

Gloucester Rugby Football Club Official Matchday Magazine | 2004/05 Season | Issue 15 | Price £2.50

GRFC

vs **Leeds**



Tykes

Saturday 9th April
Zurich Premiership
Kick Off 3.00pm



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THE TIMES

“...with just three games remaining, both teams have much to play for.”



Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for our penultimate Premiership game of the season against Leeds Tykes.

Such is the length of our domestic season it is difficult to remember our visit to Leeds on the opening day of the season back in September. Since then, a substantial amount of water has passed beneath the bridge, but with just three games remaining, both teams have much to play for.

Gloucester have flirted with the top three all year, and today start just five points behind

Sale in third place. Leeds currently find themselves at the bottom of the table, but an impressive win at home to Leicester just two weeks ago certainly left a number of sides looking over their shoulders. I've no doubt the remaining games of the season will throw up some intriguing fixtures.

Our last Premiership win was away to London Irish just a couple of weeks ago, the Madejski Stadium maybe a state of the art stadium, but it somehow lacks real passion despite the 18,000 crowd. And it was great to see so many Gloucester supporters

a number of young players demonstrate their potential in front of a 3,000 strong crowd (see page 34-35).

Whilst we were welcoming back Duncan Mcrae and James Simpson-Daniel, Saracens gave a run out for Richard Hill, but it was the young guns that stole the show in a lively game. As we prepare the squad for the 2005-06 season, it is refreshing to see so many young players starting to realise their potential and begin to force their way to first team consideration.

This week we moved to our new training headquarters at Hartpury College. Our partnership with the College, through Principal Malcolm Wharton, who is a committed Gloucester supporter, is proving to be a great success.

The College is fast developing a reputation as one of the country's leading University teams, attracting players from far and wide, whilst our Academy is continuing to develop Elite players for the first XV squad.

Competition for young talent grows ever more competitive, it is great to know that Gloucester can offer fantastic rugby and educational opportunities for young players second to none.

There are just three games left now. We've spoken all week about what we need to achieve, and what better way to continue it today.

Have a great afternoon.

Nigel's notes



Nigel Melville
Director of Rugby

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making the journey and celebrating the win with a pint of Guinness or two! The game was a test of character for a young team that was passed with flying colours.

Whilst on the subject of youth, Monday night's Zurich 'A' League game saw

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“Three games to go and plenty to play for and achieve.”

Three games to go and plenty to play for and achieve. That's the message we've been talking about over the last few weeks.

The win over London Irish two weeks ago was a step forward both on and off the field, but you all know that it'll mean nothing if it isn't followed up with a result today.

The achievement against the Irish was a mental step forward. If you're right mentally then you're heading in the right direction, and a few of us spoke after the Northampton game about how we needed to address that.

There were more than 18,000 supporters at the Irish game, and the

to get more confident and competent as times goes on.

A successful side is based on a balance of youth, enthusiasm and experience, and nine times out of 10 something happened when the young guys tried it.

So, yes, the Irish result was good and a step in the right direction, but I'm never satisfied with just an improvement. The one time we'll all be satisfied will be when we win every tournament we enter, that's when you feel 100 per cent rewarded.

As I've said, we got to continue that development today against Leeds.

We've had a weekend off between today and the Irish win, and although it was frustrating to not be involved, it was good to watch to watch the Heineken quarter-finals on television.

I was over the moon for my old team Leicester. I had the pleasure of being captained by Martin Johnson, and with the likes of Back and Corry, they've got big game players.

I knew they'd get the result, and those guys deserved it. As to who will win the European Cup, it all depends on the semi between Tigers and Toulouse.

