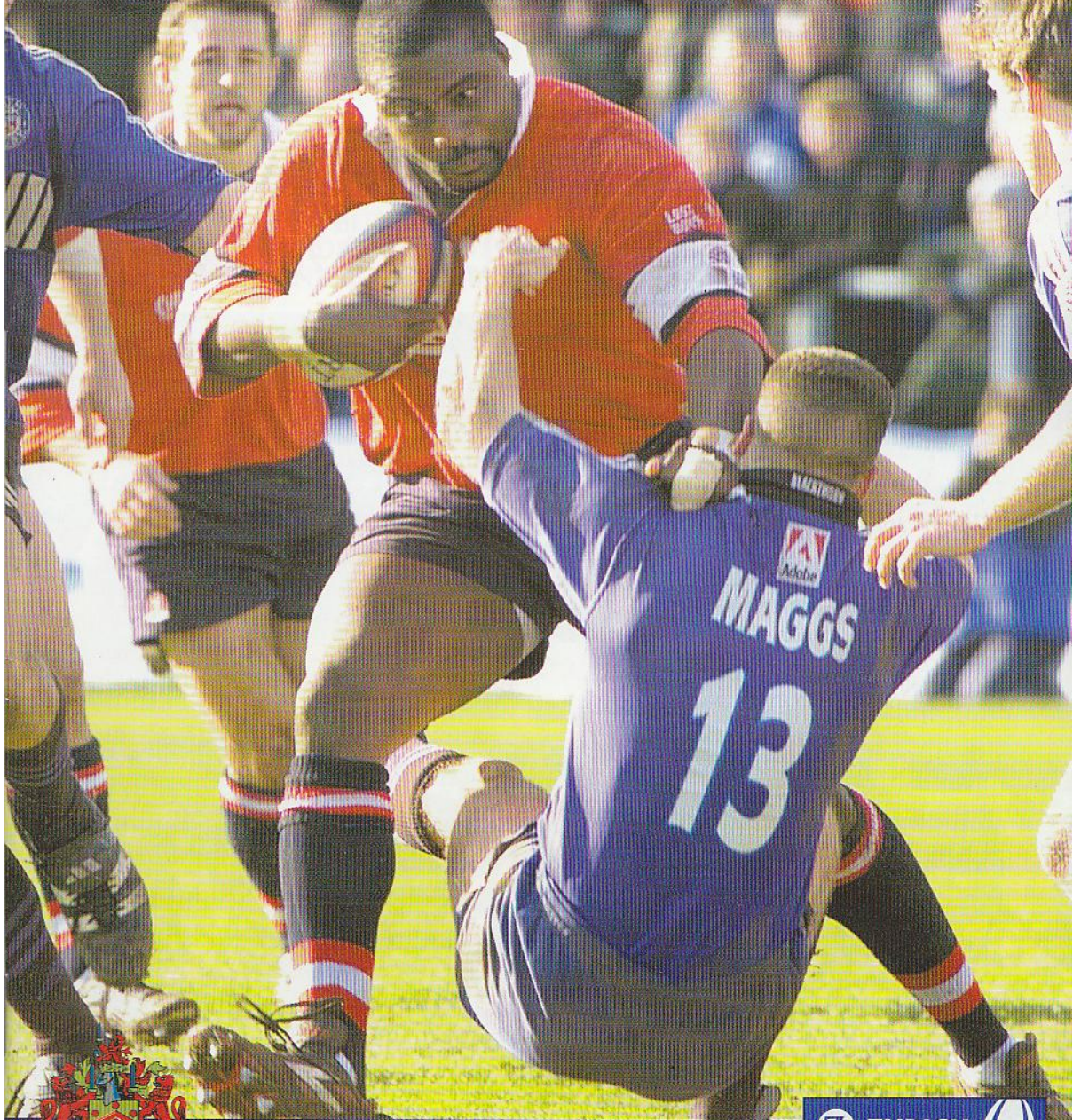


GLOUCESTER



GLOUCESTER V ROTHERHAM



ZURICH PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE

SATURDAY 10TH MARCH 2001 KICK-OFF 3.00 PM

GLOUCESTER RFC OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

2000-2001 SEASON

ISSUE 15 - £2.00



WWW.GLOUCESTERRUGBYCLUB.COM

TODAY'S TEAMS

SATURDAY MARCH 10TH, 2001

(6G;1T;1PG) **GLOUCESTER* 50** **ROTHERHAM* 17** (2G1PG)

	CHRIS CATLING	15	MIKE UMAGA	(I)
	JOE EWENS	14	NIGEL SIMPSON	
(I)	TERRY FANOLUA	13	DOUG TRIVELLA	
(I)	JASON LITTLE	12	JON SHEPHARD	
(I)	TOM BEIM	11	MICHAEL WOOD	
(I)	SIMON MANNIX	10	SIMON BINNS	
(I)	ANDY GOMARSALL	9	STUART FORSTER	
(I)	TREVOR WOODMAN	1	JIM THORP	
(I)	OLIVIER AZAM	2	CHRIS JOHNSON	
(I)	PHIL VICKERY	3	STUART TURNER	
(I)	ROB FIDLER	4	LEON GREEFF	(I)
	MARK CORNWELL	5	GLEN KENWORTHY	
	JAKE BOER	6	ISSAC FE'UNATI	(I)
(I)(C)	KINGSLEY JONES	7	NEIL SPENCE	
(I)	JUNIOR PARAMORE	8	MIKE SCHMID	(C)(I)

UNIPART

REPLACEMENTS

LOST BOYS 

TBC	16	SIMON BUNTING
TBC	17	RODNEY LATHAM
TBC	18	HOWARD PARR
TBC	19	BEN WADE
TBC	20	CHARLIE HARRISON
TBC	21	ANDY NORTHEY
TBC	22	STUART DIXON

