



# Heineken® Cup



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five

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# Gloucester

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

STADIUM  
DEVELOPMENT  
UPDATE

EXCLUSIVE THINUS  
DELPORT PROFILE

EXCLUSIVE JAMES  
SIMPSON-DANIEL  
INTERVIEW

WATCH THIS FACE  
ADAM CAVES

vs Viadana

HEINEKEN CUP FIXTURE

SATURDAY 11TH JANUARY 2003

KICK-OFF 3.00PM

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## NIGEL'S NOTES...

### Nigel Melville

Director of Rugby

Welcome to Kingsholm for our fifth round Heineken Cup Pool game against Viadana, the Italian Champions. This is a game we cannot afford to lose if we are going to progress to the final stages of this prestigious competition.

During Christmas and the New Year we faced two in-form Premiership teams and taking eight points from a possible ten, against Northampton away and Wasps at home were great results, and everyone's spirits are high as we enter the final phase of Heineken Cup Pool games.

This year's Heineken Cup is already proving to be more competitive than last year, a place in the last eight would be a fantastic achievement for Gloucester Rugby Club.

Last week's game wasn't pretty - but it was the right result. I have been mildly amused and a little flattered to hear the extremes our opposition are going to in order to put us off our game! Warren Gatland's plan to de-stabilise us by announcing a weakened team has caused a bit of controversy in the press. As we all know the press like to print the truth! As a result, at our Director of Rugby meeting this week, we agreed to name our squads 48 hours before kick-off each week. These squads are always subject to change because of injury, however, we should always field our strongest teams, anything less is an insult to both our spectators and sponsors.

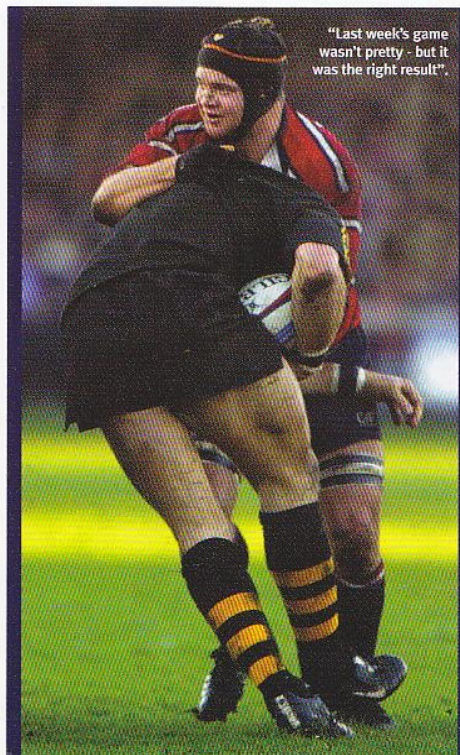
Today's game will be a totally different contest to last weekend, but I am sure it will be just as exciting. Viadana have an excellent squad and will be keen to make their mark on this year's competition with a

significant away win. Of course, whilst we are playing, we will be keeping an eye on the Perpignan/Munster fixture. At the final whistle we will all know what we need to achieve next week to continue our involvement in this season's Heineken Cup.

It seems that next week the whole of Gloucester will be making the trip to Munster, having played at Thomond Park a number of times I can assure you it will not be a fixture for the faint hearted! For those that couldn't get a ticket or make the journey, the match will be covered 'live' on BBC Grandstand. This will be a very special fixture for the Club, it is an opportunity for us to show the rest of Europe what Gloucester Rugby Club is all about - have a safe journey.

I hope you enjoy today's game, the season is really starting to hot up, get behind your Cherry and Whites let's take another significant stride forward together. ■

**"THIS YEAR'S HEINEKEN CUP IS ALREADY PROVING TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE THAN LAST YEAR, A PLACE IN THE LAST EIGHT WOULD BE A FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB".**







## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

### Andy Gomarsall

Match Captain

Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for today's Heineken Cup clash. Of course it is an honour to be asked to lead the Cherry and Whites out this afternoon, but hopefully the mantle of Captain won't change the way I approach today's game.

As a scrum half my role in the team requires so much communication, and calling so many of the plays, so it will just be about making the little decisions that Vix normally makes. For me the emphasis will fall on my teammates to help me out, but with the way we play I am comfortable with the scenario and looking forward to the challenge.

Last weekend wasn't pretty but to get one over on my old team was a huge boost. The last two or three games have been very close, Dean Ryan describes them as the ten-all games, and if we are to be successful these are the games that we have to come out of with wins.

We haven't always been pretty, but at crucial times we have handled the pressure well and got the points. The difference between success and failure over a season can come down to little calls that go your way. I think that we now have enough experience in the squad to recognise these times and get through them.

There will be times, like against Wasps and Northampton when we will be under tremendous pressure, but we have soaked this up and put the pressure back on our opposition with good counter-attacking or strong defence.

Over the past few weeks, with the weather dictating the style of play, the forwards have been making the headlines, we hope today that the backs will be able to get the ball in their hands and put in some performances. We have seen wonderful individual performances in both the Premiership and the

Heineken Cup but it would be a good to get a good collective performance today.

This weekend we play a different tournament and we don't want a ten all game. Our opponents Viadana-like London Irish- will bring a very direct style of play with them. They may not use many intricate patterns of play but they have some very strong one-out runners and are aggressive and physical. Our defence will have to be on top of its game, to stop them in their tracks.

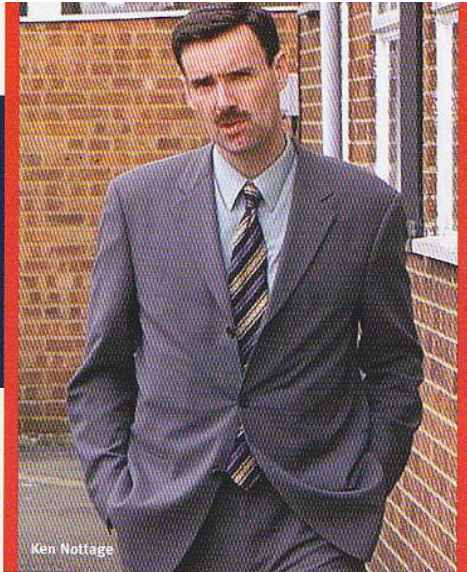
I think today is an opportunity though for us to play with the ball in hand. We want to give the backs quick 'the opportunity to run and get our own patterns going. We have, quite rightly, focused on territory in the last few weeks but today this is a game when we can get our patterns going. Obviously Ludovic and myself will have a big part to play in this instance.

Today I think we need to get our basics right. In the past few weeks we have been put under pressure by some very good teams and at times our basics have let us down. We need to get back on track. We need a big team performance building up to next week's game in Munster, where we are sure to get help from no-one.

We want to be unrelenting in our pursuit of the win today, our best spell of rugby this season came at Munster at home, and what better time to find some form ahead of the return leg than today, here at Kingsholm. ■







Ken Nottage

# STADIUM DEVELOPMENT

WITH KEN NOTTAGE

are that this stand can accommodate 3,220 seats and about 2,000 spectators on the terraces. Substantial bars, family facilities and hospitality lounges are included in the early design. There is still design work to be done but sufficient work has been achieved to enable us to approach a number of contractors to provide an accurate cost although the early indication is that this could cost about £5 million pounds.

It has been some time since my last update to supporters and having been reminded of this fact at the last home match I feel I should provide further insight into the progress that has taken place.

There have been rumours that we intend to build a new stadium outside of the City boundary. It's amazing how rumours seem to gain their own momentum and lose their factual content.

