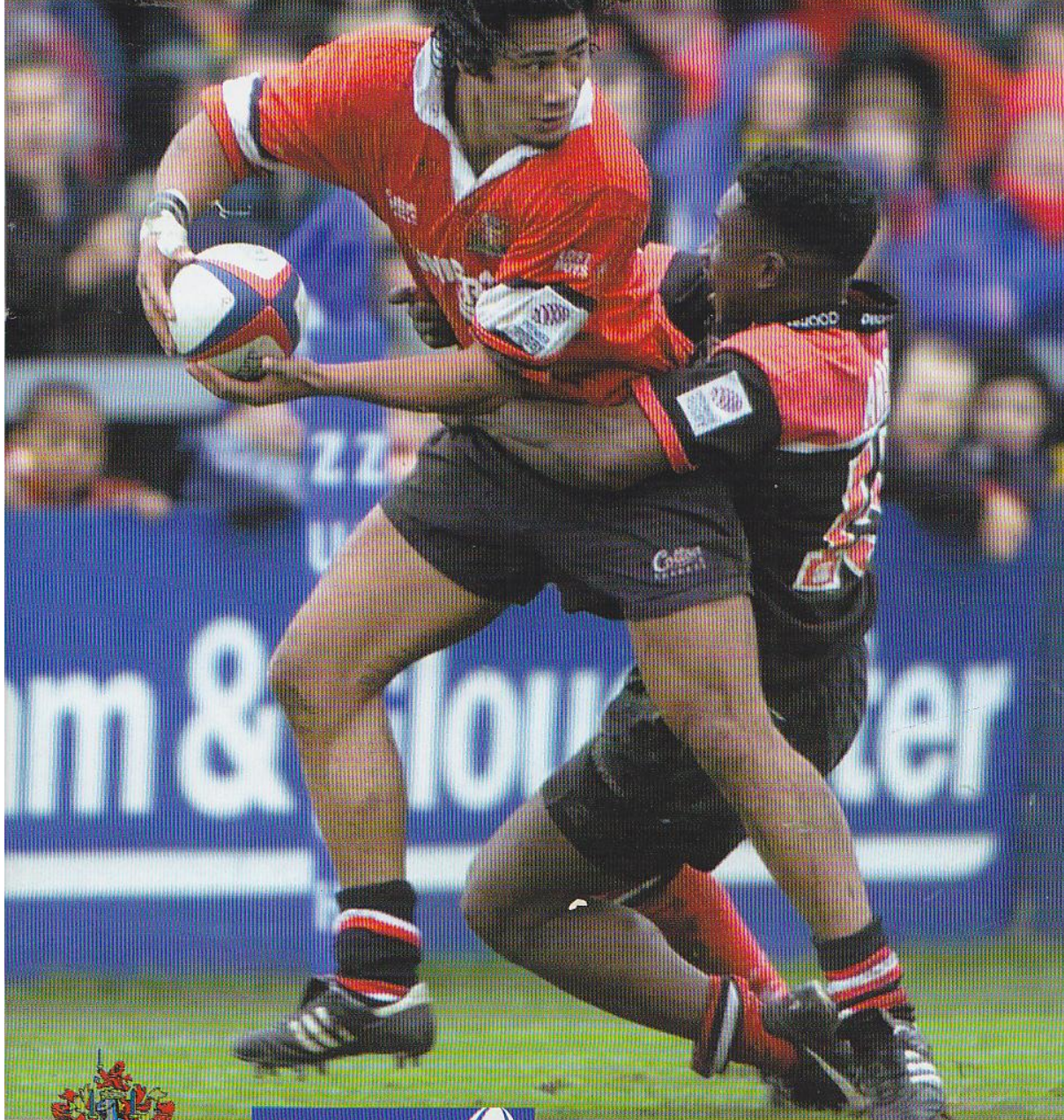


# GLOUCESTER



## GLOUCESTER V LONDON IRISH



ZURICH PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE  
SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2000 KICK-OFF 12.30 PM  
GLOUCESTER RFC OFFICIAL PROGRAMME  
2000-2001 SEASON  
ISSUE 09 - £2.00



# TODAY'S TEAMS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25TH, 2000

## GLOUCESTER\* 26

	CHRIS CATLING	15
	JOE EWENS	14
(I)	JASON LITTLE	13
	CHRIS YATES	12
(I)	TOM BEIM T	11
(I)	SIMON MANNIX 2c4r10	10
	ELTON MONCREIFF	9
(I)	TREVOR WOODMAN	1
(I)	OLIVIER AZAM	2
	ANDY DEACON	3
(I)	ROB FIDLER	4
(I)	IAN JONES	5
	JAKE BOER	6
(I)(C)	KINGSLEY JONES T	7
(I)	JUNIOR PARAMORE	8

## LONDON IRISH\* 6

	CONOR O'SHEA	(C)(I)
	JUSTIN BISHOP	(I)
	TABAI MATSON	(I)
	JASON WRIGHT	
	NMANDI EZULIKE	
	JARROD CUNNINGHAM 2PG	
	OFISA JUNIOR TONU'U	(I)
	NEAL HATLEY	
	DINOS ALEXOPOULOUS	
	ROB HARDWICK	(I)
	GLENN DELANEY	
	STEVE WILLIAMS	(I)
	EDDIE HALVEY	(I)
	COLIN ALLAN	
	RICHARD BATES	