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: TONY SPREADBURY RFU
TOUCH JUDGES: TIM MILLER RFU
ANDY MELROSE RFU

(I) DENOTES INTERNATIONAL
(C) DENOTES TEAM CAPTAIN

***TEAMS CORRECT AT 07-03-01**

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



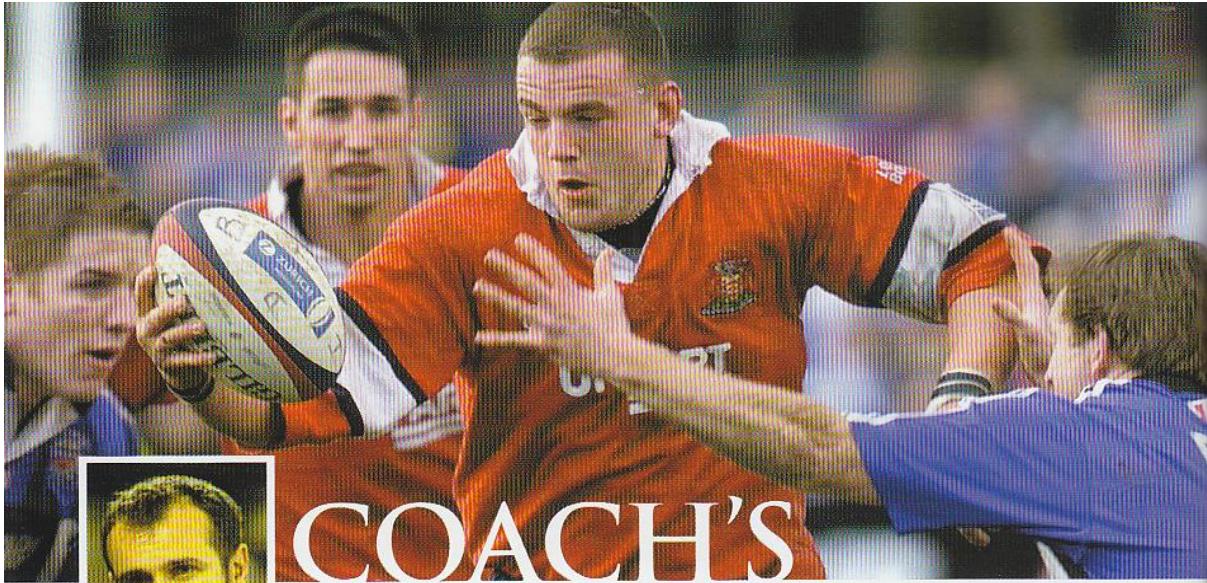
LAURA DAVIS AGE 9

Laura attends Rodborough CP School. She has a brother Thomas - 13 (who has been mascot twice and Gloucester have won both times!). Laura's hobbies are ballet and tap dancing, gymnastics for the 5 Valleys Gym Club, making things and annoying her brother. She wants to be a popstar when she is older. Her favourite player is and always will be Richard Tombs, although she likes Ian Jones best of all current players.

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COACH'S CORNER

WITH PHILIPPE ST ANDRE

ABOVE: ADAM EUSTACE MOVES OUT OF A TACKLE FROM BATH'S SHAUN BERNE

THE FACT THAT WE ARE IN THE SEMI-FINAL OF THE EUROPEAN CUP IS VERY GOOD, BUT IN THE PREMIERSHIP WE HAVE NOW LOST FIVE GAMES IN A ROW.

I think we must prepare for today's game against Rotherham as if it was the Semi-final already.

The players must be focused in front of their home crowd. I hope they will all give everything for themselves but also for this great club. Their reactions and attitude on the pitch must be more than about only their individual performances. They must now more than ever, work as a team. Everybody has to work hard in attack as well as in defence to obtain the victory. After the very disappointing game at Bath we have worked very hard on our defence and I hope this will show today.

For the moment the results in the league are a failure. We still have four games to go in the Premiership and we must play them like they were Cup games and must start with Rotherham today. We have to respect our visitors because they are a good team. We must all prove that we are able to do our job.

This week we have also welcomed a new coach. Andy Keast is here to help us with the backs as well as developing our techniques and our video analysis.

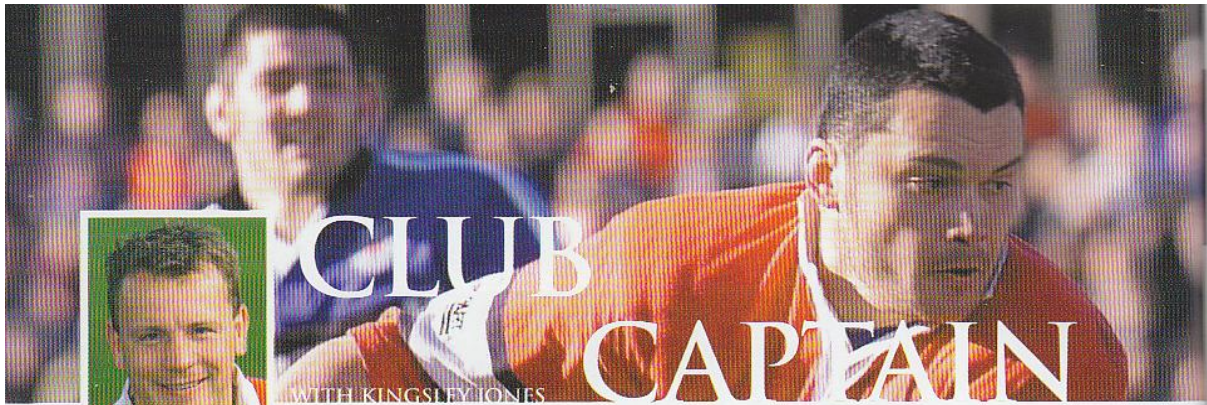
I think Andrew Keast will be an excellent addition to our coaching squad. We were made aware of his availability and felt we had to act quickly to secure his services.

He has great experience; in fact Andy Keast has had many positions in professional rugby. He was Head Coach at London Irish and had various positions at Harlequins. He was Director of Rugby in 1997 and before that Head Coach. He participated on the British Lion's Tour, as the assistant back's coach and analyst.

At the moment he is with us until the end of the season. I hope his presence is also going to help me as a coach. My role is that of Director of Rugby and Head Coach, John Brain cannot always be here. Other clubs have more staff and Andrew's arrival will take some of the pressure off John Brain and myself. This will help me concentrate on strengthening the squad and implementing the strategy for next season. We have four games left in the league and a Heineken Cup Semi final to play so Andrew's involvement in the tactics and video analysis of games could be crucial. He has a lot of experience and can talk to players on all subjects, body positions, things like that.

At this time of the season players need full time attention. It can be a difficult time. Players are discussing their contracts, but all that is part of professionalism. I hope the players are going to be professional and that they will give the best of themselves on the pitch and for the team.

"AFTER THE VERY DISAPPOINTING GAME AT BATH WE HAVE WORKED VERY HARD ON OUR DEFENCE AND I HOPE THIS WILL SHOW TODAY."



“ THE COACHES DID THEIR HOMEWORK, OUR LINE OUT WAS GOOD AND WE STIFLED SOME OF THEIR MOVES.”

I THINK AS A CLUB, WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS GAME AGAINST ROTHERHAM AND HOPE TO USE IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT THE MEMORIES OF TWO BAD RECENT DEFEATS BEHIND US.

We have to focus our minds now and concentrate on playing well and getting a good result. I don't think our position requires us to 'Win at all costs' yet, because I think that our performance will be scrutinised and so we will need to improve in all areas in order to satisfy the high standards we set ourselves at the start of the season.

The mood in the camp is quite good and two weeks ago I went on record as saying that after one loss against Wasps there wasn't a crisis at Kingsholm. There isn't but after a second bad defeat, which was not what we wanted, the confidence of some of the team has taken a bit of a bashing. We all know that we have to start to put this right today against Rotherham.

Make no mistake though this will be a very hard game. Rotherham have achieved a lot this season. They have had to cope with what I believe is a massive step up to the Premiership. They have claimed two very good scalps already this season, just recently beating a very fancied Saracens team. That result will give them confidence and they will come to Kingsholm with nothing to lose and everything to gain. I think, if they had the choice most sides would like to come to Kingsholm at the moment. We have had one or two bad results and teams would much rather play us at Kingsholm when we are going through a bad patch, than firing on all cylinders.

ABOVE: CHRIS YATES IN ACTION AGAINST BATH RUGBY.

However, the boys do not like losing. We

have to take personal responsibility for our performances and we are desperate to get onto another winning run, starting today. We know that we have to win today, because in my opinion, it is still possible to qualify for the Championship Playoffs. It will be a big ask now but it is still mathematically possible.

There is still so much to play for. We also have the Semi-final to look forward to. I think we have to look for all the positives still left in this season. That is how we will get ourselves back on track. Having said that, we have to put thoughts of the Heineken Cup to the back of our minds. Yes we have a lot of things to aim for, but more importantly, at three o'clock this afternoon we have a very hard match against a very competitive Rotherham side.

During this period when league games are interspersed with internationals it gives players the opportunity to have a mental break and if they are not involved with their international teams also a physical break from the club. You get a chance to recover and reassess where you are going. It's an excellent time to rejuvenate a playing squad.

