

# GLOUCESTER

*The Cherry and Whites*

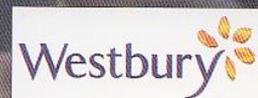
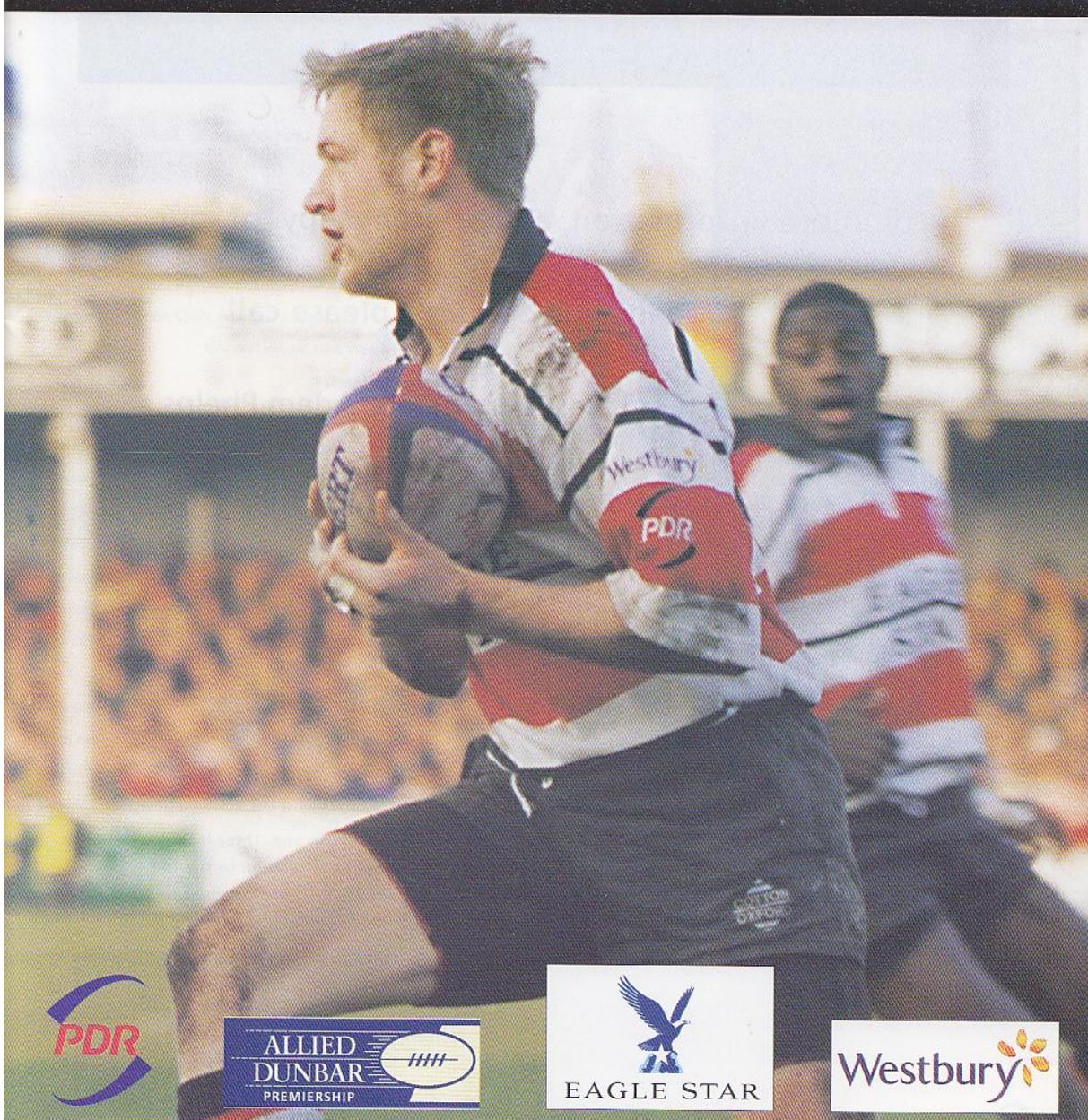


GLOUCESTER V NORTHAMPTON

£2.00

14th February 1998 KO 2pm

Vol 2/11



**FREE INSIDE - CHRIS CATLING POSTER**

# Today's Opponents



## NORTHAMPTON

Two defeats in nine league games, and running up a thumping 30 points win over Gloucester in the cup, means today's opponents Northampton are a team in fine form. And their current form is all the more outstanding when you look at how Northampton started the season. After the first batch of games the Saints had won just one from five and suffered the embarrassment of being the first team to lose to our good neighbours Bristol.

Assistant Coach Paul Larkin believes much of the turnaround in fortune can be put down to the arrival of one player.

"Gary Pagel" joined us in November, and within a matter of weeks we were playing well. We were keen to sign him after Lions played Western Province. We managed to pinch him from under the noses of Saracens and he's not let us down, he's proved to be an inspirational signing."

December the 13th, was the date when

the Saints season picked up. A big win over the London Irish set them on their way to a run of form that's seen them rise towards the top of the table.

As well as Pagel another player who's benefited from that good run is the Northampton and England fly half Paul Grayson. Inspired by his performance for England in the draw against the All Blacks, Grayson is playing some of the best rugby of his life. But he may not be looking forward to today's trip to Kingsholm as it was here a year ago that saw him sustain an injury which wrecked the back end of last season.

