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# Gloucester

Gloucester RFC official matchday programme 2001-2002

vs Leeds Tykes

Saturday 1st December 2001 kick-off 2.00pm

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# Line-ups



## 58 Gloucester VS Leeds Tykes 17

6G 2T 2PG

2G 1PG

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| <input type="checkbox"/> |        | Robert Todd           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | T      | Daren O'Leary         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | i T    | Joe Ewens             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | i CT   | Henry Paul            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2T     | James Simpson-Daniel  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5c2P1T | Ludovic Mercier       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |        | Dimitri Yachvili      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> |        | Chris Fortey          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | i      | Federico Pucciariello | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |        | Mark Cornwell         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |        | Ed Pearce             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |        | Jake Boer             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | i      | Koli Sewabu           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | i      | Junior Paramore       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |        | 15 Dan Scarbrough     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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|                          |        | 13 Shaun Woof         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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|                          |        | 11 Craig Emmerson T   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |        | 10 Dan Parks          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |        | 9 John O'Reilly       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |        | 1 Mike Shelley (c)    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |        | 2 Matt Holt           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |        | 3 Kris Fullman        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |        | 4 Chris Murphy        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |        | 5 Tom Palmer          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |        | 6 Cameron Mather      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |        | 7 James Ponton        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |        | 8 Isaac Feaunati      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### [replacements]

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | T | M GARVEY  | T.B.A            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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|                          |   |           | 19 Dan Hyde      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |   |           | 20 Chris Kendra  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |   |           | 21 Jamie Mayer   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                          |   |           | 22 Jon Benson    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2c1P  
S BACHDP T

[teams correct at 29/11/01]

i [denotes international]

c [denotes captain]

[today's officials]

[referee] Robin Goodlife

[touch judges] David Grashoff, David Sainsbury



# Welcome

[from the editors]



**"Finally, if Gloucester continue their recent home form and win today and the other results go our way this weekend, we could find ourselves second in the Zurich Premiership."**

**Playing at Kingsholm is an experience that very few forget. The most passionate group of supporters in world rugby come here to cheer on the 'Cherry and Whites' and it is a daunting experience for any away team.**

Nothing gets the hairs on the back of your neck to stand up quite as much as when Gloucester Rugby Club run onto the pitch before a big game. Today will be no exception as we welcome our visitors from Leeds.

As Leeds Tykes visit Kingsholm and Gloucester Rugby Club for the first time, may we take this opportunity to welcome them not only to Gloucester but also to the Premiership. The Zurich

Premiership League is the strongest league in European Rugby and you only need to look at recent results in both the Heineken Cup and Parker Pen Shield to prove this fact. As a club who have been in the top English League since its inception, we are pleased and proud today to be able to welcome Leeds Tykes and their supporters to our club.

This season has started in an unpredictable fashion with elements of the league table appearing to be upside down. While traditional favourites Wasps and Northampton Saints are languishing near the bottom of the table, the less fancied clubs such as Sale and London Irish are pushing their way near the top.

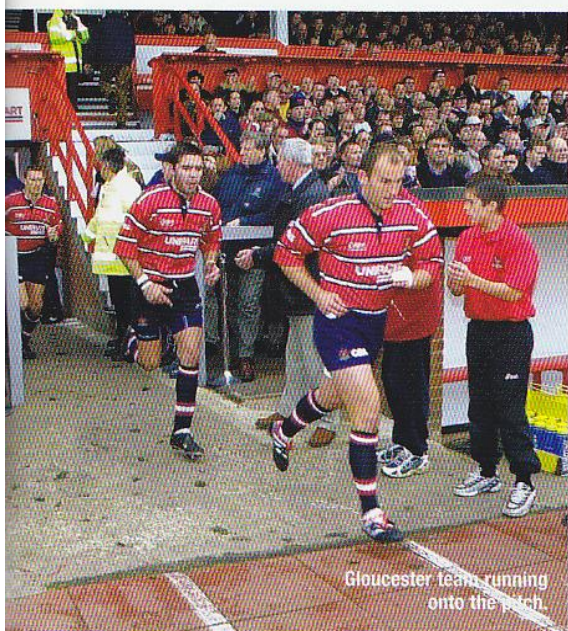
Following Rotherham's promotion and swift relegation from the Premiership last season, you could have been mistaken for expecting Leeds Tykes to follow a similar route. Indeed John Bentley has reiterated only this week that Leeds' first priority must be to avoid relegation and hope to build next year. While not out of the woods yet, Leeds have

got good reason to be optimistic about the rest of the season.

Like ourselves, Leeds have made their home ground, Headingley, a fortress, winning three games out of four in the league and taking the prize scalp of the champions, Leicester, on the way. Again, like Gloucester however, it is their away form that is the concern and Phil Davies will know that this must be rectified soon.

While welcoming Leeds, we should make a special mention to Scott Benton and Craig Emerson who return to Kingsholm today for the first time since leaving the club. In recent weeks we have welcomed back many former players to Gloucester but all have come unstuck against the dominant Gloucester pack.

