

# GLOUCESTER

*The Cherry and Whites*



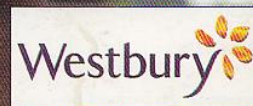
GLOUCESTER v RICHMOND

£1.00 20th February 1998 KO 7.15pm

Vol 2/12

Today's Match Day Sponsor: CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER

Congratulations  
to Phil Vickery  
on his England  
call-up





50  
 70  
 98  
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RICHMOND FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED

Friday 20th February 1998

Kick-off 7.15pm

## GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

## RICHMOND

Old gold, red & black

|    |                      |              |                  |    |
|----|----------------------|--------------|------------------|----|
| 15 | AUDLEY LUMSDEN       | Full Back    | P Flet S MASON   | 16 |
| 14 | CRAIG EMMERSON       | Right Wing   | J FALLON         | 15 |
| 13 | NICK OSMAN T         | Centre       | M DEANE          | 14 |
| 12 | RICHARD TOMBS T capt | Centre       | J WRIGHT         | 12 |
| 11 | ROB JEWELL           | Left Wing    | L BEST           | 11 |
| 10 | ALEX MORRIS mcp      | Outside Half | E VA'A           | 10 |
| 9  | LAURIE BECK          | Scrum Half   | A PICHOT         | 9  |
| 1  | ADEY POWLES 20       | Prop         | D McFARLAND      | 1  |
| 2  | NEIL McCARTHY        | Hooker       | A CUTHBERT       | 2  |
| 3  | ANDY DEACON T        | Prop         | J DAVIES capt    | 3  |
| 4  | RICHARD WARD T H/L   | Lock         | A CODLING        | 4  |
| 5  | MARK CORNWELL        | Lock         | P CARR           | 5  |
| 6  | STEVE OJOMOH *       | Flanker      | A VANDER         | 6  |
| 7  | NATHAN CARTER 21     | Flanker      | R HUTTON         | 7  |
| 8  | SIMON DEVEREUX       | No. 8        | A BEATTIE        | 8  |
| 16 | MIKE LLOYD           | Replacements | J HAMILTON-SMITH | 17 |
| 17 | MARTIN ROBERTS       |              | D CROMPTON       | 18 |
| 18 | NIGEL CRANE          |              | C PALMER         | 19 |
| 19 | CHRIS FORTEY         |              | M FITZGERALD     | 20 |
| 20 | TREVOR WOODMAN       |              | B SHELBOURNE     | 21 |
| 21 | ANDY STANLEY         |              | M HUTTON         | 22 |
| 22 |                      |              |                  |    |

Referee

D GRASHOFF  
East Midland/RFU

(I) International  
\* Captain

Touch Judges

C WHITE (RFU)  
K ROBERTS (RFU)



# From the Management



*by John Fidler*

The resumption of the Five Nations Championship means that Friday night rugby returns again to Kingsholm tonight with the visit of Richmond.

It was in the Christmas week that the teams last met when we pulled off a 26-20 victory in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. After the defeat to the Harlequins in our previous home game it was a match we simply had to win, we did clinch the victory but made hard work of it, as we allowed Richmond to close the gap on us towards the end of the game.

Tonight's game is all about us keeping the momentum going. Last weekends win over Northampton was very satisfying. After losing to them twice at Franklins Gardens already this season we all felt we had a lot to prove. After that win and the victory over Leicester it seems we've managed to re-establish fortress Kingsholm. It was very disappointing when we lost to the Harlequins at home in the Autumn, everyone is now determined to stay unbeaten here from now until May. That means we will not be taking tonight's game lightly.

I'm the first to admit that the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup isn't rugby's premier competition, but now we've successfully negotiated the group phase of the tournament it becomes much more interesting. There is a prize to win and I want to see Gloucester winning it. And if the players can take tonight's match seriously I would like to think our supporters will do the same. The Kingsholm roar is as important to us in the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup as it is in the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

I don't expect the Richmond side that we welcome tonight to Kingsholm will be even close to full strength. Tomorrow's Five Nations match between England and Wales deprives Richmond of the likes of Scott Quinell, Allan Bateman and Barry Williams, but the club's Director of Rugby John Kingston has the perfect carrot to hang before the players who will be performing tonight. Richmond have done very well to reach the quarter finals of the Tetley Cup, their win over Bath was an outstanding result and everyone in their squad will be keen to start next weekends match against Saracens. That means all those

playing this evening will be out to impress.

