

# GLOUCESTER

*The Cherry and Whites*



GLOUCESTER V RICHMOND

£2.00

27th December 1997 KO 3pm

Vol 2/8

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# ONE MOMENT

*Andrew Harley*

It is funny how a couple of words hidden in a press article can catch the passing eye for no apparent reason. This happened a couple of weeks ago when a little research on Richmond was undertaken.

Ploughing through the press clippings trying to glean something interesting about the Richmond fixture, the words "flying Frenchman" screamed out at me.

Within seconds I was reading all about a certain French left winger who had a turn of pace that could well give opponents some problems!

We are not talking 1997 here, or "Saint Andrew of Le Shed"! We are talking of that curious club side Richmond and Blackheath, which appeared on the English rugby scene for just one season, and boasted among its star-studded fifteen a certain JJ. Remlinger, aka "The Flying Frenchman".

The Second World War had finished and club rugby resumed for the 1945-46 season. But the Blackheath and Richmond clubs merged for the season because of a lack of players. Richmond and Blackheath are the two clubs that history, rather than folklore, credits with turning what is known as rugby union from a game for schoolboys and university students into an adult game and two of the original 21 clubs that met at the Pall Mall Restaurant in Cockspur Street, London, on January 26, 1871, to form the Rugby Football Union.

So it was that the Richmond and Blackheath team headed west on Saturday October 6, 1945, for Kingsholm. Gloucester, it appears, was somewhat worried that a "star-studded" team was headed towards the city, despite defeats against Northampton and Bedford in the two previous weeks.

Gloucester was without its captain Harold Boughton, and the forward leader Tom Price. Others dropped out with injury, and scrum half Rickards, in the words of the Citizen, "did not turn out."

Fears were unfounded! Gloucester outscored the visitors three tries to one. Gloucester failed with all three conversions, while Richmond and Blackheath landed theirs.

In today's "currency" that was a Gloucester win by 12 points to six. But with three points for a try and two for a conversion back in those days, the records show a closer 9-5 win.

Rupert Cherry, who was the Citizen rugby writer at the time - he later went on to write for national newspapers



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Gloucester v Richmond, 27th December 1997





# IT IN TIME...



including the Daily Telegraph, reported that Richmond and Blackheath's downfall "was largely contributed to by the very poor handling of their much vaunted back division."

The visitors found "that even speed and good team work do not get points if the individuals cannot be sure of holding their passes."

Kear put Gloucester ahead with an opportunist try just before half-time, but it was Crabtree who set the seal on the result. According to Rupert Cherry, "he coupled speed with a fine sense of anticipation which put him in the right place at the right time."

Crabtree scored two second-half tries and was unlucky not to get a third in the dying minutes. Centre J. Gregory scored the sole try for the visitors - he snapped up a wayward Gloucester pass, eluded Gloucester full-back Gladwin, and scored under the posts for fly half J.A. Morgan to convert.

The Flying Frenchmen was able to show off his pace to the Kingsholm

crowd. But on every occasion that he took off down the left wing, the Gloucester defence was ready for him!

Richmond and Blackheath also had another "dangerman" who had a turn of pace. He was C.B. Holmes, the Olympic sprinter, playing on the right wing.

Would anyone attending that match 52 years ago have imagined that in 1997 Gloucester would have a "flying Frenchman" - and the French national team captain to boot - on the left wing, while on the right wing someone who, while not an Olympic sprinter, has clocked a better time over 100 metres than did Bobby Morrow when he won Olympic gold at Melbourne in 1956!

## GLOUCESTER'S COMPLETE RECORD AGAINST RICHMOND

(including the 1945/46 Richmond & Blackheath fixture)

FIRST FIXTURE: 1900/01 season

	Total	Home	Away
Played	36	22	14
Won	23	17	6
Lost	11	4	7
Draw	2	1	1
Points For	500	340	160
Points Against	290	143	147
Winning Percentage	66.67	79.55	46.43





# How Mickey B

*Peter Arnold*

As you must know by now, Gloucester have been drawn to play London Welsh, away, next Saturday, January 3rd 1988. And a tricky proposition it is too. Don't be fooled by the fact that they are not in the Premiership as yet, they have a very fine side coming along gently, currently fighting the formidable Worcester outfit tooth and nail for the top-of-the-table spot. Gone are the days when the London Exiles ground became dubbed "Oh, Dear! Park", and I'm sure that Richard Hill and John Fidler won't be regarding the task as an easy one.

Glos v. London Welsh at the Old Deer Park! That will set the reminiscences going among the more senior of the Kingsholm Faithful. Just over a quarter-century ago, on March 4th, 1972, we were faced with the same proposition, but on that memorable occasion, we were very much the underdogs. The Exiles could field a side with more British Lions in it than you'll find in Regents Park Zoo. And they weren't ordinary lions, either. In fact, they included the hard core of the Welsh contingent in that all-conquering Lions side of 1971/2, and they had smashed just about everyone out of sight all season. On paper, Gloucester had about as much chance as you would give to Aspatria being drawn away to Bath.

I therefore make no apology for doing something I very rarely do, and that's repeat an article I provided last season. I prepared it with the invaluable assistance of Mickey Booth, probably the best scrum-half never to play for England. Had he been playing today, he would certainly have given Messrs

Bracken, Dawson et al. A good run for their money.

Mick, of course, played in that epic London Welsh quarter-final, so knows as well as anyone, whereof he speaks. His reminiscence of the occasion is fascinating, but before we get to that, let's set the scene.

