

BRISTOL SHOGUNS

Official Matchday Programme



PRICE £2.50



PLAYER FOCUS

Agustin Pichot

MATCH REPORTS FROM
Saracens and Leicester

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Previous cup clashes

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Bristol Shoguns v Gloucester
6th Round Powergen Cup
Sun 16th Dec 2001
Kick Off 3.00pm



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Galaxy 101

Opposition



The Premiership season reached its halfway point last weekend and in true Gloucester fashion, the Cherry and Whites have enjoyed another roller coaster ride this season.

In the summer Gloucester announced one of the biggest signings in Rugby Union history. Rugby League legend, Henry Paul signed from Bradford Bulls at the end of the Super League season. His last act as a Bull was to lift the Super League Grand Final trophy. On his debut in the Parker Pen Shield, he helped himself to 28 points as Gloucester achieved their biggest ever points total of 98. Kingsholm also boasted an attendance of 7,336, a record for a Shield pool game.

Once again, Gloucester's home ground, Kingsholm has become a fortress that has been breached only once this season by the Champions, Leicester. Gloucester's home form has seen them rocket to the top of the points scored chart and seen fly-half Ludovic Mercier reach the top of the individual points table.

In their last three home matches Gloucester have scored 152 points, disposing of Leeds, Wasps and the Bristol Shoguns. Philippe Saint Andre has said of the sides' home form "The confidence of the team is very high at home. We have won a lot of games by big margins and have scored a lot of bonus points".

With the sort of form Gloucester have shown at Kingsholm, one would expect them to be challenging the Leicester Tigers more seriously. Unfortunately the confidence

shown by Gloucester at home has not been replicated on their travels. Gloucester have won only one of their five away games this season at Sale and the travel bug that has plagued Gloucester teams down the ages continues to ail them.

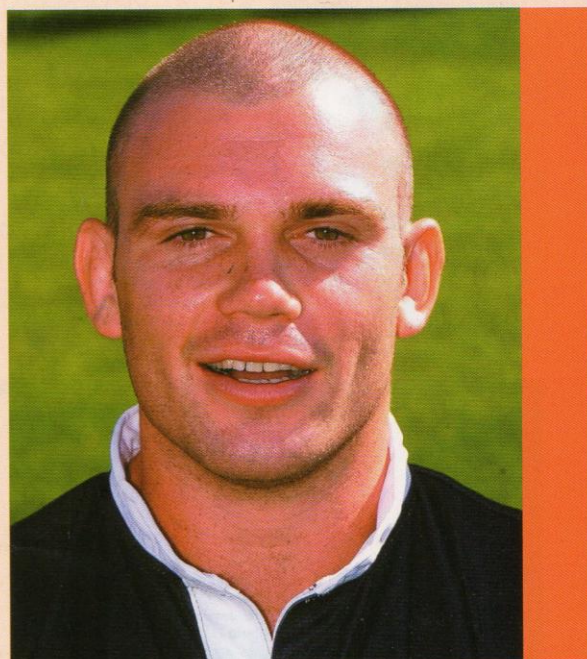
Before the trip to Bath last weekend, Philippe Saint Andre said: "We have had a big win away at Sale scoring four tries. For me though there have been three disappointing games when we lost to Newcastle, London Irish Saracens and Bath. In each of the games we dominated for long periods, but we missed a lot of kicks and had tries disallowed."

Gloucester travelled to Bath, on paper at least, as favourites to end this abysmal run. The problem however, is that rugby is not played on paper but rather on grass and in the mind. For all Gloucester's brawn there still seems to be a mental block when it comes to winning outside of the Gloucester city walls.

Again Philippe was philosophical. He admitted that the away form was disappointing, adding: "In one game we were in disciplined, in another we were asleep for the first half and against Bath our line out was a disaster. You cannot win games with no ball."

So as Gloucester kick off their Powergen National Cup Challenge today, they will have all the motivation they

need. At the end of the season, they will be judged predominantly on their league form. With a League fixture at Wasps next week where better to exorcise their away day demons than against West Country rivals, Bristol Shoguns, in the oldest fixture in the book.



ANDY HAZELL

Born 25/04/74
Height 1.83m
Weight 92kg
Position Flanker

Former Clubs
Gloucester Old Boys
Representative honours
England A

Former Gloucester colt who has now emerged from the shadow of former Captain, Kingsley Jones. His explosive pace around the paddock and ability to scrap on the floor alerted the England selectors, who rewarded Hazell with a place on the tour to North America.

