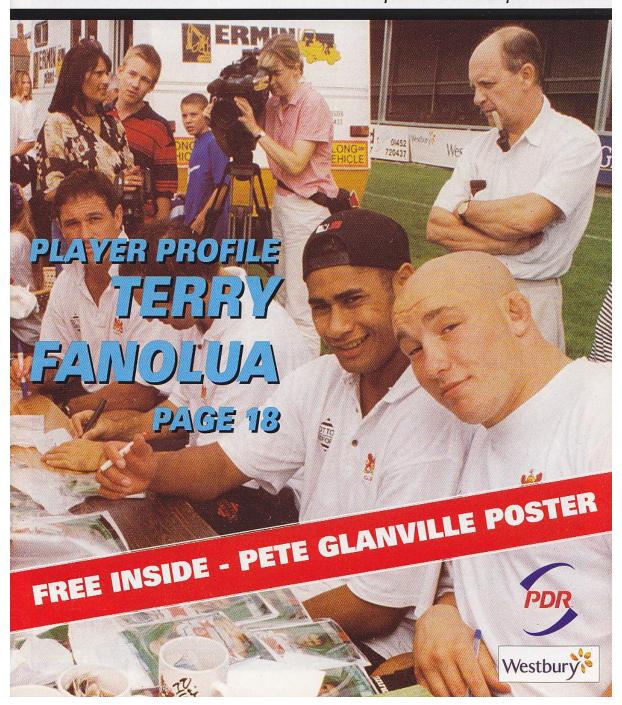


GLOUCESTER V TOULON

13th September 1997 KO 3pm Vol 2/3





Toulon

at the Fair

'Johnny's Toulon at the....' No ?' Oh well. It was a rotten pun, anyway.

That's one unexpected thing about these European Conference matches. They do get you thinking in unusual directions. Ignoramus that I am, I must admit that, before today, all I knew about Toulon was that it was a large port, somewhere on the Mediterranean. Sheer courtesy to our welcome and formidable guests, however, demands that I try to illuminate my ignorance somewhat, and share the results of my labours with you.

Not that it was much of a labour. It only took a very cursory search around the upper layers of the Internet to supply me with more information than I'll need for programme purposes.

For example, in 1975, Toulon, about 30 miles east of Marseilles, had a population of 180,750 people. That's only useful today to indicate that their fine city is around twice the size of Gloucester, so presumably, the support for their rugby team is greater in proportion. Like Gloucester, Toulon is primarily an industrial town, with a wide variety of industries represented.

As a port, you'd expect shipbuilding to feature among Toulon's preoccupations, and indeed you'd be right. Sort of Portsmouth with garlic.

That analogy is extended by the fact that Toulon is famous as the traditional naval base for the French

Mediterranean fleet; in fact it has been a port since the Romans were there and named the place Telo Martius. It was acquired by the French Crown in 1481, and developed as a port in the late 16th century. That was just about the same time as Queen Elizabeth I was granting Gloucester its Letters Patent which made our fair city the furthest inland port in Britain, an official status we still enjoy.

Cardinal Richelieu got into the act in the 17th century, enlarging and fortifying the place, a precaution which didn't stop we Brits occupying Toulon (and probably introducing rugby) in 1793.

We didn't stay long though. The French recaptured the place a year later, as the result of a brilliant engagement which made Napoleon Bonaparte almost as famous as Philippe St. Andre.

During World War II, much of the French fleet was scuttled in Toulon harbour,to prevent it falling into the hands of the Nazis. They used the port facilities as a submarine base, which attracted the attention of Allied bombing raids in 1943 and 1944, leading to the destruction of much of the industrial areas of the City.

However, the charm of the old section, north of the harbour still remains, which is a major factor in the city's drive for tourism. There is now a modern resort area, with beaches and hotels, at Le Mourillon, just to the west. And of course, they have their rugby club. Mayol Stadium is regarded in France in much the same light as Kingsholm is on this side of the Channel - as a city-centre ground on which it is extremely difficult to win.Remarkably, neither New Zealand nor Australia has ever won a game there.

Their crowd as very much the same reputation as our own, but is probably bigger, so today's visitors aren't going to be overawed by The Shed. They're used to that sort of thing.

Toulon have not been French Champions since 1992, and finished 17th in the League last season. Along the way, they lost to Montferrand, in a game which featured both the St. Andre brothers.

Over the close season, Toulon have lost some influential players through injury and transfers, but they still have a formidable pool to pick from,including a New Zealander, Warren Burton, at outside half. There is also Stefano Bordon, who played for Italy against England at Twickenham, last November.