Finally, if Gloucester continue their recent home form and win today and the other results go our way this weekend, we could find ourselves second in the Zurich Premiership. This would be a great position to be in for our journey to Bath next weekend.



Gloucester team running onto the pitch.

**Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781**

**[welcome]**

**05**



# Coach's Corner

[Philippe Saint-André]

**The result against Wasps was a very big win for us. We have set ourselves the target of not losing another game at Kingsholm so it was important to win, but I was also pleased with the way we played.**

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**“At the moment we are fifth in the table but London Irish, Sale and Newcastle, who are above us, have still to come to Kingsholm. It is important that starting today we take maximum points from these games.”**

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Last season, Wasps beat us three times, once at home and twice away so it shows we are improving as a team. We must take this result forward, because, after today's game, we must play two league games away and it will be important for us to be confident and remember the results at home.

This squad is still learning all the time. We have said that we must learn from our defeats away from home when we lost by two, or three points and learn how to win these games. I am also pleased with the strength of the squad and that players do not have just one position to play anymore. Because of Chris Catling's injury we had to find another solution at full back. Robert Todd has played there for two games and is doing well. It is important that we have different solutions in different situations.

When I joined the club the mentality that existed meant that we found it very hard to win away from home. Each season though we are starting to win big away games. This season it was away at Sale where we had our best victory. I am trying still to change this mentality but it is difficult. The players though are always in good spirits and looking forward to training and matches.

Before we go away against Bath and Wasps though, we must concentrate on today's game against Leeds. It is true that they have conceded 100 points in the last two games, but the truth of one week is not the same the next and we must still fear Leeds. They have lost to Wasps who we have beaten but on a good day they have also beaten the Champions, Leicester Tigers.

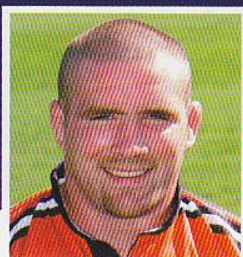
They have shown that they are a very good team and we must play very well to beat them today.

If they are fit, today we will welcome Scott Benton and Craig Emmerson back to Gloucester. Like Jason Little and Ian Jones in the last two home games, we will today play against former Gloucester players, who will no-doubt, wanted to play well and win against us. I hope that like in the two games against Bristol and Wasps, we will play better.

At the moment we are fifth in the table but London Irish, Sale and Newcastle, who are above us, have still to come to Kingsholm. It is important that starting today we take maximum points from these games. It will be good if, after today's game, we have taken 16 points from four games.







## Match

# Captain

[phil vickery]

D.O.B: 14/03/76  
Position: Tight Head  
Height: 1.91m  
Weight: 125kg  
Former Club: Bude/Redruth  
Int'l national Honours:  
England 15 – Caps,  
British Lions

**I have had three great weeks with England this month. We played against two of the Southern Hemisphere's major teams, and beat them, but today I can't wait to get back into the domestic season with Gloucester.**

**"I don't believe this will be an easy game; none are in the Premiership anymore. I don't think this is the high scoring banker that everyone expected at the start of the season."**

The season has been really stop, start for me. I missed the start of it; I came back, then got injured so I am really looking forward to getting stuck in today.

The boys have done really well in the last few weeks, but we are all disappointed that we are not even higher up the table. We could have been second if we had have beaten Newcastle, but if we keep winning I am confident we can still make a good challenge at the top of the league.

Newcastle was just one of the games I believe we could have and should have won and I know all the boys feel the same. It's difficult as I wasn't always involved but we feel

collectively that we should have beaten both Saracens and London Irish.

I still believe though, that we are not far away from being a very good team. We have a squad that is second to none in the Premiership and I still see no reason why we can't ultimately challenge for the Premiership title. As a team, and as individuals, that is the sort of goals we are setting. There is no point in trying to be second best.

We have a very important run of Premiership games at home and away and, make no mistake, these games are very important. After Christmas, the league breaks up as the cup and European competitions take precedence. We need to make sure that we are in contention in the run up to Christmas and New Year and build on what we have already achieved.

We continue today against a team that have surprised a lot of people. I myself am not so shocked about how well Leeds have started this season. They are a very passionate club, who have continued to prove very hard to beat at home. They were very strong last year and have continued to

get stronger. For anyone who thinks this will be an easy game, think again.

Leeds will come to Kingsholm today and rather than be overawed by the atmosphere, I'm sure they will relish it. They have nothing to lose this season and will gain in confidence with every game they play. They have had two bad results but having watched the Wasps game, they were in contention right up until the last quarter.

I have spoken to many of the boys involved with the England set up and all agree that the atmosphere here at Kingsholm inspires players to get the best out of themselves. The Leeds team, I am sure, will be no different. They are a very proud team, like us, and I'm sure Phil Davies will want them to show all their supporters just how good they are.

I don't believe this will be an easy game; none are in the Premiership anymore. I don't think this is the high scoring banker that everyone expected at the start of the season. I do expect this to be a great game with some very strong players on view.





# Gloucester

# Academy News

[john haines]

## result

**Gloucester U21's**  
**26**  
**Wasps U21's**  
**26**

From the kick off, Gloucester pressurised the Wasps into making mistakes and giving away early penalties. Joe Goatley converted two of these to give Gloucester a six : Nil lead after only eight minutes of play.

