



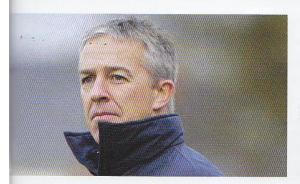
Heineken Cup





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Round Two



Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for our first home Heineken Cup game of the season. Last week we travelled to Italy where we met a powerful Treviso side who competed in all phases of the game and were probably the best Italian team I have seen in the Heineken Cup.

Italian rugby is slowly improving, their entrance into the Six Nations was frowned upon by many, but the standard of rugby in Italy is undoubtedly improving with each season. Whereas they used to be totally reliant upon imported players they now have a growing core of quality Italian players. It will not be too long before their sides are dominated by Italian players.

Last week's game also demonstrated the jump in standard from the Zurich Premiership to the Heineken Cup, there are no easy games, this can only serve to strengthen European rugby further.

Today we welcome Bourgoin to Kingsholm, coached by non other than Phillipe Saint Andre. It gives me great pleasure to welcome Phillipe back to the Club he played and coached with such great distinction.

Anyone who has contributed to the emergence of Gloucester as one of Europe's leading clubs, will always have my respect and will always be welcome at Kingsholm.

Phillipe is joined today by forwards coach Lauren Siegne. I know that the forwards greatly respected his work and understand the challenge they will face this afternoon.

Last weekend, Bourgoin lost narrowly at home to Munster, that I assure you is no disgrace. Munster are once again one of the favourites to take the European Cup title this season, it is our collective job to make sure they don't!

This afternoon's match will be a hugely physical game, both teams pride themselves on power in their packs and strong defences, it will not be a game

NIGEL'S NOTES...

Nigel Melville

Director of Rugby

"This afternoon's match will be a hugely physical game... it will not be a game for the faint hearted."

for the faint hearted.

On a separate note, I was delighted to hear that the World Cup trophy will be making an appearance at Kingsholm when we play our home tie against Munster.

Last week you will have seen our three Gloucester heroes mixing in some pretty highbrow company, Her Majesty the Queen and Tony Blair. The unbelievable emotion showed by nearly one million supporters totally surprised the players, and is undoubtedly a huge boost for the game.

It is now the job of everyone in rugby to embrace our new supporters and welcome them to our special game. One visitor we can now look forward to is Tony Blair.

I understand that Katy, Kate and Fran (the girlfriends/wives of our Gloucester heroes) set about Tony in No.10 (to the embarrassment of Gomars, Vicks and Trev) and asked when he would be visiting Gloucester.

'I do in fact, have to visit Gloucester at some point' came the reply. 'Well when you do you had better visit Kingsholm and watch Gloucester play' came the reply, ' or else nobody in Gloucester will vote for labour again' – well done girls, I'll drop him a line to find out which game!

On Monday this week we played our opening United Fixture of the season against Bath at the Rec, the 68-12 win demonstrated the quality of some of our younger players notably Brad Davies, Rory Teague, Jon Goodridge, James Merriman and many others.

This Monday we have our first home game against the Quins at Kingsholm, the future of Gloucester is reliant on these young players. I hope you can find the time to give them your support and enjoy an excellent evening's rugby at Kingsholm.

Finally, I would like to thank the army of supporters who travelled to Italy last week to support us. The 'away' shed is becoming as famous abroad as the home shed is at Kingsholm, it was great to see you all.

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS...

David King takes time out from enjoying this season's European Heineken Cup campaign to look back at previous tournaments.



This afternoon the Cherry and Whites Members extend the warmest of welcomes to Philippe Saint Andre. Few who were at Harlequins on that February day the 23rd, 2002 will forget the tearful farewell.

The players fulfilled their part in a 18-6 victory over the London club. It was a sentimental afternoon, one that will live in the memory for many. However, today, sentiment is cast aside as we begin another session of Pool matches in the Heineken Cun.

Last season was one of utter frustration as we were the joint leading points and try scorers with 241 points and 31 tries and still failed to reach the Quarter Finals. Bourgoin also had a frustrating time. They defeated Sale at Heywood Road 24-18, beat Llanelli 30-25 at home, Glasgow 35-21 and Sale 43-15. A one point defeat away to Glasgow 13-12 and a 37-22 setback at Stradey Park versus Llanelli enabled the Welsh club to qualify for the Quarter Final.

Small consolation to Philippe as the French clubs broke the stranglehold of Leicester on the European Cup, with Toulouse pipping Perpignan 22-17 at Lansdowne Road.

Perpignan and Munster qualified from our Pool 2 scoring fewer points (176 and 206 respectively) and less tries, 23 and 27. We scored 241 points and 31 tries.

Frustrating? Even more so when we finished 15 points clear of Wasps in the Zurich Premiership. Many spent the summer months working out how this occurred!

Once again we find ourselves in a tough group with the outcome hard to predict. No comparisons can be drawn from season to season. Both Munster and Bourgoin have fine home records but an away victory would enhance our progress, Benetton Treviso would be under estimated at a risk. They have a high percentage of international players in their ranks.