## REPLACEMENTS



(I)	ANDY GOMARSALL	16	KIERAN CAMPBELL
(I)	BYRON HAYWARD	17	ROB ASHFORTH
	FRANK SCHISANO	18	ADRIAN FLAVIN
(I)	HERVE GREGOIRE-MAZZOCCO	19	SIMON HALFORD
(I)	JAWAD DJOUDI	20	MIKE WORSLEY
	STEPHAN SANCHEZ	21	JEFF FAHRENSOHN
	ED PEARCE	22	CHRIS SHEASBY (I)

## TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: GERAINT ASTON-JONES  
 TOUCH JUDGES: BRIAN CAMPELL & PAUL EMERSON  
 FOURTH OFFICIAL: DAVID HUDSON

(I) DENOTES INTERNATIONAL  
 (C) DENOTES TEAM CAPTAIN  
 \*TEAMS CORRECT AT 22-11-00

Ball boys now sponsored by: **Marlborough Stirling**



### MATTHEW CARL MONCRIEFF

Today's Mascot is Matthew Carl Moncrieff. 3 year old Matthew is the youngest son of our scrum half Elton Moncrieff. He lives with his Mum Dad and elder brother Hayden in Leckhampton. Matthew goes to Circus Day nursery three times a week, and loves seeing his friends there. Matthew also loves rugby and particularly enjoys watching his Dad play.



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# COACH'S CORNER

WITH PHILIPPE ST ANDRE



**"THIS WEEK WE HAVE BEEN VERY FOCUSED ON THE LONDON IRISH TEAM. THEY ARE A VERY GOOD TEAM AGAIN THIS YEAR."**

**B**ECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GAME LAST WEEK, I WAS PLEASED WE FINISHED IT WITH A VICTORY.

But after that I don't think it was the best performance by a Gloucester team this year. Because of this, this week, we have had a lot of work to do in training.

I think that in the first half we played alright, but we missed a try scoring opportunity, and we missed some kicks. At half time the score should not have been 16-3 but 27-3 or more. If this had been the case it would have been game over. As it was the second half was very difficult and we had to work very hard to win.

This week we have been very focused on the London Irish team. They are a very good team again this year. The game today will be very hard and very tough. London Irish have changed a lot of players, but still have a very good team spirit. They have had a good start to the season and are very dangerous. If we want to win, we must play very well, much better than last week.

In this league every game is very difficult, and

it is very important for us to keep winning. Today we must prepare ourselves for a very hard, very physical game.

For this game, there have been some changes made from the team that started last week. I hope that all the guys who put the jersey on this week will give 100% for the team, for the supporters and for Gloucester rugby club. We have a game plan for this week, the players all know this, I expect them to do what they have to do, and work hard to get a win.

Last year, London Irish won a lot of games with penalty kicks, this year also they have kicked very well. We must be aware of how dangerous they can be. Last week we did give penalties away, this disappointed me, but this was not what disappointed me most. I was very disappointed with our defence. We missed a lot of first time tackles, and lost the ball too easily.

Our win last week was very important, but today is the next step. Today we must win again. To do this we must be better. We must improve on our defence, we must keep the ball better, and improve our discipline.

**ABOVE: KINGSLEY JONES PREPARES TO PASS TO CHRIS FORETY**



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB ACADEMY

**MATCH REPORT:**  
GRFC ACADEMY  
VERSUS  
WASPS U19'S  
**VENUE:** HOME  
**DATE:** 18TH  
NOVEMBER 2000

**RESULT:**  
LOST 15:24.

**'ON THE FIRST  
OCCASION THAT  
GLOUCESTER DID  
MANAGE TO GAIN  
GOOD FIELD  
POSITION AND  
PRESSURISE THE  
WASPS LINE  
THEY SCORED.'**

**RIGHT: GLOUCESTER  
ACADEMY PLAYER  
TOM MORGAN IN  
ACTION V BATH AT  
KINGSHOLM 21/10/2000.**

**P**RIOR TO THEIR BIG TEST AGAINST BRISTOL, WHO THEY PLAY IN THE NATIONAL KNOCKOUT CUP FOR COLTS, THE ACADEMY U19 TEAM PLAYED ITS SECOND WARM UP GAME, AND FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A ROW EXPERIENCED DEFEAT TO A MORE PHYSICALLY COMMITTED TEAM.

The home side was under pressure from the kick off, and surrendered territory to a bigger Wasps team who tore into Gloucester at every opportunity. A converted try and a penalty, for a high tackle, gave the Wasps a ten- nil lead. The Wasps team were committed to defeating Gloucester with style, after their U21 team had been beaten the previous week, at home by Gloucester.

Gloucester seemed unable to cope with the more physical approach to the game shown by their visitors. They were unable to gain any consistent platform from which to operate their game plan successfully. Wasps on the other hand, were able to perform theirs with ease. The confidence Wasps gained from this showed as they started to run Gloucester ragged.

