

Gloucester RFC Official Matchday Programme

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# Gloucester

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v Newcastle Falcons

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE

SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2004

KICK-OFF 3.00PM



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**ZURICH PREMIERSHIP  
ROUND-UP AND PREVIEW**

**ENGLAND U21'S PREVIEW**

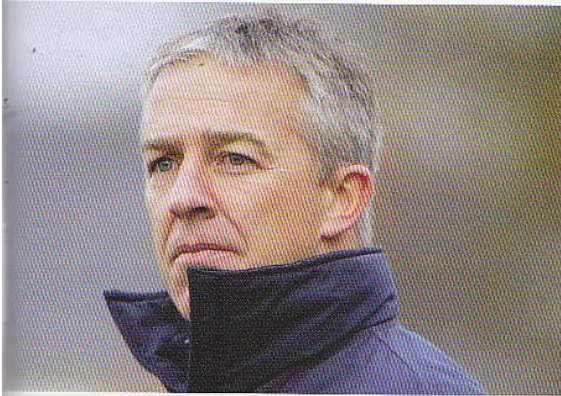
**ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND  
VIEWS FROM KINGSHOLM**

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## NIGEL'S NOTES...

**Nigel Melville**

Director of Rugby

**"Every season brings its highs and lows, that's the beauty of sport..."**

Welcome to Newcastle Falcons, and welcome back to the Zurich Premiership. With just eight games remaining the pace is hotting up, those precious Heineken Cup and Play-off places are now top of the agenda.

Last weekend in atrocious conditions we hosted Treviso in our final European Pool game of the season. The whole weekend brought to a close a number of fascinating contests, great TV, great for the neutrals amongst us, but a very nerve wracking experience for the rest of us!

Group Five was no exception, with just one minute remaining at Thomond Park, Munster needed another try to take the top spot in the group and a home European Quarter Final tie.

Having scored four tries and a bonus point win all we could do was sit and wait. One sin bin later followed by a penalty try sealed our fate, who would have believed our 'old friend' Tony Spreadbury could do that to us! So it's away to Wasps, that's about as near to a home tie as we could get!

Today we welcome Newcastle Falcons to Kingsholm, whilst we have been playing in the Heineken Cup, they too have been travelling Europe in the Parker Pen Shield. Having been knocked out by Montferrand a couple of weeks ago, they will arrive at Kingsholm refreshed and ready to challenge for a European place.

They will, of course, be without their talisman Jonny Wilkinson who, I am assured, is making steady progress and will be returning shortly to full fitness.

For those seeking to calculate the impact

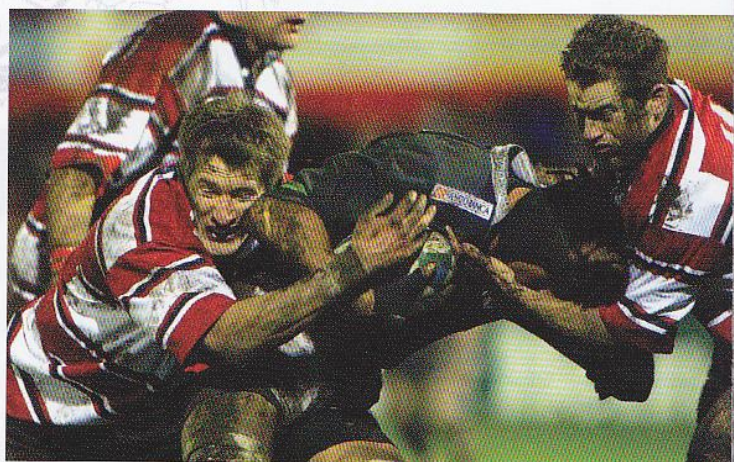
of winning the World Cup, they should follow Newcastle this season. This particular game has been sold out for weeks, and I'm sure that wherever Newcastle travel this season they will play to full houses, such is the power of Jonny's boot!

This week it also gives me great pleasure to welcome Riaan Van Der Berg and his young family to Gloucester. Riaan will help cover the long term injury to Thinus Delport, but also as a utility back, he will be playing for a place in next year's squad.

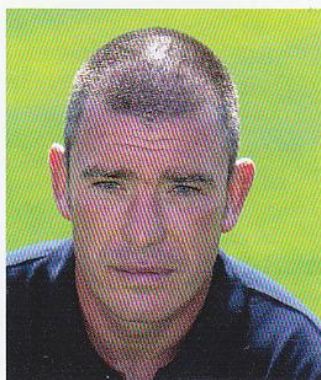
Hopefully Riaan will be playing for the United on Monday night against Saracens, the likely venue is Oxstalls School.

Last Monday the 'A' team played Bath and once again won convincingly, thank you for all those who braved the wind and rain to support the players, who I thought put together a promising performance.

Have a fantastic afternoon's rugby







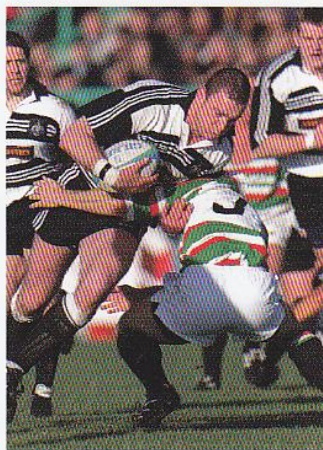
## DEAN – A TRY SCORING ENGLAND DEBUT

**Resident facts and figures man Dave King puts pen to paper on Gloucester's coach Dean Ryan, who has played for Saracens, Wasps, Bristol and of course Newcastle during his career.**

As Dean Ryan contemplates the visit of one of his former clubs Newcastle Falcons, he will surely reflect on a period of what for Dean was a successful interlude in his playing career.