But fit again and alongside England A centre Matt Allen and Scotland's Gregor Townsend, Grayson makes up a midfield

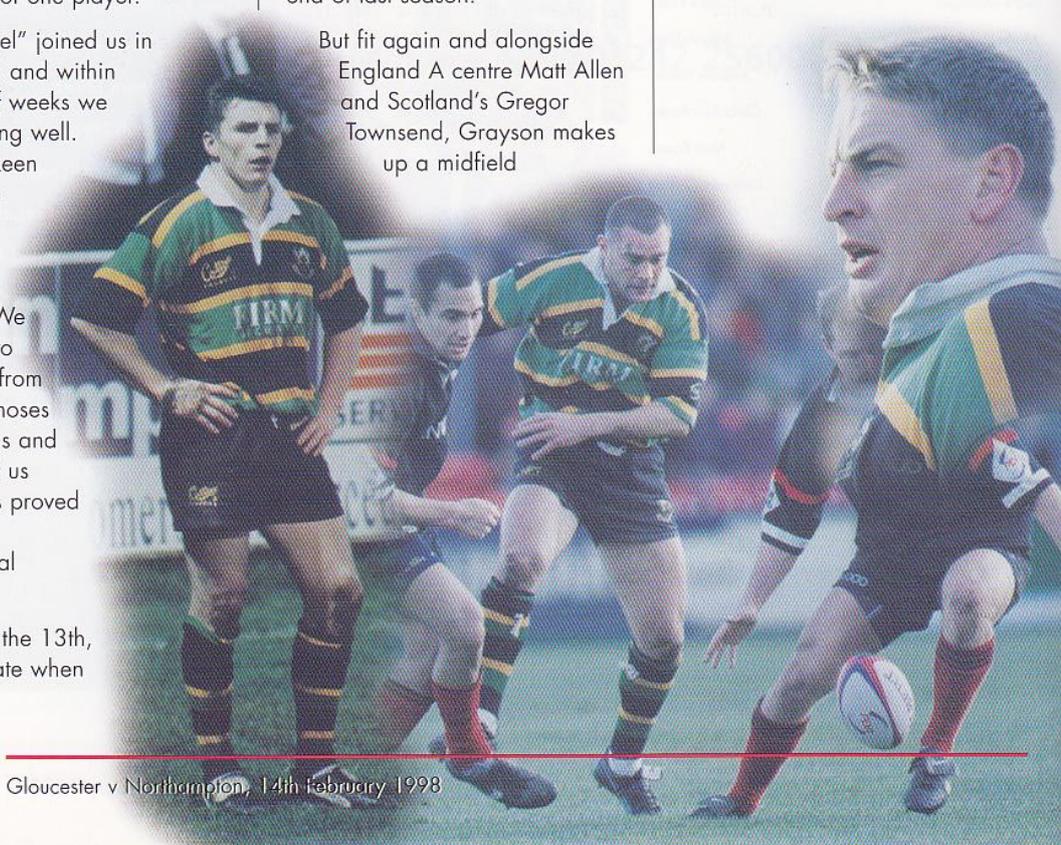
capable of playing spectacular rugby.

In the forward's Pagel's arrival has tightened up the front five that rarely these days includes the giant lock Martin Bayfield. Such is the form of other Northampton players that the 6 feet 10 inches tall lock resides amongst the replacements most of the time. Watch out today then for local boy Jo Phillips and New Zealander Jon Chandler both of whom had gigantic games against the Cherry and Whites in the Cup earlier this year.

**Keith Malcolm**

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Gloucester v Northampton, 14th February 1998



# From the Management



The visit of Northampton to Kingsholm today brings to Gloucester one of the world's finest scholars.

In Ian McGeechan, Northampton have a coach with experience second to none. I've known him for years and am happy to learn from him. Few people have played and coached a British Lions tour, and even fewer have been anywhere near as successful as he has been.

So with Ian at the helm at Franklins Gardens it doesn't surprise me in the slightest that the Saints are regarded as the form team of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. What did surprise me was that so many so called experts predicted a woeful season at Northampton. I for one never doubted that Ian McGeechan would get it right. And his master stroke to have been the

signing of the South African prop Gary Pagan. Those of you who claim to be experts of front row forward play, can judge for yourselves this afternoon, but I've got little doubt that he's one of the finest props in world rugby at present.

Since becoming a saint, the whole team has improved, and the South African's experience seems to be as important on the training field as it is in the scrummage.

Another Northampton player I admire this season is back row man Tim Rodber. I'm sure England's defeat in Paris will reignite the debate over which combination is England's best back row. Injuries permitting today's game should give all of us a good view of that.

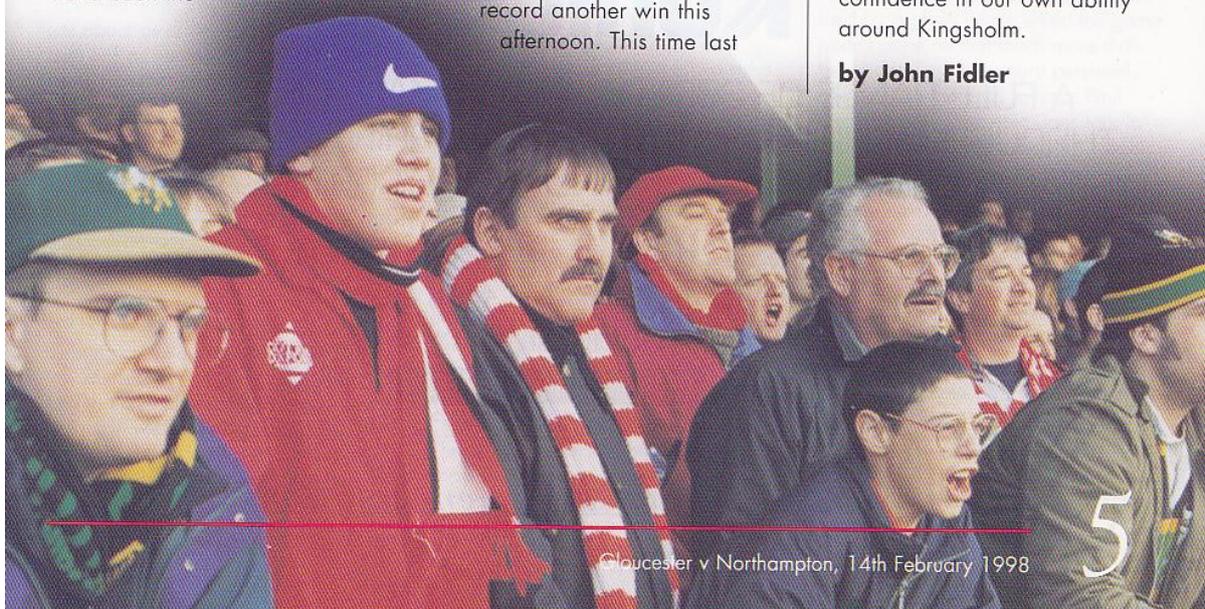
Good though as the opposition may be I am confident we can record another win this afternoon. This time last

year the Northampton game was one of our easier league victories. Whereas I don't expect a repeat of that, I do expect a repeat of the sort of form that saw us send home the Tigers from Kingsholm with their tails between their legs.