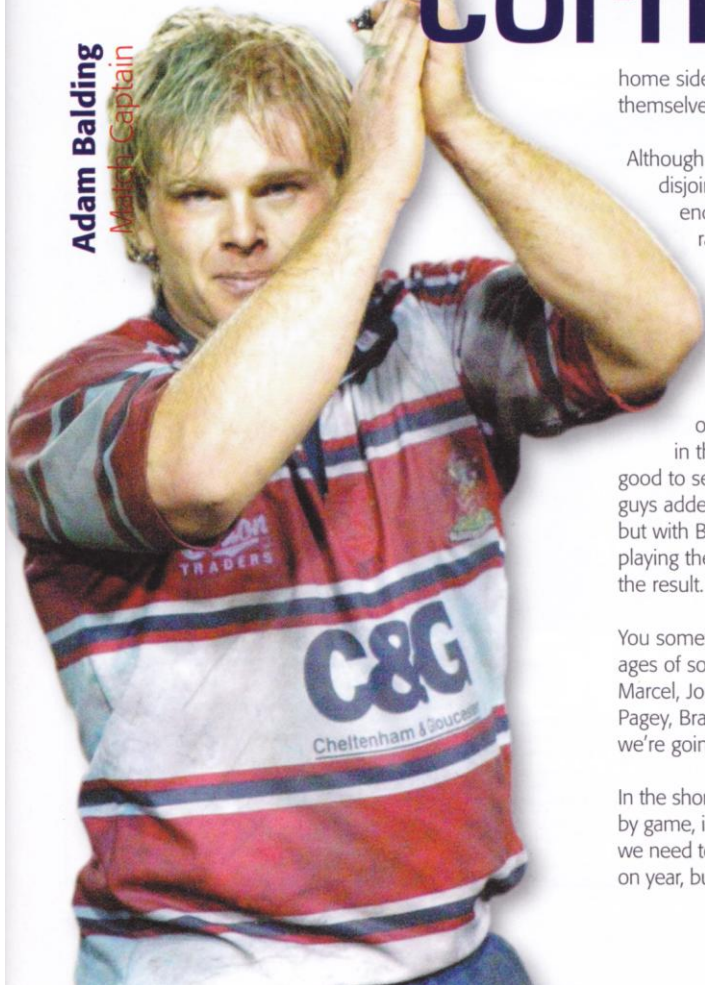
In my view whoever wins that one will win the tournament. After today's game, and I'm sure the Sunday papers will feature it, comes the British Lions.

It'll be interesting to see which players who've retired from the international scene are involved. There are the likes of Back, Dallaglio and Trevor Brennan. It'll certainly be an intriguing squad.

Anyway, back to today, and enjoy the game.

Captain's corner

Adam Balding
Match Captain



home side played above themselves.

Although our play was a bit disjointed in places, our endeavour and work rate improved, and the likes of Brad and Pagey stepped up.

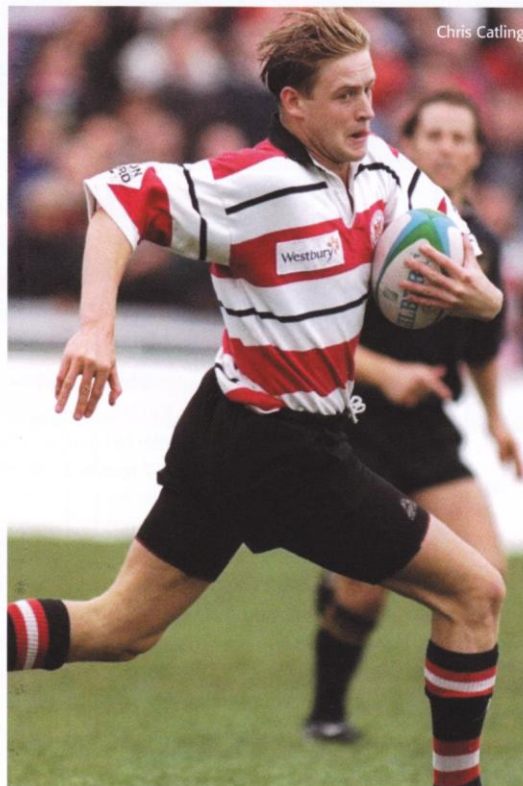
Along with some of the other young guys in the squad it was good to see. The senior guys added the experience, but with Brad and Pagey playing their game, we got the result.

You sometimes forget the ages of some of our players, Marcel, Jon Goodridge, Pagey, Brad, Woody, but we're going forward.

In the short term it's game by game, in the long term we need to measure it year on year, but we're going

Dave King looks back to the first time Leeds visited Kingsholm. It was a cup tie and a certain Phil Davies was in the line-up that day.

REMEMBER when?



Chris Catling

The name of Leeds Tykes is relatively new to Gloucester's fixture list. The club was formed from the amalgamation of Headingley and Roundhay RFCs in 1992

Leeds first visited Kingsholm on Saturday 21 December 1996 for a Pilkington Cup tie. Leeds were then in Division Three of the Courage League and were in second place behind Fylde. Their director of rugby was Phil Davies, the former Wales and Llanelli forward, who is still in charge today.

Despite pre-match overtures from the visitors Gloucester emerged from the fifth round tie with a runaway victory. Fly half Mark Mapletoft scored over 30 points, from two tries and also landing eight of his eleven kicks at goal!

DID YOU Know?