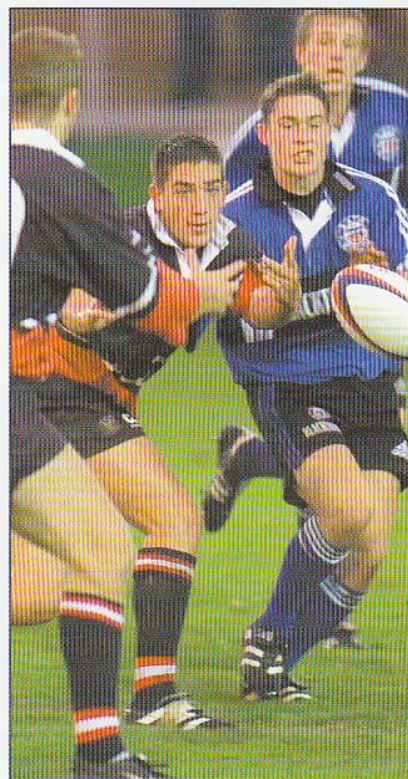
On the first occasion that Gloucester did manage to gain good field position and pressurise the Wasps line they scored. A hurried clearance kick was gathered by winger Marcel Garvey, who seemed to pivot whilst still in mid air to avoid the Wasps defence. He then out sprinted the cover and scored a superb individual try to narrow the deficit to 5:10.

However, this resurgence was short lived. A further drive down field by the Wasps forwards was compounded by weak midfield defence and Wasps were allowed to score another converted try, extending their lead at half time to 5:17.

Gloucester started the second half down hill and with the wind behind them, but it was Wasps who scored again first. After only 5 minutes of the second half had been played, the Wasps centre, who had an outstanding game, stepped his way past his opposite number to score under the posts for a 5: 24 lead.

The young Academy team finally gained some good ball and showed what they could do given the opportunity. They scored two more tries, through winger Joe Pointon, and centre Duncan Murray. Both went unconverted but reduced the final deficit to 15:24.

If the tries had been converted the score could have been 21:24. This would have made the last minutes of the match very exciting. As it was Wasps



regained their composure and played out the remainder of the match in control. Gloucester will rue these missed points and will need to address both their goal kicking, midfield defence and their physical approach to the game if they are going to progress past a bigger Bristol team in the cup next week!

**Report by: John Haines.  
Academy Team Manager.**

rivals.net

GLOUCESTERRUGBY.COM

shed:head



# FROM THE SIDELINES WITH ROBERT TODD

**T**HE FORMER LONDON IRISH PLAYER JOINED US IN THE SUMMER.

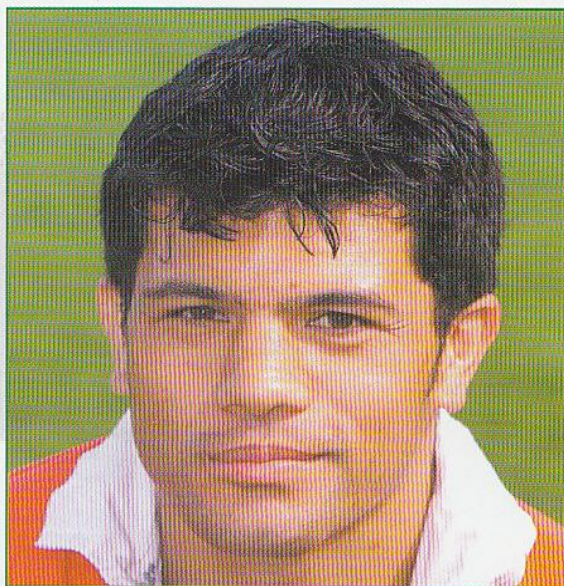
He earned rave reviews but an ankle injury this year has deprived the Gloucester fans of the chance to enjoy his obvious quality. We caught up with him and asked him his thoughts on both clubs.

I was at London Irish for two years and in my second year I was privileged to win the supporters' player of the season. This was obviously an honour. As a rugby player you are always trying to prove yourself to your peers and your supporters. It's just been unfortunate that I haven't been able to do that with the Gloucester fans this season.

Between the two clubs playing today, there are differences in set-up and styles. At London Irish they like things to be set down, the way they are going to play. Under Dick Best, the two things any Irish team will be is fit and very well organised.

We always had the philosophy that everyone should know what their jobs were. Each person's roles and responsibilities were set. The goal was to break teams open, when we had achieved that, then the game was open and we'd play from there. There was a policy from any kicks that we would try and counter attack. We would practice that all the time. We had almost set moves for counter attacking, if a team rushed up the middle to follow a kick, then we would attack blind. We would run through all the scenarios like that. It was obviously a great way to play.

There are obviously different policies here. At Irish we had a smaller pack with only one or two primary ball carriers, particularly Jake, who got through an immense amount of work. At Gloucester there are a number of quality ball carriers right through the team. From Z (Azam) and the guys in the front row all the way through to the back row and people like Junior and Steve Ojomoh. At Irish we had fewer options, but had a pack that was fit and dynamic so we would try to move the play around a lot. With the options available here that should potentially make us more dangerous.



ABOVE:  
ROBERT TODD.

The fans of the two clubs are slightly different as well. When we played Gloucester in the Cup last year we were warming up and you would have thought that we were playing at Kingsholm. All the Gloucester supporters were making so much noise. It wasn't until kick off that we heard the London Irish supporters who were all in the bars. So both teams have great fans. London Irish adopted the Stoop last year and were almost too good as tenants. I think we poached a lot of Quins supporters.

