

# GLOUCESTER

*The Cherry and Whites*

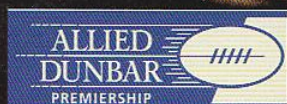
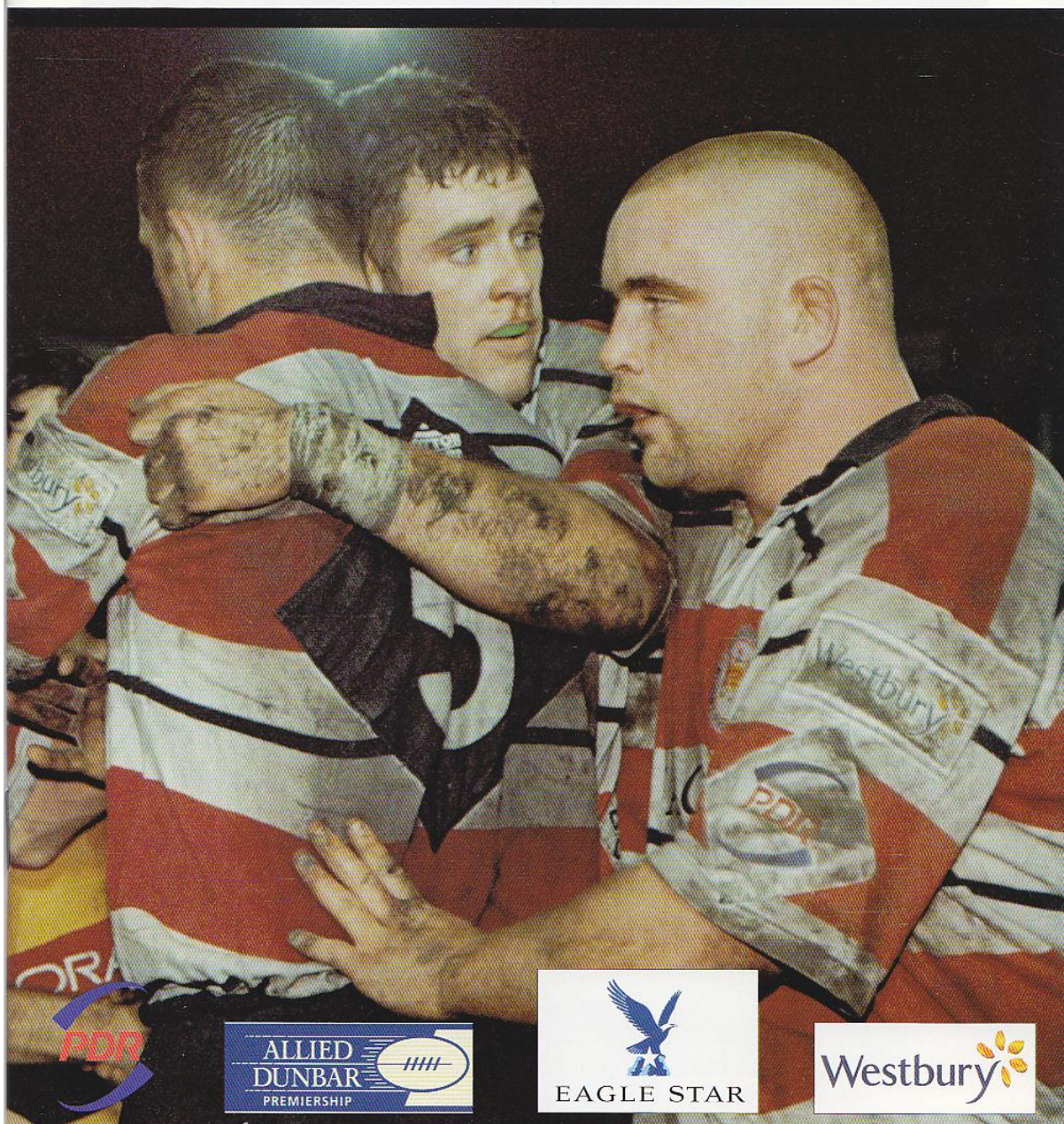


GLOUCESTER V LEICESTER

£2.00

1st February 1998 KO 3pm Vol 2/9

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**FREE INSIDE - PHIL VICKERY POSTER**



# From the Management



It's with anticipation and considerable excitement that we today welcome the Leicester Tigers to Kingsholm.

With respect to our other Allied Dunbar Premiership opponents the visit to Gloucester of the Tigers is always something special. There's a great deal of history and mutual respect between the two clubs. Last season's encounter certainly lived up to that billing. That titanic midweek struggle will certainly live with me for many many years, and even nine months after the event, just thinking about that late kick from Mark Mapeltoft brings a smile to my face.

If we're to reproduce that sort of form and that sort of result then we need the Kingsholm crowd to get behind us. Last April the atmosphere here was tremendous, and however the professional era has changed the game, one thing remains the same, a Gloucester crowd on a good day can make all the difference. I'd say it gives us a 15 to 20 per cent advantage over the visiting team.