It almost gives me a nose bleed to think how high we could have been in the table if luck had run the way of the Cherry and Whites in a handful of matches. That draw at Sale could easily have been a win, nine times out of ten we'd have beaten the Harlequins at Kingsholm, and that defeat at Wasps was very unlucky indeed.

The message from me is don't write us off yet from a high finish in the league. There are sure to be plenty more upsets between now and the end of the season and there's a growing confidence in our own ability around Kingsholm.

**by John Fidler**



Gloucester v Northampton, 14th February 1998

# Head to head



## GLoucester V Northampton Saturday 14 February 1998 at Kingsholm, kick off 2pm PREVIOUS LEAGUE MEETINGS

Date	Div	Venue	G	N	Gloucester scorers	Northampton scorers
9 Mar 91	1	Frankins G	7	6	P. Jones(T) T. Smith(P)	J. Steele(2P)
14 Mar 92	1	Kingsholm	10	17	J. Hawker(T) T. Smith(2P)	J. Hunter(T) H. Thomeycroft(T) F. Packman(T) J. Steele(CP)
13 Mar 93	1	Frankins G	21	16	P. Holford(T) S. Morris(T) P. Beech(CP) T. Smith	F. Packman(T) J. Steele(CP) S. Tubb(2P)
20 Nov 93	1	Kingsholm	19	14	A. Deacon(T) A. Johnson T. Smith(2P)	N. Beal(T) P. Grayson(3P)
9 Apr 94	1	Frankins G	3	19	D. Cummins(D)	T. Rodber(T) N. Beal(C4P)
22 Oct 94	1	Frankins G	6	9	M. Mapletoft(2P)	P. Grayson(3P)
15 April 95	1	Kingsholm	14	13	D. Sims(T) T. Smith(3P)	M. Dawson(T) P. Grayson(C2P)
4 Mar 97	1	Kingsholm	19	6	S. Benton(T) Mapletoft(C4P)	M. Dods(2P)
3 May 97	1	Frankins G	27	25	C. Catling(T) A. Lumsden(T) M. Mapletoft(C5P)	Penalty(T) A. Hopher(C6P)

Gloucester lead the league "countback" by six wins to three, including success in the last three in a row against the Saints. The clubs have met on four previous occasions at Kingsholm - Northampton winning the first in 1992 and Gloucester taking the last three. **Last six league results:** (home games in CAPS): Gloucester - playing Wednesday. Northampton - (4th) wWlWwL **Trends:** Northampton have just the one defeat from their last four away Premiership matches - at Bath on 30 December.

### SAINTS AND WINNERS

No excuses. We got stuffed the last time today's two teams met.

That was at Franklins Gardens in the Cup of course, and it was a little difficult to understand why things went so badly wrong from the Gloucester point of view. We know that Northampton are always a force to be reckoned with. We know that they are just about as difficult to beat on their own turf as we are at Kingsholm. We know that the Saints were on an extraordinary roll at the time. But none of this quite explains why Gloucester looked so badly off-colour.

These things happen. Any side can have an off day, and perhaps that was ours.

The scene has changed a little in the intervening few weeks. Northampton's roll has slowed down a bit. Since the Cup match, Gloucester have beaten the Saints traditional rivals, Leicester, and demolished Wakefield with a side lacking no fewer than eleven First XV regulars. While we were doing that, Northampton, also a few players

short, made rather heavy weather of defeating West Hartlepool.

All of which would seem to indicate that anything could happen today. It probably will, because, in the larger scheme of things, today's match is a more important one than the Tetley Cup encounter. Points in the Premiership are vital, and a glance at the table readily shows just what a crucial fixture this is. At the time of writing, Northampton are just one point behind Gloucester, the two sides being seventh and sixth respectively.

So if our welcome visitors win today they will leapfrog over us in the table. If Gloucester win, we could even go up a couple of places, depending how Leicester get on this weekend.

Fascinating, isn't it? So are one or two other things about this game, not least a possible confrontation between Messrs Rodber and Ojomoh, who both have ambitions to regain places in the England side, and could well be competing for one spot.

The other interesting comparison should be between today's two

outside-halves. Bearing in mind the shortage of England-qualified fly-halves in the Premiership Division, the chance to see the current England No.10 taking on the reigning England 'A' player must be an intriguing one.

Of course, the Grayson v. Mapletoft match should have been seen at Kingsholm last season, but the Northampton man was forced off the field by a groin injury, when the game hadn't done all that much more than get under way. The injury persisted, and was, in the end, to force Paul Grayson out of the epic Lions tour to South Africa, thereby denying him his place in a little slice of history.

Other factors cross the mind. Townsend coping with the Gloucester centres. Dawson v. Sanders or Benton, if any of the trio are fit. There are so many possible permutations that one positively salivates over the prospect.

All of which make the Saints, and their always numerous and vocal support even more welcome than usual.

Have a great afternoon with us, everyone.

# PLAYER PROFILE



## NATHAN CARTER



Nathan Carter - known as 'Dog' to his friends in the squad - is one of Gloucester's living proofs that you don't necessarily have to nip down to the rugby supermarket with a chequebook when you need a player or two. Even in these commercial days, it is still possible to grow your own.

The indefatigable No.7 arrived at Gloucester from spells at Widdien Old Boys and Gordon League, and you don't get a more streetwise introduction to the arts of the back row than that. He played his first game for Gloucester's senior team in March of 1996, and has rarely been out of the side since.

