

GPFEC

vs **NEC**

Harlequins

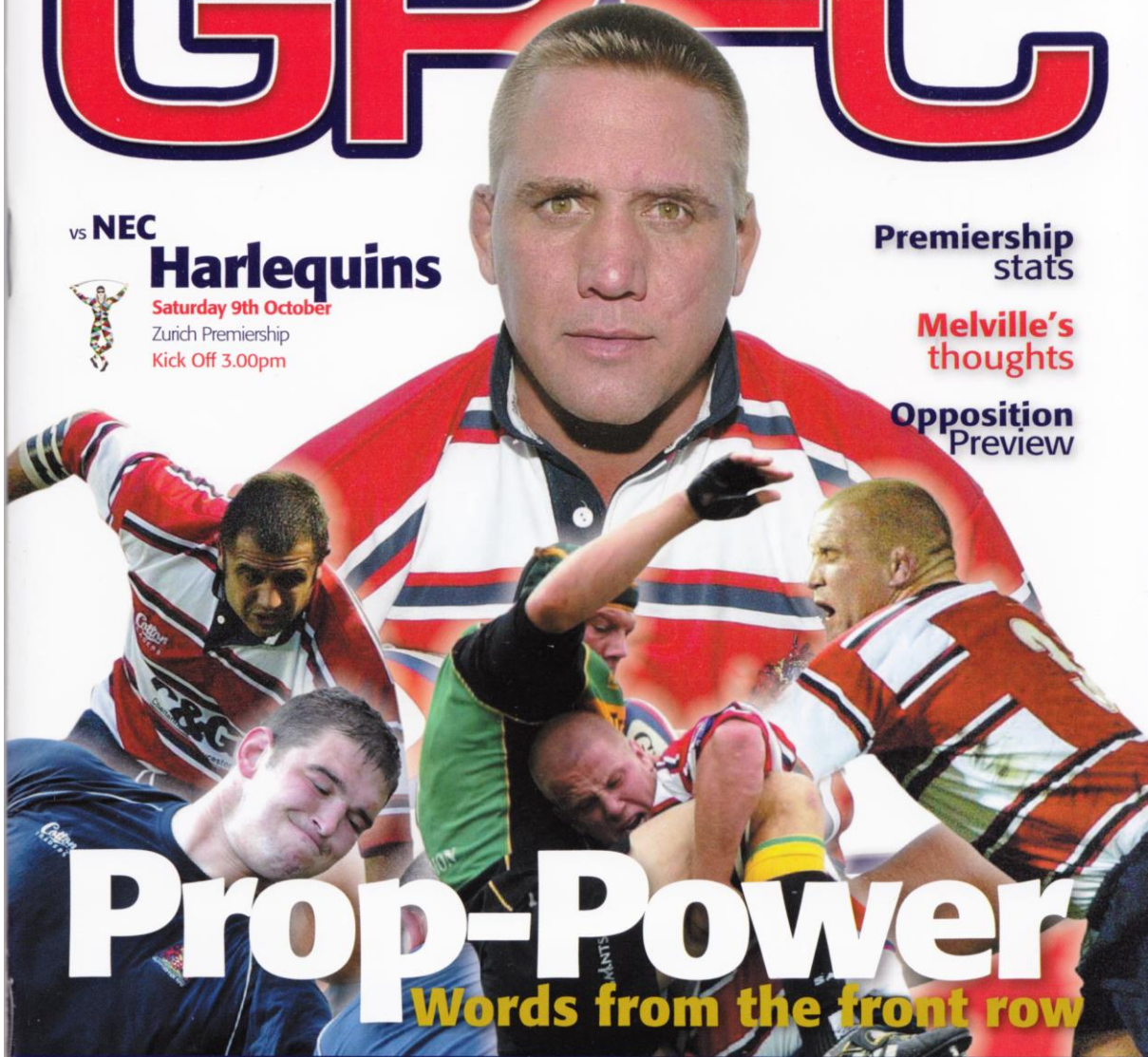


Saturday 9th October
Zurich Premiership
Kick Off 3.00pm

Premiership
stats

Melville's
thoughts

Opposition
Preview



Prop-Power

Words from the front row

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match programme sponsor



www.zurichpremiership.com



“Today’s game will be another tough test of the squad’s credentials...”



Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for round six of our 2004-05 Zurich Premiership campaign against NEC Harlequins.

Last weekend we travelled to Bath, we broke with the usual Bath away routine, and travelled on Friday, in an attempt to break the cycle of disappointing results at the Rec – and once again we failed!

From a coaching perspective the quality of the performance was not deserving of a win, too many basic errors, missed kicks and penalties, irrespective of the Bath away voodoo!

This week we have worked hard on the basics, we have learnt some valuable lessons during the past week, and we are looking forward to putting things right this afternoon.

On Monday night it was great to see so many people making the effort to support the United squad who lost to Wasps by a point with the last kick of the game.

The Zurich 'A' League has really started to take off this season, more than 9,000 watched Leicester lose to Northampton at Welford Road! The Zurich 'A' League is proving to be an excellent

they can test their fitness.

This week was an excellent example with the return of a full international front row, Messrs Dowd and Leota for Wasps and our very own Phil Vickery.

Phil played for 40 minutes, he still has some way to go for 80 minutes full intensity, but he looks in great shape and will be a valuable asset to the squad during the next few weeks. I would like to congratulate Nick Allen and Mike Anthony on their excellent work with Phil, he has never worked harder or looked better!

Today's game will be another tough test of the squad's credentials, Harlequins may have had a poor start to the season, but they have plenty of talented players that shows the strength of the Zurich Premiership this season.

Harlequins' run of games during the next month includes Gloucester, Leicester, Munster, Castres and London Wasps – there are no easy games these days!

I am sure today will be yet another great occasion at Kingsholm, the new stand is proving a great success and the demand for tickets continues to grow. I hope you have a great afternoon's rugby and look forward to seeing you at Worcester next weekend.

All the best

Nigel's notes



Nigel Melville
Director of Rugby

sponsored by Dair



development tool. Whilst young hopefuls get a chance to shine at a high level, bench players get a valuable 60-80 minutes game time, and those returning from injury have an environment where

Nigel's Notes - brought to you in association with



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“...we’ve focussed on what we did wrong against Bath, and making sure we put it right for today.”

Welcome to everyone to today's game.

I thought it'd be slightly different this week to look at a few of the other teams in the Zurich Premiership, rather than go over what we've done over the last few days, but rest assured, we've focussed on what we did wrong against Bath, and making sure we put it right for today.

Up there at the top of the table are Sale Sharks and Leicester. Sale recruited well over the summer. They have a number of key guys who have been with them for some years. When you look at the results they've had a similar start to Bath last year.

By that I mean that they'll be determined to stay there and that will bring pressure, but

year. They've got some great experienced players and in recent weeks have looked pretty impressive. The likes of Martin Johnson and Neil Back have worked hard with the younger players, who find themselves developing quicker alongside the likes of them.

At the other end of the table there is Quins, who have got good players and they'll be disappointed and uncomfortable with where they are. They'll come here to win.

Elsewhere towards the foot of the table there are Saracens. A few years ago they were at the top of the table. But in recent seasons they've changed playing personnel, which is an expensive exercise.

They've got to work their way out of it. As a team you have to be able to cope with the bad times and work hard throughout it.

Sometimes when you need that extra bit of a boost it comes from the supporters. You only have to look around the Premiership to see the numbers are increasing across the board, and none more so that here with the massive sell-out crowd against Newcastle.

The fans have a key role to play when the going gets tough. I believe that our supporters would be here through everything. Knowing that makes you want to perform even more, you want to put on a good show for them. You don't want to disappoint.

