

WIN A TRIP
TO PRAGUE
SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

Gloucester

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



Cherry Pickers vs
The Czech Republic

50P FROM THE SALE OF EACH
PROGRAMME WILL GO DIRECTLY TO
THE PRAGUE RUGBY FLOOD FUND
KICK-OFF 4.30PM



vs Leeds Tykes

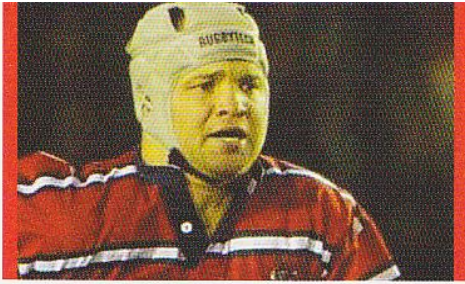
ZURICH PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE

SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2002

KICK-OFF 2.30PM

Baan Club Sponsor
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2918



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Jake Boer

Team Captain

We have played two massive games in the last two weeks, against two of my previous Clubs and obviously we enjoyed contrasting fortunes in the games.

We didn't play to our full potential in either game, but against the Irish we got the right result and our second half performance certainly put us on a high going into the Leicester game.

Our build up to last Friday was as good as it has been all season, we knew what the Tigers would try and do to win the game, they didn't surprise us but they starved us of ball and slowed down our possession and then capitalised.

Whereas against the Irish we may have made one mistake in ten, against Leicester it was more like two mistakes and with the margins for error so small in the Premiership we were punished. It was an all round drop in standards.

As Captain obviously I take this lack of performance to heart and after the game I sat and tried to see if there was anything else that I personally could have done to win that game. I don't think I am any different to any other player in that respect and with the whole side giving 100% I will not be pointing fingers at anyone.

Lets not forget that the Tigers have a massive reputation and a wonderful home record and still we came away with a point. That is still a great achievement. We talked after the game about

"AS CAPTAIN OBVIOUSLY I TAKE THIS LACK OF PERFORMANCE TO HEART AND AFTER THE GAME I SAT AND TRIED TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING ELSE THAT I PERSONALLY COULD HAVE DONE TO WIN THAT GAME."

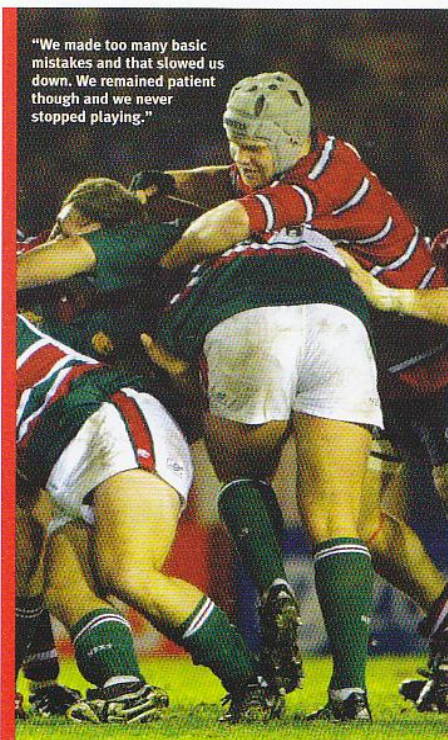
earning a point when we could so easily have given Leicester five. We have to remember the positives and take them into this game.

When we had the ball and we got behind them, I thought we looked very dangerous, we scored a try very early on but then we made too many basic mistakes and that slowed us down. We remained patient though and we never stopped playing. That earned us a late try and then a late penalty to get a very big point.

We have looked at the Leicester game and put it to bed, this week has all been about Leeds. That has been our focus this week, we have had no time to dwell.

We know that this Leeds team will be well drilled, they know where they want to go; like us they have high ambitions for this season. They have already caused a few upsets and we know that this will not be a damage limitation exercise for them. Leeds will want to come here and win, if they do it will be the biggest result of their season.

We have trained well, we will not underestimate them because we know home or away, if we do not perform we will get beaten. We all look forward to playing at home, in front of a big crowd but we know that there will be a lot of criticism of our performance last week. Today we need to stand up and show that we really are good enough to do it. ■





NIGEL'S NOTES...

Nigel Melville

Director of Rugby

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Leeds Tykes to Kingsholm for this afternoon's Zurich Premiership action. I have great admiration for the achievements of the men from Leeds, it was a long hard road getting in to the Premiership, last season was tough, but lessons were learnt and now they proudly sit alongside Gloucester and Leicester at the top of the table. The performances of Leeds have certainly rattled a few cages in the Premiership – it won't be Leeds facing relegation this season!

Last weekend we travelled to Welford Road full of hope, an early try lifted expectations still further, but to win in Leicester requires a quality performance – ours was not! We can make excuses as long as we like, the 14-4 penalty count against, the loss of Ludovic Mercier so soon in the game, the Marcel Garvey injury, the Junior Paramore sin-bin etc... but we didn't play well enough on the night.

“WHILST THE REPUTATION OF WAYNE DIESEL IS WELL KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE RUGBY WORLD, I HAVE BEEN MASSIVELY IMPRESSED WITH HIS WORK ”

The only positive was the spirit of those that remained on the field, once again they fought every inch of the way and a bonus point – a point that could be crucial on the final Saturday of the season!

This week preparations have gone well, the injuries last Friday were minor and the squad resumed training on Monday in good shape. Whilst the reputation of Wayne Diesel is well known throughout the rugby world, I have been massively impressed with his work and that of the whole medical team at the Club. Unfortunately there was little they could do for James Simpson-Daniel, when he returned to the Club on Monday it was obvious

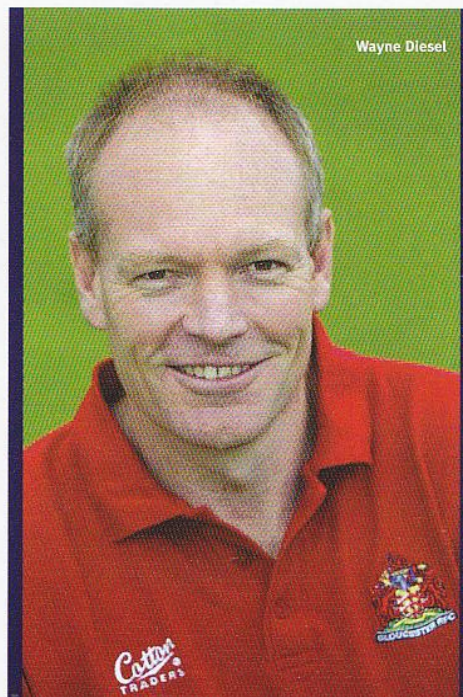
he was not well, the diagnosis of Glandular Fever was a blow, but we wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back at training shortly. Another international casualty is Trevor Woodman, a brilliant game against the All Blacks assures his international future, a couple of weeks rest should solve the neck problem he has been having.

Today's game will be a fascinating contest, the result will determine who is top at the halfway stage, the 12 games that follow will prove just how tough the Zurich Premiership has become. The quality of the rugby rises each season, the pressure at the top and the pressure at the bottom is already building, there is so much to win and so much to lose!

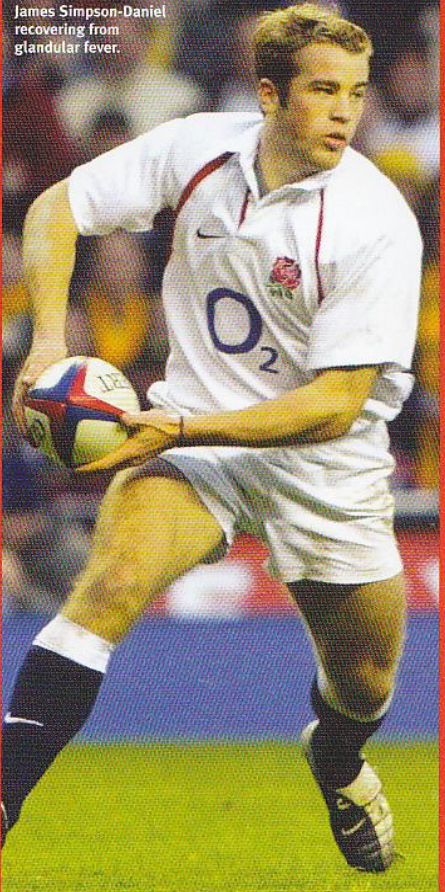
It also gives me great pleasure to welcome the 'Cherry Pickers' back to Kingsholm this afternoon, Don Caskie has done a great job organising today's game for such a good cause, I hope you give them your full support this afternoon.

