

GRFC

vs **Sale Sharks**

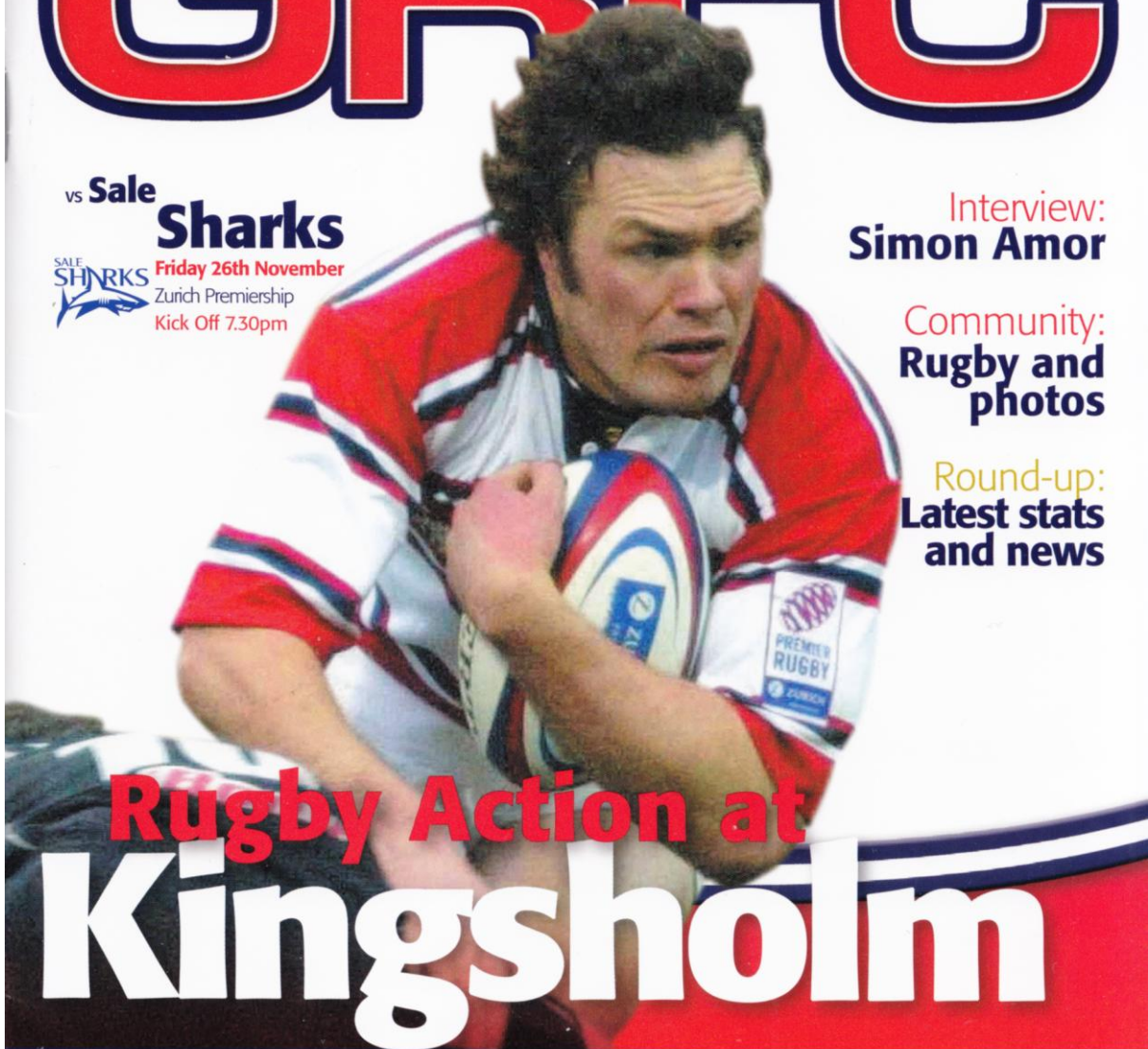


Friday 26th November
Zurich Premiership
Kick Off 7.30pm

Interview:
Simon Amor

Community:
Rugby and photos

Round-up:
Latest stats and news



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“Sale and Gloucester made excellent starts to the season and were both in the top four at the end of October”



Welcome to Kingsholm for tonight's Zurich Premiership match against the Sale Sharks. I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to the Sharks director of rugby Phillippe St Andre, coach Kingsley Jones, Robert Todd and I am sure Trevor Woodman will be with us tonight (if not on the field).

Gloucester is a special rugby Club, it plays a central part in everyone's lives when you are here and holds many happy memories when you leave. It is the nature of professional sport that players and coaches will move on, but their commitment to the Club when they were here will never be forgotten, I'm

sure they will get a warm welcome tonight.

Tonight is our final game in November, a month I would like putting behind us as soon as possible, listening to Phillippe's comments in the press, I know he will be thinking the same, as neither team have won a game whilst the November Internationals have been played.

Both Sale and Gloucester made excellent starts to the season and were both in the top four at the end of October. International release and a string of injuries has left both teams struggling against opposition they would otherwise have beaten. Is it a surprise that

Sigley, Olly Morgan, James Merriman and Alex Brown scuppered most of them.