You're a vocal lot and say what you think, which is good, trust me, we're very lucky with our core base of support. Not everyone has that.

Enjoy today's game

Captain's corner

Jake Boer
Club Captain



you only have to look at how Bath progressed last season in the same sort of situation.

When you win a few games in a row by the odd point or three or four, you get into the habit of grinding them out.

Confidence increases, and when you are in a dogfight and the game is close, you have the belief that you can do it. You're not so concerned with how many points you win by, but you know you can win, and you want to make five wins from five, become six from six.

Leicester have been a great side in recent years, and they let themselves down last season. They've certainly been out to prove a point this




GRFC squad 2004/05





Simon Amor

	POSITION: Halfback
	D.O.B: 24.04.79
	HEIGHT: 1.69m
	WEIGHT: 75.6kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS: England Sevens	
To Sponsor a player: Please contact 01452 300951 	

Oliver Azam

	POSITION: Hooker
	D.O.B: 21.10.74
	HEIGHT: 1.85m
	WEIGHT: 115kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS: France, France 'A'	
Player Sponsored by: MBNA 	

James Bailey

	POSITION: Wing
	D.O.B: 05.08.83
	HEIGHT: 1.80m
	WEIGHT: 81kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS: England U21	
To Sponsor a player: Please contact 01452 300951 	

Adam Balding



POSITION:
Number 8
D.O.B:
07.12.79
HEIGHT:
1.88m
WEIGHT:
110kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A', U21
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951 

Christo Bezuidenhout



POSITION:
Prop
D.O.B:
14.05.70
HEIGHT:
1.87m
WEIGHT:
117kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
South Africa
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951 

Jake Boer



POSITION:
Flanker
D.O.B:
01.11.75
HEIGHT:
1.87m
WEIGHT:
105kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
-
Player Sponsored by:
Bankside 01684 294511

Alex Brown



POSITION:
Lock
D.O.B:
17.05.79
HEIGHT:
2.00m
WEIGHT:
110kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A'
Player Sponsored by:
www.cotswoldgroup.com 

Peter Buxton



POSITION:
Back Row
D.O.B:
21.08.78
HEIGHT:
1.92m
WEIGHT:
112kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A'
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951 

Mark Cornwell




POSITION:
Lock
D.O.B:
22.03.73
HEIGHT:
2.01m
WEIGHT:
114.7kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A'
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951 

Brad Davies



POSITION:
Fly half
D.O.B:
13.02.83
HEIGHT:
1.77m
WEIGHT:
81.9kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U21, U18
Player Sponsored by:
MBNA 

Rob Elloway



POSITION:
Hooker
D.O.B:
09.11.83
HEIGHT:
1.83m
WEIGHT:
99.9kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
-
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951 

Simon Emms



POSITION:
Prop
D.O.B:
27.01.75
HEIGHT:
1.79m
WEIGHT:
109kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
-
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951 

Adam Eustace




POSITION:
Lock
D.O.B:
09.01.79
HEIGHT:
1.95m
WEIGHT:
104.7kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A', U21, U19
Player Sponsored by:
www.greenlane.landrover.co.uk  Green Lane Land Rover

Terry Fanolua




POSITION:
Centre
D.O.B:
03.07.74
HEIGHT:
1.83m
WEIGHT:
93.7kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
Manu Samoa
Player Sponsored by:
www.greenlane.landrover.co.uk  Green Lane Land Rover

James Forrester



POSITION:
Number 8
D.O.B:
09.02.81
HEIGHT:
1.95m
WEIGHT:
99.1kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A', U21, Sevens
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951 

Chris Fortey



POSITION:
Hooker
D.O.B:
25.08.75
HEIGHT:
1.83m
WEIGHT:
106.4kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A'
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951

Mark Foster



POSITION:
Wing
D.O.B:
02.09.83
HEIGHT:
1.83m
WEIGHT:
91.9kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U21, Students
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951

Marcel Garvey



POSITION:
Wing
D.O.B:
21.04.83
HEIGHT:
1.73m
WEIGHT:
85.6kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U21, U19, Schools
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951

Andy Gomarsall



POSITION:
Scrum-half
D.O.B:
20.07.74
HEIGHT:
1.77m
WEIGHT:
90.5kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951

Jon Goodridge



POSITION:
Full-back
D.O.B:
26.02.81
HEIGHT:
1.86m
WEIGHT:
86kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U21
Player Sponsored by:
Monere Construction 01242 821478

Andy Hazell



POSITION:
Flanker
D.O.B:
25.04.78
HEIGHT:
1.83m
WEIGHT:
93.1kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England 'A'
Player Sponsored by:
www.gcinteriors.com

Ryan Lamb



POSITION:
Fly-half
D.O.B:
18.05.86
HEIGHT:
1.76m
WEIGHT:
84kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U19
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951

Will Matthews



POSITION:
Back Row
D.O.B:
14.01.85
HEIGHT:
1.84m
WEIGHT:
90kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U19
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951

Nathan Mauger



POSITION:
Centre
D.O.B:
08.04.78
HEIGHT:
1.84m
WEIGHT:
98kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
New Zealand tour 2001 to Europe
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951

Duncan McRae



POSITION:
Fly-half
D.O.B:
27.09.74
HEIGHT:
1.72m
WEIGHT:
80.7kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
Australia 'A'
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951

James Merriman



POSITION:
Open-side flanker
D.O.B:
17.01.84
HEIGHT:
1.83m
WEIGHT:
95kg

INTERNATIONAL HONS:
Wales U21
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951


Oliver Morgan




POSITION:
Full-back
D.O.B:
03.11.85
HEIGHT:
1.89m
WEIGHT:
88kg


INTERNATIONAL HONS:
England U19
To Sponsor a player:
Please contact 01452 300951


Luke Narraway



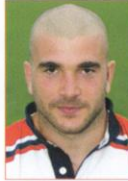
POSITION:	Back-row
D.O.B:	07.09.83
HEIGHT:	1.90m
WEIGHT:	98kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	England U21, U18
To Sponsor a player:	Please contact 01452 300951 


Alex Page




POSITION:	Scrum half
D.O.B:	29.05.81
HEIGHT:	1.78m
WEIGHT:	80.6kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	England U21, U19
To Sponsor a player:	Please contact 01452 300951 


James Parkes




POSITION:	Hooker
D.O.B:	30.11.80
HEIGHT:	1.78m
WEIGHT:	99kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	England U21
To Sponsor a player:	Please contact 01452 300951 


Henry Paul




POSITION:	Inside centre
D.O.B:	10.02.74
HEIGHT:	1.80m
WEIGHT:	93.4kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	England 'A', Sevens
To Sponsor a player:	Please contact 01452 300951 


Gary Powell




POSITION:	Prop
D.O.B:	30.10.79
HEIGHT:	1.82m
WEIGHT:	111kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	Wales U19
To Sponsor a player:	Please contact 01452 300951 


Nick Runciman




POSITION:	Scrum-half
D.O.B:	01.09.85
HEIGHT:	1.74m
WEIGHT:	74kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	England U18, U16
To Sponsor a player:	Please contact 01452 300951 


Terry Sigley




POSITION:	Prop
D.O.B:	12.10.78
HEIGHT:	1.88m
WEIGHT:	121kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	England Counties
To Sponsor a player:	Please contact 01452 300951 


James Simpson-Daniel




POSITION:	Wing
D.O.B:	30.05.82
HEIGHT:	1.82m
WEIGHT:	86kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	England, U21, U19, Sevens
Player Sponsored by:	www.dair.net 


Stuart Taylor




POSITION:	Centre
D.O.B:	03.06.84
HEIGHT:	1.90m
WEIGHT:	100kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	Scotland U19, U18
To Sponsor a player:	Please contact 01452 300951 


Rory Teague




POSITION:	Full-back
D.O.B:	12.02.85
HEIGHT:	1.82m
WEIGHT:	82kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	England U19
To Sponsor a player:	Please contact 01452 300951 


Phil Vickery



POSITION:	Tight-head prop
D.O.B:	14.03.76
HEIGHT:	1.91m
WEIGHT:	116kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	England, British Lions
To Sponsor a player:	Please contact 01452 300951 

Nick Wood



POSITION:	Loose-head prop
D.O.B:	09.01.83
HEIGHT:	1.86m
WEIGHT:	108kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	England U21
Player Sponsored by:	www.greenlane.landrover.co.uk 

The official matchday programme rounds up the latest news from the Zurich 'A' League.