Dean, always widely described as an inspirational captain, led the North East club as captain to two successive seasons as Champions! In 1996-97 they won the Allied Dunbar Division Two Championship and twelve months later they were Division One Champions, losing only three matches out of the twenty-two League matches played! They outscored and out defended everyone. Amazingly though they only pipped Saracens to the title by one point.

Two small facts not widely reported



Newcastle's Dean Ryan is tackled by Leicester's Joel Stransky ('97)

with regards to Gloucester coach Dean Ryan, is that he also was the first Premiership player to be sent to the sin bin for 10 minutes and that he made his England international debut alongside Jason Leonard.

Jason, who also was making his international debut, had become the youngest international prop since Nick Drake Lee had appeared for England in 1963. There were two other debutants for England on that July day in 1990, fly half David Pears and Nigel Heslop. Dean's debut came in South America at Velez Sarsfield, Buenos Aires. Former Gloucester director of rugby – Richard Hill was at scrum half.

The England team on Dean's debut was as follows: -

**Simon Hodgkinson** (Nottingham):  
**Nigel Heslop** (Orrell):  
**Will Carling** (Harlequins):  
**John Buckton** (Saracens):  
**Chris Oti** (Wasps):  
**David Pears** (Harlequins):  
**Richard Hill** (Bath):  
**Jason Leonard** (Saracens):  
**Brian Moore** (Nottingham):  
**Jeff Probyn** (Wasps):  
**Nigel Redman** (Bath):  
**Wade Dooley** (Preston Grasshoppers):  
**Mick Skinner** (Harlequins):  
**Dean Ryan** (Wasps):  
**Peter Winterbottom** (Harlequins).

It was a match where England defeated the home nation 25-12 with Dean scoring a try on his debut! England's remaining points were scored by try scoring Chris Oti with Simon Hodgkinson kicking five penalties and a conversion.

Exactly one week later the same England fifteen lost 15-13 to the Pumas at the same venue with Dean gaining his second cap! England did not have to wait long to exact ample revenge for they entertained Argentina at Twickenham in November of that year winning 51-0. Dean did not retain his place for the point-scoring extravaganza. England had made seven changes recalling Jeremy Guscott, Rory Underwood, Rob Andrew, Paul Ackford, John Hall and Dean Richards, also introducing John Olver the Northampton hooker.

There was an abundance of back row talent available to the England selectors at that time – Dean, Mick Skinner, Peter Winterbottom, John Hall, Dean Richards and Gloucester's Mike Teague. Probably the choice was excessive and it was deemed unlucky for any of the six to be omitted.

Dean's next England appearance was at the home of English soccer, Wembley, on an autumn afternoon versus Canada. It was the 17th October 1992 in a 26-13 victory. This was the first time England had played outside Twickenham since 1923! Twickenham at this time was experiencing a face-lift.

Amazingly, a six-year span elapsed



before Dean appeared for England again. It was to be his last international appearance. It was in 34-20 victory against Scotland at Murrayfield on the 22nd March 1998. So, England had experienced three victories in his four-cap England career.

Time had moved on significantly for in 1998 his back-row rivals were now Lawrence Dallaglio, Richard Hill, Tony Diprose and Neil Back. Ben Clarke had just faded from international recognition and Dallaglio was now the England captain. One interesting fact of that Murrayfield encounter was that it was the first time that England had played a Sunday match in the then Five Nation Championship.

Dean was born in Tuxford, Nottinghamshire and played for Newark, Saracens and Wasps. Injury dogged his early career representation when he had to withdraw from the England 'B' team to face France in 1988. He has fractured his left arm twice! He played for the London Division in their 21-10 victory over Australia in 1988 and he was in the Wasps squad that clinched the League Championship in 1989-90.

As well as starring in the back-row, the versatile Dean Ryan also appeared as a lock forward for both Wasps and Bristol. And not many people know that in his early playing career he played a domestic season in New Zealand in 1990.

Two years previous he had toured there with Combined Services, with both Nigel Heslop (Orrell) and John Steele (Northampton) joining him as members of that touring party.

As everyone knows Dean joined Gloucester from West Country rivals Bristol Shoguns, but his links with this part of the country go back further. As a boy Dean spent a period at school in Taunton, Somerset.

Dean played for four senior clubs, Saracens, Wasps, Newcastle and Bristol.

He was appointed as captain of Wasps in 1992-93. Steve Bates, late of Newcastle, was appointed as the vice captain.

In the 1993-94 Courage League Championship season, Dean scored a try against Gloucester when we visited Sudbury on 8th January 1994, the London based club defeating the Cherry and Whites 29-18. On that day Dean was Wasps captain and Andy Deacon was in the Gloucester XV. Former Gloucester hooker, Kevin Dunn was included in the London-based side, and a certain Andy Gomarsall was a Wasps replacement.

Dean was captain of the Wasps team that lost to Bath in the Pilkington Cup Final in May 1995, and former Gloucester hooker Kevin Dunn was again present for Wasps. In the semi-final Dean had led Wasps to victory at Leicester ending the Welford Road club's record run of 23 home wins.

He moved to Second Division Newcastle for the 1996-97 season joining Rob Andrew and Steve Bates in leaving Wasps. The northern club swept all before them in winning the Courage League Division Two Championship the following season. Dean scored no fewer than seven tries that year and captained the Falcons to the Division title.