So, on paper at least, today's two sides look pretty evenly matched. Of course, we're not actually playing on paper, so anything could happen. It was ever thus, and it's a real pleasure to welcome everyone who has made the long trip from the Mediterranean coast to Kingsholm today. And we're all looking forward to the return trip.

Much appreciated

I don't wish to dwell on the 24-hour postponement of last weekend's game, or on the tragic and moving events which necessitated it. However, I feel I must comment on one event, partly to show our sincere appreciation, and partly because I don't think the gesture received the publicity it deserved.

In case you hadn't heard, when the Padova side arrived in England, they contacted John Hall, and asked that the coach carrying them take a detour so that the Italian side could lay a floral tribute at the gates of Highgrove House. For the benefit of today's French visitors, Princess Diana lived there during the early years of the Royal marriage.

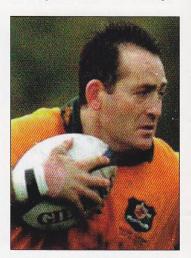
I understand that David Campese, not known for his uncritical acceptance of things English, did the honours.

Think about it. The gesture would have been a fine one in any case, but the circumstances make it even more so. The game had been delayed for 24 hours on Tuesday. This must have caused all sorts of difficulties for the Padova contingent, rearranging training, coach and air travelarrangements, and hotel accommodation. Even more significant, the Padova side is not a full-time professional one. That meant that various players were no longer available for selection,

because they had work commitments on Monday. In the event, they had to turn out with a weakened side.

They could have been pardoned for feeling a little aggrieved. Yet they went out of the way to pay their own tribute.

It's a gesture we should not forget.



Sometimes

Before leaving this subject, I should tell you about a phone call I received at around midday on Saturday, just after the cortege had left Westminster Abbey.

A voice at the other end of the phone said, "I've just heard that the match has been put off 'til tomorrow. Is that right?"

I informed the gentleman that this was, indeed, the case. "Oh!" he said, "Why's that then?" I wonder

I believe I earned myself some brownie points in Heaven by restraining my natural sarcasm, and merely pointing out that it was because that day was the day of Princess Diana's funeral.

"Oh!" came the reply. "Is that today?"

Again, I contented myself by saying that it was.

"Ah!" said my caller. "Is that why all the shops are shut?"

Honestly. Sometimes I wonder which planet some people are living on.

Season Tickets



Also over last weekend, I had a couple of calls from people who had ordered season tickets, but had not yet received them, and what were they to do about it?

I explained that issuing the new, hi-tech, all-singing, all-dancing plastic jobbies isn't quite as easy as simply handing out the old booklet. It takes a little time to process the things. More important, there had been such an influx of orders that a sizeable backlog had grown up. The fact that there was no post on Saturday hadn't helped, either.

However, if the people concerned hadn't received their tickets by match day, Geraldine and her people would happily hand out temporary passes for the occasion.

Now, however, I'm told that the backlog has been cleared, and everyone who has ordered tickets (apart, obviously, those who have only just done so), should have received then by now. If, therefore, Postman Pat hasn't brought yours yet, perhaps you'd better ring in.

Avvaly next week

Having made a good start in the European Conference last Sunday with the Italian Job, we continue, next Saturday, with the French Connection. The only problem is that we have to travel to the South of France to do it. The opposition is Beziers, which is certainly one of the most famous names in French rugby, being able to call upon the likes of Messieurs Carminati, Gallard and Castell, if he's recovered from injury.

Beziers have traditionally been a forward-based side, rather like ourselves, and used that strength in winning the French Championship no fewer than 10 times between 1971 and 1984. They're by no means negligible up front now, including a very large Russian loose forward called Murat Oumbaev.

Like Gloucester, they're in something of a rebuilding phase, but we're going to have to be on top form to hold them on their own turf - one reason, I suspect, why it was decided not to risk Philippe St.Andre today.

The following Saturday, September 27th, we brave the cockpit of the Mayol Stadium in the return leg of today's game. Then, on October 4th, it's back to Kingsholm to play Beziers again.

It's a rough old few weeks.

How Julia Acklam sees it

There's an attractive new face around Kingsholm, these days. Well, several, actually, but the one I'm thinking of at the moment belongs to JULIA ACKLAM, who rejoices in the title of Marketing Officer.