Bourgoin visited Kingsholm in the European Conference in the 1996-97 season travelling back across the Channel as 24-9 victors. We visited Treviso in a non-competitive match in the 1993-94 season losing 18-13 so we are forewarned.

Philippe had two of his players in the French squad for the World Cup. Prop Olivier Milloud and flanker Sebastien Chabal. Both players also featured in the



Autumn international at Twickenham when England won 45-14. Olivier Milloud may have been seen in action by our members in the television showing of the French victory over Japan 51-29. Sebastian Chabal came on as a second half replacement for Serge Betsen. In the following group match they both appeared.

In the Quarter Final defeat of Ireland 43-21, Oliveir Milloud replaced J.J.Crenco of Agen in the 70th minute. Sebastian Chabal did not feature in the squad. For the Semi Final against England Olivier Milloud replaced Crenco in the 62nd minute of that match.

Our members are fully aware when Philippe Saint Andre departed from Kingsholm he was taking on a difficult task with Bourgoin who had just departed company with their coach Jean-Francois Tordo. This was a season where no fewer than seven French First Division Clubs fired their coaches during the season. Castres, Dax, Bourdeaux, Begles, La Rochelle, Montferrand and Stade Francais. Current Bath Coach John Connolly was the victim at the last named club.

It is well recorded that Philippe Saint Andre was capped 69 times by France scoring 33 tries. He also captained France in 34 Internationals, a fine record by any standards.

Funnily enough we have three personnel within the club's ranks who have had experience in Europe versus Bourgoin!

Dean Ryan, Alex Brown and Paul Johnstone. Both Alex and Paul were in the Bristol Shoguns line-up that won 34-28 on Sunday 30th September 2001 in Bourgoin and both were again on duty when the Memorial Ground Club triumphed 43-17 at home on Sunday 13th January 2003 in European Parker Pen Shield.

Dean was of course head coach at that time, Bourgoin actually won the Shield in 1997 defeating Castres 18-9 in the Final. They reached the Final again two seasons later losing to Montferrand 35-16 at Lyons. The previous Final had been held at Beziers.

We met Bourgoin in a European
Conference match here at Kingsholm in
the 1996-97 season losing 24-9 when
Dave Sims captained the club. 11 days
prior to this, French club Begles Bordeaux
had triumphed 17-10 in another European
Conference encounter here at Kingsholm.

Club Sportif Bourgoin — Jallieu were founded in 1906. They are based 26 miles south west of Lyon in the south of France. The ground capacity is 10,000. They have been French Second Division Champions 1965, 1971 and 1973. First Division Group B Champions-1984, European Conference Champions 1997, French Club Championship Runners Up 1997.

Their club address is: - Pierre-Rajon Avenue, Professor Tixier 38300 Bourgoin – Jallieu France. It is often a point of discussion between our members as to playing record of the Cherry and Whites under the stewardship of Philippe Saint Andre

OVERALL

Won 44 Drew 1 Lost 22

HOME

Won 30 Drew 0 Lost 5

AWAY

Won 14 Drew 1 Lost 17

Under the leadership of Philippe Saint Andre our record victory was versus Gran Parma defeating the Italian club 99-0 in the Parker Pen Shield on the 5th January 2002. Referee K..Evans (WRU).

Attendance 6,567.

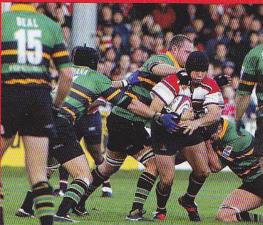
Philippe took the Cherry and Whites to the Heineken Cup Semi-Finals where we were defeated by Leicester 19-15 at Vicarage Road, Watford on 21st April 2001.

The Gloucester team was:- Byron Hayward, Rory Grenslade-Jones, Terry Fanolua, Jason Little, James Simpson-Daniel, Simon Mannix, Andy Gomarsall, Andy Deacon, Olivier Azam, Phil Vickery (Captain), Rob Fidler, Ian Jones, Jake Boer, Junior Paramore, Kingsley Jones.

Replacements: Mark Cornwall, for Fidler (64 mins), Steve Ojomoh for Paramore (75mins). Simon Mannix kicked five penalty goals. J.Dume (France) was the referee.









KINGSHOLM SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2003



GLOUCESTER 28

TRIES: GARVEY, SIMPSON-DANIEL, WOODMAN

CONVERSIONS: PAUL (2) PENALTIES: PAUL (3)

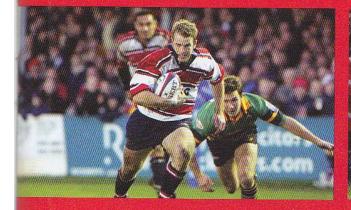


N'HAMPTON SAINTS 20

TRIES: HUNTER, ROBINSON

CONVERSIONS: DRAHM (2) PENALTIES: DRAHM (2)

