(Dickinson)
18	Marco Bortolami	(Eustace)
19	Andy Hazell	(Satala)
20	Dave Lewis	
21	Ryan Lamb	
22	Mark Foster	