On the same day that Gloucester played Leeds, Peter Buxton was making his Pilkington Cup debut at The Stoop against Harlequins. Peter was an England Under 18 player and had only played three first team matches for Cheltenham RFC. Henry Paul's brother Robbie was named in the Quins line up at outside half!

A week previous Gloucester United had defeated Devonport Services 108-0 with flanker Rob York scoring five tries!

That same afternoon Chris Fortey and Mark Cornwall were included in a United XV at Coventry. Trevor Woodman was named as a replacement! Mark scoring two tries and Chris one in a 50-17 win.

Andy Hazell was included in a Gloucester Colts team facing Bedford at Oxstalls. The Colts won 24 points to 12.

Rob Fidler, Chris Catling and Mark Mapletoft were all named to make their debuts for England 'A' the following week. Phil Vickery was named as a replacement, as was Scott Benton.

That Gloucester forward Colin Gibson joined Courage League Four North leaders Worcester prior to the Leeds match.

To date Gloucester's record against the Yorkshire club at Kingsholm reads:

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
5	5	0	0	192	75



Simon Devereux



Mike Shelley

Gloucester were well in control when half time arrived with 'Tofty' having kicked three penalties, adding to a 31st minute try by Mike Lloyd and another in the 36th minute from captain Dave Sims. Leeds' first half contribution had been two penalties by former Orrell fly half Gerry Ainscough.

After the restart Scott Benton increased the Gloucester lead with a charge down try. Leeds were not deterred and with Romanian Christian Radacanu to the fore, they exerted pressure for Rhys Morgan – a half time replacement for the injured Ainscough – to race into the corner for a try. Tongan full back Satehi Tuipolutu added the conversion.

A penalty try awarded by

Manchester referee Terry Fisher following frequent Gloucester infringements, and the subsequent conversion from Tuipolutu left Leeds only nine points adrift.

After repelling Leeds attacks the visitors were then blitzed by four tries in an eleven-minute spell. Mike Lloyd crossed after a scissors move with Chris Catling. Mark Mapletoft scored a solo try with a run along the Leeds line. Flanker Peter Glanville then powered over completing a strong forward drive from the 22-metre line. In the final minute Mark Mapletoft crossed again as he chased his own chip over the head of Tuipolutu to complete the scoring.

Dave King

Facts:

From that Gloucester team Chris Catling is with Italian club Catania. Don Caskie assists Ian Smith with coaching at Moseley. Mark Mapletoft is with London Irish, Scott Benton is with Cleckheaton, Tony Windon is with Worcester, Phil Greening is at Wasps, and Rob Fidler likewise with Bath. Dave Sims is at Exeter and Pete Glanville coaches Cinderford where Martin Roberts is on the playing staff at Duckham Road, home of the Forest of Dean club. For Leeds, Phil Davies and Mike Shelley remain at Leeds Tykes.

Gloucester:

C.Catling
 M.Peters
 D.Caskie
 M.Roberts
 M.Lloyd
 M.Mapletoft
 S.Benton
 T.Windo
 P.Greening
 A.Deacon
 R.Fidler
 D.Sims (Captain)
 P.Glanville
 I.Smith
 S.Devereux.

Leeds:

S.Tuipolutu
 R.Mathias
 D.Edwards
 P.Johnson (Captain)
 M.Appleson
 G.Ainscough
 (rep half time by R.Morgan)
 M.Cawthorn
 G.Baldwin
 M.Luffman
 M.Shelley
 P.Davies
 C.Radacanu
 N.Green
 P.Griffin
 J.Ashcroft.

Referee: T.Fisher
 (Manchester Society)

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Regular programme contributor Peter Arnold looks back at the last few weeks and all the news from the Kingsholm camps.

Peter ARNOLD

PLAYING IT BY EAR

I have been moving house lately and the London Irish match caught me between two stools, so to speak, so I was reduced to following the game via the radio commentary, which I found perfectly acceptable and relatively unbiased, even if it did come courtesy of Radio Berkshire.

Obviously, I had nothing to watch, which meant that breaks in play seemed to stretch on for an inordinately long time. Most of the time I could put up with that, but when Marcel

Garvey scored that blistering try, the ruminations of the video referee seemed to take an age, while I had nothing to do other than masticate my cuticles.

At the ground one can discuss the matter with one's neighbours. Even when watching the game on the box one gets several replays of the equivocal event so that you can make up your mind and probably change it once or twice.

When you're reduced to listening on steam radio, there is nothing to do except gently perspire. Happily, the

referee came to the right conclusion, but he did seem to have had time to sink a cup of tea and read a couple of chapters of 'War and Peace' before doing so.