At Gloucester as soon as you arrive at the ground and get on the field, the supporters are there wanting to support you personally, which is a great feeling before you kick off. At London Irish the fans come in, socialise a bit and then, closer to kick off they come out of the bars and sing their hearts out.

This should make the atmosphere here today very special; I'm really looking forward to it. I've kept in touch with a few of the guys since I left. They have given me some stick about my injury, and not being fit. I am disappointed not to play against my old team, I expect Jake to have a great game if he plays. I think it will be a very entertaining game showing a contrast of rugby styles, it should be good.

**"I WAS AT LONDON IRISH FOR TWO YEARS AND IN MY SECOND YEAR I WAS PRIVILEGED TO WIN THE SUPPORTERS' PLAYER OF THE SEASON."**



# FROM THE COMMENTARY BOX

**B B C**

**S**OME SPORTS HAVE RULES. RUGBY HAS LAWS, BUT IT AMOUNTS TO MUCH THE SAME THING, AND THOUGH OVER THE YEARS THE BASICS HAVE REMAINED THE SAME, TINKERING HERE AND THERE HAS CHANGED THE SHAPE OF THE GAME, EVEN IF IT DOES REMAIN ONE FOR ALL SHAPES AND SIZES.

**"THIS SEASON'S ADJUSTMENT TO THE POINTS SYSTEM HAS KEPT GLOUCESTER SUPPORTERS - AND THEIR OPPONENTS TOO - ON THE EDGE OF THEIR SEATS FOR SIX OF THE FIRST NINE GAMES."**



**ABOVE:  
THE FANS OF  
GLOUCESTER**

Few would doubt it is now more attractive as a spectacle than ever MOST of the time - though there was a marked contrast between the rather average fare here last Saturday and the gripping struggle at Twickenham between England and Australia. Plenty of movement, pace, and excellent defence - except, crucially, from the world champions in the final seconds when Dan Luger pounced for his try. Luger's ahead of our own Tom Beim in the international pecking order, and hence wasn't here last weekend, but he's a direct and powerful runner who made the most of a half chance to give England a famous win. He's one of the new breed - he doesn't have the gliding style of a Duckham or a Slemen, but he's not easy to stop, and power is becoming a "must have" at international level.

This season's adjustment to the points system has kept Gloucester supporters - and their opponents too - on the edge of their seats for six of the first nine games.

The seven point margin, within which you still get some reward even if you lose has certainly had the desired effect, particularly at Rotherham, where Gloucester - well ahead at one stage - might have lost had the game lasted another five minutes. Only at home to Bristol, and away at Wasps and Saracens have the results been clear cut. Apply the current rules to the last meeting with today's opponents, and the Exiles would have taken two points from the game at the Stoop. The 42-40 scoreline was made possible by Adey Powels, who will have

been in the thoughts of all Gloucester supporters this week after a car accident. I'm sure we wish him and his wife Laura a speedy recovery.

The identity of the London Irish club has been confused at best in the last couple of years. The player base, previously drawn from the likes of Lansdowne and Blackrock College, now takes in clubs all over the world. Coach Dick Best had a wholesale clear-out in the summer but recent indications are that things might now be going in the right direction. Last Sunday's win over Harlequins was their seventh in a row in all competitions. The staunch traditionalists will have pleased to note the match winner was former Lansdowne kicking machine Barry Everitt.

The Exiles' long established ground at Sunbury has also been a casualty. First the Stoop - on loan you might say - before a second move in quick succession, this time to the Madejski Stadium, home of Reading FC. Richmond, of course, used to play there before the three way merger between them, London Scottish and "Irish". The name has been maintained, and they still serve a mean Guinness, but London Irish, like Gloucester, is now a more cosmopolitan club.

Philippe's stated aim is to leave Leicester after next Saturday's game in the top four in the table, so a defeat today isn't an option, and there will be two members of the Gloucester squad who'll be particularly keen that it doesn't happen. Jake Boer and Robert Todd came to Kingsholm from London Irish in the closed season, and while Boer may have a part to play, sadly Todd will not. We've still to see him in a competitive match after his pre-season injury against Munster - but by the time we meet again, for the visit of Newcastle on December 23, the waiting may be almost over.

More to the point, if the turkey isn't stuffed by then and the presents wrapped, I'll be in big trouble.

**BY IAN RANDALL**



# PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## JAKE



**JAKE BOER**

Full Name Francois Jake Boer  
Place of Birth Cape Town  
Date of Birth 1/11/75  
Height (m) 1.87  
Weight (kg) 105.4  
Former Club London Irish  
Position Flanker

BELOW: JAKE BOER  
IN ACTION FOR  
LONDON IRISH  
26/2/2000

**T**HE FORMER LONDON IRISH FLANKER JOINED US IN THE SUMMER. TODAY'S GAME IS THEREFORE A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT HOW HE IS SETTLING IN.

### How long have you been playing in England?

I started at Leicester in the 97-98 season, I then had two seasons at London Irish, and I joined Gloucester in the summer.