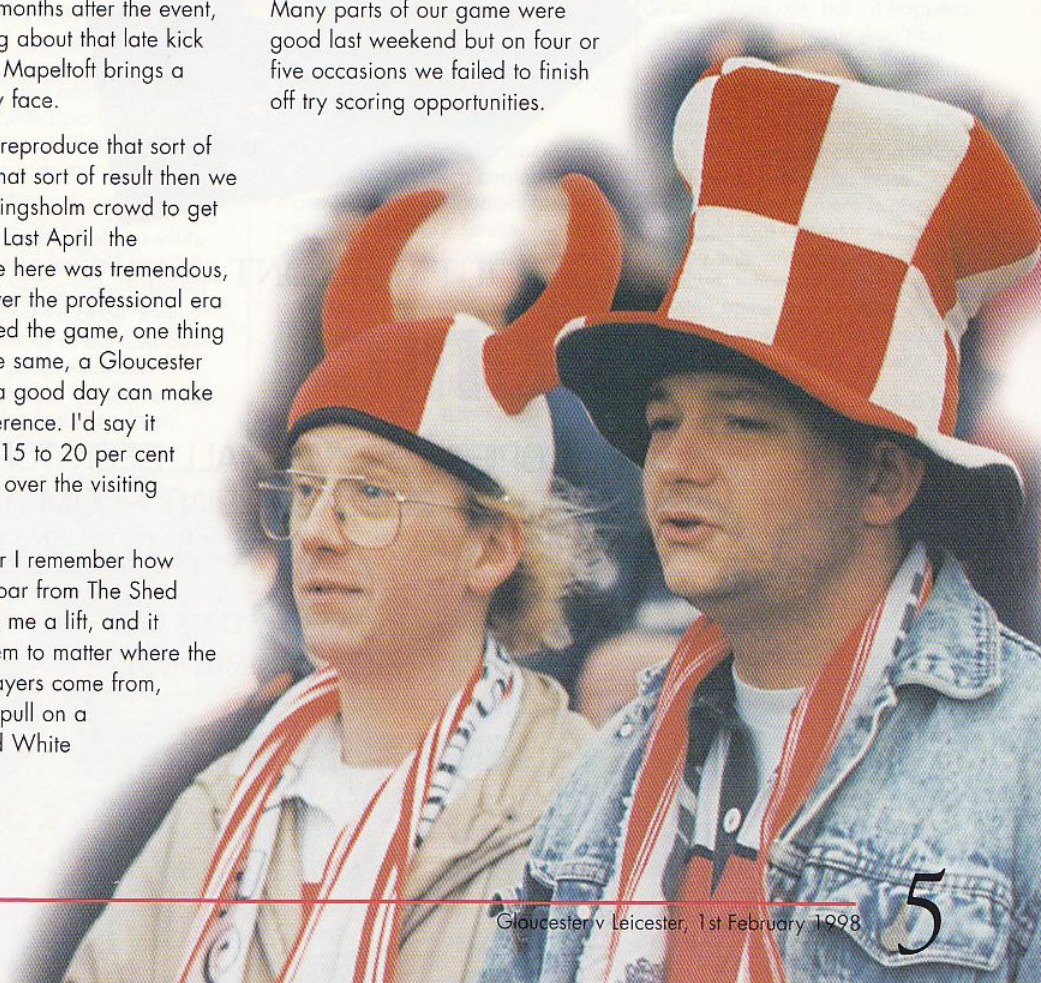
As a player I remember how much the roar from The Shed would give me a lift, and it doesn't seem to matter where the modern players come from, when they pull on a Cherry and White shirt the Kingsholm

atmosphere becomes all important.

After last weekend's disappointing defeat in the Tetley Bitter Cup at Northampton all the playing staff know they have something to prove. It's no consolation to us that the likes of Bath and Leicester are also out of the competition, nor that Northampton are being billed as the in form team in rugby. The Cup remains a very special competition and it's frustrating that we're going to have to wait at least another year for cup success. Many parts of our game were good last weekend but on four or five occasions we failed to finish off try scoring opportunities.

At this level of rugby this is simply not good enough, and Richard and I will be working hard to improve things.

Since our last home game, which seems an awful long time ago, we have bedded in two new recruits. Winger Brian Johnson and back row forward Steve Ojomoh have settled very well in their new surroundings and I trust you'll give them both a rousing Kingsholm welcome today.



Gloucester v Leicester, 1st February 1998



# There is



# Life after the Cup



"If things don't alter, they'll remain as they are!" as my old rugby-going friend Owen Earl frequently used to remind us. He'd be the first to point out that while a great deal has changed over the past couple of seasons, some things do, indubitably, remain as they are. One of them is the visit of Leicester to Kingsholm, always eagerly anticipated, and enjoyed for its own sake, quite apart from any considerations of Cups, Leagues, or any other aids to concentration.

Indeed, the Tigers' last two visits provided the undoubted highlights of a season by no means devoid of excitement. First of all, they narrowly beat us in the Cup Semi Final (some people are still smarting over that disallowed try), then just a few days later, provided the opposition

in one of the most heart-stopping Gloucester victories most of us had witnessed for a very long time.

Of course, the situation is different this time round. Both sides lost interest in the Tetley Cup last weekend, and we couldn't wish for a more welcome crowd of visitors with whom to share, or perhaps drown, our sorrows.

The Tigers will also find differences in the Gloucester side from the ones which contested those two epic encounters last season. If memory serves, Messrs. Vickery, Fortey, Fanolua, Ojomoh and Tombs didn't feature in those, and it is a particular shame that Phillippe Saint-Andre won't be fit to play. Gloucester v. Leicester at Kingsholm would have been right up his rue, so to speak.

Both sides will be out to bounce back after last Saturday's disappointments. Leicester may well be reflecting that if a fellow

announces his retirement, then he ought to retire rather than hang around to kick vital penalties at the last minute.

Gloucester, on the other hand, did not seem to me to be firing on all cylinders last week. Why not, I know not, but - it happens. I'm sure Bob Dwyer won't be reading too much into that Northampton game.

One way and another, we should be in for an enthralling afternoon. Quite apart from all those considerations, there is also the thought that Leicester will have to cope with a rugby-starved home crowd, who should be in even better voice than ever in consequence. Not that they will be short of support, either.

So, as the Chinese proverb says, let's lay back and enjoy it. While, at the same time, making sure that Leicester, and all their cohorts, have a thoroughly memorable time with us.

It is the Year of the Tiger, after all!





# THIS IS KINGSHOLM



## JUST IN CASE YOU'D FORGOTTEN

When I started to think about these notes, it dawned on me that this would be our first programme of 1998. Yet here we are in February!

Furthermore, this is only the second home game for the Senior XV since Christmas, and the third since November 2nd, when we entertained Harlequins. That's an average of around one home fixture a month: it can't be right, and it simply isn't good enough.

I've never been a writer of the 'Something Must be Done', 'Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells' school, but I readily admit to feeling a little vitriolic about the situation.