Finally, I would like to thank every single one of our supporters who do so much to lift the team each week. We may have lost a battle on the field last week, but on the terraces the support was fantastic, I was particularly amused to hear the music turned up to drown the noise of the Gloucester supporters as the team left the field following the warm-up – it failed, of course!

Enjoy a great afternoon's rugby! ■



James Simpson-Daniel recovering from glandular fever.



THE WORLD OF RUGBY

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INJURY UPDATE

Gloucester and England prop Trevor Woodman saw a specialist yesterday about a neck injury sustained whilst on England duty last week. After consultation Woodman was told that for the next month he should continue a programme of conservative management. This will involve physiotherapy from Gloucester physio Wayne Diesel, strengthening and rest.

The specialist is said to be happy with Woodman's progress and his condition will be assessed again in two weeks time.

Another Gloucester player on England duty James Simpson-Daniel was released from the squad after a meeting at England's Pennyhill Park Hotel base camp last night and will not be available for this weekend's Investec Challenge England V South Africa international, as he has been diagnosed with glandular fever. The young wing has travelled home for rest and relaxation.

Meanwhile Gloucester flanker Andy Hazel has begun running again after surgery on a toe injury sustained before the Sharks fixture in September. Hazel was pounding out the hard yards on the treadmill

EUROPEAN CLUB SEASON 2003 / 2004 IS FIXED

ERC (European Rugby Cup Ltd) has finalised its fixture weekends for the 2003/2004 season. Having fixed the dates for European weekends, the Union's can now arrange their domestic programmes for the 2003/2004 campaign. The dates for the nine weekends of matches in the three tournaments organised and run by ERC, currently the Heineken Cup, PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP and PARKER PEN SHIELD, will be as follows:

ERC WEEKEND DATES FOR SEASON 2003/2004

Weekend 1	5/6/7 December, 2003
Weekend 2	12/13/14 December
Weekend 3	9/10/11 January, 2004
Weekend 4	16/17/18 January
Weekend 5	23/24/25 January
Weekend 6	30/31 January, 1 February
Weekend 7	9/10/11 April
Weekend 8	24/25 April
Finals	22/23 May

The European tournaments will kick-off on the first weekend of December, 2003 - two weeks after the World Cup final is staged in Sydney, Australia. There will be six weekends of European action played over a nine-week period in December and January, 2004, before the launch of the Six Nations Championship.

The first two European weekends will be played on the 5/6/7 and 12/13/14 December followed by a break of three weeks before weekends 3, 4, 5 and 6 are staged consecutively in January, 2004.

The tournaments will reappear for the knock-out phases, on the weekend 9/10/11 April - two weeks after the final round of Six Nations Championship matches. The penultimate weekend will take place two weeks later, on 24/25 April, with the finals being staged at neutral venues on the weekend of 22/23 May, 2004.

HEAD 2 HEAD

Rodrigo Roncero

Strengths

Dr Rodrigo Roncero is quickly developing a reputation as one of the most versatile props in international rugby. He is equally at home on both sides of the scrum and has filled both tight head and loose head positions for the Pumas. The Argentinean has a strong scrummaging technique and, as he showed against London Irish, he is no slouch in the loose. Even after showing much promise in a relatively short time at Gloucester though the prop is very humble about his abilities.

"As to try and add something to this team it would be a total lack of humility to even think about it. All this team needs is some time to obtain the best results. All I want is to not be out of tune", says the tough Argentinean.

Weaknesses

This is Roncero's first excursion into the world of professionalism, while he has had offers in the past, Gloucester are the first club

to secure his signature. As with all players stepping up to the Premiership, Roncero has taken time to adjust to the pace and strength of the game.

Career Highs

"Four years ago In 1998 I was playing very well. I played for the Argentina U21's and we were the first team to beat the All Blacks at this level. Later that year I played for the Pumas and it was a very good year for me. I was playing very well. Now though I train well so I am playing well", says Roncero.

Career Lows

Rodrigo spent six years studying for his Medical Qualification to become a doctor, during this time Rugby had to take a back seat. It meant that he was unable to answer the call of his national team. For any aspiring player this was a massive sacrifice

"Last December I became a medical doctor. It really was very

hard, and it was very difficult to have people understand me because I kept studying in the university and they could not understand how I also played rugby and when I played rugby they would say why did I dedicate so much to my studies. That is why I said no to several national teams on more than one occasion. And even though some tears would fall from my eyes the answer would still be no. It was quite a sacrifice for six long and hard years of which I will never repent from", said the Gloucester prop.

Roncero on the Premiership.

"This is my fourth match on the Premiership, there is a big difference between here and Argentina, where it is not professional. The Premiership is very hard the hits are very strong. It is very important to keep the ball and it is very good standard of Rugby".



This week's head to head focuses on two players who despite playing a very unglamorous role in proceedings are more than likely to have been the first names on the team sheet's of their respective teams.

Rodrigo Roncero and Mike Shelly play their rugby in the front row, at loose head to be precise. Both will be key to their teams success in the set piece and thus their ability to provide a strong platform on which to base a game plan.

Mike Shelly

Strengths

"I have been involved in first team rugby from my student days so I have a lot of experience. It is good at Leeds in that the players are given their own head and are able to make suggestions from their experience, which brings the best out of people like Mark Regan and Tom Palmer. I'm also a local Leeds lad so I have a real passion for the club and the area. It's a real motivator for me that I am representing the City and Yorkshire in the Premiership".

Weaknesses

"Like I'm going to tell the Gloucester programme! Seriously, we work really hard on our set pieces, it is such a vital part of the game these days. It is crucial that you get your timings right as a pack to secure good ball. This year we have worked really hard on our conditioning both in pre-season and still now. Our conditioner Steve "Scrapper" Carter is ex-Army so he has given us a thorough going over but it is certainly bringing us benefits now".

Highlights

"Gaining promotion to the Premiership was a fantastic achievement. We also had some great days last season beating Bath on the opening day and also Leicester. I was also fortunate enough to get called into the England A squad for the Six Nations which was a big honour".

Lows

"Finishing bottom of the table last season was a big disappointment because of how we had played in patches last season, we certainly surprised a few people. Other than that I don't really dwell on the low points, I'm enjoying being a professional rugby player too much to let things like that get to me".

Thoughts on Gloucester

"Gloucester are an excellent team who play some of the best rugby in the Premiership and we will have a massive task on our hands today. They are very strong in all departments with real strength in

depth, the recent international call ups don't seem to have had that much of an effect, which is a big compliment to the squad when you consider those players who have been out recently".

Thoughts on Kingsholm

"As a player you want to play in atmospheres like Kingsholm. It is a ground that is known throughout the world likewise the Shed. The Shed constantly prove that they some of the most knowledgeable supporters in world rugby but yet create an intimidating atmosphere".

Thoughts on the start of the season

"We have had a great start but we haven't achieved anything as yet. Our goal at the start of the season was survival and until that aim has been met we still need to strive for that. Having said that, we've had a great time with some really good days and hopefully that will continue".

We've all listened to (and voiced different views) as to whether league fixtures should be held at the same time as international matches. Does the selection situation mean that the league fixtures lose intensity or public interest? I don't think so.

If you were at Leicester last week you'll know what I mean. If not, picture the scene. More than 16,000 fans had squeezed

Gloucester side deprived of several key players upheld their position as the form team in the League by achieving an emphatic victory over a London Irish side unaffected by international call-ups.

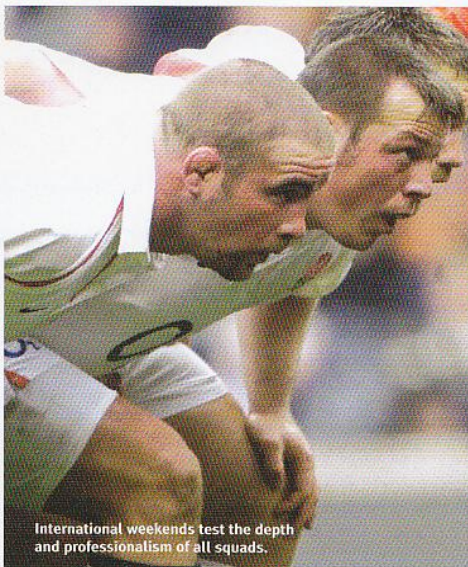
After the match Andy Deacon calmly but firmly highlighted his disappointment that in this professional era the press insist on



ANDY WYMAN
BBC RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE

into Welford Road, and witnessed a full blooded, physical encounter. Gloucester travelled with optimism, but this was blown away in the first half as Leicester produced a powerful forward performance. Their failure to add to their score in the second period showed Gloucester's resolve was deep, and the team has now salvaged something from each of the two defeats so far this autumn. The Tigers lost only 4 games last season in winning the title, so Gloucester's margin for error is getting smaller.