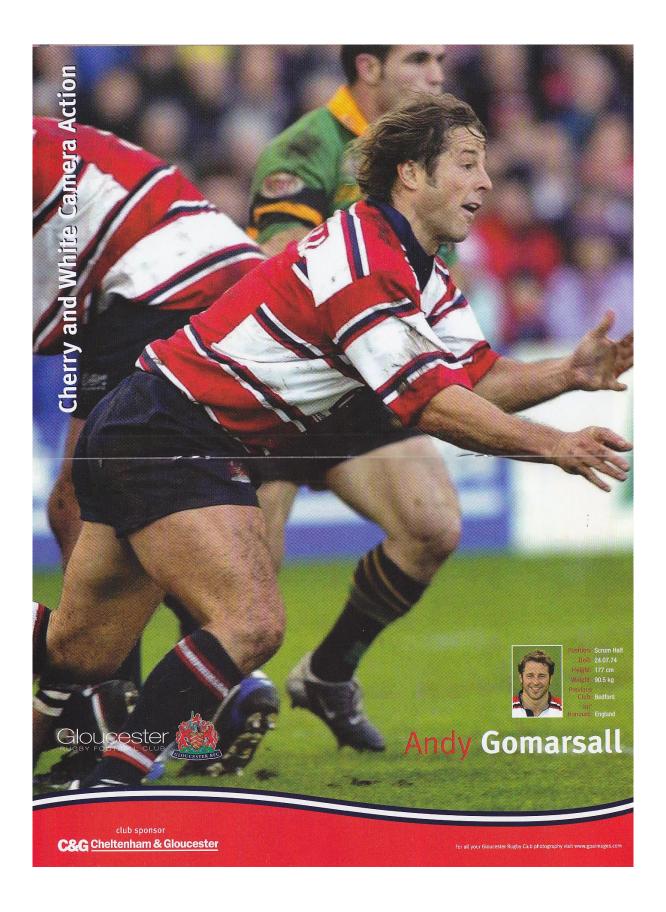






top left: Robert Todd is held by Saints Nick Beal. top right: Henry Paul breaks thro the Saints defence.
middle: Marcel Garvey scores the first try. bottom left: James Simpson-Daniel crosses to score a second half try.
bottom right: Trevor Woodman scores his second half try.

Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA Images









TREVISO SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2003



TREVISO 12

TRIES: VICENTIN, CANALE
CONVERSIONS: LEGG



GLOUCESTER 33

TRIES: SIMPSON-DANIEL, PARAMORE (2), EUSTACE CONVERSIONS: PAUL (2) PENALTIES: PAUL (3)







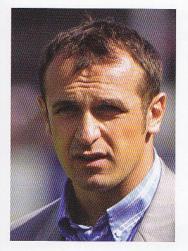
top left: Jake Boer blasts thro' the Treviso defence. top right: Junior Paramore scores his second half try. middle: Alex Brown keeps Treviso player Salbatore Garozzo down. bottom left: James Simpson-Daniel heads for his first half try. bottom right: Adam Eustace scores his 2nd half try.

Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA Image

Philippe Saint-Andre

a profile

Interview by Alastair Downey



The Gloucester Citizen's Alastair Downey caught up with Bourgoin coach Philippe Saint Andre in the build-up to today's big Heineken Cup match.

KINGSLEY JONES does the best Philippe Saint-Andre impression in the business - which is quite fitting for the son of a stand-up comic - but there will be no need to make do with imitations today.

The real thing will be back in town - all Gallic shrugs, engaging little grins with a touch of the dark and mysterious - when he makes his first return to Kingsholm with his new club Bourgoin in the Heineken Cup.

There will be enough emotion coursing through the old place to create an extraordinary atmosphere, and if it is not quite in the home coming category, then

at the very least a belated chance to offer thanks for Saint-Andre's contribution to Gloucester history.

Without question Saint-Andre carried out the most drastic surgery at the biggest institution in the English game, he dragged Gloucester kicking and screaming into the professional era, shed blood, wept tears of joy and despair, had the courage of his convictions and moulded a team that reached the semi-final of the European Cup.

He introduced luminaries such as Olivier Azam, Ludovic Mercier and Ian Jones.

But the joy could not last and his contract was not renewed by club chairman Tom Walkinshaw.

Nigel Melville was brought in as his replacement and went on to deliver three Twickenham finals.

Saint Andre now finds himself back in his homeland - but there is an English field that will always remain forever French - and nothing would give him more pleasure than one of the greatest results in Bourgoin's history today should his side win at Castle Grim.





GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S OWN SPORTS PAPER



"It will be very emotional," he said of his return. "I will be very pleased to be back in Gloucester, in front of the Shed, and there are sure to be a lot of memories.

"I am glad I have the chance to see the club and the supporters.

"It is impossible to forget I spent five years of my life in Gloucester. The last years I had as a player and the first as a coach.

"My baby was made in Cheltenham. It is a place that will always live with me. I will be emotional but not nostalgic. I have moved on in my life.

"I had to keep going after Gloucester, to move my life forward, but I need a lot of invitations because everybody wants to see this game."

Saint-Andre freely admits he is less uptight these days, he has swapped the culinary delights of the Kingsholm Chippie for Lyon and a taste of home and it is obvious he has matured as a coach

and lightened up as a person.