Feeling much more cheerful, I carried on listening. Then Andy Hazell got injured, and the resultant hiatus seemed to take even longer than Marcel's stroke of brilliance had. Even worse, the commentary seemed to become more and more ominous.

According to the commentator, at one point there were eight first-aid staff, plus Nigel Melville on the

pitch at the same time. Then we were told that 'Hazy' was carried off actually strapped down to a stretcher. This put quite a blight on the whole occasion, and I carried on chewing my fingernails.

Even the standard of play seemed to have declined, which was understandable. No one likes to see a player, friend or foe, reduced to such dire straits. Then we were told that Andy was up and about, and the collective sigh of relief could probably have been heard back at Kingsholm.

But the last period of the game was sheer torture. Gloucester were just one point ahead, and Irish were busting every gut to reverse that situation. Obviously, there was going to be a lot of stoppage time that stretched into about fifteen minutes. I promise you, it seemed to be a great deal longer than that from where I was sitting. By the time the final whistle went, my fingernails had virtually disappeared.

Not that I minded. All was well that ended well, but I hope I don't have to sit through anything like that again any time soon.

NOT SO BAD REALLY

Having said all that, I was really quite impressed by the team's performance on that day. After all, we don't exactly have an unblemished record at the Madjeski. This time last year, the Irish were claiming fortress status at their Reading stronghold.

To have clung on to a one-

point lead against a tough, forthright side salivating for a win, over an inordinately long period of play was quite an achievement, especially when you recall the lackadaisical performance against Northampton on our own ground.

We should also give credit to our young and inexperienced half-back combination. According to a friend who was at the match, Brad Davies was coolness personified, and Alex Page a live wire at number nine, which could not have been easy in front of a highly partisan crowd hyped up while indulging in a belated celebration of St. Patrick's Day. I'll bet that sales of Guinness reached stratospheric proportions that day, and why not?

It was also good to see Adam Balding enhancing his reputation as both captain and player, although whether he would have received his 'Man of the Match' accolade had Andy Hazell not been laid out is open to question.

All in all, it was a highly praiseworthy performance, even if one or two sniffy commentators didn't rate the game as being a good example of Premiership rugby. It's all very well to snipe when you're not out on the field, haven't done your homework, and don't understand the situation, but it was all very reassuring for those of us who were beginning to have doubts on several grounds.

The jury is still out, but we're a lot happier than we were two or three weeks ago.



Marcel Garvey in action

"NOT WITH A BANG"

"This is the way the world ends. Not with a bang but with a whimper" I'm ashamed to say that I can't remember who wrote that, but the quotation sprang to mind when I heard the news about Henry Paul's injury that looks certain to have ended his season. It isn't the way we would have wished Henry to have ended the 2004/5 season. I don't suppose he's too happy about it either.

You have to admit that Henry has an enormous amount of talent. Even in this fractured season he has displayed moments of sheer magic, and it is a tragedy that he has not been able to achieve the degree of consistency which his undoubted ability demands.

I think that Andy Robinson has a lot to answer for. Henry's ludicrous replacement after less than half an hour of the first Six Nations game probably lost England the match, resulting in the team being forced to play with no recognised goal kicker when Charlie Hodgson went off injured.

More important, from our point of view, Henry never really seemed to recover from the humiliation. His confidence appears to have suffered, and his enforced series of games at outside-half didn't seem to have helped the situation at all.

Now, being thrust into the twilight by an injury sustained while playing sevens on the other side of the world, just about sums up his season. We must just hope that he has the resilience to bounce back.

BBC radio gloucestershire

Throughout the course of the season BBC Radio Gloucestershire has put members of the Gloucester squad and staff under the spotlight with a series of questions, this week the matchday programme rounds up some of the best answers to date.

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!

Luke Narraway

BBC Who has been the biggest influence on your life?



Luke Narraway:

There have been great players like Zinzan Brooke, Lawrence Dallaglio, Neil Back - those kind of players are obviously a massive influence on me but my Dad, he used to play rugby and he's what I looked up to when I was coming through the ranks.

Mefin Davies

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



Mefin Davies:

There are two fish in a tank - one said to the other "how do you drive this thing?"

Nathan Muager

BBC What can you cook to impress people?



Nathan Muager:

I used to live with my brother,

Dean Ryan

BBC What's the best thing about your sport?



Dean Ryan:

Getting a good result on a weekend. I think you can transfer that to any sport. For me it's great that it's in rugby, but I would probably get that 'kick' if I was the elite end of any sport, and I enjoy lots of them. You learn to know where you make your contribution and involvement, and whether you're playing or coaching, you still feel the same when you win.