More success followed during the Allied Dunbar Premiership season of 1997-98. Newcastle were winners of the inaugural title, losing just three matches under the effective leadership of Dean Ryan.

The following season Dean needed an operation on his neck and during his recovery period he was tempted away to join Bristol by Bob Dwyer, then the Memorial Ground Club's supremo, as a player/forwards coach.

Some could say he had a liking for the Memorial Ground for he had scored tries for Wasps there in 1982 and 1984! Bristol duly won the Division Two title!

The following season Dean once again

scored a try against Gloucester, this time at Kingsholm in a 38-25 defeat for Bristol in early December 1999.

Dean's playing career came to a halt on April 14th 2000 at Welford Road in a 30-23 defeat for Bristol. He made the most appearances by a Bristol player that season – 20. Ironically, the final match of that season was Bristol coming up against Saracens, the club where it all began for Dean!

Dean has had a big impact at Kingsholm since teaming up with his former team mate and friend Nigel Melville.

Surely, if things has been different, he could also have been an ideal player for the Cherry and Whites, a typical Gloucester forward?

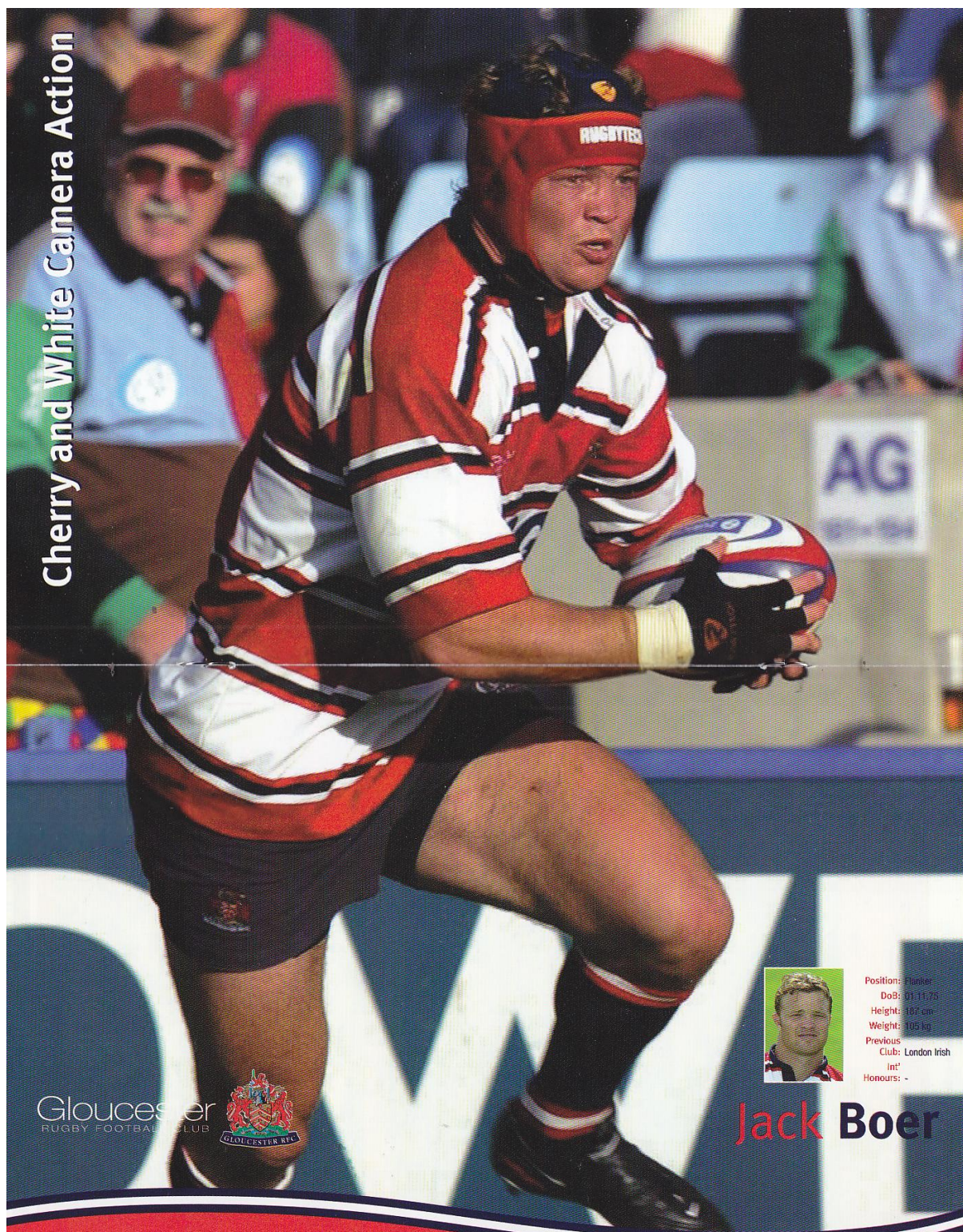
In his brief period at Kingsholm it appears he has been here forever – which is a great feeling!