On the other hand you have two weeks to contemplate your last performance and for us that was a very disappointing day at Bath. As I said earlier, we have to take collective and personal responsibility for the recent results. Yes Bath played well but I personally don't subscribe to the opinion that they were fantastic. The coaches did their homework, our line out was good and we stifled some of their moves. But I think our defence let us down. We missed too many one-on one tackles and when that happens you are in trouble. We have worked hard on our collective defence and will look to tighten up a lot today.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB ACADEMY



GLOUCESTER VERSUS NEWPORT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF CROSS BORDER CLASHES, DOMINATED BY ALL THE PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION OF AN ENGLAND V WALES MATCH.

This match was no exception as the naturally aggressive Welsh team set about their task and in the process had two player's yellow carded for foul play!

After six minutes the Newport prop was carded for punching. Joe Goatley converted the penalty to give Gloucester a three- point lead. From the restart Newport put the home team under pressure and their typically aggressive rucking and tackling eventually won them an equalizing penalty but adding their centre to the sin bin for a swinging arm tackle on his opposite number.

The physical side of the visitor's game was keeping them in the match and they didn't allow the home team to take utilize their numerical advantage. Newport extended their lead as strong driving play gave them good field position before releasing their backs to score an unconverted try out wide.

Gloucester responded immediately. The forwards drove into Newport territory and a strong run by

fly-half John Goodridge led to a try by No 8 James Forrester.

The first half finished with Newport at full strength again and showing the Gloucester player's what passion, combined with an aggressive attitude can do. Gloucester also suffered a real blow when scrum half Ollie Sills left the field and was unable to carry on. His replacement was hooker Ryan Gwillam who filled the position admirably but lacking a natural number 9 seemed to have a demoralizing effect on the Gloucester team as they started the second half.

The second half mirrored the first, with Newport aggressiveness showing in all phases of play. Gloucester kept trying, but without a natural aggressive side to their game could not match Newport's "full on" approach and eventually the pressure told as Newport scored what proved to be the match winning try.

All of Gloucesters front five ended up as Colts and had a significant disadvantage in size and maturity to their opponents. They stuck to their task and will have learnt from this experience. The lack of a physical and aggressive edge has been a constant feature of the Academy teams this season and one the coaches must address, but in the end it must come from the player first!

MATCH REPORT:
GRFC ACADEMY
VERSUS
NEWPORT U21'S

VENUE: HOME
DATE: 17TH
FEBRUARY 2001

RESULT:
LOST 8:13.

**MAN OF THE
MATCH:**
OLLIE SILLS

GLOUCESTER TRAVELED TO WORCESTER IN WHAT IS NOW BECOMING A FIERCELY CONTESTED LOCAL DERBY.

After the poor result against Newport the coaches made it very clear that nothing less than a good performance would be acceptable.

The coach's words were ringing in their ears as the Academy players began the game at a cracking pace. Winning ruck after ruck, and running with confidence at the opposition, they should have gone ahead within the first minute of the match when a superb break by center Euan Kenworthy created the space for full back Jon Goodridge. But, with one man to beat and players in support he opted to chip ahead and the opportunity was lost. Undeterred, Gloucester immediately scored a pushover try credited to James Simpson-Daniel from a half break he made in midfield.

Within 10 minutes Gloucester scored again. A great catch at a lineout by Ernest Hanson led to a good

break from Euan Kenworthy who forced his way over for a try, which Joe Goatley converted to give Gloucester a 12-0 lead.

Gloucester's ability to retain possession forced Worcester on the defensive and it was inevitable they would score again. Prop Ollie Smith fed onto James Simpson-Daniel who created a half break for Joe Goatley to cruise over for his second try and extend the Gloucester lead to 17-Nil.

The Gloucester Academy team began to control of all phases of play and completely dominated their opposition. A lineout drive released Simpson-Daniel who gave a deft inside pass for winger Duncan Murray to crash over under the posts. Euan Kenworthy converted

Just before half time Joe Goatley completed his first hat-trick this season when he crashed over again. Euan Kenworthy converted and gave Gloucester a 31-Nil lead.

After a stern team talk at half time Worcester started

MATCH REPORT:
GRFC ACADEMY
VERSUS
WORCESTER U21'S
NATIONAL KO CUP
COMPETITION.

VENUE: AWAY

RESULT:
WON 39:5.

**MAN OF THE
MATCH:**
EUAN
KENWORTHY

GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB ACADEMY



the second half in a much more positive fashion. This was reflected in their increased aggression and resulted in the sin-binning of their prop for dangerous play at the lineout.

Worcester, down to 14 men took the initiative through their pack as they finally took the game to Gloucester. Although under pressure, it was Gloucester who scored again when No8 James Forrester was driven over from a lineout, extending Gloucester's lead still further to 36-Nil.

Another Euan Kenworthy penalty concluded

Gloucester's scoring at thirty-nine points. Worcester did manage a consolation try on full time when they drove over from a line out for an unconverted try. Final score: 39-05.

Although the second half did not match the performance of the first, Gloucester Academy came away pleased with their efforts and a comprehensive victory over their rivals, Worcester. If Gloucester can match this performance and bring more consistency to their game, they will finish the season in style.

Man of the match Euan Kenworthy.

MATCH REPORT:
GRFC ACADEMY
VERSUS
EXETER U19'S
NATIONAL KO CUP
COMPETITION.
VENUE: AWAY

RESULT:
WON 53:3.

MAN OF THE MATCH



CLIVE STUART-SMITH

GLOUCESTER TRAVELED TO EXETER IN ROUND FIVE OF THE NATIONAL KNOCK OUT CUP FOR COLTS.

After a resounding victory they will face Moseley at home in the quarterfinals on Saturday 17th March.

Gloucester immediately set their stall out as they scored within one minute of the start. Scrum half Clive Stuart-Smith recovered the ball from the restart, fed it wide to lock Tom Skelding to cross unopposed in the corner.

Gloucester had a thirteen point lead in as many minutes after a Brad Davies Penalty and a second try scored by Duncan Murray but created by an excellent break by Adrian Hand

After twenty-four minutes, Exeter finally made some roads into Gloucester half and were rewarded with a penalty. This was to be their last visit into the Gloucester half. The Academy team pressed home their advantage. After a deft inside pass from Davies, Duncan Murray scored a converted try under the posts. The half time score: 20-03.

Gloucester started the second half as they did the first. From the kick off Clive Stuart-Smith fed winger Marcel Garvey in his own 22. Garvey evaded the Exeter tacklers and completed a superb run, almost the full length of the pitch to score under the posts!

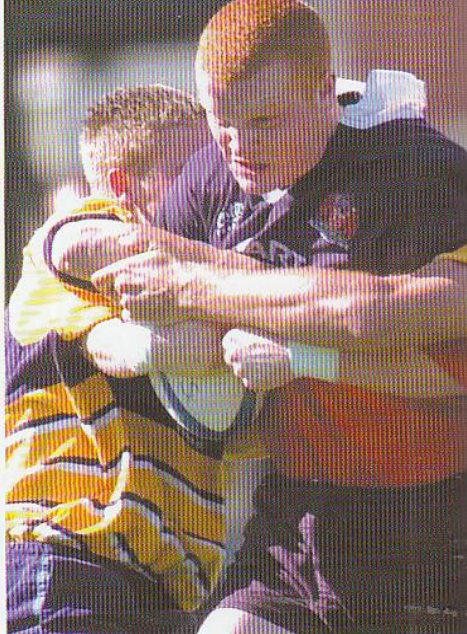
This score completely destroyed any confidence the home side had and Gloucester took complete control of the game. They ran in further tries from prop Joe Horne-Smith, and two tries for replacement center Tryfan Edwards from Hartpury College. The first, a

great individual try started in his own half with his very first touch of the ball.