So here we are at Kingsholm looking for a vital win tonight, our bonus point defeat last weekend was disappointing against a full strength Saracens team, but a number of positives could be taken from the performance. We didn't collect any more injuries, and the whole squad worked hard as a team all afternoon and were unlucky not to come away with more. This week the work has continued and everyone feels that this new look Gloucester team is getting better.

Once again our fans have been magnificent, they have every right to feel aggrieved, they want the best for the Club and cannot understand the logic of playing Premiership games on international weekends.

It allows the weak to prosper and the strong to suffer, a kind of handicapping system. Leicester and Wasps must have rejoiced at the retirement from international rugby of Martin Johnson, Matt Dawson, Lawrence Dallaglio and Neil Back!

Finally, congratulations to Andy Hazell, Andy Gomarsall and Henry Paul on their selection for England and their outstanding win over South Africa. Tomorrow, I wish them every success against Australia, and I look forward to seeing them back at Gloucester on Monday morning!

Have a great evening's rugby!

Nigel's notes



Nigel Melville
Director of Rugby

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we are now looking over our shoulders to teams who make no contribution to the national side?

Yes, we knew the international period would be tough, and we did make plans, but injuries to Duncan McRae, Phil Vickery, Olivier Azam, Terry

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“...we’re positive about what lies ahead. Yes, we’re missing players, but also, we know what players we’ve got.”

On behalf of everyone at Gloucester Rugby I'd like to welcome you all to Kingsholm for this evening's game, and of course a return to the ground for a few familiar faces from Sale Sharks.

Obviously I was disappointed not to play last weekend. I

did something to my groin during the Wasps game. I missed the early part of training going into the Saracens game with the hope that a bit of rest would help.

It did improve but when we did the run through on

I thought they got a jammy try in what seemed a pretty close game throughout. I know we missed a tackle, but it just seemed our luck ran out.

We've put it behind us and we're positive about what lies ahead. Yes, we're missing players, but also, we know what players we've got.

There's no point in thinking about 'what ifs' or 'what could be', we've got to get the best out of the players that are playing tonight. Everyone knows what they're capable of, so it's down to all of us to reach those levels.

There's no panic in the camp. Both us and Sale were in the top three at the end of October, and both of us have had bad Novembers, but I know both of us also know that we're good enough to be back up there.

This week has been a very short turn-around, what with us playing on Sunday last weekend, and then a Friday evening game today. With that in mind you make every moment count in terms of preparation for the game.

All in all it was a bad weekend just gone! The Saracens result followed on from South Africa losing to England.

I have to admit I was shocked at the result last weekend in the England game. I thought the England pack was outstanding, and, although I have to be careful what I say, I don't think that South Africa expected it, but they got what perhaps they thought they were going to dish out.

Once again, have a good evening and enjoy the match.

Captain's corner

Jake Boer
Club Captain



Saturday before the trip to Vicarage Road, it just didn't feel right.

I spoke with Dean and it was best not to play against Saracens. I was desperate to be involved for that game, especially when we have the injuries we do, you want to be there helping out.

But in the long term it was best to prepare for today's game. If I had taken a chance to play against Saracens, it would have got worse and that would have meant more weeks out.

When I saw the video of the Saracens game

The IRB Sevens kicks off this coming week in Dubai and South Africa, and Gloucester's Simon Amor is once again captain of England, for the third successive season. Before he packed his suitcase for the sunnier climes of Dubai the official matchday programme caught up with him to get the low-down on the world of Sevens.

SIMON AMOR

England 7s captain



Q. How are you looking forward to the opening tournaments in Dubai and George?

SA. I honestly can't wait. It's always exciting as you prepare for a tournament but this year I am literally counting the days. We have a number of new youngsters in the squad who are extremely talented and exciting players which means that there is even greater competition for places. The strength and depth of our team this year means there is a real sense of anticipation and no-one can wait to get started.

Q. As you said there are several new, uncapped

players in the squad this season. Who should we watch out for?

SA. I have obviously played with James Bailey here and know he is going to be a very special player in both types of the game. I have also seen the likes of Delon Armitage from London Irish and Andy Vilks and Neil Starling from Northampton and they have all got something special about them. I haven't seen much of the others yet but if they have all got as much talent as those guys then it will make the squad pretty exciting.

Q. England face France, Scotland and Uganda in Dubai. Who will be your

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 programme talks to Simon Amor about the England 7s tour.

toughest opposition?

SA. Traditionally it would be the French but they have slipped off form a bit recently whilst the Scots are taking Sevens more seriously and could prove a real threat in the pool stages. And I have heard a lot about the Ugandans as well so it genuinely could be a tougher group than people think.

Q. This season the premiership clubs have increased their support and commitment to England Sevens and the squad have had more training sessions than previous years. How has this helped the preparation for the series?

