

FIRST DIVISION

RUGBY

P R O M A G



FOUNDED 1873

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£2.00



RICHARD HILL

James King in frank
discussion with
Gloucester Supremo

Robert Jones

Bristol's new
prestigious signing

Stuart Barnes interview

A Mountain to Climb

Kevin Bowring on one
of the toughest jobs
in world rugby



Local News

News, views and statistics

Westbury

GLOUCESTER

v SALE

at Kingsholm
Saturday 7th September 1996
Kick off 3.00 pm





FOUNDED 1873



Saturday 7th September 1996 Kick-off 3pm

GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

SALE

Dark Blue

15	CHRIS CATLING	Full Back	JIM MALLINDER (Capt.)	15
14	ERAL ANDERSON	Right Wing	DAVID REES	14
13	ALASTAIR SAVERIMUTTO	Centre	JOHN DEVEREUX	13
12	MARTIN ROBERTS <i>INJ</i>	Centre	MATT BIRT <i>INJ</i>	12
11	MIKE LLOYD	Left Wing	TOM BEIM	11

10	MARK MAPLETOFT <i>ppp</i>	Outside Half	JOS BAXENDELL <i>M</i>	10
9	SCOTT BENTON	Scrum Half	DEWI MORRIS	9

1	TONY WINDO	Prop	PAUL SMITH	1
2	PHIL GREENING	Hooker	STEVE DIAMOND <i>T</i>	2
3	ANDY DEACON	Prop	ANDREW SMITH	3
4	ROB FIDLER	Lock	JOHN FOWLER	4
5	DAVE SIMS (Capt.)	Lock	DAVE BALDWIN	5
6	PETE GLANVILLE	Flanker	DYLAN O'GRADY	6
8	SIMON DEVEREUX	No.8	CHARLES VYVYAN	8
7	ANDY STANLEY <i>INJ</i>	Flanker	ANDY MORRIS	7

16	CHARLIE MULRAINE	Replacements	LUKE HEWSON	16
17	PETER HART		PHIL WINSTANLEY	17
18	ADEY POWLES		MARK WARR	18
19	IAN SMITH <i>EDWARDS</i>		ADAM GRIFFIN <i>ppp</i>	19
20				
21				

Referee

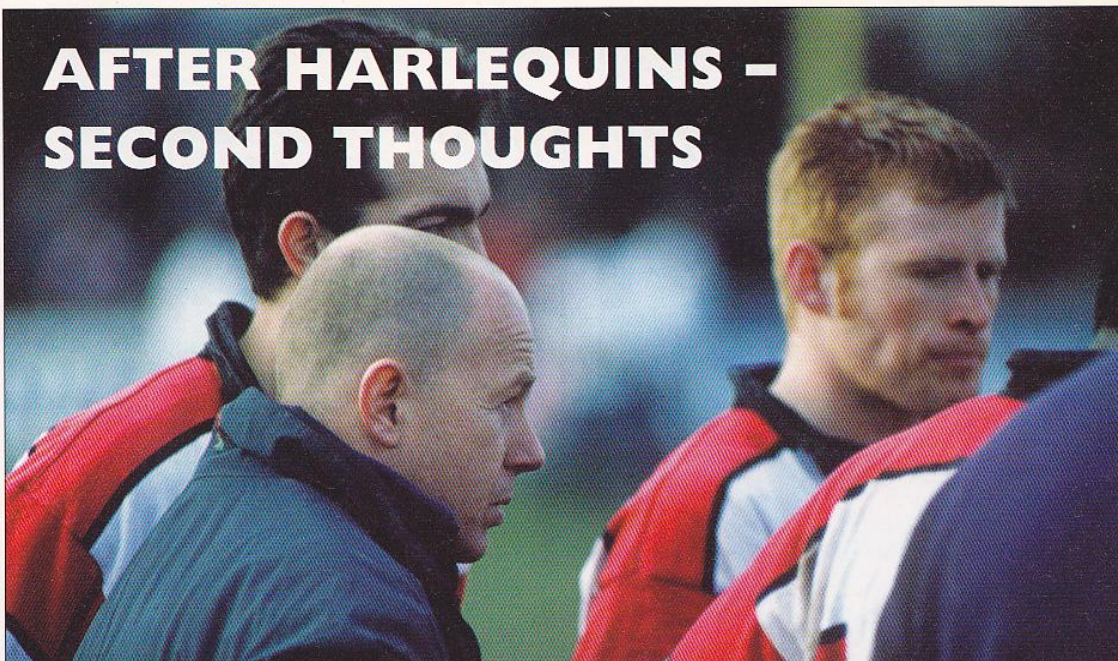
Tony Spreadbury (RFU)