An amazing 9,207 people turned up at Welford Road on Monday night to witness the top of the table clash in the Northern Conference between the Tigers and Northampton Saints.

Despite the crowd, the Tigers crashed 20-14 to the Saints. In a major coup for the Zurich A League there were over 2,500 more people at Welford Road than were "over the road" at the Walkers Stadium for Leicester City's league cup tie against Preston North End.

In the Southern Conference NEC Harlequins kept their 100 per cent winning record intact with a 31-19 victory over London Irish at Sunbury-on-Thames, but they cannot rest easy as London Wasps also won on the road by a single point out of 85 scored in a thriller at Kingsholm.

Elsewhere, the standout performer was Sale's wing Ollie Viney who scored a hat-trick of tries in the Jets 53-17 victory over Leeds at Headingley. Wasps Ed Thrower helped himself to 21 more points and took his tally this season to 49.

There were two more points for Harlequins Adrian Jarvis taking his A League career total to 93, he is poised to become the first player to score a century of points in the competition. Team mate Joe Mbu grabbed his seventh try of the season and his 13th overall moving him to joint top spot on the Zurich A League career try scoring list alongside Northampton's Andy Vilks.

'A' Zurich LEAGUE

Zurich 'A' League - NORTH

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	Points
Northampton Wanderers	4	4	0	0	166	45	3	0	19
Leicester Tigers	4	3	0	1	140	60	2	1	15
Worcester Warriors	4	2	0	2	106	105	2	0	10
Newcastle Falcons	4	2	0	2	89	114	2	0	10
Sale Jets	4	1	0	3	119	146	1	1	6
Leeds Tykes	4	0	0	4	46	196	0	0	0

Zurich 'A' League - SOUTH

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	Points
NEC Harlequins	4	4	0	0	197	55	4	0	20
London Wasps	4	4	0	0	146	65	3	0	19
Gloucester	4	2	0	2	124	143	3	1	12
London Irish	4	1	0	3	100	100	2	1	7
Saracens	4	1	0	3	46	147	1	0	5
Bath United	4	0	0	4	60	163	0	1	1

Latest Results

3 October 2004

Leeds Tykes 17,
Sale Jets 53

4 October 2004

Leicester Tigers 14,
Northampton Wanderers 20

Newcastle Falcons 45,
Worcester Warriors 12

Gloucester 42,
London Wasps 43

London Irish 19,
Nec Harlequins 31

Saracens 22,
Bath United 15

Next Round

Monday 18 October

Northern Conference

Leeds Tykes v
Newcastle Falcons
Northampton Wanderers v
Worcester Warriors
Sale Jets v
Leicester Tigers

Southern Conference

Bath United v
London Irish
London Wasps v
NEC Harlequins
Saracens v
Gloucester

TOP ZURICH A LEAGUE POINTS GETTERS

NAME	TEAM	Points
Ed Thrower	London Wasps	49
Rory Teague	Gloucester	39
Jonathon Higgins	Worcester Warriors	36

TOP ZURICH A LEAGUE TRY GRABBERS

NAME	TEAM	Total
Joe Mbu	NEC Harlequins	7
Alesana Tuilagi	Leicester Tigers	6
Alex Page	Gloucester	5

The matchday programme, through the eyes of **Dave King**, looks back to the mid 1990s and a previous encounter between **Gloucester** and **Harlequins**.

REMEMBER when?



Andy Deacon,
Club Captain
94/95 season

Saturday 29 April 1995 saw the final roar of two Lions and the birth of another. Mike Teague and Brian Moore bade farewell to distinguished careers, and Phil Greening made his debut for the Cherry and Whites.

The game itself, between Gloucester and Harlequins, seemed almost a side show. Mike Teague a veteran of 291 club first team appearances, 27 England Caps and three British Lions Test Caps, said farewell to a distinguished career.

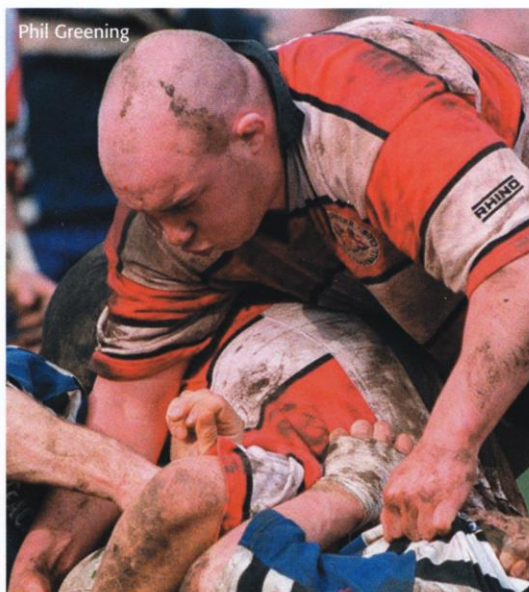
The quality number eight had returned to Kingsholm after two years at Moseley. Teague made his debut in the 1978-79 season and scored a remarkable 75 tries in 291 appearances in a career that spanned playing for Gloucester All Blues,

Cardiff, Stroud, Moseley and the Cherry and Whites.

Mike Teague (35) and Brian Moore (33), were to witness the young and upcoming Phil Greening making his debut and lock forward Mark Cornwall celebrating his first home League game with two tries!

Team mates formed a guard of honour as Mike Teague took the field and he was given a hero's send off. The farewell performance of Mike Teague and Brian Moore almost overshadowed the game itself and particularly it's meaning for Harlequins. For defeat would have consigned the London club to Division Two.

Gloucester were the first to score with a penalty from Lee Osborne but by half-



Phil Greening

time they were 15-3 in the lead. With Jason Leonard having pulled a hamstring it was a notable achievement for the men from The Stoop.

A try by Crawford Henderson, a penalty by Jim Staples opened the proceedings. A penalty try was awarded when the Cherry and Whites captain Andy Deacon made a premature tackle on a certain W.D.C. Carling as he chased his own kick ahead, and match official S. Piercy awarded a penalty try.

A further penalty by full back Jim Staples put the Quins 18-3 up, but two tries by Mark Cornwall, both converted by Lee Osborne reduced the arrears.

Had Lee Osborne succeeded with two penalties, soon after the first Cornwall touchdown, it may have been a more satisfactory outcome. Despite the valiant efforts of captain Andy Deacon and his team mates in that

intervening period, the Quins had added a drop goal from Jim Staples and a try by Peter Mensah to put the result virtually beyond doubt.

A guest at the Kingsholm club that particular weekend was England Colts prop Phil Vickery. Phil, who at the time lived in Cornwall, was put in touch with Gloucester by debutant Phil Greening.

Phil Vickery who was with Redruth RFC had been approached by Bath RFC but chose to come to Kingsholm. Phil had spent two seasons playing for England Colts and in that time they had won five of their eight matches and drawn one.