Gloucester maintained the pressure and defended superbly against any attacks the Wasps team threw at them. After twenty-three minutes of play, they deservedly increased their lead when a well executed backs move resulted in full back Stu Roberts skipping through the Wasps defence for a try, converted again by Joe Goatley.

Gloucester then took complete control of the match. They put pressure on their opponents at the scrummage and were denied an obvious penalty try. They were finally rewarded however, when James Forrester picked up at the base of yet another five-metre scrum to drive over for a try, again

**The Academy U21's had not played together as a team for several weeks but, any doubts about being rusty were soon dispelled as they started this league match in fine style.**

converted by Joe Goatley. The lead now twenty points to nil.

It was at this stage that the young Gloucester team relaxed mentally and allowed Wasps to claw back the deficit. A simple clearance kick was dropped giving Wasps the scrummage. From this platform they created good quick ball and scored a converted try to reduce the deficit to 20:07.

Wasps now felt they were back in the game and a straightforward three-quarters move saw the Wasps winger step inside the defence for an easy try. Although unconverted this brought the score to 20: 12 at half time. More importantly Gloucester had ruined a good start with two disappointing lapses of concentration to allow Wasps back in the match after dominating it for much of the first half.

Gloucester started the second half in a determined mood and although

under pressure from their highly motivated opponents, they broke out of defence courtesy of James Forrester. The talented No.8 used his speed and agility to take him right to the Wasps try line. Gloucester were disappointed to only score a Joe Goatley penalty from these breaks.

At 23:12 they suffered another set back when centre J-P.Goatley was yellow carded for a late tackle and in the resulting ten minutes, Gloucester were under the cosh.

A good run by Wasps' winger John Rudd and a good hand off, of his opposite number Duncan Murray led to an easy try, which was converted to bring the score to 23: 19. Wasps were looking the better team now they had closed the initial twenty-point gap.

The last ten minutes of the match were a frantic affair, as both

Gloucester, then Wasps battled for the all important score. It was Wasps who took the lead. The impressive Gloucester pack stole a scrum on their own line and gain the put in at the resulting lineout, only to lose the throw in and see the Wasps take play back to the try line where their scrum half burrowed over for a converted try and the lead in the match for the first time at 23:26.

With two minutes of play remaining Gloucester chased the restart kick well, they forced Wasps to knock on and concede a penalty at the resulting scrum. This allowed Joe Goatley to force a draw with the final kick of the match.

Gloucester got out of jail but should have killed the game off in the first quarter. Although they showed good character to gain a draw after going behind, they will be bitterly disappointed as the match was theirs for the taking.

## GLOUCESTER ACADEMY FIXTURES 2001/2002

| DATE     | VENUE | ACADEMY U21'S/U19'S         | U21 RESULT | U19 RESULT | DATE    | VENUE | ACADEMY U21'S/U19'S      | U21 RESULT | U19 RESULT |
|----------|-------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|---------|-------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1/9/01   | Away  | Northampton                 | L 43-24    | -          | 5/1/02  | HOME  | LONDON IRISH U19         |            |            |
| 8/9/01   | HOME  | SARACENS                    | W 64-31    | -          | 12/1/02 | HOME  | NEWPORT U19              |            |            |
| 15/9/01  | Away  | Leicester                   | L 19-15    | -          | 19/1/02 | Away  | Bath U19                 |            |            |
| 26/9/01  | HOME  | SALE 7.00PM WEDS            | W 41-10    | -          | 26/1/02 | HOME  | BRISTOL                  |            |            |
| 6/10/01  | Away  | Bristol U19                 | -          | L 17-23    | 2/2/02  | Away  | Wasps U19                |            |            |
| 13/10/01 | Away  | Harlequins 2.30 KO          | L 15-16    | -          | 9/2/02  | Away  | London Irish             |            |            |
| 20/10/01 | HOME  | LONDON IRISH                | W 27-26    | -          | 16/2/02 | HOME  | SARACENS U19             |            |            |
| 28/10/01 | Away  | Bristol (Sun) / Wasps U19's | -          | Canceled   | 23/2/02 | HOME  | HARLEQUINS 2.30 KO       |            |            |
| 4/11/01  | Away  | London Irish U19 (Sun)      |            |            | 2/3/02  | Away  | Bristol U19              |            |            |
| 10/11/01 | Away  | Divisional training         |            |            | 6/3/02  | Away  | SALE 7.00pm Weds         |            |            |
| 17/11/01 | HOME  | LEICESTER U19               |            |            | 9/3/02  | HOME  | SWANSEA U19              |            |            |
| 24/11/01 | Away  | Wasps                       | D 26-26    |            | 16/3/02 | HOME  | LEICESTER                |            |            |
| 1/12/01  | Away  | Leeds                       |            |            | 23/3/02 | Away  | Harlequins U19's 2.30 KO |            |            |
| 8/12/01  | HOME  | BATH                        |            |            | 30/3/02 | Away  | Saracens                 |            |            |
| 15/12/01 | TBA   | Northampton U19             |            |            | 6/4/02  | HOME  | NEWCASTLE                |            |            |
| 22/12/01 | HOME  | WASPS                       |            |            | 13/4/02 | HOME  | NORTHAMPTON              |            |            |
| 29/12/01 | -     |                             |            |            | 20/4/02 | HOME  | LEEDS                    |            |            |
|          |       |                             |            |            | 27/4/02 | Away  | Bath                     |            |            |

**Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781**

[academy]

17



Pete Wilson  
**From the** [commentary box]

**B B C**

**So, the future of the club at Kingsholm is firmly back on the agenda. Tom Walkinshaw's comments, through these pages in the Bristol programme, served to sow the seeds, and last Saturday's Citizen fuelled the fire. In time, we may not be here.**

**"Leeds have had a tough baptism in the Premiership. The gap between the elite and the rest in domestic rugby remains a big one to bridge.."**

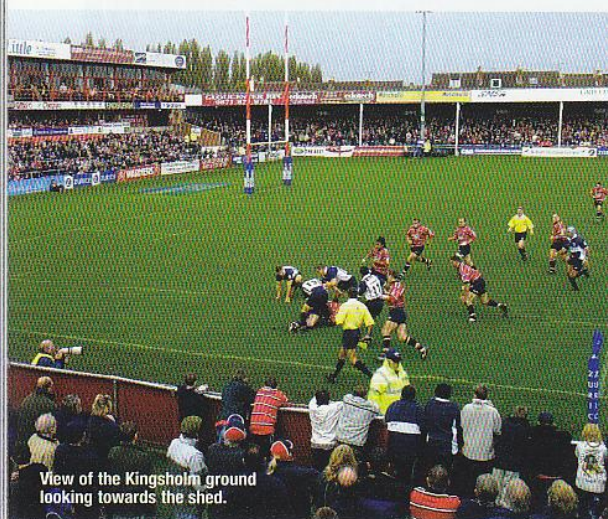
In such circumstances, a brief history of the ground bears repetition, for it's been the venue for the club for all but 18 years of its history. The Spa ground was the one originally used between 1873, when Gloucester were formed, and 1890, when they left under something of a cloud. The local corporation served the club with a notice to quit after salt was liberally sprinkled on a frost-bound pitch to enable a match against Swansea to go ahead. The pitch was ruined as a result. A company - the Gloucester Football and Athletic

Club - was formed with the intention of finding a new ground, and with the help of 4,000 £1 shares, a plot of land was purchased adjacent to Worcester Street from the Castle Grim Estate. The ground was first used in October 1891, and has been home to Gloucester ever since.

Talk of moving will stick in the throat of some supporters, but a lot of other clubs now have better spectator facilities than 10 years ago. Kingsholm has changed very little in that time, and even going back 30 years, 3 sides of the ground remain basically the same. A move to a completely new venue would make Gloucester the first top flight club to relocate to a purpose built stadium of their own, and though that MAY not be necessary, it may be the easiest option. The ground is tucked into one side of the Kingsholm plot, with only the main stand side having significant room to develop. RFU guidelines now say that clubs will soon have to have 5,000 seats, and while a double decker stand on that side of the ground could meet the need, it would mean considerable disruption.

There's evidence to suggest that when Gloucester initially moved from the Spa, the pitch ran in the opposite direction. Turning it back through 90 degrees again to stay on the same site - as Bournemouth Football Club have done - might be possible but very expensive, and it would almost certainly mean playing home games "away" for part of one season. A completely new ground would keep Kingsholm in use until the new facility was ready, and we must bear in mind the rules over spectator facilities will hit Gloucester harder than some. Football has always been more stringent, so Saracens, Wasps and London Irish will have no problems, and Leicester, Harlequins, Northampton and Bath (albeit with temporary seating) are already above the threshold. Newcastle, Sale, Bristol and Leeds, along with ourselves, are the ones with the most to be concerned about.

Talk of Leeds brings me to today's opponents, who were formed out of the merger of the old Roundhay and Headingley clubs in 1991. Their home, of course, backs onto the



View of the Kingsholm ground looking towards the shed.





Kingsholm

Yorkshire Cricket ground, though in 1999 I spent most of a day there in the Rugby stand watching the rain. The match between Zimbabwe and New Zealand was the only one during the World Cup to be affected by the weather. The ground shares the distinction of having facilities for both sports with two Welsh clubs, Swansea and Ebbw Vale, though they differ in that the playing areas are shaped like a mushroom, with the cricket ground at the top. Neither, in my experience, have had much atmosphere.

Leeds have had a tough baptism in the Premiership.

The gap between the elite and the rest in domestic rugby remains a big one to bridge, but at least they have Northampton and Wasps beneath them in the table, despite losing heavily at Loftus Road two weeks ago. Having encountered promising young fly half Charlie Hodgson in inspired form for Sale last week too, they'll be desperate for a win today. Gloucester, by contrast, shook off the defeat at Newcastle by beating Wasps, though I thought the scoreline was flattering by the end. With no further home games until after Christmas, the players will be keen to set themselves up for a month on the road with another home victory.



**Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781**

**[from the commentary box]**

**19**



# Head2Head

Today's head to head focuses once again on former teammates as there is nothing in sport that is quite the same as playing against an old colleague.



Gloucester  
Rugby Football Club

## Henry Paul

### What things in terms of skills and tactics have you had to work hardest to adjust to?

The main change for me has been positional, and trying to keep the ball in contact. I've been getting used to going in to contact and trying to keep the ball from the opposition. In Rugby League its stop start, stop start, up, forward, up forward. In rugby Union you go in, down and start rucking over and there is a lot of side-ways movement and then chasing kicks back.

### What do you find is the most unnatural Union element for you?

Probably in the tackle, I'm used to tackling, going over and driving the man whilst staying on top. Where now, you really have to go in, make the tackle quick and then try and get up quick, get on your feet and try and steal the ball. And while you are doing that you are watching out for guys flying over the top and taking you out. That has been a bit foreign, the tackle and quickly getting to your feet afterwards and always trying to get the ball.

### What has been the easiest element to adapt to?

"The easiest thing has been similar back moves and running lines and angles. That pretty much comes naturally. I think rugby Union always had the same ideas as rugby league. So it has been very similar".

### What do you hope to bring to Gloucester?

I think I'll bring the best things about my game; awareness of space around me, doing things against the grain doing things with a bit of spontaneity. And enthusiasm for the game.

### Paul on Mackay

He's a big bloke. A real mountain of a man and I'm going to have my hands full. As an ex-teammate, I think I know what running lines he likes to take but he's so powerful. Also as an ex-teammate it will be nice to get one over on him, I'm sure he feels the same though so it should be a good contest.



After the Super League season ended both Graham Mackay and Henry Paul left Bradford Bulls and switched codes. For Henry Paul is was a career change, for Mackay, simply a continuation of two years solid rugby.

Both will play in the centre today and it will be one collision worth waiting for.

## Paulstats

Nick Name **HP**  
Position **Centre**  
Born **10/02/74**  
Height **1.96m**  
Weight **94.6kg**  
Int Hons **New Zealand**  
**(League) 23 caps**





# Adam Eustace

[player focus]



## One of the strengths of the Gloucester squad this season is the versatility of the players within the squad.

So many of the team are able to adapt to the different situations and positions with no reduction in the output of the team. One of the players who show this flexibility most is young second row/ back row forward, Adam Eustace.

His versatility and durability has been tested to the full this season. Only Rob Fidler has made more starts and no-one in the squad has made more appearances.

"I'm pleased with the way the season has started", says the former colt. "It's going pretty well at the moment, I have made more starts than anyone and am pleased with my form".

Throughout this season Eustace has continued to perform at a very high level and the continual switching between second row, where he started the season and back row, where he played so dominantly against Wasps,

does not seem to phase him. "The two positions I am playing at the moment are completely different. At second row my job is all about scrummaging and winning line out ball. At six it's all about securing possession and getting to the breakdowns. To be honest playing in two positions gives me twice as much opportunity to play".

Throughout Ian Jones's time with Gloucester, Eustace was considered a second row and had to play second fiddle to the great All Black. Eustace though pays testament to the work Jones did with the other players at the club.

"At the time he was here, he was the best lock in the world and even now, as he showed for Wasps against us, he is probably the best lock in the Premiership. I learnt a lot from him and it helped develop my game".

## [Adam Eustace] Lock

**"His versatility and durability has been tested to the full this season. Only Rob Fidler has made more starts and no-one in the squad has made more appearances."**





The measure of how successful the development of players is however, is how well they cope playing in big games, week in week out. With Ian Jones now out of the picture, both Adam Eustace and Ed Pearce are getting the chance to shine. The way the Gloucester coaches are approaching games this season has meant that the fortunes of both Pearce and Eustace are inextricably linked.

"When Pasty isn't playing and Ed is, I am being asked to play as a second jumper. Ed is obviously a better scrummager, I'm better in the line out and perhaps a bit quicker. Together we are able to bring most of the skills to the pack. I'm not in a designated position at the moment but have two chances of playing. The great thing though, is that because of the way the team is playing when Philippe wants to rotate the squad there is no loss of quality".

Eustace improved so much last season under the guidance of Ian Jones and John Brain that he was a regular in the

England development squad. Along with teammate Andy Hazell, Eustace was considered one of a number of young players that the England management were keen on monitoring.

The culmination of the work put in by this squad last year was the England trip to North America. With so many of England's first team regulars unavailable through injury and British Lions commitments, Eustace was more than a little hopeful of joining this party and admits to being very disappointed with missing out.

One player who did make the trip was Tom Palmer of Leeds. The two will meet in this afternoon's clash and Eustace is keen to settle a few scores.

"There is definitely a point to prove for me this weekend", says Eustace. "Tom went on the England tour that I was hoping to be a part of. I was disappointed not to get selected but it has made me more determined this year to come back and work harder".

Eustace has certainly been as good as his word and has come back to Gloucester with an enhanced work ethic. I just came back and decided to try harder. To train harder, play harder and just keep improving".

