

GRFFC

vs **London Wasps**
Friday 12th November
Zurich Premiership
Kick Off 7.45pm



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Spotlight
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THE TIMES

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



It gives me great pleasure to welcome Warren Gatland, Lawrence Dallaglio and the London Wasps team to Kingsholm for tonight’s Zurich Premiership action.

We all know that this evening’s game against the reigning European Champions will be tough, I am sure that the absence of a few big names, injured or on international duties, will not spoil the game as a contest.

I must admit it will take a bit of getting used to seeing Matt Dawson and Lawrence Dallaglio playing for their club when England have a game at Twickenham. Having had the pleasure of working with them both

during my coaching career, the new comers have some pretty big boots to fill!

Andy Robinson’s ‘new look’ England was probably not too difficult to predict with so many injured or unavailable players. However, the inclusion of Mark Cueto, Henry Paul and Andy Hazell shows a little bit of enterprise and it will be interesting to see how they perform on a bigger stage.

Last week at Welford Road we fought hard but were outgunned. Our preparations for the game were constantly disrupted with England training and injuries, and the icing on that particular cake was Andy

London Wasps are once again in the top four competing for honours and European places. Their game at home to Harlequins last week was a close victory, but it was a win, and every win counts at the end of the day.

Harlequins may be languishing at the bottom of the table, but they will scrap for a win in anyway they can, there are no given Premiership wins these days.

On the injury front we are still waiting for return dates for Duncan McRae (neck), Olivier Azam (shoulder) and Alex Brown (elbow). James Simpson-Daniel is making good progress and should be back in weeks, not months along with Terry Sigley.

Whilst these injuries could not have come at a worse time, I have been encouraged by the positive attitude of the players. It is always good to see young players taking their chance in the first team and putting more established players under pressure. You have to remember that everyone was a young player once!

Finally, I would like to thank our supporters for the fantastic support they have given us this season. Playing before a full house on an international weekend just goes to show how far club rugby has come. Gloucester and Wasps versus England and Canada? I know where I’d rather be!!!

Have a fantastic evening.

Nigel’s notes



Nigel Melville
Director of Rugby

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Gomarsall’s withdrawal from the game in the warm just half an hour before kick-off.

Despite losing I was pleased with the players commitment, they never gave up in the face of defeat and as a result will be a stronger team.

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“We know what to expect from everyone tonight, the atmosphere is going to be electric this evening.”

I've always said you have to cope through a long domestic and European season, and that time has now come at Gloucester.

The guys who are now stepping up and performing in the Premiership have been around all season, and some longer.

They're not new to the team set-up and they haven't come in from the cold. In terms of how we play they've been part of the squad all season, so we all know how we want to play.

We try and replicate the same stuff in the Zurich 'A' League, so the key challenge to overcome is

some people thought Wasps were struggling after their opening two defeats. It gave an utterly false perception when they had a bad start, but they've gone about their business in a sound and professional way picking up the points, and now sit two points above us in the table going into this evening's game.

We certainly haven't hit 100 per cent yet this season, so the big question is when will we.

We've had some good performances, and some not so good showings. We put 55 points on Ulster the other week, but have lost out to Stade Francais and Leicester each side of that game.

Which brings us to tonight's game. 13,000 tickets sold isn't bad, is it? We know what to expect from everyone tonight, the atmosphere is going to be electric this evening.

After tonight's game some of the Gloucester players have an appointment on Saturday, that is to say England playing Canada.

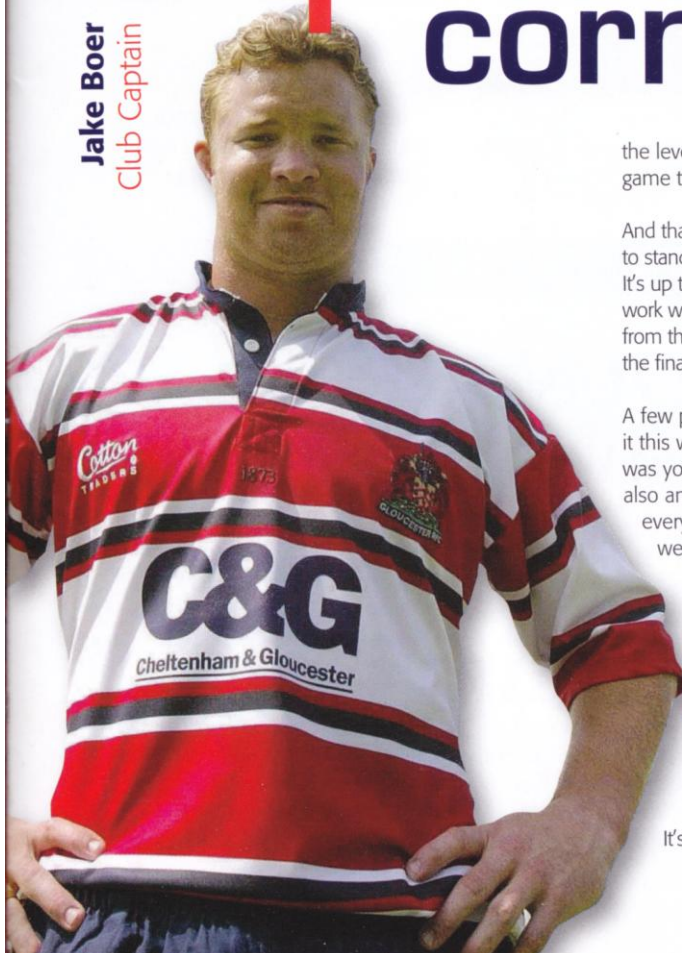
Everyone is really pleased for Gomars, Henry and Hazezy. Gomars has been there, or thereabouts, for quite a while now, and Henry has finally got his chance.