Those expecting the same sort of game plan employed when he marshalled the Kingsholm troops maybe in for a surprise. There will of course be the request for territorial dominance and a

Milloud. Knowing Saint-Andre, he will have whipped their pack into a considerable frenzy and if he doesn't quite manage it, Lauren Seigne surely will. But his biggest problem will be getting across exactly what his side will face at Kingsholm.

"You cannot explain the atmosphere to the players that is something for them," he said.

"But if you want a result at Kingsholm you must never switch off, not for one minute. When Gloucester start to go forward, when the stadium is full with all the noise, you can take a lot of points in two or three minutes.

"When a team like Gloucester get full of confidence they are difficult to stop. They are strong in the set-piece, strong in defence and with the pressure of the public, the referee can penalise the other team, funny things like that can happen.

"We have to be strong in our hearts and

"...Saint-Andre carried out the most drastic surgery at the biggest institution in the English game, he dragged Gloucester kicking and screaming into the professional era..."

physical dedication but he has an outstanding play-maker in outside-half Benjamin Boyet and the explosive potential of 23-year-old winger Jean-Francois Coux.

They also possess French flanker Sebastien Chabal and prop Olivier strong in our mind. Gloucester have a big reputation in France. We know it will be hard."

It is impossible not to recognise the theatre in the game when Saint-Andre gets on a verbal role. He is one of the most engaging men in the game. He



GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S OWN SPORTS PAPER deals in the emotive passion - the very soul of the contest - and if he can whip his team into a state of near hysteria, it should be a riotously good game today. most difficult I have ever done.

"Did I like doing it? No, of course not. I had to tell legends of Gloucester they were not the future of the club - men

who had given all their rugby to the city

and to

the team - I wasn't loved, but the job, for the goodness of the club, had to be done.

"Gloucester is very traditional and I tried to do everything in the best interests of the team.

"I am more relaxed now as a coach, a little bit more happy.

"Now my job is elsewhere and I want to be successful. We have young guys, good guys for Bourgoin and my job is to now make them into a great side.

"I can comeback and have a beer in the pubs and clubs of Gloucester without looking for my players. It will be nice."

"It is impossible to forget I spent five years of my life in Gloucester. The last years I had as a player and the first as a coach"

Saint-Andre has worked to instil the basic principles into his team. Since he has been in charge Bourgoin have not been beaten at their Stade Pierre Rajon home and have only suffered one league set-back this term - an away defeat to Brive two weeks ago.

But that is where his biggest problem may lie. An away victory in England is

still such an alien concept his young side may struggle to actually believe they can

win at Kingsholm.

"I want to be proud of my team," he said, already hinting he was. "We have won 10 out of 13 this year, we are a young team with big potential. I was a young coach at Gloucester, inexperienced and not happy with things I did all the time.

"I was in a different country and could not speak English. There was a lot of hard work four years ago that was the The Pink'Un

Don't forget to look out for the Pink'Un after the game today. All the latest action from Kingsholm as well as the region's rugby. This Saturday's edition also has an interview with James Simpson-Daniel and his thoughts on his wonder try last Saturday against Treviso.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S OWN SPORTS PAPER

Peteramold

Peter Arnold has been a regular contributor to the Gloucester Rugby Club matchday programme for the last 25 years. This week the informative supporter talks about streakers, freedom of the city and Sinbad's marvellous try last weekend.

MAKING A POINT

Good win last Saturday. One tends to disregard the Italian sides during the Heineken Cup, but Treviso isn't your typical Latin team by a long chalk. They are the best team in Italy by a street, losing very few games at home, and being something of a nursery for the national side. Scrum-half Troncon, who could probably get himself a Premiership

TABLANA.

berth in this country or France if he wanted one, is evidence of that.

Perhaps the most important factor was the bonus point. No one else in the group got a five-pointer last week, and either Bourgoin or Munster are going to have to do just that in Treviso, which won't be easy.

Perhaps the most pleasing thing was, what one reporter described as 'Simpson-Daniel's wonder try'. We've always known he is capable of that sort of thing, witness his similar effort for England against the Barbarians a couple of seasons ago. However, some of us have been worrying about just how much that bout of glandular fever had taken out of him. Those fears have now been dispelled.

Far be it from me to criticise the sainted Clive Woodward, but one must cock a critical eyebrow when comparing Sinbad's recent efforts with those of Dan Luger, in the World Cup and last week for Perpignan. It's easy to be wise after the event, I suppose.

CRY FREEDOM!

Hearty congratulations to Phil Vickery,
Trevor Woodman and Andy Gomarsall on
being granted Freedom of the City of
Gloucester in recognition of their
membership of England's World Cup
winning squad. There you are, you see.
The Council can move quickly when they
have enough incentive.

The press keep telling us that the honour confers no special privileges, but that's not quite true, actually. They can, would you believe, graze their goats on the Cross, should they feel inclined, however I'm' not aware that any of them actually keep such animals. Although, you never know with Cornishmen, I suppose.

Anyway, the poor beasts wouldn't get very fat on it, would they?