He admits that along with the rest of the squad he is still learning every day and that the team is setting itself new goals continuously.

"The whole team is still learning. We need to learn to take control of matches in the first twenty minutes. We could be second now had we beaten Newcastle and not let ourselves down at London Irish. On both occasions we didn't believe we could win the games. If we control the first twenty or so minutes of a match we know we have a good chance, especially the way we have been finishing games. We are so much fitter this year and that is down to the good work put in by Bernard Faure and Ed Archer. We just need to take the game by the collar straight away. If we are down, we

know we have the ability to come back".

As a team, Gloucester's goals have been made simple. Until Christmas, Philippe does not want to lose another league game. These high expectations are also wearing off on Eustace.

"I have had loads of meetings with Laurent and Philippe and they are now getting me to set myself goals that will stretch me. They want me to aim higher all the time. I am trying to keep getting better. By training that extra bit harder and pushing myself that extra yard in games I hope to be able to give that little bit extra. That is all I am aiming to do this season and at the moment it seems to be working.

It is amazing that Eustace is still only twenty-two and like Joe Ewens joined a rugby club straight from school. He didn't have the option of joining an Academy like young players do now. He had to learn the senior game the hard way but this season has been one of the revelations in the Gloucester pack. Look out for him today.



Gloucester



# Adam Eustace

playerstats

D.O.B: 09/01/79 Position: Lock Height: 1.96m Weight: 102kg  
Former Club: Widden Old Boys International Honours: England U19 U21



# Match Action vs

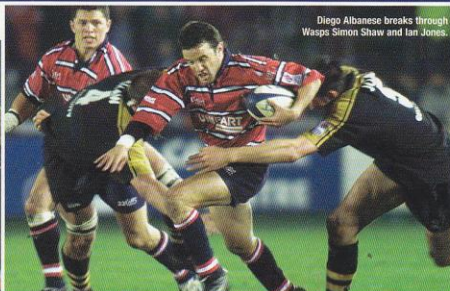
# London Wasps

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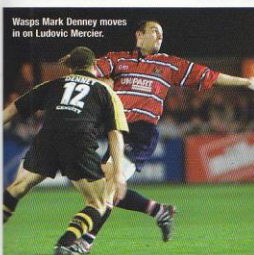
Zurich Premiership  
23-11-01



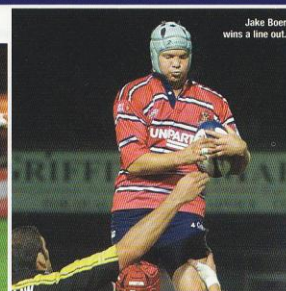
Andy Hazell is held from behind by Wasps Rory Jenkins.



Diego Albanese breaks through Wasps Simon Shaw and Ian Jones.



Wasps Mark Denney moves in on Ludovic Mercier.

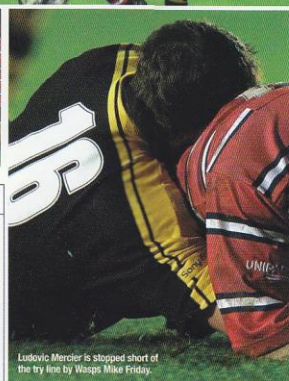


Jake Boer wins a line out.

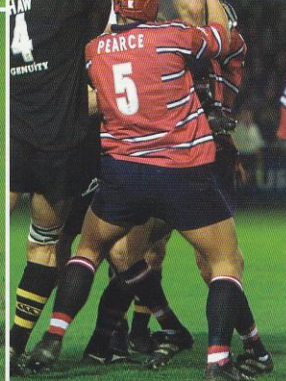


Olivier Azam breaks through the Wasps defence.

Photography Supplied by Blue Seabrook GFA



Ludovic Mercier is stopped short of the try line by Wasps Mike Friday.



## matchstats

Attendance 10171

43

Gloucester: 43 points  
Tries: Azam (2), Boer,  
Penalty  
Conversions: Mercier (3), Paul  
Penalties: Paul (2), Mercier  
Drop Goals: Mercier (2)

13

London Wasps: 13 points  
Tries: Abbott  
Conversions: King  
Penalties: King  
Drop Goals: King

Zurich Premiership

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[match action]

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[match action]

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# Peter Arnold

[contributor]

## MAY I BE THE FIRST TO WISH YOU...

**As I sit here pounding on the old Iron Maiden, I can see from my window that our birch tree has still to shed most of its leaves.**

We were even getting a few left-over fireworks last weekend. Yet here I am, about to wish you a Merry Christmas. 'The times' as Shakespeare wrote, 'are out of joint'

The reason for my premature ejaculation of seasonal good fellowship is that, thanks to our away draw in the Cup, this is our last home fixture before the Festive Season. So I do, wholeheartedly, wish you all

you would wish yourself during the forthcoming jollies.