He appreciates the game of union and it's good to see the England set-up appreciate him. Hazezy has worked non-stop for the last few years and working in the back-row with him I appreciate him all the more. If there's one person who deserves it, it's Hazezy.

Welcome and I hope you enjoy the game.

Captain's corner

Jake Boer
Club Captain



the level of Premiership game time experience.

And that's where we all need to stand up and be counted. It's up to the rest of us to work with the new guys, from the kick off through to the final whistle.

A few people have said it this week, everyone was young once, and it's also an opportunity for everyone to show what we're capable of.

Wasps haven't lost since the second week of the Zurich Premiership, which means eight wins out of eight. You can't fault that kind of record.

It's quite funny how

The official matchday programme looks back at a previous encounter with **London Wasps**, this time it was the **opening day of the 1993-94 season**, and there were a few familiar names on the team sheet.

REMEMBER when?



Andy Gomarsall

Dean Ryan was omitted despite being named in the Club programme! Darren Molloy and Kevin Dunn in the front row and Andy Gomarsall on the replacements bench! No, this is not referring to a Gloucester team but a Wasps line up that faced the Kingsholm club on the opening day of the 1993-1994 season.

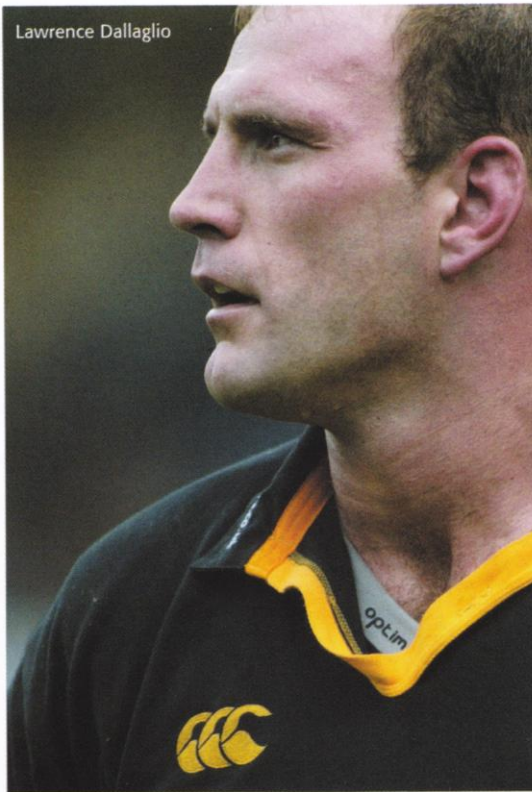
Rob Smith, the Wasps coach had a 50 strong squad for that season, with 25-30 players of genuine first team material at the commencement. For this opening day fixture he had

omissions, including captain Dean Ryan, Steve Bates, Chris Oti and Francis Emeruwa, who had all made significant contributions to Wasps second place finish the previous season.

Andy Gomarsall partnered Lawrence Dallaglio on the replacements bench. Such were the playing resources at Rob Smith's disposal. However, the young duo were to watch a match where both teams struggled to string together cohesive movements. The forwards were locked in warfare, therefore making the backs almost redundant.

The 5,021 spectators (tonight's attendance will be more than double) witnessed what they

Lawrence Dallaglio



regarded as the great escape! It was a match where Rob Andrew, captaining Wasps, missed four consecutive penalties, having given Wasps the lead in the first minute. All the points in a tight struggle came from the boot of Tim Smith, with two penalties and Damien Cummins with a dropped goal to give Gloucester a 9-3 lead.

The Gloucester scores came immediately after the interval, drawing level from Tim Smith's 400th penalty for the Club! He was on target again six minutes later. Damien Cummins' dropped goal after 25 minutes of the second half was the first for Gloucester in a first team game for over a season!

It was a lead that was short lived, for within a minute Rob Andrew reduced the lead to three points with a penalty. With the game in its dying throes referee Fred Howard awarded the visitors a penalty. Rob Andrew stepped up and from the touchline and equalled the scores. It was to his credit that his first had been from the half way line with a prodigious kick.

So ended the first match of the season with that Rugby Union rarity, a draw 9-9, all too familiar in soccer but in Rugby Union a more uncommon occurrence. Andy Deacon, making his 50th first team appearance, almost matched Marcus Hannaford as man of the match.

On the same afternoon the United opened their defence of the Midland West Second XV League title with a 36-3 victory away to Nottingham Corsairs.

Interesting to note that in the Colts XV to face Hereford the following Wednesday were Tom Beim, Phil Greening and Rob Fidler. Chris Fortey was named on the replacements bench while his brother Lee was named at loose-head prop.

This evening's Wasps team travel to Kingsholm with six consecutive wins to their credit in the Zurich League.

Gloucester:

T.Smith; P.Holford, S.Morris,
D.Caskie, M.Nicholson,
D.Cummins, M.Hannaford,
P.Jones, J.Hawker, A.Deacon,
R.West, D.Sims, P.Ashmead,
I. Smith (Captain), B.Fowke.

Replacements: D.Kearsey,
S.Deveraux, P.Beech

Wasps:

A.Buzza; P.Hopley, F.Clough,
G.Childs, P.Abadom,
R.Andrew (Captain),
M.Skinner, D.Molloy,
K.Dunn, J.Probyn, R.Kinsey,
S.Shortland, M.Greenwood,
M.White, C.Wilkins.

Replacements: I.Dunstone,
L.Dallaglio, A.Gomarsall

DID YOU Know?

As the season of 1993-1994 commenced three players had passed the 200-appearance mark for the First XV. Tim Smith 283, led the way followed by Ian Smith 267 and Marcus Hannaford 230.

Three players had made appearances in excess of the century mark. Pete Jones with 160 appearances was followed by Damien Cummins 128, Paul Ashmead 123 and Don Caskie 109.

