

Gloucester RFC Official Matchday Programme

Issue 07 | Price £2.50



Gloucester

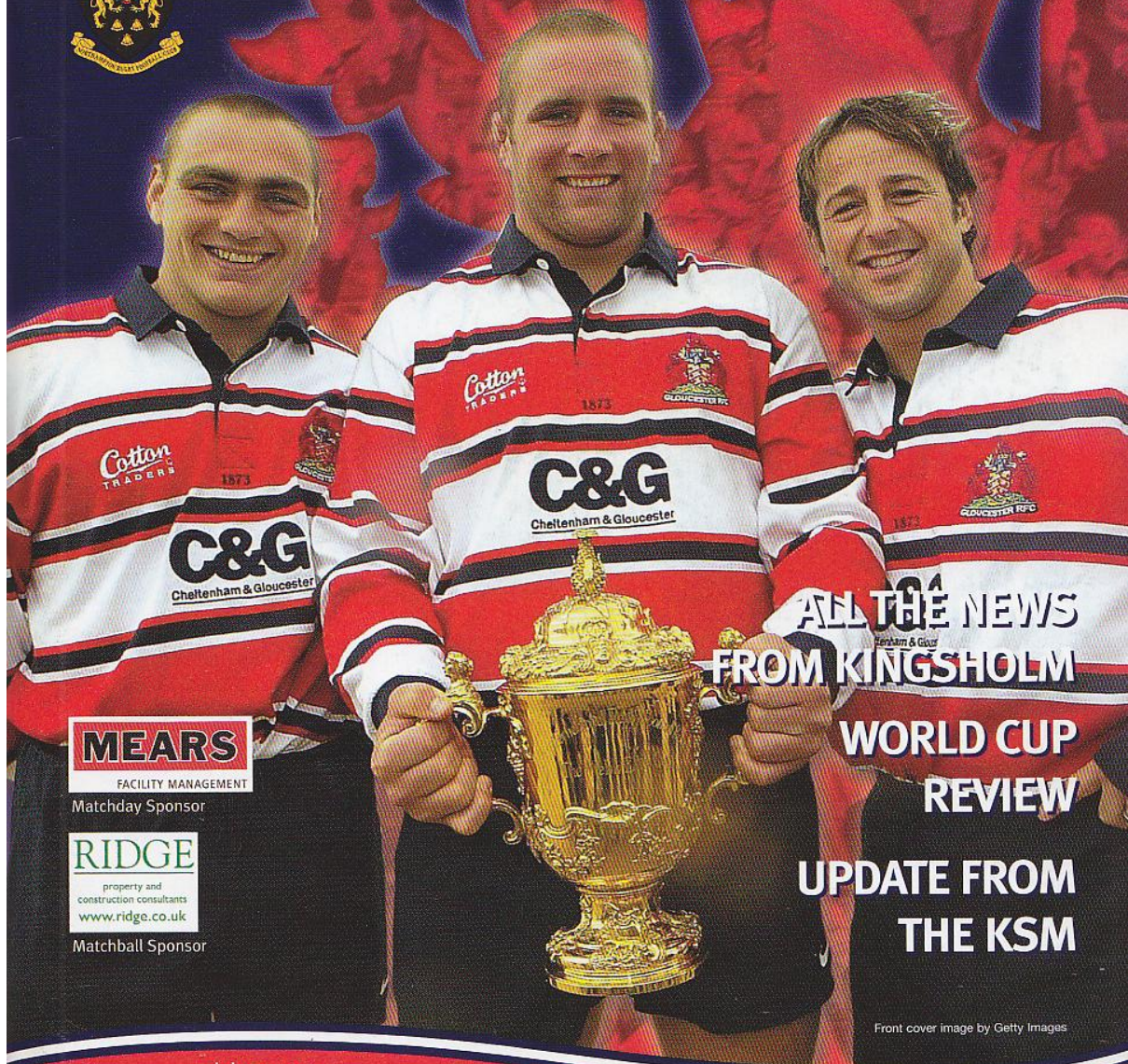
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v Northampton Saints

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2003

KICK-OFF 3.00PM



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FROM KINGSHOLM

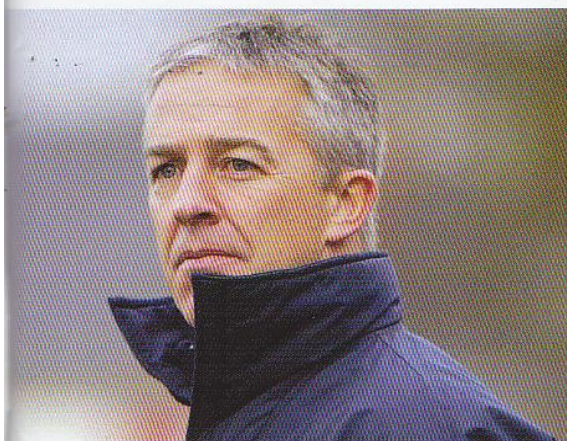
WORLD CUP
REVIEW

UPDATE FROM
THE KSM

Front cover image by Getty Images

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NIGEL'S NOTES...

Nigel Melville

Director of Rugby

"...the Zurich Premiership has become the most challenging Club competition in the world"

Good afternoon, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Keith Barwell, Wayne Smith and his Northampton Saints squad to Kingsholm for this afternoon's Zurich Premiership action.

It is only a matter of weeks since both sides met at Franklin's Gardens, a contest that will be remembered for events 'off the ball' rather than those 'on it'.

I am sure that everyone has learnt lessons from that contest, and today's game will demonstrate the positives of the Zurich Premiership and not the negatives.

Today's welcome back to Kingsholm extends to a small group of players who, this time last week were in Sydney playing in the Rugby World Cup Final 2003. This turned out to be one of the most significant days in the history of the English game.

The game was an epic, technically not the greatest, but as a contest it was enthralling. It gives me great pleasure to welcome back our World Cup heroes, Phil Vickery, Trevor Woodman, Andy Gomarsall (Gloucester) and Ben Cohen, Paul Grayson, Matt Dawson and Steve Thompson (Northampton).

We are also joined by another World Cup 'star' referee Tony Spreadbury who had a fantastic World Cup, you cannot believe how glad we are to see him at Kingsholm today!

Success in Australia was just what the game needed at this point in its development in England. During the past seven or eight years the Zurich Premiership club owners have invested heavily in our game. As a result the Clubs have been able to provide the coaching, physiological and medical support necessary to create

world class athletes.