SA. I really can't overemphasise how important these training days have been. England used to arrive at the tournaments at a disadvantage as other countries were much more prepared and had spent more time together as a squad. Now we start on a level footing with the other countries. One of our faults over the last couple of years has been that we have not had a big squad or much training time together. To have a group of 25 players now is just fantastic and just as importantly to have a group of training days together is going to help us massively. This is the first time we have had that and its been great.

Q. Mike Friday took over as coach from Joe Lydon towards the end of last season. How do the two compare as coaches?

SA. Mike has been around the Sevens team for a long time so it wasn't like he was an



Mike Friday

outsider. He is a past England Sevens captain and knows the game incredibly well. They are actually quite similar and are both great coaches. Mike has got his own style of coaching which works well. Its almost like a democracy – he likes to encourage everyone to get fully involved which works well and helps the squad to bond and get to know each other well.

Q. You have been playing for Gloucester and have to make the switch to the seven-a-side game quite quickly. How hard is that to do?

SA. It is actually pretty difficult. Sevens is a whole new game with its own set of tactics and strategy and with the Dubai tournament beginning on a Thursday it means we only have a couple of sessions to prepare. Some of the other countries spend more time in camp before each tournament as their players are not involved in the 15-a-side game so much.

Q. Henry Paul has been playing well for England. Does part of you wish he hadn't done so well so he could play for Gloucester and potentially for the England Sevens team as well?

SA. I was secretly hoping he would have a shocker in the game against Canada and have been trying to dent his confidence by sending him texts to wind him up and stuff but it isn't working!! I can honestly say that Henry is probably the most talented rugby player I have ever seen. Everyone would love him to be back playing at Kingsholm at the moment and I would love him to come back and play England Sevens but its not what he needs right now. He needs to target his England game and is doing incredibly well. It would be great to have a number of the England players such as Josh Lewsey and Jason Robinson available to England Sevens but you have to be realistic about the importance of the Sevens team in the grand scheme of things and England is the main priority.

Q. The Rugby World Cup Sevens takes place in Hong Kong in March and if England are successful it will be the first time a nation has 'done the double' and held both World Cups at the same time. How hard is it to concentrate on the other tournaments when you must be focussing and thinking about the World Cup so much?

SA. Its probably harder for the new guys as we know we only have four tournaments between now and Hong Kong (Dubai, George, Wellington and Los Angeles) which means there we only have a maximum of 24 games to play. We have to play as well as we can in the lead up to the World Cup so we arrive in the best possible form.



Simon Amor

Position:	Half back
DoB	25/04/79
Height:	1.69m
Weight:	75.6kg
Prev Club:	Blackheath, Coventry, NEC Harlequins
Int Hons:	England Sevens and U19
Debut for GRFC:	2002/03

Amor joined Gloucester in the summer of 2002 after spells with Harlequins and London Irish. The talented half-back has combined playing for Gloucester with captain duties for England Sevens over the last couple of seasons. After leading England to the runners-up place in the IRB World Sevens at the end of the 2003/04 season, Amor signed a new two-year contract with Gloucester.



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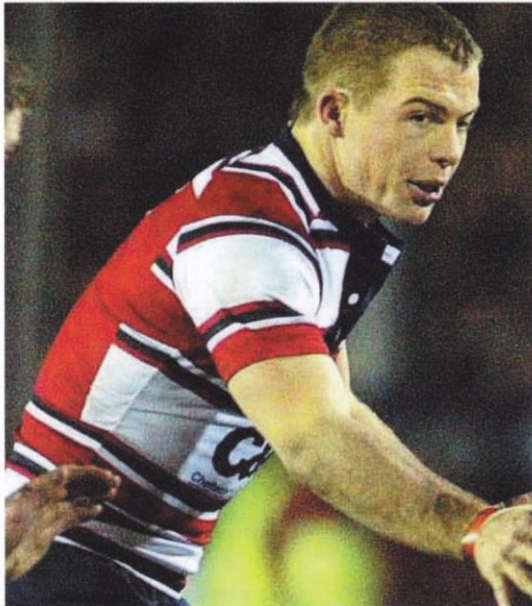
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BBC radio gloucestershire

This week BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Ian Randall throws the questions at Gloucester scrum-half Alex Page, and finds out plenty of interesting facts, including what the Club's fitness coach wears to the races!



I've always liked photography and wondered about being a fashion photographer, but I think that might be more of a hobby than a career.

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

AP: I always admired Rory Underwood because of his pace and because he scored tries, but in my position (and Alex didn't want to admit this) I think it was Dewi Morris. Nowadays I would say I look up to players like George Gregan and Justin Marshall.

BBC IR: What's your worst habit?

AP: I sometimes wish I was more outgoing and active in terms of doing stuff outside of rugby. When I get home after training I just like relaxing, and when I get settled I don't move very far!

BBC IR: What can you cook to impress people?

AP: I like to cook and eat healthily. I wish I could do better but my sister is a good cook so she's taught me a lot. I'm not bad at a good roast or a chicken pie with all the vegetables inside it. That's great for a winter Sunday.

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

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

AP: Running out here and hearing loads of people cheering you on. It's about playing in front of an audience. The other big things are the lifestyle, being outdoors and not being stuck in an office working 9-5. I've always said that in the summer it's great because of the pre-season outside in the warm weather, but it's not so nice this time of year!