1971/2 was the very first year of the Cup. There was no sponsor, and the Competition was, somewhat clumsily, entitled 'The RFU Club Knock-Out Championship Competition' which doesn't exactly trickle off the tongue, does it? Indeed, there were those among the hierarchy who regarded the whole thing as a dangerous, radical experiment with competitiveness, just about on a par with the way some people are nowadays worrying about cloning sheep.

That season was one of Gloucester's best. At the time of the Cup Quarter Final, we had played 31 matches, won 22 of them, and drawn 2 of the others. However, London Welsh were undoubtedly the team of the year, being almost unbeaten, and having scored over 800 points, as indeed, was no more than one might have expected, having regard to the amount of talent they could call upon. But let Mickey Booth take it up from there.

"In the team that played us" he says, there were eleven Internationals, and six of them were in the pack. The British Lions had just returned from beating New Zealand down under, and six of that party were in the side."

"They included, undoubtedly, the best wing-three-quarter in the world,

Gerald Davies, and among the backs were people like John Dawes, who had skippered the Lions, as well as London Welsh, with some other very useful performers too. We knew that if they got the ball out to Davies we were in a lot of trouble, so we decided that we weren't going to let the ball get out that far."

"Against all the Welsh talent on view, our side looked a bit shabby. Our pack had been the scourge of the country all season, but the only International we had playing was Mike Burton. Our other England player was Alan Brinn (now the Club Chairman), but he'd broken his arm in training the week before, and couldn't play, so we brought Nigel Jackson in. Also, just before the game, Dick Smith had to cry off, so we played John Haines, who wasn't a bad replacement, anyway."

"But our backs weren't that bad. Eric Stephens was at full-back, a good player, and a fine kicker of the ball. Bob Clewes, at that time, was a very promising winger, as was proven when he broke the club try-scoring record some years later. The other wing was John Dix, a small, darting type of player who always gave one hundred per-cent. Richard Jardine and John Bayliss were two very different types of player, but both very fine centres. Tom Palmer, at that time, was England's No. 2 outside-half, and then there was myself, so it wasn't a bad line-up, but against the London Welsh backs, no one gave us much of a chance."

"So we decided to play it tight, shut them out of the game as far as possible, and at the right time, bombard their full-back, Dai Llewellyn, with high kicks, with John





# Booth saw it

Bayliss coming up like an express train, and our superb back row arriving at the speed of light."

"Before the game, the changing room was like a lion's den. We had some pretty tough characters in our side, and they were beating their heads against the walls, punching each other on the chest, and I don't know what else."

"Our Captain was Mike Nichols. Of course, Nick was the prince of motivators - he could motivate the dead if he wanted to. He made it quite clear, right from the start, that anyone who missed a tackle would be thumbing a lift home afterwards!"

"In fact, his whole team talk was frightening. John Dix had thought this was just going to be another game of rugby, but as he listened his eyes opened wider and wider, until they nearly disappeared. But just like everyone else, when he got out on the field, he gave a hundred and ten percent."

"We played the first half up the slope, and into a strong wind, and our tactics worked just the way we hoped. Until just before half-time, my old friend Billy Hullin, the Welsh scrum-half, wriggled over for a try. Shouldn't have happened really. Two of our lads had him taped, left it to one another, and he got between them."

"Still, when the half-time whistle went, we were quite happy. Some of the cockier ones, who'd been around a bit - myself included - thought we were there. We'd done the rough digging, all the spade work, shut them out with the slope and the wind in their favour. I knew

that, in the second half with the elements with us, it would take a miracle for them to beat us, four points in front or not."

"It was Mike Potter who scored the vital try. When I saw the ball bouncing about on their line, I thought 'That's it. We're going to score here'. We didn't really have much faith in 'Pot's' ball handling skills, and when I saw him going for it, I thought 'Oh! No! Not 'Pot.' Somebody else get in there, quick,' but I was dead wrong. He scooped the ball up, and went over with no problem. Eric converted, which made it 9-4, and we were home and dry. And I don't mind telling you, one or two of us had tears in our eyes."

"But I was so pleased for Mike Potter. I roomed with him all through that Cup run. We'd all go down into the hotel bar on the evening before the game, and most of us would drink about four halves, which doesn't do you much harm, when you're fit, but Mike always drank in pints. We reckoned he drank six that evening, but even if it was four, he'd still drunk twice as much as the rest of us."

"We went back to our room, and 'Pot' lay on the bed, saying 'What we going to do, Mick? There's Davies and Dawes and Evans, and John Taylor, and all these great Internationals.' I told him 'Go out there and get stuck into them. They're only human beings!' And Mike did just that."

"The great Mervyn (The Swerve) Davies was jumping opposite Mike, and I don't suppose he was ever turned inside out like he was that

day. He didn't tap the ball back, he took it with two hands ready to feed it. When his feet touched the ground, Mike Potter just threw him over his shoulder!"

"On the day we had our tactics better sorted out than they did. Gerald Davies looked a very sad man, because he hadn't touched the ball all day."

"After the game, Fred Williams, who had been propping against Burton - used to play for Bristol, actually, we called him 'Fat Fred', but he was a good old player - came up and told me that he was pleased, in a way, that we'd won. Apparently, he'd had disagreements with John Dawes during training. They'd been practising switches and misses, and all their pretty moves, and Fred, who'd watched us give Bristol a mother and father of a hiding, said to him, 'Let's get the scrummaging machine out' 'No' said Dawes 'We don't need scrummaging!'"

