



FOUNDED 1873

**RUGBY**

P R O M A G

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**GLOUCESTER  
V  
NORTHAMPTON**  
4th March 1997



# FRAN ROARS AGAIN

**Mr Cotton's Lions selection**



Westbury



# Another Bath Night?

Remember the occasion ? Of course you do. Kingsholm transformed into an amphitheatre by a combination of floodlights and the Shed in full cry. An atmosphere you could have sharpened razor blades on. A victory over an all-conquering Bath side which made all the wisecracks splutter into their dry martinis.

That late-season game was one which will remain in the minds of those of us lucky enough to have been there for a very long time indeed, and the similarities between that slice of drama and tonight's merry meeting are really quite striking. Consider.

The Bath game was played that evening because the scheduled fixture, the first in the New Year, was frosted off. It's precisely the same tonight, even to the date of the original fixture, and the postponement thereof. Having lost to Bristol, just when we were on a roll, we badly need the win this evening. Just as we did last year. And our respected and welcome opponents have lost rather more games, recently, than they really think they should have, which also has a familiar ring about it.

It would be nice, from our point of view, if the analogy could be extended to include the result, but we can't expect Northampton to see it that way. On paper it's difficult to see why the Saints aren't much higher up the Courage League table than they are at the moment. They do, after all, number the current England outside-half and No. 8 among their ranks, as well as a clutch of players who have already won Caps and could well win more in the near future. They have the Coach

who many good judges rate as the best in the world. And they have the fierce pride in their grand old club which only a few sides, in this era of cheque books and foreign imports, can realistically lay claim to.

I've no doubt that most of the pundits will be putting their money on Northampton this evening, but it won't be as easy as all that. Gloucester have been winning matches - with that one hiccup at Bristol - while not playing as well as they can and should. One of these days, it's all going to click again, and someone will suffer for it. Northampton will be well aware of that fact, and won't be taking things lightly.

Should be a good game. But apart from all that, it's always good to see the Saints at Kingsholm. After over a decade in the Outer Darkness, they climbed steadily back into the top rank, slid into Division Two and shot immediately back up again. They are a club after our own hearts, and we wish them well.

Enjoy yourselves something immoderate, Northampton. It's great to see you again.

## WELL DONE PHIL !

Congratulations to Phil Greening on being selected for the initial Lions training squad. It's a very large one, of course, but I suspect that Phil has at least a fighting chance of making the final cut, as I'm told that it's Fran Cotton's intention to take three hookers to South Africa. Not a bad achievement for a player of his comparative inexperience, is it ?

*Peter Arnold*

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# Gloucester News



# Cup Matters

Well, of course it does, but you know what I mean.

Last Saturday week's goings-on prompt me to wonder if the Shed has modified its attitude towards Mr. Spreadbury. After all, two whole penalty tries in a Pilkington Cup Quarter Final isn't to be sneezed at.

I'm told that no one's taking issue with the first one, but that the second caused a cocked eyebrow or so. One press pundit apparently blamed Tony Window for the scrum collapse, to which Richard Hill's response was " Well, I couldn't see what happened from where I was, so I don't know how he could !"

As it happened I had occasion to foregather with Phil Greening on the day after the game, and he remarked that he could really see what was going on quite well from where he was, and didn't think that Tony did anything to complain about at all. Not his fault if his opposite number couldn't take the strain.

However ... the whole thing resulted in Gloucester entertaining Leicester twice on successive Saturdays, as things turned out. On Saturday March 22nd they come here to try to earn another two League points, while on the 29th - Easter Saturday - they have the job of reaching the Cup Final at our expense.

The first thing to tell you is that kick-off time for the League fixture - that's the first one - will be 2.15, from which you'll have no problem at all in deducing that it's to be covered by Sky. About time they came this way, isn't it ?

Not that it matters to the likes of us. We're all going to be right here, cheering our socks off, aren't we ?

No matter how excellent the TV presentation, you can't beat the atmosphere on a real ground, can you? Especially when that ground is Kingsholm, as I've no doubt the likes of Stewart Barnes will be making abundantly clear on the goggle box. And we do want to do our noisy bit towards willing Simsy's Starlets on.

I suppose the TV coverage might just deter some Tigers supporters from making the journey, but somehow, I doubt it.

Now to Saturday, March 29th. Back to 3.00pm kick-off for the Pilkington Cup Semi Final. Second year in a row we've reached that stage, which isn't bad for a side most people had written off as relegation fodder only eighteen months or so ago. And remember, Barf were lucky to beat us on their own ground this time last year, with a better side than they have now, playing a Gloucester outfit which wasn't as far along the road of achieving its full potential as we are twelve months later.