Touch Judges

Steve Savage
M. Lambert Gorwyn
R. C. Mayo

3-0
6-0
6-3
6-6
9-6
9-11
9-13
12-13
12-16

AFTER HARLEQUINS – SECOND THOUGHTS



Richard Hill is a shrewd rugby character. As a player, he had a sparkling career with both Bath and England and now, as a coach, he has been given the task of guiding Gloucester away from the relegation zone of Courage League One which nearly grabbed them last season. Many have tipped Hill as a future England coach after his work with England Under-21s and the side he set-up while at Bath, the Emerging XV. But his tactics during the summer of recruiting towards the future raised a few eyebrows.

No big-name stars were brought to Kingsholm. Instead, Hill recruited his squad based around youth and development, with only a sprinkling of recognised 'old heads' such as captain Dave Sims and full-back, now fly-half Mark Mapletoft.

His belief that the youngsters would come of age when given the chance at the deep end finished in horror last Saturday when Gloucester were hammered 75-19 by Harlequins.

Hill, the director of rugby at Gloucester, had targeted ten games as 'must win' matches, and decided to leave his stars out of matches he thought were definite losses. But, after The Stoop horror, he has changed his mind.

"I was tactically wrong in selection in hindsight and will have to have a serious re-think."



"There were a few good points which came out of the match, actually, and I wouldn't have any hesitation in putting them into practice.

"But I learned some very harsh lessons last Saturday, as have the players."

Tactically against Quins, Gloucester's youngsters were found lacking. Hill wanted them to run with the ball and open the game up.

But, he added, there were times when they should have adopted the old approach.

"We went to the extremes of the new laws. We just ran suicidally from our own 22 sometimes. We produced some very good balls and played some good rugby.

"We needed to relieve the pressure at

times but we ran from our own 22 when we should have kicked.

"They are very harsh but massive lessons we have learned and the players certainly have not lost their morale. The players fully support the way we are trying to play," he added.

Now Hill has changed his philosophy and will not simply just be throwing games away because he does not rate Gloucester's chances.

That tactic could lead to ruin because, if some of the ten 'must-win' games go wrong, Gloucester will find themselves back in the relegation zone before they have had chance to draw breath.

The reasoning for picking youth and bringing on a talented side over future years is sound enough, especially as they are all under contract for respective lengths of time in this new professional age.

But Hill now has to carry out a major re-think. Another Quins disaster would not do.

After all, Gloucester, with all guns firing, are capable of competing with the best in Courage League One, as they proved when beating Bath in the league and running them mighty close in the Pilkington Cup semi-finals last season.

WESTBURY AND GLOUCESTER

As Martin Donohue sees it ...

Westbury was formed in 1984 by the Joiner Brothers and the name Westbury comes from Westbury on Severn, a village in the Forest of Dean, where the company had its first Head Office.

The origins of the business are centred entirely on West Gloucestershire. The Joiner family retained control of the business until the management buyout in the Spring of 1995.

When I joined the Company in 1972 the turnover was just £300,000, compared to the situation we are now in with a turnover set for £250/£300 million.

The culture of our business is very much driven by two or three factors. The first one is we are highly performance orientated as an organisation. Whilst we have the necessary control factors in place, such as the Board, the executive directors, the regional directors and separate regional entities, we have a very flat organisational structure.

Why does the game of Rugby hold such importance to you?

I was reared in Bath and, from a very early age, became fascinated with the game through having such an interesting team as Bath to watch. I have very vivid

memories in 60's and early 70's of Bath not being a good team – they were regularly beaten by teams like Bristol and Gloucester and even Cheltenham. I have a keen awareness of the transition that commenced in the early 80's, when Bath took on a new sense of professionalism and organisation.

When I moved to this area Gloucester were certainly the team to watch. If you are interested in sport at a high level you watch the highest level of sport available in the locality and Gloucester has always provided that.

I played myself from school days as a hooker, then in the army and latterly at junior rugby, but things like a back injury and a career got in the way. I didn't think I was ever going to quite make it to Gloucester first team. I am far more expert watching from the stands advising them where they have gone wrong.

