

THE SAINTS



TETLEY'S
BITTER
CUP

Matchday
Programme
Northampton

v
Gloucester

January 24, 1998

Kick off: 3pm

Season 1997/98

TETLEY BITTER CUP
FIFTH ROUND



Big Match Squads

Referee:
STEWART
PIERCEY
(Yorkshire Society)

Touch Judges:
Graham Hughes
(Manchester
Society)
Barry Oldham

Saints



Gloucester

15 IAN HUNTER

14 JON SLEIGHTHOLME

13 Andy Northey

12 Matt Allen

11 Harvey Thorneycroft

10 PAUL GRAYSON

9 MATT DAWSON

1 GARRY PAGEL

2 ALLEN CLARKE

3 Martin Hynes

4 Jon Phillips

5 Jason Chandler

6 Grant Seely

7 Budge Pountney

8 TIM RODBER (capt)

Replacements (from)

Jim Bramhall, Andy Blyth

Chris Johnson, Don Mackinnon

Matt Volland, Martin Bayfield

Richard Jackson, Ben Cohen

15 Chris Catling

14 Robert Jewell

13 TERRY FANOLUA

12 RICHARD TOMBS

11 Audley Lumsden

10 MARK MAPLETOFT

9 Scott Benton

1 Adey Powles

2 Chris Fortey

3 Phil Vickery

4 Rob Fidler

5 Dave Sims

6 Simon Devereux

7 Pete Glanville (capt)

8 STEVE OJOMOH

Replacements

16 Craig Emmerson

17 Nick Osman

18 Laurie Beck

19 PETE JONES

20 PHIL GREENING

21 Mark Cornwell

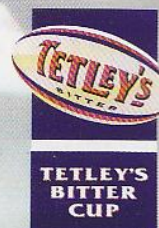
Team
Sponsor:
Firm
Security

Club
House
Sponsor:
Carlsberg
-Tetley

Kit
Sponsor:
Cotton
Traders

Boot
Sponsor:
Pittards

CAPITALS denotes Full International



VISITORS

GLOUCESTER

GLOUCESTER are bidding to go one better in the newly named Tetley

Bitter KO Cup than they did in the last two years of the Pilkington sponsorship.

They have had the heartache of two losing semi finals, both times to the eventual winners, Bath and Leicester.

The memory of those defeats for some of the players will be the spur to make progress today at the expense of the Saints, having negotiated their first hurdle at London Welsh.

Gloucester have a proud Cup record since the competition started in 1971/72, the Cherry & Whites winning the first ever final 17-6 against Moseley in front of just 10,500 fans.

They won it again in 1978, 6-3 over Leicester, the numbers swelling to 24,000 and shared it with Moseley in 1982, after a 12-12 draw. Their only final defeat was in 1990, after beating Saints in the semis at Franklin's Gardens. They found Bath in irrepressible form, losing 48-6.

Unlike Bedford in the last round, Gloucester will not be fielding a League of Nations, the only likely overseas players in the line-up will be centres, Terry Fanolua (Western Samoa) and Richard Tombs, capped by Australia.

The most celebrated foreign star, Philippe St Andre, will sadly be missing with a thigh injury, which will also cause him to miss the England-France international. Capped 69 times by France and captain in 34 matches, St Andre

needs to lead his country just one more time to beat the record he shares with Jean Pierre Rive.

Injuries have played a prominent part in Gloucester's season, particularly in the front row, where Phil Greening and Neil McCarthy, rivals for an England spot at hooker, have both been absent.

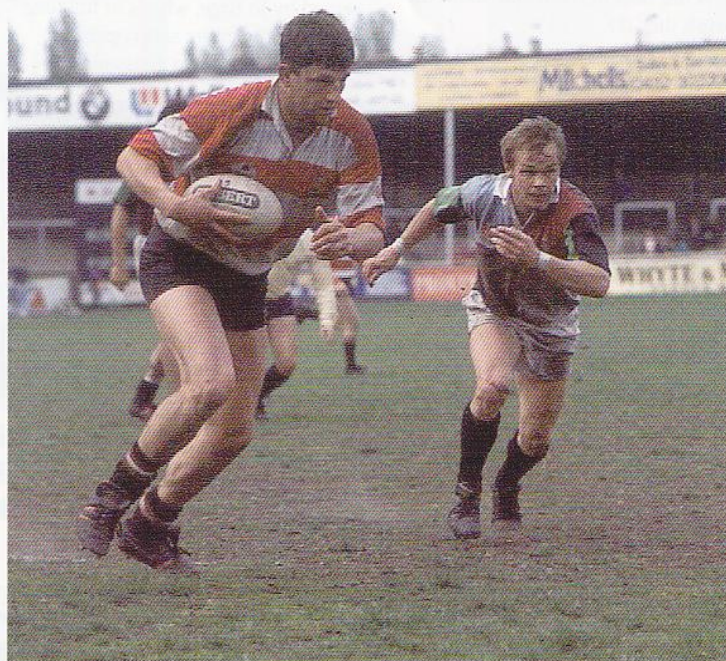
They have also had a crisis among the props, Tony Windo being the latest casualty at Bristol last Sunday. He popped a rib cartilage as Gloucester scraped home 14-13.

And in the second row, Dave Sims and Rob Fidler, regarded by some

judges as the best pair of locks in the country, have both had injury problems.

The sides have already met once this season in the new League Cup competition, the Saints winning 30-5 with Jon Sleightholme scoring on his Saints debut. The Cherry & Whites will bear no resemblance today to that side back in November.