### What prompted the move?

I was playing provincial rugby at Western Province and playing for a village rugby club in South Africa, but I'd reached a point where I felt I wasn't progressing. I wasn't offered a full time contract and I felt a lot of guys were getting a step ahead of me. Then I met a guy, who is now my agent, and we discussed the

possibility of playing over here. I started at Leicester under Bob Dwyer, but wasn't a first team regular as I was playing behind Neil Back, then I went to London Irish and had two very good years.

### A successful career move then?

Yes definitely, I've played under excellent coaches, learnt a lot and I think my rugby has improved.

### You were obviously highly rated at London Irish. What made you decide to come to Gloucester.

Basically I wanted to be involved in European Cup rugby. I'd been following Gloucester so when the offer came I took it.

### Has it been easy to settle in at another new club?

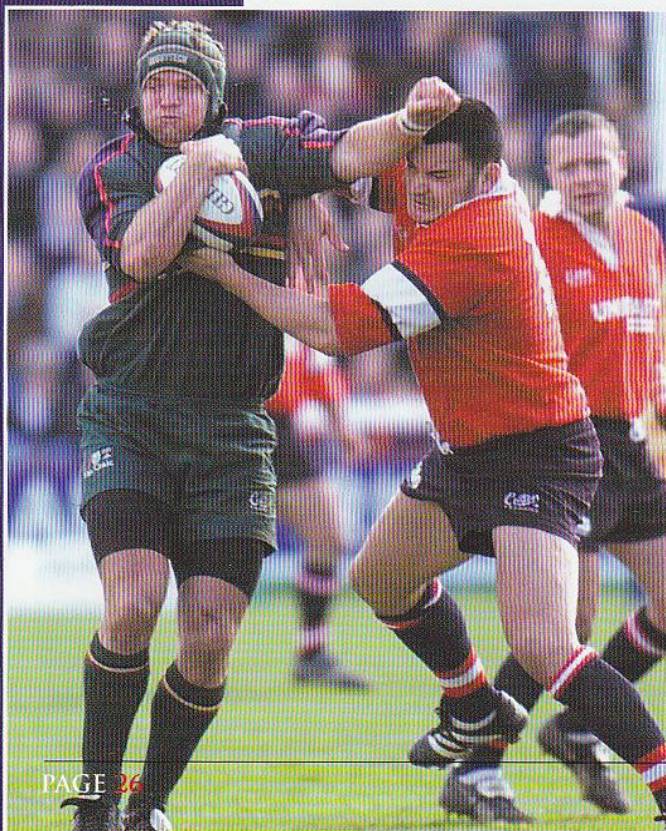
The set-ups of the two clubs are different; we had a set game plan last year, and a set way of doing things. I think that whenever you go to a new club, you are playing with different players, and every-one plays differently. It's not always the case of a new game plan, it's more a case of getting to read how your team mates react to different things. But yes its gone well and I'm enjoying it.

### We are playing against the Irish today, have you had any thoughts about this game? Did you target it as an important event this season?

Yes, well hopefully I will be selected. You can guarantee that they will want to win as much as I want to win. There's no massive personal vendetta between the Irish and myself, but they will want to win against me. It's a game I want to win and I hope it will be a good game. They are never an easy team to beat, and very unpredictable. Last season we did things even I thought we couldn't.

### Have you set any other targets for this season?

Yes my basic goal was to get into the team. I know Philippe has a good squad, I just wanted to be part of that and be playing. Whether it was playing every week or sharing I didn't mind.





# BOER



**How do you find the squad rotation system? It's a dream for the coaching staff, but it can be a nightmare for the players?**

Yes it's great for Philippe. It's obviously hard, no one ever likes to be left out of the team, but if you are being rested, that's OK. We have positions where two players of equal ability are vying for one place. If you are told you are being rested then that can be good, we have a lot of games in a season. When you are playing you just want the recognition, and when you are not it makes you work harder to get back in.

**And Internationally, surely that must be in your mind, in terms of long term goals?**

Oh, definitely as you say we all set goals, primarily we play good club rugby in order to go further. I have a mixed ancestry made up of a bit of Irish and some Dutch, and of course I am South African, so yes it has to come in to your mind. I believe that if I am playing good club rugby then everything else will follow. Within the next two years I'd love to get that I next to my name.

**You talk of top club rugby, do you think there are parallels with the Heineken Cup,**

**which is the pinnacle of Northern Hemisphere club rugby, and the Super 12 competition played in the Southern Hemisphere?**