The scoring was completed for Gloucester when No8 Ben Durham showed tremendous strength to carry over three defenders to score. With the conversion kicks of Brad Davies the final score line r was a resounding 53-03. to Gloucester

A great result but with Moseley, in the next round, Gloucester will not take anything for granted.

ACADEMY ACTION



ACADEMY HONOURS



AT THIS TIME OF YEAR WHEN THE FULL INTERNATIONAL TEAM IS PLAYING IN THE SIX NATIONS, THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB ARE ALSO VYING FOR REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS.

The Gloucester Rugby Club Academy is very proud to announce that a good number of its members are indeed getting the representative honours they crave.

John Haines the Academy manager said "The Academy has been set up to attract young, talented rugby players and provide them with the necessary skill to be able to represent Gloucester's first team, should they be required".

With this aim in mind it is no coincidence that the players lucky enough to be a part of this Academy are raising the standards of their age groups to boot. James Simpson-Daniel, whose services were much sought after over the summer agrees. He has been chosen along with Nick Cox to represent England at under 19 level in a series of matches in preparation for an U19 competition in Chile later this year. "Of course", he says, "With the high standard of coaching and training we are getting at the Academy, we are preparing ourselves to play at a higher level".

Nick Southern who also joined this year, along with Tom Micklausic, a product of the colts system at Gloucester, have both been selected for the England U21 development squad. Both still 19 have made the next step up and have the desire to progress still further. Nick feels it is testament to the new Academy system that he has been able to achieve this recognition two years early. "The Academy has definitely helped, when you train and play with the first team you get the experience of being round them. It boosts your confidence a lot and that shows when you go back to the U19's".

Nick feels that the Academy system, adopted by all clubs around the country has bridged the gap between schoolboy rugby and first team rugby. He thinks the largest benefit is the time taken on individual training. "In the Academy, you can focus on individual details. There is a high standard of coaching, and they can pinpoint

aspects of your game that need to be improved, such as your body angles etc".

Although the facilities here at Gloucester are geared to help all players focus on their performance, Nick realises that the onus is also on the players themselves to do that little bit extra. "The coaches can help on individual programmes but to make the step up to first team rugby you need to do a lot more personal work. In the gym or whatever it takes".

Tom Miklausic has been part of the colts set up since he was sixteen and admits he isn't the best person to judge the new benefits of the Academy, although he agrees with Nick that training with the first team gives the Academy players great experience. "It's getting better but in this first season there will always things to improve on. Training with guys has shown me the targets I need to achieve".

The proof of a successful Academy set up is measured by the amount of players that can be developed to take their place in a first team squad. So far this season Simpson-Daniel and Nick Cox have both made that step as Miklausic did last year against Orrell. "Obviously I haven't had the first team exposure I would like, but as long as there is a clear flow between the academy and the first team then it will move in the right direction" said Tom

"THE PROOF OF A SUCCESSFUL ACADEMY SET UP IS MEASURED BY THE AMOUNT OF PLAYERS THAT CAN BE DEVELOPED TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN A FIRST TEAM SQUAD."

BELOW: LEFT TO RIGHT B.DAVIS, C.STUART-SMITH, B.DURHAM, R.PEACEY AND N.GARVEY



BY IAN RANDALL

FROM THE COMME



BUYING A PINK UN ON THE WAY HOME ON A SATURDAY NIGHT IS PART OF MY USUAL ROUTINE.

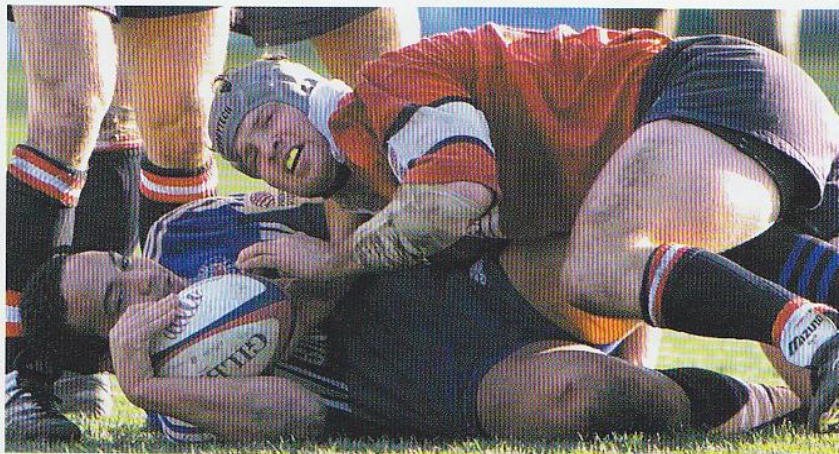
It's amazing sometimes after presenting our "Saturday Live" programme for 4 hours how much you actually forget after the programme ends at 6 o'clock, particularly in terms of results other than those of our own Gloucestershire teams. I'd also be wrong to say that it's not a useful reference document during the week, but then the Citizen staff do listen to us on a Saturday afternoon ! Our professional relationship, when the boundaries cross, is a good one.

The truth is our own "teams" are very different. The Citizen has six full time staff devoted to sport, plus one freelance reporter. They have their pages to fill every day, with editions split for different parts of the County, plus the Pink Un on a Saturday, but their reporters need less technical equipment than we do. A lot of their job during the week can be done from their desk.

By contrast, BBC Radio Gloucestershire's sport staff, matchdays apart, is just two. Our main emphasis is placed on our Saturday Live programme, though we have 5 bulletins to cover every day, and midweek specials to think about. We'll also soon be changing our shift patterns so that one of us can present the sport in our Breakfast Show, which will involve getting up at 4.30am ! Interviews on the phone aren't easy to listen to for any length of time, so we generally try and see people face to face, which leads to more travelling, and there's usually some editing to be done on our return. If you were to compare a page in the Citizen to a piece on radio, ours is probably the more labour intensive.

The joy of radio comes on a matchday. While Alistair Downey's report goes to press at 5.45 ...we can respond almost instantly to events as they happen.but while you see Alistair's picture (and Graham White's too!) alongside their pieces, who are the BBC Radio Gloucestershire team ? Who are the men behind

NTARY BOX



FAR LEFT: STEVE OJOMOH IS BROUGHT TO A HALT AS HE IS TACKLED BY BATH'S KEVIN MAGGS.

LEFT: JAKE BOER BRINGS DOWN BATH'S GAVIN THOMAS.

the voices on a Saturday afternoon ?All have other jobs, and work for us basically because they enjoy it. Time, then , to reveal all.....

David Reed (Commentator). Has covered rugby at one level or another since the station opened in 1987. A stalwart of Stroud RFC and the County, David has held offices for both as well as serving on various committees. Now retired from teaching Maths at Marling School, David has been the main man for Gloucester games since 1996. Enjoys his cricket with both Frocester (where son Simon plays) and Gloucestershire, where again he's a regular in the committee box.

Peter Butler (Summariser) Needs little introduction to all but the youngest supporter. When BBC Radio Gloucestershire was looking for a respected rugby name as a pundit, we looked no further than Peter, for the club's record points scorer was also an England full back. Now a European Sales Manager, he speaks very much from the heart and is perhaps our most passionate person behind the microphone. Sons Gareth and Richard, like Peter, have both represented Old Cryptians.