Dean Ryan Newcastle tackles Gloucester Brian Johnson ('98)



Cherry and White Camera Action



Gloucester  
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



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

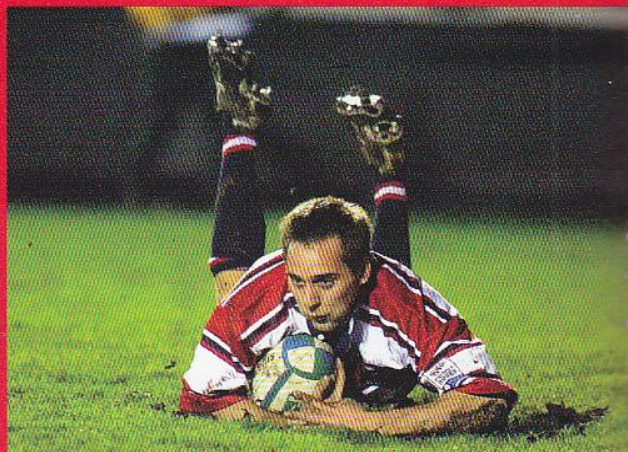
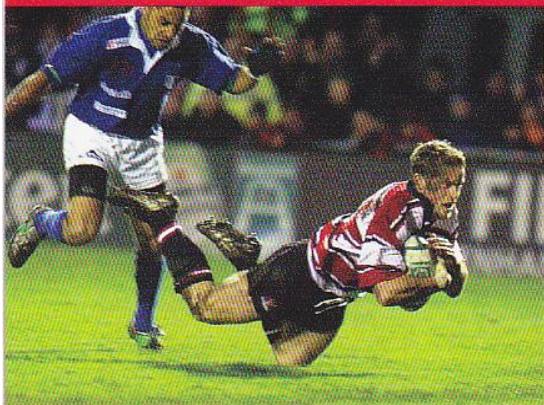
**Jack Boer**

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KINGSHOLM SATURDAY 31 JANUARY 2004



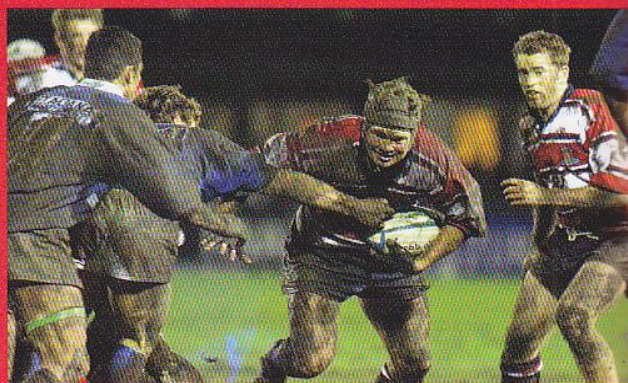
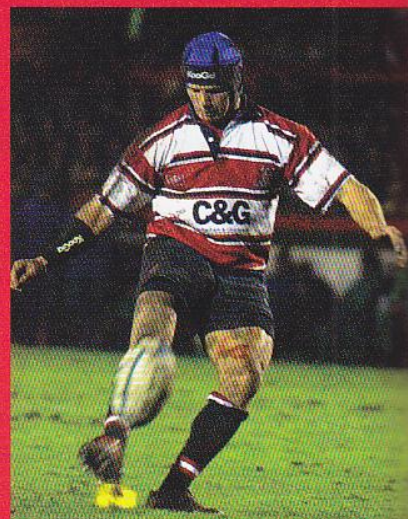
## GLOUCESTER 42

TRIES: SIMPSON-DANIEL, GOODRIDGE, TODD, PENALTY,  
BUXTON, GARVEY CONVERSIONS: PAUL (6)



## TREVISO 11

TRIES: EIGNER PENALTIES: MASON (2)



top left: James Simpson-Daniel goes over to score the first try. top right: Jon Goodridge goes over for the second try.  
middle: Henry Paul. bottom left: Robert Todd scores the third try. bottom right: Jake Boer on the attack in the second half.



Gloucester cruised into the Heineken Cup quarter-finals after completing a ruthless demolition job on Italian champions Treviso at Kingsholm.

Boer and company knew exactly what they had to do before kick-off - win the game, and leave mathematical permutations until after the final whistle.

It was a thoroughly professional Gloucester performance, as they manufactured six tries from James Simpson-Daniel, Jon Goodridge, Robert Todd, Peter Buxton and Marcel Garvey, while they also collected a penalty try and centre Henry Paul landed all six conversions.

Attendance: 10,176



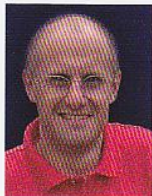
top right: James Forrester (left) and James Simpson-Daniel tackle Treviso's Scott Palmer.  
bottom: Phil Vickery is stopped by Treviso's Carlo Checchinato.

Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GFA Images



## BY IAN RANDALL

BBC RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE



BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Ian Randall looks back at the Heineken Cup fixture activity over the last seven days.

Anyone fancy Easter in Limerick? No, I didn't either, and the overall quality of the Heineken Cup was shown by the way Wasps and Llanelli, against the odds, manoeuvred their way into the quarter-finals with wins at Perpignan and Northampton respectively.

Wasps still needed two tries with only five minutes of normal time remaining to stop Gloucester having to go