Last Sunday was an illuminating experience for Julia. It was her first Kingsholm game, and she confesses to having been absolutely gobsmacked by it. My words, not hers. She wouldn't be so inelegant in her choice of phraseology. The reason for her absence when the season got under way is the happiest one. Having been induced to commit matrimony by some fortunate mortal, she was away in Ireland on her honeymoon on the day of the Bristol game.

But what does a Marketing Officer actually do? It's one of those titles one sees bandied about without any real explanation of what the job entails. I thought it might be a good idea to ask her, expecting the usual happy, informative article which most of my correspondents supply.

Not a bit of it. Like the good professional that she is, the new Mrs Acklam supplied me with a whole spectrum of information about various marketing initiatives available around Kingsholm these days. The info certainly gives you a fair idea of how the busy Julia spends her time, and I think you'll find it interesting. Here goes.

Marketing

Having just got back from honeymoon, I hope you can all forgive my bad planning which caused me to miss the first two matches of the season. I am excited to get back into harness with a club that is determined to improve facilities and committed to looking at new initiatives which bring in extra revenue. A healthy

balance sheet is essential in the professional era of Rugby to ensure the necessary investment is made in both the Rugby itself and the Club's facilities.

I would like to update you on some of the happenings at the Club both now and in the coming months.

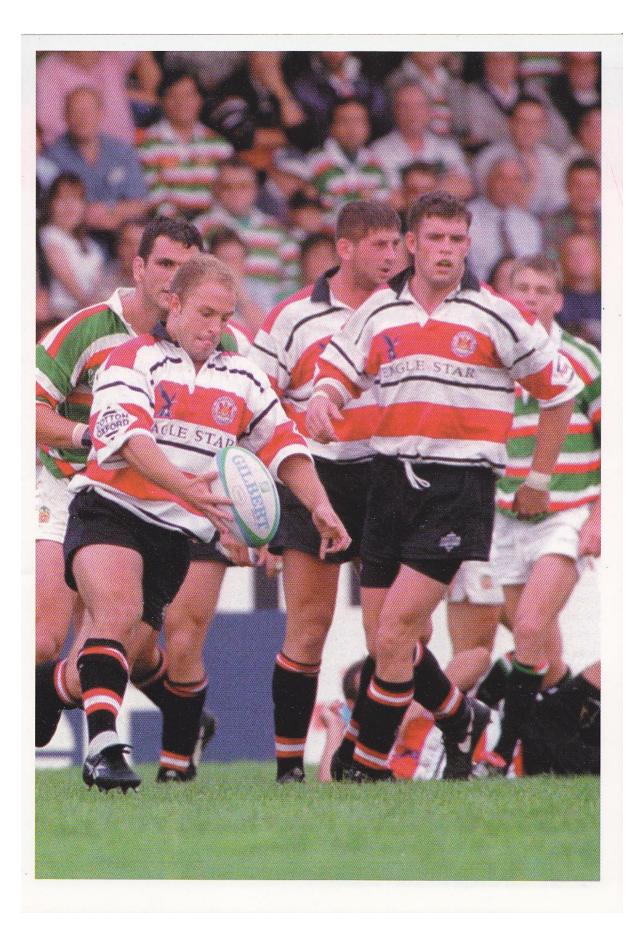
Meeting and Conference Facilities

We all hope that you are impressed with the refurbishments to the Sports Bar and Members Room, I am sure you will agree that it gives a very good impression of the Club to all who visit us. We have received a number of enquiries from Clubs, and companies to use the Club for meetings, conferences and events, this is definitely something we would like to encourage to make best use of the Club's facilities on non-match days. With Rob and Sandra Gough at

the helm we can now offer a full package from teas and coffees for your meeting to full lunches.

If you would like to know more, please give me a phone call.

Bookings for Meeting Rooms
Phone to discuss your requirements
Julia Acklam, Marketing Officer
Tel: 01452 381087