Time was, of course, when the Christmas fixtures reflected the spirit of the season. No longer true, I'm afraid. Not for us the mixture of First and United players, galloping around after the Old Merchant Tailors or Lydney. No more staggering out on Boxing Day to blow the Christmas cobwebs away, only to acquire a few more in the Clubhouse

after the game. Now, we have to gird our loins for a Premiership visit from Newcastle Falcons on December 29th, and a glance at the league table will show you how vital that encounter is going to be. There is also the small matter of setting the record straight after the loss up there, an event which should never have happened. A no-quarter occasion if ever there were one. There might be some relief the

following week, however, when Parma arrive for the return European Shield game. No doubt, Gloucester will want to score as many points as possible that day, just in case something goes dramatically wrong on our visit to La Rochelle, later in the month.

So there's only really one thing to say at this point.

"A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS".

## NICE ONE KOLI !



**We were obviously delighted to see Phil Vickery and Diego Albanese playing in England and Argentine colours respectively during the Autumn Internationals.**

Both did extremely well, and thoroughly deserved their places. However, another such selection has slipped by, almost unnoticed.

Koli Sewabu was a last-minute choice for the Fiji squad to face France last weekend. Apparently, the South Sea Islanders had been hit by a raft of injuries, and needed replacements rapidly. Who

better to ride to the rescue than a Fijian who has played a lot of rugby in France, and is now being toughened up by a spell at Gloucester ?

Well done, Koli ! We all hope that you'll get a good many more such honours as time goes on.

While on the subject, it was good to see Kingsholm legend,

Dave Simms, retaining his captaincy of the National Divisions side which played the South Africans in the run-up to the England match.

There can't have been many Gloucester players who have skippered sides against both the Australians and the Springboks in the same English season:



## NASTY FOR TOULOUSE

**You will, no doubt, recall the serious chemical explosion in Southern France, a couple of months ago.**

Over 30 people lost their lives, and you may think that consideration of rugby matters in that context is fairly trivial.

Nevertheless, I was very sad to see that the Toulouse club is suing the oil company concerned over damage to their ground caused by the explosion and its aftermath. Apparently, it will cost over a million French

Francs to put right, and even more serious, puts the ground out of action for over a year.

This is obviously a sad blow to Toulouse, who are, after all, one of the two or three top clubs in France.

Gloucester has had very good relations with Toulouse over the past season or two, and their

visit to Kingsholm, back in August, gave our season the best possible kick-off. We, therefore, send all our best wishes to all concerned down there in Southern France, and hope they can get back on an even keel as soon as possible.

They're a tough old lot, and I'm sure they'll bounce back stronger than ever.



Toulouse's Michel Marfaing at Kingsholm earlier this year.

## NEARLY A BAD DAY FOR THE ROUND BALL

**Just for a while there, it looked as if this were to be the day that the Premiership footballers started industrial action.**

Of course, I don't like to see fans of any sport deprived of their Saturday entertainment for whatever reason, but I can't help cocking a quizzical eyebrow at this one. There seems to be a touch of poetic justice about the whole thing.

Even among football fans

there is a widespread feeling of overkill about this season's TV coverage. It does seem to have gone over the top, and even those who would like wall-to-wall football all day, are often incensed when they find they have to pay extra to watch their favourite team perform on the box.

I'm fairly neutral about such things, but I do have a word of advice to soccer fans who find themselves bereft. Why not trot along to your nearest rugby club? It might take a while to digest the rules, but it will repay the effort. You'll find a fast, athletic and complex game for which

you will acquire a taste very rapidly.

You'll also find a much better social scene than exists around the football world, and you'll have much less chance of becoming embroiled in hooliganism before, during and after the game.

## A POINT TO REMEMBER

**As is my usual practise, I made sure I had a video of the television coverage of the Wasps game last week.**



It simply reinforced something I have remarked about before. A packed Kingsholm, especially under lights, is one of the finest sights in sports television.

The unique atmosphere even comes through the TV screen at you. The only wonder is that the programme makers don't take advantage of it more often.

May I respectfully suggest that this factor is taken very seriously during any discussions about the future of the ground?

**Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781**

**[contributor]**

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# The Futures Academy

As part of their, the RFU has outlined a three-tier development structure that, in conjunction with Zurich Premiership Club's own development structure is designed to enhance the development of young rugby players.

**"The RFU Academy will mean that full time coaches will be able to have designated times to work on specific skills with the young players. This will help develop the skills they require to play Premiership Rugby and beyond..."**

"'England Rugby Academy' is the term used to describe the process supported by the RFU for what will be one of several, key stages of player development in the Rugby Football Union's World Class Performance Plan. The primary, and at all times central, purpose is to develop better England players". So said the RFU in the briefing document, which outlines their plans to develop an Academy structure akin to those already run by all the elite clubs in England.

Later this month, Gloucester Rugby Club will announce its plans as one of the latest clubs

to be awarded this England Rugby Academy status. This move follows the inception of similar Academy structures at London Wasps, Northampton, Newcastle, Leeds Tykes and Leicester Tigers.

What will be known as the RFU Gloucester Rugby Club, Academy, will follow up on the great work already put in place by the club's current Academy and development structure that has produced fourteen current first team players.