Strictly speaking, recipients of the honour are also allowed to park their vehicles anywhere they like within the City boundaries, yellow lines, pedestrianisation, whatever. Unfortunately, that privilege was conferred in the days of horse-drawn transport, so it's probably not advisable for them to test the patience of the Constabulary on this issue.

BARING ALL

Matt Dawson must take a great deal of the credit for Wikinson's now-legendary drop-goal which finally won the World Cup. After all, it was his typical break that put the outside-half into position for that deciding kick. I was therefore interested to see his familiar figure sitting on the couch in the prestigious David Frost programme the other Sunday morning.

I was even more interested to hear him say that it was Erica Rowe's famous streak at Twickenham which "opened his eyes" to rugby at the tender age of 11.



Not surprising, really. I think she opened a fair few eyes that day.

It took my mind back to a pleasant little occasion in the old Mayor's Parlour at the Guildhall the year after the famous incident. Roger Langston was the Mayor at the time, himself a useful full-back in his day, for the old Atlas Works side, if I remember rightly.

Of course, the Mayor gets invitations to attend all sorts of functions during his year, and Roger was particularly pleased to attend the opening of a new bar at the New County Hotel in Southgate Street. Knowing Roger, I imagine the potential for free beer was one attraction, but the chance to meet Erica Rowe, who was performing the official opening must have been something of an incentive, as well.

After the ceremonies, three or four of us retired to the Mayor's Parlour so that Erica could sign the Mayor's visitors book, while the rest of us raided his drinks cabinet. And that's when we heard the fair Erica's

account of what happened on that fateful Saturday afternoon at Twickenham.

It appears that her boss at the time had acquired some free tickets for the England-Australia match, and invited Erica to join the party. According to the lady herself, "I had had a few gin and tonics before the game, and was in a cheerful frame of mind. Everyone forgets, now, that I was, in fact, the second streaker that day."

"At half time, an Australian girl stripped off her top and did a half-hearted trot up the touchline. I don't think many people noticed, and she didn't have much to show, anyway. I was just drunk enough to say 'Huh! A good English girl can do better than that !" whipped off my T-shirt, and away I went !"

One thing she said turned out not to be true however. Explaining how she came to be opening a new watering hole in Gloucester, she remarked, "I thought I might as well make a few quid out of it while I can. After all, no one will

remember who Erica Rowe was in twelve months time."

She was wrong about that. There were a couple of features of Erica's Twickenham escapade which many of us remember fondly even twenty years on.

The rest, as they say, is history. But you do have to say that Erica Rowe's consumption of gin, before the impressionable eyes of the 11 year-old Matthew Dawson turned out to have a pivotal influence on the World Cup 2003.

SHED ON FORM

Talking about nudity, I liked the sally from the Shed at the Northampton game the other weekend. The returning Thinus Delport was just lining up his first touch kick, when a voice shouted:

"Hello Thinus! Nice to see you with your clothes on!"

Have a great Christmas, everyone!

Back into the Archive Bourgoin Vs Gloucester



The official Gloucester Rugby Club programme looks back into the archive for a write-up of the last time the Cherry and Whites came face to face with Bourgoin.

One Gloucester player will have memories of Bourgoin in that year – Mark Cornwall who is the only Cherry and White player still here at Kingsholm to have played that October afternoon!

Trevor Woodman was on the replacements bench but was not used. Andy Deacon was meanwhile in a United team that were defeated 30-28 at Godlrington Road with Bedford XV. They are the only three players from that season still at Kingsholm.

Bourgoin was captained by the legendary Marc Cecillion. The French number eight was capped 47 times by France. When he came to Kingsholm that Saturday afternoon he was 37 years of age! The Bourgoin coach that season was Michel Coutaros.

The only current French international in their line-up was Stephan Glas.

The match was officiated by Mr T Rowlands of the Welsh Rugby Union.

It was an afternoon where the French club proved far stronger in the scrums and posed more of a threat in their backs. Facing a strong wind Gloucester made a disastrous start! In the first minute a mix-up between Audley Lumsden and Mike Peters in fielding a high kick allowed Alexandre Peclier to score a try, which he converted.

Within 13 minutes the Cherry and Whites were level when Mark Mapletoft kicked a penalty. Three minutes later Bourgoin extended their lead following an individual run by Laurent Leflamand. Peclier kicked an easy conversion. Gloucester trailed 14-3 at the interval.

Within five minutes of the resumption Mark Mapletoft kicked a penalty but within three minutes Bourgoin responded with a try from Raschi after a tapped penalty.

Mark Mapletoft once again reduced the arrears. However, the French club bundled Gloucester off a scrum ball enabling replacement Frederic Nibelle to score a try. Bourgoin winning 24-9. Any hope the Cherry and Whites had of qualifying for the quarter-finals of the European Conference were extinguished.

There were one or two bizarre incidents in the match for Rasche was shown a yellow card for persistently killing the ball but was recalled as he was on his way to the touch-line! Bourgoin tried to make use of the new substitutes law, which had not yet come into force. They tried to replace Grange and Morgan but were stopped by the match official. Within a minute both were injured and limped off to be replaced by Sanchez and Gomez.