Leicester are a tough proposition of course. For my money the best club side in England at the moment (present company excepted, I suppose I should add).

But they're not unbeatable. And they'll have the Kingsholm factor to consider. In any case, at this stage of the Cup all bets are off; all league positions; all on-paper comparisons. You must have something going for you to get this far, and it's a one-off affair. There's no coming back after a defeat, as there is in the League.

It should be one hell of a game. Wouldn't a Sale-Gloucester Twickenham Final be an occasion to savour ?

Sordid details as follows. Ticket prices: Stand £14.00 (no concessions). Ground £10.00 (Juniors and OAP's £6.00). Remember, under the rules of the Competition, all Pilkington Cup matches are all-pay occasions: your Membership card won't get you in. These magic passports will be on sale to Season Ticket holders from Friday next, March 7th, and will be on general sale from the following Friday, March 14th. One Stand ticket per person, and two Ground tickets, because they're going to be in very short supply. Shouldn't hang about if I were you.

Incidentally, I note we're down to visit Bath in the League on that Saturday. Details of the rearranged date when I have them. And I'm told there will be a coach to Wasps next Sunday. Ask at the office.

*Peter Arnold*

# Gloucester News

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# Gearing Up

You'll want to look your best for those two games, won't you? Or at least, you'll want to nail your cherry-and-white colours to the proverbial mast. At the request - nay, behest - of Allan Townsend, you should find a full price list for all the multifarious items of gear available from the Club Shop elsewhere in this Promag. Together with handy coupons and things to allow you to order as easily as possible. And it's all the latest, bang-up-to-date info.

At ridiculously economic prices, of course.

## CATCHING 'EM YOUNG

The responsibility for acting as our first Match Mascot of 1997 was to fall upon the experienced shoulders of Freddy Collyer-Bristow from Frampton Mansell. However, that fixture was frosted off, so he decided to wait until the Saints games had been rearranged, and here he is this evening.

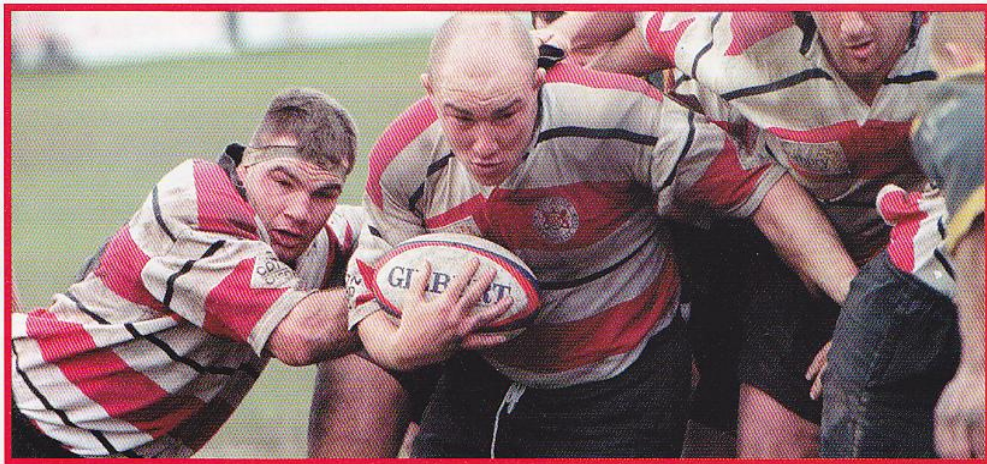
He's all of 8 years old, and - yes - I did say 'experienced', because he has been playing the game since he made his debut at Cirencester, at the age of 5.

Not all that surprising, really, when you look at his pedigree. His father coaches Cirencester, for starters, and he has a whole quartet of cousins who are steeped in the game, too. One of them is our own Paul Holford, while another, Andrew Pearce, turns out for Dursley. In addition, Scott and Alexander Holford play for Chosen Hill.

And it goes back further than that. Freddy's Grandfather, John Fairgrave was a Cambridge Blue, who had a Scottish Trial, but in the end, opted for Athletics. It seems to have been a good choice, because he ran for Britain in the 1948 Olympics at Wembley.

Freddy, himself, is already an experienced tourist, having made two tours of the West Country, returning undefeated each time. He's a hooker by trade, and is currently playing for Rose Hill School's Under 9 side, so Phil Greening already had a young hopeful breathing down his neck.

Interestingly, Freddy only had one request for Father Christmas in 1996. He wanted a Gloucester away strip. I'll bet he got it.



*Peter Arnold*

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**Gloucester News**



# How Jon Davis Sees It

I have reason to know, better than most, the pressures the Gloucester RFC back-room team have been under over the past few months. It has needed more than usual dedication by everyone in the Office to keep things on track in this most fraught of all seasons.