Andy Wyman (Summariser). Recruited almost by accident, Andy offers the tactical insight which adds so much. He stepped in to help for the County final at Twickenham in 1996 and

has been a regular contributor ever since. A former player at Lydney, Cheltenham and Gloucester United, he has since coached Lydney and Cheltenham, as well as the County Colts XV. A Year Head at Churchdown School, Andy tends to do Gloucester's away games, and certainly enjoyed the trip to Colomiers earlier this season.

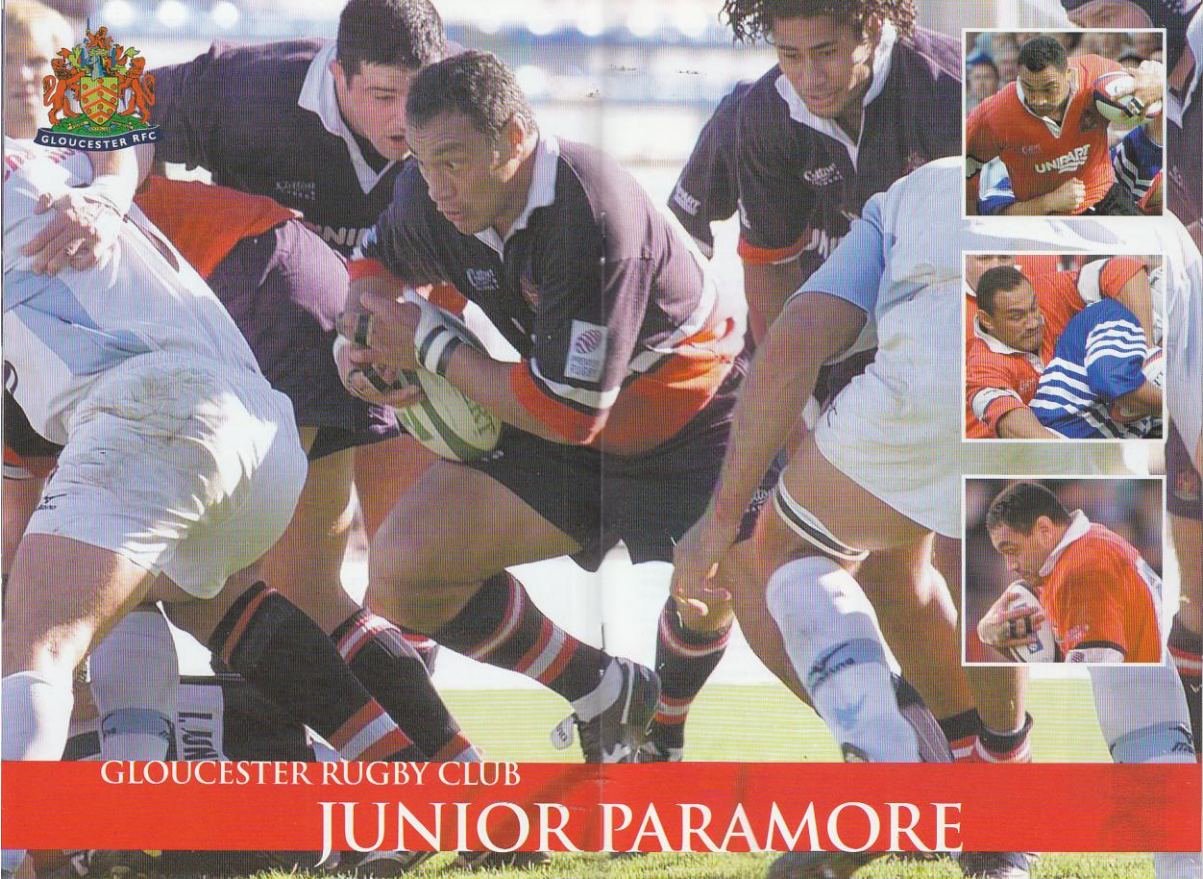
Andrew Pugh (Reporter). Now in his 10th season with us, Andrew has split loyalties. Gloucester born and bred, he's been our regular Lydney reporter for the past five seasons, though he has also summarised for Gloucester games, and covered matches involving some of our junior sides in the National Cup competitions. A Careers Advisor, his father is a season ticket holder, and you'll find Andrew in The Shed for evening games at Kingsholm.

Paul Furley (BA) The technical brains behind it all. Educated at Marling School (though not taught by David Reed !), Paul joined us in May last year, and runs our programmes from the studio. Without him, none of what you hear would be possible.

As you can imagine , everybody wants to be at Watford (!) for the Heineken Cup semi final. Today's game isn't so attractive, but a morale boosting win in the Premiership is badly needed.

So.....C'mon Glaws !

"TODAY'S GAME ISN'T SO ATTRACTIVE, BUT A MORALE BOOSTING WIN IN THE PREMIERSHIP IS BADLY NEEDED."



GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB

JUNIOR PARAMORE

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

ROBERT



ROBERT TODD

Former Club	London Irish
Date of Birth	19 Apr 1971
Height (m)	1.82
Weight (Kgs)	100
Position	Centre

"I'M OBVIOUSLY APPREHENSIVE AT THE MOMENT WITH THE PROSPECT OF THIS BEING MY FIRST LEAGUE GAME BACK."

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT THE PLAYER PROFILE THIS WEEK IS NOT JUNIOR PARAMORE. (CENTRE SPREAD PHOTO)

Instead we have interviewed Robert Todd who is about to take the next step on his come back trail as he will (hopefully) take his position on the bench for today's game against Rotherham. Toddy has played his part in two Gloucester United games in the last month and has targeted today's game for his 1st team return.

We have followed his rehabilitation closely on the Web Site and in previous program notes (London Irish). As this may be the game when he finally runs out in front of the Shed we have decided to share his thoughts with today's spectators.

It's the week leading up to a possible return to the first team for you. What is going on through your mind at the moment?

Obviously I am part of the big squad on Saturday, the bench will be named on Thursday regarding to Cats injury. I'm obviously apprehensive at the moment with the prospect of this being my first league game back. It's about a ten-fold step up from the mid week games I have been involved with. It's been a long time coming so I am anxious. Once I get it under my belt though, I think I can really start looking forward from there.

You have been training very hard, but are you at the stage where you can't get any fitter other than by just playing games?

Well my cardio-vascular fitness is good but I am lacking match fitness and sharpness. There is no other way that you can simulate a match environment other than just playing so that's basically what I need to do at the moment. I just need to get some game time under the belt even if I only get on for 20 minutes here, and 20 minutes there. At this level, coming back from an injury after being off for so long, I think you need to come in a little bit slowly instead of going straight into the deep end. The

way we are handling it at the club suits me, and hopefully will suit the club.

You have been training with the rest of the team for more than one month now. Have they been supportive?

The guys have been good. The guys gave me a round of applause as I was warming up when I came out and did my first run with them all. But really it's just good to be involved in training again. To get out there, in a squad situation and in rugby environment again is great.

In your enforced absence from the game, how did you keep your chin up?

I've obviously had my ups and downs but if you dwell on it for too long you go a bit stir crazy. If you don't keep positive a attitude towards things, you will never get back and you will never get your head right. It's a case of "It's happened you just have to get on with it". If you dwell on it to long you degenerate. There was no thought of chucking it in.

Have you been able to distance your self from the highs and lows of recent weeks?

I've found myself sitting on the fence a lot of the time. It is frustrating because you can't help out on the paddock but, on the other hand, you can't divert your focus to get back on the pitch. Since I have been injured, my only thoughts have been to get back on the pitch.

Have you been affected by the talk of resignations and turmoil within the camp?

No, my situation has been one of personal focus and rehabilitating my foot. I have not been involved in all these other things. I just focus on what I have got to do. In a quirky way it's been good, as I've been able to forget all the peripheral things that have supposedly been going on.