"Well, Fred was right."

Following the quarter final, the rest is history. Gloucester went to Coventry for the Semi. That was a pulsating game, too about which Peter West wrote 'They don't play rugby like this in West Wittering.' It was settled by an awesome last five-minutes drop goal by Eric Stephens, from almost the half-way line and the touch-line.

Then we beat Moseley in the Twickenham Final, so whatever happens next week, or in any other season - Gloucester won it first. And they can't take that away from us.





# Where do we go from here?

*Peter Arnold*

What a staccato, stuttering stop-go of a season we have, don't we? I mentioned earlier that today's game was the first Premiership encounter we've had at Kingsholm since November 9th. Unfortunately, it's also the last until February 1st! You can't blame any supporter for feeling hard done-by, can you?

In fact, looking at my fixture list, January could well be a blank month at Kingsholm. Unless, that is, we win next Saturday at the Old Deer Park, and then get a home draw in the next round of the Cup on January

24th. That can't do much for the club's cash flow, to say the least.


The commitments over the next few weeks are as follows. Away to Sale in the Premiership next Tuesday (that is, December 3th), London Welsh, away, on January 3rd in the Cup, then two more Premiership games, both away, namely, Wasps on Sunday, January 11th, and Bristol on Sunday, January 18th. Then, on Saturday, January 24th, we have the 5th round of the Cup, about which we must keep our fingers crossed.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing I

can't give you any details about coaches to these away fixtures. I'm actually sitting writing these notes precisely two weeks before Christmas, because printers are entitled to a holiday break, just like everyone else. No doubt arrangements will have been made by the time you read this, and the full info should be available from the office. Or, no doubt, the nightingale tones of Graham Spring will be making appropriate announcements over the loudspeakers today.


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# Half Yearly R

In August, the club embarked on a pre-season stay in France in preparation for the season. Despite losing the two matches to two strong French opponents, it was an unqualified



Raphael Saint-Andre



Terry Fanolua



Nick Osman



Ian Sanders



Phillipe Saint-Andre



Richard Tombs



Neil McCarthy

success in building team spirit and introducing the newcomers to the club. The

newcomers being Philippe and Raphael Saint-Andre, Richard Tombs, Terry Fanolua, Nick Osman, Neil McCarthy, Ian Sanders and Andrew Gibbs.

The opening Allied Dunbar league match against Bristol

finished well after a close first half but Philippe Saint-Andre's first two tries for the club proved that he still has what it takes. In fact he performed so well for us over the first matches that he was selected as captain of France for three matches in October and for two tests against South Africa in November. We were therefore without his services for two key league matches. The defeat at Welford Road by 16 to 33 brought us all back down to earth and we realised that the new team had a long way to go before it would begin to function effectively.

The next six matches took us into Europe and enabled the coaches to look at all members of the squad and assess their ability and potential. We made several changes for each match and this lack of continuity did not result in convincing performances in the competition but we still managed to do just enough to qualify for the quarter-finals. One of only two clubs to do so along with Newcastle. The competition however provided an opportunity to discover our best 15 players and to broaden our horizons and experience.

Thus, going into the next round of league matches we had a good idea of the pecking order of our players and we

recommenced our league campaign with a bang against London Irish and won 29 - 7. We lost to Saracens in the next match and in so doing suffered several injuries and bruises and this was followed with 2 disappointing defeats against Harlequins and then in the quarter final of the European Cup against a very impressive Stade Francais side, the loss was very painful against Harlequins but the club could take some consolation albeit it small from the fact that Gloucester showed true fighting spirit and a large degree of skill to match. In fairness to Harlequins they played well and were in the right mood for the game.

The support at Kingsholm so far has been terrific and with the new hospitality boxes, the big screen the new temporary stand, the pitch writing and the pre-match entertainment - it has all contributed to making a ground to be proud of. I would also like to thank all the supporters who travelled to away matches to provide us with exceptional support. For me it was a spectacular sight to see a huge contingent of supporters in Paris for the Stade Francais match.

After this match we were extremely pleased to have a break from the Allied Dunbar League programme as we were



# Report



by **Richard Hill**

going through a mini injury crisis - particularly in the front row. Our injury list included Tony Windo, Trevor Woodman, Andy Deacon, Phil Greening, Simon Devereux, Ian Sanders, Mark Mapletoft and Chris Catling.

We have spent the last four weeks ensuring that these players recover from their injuries and those who had been carrying knocks, also received the right rehabilitation. Going into the Newcastle match our list of unavailable players was as follows.

Philippe Saint-Andre (thigh strain)

Phil Greening (ham string)

Andy Deacon (neck)

Trevor Woodman (ankle)

Dave Sims (shoulder)

Ed Pearce (groin)

Craig Emmerson (hand)

Martin Roberts (shoulder)

We therefore have 22 fit players out of a squad of 30.