The only pre-season match at Kingsholm prior to the Wasps match was versus Blackheath who Gloucester defeated 34-14. This came three days after a three-point to nil set-back at Regentholme, the home of Lydney RFC.

Pre-season trips to Italy were more fruitful. A 45-10 win at Casale was followed by a 18-13 victory against Benetton Treviso. The teams fielded at Lydney and home to Blackheath were virtual United line ups.

Leading scorers for 1993-1994 were Tim Smith 172 points, Paul Beech 58, Paul Holford and Ashley Johnson 45, Martin Roberts 41 and Andrew Sharp 40.

At the completion of the 1993-1994 season Tim Smith had a career total of 2,587 points in first XV matches for Gloucester!

Gloucester coaches Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan celebrated their 50th win in competitive matches since they joined the Kingsholm club with a 28-25 victory over Wasps last season

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This week the official matchday programme has teamed up with Gloucester City Council and councillor Paul James, who is a member of the cabinet for regeneration. The avid Kingsholm fan writes for the programme and makes comparisons between the development the rugby club and the council have made in recent years.

CLUB AND CITY

a comparison



It's fair to say that, during their long histories, both Gloucester Rugby Club and the City of Gloucester have seen a few familiar comparisons.

With so many superb recent seasons at the forefront of my memory, it's hard to think back now to when things weren't so good.

The Club has had some pretty happy times in the last three or four years, boasting regular Heineken Cup rugby and three recent Twickenham finals.

Two of these, the two we won, I was fortunate to attend during my year as Sheriff of Gloucester. On top of this we had three World Cup winners last season.

It's hard to remember back to when I was a youngster watching from the terraces with my Grandfather. Gloucester were fighting against relegation at the bottom of the table, rather than battling for honours at

the top.

It's certainly great to be part of something at the top of the table these days, and a rugby club that is going forward.

As well as supporting Gloucester I'm also very much involved with the City of Gloucester. Which is on the way up after mixed fortunes in recent years. It's own dip in form has been longer and more pronounced than anything Gloucester Rugby Club has been through.

The City has been slipping down the table of shopping destinations for much of the recent past, ranking at 74th in the country at the last count.

However, after years of waiting, the City's fortunes have now started to turn around, following in the shadows of the Rugby Club's successes on and off the field.

It's only right that the two should go hand in hand.



The pride that flows from supporting Gloucester Rugby Club should be harnessed to improve the city as a whole. I want people to be as proud of the Gloucester we are creating as they are of the team that defends Fortress Kingsholm.

It's good for the heart to see our players bearing the city's crest on their shirt and hordes of fans sporting their replica gear on a match-day throughout the city. That's what pride is all about.

Parallels can be drawn between the way in which Gloucester Rugby Club has been turned around and how we are now starting to transform the City.

The Club brought in some new management. So have we. The Club recruited some key players from outside (Phil Vickery, Henry Paul and Jake Boer are a few who come to mind), to play alongside some of our home-grown talent (like Mark Cornwall and Chris Fortey, two of my contemporaries).

Gloucester's development also involves a mixture of the imported and the home-grown. Some of the

biggest names in property have key schemes planned for Gloucester, including Hammerson, Peel Holdings and Crest Nicholson.

Lots of local developers are also helping to regenerate Gloucester. Many of you will have noticed a few signs on various building projects around the City, bearing the name of one Mike Teague. Not to mention the pub overlooking Castle Grim, known for years as the White Hart, but now commonly called 'Teague's Bar', paying homage to Iron Mike's career.

Physical development at the Club mirrors what is starting to take place in the City.

The most tangible example at Kingsholm is the Buildbase Stand, which has increased capacity, provided more seating and improved facilities for fans.

I think it is a great move for the Club, although it does mean that the block of flats in which I live on Kingsholm Road can no longer be truthfully called 'pitch view' (if it ever could!).

Around the City, work has

started on the St Oswald's Park scheme on the old Cattle Market site. Here a new B&Q warehouse will be combined with other retailers, such as Comet and Argos. New restaurants, including a Harvester and a Frankie and Benny's, about four hundred homes and a business park will be created on the site over several years.

The renaissance in the Docks continues. Warehouse conversions at the Albert Warehouse and Priday's Mill to create apartments have been followed by more of the same in the Vinings and Double Reynolds warehouses.

New build is taking place on the West Quay and a further scheme has now been granted planning permission for the Barge Arm near the National Waterways Museum. The later developments involve commercial uses, such as cafes and restaurants, to bring life to the area throughout the day.

Work is already underway in the city's Eastgate Street to 'declutter' the pedestrian area. Concrete plinths, cobbles and all other manner of obstructions are being removed to create a more open, pleasant environment for shoppers.

Work will be completed in time for the Christmas shopping season. This is financed by the Government's 'Liveability Fund', which is also paying for a one million pounds revamp of Gloucester Park over a two-year period.

The new administration on the City Council has also pressed ahead with improvements to Kings Square – a long-standing

bugbear for many Gloucester people. Again, a more open and pleasant shopping environment is the aim.

More is planned in the future. On 23 November the Council will be considering plans for the huge 'Gloucester Quays' scheme, which includes homes, a new food superstore and a Factory Outlet Centre on land south of the Docks. The new £38 million Gloscat campus in this area has already been given approval.

Plans for the Blackfriars area of the City went back to the drawing board after the previous scheme spectacularly failed a few years ago. However, work has been taking place to identify what kind of scheme would now work on this prime city centre site.

Details of a comprehensive development of the Kings Square and Bus Station area of the city, which desperately needs a facelift, are expected to be made public in the near future.

Ask any player what motivates them to give their best performance on the field and they'll tell you it's 'the fans'.