The club versus country issue stimulates all sorts of lateral thinking. The previous week at the Madjeski Stadium, a



International weekends test the depth and professionalism of all squads.

referring to "weakened" teams taking the field. Professional players are paid for their ability to perform at this level. If they weren't good enough they wouldn't be in the squad. Nigel and Dean manage the more experienced players so that they peak when they make their planned appearances, and the young guns are primed so that they can make the most of their opportunity.

The other issue concerns talented players not able to force their way into the team, and "having to be patient and wait for their chance." This has happened more at Gloucester recently as Nigel has been less inclined to change a winning team and use an extensive squad rotation system, and while Simpson Daniel, Forrester and Garvey have come up the pecking order, O'Leary (and to a lesser extent) Catling have been short of first team rugby. It's a difficult balance to keep everyone happy. Today's fixture with Leeds approaches our debate from another angle. Here is a team that struggled last year, but obviously had the nucleus of a good side. The finished bottom of the table, but were able to spring a surprise on several more established clubs, including Champions Leicester. Their recruitment has been astute, and their squad is now based on a staff bolstered and guided by FORMER internationals, leaving them relatively untroubled by international calls.

They have probably targetted this stage of the season to "make hay". The audacity of it. Do they really think they are going to achieve victory at Kingsholm over an under strength Cherry and Whites side? It's time for Gloucester to get back on the winning trail with home games against London Irish and Perpignan in the Heineken Cup to follow in the next fortnight.

C'mon Glaws !



GLOUCESTER PREPARE FOR NEW ZEALAND CHALLENGE

Whilst the Northern Hemisphere is enjoying the Rugby skills of the touring All Black side, on Tuesday next week the Gloucester U21 side will face a New Zealand challenge of their own.

In a fixture due to be played at Kingsholm, weather permitting, the Gloucester young guns will pit their skills against a New Zealand Youth U21 development XV.

These Kiwi players are acknowledged to be the best young players playing their rugby either as part of a Provincial Club set up or some may even be on a Super 12 contract.

To earn selection on to this touring party the young New Zealand players must first be nominated by their Club side, many will have played representative rugby in their home country and will present the Gloucester side with another massive test.

"They are nominated to represent this international side from all provinces, North Harbour, Waikato, Auckland, some will have had international experience, some may be on Super 12 U21 contracts. I have seen them perform very well against a significantly more mature Oxford University side", said Academy director Carl Douglas.

Douglas has been in contact with Bob Howlett, who is coach to the New Zealand side. They tour every two years and Douglas admits to being very keen on the idea of this type of fixture as part of the ongoing development of his players.

"What we are looking for is a quality of individual performance from our players that indicates that they are able to play at the next level", he says.

"I assume that they will be physical, and fit and want to play the game at a certain tempo and it will be interesting to see if we can rise to the challenges they provide".

In essence the New Zealand side, like their All Black counterparts, will provide a challenge unlike anything many of this Gloucester side will ever have experienced before.

The side is performing well at U21 Premiership level but this fixture will certainly take them out of the comfort zone and force them to react to situations they may never have seen. All this will stand them in good stead as the young players look to progress through the Gloucester ranks.

"It's about the players showing the ability to cope under pressure if the guys in the squad can cope under pressure then clearly, regardless of the technical and physical capabilities, will show potential to play up another level, whether that be in the United or the 1st team and that is what Nigel (Melville) is looking for".

"This is another benchmark for us. It is against different type of opposition, with a different approach to the game. I think it will be an exciting game and I am confident that the boys will rise to the occasion".

Some young Gloucester stars have already experienced international opposition this season. Andy Frost, Mark Rimmer and Ben Hughes all played in the England v France U21 development games and acquitted themselves very well.

It is this sort of step forward that Douglas hopes his U21 squad can all take by exposing them to this type of fixture of international pedigree.

"All those players deserve their recognition, also Adam Caves would have played but missed out with a knee injury. The boys played well in France and we hope more boys will get that recognition in future. We have to respect our opposition; they are an international side and to them, like the people of Gloucester, Rugby is everything and we are going to have to be on our mettle and perform well", said Douglas.

Weather permitting, the match is due to take place at Kingsholm on Tuesday 26th November 7.30pm ko.

Season Ticket Holders will be admitted free on production of Season Ticket Booklets.

Match Day Prices

£5 Adults, £3 Concessions, £1 Juniors

Fans Eye View

With Bob Fenton

Nice to be back at Kingsholm after a couple of back-to-back away trips isn't it. I have to confess to missing the Leicester trip (daft idea of playing on a Friday night), but the London Irish trip was, as ever, a memorable one.

I have a lot of respect for what they have managed to achieve up at Reading. The facilities at the Mad Jet Ski are great: bars everywhere, unrestricted views and decent seats which do not put you in imminent danger of contracting deep vein thrombosis.

Best of all though, is the fact that, despite playing in a football stadium, they manage to create a bit of atmosphere - sure they have the daft music when Irish score, and a soppy mascot (though his Elvis 'Hound Dog' thing was quite funny). But you have to remember that this is a club that has been shunted around since leaving the spiritual home at Sunbury and has somehow managed to maintain a very loyal and very vocal supporter base. The likes of Saracens would kill for supporters like that.

Mind you I think they over did the green wigs a bit, from my vantage point at the top of the east stand somewhere just above the flight path into Heathrow I could survey a mass of green wiggery that resembled some sort of giant candyfloss/nuclear fall-out disaster.

That said, we have at least one disaster in our own ranks, our painted lady of a roman centurion. I'm told that he was still wearing his dress (not a skirt, mind) when he went to Leicester... Now that it's getting a bit colder Worzelus Roberturn will no doubt be investing in some cherry and white tights. The mind boggles.

Since we were last at Kingsholm we have had the pleasure of seeing a few more Gloucester boys in England

jerseys - Vickster is now a permanent fixture, and it looks for all the world as if Sinbad is similarly locked in.

Dougie's neck injury (who else has heard the rumour that it was our Phil that 'crooked' him in training) has prevented him from gaining two more caps - little doubt though that he will be one of the first names on the teamsheet in the near future. And it can only be a matter of time before James Forrester gains the international recognition he deserves.

No doubt other far more eminently qualified commentators will err... comment... on the England boys, I'll just make a one observation from the sideline. Is Clive Woodward turning into a soccer-type manager? His continual chomping on chewing gum is now of Alex Ferguson-like proportions, it's got to such a point that I have almost begun to feel for Andy (Offside!) Robinson having to sit next to him and listen to him masticating (careful with that spell check, James!) all match. No doubt Wrigleys are being lined up as a future England sponsor...

Today's visitors, Leeds, have been the surprise package of the season so far. Having avoided the drop last season courtesy of an intervention from the administrators, they deserve huge credit for what they have achieved. Some shrewd moves in the transfer market, plus the strengthening of the coaching staff has turned last season's whipping boys into a real force to be reckoned with - and one which has claimed a few notable scalps already this season.

And Leeds arrival gives us the chance to welcome back a couple of old boys - Scott Benton served the Cherry and Whites well in the Scrum Half position, and Craig Emmerson played quite a few games for Gloucester before moving on. In fact he provided a magic moment a



few years back when he danced his way to the line through almost the entire Leicester Tigers side to set up a match winning try.

One old boy who won't be here though is Diego Albanese - away on international duty with Argentina - so he will miss out on the welcome he deserves. Diego, of course, is the proud holder of the award for the best first-ever touch in a Gloucester shirt. Remember the game against Rotherham last season when he gathered a dropping ball on his own 22? Everyone wondered who he was, then watched in amazement as he scooted up the pitch in zero seconds flat. A real thrill to watch, and a really nice bloke off the pitch, but then we're not exactly short of classy wingers, are we...