We are committed to developing within the City of Gloucester and are still considering the options that exist to us.

Some of you may have heard my radio interview on BBC Radio Gloucester some time back where it got a little heated because the radio presenter was adamant that I had reported to a regional TV station that our only focus was Kingsholm for redevelopment. It has been some time since that interview but I can confirm that Kingsholm is now our main focus but we are still considering other opportunities in parallel.

We have been working with a local company of architects and the good news is that we are certain that Kingsholm can be developed to achieve what we need. The bad news is that it will cost an exceptional amount of money. However, putting the money issue to one side for the moment, the development at Kingsholm would include initially developing a new grandstand in place of the old one but over the complete length of the pitch. This would be regarded as our first phase of development.

The second phase would involve replacing the shed and Worcester Street stand with a more modern and larger cantilever version. The most important point here is that I have not forgotten the threats from the hundreds who have warned me what the consequences would be if we lost the tradition of the 'shed'. No worries on that account as I know what is good for me.

Phase one is likely to be a similar version to the main stand at Northampton with terracing at the front. Early indications

Of course any commercial venture needs a business plan and this is being worked on at present to determine what additional commercial value this development could bring to the club. Along side of the commercial value I believe that we all recognise the need now for Kingsholm to be modernised to provide essential levels of comfort to spectators but without losing that special Kingholm atmosphere that is now world famous.

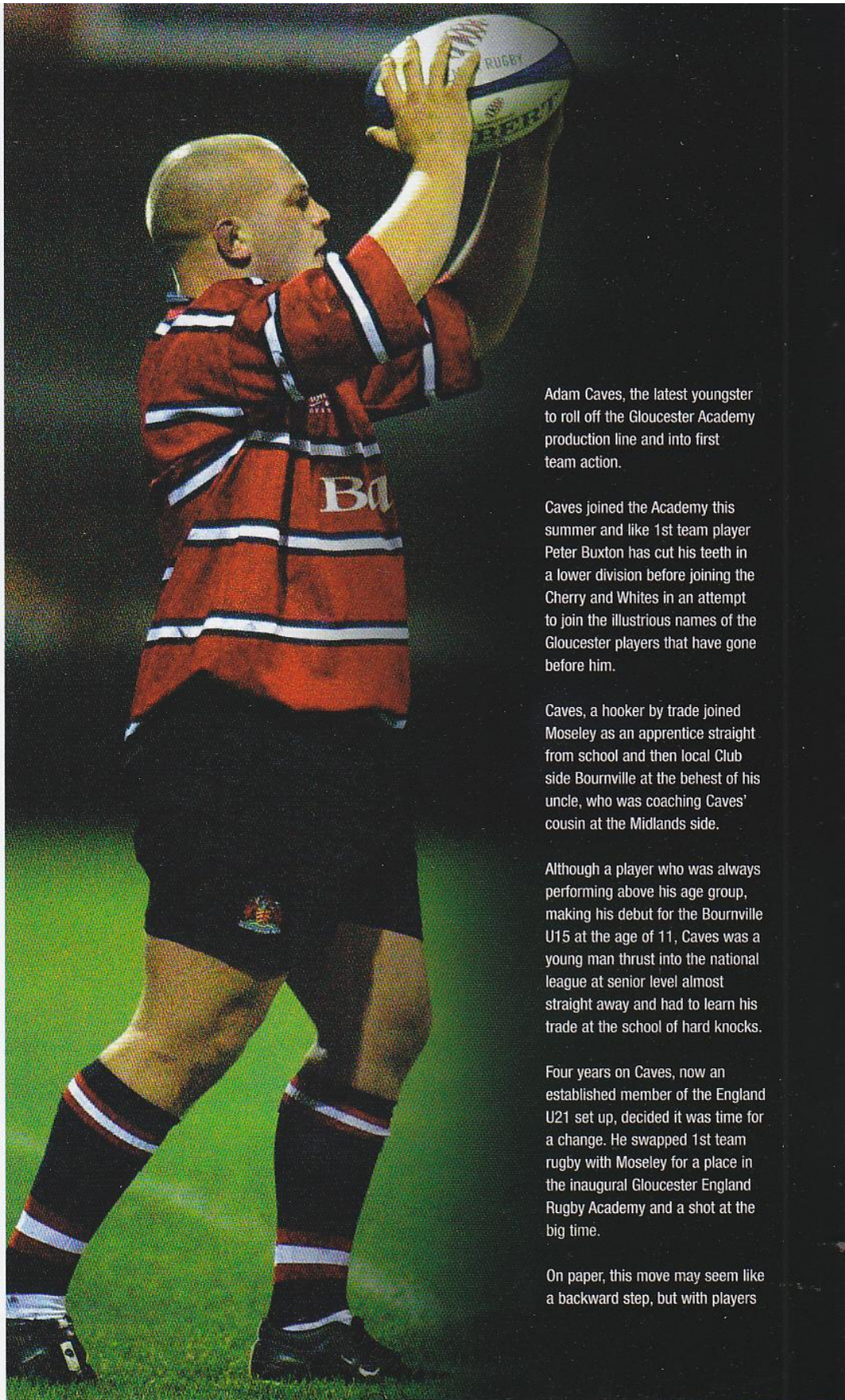
The big question is when will it happen. The quick answer is that once we know the absolute cost of the development we will finalise the commercial plan and from this will be able to determine when. Optimistically I believe it will be the season after next for phase 1.

I will attempt to keep supporters updated as much as I can but please be assured we are continually working towards a solution.

**"I have not forgotten the threats from the hundreds who have warned me what the consequences would be if we lost the tradition of the shed".**







Adam Caves, the latest youngster to roll off the Gloucester Academy production line and into first team action.

Caves joined the Academy this summer and like 1st team player Peter Buxton has cut his teeth in a lower division before joining the Cherry and Whites in an attempt to join the illustrious names of the Gloucester players that have gone before him.

Caves, a hooker by trade joined Moseley as an apprentice straight from school and then local Club side Bournville at the behest of his uncle, who was coaching Caves' cousin at the Midlands side.

Although a player who was always performing above his age group, making his debut for the Bournville U15 at the age of 11, Caves was a young man thrust into the national league at senior level almost straight away and had to learn his trade at the school of hard knocks.

Four years on Caves, now an established member of the England U21 set up, decided it was time for a change. He swapped 1st team rugby with Moseley for a place in the inaugural Gloucester England Rugby Academy and a shot at the big time.

On paper, this move may seem like a backward step, but with players



like Andy Frost, Rob Elloway and Mark Rimmer already treading the path from Academy to the Gloucester first team squad, Caves insists that this was merely a side step to move forward.

"At the age of eighteen I was being bashed about each week in the front-row, I was a player on the way up meeting a lot of experienced players on the way down each week. I wasn't enjoying my rugby and I felt that my chance of international honours at U21's was being hindered because I was at an unfashionable Club. Basically, I thought I owed to myself to give it one last go, so I joined the England Academy at a renowned Club", says Caves.

Caves, now a full time member of the Academy, splits his time between concentrating on his rugby training, and helping out on his parents farm.

"I have played more rugby in the last couple of months than I have in the last two years. I was a young lad there for experience but I wasn't getting selected", adds Caves who as well as making the number two shirt his own for the Gloucester U21s has been a regular in the United set up.