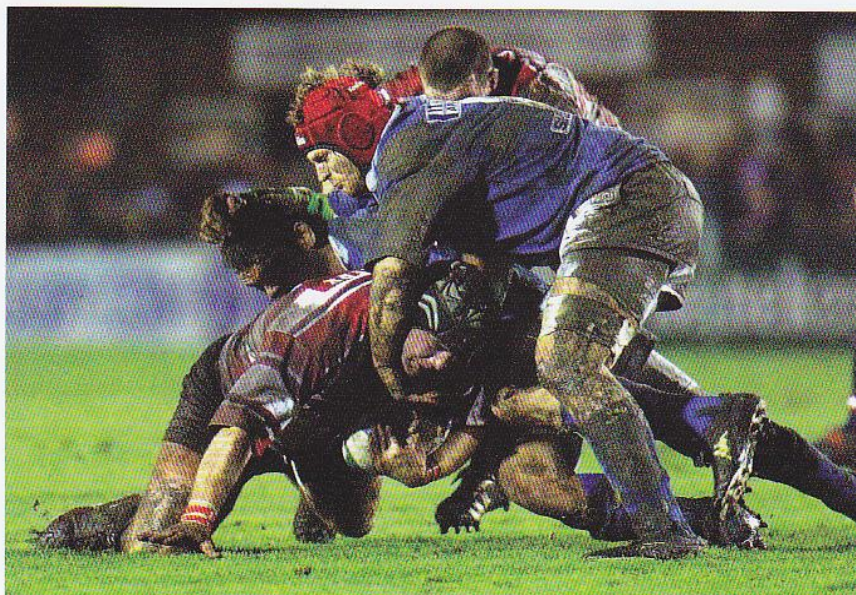
I'm well aware Gloucester's record against Wasps – 16 straight defeats in all competitions away from Kingsholm – but then there would be no better time to stop that record dead in its tracks. For the record, the last time Gloucester won at Wasps was in January 1990, when a late try by Richard Mogg secured a 23-19 victory at Sudbury in the fourth round of the Pilkington Cup.

**“...it is back to the Premiership, which has been on the back burner since the win at Leicester.”**

Tuesday's semi final draw was a mass of imponderables, but Gloucester know if they are to reach the Final they have to do it the hard way. As well as overturning the losing streak against Wasps, they have to now beat either Stade Francais or Munster in their own country. Even playing the game in England would have been a marginal benefit. One can only hope that come April the players are in the form of their lives.

to Munster in the quarter-finals, and in some ways I'm glad they scored them. Tactically and psychologically, having to work out how to beat Munster AGAIN at Thomond Park would have been a huge task.

In the intervening period, it is back to the Premiership, which has been on the back burner since the win at Leicester. After making all the running last season, I would suggest that Gloucester are quite happy to be in the pack and not at the front with Bath, who could





potentially have nothing to show for their season at the end of it.

The three games before a break which takes in the bulk of the period covering the Six Nations are all ones I would hope they would win, and so put them in a strong position in the scramble for honours after Easter. The prospect of seeing Johnny Wilkinson ensured the match was a sell out weeks ago, and although his absence is disappointing, Newcastle will still be a threat. Ben Gollings kicked superbly in the reverse fixture earlier in the season, when one outrageous piece of skill illuminated the match. Tom May's hat trick try involved him catching a high kick down the line at full pace without breaking stride to score in the corner. Such opportunism will need to be watched today.

Elsewhere in Gloucestershire rugby, things are beginning to sort themselves out. To me, Lydney's plight at the foot of National Division Two indicated two things. The Premiership is now at a level where local clubs have lost touch with it, and the difference between each level below it is getting bigger all the time.

The Severnsiders (admittedly with the bulk of last season's team) have won only two matches following their promotion, and look cast iron certainties to go straight back down along with the other promoted club, Rosslyn Park. Perhaps Division Three South is their optimum level on their modest resources.

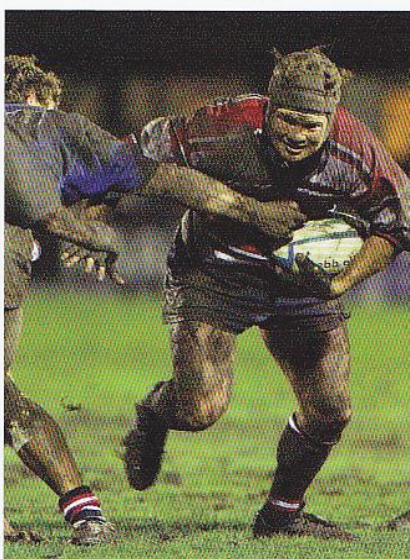
Old Patesians' stay at that level looked under threat until Christmas, but five successive wins have improved their position no end, and next season they could again be joined by Cinderford, who are pressing for honours on two fronts under the tutelage of Pete Glanville. While automatic promotion may be beyond them, they are handily placed to reach the play offs and today go to Bradford and Bingley in the Intermediate Cup quarter finals.

The Yorkshire side (coached by former England coach Geoff Cooke) lost at Cheltenham at the same stage last season, and having beaten holders Hertford away already, Cinderford will travel with confidence. Gloucester Old Boys are also in the last eight, and another Kingsholm favourite, Kevin Dunn, takes his team to Kettering today. One might argue an all

Gloucestershire final ought to be played at Kingsholm, but I suppose Twickenham would do.

It is five wins out of six for the team since the festive victory over Quins, but look at the table and the picture could change very quickly. A home win today is nigh on essential.

### C'mon Glaws !



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**BBC Radio Gloucestershire (104.7 FM & 1413 AM)**

on the official club website, [www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com](http://www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com).

and on the BBC website, [www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire](http://www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire)





# Peter Arnold

This week Peter Arnold looks at the Heineken Cup draw, the England captaincy and player selection for the national side

## INTO THE WASPS' NEST

I had intended to start by commenting on a remark Sir Clive Woodward made last Sunday afternoon. He observed, "If any English team can win at Thomond Park, it's Gloucester". Less than three hours later, the remark, though heartening, had become irrelevant, which took everyone by surprise.

I suppose a trip to High Wycombe is marginally less intimidating than one to Limerick, though our record on that particular ground isn't exactly great. Wasps are a strong, well-drilled and street-wise side who can beat anyone, as

they demonstrated at Perpignan. However, they can freeze on occasions, as they showed when Celtic Warriors beat them at home a few weeks ago.