The tour did not go as planned and he lost a first team place to Lewis Moody. This set back only made Hazell more determined to succeed and he has upped his work rate even further.

His hunger to be involved in every facet of play has meant that sometimes Philippe has had to tighten the reigns on the former colt.

Over thirty meters he remains one of the quickest in the squad and his desire to win means he is a fierce opponent when contesting the ball.

Opposition

LUDOVIC MERCIER

Born	01/11/76	Year joined Saracens	
Height	1.79m	Former Clubs	Aurillac
Weight	85kg	Representative honours	France
Position	Fly Half		

French Fly-half with a rocket powered, left foot, who joined Gloucester from little known Aurillac with a glowing reputation.



Even though his team were relegated last season, he finished as top points scorer in the French league as he proved to be a prolific goal kicker with an excellent success ratio.

Philippe has admired his talent for some time and was very pleased to get his man this pre-season.

His early form with the boot has taken him to the top of the individual points list and opponents throughout Europe are learning not to give away penalties in kickable positions.

He is a good bet for this season's top scorer

HENRY PAUL

Born	10/02/74	Year joined Saracens	
Height	1.80m	Former Clubs	Bradford Bulls
Weight	94.6kg	Representative honours	New Zealand (Rugby League 23 caps)
Position	Utility Back		

Rugby League legend who has won almost every honour in the league game. He changed codes and joined Gloucester at the end of last season's Super League competition.



Expectations are high and Philippe Saint-Andre will hope he is the spark to ignite the Gloucester backs this season.

Although Paul made a dream debut scoring 28 points against Caerphilly he admits he still has much to learn about the Union game. The main change for him he says has been positional, and trying to keep the ball in contact. He has had to get used to going into contact and trying to keep the ball from the opposition.

Many have questioned the difference, or rather similarity, between the two codes and Paul agrees that, because of the similar running lines used in League and now Union, Paul has made this adjustment rather more easily.

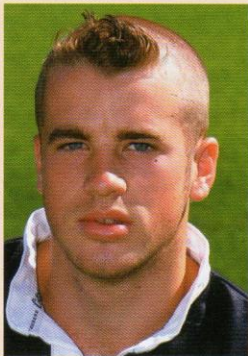
His experience and knowledge of how to win games will be a great asset for Gloucester this season. Paul says he hopes to bring the best elements of his game to the Cherry and Whites.

His awareness of space and ability to do things against the grain with a bit of spontaneity will keep defences guessing added to this his obvious enthusiasm for the game and he becomes a great asset in the dressing room.

JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

Born	30/05/82	Year joined Saracens	
Height	1.82m	Former Club	GRFC Academy
Weight	78kg	Representative honours	England U19
Position	Fly-half		

Identified as a precocious talent early on and was snapped up by the Gloucester Academy. He toured with England U19's in the summer, and showed his versatility playing centre and fly-half.

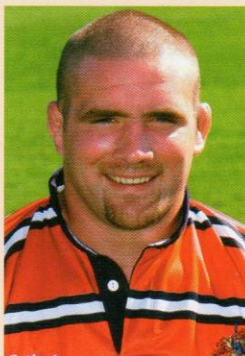


Has an exceptional turn of pace and the ability to do the unexpected. Was used sparingly as a winger last season but made a big impact, scoring from 50m on debut.

This season his rise has been nothing short of meteoric. He has already toured with the England Sevens squad to Durban. His performance there along with his continued for Gloucester has brought him to the attention of the England selectors and he was named as one of the 60 elite players in Clive Woodward's development squad.

PHIL VICKERY

Born	14/03/76	Year joined Saracens	
Height	1.91m	Former Clubs	Bude/Redruth
Weight	125kg	Representative honours	England (15 caps), British Lions (3 caps)
Position	Tight Head Prop		



Monster of a prop born in Cornwall. Has taken over the mantle of captain this year and his philosophy on Leadership is a simple one. He leads from the front, by example.

Vickery was part of the British Lions test team in Australia in 2001, and his performances in the Autumn internationals this year have further enhanced his reputation as one of the best Tight Head's in the game.

Many judges have highlighted his performance against Australia as the game in which, he really came of age.

Doubts about his scrummaging ability were quickly quashed and his handling skills in the loose would make the best three-quarter jealous.

Cup Nostalgia

A look back in time at Bristol against Gloucester in the Cup
Club Statistician, Neil Williams, takes a look back at the five previous meetings between Bristol and Gloucester in the Cup.