In the short term the task ahead of myself, Richard Hill and the players is to progress in this competition, in the longer term the aim is to translate our home form into results away from Kingsholm. Newcastle and Saracens have proved already this season that it is possible to win away from home in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. We must follow their lead, and we must become mentally stronger when we are on our travels. To have any real success we need to be able to compete at any ground, in front of any crowd. From now on we are going to be working very hard to instill the sort of discipline, away from Kingsholm that is so evident here.

Finally some good news for all that's just around the corner. Our French flyer Phillipe Saint Andre is well on his way to making a full recovery. A niggling thigh muscle injury has been keeping him out of action but the latest news we have is that he's likely to be pulling on a Cherry and White shirt again within three weeks.





# Player Profile

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If anything good can be said about the spate of injuries and representative commitments which have weakened Gloucester so severely over the past few weeks, it is that at least the situation enables us to have a look at the up-and-coming talent. Which is

precisely what could be said about Richard Ward. He tells us that his nickname among the players is simply 'Wardy', which doesn't seem all that imaginative. Surely the fact that he was born, 27 years ago, in Munster, Germany, might suggest something more

creative.

Richard claims to be something of a loner, not admitting to a regular girlfriend, and not having knowledge of any children. One can't imagine, however, that a fit, 18st. 6'6" young lock forward need be short of feminine company.

He made his Gloucester debut on a tour in August 1996, arriving at Kingsholm from Harlequins who he joined from that fine old club, Havant. The Hampshire connection probably explains that his profession before turning to rugby was as a lifeguard. Whether that means he'd been watching too much 'Baywatch'. I don't know, but among the welter of various professionals who have run out at

Kingsholm over the years, I don't remember one of those.

Richard lists his 'most admired player' as Wade Dooley, the Preston Grasshoppers lock who appeared from nowhere to win a whole clutch of England Caps. Not a bad role model, and I suppose our Mr. Ward could well feel that, if Dooley could make it from such an unfancied club, then he has a





# Richard Ward

*by Peter Arnold*

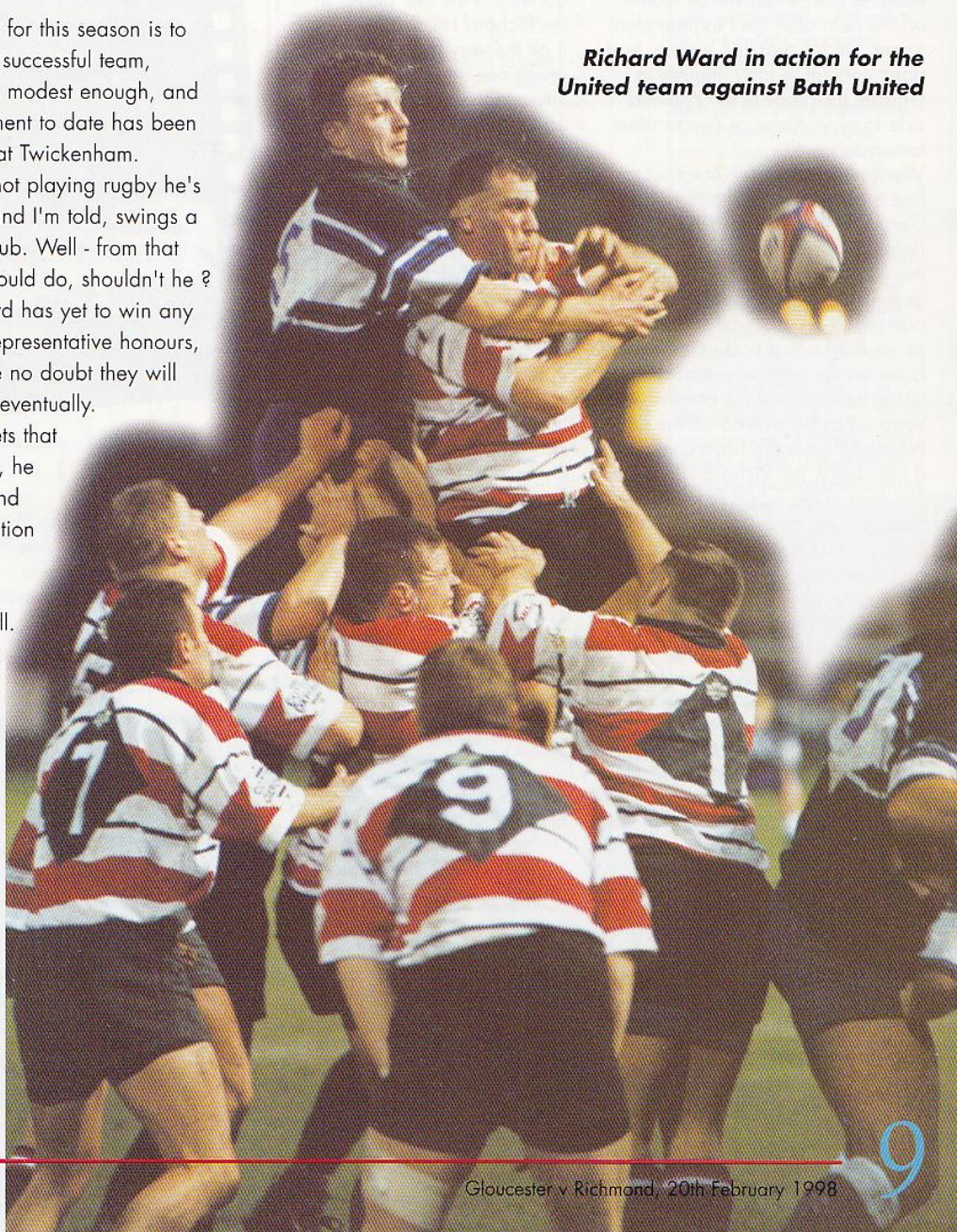
far better chance of climbing the ladder from Gloucester. Although Dave Sims might have his doubts about that.