Having made the move to Kingsholm relatively late in his young career, Caves admits to an attack of the 'What ifs...' from time to time. The progress of James Simpson-Daniel and James Forrester is well documented but it is a moot point as to whether Caves- an England U19 team mate at the FIRA World Cup with Nick Cox and Simpson-Daniel- would have made similar strides had he joined the Cherry and Whites at an earlier stage.

Caves though, like 1st team back row Peter Buxton before him, has

**"I wanted to get into the first team squad here and into the England U21 side. I think I have hit most of my targets but unfortunately missed out on England because of my knee injury".**

enjoyed two years experience in the Moseley 1st team, a commodity that should not be underestimated. Unlike his school boy team mates Caves has already been there and done it at senior level.

"I played against some big players, the Exeter and Worcester front rows are very big. I was in a Moseley side that wasn't particularly strong and we had to dog it out until the very end of the season to stay up. But I believe that experience will help me here", says Caves.

"I have grown up in an adult environment", he adds.

Caves says though that as well as the obviously greater fitness demands, there is a completely different mind set amongst the Gloucester players- young and old- compared to what he had previously experienced.

"I felt that the blokes I played with and against last year were in it for the money, and hanging around for as long as possible. Here the attitude is so different, you fight for everything you can get", admits Caves.

Coming up from the National League, it is with some irony that Caves made his 1st team debut in last month's Powergen Cup tie against Exeter Chiefs, a side he had played against many times before. Caves describes the experience as a real buzz and with Chris Fortey's enforced absence Caves now has a real

chance to establish his claims for a first team spot.

It has not all been plain sailing for Caves though. He joined with definite aspirations of a place in the England U21 side and making an impression on the 1st team management. A medial ligament injury in his knee robbed him of the autumn and also his place in both Club and international sides.

In Caves absence other players moved up the international pecking order and Manchester born Rob Elloway made his debut at Leicester Tigers.

"I wanted to get into the first team squad here and into the England U21 side. I think I have hit most of my targets but unfortunately missed out on England because of my knee injury. It was disappointing not to meet that target, but I wasn't fit. I'm glad I bit my tongue. It was made doubly hard as Rob Elloway was getting in the first team squad but, goals wise, I am feeling pretty good and it has been a real buzz the last few weeks", insists Caves.

At the age of twenty, Caves in his final year of U21 rugby and knows that this season is make or break for him. He has set himself some very hard targets but it is in his character as a number two to want to be number one.

**Adam Caves,  
watch this face...**





Gloucester  
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



# ACADEMY REVIEW

## 0 BASINGSTOKE RFC U19 69 GLOUCESTER RFC U19

Gloucester U19's travelled to Basingstoke Rugby Club in the third round of the National knock-out Cup and gave the Hampshire side a lesson in finishing.

Gloucester has a strong recent pedigree in this competition; two seasons ago, led by Nick Cox, a Gloucester side containing Clive Stuart-Smith, Marcel Garvey James Forrester and James Simpson-Daniel, beat West Country rivals Bath in the final held at Bedford's Goldington Road.

Gloucester will travel away to Blackheath in the fourth Round of the Cup, the tie to be played before 15th February.

The young Cherry and Whites were quickly into their stride and their pace and precision blew their opponents away in the early stages of this Cup fixture. They ran in three unanswered tries in the opening minutes and never looked back.

A hat-trick of tries from tight-head prop Michael Guess to add to a try and double from front-row colleagues Rob Elloway and Joe Clark respectively, established a solid platform from which the young side, led by half backs, Nick Major and Neil Hunter, were able to move the ball wide almost at will.

With precision and pace in the passing and lines of running, the young Gloucester side tore into the less experienced Basingstoke team.

The other five tries scored by Gloucester were shared amongst the three-quarters. Wingers David White and Mark Foster both recorded a brace of tries whilst former Pate's Grammar School pupil Jon Alder also touched down to complete the rout.

The kicking duties were shared between fly-half convert Hunter and Ryan Lamb, who came off the substitutes bench to kick four successful conversions.

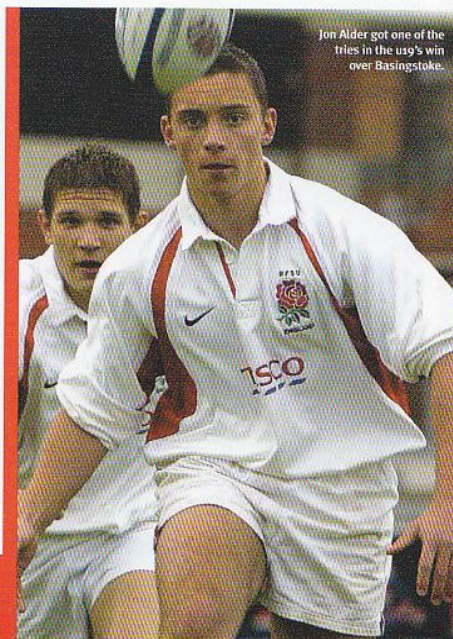
**Gloucester RFC U19 Line-up:** Fraser Pimlow, David White, Sam Burfod, Jon Alder, Mark Foster, Neil Hunter, Nick Major, Joe Clark, Rob Elloway, Michael Guess, Will Waldron, Pete Wilmer-Smith, Ben Collier, Mike Scudamore, James Tideswell.

**Replacements:** Ryan Lamb, Nick Runciman, Nick Brown, Dave Cottrill, Tom Payne, Joe Williams.

**Scorers:** White 2t, Alder 1t, Foster 2t, Clark 2t, Elloway 1t, Guess 3t, Hunter 2c, Lamb 4c.

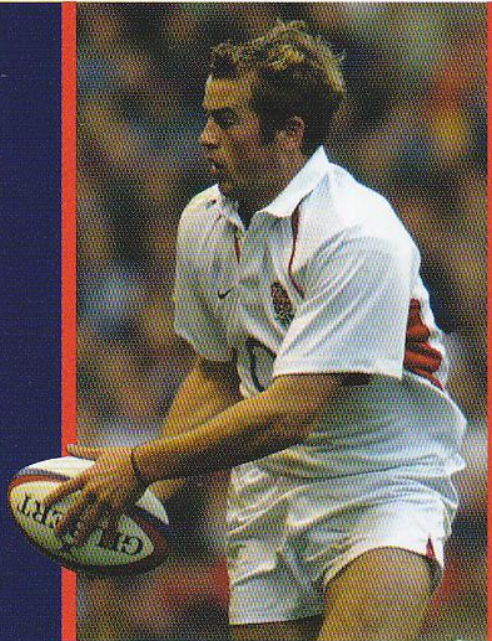
With Gloucester in such commanding form, the U19 coaches were able to use the whole of the Gloucester bench as players competed for a starting place in the next fixture away at Leeds Tykes.

Gloucester had established a 36-0 half time lead but were in no mood to relent and whilst they wracked up the points, their defence remained staunch and kept their opponents to a complete shut out.



Jon Alder got one of the tries in the U19's win over Basingstoke.





## Simpson-Daniel

### Young Winger Taking It One Week At A Time

After two months of enforced exile from the Gloucester squad, James Simpson-Daniel could make a welcome return to action this weekend.

This week he has declared his intention to be fit for selection for Gloucester's Heineken Cup match against Viadana.

So strong was the young wingers determination to play in this weekend's game that he admitted that he would be gutted if he didn't make it.

"I have trained all week this week and when you have trained all week you want something at the end of it. So my aim is to get through training this week, feeling as fresh as I can and if I feel good and the coaches are happy and want to select me then I would be more than happy to play".