BBC IR: What was your first job?

AP: I worked in a warehouse for a sports kit manufacturer. I used to pack orders and then help deliver them.

BBC IR: What would be your preferred alternative career?

AP: I'd like to run my own company, though I'm not sure what it would do.





AP: Sport in general, I guess. When I was young I played everything, and now I like to watch anything that's a good quality - tennis, football, you name it, I'll watch it.

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



AP: I'm not too fussy really. Normally it's just clothes or something useful. I would like an i-pod portable music player, but I might get that for Christmas. If I don't then it'll be on the birthday list!

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



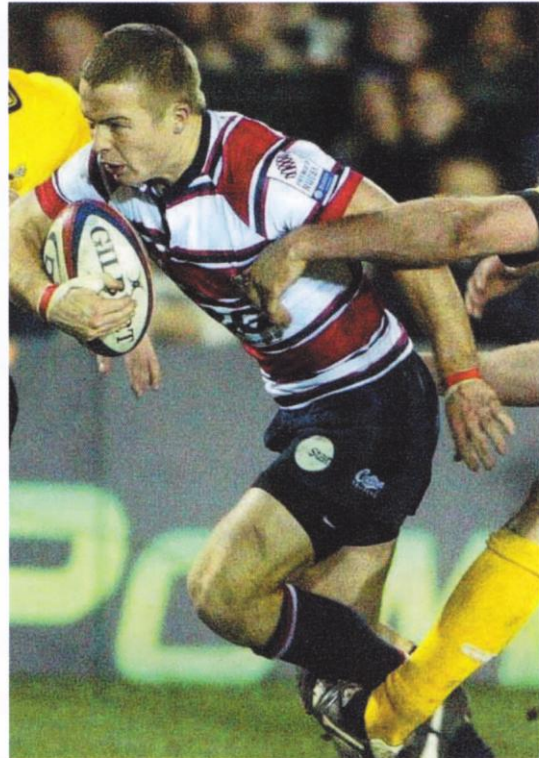
AP: I was in Mike Anthony's office the

week before the Wasps game. We had tickets for the races at Cheltenham on the Sunday afterwards and he was talking about what he would wear, a tank top shirt with the sleeves ripped off and a long black jacket with purple lining! I did find that funny.

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



AP: Never be afraid to ask questions, and never give up. Sometimes when I was younger it turned out that I should have asked rather than get things wrong. Always ask if you're not sure, and if you always give 100% you can't look back and have any regrets about the effort you put in.



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Peter Arnold has written for the matchday programme for 26 years, and this week he looks back at the Gloucester contribution to England's recent fixtures, as well as a few kind words for the late Emyln Hughes.

Peter ARNOLD

THERE AIN'T NO JUSTICE

I was very disappointed that Andy Hazell got dropped from the England starting line-up after the Canada romp. Admittedly, the opposition would have had trouble living with a decent Premiership side, but you can only ever eat the dish that is put in front of you, and Andy Hazell did very little wrong and a great deal which was very right.

Watching from the safety of my living room couch, I had to concede that the Sky commentators were

absolutely right when they said that he seemed to be everywhere at the right time, and some of his linking passes were sublime. In fact, he was his usual Kingsholm self, apparently unworried by the big occasion.

I say I was disappointed that he was relegated to the bench, but I wasn't particularly surprised. Joe Worsley is a class player, and was unfortunate to be relegated by a leg injury in the first place. I can quite see how the coaches would want to give him a run in the present team-

building circumstances. Nevertheless, we can all think of players who lost their places through injury, and had the devil's own job getting back in because the replacement grabbed his chance with both hands.

One must also point out that Andy's inclusion meant that Moody had to switch sides, and perhaps it's a good idea to play him at open-side which he was supposed to occupy in the first place.

Nevertheless, it's rotten bad luck on our Mr Hazell, and one can only hope that he has a comeuppance coming.

NOT ALL BAD NEWS

On the credit side, both Henry Paul and Andy Gomarsall did all that we expected from them. Henry, perhaps, could be said to have benefited from weak opposition more than anyone.

The extra space and time he was given allowed him to show just what a cultured, sophisticated player he is, never seeming to be in a hurry, and very rarely, if ever, choosing a wrong option. His little grubber to put Greenwood through for a try was simply perfect, and would have defeated better defences than Canada's.

Several press reports described him as 'a revelation'. Not round here he wasn't. We've seen it all before.

'Gomars' was, quite simply, 'Gomars'. He provided Hodgson with a high-quality service throughout, did his own thing when it seemed appropriate, and his long pass which led to Cueto's second try was far better than any of his competition could have delivered.

So, full marks to all our England representatives, and we'll be looking forward to further progress as the International season develops. Even if it does leave Gloucester a bit thin on the ground.

AND FOR OUR NEXT TRICK...

Obviously, I wrote the above paragraphs before England played South Africa. Having



Simon Amor takes a successful penalty.

now watched that game, I see no reason to change a syllable of it.