The reason we want to transform Gloucester is for its people. Anyone who has spent an afternoon at Kingsholm knows that Gloucester people are warm, friendly, honest, straightforward and down-to-earth. People in Gloucester deserve a city they can be proud of. We are determined to deliver it.

The future looks bright for Gloucester Rugby Club and for the City of Gloucester.

"C'mon Glaws!"

BBC radio gloucestershire

BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Ian Randall has spoken to Dean Ryan, Andy Deacon and Phil Vickery so far this season in his regular 'Spotlight' question and answer session. This week it's the turn of Chris Fortey.



with the environment. It may not sound very exciting or prosperous but it would have to be something that made me want to get up in the morning. I did think at one time about a career in the police force, maybe CID, but ultimately it would have to be something out in the open to get me out of the house!

BBC IR: What can you cook to impress people?

CF: I'm a dab hand in the kitchen! I like to experiment with things like stir fries when I get the time, and my fiancée is good at roasts so I copy her on those but I do a mean lasagne, so it would probably be that, with apple crumble for desert!

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

CF: Probably fishing. I'm a member of a club and I do quite a lot of that outside my rugby. I'm quite serious about it and thoroughly enjoy it. It gets me out of the house, you can hear the birds singing and it's a big release from the pressures of everyday life. You can sit there and contemplate things that are going on in your life and in the world as well.

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

CF: I've had my skirting boards in

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

CF: Being paid for something that you love doing. I love the banter and camaraderie of all the guys and being part of what is really like a close knit family. That's what is special about Gloucester to me.

BBC IR: What was your first job?

CF: I left school at 16 and did my apprenticeship as a bench joiner. I passed that and went full time for a couple of years until I was offered the chance to play rugby full time. It is everyone's dream to get paid to do something you enjoy, and thankfully I'm still here and still doing it.

BBC IR: What would be your preferred alternative career?

CF: It would have to be something outdoors, maybe something



my dining room needing to be done for about 10 months now, and I've had my fiancée nagging on at me to do them.

Being a trained joiner I should be able to do them no problem but it's the time, so maybe having those done. I could also do with a new bed. My old one's worn out (it would need to have a feather duvet and pillows, apparently!).

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

CF: There's never a dull day at Gloucester. There's plenty of opportunity to let your lungs

rip and I think you need the fun atmosphere as well as the serious work. As soon as you come in there's always someone on your case or on someone else's case, which always gets a laugh.

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

CF: Just stay committed and determined. If you get setbacks with injury or selection just try and stay focussed to your training and your playing. There will be times when things when things won't go your way, and you won't be happy. If you can stay strong minded in terms what you want to get out of rugby that's very important.



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Regular programme man Peter Arnold looks at the impact the Gloucester medical staff has had at Kingsholm and the recent injuries to face the management team.

Peter ARNOLD

SIGH OF RELIEF

When a player goes down and is treated for eight minutes on the field before being stretchered off in a neck brace, you worry. Even when the victim is a tough, Aussie nugget like Duncan McRae, the tendency is to fear the worst. So when we heard that Duncan had not suffered a broken neck, the collective sigh of relief that went up, all over Gloucester, must have disrupted the weather forecast for a moment or two.

It was nice to hear that he was up and walking around

within 24 hours of the injury, but no more than those of us who have watched him ever since he arrived at Kingsholm, might have expected.

I did find one report remarkable, however. I read that, although the injury had occurred over half way through the game, Duncan was treated on the field, taken away on a stretcher, conveyed to the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, assessed, scanned, and received an initial diagnosis before the final whistle went. That says a very great deal, not only for the expertise of the people at GRH, but also for our

own medical systems and personnel.

It's a professional game, and a very hard one. Everyone knows and accepts that. Injuries are going to occur, both during the match and in training, but if we're going to ask people to put their safety on the line in the way that we do, then efficient and expert medical assistance must be on hand at all times.

In Gloucester, we do seem to have achieved that aim with commendable success. We should all be grateful to our excellent medical team,

who only get the credit they deserve when something horrible happens, yet who are on hand whenever their assistance is needed.

I'm sure Duncan McRae would be the first to add his voice to that thought. We wish him the best of luck, and that we can see him back at his inventive best before very long.

NOT THE FIRST

We're relieved that Duncan didn't break his neck, but I can think of three men who did.

The first was that rock-hard centre, John Bayliss, who seemed to be in good form the last time I saw him. In spite of the injury, he played innumerable games for Gloucester after he got hurt, and even went on an England tour to Romania, alongside fellow three-quarters Richard Mogg and Richard Jardine.

In all the period I watched him, before and after the injury, I never saw him flinch from a tackle, whether he was receiving one or administering it.

The second Kingsholm character who received such a misfortune was Phil Blakeway, just about the strongest prop forward I ever saw. He had quite a few injuries in his time, including a very nasty broken nose provided by an Australian lock, who, it was widely believed, quite deliberately punched him out of an imminent Test Match.

Whether that was true or



Duncan McRae goes over for a first half try against Ulster

not, I don't know, but if so it was a temporary reprieve, because Phil won a whole full of caps after he broke his neck, including playing right through an England Grand Slam campaign.

The third example was rather different, and has a touch of the 'Aaah!' about it. The captain of the Exeter University side broke his neck at Kingsholm one Wednesday evening. He was rushed to hospital, where he had a lengthy stay while recovering. During his treatment, he took a turn for the nurse, you might say, and after his recovery, actually upped and married her. So you see, the dangers aren't all medical.

SOMEONE UP THERE DOESN'T LIKE US

Somewhere in one of the James Bond books, a character remarks 'Once is happenstance, twice is coincidence, three times is enemy action'. It feels like that around Kingsholm at the moment.

If you had to pick the trio

of players whose absence would cause the most disruption to a side, you'd probably pick your best three-quarter, your first-choice outside-half and your star line-out jumper, 'but what are the chances of that happening all at the same time?' you'd ask yourself. 'Infinitesimal' you'd reply. But that is exactly what has happened through injuries to James Simpson Daniel, Duncan McRae and Alex Brown.