Phil Vickery

BBC What was your first job?



Phil Vickery:

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.

Chris Fortey

BBC What would be your preferred alternative career?



Chris Fortey:

It would have to be something outdoors, maybe something with the environment. It may not sound very exciting or prosperous but it would have to be something that



and about three or four years ago I only knew two dishes, one was a beef one and one was a chicken one. We joke that he always knew what he was getting for dinner because it would be the same every day! After that I went to cooking classes to branch out a bit. It was a course with 20 sessions, and so I'm pleased to say I've added 20 dishes to my repertoire. If I have to get the cook book out then there is something decent I can produce.

Marcel Garvey

BBC What's your worst habit?



Marcel Garvey: When I'm running, I always kick my toe. I don't

know why I do it, it just drags my foot along the ground. I get a bit of ribbing for that. In life, generally, I'm pretty late sometimes - like the last time I picked my girlfriend up, I was half an hour, an hour late.

Adam Eustace

BBC Where would you most like to be a fly on the wall?



Adam Eustace: On Nigel or Dean's office straight

after a game to see what they're saying

Andy Deacon

BBC What would you like for your next birthday?



Andy Deacon: At the moment a new back and a new

elbow. They're giving me a lot of stick at the moment and I can't work it out. I've stopped playing and I'm a worse state than when I was playing. Above all, it's good health I suppose. I don't want to be a complete cripple like I feel at the moment.

Alex Page

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



Alex Page: 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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Dave King talks about Gloucester, the club and the city, and historic moments and players from history.

adding TO THE HISTORY



Trevor Woodman

Fortress Kingsholm, a vaunted description of the playing record of Gloucester RFC at this famous venue. Yet, in the distant past in the year of 577, this city was founded as a Roman fortress at Kingsholm! A new fortress was later built on the site of what is now the modern City centre.

The history of this club cannot match the interwoven fabric of history surrounding the City of Gloucester with names that are forever linked with its heritage. Such events and names as

Edward the Confessor who held court in Gloucester at Yuletide, and later William the Conqueror upheld this custom. Henry II granted Gloucester a Royal Charter. Half a century later Henry III was crowned Monarch in the City Cathedral and Edward II is interned in Gloucester Cathedral.

This is a City that once saw 600 ships berth in the docks, where Robert Raikes founded the Sunday school movement in 1736. John Stafford Smith who composed the tune that is now the American National Anthem was born in the City of Gloucester in 1750. A City that saw Hubert Booth who invented the original vacuum cleaner was born in the City confines in 1871. Years later, in 1897 Beatrix Potter

sketched her images of The Tailor of Gloucester, a story based on John Pritchard a local tailor who had a shop in Westgate Street. The Gloucester Meteor and Gladiator aircraft were built here. All have brought fame and fortune to this City over the centuries.

Over the last one hundred and thirty two years, Gloucester RFC in its modest way has added to the history. This has built on the fact that its players have represented their country, while a playing member of this great club.

Many are names now consigned to history, which are not within the living memory of anyone present today. Yet, all have added to the illustrious history of this great club and the City of Gloucester.

In total there have been 54 Gloucester players who have worn the coveted England shirt. They are as follows, with the span of their International careers in parenthesis: -

Scott Benton (1998), Henry Berry (1910), Harold Boughton (1935), Steve Boyle (1983), Alan Brinn (1972), Mike Burton (1972-1978), Peter Butler (1975-1976), Alf Carpenter (1932), John Fidler (1981), Robert Fidler (1998), Peter Ford (1964), James Forrester (2005-present), David Gent (1905-1910), Andy Gomarsall (2000-05), Phil Greening (1996-1997), Charles Hall (1901), George Hastings (1955-1958), Andy Hazell (2004-present), George Holford (1920), Bill



Phil Vickery



Mefin Davies

Hook (1951-1952), Percy Holford (1934), Arthur Hudson (1906-1910), William Johns (1909-1910), Peter Kingston (1975-1979), Maurice McCanlis (1931), Neil McCarthy (1999-2000), Mark Mapletoft (1997), Steve Mills (1981-1984), Steve Ojomoh (1989), John Orwin (1985), Graham Parker (1938), Henry Paul (2002-present), Malcolm Preedy (1984), Tom Price (1948), Don Rutherford (1965-1967), Gordon Sargent (1981), Les Saxby (1932), James Simpson-Daniel (2002-present), Dave Sims (1998), Sidney Smart (1913-1920), Charles Smith (1901), Frank Stout (1897-1899), Percy Stout (1898-1899), Christopher Tanner (1930-1932), Mike Teague (1985-1991), Phil Vickery (1998-present), Tom Voyce (1920-1926), John Watkins (1972-1975), Richard West (1995), Christopher Williams (1976), Ken Wilson (1963), Alft Wood (1908), Trevor Woodman (1999-2004). All have brought great

honour to this rugby club and the City of Gloucester. Equally, the ultimate honour bestowed by their country has seen Peter Jones (1992) and Ian Smith (1992-1996) represent Scotland along with Donald Crichton-Miller (1931).