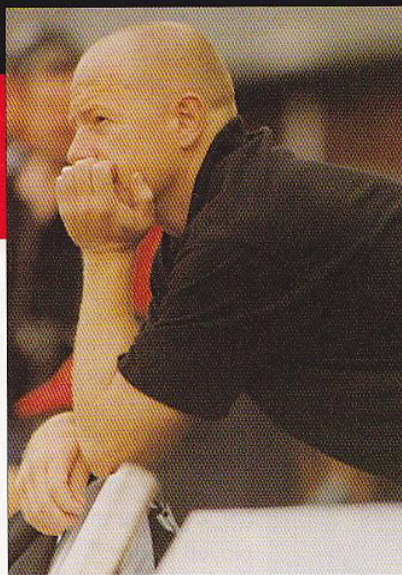
The Newcastle game meant another defeat this time by 27 - 37 and a loss by 7 tries to 3. Despite the heavy defeat in try terms, the score line looked respectable with just a 10 point margin. In fairness to the Gloucester team, all the players battled very hard and there were some very good performances. There is no doubt

that individual players are becoming better rugby players in terms of their running and handling skills but we were against a team with 12 internationals and away from home the opposition were just too strong. All our players have improved individually and we are scoring more tries and playing an exciting brand of rugby. It is quite clear that the opposition in the division have again spent a great deal of money and recruited top internationals and it is going to be very difficult to win any games this season. Our side is very young and inexperienced but they are all becoming better players and gaining massive experience from playing against such high quality opposition.

Our aim now is to have all the injured players available for Richmond on the 27th December.

Whilst we are discussing injuries, Martin Kimber who snapped both the bones in his lower leg at the end of last season, is due to return to action in January and we all look forward to seeing him back on the pitch.

In the meantime - our win against Fylde in the C&G Cup by 88 - 0 could well ensure our passage to the quarter final and a possible home tie against London Irish provided that we



beat Wakefield at home on Saturday 7th February. Wakefield are unbeaten at the moment in three matches in the competition.

During November, England played their four international matches. Unfortunately due to

injury and inconsistent playing form, Phil Greening was not involved in either the senior squad or England A but he is now getting ready to make a big return in a



Dave Sims

Gloucester shirt.

There were however a number of big successes at Gloucester in representative rugby. Dave Sims and Neil



Neil McCarthy





# Straight Talking

G L Oster

**"Until the season is sorted out the fate of rugby will be determined by the generosity of a few rich men"**

Like a long lost friend it's back, and not before time! After weeks of kicking around in the European Conference and the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup, the real stuff, the Allied Dunbar Premiership returns to Kingsholm today.

I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT in no other sport would the clubs and players put up with the farce of a fixture list that is the current rugby schedule. I mean I can't imagine Manchester United agreeing to an 8 week break between home matches in the FA Carling Premiership. And the supporters would go crazy if they didn't get their regular fix of Soccer Sunday, the Monday Match, and what is the Tuesday Turn-Off? But that is exactly what Gloucester, fans and all, have to put with since the Cherry and Whites were robbed by Harlequins, in that game back in early November.

Mind boggling it may be but might I suggest that the scarcity of meaningful home games may have at least a little to do with rugby's big financial losses we keep on reading about in the quality, and not so quality papers. Until a proper structured season is sorted out the fate and future of the sport will be determined by a few rich and generous benefactors. And on anyone's building site that's not a firm foundation.












And when we're on the subject of money did you see a copy of the sport's newest publication "Running Rugby" aimed at what it calls the game's Decision Makers. Our opponents today Richmond featured prominently on the front page with news of a possible merger with neighbours Saracens. Surely this can't be true, I mean what would the club call itself Saramond or perhaps Richens? Well may be the name Richens wouldn't be as unlikely as it first sounds because if the money invested by benefactors Nigel Wray

and Ashley Levett has anything to do with it then the new Super-Club would hardly be poor. In fact Richmond and Saracens both featured prominently in this research by "Running Rugby" into the sports biggest earners:

Name	Club	Annual Salary
Francis Pienaar	Saracens	£200,00
Marcus Johnson	Leicester	£200,00
Simon Shaw	Wasps	£150,00
Ben Clarke	Richmond	£100,00
Michael Lynagh	Saracens	£100,00
Phillipe St Andre	Gloucester	£100,00

And while we are on the subject of big money and players I see Steve Ojomoh is open to offers and on the transfer list. Now I know he plays for that lot down the road but can't we make allowance for that and put in a bid to bring him to Kingsholm and so prevent him from being yet another star lost to that big black hole that is London rugby. I mean anyone who can out jump. Johnathan Edwards in his school sports day triple jump competition must be worth a place at your first team squad.

## Tail Piece

 On the Twelfth Day of Christmas my true love sent to me...  
 Twelve Devs a-driving,  
 Eleven Lloyds a-leaping,  
 Ten Tombs a-tackling,  
 Nine Greenings galloping,  
 Eight Tofties teasing,  
 Seven Sims sidestepping,  
 Six Fids a-flying,  
 Five Fanolvas,  
 Four Glanvilles,  
 Three Carters  
 Two Saint-Andres,  
 And a bloody great Phil Vickery

Sorry about that.  
Must be the Christmas Spirit. Ho ! Ho ! Ho !  
Have the happiest of New Years, everyone !

# 28

Gloucester v Richmond, 27th December 1997





# It's been a while

There are several good reasons why it's particularly nice to be gathered here today in the face of this congregation, as they say in the Book of Common Prayer

It's good because we haven't welcomed Richmond to Kingsholm for a while. It's good because we haven't welcomed *anyone* to Kingsholm for a while. It's good because we have a Premiership game at Kingsholm for the first time since the 'Quins came on November 9th, would you believe, and like the man said, that's an awful long time between drinks.

And it's also good because it's our only Festive Season occasion of 1997/8, which is a far cry from the time when we used to have three games in a few days, and the proverbial Good Time Was Had by All, except, presumably the players, who had to forego some of the customary over-indulgence which afflicts us at this time of year.