Happily, a lot more supporters can make the relatively short trip to High Wycombe than are able to travel to Limerick twice within a few weeks, so the noise levels won't be entirely one-sided.

Anyway, we owe them one for Twickenham back last May.

### POISONED CHALICE?

I'm certain that it's only a matter of time before Phil Vickery is given the captaincy of England during a Six Nations campaign, and while we obviously

sympathise with him on missing out this time round, I'm not at all sure that it's entirely a bad thing.

As World Cup Champions, England will be expected to win the Six Nations with some ease, and will get precious little credit for doing so. If they slip up along the way, they will be defecated upon from a great height, and the captain is a very handy scapegoat.

Whoever finds himself in the hot seat this season, and we congratulate Laurence Dallaglio on his reinstatement, is going to have his performance studied from hell to breakfast time, and will almost certainly receive critical comment when compared to Martin Johnson, which is hardly fair, but is the way of the world, these days.

'Florence' has been through the mill before, and then some. He's an experienced and proven performer, and will be able to shrug off any brickbats like so much dandruff. He's nearer the end of his career than the beginning, and while I hesitate to use the word 'stopgap', such thoughts must be going through people's minds, a circumstance which will worry the Wasp not at all.

'Vicks' isn't in the same position. He can do without such pressures at this stage of his career, and he can now get on with doing what he does best - eating opposition props before breakfast and hollering for more.







There's another factor entering the equation, too. Next year we have a Lions tour to New Zealand, which will be a very tough assignment indeed. There's no doubt that Sir Clive Woodward can have the manager's job for the asking, and like any Lions supremo, he'll want his own national captain working alongside him. All right, I know that wasn't true under Graham Henry, and look what happened there. Anyway, Martin Johnson was a special case.

There could be a thought around that Phil would not be quite ready for such a nightmare assignment, and there might be some strength in that.

But his time will come. There's no doubt about that, injuries permitting, and all we can do is advise him to keep his head down, keep on plugging, and wait for the accolade to be conferred.

### FAMOUS FIVE

We must congratulate our quintet of players who have made it to the first

England squad of the season. Admittedly, there's a long way to go, and it's a very large squad, but bearing in mind all the factors, including a long list of injury worries, there doesn't seem much reason why all of them shouldn't survive most, if not all, of the whittling down process.

If either Phil Vickery or Trevor Woodman had missed out then it would have been the biggest shock since young William Webb Ellis did his thing at Rugby School. They are undoubtedly the most fearsome prop-forward combination in the Northern Hemisphere, and look likely to remain so for a considerable time yet.

Similarly, Andy Gomarsall has been easily the best scrum-half on view since the World Cup squad came home, and it would be an injustice if he didn't get a start for England this season.

James Simpson-Daniel has forced himself back into the reckoning with a scintillating display of pyrotechnics of late. Sir Clive simply couldn't leave him out. The England back three is a

particularly difficult area to break into at the moment, but there are some injury worries there too, and Sinbad deserves a bit of luck if ever a player did.

And what of Henry Paul? This time last year a lot of fans were howling for his head, but I'll bet they're glad, now, that their advice wasn't heeded. He was described in the press, the other week, as being in 'sizzling' form, but how you can sizzle and glide at the same time, I don't know. Nowadays, every time he gets the ball, with a minimum of space, he looks like trouble, and it's nice to see such skill from a bloke who had such a difficult beginning.

The one criticism which has been levelled at the all-conquering England side has been a perceived lack of invention among the centres. The insertion of Henry into that scenario could just put an end to all that, and make the other England backs look even better than they do.

We live in interesting times, and it will be fascinating to see how it all pans out.



# England Play at Kingsholm



As was reported in last week's matchday programme Kingsholm is becoming the home of the England U21s side this Spring, as it'll be hosting the young England side's RBS Six Nations campaign.

The England U21s team will be taking on Ireland and Wales in front of the Shed and the Cherry and Whites are urging everyone to get behind the youngsters.

Four of the current first team squad have been named in the provisional training squad, including Marcel Garvey, Nick Wood, Andy Frost and Brad Davies.

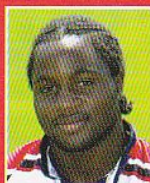
With Kingsholm now being the squad's official home base, supporters will be able to watch them take on Ireland on Friday 5th March and Wales, last year's Six Nations and Grand Slam winners, two weeks later, on 19th March.

The clash with Ireland is scheduled to kick off at 7.30pm and the fixture with Wales will kick off at 7.05pm.



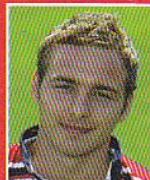
Marcel Garvey

## Gloucester Players to Watch



### Marcel Garvey (wing):

One of the hottest young talents in the game, Garvey scored a blistering try last Saturday against Treviso. First hit the headlines with a hat-trick of tries against Bristol live on Sky Sports. Has kept himself in the reckoning with a number of breathtaking tries. The talented young winger always offers the potential to create something out of nothing.



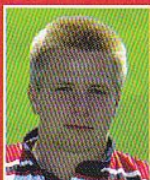
### Brad Davies (fly-half):

Davies started Gloucester's first two Zurich Premiership games of the season to set his marker down on his capabilities. The first choice number 10 for England during last season's U21s World Cup, Davies is again a key figure in this year's Six Nations.



### Andy Frost:

Part of the England U21s set-up last season before injuring his shoulder early on in the Six Nations. The talented back-line player comes from the South East and has been a key player in the recently set-up Zurich 'A' team.