Rugby Union Schools and Youth Technical Director, Ron Tennick thought highly of Phil Vickery, 'He is 6ft 2" and 18st and he is going to be an immense power'. He commented at the time.

The teams in that 28-17 victory were:

After the match Mike Teague commented:

"The modern game is now making such demands on players that many cannot give it the time it needs. I think the game just has to go professional to survive."

Adding further comment, Mike advised pundits to keep a close watch on 19 year-old Phil Greening.

"He took a strike against the head against Brian Moore and I think he has got everything to become a full International!" What prophetic comments they were to become!

At the completion of the season the former Rugby Football Union marketing manager Mike Coley was appointed as the Club's chief executive.

Gloucester:

T.Smith; P.Holford,
D.Caskie, M.Roberts,
L.Osborne; M.Kimber,
M.Hannaford
(B.Fenley 72mins);
T.Windo, P.Greening,
A.Deacon, (Captain),
M.Cornwall, S.Deveraux,
P.Glanville, P.Ashmead,
M.Teague.

Replacements: Not used,
J.Hawker, R.Fidler

Harlequins:

J.Staple; C.Henderson,
W.Carling, P.Mensah,
S.Bromley; P.Challinor,
R.Kitchin; J.Leonard,
B.Moore (Captain),
A.Mullins, A.Snow,
P.Thresher, M.Watson,
R.Jenkins, C.Sheasby.

Replacements:
C.Wright, M.Russell,
J.Hamilton-Smith

DID YOU Know?

The 1994-95 season saw Gloucester record one away victory in the League and that was versus Harlequins at the Stoop! Paul Holford scored two tries, converted by Lee Osborne in a 14-10 victory. It was a season where we finished seventh.

Gloucester were knocked out of the Pilkington Cup by Wakefield 19-9 in a fourth round encounter. 10 years later, sadly, Wakefield RFC are no longer in existence.

Paul Holford was the leading try scorer with eight tries.

Mike Teague scored his final try for the Club in a 17-21 reverse at the Memorial Ground versus Bristol on 8 April 1995.

Andy Deacon was the Club Captain in 1994-95.

It was a season where we drew 19-19 with Bath Rugby at the Recreation Ground. Martin Kimber was on target with two dropped goals. That season Martin totalled six drop goals. All but one came in away League fixtures. His sole success at Kingsholm came in a narrow 9-6 victory versus Orrell.

Simon Morris scored a hat trick of tries in a comprehensive 48-12 victory against West Hartlepool on 17 September 1994.

Christo Bezuidenhout, Terry Sigley, Phil Vickery, Gary Powell and Nick Wood are the five men fighting it out for the starting shirts in the front row.

PROP time

With injury and availability, it is only now that Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan have all their props competing for the starting places.

The matchday programme rounds up the options on offer at Kingsholm and the latest thoughts from the front row men.

Christo Bezuidenhout
Position: Prop (<i>loose-head</i>)
Date of birth: 14.05.70
Weight: 117kg
Int hons: South Africa

To be involved in such a long competition is one of the greatest challenges I have faced, and the aim is to reach the final!

Background:
Bezuidenhout signed for Gloucester in the summer of 2004, and was a key member of the Springbok team in the 2003 World Cup. He arrived at Kingsholm last Tuesday and came off the bench against Bath last Saturday.

Gary Powell
Position: Prop (<i>tight-head</i>)
Date of birth: 30.10.1979
Weight: 111kg
Int hons: Wales

Background:
Powell signed for Gloucester on a two-year contract in the summer of 2004 from Leeds Tykes.
Nigel

Latest thoughts:
"Feeling the atmosphere of an empty stadium when I arrived and seeing the guys last week convinced me I made the right decision to come here. We know about the Zurich Premiership and the Heineken Cup in South Africa, and I just couldn't turn down the opportunity to come here."



MUSASHI

The Gloucester playing department has teamed up with Musashi, Australia's leading sports supplement provider. As part of the new partnership, Musashi

will be bringing you a series of articles from the playing team, this week the Club's props take their turn.

Melville has been a long-term admirer of the versatile prop having first tried to sign him for Wasps when Powell was an up and coming talent for Wales U19s.

Latest thoughts:

"I returned from injury in Saturday's game against Bath, and am aware of the challenge ahead. As an individual you want to push yourself to the top level and having the quality props we have, means you can't sit back, you have to play at your best at every opportunity."

Terry Sigley

Position: Prop (*Loose-head, and can also play tight-head*)
 Date of birth: 12.10.78
 Weight: 121kg
 Int hons: England Counties

Background:

Prop forward Terry Sigley signed a contract with Gloucester in the summer of 2004. After a good season with Pertemp Bees last year the 25 year-old prop has been an ever present so far this season.

Latest thoughts:

"This season's been a bit surreal to be honest. Starting the first five games has been a bit of a shock, but great nonetheless. The game that stands out most was the Northampton game. We pinpointed that as a big game. With Vicks on his way back and Christo now arrived, competition for places is immense, which is great"

Phil Vickery

Position: Prop (*tight-head*)
 Date of Birth: 14.03.76
 Weight: 116kg
 Int hons: England and British Lions

Background:

Cornish-born Vickery has reached the top levels of the game after leading the way with Gloucester, England and the British Lions.

Latest thoughts:

"I've never worked harder than I have in the last six months, but I've now got to get my head down again after Monday night and keep going. This was a massive step on the ladder for me, although that fact that Craig Dowd and Trevor Leota were playing for Wasps went down like a lead balloon!"

Nick Wood

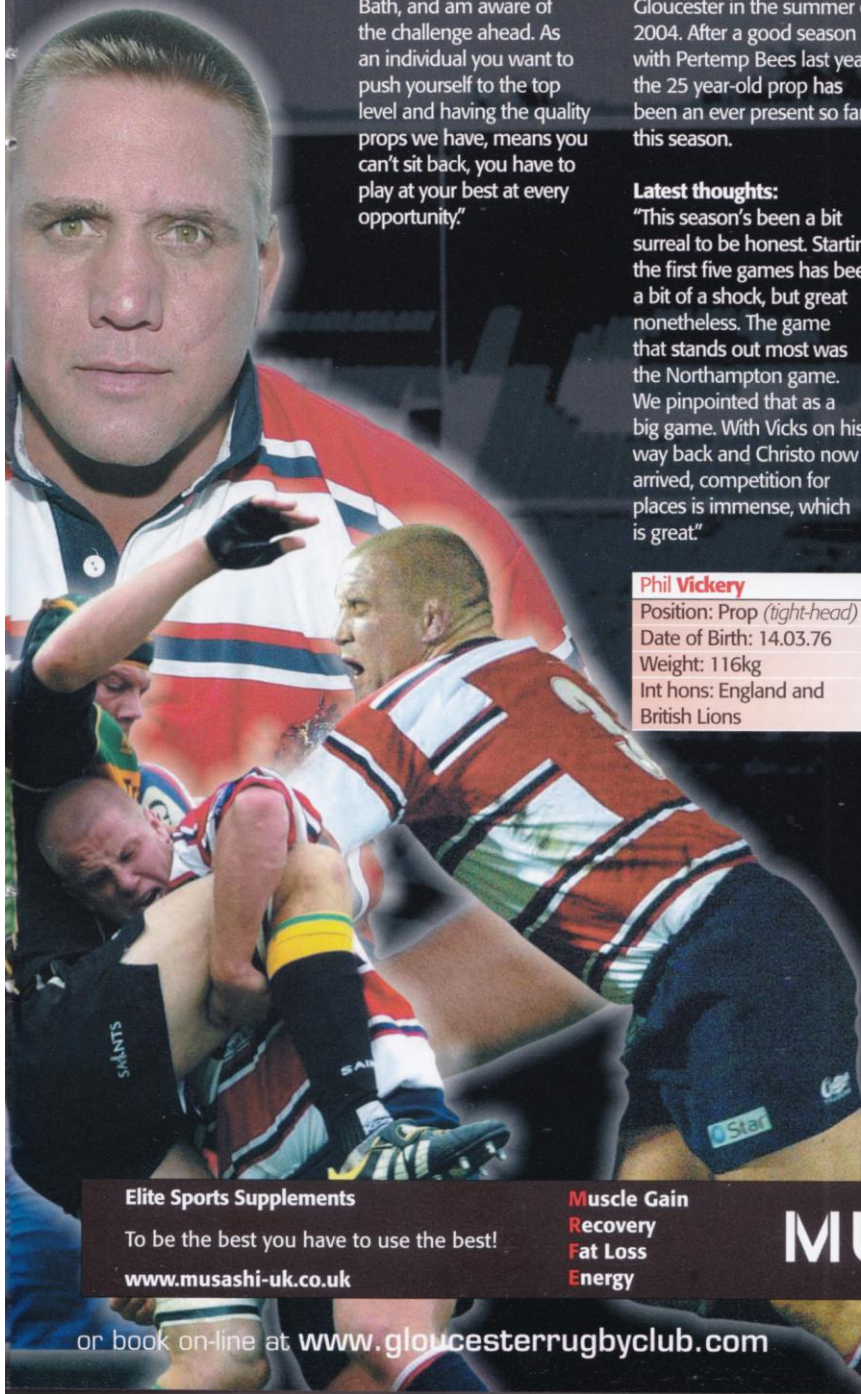
Position: Prop (*loose-head*)
 Date of birth: 09.01.83
 Weight: 108kg
 International honours: England U21