You seem to have timed your returned just right to get a place in the European Cup Semi-final team?

TODD



There are a lot of other guys who have worked very hard to get us there, but if the chance comes my way, I'd be more than happy to be involved. It's a very prestigious event and if it comes my way, I'll take it.

You have played inside center, outside center and wing. Where do you think you can make your best contribution?

It is hard to say. I have played in all three positions but I have not been told specifically where I should play. I am more than happy to play anywhere.

With your time off have you been able to develop any hobbies?

I have read a few more books; my wife is in university so it has helped that I could be around to spend more time with my daughter. I have spent more quality time with my family.

Would you like to give any pointers to any other sportsman that may have suffered the same kind of injury?

At the start of any long injury, you might begin to doubt yourself and think things like, "Am I going to get back? Will I be as good? But if you just focus on getting yourself right, that is all you need to worry about.

Have you sought any outside help, faith healers or herbal remedies?

Nah, I don't need any of that. I came here with a job to do and as yet that objective is unfulfilled. Until I start playing and doing what I am here for I don't need outside sources of motivation. I have enough faith in my own ability not to worry.

If you are involved on Saturday what will you be concentrating on?

Only the basics, depending on the situation. If we are winning well I can be much freer. I won't want to drop any passes but make plenty of good ones. I don't want to miss any tackles, I'll try to talk a lot, and

communicate a lot, things like that.

Do you think that there is still a long way to go to reach full fitness?

Definitely, some of the United games I have played in have been good rehabilitation exercises but they are not the real thing.

Andy Keast has joined us this week. Did you work with Andy Keast at London Irish?

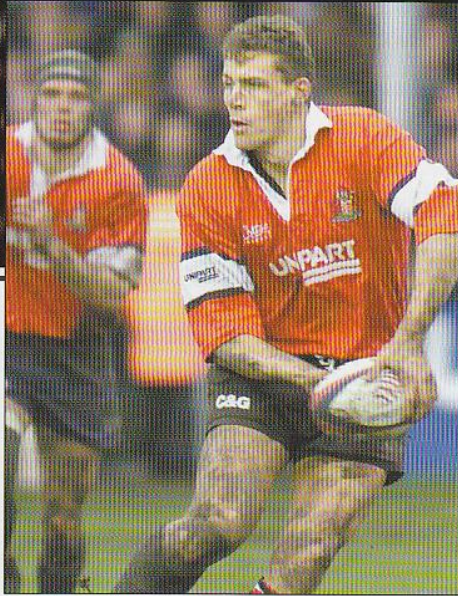
Yes, all season. He's come here to have a look and if he sees something here that sticks out that we can correct then he is the man to do that. He can find technical errors, and his coaching ability is good.

"AT THE START OF ANY LONG INJURY, YOU MIGHT BEGIN TO DOUBT YOURSELF AND THINK THINGS LIKE, "AM I GOING TO GET BACK? WILL I BE AS GOOD?"



MATCH ACTION

GLOUCESTER 3-28 WASPS

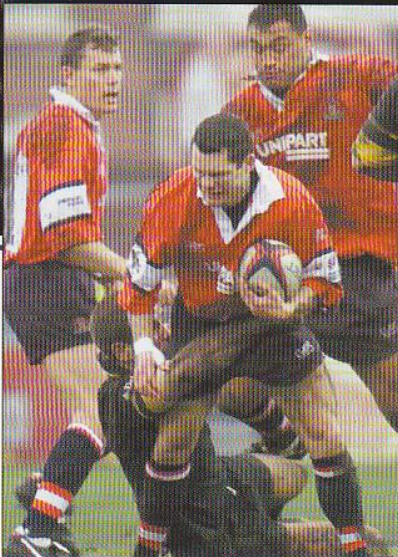
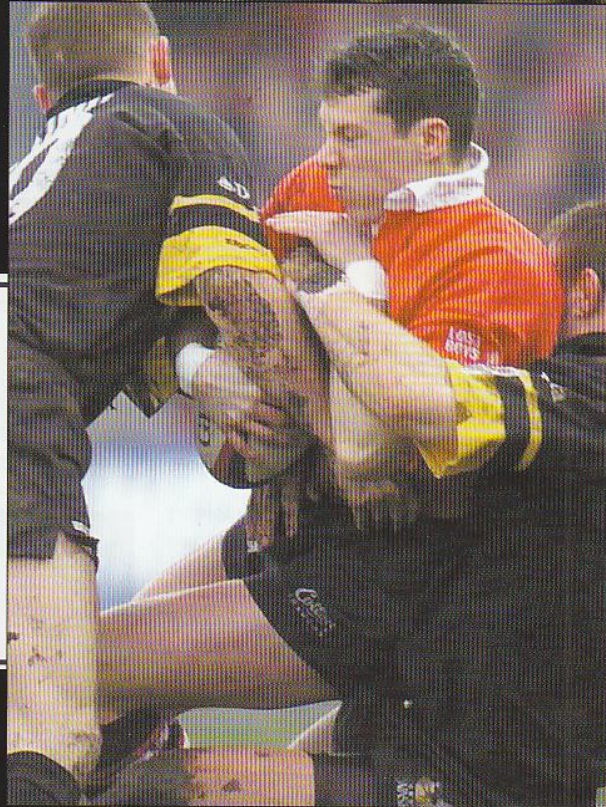


TOP LEFT: Jason Little prepares to pass.

TOP RIGHT: Tom Beim is sandwiched between Wasps Alex King and Mark Denney.

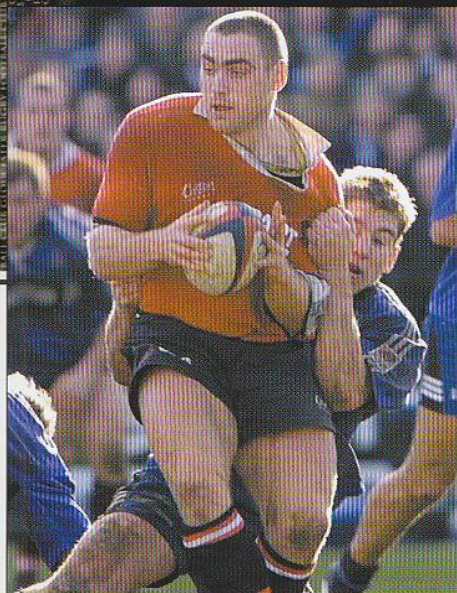
BOTTOM RIGHT: Ian Jones (left) moves in to assist Rob Fidler and Jake Boer to halt Wasps Mark Denney.

BOTTOM LEFT: Byron Hayward breaks away.