His ambition for this season is to be part of a successful team, which seems modest enough, and his best moment to date has been running out at Twickenham.

When he's not playing rugby he's into music, and I'm told, swings a mean golf club. Well - from that height he should do, shouldn't he? Richard Ward has yet to win any significant representative honours, although I've no doubt they will come along eventually.

Before he gets that far, however, he has to contend with competition from Messrs Sims, Fidler and Cornwell. Not an easy proposition, but that's what the game is about, isn't it?

**Richard Ward in action for the United team against Bath United**



Gloucester v Richmond, 20th February 1998

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# Phil's first -



# & Richard's hundredth

*by Peter Arnold*

There's an old saying that the ways of selectors are like the Peace of God - they passeth all understanding. Nevertheless, I imagine that, when we all walked off the field after the Northampton game, we felt that Phil Vickery had done enough in forty minutes to warrant his place in the England side to play Wales at Twickenham tomorrow.

We were right, too. Not to put too fine a point on it, Phil had stuffed Gary Pagel, acknowledged - and rightly - as one of the best props in the world in the first half of the game. I imagine he wasn't best pleased to be taken off at that point, but he had had quite a nasty bang on the napper, and didn't really look as if all his buttons were sewn on as he walked off the field. No doubt he could have continued, if necessary, but Richard Hill is the last man in the world to take chances with a young man with a huge future beckoning to him if he can possibly help it. Obviously, we shall all be rooting for Phil Vickery tomorrow, and tender him all our congratulations and best wishes, but let's include Richard Hill in the adulations. They tell me that this evening's game is the one hundredth for Gloucester with Richard in charge, and a splendid hundred it has been. One can't think of a better way to salute that milestone than to see his very first 'home grown' Gloucester player making it all the way to the very pinnacle of the game.

By 'home grown' I don't mean that Phil Vickery was born and bred in Gloucester. In fact, he first saw the light of day in Barnstaple, Devon, and was brought up in Cornwall. He played his first games for Bude,

and went on to Redruth, which has almost as high a reputation for producing durable forwards as Gloucester does. But, Phil is the first player in the Richard Hill stable to make it all the way from young, green colt, to full England International. Richard isn't one to wear his heart on his sleeve, but even the imperterbable Mr. Hill must have been feeling a few twinges of emotion this evening, and will probably be sweating buckets at Twickenham tomorrow.

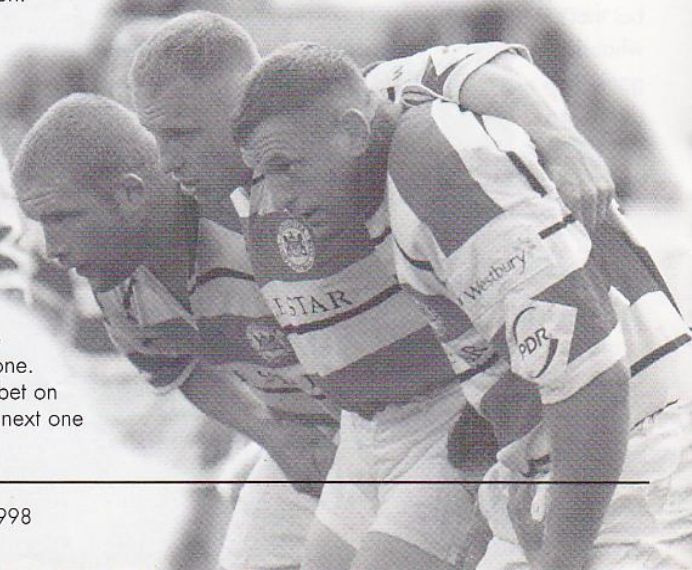
We don't know how Phil will get on. We don't know if he will be played for the whole game. But he has a long way to go yet. Having played for England at U16, Colt, U21 and A level, he doesn't reach his 22nd birthday until next month. That's positively juvenile as prop forwards go. And I note that Richard Hill estimates that he's only about 60% of the player he will eventually become. We await events with fascination.