But it's by no means the first time that we have faced Richmond in the Bleak Midwinter. Many of us will recall the occasion when several coachloads of us trekked up to Richmond on a very frosty Sunday morning in January for a Cup match. So brass-monkey was it, that the start was in doubt until about 20 minutes before kick-off.

The reason for the, almost

unheard-of in those days, Sunday fixture was because the pitch had been occupied the previous day. By Matson.

As you undoubtedly know, Richmond share their ground with London Scottish, who had been drawn at home to our local neighbours who had had a very good Cup run that year. Many of the Matson lads didn't bother to go home, preferring to stay on for the Gloucester game the following day. Where they all stayed, I don't know, although there are some dark and mysterious legends about that, some of which I shouldn't repeat in a family publication.

As it turned out, they needn't have bothered. Matson lost comfortably, and so did Gloucester, but only just. The referee was extremely unpopular, I recall.

In those days, Richmond was something of a bogey team for Gloucester. For some reason, we always seemed to be drawn against them in the Cup, and some right ding-dong battles we had, too. We even lost to them at Kingsholm in a tied match under the away rule on one occasion. My father's comment, as we walked down Worcester Street afterwards, was "For the first time I can see why soccer hooligans go round kicking shop windows in!" A few pints of Guinness in the Imperial softened

his mood, however.

Of course, Gloucester v. Richmond goes back a lot further than that. Indeed, we have been playing them almost since the Gloucester club was founded: only right when you consider that Richmond v. Blackheath is generally accepted as the first club match ever staged, so they've been around longer than we have.

Of recent years, Richmond have slid from their traditional position of eminence in the game. The professional era has changed all that, of course, and the London club has acquired a whole galaxy of top-quality players, who have enabled them to rocket up the rankings in a manner only surpassed by Newcastle.

There will be a great deal of talent on view at Kingsholm today. Everyone is extremely welcome, we tender all the usual Seasonal Greetings, and hope they have an appropriately festive and enjoyable time with us.



# A Monthly Magazine devoted to **KINGSHOLM**



*Brett Granger*

Those of you who came to the Harlequins game may remember our questionnaire about an idea for a monthly magazine, devoted to rugby in and around Gloucestershire. We had a great response and thought that you might be interested in the results. Please bear in mind that the magazine is still only a twinkle in somebody's eye and has a long way to go before it reaches the shelves (if at all!)

The general consensus is that a monthly picture led magazine available either by subscription or in the local newsagent would be well received. Most people would pay between £2 and £3 per issue although it's a pity there aren't more like Mrs Catling of Surrey who, according to her questionnaire would pay 'anything.' Understandably, most suggestions for a name revolved around 'cherry' and 'white,' but other names were as varied as

'The Gloster Boy,' 'The Gladiators,' 'The Elvertiser' and 'Oi Ref.' Our current favourite is simply KINGSHOLM.

There are one or two surprises such as the larger number of ladies who support the club, and more startlingly, their reasons why. (Need I say more Victorial) Most people believe a magazine could find its own niche in the market without the need to compete with existing publications such as 'The Citizen' 'Shedhead' and even this programme. The important thing is that it tackles the issues of the day perhaps in a more in-depth way than is currently available.

Thanks to the hundreds of people who completed our form. As our plans develop, we will certainly be in touch again with those who showed an interest.

...And in case you're interested, everyone

who completed a questionnaire was entered into a draw for two free tickets to a home game of their choice. The lucky winner was a Mr Mike Stowe from Chipping Campden who will be attending the game against Leicester. Well Done!

#### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

- 97% of respondents would buy a rugby magazine that focuses on the club and area.
- 93% would subscribe to the magazine for a discount.
- 82% are not satisfied by what they read about the club in the current rugby press.
- 67% would pay £2 or more for a monthly publication.
- 83% are interested in news about the internationals as well as local clubs.
- 76% are interested in foreign team news.

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**Saturday 27th December 1997**      **Kick-off 3pm**

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**RICHMOND 20**  
Old Gold, Red and Black

<b>15</b>	<b>CHRIS CATLING</b>	<b>Full Back</b>	<b>(I) MATTHEW PINI</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>BRIAN JOHNSON</b>	<b>Right Wing</b>	<b>JASON WRIGHT</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>TERRY FANOLUA (I)</b>	<b>Centre</b>	<b>ALAN BATEMAN</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>RICHARD TOMBS (I)</b>	<b>Centre</b>	<b>(I) STEVE COTTRELL</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>PHILIPPE SAINT-ANDRE (I)</b>	<b>Left Wing</b>	<b>DOMINIC CHAPMAN</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>MARK MAPLETOFT (I)</b>	<b>Outside Half</b>	<b>(I) EARLE VA'A</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>SCOTT BENTON</b>	<b>Scrum Half</b>	<b>ANDY MOORE</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>TONY WINDO</b>	<b>Prop</b>	<b>DARREN CROMPTON</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>NEIL McCARTHY</b>	<b>Hooker</b>	<b>(I) BARRY WILLIAMS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>PHIL VICKERY</b>	<b>Prop</b>	<b>(I) JOHN DAVIES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>MARK CORNWELL</b>	<b>Lock</b>	<b>(I) CRAIG QUINNELL</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>DAVE SIMS</b>	<b>Lock</b>	<b>CRAIG GILLIES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>PETE GLANVILLE*</b>	<b>Flanker</b>	<b>(I) *BEN CLARKE</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>NATHAN CARTER</b>	<b>Flanker</b>	<b>(I) RONALDO MARTIN</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>SIMON DEVEREUX</b>	<b>No. 8</b>	<b>(I) SCOTT QUINNELL</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>IAN SANDERS</b>	<b>Replacements</b>	<b>DAN McFARLAND</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>NICK OSMAN</b>		<b>ANDY CUTHBERT</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>ROB JEWELL</b>		<b>ALEX CODWING</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>PHIL GREENING (I)</b>		<b>BOBBIE HUTTON</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>PETE JONES (I)</b>		<b>BEN HARVEY</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>ANDREW HAZELL</b>		<b>SIMON MASON</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>				<b>22</b>