I think it is worth remembering that Gloucester is probably the

single strongest rugby area in the country. What I see in Gloucester is that over the last season and a half, Gloucester has adapted to this new professional image and approach, putting top managers in place, such as Richard Hill taking over the coaching role. With the introduction of a lot of new younger players, with hunger and ambition to succeed, I expect to see Gloucester resurging into the role that England has historically held for them. The new organisation and commitment, coupled with just a little bit of luck, should mean that the Club will start to enjoy the success that they so richly deserve.

We are one hundred percent behind them, which is why we are particularly keen to become more involved. I believe that the Gloucester will become a very important player, not just on a local level but on the national and even international stage.

Westbury has been involved with Gloucester Rugby Club for many years. We have been sponsoring in some form or another since the 70's, whether through being regular patron ticket holders or through advertising, which we have done consistently since the 70's both in the Club programme and in the signs around the pitch. When the executive boxes were

ESTER RFC JOIN FORCES

introduced, we were one of the first members to sign up for a share in a box and we still are one.

We have also had a fair bit of connection through the players from time to time. One of the great long serving Gloucester stars of the past, Bob Clewes – a notable player and largely international – worked with me in my early days in Westbury. John Etheridge joined Westbury from school and trained with the Company – he went on to become a star of Gloucester and, latterly, Northampton and Dublin. Steve Mills – a former star, Gloucester Club Captain and a key England player for many years – has been with Westbury for a number of years, playing a key role in our IT department.

It has to be remembered that rugby is a team game, and now a professional team game and, if anything, more competitive now than in the past, certainly at Club rugby level. For two of the last three seasons Gloucester have unfortunately been relegation candidates. The rules for this coming season are much more stringent with the thought of three teams being relegated.

All those thoughts are forgotten, however, as soon as you are in the shed on a Saturday afternoon. There are probably more junior

clubs in Gloucestershire than in any other area of the country. We have, and continue to have, junior referees at a most competitive level and that remains the backbone of the feeder system to the most senior clubs in the area. Gloucester Rugby Club are at the pinnacle of the local rugby pyramid.

The Club holds a unique position in English rugby and it would be a tremendous loss – not just to Gloucester's team and supporters, but to English rugby as a whole, if Gloucester did not participate in the top division.

It is not going to be easy for the Club but I think they have got the organisation, the commitment and the professionalism to ensure that this coming season is going to be one of consolidation in the top division – followed without doubt with a number of seasons which will return some of the historic rugby glory to Gloucester.

Are there any players that particularly stand out for you, from amongst the internationals?

The players that I personally most admire haven't been half like myself – people like Garth Edwards who is to me the finest scrum half I have ever seen by any measure of somebody who graced in whatever game he played in. Some of the Welsh teams of the

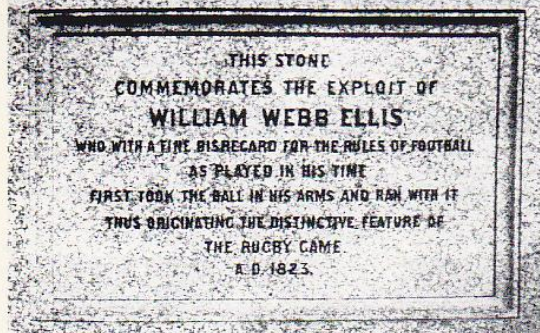
late 60's and 70's were undoubtedly amongst the most impressive teams from the northern hemisphere – just by the sheer number of games they played and their style.

Two Irish players who I always held in very high regard were Mike Dixon – another half back, who I think is one of the best quality stand-offs or utility backs that I have ever watched play. The other was the number 8 international forwards, Willy Duggan – who would have gone down extremely well if he had been a Gloucester player. He was a very honest player – he always punched people in front of the referee!

How do you feel about Westbury and Gloucester coming together with this sponsorship agreement?

I think there are a few key parallels about Westbury and Gloucester Rugby Club. We have both got a very strong local base in Gloucestershire. Westbury has spread its business currently on about 110 sites in 33 countries in England and Wales and is going through a period of successful sustained growth. I am quite confident that Gloucester will allow them the same anchor points can return to the level of national prominence that it once enjoyed and which its local support so richly deserves.

IS THERE LIFE AFTER TURNER?



y'know ! " And sages have been expressing the same sentiment ever since.

