

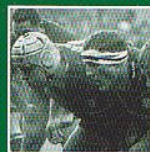
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2001/2002

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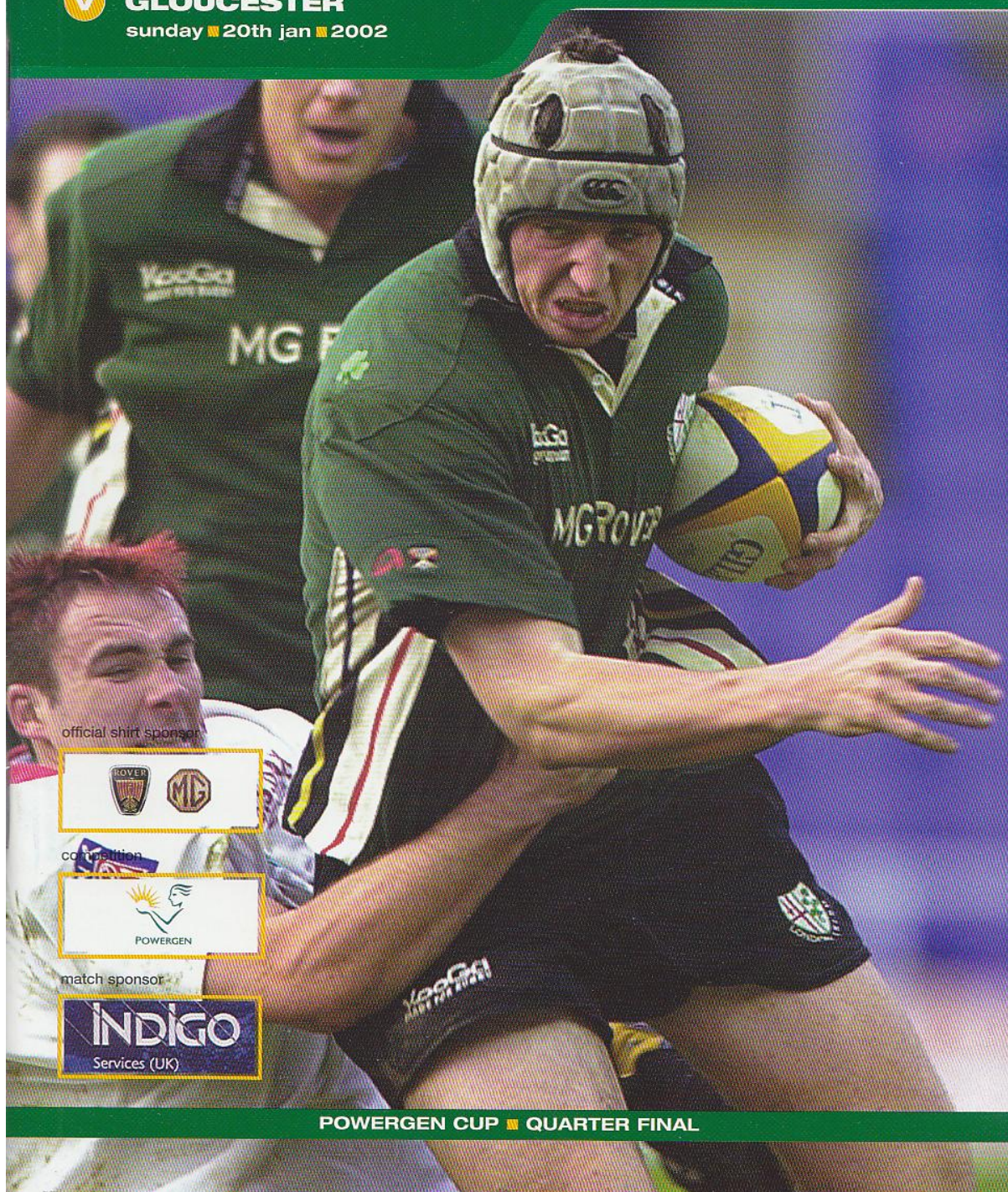
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London IRISH



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V **GLOUCESTER**
sunday ■ 20th jan ■ 2002



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competition



match sponsor

INDIGO
Services (UK)