Then the sorry situation is compounded by Andy Gomarsall injuring his back during the pre-match warm-up at Welford Road. The sight of Andy Hazell limping off during the second half didn't do much to remove the gloom, either.

That doleful catalogue can't be just bad luck. It's malice. Has someone been sticking pins into effigies or Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan? Either that, or we need to add an exorcist to our management team. There's certainly a hoodoo somewhere.

I suppose, if there's any

consolation, it is that we would almost certainly have been deprived of the services of Sinbad and Gomars for the Autumn International season anyway. There were a couple of other outside chances, too.

That thought won't do anything to cheer James Simpson-Daniel. Over the past couple of years he has displayed an absolute genius for getting injured or falling sick just when his international career appeared to be about to flower.

This season he has been on fire, at his bewildering best and scoring tries in almost every game. His defence, much criticised in some quarters, has come on by leaps and bounds too, enabling him to knock over opponents about twice his size and in full flow.

All we can do is wish everyone well and hope they regain full fitness as soon as possible. We're in for a tough few weeks, but if normal service is speedily resumed, and everything dicks, then I can't help thinking that someone is going to suffer in the second half of the season.

Dave King looks back at a regional U21s match from 1993 when Mark Cornwell came up against Lawrence Dallaglio at the Memorial Ground in Bristol.

REGIONAL U21s in 1993



There are not many more exciting aspects to any sport than to witness the advent of youth.

To witness an outstanding young player in the infancy of his career and to watch that initial promise blossom into an absolute outstanding career at club and international level, is truly something to behold.

To see that youthful exuberance lead to manful experience, whereby the pinnacle of leading his country at his chosen sport, is to see a player reach a level of the highest attainment.

To win the sports highest award in the process is the ultimate aim.

It was a cold winter's afternoon at the Memorial Ground, the home of Bristol Rugby Club, that I first witnessed Lawrence Dallaglio in action. It almost beggars belief to say at such an early age that he was outstanding. He gave a playing performance that shone like a beacon on that murky winters afternoon. Lawrence was in good company.

The players were all virtually unknown, but he was to become a World Cup winner, among others who were to gain prominence in their chosen sport. It is debatable as to whether

he could possibly have envisaged the successful headlines that would embrace his burgeoning career that particular Sunday afternoon.

Lawrence Dallaglio, was already familiar with the responsibility of captaincy. The young up-start from Wasps was a natural for that honour almost from day one.

The match itself was between the South West Division and London & South East, a match played on Sunday 7 February 1993. A youthful Lawrence Dallaglio at the age of twenty years was already leading players in sporting combat in the A.D.T. Divisional Under 21 Championship. The teams that lined up for their representative divisions that winters afternoon were as follows:



Interesting to note that Lawrence Dallaglio and Richard Hill found World Cup fame. Of the rest Matt Singer, a former pupil at Wycliffe College at nearby Stonehouse, eventually played for Saracens and Neath. Matt has now returned to Wycliffe College where he is now a tutor.

Incidentally, Matt in conjunction with Michael Alwyn wrote a book, 'The Red and the Black', based on the glory and uncertainty of Saracens, a behind the scenes of tale of the London rugby club. An excellent read for those interested in the broader picture.

Robin Saltmarsh had a brief spell here at Kingsholm. Kevin Yates moved onto play for Bath, Sale and is currently at Saracens. Mark Cornwall is a veteran of many Kingsholm matches. Kristan Fullman, played for our Colts but later moved onto Bristol and now features for Otley.

Peter Scrivener, Lawrence Scase and Darren Molloy, who had a brief spell here at Kingsholm, played with distinction for Wasps. Craig Yandell played for Saracens. Alex Codling played for Harlequins and Saracens.

The match itself resulted in a 16-10 win for the South West. Tries by Andy Williams, Steve Barnes and two penalties from Chris Braithwaite sealed the victory. Inevitably Lawrence Dallaglio scored the London Division's only try while Jonathan Gregory kicked two penalties for the visitors.

Those who wandered away from the Memorial Ground that winter's afternoon had seen a champion waiting in the wings. England Rugby would have a great deal to be thankful for in the forthcoming decade as they witnessed the fledgling youth become the consummate professional.

SOUTH WEST DIVISION U-21

LONDON & SOUTH EAST U-21

M.Allnut (Buckinghamshire)	15	J.Gregory (Harlequins)
M.Singer (Gloucester)	14	M.Kemp (Saracens)
A.Webber (Somerset)	13	A.Maddock (Wasps)
A.Mainwaring (Buckinghamshire)	12	L.Scrase (Wasps)
R.Saltmarsh (Devon)	11	M.Griffiths (Blacheath)
C.Braithwaite (Buckinghamshire)	10	N.Osman (Harlequins)
M.Olsen (Dorset & Wilts)	9	T.Smithers (Rosslyn)
K.Yates (Dorset & Wilts)	1	D.Molloy (Wasps)
M.Wadley (Gloucester)	2	C.Ridgeway (Nat West Bank)
K.Fullman (Gloucester)	3	R.Hodges (Staines)
D.Roberts (Cornwall)	4	A.Codling (Wasps)
M.Cornwell (Gloucester)	5	J.Hurll (Richmond)
R.Hill (Dorset & Wilts)	6	L.Bannon (Sale)
A.Williams (Somerset)	7	C.Bird (London Irish)
S.Barnes (Buckinghamshire), Captain	8	L.Dallaglio (Wasps), Captain

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Shed man Bob Fenton remembers nights of old with the floodlights, and also asks for a little more noise from the supporters.