Also making a welcome return to Kingsholm will be Scott Benton's Dad - a real gent. No doubt he has read my website prediction of Leeds (I think it says 'hard to see them finishing above 12th place' - shows what I know), and will be bringing a very large slice of humble pie for me to eat. I'll see you in the bar and bring my own knife and fork...

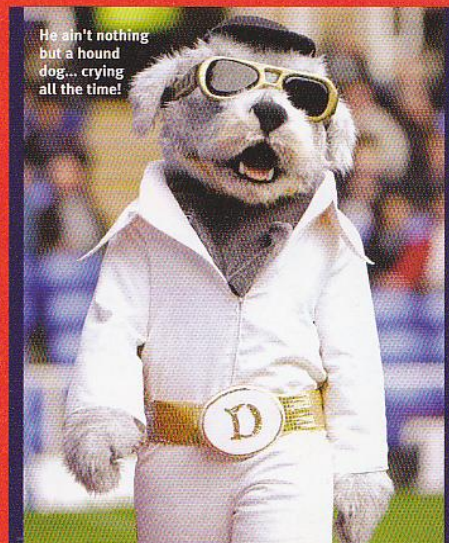
One other thing to look forward to is the performance of the Gloucester team in the pre-match running-around-the-pole-and-kicking-the-goal competition. I think I can safely say that supporters are going to be treated to a display of epic proportions today - weather permitting.

No, not because I am taking part - I have a note from my Mum to excuse me. Rather because I happen to know for a fact that two members of the team (take a bow Dave

and Tim) have been putting in a bit of practice over the past few weeks. In fact they have been doing a bit more than practising, money has been exchanged for a ball, a kicking tee and - I kid you not - boots. All that financial outlay chaps - you could have gone to Asda and paid for a few cases of lager...

Those people who inhabit the hospitality boxes in either corner should be afraid... be very afraid.

Finally, don't forget to hang around after the match for the Cherry Pickers match - a rare chance to see Iron Mike et al running out at Kingsholm in some (very) old cherry and white shirts to take on the currently homeless Czech national team. Dig deep for a few quid to help get rugby back on its feet over there.



He ain't nothing but a hound dog... crying all the time!



Gloucester is a club which has its roots firmly planted in tradition and the local community. It is recognised as one of the strongest clubs in Rugby Union with a 128 year history.

The club can boast an abundance of top names in their ranks and its a combination of their skills, strength, endurance and self-belief that makes them truly elite.

The Cherry Picker's are the Gloucester Stars of yesteryear – a band packed full of past heroes boasting such household names as Mike Teaque, Phil Blakeway, Ian Smith, John Gadd and Richard Mogg... a list which is almost endless.

The Cherry Pickers stand for everything that's good in the game, coming together to raise money for worthy causes – the players way of putting something back into this great game.

**Already we have helped raise over £50,000
for various charities and local rugby clubs**

With your support we intend to extend this figure further, making our ambition a reality.

The Cherry Pickers are perfectly placed to advertise and promote your company.

The players of yesteryear still enjoy a large and devoted support base, many of which may be customers of yours.

We invite your company to be a part of the Cherry Pickers, to be part of worthwhile cause and share in the knowledge that together we really can make a difference.

Package includes

- > Company name displayed on playing shirt
- > Company logo within official match day programme & editorial
- > Access to any of the players for promotional activities
- > Coverage in three main regional papers read by over ¼ million people daily

Help us help those that need it...

For further detail please contact Don Caskie on 01242 511848





RUGBY LEGENDS SUPPORT PRAGUE RUGBY FLOOD FUND

“The devastating problems suffered by Slavia RFC touches all Rugby men as it brings us down from whatever heights we think we may occupy to thinking of where we all started – at the grass roots of the game. Here we have clubs hard pressed to sustain the facilities they have whilst trying to improve their standards, managed by enthusiasts living on their love of the game and the memories and friendships the game gave them. To see most of that hard work just washed away overnight must have been truly heart rending.

By supporting the special game on November 24th we can show Slavia that the comradeship of the game of Rugby is alive and well and that we who inhabit the so called top nations (including Wales!) can and do care about the developing ones.”

John Dawes

“I cannot imagine the depths of despair which must have overcome the players and management of Slavia RFC when they surveyed the ruins of what they had built in a pleasant suburb of Prague – especially after just regaining their normal place in the Czech Premiership!

”I wish them all the best with their fund raising efforts and urge everyone to support the special game on November 24th and the activities which accompany it.

Mervyn Davies

“For Slavia RFC read Maesteg, Stroud or Penzance and imagine what a proud old club struggling in the new era of professionalism must feel like when the whole of the somewhat precarious (not referring to the physical structures!) support fabric of its mission to promote Rugby is swept away.

The players are not paid, there are no paid administrators - just a club trying to foster the growth of Rugby within Prague and to add to the strength of its national team, competing this year in the inaugural 2nd Division of the 6 Nations, and now they have nothing.

”I am sure everyone can identify with the problems Slavia face in their rebuilding and hope that all will support those endeavours and wish the Czech national team well in their competition.

Barry John



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Fullbacks

Nick Marment *SW*
Tim Smith *Eng Students*

Wings

Jim Breeze
Nick Price
Derek Morgan *SW*
Dale Malpass
Simon Morris *SW*

Centres

Richard Mogg *Eng B*
Paul Taylor
Don Caskie *Scot A*
Martin Roberts
Cormac O' Donahue
Damien Cummins *Anglo Scots*
Steve Davies

Ian Morgan

Scrum Halves

Laurie Beck *Eng U21*
Steve Baker
Bruce Fenley *Eng U18*

Fly Halves

Mike Hamlin *Eng B*
Paul Turner *Wales*
Martyn Kimber

Props

Malcolm Preedy *Eng*
Phil Blakeway *Eng, Lions*
Bob Phillips *Eng Dev*
Pete Jones *Scot*
Richard Pascal
Andy Martin

Hookers

Kevin Dunn *Eng B*
John Hawker *SW Div*
Glynn Mann

Locks

Nigel Scrivens
John Brain *Eng B*
Pete Miles
Larry Cummings
Simon Devereaux
Richard Ward
Greg Keyse

Back Rows

Ian Smith *Scot*
John Gadd *Eng B*
Mike Teague *Eng, Lions*
Andrew Stanley

Bobby Fowke

Paul Ashmead *SW*
Pete Glanville *SW*
John Watkins

Special Guests

Nigel Melville
Dean Ryan
Peter Winterbottom
Gareth Chilcott
Stuart Barnes
Dewi Morris
Barry John
Mervyn Davies
John Dawes
John Mills
Beccy Hale
Cindy Combes