Indeed, so much an integral part of the front eight has he become, that it came as a considerable shock when he missed a game recently through injury.

It was rather like the cracks

which have recently appeared in the Cathedral's Great East Window: both such familiar features of the City's scene that you don't really notice them until there's a problem.

Not that there's anything fragile about Nathan Carter. He always seems to be where he is most needed, his work rate is phenomenal, and he tackles like an

avalanche. The word 'grafter' might have been coined for him. Therein lies one of his problems. So involved is he in the thick of things, that perhaps he doesn't get the attention he deserves. Messrs Mapletoft, Catling, Benton et al. get all the publicity, and deservedly so, but they would be the first to tell you that they couldn't weave their various brands of individual magic if they didn't have the infrastructure to support them.

Someone has to be up there disrupting the opposition. Someone has to be on hand to take things on when a move comes to an end. Someone has to make that extra space for the runners to operate in.

As often as not, at Gloucester, that someone is Nathan Carter. As yet, Nathan hasn't won many honours in the game. With all

the mythology tending towards giants in the back row, I suppose his 95kg. and 183cm. isn't regarded as enough beef on the bone, but I would certainly recommend anyone to take a look at him, and measure him in terms of intelligence and expertise rather than sheer avoirdupois. He is now 25 years old, so is just entering his prime as an open-side flanker. He was a bricklayer by trade, which reminds one of Mike Teague, who also suffered from the giantism prejudice.

Nathan Carter isn't married as yet, but has a girl friend called Sarah. His favourite film is 'Life of Brian', he enjoys eating chicken and pasta which he probably eats while listening to Sting.

He says his best moment in rugby was beating Leicester at Kingsholm last season. A couple of weekends ago, of course, he was part of the side which did it again, and I don't suppose that will be the last such occasion in which Nathan 'The Dog' Carter plays a vital role

Selectors please note.

**For more on Nathan Carter see page 14&15 for The voice of the fan, the Gloucester fan interview**

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Gloucester v Northampton, 14th February 1998

# HOW GRAHAM DAY SEES IT...



I doubt if any rugby union club gets better coverage of its matches from local radio than Gloucester does. And it's good old Auntie BBC wot does it. In fact, it has been so since Radio Gloucestershire first came on air.

It's only fair, therefore, that we offer some space here, now and again, for the broadcasters to air their views for the delectation and information of all of us.

I needn't say more about Graham Day to you. He is quite capable of speaking for himself. And does.

Thanks Graham. Pint of Murphy's next time I see you.

So having agreed to Peter's request to write something for the Northampton programme, I search for inspiration.

One of my colleagues suggest as it's Valentine's Day I should write about the romance of the Cup. Except this is the League, and it's this lot that put us out of the Cup! Strike one. Then there's the ear-biting incident. But so much has been written already. I do worry that I'm naive though. Because surely you would know if you bit an ear? That leads to two assumptions: one, no one bit through an ear; two, that someone is keeping quiet hoping it all blows over. It won't blow over (trust me - I'm a journalist!) media men, honest or otherwise, won't leg go of this story.

But then surely such discussions will be irrelevant as even the RFU can't put off a decision until the Northampton game. Can they??? So strike two.

The search for inspiration continues after the Wakefield game, deadline looming, feet up, pint of Murphys at my side, pen at the ready. Quick look at 'ceefax' - French class overwhelms England A'. Put pen down, drink Murphys. There's always tomorrow. And so I sit listening to one Five Nations game whilst watching the

other one. Another French lesson! But my thoughts don't turn to Clive Woodward's record, instead to an intense curiosity to see the audience figures (a secret denied to such a junior BBC employee until they are officially released). How many like me are using the BBC to watch the Irish game, but listen to England's? How many extra rugby fans have been tempted to Sky in order to watch England? And how many viewers do ITV pick up for the delayed showing? And why are rugby fans promised a 'terrestrial' partner to exclusive satellite coverage of League matches only to end up with Channel 5?

As I drained my Murphys, I looked into the bottom of the glass and saw the future! A future in which the RFU decides not to sell, but to retain the Broadcasting rights and form its own company to screen them through regional digital television. All we do is sit in front of the TV, use our touchtone, telephone keypad to select the game, then input our credit card number and £25/30/35 later, there's 80 minutes delivered to our widescreen, digital stereo television.

Too much Murphys? The worry is, perhaps not. I've heard Cliff Brittle allude to it in a recent interview (Big Shots - Radio 5). [Why with Mr. Brittle 'Phutt-ball' Union] He's aware of the plans of Manchester United and Leeds in Premiership Phuttball. Leeds are campaigning to market their own rights when the Sky deal ends; United are remoursed to be less than two years from their own pay-per-view. The technology exists and will soon be marketed. If we buy it, it becomes almost inevitable.

But there's always the radio. How comforting to know that, as I can't get to Bath in time after my evening programme, I can put my feet up and listen to every kick, scrum, ruck and maul on Radio Gloucestershire. Yes,

it's comforting to know from the inside, that BBC Local Radio is committed to sport. But not at any price. There are numerous examples of BBC stations once proud of their Premiership football commentaries now barred by exclusive sponsorship deals between club and their Independent rivals.

It is, of course, entirely proper that Rugby, like Premiership football, should realise their assets. The clubs play the game, we want to watch. We pay to come through the gate, so why not to watch a screen or listen to a radio?

But beware of pots of gold. The highest bidder isn't guaranteed to bring commitment. Has Sky's millions brought us better coverage of club rugby? The money was to get the National side on satellite and bring with it the thousands who can't get to Twickenham all tied in with advertising profile of that audience. With England's defeat, I wonder how will Sky feel about their investment if the final Five Nations Saturday, the Grand Slam is decided live on the BBC?

BBC Radio Gloucestershire has brought you the fullest possible coverage of the Cherry and Whites for the past 8 years and more. But we remain that the only money we have to spend is yours, through the Licence Fee.

It's why we spend it wisely and why we remain committed to bring you the best coverage of local sport. Long may that continue.

