



Tom Voyce

“King of Gloucester”

By Malc King

Regarded as one of the game's greatest back row specialists, he began his playing career at the local Gordon League club. The flank forward made 218 appearances for Gloucester in which time he scored 54 tries.

Tom appeared in every match of England's Grand Slam winning teams of 1921, 1923 and 1924, and also represented the Army and the Barbarians. Tom was captain of Gloucester from 1924-1927 and was a member of the British touring side to South Africa in 1924.

His career was an amazing achievement because of the serious eye defect he sustained whilst serving for the Gloucestershire Regiment in World War I and, during World War II, Tom served as a major in the Royal Army Signal Corps. Away from the game he was Chairman of the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association and President of the St John Ambulance Brigade in the County. Tom became President of the Rugby Football Union in 1960 and was awarded the Order of the British Empire two years later. Later he became President of Gloucester, 1970-1978.

On the 1924 tour of South Africa he displayed his remarkable versatility and team qualities as the utility player of the side, playing out of position at full back, centre and wing three-quarter as well as his specialist position of wing forward. He scored eight tries in thirteen games and kicked several goals. P.K.Albertijn, the South African captain, described him as "the second best wing three-quarter in the British team."

"Since the War no man has fired the admiration of the crowd more than Tom Voyce, and in my experience I have never seen his equal. No man ever followed the ball throughout the two hard 'forties' so closely as he did, no man ever backed up his centre so closely, or attended his wing so assiduously as the 'King of Gloucester'. I shall always remember his wonderful attempt at a dropped goal, which would have saved the Twickenham record when Scotland beat England in 1926. He received a pass short of the half-way line, and ran a few yards forward as if he intended to open up a movement, but he suddenly paused, steadied himself, and took the most terrific hoof at the ball that I have ever seen, and only by inches did it fall short of the cross-bar." (The Theory of Modern Rugby Football", published in 1930, and written by I.M.B. Stewart, Irish international forward and assistant master at Harrow School)

'The name of Tom Voyce is synonymous with that of Gloucester. Think of one and the other springs to mind. For he was a great player from a great club - a wonderful inspiration to any side. Tom had that personality and mental, competitive outlook that makes up a great player; and he was a shining example to others in that he was determined to put something back into the game for all the pleasure he had out of it'. (Wavell Wakefield, England Captain 1924 - One Hundred Cherry & White Years, pg 91)

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Phil Vickery

“Raging Bull”

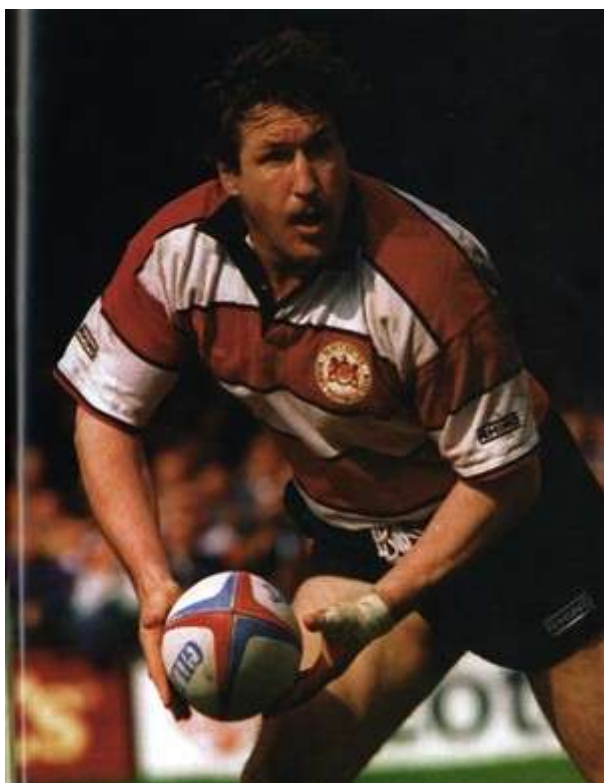
By Gary Little

Born of farming stock on 14th March 1976 at Kilkhampton, Cornwall and educated at Bude Haven Secondary School, the tight head prop carved out a significant rugby career at the highest level.