I'm not an expert in the increasingly intricate business of fixture arrangement, and anything I write represents entirely my own opinion, and not necessarily that of Gloucester RFC, any Official thereof, or anyone else for that matter. However, it doesn't take a genius of Stephen Hawking dimensions to work out that there has been an almighty cock-up somewhere. Not to put too fine a point on it, supporters have been getting a very raw deal. So have clubs such as Gloucester, whose cash flow must have become as sluggish as treacle in a refrigerator.

I know that the home games do have to be played, and that things should average out by the end of the season, but the pre-Christmas period has always been one which attracts large numbers of supporters. The weather

hasn't really clamped down yet, so fans aren't kept away by the cold or the wet, whereas the February-March spell is notorious for freeze-ups and waterlogged pitches, causing postponements and horrendous fixture pile-ups.

Furthermore, it's in the earlier part of the season that people acquire the habit of going to rugby matches. There are plenty of other attractions vying for people's pocket money, and who's to say that supporters will, in fact, come back to the rugby grounds when the home games do roll around?

Do we have too many fixtures to accommodate? Are we trying to pour a quart into a pint pot? Well, maybe, but you and I remember a time when we played all the English clubs we take on nowadays, plus a few more, and also managed to have the best Anglo-Welsh fixture list in England, so the problem can't entirely be one of fixture congestion. Remember - the season is four weeks longer than it used to be.

Is the Clubs' idea of boycotting the European matches the right one? Again, I don't really know. It would certainly allow more flexibility, but would also deprive us of some interesting rugby.

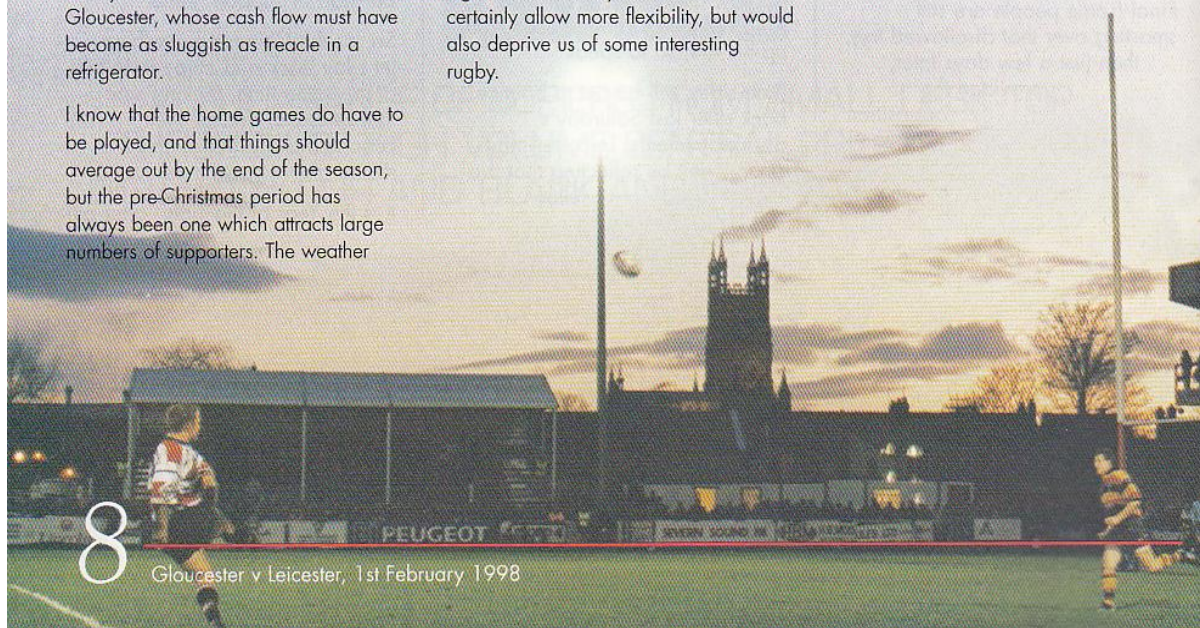
Trying to look at things dispassionately, it appears to me that one factor in all this has hardly been mentioned, and that is the incidence of International matches. Traditionally, we had the Five Nations after Christmas, and perhaps one touring team game before the holiday period. That could be handled, but this season we have seen four Internationals in November and December, and that has distorted things more than somewhat. Obviously, it made a great hole in the Premiership programme, and instituted the League Cup, which I remain to be convinced about. The situation can only become worse if Italy join the Five Nations.

I don't really have any answers. After all, I'm just a poor supporter. But I do know that something will have to be done, and done before next season, or the whole professionalised structure will collapse around our ears.

Is anyone out there listening?

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Gloucester v Leicester, 1st February 1998





# Friday Next Week



In case you hadn't caught up with the fact, our League Cup game against Wakefield has been rearranged for FRIDAY evening at 7.45pm, rather than the previously advertised Saturday afternoon. So you won't be worried by any clash with the International. Nothing new about that, of course. We always used to play our weekend matches on a Friday evening on an International weekend.

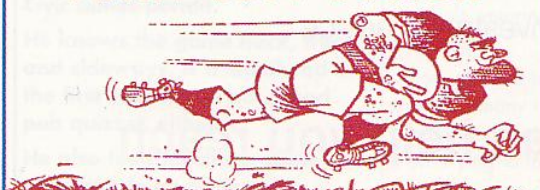
Don't forget, also, that our away game against Bath, originally scheduled for December 20th, will now take place on Wednesday, February 11th, kick off, 7.30pm. I'm told that there will be a coach available, but don't have any more details than that at the moment, so if you fancy a trip to the Rec. that evening, I suggest you enquire at the office.

After that, it's own -back time, on Saturday, February 14th, when Northampton are due to pay us a visit, kick off, 2pm.

What a way to spend St. Valentine's Day!