### Nick Wood:

Wood has worked his way through Gloucester's Academy system to the fringe of the first team squad. A former student at Oxford University the prop forward has been a regular in the Gloucester first team matchday squad this season and has a number of replacement appearances to his name.



## Other Players to Watch

### Will Skinner (back-row forward)

Skinner is a regular member of the Leicester Tigers matchday 22. Played for England sevens before making his Tigers debut. The young back-rower also turned out for England U19s during the Six Nations last year. He was also called into the England U21 training squad for their game against Scotland, and is part of the set-up this season as well.

### James Bailey (winger)

Bailey boasted a phenomenal try scoring record for the Bristol U21s and United teams last season (17 tries in 21 appearances). That record earned him a professional contract with the Shoguns for this season's Division One campaign.

Bailey represented England U21s in last year's World Cup and scored a hat-trick against Japan. The young winger has also

played in the World Sevens Series for England and represented Young England at the Middlesex Sevens in August 2003. He's been in blistering form for the Shoguns this season.

### Jon Clarke

A former Bristol player, Jon Clarke was part of the successful U21s team at the Memorial Stadium and was set for a bright future at the Shoguns. But relegation saw the talented full-back transfer to Northampton Saints where he's gone on to make himself a regular in the matchday squad.

### Ugo Monye

Harlequins' Ugo Monye tops the Zurich Premiership try scoring charts with seven touch downs. Although he's been in top form this year, he's also been troubled by injury, but is a major match-winner on his day.

## Ticket Info

Tickets are priced from £9 for adults and £2 for under 16s, with concessions costing £5 per game.

The Club has also introduced a saving for season ticket holders if they wish to buy for both the home England U21 Internationals.

Tickets for both games are available from Gloucester Rugby Club's ticket hotline on 0871 871 8781.

### Terracing

- Adults: £9.00
- Concession: £5.00
- Junior: £2.00

### Season Ticket Holders (terracing)

- Adult £15.00 for both games
- Concessions £8.00 both games

### Grandstand

- £12.00 per game

### Season Ticket Holders (grandstand)

- £20.00 for both games - Seats reserved up until 09/02/04

## Group Bookings:

Gloucester Rugby Club is also promoting special deals for group bookings from schools, clubs and other organisations for both games.

More details can be obtained from James Bennett, Gloucester RFC's Community Development Manager by email at [jamesbennett@gloucester rugby club.com](mailto:jamesbennett@gloucester rugby club.com). All tickets are on sale NOW.

## ENGLAND U21 SIX NATIONS TRAINING SQUAD

### FORWARDS

Aston Croall - Saracens  
Christian Day - Sale Sharks  
Stuart Friswell - Leicester Tigers  
Matt Hampson - Leicester Tigers  
James Haskell - London Wasps  
Rob Hawkins - Bath  
Mark Hopley - Worcester RFC  
Andrew Kyriacou - Sale Sharks  
Magnus Lund - Sale Sharks  
Tom Parker - NEC Harlequins  
Geoff Parling - Newcastle Falcons  
James Percival - Worcester RFC  
Tom Rees - London Wasps  
Ben Russell - Saracens  
Will Skinner - Leicester Tigers  
Ben Skirving - Saracens  
Tom Warren - Worcester RFC  
David Wilson - Newcastle Falcons  
**Nick Wood - Gloucester RFC**

### BACKS

James Bailey - Bristol Shoguns  
Henry Barratt - NEC Harlequins  
Chris Bell - NEC Harlequins  
Jon Clarke - Northampton Saints  
Spencer Davey - Bath  
**Brad Davies - Gloucester RFC**  
**Andrew Frost - Gloucester RFC**  
**Marcel Garvey - Gloucester RFC**  
Adrian Jarvis - NEC Harlequins  
Ugo Monye - NEC Harlequins  
Nils Mordt - London Irish  
Luke Myring - Leicester Tigers  
Andy Reay - NEC Harlequins  
Clive Stuart-Smith - Leeds Tykes  
Richard Wigglesworth - Sale Sharks  
Tom Williams - NEC Harlequins

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# Fans Zone

with  
**Bob Fenton**

**Resident Shed Head Bob Fenton looks back at previous encounters between Gloucester and Newcastle**

So now we know then. The points have been added, the statisticians have done their work and our fate in the quarter-final of the Heineken Cup has been decided.

In the week prior to the Treviso game I think I had worked out just about every permutation of where we could go, and

**"Since the start of the Premiership we hold the whip hand with eight wins to their six..."**

had successfully scoped out travel arrangements for Toulouse, Limerick and even Edinburgh. What a waste of time that was, we haven't got a trip to either a new stadium or a visit to see old friends at Thomond Park.

No, what do we get – a 50-mile dash up the M40 to High Wycombe to play Wasps. How boring is that – we've been there once this season already (and lost), and I have only just got over the lack of oxygen and fear of heights from climbing the steps and squeezing into the seats in their new stand.

While it's better by miles than the plastic dustbin that was Loftus Road, you still feel that you are teetering on the edge of a long drop if you lean forward – or heaven forbid – stand up in a moment of excitement / panic / anxiety / celebration / shouting at Florence Dayglo to shut up and get on with it (\* delete as necessary).

At the time of writing there were some rumours that because of the number of people who will want to see this game that the match may be switched back to said plastic dustbin Loftus Road.

While the extra capacity will be welcome, the fear of impending deep vein thrombosis caused by those seats and the inevitable cricked neck from trying to lean around inconveniently placed stanchions far outweighs the benefits. When that place was built soccer fans could have only been four feet tall – imagine sitting next to someone the size of Alex Brown... doesn't bear thinking about.