Charlie Hodgson, quite rightly, got the Man of the Match award for a highly impressive display. But he couldn't have done so without an excellent service from Andy Gomarsall at scrum-half, and to provide that, Andy had to evade the attentions of just about the most feared back row in the world. His defensive play was equally impressive, with kicking from hand highly effective.

I know Harry Ellis is breathing down his neck, but surely he has now done enough to be regarded as England's number one scrum half.

Neither could Hodgson have looked so impressive without fine support from his inside centre. All right, so Henry Paul half-missed a tackle early on, but he made up for it with some aggressive defending afterwards. His vision and ability to read a game was evident throughout, and his inch-perfect cross-kick to put Mark Cueto over will probably become legendary.

Obviously, Andy Hazell's chances were limited, being confined to a ten-minute blood injury appearance, and another run out when the game was all but done and dusted. What chances he had, however, he took. As usual, he was speed personified, and appeared to be here, there and everywhere.

Indeed, his eagerness resulted in him being spoken to by the referee and conceding a penalty, when he brushed Percy Montgomery in what was adjudged to be a late tackle.

Admittedly, Andy was a tad tardy in his arrival, but, the shrewd old warrior that he is, the full-back certainly made the most of the incident. I doubt that Dame Judi Dench could have done any better.

I doubt that Andy Robinson will hold the incident against our Mr. Hazell. As an old flanker himself, renowned for living on the edge, I imagine that it's the sort of fault he would like to see in a young number seven.

Now for Australia.....

EMLYN HUGHES

Why should I be commenting on the death of a former soccer player, in these pages, no matter how respected and affectionately remembered? Quite simple, really. Emlyn Hughes was a lifelong Gloucester Rugby Club supporter. I know that, because he told me so himself.

The acquaintanceship arose because my old friend, Mike Price, Town Crier of Tewkesbury, and self-style President of the West End Tumpers Association, rang me with Emlyn's contact details and suggested I get in touch. Mike was the Mayor's Officer at Sandwell at the time, and had come across the TV celebrity at some civic event.

Mr. Hughes recognised Mike's accent, and asked if he could supply him with a Gloucester sweat shirt which he could wear at a forthcoming pro-celebrity golf match, so Mike contacted me.

I was able to do that and had several chats with Emlyn in the process. It appears that his affection for Gloucester came through his father, 'Ginger' Hughes, who played for Gloucester before moving North and playing Rugby League for Barrow, which was Emlyn's home town.

We shall miss Emlyn Hughes. Big sport doesn't have enough real characters, these days, and he was certainly one of them.

Regular programme writer Dave King looks back at years gone by and chats about the link between Phillipe Saint Andre, Simon Mannix and Ian Jones.

THEY **CROSSED PATHS** before **kingsholm**



Phillipe Saint Andre

Did Philippe St Andre, Ian Jones and Simon Mannix all have something in common before their paths crossed here at Kingsholm?

We know that they all played for Gloucester and were on the staff at the same time, but their paths crossed previously in an historic manner for the Frenchman at least!

Philippe St Andre was born in Romans-sur-Isere, France on the 19 April 1967 and if you can recall it was 27 years later, in 1994, that he was appointed captain of a French team to tour Canada and New Zealand. The Montferrand winger was unknowingly set to make history.

The French party that flew to Canada before embarking on the road to hell to New Zealand was:

J.L.Sadourny (Colomiers), S.Viars (Brive), Philippe St Andre, E.Ntamack (Toulouse), W.Techoucyres (S.B.U.C Bordeaux), L.Leflamand (Lyon), P.Sella (Agen), Y.Delaigue (Toulon), F.Mesnel (Racing Club de France), T.Lacroix (Dax), B.Bellot (Graulhet), C.Deylaud (Toulouse), A.Macabiau (Perpignan), G.Accoceberry (Begles-Bordeaux), L.Seigne (Merignac), L.Benezech (Racing Club de France), L.Armay (Lourdes), C.Califano (Toulouse), J-M Gonzalez (Bayonne), J-F Tordo (Nice) O Merle (Grenoble), O Roumat (Dax) O.Brouzet (Grenoble), A.Benazzi (Agen), X.Blond (Racing Club de France, L.Cabannes (Racing Club de France), P.Benetton (Agen), L.Loppy (Toulon), S.Dispagne (Narbonne) and M.Cecillon (Bourgoin). P.Carbonnea (Toulouse) and F.Galthie (Colomiers) were replacements during the tour.