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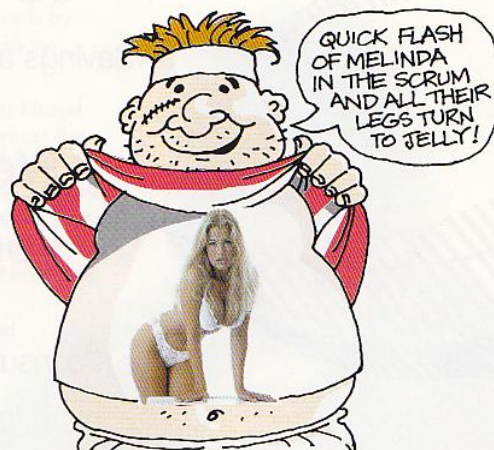
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# How the Mayor sees it



There has always been a rather special relationship between the Civic authorities and Gloucester RFC, ever since the Mayor of the day stepped in and prevented the club from being thrown off the old Spa ground back in the 1870's. Indeed, a few years ago I remember seeing five past Sheriffs and four past Mayors all leaning on the clubhouse bar together after one match.

Of all our recent First Citizens, however, the present incumbent, Councillor Derek Dobbins, is undoubtedly the most ardent cherry-and-white supporter. He's been coming here since the days of William Webb Ellis (or so he would have you believe) and doesn't miss any more away games than his Civic duties permit.

He knows the game back, front and sideways, is a Shedhead of the first water, and not a bad pub quizzer, either.

He also feels much the same way as I do about the way fixtures have worked out this season, as you will note from the following piece which I was delighted to receive from him a few days ago. You will also spot that he has nice things to say about our own organisation, too, so all is not doom and gloom.

I received the Mayor's article, accompanied by a little note which read "Feel free to amend as necessary". I wouldn't dream of it, Your Worship. And thanks for spending time to write to us.

*Peter Arnold*

Since I lived within the touch find of a Micky Booth line-kick, I have followed Gloucester Rugby Club, and since that time we have seen many changes in the laws and the way the sport has been transformed in the past two years by the event of professionalism.

We are all aware of the politics going on behind the scenes and in public between the RFU and the major League Clubs, but during all of this I feel one large section of people is being forgotten - namely all of us, the rugby supporters.

We at Kingsholm, especially those who stand in the shed, are absolutely disgusted with the way this year's fixtures have been arranged. In a professional era, apart from a sugar daddy, the only way a Club can survive is by people entering through the turnstiles.

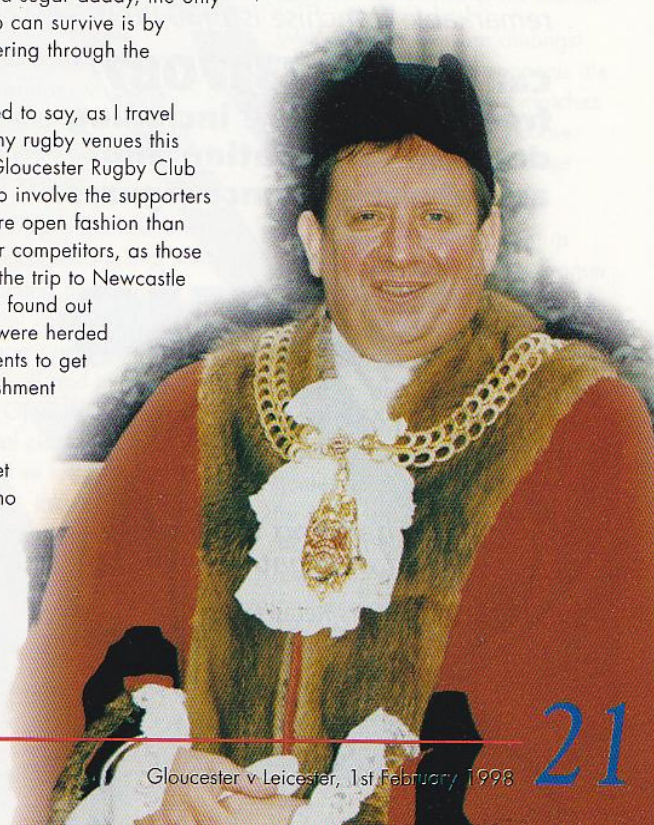
I am pleased to say, as I travel around many rugby venues this year, that Gloucester Rugby Club are trying to involve the supporters in a far more open fashion than many of our competitors, as those who made the trip to Newcastle would have found out when they were herded into small tents to get liquid refreshment with the Newcastle season ticket holders - who also could not get access to their own rugby club, as it was

taken over by people on corporate hospitality.

As we speed along the professional road, I make this plea to those in authority. As the cost of watching rugby escalates, please ensure that we, the supporters, get extra meaningful fixtures not less, because the sport cannot survive without us.

Finally, today as we entertain Leicester, a club of proud tradition and loyal support, like ours, (probably the best two supported sides in the country), I look forward to an entertaining game with the right result - a cherry and white win!

**Mayor of Gloucester 1997/98  
(Councillor Derek Dobbins)**







Many thanks to today's  
sponsor  
**INDALEX**



**Sunday 1st February 1998**

**Kick-off 3pm**

**GLOUCESTER** 32  
Cherry & White

**LEICESTER** 25  
Scarlet, Green and White

15	CHRIS CATLING	Full Back	ANDREW LEEDS*	O
14	BRIAN JOHNSON	Right Wing	MICHAEL HORAK	N
13	TERRY FANOLUA (I)	Centre	WILL GREENWOOD*	M
12	RICHARD TOMBS (I)	Centre	STUART POTTER	L
11	AUDLEY LUMSDEN	Left Wing	LEON LLOYD	K
10	MARK MAPLETOFT (I)	Outside Half	JOEL STRANSKY*	J
9	SCOTT BENTON	Scrum Half	AUSTIN HEALEY*	I
1	ADEY POWLES	Prop	GRAHAM ROWNTREE*	A
2	CHRIS FORTEY	Hooker	DORIAN WEST	B
3	PHIL VICKERY	Prop	DARREN GARFORTH*	C
4	ROB FIDLER	Lock	MARTIN JOHNSON*capt	D
5	DAVE SIMS	Lock	FRITZ VAN HEERDEN*	E
6	PETE GLANVILLE*	Flanker	MARTIN CORRY*	F
7	NATHAN CARTER	Flanker	ERIC MILLER*	G
8	SIMON DEVEREUX	No. 8	NEIL BACK*	H
16	NICK OSMAN	Replacements	WAISALE SEREVI*	P
17	LAURIE BECK		JAMES OVEREND	Q
18	TONY WINDO		RICHARD COCKERILL*	R
19	ANDY DEACON		PERRY FRESHWATER	S
20	STEVE OJOMOH		LEWIS MOODY	T
21	MARK CORNWELL		PAUL GUSTARD	U
22				