Props

Roman Sustr *Chambery*
Pavel Stastry *Auch*
Rene Kolacek *Bystrc Brno*

Hookers

Jan Oswald *Tatra Praha*
Lukas Rapant *Havirov*

Locks

Jan Zila *Tatra Praha*
Jan Kukra *Libourne*
Bob Voves *Praga*

Flankers

Martin Pekacek *Auxerre*
Karel Pekacek *Valencia*
Ladislav Vondrasek *Marlow*

No 8

Jan Machacek *Montfermeil*

Scrumhalves

Pavel Syrový *praga*
Tomas Ripšcik *Hamilton*

Fly half

Martin Kafka *Moraleja Alcobce*

Centres

Antonin Brabec *Tatra Praha*
Martin Pekarek *Ricany*
Roman Rýgl *Tatra Praha*

Wings

Josef Fiser *Praga*
Martin Jaqr *Toulon*

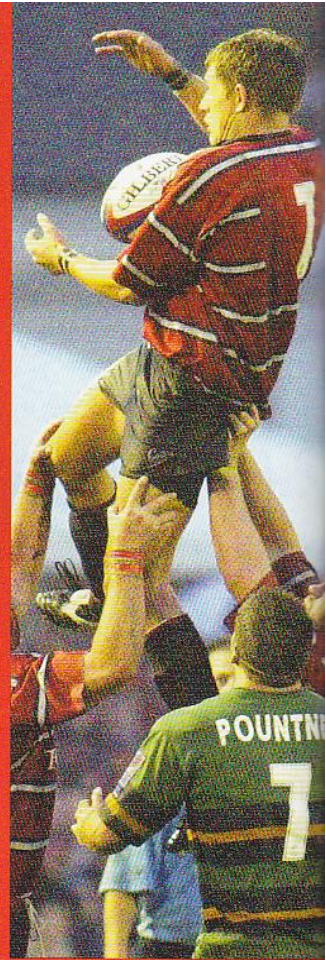
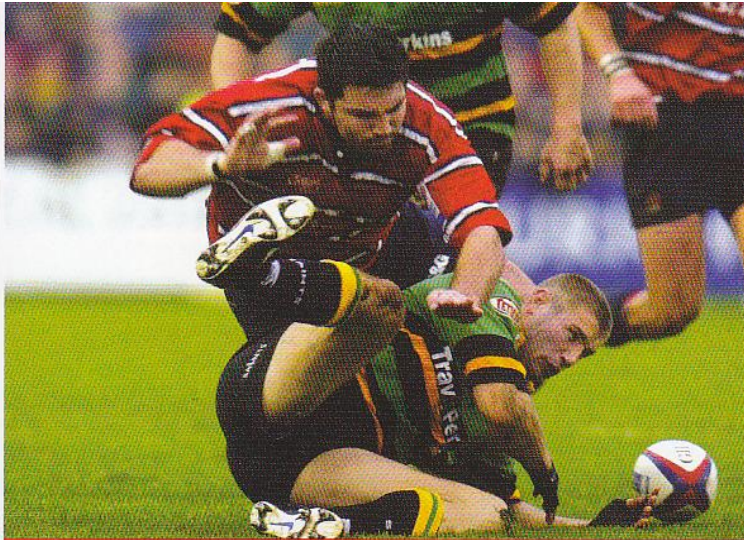
Full Back

Jan Rohlik *Toulon*
Pavel Camrda *Ricany*

Prague Barbarian Guest Squad

David Jamieson *(Scot) Sparta*
Ian Weekes *(Wales) Slavia*
Lauren Gadouchan *(Fr) Slavia*
Andrew Tromans *(Eng) Slavia*
Jim Breeze *(USA) Prague Barbarians*
Mark O'Brien *(Eng) Prague Barbarians*

Tour Manager Milan Ruzga
Team Manager Jiri Skall
National Coach Jura Stastry
Ass Coach Michele Bernarden
President Czech RFU Bruno Kudrna



KINGSHOLM SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2002



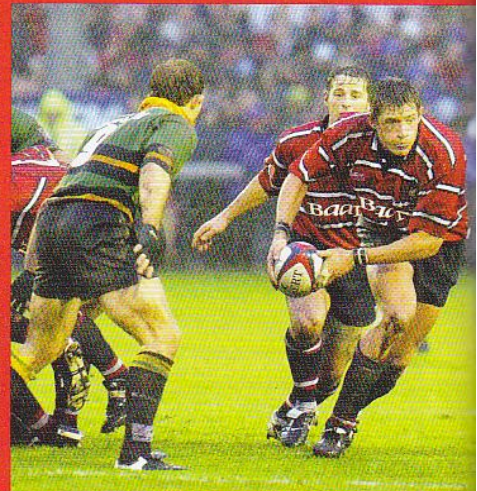
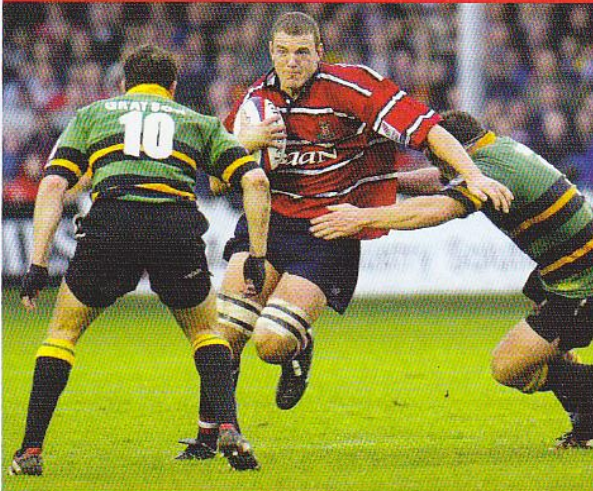
GLOUCESTER 18

PENALTIES: MERCIER (5) DROP GOAL: GOMARSALL



N'HAMPTON SAINTS 9

PENALTIES: GRAYSON (2), DAWSON



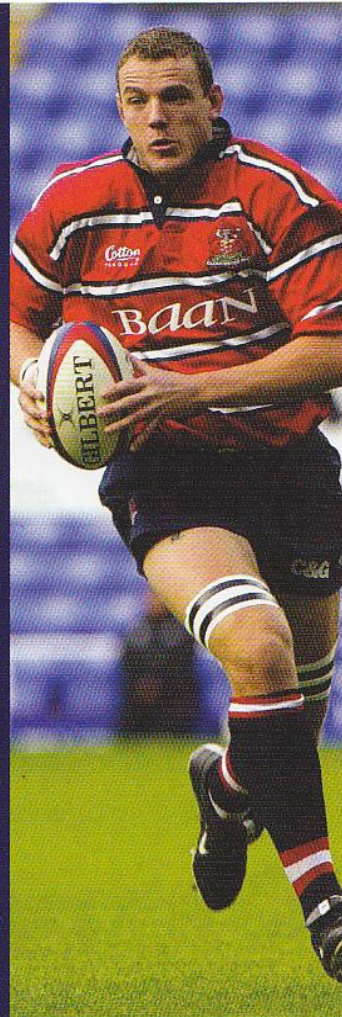
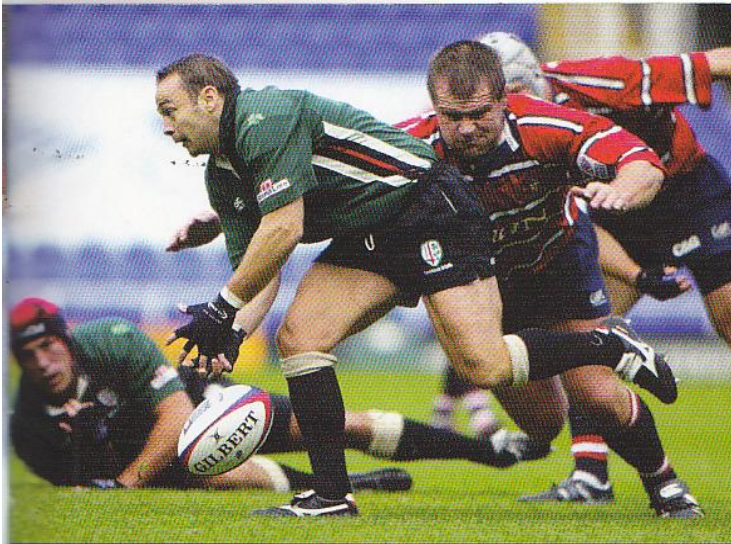
(Top Left) Olivier Azam goes over the top of Saint's Ben Cohen.

(Top Right) James Forrester wins a line out.

(Middle Left) Adam Eustace charges through the Saints defence.

(Middle Right) James Forrester breaks away.

(Bottom Left) Marcel Garveys breaks away down the wing.



MADEJSKI SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2002



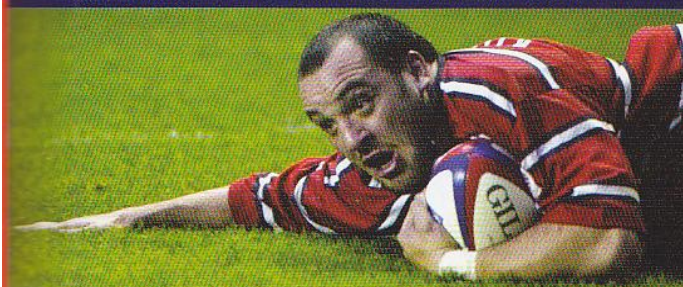
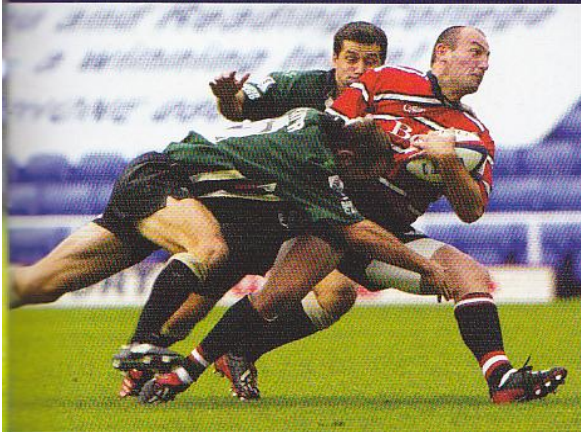
LONDON IRISH 19

TRIES: PENALTY TRY
 CONVERSIONS: EVERITT PENALTIES: EVERITT (4)



GLOUCESTER 40

TRIES: EUSTACE, PARAMORE, FORRESTER, BOER, RONCERO.
 CONVERSIONS: MERCIER (3) PENS: MERCIER (3)



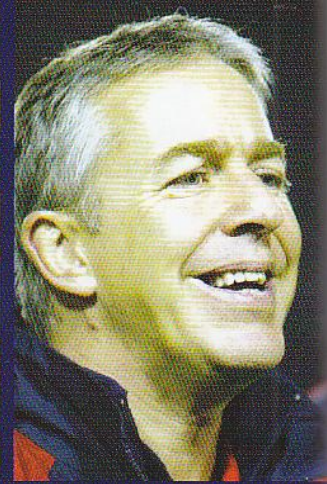
(Top Left) Andy Deacon moves in to tackle London Irish Darren Edwards.