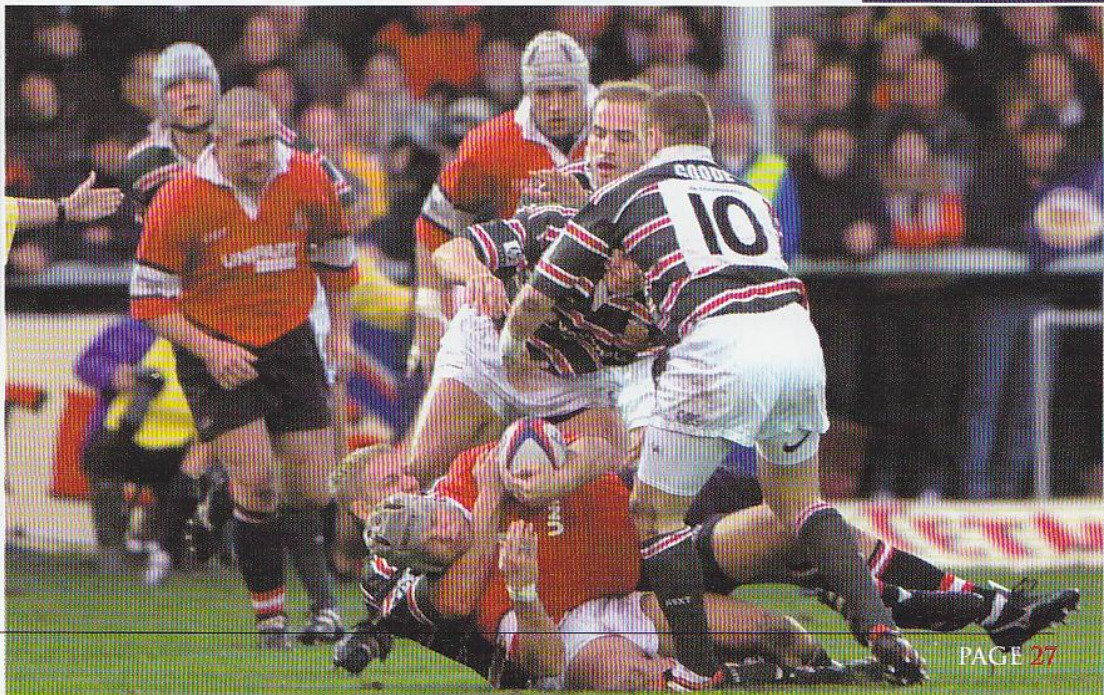
Well I've only started one game, but I was involved in the Llanelli game and the atmosphere was unbelievable. It's a great competition. The Heineken Cup and the Super 12's have got to be on a par. They are slightly different, but that is mainly due to weather conditions. At the end of the day they are both very hard competitions, you play hard games each week in both. I certainly think that Europe is the way forward.

**You mention atmosphere. Both teams today are famous for their crowd, and the passion with which both sets enjoy the game. Do you expect something special today?**

The Shed is something that can't be explained to people. The only way to understand it is to actually play in front of it. At the same time if there were any two clubs in the Premiership who you would chose, because of their fans then London Irish would be the other one. I think there will be a lot of noise and it will be a great game, I'm really looking forward to it.

**"I BELIEVE THAT IF I AM PLAYING GOOD CLUB RUGBY THEN EVERYTHING ELSE WILL FOLLOW"**

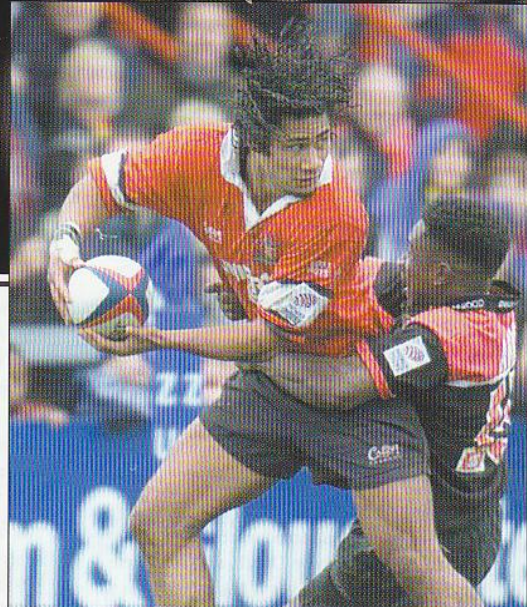
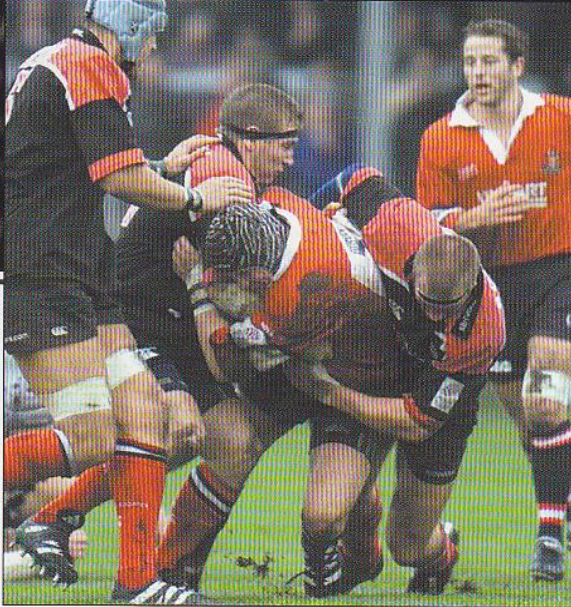
**BELOW: TAKE IS TAKEN DOWN BY LEICESTERS ADAM BALDING THIS SEASON.**