Referee

**GRAHAM HUGHES**  
(RFU MANCHESTER)

(I) International  
\* Captain

Touch Judges

**GERAINT JONES (RFU)**  
**BRIAN SUTTLE (RFU)**



# Northampton Match Report



## Northampton 30, Gloucester 11

The Cherry and Whites were sent reeling out of the Tetley's Bitter Cup at Franklin's Gardens on Saturday by a confident home side who killed off any Gloucester hopes of making it to the final – a target for the season at Kingsholm.

It was a 10-minute period at the end of the first half that effectively killed-off Gloucester's chances. In that short period, Matt Allen, the impressive Northampton centre, crossed for two tries while England fly half Paul Grayson landed both conversions and added a drop goal.

Gloucester were outclassed in all departments by a Saints team that has been enjoying a considerable revival since Christmas.

"It was poor individual skill that prevented us from doing anything," said Gloucester's

director of coaching Richard Hill, who admitted that his approach during the week might have been too soft.

He indicated that there would be no more 'croissants and cappuccino' at the Country Club – rather, back to basics in the mud of the Oxstalls training pitch with a mug of Bovril.

Only two players came out of the match with praise from Hill – number 8 Steve Ojomoh and Terry Fanolua.

Gloucester pressured in the opening exchanges, taking play deep into Saints territory. As they bombarded the Northampton line, scrum half Scott Benton managed to take the ball over the line, only to find referee Stewart Piercey not allowing the score, ruling that Benton was short.

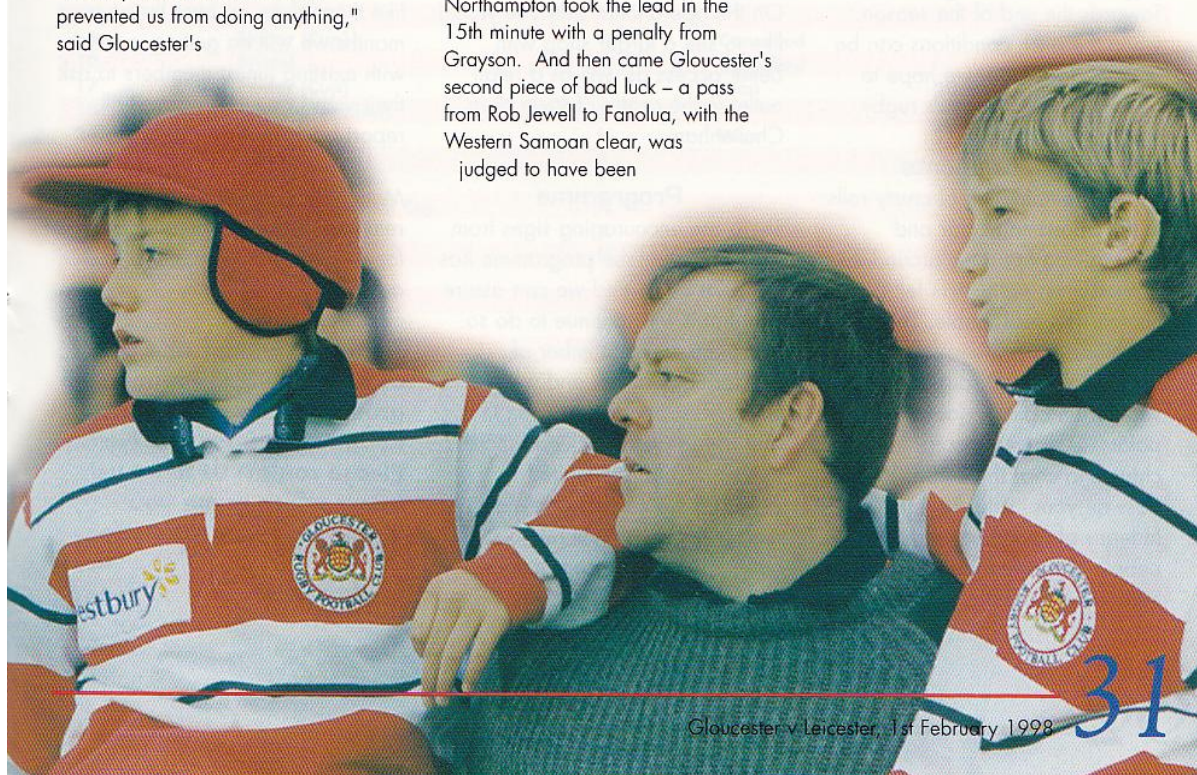
Northampton took the lead in the 15th minute with a penalty from Grayson. And then came Gloucester's second piece of bad luck – a pass from Rob Jewell to Fanolua, with the Western Samoan clear, was judged to have been

forward. And another Gloucester try was not allowed.

So it was a very disappointed, as well as dispirited, Gloucester that went in 20-3 down at the interval.

The second half saw some better play from Gloucester, mainly thanks to the appearance of prop Andy Deacon who replaced Phil Vickery on the hour.

Mapletoft added his second penalty, as did Grayson. And there things stood until injury time, when both sides added a try each – teenage full back Richard Jackson darting in for the home side which Grayson converted, while winger Mike Lloyd thundered across for a Gloucester consolation in the corner at the death.