"(if I didn't play) I would find it a blow because I have set a personal goal, my aim is to play this weekend. I want to contribute anything I can to this side by playing again this weekend, so I would be disappointed. But if I'm not I will have to get my head down and aim for next week", said Simpson-Daniel.

Setting small goals has been a big part of Simpson-Daniel's rehabilitation. Due to the nature of his diagnosed illness, all of his steps back to health have been small ones.

"When I was diagnosed I was gutted but for the next five days I couldn't think about anything because I was very ill. Then as I started to get up and want to do things it was all about small steps", he explains.

Simpson-Daniel then began making the long trip from Yarm in the North East to Kingsholm once a week to see Club doctor Rob Mackay to monitor his progress.

After an initial break from all exercise, Simpson-Daniel was allowed to begin light training. The intensity of this exercise though remained very low; to avoid any relapse, and Simpson-Daniel was ordered not to allow his heart rate to exceed 110 beats per minute, a heart rate easily reached after a gentle walk.

To his credit however, Simpson-Daniel adhered to his training programme and was soon allowed to increase to 120 and then 140

"It was frustrating but as soon as you go over the intensity you feel it. So I took very small steps, made small short-term goals, I still can't be too careful not to rush back too quickly", admits Simpson-Daniel.

Simpson-Daniel's last competitive action was against the World Champions Australia, a game in which the young starlet, winning only his second cap, earned special praise from his team mates for his sublime touches that included the delayed pass to set up Ben Cohen's game-breaking try.



# plots his very own Italian job

Later that weekend Simpson-Daniel was diagnosed with glandular fever and after playing against both New Zealand and Australia he was forced out of the bloody battle against the Springboks.

November was a month for the youngster in which the stratospheric high of his international debut was quickly vanquished by the heart-breaking low of his stress-related illness.

Simpson-Daniel admits to missing England's victory against the Springboks, deciding instead to return home, opting to watch his younger brother in action for Sedgeberg school rather than sit through the ordeal of watching his international team mates.

"I was wishing the boys well but at the same time I was gutted that I couldn't contribute to their win in anyway so I watched the highlights later that night", he says.

Such has been the young Cherry and Whites resolve to get fit and get back for Gloucester that since his world beating efforts in the Autumn international series he has had little time to reflect on his debut and second cap against the two best sides in the World.

"I haven't had the chance to sit and think about what happened in November. Had I been fit and played the South Africa game then come back to Gloucester I would have been able to look back. As it was, I got ill after the Australia game, and then my mind wasn't on the two games I had just played but instead it was on getting myself right, and that has only just started to happen. It is quite strange but I haven't thought about what has happened".

"The press conference before the New Zealand game was unbelievable, it does feel that it was a while ago, but I haven't stopped to think. Had I played in the South Africa game then my goals would have been about the next week and whoever Gloucester were playing", admits Simpson-Daniel.

Although the former Gloucester Academy player has focused on little else outside his rehabilitation, the experience of playing in those two magnificent

England wins has served to make the youngster hungry for more and encouraged him that he can have an international future.

"I had a quiet game against New Zealand, I was following the ball but it wasn't coming to me. I realised after that game that I needed to be more assertive. I was getting to the ball but it wasn't coming my way. If I had shouted louder it would have come. The next week I was able to get my hands on the ball so I would have been even more gutted if someone had told me I had the illness after the New Zealand game", says Simpson-Daniel.

In this season ravaged by injury and illness, Simpson-Daniel has already played and shone against this weekend's opposition. He was given a chance to shine by Nigel Melville and didn't disappoint-scoring a hat-trick in Italy.

Like then though, Simpson-Daniel does not see the Italian Champions as a soft option and this certainly will not be a game to ease himself back into action. Our aim each weekend is to win and it will be no different this week- we want to go out and score as many points as we can. We will certainly have a strong team out on the field and everyone is fighting for a place, we are all pushing each other on. Everyone wants to get on and do something to help this side win".

Gloucester will need to continue their strong form of recent weeks this weekend as they prepare to face Munster in a Pool 2 showdown next weekend. Such is Simpson-Daniel's focus though, he has not even considered that game, and he rolls out the most famous of sportsman's cliché's as he insists he is taking it one week at a time.

"I rarely know who we are playing weeks in advance. I know we are playing Munster soon because everyone is talking about it, but after that I don't know. I never look ahead, I know people say we do things one week at a time, but it is true. We will analyse and train for Viadana this week and then next week we will do the same, we look at one game at a time". ■



I suspect that the first page in the match programme that spectators look at is the team page. If they have no time to look elsewhere in the programme, supporters want to know who is playing that afternoon. It is not unreasonable to expect the teams printed to be those who actually take the field at the start of the match, although allowance will be made for those

to defend if you were aware that a player had been concussed, or taken to hospital with a suspected fractured fibula, or even, dare I admit it, sent off in that previous game, which in those days meant automatic suspension.

In the circumstances, one can understand why the editor would 'invent' a team based on logic and

## WHO'S KIDDING WHO?

BY DAVID REED

BBC RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE

players who were still nursing injuries from previous matches, or may have been forced to withdraw at a late stage. The problem of printers' deadlines and a Coach's reluctance to select his team too early in the week is an age-old problem at Clubs throughout the world.

When I served on the Committee at Stroud, one of my duties was to write the programme notes and get them to the printers, along with the teams, by Tuesday before the Saturday game. This was not too onerous a task, provided you could contact the visiting club for their information, and you had the co-operation of the Club Coach who would select his team on a Monday. The Stroud Coach at the time was Dave Spencer, who locals will remember as the ample-framed but mobile back row forward who in former times used to grace Kingsholm. Even if Dave could be found on a Monday evening, he refused to announce a team until after the training session on a Thursday.

It fell to the programme editor to decide whether to produce a sheet that listed the team as 'Not available at time of printing' - entirely truthful but not encouraging for future sales, - or to assume that the team would be unchanged from the previous match - probably the safest, but difficult

local knowledge, in the expectation that it would provide spectators with the "best estimate" of the team. Apart from the occasional accusation of nepotism, this seemed to work until the day the said Coach had a rush of blood and made wholesale changes, both individual and positional, to the 'programme' team. The author then incurred the wrath of supporters for printing a completely fictitious team, and from the players who thought they had been 'selected' at the start of the week, but then 'dropped' by the end of the week.

All this, in the days of full amateurism, was done in innocence and in good faith. How things have changed... as listeners to BBC Radio Gloucestershire last Saturday and readers of the weekend Press may have noticed. On the day before last Saturday's game against Wasps, the Zurich Rugby Press Centre issued the visitors' team that had been named by their Rugby Director, Warren Gatland. Missing from the expected starting line-up were a number of key players, including fly-half Alex King, scrum-half Rob Howley, winger Josh Lewsey, centre Fraser Waters and forwards Craig Dowd, Richard Birkett and Joe Worsley.

Justifying the changes was a quote from Gatland which said "Due to the dominance of Gloucester this



season and their impressive home record, as well as visits from Stade Francais and the Northampton Saints over the next few weeks, I feel the two home fixtures are important for the Club and therefore have rested key players for this weekend's game."

While acknowledging his explanation, did it really mean that Wasps had given up on a play-off

One can only assume it was to lull the opposition into a false sense of security. Who did it fool?