This defeat meant that Gloucester had lost three out of their four European Conference matches. It was a match where the Cherry and Whites won 31 of their 34 lineouts on their own throw.

Bourgoin left Kingsholm that afternoon with Alexandre Peclier as the European Conference's leading points scorer with 67 points from their four matches! This was a season where Wigan Rugby League star Henry Paul signed for Bath on a contract to play from 8th September 1996 to 11th January 1997. Richard Hill was the Gloucester director of coaching. Chris Collins and Andy Hazell were in the club's colts squad.

As for Bougoin, they reached the Heineken European Conference Final that same season after defeating fellow French club Montferrand in the Quarter Final 17-15. Another French club Narbonne 29-6 in the Semi-Final and in the Final on 25th January they defeated Castres 18-9.

They had been undefeated in their Pool D matches defeating Begles 45-22 at home, London Irish 34-13 away, Ebbw Vale 37-3 at home and drawing 31-31 at Swansca!

THE TEAMS

GLOUCESTER:

Audley Lumsden, Mike Peters, Alistair Saverimutto, Andy Metcalf, Paul Holford, Mark Mapletoft, Scott Benton, Tony Windo, Phil Greening, Warren Bullock, Mark Cornwall, Dave Sims (Captain), Ed Pearce, Nathan Carter, Simon Devereux.

Replacements: Martin Kimber, Don Caskie, Laurie Beck, Trevor Woodman, John Hawker, Andrew Stanley

BOURGOIN:

N.Geaney, L.Leflamand (D. Jamin 44mins), A.Peclier, S.Glas, L.Belligoi, G.Cassagre, N.Guilhot, P.Vessilier, F.Grange (J.Sanchez 72 min), D.Morgan (L.Gomez 71 mins), J.Daude (F.Nibelle 50 mins), M.Cecillon (Captain), A.Chezlalet, M.Malafosse, P.Raschi.

Replacements not used: V.Frediere, J.Frier.



BY IAN RANDALL BBC RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE



BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Ian Randell looks back at the last few weeks including the trip to Italy in the Heineken Cup and the open-top bus tour of London.

At 6.30am last Sunday morning, Jake Boer, Junior Paramore, Phil Vickery and Trevor Woodman were first in the queue for breakfast at the hotel before the trip home from Treviso. Casually dressed in jeans and a club polo shirt, he mixed with supporters

Cup Final. The weekend's objective had been achieved and the giant prop could relax and enjoy the moment.

"Some of the squad seemed visibly amazed at the magnitude of the crowds and the reception they were given."

throughout the weekend and looked equally at home in surroundings as far removed as you can imagine from the big stage and high profile that was the World

The fall out from the Treviso match, for three players at least, surrounded the collection of various awards. Vickery and Woodman, because of their part in the final in Sydney, were given a "World Beaters" award by BBC Midlands Today at their regional sports awards at The Belfry, and then it was down to London for the open top bus tour with the rest of the England squad. Having got their practice in at The Cross in April following the Powergen Cup win, both made sure they were right at the front, and along with Andy Gomarsall, they spent a large part of the crawl through the capital trying to commit to camera the scene in front of them. Some of the squad seemed visibly amazed at the magnitude of the crowds and the reception they were given. Suffice to say it will be a day, along with the final, that the Gloucester trio will



recall countless times for the rest of their lives.

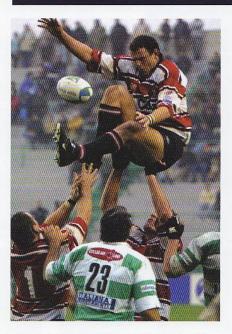
As far as the Heineken Cup is concerned, last weekend's results mean that by tonight Pool 5 could be split very much in two. A home win here and what looks a banker victory for Munster at Thomond Park would make it hard to see Treviso making an impact, and even Bourgoin would be up against it. Having said that, there is an interesting parallel to draw with last season's competition, where Gloucester's last three games included away trips to the other two strong sides in the group and a home game against Italian opposition, though admittedly not in the same order. Perpignan flexed their muscles as outsiders and drove through the gap that opened in front of them, so because of the way the Heineken Cup is set up I suppose it would be unwise to write off Bourgoin even if they should lose here today.

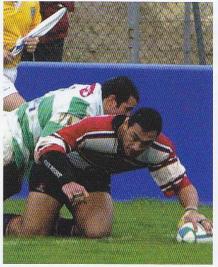
The highlight of last Saturday's victory in Italy –apart from Adam Eustace's celebration to mark his crucial injury time try – was James Simpson Daniel's mesmerising effort, fashioned and ultimately finished completely on his own. The 21 year-old was the talk of the hotel in Treviso, particularly between two Gloucester legends, Mickey Booth and Peter Ford. Both believed Sinbad's balance and pace were major assets in his locker, and the way in which he stepped off both feet to create the initial hole into which his run developed fully backed that up. He is a talent Gloucester will not only want to keep hold of but develop to its full potential.