Across the Channel Olivier Azam (2002-present) and Philip St Andre (1997) have been honoured by France. Thinus Delpont (2003) has been honoured by South Africa and Rodrigo Roncero (2003-2004) by Argentina. The effervescent Terry Fanolua (1997-present) by Samoa, Mefin Davies (2005-present) by Wales.

Royalty, writers, founders and sportsman have all brought honour to the City of Gloucester. Their names are etched in the scroll of history and Gloucester Rugby Football Club is a large parcel of this illustrious grand tapestry.

David King



James Simpson-Daniel



Terry Fanolua



Regular Shed man **Bob Fenton** looks at recent weeks and his delight at offering some assistance at home during the summer.

Fanzone

BOB FENTON

Regular readers of this column will know that this is not my favourite time of the year. For a start we have the mental gymnastics of trying to figure out the million or so permutations about how we can qualify for the Heineken Cup, (it seems my plea this time last year for us to simply win all our games went unheeded), but more importantly there are just a few matches to go before the end of season and the thought of what to do to fill all those hours.

Back home she who must be obeyed has already set her stall out about how she sees summer Saturday's taking shape, and words like 'new patio', 'finishing the conservatory' and

'decorating' have started to creep into conversations. How soon do those pre-season friendlies start?

As for Heineken Cup qualification for next year – well it's starting to look like the dreaded play-offs are our only route in now. At the risk of upsetting people I will say that I have never been a fan of play-offs of any sort, believing that trophies and qualifications should be based on where you finish the season. If there are five places, for example, then the top five qualify. It's pretty simple really.

Like most of us wearing a Gloucester RFC shirt, I am still getting over the shock of that play off final, so perhaps it's understandable that my views

are somewhat skewed in the reverse direction than, say, a Wasps fan...

But we are where we are and the rules of the competition are clear. Like them or not we all know what is in store long before the first ball of the season is kicked so perhaps we should stop grumbling and just enjoy the ride.

And, if we are honest, you do have to acknowledge that they do add something to the season. Without them there would be very little to play for and many teams would be left with little more than a series of relatively meaningless fixtures left to see out the season.

As it is, this year there are

about six teams involved in a scrap for the four places that will make up the play-off tournament, and that will ensure that the intensity is kept up on and off the field. The Heineken Cup is the tournament to be in, not just for the kudos that taking part brings, but also for the revenue that all the clubs need to carry on.

So, while some people may opt not to go and watch any play off matches me and mine will be there, and hopefully we will see the cherry and white faithful out in force with us to give every encouragement to the boys on the field.

And anyway, if we can get a couple more fixtures into the calendar it means that building trowels and paintbrushes can be left undisturbed in the depths of the garage for that little bit longer.

But that's all a little way off – if we slip up today we can stop dreaming of Toulouse or Biarritz and start thinking about how to get to Pau or wherever in the Challenge Cup.

Leeds are in the unenviable position of propping up the table, but things are so close down at the bottom that a win here or there will rapidly change things.

We know that they will be scrapping for every ball and the chances are that we are not about to enjoy a feast of running rugby. Rather I feel that a match similar to the last away game at London Irish is on the cards and we all know how tense that was.

I didn't get to that game and got the result sent to me

by text, but I did watch the re-run of it on TV on Sunday morning. Even then – armed with the knowledge that we came away with four points – could not stop me pacing nervously around the room as the final moments ticked by.

So if that was bad for me, heaven knows how those who made it up to the Mad Jet Ski stadium survived – memo to marketing department: have you considered pacemakers yet?