I suppose there are some benefits – I don't think anyone – least of all our bank managers – would have welcomed another weekend in Limerick, and with Wasps you know what you are going to get – Trevor Leotard tackling without the use of his arms, Paul Volley punching anything that moves and our old friend Florence yapping at the ref all game.

Talking about Florence, did you hear the comment that ref made during their game at Perpignan, "... Start acting like a captain..." he said, after getting yet another verbal volley from the big lump. That'll be the day.

But we still owe them one from THAT match last year, and personally I can't think of a better time for payback than by knocking them out of the Heineken Cup.

Anyway, I think we all know who we can blame for us not getting a home tie in the quarterfinals – Tony blooming Spreadbury, that's who. I mean to say, he's a West Country bloke so what the (oops nearly said a rude word there) heck was he doing awarding a penalty try to Munster for? As if giving them the try





wasn't bad enough, it was in the last 10 minutes and was the fourth – a bonus point – one at that!

Who knows, if he had overlooked the incident we might be sitting pretty with a home draw and another full house for a match against Stade Francais. I reckon he did it because he knew it would wind us all up – he's a bit like that is our Tony, remember him showing up at a GRSA meeting wearing a Bath shirt????

Please don't tell me he's the ref today, if he read this before the game he'll ping us off the park and it will be all my fault. I didn't mean it Tony, you know we all love you really.

But here we are, having spent the last few weeks sampling the champagne rugby of the Heineken back to the good old euro fizz of the premiership – or in today's case Newcastle Brown for a visit from The Falcons.

This match sold out months ago. The extra attention since the World Cup has been good for the game, and if a few more people come along and sample the occasion once, then maybe they'll become hooked and come back again. After all we were all new to Kingsholm once, and we've all kept coming back.

Quite what these new folks will make of a Gloucester versus Newcastle match remains to be seen. They are always full-on affairs, with no quarter asked or given.

If you go back over the years you will see that there have been some epic encounters between the sides. Since the start of the Premiership we hold the whip hand with eight wins to their six, but they gave us a proper stuffing up there earlier this term handing out a 42 – 22 hiding.

Putting aside the 60 – 9 stuffing we gave them in the play-off game two years ago, most of the matches have been incredibly

close – remember the epic fight back last season after we seemed dead and buried at half time – with little more than a handful of points separating the sides come the final whistle. I'll be very surprised if today's result is much different.

Kingsholm isn't the favourite venue for Rob Andrew either, not least because I can't remember him winning a game when he played here – he must have done at some point in the dim and distant past, I've just blotted it from the memory banks.

Unfortunately supporters often leave Gloucester – Newcastle matches with a bit more to talk about than the score. Maybe it's the intensity of these clashes but it seems that both sets of players are more likely to find themselves staring at a card of some colour than they do in any other fixture during the season.

Lets hope that today all we have to discuss is the merits of Gloucester running in four tries.



TRY  
CONVERSION  
PENALTY  
DROP GOAL

## GLOUCESTER

Jon Goodridge	15	fullback
Marcel Garvey	14	wing
Robert Todd	13	centre
Henry Paul	12	centre
James Simpson-Daniel	11	wing
Duncan McRae	10	flyhalf
Andy Gomarsall	09	scrumhalf
Trevor Woodman	01	prop
Chris Fortey	02	hooker
Phil Vickery	03	prop
Adam Eustace	04	lock
Alex Brown	05	lock
Jake Boer (c)	06	flanker
Peter Buxton	07	flanker
Junior Paramore	08	no. 8
Chris Collins	16	replacements
Andy Deacon	17	
Rodrigo Roncero	18	
Mark Cornwell	19	
James Forrester	20	
Alex Page	21	
Terry Fanolua	22	

NEWCASTLE  
FALCONS

## NEWCASTLE

TRY  
CONVERSION  
PENALTY  
DROP GOAL

Joe Shaw	15	
Tom May	14	
Jamie Noon	13	
Mark Mayerhofler	12	
Martin Shaw	11	
David Walder	10	
James Grindal	09	
Ian Peel	01	
Matt Thompson	02	
Marius Hurter	03	
Garath Archer	04	
Stuart Grimes	05	
Jon Dunbar	06	
Warren Britz	07	
Hugh Vyvyan (c)	08	
Micky Ward	16	
Nick Makin	17	
Craig Hamilton	18	
Geoff Parling	19	
Hall Charlton	20	
Phil Godman	21	
Mark Wilkinson	22	

## ZURICH PREMIERSHIP 2003/04

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Bath Rugby	14	13	0	1	351	187	3	1	56
London Wasps	14	10	0	4	393	260	4	2	46
Northampton Saints	14	8	1	5	389	306	4	2	40
<b>Gloucester</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>36</b>
London Irish	14	8	0	6	303	301	1	3	36
NEC Harlequins	14	7	1	6	328	289	3	3	36
Sale Sharks	14	6	2	6	338	269	3	5	36
Newcastle Falcons	14	6	0	8	321	297	2	6	32
Leicester Tigers	14	5	1	8	273	312	1	2	24
Leeds Tykes	14	5	0	9	293	402	3	1	24
Saracens	14	5	1	8	257	367	1	1	22
Rotherham Titans	14	0	0	14	176	473	0	1	1

1453

## TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Dave Pearson RFU

1st TJ: Huw Jones-Williams RFU

2nd TJ: Lloyd Jackson RFU

Replacement Referee: Wayne Barnes

## Today's Result

Gloucester **36**

Newcastle **12**

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