As a result the Zurich Premiership has become the most challenging Club competition in the world. Clive Woodward's excellent work with the national squad has taken our international team to new levels and as a result England are now World Champions.

Would we be World Champions without the significant investment of the owners over the last eight years? I doubt it, and hope that Club owners such as Tom Walkinshaw and Keith Barwell are given the credit they deserve.

The challenge we all now face is to embrace the energy and goodwill that winning the World Cup has produced. We have an opportunity to promote and recruit our great game, to grow and to flourish, but it must not be taken for granted. The planning should now be underway for our defence of the World Cup in France 2007.

The return of our World Cup stars, the recovery from injury of Junior Paramore and the return from suspension of Andy Hazell has given everyone at Gloucester a huge boost this week.

Our form over the past few weeks has been poor and the squad stretched to its absolute limits. Throughout this period our fans have been absolutely fantastic, getting behind their team and being so positive about the younger players who have worn the Gloucester shirt for the first time.

This period has been frustrating at times, but I am sure that in the medium to long term the experience will have been worth it.

Have a great afternoon's rugby!



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Jake Boer

Club Captain

"We need to get back into the rhythm that we were in last season."

Well, what a week! I'm sure that everything has been said about the achievements of the England team and Vicks, Dougie and Gommers. But on behalf of the myself and the rest of the team I would like to offer a formal congratulations to them all.

I spoke to Phil after the game last weekend so heard it all then, but I know how keen all three have been to come home and they couldn't wait to get back.

They had a spectacular eight weeks, but they also knew how much we wanted them back and involved at Kingsholm.

I'm sure their lives will change, but as professional athletes they know what to expect and they'll prepare appropriately and realise that that is what comes with it.

What's great is knowing the input that Gloucester Rugby Club had in the achievement. The three players played well for the club and got recognised by the selectors, now after winning the World Cup, they're back in Gloucester fighting our cause.

The role this club has speaks volumes that even after winning such a massive accolade they're so keen to return.

It is every sportsman's dream to reach the top of their chosen sport, but not many actually achieve it in such terms as winning the World Cup. There have only been five tournaments, so there aren't many players out there with a World Cup winners medal. The memories will stay with them forever.

Moving on to today's game against Northampton. It is just another game, but I know that people have been talking about what happened earlier this month at

Franklin's gardens

Rugby is a contact sport and from time to time there may be an incident. But I know that players don't hold any grudges. Everything has been dealt with and it's something we want to keep out of the game, but unfortunately it does happen.

We do need to find our form and that is the frustrating thing. People talk about focusing on the opposition, but you need to look inwards first and foremost and then look at the opposition

I believe that you only need to panic if you're playing your best and you're losing. We're certainly not playing near our potential at the moment and we need to bring our game up to scratch

We've been losing by six or eight points, which translates as one or two mistakes in a game that the opposition are capitalising on.

We need to get back into the rhythm that we were in last season. We're by no means out of the hunt as we're reaching the half way mark in the Premiership. We need to settle down and get on with our job, hopefully starting today.



Gloucester

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Squad 2003/04



Position: Halfback
DoB: 25.04.79
Height: 1.69m
Weight: 75.6Kg
Previous Club: University
Int': England 7s
Honours: England 7s

Simon Amor



Position: Flanker
DoB: 01.11.75
Height: 187 cm
Weight: 105 kg
Previous Club: London Irish
Int': -
Honours: -

Jake Boer



Position: Hooker
DoB: 16.04.71
Height: 184 cm
Weight: 104.7 kg
Previous Club: Newcastle
Int': -
Honours: Scotland

Steve Brotherstone



Position: Lock
DoB: 17.05.79
Height: 200 cm
Weight: 110 kg
Previous Club: Shoguns
Int': -
Honours: England (A)

Alex Brown



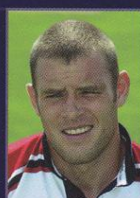
Position: Back Row
DoB: 21.08.78
Height: 192 cm
Weight: 112 kg
Previous Club: Newport
Int': -
Honours: England (A)

Peter Buxton



Position: Hooker
DoB: 20.05.78
Height: 180 cm
Weight: 100.2 kg
Previous Club: University
Int': England
Honours: Students

Chris Collins



Position: Lock
DoB: 22.03.73
Height: 201 cm
Weight: 114.7 kg
Previous Club: Old Richians
Int': -
Honours: England (A)

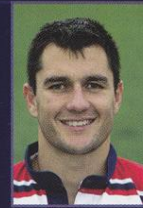
Mark Cornwell



Position: Fly Half
DoB: 13.02.83
Height: 177 cm
Weight: 89.1 kg
Previous GRFC
Club: Academy
Int' England U21
Honours: England U18

Brad Davies


Position: Prop
DoB: 31.07.65
Height: 187 cm
Weight: 108.3 kg
Previous Longlevens
Club:
Int' England (A)
Honours: Barbarians

Andy Deacon


Position: Fullback/Wing
DoB: 02.02.75
Height: 189 cm
Weight: 98.4 kg
Previous
Club: Sharks
Int'
Honours: South Africa

Thinus Delpont


Position: Hooker
DoB: 09.11.83
Height: 183 cm
Weight: 99.9 kg
Previous Sedgley
Club: Park
Int'
Honours: England U18

Rob Elloway


Position: Lock
DoB: 09.01.79
Height: 195 cm
Weight: 104.7 kg
Previous Widdien Old
Club: Boys
Int' England (A)
Honours: U21 U19

Adam Eustace


Position: Centre
DoB: 03.07.74
Height: 183 cm
Weight: 93.7 kg
Previous Auckland
Club: Otahuhu
Int'
Honours: Manu Samoa

Terry Fanolua


Position: No. 8
DoB: 09.02.81
Height: 195 cm
Weight: 99.1 kg
Previous
Club: Bicester
England (A)
Int' U21 7's
Honours: v Barbarians

James Forrester


Position: Hooker
DoB: 25.08.75
Height: 183 cm
Weight: 106.4 kg
Previous Gordan
Club: League
Int'
Honours: England (A)

Chris Fortey


Position: Wing
DoB: 02.09.83
Height: 183 cm
Weight: 91.9 kg
Previous GRFC
Club: Academy
Int' England U18
Honours: Students

Mark Foster


Position: Wing/
Scrum Half
DoB: 23.02.80
Height: 183 cm
Weight: 93.5 kg
Previous GRFC
Club: Academy
Int' England
Honours: Students