"Absolutely delighted it's the way forward said John Haines, Manager of Gloucester Rugby Club's Academy. He added,

"The RFU Academy will mean that full time coaches will be able to have designated times to work on specific skills with the young players. This will help develop the skills they require to play Premiership Rugby and beyond. These Academies along with those run by the club will make the step up much easier for the players elected as they will acquire all the necessary skills earlier".

The World Class Performance Plan was devised by the RFU and Sport England to develop

players and coaches during the next seven years. The plan has three phases to it:

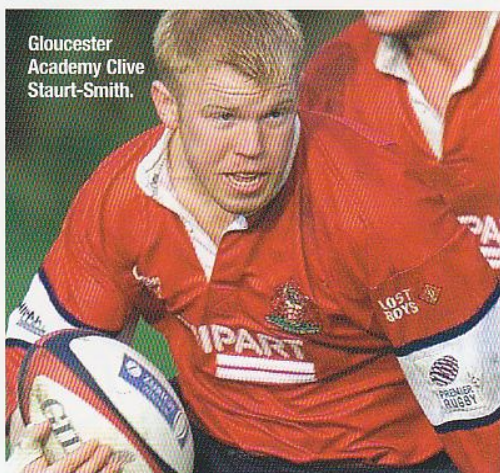
Performance – working with England and England A players  
Potential – nurturing U21s, students and U19s

Start – U14s and U16s talent search and developing U16s and U18s sides.

Sport England has invested £8 million into this plan to be used during the next three years in support of the World Class Performance Plan that is part of the RFU's eight-year strategic plan.

Gloucester's regional academy will concentrate on the 'start' and 'Potential' phases of the plan. The club's current Academy already runs an U19's and U21's side and has recently set-up a section devoted to U17s age group. It has been continually working closely with local schools and junior rugby clubs in search of emerging talent and will be required to continue this work for the RFU.

The England Rugby Academy structure will operate at three levels:





# mic Part II

## Level 1

This will be a National Academy for a select group of up to 60 players in age groups U19-U21.

## Level 2

England Rugby will license a network of regional academies each serving a discreet geographical area of the country and supporting development of up to 300 young athletes.

## Level 3

England Rugby will support the regional academies to work closely with RFU development staff, CBs, clubs and schools to establish a comprehensive programme of talent search and player development at up to forty accredited player development centres.

There is a strict selection criterion, which all young players must pass if they are to be accepted on to one of the scholarships run by the RFU Academies. Players selected to attend an England Rugby Academy must be England qualified and have the potential to play for England. This 'player potential', will be assessed under four main categories:

- Skills and elements of
- 1) competence
- 2) Fitness
- 3) Tactical and game awareness
- 4) Personal attitude

The England Rugby Academy stage of the RFU World Class Plan is applicable to young,

English qualified players, predominantly but not exclusively between the ages of 16-21 years of age. Players in the process will be those identified as having the requisite talent and potential to progress to representative honours.

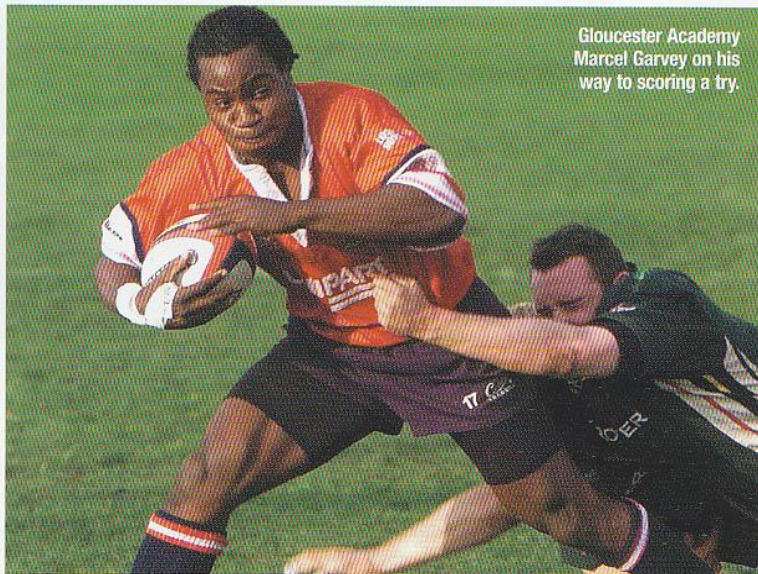
Whilst attending one of the regional Academies, all young players will receive training, support, competitive programmes, and personal guidance geared primarily to ensuring that their capacities and abilities as rugby players are maximised.

Players will be selected from existing club and school structures, county development squads, age group festivals and by direct

referral. Opportunities will be created for entry by late developers and talented athletes from other disciplines.

In its briefing document, the RFU have stressed that selection onto and retention in the RFU academy process will be rigorous and tough. Selection for the programme will obviously not guarantee a young player's future indefinitely. The individual player's development and progress will be assessed on a regular basis.

Retention on the programme will be based upon the progress of the individual against agreed targets and the needs of national squads/teams.



Gloucester Academy  
Marcel Garvey on his  
way to scoring a try.

**Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781**

**[the futures academic ii]**

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