Background:

Wood came in to the first team squad reckoning last season after impressing at Academy level. The loose-head prop was a regular on the bench during the 2003/04 campaign and made a handful of starts during the World Cup period.

Latest thoughts:

"I thought the performance against Northampton was where I want to be. Working with Mots (Mike Anthony) has been good. He knows the areas I've got to work on in terms of conditioning. I've got to keep doing the extra work with Mots and keep working away to break into the first team on a regular basis."



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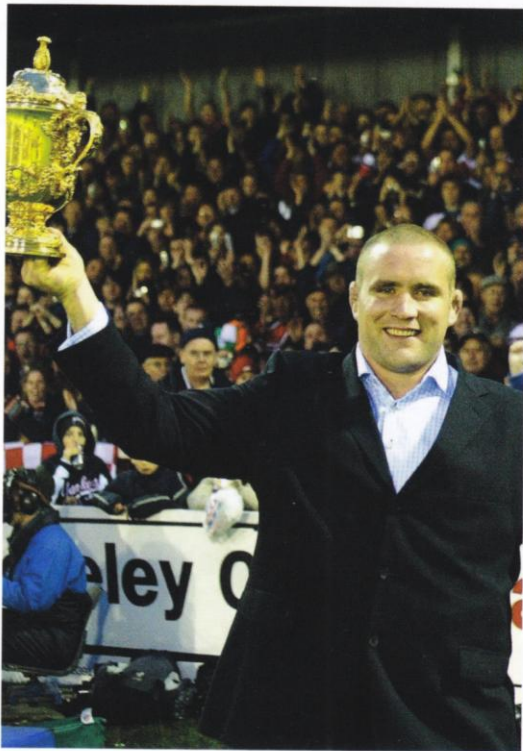
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BBC radio gloucestershire

In the new regular series of interviews, BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Ian Randall catches up with Phil Vickery, who goes under the 'spotlight'!



BBC IR: What's the best thing about rugby?

PV: The team camaraderie I think, all working together and going through thick and thin. You've got the successes like standing at Twickenham after winning, as well as the down side of losing but that's the chance in any game. You want to do well but ultimately, however good a game YOU have, you rely on everyone else, and that's a side of it I've always enjoyed.

BBC IR: What was your first job?

PV: When I left school I worked on my Dad's farm. We used to keep about 100 dairy cows and I was a herdsman and a milkman. It's a great way of life. I feel very privileged to have been able to do what I did, and obviously my father, my brother and my mother's side of the family are all still involved in it. I don't regret it at all.

BBC IR: What would be your preferred alternative career?

PV: I don't think anything can replace

running out here and taking part in a game that you love. People talk about coaching, but I sit in the stand with Dean and Nigel and seeing the boys not doing what we've practiced makes you pull your hair out! I enjoy working with people but you can't beat playing.

BBC IR: Who has been the biggest influence on your life?

PV: I don't think that's down to just one person. I've been really lucky with some of the people I've met. When I came here Richard Hill was director of rugby and I learned a lot from him and the way he went about things. At that stage the game wasn't fully professional, so a guy called Ben Pullen gave me a job on his farm, and he and his family were just fantastic in the way they looked after me. Mike Teague, Phil Blakeway, I could go on. It's a long list, and I couldn't possibly remember everyone.

BBC IR: What can you cook to impress people?

PV: I can cook when I have to, though I'm not sure I could cook to impress! I'm alright at fairly simple things that would stop you from being hungry. I wouldn't say a roast is a speciality but something like that is fairly straight-forward



and I'm quite good at them.

BBC IR: If you had to go on Mastermind what subject would you choose?

PV: I don't think I've got enough specific knowledge for anything like that. Like Deacs I'm a Manchester United fan but in terms of history you'd want to be a couple of generations older. Maybe it would have to be something from farming - the anatomy of a cow perhaps!

BBC IR: What would you like for your next birthday?

PV: Nothing flash, just something useful, or a nice quiet evening with a good meal. That'll do me any day.

BBC IR: What was the last thing that made you laugh out loud?

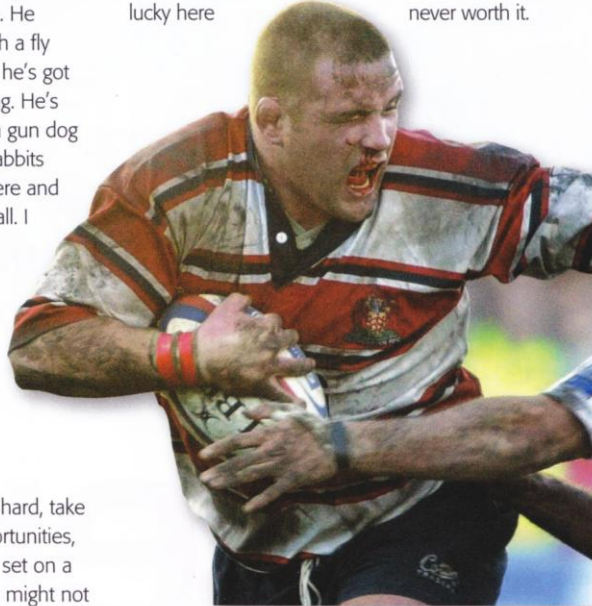
PV: My dog makes me laugh. He was trying to catch a fly this morning and he's got no sense of timing. He's supposed to be a gun dog and there were rabbits running everywhere and he didn't care at all. I found that funny.

BBC IR: What's the one piece of advice you would give to a young player?

PV: Work hard, take your opportunities, but don't get too set on a certain thing. You might not

always play your rugby for the club you wanted to but listen, learn and take on board all the information you can. We're lucky here

with the people who come in and offer specialist advice. You can always look to improve - but don't do it just for the money because it's never worth it.



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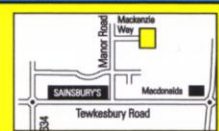
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Regular programme writer Peter Arnold looks at the props on offer at Kingsholm and has a blast from the past to discuss.