Phil Vickery may be the first of 'Hill's Angels' to make the full England side. He won't be the last one. Care to bet on who the next one



will be ?

Go for it Phil ! The Shed, the Tump, Worcester Street side, the Stand - we're all behind you , and will be with you in spirit tomorrow!



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Gloucester v Richmond, 20th February 1998



# News



## INJURY UPDATE

by Peter Arnold

In the 'new' game, pressures are more intense than ever they were. That includes the physical pressures on the players. Not just on match days, either: hardly a week passes without one reading that so-and-so has received 'an injury in training' and can't play in the next few matches.

Gloucester can't expect to escape without a fair share of injured players, but has it occurred to you that we have suffered worse than most in this regard? Not necessarily in quantity, but in terms of the sheer strategic nature of the afflicted performers. It's almost as though there is a malign gremlin somewhere, probably from Bath, who has said to itself, "Now, where can I do most damage this week?"

Consider.

- We started the season with two hookers of genuine and proven class in Phil Greening and Neil McCarthy. Both of them got hurt.
- So many props suffer injury at the same time, that we had to summon Adey Powles back to the fold.
- We have two of the best scrum-halves in the Premiership, in Scott Benton and Ian Sanders. Again, they get simultaneous injuries. In Scotty's case this was particularly malignant, because he was just about to play for England 'A' against France, and had just been acknowledged by Clive Woodward as being third in line behind Messrs Dawson and Bracken.

Even the 'single' injuries seem to have been chosen with fiendish malice. If you had to pick people to be unavailable, for whatever reason, Dave Sims, Philippe St. Andre and Pete Glanville would be at the bottom of your list.

In fact, the lads who have come in to replace these casualties have all performed nobly, and in some cases, rather more effectively than one might have expected in one's gloomier moments. That means that our strength in depth has improved accordingly. Which can't be a bad thing.

Perhaps the clouds are beginning to lift. We're told that Philippe St. Andre and Phil Greening are working their way back to match fitness, and that it may not be too

long before we see them back in action. Scott Benton did more than his fair share in the win over Northampton last Saturday and Neil McCarthy sat that one out on the benches.

Let's hope that our black spell is over, and that Richard Hill and John Fidler will be able to select from a full squad for the tough run in the Premiership which is just around the corner.

## BEST OF LUCK 'WESTY'

Talking of injuries, we must all feel a little sorry for one member of the Richmond ranks, stratospheric lock forward, Richard West, who is still suffering what is described as a 'long term injury'. A phone call to the Richmond club couldn't give me any further information than that.

'Westy' is, of course, one of our own, and we don't like to see anyone like that suffering for so long - whoever he happens to be playing for.

I suppose he might be along tonight. Hope so, but even if he isn't, we wish him a speedy recovery.

**Don't forget next Saturday's match -  
Gloucester v Bedford, Saturday 28th  
February, kick off 3pm**

## Allied Dunbar Premiership 1

|              | P  | W  | D | L  | F   | A   | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Newcastle    | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0  | 365 | 181 | 22  |
| Saracens     | 12 | 11 | 0 | 1  | 318 | 181 | 22  |
| Bath         | 10 | 7  | 0 | 3  | 305 | 213 | 14  |
| Leicester    | 11 | 7  | 0 | 4  | 314 | 231 | 14  |
| Gloucester   | 13 | 6  | 1 | 6  | 286 | 319 | 13  |
| Northampton  | 13 | 6  | 0 | 7  | 279 | 237 | 12  |
| Sale         | 12 | 5  | 1 | 6  | 350 | 307 | 11  |
| Richmond     | 13 | 5  | 0 | 8  | 300 | 264 | 10  |
| Harlequins   | 12 | 5  | 0 | 7  | 287 | 350 | 10  |
| Wasps        | 11 | 4  | 0 | 7  | 247 | 315 | 8   |
| Bristol      | 12 | 2  | 0 | 10 | 191 | 423 | 4   |
| London Irish | 12 | 1  | 0 | 11 | 186 | 407 | 2   |