## **Graham Day** **BBC Radio Gloucestershire**

Has covered GRFC since February 1990.

Currently presents the Evening Programme 'Newsplus'.

# What the papers say



## Hill delight as Johnson loses the big argument

Richard Hill... thanked Leicester skipper Martin Johnson for helping to inspire his men to a remarkable Allied Dunbar Premiership victory at Kingsholm.

...Gloucester did not look certain winners until Mapletoft brilliantly intercepted a Will Greenwood pass deep inside Gloucester territory and ran more than 50 meters to score. It crowned a superb performance by the fly-half...

-John Graham, Daily Express

## Mapletoft sees off Leicester

...(Leicester's) tendency to argue with the referee's decision was heavily punished by Mapletoft.

...With Leicester attacking on Gloucester's 10-yard line Greenwood launched a long pass which Mapletoft intercepted to score and convert.

-David Green, Daily Telegraph

## Mapletoft moulds a marvel

Leicester's title dreams all but disappeared at Kingsholm yesterday, the home side scoring 32 points for the second season in a row to beat the travelling Tigers.

...If Mapletoft's tally was a decisive for Gloucester, the England and Leicester captain Martin Johnson probably had a corresponding negative effect on the Tigers. Johnson burdened his team's task by back-chatting the referee from the start, such behaviour served only to annoy the official and the capacity crowd, who delighted in baiting him.

-David Plummer, Guardian

## Leicester fall foul of Kingsholm factor

No team likes going to Kingsholm and Leicester's experience there yesterday will have done nothing to endear the ground to them.

...Mapletoft had a broad grin on his face at the end and no wonder. He had scored 27 points, his highest total in the league. The Chinese have just greeted their new year. "Not a good start to the year of the Tiger," Mapletoft said, grinning.

- John Hopkins, The Times

## Dwyer left "disillusioned" by Leicester's indiscipline

Mark Mapletoft was the darling of the Gloucester Shed with a mammoth 27 points as the Cherry and Whites handed Leicester Tiger a mauling.

...The whole display left Bob Dwyer ... in his words: "completely disillusioned. We did some good things, but they totalled about five minutes. I can't think of anything more to say. I'm sick of talking."

- David Llewellyn, The Independent

## Mark of distinction

Fly-half Mark Mapletoft secured victory for Gloucester with a 65th minute try ... Tigers skipper Martin Johnson set a bad example and Mapletoft made the visitors pay by converting six of seven penalties.

- The Mirror

## Dwyer given a real sickner

Tigers coach Bob Dwyer admitted he has run out of ideas after this shock Premiership defeat.

-The Sun



# MATCH DAY MASCOT



**Nicholas Heal**

## CATCHING 'EM YOUNG

Today's Match Mascot is 6 year-old Nicholas Heal. His Dad is Tim Heal, a member of the club Business Committee who many of us know well. Mum Dad, Nick and sister Rebecca live at Ashleworth, where he indulges in his hobbies, which he lists as playing football, playing with his

pets, in which he apparently includes "fighting with his sister". He also enjoys "going to numerous parties, which sounds like a chip off the old block, to me."

**Thanks, Nicholas. Nice to have the pleasure of your company.**

## Special St Valentines Prize on this weeks Golden Gamble



A lucky couple will enjoy a night of romance and the best food and service at Cheltenham's latest restaurant, Le Petit Blanc in today's Golden Gamble. The special St Valentines Day prize is in addition to the usual 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes on the Golden Gamble.



Following on

### RAYMOND BLANC SAYS

**"out aim at Le Petit Blanc - both in Cheltenham and in Oxford is simply to give the best food, the best service & the best value for money in the brasserie scene"**

from the incredible success of Raymond Blanc's first Petit Blanc in Oxford he has joined forces with Virgin's Richard Branson to open le Petit Blanc Brasserie in Cheltenham. Newly opened on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1998 the restaurant is situated in the Montpellier walk wing of the Queens Hotel, Cheltenham.

The cuisine is essentially French, but enriched



with accents from the Far East and the Mediterranean. Le Petit Blanc, Cheltenham seats over 150 guests and will serve food from 11am until 11pm on a daily basis.

# Voice of the fan

## The Gloucester



**Amy Lock, an 18 year-old Gloucester supporter, talks with Nathan Carter**

**Amy Lock:** *Has rugby always been your first choice sport?*

**Nathan Carter:** No. I did judo for nine years when I was about eight years old. I'd always played rugby, but judo was my main sport.

**AL:** *Do you still do judo now?*

**NC:** No, I had to give it up. When I started playing for the Gloucester Colts, the training and playing was on the same day, so I made the decision then.

**AL:** *Was it a difficult decision to make?*

**NC:** At the time it was. But looking back now, I was very close to getting my black belt, and sometimes I wished I'd stayed on and done that.

**AL:** *Do you ever think you'll go back to judo?*

**NC:** I might do it, yeah. After I've finished playing rugby. You can do judo up to any age really so I might go back just to keep myself in trim after I've stopped playing.

**AL:** *So what does playing for Gloucester mean to you?*

**NC:** Its something I've always wanted

to do. I used to be in The Shed and my Dad used to bring me down to watch Gloucester whenever he could. It's always been one of the results you look for when playing at different clubs. When you're born in Gloucester and play rugby, you just want to play for Gloucester.

**AL:** *How do you think professionalism has changed your life?*

**NC:** It's totally changed it about from having to get up at 6:30 - 7:00am and working until 5pm.

**AL:** *You used to be a builder didn't you?*

**NC:** Yeah, I used to be a bricklayer. And then trying to fiddle the two together was just impossible. Now you've got so much time to get it right. You've got a lot of time to actually schedule your week, which is good.

**AL:** *So what does a typical day or week involve for you now?*

**NC:** Getting up at about half seven, eight o'clock, having a bit of breakfast. Then getting down to the club. I like to get here half an hour before we do anything. In the morning it depends if your doing a bit of skills or maybe a bit of scrummaging and then some mornings it'll be weights or a bit of track. It varies from week to week, depending on if we've got a game mid-week or a Sunday one. If we play on Sunday then we normally have Monday morning off and then come in later on and have a bit of a re-hab. You have to shift the whole week around the games. It's generally been quite good at the moment. I'm quite happy with that.