Peter ARNOLD

WHY, OH WHY!!!

Why can't we win at Bath? To be fair, we have won there twice in recent years, both in the Cup, but Premiership points continue to elude us. Certainly, it gets more and more difficult to pick up away points these days, and we know better than most what an effect a vociferous crowd of supporters can have on the home team.

There are also those who contend that some referees are influenced into making 'hometown' decisions, but that doesn't explain the

Rec syndrome. After all, if we can win at Leeds and Northampton, by no means the friendliest places to go, we should be able to win anywhere, but the Bath hoodoo persists.

There's nothing new about such bogey sides of course. Some of us can recall a period when we simply couldn't beat, of all people, Richmond. True to the way these things seem to happen, we always seemed to draw them in the Cup. They were a fair side, but on paper, shouldn't have been able to beat Gloucester. Even when we tied with them, we

lost on the away rule.

There have been other jinx sides, too. London Irish had the evil eye on us for quite a period. So did Gosforth, the forerunners of today's Newcastle Falcons. That particular hex came to an end on one memorable Saturday at Kingsholm when they were, at the time, the holders of the Cup.

The result prompted Nigel Starmer Smith, old boy of Barnwood C. of E. School, to proclaim the whole affair as 'a real shock' on air. That caused enormous derision which persisted every time he came

to Kingsholm thereafter.

However, the longest hoodoo ever suffered by Gloucester was the Cardiff jinx. We beat them, just occasionally, here at home, but it took 35 years for us to win at the Arms Park. I remember a conversation I once had with Bill Cleaver, a no-nonsense Wales and Cardiff outside-half, who told me that there was a saying down in the Valleys that Cardiff could turn out fifteen men with wooden legs against Gloucester and they'd still win. We shall see if there are any traces of the old hoodoo in the Heineken Cup matches a little later on.

We can console ourselves with the thought that all does not seem sweetness and light down at Bath. I see that Mike Catt, talking about his defection to London Irish, describes the Bath management regime as 'Selfish and back-stabbing'. I also note that the club is also supporting a scheme to supply rugby coaching for 14 to 16 year-old girls. Getting worried about their strength in depth are they?

PLETHORA OF PROPS

For a club with such a remarkable record for producing prop forwards, the start of the 2004/5 campaign was a bit worrying. We had lost Messrs Woodman and Roncero, there were injuries, notably to Phil Vickery himself, and Christo B. (I'm not even going to attempt the spelling) wasn't due to arrive for weeks. To cap it all, Andy Deacon had retired. In fact, it seemed to the uninformed



Henry Paul tackles Bath's Lee Best.

outsider that Gloucester, of all clubs, didn't have two props to rub together.

We needn't have worried. The two young hopefuls who stepped up to take their chances have put in a couple of storming performances. Neither the Northampton nor the Newcastle front rows are to be taken lightly, yet they certainly knew they had been in a game when the respective final whistles went. It has been quite an achievement, especially when you recall that young Master Sigley has been playing out of position.

So where do we go from here? With Christo and Vicks, subject to Monday night's run-out, now available, Dean Ryan and Nigel Melville are faced with a considerable dilemma. By the time you read this. No doubt we shall all know how the puzzle is to be resolved, but it would seem to be an injustice for the two youngsters to be discarded after their achievements.

However, everyone knows that it's a tough old game these days, and there's no real room for sentiment. You simply have to pick the combination that you think will

do most to help secure the vital points, taking into account the relative strengths and weaknesses of the opposition.

Anyway, with the Heineken Cup games and the Autumn Internationals on the horizon, you need all the front-row options you can get, and there would seem to be opportunities for everyone to get stuck in somewhere along the line.

I suppose it's what an old American friend of mine would call the 'Grade A problem' – the one you don't worry about. The Grade B problem would arise if we didn't have enough top-quality performers to call upon.

But I shall be fascinated to see how the management mix and match their various permutations.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

I had a good wallow in nostalgia last week, when legendary Gloucester full-back, Eric Stephens, did me the honour of asking me to cast an eye over an article he had written for the Crypt School

magazine. Naturally, the subject was Cryptians who have been associated with GRFC over the years. It's a very impressive list, and included some fellows I haven't thought about for years.

There were the brothers, Gordon and Brian Jones, known as 'Big Ginger and Little Ginger' for obvious reasons. Gordon was a resolute winger who is purported to have once sold a dummy to the Touch judge, while Brian was a flanker as fiery as his hair.

Then there was Stewart Troughton, one of those blokes who simply had an eye for a ball. Name any sport, and if it had a ball in it, he was good at it.

He played his rugby in the centre, represented the County at Tennis, could hit a cricket ball indecent distances, and wasn't the worst leg spinner.

I worked with Stewart for some years, and I remember him turning up with a broken angle one Monday morning. Which didn't stop him beating us all at table tennis that lunchtime.

Sickening, isn't it?



Regular Shed dweller **Bob Fenton** has got over the stick he received for his superb photo in the London Irish programme, and looks back at last weekend, and also tells of his son's comments towards Worcester's Lee Fortey!

Fanzone

BOB FENTON

I missed out on our latest adventure down the A46, having been stuck in France for much of the month trying to grab one of the meagre handfuls of tickets available from Bath was a fruitless exercise.

Still, on the plus side I did not wake up with a severe ache in my neck from sitting or standing, crammed in a corner somewhere back from the dead ball line with my head twisted 100 odd degrees to the right to try to see anything of the action. Every cloud and all that...

It is odd how they allocate tickets down there though

– is it just us, or do they treat all visitors like that I wonder. Maybe they should take a wander up here and check out our shiny new stand, then they would have an idea how to do things properly.

Earlier on Saturday morning I was doing my usual weekly penance for sins I had apparently committed, that is to say, being banished to ASDA to get the weeks shopping, when I spotted Chewy and his gang of regulars stocking up on cholesterol in what is laughably called the ASDA restaurant.

I'm not sure if this has become something of a pre-match ritual, if it is it's a heck of a lot better

than some I could mention, and I suppose it served a useful purpose for him by soaking up the several gallons of cider that were heading his way through the rest of the day. They were in good spirits then, I guess that changed a bit as the day went on.

But what is it about Bath – why can't we ever seem to win a game down there? The only thing I can imagine is that at some point in the dim and distant past some kind of witchy woman threw a few frogs and toads in our general direction and decreed that we should never win a league game there. Whatever she said it seems to have worked.

The curse clearly doesn't apply to the cup though – remember Andy Hazell ripping them apart a few seasons back to send us through to the semi-final (and a home defeat by Leicester as I recall). As it happens we were back there in the league a few weeks later, and guess what? We lost. Again.

Maybe Nigel should sneak down there with an exorcist one day when no one is looking and try to sort things out that way. Anything's worth a try – you can't imagine how bad it is when I get my mate Glen Leat from Bath on in full gloating mode!

Let's not get it out of perspective though, five games and only one defeat, we'd all have taken that at the start of the season, so will the doom and gloom mongers please stop dooming and glooming. It could be worse, you could be a Harlequins fan, with none from five!

It wasn't a weekend without rugby altogether though, I had the pleasure of standing in teeming rain for most of Sunday watching Matthew and his mates from Hucclecote under 11s take on all comers in the Dursley rugby tournament (see community round-up for photos).

You have to admire all those kids, there were hundreds of them there in all age groups from under-eights upwards. The pitch – and I use the word loosely, the cows had probably only just been moved off them – was ropey to say the least, the grass was so long it was difficult enough to walk over, let alone run. In



Christo Bezuidenhout playing in the front row for the first time for Gloucester

fact we probably left a few of the lads behind having lost them in the undergrowth.