Andy Frost


Position: Full Back
DoB: 03.10.83
Height: 177 cm
Weight: 83 kg
Previous GRFC
Club: Academy
Int'
Honours: England U21

Andy Frost

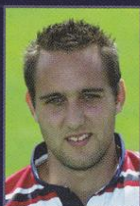

Position: Wing
DoB: 21.04.83
Height: 173 cm
Weight: 85.6 kg
Previous -
Club:
Int' England
Honours: U21, U19,
Schools

Marcel Garvey



Position: Scrum Half
DoB: 24.07.74
Height: 177 cm
Weight: 90.5 kg
Previous Club: Bedford
Int' Honours: England

Andy Gomarsall



Position: Fly Half/
Full Back
DoB: 26.02.81
Height: 186 cm
Weight: 86 kg
Previous GRFC Club: Acedemy
Int' Honours: England U21

Jon Goodridge



Position: Prop
DoB: 18.09.83
Height: 181 cm
Weight: 125.2 kg
Previous GRFC Club: Acedemy
Int' Honours: England U19, Schools

Mike Guess



Position: Flanker
DoB: 25.04.78
Height: 183 cm
Weight: 93.1 kg
Previous Gloucester Club: Old Boys
Int' Honours: England (A)

Andy Hazell



Position: Prop/Hooker
DoB: 16.10.70
Height: 181 cm
Weight: 108.9 kg
Previous Bristol Club: Shoguns
Int' Honours: Zimbabwe

Paul Johnstone



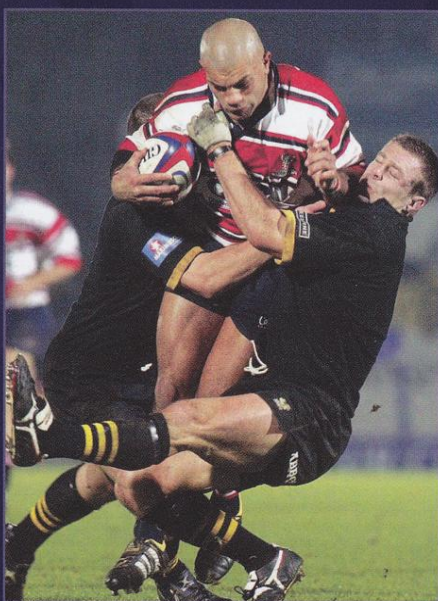
Position: Back Row
DoB: 14.01.85
Height: 184 cm
Weight: 90 kg
Previous GRFC Club: Academy
Int' Honours: England U19

Will Matthews



Robert Todd

Robert Todd has been in powerful form this season, making a number of yards and big breaks from midfield. His partnership with Henry Paul forms a solid platform for the CHerry and Whites. Highlights so far include his two interception tries.



Position: Fly Half
DoB: 27.09.74
Height: 172 cm
Weight: 80.7 kg
Previous NSW Club: Waratahs
Int' Honours: -

Duncan McRae



Position: Back Row
DoB: 17.01.84
Height: 183 cm
Weight: 92.1 kg
Previous Club:
Int' Honours: Welsh U21

James Merriman



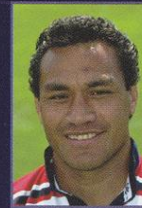
Position: Open-side
Flanker
DoB: 07.09.83
Height: 190 cm
Weight: 98 kg
Previous: GRFC
Club: Academy
Int': England
Honours: England U18

Luke Narrowway



Position: Scrum Half
DoB: 29.05.81
Height: 178cm
Weight: 80.6 kg
Previous: Wasps
Club:
Int': England
Honours: U21, U19

Alex Page



Position: Back Row
DoB: 18.11.68
Height: 187 cm
Weight: 110.3 kg
Previous: Bedford
Club:
Int':
Honours: Manu Samoa

Junior Paramore



Position: Inside
Centre
DoB: 10.02.74
Height: 180 cm
Weight: 93.4 kg
Previous: Bradford
Club: Bulls
Int': England (A),
Honours: 7's

Henry Paul



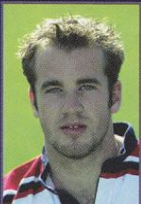
Position: Lock
DoB: 04.03.82
Height: 194 cm
Weight: 106 kg
Previous: GRFC
Club: Academy
Int':
Honours: -

Mark Rimmer



Position: Prop
DoB: 16.02.77
Height: 178 cm
Weight: 113 kg
Previous: Buenos
Club: Aines
Int':
Honours: Argentina

Rodrigo Roncero



Position: Wing/Centre
DoB: 30.05.82
Height: 182 cm
Weight: 79 kg
Previous: GRFC
Club: Academy
Int': England 7's,
Honours: U21, U19

James Simpson-Daniel



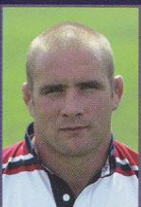
Position: Full Back
DoB: 12.02.85
Height: 182 cm
Weight: 81.7 kg
Previous: GRFC
Club: Academy
Int':
Honours: England U19

Rory Teague



Position: Centre
DoB: 19.04.71
Height: 180 cm
Weight: 102 kg
Previous: London Irish
Club:
Int':
Honours: -

Robert Todd



Position: Prop
DoB: 14.03.76
Height: 191 cm
Weight: 116 kg
Previous: Bude,
Club: Redruth
Int': England
Honours: British Lions
(3 caps)

Phil Vickery



Position: Prop
DoB: 09.01.83
Height: 186 cm
Weight: 108 kg
Previous: GRFC
Club: Academy
and Oxford
University
Int':
Honours: -

Nick Wood



Position: Prop
DoB: 04.08.76
Height: 183 cm
Weight: 113kg
Previous: Bath
Club:
Int':
Honours: England

Trevor Woodman

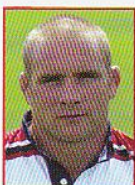
Gloucester At The World Cup

Six players from Gloucester Rugby Club were involved in this year's World Cup. The official matchday programme rounds up their involvement.



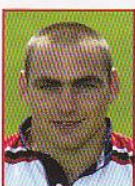
Andy Gomarsall (England)

After playing so well last year and impressing in the World Cup warm-up fixtures Gloucester's number nine was a proud member of the 30-man squad. Despite superb efforts and performances in his limited chances Gomarsall was unable to edge his way into the final 22 during the knock-out stages. Lets hope that Gloucester can benefit now he's back. Welcome home Gommers.