● **Dave Sims, back in harness with Rob Fidler in the second row for the first time since early November.**



Pavilion End

by **MURRAY HOLMES**
Club President

SAINTS v Gloucester in the Cup. Big day! Big build-up! Director of Rugby, captain, chief executive and commercial manager have all given their views about the result, the likely crowd and the uptake on hospitality.

You are in your place admiring the condition of the pitch. You phoned the club to enquire about tickets; you arrived early to get a good spot in the car park, to buy your ticket, to call into the shop, to have lunch in the Bistro and have a drink in the bar.

But what of the organisation which provides those facilities and the people behind the scenes whom you have never heard of? High time that you did hear of them and about the work they do.

Start with the phone call. That will

have been one of hundreds of calls taken by Jane Steggles during the course of the last three weeks – some of which have been about playing matters and will, therefore, have been referred to Ros Hargreaves, who is in charge of the Trinity office and is personal assistant to Ian McGeechan.

Your slot in the car park will have been organised by Chris Kelly, who started work at 8.30am today, or one of his assistants. The match day team of five ladies, supervised by Denise Davies, will have sold your ticket to you. That team includes Rebecca Barry, who works from Monday until Friday in the Sturtridge Office and is personal assistant to Geoff Allen. In the shop you may have been served by Jo Bage, who is in full time charge of the entire shop operation, or by one of her two assistants.

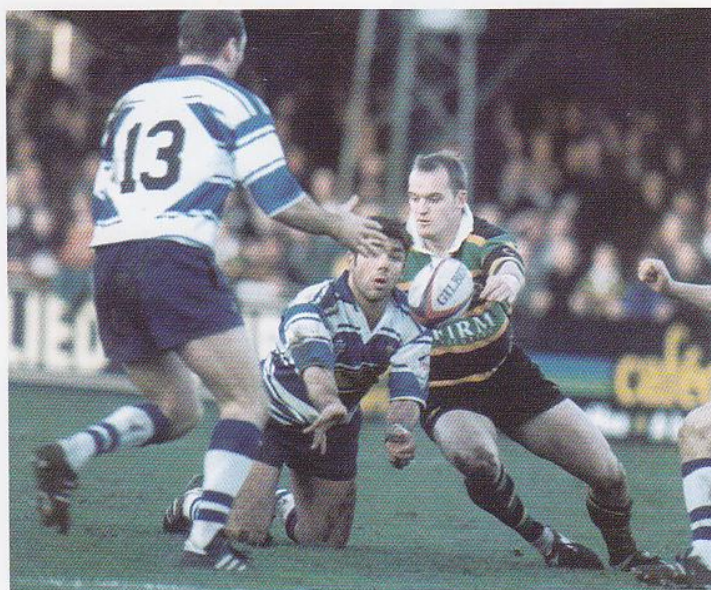
Lunch was courtesy of Ken and Sue Ball, the club's in-house caterers and was one of about 800 meals served today. There are six bars on the ground but whichever bar you had your drink in, the overall responsibility for the running of it is that of Ian Grimes, the Pavilion manager, and he is assisted by a large team of bar staff.

Entry to the ground is, of course, through one of the turnstiles. Austin Nightingale is the man in charge of that particular team. If you are in a seat you may have been directed there by one of the team of stewards – Mike Timbrell heads up that operation. If you are in a sponsors or hospitality situation then spare a thought for Shobha Aranha and Paula Towers, who work so hard to assist John Shurvinton.

You are reading this article courtesy of one of 10 regular programme sellers; and if you have a hot dog at half time, you have Denise and John Cross to thank.

Finally, the pitch which you are admiring owes its condition to David Powell, the ground manager, and his two assistants.

Unsung heroes all – including those whom pressure of space has prevented me from mentioning individually. My congratulations to them for such a smooth operation and, I am sure, yours as well!



Gregor Townsend in action against Sale in the last home game. He and Matt Stewart are in Italy this weekend for a friendly international.

... the last word

SUCCESS in any sport depends on consistency, a factor that Bath and Leicester have had over the years, and which we are currently enjoying. I feel at the moment no side would be totally comfortable playing us.

When results were not going our way, I felt it was only a matter of time because everything was in place just below the surface.

It has only been a question of fine tuning a few bits and pieces; the hard work and effort has always been there. Now we are beginning to see the results.

The first 40 minutes at Harlequins was as good as I've seen from us. We were faced with a strong wind and that concentrated the minds of the players. We knew it would be a struggle but we actually got control of the game, which was no mean feat in those elements. Apart from a casual five minutes in the second half, it was the sort of complete performance that we are looking for with the front five getting through any amount of work and no weak links anywhere in the side.

The win cost us a few injuries and at the time of writing these notes we could not be sure who exactly

would come through fitness tests. We had a problem before last week's game when Don Mackinnon picked up an injury in training which had worsened by Saturday. Grant Seely came in and did an excellent job.

It is also marvellous to see the crowd reaction to our rugby. The fans were virtually giving the players a standing ovation after some of the tries.

The pity is that the momentum slows down in February – just the one league game at Gloucester – and not a home league game until March 14 against Bristol.

Today is a totally different focus. The cup is the icing on the cake but it does no harm to keep the winning pattern going.

There will be a great atmosphere and Gloucester are a very strong side, who have always had a powerful pack to which they have added quality players in the backs.

It should be quite a contest and there will be no less effort from us than in our league games. Top four in the league is still the priority, but the cup is a significant part of the season. Enjoy the game.

IAN MCGEECHAN



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FRONT COVER PICTURE
OF MATT ALLEN
by Martin Lovatt