Anyone who feels disillusioned or cynical about the sport in general because of the comings or goings at the higher level should take a trip out to one of these events, and witness the dedication – not only of the kids themselves – but of the coaches and other volunteers who make tournaments like this happen.

The phrase 'future of the sport is safe...' is an overworked cliché, but when you see events like this you know that it is true. But I'm preaching to the converted here, I guess there were a lot of other parents trying, like me, to stay out of the rain last Sunday. So you know exactly what I mean.

So back to the present. Good to see that Christo Beezer... pizza... youknowhisname has arrived (and I bet Graham Spring is looking forward to getting his teeth around that name when he reads out the teams) has arrived. Jeez he's

a big guy. I understand that our kit manufacturers were on to the people who do hospitality marquees asking if they could knock one up in chery and white...

Of course the thing now is what do we call him? Given his stature I guess anything he asks to be called is a good idea, or 'Sir' for short, but what do we chant when he scores a Wayne Rooney-esq hat-trick on his Kingsholm debut? If you want to make yourself really unpopular on the terraces you could try an old fashioned 'Give us a B...' style chant.

So, moving on to Quins. They'll be relishing their second trip in two weeks to the West Country, having been dismantled by Worcester last weekend. It'll be no fun for them having to gaze up at everyone from the foot of the table, and you can bet your bottom everything that they will be dead keen to put one over on us this weekend.

Talking of Worcester, you'll be pleased to know that the banter has already started

between their players and our fans in advance of our trip to Sixways. Lee Fortey has the misfortune to live across the road from me, and already the boy Matthew has beaten a path to his door.

So far he's told him that (a) Worcester are going to get stuffed (b) that he (Lee) is not as hard as Chris and (c) he's a wimp for not playing in their defeat at Sale.

The latter comment came courtesy of ex-Gloucester and now Worcester front row Tony Windo. We were chatting to him up at Hucclecote RFC the other day, and he told Matthew to give him some stick because Lee had flu and did not play.

Tony was clearly unaware that Matthew regards comments like this as an instruction, and no doubt duly delivered the message, and at the same time clearly indicating who his source was.

Sometimes I wonder where he gets it from... Must be from his mother's side.

MATCH action



Gloucester
31



Newcastle Falcons
17

Saturday 25 Sept, Kingsholm

Referee: Ashley Rowden

Attendance: 13,000

Gloucester maintained their 100 percent record against the Falcons with a 31-17 win in the Zurich Premiership at Kingsholm.

10 metres.

With the Falcons unorganised, scrum-half Andy Gomarsall spotted space, kicked into the gap and before Newcastle could regroup, Marcel Garvey gathered and sprinted over.

Paul added the conversion, before Gloucester struck again on 18 minutes, capitalising on number eight Adam Balding's clean lineout catch and driving the Falcons backwards for lock Alex Brown to touch down.

Wilkinson kicked three penalties during the second quarter, one from 50 metres, but further penalties from Paul and fly-half Duncan McRae ensured a comfortable 20-9 interval lead for the home side.

The Falcons made a lively start to the second period, appearing a much tighter unit than in the first half.

Wilkinson's fourth successful penalty, on 58 minutes, underlined the strength of a growing Newcastle revival.

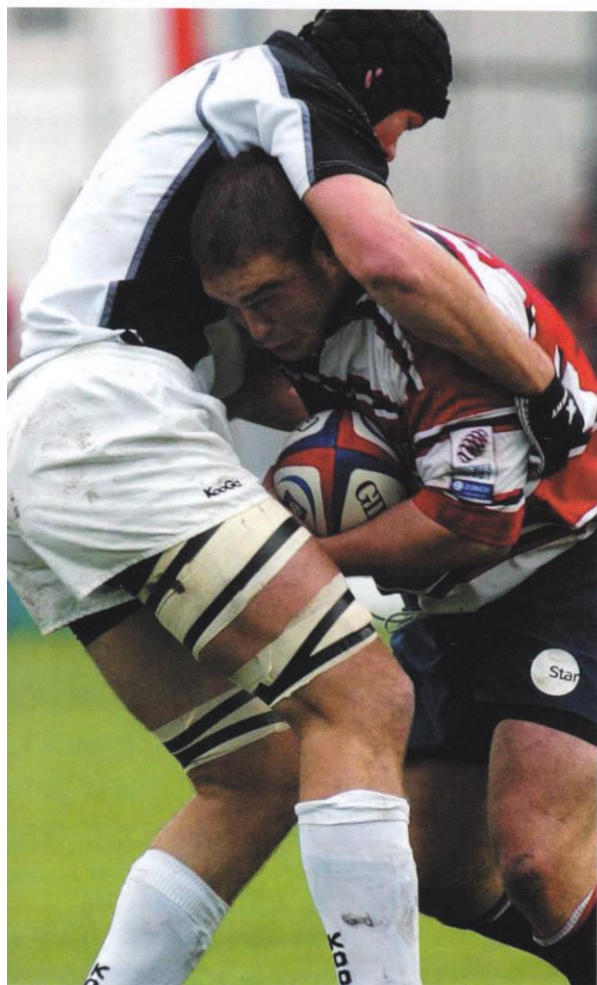
Gloucester recovered their composure during the final quarter, with their forwards rekindling the earlier mood, turning the screw up-front

A Kingsholm record 13,000 crowd guaranteed an intense, intimidating welcome for the Falcons, whose last victory on Gloucester soil came during their 1997-98 Premiership title-winning campaign.

Gloucester announced their intentions from the kick-off, gathering Jonny Wilkinson's kick-off and launching a superb forward drive back to the halfway line.

It was an immediate sign of things to come, and Gloucester's early territorial control produced an eighth-minute Henry Paul penalty. But while Newcastle did not look unduly alarmed by that setback, they were rocked by two tries in five minutes from the home team.

Newcastle were their own worst enemies for the opening score. Having conceded a penalty, they then committed another offence which referee Ashley Rowden punished by marching them back another



and putting pressure on Wilkinson, who was at his most ordinary.

A Henry Paul penalty seven minutes from time opened up a 24-12 advantage.

And Gloucester secured the victory just two minutes later when England wing James Simpson-Daniel intercepted Wilkinson's pass 30 metres out and sprinted to the line. Paul converted to take his personal tally to 13.

Newcastle had the final say with a Michael Stephenson consolation effort, but it was far too little, too late.



Name	Tries	Conv	PK	DG	Points
------	-------	------	----	----	--------

Gloucester Scorers

Marcel Garvey	1	0	0	0	5
Alex Brown	1	0	0	0	5
James Simpson-Daniel	1	0	0	0	5
Henry Paul	0	2	3	0	13
Duncan McRae	0	0	1	0	3

Newcastle Scorers

Michael Stephenson	1	0	0	0	5
Jonny Wilkinson	0	0	4	0	12



Gloucester	Teams	Newcastle
Jon Goodridge,		Matthew Burke,
Marcel Garvey		Tom May,
(37-40, James Bailey) ,		Jamie Noon,
Terry Fanolua,		Joe Shaw
Henry Paul,		(23, Mathew Tait) ,
James Simpson-Daniel,		Michael Stephenson,
Duncan McRae,		Jonny Wilkinson,
Andy Gomarsall,		James Grindal
Nick Wood		(52, Hall Charlton) ,
(57, Simon Emms) ,		Ian Peel
Olivier Azam		(41, James Isaacson) ,
(54, Chris Fortey) ,		Matt Thompson
Terry Sigley,		(41, Andy Long) ,
Peter Buxton,		Marius Hurter
Alex Brown,		(62, Matthew Burke) ,
Jake Boer (c) ,		Luke Gross
Andy Hazell,		(72, Craig Hamilton) ,
Adam Balding		Stuart Grimes,
(49, Adam Eustace)		Mike McCarthy
		(41, Colin Charvis) ,
		Semo Sititi,
		Phil Dowson



Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA images

MATCH action



Bath Rugby
29



Gloucester
14

Saturday 2 Oct 2004, The Rec

Referee: Dave Pearson

Attendance: 10,400



Gloucester continued their bad run of results at Bath on Saturday, going down 29-14 to their West Country rivals.