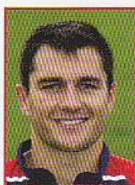
Phil Vickery (England)

He scored his first try for the national side against Samoa and what a try it was. He jinked one way and then the other and the smile on his face afterwards said it all. Was a regular in the front row alongside his Cornish prop partner Trevor Woodman. Vickery really showed the world he is one of the best props around. Welcome back Vicks.



Trevor Woodman (England)

Injury in the last limited Trevor's total number of international caps coming into the World Cup, but his performances in the key games put him up there as one of the best in the world. His scrummaging and play in the loose was exactly what Clive Woodward asked for. Welcome back Dougie.



Thinus Delpoit (South Africa)

A regular in the Springboks line-up throughout the tournament Thinus returned home after the quarter-final defeat. He came up against his Gloucester team mates when they played Samoa and England, and finally all of them are home and on the same side again. Injury to his ankle saw Thinus miss out on Premiership action last weekend. Welcome back Thinus.



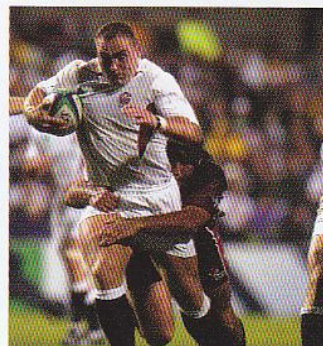
Terry Fanolua (Samoa)

Terry was part of the Samoan team that was held with such high regard after the monumentous performance against the English. Terry broke his thumb in that game and missed the final matches, but his midfield partnership with Brian Lima was a key part of their challenge. Terry has been back for a few weeks now, but is looking to return to match action in December. Welcome back Terry.



Rodrigo Roncero (Argentina)

A member of the Argentina squad that narrowly failed to qualify for the knock-out stages. Rodrigo has been back a few weeks and was quick to say how much he enjoyed the entire World Cup experience and that he wanted to repeat it in four years time. Welcome back Rodrigo.



City Supports Cherry and Whites World Cup Stars

The city of Gloucester and surrounding region have put their full support behind the rugby club and its World Cup heroes this week after last Saturday's win over Australia.

The Cherry and Whites had three of their players, Trevor Woodman, Phil Vickery and Andy Gomarsall, involved in the victorious squad, and support has been immense.

The Club's passionate supporters will be some of the first to welcome the three heroes back at Kingsholm today when the Cherry and Whites play Northampton Saints in the Zurich Premiership.

Key individuals from the city and surrounding area have joined the Club's loyal supporters in their messages of congratulations.

The main honour being Gloucester City Council honouring the three stars with the Freedom of the City.

The Freedom of the City is an honorary title that is given to people that have made a major contribution to the city or the community.

A formal announcement was set to be made on Thursday of this week by the City's Mayor, Councillor Phil McLellan.

McLellan said: "I have written to all three players to congratulate them on their achievement on behalf of the City.

"They have certainly made a major contribution not only to the city, but to their country. We started talking about how the City Council could reward them over the weekend.

"We looked at a number of options but finally decided that only our highest award would be good enough. I am sure that everyone will agree that what these players

have achieved reflects both them and the City in the highest possible manner."

Parmjit Dhanda, the Member of Parliament for Gloucester, said: "I'm thrilled to bits and proud that the Cherry and Whites played such a key role in the success of the red and whites becoming world champions.

"Everyone from Gloucester's Member of Parliament through to all of our constituents are thrilled to bits and proud of the three Gloucester players who'll be coming home this week."

Ian Mean, editor of Gloucester's daily newspaper, The Citizen, said: "The Gloucester players have brought great honour to the City of Gloucester and created an atmosphere like the football victory in 1966."

The Citizen newspaper was one of the first to press for the three players to be awarded the freedom of the city and awarded them with special trophies this week.

One lucky reader of the Citizen newspaper was able to win the chance to present the trophies to the players yesterday.

Gloucester Rugby Club's official main sponsor Cheltenham & Gloucester were quick to offer their congratulations as well. C&G's sales director Nick Hale said: "As Gloucester RFC's main sponsor this season, we were thrilled with England's win and delighted for the three Gloucester players who made the trip to Australia as members of the England squad.

"To have them return as World Champions is thrilling beyond belief! We all know that

Gloucester has long been a home of top rugby talent, and Messrs Vickery, Woodman and Gomarsall have proved it, showing themselves to be among the very best in the world. Congratulations to all three and to the whole England camp.

Bob Rumble is a long time supporter of the Club and chairman of the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual, the supporters trust behind the fundraising activity for the new stadium development.

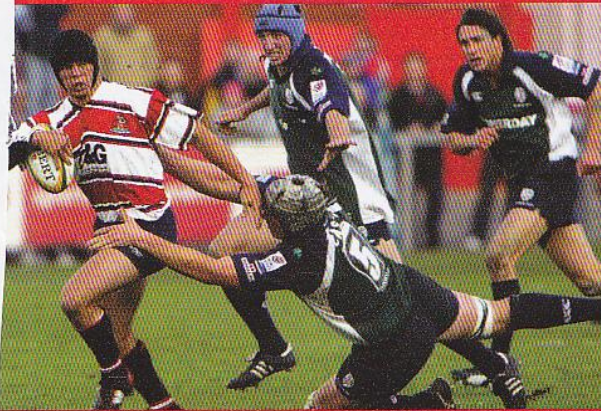
He said: "The weekend's result is great news for everyone. The World Cup triumph is fantastic for both the growth of the game across the country and of course in Gloucester, especially with the developments of Kingsholm and the Supporters Mutual. We can't wait for Phil, Trevor and Andy to come back and congratulate them and update them on the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual."

There has been additional support from the region's other sporting organisations. Gloucestershire County Cricket Club's chief executive Tom Richardson said: "It is terrific to see England win the World Cup and absolutely brilliant that three Gloucester players were involved.

"It is great news for Gloucester and great news for sport in the country and the South West. I believe it is the start of a much bigger role for rugby now that they are World Cup winners."

Ken Nottage, managing director of Gloucester Rugby Club, added: "The World Cup win is fantastic news and incredibly important to the game of rugby. The support from everyone since Saturday's result has been overwhelming and we hope to build on this.

"Everyone at Gloucester Rugby Club is extremely proud that three of our own players were involved in the World Cup squad. The victory will be great for the game in general and our region especially. We're planning for the future in terms of Project Kingsholm and the stadium redevelopment, and with the game growing the players' efforts at the weekend can only add more support behind our efforts."