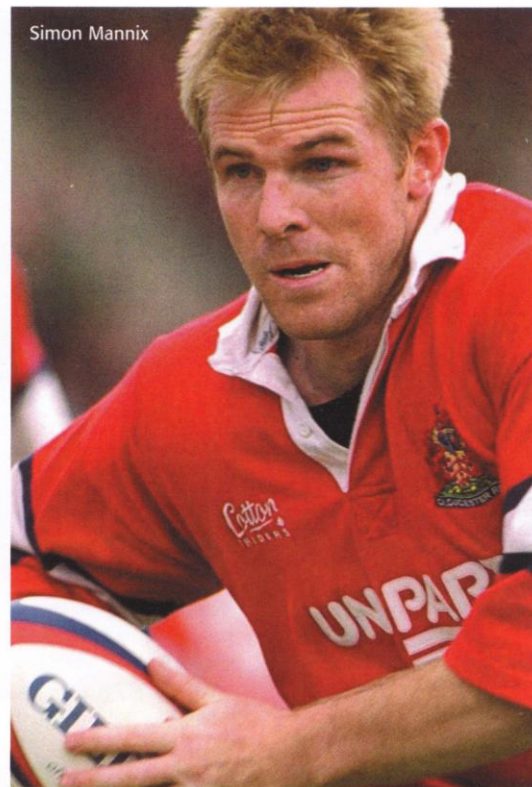
After losing 18-16 to Canada at Twin Elms Rugby Park, Nepecin on 4 June to a team that included Doug Loughheed, who made an appearance at Newcastle in the 2000-2001 season for Gloucester.

The French were given no hope in New Zealand but with a brilliant display of controlled rugby the French swept the All Blacks aside at Christchurch on the 25 June 1994 by 22 points to 8.

It was here that the path of Philippe St Andre, Ian Jones and Simon Mannix crossed. Simon Mannix, who played for Wellington, gained his solitary All Black cap. In the wake of the Christchurch defeat he was axed, which was one of two changes, and he never appeared for his country again.

In Auckland Ian Jones was retained but his All Black team mates fared no better. France, although only narrowly, won 23-20, a match in which the French scored a try described, 'as from the ends of the world'.

Two minutes from the end of the match Philippe gathered a loose ball 15 metres from his goal line. He declined to kick to touch instead he began a counter attack which



Simon Mannix

saw the ball pass through nine pairs of hands before Sadourny touched down!

France had never previously defeated New Zealand in a Test series and it was only the fifth time that the All Blacks had lost a rubber on their own soil. When asked why he had not kicked when he saw four All Blacks closing in on him, he said, 'I can kick only about as far as a sparrow so the only thing to do was to run with the ball'.

Was it a try of the century? Three years previous the critics were claiming the one Philippe St Andre featured in at Twickenham was the rightful claimant.

Shall we conclude he was just a player who never inhibited his natural flair? After gaining his first cap versus Romania in 1990, he made 69 appearances for France. 34 of those as captain, scoring 33 tries from 1990 to 1997.

Did You Know?

Many people ask about Gloucester's playing record whilst Philippe St Andre was director of rugby:

	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
HOME	51	40	1	10	1658	902
AWAY	49	20	1	28	1159	1203
TOTAL	100	60	2	38	2817	2105

The two draws were:

29-29 versus Bridgend
11 December 1999
(away)

22-22 versus Colomiers
21 October 2000
(home)

MATCH action



Gloucester
17



London Wasps
27

Friday 12 Nov, Kingsholm

Referee: S Lander

Attendance: 13,000

The absence of an array of star names for Gloucester and London Wasps was on show for all to see at Kingsholm as a 13,000 capacity crowd witnessed a brutal but stop-start Zurich Premiership encounter that saw Wasps secure a 27-17 win.

Gloucester were missing eight players in all, and the absence of Henry Paul, Andy Gomarsall and Duncan McRae through international duty and injury took its toll.

Brad Davies, was strong in the tackle but the 21 year-old missed two first half penalties, during an opening period that saw Gloucester dominate possession and territory.

For Wasps, they may have had England's World Cup winners Lawrence Dallaglio and Matt Dawson - an unusual privilege ahead of an England international - but the London side failed to string together any form of stinging attack in the first half.

Wasps also had their chances between the posts

but young winger Edd Thrower, taking over kicking duties from the injured Alex King, also missed the target to leave both sides without any points before the break.

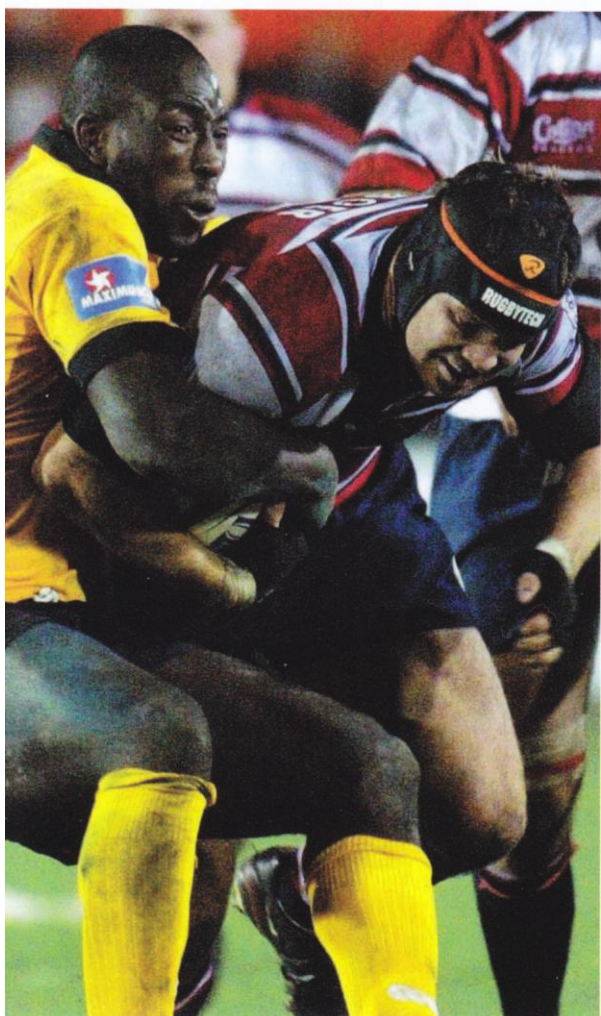
It was Wasps who finally emerged dominant after the restart with Mark Van Gisbergen setting up a more confident looking Wasps attack.