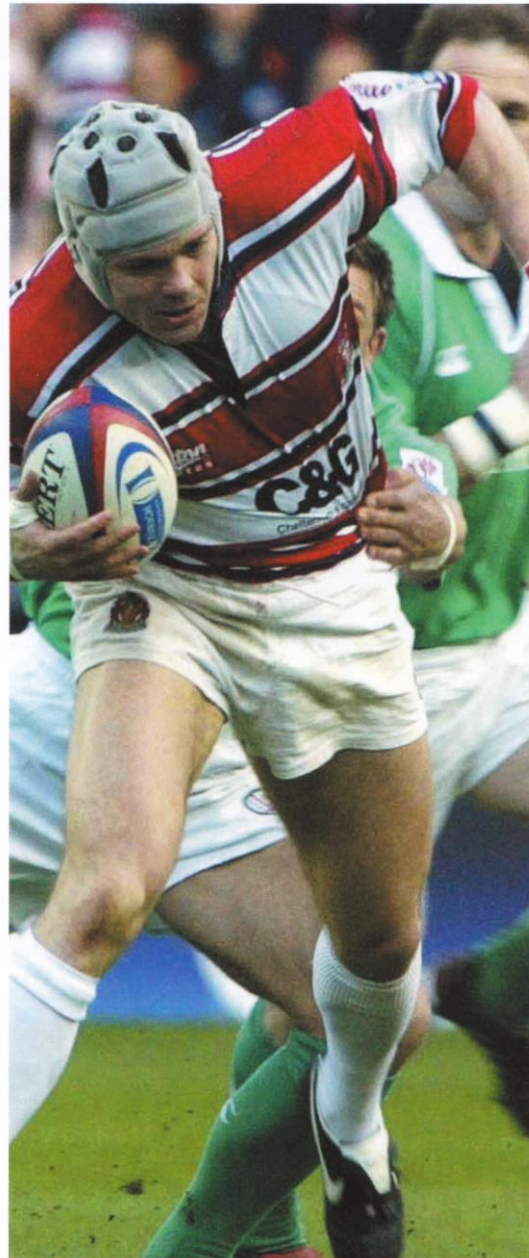
Which brings me to my now regular gripe. I thought the treatment handed out to Andy Gomarsall during the Northampton match was so out of order. Okay, he didn't have his best game – struggling a bit with a rib injury apparently.

But it was out of order. You don't have to go back too far to remember hearing the whole place singing 'Gomarsall la la la' and now this. His crime – to be looking after his own best interest.

It's not that long ago that he was dancing round Twickenham with the Powergen cup in his hands, that's how we should remember him, and hopefully that's how he will remember us. It would be a shame if his last memories of Gloucester were made up of comments from people with short memories.

Unfortunately the public negotiations of contracts doesn't help anyone. Like most people here today I don't really know what went on behind the scenes, and frankly I don't really care either.

Perhaps this is going to be one of the prices of increasing professionalism, clubs – and



Andy Hazell in action

players – are now looking out for themselves and this will inevitably mean that people will come and go with regularity.

What we should not lose sight of, though, is one of the fundamental differences that sets rugby union apart from most other sports in that players who have

moved on are always afforded a warm welcome back to their old clubs by the supporters.

That's enough grumbling, let's get behind the boys and go for the five points today and, somewhat ironically, give Andy Gomarsall's new club a bit of a boost to avoid relegation.

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

MATCH action



Gloucester
18



Northampton
26

Saturday 12 March 2005, Kingsholm

Attendance: 12,203

Referee: D. Pearson

A poor Gloucester performance saw Northampton take the points at Kingsholm on Saturday 12 March, after the Saints ran out 26-18 winners.

in the first 17 minutes saw the Saints take a 14-0 lead, before two penalties from Henry Paul edged Gloucester back into at half time (14-6 to Northampton).

After Northampton made the most of some poor defence in the opening 20 minutes, it was always going to be an uphill struggle for the Kingsholm side.

Shane Drahm's boot added to Gloucester's woes early in the second half to put Northampton into a 23-6 lead, before late tries from Marcel Garvey and Nathan Mauger offered some hope of a bonus point, but it was all too late.

Converted tries from Starling and Stcherbina



MATCH action



London Irish

12



Gloucester

13

Saturday 26 March 2005, Madejski Stadium

Attendance: 17,111

Referee: A. Rowden

Gloucester got back to winning ways against London Irish two weeks ago with a tense 13-12 win that kept the Kingsholm club's play-off hopes alive.

back-row, with Peter Buxton on the bench. The highlight of the match was Marcel Garvey's try, but Gloucester missed other first half chances, which would have seen them go in ahead at half time.