Sixth Round

KINGSHOLM SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2003



GLOUCESTER 29

TRIES: AMOR, PAUL CONVERSIONS: PAUL (5)

PENALTIES: PAUL (2)

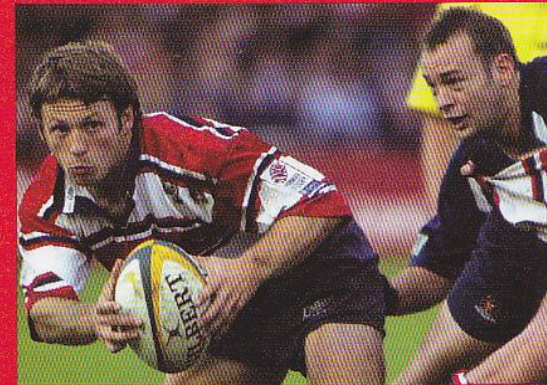
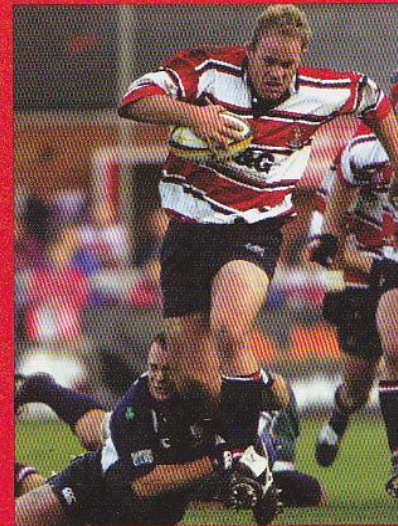


LONDON IRISH 35

TRIES: SACKEY (2), APPLEFORD, BISHOP

CONVERSIONS: EVERITT (3) PENALTIES: EVERITT (2)

DROP GOALS: EVERITT

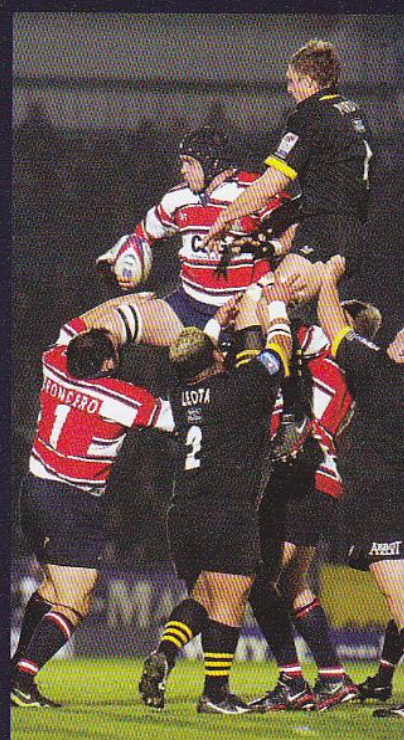


top left: Henry Paul breaks out of a tackle from London Irish Bob Casey. top right: Jake Boer looks for a way through.

middle: Peter Buxton breaks out of a tackle from London Irish Darren Edwards. bottom left: Peter Buxton is stopped by London Irish Pierre Durant.

bottom right: Simon Amor

Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA Images



CAUSEWAY STADIUM FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2003



LONDON WASPS 20

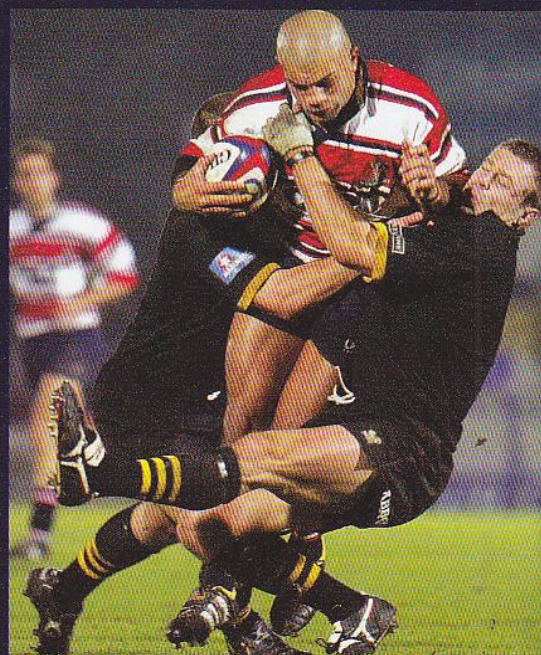
TRIES: **WATERS** PENALTIES: **VAN GISBERGEN (4)**

DROP GOALS: **KING**



GLOUCESTER 12

PENALTIES: **PAUL (4)**



top left: James Forrester tackles Wasps John Rudd. top right: Mark Cornwell wins a line out.

bottom left: Rob Howley passes as Jake Boer tackles. bottom right: Robert Todd is tackled by Wasps Fraser Waters (left) and Paul Volley.

Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA Images

World Cup Player Profile

Phil Vickery

The official Gloucester matchday programme caught up with Phil Vickery on his return to Kingsholm just in time for the print deadline this week.

Vickery looked well despite his long journey from the other side of the world and was keeping a strong grip on his World Cup winners medal as he sat down to talk through his Aussie adventure.

First up was to ask the proud player how he'd found the reception at Heathrow airport as the plane landed on Tuesday morning. Every radio station, television network and newspaper were there and it must have been a very special moment.

"It was a magical moment. Even when we touched down at Singapore airport there were people cheering us on. I've also never seen so many police. We couldn't walk out all at once, we had to go out in small groups," said Vickery.

But Vickery also had some special words for the fans who followed the England expedition from the clash against Georgia through to those magical moments as Johnny Wilkinson slotted the final minute drop goal.

"The support from the moment we were in Perth, through to Melbourne and the final, was immense."

When asked about the atmosphere out in Australia, the powerhouse prop actually admitted to enjoying watching rugby.

"I never used to like watching games. But I really started to enjoy the matches. The spirit of the whole occasion caught everyone's attention. The entire country got so involved with the tournament and embraced the game," said Vickery.

"It was great and also we knew other players involved. Although they were in the same group as us, we kept an eye on Thinus for the Springboks and Terry for Samoa. In addition there was Dave Ellis involved with France as well as Dimitri Yachvili who played here at Kingsholm."

The England front-row man shared a row of seats with Trevor Woodman and Julian White on the plane back to England, which made for plenty of space even in their luxury seats!

After the long journey the pictures of them arriving at Heathrow were everywhere this week, but Vickery had a quick laugh when he said: "It's quite funny really as when we left London at the beginning of October it was raining, and when we left Australia it was just coming to the end of their spring and was raining."