# Christmas



## Brainstorm survey

**After the Christmas deluge of post, January can be quite a barren month post wise, so it was nice to receive the deluge of returned Christmas Brainstorm surveys. We were really pleased with the response and grateful for the comments received.**

### Match Day Entertainment

It is good to hear that the Big Screen has been so enjoyed and contributed to the enjoyment of the game, unfortunately the siting of more screens will be logistically difficult at this stage.

The most popular choices were for bands and schools rugby prior to the main match. The military band was well received before the London Irish game with brass bands, jazz and samba being the most popular type of bands before future games. Any suggestions for bands who you feel would meet the bill would be welcomed. Towards the end of the season, when the pitch conditions can be better relied upon, we hope to have a return of schools rugby.

### Refreshments

With a combination of crusty rolls in the Sportsman's bar and burgers and hot dogs around the ground most supporters felt the choice was reasonable. The main additions to the menu offered were for chocolate and soup, more vegetarian options, jacket potatoes, slices of pizza, fish and chips and cornish pasties. We will pass on your list to the caterers. In terms of improvements, most people suggested we have more sites around the ground, in

particular at the hospitality end of the ground. We hope to add additional points around the ground in the near future, watch this space.

### Club Merchandise

It was good to hear that most supporters felt that the range of goods offered has improved and we are grateful for your advice of new items you would like to see such as; rugby socks, old programmes for sale, more for ladies, more leisurewear, babywear and replica shirts made of 'player' quality fabric. On the operational side you would like to see a larger shop with better access as well as a retail outlet in the centre of town or in Cheltenham.

### Programme

There are encouraging signs from supporters that the programme has got a lot better and we can assure you that it will continue to do so. There are now a number of regular contributors and we welcome supporters to write in also. Suggestions included more news on Colts and United including the players and match reports which we will begin to build up in future programmes, player profiles on the away team,

more news on players including reports on fitness, injuries, training programme, how they are getting on training for England etc. Any supporter who would like to write a piece for the programme can fax or write to the club, we are pleased to offer a £10 Gloucester Rugby Football Club gift voucher for all articles we print.

### Junior Memberships

There were lots of good ideas for junior members but the best and most obvious was to talk to junior members about what they would like themselves, so over the coming months we will be getting in touch with existing junior members to ask their views as well and we will report back.

*Many thanks for everybody who returned their questionnaire and for your excellent comments and advice.*

**The lucky winner of a pair of Allied Dunbar Premiership ground tickets is Gerald Rudge from Ross on Wye. Please contact us to let us know which game you would like your tickets for.**

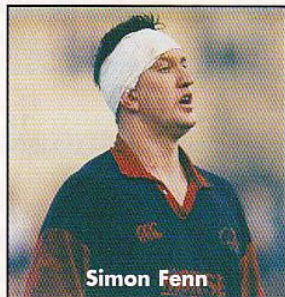
**Well done!!!**



# Straight Talking



G.L. Other



Simon Fenn

**Come on RFU, ban the culprit for Life.....the reputation of our fine game is at stake.**

Shame, Shame on you! That's all I'd care to say to whoever it was that inflicted that horrific injury on the London Scottish flanker Simon Fenn. Rugby players, and supporters alike can tolerate a lot of what some would call physical contact, or what others would describe as violence. Not a game at any level goes by without at least one player suffering from the scrapes of someone else's boot, while the odd scrap, usually hand bags at ten paces, is part and parcel of the contest. But ear biting, I'LL GIVE IT TO

YOU STRAIGHT, that is totally and utterly unacceptable on a rugby field anywhere else, and the culprit should be banned from the game for life. Come on Bath, Come on the RFU, don't dilly and dally around the reputation of our fine game is at stake.

Now I'll admit I can't be sure that the Bath prop Kevin Yates was the guilty man, I've got my own personal opinion on the subject but with a circuit judge heading to The Rec this week, I'll keep those thoughts to myself for the moment. All I will say is that whoever did chew on Simon Fenn's ear should have the balls to own up. I know his career, his international place, and a lot of money is at stake but I suggest he should have thought of that before violently assaulting an opponent.

I have heard the suggestion that "it may not have been a bite, it could've been a stud" and "it could have been a London Scottish player who did it by mistake." To those who offer up such excuses, I say bunkum and balderdash! Simon Fenn is out of the game for several weeks because a Bath player maliciously bit into his ear with the sole

intention of inflicting a serious injury upon him. Unfortunately the video evidence is inconclusive, I only hope that the disciplinary hearing at Bath and an inquiry by the RFU will get to the bottom of this and rugby can rid itself of a player who can only be described as a thug!

And while we're on the subject of discipline in the game did you see the case brought before the Scottish Rugby Union following a match between those two rugby strongholds of Birkmyre and Carrick? The Glasgow League game between the two clubs was abandoned by the referee when a Carrick player was sent off. No he hadn't been caught ear biting, but something much more serious it seems, he was seen blowing a kiss at an opponent A terrible crime in anyone's book.

*Note from the Editor:*

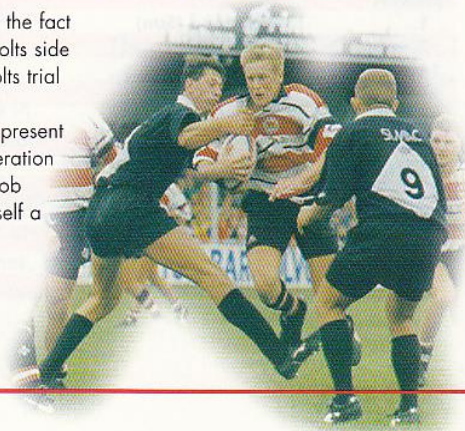
*Gloucester Rugby Football Club welcome contributions from all sources as we believe it makes for both an enjoyable read and a good debating topic for the bat afterwards. However we should like to point out that the views expressed are not the Club's official viewpoint, we will always make it clear when statements are being made directly by GRFC*

## CONGRATULATIONS !



Our heartiest congratulations to Chris Catling on his call-up to the England squad session the other day. All right - so he only got there because some of the Bath contingent were otherwise engaged, but it doesn't matter how a bloke gets there as long as he gets there. We can all think of International careers which have been sparked off in more bizarre circumstances, and Chris certainly deserves the chance to show what he can do.