Fanzone

BOB FENTON

Here, I'll make a bet with you. Somewhere in this programme one of the many contributors will have said something along the lines of "... evening games at Kingsholm create a special kind of atmosphere...".

True enough. For some reason the stadium seems to do a passable impression of one of those scary rooms where the walls have closed in on you, you know the sort of thing you would see in a Batman or Indiana Jones movie.

And that in turn seems to lift the crowd. Maybe some people feel a bit safer in the darker confines and feel more at ease in making the odd comment or joining in with a chant of some kind.

That's not to say that the crowd around me, and you know who you are, can ever be accused of being reticent when it comes to shouting something horrible at an unfortunate opponent!

We have seen some great games under the lights. Of course the great 32-30 Leicester game stands out, but that's just one of many. Those with less alcohol addled memories will remember epic Welsh encounters where the ball was only touched after 20 minutes or so of pitched battles between the sides.

Not that we have ever seen anything like that in a Gloucester Vs Wasps match. Yeah right... These games don't so much start with a whistle, rather the referee

lights the blue touch paper and stands well back.

Whenever Wasps come to town the stakes seem to get ratcheted up a few more notches. For the Waspies reading this I am not going to bang on about the great injustice of the Championship Final, that's all water under the bridge.

It's just that for some reason the intensity levels go off the scale for both sides, and sometimes things boil over a bit. Hopefully tonight everything will stay within the laws, but I have to say that the 'Who's the first for the yellow card' sweep will have a longer list of names than usual.

So hang on to your hat as

tonight's game should be something special.

Well I hope so, I don't know if it's me but has anyone else noticed that the volume of support has really fallen of late. You could hear a pin drop at times during the Ulster game. Well you would have done had it not been for the dozen or so Ulstermen in front of me who kept their singing going all through the game.

Come on, people, we can do better than this. We're always decrying the gimmicks used at other grounds, canned music, canned cheering, canned announcers and, worse still, only canned beer, because we can do it ourselves, but recently? I'm afraid not.

Surely we don't need the scoreboard to flash "... time to make some noise..." as they do at Leicester, or "... come on you saints..." at Northampton.

Wasps should remind us of last season's Heineken Cup visit to the Causeway. The support throughout the game was spectacular, even when the game was lost (after about 15 minutes as I painfully recall) there was no let up. Let's recreate that today.

So before detouring off into other regions of my rambling subconscious, let's return to today's game.

With England tomorrow we can expect to be without a few key players, and with injuries to both sides we'll see a number of new faces on both sides of the park.

A few seasons ago we had the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup instead of Premiership fixtures on these weekends. That ran



Adam Balding heads towards the line with Marcel Garvey in support.

for two years and, of course, we won the thing both times. No doubt that's why it was stopped, can't have Gloucester winning things can we. Not that I am paranoid, much.

Yes, you could argue that these international weekends are disruptive, but it does allow some of the other members of the squads to get valuable first team experience.

One face that, or rather head, that is very familiar to Gloucester and Wasps fans alike is Phil Greening. It's great to see him back playing after a foot injury threatened to end his career.

Phil's a great player and a great bloke. Larger than life, that's for sure. I remember going to a United fixture when he was still here, and seeing most of the first team sitting in the stands watching.

They were all dutifully sipping health drinks or fruit juice, not out Phil. Stuck in his oversize mit was something looking like neat ribena, well it was not quite neat, he had watered it down with a large dollop of

rum! But also remember that this is a bloke who used to regularly give up his Sundays to spend time coaching the minis at Spartans.

Welcome back Phil, as ever we look forward to your warm up in front of the shed, and the inevitable banter that will flow both ways.

Injuries meant that some of the boys who will play today got a run out at Leicester last week, and the less said about that game the better. Actually I will mention it, or rather the Leicester fans.

Have you ever seen so many cuddly toys at a rugby ground? I thought Bath were bad enough with the small army of teddy bears that get dragged along. But as I watched the big screen in the corner as the cameras panned down the crowd after yet another score for the home side, it wasn't happy fans you saw, just a long line of soppy cuddly tigers. How very frightening. Not.

Maybe we should adopt an animal at Kingsholm. This is going to get me so much stick, then the marketing

boys could clean up selling little furry ones to everyone. But it has to be obscure and not necessarily related to the club or its location.

I've certainly seen some Wasps in Wycombe (and London) I suppose you might just find a Falcon fluttering around somewhere in the skies over Newcastle, but when was the last time you saw a tiger wandering down Welford Road, or for that matter a shark swimming in a canal near in Sale?

So, the search has to be on for some creature with no connection to Gloucester other than the fact that it has to start with a 'G'. My suggestion is that we have a Gnu, I've thought it through and there are two good reasons.

Firstly no one will have a clue what they are, and secondly I just have a vision of Hudson's new shop with a big sign outside saying "Have I got Gnus for you!"

Yes it is late, and I have had a drink. What do you mean, you could tell...

Text **ALERT GLOUCESTER** to **80092**

MATCH action



Gloucester
55



Ulster Rugby
13

Saturday 30 Oct, Kingsholm

Referee: Eric Derriere

Attendance: 12,469

Gloucester turned on the style to sink Ulster 55-13 in Round 2 of the Heineken Cup two weeks ago.

Henry Paul ran riot with a 25-point haul as Gloucester scored six tries to send Ulster back to Belfast with their tails between their legs.

Ulster threatened early on when David Humphreys went over after 25 minutes to give his side a shock 10-9 lead, but that was as good as it got for both player and team as the Kingsholm club hit back in emphatic style.

Paul struck a fourth penalty goal to regain the lead before Duncan McRae scored the first of two interception tries, both off Humphreys' passes.

Ulster's outside half at least replied with a penalty goal to narrow the gap to 19-13, only for Gloucester fullback Jon Goodridge to squeeze over deep into first-half injury time to open up a 26-13 cushion at the break.