He joined Gloucester from Bude RFC where he had already been recognised for his potential, having appeared for England Colts. Philip then graduated through the England ranks from U16s, U21s and to full England honours, making his debut against Wales at Twickenham on 21st February 1998.

During his time at Gloucester he was awarded three test caps with the British Lions during their tour of Australia in 2001 and went on to become a World Cup Winner at the Telstra Stadium, Sydney, Australia, 22nd September 2003, after being part of the team that won an epic match against the hosts 20-17.

Phil was awarded an MBE and was also granted Freedom of Gloucester in 2004



Mike Teague

“Iron Mike”

Mike Teague

By Gary Little

Nicknamed 'Iron Mike' by the Kingsholm faithful, he played flanker or number eight, making his debut during the 1977-78 season and soon became one of the most revered and finest back-row forwards of his time.

During the 1981-82 season he scored 21 tries. His talent was recognised by England selectors and he made his debut as a full international for England at Twickenham on 2nd February 1985 against France. The following year he was selected for the summer tour to New Zealand.

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The Lions tour to Australia in 1989 is generally regarded as his finest hour. Despite not being selected for the 1st Test due to injury, he was named Man of the Series for his dynamic and destructive displays in the 2nd and 3rd Tests. He was a member of England's Grand Slam team of 1991 and played in the World Cup final team that year which narrowly lost to Australia 12-6 at Twickenham. In his career he made a total of 291 appearances for Gloucester and also won 22 international caps.

'He was not just an England international, but an unbeaten British Lion. For greats in cherry and white, they don't come much greater', (Gloucester Citizen, Legends Souvenir Special, 2008)

Fred Wadley



Pack Leader and record breaking captain

By John Theyers

Fred Wadley was a durable prop forward who played in other positions in the pack when required and was a first team regular from 1927 until he retired in 1935, playing 210 games. He captained the club in his last three seasons and also captained Gloucestershire. He was on the winning side in three County Championship Finals and was an England trialist on several occasions.

Alfred James "Fred" Wadley was born in Gloucester in 1902. He made his debut for Gloucester in 1926-27 and became a regular the following year, playing 38 times in his first full season.

He was a reserve for England trials at Kingsholm and Northampton in December 1929 and later that season played for Gloucestershire in their semi-final victory over Middlesex and in their victory in the final over Lancashire at Waterloo.

Fred played for The Rest against England in the final trial at Twickenham on 3 January 1931 and two weeks later was a reserve for England against Wales. He played in Gloucestershire's Championship Final victory over Warwick at Kingsholm. The following year he played in a third consecutive Championship Final victory, this time over Durham at Blaydon.

He became club captain in 1932-33 and in the following season captained the club to a record 29 victories. That season The Times considered Gloucester to be the Club of the Year. At the end of 1934-35, his third and final season as captain, he retired and was elected a life member of the club. He continued his association with Gloucester and later served on the Committee.

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Charles Albert Smith



"Whacker"

By Malc King

Charles Albert Smith was born in Gloucester on 18th July 1878. Known as "Whacker" Smith, he was a sturdily built, auburn-haired, left wing who played for Gloucester from 1897 to 1908, making 269 appearances. He was a formidable character - a contemporary assessment said "Whacker is fairly fast, kicks well, and tackles magnificently, and when near the line is difficult to stop". Defence was his chief forte - he was "most resolute whatever conditions face him".

These qualities were recognised by the England selectors, and in the 1900-01 season, he played in 2 trial games, for the Rest of the South v London and the Universities, and for the South v the North. This resulted in his being picked for England on the right wing for the match v Wales at Cardiff on 5th January 1901, with the declared aim "to stop the Welsh backs scoring". Although, the following season, he played again for the Rest of the South v London and the Universities, the appearance at Cardiff proved to be his only international cap.

Roy "Digger" Morris



Captain of Gloucester & Gloucestershire "Never Stay Down"

By John Theyers

Roy "Digger" Morris was a lock forward with a hard uncompromising reputation in the Kingsholm tradition. He made 311 appearances for the club between 1932 and 1948, and captained Gloucester and Gloucestershire in 1946-47. He had trials for England and was a travelling reserve.