**Referee**  
**T. SPREADBURY**  
(RFU - Somerset)

**(I) International**  
**\* Captain**

**Touch Judges**  
**G. HUGHES (RFU)**  
**A. REAY (RFU)**



# TO BOLDLY GO...

*where rugby has not gone before*



**By Stephen Joslin, coach and development officer for Swedish schools rugby; born and raised in Worcestershire and now working and living in Gloucestershire.**

When rugby is in your blood, as it is in mine, a kind of missionary zeal spurs me on to spread the word and encourage new players to have a go.

And in this vein one of my latest challenges was in Sweden, where rugby has barely been heard of. At the first school I visited to teach the game to mixed classes of 13-year-olds I was faced with a stunned silence when I held up a rugby ball and asked what it was. "Is it an American Football?" one pupil eventually suggested.

Unthinkable to get the same response from a Gloucestershire school. But then, of course, here there are plenty of role models and, of course, media coverage, especially TV, has put rugby high on the hit list of popular sports.

In Sweden it's ice hockey, football and handball, which takes the limelight and rugby struggles for any media coverage at all. So it's not surprising that Swedish children don't understand the game and have no heroes to look up to... no

David Duckhams as I had as a youngster.

But, could this be the way for British children in the future? Could rugby fall into obscurity here? Since I have been back in England there's been no rugby on terrestrial TV - only Channel 5 and very few people seem to be able to get Channel 5. And of course, fewer still have access to Sky.

It could mean that for many budding Phil Greenings the spark of interest and regular exposure to rugby which TV gives might never happen... and fewer and fewer youngsters will come forward to bring new blood into the game.

Development work, such as I do in schools, would get harder and harder. And it wouldn't just be the game of rugby that suffered - youngsters would as well. Like many team sports, it teaches valuable social skills and lessons for life - the value of working together being one of the most important. But, unlike many other games, rugby can be played in many forms so that it is truly accessible to anyone, whatever their age, sex or ability.

In its simplest form there are only a few rules - run forward, pass back and when you're touched you must pass or lose the ball. Youngsters can

start playing and having fun immediately, and then the sky is the limit!

It's tremendous helping to develop new rugby players, but we must all recognise the value of mainstream media coverage in sparking interest and paving the way in schools and elsewhere for coaches like me. Without it we could soon be faced with stunned silence in our schools and not an eager, already well informed group of young players, as today.

Inevitably the standard of rugby at all levels of our game would fall and perhaps the unthinkable might happen one day, and a Swedish National squad beat ours.



## WELCOME BACK!

*Peter Arnold*

Nice to see that Martin Kimber and Nigel Cane are on their way back after very lengthy injuries. Nigel always looked as if he had the right spark to make a useful scrum-half, given a fair wind, and - let's face it - we did rely on

Martin Kimber's fly-half skills very heavily indeed for a long period.

Best of luck, chaps!

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Gloucester v Richmond, 27th December 1997



# Catching 'em Young



*Peter Arnold*

I always think it's hard on a lad who has his birthday close to Christmas. It must have an effect on the volume of presents received over the years. Harry Norman has just such a problem, having achieved the ripe old age of ten on Monday last. So we hope his stint as Match Mascot today will help redress the balance a little.

One chap who knows just what it feels like to be a Yuletide baby is Mark Mapletoft, whose birthday actually falls on Christmas Day. And that's fortunate, because Harry regards the mercurial 'Tofty' as one

of his two favourite players. The other is Phil Greening.

Conversely, I don't know what Mike Catt has done to offend our Mister Norman. You'd think being carried off, bloodied and concussed at half-time in the England v. All Blacks International would be enough for one year, without having incurred the wrath of Harry Norman, who quotes him as his least favourite player.

Not that 'Catty' is on his own. Harry doesn't like Bath in their entirety, a distinction they share with Harlequins in his estimation. And you should listen to Harry's opinions, He has,

after all, been a Kingsholm regular since he was six.

Harry Norman is one of our sizeable Cheltenham contingent. He lives in Benhall, and attends Warden Hill Primary School. He's into computer games and cycling, and likes to dabble in most sports, as a lad of his age should. But he's quite clear on where his sporting ambitions lie. He simply wants to play rugby for Gloucester and England.

Good on you, Harry Norman. Thanks for coming, and a belated 'Happy Birthday' to you!

## TODAY'S OPPONENTS - RICHMOND

*Keith Malcolm*

Ben Clarke, Scott Quinnell, his brother Craig and British Lions hooker Barry Williams, just some of the talent gathered together by newly promoted Richmond. The Londoners, who are Gloucester's opponents today at Kingsholm have proved that they are hungry for success and prepared to pay for it! Cash isn't just being used in the transfer market and on an expensive wage bill. The club's wealthy benefactor Ashley Levett is also rumoured to be preparing a bid to merge his club with Premiership high flyers Saracens and produce a London giant. The man charged with the task of bringing success, on the field, to the current Richmond set up is Director of Rugby John Kingston. And he showed after Richmond only narrowly beat lowly Bristol recently that the standards he's set for his players are high.