Things soon went from bad to worse for Ulster when prop Rod Moore was singled out for collapsing an ominous-looking Gloucester

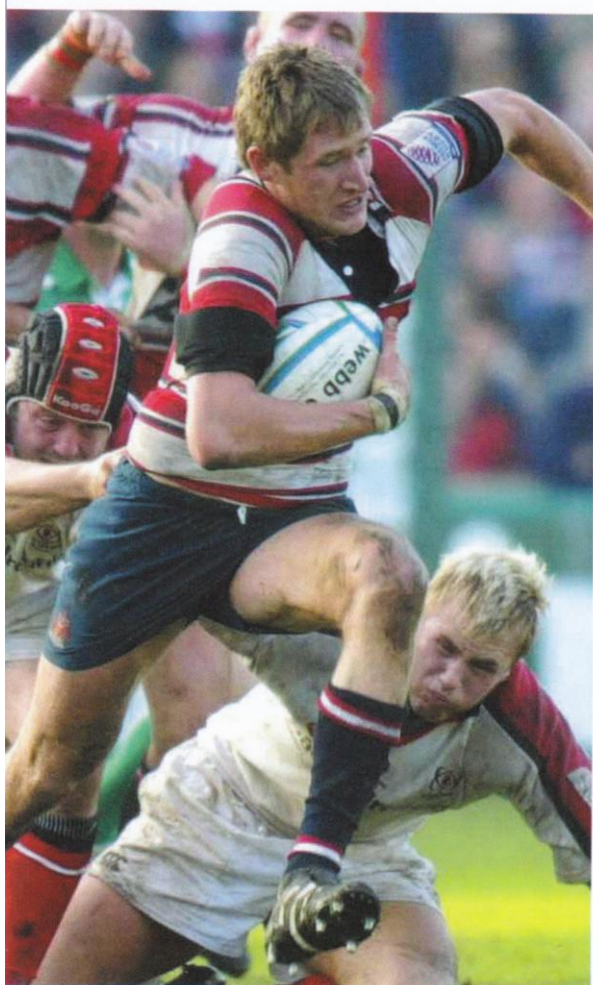
drive and was sent to the sinbin early in the second half.

Ulster were already struggling to match their hosts up front but with one less forward, they were fighting a losing battle.

With Moore taking up a large space in the sinbin, Gloucester smelled victory and from a lineout close to Ulster's line, the drive gathered momentum and South African prop Christo Bezuidenhout bulldozed over for the try that broke the Irishmen's backs. Paul converted for an unassailable 36-13 lead.

Within minutes, Humphreys was holding his head in his hands again after a second pass unwittingly found an opponent, this time James Simpson-Daniel, who did not need a second invitation to gallop half the length of the field to score. The conversion put Gloucester 43-13 ahead and Ulster were in real trouble.

Gloucester piled on the misery with Marcel Garvey and Adam Balding both scoring in injury time either side of Roger Wilson and Mark Cornwell being shown yellow cards for punching.





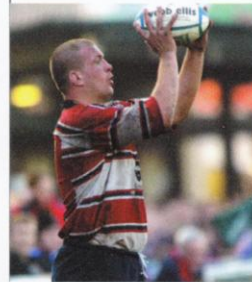
The Honour

Main Man

Chris Fortey



Chris Fortey had a stormer and deservedly picked up the Heineken Cup man of the match, although he was run pretty close by a classy performance from Henry Paul.



Name	Tries	Conv	PK	DG	Points
Gloucester Scorers					
Goodridge	1	0	0	0	5
McRae	1	0	0	0	5
Bezuidenhout	1	0	0	0	5
Simpson-Daniel	1	0	0	0	5
Garvey	1	0	0	0	5
Balding	1	0	0	0	5
Henry Paul	0	5	4	1	25

Ulster Scorers

Humphreys	1	1	2	0	13
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Gloucester	Teams	Ulster
Jon Goodridge	15	Bryn Cunningham
Marcel Garvey	14	Tommy Bowe
Terry Fanolua	13	Kevin Maggs
Henry Paul	12	Paul Steinmetz
James Simpson-Daniel	11	Tyrone Howe
Duncan McRae	10	David Humphreys
Andy Gomarsall	9	Neil Doak
Christo Bezuidenhout	1	Simon Best
Chris Fortey	2	Nigel Brady
Phil Vickery	3	Rod Moore
Adam Eustace	4	Gary Longwell
Alex Brown	5	Matt McCullough
Peter Buxton	6	Andy Ward
Andy Hazell	7	Neil Best
James Forrester	8	Roger Wilson
Olivier Azam	16	Paul Shields
Gary Powell	17	Ronan McCormack
Mark Cornwell	18	Rowan Frost
Adam Balding	19	Campbell Feather
Alex Page	20	Kieran Campbell
Nathan Mauger	21	Paddy Wallace
James Bailey	22	Adam Larkin



Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA images

or book on-line at www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com

MATCH action



Leicester Tigers

28



Gloucester

13

Saturday 6 Nov 2004, Welford Road

Referee: T.spreadbury

Attendance: 16,815

Leicester Tigers destroyed the challenge of Gloucester with a 28-13 win in the Zurich Premiership last weekend.

Henry Paul grabbed a late try, but it was too late to close the gap after Alex Tuilagi's two second half scores put Leicester clear.

The huge Samoan wing crossed the line in the 54th and 74th minutes after Gloucester's defence had performed admirably against a constant attack from the Tigers.

Both sides made a raft of injury-enforced changes before the game, the most significant of which were the injury-enforced absences of Harry Ellis and Andy Gomarsall

Gomarsall suffered a back spasm in the warm-up while Ellis was given more time to recover from a sore Achilles tendon.

The absence of Gomarsall and Duncan McRae left Gloucester with a new half-back pairing of Alex Page and Brad Davies.