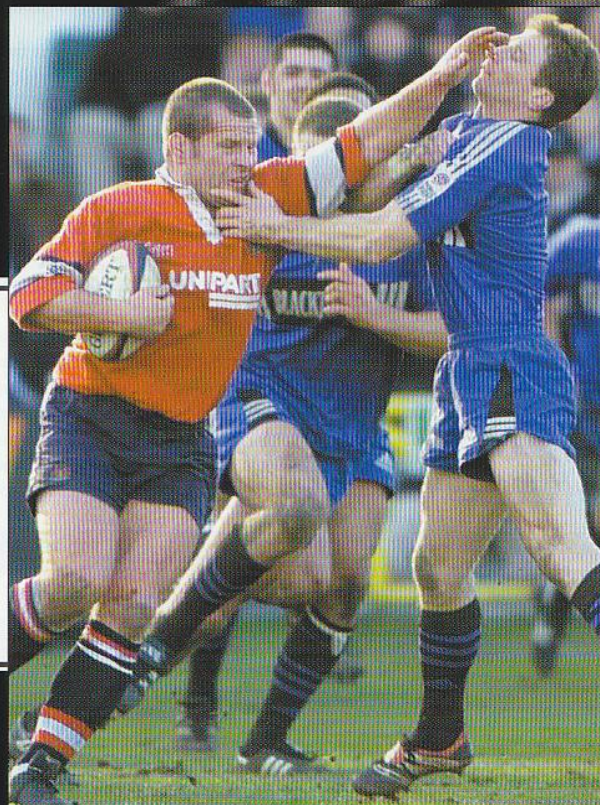


MATCH ACTION

BATH RUGBY 50-16 GLOUCESTER



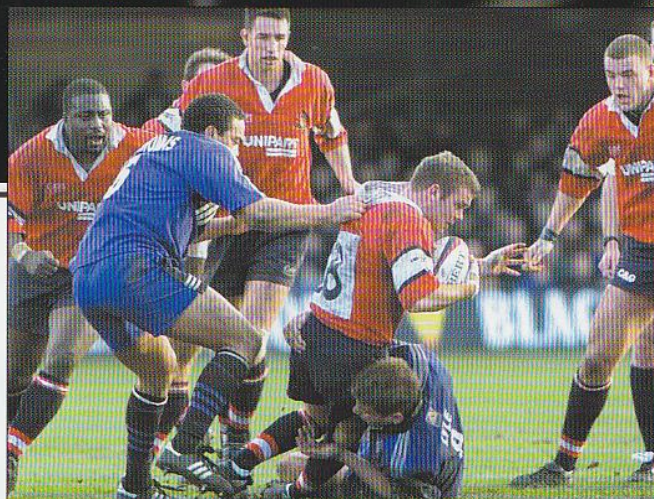
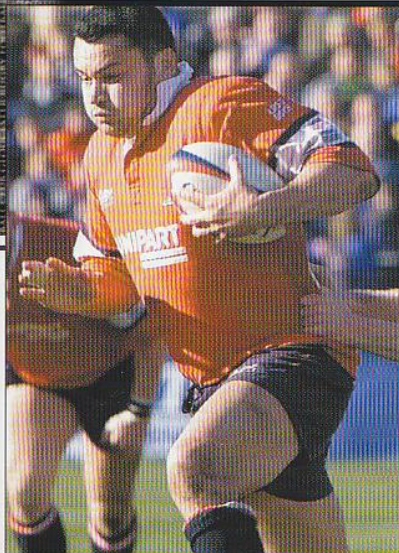
TOP LEFT: Trevor Woodman is stopped by the Bath Rugby defence.



TOP RIGHT: Andy Deacon pushes Mike Catt out of the away.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Andy Hazell is felled by Bath's Jon Preston.

BOTTOM LEFT: Chris Yates makes a break.



“OH ! COME ON REF !”

THERE ISN'T A RUGBY FAN IN THE WORLD WHO HASN'T SCREAMED FURIOUSLY AT THE REFEREE ON OCCASION

Much of the time, such abuse stems from the allegiance of the supporter shouting it, and isn't really justified in the cold light of day. Referees are human however, and they do make mistakes. Unfortunately, if you can believe all the reports, the ratio of such errors to proved-right decisions is rising rapidly, in the English game at any rate.

Bristol's Dean Ryan is the latest to castigate the official in public for his alleged inadequacies in the tied Bristol-London Irish game. However, his outburst is only the most recent in a lengthening list of such complaints which seem to have included comment from official levels at just about every club in the Premiership. Up to, and including Gloucester, I may add.

From where I sit I'm not sure if the general level of dissatisfaction is justified or not. All I do know is that such a large number of comments can't all stem from sour grapes.

Time was when it was regarded as highly unacceptable to complain about the referee at all. What you might say to your mates over a beer after the game was one thing, but overt comment from any official level was quite simply a no-no.

“WHAT YOU MIGHT SAY TO YOUR MATES OVER A BEER AFTER THE GAME WAS ONE THING, BUT OVERT COMMENT FROM ANY OFFICIAL LEVEL WAS QUITE SIMPLY A NO-NO.”

BELOW:
TREVOR
WOODMAN HAS
HIS RUN STOPPED
BY WASPS
MARTYN WOOD.

I well remember one prominent ref. who had incurred the wrath of the Gloucester contingent on three successive occasions. As it happened, he was omitted from the International panel shortly afterwards. I couldn't resist the opportunity, but all I wrote was:

'Did you notice that Mr. So-and-So has been dropped from the International panel ? Oh dear. What a pity. Never mind'.

I'd have thought that was fairly innocuous, but the Gloucestershire Referees Association thought otherwise and descended about my ears like a flock of angry starlings. Dear old Terry Tandy, as Club Secretary at the time, felt, in honour bound, that he ought to speak to me about it, so he did just that, mentioning that he'd received a letter on the subject, and adding, "Personally, I thought you went rather easy on him !"

It's not like that now. All and sundry seem to believe themselves entitled to castigate the ref in the media, at the drop of a whistle. That has its dangers, but isn't altogether a bad thing. If you think about it, in these days, there is little reason why the match officials should enjoy a higher level of protection than an under-performing player does. In today's fast and furious, highly charged game we depend entirely on the man with the whistle to give us some decent rugby. An official, who has had a row with his wife and feels a bit whistle-happy, can easily ruin a match for thousands, even millions, of supporters if the game happens to be a televised International.

The news that the highly respected Ed Morrison is to hang up his boots is a sad blow in this regard. There simply aren't enough officials of his calibre to go around. Not in England, anyway. Is it a coincidence that Gloucester has done so well in the European Cup having had three French referees in as many matches ?

I don't know. It may be a platitude to say that we now have a professional game refereed in the main by amateurs, but just because it's a cliché doesn't mean it isn't true.

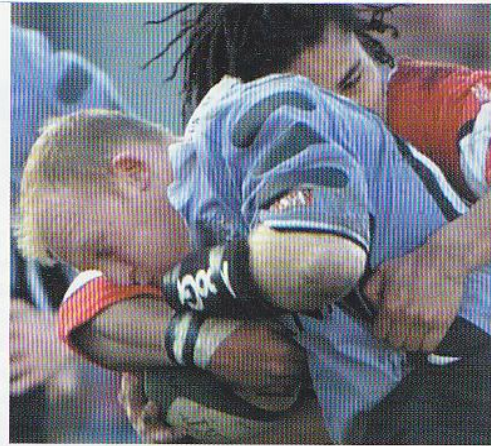
It's a problem that the RFU needs to address as a matter of extreme urgency.



THE FRENCH CONNECTION AGAIN

DID YOU NOTICE THAT WE'LL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF YET ANOTHER FRENCH REF IN THE HEINEKEN SEMI-FINAL?

FORMIDABLE!



THE BULL RAGES ON

YOU'LL PROBABLY AGREE THAT PHIL VICKERY HAD HIS BEST-YET GAME FOR ENGLAND IN THE CALCUTTA CUP MATCH.