(Top Right) Adam Eustace scores his first half try.

(Middle Left) Ludovic Mercier is tackled from behind by London Irish Brendan Venter.

(Middle Right) Junior Paramore scores his second half try.

(Bottom Left) Rodrigo Roncero goes over for his first premiership try in the second half.



WELFORD ROAD FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2002



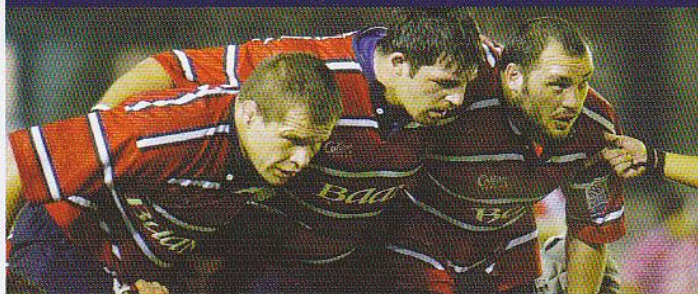
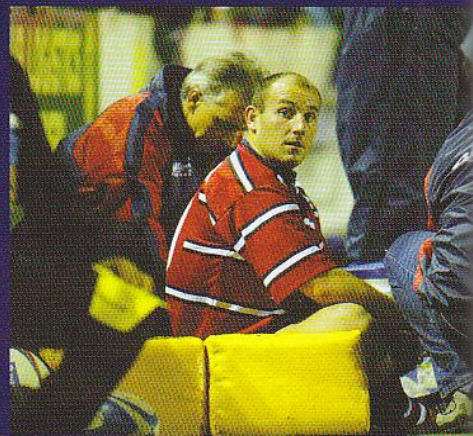
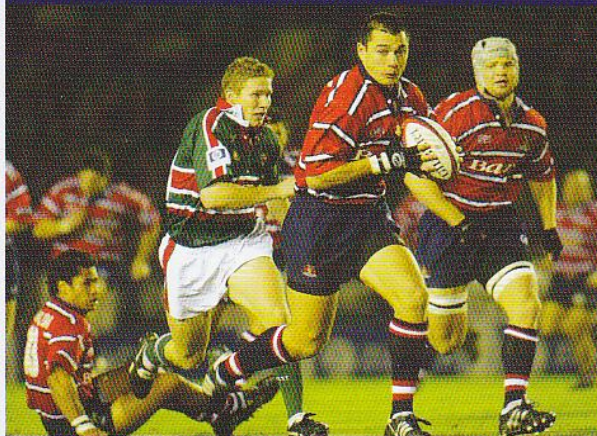
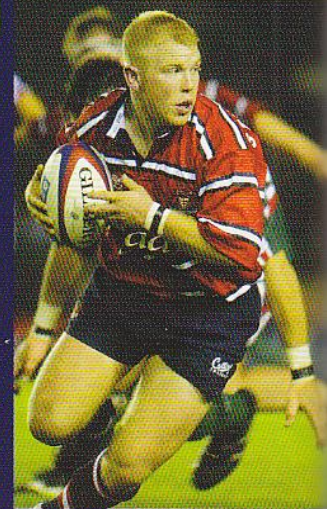
LEICESTER TIGERS 20

TRIES: LLOYD, KRONFELD (2)
CONVERSIONS: VESTY PENS: VESTY



GLOUCESTER 15

TRIES: FANOLUA, BOER
CONVERSIONS: PAUL PENS: PAUL



(Top Left) Terry Fanolua breaks out of a tackle from Leicesters Rod Kafer.

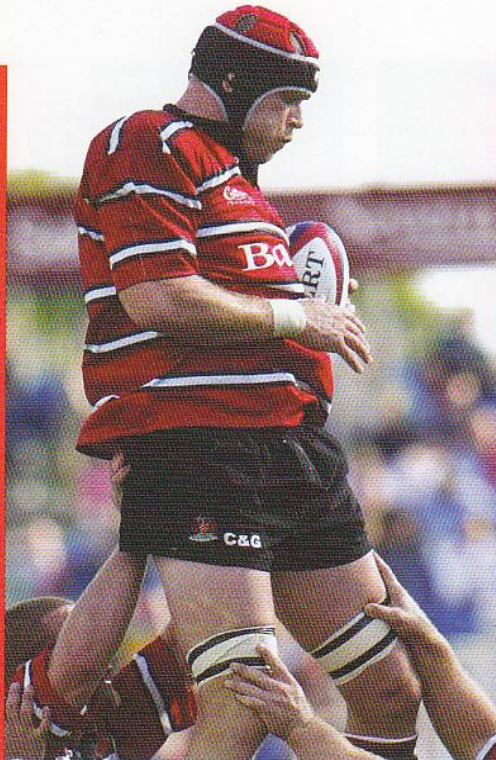
(Top Right) Nigel Melville.

(Upper Middle) Clive Stuart-Smith.

(Middle Left) Thinus Delport breaks through the Leicester defence.

(Middle Right) Ludovic Mercier receives medical treatment after being taken off.

(Bottom Left) The front row Andy Deacon, Olivier Azam and Rodrigo Roncero.



"...we are looking to win both the Heineken Cup and the Premiership because if you're not, you are not aiming for the right heights"

MAKING HIS MARK

Whilst the scintillating skills of Simpson-Daniel and Marcel Garvey have demanded many column inches this season, Mark Cornwell, Gloucester's tower in the line out has gone about his business in a more understated way.

Gloucester's giant lock is very rarely found monopolising the daily sports pages as his is one of the less glamorous positions on the rugby field, but without his control in the set piece, you would certainly notice the difference.

"They are the boys doing a job that gets the lime light, but that's sport. You get players who grab headlines each week and you get those that don't. My position is one of those that doesn't, but good luck to them, I'm just happy to keep playing", says Cornwell of his younger teammates.

After two seasons playing understudy to All Black legend Ian Jones, Cornwell is now becoming one of the fully paid up members of the Cherry and White elite Club.

Apart from a one match suspension, he has been an ever present this season and his work in the lineout and in the loose are the platforms on which Gloucester are basing the foundations for their game plan.

"My lineout work is good, but that is why I am in the team", comments Cornwell. This statement says nothing for his

ability in the loose where he has shown excellent hands and is not unaccustomed to scoring the odd try or two.

We all admire and revere the classic driving maul as it destroys the opposition defensive ranks like a bulldozer at a condemned house but sometimes we forget that the move that finishes in a pile of Gloucester bodies over the opposition line started long before with a slick, and swift jump and catch under tremendous pressure.

As a seasoned Cherry and White, Cornwell now has a lot of responsibility resting on his lofty shoulders. He is one of Gloucester's senior players and has to take on the mantle of leader in a number of situations.

It is representative of the modern day lock and Cornwell's desire to keep pushing himself to improve that he focuses a lot of his attention on 'offensive defence'. Long gone are the days when the second row would lumber around the paddock from one ruck to the next, now they are asked to turnover opposition ball in the tackle and play like extra back row men, hunting the ball and linking with fellow team mates with slick handling skills.

As such a tall man, Cornwell has to work very hard on his defensive positioning and the towering lock has spent a lot of time working with defensive Guru Dave Ellis to develop his technique.