The fullback offloaded to James Brooks, before Peter Richards set up Simon Shaw, who carried the ball over the line.

Van Gisbergen converted although Gloucester soon added some points of their own with England Sevens captain Simon Amor steadying the ship with a much needed penalty.

Wasps' winger Ayoola Erinle soon made a mockery of the home side's defence with a magical break which saw him sidestep three players to touch down.

Van Gisbergen again converted but the score clearly rattled the Kingsholm outfit's cage.



Gloucester, making the most of 14-man Wasps after Trevor Leota's yellow card, wore down Wasps' defence and powerhouse Adam Balding finally powered out of a ruck to score.

Amor converted but the two penalties from Van Gisbergen looked to have put Wasps out of reach.

A Thrower injury-time try confirmed Gloucester's fate and ended their 12-month unbeaten record at home in the league - despite a superb 84th-minute last-gasp Amor try.



The Honour

Main Man

Adam Balding



Adam Balding was immense and his try scoring performance saw him stand-out as Gloucester's main man.



Name	Tries	Conv	PK	DG	Points
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Gloucester Scorers

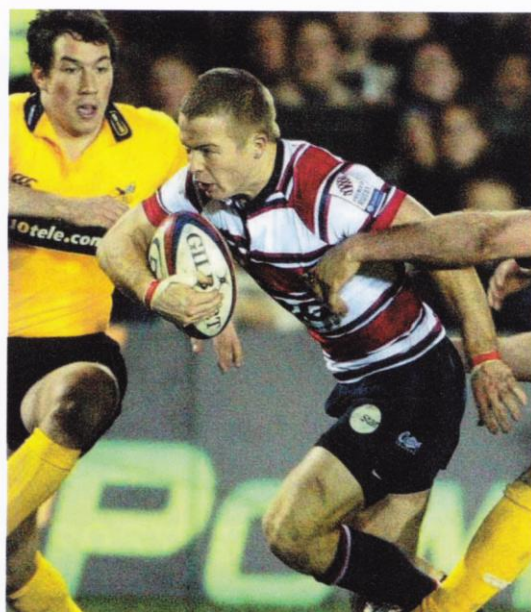
Adam Balding	1	0	0	0	5
Simon Amor	1	2	1	0	12
Brad Davies	0	0	0	0	0

Ulster Scorers

Simon Shaw	1	0	0	0	5
Ayoola Erinle	1	0	0	0	5
Edd Thrower	1	0	0	0	5
Mark Van Gisbergen	0	2	2	0	10
James Brooks	0	1	0	0	2



Gloucester	Teams	Wasps
Jon Goodridge		Mark Van Gisbergen
Marcel Garvey		Edd Thrower
Nathan Mauger		Peter Richards
Terry Fanolua		Ayoola Erinle
James Baile		Tom Voyce
Brad Davies		James Brooks
(46, Simon Amor)		Matt Dawson
Alex Page		Craig Dowd
Christo Bezuidenhout		Phil Greening
Chris Fortey		(53, Trevor Leota)
Phil Vickery		Tim Payne
(39, Gary Powell)		(53, Will Green)
Adam Eustace		Simon Shaw
Mark Cornwell		Richard Birkett
Peter Buxton		John Hart
(50, James Forrester)		Tom Rees
Jake Boer (c)		(59-69, Edd Thrower)
Adam Balding		Lawrence Dallaglio (c)



Pictures courtesy of Bruce Seabrook - GPA images

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MATCH action



Saracens
14



Gloucester
9

Sunday 21 Nov 2004, Vicarage Road

Referee: G. Ashton-Jones

Attendance: 6,860

With Jake Boer's late withdrawal adding to Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan's injury concerns, the Gloucester line-up fought hard to take some points.

Kydd kicked a penalty to level the game and added a second to make the half-time score 6-6 after Amor had booted a 25-yard penalty when Saracens were caught offside at a ruck.

Saracens' Robbie Kydd scored a try and three penalties, with Simon Amor's three penalties guaranteeing a bonus point for Gloucester.

Saracens went over for the only try shortly after the break, when a long kick to the edge of the pitch on halfway was collected by winger Tevita Vaikona, who made ground before passing onto centre Ben Johnston.

Gloucester's squad was stretched to the limit, with 12 men either injured or on international duty.

He just got inside the Gloucester 22 before being tackled by Nathan Mauger, but managed to release Kydd on his right-hand side and the full-back went over in the corner.