**AL:** *What goes through your head during those last few minutes before kick off?*

**NC:** I like to be close to the changing room door. I like to run out quite close to the front. I just like to get out there and get on with it and get in the right frame of mind. I don't like to be hanging around at the back. Some

players enjoy being last out but I like to be first out and show my intentions straight away.

**AL:** *Whom do you most admire? In what ways does that person inspire you?*

**NC:** Anybody at all? Oh dear. I always used to enjoy boxing and judo ... individual sports ... because its up to yourself to actually make sure you win and do it all right. We used to have team events at judo, but I always preferred my own weight category. On the rugby side, it would be Michael Jones of New Zealand. He was class, he still is class.

**AL:** *He is a very impressive player.*

**NC:** Yeah. I remember watching him play in the first World Cup, he was obviously in a good team but he made it gel. Then there's Brian Robson, I suppose ... a bit of football.

**AL:** *Oh, you like football, do you?*

**NC:** I don't particularly like football, but I went to a footballing school up in Brockworth and we didn't play rugby very much there. We got a football team together and that was what we played.

**AL:** *If you could wake up tomorrow morning having gained one ability or quality to your game, what would you choose? What would you like to improve on?*

**NC:** Pace, I should think. Just out and out pace. When I was watching the Wakefield game the other day and Ian Sanders ran that try in, I said: "I wish I could score a try like that." My deadly range is about five yards out. Whatever sport you play, pace is frightening. It really is something that can make or break a player.

**AL:** *There have been a lot of rule changes over the last few seasons, do you think they have improved the game?*

**NC:** Yes, I think they have improved the game player-wise and spectator-wise. A lot of it has come with the

## fan interview



league matches getting more coverage. The lifting in the lineout makes winning your own ball more guaranteed. And because it's so easy to lift, you can see a lot more of the infringements that are being made.

**AL:** *You've played in all three back row positions, do you have a preference? Is no.7 your favourite?*

**NC:** I played a lot at blindside for Gloucester Colts and under 21's, but I always thought that I'd end up at open side. Number eight, I played a bit of at Gordon League, that was generally through force rather than through choice. It's good to have played in all three, because you get a good understanding of the roles. They're a couple seconds difference in getting to a ruck and the decision can be made whether the ball is coming out or whatever. You've got to think more on your feet.

**AL:** *What would you say has been the greatest accomplishment of your life so far?*

**NC:** Playing for Gloucester definitely. It's not until I broke into the first team that I thought about it. I've actually done what I wanted to do. I wanted to play for Gloucester all the time and now I am. Now I just want to be a better player, first on the team sheet. That win against Leicester last season was the best win I can think of ... but any win is a good win for Gloucester. Three-nil or 30-0, I'm not really fussed.

**AL:** *People say that when teams come to Gloucester, the fact that The Shed is just here is worth a five point head start for Gloucester, would you agree with this?*

**NC:** It is definitely worth that little bit extra. If you're an opposition team coming to Kingsholm, The Shed must be very intimidating. From our point of view, it's just tremendous. We run around before the game and it gets louder and louder and louder, and you think it can't get any louder. Then when

you get to the middle and you just can't think about anything else. You just hear this big 'Glawster' roar and nothing else. It does make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. You just want to slow down and take it all in. If that doesn't get you going then I don't think anything could, to be honest.

**AL:** *Who would you say has been the hardest opponent that you have come across?*

**NC:** Physically hard were Saracens and Newcastle this year, especially at Saracens ... we had a real hard time then. Player-wise would be Neil Back. He's very quick, very awkward, and a quality player. Richard Hill, all round attacking and defensive, he's very sound. I played against Pienaar this year. He is surprisingly quick for a very big guy. They are the main three. There are no easy games and no easy opponents. You've just got to play to the best of your abilities and hope that's enough.

**AL:** *How much influence on you and the rest of the squad have the new imports had?*

**NC:** They've brought a lot of experience. A guy like Richard Tombs settles things down in the backs. They are all international class players. Philippe has a lot of input off the field as well as on it. It's just nice to have a few different faces around. It took us a while to get us all in the right direction, but we are getting there.

**AL:** *Are Gloucester looking for a finish in the top four in the league this year?*

**NC:** That was our aim at the beginning of the season, and that's still our aim now.

**AL:** *Northampton next, time for revenge?*

**NC:** Another hard game! Our previous two matches against Northampton this season were very disappointing. We've played a lot of

games away from home and both the Northampton games were away. With The Shed here, they get us going. But away from home, you have to get yourself going, which is important. If you're not 120% and you are away from home no-ones going to get yourself going except you!

**AL:** *What do you think the arrival of Steve Ojomoh will do for your game?*

**NC:** I think it's good, the competition will be good for the club. He brings in his own ideas. He came with us to Cornwall. He had several meetings with us and we've picked up on a few of his ideas and chucked a few out, you know. Different people bring different things into the game. He's fitting in well and he's enjoying himself.

**AL:** *Where do you see yourself in ten years time?*

**NC:** In ten years time? If you'd had said ten years ago where I would be in ten years time, I would've said on a building site! You can just never tell what's going to happen. I will be involved in rugby somewhere along the line, I just don't know at what level or at what standard.

**AL:** *Where would you like to see yourself in ten years time?*

**NC:** On the end of a very good Gloucester career with plenty of medals and trophies. Maybe a bit of coaching.

**AL:** *Here at Gloucester or elsewhere?*

**NC:** I don't know. Some players are good at coaching and some aren't. All I know is that I'll be involved in rugby somehow, not sure where though. I've been here for a long time now and I'm not planning on leaving.

If you would like to interview a player, please contact Andrew Harley at the club, indicating your preference of players. You will be supplied with a tape recorder and the tape will be transcribed for you.