"I'm delighted to be back," said Vickery. "It's just great to be here. I love it at Gloucester. The rugby club and the city have been so good to me and I can't wait to be back in the Cherry and White jersey again."



"It's just great to be back. I love it here at Gloucester. The rugby club and the city have been so good to me and I can't wait to be back in the Cherry and White jersey again."



Peter Arnold

The official matchday programme's Peter Arnold looks at the euphoria of last weekend.

WELCOME HOME!

After all the euphoria and the hype about England's World Cup, it would be superfluous for me to add very much apart from admitting that to achieve the feat against Australia, on their own patch, was particularly satisfying. So was the manner in which it was done.

If a scriptwriter had written that scenario for a feature film you would have been hard put to suspend your disbelief. As I remarked at the time, it was like something out of *Roy of the Rovers*. We have seen the Wallabies use their resilience, strength and fitness to come from behind and win at the death on so many occasions that it would have been just too hard to have had to



endure it again.

The whole thing was very trying on the old coronary arteries, and I have to admit that even my calloused old tear ducts were twitching at the sight of Vicks and Dougie taking their turns at holding the Cup high.

Which brings me to my major point. We have never had as fine a reason to welcome a trio of players back here to their spiritual home as we have today. No other Gloucester players have ever returned as World Cup winners. All three of them did their part and more than that.

Phil Vickery was simply immense. A rock in the scrum, he also looked like trouble every time he found himself with ball in hand. So did Trevor Woodman, who surely came of age in that inferno of a Final.

Admittedly, they gave away one or two penalties, but that can be forgiven in the sheer intensity of the occasion. If nothing else, it underlined their commitment to the cause. And wasn't it great to see those two familiar faces on either side of the front row as the set scrums braced themselves for contact. You simply knew that they weren't going to let anyone down.

And what of Andy Gomarsall? You could say that he had the most difficult World Cup of all of them. He did everything that was asked of him and considerably more on the occasions he was allowed to play,

and the sheer dignity of his response in not making the final squad was quite admirable. Every time I saw him on screen during the final two stages, when he knew that, barring injury, his World Cup was over, he had that familiar chirpy grin on his face. A great squad man if ever there were one.

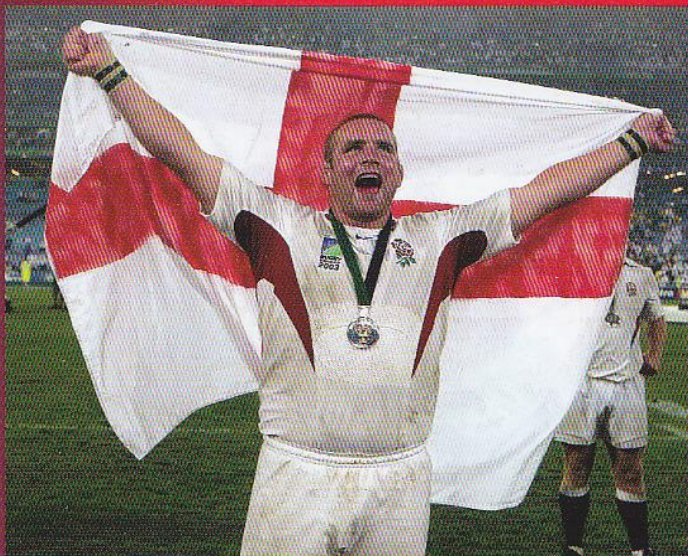
All three of them deserve our respect and admiration. Welcome home, chaps. We are more proud of you than we can adequately express.

HERE'S TO YOU MR ROBINSON

Praise for Gloucester forwards is always welcome, of course, but when it comes from a former captain of Bath it becomes slightly mind-boggling.

If ever there were a man we loved to hate, it was Andy Robinson of Bath. In his playing years we readily acknowledged his strengths as a bustling flank forward, and also agreed that any back row man worthy of his salt is inclined to live as close to the edge as he can, and get away with everything on offer.

However, even against that background, we used to reckon that Mr. Robinson did push the envelope a bit. Many people will remember the occasion when Clive Norling, regarded as the best ref. in the world at the time, slapped him down with the trenchant remark, "Any more tricks like that and you'll be off, British Lion or



no British Lion!" delivered in a Welsh accent you could have cut with a slice of lava bread. And that was another thing. We never liked the way he seemed to be constantly whingeing at the referee.

All that is in the past, however. No one can deny that he has done a superlative job as forwards coach to the England squad over the past few years, producing a front eight which constitutes the best England pack I have ever seen. If ever there were a case of poacher turned gamekeeper, this is it. No one would deny that he knows as much as anyone in the world about the dark arts of forward play, and he has proved that time and again.

When, therefore, he gives unstinting praise to the two Gloucester props who anchored England's challenge at the World Cup, you have to take it seriously.

According to the Citizen's Alastair Downey, during his lordly progress through the Land of Wallabies and Whingers, he had this to say:

Of Phil Vickery: 'Vics just keeps getting better and better, and the more games he plays, the better he gets.'

Of Trevor Woodman: 'His attitude in the

tight has been phenomenal. We all know what he can do in the loose with his running game, but the way he focused on the tight was a major plus for us.'

Of the pair of them in the French Semi Final: 'There is no doubt that the front row performance laid the platform for victory, and without it we would have lost, of that there is no doubt.'

You can't get more complimentary than that, coming as it does from a guy who doesn't lavish fulsome plaudits at any time.

Here's to you Mr. Robinson! As someone wrote, 'The past is another country. They do things differently there' Come back to Kingsholm. All is forgiven.

TIS THE SEASON - WELL, ALMOST

You won't need telling that Christmas is nudging ominously closer. Nor will you need reminding that you will be expected to provide prezzies for assorted friends and relatives, and that means you might have to forego the odd rugby match in order to acquire such largesse.

One way to minimise that unfortunate



eventuality is to visit the Club Shop, which has a veritable Santa's Grotto of very acceptable gifts for like-minded people.

That being so, I should tell you about an experience I came across recently. One lifelong supporter decided to buy some gear from the shop via the club's website. This he did, without too much difficulty, actually placing his order at around 11.00am the other Friday morning.

To his pleasure and surprise his goods arrived, in good order, by first class post on the Saturday morning - less than 24 hours after his order went through.

You can't complain about that, bearing in mind that many mail order transactions ask you to allow 24 hours for delivery.

Of course, that doesn't mean that the process will be quite as fast when the Christmas rush gets going, but it's pretty good service, isn't it?