Certainly not the Cherry and Whites... look at the result; nor the programme editor... his "selected" Wasps team included all 22 who were eventually named, but it did bluff some of the media, and I must admit to being one of them. I had mentally prepared some questions on the Wasps "selection"

**B B C**



Rob Howley was just one of a number of players supposedly being rested.

place, let alone the chance of doing a double over the Premiership leaders? The news was reported in Saturday's daily newspapers and no doubt would have disappointed Wasps' supporters, and, if the game had not been a sell-out, might possibly have persuaded neutrals not to bother to come to Kingsholm. So, what was the purpose of this devilish plan?

for a live pre-match interview with Nigel Melville. Seconds beforehand I was handed the true team sheet, and a shift in emphasis was required.

"Were YOU fooled?" "No" says Nigel. "Why did he do it?" "Well," replies Gloucester's Rugby Director, "He is a Kiwi!"

**C'mon Glaws!**

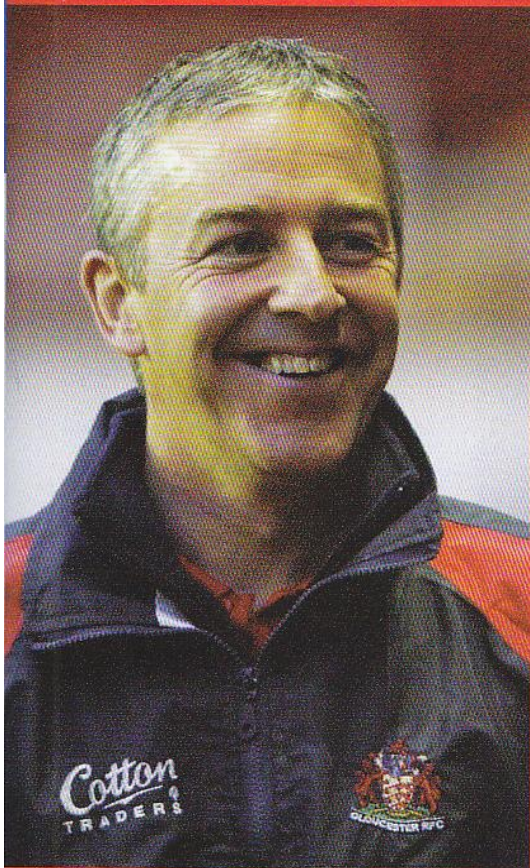
**RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

104.7 FM & 1413 AM

**B B C**

FIRST FOR COVERAGE OF THE CHERRY & WHITES





## DIRECTOR'S OF RUGBY CALL CEASE FIRE ON PHONEY WAR.

BY ALASTAIR DOWNEY

**Has the phoney war really gone that far? Are Gloucester that good any length is worth going to just to steal an advantage? Surely not.**

In the crazy world of rugby union, Wasps' antics before the meeting at Kingsholm last weekend would not have been out of place in a James Bond film - a poor one at that. As a ruse it was about as transparent as the England batting order. Warren Gatland, the Wasps director of rugby, attempted to fool Gloucester into thinking he would make any number of changes to his side to preserve his star names ahead of meetings with Stade Francais and Northampton in the coming weeks.

**“At Gloucester, Melville and Ryan name a squad consisting of either 22 or 24 players on Wednesday or Thursday. The starting XV for the game are informed of their selection on either Tuesday or Wednesday”.**

He cited the trip to Kingsholm as unwinnable and claimed to be planning to leave the cream of his squad out of the trip. When their team was announced on Friday, Gatland left out Josh Lewsey, Rob Howley, Joe Worsley, Alex King and Kenny Logan to name but five. It was meant to throw Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan off the scent - Gatland would have had more chance with a pair of bloodhounds - as he tried to convince that his second team would be lambs to the Kingsholm slaughter.

There is nothing wrong in the odd error just to keep the opposition guessing - we are not after total do-gooders here - but then Gatland was quoted on the Wasps website to back up his selection. Now we journalists are occasionally known to get things wrong (I know that will come as a shock to some people and the Citizen did not print his team), but what is the point?

At Gloucester, Melville and Ryan name a squad consisting of either 22 or 24 players on Wednesday or Thursday. The starting XV for the game are informed of their selection on either Tuesday or Wednesday. The Gloucester officials then inform the media of their selection - Melville is unlikely to name a team before their trip to Munster next week to keep the Irish guessing - but I am sure Alan Gaffney will have a damn good idea who will form the majority of the Gloucester side. On Monday, Melville and the 11 other directors of rugby were called to a meeting of Premier Rugby to discuss the situation of false team announcements.

They could face disciplinary action if they continue to deliberately mislead but how can they be successfully punished when any number of manufactured excuses can be trotted out? I would suggest Gatland's embarrassment in the post-match press conference last week was punishment enough. As he squirmed his way through a series of questions, it was clear he had made a mistake. This was a plan that badly backfired and I am sure he will not be trying it again - until he comes to Kingsholm again that is.





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Marcel Garvey	14
Terry Fanolua	13
Henry Paul	12
Tom Beim	11
Ludovic Mercier	10
(c) Andy Gomarsall	09
Rodrigo Roncero	01
Olivier Azam	02
Andy Deacon	03
Adam Eustace	04
Mark Cornwell	05
James Forrester	06
Andy Hazell	07
Junior Paramore	08
Clive Stuart-Smith	16
Robert Todd	17
James Simpson-Daniel	18
Chris Collins	19
Phil Vickery	20
Pete Buxton	21
Ed Pearce	22



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Casper Steyn	
Mattia Dolcetto	
Gordon Frasca	
Harley Crane	
Roberto Pedrazzi	
Ryan Pickering	
Paul Roux	
Mario Savi	
Ermes De Bellis	
Lee Lidgard	
Fabio Gumiero	
Cristian Bezzi	
Morris Avigni	
Aaron Persico	
Matthew Phillips	
Victor Jimenez	
Paolo Spina	
Giacomo Vigna	
Adrian Buhmann	
Stefano Aio	
Marco Rivaro	
Sandro Ceppolino	



**TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS** Referee: F Maciello FFR  
 1st T.J: G Borreani FFR  
 2nd T.J: J Matheu FFR



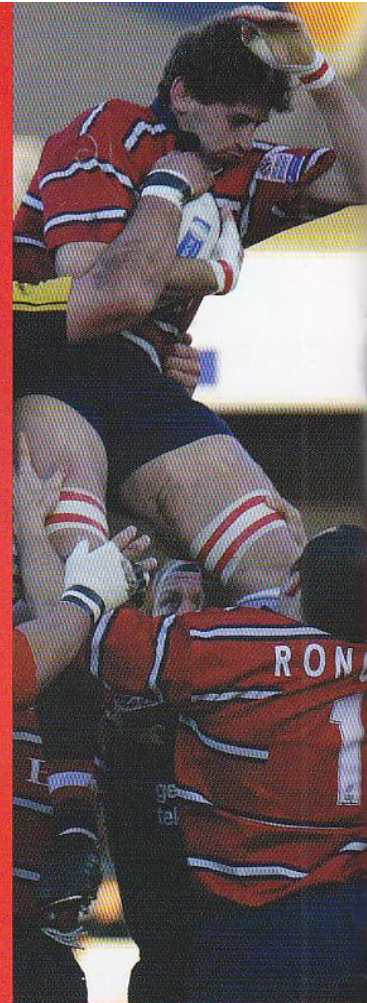
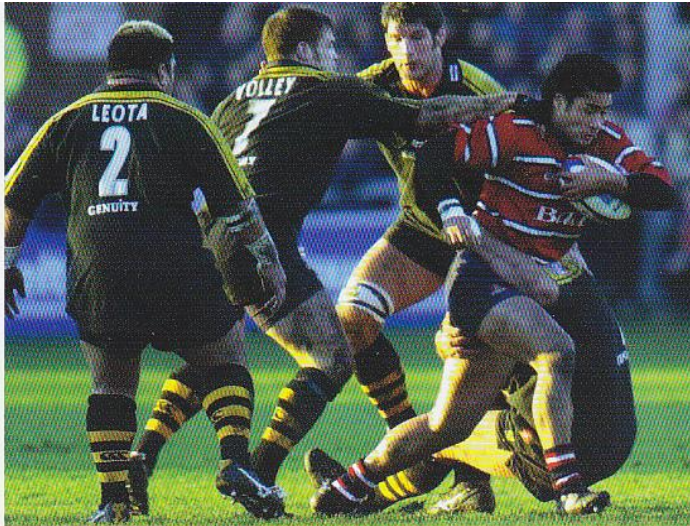
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KINGSHOLM SATURDAY 4 JANUARY 2003