The atmosphere this afternoon will be made extra special because of one man. Philippe Saint Andre's time at Kingsholm was colourful both on and off the field, and because of his position as not only the club's first overseas player in the professional era, but also the first foreign coach, he will also have a special niche in Gloucester's history.

As Jake Boer told me for the book "From Pilkington to Powergen" (now available from the club shop, Hudson & Co and the website www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com), this isn't a grudge match but one that Philippe would dearly love to win. His contribution assures him of a thunderous reception, but for 80 minutes Gloucester must put friendships aside and attempt to take the group by the scruff of the neck.

"...this isn't a grudge match but one that Philippe would dearly love to win."





World Cup Bus Tour





Monday was the big day for Gloucester's World Cup trio as they travelled to London to meet the fans, the Prime Minister and the Queen.

The official Gloucester matchday programme brings you some of the memories of that great day.

"The whole thing has been truly fantastic," were Phil Vickery's words. "I went to London on Monday not knowing what was going to happen, and it all just blew me away."

Phil was a regular at the front of the first bus with his video camera recording the day's events. Joining him were Andy Gomarsall and Trevor Woodman. Gomars could be seen enjoying every moment of it and Trevor looked happy as he cracked a few jokes with some of the players at the back of the bus.

When the bus actually turned into the route of the parade, amazement must have been the first thought going through the players' minds.

Every single one of the squad was grinning from cheek to cheek.

Jonny Wilkinson even had to be moved from his position of choice at the rear of the bus to do a spell

holding the William Webb Ellis Trophy at the front.

It may have been bitterly cold but the fans kept cheering and the players kept waving. Every time the buses turned a corner and reached a new set of fans there was more cheering as fans climbed on every single vantage point to get a better look at the World Cup heroes.

The England players were having a ball. Andy Gomarsall was enjoying every moment of it, spraying champagne into the crowds, pointing out people and leading the crowd in singing and signing items of memorabilia.

By the time the bus had reached Regent Street, the crowds had grown to unrivalled proportions. By the time Trafalgar Square was reached just about every player had sung, shouted and cheered.

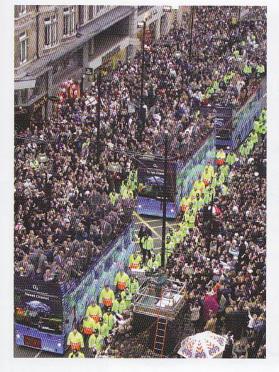
The bus tour was followed by the final words of wisdom at Trafalgar Square. Clive Woodward, Martin Johnson and Jonny Wilkinson made speeches.

Receptions at Buckingham Palace and Downing Street followed for the players — what a great day.

CONGRATULATIONS WORLD CHAMPIONS AL











Fans Zone

with **Bob Fenton**

Former ShedHead man Bob Fenton gets to grips with the return of European competition in this week's programme

Let's forget all the domestic stuff for a while and go all international. It's Heineken Cup time again, and a chance to welcome some of the best teams and players in Europe to Castle Grim.

Courtesy of the way the draw worked out we not only get to lock horns with new

a cosmopolitan mix from all over

And in years to come when we look back and debate the great names in Gloucester rugby history the name St Andre will be one of the first to be thrown into the conversation. I know that the eminent sage (and one man crowd) Westy, will argue that by now Philippe should be a double St. ie Saint St Andre'. I also know that there are not many who would argue.

Philippe's last game in charge was up at the Stoop on a dreadful day when the Gloucester fans were left exposed to the elements on an uncovered stand, shivering in the teeth of a snow storm waiting for their hero to bow out. Philippe's tears as he said his goodbyes, and the genuine sadness among supporters, spoke volumes about the way this man of France had been welcomed into what used to be one of the most parochial of rugby clubs. A truly great player, and a truly great man.

Mind you, Philippe is probably not looking forward to the return match in January though. Not because of what might or might not happen on the rugby field, but because of what he said at his send-off party at the Montpellier Wine Bar. For those who were not there, or too drunk to recall, Philippe invited everyone from Gloucester to have a drink with him at his bar, which is apparently not that far from Bourgoin.

When he said it he probably never imagined that the Heineken Cup draw would see several thousand very thirsty Gloucester fans heading his way. Too late now, mon ami, we've booked our tickets! Let's hope he's got some extra beer in for us...

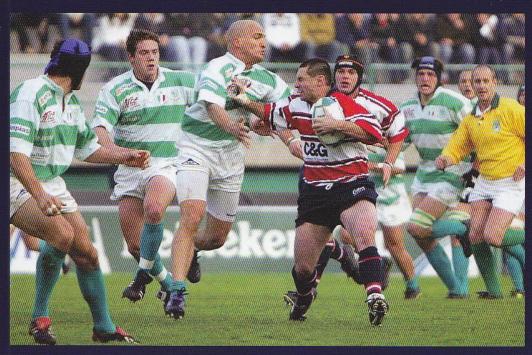
"...Philippe continued the transformation of the Gloucester side into a cosmopolitan mix from all over the place"

> friends and rivals Munster, we also have a chance to welcome back a genuine Gloucester hero – Philippe Saint Andre.