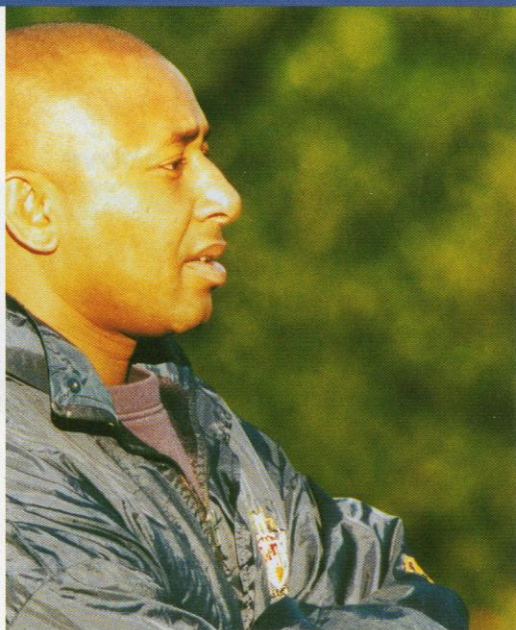
by Neil Williams

The first meeting was in the inaugural season of the competition, when the sides met in the second round, at the Memorial Ground on 8th December 1971. Gloucester, having beaten Bath in the previous round won by 15 - 4, with Peter Knight scoring Bristol's try. The Cherry and Reds went on to defeat London Welsh, Coventry and Moseley to become the first National Champions. The 1972 Rothmans Yearbook sums up their performance,

'They won these matches because they played to their strength, which was in the pack and at half-back; and they maintained this ten man pattern throughout.'

Gloucester were helped by the second minute sending off of England lock Nigel Horton. These were the days before replacements were allowed and Moseley lost players to injury after 37 and 57 minutes and were forced to compete with just 12 men.

'They won these matches because they played to their strength, which was in the pack and at half-back; and they maintained this ten man pattern throughout.'



BRISTOL
SHOGLUNS

Later that season seven Bristol and six Gloucester players joined together under the leadership of Dave Watt to win Gloucestershire's first County Championship title in 35 years.

The clubs met again the following season, with Bristol exacting revenge, winning at home 16-11. Alan Morley scored a try and Alan Pearn kicked four penalties. That season Bristol went on to its first final. In the first minute John Pullin damaged his knee ligaments and the team was forced to play the entire game a man light.

Next up was a game at Kingsholm on 12th February 1977. Gloucester made full use of their home advantage to win 12-3.

The two sides were matched up again in the 1985-86 competition. With home advantage, Gloucester edged home by seven points to four in an extremely close encounter, Ford scored a try for the home side and John Carr crossed for Bristol.

The most recent cup tie between the two was at Kingsholm on 25th January 1997, which included both Paul Hull (pictured left) and Mark Tainton (above right), who are both still with the Club. The sides went into the game with contrasting form. Gloucester had chalked up six consecutive League wins but Bristol had just lost



seven in a row. Bristol at the time were playing without confidence and failed to convert possession into points. In a game lacking finesse Gloucester scored the only tries of the game to win by 18 points to 12.

The sides that day were:

Bristol - Paul Hull, Dave Tueti, Simon Martin, Kevin Maggs, Ben Breeze, Mark Tainton, Robert Jones, Alan Sharp (Barry McConnell 40), Mark Regan, Dave Hinkins, Simon Shaw, Chad Eagle, Martin Corry (Capt), David Corkery, Eben Rollitt.

Gloucester - Chris Catling; Mike Peters, Don Caskie, Martin Roberts, Mike Lloyd, Mark Mapletoft, Scott Benton, Tony Windo, Phil Greening, Andy Deacon, Rob Fidler, Dave Sims (Capt), Ed Pearce, Nathan Carter, Simon Devereux.

Referee - Paddy O'Brien (New Zealand)

Scorers:

Bristol
Tainton 4 pen
Gloucester
Windo - try
Benton - try,

From the Archive

Bristol 16 Gloucester 11 January 10th 1973

by Mark Hoskins

After years of soul-searching the RFU finally introduced cup rugby in 1971. The early years were without a sponsor and it was known as simply "The RFU Knockout Competition". Gloucester was the first winner, and amongst their victims en route to the Twickenham final were Bristol. In those days the early rounds were drawn on a regional basis and the following season the clubs met again in the competition, with Bristol thirsting for revenge.