POWERGEN CUP ■ QUARTER FINAL

TODAYS TEAM LIST

face to face

25

LONDON IRISH



10

GLOUCESTER

<input type="radio"/>	MICHAEL HORAK	15	DAREN O'LEARY	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	JUSTIN BISHOP	14	JOE EWENS	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	ROB HOADLEY	13	TERRY FANOLUA	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	BRENDAN VENTER	12	ROBERT TODD	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	PAUL SACKY	11	JAMES SIMPSON DANIEL	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	BARRY EVERITT	10	HENRY PAUL	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	HENTIE MARTENS	9	ANDY GOMARSALL	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	MIKE WORSLEY	1	FEDERICO PUCCIARIELLO	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	NAKA DROTSKE	2	CHRIS FORTEY	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	ROB HARDWICK	3	ANDY DEACON (C)	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	RYAN STRUDWICK (C)	4	ROB FIDLER	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	STEVE WILLIAMS	5	ED PEARCE	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	JAMES COCKLE	6	JAKE BOER	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	DECLAN DANAHER	7	JAMES FORRESTER	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	CHRIS SHEASBY	8	PIERRE CAILLET	<input type="radio"/>

REPLACEMENTS

<input type="radio"/>	KEVIN BARRETT	16	TBA	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	JAMES BROWN	17	TBA	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	ED THROWER	18	TBA	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	GLENN DELANEY	19	TBA	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	GEOFF APPLEFORD	20	TBA	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	RICHARD KIRKE	21	TBA	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	SIMON HALFORD	22	TBA	<input type="radio"/>

Today's Match Officials

Referee: Steve Lander

Touch Judge 1: Geraint Ashton Jones

Touch Judge 2: Paul Emerson

Fourth Official: Sean Davey

THE CRAIC IN THE VALLEY - MORE THAN 80 MINUTES OF RUGBY

REFEREE

Today's officials

In this column Harry Nicholl, London Irish's Referee Liaison Officer, provides topical comment on the games laws and introduces today's match officials.

PENALTIES:

A cup-tie is always a good time to discuss penalties, when it is Gloucester you're playing then it becomes even more important. When these two sides met in the league there were 23 penalties in total, of which 13 went against Irish (56%) and 10 were conceded by Gloucester (44%). The tackle and general play accounted for 18 penalties (80%).

Our coaches and players are keen to see a reduction, so bearing this in mind I kept a "watching brief" on the situation during our home game with Dax. The overall penalty count went up by 12 to a total of 35 of which 19 (54%) were against Dax and 16 (46%) were conceded by the Exciles. I believe this to be a modest improvement. The game was refereed by FIR, not the Gaelic work meaning men, but the Federation of Italian Referees.

The reason for the increase in penalties is due, in this case, to spilling tactics by the visitors but overall it is because the European Rugby Cup Ltd.

Management permits a lowering of the refereeing standards even though the appointments are made by the IRB (International Rugby Board). No doubt a letter to the ERC Ltd management will be despatched asking if the best referees are being appointed, in the meantime we shall have to put up with fewer tries and less "open" play.

Some of you will recall the promises made at the beginning of the season regarding more open rugby, so in fairness, I should mention that some progress has been made in the Zurich Premiership with referee development; two RFU international referees have retired, these have been replaced and others are in the pipeline. The standard here has most certainly improved, in addition the two retired referees remain professional and these, Ed Morrison and Brian Campsell are involved with referee development in England. Ed is in charge of the southern half and Brian the northern half.

IRB LAW AMENDMENT WITH EFFECT FROM THE 1ST JANUARY, 2002

Any player who touches the ball in an attempt to prevent a penalty goal being scored is illegally touching the ball.

Lifting a player in front of the posts is no longer acceptable.

A penalty kick will be awarded at the place of infringement.

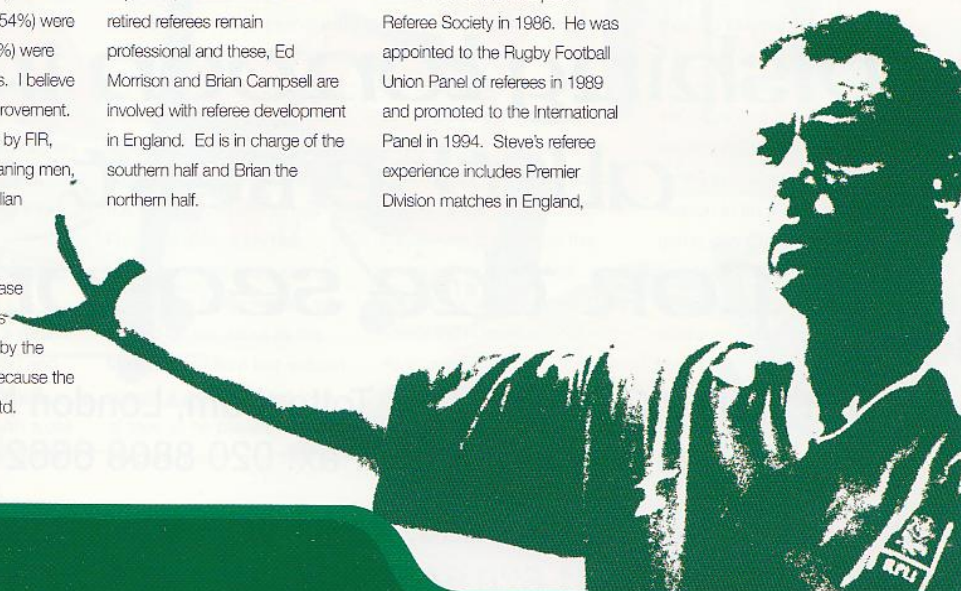
MATCH OFFICIALS:

Today's referee is Steve Lander.

Steve is employed by the RFU as a full time referee. Born in Hampshire, educated at Hipperholm Grammar School, Halifax and Chester College. Steve began refereeing in 1982 with Oxfordshire Society and then transferred to the Liverpool Referee Society in 1986. He was appointed to the Rugby Football Union Panel of referees in 1989 and promoted to the International Panel in 1994. Steve's referee experience includes Premier Division matches in England,

Ireland, Scotland, Wales and France. He has refereed several internationals, including Five Nations, the 1995 World Cup in South Africa, the final of the World Cup Sevens in Hong Kong 1997 and matches in the Pacific Rounds of the Rugby World Cup. Other refereeing appointments include Scotland v New Zealand Maoris and the final Rugby World Cup repechage game between Uruguay and Morocco.

His touch judges are Geraint Ashton Jones (RFU/Hampshire) and Paul Emerson (RFU/Henley on Thames). Today's referee's assessor is Tony Trigg who has travelled from Hertfordshire and is a retired international referee. The fourth match official is Sean Davey (RFU/Sussex).



VISITORS PROFILE

Gloucester

As the English Clubs took

a break from the Premiership to focus on European competition, Gloucester had established themselves in second place in the table, one point clear of today's opponents London Irish.

On the pitch, the roller-coaster ride that was Gloucester's season has begun to settle as the club has enjoyed a recent period of consistency. A loss to Bath, in early December is the only hiccup that has blotted the copy book, as Gloucester come into today's game on a roll after four straight wins.

The last outing for the Cherry and Whites was an away trip to La Rochelle. The team put their early away day blues behind them and comfortably booked themselves into the quarter final of the Parker Pen Shield. A home tie against Welsh team Ebbw Vale their reward for remaining unbeaten in the Pool stages.

Today's game brings a return to domestic Cup action and the Gloucester players will take the field today with a call to 'win it for Deacs' ringing in

their ears. Philippe Saint Andre, Gloucester's Director of Rugby has pledged that the club will give everything to win some silverware this season and has dedicated this year's cup run to veteran prop, Andy Deacon, who recently ended a very successful testimonial year.

The Cherry and Whites booked themselves a birth in the quarterfinals of the Powergen Cup with a rousing performance away at Bristol Shoguns. A largely inexperienced team took to the field as Saint Andre admitted he had other priorities this season, namely a top three finish in the league and the small matter of the European Shield that would both lead to Heineken Cup qualification next season.

Deacon led the team at the Memorial ground, but the game will be remembered as the occasion when James Forrester announced his arrival as a first team player. This young rangy flanker, who scored on his debut at the Madejski stadium last season, scored a wonderful hat trick of tries as he played with freedom, power and the



exuberance of youth. Do not be surprised if some young faces line up today for the Cherry and Whites.

The strength of Gloucester's squad this season has been based on a higher level of fitness than ever before, and the adaptability and flexibility of the players in the squad to cover a number of positions. This month, this cover will be tested to the full as Gloucester come in to this game without three first choice front row players. Both Trevor Woodman and Olivier Azam miss the game through suspension while Club Captain Phil Vickery, Gloucester's own Raging Bull,

has undergone scans that have revealed he has broken a bone in his hand.

This game will be another intriguing encounter. Saint Andre has said all season that the players in form, whatever position, will get a chance to play. This incentive will be all that the Gloucester players will need. Having lost to the Irish already this season in an ill-disciplined game, the Cherry and Whites have something to prove. As both Bath last season and Bristol this year found out to their cost, never underestimate a Gloucester team who think they have something to prove.