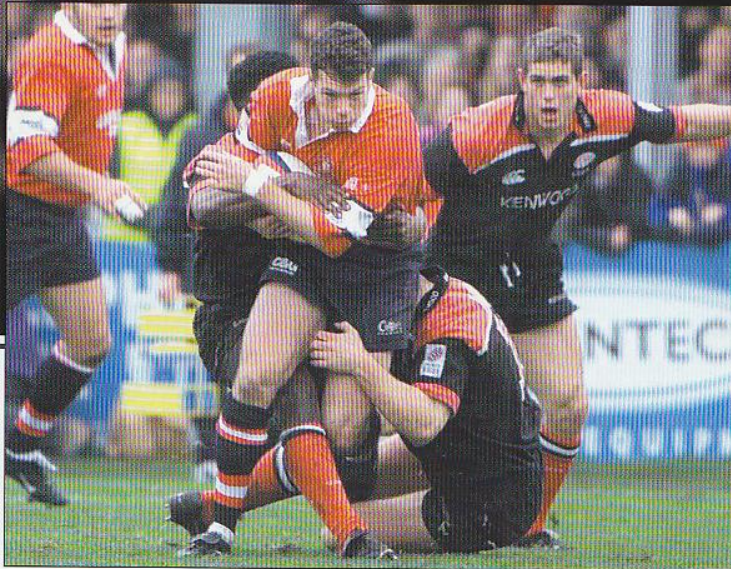
# MATCH ACTION

GLOUCESTER 16-15 SARACENS





# MATCH ACTION



**FAR TOP LEFT:** Kingsley Jones battles thro' the Saracens pack Kieran Roche (left)

**FAR TOP RIGHT:** Terry Fanolua passes the ball as he is tackled by Saracens Gerald Arasa.

**FAR BELOW:** Chris Yates has his break halted as Saracens Tim Horan hangs onto his leg.

**LEFT:** Gloucester's Tom Beim breaks away.

**BELOW:** Andy Gomarsall is tackled from behind by Saracens scrum half Nick Walshe.





# MEMORIES OF THE BLACK STUFF

**"IRISH WILL BADLY WANT TO WIN THIS ONE BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE THREE PLACES BELOW GLOUCESTER IN THE TABLE, THEY HAVE WON AND LOST EXACTLY THE SAME NUMBER OF PREMIERSHIP GAMES AS WE HAVE, THE DIFFERENCE PURELY A MATTER OF BONUS POINTS."**



**ABOVE:  
LONDON IRISH AT  
KINGSHOLM,  
26/12/1999 - CHRIS  
YATES AND ED PEARCE  
(SKULL CAP) TACKLES  
LONDON IRISH  
SIMON HALFORD  
(WITH BALL)**

**I** SUPPOSE THIS IS A TRADITIONAL TIME OF YEAR FOR TRADITIONALLY THINKING ABOUT TRADITIONAL TRADITIONS, AND I DO HAVE TO CONFESS THAT A GAME AGAINST LONDON IRISH DOES BRING ON A NASTY ATTACK OF THE NOSTALGICS AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED.

I have particularly fond memories of visits to the old Irish Exiles ground at Sunbury, and I regret that the requirements of the modern game have necessitated a move from that particular temple of rugby football.

To start with, anyone in their right mind drank the Guinness in the Irish clubhouse. The overwhelming Hibernian welcome one got made it churlish to imbibe anything else, and in any case, it was the best black stuff in London, imported, it was said, direct from Dublin with no involvement from Park Royal at all.

The other memorable thing about visits to Sunbury was that the bar had one long

window which looked down straight onto the pitch from over the main stand. It was the only first class ground in the country where you could watch the game without ever leaving the bar, if you felt so inclined, although to do so was a good recipe for day-after hangovers.

We had some pretty good occasions when Irish visited us too. The most fondly recalled one concerns one season when Gloucester and London Irish were, by mid-to-late season, the only unbeaten sides in either England or Wales. Obviously, the Kingsholm game was eagerly awaited, but the gods of the weather proved perverse, and a spell of frost cold enough to freeze the ballcocks off a brass cistern prevented the game going ahead.

Both clubs were determined to play the game, but the fixture list had become congested, and in the end, the radical decision was made to play on a Sunday, an almost unheard of resolution in those days, and one which stimulated a somewhat sniffy reaction from the cloistered halls of Old Fartdom, as I recall.

Anyway, the game went ahead, and Gloucester beat a side with a significant number of current Irish Internationals in its ranks. Not that that worried our visitors too much. Though disappointed, they were indomitably cheerful, and their Club President, beaming happily over his pint of inferior Guinness, said to me, "Ah Well, Pete. If we had to lose, I'd rather it was to you than to some bloody Welsh outfit!"

Don't know what he had against the Welsh, I'm sure.

I suppose we can't expect such a cheerful brand of philosophy in today's sterner climate. Irish will badly want to win this one because, although they are three places below Gloucester in the table, they have won and lost exactly the same number of Premiership games as we have, the difference purely a matter of bonus points.

But I expect there will be a fair amount of Guinness sold over the bar whatever the result. Some things don't change.



# TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

**L**AST SATURDAY WASN'T A DAY FOR ANYONE WITH A WEAK HEART OR A NERVOUS DISPOSITION.

To watch Gloucester battling grimly to hold out by a single point against top-of-the-table Saracens, and then be exposed to that pulsating England v. Australia game couldn't have been good for anyone's coronary muscles.

The wait for the video referee to pronounce after Dan Luger's last-second try must have seemed like a geological age for all the players on the field, and I must admit to having a wry smile to myself after the decision came through.