BY AIR VICE MARSHAL TONY MASON



This week's BBC Radio Gloucestershire article is brought to you by Air Vice Marshal Tony Mason. His involvement with the radio station goes back a couple of years. Air Vice Marshal Tony Mason is advisor to the House of Commons defence committee, but also a keen rugby man.

"And now, back to the Studio...."

About 10 years ago BBC Radio Gloucestershire invited me to become a rugby commentator. Many happy years with the RAF and Combined Services, a stint as

On arriving at the ground, I asked where I could get a match programme. "There isn't one. Get a copy of the team sheets from the players." I had to interrupt each team in the changing rooms to copy their lists. I was not popular.

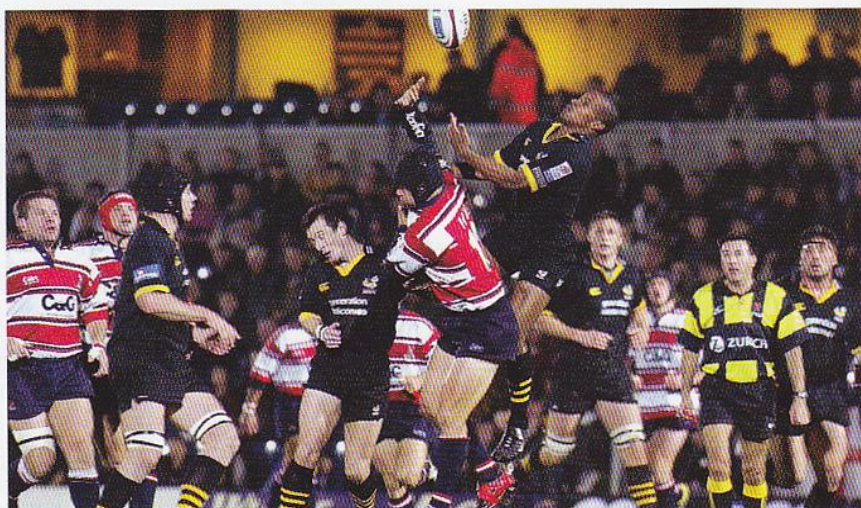
"The ground was very muddy. The team colours were similar. After ten minutes the un-numbered players were indistinguishable."

On the touchline I was joined by three youngsters. "Is that a microphone? Gizza shot." I thoughtlessly said "No", instantly making implacable enemies who were determined to join in any broadcast I tried to make.

The game kicked off in the rain. The ground was very muddy. The team colours were similar. After ten minutes the un-numbered players were indistinguishable. I had not thought to bring a waterproof cover for my notebook. 30 names gradually dissolved into a pale blue soggy mess.

an "old fart" at RFU HQ and 10 years support of the Cherry and Whites were thought to give me the necessary credentials. "Brilliant" I thought. "Kingsholm?" Not quite. I was asked to cover a local first round County Cup match.

Just as I got the first live call for a report, the unfancied 'Blues' surged over the 'Blacks' goal line and the ref blew his whistle. I slipped instantly into Starmer-Smith mode. "You have just joined us as the 'Blues' have scored the first try. Are we about to see a major upset in this hard fought Cup match?"



'No we're bloody not' came the juvenile chorus. "Sorry Tony, we didn't catch that last bit, but no problem, we will come back to you at half time". I hurled abuse at the kids, and then looked back at the game. My heart sank. The ref had blown for a penalty to 'Blacks', not a try to Blues. "You know naff all," chortled the kids.

By half time 'Blacks' were leading by many points to nil. I had no idea who had scored them. In came the studio again. "Well Tony how is the game going now?" "Er, Blacks are leading 35-nil", I responded. There was a long pause. "Sorry Tony, say again?" "The score does not reflect the run of play" I mumbled. "It bloody does", shouted the chorus. "We seem to have lost our reporter for the moment", said the presenter, and the line went dead.

In the second half Blacks scored many more tries. I slipped into the clubhouse loo, losing my touchline associates, and reported the final score. "Thank you", was the rather strained response, "stay there until we come back to you for interviews with the captains".

We had to wait a long time. Blacks had won, but Blues had also enjoyed the game and there were lots of old mates on both sides. Ale flowed freely. The noise level in the clubhouse kept on rising. Finally, I got the cue from the studio. I 'interviewed' both captains simultaneously, with players from both teams joining in. Fortunately, it was far too noisy for any comments to be intelligible. Once again Radio Gloucestershire had 'reception problems from Tony Mason at Blacks clubhouse,' and returned listeners to the studio.

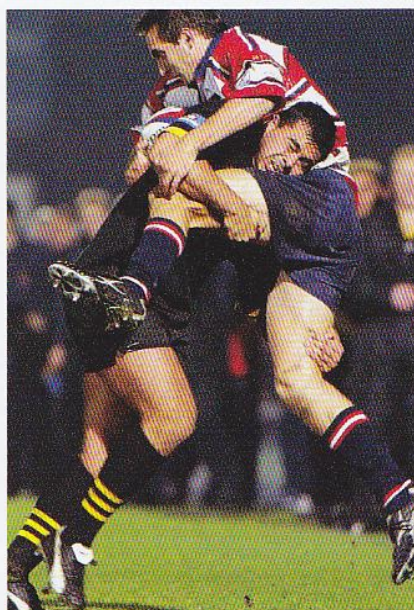
I resisted warm invitations to stay on for supper and a cheerful evening and drove back to base. I went up into the newsroom and dropped my broadcasting kit onto the sports desk. I don't recall exactly what was said, but the suggestion was made that I was unlikely ever to find myself in the prime press seats at Kingsholm.

Being invited to contribute to this match programme is therefore an unexpected and enormous privilege.

Now where's the microphone.....

AVM Tony Mason

...**"The score does not reflect the run of play" I mumbled. "It bloody does", shouted the chorus.**"



'Join us for commentary of every game'

BBC Radio Gloucestershire (104.7 FM & 1413 AM)

on the official club website, www.gloucesterclub.com.

and on the BBC website, www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire



Fans Zone

with
Bob Fenton

So where were you when it happened then? The moment deep into injury time when Johnny Wilkinson hit that drop goal to win the World Cup... What a moment, what an achievement.

I know where I was, I was lucky enough to be at Woodlawn Country Club at the Raging Bull bash, already somewhat the worse for drink by the time that ball sailed over the posts. I was sat behind

**"Not winding up Duncan McRae, are you?"
I asked Pasty, to be told "Yes, and
Rudi Meir, he's an Aussie, so he can
have some too!"**

the Gloucester team members who were there to watch the action and it was good to see Thinus, Jake and Junior all getting behind England – though Junior was the only one who wanted to stand for the Australian National Anthem.