I'm also very pleased to record the fact that no fewer than five of our colts side made it to the final England Colts trial system. That's quite a handful, especially considering that our present Colts system hasn't been in operation for very long. And of course, Rob Jewell has already earned himself a spot in the First XV squad. Bodes well for the future !



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Gloucester v Leicester, 1st February 1998



# Sad News



## JOHN 'CURLY' HEMMING

### 'Curly' Hemming dead ? Impossible !

That was the immediate reaction on receiving the news of the tragic building site accident which has deprived Gloucester rugby of one of its foremost personalities. It was as if someone had told us that the Rock of Gibraltar had crumbled into the Mediterranean. And that's not a bad analogy, because if ever the word 'rock' could be accurately applied to a rugby player, then the case of 'Curly' Hemming provides it.

Any man who can turn out for his club over one thousand times has to be something special, and to do it from Prop forward borders on the incredible. Even this season, at the age of 61, (a closely guarded secret which can now be revealed), John was still turning out for Matson Wolfhounds, which for the uninitiated is the club's third string side, and, I'm told, still doing the business with considerable authority.

'Curly' would have no truck with the professional game, believing that everyone should, like him, be playing for the love of the game. If you think that made him something of a dinosaur, then so be it. Your opinion would not have bothered 'Curly' one bit. Very much his own man, and what you saw was what you got.

Gloucester rugby without 'Curly' Hemming is considerably the poorer, and we regret his passing, especially in such a tragic manner. Our sincere sympathies go out to his family and friends, of which he had many.

I expect the Matson clubhouse was a little quiet last weekend, and that's understandable. But, you know, 'Curly' wouldn't have wanted it that way.

## TONY WILLIAMS

We might as well get the sad pieces over at once. It was another shock to hear that my old friend, Tony Williams, had been hit by a motor vehicle and was lying in intensive care in the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. The last I heard, he had been transferred to Frenchay, and his condition was said to be 'critical but stable'.

For those who don't know him, Tony is a very rare character indeed. For many years a respected local referee, who played for Old Richians and Gloucester Old Boys before taking up the whistle, he is also one of Gloucester's foremost raconteurs, with a fund of rugby stories which can keep one laughing all evening, just as long as one keeps the bitter flowing. Once, when acting as assessor to an aspiring young ref. He advised him always to do an early pitch inspection on that particular field, on the grounds that you could pick up a pound or two of mushrooms for free if you did.

On another occasion he stopped a game in Cornwall, not for any wrongdoing, but to deliver a lecture on the habits of the red kite, one of which was soaring overhead at the time.

He was always a great walker, preferring to get home from a match on his own two feet, wherever the match had happened to take place. And that included the far reaches of Cornwall. He also delivered 'Good Beer Guide' stickers for his beloved CAMRA, all over the Forest of Dean on foot.

For a man who regularly walked home from Land's End to be felled while crossing Tredworth Road is a particularly nasty piece of irony. We hope Tony Williams is soon back to his old form.

Buck up, Tone. We miss you !

## FANCY YOUR CHANCES ON THE TELLY ?

Mention of Tony Williams, who appeared on Channel 4's '15 to 1' a little while ago, brings me neatly to a phone call I had from a very nice chap called Will Learmonth. He works as a researcher for a company called Cactus TV Limited, who are currently putting together a new series of the sports quiz programme called 'Sports Anorak of the Year'.

This extravaganza appears on the Satellite-Cable channel, UK Gold, and is fronted by Rory McGrath. It's a knockout quiz where contestants answer questions only on some aspect of their chosen sport. At the moment they are looking for people who know their Rugby Union, and where better to come in the quest for such geniuses than Gloucester RFC?

As Will said, "If anyone knows all there is to know about the Life and Times of Steve Ojomoh, the Five Nations Championship, or simply Gloucester RFC, ask them to get in touch." Cactus will be holding auditions at various centres through February and March, so if you fancy your chances, now is the time to make contact.

You can do that by ringing 0171 465 6225. I'm sure there are plenty of people here today well up to that challenge.



# Player Profile

## Chris Fortey



If Oscar Wilde had been a rugby man, he could well have quoted Lady Bracknell as saying something like "To lose one hooker may be construed as unfortunate. To lose two, looks like carelessness."

That would have hit us where it hurts. To have two hookers of the calibre of Messrs. Greening and McCarthy off injured at the same time is the very dickens of a blow, bearing in mind just how important the chap wearing the No.2 shirt is in today's rugby.

Cometh the hour, cometh the man. In this case it has been Chris Fortey, all of 22 years old, and not exactly the most experienced hooker in the business. However, no one can fail to be impressed by the way that young Chris has stepped into the intimidating shoes of his two distinguished seniors

over the past few weeks. He's been all over the field, thrown in like a metronome, and has given everyone he has come up against in the tight at least as much as they could handle. Indeed, we couldn't have asked for more from a young player than he has given us.

All right, so he gave away a penalty try at Bristol. But we hung on to win that one, and I don't suppose Chris will do that again. It's all part of the learning curve.