Saturday 13th September 1997

Kick-off 3.00pm

GLOUCESTER 18

TOULON 5

Cherry & White			
15 CHRIS CATLING	Full Back	PATRICE TESSEIRE	15
14 RAPHAEL SAINT-ANDRE	Right Wing	DAVID DOUY	14
13 TERRY FANOLUA (I)	Centre	GUILLAME DELMOTTE	13
12 RICHARD TOMBS (I)	Centre	CHRISTOPHE PAILLE	12
11 MIKE LLOYD	Left Wing	PHILIPPE SALACROUX	11
10 MARK MAPLETOFT (I)	Outside Half	WARREN BURTON	10
9 IAN SANDERS	Scrum Half	AUBUN HUEBER	9
1 TONY WINDO	Prop	MARC PUJOLLE	1
2 NEIL McCARTHY	Hooker	JEAN-MICHEL CASALINI	2
3 PHIL VICKERY	Prop	MICHEL PERIE	3
4 ROB FIDLER	Lock	STEPHANE FRANCHINI	4
5 MARK CORNWELL	Lock	GUY JEANNARD	5
6 ED PEARCE	Flanker	JEAN-LUC AQUA	6
7 PETE GLANVILLE*	Flanker	CEDRIC DESCAILLOT	7
8 NATHAN CARTER	No. 8	ORAZIO ARRANCIO	8
16 CRAIG EMMERSON	Replacements	STEPHANE GUYOT	16
17 ALEX MORRIS		CYRIL SCHUWER	17
18 LAURIE BECK	J	CEDRIC TONINI	18

Referee

19 ANDY DEACON

21 RICHARD WARD

20 PHIL GREENING (I)

22 TREVOR WOODMAN

Chuck Muir SRU

(I) International * Captain

4th Official D Lewis - SRU

Touch Judges Andy Cliff - SRU

Matt Stevenson - SRU

FABRICE TORNATO

SAM NOUCHI 20 NOEL CURNIER 21

P GALASSOT 22



Terry Fanolua

I suppose that the first time most of us watched Terry Fanolua was on TV, when we admired his electric running for Western Samoa in the Hong Kong Sevens. "Wow!" we said, "Wish we had him at Kingsholm!"

Well, now we have, and the reality seems to be just a little different from what we were expecting. For example at one point in the Bristol game, Terry took the ball and ran straight into Mr. Corkery, which is not a fate most of us would wish on our VAT inspector. Terry wasn't shaken at all, however. He just took the tackle, stood there, and waited until the pack got round him. And that must have been a new experience for Corkery. The ability to take tackles, stay on his feet, and make the ball available is what has impressed most of us.

Terry Laauli Fanolua is 23 years old and weighs 89kg. Built like the proverbial outhouse, he nevertheless has a turn of speed which we've been seeking in the centre for years. Apart from rugby, he plays basketball and volleyball. His partner's name is Vanessa Lemafa.

Of all players, his idol is John Kirwan, which is fair enough, and he reckons his big moment to date was when he won his first Cap for Western Samoa. He absolutely detests getting injuries.

Off the field, he likes to spend time with his family, and his favourite tipple is bourbon and coke, which he absorbs in his favourite pub, which is the Bus Stop in Auckland. Says he's "looking forward to a long, hard season."

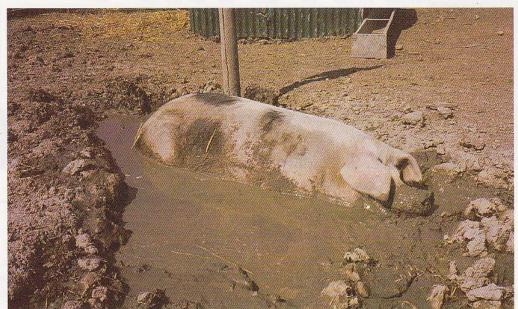
In his own opinion, his best performance ever was playing against Munster, and he has a modest ambition for this season. He just wants to "Play well for Gloucester".

He's certainly made a good start at achieving that.

Coaches

To take the strain off the office on match days, we're trying a new system for booking coach seats for away matches. Bob Barge and Pat Berriman have agreed to organise things, and you'll find them operating from the entrance to the Sports Bar, inside the ground.

Of course, that doesn't mean that you can't book your coach at other times. Do that by ringing Bob on 01453 890333, or Pat on 01905 613191.



Derek Brown, long time Kingsholm regular and Obergruppenfeuhrer of the new St James's City Farm, was good enough to send me another picture of the Gloucester Old Spot pig which has been named 'Phil Greening' - with our Phil's full permission and approval incidentally.

Apparently, it was taken during the preparations for the Farm's first Open Day, which takes place tomorrow, as ever was, with both Phil Greenings in attendance.

Derek suggests that the photograph be captioned "Phil Greening during a heavy day at The Rec." Bath papers please copy.

Gloucester Rugby Football Club Gloucester Golden Gamble Draw Gloucester v Padova 7th September 1997

Winning Number	Winning Prize	Winning Name
46914	1st £220	E Mills
45232	2nd £91.50	Walsh Box 11
46365	3rd £55	Kiddle

20

Gloucester v Toulon, 13th September 1997