W R Morris was born in Gloucester in 1910/11 and learnt his rugby at Hatherley Road School. He came to Gloucester RFC from the Gloucester Wagon Works club and after winning his United cap in 1931-32 he made his debut in the senior side later that year. He played in Gloucester's first double over Newport for 50 years and at the end of the 1932-33 season the Citizen said that "in R Morris the City found a second row of real merit and if he continues to improve, county honours should come his way". He played regularly in Gloucester's record-breaking 1933-34 season.

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Digger played for Moseley in the 1934-35 season while working in Birmingham but returned to Gloucester in 1935-36. His formidable heavyweight second-row partnership with John A'Bear (who was best man at his wedding in April 1936) became one of the strengths of the Gloucester side in the years leading up to the 1939-45 war. He made his Gloucestershire debut against Somerset in October 1937 as a late replacement for John A'Bear and was to go on to play in every county game until the end of the 1946-47 season. That year he captained the county to the final against Lancashire, which was drawn, Gloucestershire narrowly losing the replay. Digger played for the Possibles who beat England 18-17 in December 1938. He played for the RAF during the war and was a travelling reserve for England in 1946.

After the war he played on for Gloucester for three more seasons, captaining the club in 1946-47 when Tom Price had to withdraw due to ill health. Morris played in the first few games of the 1948-49 season, but announced that he would retire after the Bedford game on October 2 at Kingsholm. This was on a county day and typically he captained a much-weakened team to an honourable draw.

The Citizen said that "Gloucester will miss not only his weight and experience but the lovable and cheery personality of a player who is a sportsman through and through". After retirement he remained involved in local rugby and served on the Gloucester committee. His advice to a young Mike Burton to "Never Stay Down" seemed to sum up his whole career.

Terry Fanolua

By Gary Little



Fanolua was one of the very first overseas players to represent Gloucester alongside Frenchman Phillippe St Andre and Australian Richard Tombs.

Born in Moto'otwa, Samoa he became a cult figure at Kingsholm, appearing in every position across the club's back line apart from scrum-half, making 215 1st XV appearances and scoring 51 tries.

The highlight of his career at Kingsholm came in 2003 when the team defeated Northampton in the Pilkington Cup Final at Twickenham.

Fanolua was a member of the 1999 and 2003 Samoan International World Cup squads and made a total 29 international appearances for his Country between 1996 and 2005

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Tony Lewis

England cricket captain, chat-show host and Gloucester full back *By John Theyers*

Tony Lewis made his debut at full back for Gloucester at the end of the 1957-58 season and played regularly in 1958-59 while stationed at RAF Innsworth on National Service. He then went to university at Cambridge where he won a Rugby Blue the following season. Better known as a cricketer, he won Cricket Blues in 1960-61-62 and captained Cambridge University, Glamorgan and England.

Anthony Robert "Tony" Lewis CBE was born in Neath on July 6, 1938. He was educated at Neath Grammar School and was an accomplished schoolboy rugby footballer and cricketer and an equally accomplished violinist. At the tender age of seventeen he had to choose between playing County Championship cricket for

Glamorgan in the last two games of the season and playing for the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. He chose cricket.

When first stationed at RAF Innsworth, he was asked by the Neath club to play at Kingsholm and made his debut in senior rugby for Neath against Gloucester. He then joined Gloucester and spent most of his brief first class rugby career playing for the Cherry and Whites. He remembered "On Tuesdays and Thursdays we trained at Kingsholm. On Tuesdays it was a few kicks and passes, ten laps and five pints at the Spread Eagle. On Thursdays it was five laps and three pints in readiness for the match on Saturday. There was a terrific spirit in the club and lots of superb players"

After gaining his Rugby Blue in his first year at Cambridge, Lewis concentrated on cricket, captaining Cambridge and scoring over 2,000 runs for Cambridge and Glamorgan in 1962. He captained Glamorgan from 1967-72 and captained England in eight Tests. He was chairman of Glamorgan from 1988 to 1993. In 1974, on his retirement from County Cricket, Tony Lewis became rugby and cricket correspondent of the Sunday Telegraph. He was invited to anchor a new BBC radio sports programme "Sport on Four" which he did for ten years, being succeeded by Cliff Morgan. He also presented BBC TV's Test Match cricket coverage for many years. He was President of the MCC from 1998 to 2000. He chaired the Welsh Tourist Board and also chaired Celtic Manor's successful bid to hold the Ryder Cup in 2010.