I was, therefore, very pleased to hear that an Operations Manager had been appointed, and even more gratified to hear, over a beer of course, that the new incumbent, Jonathan Davis (the lack of the final 'e' is important) hails from the Forest.

**Operations Manager ? I'll let him explain the job himself.**

## Brief Background

Born and raised in Cinderford, aged 37. Moved to Cardiff for College (Univ. College Cardiff)  
Trained and worked as an accountant/business adviser in Cardiff since 1980, most recently with Grant Thornton.  
Played rugby (and hockey) at Royal Forest of Dean G.S. and a handful of games for Drybrook Youth and 3rd XVs, also cricket for Berry Hill, before moving to Wales. Involved with Rhiwbina RFC, a Cardiff junior club, for the last five years.

## Job at Gloucester

To ensure the Club has the right systems and procedures in place to cope with the demands of the new professional era, mainly covering the finance and administration areas, but also to improve communication within and outside the Club. This will involve working closely with Doug Wadley, whose vast experience of

the Club will be invaluable, as well as Richard Hill and Gareth Chilcott and Barry Preece on the commercial side.

I intend to meet with some of the other top Clubs with the aim of learning what they do well and how to achieve it. Leicester's 10,000+ membership is a success story, as is the Junior Blue and Blacks club at Cardiff, for instance.

## Initial thoughts

This Club has a proud tradition, history and level of support which, if harnessed, should mean that we retain our position as one of the top clubs in England. The people involved are all dedicated to the Club and, in their own ways, trying to make sure that success is maintained through a difficult transition to the uncertainty of professionalism. There will be unpopular decisions and mistakes along the way, but the one aim will be the Club's success, on and off the field.

Many clubs have over-committed themselves in their push for success. In the circumstances, we have been bold in avoiding the expensive foreign imports in favour of developing our own talent (which should be recognised by the RFU) but we still need to increase our income to balance the books each year.

Apart from the playing side, the many and loyal supporters are the most important part of this Club, some of which we need to come back and help fill the ground every home game. Some of the Welsh clubs have alienated their support in the belief that the TV or the Union monies would more than compensate them. As a result, they are playing most of their matches to small, dispassionate crowds. Part of my job is to help ensure that does not happen here.

*Peter Arnold*









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Tuesday 4th March 1997 Kick-off 7.30pm

**GLOUCESTER** 19  
Cherry & White**NORTHAMPTON** 6  
Green, Black & Gold

15	Chris Catling	Full Back	Nick Beal (I)	15
14	Mike Peters	Right Wing	Ian Hunter (I)	14
13	Don Caskie	Centre	Gregor Townsend (I)	13
12	Martin Roberts	Centre	Jonathan Bell (I)	12
11	Mike Lloyd	Left Wing	Harvey Thorneycroft	11

10	Mark Mapletoft 1c4pc	Outside Half	Paul Grayson (I) 2pc	10
9	Scott Benton 1T	Scrum Half	Matt Dawson (I)	9

1	Tony Windo	Prop	Matt Volland	1
2	Phil Greening (I)	Hooker	Allen Clarke	2
3	Andy Deacon	Prop	Gavin Walsh	3
4	Rob Fidler	Lock	Jason Chandler	4
5	Dave Sims *	Lock	Martin Bayfield (I)	5
6	Pete Glanville	Flanker	Shem Tatupu	6
7	Nathan Carter	Flanker	Jon Wright	7
8	Simon Devereux	No.8	Tim Rodber (I)	8

16	Chris Fortey	Replacements	Tim Beddow	16
17	Ed Pearce		Matt Stewart	17
18	Laurie Beck		Grant Seely	18
19				19
20				
21				

Referee  
Steve Lander (RFU)(I) International  
\* CaptainTouch Judges  
Geoff Warren (RFU)  
John Theedom (RFU)



**Don't they all look smart, then!**



There's more to being a well-turned-out rugby player than running on the field in a pretty strip. If you want to give the impression of being an efficient, well organised outfit right from the moment you arrive on the ground, then nothing beats a decent set of blazers, trousers and ties. And that's just what Gloucester have, these days, thanks to Acheson Topeka and John Chandler in particular.

Acheson Topeka ? You know them. They are one of the leading haulage companies, especially in the field of food transport. In fact,

the next time you savour a Walls Ice Cream, then you can probably reflect that it's been carried part of the way to your supplier by Acheson Topeka.

AT's John Chandler is certainly no stranger to rugby. When he was just a little younger, he turned out for Cheltenham Colts, and indeed, played for England at that level.

Thanks Atchison Topeka ! Trust a good haulage company to know the value of a smart livery.

*Peter Arnold*