"We simply weren't good enough on the day. We created chances but too often failed to accept them. We made it difficult for ourselves and against better sides than Bristol we'll be

forced to pay for those mistakes."

A steady but unspectacular start to the season may be disappointing to many Richmond supporters who had the highest of expectations back in August. There is no doubt that the squad is star studded and the envy of many other Premiership clubs. Captain Ben Clarke became one of the first players to become a truly marketable commodity when he was playing at The Rec with Bath. He burst upon the international scene, became a household name then mysteriously fell from grace. Performances this season for club, and against the All Blacks "Dirt Trackers" for Richard Hill's England A team had put him back in contention for the Five Nations Championship.

And the Richmond player who should be pulling on his national jersey again in the New Year is the Welsh man Scott Quinnell. If anything he was the man who took over Clarke's mantle of Britain's best back row man. But putting his club before his country

meant he was left out in the cold against the New Zealanders but surely his exile? won't last into the Home internationals.

But with or without international players if many of rugby's visionaries get their way then Richmond may find themselves a rare breed indeed. Richmond, along with Newcastle, secured promotion last season into the new Allied Dunbar Premiership Division One. There are those who would deny such opportunities to anyone outside the existing elite, and by the amount of column inches spent in the newspapers on such reforms the number of those supporting such proposals is growing. But a mere glance at the League table shows that both of the teams promoted this year have made an impact with Newcastle amongst the leaders and Richmond in the chasing pack. There's no doubt that the Cherry and Whites will have to be at their very best today to put the new kids on the block in their place!





# Profile

We've been saying it for a while: "That lad Fidler will go a long way in this game!". In fact, we've been saying it for so long that it comes as something of a surprise to find that Robert Fidler is still only 24 years old.

Nevertheless, it's always nice to have one's opinions justified, and Rob's two performances against the All Blacks for the ERP XV and for England 'A' have certainly done that. Furthermore, they would appear to have opened the eyes of a lot of people from far beyond the boundaries of Gloucestershire. Quite right too. Anyone who can give a New Zealand International lock forward all he can handle in the line-out, and also put in an outstanding performance around the field, and what's more, do it twice certainly deserves to be noticed.

I'm sure that Rob would be the first to acknowledge the debt he owes to his second-row partner and former Captain, Dave Sims, who always seems to be on

hand when Rob needs a little support, and must have imparted a great deal of technique and sheer 'street wisdom' to his younger partner. In my own humble opinion, that pairing can hold its own - and frequently much more than that - with any similar duo in the Premiership, regardless from where in the rugby-playing world it may hale.

That may have its disadvantages for young 'Fids' of course. He has always had to operate under the shadow of his highly respected partner, until relatively recently when he has emerged as a powerful force in his own right.

And that's not the only such cross he has to bear. Rob must be heartily sick and tired of finding himself referred to as 'son of the mighty John', and in any case, the fact that the Fiders, Senior and Junior, are both locks is not much more than a sheer coincidence, so much has the game changed in the

interval between the generations. I always feel, in any case, that any Gloucester player who has a father who also wore the cherry-and-white starts with a disadvantage. Being the bloody-minded lot that we are, we always seem to treat the younger player with considerable suspicion until he's proved himself well and truly. I could give you examples of what I mean, but I probably don't have to.

Anyway, Rob is pretty mighty in his own right. Standing 6'5" in his capacious socks, and going at least 18 stone with no discernible fat at all, he isn't a man you'd want to obstruct if he's moving at speed through the volume of space you are, yourself, occupying at the time.

Of course, Rob Fidler hasn't just sprung on to the scene from nowhere. He has also turned out for England Colts, Under 18's, Under 21's, and has represented England 'A' before this season. We also have the word of no





# ROB FIDLER

less a personage than Lions Captain, Martin Johnson, who should be able to judge a lock forward, and especially one who has just spent 80 minutes giving him a hard time, that Rob was in contention for the England tour of Argentina last summer.

For Rob Fidler, the best thing about playing for Gloucester is the team atmosphere. He couldn't think of a worse one. He had no hesitation in naming his worst experience in rugby

generally, though. It was losing 55-5 to New Zealand at England U18 level. The other end of the swing of the pendulum was his performance when Gloucester beat Leicester at Kingsholm in the League last season.

Robert Fidler was born in Cheltenham, and attended Cheltenham College. When asked what he does with himself when not playing rugby, he disarmingly says "Eat and

sleep!" although he does confess to playing cricket. His preferred beverages are Strongbow and tea, not necessarily in that order. He likes to relax at the Retreat.

He is equally disarming when asked what his eventual ambition is. "Retire rich!" he says.

Wouldn't we all, Rob. Wouldn't we all.





# FROM:

# THE MANAGEMENT



We welcome Richmond to Kingsholm today for this Christmas encounter in the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

After the visit of the Harlequins last month we are again faced with a team full of international stars. Richmond are one of a handful of clubs who seem to have the money to buy talent almost at will. And whilst it's natural to look at our visitors wealth with some envy, it's with excitement and eager anticipation I look forward to kick off time. Not every weekend do you face the challenge of pitting your wits against the strengths of a Ben Clarke or a Scott Quinnell or the energy of a Barry Williams, but all those and more will make today's game one of the sternest tests of the season so far for Gloucester. But don't believe for one minute that myself, Richard Hill or the players will go into today's game with an inferiority

complex. We are proud that Gloucester can still put out a pack in which every player qualifies to play for England and put out a team that still boasts to be truly West Country.