It would certainly be unfair to categorise today's respected and welcome visitors as a one-man side over the past few seasons Sale have developed an attractive, running style, capitalised on their strengths, and caused many a respected outfit - including Gloucester - to go back into the bar, tails firmly between legs. It was by no means all Paul Turner.

To develop the original piece of homespun philosophy, however, all players may be influential, but some are more influential than others. That certainly applies to the aforementioned Mr. Turner. He may be something of an itinerant maverick, but he always seemed to pull out something special against Gloucester, whether he was wearing the shirt of Newbridge, Newport, or latterly, Sale. He was a thorn in our flesh, but a joy to watch.

Sale are just going to have to do without him, just as Gloucester have to compensate for the retirement of Mike Teague. Both sides will certainly do that, and in short order too.

There have always been similarities between the two clubs trying conclusions today. Both are extremely proud organi-

When William Webb Ellis picked up the ball and ran with it, all those years ago, some wiseacre, sitting comfortably in the Stand, almost certainly took a drag on his hip flask, frowned, and pontificated. " That's all very well, but one player doesn't make a team

sations with enviable traditions to uphold and vehemently enthusiastic support. In this very odd season, both have similar problems to confront. Neither club has been able to dip into seemingly bottomless purses to purchase big name players at grossly inflated prices. Both have recruited from where they can, and in Sale's case, that includes the Rugby League.

I suspect that the average Sale supporter's opinion of the 'big money' clubs isn't far removed from the views of your common or garden Sheddite, which means that they're probably unprintable in a family programme like this. It remains to be seen whether 'richest' club equates with 'best side', but we do know that both clubs involved here today will be in there plugging, should the heavens fall.

So it's very pleasant and highly appropriate that we welcome Sale to Kingsholm for the first home League fixture of the season. It will be a fascinating game, and one which both sides will badly want to win.

But win, lose or draw, we hope our old friends from Sale have a highly enjoyable day with us.

CORNER

LIPSON'S



This is the week when reality sets in; was victory a fluke last Saturday, were we unlucky in defeat? Bonus points to Harlequins and Bath for running in the tries and to Saracens who defeated Leicester. Rugby Special highlights are not necessarily representative but it looked as if the Tigers played to type for 75 minutes before remembering the backs had also travelled down the M1. Saracens looked useful but opposing coaches will note they only scored one try. Orrell and West look to have a long struggle against relegation while Irish will not be too comfortable if they lose another home game.

At the Memorial Ground Bristol will be looking to build on last week's narrow squeak by beating Orrell. Serious top four candidates win games like this so Bristol will need all their wits about

If Leicester can put an expansive game together they will win

them. Orrell have travelled badly in the past and after a heavy home defeat last week will not be relishing another

tilt with a West Country team. Bristol here with something to spare. Leicester against Bath at Welford Rd is not the place for light hearted entertainment and the Tigers looked somewhat churlish last week at Enfield. Coach Dwyer will need to restore confidence and remind his forwards that winning the macho stakes doesn't put points on the board. Bath won 2 out of the 3 encounters last season so will not fear the Welford Rd crowd, if they can put an expansive game together they will win but that is most unlikely and I go for a narrow home win but a draw is a possibility.

Saints thrashed Irish twice last season and although Irish have strengthened the side since then it is difficult to see a different result today.

Northampton are a good all round team and play equally well home and away but Irish will have worked hard after last week's defeat. If they go 0 and 2 Irish will be facing a tricky season and I tip the Saints to return to the Midlands a happy team.

A fascinating game at Loftus Rd tomorrow, Wasps play Saracens in a match which could be the defining moment in both teams' seasons. Home advantage is irrelevant and the half back battle will be intriguing. Wasps only just beat Sale last week and Sarries will be buoyed by the Tigers game, tune in for this one! I have a sneaky feeling that Saracens might just do it.

West cannot be looking forward to a visit from high scoring Quins but a wet and windy day would be in their favour. A home game gives rise to optimism but last time the Quins went north they nearly scored a ton so don't expect too much today. A win by Quins should be a banker. The Cherry and Whites have a carefully planned campaign and a Kingsholm visit by Sale will be one they are counting on. 6 or 7 home wins with a couple of away victories might be just enough so here is one for the survival stakes. Sale are a difficult and lively side who never say die and this will be awkward for Gloucester but they should be up to it, a home win here.