Fortey started at hooker, Eustace in the second row, and Buxton moved to blind-side with Jake Boer taking the number seven shirt.

Bath's Mike Tindall grabbed two tries in the result that meant Gloucester extended their run of 13 consecutive league defeats at the Rec. A try in each half from man-of-the-match Tindall saw Bath grab the points against a Gloucester side that looked a shadow of the team that had won four out of four so convincingly.

The Kingsholm club's line-out struggled all afternoon, and Bath did well with their penalties to ensure they crept ahead early on.

Fly-half Olly Barkley totalled 19 points, but Henry Paul missed four from six for Gloucester.

It was Barkley who drew first blood with just a minute on the clock - his penalty saw Gloucester punished for straying off-side.

England 'A' winger Marcel Garvey threatened with an arching run followed by a chip ahead but there was too much weight on his kick and the ball bounced out

of danger, allowing Bath to breathe a sigh of relief.

Gloucester continued to pile on the pressure and were rewarded by a Paul penalty, but three points from Barkley soon restored the home side's advantage. Gloucester continued with the upper hand in opening 20 minutes and Henry Paul's boot levelled matters once again.

But John Connolly's side were back in front in the 29th minute after Gloucester failed to clear a high ball from Olly Barkley. Mike Tindall was on hand to gather the ball grab the try. Barkley added the conversion and a third penalty. Bath went down to 14 men in the 39th minute after referee Dave Pearson spotted Robbie Fleck's late shoulder charge on James Simpson-Daniel and sent the former Springbok to the sin-bin.

McRae slashed the deficit with a drop goal before Melville beefed up his front row by bringing on monster South Africa prop Christo Bezuidenhout and French hooker Olivier Azam in the 45th minute.

But Azam saw a yellow card for impeding Danny Grewcock at a line-out, and Barkley slotted the ensuing penalty to add to his fourth moments earlier.

Barkley was required to convert Tindall's second try in the 58th minute after the 25-year-old combined with Martyn Wood following a line-out and secured his second try of the afternoon. A spell of driving rain took its inevitable toll on the match in the final quarter but the wet weather did little to dampen Gloucester's spirits as they took advantage of Bath's overstretched defence to score through Goodridge. Paul pushed the conversion wide once again and the visitors could make no further headway against Bath's defence, leaving Bath to grab the points.



The Honour

Main Man

Andy Gomarsall



It was a tough afternoon for Gloucester, but Andy Gomarsall was forever trying to make the difference.

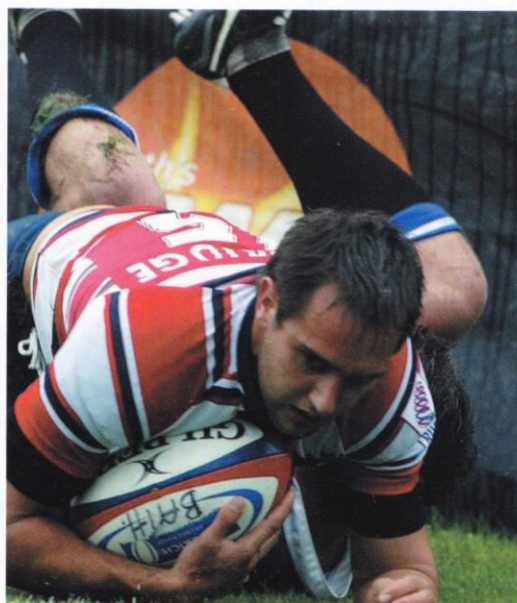


Name	Tries	Conv	PK	DG	Points
Bath Scorers					
Mike Tindall	2	0	0	0	10
Olly Barkley	0	2	5	0	19

Gloucester Scorers					
Jon Goodridge	1	0	0	0	5
Henry Paul	0	0	2	0	6
Duncan McRae	0	0	0	1	3



Bath	Teams	Gloucester
Lee Best,		Jon Goodridge,
Andrew Higgins,		Marcel Garvey,
Robbie Fleck,		Terry Fanolua,
Mike Tindall,		Henry Paul,
Brendon Daniel		James Simpson-Daniel,
(69, Spencer Davey) ,		Duncan McRae,
Olly Barkley,		Andy Gomarsall,
Martyn Wood		Terry Sigley
(72, Nick Walshe) ,		(44, Christo Bezuidenhout) ,
David Barnes		Chris Fortey
(35, Matt Stevens) ,		(44, Olivier Azam) ,
Jonathan Humphreys (c)		Gary Powell,
(65, Rob Hawkins) ,		Adam Eustace
Duncan Bell		(62, James Forrester) ,
(69, Lee Best) ,		Alex Brown,
Steve Borthwick,		Peter Buxton,
Danny Grewcock		Jake Boer (c) ,
(69, Rob Fidler) ,		Adam Balding
Andy Beattie		(52, Marcel Garvey)
(79, Gareth Delve) ,		
Michael Lipman,		
Isaac Fea'unati,		



Zurich Premiership Round 6, Saturday 9th October 2004, KO 3.00pm

Gloucester					NEC Harlequins				
T	C	P	D		T	C	P	D	
				Jon Goodridge	15				Gavin Duffy
				Marcel Garvey	14				George Harder
				Terry Fanolua	13				Will Greenwood
				Henry Paul	12				Dafydd James
				James Simpson-Daniel	11				Ugo Monye
				Duncan McRae	10				Jeremy Staunton
				Andy Gomarsall	09				Matt Henjak
				Christo Bezuidenhout	01				Ceri Jones
				Olivier Azam	02				Tani Fuga
				Gary Powell	03				Maurice Fitz Gerald
				Peter Buxton	04				Roy Winters
				Alex Brown	05				Simon Miall
				Jake Boer (C)	06				Nick Easter
				Andy Hazell	07				Andre Vos (C)
				James Forrester	08				Tony Diprose
				replacements					
				Chris Fortey	16				Ace Tiatia
				Phil Vickery	17				Mark Lambert
				Terry Sigley	18				Karl Rudzki
				Adam Eustace	19				Opetia Palepoi
				Adam Balding	20				Luke Sherriff
				Alex Page	21				Simon Keogh
				James Bailey	22				Adrian Jarvis

Zurich Premiership 2004/05

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Sale Sharks	5	5	0	0	155	78	1	0	21
Leicester Tigers	5	4	0	1	176	96	4	1	21
Gloucester	5	4	0	1	107	90	0	0	16
London Wasps	5	3	0	2	99	90	0	2	14
Newcastle Falcons	5	3	0	2	117	123	1	0	13
Bath Rugby	5	3	0	2	105	108	0	0	12
Northampton Saints	5	2	0	3	108	87	2	2	12
London Irish	5	2	0	3	102	112	0	1	9
Saracens	5	2	0	3	70	95	0	1	9
Leeds Tykes	5	1	0	4	85	113	0	3	7
Worcester Warriors	5	1	0	4	77	136	1	2	7
NEC Harlequins	5	0	0	5	63	136	0	2	2

Today's Match Officials

Referee: Tony Spreadbury

1st TJ: Andy Melrose

2nd TJ: David Broadbent

4th Official: Mark Tovey

Replacement Ref: Darren Aston-Jones

Today's Result

Gloucester

29

NEC Harlequins

23

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