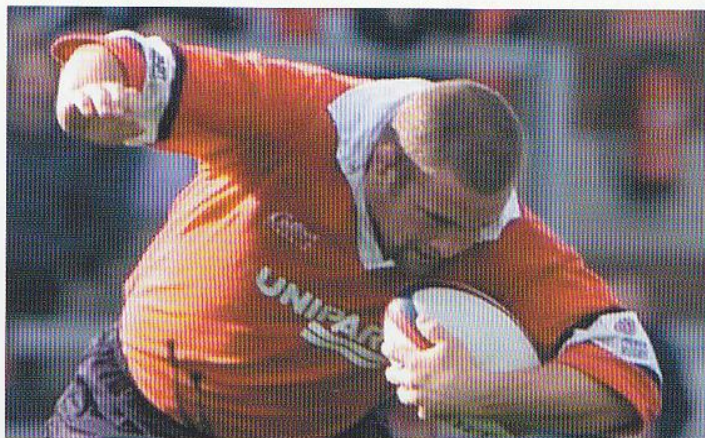
He certainly gave the admirable Tom Smith, who I would have thought is a near certainty for the Lions trip, all he could handle in the tight, and especially impressed in broken play. The watching TV millions now know why he's called 'The Raging Bull' around here.

Don't forget, he's still only 24 years old, so there's a great deal more to come from him. As another trenchant, enormously strong, old Gloucester prop, Reg Daldry would undoubtedly say, "Im's only a babby yet!" Maybe so, but if that performance hasn't booked his seat on the plane to Australia, then I don't know what else he has to do.

It was a shame that Trevor Woodman didn't get a run out on that occasion. Perhaps it was his punishment for resisting

the blandishments of Northampton and electing to stay with Gloucester.

That piece of news was one of the few bright spots in an otherwise gloomy period for Gloucester. I note that Tom Beim is also likely to stay, and that's good news too.



NOTHING NEW

I DON'T THINK THAT ANY REASONABLE PERSON COULD QUARREL WITH THE DECISION TO POSTPONE RUGBY MATCHES IN VIEW OF THE FOOT AND MOUTH OUTBREAK.

However, another thought on the matter was prompted, the other day, by a chance meeting

with an elderly supporter I hadn't seen for ages.

He was the guy who once told me that the young Mike Teague would never amount to anything.

So, you see, foot-in-mouth disease has been endemic at Kingsholm for years.

TOP: TERRY FANOLUA HOLDS UP CARDIFF'S NEIL JENKINS.

BOTTOM: PHIL VICKERY (THE BULL) IN ACTION.

BY PETER ARNOLD

IT'S A (WO)MAN'S WORLD



A MIDST THE TESTOSTERONE CHARGED WORLD OF PROFESSIONAL RUGBY, THERE ARE MEMBERS OF THE FAIRER SEX WHO ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR TEAM'S SUCCESS.

Amongst our medical team are two women charged with keeping the players fit and raring to go. Under the guidance of Jean-Pierre Darnaud the resident osteopath, the two girls have a very much 'hands on' approach to their job. Clare Woodward is the first team physiotherapist and Kim Owen, the sports therapist.

"IF YOU BITE AS FAR AS THE LADS ARE CONCERNED THEY HAVE WON. YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE A BIT BACK WHILST RETAINING YOUR INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM."

Darnaud's job, along with Clare is to prevent injuries as much as to cure them. They work on improving the stability and structure of the player's skeleton. Focusing on the ankles, knees and pelvic regions. For the players in the front-row it is also important to check and ameliorate their neck and shoulders after each game. Jean-Pierre and Clare's work will form the base on which, Ed Archer and Peter Finch can build the players muscular strength, their running gate stability and their support.

Kim sees her job as a little different; "I also help the players, but as a more preventative measure, using general sports massage. It's a much deeper massage technique designed to keep the players on top of things. I don't think people realise how hard it is. It's very physical and doing it for four or five hours a day is hard. I do enjoy it though, because of the diversity. There are a lot of different injuries, different scenarios with a lot of different personalities. If we think it will help, I also do a lot of work that is injury relevant. I focus on specific injured body parts to help speed up the recovery process. We have a cyclical process, once the players have seen JP and Clare, they tend to come and see me for a sport massage and rehabilitation work".

The medical team, however, are a closely-knit group and every one mucks in when necessary. "I also help with strapping and taping before training sessions" Kim informs us, "and I also use the electrotherapy equipment when people need ultrasound and laser treatment".

As a trainee physio, it was always apparent to Clare that if she wanted to work in a sports environment she would be in the minority. "I think it was inevitable really, that I was going to be working in a man's world". A very philosophical approach so how does a women make it in such an environment? "You have to gain the player's respect really, and the way you do that is by treating them properly and treating them well", says Clare. "By doing your job well", chips in Kim. A show of competence however, only goes so far. "To take it to the next level", continues Clare, "you also have to have a very good sense of humour. You have to be able to take the (friendly) banter that is handed out all day every day".

The trick it seems is not to bite, "That's it", says Clare "If you bite as far as the lads are concerned they have won. You have to be able to give a bit back whilst retaining your integrity and professionalism".

The life of the backroom staff is not an easy one. You have to find a middle ground somewhere between the constant chatter of the dressing room whilst maintaining the professionalism that one would expect from their GP. So for any would-be therapists or Physiotherapists looking for a career with a professional sports club how does one find such a happy medium?

"It is my fifth season at the club" says Kim, "So I am very used to it now. When I first came in it was different though. I was very conscious of the work I was doing and although I always try to stay very professional in my work, you need to fit in to the environment. You need a lot of self-confidence, not only in what you do but also who you are. Obviously, in a rugby environment there are a lot of fragile egos and everybody is always very self-orientated. If they are injured, they want treatment, in a very egotistical, me, me, me sort of way. It is hard work but once you fit in it you make a lot of good friends.

The pressures encountered at a rugby club will be so different from those suffered by physiotherapists in 'Civvie Street'.

"The guys haven't got time to be injured," says Clare, "there is so much pressure to

play. There is a lot of money wrapped up in the game and it's our job to get them back playing. They are also very difficult to treat. A normal person may have a similar problem, and recover much quicker. Sometimes with players there is a mental block on them recovering".

"The psychology aspect is about 40% of our job", says Kim. "You are partly counselling all the time, more so in this environment. Every player's personality is different so they all react to an injury differently. You have to adapt and give everyone the right amount of focus. You have to be able to give them the confidence to get back on the field and play".

There is only so much the team can do however, and eventually the players themselves have to take some responsibility for their well being. The final decision on a player's fitness to play is usually a combined effort between the medical team, the coaching staff and the player himself. Unfortunately with so many opinions all reacting to different pressures the job can always be very stressful. The players adherence to any rehabilitation programme is also key say the girls. Some expect to just get better and some apply themselves studiously to their task.

Of course, with any injuries to friends and colleagues, it's always nice to get a second

opinion. "We are all close to the players so it's great to be able to go to top specialists in any field and get their opinion. You can then go to the players and coaching staff with more back up. It's always useful to take the responsibility off your shoulders". At the end of the day the guys are paid to play so that's what we want"

On a match day Clare's working environment moves to pitch side. As play continues regardless she must enter the fray and tend to the wounded mid-battle. She admits to being caught up in a few rucks from time to time, but also confesses to using a prostrate player as a human shield. How is it that after all the hard work she and her colleagues have put in all week, come match day players seek to undo it all in a matter of moments. "I don't watch a game," says, Clare "I'm always watching for injuries and worried that play will come back and flatten me".

"I become completely oblivious to the game and focus only on the injured players" says Kim. And how do they feel about working in the middle of a muddy field with 10,000 people watching her every move? It was difficult at Bath when I was taping Vix's knee.

He needed support, but the supporters wanted the game to continue.

I've got some abuse from the Shed, once or twice, but I've learned now not to turn around".

"AS PLAY CONTINUES REGARDLESS SHE MUST ENTER THE FRAY AND TEND TO THE WOUNDED MID-BATTLE."

BELOW: THE TREATMENT ROOM AT GLOUCESTER.