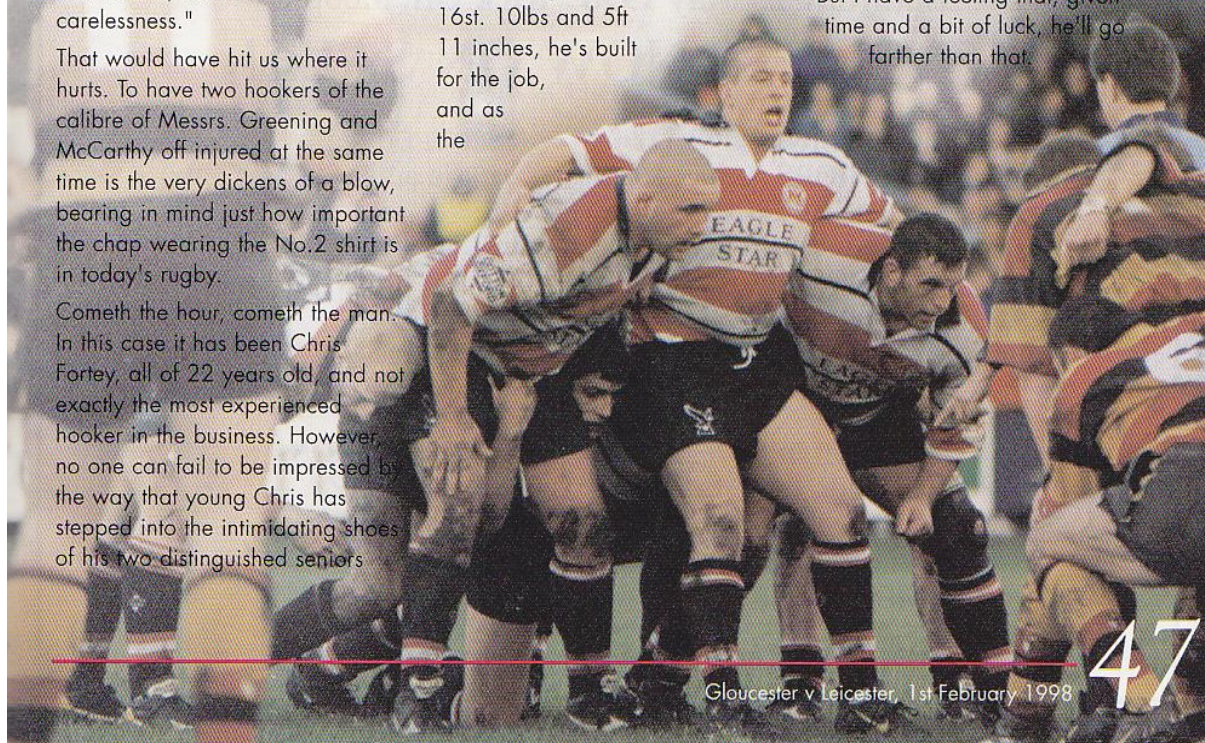
Of course, Chris has come through a hard school. Quite apart from his progress, together with his brother, Lee, through our Colts set-up, He also had experience with Widden Old Boys and Gordon League, and those are no places for shrinking violets. At 16st. 10lbs and 5ft 11 inches, he's built for the job, and as the

fitness regime goes on, he'll probably add some pounds to that, too.

By trade, before joining the ranks of the professionals, Chris was a joiner, which isn't a bad trade to be able to fall back on should things go wrong. When not playing rugby, he likes to play golf or go fishing. He also spends time with his partner, Jo, who must wonder, at times, what she has got herself into.

His most admired player is Sean Fitzpatrick, and no one can blame him for that. His immediate ambition is to gain a regular spot in the Gloucester First XV, which is going to give something for Greening and McCarthy to look over their shoulders at.

But I have a feeling that, given time and a bit of luck, he'll go farther than that.



Gloucester v Leicester, 1st February 1998



# Miscellaneous



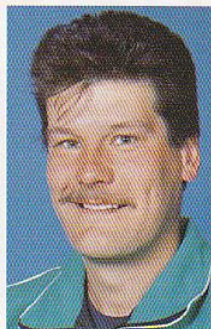
## PER ARDUA AD KINGSHOLM

Isn't it nice to read that the Royal Air Force is coming in to land at Kingsholm! They have decided to make us their official 'home ground' for their match against the Army at the end of the season here on in, finding us far preferable to 'Twickers', which they have called 'home' for 70-odd years.

Not that there is anything new about the RAF connection. The distinguished Tony Lewis, erstwhile England cricket captain, played at full-back for Gloucester while based at RAF Innsworth.

Much later, we had so many RAF lads turning out for Gloucester that the side was known to be greeted with the cry of "Come on, 633 Squadron!", and chants which

were popularly supposed to resemble the Dam Busters March. You'll remember the names. John Orwin, who captained both the RAF and England, Chris Williams, who won a Cap against France. Mike Lazenby and there are others who I disremember at the moment. And the RAF side used to be run by our old friend Air Vice Marshal Tony Mason, distinguished referee and assessor, a Kingsholm regular for quite a few seasons. The RAF play their first Inter Services Tournament game at Kingsholm on May 13th, when they take on the Army. It would be nice if we could give them some considerable support.



## RFU PANEL REFEREE Graham Hughes

Born in April 1959 in Runcorn, Cheshire, Graham is currently in his 13th season as a referee with the Manchester Society and his third season on the RFU Panel of Referees, refereeing at National division level and having refereed Holland in a warm up game for the World

Cup Qualifiers. He started refereeing after stopping playing through a back injury, later rectified by the removal of his left kidney in 1989. Graham is the Head of information Technology and Computer Administration at Victoria Community High School in Crewe. He is married, with two daughters, and one son, who is the Captain of Sandbach U12's, Cheshire champions for four years.

S • E • L • E • C • T



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## CATCHING 'EM YOUNG

We're quite accustomed to Match Mascots who have acquired their devotion to Gloucester through parents, uncles, grandparents who have either played for Gloucester or been supporting the club for yonks. However, Alice Palin's case is quite different. She appears to have 'gone native' all on her own.

Alice is 12 years old, and has only lived in Gloucestershire for two years. She plays hockey and netball, but is an avid watcher of rugby. Perhaps that's not too surprising: she attends Wycliffe College, which is, of course, our old friend Keith Richardson's former stamping ground, before he became the highly successful guru of the Newbury club.

The younger Miss Palin (she has an older sister, Emma) lives with her parents in Stroud, as does younger brother, Ben. We hope the sudden addiction to the oval ball game hasn't come as too much of a culture shock for them.

Thanks for coming, Alice.

## Tail Piece

Did you notice that, according to an official report, Britain has dropped to only 19th in a league table of countries according to alcohol consumed per head of population?

What do you expect. We've only had three home games since November 9th.