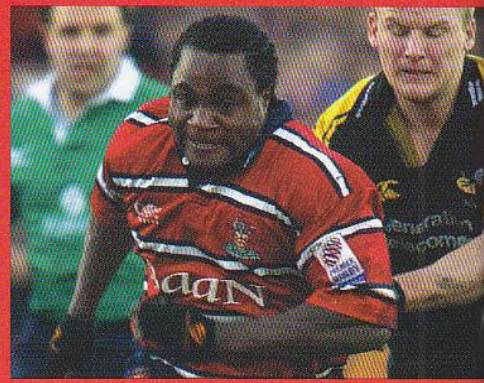
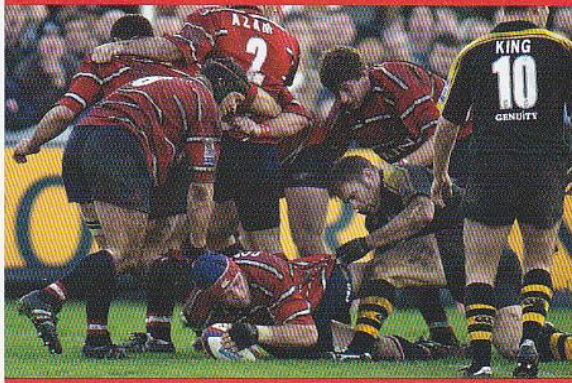
# GLOUCESTER 24

TRIES: CORNWELL (2), PAUL  
PENALTIES: PAUL (2), MERCIER



# LONDON WASPS 17

TRIES: WATERS  
PENALTIES: KING (4)



(Top Left) Terry Fanolua breaks out of a tackle from Wasps Paul Volley (7) and Craig Dowd.

(Top Right) Rob Fidler wins a line out.

(Middle Left) Mark Cornwell goes over for his first half try.

(Middle Right) Marcel Garvey is chased down the wing by Wasps Stuart Abbott.

(bottom Left) Try scorer Mark Cornwell is congratulated by Rob Fidler and Andy Gomarsal.

Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA



# Fans Eye View

With Bob Fenton

Being somewhat preoccupied in the run up to Christmas, I was one of many who didn't manage to get their hands on a ticket for the Northampton match on 28 December. Instead I had to make do with watching it on the box at home.

I can't believe that I am the only one who finds watching Gloucester in this way is far more stressful than being at the ground - it's terrible. For a start, you look like a total pillock sitting in front of the telly wearing your lucky everything, the shirt's okay you can get away with that, and no one sees the lucky pants and socks, but the hat as well. On balance I suppose I deserved the strange looks I was getting from the missus.

And you can't shout at the telly (well, actually you can) because you feel a little silly yelling your head off, frightening the children by shouting at an inanimate box in the corner of the room. Worst of all though, is you actually start defending the actions of the referee. This will, I assure you, happen. The other weekend I got a phone call from the Roman ladyboy - and I have to say that for a young (hah!) lady he uses some pretty industrial language - who was in the crowd at Frankenstein's Gardens moaning about Steve Lander. To my own disgust I said that I thought he (Lander) had got a decision (just the one, mind) right, I caught myself saying "You could see Rodrigo was holding onto the ball quite clearly, and probably deserved the yellow card..."

I sign up for intensive therapy tomorrow and should be back on track as far as the referee-associated comments go by the time you read this...

As good as the coverage is you miss so much. For example when Toddy hacked the ball up field during the closing moments of that game, you knew Tom Beim would be sprinting somewhere close behind it, but you can't see where he is or whether he has a chance of making it before the defender gets there. And you have to

put up with anodyne commentary from Miles Harrison and the pearls of wisdom from fat boy Barnes. Sooo frustrating!!

There are some plus points to watching a game at home though, for a start it only takes a couple of seconds to get to the bar and back - and it doesn't cost you around 25 quid every time you make the trip either. And you don't have to suffer the ignominy of the choruses of "Weak bladder, weak bladder!!!" when you go to the toilet.

Overall though, despite the home comforts you can't beat being there, so memo to self: look more closely at the fixture list and order tickets well in advance in future.

Changing tack a bit, over on the website we had a stream of messages about the greatest moments in Gloucester's recent history. Some of the contenders were pretty obvious - for example winning the Zurich Premiership play off final ranked pretty highly on most people's list. And Phil Greening's late, late try against Leicester - and Tofty's even later touch line conversion to win the game - on a wet Tuesday night in April some four years back holds a warm place in a lot of people's memories.

The appointment of our last three coaches - Messrs Hill, Saint Andre' and Melville rate highly - and Phillippe's GRSA-organised farewell party at the Montpellier Wine Bar in Cheltenham all got a good showing. In fact bars all over Europe seemed to figure highly on many people's lists of historical recollections. Strange that, as most of the people in said bars would do well to remember their own names, let alone that of the bar, when you consider the vast quantities of alcohol they have put away.

Two I particularly enjoyed were firstly Tim Stimpson bottling a simple conversion from right in front of the posts that would have won a match for West Hartlepool at Kingsholm a few years back. This was one of those games that could have changed history - another dour relegation battle and had that kick have gone over West





would have stayed up, Glaws would have gone down. Where would we be now???

Secondly, the match that should now always be remembered as "The Rob Andrew Match". No, not the first one where his shoddy allegations of racism cast a lingering shadow over much of last season, but the play-off match when we tore the Falcons apart. It wasn't the play that was particularly memorable, it was 11,000 people singing "Are you watching Rob Andrew" - even the grandstand and the hospitality boxes were rocking!

A priceless memory, and if there was ever a person who needed to have his face rubbed in it for a while it was him. No doubt he is already looking forward to April 4 when he brings his faltering falcons back to Castle Grim.

Without doubt, though, the top pick of most people was the little matter of a 68 - 12 score line on May 4 last year. Need I add anything more?

Anyway, that was then and this is now. Today we have a chance to answer one of the burning questions that has bugged Glaws supporters for some time - can the score board cope with a three-figure score? We nearly got

there against GRAN Parma last season, stuck on 99 points only some comic-book errors prevented the 100 mark being reached. Today, though, we will never have a better chance of really testing the equipment.