Remember his first game at the club? Home to Bristol and the huge cheer as we watched a genuine international rugby legend running out onto the Kingsholm turf with a couple of unknowns, Richard Tombs and a clean-cut young man from the South Sea Islands, one Terry Fanolua.

The result of that game was never in doubt, and as if the script had been written for him Philippe scored two tries, including a typically impudent one after Mark Mapletoft fooled everyone into thinking he was going to kick a penalty and ran it instead, releasing Le Goret to scamper in at the corner.

Having taken over the coaching duties from Richard Hill, Philippe continued the transformation of the Gloucester side into



And just in case Philippe decides to read this programme let me say: Soit à nouveau le bienvenu à Kingsholm, Philippe. Tous les supporters de Gloucester sont heureux de te revoir aujourd'hui accompagné de ton équipe, non seulement parce que cela nous donnes la possibilité de vous remercier pour tout ce que vous avez fait pour nous, mais aussi parce que vous nous permettez de ressortir nos bérets ridicules et de rechanter l'hymne national Français. Nous espérons tous que vous passerez une très bonne journée, mais pour siter mon bon ami "Whispering John", not "too much !".

(Considering I now work for a French company I hope I got that right!).

Last week Philippe's boys went down by a single point to Munster, they'll be keen to put that right today as another defeat will leave them facing a pretty uphill struggle to qualify. Philippe will have told them all about the Kingsholm effect, though whether they will be ready for our own version of La Marseilles remains to be seen.

The Heineken Cup competition is great

though, we get to visit foreign parts see the sites and take in the culture – not to mention vast quantities of the local brew. We've had some highs including the win at Stradey Park three seasons ago and Moncrief's drop goal against Llanelli at Kingsholm, as well as the lows including last year's defeat at Munster.

The overriding thing about this competition, though, is the sheer fun and camaraderie of it all.

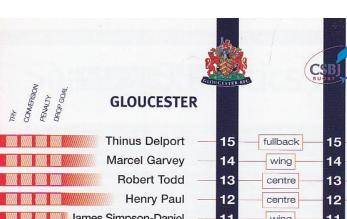
Maybe it's just us Gloucester supporters, but wherever we go we make friends — that might come as a shock to many of the less enlightened hacks who view us as the Millwall of Rugby Union. The collective cheer in Gloucester and Limerick when the draw pitted us against each other again was great — both sides out for revenge after being beaten on the road, both sets of supporters looking forward to another monster party.

Lets hope that when they come to visit on January 10 there is sufficient supply of the black stuff to keep the party going. And if the club want to put on that Irish Band who played last year that'll be okay too. A small request though, can we keep the clubhouse bar open a bit later, shutting so soon after the game is a real party pooper.

Finally as these will be my last programme notes before Christmas, let me take the opportunity to wish all our readers a happy holiday, and may Santa bring you everything you wish for.

What would I like? 15 points from the Leeds, Leicester and Harlequins games would be good. Go on Santa Nigel grant me my wish... I've been a good boy... honest!

Translation: Welcome back to Kingsholm, Philippe. Every Gloucester supporter will be pleased to see you and your team here today, not just because it gives us a proper opportunity to say thank you for all you did for us, but also because we can all put on our silly berets and sing the French National Anthem again. We all hope you have a great day, but in the words of my great friend "Whispering John"-not 'too much!'.



BOURGOIN

			100	1 4 4 4
Thinus Delport	15	fullback	15	Alexandre Perclier
Marcel Garvey	14	wing	14	Grant Esterhuizen
Robert Todd	13	centre	13	Glenn Davis
Henry Paul	12	centre	12	Florin Fritz
James Simpson-Daniel	11	wing	11	Jean-Francois Coux
Duncan McRae	10	flyhalf	10	Benjamin Boyet
Andy Gomarsall	09	scrumhalf	09	Christophe Laussucq
Trevor Woodman	01	prop	01	William Bonet
Chris Fortey	02	hooker	02	Jean-Phillipe Bonrepaux
Phil Vickery	03	prop	03	Pascal Peyron
Adam Eustace	04	lock	04	Julien Pierre
Alex Brown	05	lock	05	Pascal Pape
Peter Buxton	06	flanker	06	Alexandre Bias
Jake Boer (c)	07	flanker	07	Sébastien Chabal
Junior Paramore	08	no. 8	08	Pierre Raschi
Chris Collins	16	replacements	16	Benoit Cabello
Rodrigo Roncero	17		17	Julien Bouic
Andy Deacon	18		18	Pierre Caillet
Mark Cornwell	19		19	Nicolas Portier
James Merriman	20		20	Anthony Forest
Alex Page	21		21	Mickael Forest
Terry Fanolua	22		22	Kevin Zhakata

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: A Lewis IRFU 1st TJ: O Trevor IRFU 2nd TJ: B Fitzgerald IRFU

TODAY'S RESULT

Gloucester



Bourgoin







Heineken[®] Cup





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Round Two