What was funny was watching Mark Cornwell going through the same kind of nervous hell that all of us go through watching Gloucester week in, week out. I swear he had his jumper pulled over his head for most of the game, and he looked for all the world like Smiffy from the Bash Street Kids only with slightly more hair.

The biggest cheer from the assembled players wasn't for Jason Robinson's try, or one of Wilko's penalties, it was for Dougie Woodman's punch on some hapless Aussie in the first few minutes!

As the game ended to a man they players hit the text buttons on their phones, "Not

winding up Duncan McRae, are you?" I asked Pasty, to be told "Yes, and Rudi Meir, he's an Aussie, so he can have some too!"

A bit later in the day these same lads were dragged onto the stage for an impromptu "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" karaoke session with the Shy Teds, Marcel opting to hide behind the drum kit – which he played rather well – instead of demonstrating his vocal dexterity. Maybe Chris Fortey should consider doing the same – his solo effort with a microphone had people heading for the bar and dogs all over Brockworth barking wildly.

According to one paper I read on Sunday, nearly 42 million pints of beer were drunk by people watching the match on Saturday, a quarter of which must have been drunk at our table if my constitution was anything to go by the next day. Free bars are a great idea, but they really should come with a health warning...

Having sobered up and now able to think about things like food I suppose that I, like a lot of other Gloucester supporters, should be eating a fair sliced chunk of humble pie right now. I admit to not being one of Clive Woodward's biggest fans, but you have to take your hat off to him for the way he has managed the side through the build up to the finals and the final itself.

I hope he gets due recognition for his achievements – it seems that if the England football manager strings half a dozen wins together against world super powers like Malta, Iceland, or Lichtenstein he gets a knighthood, if there is any justice then Clive should start dusting off his top hat and tails and preparing for a trip to Buck House to collect his 'K' in the



not too distant future.

On to other things, and a bit of a gripe about an incident that happened two weeks ago. Just after half time in the last home game against London Irish I was returning from a 'weak bladder' moment when a half-hearted cheer rippled around parts of the ground. Odd, thought I, as there had not been that much to cheer about so far.

Then I realised that the cheer was down to the fact that Duncan McRae was being substituted and, with shades of the nonsense that Henry Paul had to put up with for a while not so long back, some people – allegedly Gloucester supporters – thought it clever to mock one of their own.

Call me old fashioned, but are we not supposed to support our team? That means everyone who runs out in the Gloucester colours for the entirety of the

match. Of course we will all have our discussions in the bar afterwards about which players played well and we'll all have differing opinions about who should play where and when in the future. But we don't jeer our own. Get off his back - we don't want a repeat of January last year.

There's no hiding from the fact that we have been going through a bit of a sticky patch over the last few weeks, but to single out one player as the route of all ills is just plain daft. It's a team game, teams win and lose, not just one person. And it's at times like this when the team – the whole team that is – need our support more than ever. It's easy to support a winning team, but if you can't cope with a few reverses along the way then go chase some other glory star, we can do well enough without you.

That's enough negativity for now, lets look forward to today's game. It's only a

matter of four weeks since we played Northampton in that somewhat eventful game at Frankenstein's Garden. Let's hope that today we see rather more rugby than we did up there and, to use the words of the great Bill McLaren the '... bit of argy bargy...' is forgotten and not repeated. Let's also hope that the referee has more of a grip on the game this time and doesn't let things get so out of hand as they did up there...

All the games between us seem to have something of an edge about them though – that said apart from the last game I don't remember any of them getting that out of hand. At the moment we lead them seven – six on Premiership wins.

Whatever happens lets make sure that we get behind our team and drown out the inevitable choruses of "When the saints go marching in" – that means all the team, by the way, everyone from one to 15 without exception.

TRY
CONVERSION
PENALTY
DROP GOAL

GLOUCESTER

15	Thinus Delpont
14	Marcel Garvey
13	Robert Todd
12	Henry Paul
11	James Simpson-Daniel
10	Duncan McRae
09	Andy Gomarsall
01	Rodrigo Roncero
02	Chris Fortey
03	Andy Deacon
04	Alex Brown
05	Mark Cornwell
06	Peter Buxton
07	Jake Boer (c)
08	Junior Paramore
16	Rob Elloway
17	Trevor Woodman
18	Phil Vickery
19	Mark Rimmer
20	Andy Hazell
21	Simon Amor
22	Josh Frape

fullback
wing
centre
centre
wing
flyhalf
scrumhalf

prop
hooker
prop
lock
lock
flanker
flanker
no. 8

replacements



N'HAMPTON SAINTS

15	Nick Beal
14	James Brooks
13	Chris Hyndman
12	Mark Tucker
11	Bruce Reihana
10	Shane Drahm
09	Mark Robinson
01	Tom Smith
02	Dan Richmond
03	Robbie Morris
04	Rob Hunter
05	Mark Connors
06	Grant Seely
07	Darren Fox
08	Andrew Blowers
16	Matt Miles
17	Chris Budgen
18	Jon Phillips
19	Matt Lord
20	Johnny Howard
21	John Leslie
22	Jon Sleightholme

TRY
CONVERSION
PENALTY
DROP GOAL

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP 2003/04

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Bath Rugby	10	9	0	1	260	132	2	1	39
Northampton Saints	10	6	1	3	300	240	4	1	31
London Wasps	10	6	0	4	269	211	2	2	28
London Irish	10	6	0	4	245	218	1	3	28
Sale Sharks	10	5	1	4	263	200	2	4	28
NEC Harlequins	10	6	0	4	246	203	2	1	27
Newcastle Falcons	10	5	0	5	243	206	2	4	26
Gloucester	10	5	0	5	191	165	1	2	23
Leicester Tigers	10	4	1	5	204	246	0	1	18
Leeds Tykes	10	3	0	7	241	309	3	1	16
Saracens	10	3	1	6	186	289	0	1	13
Rotherham Titans	10	0	0	10	131	360	0	0	0

2020

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Tony Spreadbury RFU

1st TJ: Brain Campsall RFU

2nd TJ: Lloyd Jackson RFU

Replacement Referee: Martin Fox RFU

4th Official: Mark Tovey RFU

Today's Result

Gloucester 28

N'hampton 20

design: paul watkins
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sports marketing
01635 35599 | www.d-sport.co.uk