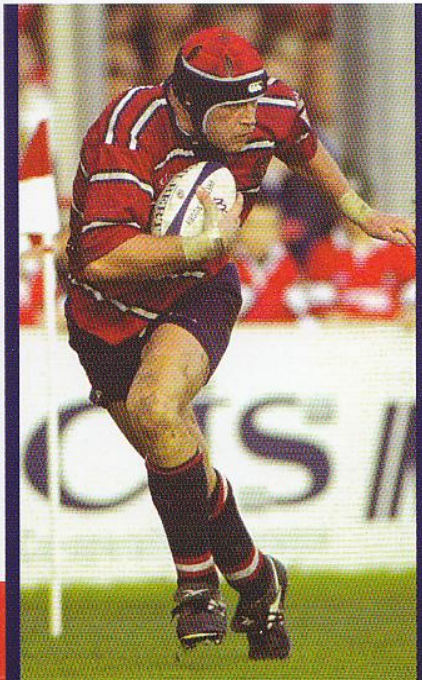
Cornwell was adamant that last year the Club he loved so much needed to start winning trophies. He felt he had been at the Club altogether too long and the squad altogether too talented for the Cherry and Whites not to be winning something. The time came at the end of last season with a thrilling finale at Twickenham and Gloucester's first major bit of silverware for twenty years. On the day though, a broken wrist, sustained against Bath in the last game of the regular season kept the giant lock on the sideline. The day became one of mixed emotions for the man who is Gloucester through and through.

"That was brilliant for the Club. I was there for the weekend with the team, in the changing rooms before and after the game and it was something that I will never forget. But it was a strange time for me, I had played a lot of rugby to get us to that position but on the day I was out injured. Looking back though it's great to be part of something special like that and I hope to do it again this year. Maybe we can even go bigger and better", says Cornwell.

Cornwell has been at the Club for over a decade now and recently has witnessed first hand the transition from a sleeping giant to would-be title winner. For a man not known for his overstatements, even Cornwell is excited about the prospects this season.

"We have more of an opportunity than we have ever had before", exclaims Cornwell.

"The expectation is there, going on the back of last year, and the potential is there to make something of



this squad and give something back to the city of Gloucester. If we don't then we will feel that we have let ourselves down".

"Don't ask what we are going to achieve, but we are looking to win both the Heineken Cup and the Premiership because if you're not, you are not aiming for the right heights", says Cornwell.

In his time as a Cherry and White Cornwell has seen many coaching styles and worked within different team structures. So what does he attribute this change in fortunes to?

"You cannot compare the way we are as a squad and as a Club as to the way we have been", admits Cornwell.

"The word I think is professional. We now know what it means to be professional, Nigel and Dean and all the back room staff have brought this. We have set our standards so it becomes a way of life and anything less than that now is unacceptable".

"Attention to detail in our preparation is another reason. In seasons gone by we would set a time limit on trying to achieve something and if it wasn't right in the allotted time, we would move on to something different. Now we practice until we get it right. That comes out on a Saturday afternoon".

This weekend against the Tykes, like he has for the previous two weeks as Gloucester's internationals, including the Club captain, have been away on England duty, Cornwell has had to adopt an even bigger mantle of leadership. Young players have joined the 1st team squad and as one of the senior pros Cornwell is now one of the players they quite literally look up to.

"We have a great squad here at the club and it is for times like this when we have players out on international duty. We are going to ask others to step up and show they are good enough and worth their place. They will get the support of everyone else in the squad but in games when you haven't got your seasoned internationals there comes more pressure on your shoulders to be a leader on the pitch, but I won't approach it any differently to any normal game".

It's a great chance for the youngsters to step into Phil Vickery's or Andy Gomarsall's shoes. Nigel has faith in them otherwise they wouldn't be here. It happened to me when I was younger and will again. I wish them all the best", explains the Gloucester lock. ■

Mark Cornwell



Gloucester
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Baan Club Sponsor
www.baan.com

Peter Arnold

YORKSHIRE RELISH

Our old mate Bryan Ward-Ellison turned up for a drink and a natter in my local pub the other day. It was nice to see him, and to renew an occasion which used to happen at least once a week in the days when he was master-minding the production of the match programme on behalf of printers, Stoate and Bishop, a job they handled for decades.

He came along on general principles, of course, being in Gloucester for other reasons, but he also found it gratifying to be able to comment - even crow a little bit - on the fact that today's game is a top-of-the table affair featuring Gloucester and Leeds, an area where he hails from originally. Indeed, in his youth, he played Rugby League for the city, until he grew out of it and came south to discover a taste for the 15-man game.

You can see his point. Only a few seasons ago, if you had said to someone that Gloucester was to play Leeds, then you would probably have received a response along the lines of "Who?"

To be fair, however, although Headingley was never an annual fixture, the Yorkshiremen were quite frequent visitors to Kingsholm, quite often around the Easter period.

I've often bemoaned the comparative demise of many respected and affectionately-remembered opponents such as Coventry, Moseley and Bedford. The other side of that coin is that we can't do anything but admire the meteoric rise of such outfits as Leeds and Rotherham, who, if things had taken just a slightly different turn,

unrelated to playing ability, could well have been our opponents today.

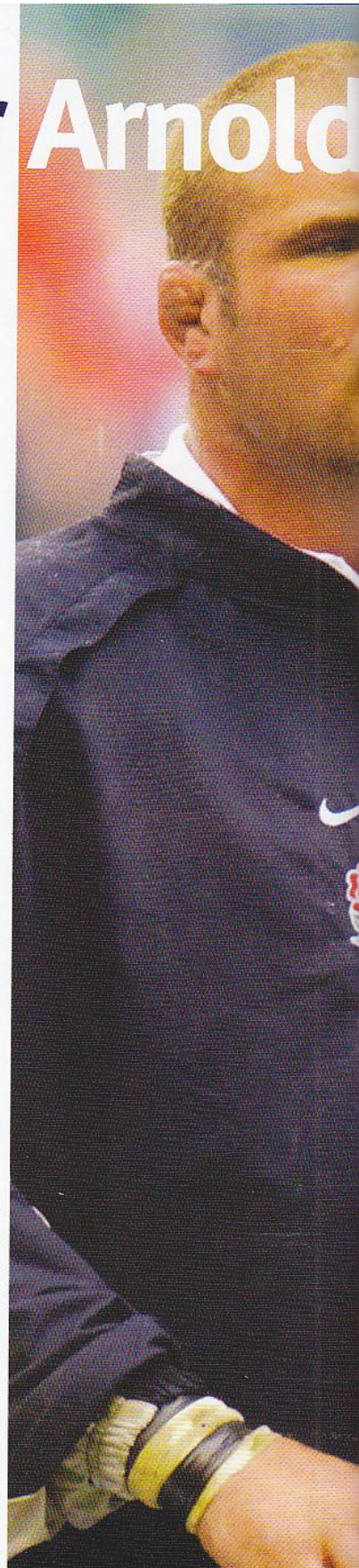
Indeed, it has always been something of a mystery why Yorkshire, one of England's most sportingly inclined counties, has not, until now produced a great Rugby Union club. That is not to say that the white rose county hasn't entertained us with some great Rugby Union players. You only have to look at the records of Gloucestershire playing Yorkshire in the old County Championship to realise that.

There was Rory Underwood, of course, and the great England flanker, Peter Winterbottom, who played, if memory serves for Headingley.

There was also Alan Old, who played at outside half for England on a South African tour. I once asked him, coming towards the end of his career, for his favourite sporting memory. Oddly enough, it wasn't a Rugby reminiscence at all. It concerned the time when he played cricket for Durham against Yorkshire. Durham was then a Minor County, and on the day in question became the first one to beat a First Class County in the old Gillette Cup. Spice was added to the occasion for Alan Old by the fact that his brother, Chris, a regular in the England Test side at the time, was playing for Yorkshire that day.

One way and another, it's nice to see a side from Yorkshire doing so well these days. As long as they don't actually beat us, of course.

Incidentally, Bryan Ward-Ellison, who sends his regards to all his old friends at Kingsholm, won't be here today. I





Phil Vickery. Acknowledged on the telly as "the best tight head in England".

gather he's in Manchester, doing something strange and wonderful with railway engines. Funny that. I didn't realise that devout and practising Yorkshiremen were allowed there without a visa and an armed escort.