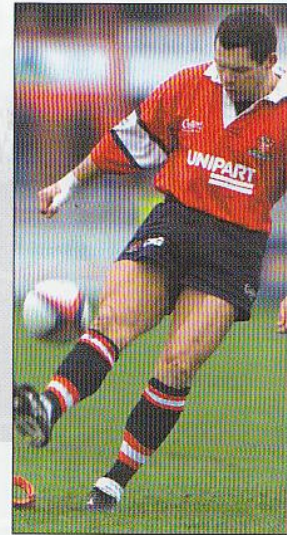
I was wondering what the result would have been if there had been a video ref. at the Leicester Cup game the other week. Of course, I have no way of knowing if Chris

Catling's disallowed touch down would have been granted or not, but it's worth speculating.

In fact, the parallels between those two games are exact. Both contentious tries came as a result of chips ahead during a last-minute period of intense pressure on the visiting side's line. On both occasions the defending sides were continually being penalised for the manner in which they decided to keep the attackers out.

The difference, of course, lay in the way the referee decided to deal with the situation. At Kingsholm, a whole rash of penalties was awarded. At Twickenham, yellow cards were flying around like confetti.

I'm not criticising either ref. - I mean, would I ever? However, the whole thing does leave some interesting questions, doesn't it?



ABOVE: BRYON HAYWARD IN ACTION AGAINST SARACENS

## WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

**I**T WAS GOOD TO SEE THE 'RAGING BULL' BACK IN INTERNATIONAL ACTION LAST WEEKEND, AND I DON'T THINK PHIL VICKERY LET THE SIDE DOWN IN ANY WAY AT ALL, FACED WITH ONE OF THE TOUGHEST AND MOST AGGRESSIVE PACKS IN THE WORLD.

Well done, Phil! Keep it going lad!

The other day, someone tried to tell me that the 'Raging Bull' nickname was originally applied to one Luis Firpo, a famous Argentinean heavyweight boxer between the wars, remembered for two ferocious battles against the great Jack Dempsey. I told him I didn't think he was right, but just to be sure, I looked it up and found my scepticism justified.

Firpo was known as 'The Wild Bull of the

Pampas', the 'Raging Bull' nickname belonged to the great middleweight, Jake La Motta. Hence the title of the Martin Scorsese film based on his life story.

Nicknames have always abounded around Kingsholm. The late Roy 'Digger' Morris always said that his alias arose from his habit of giving the opposition, 'a bit of a dig with me right 'ander'. I don't think it was true. I was always told it referred to his occupation, digging holes in the road for the Gas Board.

Going back a bit, there were 'Jigger' Dunn, 'Bumps' Carpenter, 'Father' Dicks (also known as 'Chanter') and at the turn of the century, Gloucester Old Boys player, 'Dai' Gent, who was one of the players who invented scrum-half play.

Good things, nicknames. They add life and colour to any side.

**"THE OTHER DAY, SOMEONE TRIED TO TELL ME THAT THE 'RAGING BULL' NICKNAME WAS ORIGINALLY APPLIED TO ONE LUIS FIRPO, A FAMOUS ARGENTINEAN HEAVYWEIGHT BOXER."**

BY PETER ARNOLD



# MATCH CAPTAIN



## KINGSLEY JONES

**O**UR RETURN TO THE PREMIERSHIP STARTED QUITE WELL.

The first twenty minutes of the Saracens game were good, but we didn't maintain it. We didn't get our hands on the ball as much as we would have liked, particularly in the second half, and we gave away penalties. Certain aspects of the game were not so pleasing, but we have three games on the bounce, and a busy schedule until Christmas, so it was good to pick up the four points.

I felt that after half time it was important to maintain a high intensity. We were down to 14 men so it was vital that we played our hearts out for the first fifteen minutes whilst we were under strength. I felt if we did this Saracens would lose heart and we could take control of the game. As it was, we made some errors and a few things went against us. I don't know but maybe we lost concentration and this let Sarries back into the game.

The target for us now is to take last weeks win into the London Irish game today. They are a very unpredictable team this year, and no one seems to know much about them. Last year they scored a load of tries and had a reasonably successful season. This year they haven't scored the tries but are still doing well.

Today is going to be an interesting game. As yet we haven't produced the home form we would like. A year ago, people would have laughed if we'd said we would win lots of important away matches, but struggle at home. Gloucester have always had the reputation of being very difficult to beat at Kingsholm, and this is still something we try to drum into the players. However, with the game going professional, and clubs attracting players from all over the world, the home advantage isn't what it used to be.

Focusing on today's game there are some things to look forward to. Jake Boer is regaining the excellent form he showed last year. The competition in the squad, particularly for back row positions forces the best out of every one. Jake is getting better each game, and I think this is down to confidence. Today he will be playing against his former club, and whilst others may disagree, I think this always brings the best out of a player.

I'm looking forward to the atmosphere here today. The Irish supporters, or even the English-Irish supporters, enjoy their rugby. They like to see a good game and can get very vocal. They like the Craic as they call it. They are obviously disappointed if they lose, but they still enjoy the day and enjoy themselves. It will be great to see some Irish supporters in the clubhouse after the game enjoying some Guinness extra cold!

**"THE TARGET FOR US NOW IS TO TAKE LAST WEEKS WIN INTO THE LONDON IRISH GAME TODAY."**

**BELOW: TOM BEIM TRIES TO ESCAPE FROM THE PENDING TACKLE FROM SARACENS GERALD ARASA.**