Rest assured we are continually looking to recruit new players and strengthen the squad. A larger proportion of my time is spent talking to agents and club officials about players who may be available, and most importantly, keen to come to Kingsholm. I can assure supporters that we are serious about achieving success and if that means bringing in new players like Steve Ojomoh, who's recently been transfer listed by Bath, then that is what will happen. But in our dealings in the transfer market we will not put in jeopardy the club's future, we have a budget to work within and we are not prepared to break the bank.

So today gives us the chance to prove that money isn't everything. Since our last home league game in November Richard and the players have been working hard to build on what in the main has been a good start to the season. But today is a "must win" match. It is vital Gloucester recreates fortress Kingsholm and all our remaining home league games are wins. If that objective is achieved then a place in the top four at the end of the season is still within our grasp. A lot of teams have lost a lot of matches already and a good run of three or four wins in a row can catapult us up the table. One thing is for certain we want to finish this season higher up the table than we did a year ago, and the Kingsholm crowd can help us to make sure of that as I believe a passionate home support can lift the side by at least ten per cent.

*John Fidler.*

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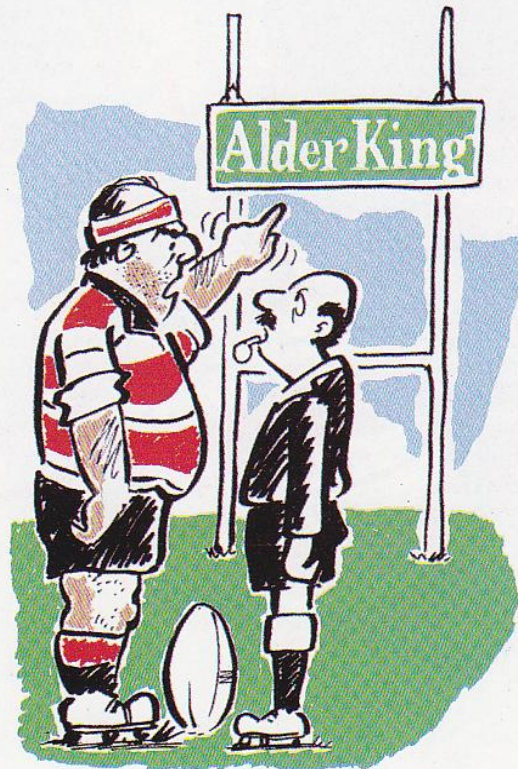
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Gloucester v Richmond, 27th December 1997





# Straight Talking

G L Oster

**"Until the season is sorted out the fate of rugby will be determined by the generosity of a few rich men"**

Like a long lost friend it's back, and not before time! After weeks of kicking around in the European Conference and the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup, the real stuff, the Allied Dunbar Premiership returns to Kingsholm today.

I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT in no other sport would the clubs and players put up with the farce of a fixture list that is the current rugby schedule. I mean I can't imagine Manchester United agreeing to an 8 week break between home matches in the FA Carling Premiership. And the supporters would go crazy if they didn't get their regular fix of Soccer Sunday, the Monday Match, and what is the Tuesday Turn-Off? But that is exactly what Gloucester, fans and all, have to put with since the Cherry and Whites were robbed by Harlequins, in that game back in early November.

Mind boggling it may be but might I suggest that the scarcity of meaningful home games may have at least a little to do with rugby's big financial losses we keep on reading about in the quality, and not so quality papers. Until a proper structured season is sorted out the fate and future of the sport will be determined by a few rich and generous benefactors. And on anyone's building site that's not a firm foundation.

And when we're on the subject of money did you see a copy of the sport's newest publication "Running Rugby" aimed at what it calls the game's Decision Makers. Our opponents today Richmond featured prominently on the front page with news of a possible merger with neighbours Saracens. Surely this can't be true, I mean what would the club call itself Saramond or perhaps Richens? Well may be the name Richens wouldn't be as unlikely as it first sounds because if the money invested by benefactors Nigel Wray

and Ashley Levett has anything to do with it then the new Super-Club would hardly be poor. In fact Richmond and Saracens both featured prominently in this research by "Running Rugby" into the sports biggest earners:

Name	Club	Annual Salary
Francis Pienaar	Saracens	£200,00
Marcus Johnson	Leicester	£200,00
Simon Shaw	Wasps	£150,00
Ben Clarke	Richmond	£100,00
Michael Lynagh	Saracens	£100,00
Phillipe St Andre	Gloucester	£100,00

And while we are on the subject of big money and players I see Steve Ojomoh is open to offers and on the transfer list. Now I know he plays for that lot down the road but can't we make allowance for that and put in a bid to bring him to Kingsholm and so prevent him from being yet another star lost to that big black hole that is London rugby. I mean anyone who can out jump. Johnathan Edwards in his school sports day triple jump competition must be worth a place at your first team squad.

## Tail Piece



**On the Twelfth Day of Christmas my true love sent to me...**



**Twelve Devs a-driving,  
Eleven Loyds a-leaping,**



**Ten Tombs a-tackling,  
Nine Greenings galloping,**



**Eight Toffies teasing,  
Seven Sims sidestepping,**



**Six Fids a-flying,**

**Five Fanluas,  
Four Gianvilles,**

**Three Carters**

**Two Saint-Andres,  
And a bloody great Phil Vickery**

Sorry about that.

Must be the Christmas Spirit. Ho ! Ho ! Ho !  
Have the happiest of New Years, everyone !