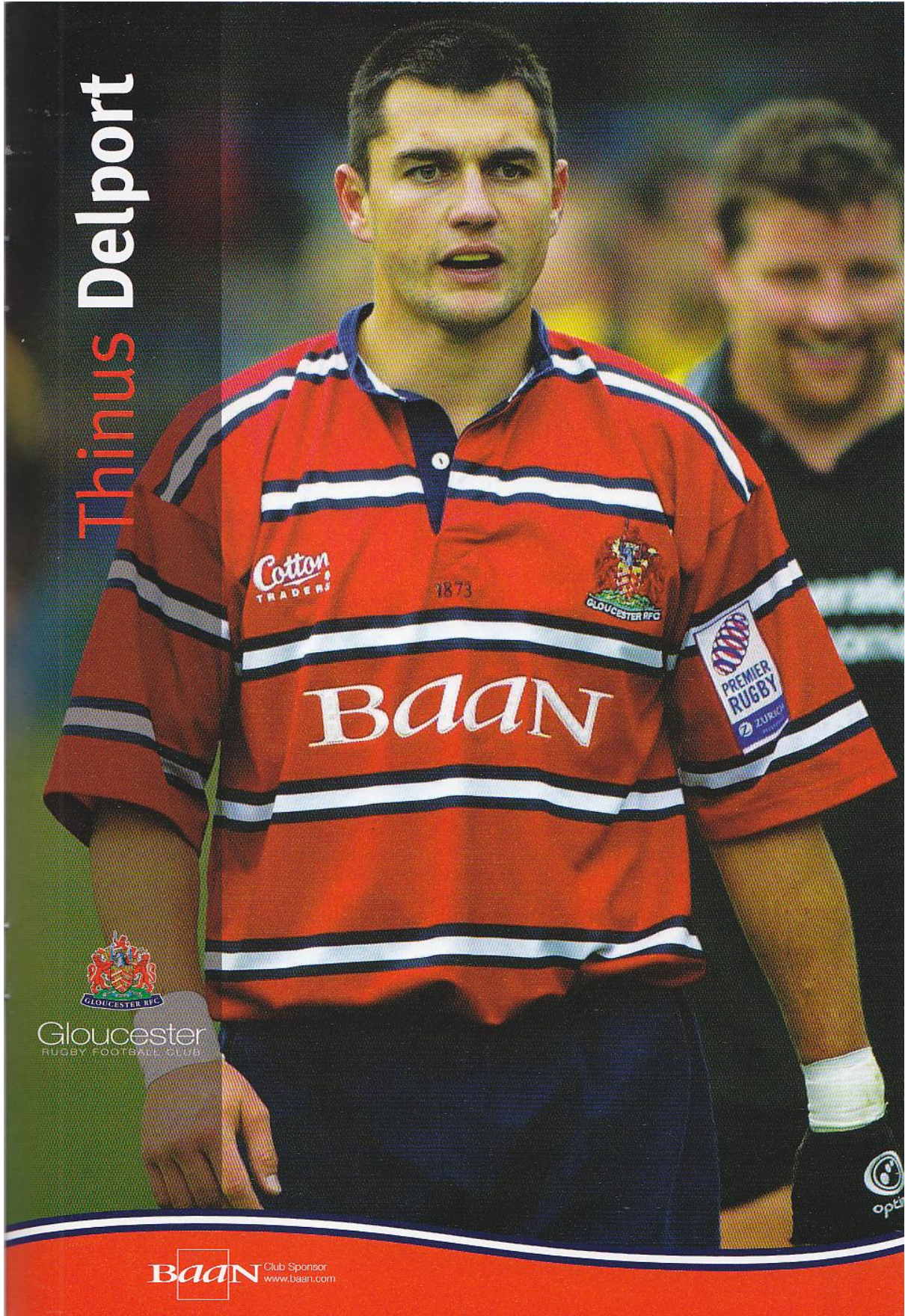
That's not meant to be disrespectful to Viadana, but we need to rattle in a few tries to secure the best possible position when it comes to the next round of the competition. With Munster next up a healthy scoreline today will boost confidence going into what promises to be our most testing match of the season so far.


Even though Munster seem to have restricted the number of tickets that made it across the Irish Sea, I hope the good people of Limerick are ready for the thousands of cherry and white-bedecked tribesmen (plus one Roman transvestite) who are about to land in their midst.

No doubt by the time we get back home there will be a few more bar names that can be safely added to the already impressive lists of European drinking haunts invaded by the travelling Gloucester boys. If anyone stays sober long enough to write the names of the places down, that is...



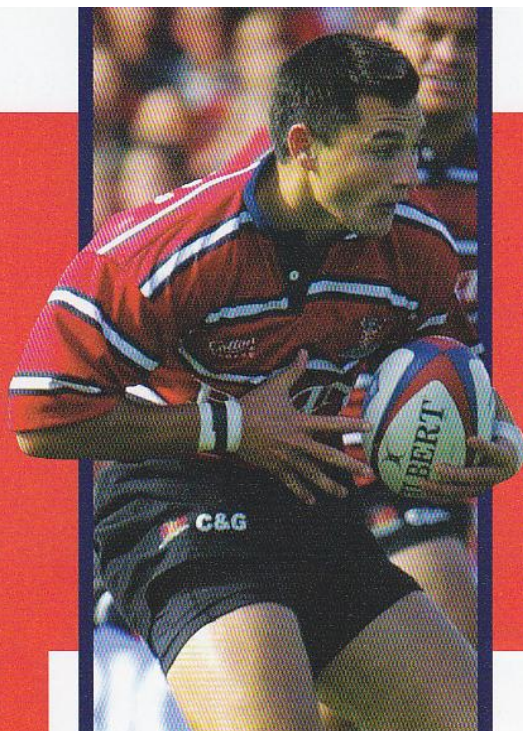
# Thinus Delpont



  
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## Springbok Earning His Wings.

**Grhardus Marthinus Delport, or Thinus for short, the twelve times capped Springbok was one of Nigel Melville's big summer signings and the big fullback-come-wing has made a big impression with the home fans.**

At the beginning of 2002, Delport found himself playing for the Natal Sharks second team as new coach Kevin Putt, who knew Delport was considering a move overseas, drafted in new players to prepare them for last season's Currie Cup competition.

Missing out on a place in the Natal Super 12 side obviously had an adverse affect on Delport's international prospects and so with an ever-decreasing window of opportunity, Delport cut his emotional ties to his home land and made his way to Europe, and Gloucester Rugby Club.

"Leaving South Africa was an emotional decision but I had reached a stage where I realised that my future in the Springboks side was far from certain and tied to that with the strength of the pound against the Rand it was an appealing prospect to come here"

"Rugby is now a business and like every businessman you have to make certain business decisions and I had reached the stage in my career where I had to choose whether to try for another season to play for the Springboks or to try to secure my future financially", explains a rather pragmatic Delport.

"Once Kevin Putt started to build for the Currie Cup my chances were limited and so my decision was made for me", he adds.

Once Delport had made the decision to leave South Africa he began talks with a number of European Clubs all of who keen to harness his power and pace in their back lines.

Gloucester were one of the Clubs on Delport's short list, the Cherry and Whites at the time enjoying a strong run of form. Delport made his decision to join the Kingsholm Club as he felt he could add his considerable powers to an already talented squad.

This decision was supported by Delport's Barbarian teammates with whom he was on tour with at the time of signing his contract. All felt that he would thrive in the unique Kingsholm environment.

"Gloucester were doing well and I wasn't going to be seen as a miracle worker. I feel some Clubs sign overseas players to take them from last to first place, and I think that is unfair. It puts unnecessary pressure on them. At Gloucester I was joining a side that already had exceptional players in the squad so I could just fit it".

"When they (the Barbarian squad) heard that I was coming to Gloucester they said 'you'll love it, you'll love 'The Shed', and that was all they could talk about. After that I knew that with the respect that Kingsholm and 'The Shed' had from other players, who played here it was a major thing for me".