Leicester, though, looked equally unfamiliar in the back line, where 19-year-old Tom Vardell made his debut on one wing with the relatively untried Dan Hipkiss, 21, on the other.

The game saw a mighty forward battle, including Lewis Moody's test against understudy Andy Hazell.

Gloucester managed a furious early surge from a driven lineout and Marcel Garvey's thrust down the left, and landed the first blow with Paul's third minute penalty.

The rest of the half belonged to Leicester as they launched Rabeni to devastating effect into midfield.

He showed all the required centre skills with the 12th minute try that saw him break past Paul 40 metres out and then surge between two defenders to the posts for his eighth try this season.

Goode converted, then added a penalty to make it 10-3, although Leicester could not quite crack Gloucester's rugged defence after that.

The visitors dug in by making three times as many tackles as their opponents and closed the gap against the run of play with a second Paul penalty before the break.

Gloucester, though, conceded a penalty immediately after the interval and Goode slotted the kick for a 13-6 lead.

Hipkiss got over the line for the Tigers on the right, only for the score to be ruled out



because of Vesty's forward pass in another Rabeni-inspired build-up.

But Johnson made no mistake when he popped up in midfield from their next attack, providing the perfect assist for replacement wing Alex Tuilagi to outstrip the cover from 30 yards for the clinching try just before the hour.

After Goode stretched the lead with his third penalty, Gloucester had to throw caution to the wind to rescue even a bonus point.

All they could manage was to hand Leicester another gift. Garvey's pass was picked off by Tuilagi, who blasted 70 yards down the right-hand touchline to score.

Paul's consolation try and conversion saw the final score sit at 28-13 to Leicester.



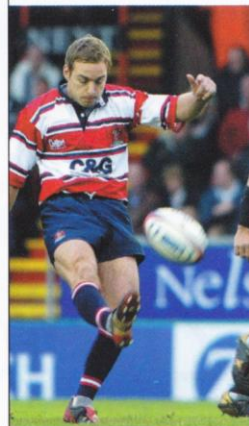
The Honour

Main Man

Alex Page
Brad Davies



It was a tough start for the half-backs, but both Alex Page and Brad Davies stepped up and showed they are ready to find their feet at Premiership level.



Name	Tries	Conv	PK	DG	Points
Leicester Scorers					
Seru Rabeni	1	0	0	0	5
Alex Tuilagi	2	0	0	0	10
Andy Goode	0	2	3	0	13

Gloucester Scorers

Henry Paul	1	1	2	0	13
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Leicester	Teams	Gloucester
Sam Vesty (75, Ross Broadfoot)		Jon Goodridge
Dan Hipkiss (52, Alex Tuilagi)		Marcel Garvey
Seru Rabeni		Terry Fanolua (66, Nathan Mauger)
Daryl Gibson		Henry Paul
Tom Vardell		James Bailey
Andy Goode		Brad Davies
Scott Bemand		Alex Page
Darren Morris (59, Graham Rowntree)		Christo Bezuidenhout
James Buckland (73, Richard Cockerill)		Chris Fortey
Julian White		Phil Vickery (73, Gary Powell)
Martin Johnson (c) (26-36,78, Lewis Moody)		Adam Eustace
Ben Kay		Mark Cornwell (56, Adam Balding)
Henry Tuilagi (62, Brett Deacon)		Peter Buxton
Lewis Moody (66, Neil Back)		Andy Hazell (52, James Forrester)
Martin Corry		Jake Boer (c)



Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA images

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gloucester rugby club.com 61

Zurich Premiership Round 9, Friday 12th November 2004, KO 7.45pm

Gloucester					London Wasps				
T	C	P	D		T	C	P	D	
				Jon Goodridge	15				Mark Van Gisbergen
				Marcel Garvey	14				Edd Thrower
				Nathan Mauger	13				Peter Richards
				Terry Fanolua	12				Ayoola Erinle
				James Bailey	11				Tom Voyce
				Brad Davies	10				James Brooks
				Alex Page	09				Matt Dawson
				Christo Bezuidenhout	01				Craig Dowd
				Chris Fortey	02				Phil Greening
				Phil Vickery	03				Tim Payne
				Adam Eustace	04				Simon Shaw
				Mark Cornwell	05				Richard Birkett
				Peter Buxton	06				John Hart
				Jake Boer (c)	07				Tom Rees
				Adam Balding	08				Lawrence Dallaglio (c)
				replacements					
				James Parkes	16				Trevor Leota
				Nick Wood	17				Will Green
				Gary Powell	18				Mark Lock
				James Forrester	19				James Haskell
				Luke Narraway	20				Harvey Biljon
				Simon Amor	21				Matt Priscott
				Seti Kiole	22				Rob Hoadley

Zurich Premiership 2004/05

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Sale Sharks	8	7	0	1	233	126	2	1	31
Leicester Tigers	8	6	1	1	235	134	4	1	31
London Wasps	8	6	0	2	180	151	1	2	27
Gloucester	8	6	0	2	167	154	1	0	25
Bath Rugby	8	4	1	3	174	173	1	1	20
Leeds Tykes	8	4	0	4	151	165	0	3	19
London Irish	8	4	0	4	156	159	0	2	18
Saracens	8	3	1	4	143	164	1	2	17
Newcastle Falcons	8	3	1	4	191	225	2	0	16
Northampton Saints	8	2	0	6	147	159	2	3	13
Worcester Warriors	8	1	0	7	124	203	1	4	9
NEC Harlequins	8	0	0	8	111	199	0	5	5

Today's Match Officials

Referee: Steve Lander

1st TJ: L Jackson

2nd TJ: A Pearce

Replacement Ref: Wayne Barnes

4th Official: Mark Tovey

Today's Result

Gloucester

17

London Wasps

27

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