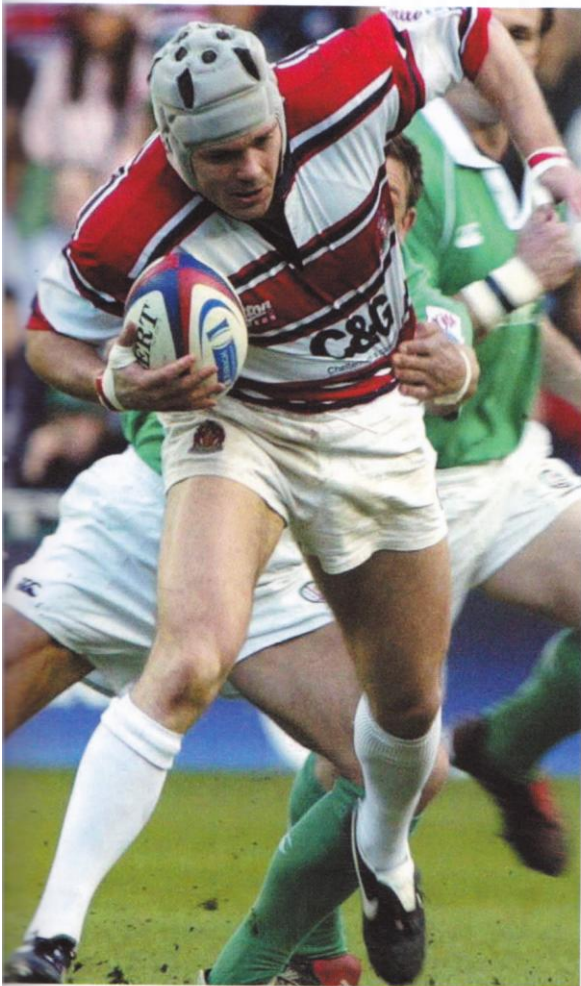
A try from Marcel Garvey, and eight points from the boot of Brad Davies sealed the four points. Commitment, passion and determination came through after a difficult few weeks for Gloucester.

As it was, the boot of Barry Everitt saw Irish lead at the break 12-10. Brad Davies and Alex Page answered everything that was thrown at them at half-back, and a solitary second half penalty from the young stand-off took the points.

James Simpson-Daniel was ruled out before kick off after struggling with a virus all week. Seti Kiole came into the line-up, with Mark Foster starting from the bench.

Andy Hazell, who was taken off with what looked like a serious injury in the second half, was up and walking after the game, after a knock to the head.

Jake Boer also started in the



or book on-line at www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com

Zurich Premiership Round 20, Saturday 9th April 2005, KO 3.00pm

Gloucester					Leeds Tykes					
T	C	P	D		T	C	P	D		
				Jon Goodridge	15				Iain Balshaw (c)	
				Marcel Garvey	14				Tom Biggs	
				James Simpson-Daniel	13				Phil Christophers	
				Terry Fanolua	12				Chris Bell	
				Seti Kiole	11				Andre Snyman	
				Duncan McRae	10				Gordon Ross	
				Alex Page	09				Alan Dickens	
				Olivier Azam	01				Mike Shelley	
				Mefin Davies	02				Mark Regan	
				Gary Powell	03				Gavin Kerr	
				Adam Eustace	04				Tom Palmer	
				Alex Brown	05				Stuart Hooper	
				Peter Buxton	06				Scott Morgan	
				Jake Boer	07				Richard Parks	
				James Forrester	08				Alix Popham	
				replacements						
				Nick Wood	16				Matt Holt	
				Terry Sigley	17				Rob Rawlinson	
				Luke Narraway	18				Jon Dunbar	
				James Merriman	19				Dan Hyde	
				Andy Gomarsall	20				Mark McMillan	
				Brad Davies	21				Craig McMullen	
				Mark Foster/Nathan Mauger	22				Diego Albanese	

Zurich Premiership 2004/05

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Leicester Tigers	19	13	3	3	558	279	7	2	67
London Wasps	19	13	1	5	474	356	4	5	63
Sale Sharks	19	11	0	8	440	358	3	4	51
Bath Rugby	19	10	2	7	350	325	1	4	49
Saracens	19	10	2	7	327	353	3	2	49
Gloucester	19	10	1	8	362	405	3	1	46
Newcastle Falcons	19	8	2	9	414	536	3	2	41
NEC Harlequins	19	6	1	12	364	390	3	7	36
Northampton Saints	19	7	0	12	356	400	2	5	35
London Irish	19	7	0	12	318	357	1	5	34
Worcester Warriors	19	7	0	12	306	426	1	5	34
Leeds Tykes	19	6	0	13	316	400	0	6	30

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OUT
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Today's Match Officials

Referee: Tony Spreadbury

1st TJ: Paul Emerson

2nd TJ: Andrew Pearce

4th Official: Mark Tovey

Replacement Ref: Wayne Barnes

Today's Result

Gloucester



Leeds Tykes



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