**At Gloucester I was joining a side that already had exceptional players in the squad so I could just fit it”.**

Delport wasn't to be disappointed. He has already played in front of three sell out Kingsholm crowds, with the supporters so close to the field he has felt the intense passion of the Gloucester supporters and describes it as electric.

Before his debut in June 2000 against Canada, Delport had been on the international fringe for a few years. He was selected for the end-of season Springboks tour of Europe in 1997, but missed out the following year. In 1999 he was back to his best and scoring a staggering 20 tries in 22 matches for the Golden Lions under Laurie Mains. Before moving to the Sharks at the beginning of last season's Super 12 competition Thinus Delport had achieved more caps (38) for the Golden Cats (Super 12), than any other player. He had also represented the Golden Lions provisional side 63 times scoring 47 tries.

Since joining the Cherry and Whites, Delport has had to adjust to the Northern Hemisphere style of competition and play. He feels it is unfair to compare the Super 12 competition to the Zurich Premiership, one is played over twelve intense weeks, the other last fully ten months, preferring instead to draw parallels with the Heineken Cup and it's Southern Hemisphere counterpart.

"The Super 12 has the top provincial sides from the three nations playing against each other so that compares to the Heineken Cup. The difference though is that the Super 12 is so intense because it is played over 12-13 weeks, where the Heineken Cup is split over so many more weekends. It adds to the intense culture of the Super 12, where you are playing at test match standard each week. If you play against the Munster's and the Perpignan's each week then that is really going to push the guys".

"This week we are focused on the Heineken Cup and next week it will be the Powergen Cup and after that the Premiership, that can affect momentum. But then it can be a good thing playing in different competitions

as it keeps the boys on their toes", suggests Delport.

As a player used to the predominantly dry conditions in South Africa Delport has also noticed a difference in style of play between the Hemispheres, although he puts this down to climate variations.

"In the first part of the season when conditions were quite dry then we were playing the same style of play as in South Africa. Essentially you want to get your forwards going, and then get the backs on the front foot and get the ball wide. The difference comes when the weather affects the style of play. When conditions dictate how you play the game, you have to adapt".

Having ensconced himself in the Gloucester culture, Delport then found himself having to adapt again as Nigel Melville has predominantly selected him away from his favoured full back position on the wing.

Delport's describes his versatility to play in all back three positions as both a strength and a weakness. With conditions not favouring a wide-expansive game, he also admits to feeling frustrated as the shackles of the game plan prevent him wandering the pitch in search of work for fear of ruining a planned move.

A few years back a move to outside centre was discussed but with the standard of midfield play in the Premiership, Delport thinks he would need a host of United fixtures before he was able to wear the 13 jersey, plus a certain Samoan might have something to say about the move.

Delport joined the Club with the desire to win silverware, he feels the Premiership is a possibility as is the Heineken Cup, but he realises that the games over the next fortnight will be crucial to the Cherry and Whites progress in this season's competition.

"Being a player you always want to win silverware. We are eight points ahead in the Premiership after a great start and in the Heineken Cup Munster game away will be tough, but so is today's game. If we don't finish top in our Pool then points for and tries for will be crucial".

As the season progresses though Thinus Delport is sure to earn his wings. ■



# Peter Arnold

## WEASEL WORDS

It was nice to see that Warren Gatland, the Wasps coach, complimenting Gloucester after last week's hard-fought win, and commenting that he couldn't see anyone catching Gloucester at the top of the Premiership table until the play-offs next May.

Now I don't want to appear ungracious, but while praise is always welcome, one does have to consider the source from which it comes. This was, after all, the same Warren Gatland who issued a completely fictitious team sheet to the press, a couple of days before the match. The inference was that he was going to rest about half a dozen players, on the grounds that he didn't think his side could win at Kingsholm in any case, so he might as well give some other players a go. Then, on the day, he turned up with a full strength side.

It was a pretty inept - possibly even desperate - ploy anyway. If he thought that the odd little wheeze was going to influence Nigel Melville's team selection then he didn't know his man. And he was going to offend the Gentlemen of the Press in the process, which is never a good idea.

I don't want to sound unnecessarily

erudite, but hearing Warren's after-match praises, my mind flew back to my schoolday Latin classes 'Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes' - 'I fear Greeks bearing gifts'.

But perhaps Nigel Melville said it best on the radio before the game.

"Never trust a Kiwi !"

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ?

The Wasps coach wasn't the only one implying that Gloucester's Premiership challenge was all done and dusted over the weekend. Jeremy Guscott and Matt Dawson both made similar inferences on BBC 2 on Sunday afternoon. However, now that we have something of a breathing space from Premiership action, let's try and take a sober look at what we still have to face.

Our next appointment is an away match at Saracens on February 2nd, which is interesting, because we entertain the Fez Boys in the Powergen Cup just one week earlier. 'Sarries' are going well, giving Leicester a fright at Wellford Road last Saturday. And we don't have a good record on their ground. Not at all easy, that one.

"Never trust a Kiwi".







We then wait a month before welcoming Bath to Kingsholm. All the form guides say we should walk that one, but I'm always a bit wary about Bath visits. We've been disappointed too often in the past to be at all complacent.

Then, on March 16th we go away to Bristol. They're a better side than their league position indicates, and are becoming difficult to beat on their own turf, although Rotherham wouldn't agree. Anyway, as we all know very well, all bets are off when you're considering a Gloucester-Bristol match.

On April 4th we're down to face Newcastle at Kingsholm. That should be a banker, but then we get into the difficult bit. We have to go away to Sale two weeks later, and although we've one on our last few visits to Heywood Road, it's an intimidating venue, not unlike Kingsholm in its atmosphere. Furthermore, if things stay as they are, it's likely to be a top-of-the-table clash which could decide the whole Premiership season.

Then, after a visit from Harlequins, which can by no means be called a foregone conclusion on recent evidence, it's on the road again, to the other contenders for the title, the surprise packet of the season, Leeds. That's another potential stumbling block.

Finally, in what could be a stunning climax to the whole season, we end the campaign by welcoming Leicester on May 4th. What a Kingsholm occasion that might be! Better get your ticket order in very early for that one.

So it's 'all systems go' at the moment, but there are quite a few potential banana skins to be negotiated along the way. Finger nail chewing time, I suspect. But it certainly won't be boring.

## SCHIZOPHRENIA

Poor old Darren Molloy, the brick-wall prop on loan from Wasps for a few months, must have had a slightly peculiar New Year period. If press reports can be believed, over New Year's Eve and New Year's Day he probably felt as if he had become enmeshed in one of those 'alternate universe' plots which crop up in various sci-fi television series from time to time.

To put it succinctly, he knew that he was likely to get a run-out during last Saturday's Kingsholm match, but he didn't know which side he would be running out for. Cherry and white or black and gold? That was the question.

For anyone unaware of the situation, Darren is on loan to Gloucester, but under the terms of the agreement, Wasps can have him back as long as they give 48 hours notice. This is quite usual: Chris Catling goes to Worcester for a couple of months under exactly the same conditions.

The problem was that Wasps looked likely to have something of an injury crisis in their front row, and might have required the formidable Mr. Mulloy's services for the game against Gloucester. Fortunately, the crisis blew over, so the problem didn't arise, which was just as well because there might have been various practical implications. For example, Darren must have been privy to Gloucester's planning during the training period before the match. He would certainly have known the line-out calls. This could have given Warren Gatland's boys a distinct advantage.

It didn't happen, of course, so there was no problem, but Darren Molloy must have been feeling slightly schizophrenic for a while there.