Saturday 14th February 1998 Kick-off 2pm

**GLOUCESTER** 20  
Cherry & White

**NORTHAMPTON** 15  
Black, gold and green

15	CHRIS CATLING	Full Back	IAN HUNTER (I)	15
14	BRIAN JOHNSON	Right Wing	JON SLEIGHTHOLME (I)	14
13	TERRY FANOLUA (I) T	Centre	GREGOR TOWNSEND (I)	13
12	RICHARD TOMBS (I)	Centre	MATT ALLEN	12
11	AUDLEY LUMSDEN T	Left Wing	HARVEY THORNEYCROFT	11 T
10	MARK MAPLETOFT (I)	Outside Half	PAUL GRAYSON (I)	10
9	SCOTT BENTON 2c 2pg	Scrum Half	MATT DAWSON (I)	9 1c 1pg
1	TONY WINDO	Prop	GARRY PAYGEL (I)	1
2	CHRIS FORTEY	Hooker	ALLEN CLARKE (I)	2
3	PHIL VICKERY	Prop	MATT STEWART	3
4	ROB FIDLER	Lock	JON PHILLIPS	4
5	MARK CORNWELL	Lock	JASON CHANDLER	5
6	PETE GLANVILLE*	Flanker	GRANT SEELY	6 T
7	NATHAN CARTER	Flanker	BUDGE POUNTNEY	7
8	STEVE OJOMOH	No. 8	TIM RODBE*	8
16	NICK OSMAN	Replacements	MARTIN HYNES	16
17	LAURIE BECK		CHRIS JOHNSON	17
18	ANDY DEACON		DON MacKINNON	18
19	NEIL McCARTHY		JAMES BRAMHALL	19
20	RICHARD WARD		ANDY NORTHEY	20
21	SIMON DEVEREUX		JUSTYN CASSELL	21
22				22

Referee

COLIN HAWKE RFU  
NEW ZEALAND

Touch Judges

TONY SPREADBURY RFU  
DAVID BROADWELL RFU

# CLUB NEWS



## SIGN OF THE TIMES

I know all the clichés. 'You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs', 'There are bound to be casualties in any revolution', and probably others. It was always obvious that some clubs were going to struggle in the financial climate engendered by professionalism, but it's a shame that it looks as though Moseley are going to be the first real victims.

Most people who know anything about the game will have shaken a sorrowful head at the news that the Reddings club was calling the administrators in, and that wholesale redundancies were imminent. It would be a great pity if such a fine and historic old organisation were to fall victim to the new commercial environment.

Gloucester supporters won't need reminding that we have played Moseley in the Cup Final twice since 1972, beating them once, and tying the second time - still the only time such a thing has happened in the history of the competition. Neither do they need me to tell them about the long string of great players which the Reddings has supplied to the England cause. And one could go on in the same vein.

But it's all irrelevant nowadays. Let's just hope that such a distinguished old rugby institution isn't about to disappear from the annals of the game.

We'd all lose something if it did.

## A.G.WILLIAMS

Obituaries are always difficult to write. The problems multiply when the subject is a personal friend. This is the situation I find myself in while recording the sad passing of Tony Williams, who died in Gloucestershire Royal Hospital just over a week ago.

Tony, lock forward, referee, staunch CAMRA supporter, outstanding schoolteacher, raconteur, walker, and a great deal more besides, was a man whose friendship I, and countless other people, valued enormously. He was definitely a 'one-off', one of those characters one enjoyed for his sheer exuberance and good fellowship. To employ a cliché, we shall not see his like again.

Everyone who ever met Tony has stories about him: so many that they would fill a publication many times the size of this one. How do you try to describe a referee, for example, an official who once stopped a rugby match in Cornwall in order to deliver a five-minute lecture on the habits of the red kite? If that's not covered in the Laws of the game, then it jolly well ought to be.

For such a man to die as a result of a road accident while crossing Tredworth Road with a bag of chips is just plain silly. He must have walked thousands of miles in the cause of rugby, real ale, and simple enjoyment in his lifetime.

While living in Gloucester and teaching near Nailsworth, he

used to walk to school and back every working day. And then stroll a mile or two to whichever pub he decided to enrich with his presence in the evening.

But that was peanuts. He was known to walk home from Land's End to Gloucester after a rugby tour in Cornwall. Strolling home from Hereford one Saturday night after a game, he was stopped by the police, somewhere just outside Tewkesbury, who wanted to know what he was doing at 2.00am, and could they please look inside his bag?

Tony warned them not to, but they persisted, thereby releasing a live eel he had been given for culinary purposes. The pillars of the Law then spent around an hour extracting the thing from the ditch to which it had fled, on pains of dire consequences at the hands of the Chief Constable if they didn't. And such stories could go on all night.

Obviously, our sincere sympathies go out to Tony's family, but the man himself would laugh himself silly if he could see us walking around with long faces over his passing. He would much rather be remembered him, and his foibles, with pleasure and enjoyment.

Nowadays, funerals tend to be described as 'a celebration of the life of'. That was never more appropriate than in the case of A.G.Williams. We shall miss him.

# CLUB NEWS



## SO IT'S RICHMOND NEXT WEEK

You'll probably have heard by now that we are to face Richmond in the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup, right here at Kingsholm, on Friday 20th February kick off 7.15pm. That's a blast from the past. There was a time when we always seemed to get drawn against the Londoners in the old John Player Cup, usually away, and we usually seemed to lose, if only on the away rule. There was even a time when Gloucester and Matson both played over the same weekend on the same ground. We played Richmond and Matson took on London Scottish. Brass Monkey weather it was, too.

Richmond are, of course, one of the big-money clubs who have serious ambitions towards the Premiership, so they'll be out to prove a point or two, quite apart from any thoughts of silverware.

It won't be an easy game, but we're not frightened of anyone at Kingsholm, are we?

## EXTRA GAME - BEDFORD

This season's fixture list is like the bus service. We don't get a home game for weeks, and then five come along all at once.