THEY'VE DONE US PROUD

Can't let the occasion go by without commenting on how the Gloucester contingent have performed for England thus far in the Autumn Internationals series. The answer is quite simple. Those who have had the chance to perform have done us proud.

Phil Vickery has been - well - he's been Phil Vickery, and that says it all. Acknowledged on the telly as 'the best tight head in England', he's been immovable in the tight scrums, created mayhem in the loose, popped up exactly where needed - including on the wing - and tackled like an avalanche.

Even when the awesome Jonah Lomu, at full gallop, trampled all over him, Phil managed to hang on long enough for Dallaglio to get across and complete the tackle. This bemused the Sunday Times correspondent, somewhat, who explained it by indicating that prop forwards regard their brains as the most dispensable part of their anatomy.

And, of course, The Vickster wasn't alone in the front row battle. What wretched luck on Trevor Woodman to acquire a training injury, just as he was about to inflict the same pain and grief on the Australians as he did upon the All Blacks.

Could have been worse, of course. Look what happened to Thomas Castagnaide.

During the Sky coverage of the two matches, Stuart Barnes described his

performance against the All Blacks as 'phenomenal', and he wasn't far wrong. Barnes also commented that there have been mutterings, in some quarters, that, while Trev might be more than useful around the park, he simply can't scrummage. Stuart rubbished that gross slander by remarking "Ask the Shed down at Kingsholm. They always knew different".

Quite simply, I regard Trevor Woodman's New Zealand performance as the best full-match international debut I have seen from a Gloucester player. And that's saying a great deal.

Of course, many people might disagree with that, pointing to James Simpson-Daniel's heroics in both matches so far. One must admit that that is a tenable point of view. As Ben Cohen pointed out, "He's played in two Test Matches and made three tries". Ben should know. He was the lucky recipient of two of them.

'Sinbad' isn't the finished article yet, but he's made a few giant strides in that direction over the past three weeks. His remarkable ball skills, pace and sheer unpredictability make him a frightening proposition for any opposing side

Look at he record so far. Young James has played in two England teams and already beaten the All Blacks and the Wallabies. That has to be some sort of a record, bearing in mind that, at the beginning of this season, England had only beaten New Zealand four times since 1905. Indeed, many great players have completed a whole career without playing in an England side that beat either of them, let alone beat both in their first two appearances in the white shirt.

Now, if they could just complete the hat trick today...

Gloucester heed lessons learned

Alastair Downey of
The Citizen

AS THE MAJORITY of the Gloucester squad walked (or in some cases hobbled or were pushed) out of Welford Road on Friday night, they would have taken with them some very important lessons.

There were not many smiles among the battered bodies and while such a defeat will have stung Gloucester to the core, they will learn some invaluable lessons from their second defeat of the season. In the harshest environment in the domestic game, Gloucester failed to come to terms with one of the most pressurised atmospheres in Europe.

It has shown them what level they need to attain to reach the Heineken Cup levels of performance that make a team truly great. It might not be quite the same in Perpignan and Munster, but it will not be far off and Gloucester cannot afford to be found wanting then. Friday night represented the acid test and although Gloucester were not disgraced, they did not pass it in the manner they would have hoped for.

As a squad and a proud group of players, they will know that winning away at London Irish, however significant and well deserved, was not a real test of their quality. The Irish are a shadow of the side they were last season while the visit to Leicester was a test of their character and quality.

Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan will ensure Gloucester

become a better side for the experience - and that experience starts today.

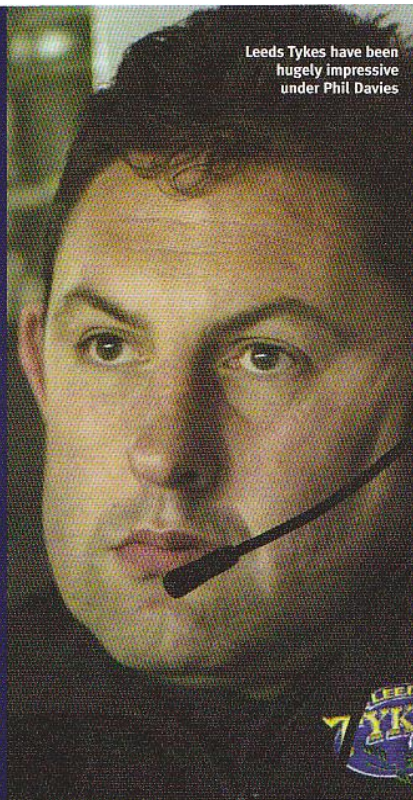
Gloucester have been granted an immediate opportunity to remain at the head of the Premiership table and claim a victory against a side who have been in the title shake-up since the beginning of the season.

Leeds, who finished bottom of the table last season, have been the surprise package of the campaign and fully deserve to be second behind the Cherry and Whites. Gloucester need little convincing that they are a force to be reckoned with at home but the Tykes, under the hugely impressive Phil Davies, have claimed some significant away victories and will fancy their chances of picking up another one today.

This afternoon's clash represents the halfway stage of the season - doesn't time fly when you are having fun? - and that leaves Gloucester with seven games at home and five away before the end of the campaign. They are in a solid position that should only be enhanced. Just how they enhance it - and where they end up - is up to them. Gloucester certainly have the ingredients to press home their hard earned advantage but do they have the stamina, will power and fortitude to take those crucial extra steps? Whatever happens, it should be some journey.

You can read Alastair Downey everyday in The Citizen.

Leeds Tykes have been hugely impressive under Phil Davies





GLOUCESTER

Henry Paul	15
Marcel Garvey	14
Terry Fanolua	13
Robert Todd	12
Thinus Delpont	11
Ludovic Mercier	10
Clive Stuart-Smith	09

Rodrigo Roncero	01
Olivier Azam	02
Andy Deacon	03
Adam Eustace	04
Mark Cornwell	05
Peter Buxton	06
(c) Jake Boer	07
Junior Paramore	08

Josh Frape	16
Tom Beim	17
Chris Catling	18
Chris Fortey	19
Mark Irish	20
James Forrester	21
Rob Fidler	22



LEEDS TYKES

Dan Scarbrough	15
Chris Hall	14
George Harder	13
Braam van Straaten	12
Craig Emmerson	11
Tristan Davies	10
Derek Hegarty	09

Mike Shelley	01
Rob Rawlinson	02
Matt Holt	03
Chris Murphy	04
Tom Palmer	05
Cameron Mather	06
James Ponton	07
Isaac Feaunati	08

Martin O'Keefe	16
Mark Regan	17
Stewart Campbell	18
Phil Murphy	19
Carl Hogg	20
Alan Dickens	21
Tom Rock	22

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP 2002/03

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Gloucester	10	7	1	2	290	170	4	2	36
Leeds Tykes	10	7	2	1	276	205	0	1	33
Leicester Tigers	10	7	0	3	224	157	2	1	31
Sharks	10	6	1	3	249	235	2	1	29
London Wasps	10	4	2	4	254	243	3	2	25
Northampton Saints	10	5	0	5	210	191	1	2	23
NEC Harlequins	9	4	0	5	215	209	2	3	21
Saracens	10	4	0	6	249	299	2	0	18
Bath Rugby	10	3	2	5	175	222	0	2	18
Newcastle Falcons	10	3	0	7	192	295	1	2	15
Bristol Shoguns	9	2	1	6	233	279	2	1	13
London Irish	10	2	1	7	211	273	1	2	13

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GLOUCESTER'S NEXT THREE MATCHES



LONDON IRISH

Zurich Premiership
Saturday 30th Nov 2002
Kingsholm KO 3.00pm
Ticket Hotline: 0871 871 8781



PERPIGNAN

Heineken Cup
Sunday 8th Dec 2002
Kingsholm KO 1.15pm (eurosport)
Ticket Hotline: 0871 871 8781



PERPIGNAN

Heineken Cup
Saturday 14th Dec 2002
Stade Aime Giral KO 3.00pm
On Sale At Kingsholm from Monday
25th November Tel: 0871 871 87 81



THIS WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

Saturday 23 November 2002
N'hampton Saints vs NEC H'quins

Sunday 24 November 2002
Bath Rugby vs Bristol Shoguns
Gloucester vs Leeds Tykes
London Irish vs Leicester Tigers
London Wasps vs Sharks
Saracens vs Newcastle Falcons

Ref!Link

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Steve Leyshon RFU
1st TJ: David Grashoff RFU
2nd TJ: TJ Steve Savage RFU