And that number increased to 13 with the loss of club captain Jake Boer before the kick-off, the flanker having suffered a groin problem.

Saracens only had a couple of front-line men out, but they still struggled to contain a patch-work Gloucester team in the opening exchanges.

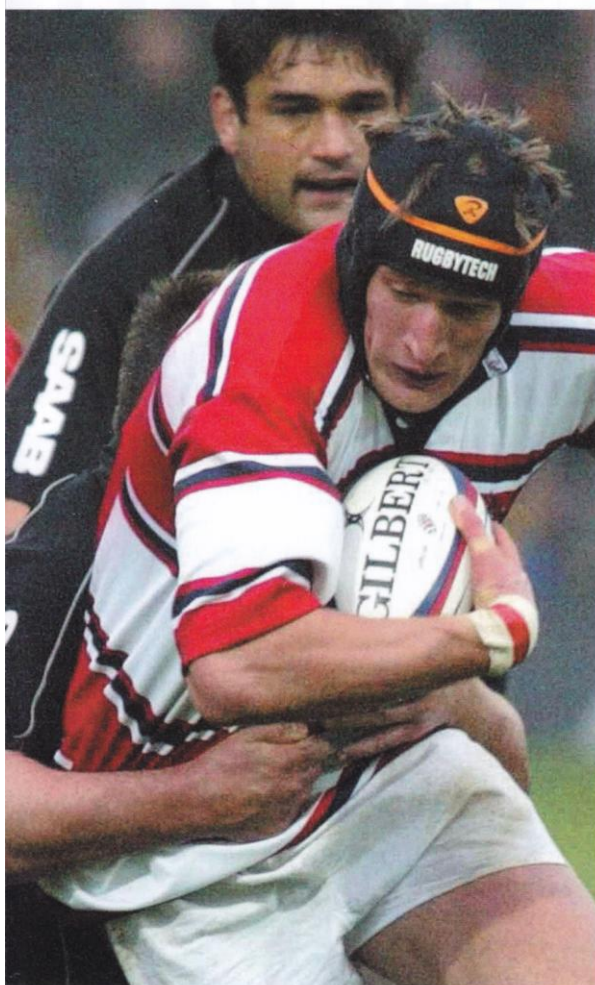
Gloucester hit back and kept Saracens pinned in their own half for a long period after the interval.

Gloucester went ahead after 12 minutes when fly-half Simon Amor slotted a penalty to punish French hooker Raphael Ibanez's wandering hands at a ruck.

The home defence held firm as Gloucester kept the ball tight and let the forwards take the game to the home side.

It was a pretty dour first half.

It nearly paid off for Gloucester when Amor chipped through the home defence inside the 22 only



Gloucester					SALE SHARKS				
T	C	P	D		T	C	P	D	
				Jon Goodridge	15				Chris Mayor
				Marcel Garvey	14				Chris Rhys Jones
				Nathan Mauger	13				Jos Baxendell (c)
				Terry Fanolua	12				Robert Todd
				Seti Kiole	11				Steve Hanley
				Simon Amor	10				Byron Hayward
				Alex Page	09				Sililo Martens
				Christo Bezuidenhout	01				Stuart Turner
				Chris Fortey	02				Johnny Rodham
				Gary Powell	03				Barry Stewart
				Adam Eustace	04				Christian Day
				Mark Cornwell	05				Dean Schofield
				James Forrester	06				Pierre Caillet
				Jake Boer (c)	07				Magnus Lund
				Adam Balding	08				Pete Anglesea
				replacements					
				James Parkes	16				Martin Halsall
				Nick Wood	17				Sebastien Bozzi
				Peter Buxton	18				John Carter
				Luke Narraway	19				Ben Lloyd
				Brad Davies	20				Bryan Redpath
				James Bailey	21				James Moore
				Rory Teague	22				Josh Taumalolo

Zurich Premiership 2004/05

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Leicester Tigers	10	7	2	1	290	162	5	1	38
London Wasps	10	7	1	2	224	185	1	2	33
Sale Sharks	10	7	0	3	259	172	2	2	32
Bath Rugby	10	6	1	3	231	214	1	1	28
London Irish	10	6	0	4	198	194	0	2	26
Gloucester	10	6	0	4	193	195	1	1	26
Newcastle Falcons	10	4	1	5	235	262	3	1	22
Saracens	10	4	1	5	167	213	1	2	21
Leeds Tykes	10	4	0	6	195	224	0	4	20
Northampton Saints	10	2	0	8	173	197	2	4	14
NEC Harlequins	10	2	0	8	170	222	1	5	14
Worcester Warriors	10	2	0	8	152	247	1	4	13

Today's Match Officials

Referee: Ashley Rowden (RFU)

1st TJ: Peter Huckle (RFU)

2nd TJ: Ashley Reay (RFU)

Replacement Ref: Steve Lander (RFU)

4th Official: Mark Tovey (Glos Society)

Assessor: Paul Bridgman (RFU)

Today's Result

Gloucester

24

Sale Sharks

14

design: paul watkins

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