The latest offering on the menu is a visit from Bedford on Saturday, February 28th kick off 3pm, an a la carte friendly confection, which should have considerable interest. Bedford, one of the great traditional names in English

rugby of course, look to be running away with Division One, sitting eight points clear at the top of the table with a game in hand. Like Richmond, they will feel they have a point or two to prove, and have apparently promised to bring a strong side.

It's all the Arms Park to a chewed leek that we shall be playing them in the Premiership next season - if the move to make the thing a closed shop founders, as I hope it will - so it will be nice to see what we are likely to be up against in 1998/9

After that, we're away to London Irish, and home to both Wasps and Saracens in rapid succession.

## BACK ON THE WEB

For the rapidly expanding group of people who have caught the Internet syndrome, it's nice to learn that Steve Hawker has resurrected his 'Glawster' web site. I'm told that a trip to furrin parts prevented him from running the thing before now, but he is now getting back on line in short order.

Described in the press last season as 'a real fans page', the unofficial site is updated virtually daily, and I commend it to your attention.

The address is

<http://www.glawster.demon.co.uk>

## TIME TO VOTE

I'm also told that Shedhead are launching their 'Player of the Season' competition this weekend. You may recall that, to the surprise of some, but not I suspect to the regular inhabitants of the Shed, Tony Windo won it last season.

Who would be your choice?

## TONIGHTS ENTERTAINMENT IN THE SPORTSBAR

4.30pm - 7.30pm Dance into the weekend with Cruig, a pop folk band and continue dancing the night away with a disco 'til late.

## NEW COUNTRY LINE DANCING EVERY WEDNESDAY AT KINGSHOLM

Beginners dances start at 7.00pm. The doors are always open to everyone for a fun filled boot scoot'in tush push'in evening. For further information contact:

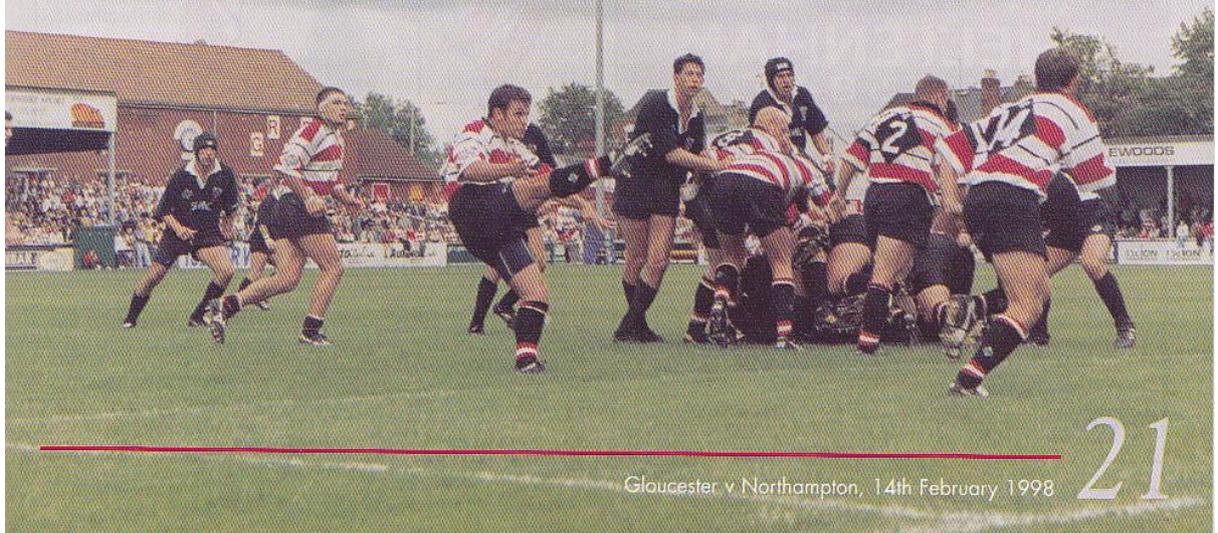
**DEIRDRE 0468 747739**

## TAILPIECE

We usually start our matches with a Match Mascot. Apparently, the Winter Olympics in Japan were launched by an ex-kamikaze pilot.

How's that again? I didn't think you could have ex-kamikaze pilots.

So far this season...



Gloucester v Northampton, 14th February 1998

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# Last



# match report

## BATH 47, GLOUCESTER 3

By John Hawkins

Bath, the European Champions, swept aside Gloucester last night at the Recreation Ground with a six-try display that included a ground breaking hat-trick by a replacement.

Scottish international back row Eric Peters came on in the 71st minute for No 8 Dan Lyle when the score was 28-3. By the final whistle Peters had scored three tries to become the first-ever replacement to score a try hat-trick in the history of the league's top division.

Bath's former scrum-half Richard Hill, now director of coaching at Gloucester, was quick to praise the Bath performance.

"That is the best I have seen them play in recent months," he said. "I think it would be foolish to rule them out of the championship race.

"When Bath play like that I don't believe there's a side in the country that can touch them - they're an exceptional team who have clearly under performed so far this season."

Hill said that he had sympathy for what the Bath club had gone through in recent days. "Tonight, they produced the perfect answer and played some top

class rugby," Hill said after the match.

Gloucester, hit with six first-choice players missing through injury, defended stoically in the first half, containing the home side to a 13-3 lead. Mark Mapletoft booted a penalty in the 22 minute for what was to be the only points of the evening for the Cherry and Whites.

Perhaps Gloucester might have scored more points - they took the ball into the Bath 22 on five occasions, only to turn the ball over with basic errors.

But despite the second half onslaught, Gloucester tackled well, with Terry Fanolua outstanding.

But, as Hill remarked, against a team playing as Bath did last night, you can only defend for so long.

Apart from the devastating three scores from Peters, other Bath Tries came from England wing Adedayo Adebayo, flanker Russell Earnshaw and centre Phil de Glanville. Heineken cup winning kicker Jon Callard



Mark Mapletoft

booted four conversions and added a brace of penalties.

Hill now has the task of preparing his players for a difficult home Allied Dunbar Premiership match against Northampton on Saturday.

\* John Hawkins is a freelance sports writer based in Gloucester, covering the Cherry and Whites