The game was played on a Wednesday evening in January as there were no fixed dates for cup games at that time and clubs were reluctant to disrupt their normal Saturday fixtures. Bristol, despite the presence of many great players, were going through a woeful spell of form. They had lost their

But Bristol, with second row Dave Watt and fullback Peter Knight prominent, gradually fought their way back and with just a minute remaining Pearn broke from a scrum and handed on to number eight Rod Speed.

last three games, an unheard of home defeat against Abertillery, a 50 - 12 hammering at Llanelli and another home loss, this time to Bedford. Bristol's chances of dethroning the cup holders did not look good.

The match itself turned out to be a real thriller with both sides playing with passionate commitment throughout. Gloucester, with forwards Mike Potter and Alan Brinn outstanding, had the better of the first half, but Bristol led 9-3 at half time thanks to three penalty goals from scrum-half Alan Pearn. Fullback Peter Butler kicked Gloucester's first half points. Then, as tension mounted in the second half, two uncharacteristic errors from home centre, Chris Williams, led to Gloucester tries. First he was caught in possession under his posts and wing Bob Clewes scored from the ensuing ruck. Then centre Richard Jardine charged down a Williams kick for what appeared to be the winning score. Butler failed to convert either try but the scoreboard mistakenly indicated that the second kick was successful. When 13-9 was reduced to 11-9 there was much booing from the away support, but with time running out even 11-9 seemed enough.

But Bristol, with second row Dave Watt and fullback Peter Knight prominent,

gradually fought their way back and with just a minute remaining Pearn broke from a scrum and handed on to number eight Rod Speed. His pass to skipper Tony Nicholls appeared to be fumbled but this was not spotted as that great try-poacher, Alan Morley, picked up, ran, chipped, and just won an exciting race to score amid scenes of wild enthusiasm. Pearn's conversion missed but he added a fourth penalty in injury time to seal the win.

Thus, Bristol became the first team to defeat Gloucester in the cup, just as Gloucester had been their first knockout conquerors the previous season. In fact Bristol beat Gloucester three times in the 1972-3 season but could not win the cup,

losing to Coventry in the final.

At the close of the game, Gloucester skipper, John Bayliss, was severely critical of referee Theo Foley. "To say I was disappointed is an understatement. I can only hope he was incompetent and not biased." He wouldn't be allowed to get away with that today, would he!

Bristol: P Knight, K Plummer, C Williams, R Swaffield, A Morley, A Nicholls, A Pearn, M Fry, J Pullin, M Hannell, D Watt, J Luff, P Sams, R Speed, D Phillips.

Gloucester: P Butler, R Clewes, R Jardine, J Bayliss, J Dix, R Redwood, J Spalding, R Cowling, M Nicholls, K Richardson, J Fidler, A Brinn, J Haines, M Potter, R Smith.



Bristol Shoguns



Gloucester

1	Paul Johnstone*	Loosehead	WJ	Patrice Collazo	1
2	Neil McCarthy*	Hooker		Chris Fortey	2
3	Julian White*	Tighthead	AD	Phil Vickery	3
4	Andrew Sheridan	Lock	MC	Rob Fidler	4
5	Alex Brown	Lock	AG	Mark Cornwell	5
6	Craig Short	Blindsides	KS	Jake Boer (c)	6
7	Adam Vander	Openside	JF	Andy Hazell	7
8	Ben Sturnham*	No.8	BC	Junior Paramore	8
9	Agustin Pichot*	Scrum Half	DY	Andy Gomarsall	9
10	Felipe Contepomi*	Fly Half	HY	Ludovic Mercier	10
11	Spencer Brown	Left Wing	TSO	Diego Albanese	11
12	Jason Little* (c)	Centre	RT	Henry Paul	12
13	Phil Christophers	Centre	JF	Joe Ewens	13
14	David Rees*	Right Wing	JF	Daren O'Leary	14
15	Lee Best	Fullback	JG	Robert Todd	15
16	Saul Nelson	REPLACEMENT	AG	Federico Pucciariello	16
17	Darren Crompton	REPLACEMENT	MC	Trevor Woodman	17
18	Jim Brownrigg	REPLACEMENT	LM	Ed Pearce	18
19	Michael Lipman	REPLACEMENT	V	Adam Eustace	19
20	Ross Blake	REPLACEMENT	FP	Dimitri Yachvili	20
21	Shane Drahm	REPLACEMENT	MA	Terry Fanolua	21
22	Matt Carrington	REPLACEMENT	JP	James Simpson-Daniel	22

* denotes international

REFEREE:
Steve Lander

Touch Judges:
Stuart Terheege
Fred Spong

4th Official:
Mark Doran



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SHOGUNS**



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MOTORS**

**HOTEL du VIN
&
BISTRO**