

# GLOUCESTER

*The Cherry and Whites*



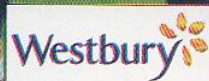
GLOUCESTER V BATH

£2.00

18th April 1998 KO 3.00pm

Vol 2/17

Today's Match Day Sponsor: Michael Beer Associates



# WELCOME TO



## Gloucester Rugby Football Club

They need no introduction at all, Bath have long been Gloucester's arch rivals and I'm delighted to offer them a hearty welcome to Kingsholm today.

There's something very special about playing Bath, it doesn't matter whether everything depends on it, or seemingly very little, Bath v Gloucester matches are always passionate affairs and I'm sure today's encounter will be no different. So not that any added spice is required, but today does give us the first opportunity to welcome Bath to Kingsholm as European Champions. Their win over Brive earlier in the year was a triumph for English Rugby. And despite our rivalry I'll openly admit that I cheered Bath on all the way that day, and was delighted to do so.

Since the high of that victory Bath have managed to maintain those highest of standards. And although on the face of it the club's domestic season hasn't been a success yet following that early exit from the Tetley Bitter Cup, don't be too surprised if they have more silverware in the trophy cabinet before too long.

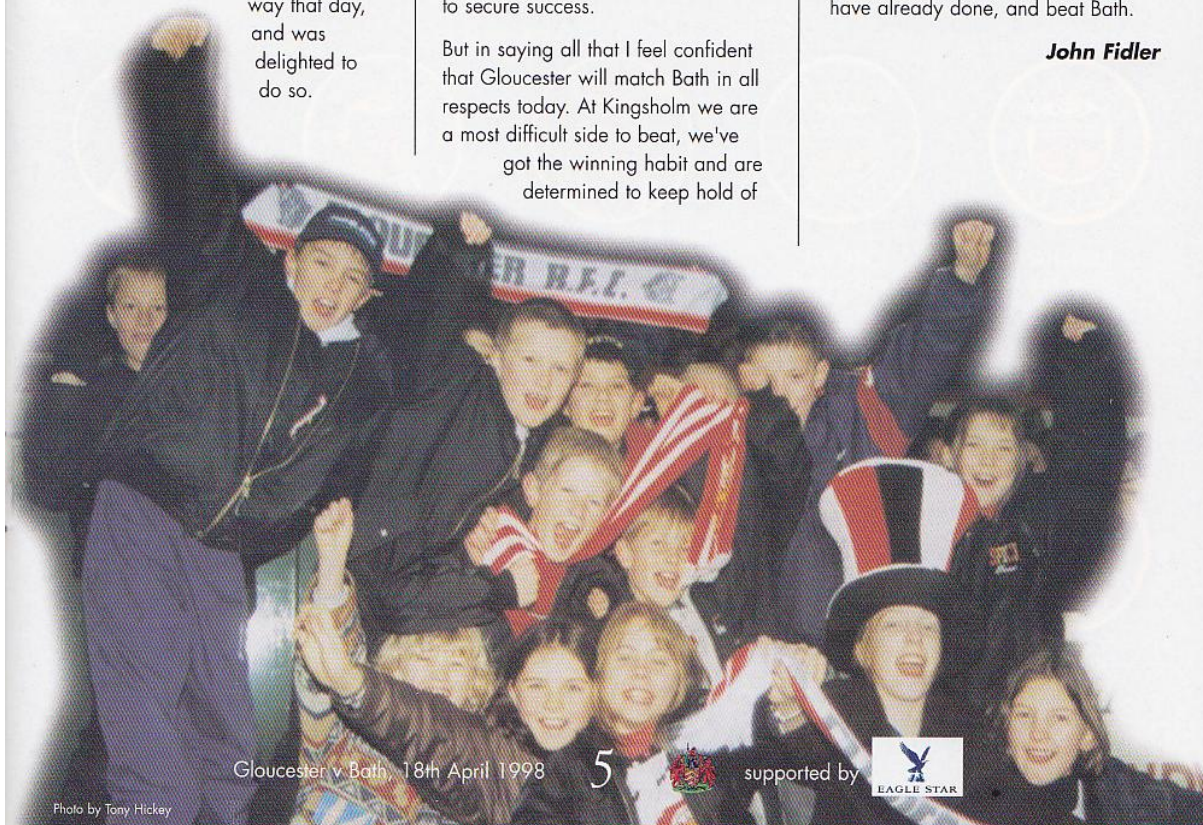
I have no fear of Bath and their players but have the greatest of respect for the Club. Long before the money men enabled others to put out top class sides Bath were setting the standards. The current mix of local players and imports, of seasoned internationals and young and up and coming stars has produced an impressive array of talent that proves the cheque book isn't the only way to secure success.

But in saying all that I feel confident that Gloucester will match Bath in all respects today. At Kingsholm we are a most difficult side to beat, we've got the winning habit and are determined to keep hold of

it, I'd just like to see at least some of that rub off on our games away from Gloucester. With the support I know you will give us today behind the team look out for our pack taking the battle to Bath, and watch for our exciting backs stretching the more famous names that our visitors will bring with them. Many of today's head to head encounters leave my mouth watering. For example, how often do rugby fans get the chance to see two of the worlds great wingers in Ieuan Evans and Phillippe St Andre playing against each other? And how will Guscott and De Glanville cope with our two stars in the centre?

So I await the start of this game with eager anticipation. And hope our senior players can do what our Colts have already done, and beat Bath.

**John Fidler**



Gloucester v Bath, 18th April 1998

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Photo by Tony Hickey

# TODAY'S OPPONENTS – BATH



Jeremy Guscott, Phil de Glanville, Ieuan Evans, Nigel Redman and the list could go on and on. These are established household names.

They are all stars of the rugby world and they all play for Bath. Throw in names like Matt Perry, Mark Regan and Mike Catt and you begin to realise and appreciate why Bath have been the top team in England for so long. They are perhaps the one team that's full of names that even a non rugby enthusiast would be instantly familiar with. The clubs record is simply outstanding, and amongst the highlights they can boast being the only English team to win the League and Cup double, and they've done that more than once, and not forgetting that they're the only English team to be crowned Champions of Europe.

Many of us delighted in watching that excellent BBC documentary "The Rugby Club" and seeing at almost first hand Bath fall someway from grace. It's said we British love to build individuals and teams up, only to revel in knocking them down again. And during that docu-

soap we certainly saw Bath knocked down. To lose one coach was careless, to lose two in a single season was a scandal. But to their credit, and not to many people's great surprise Bath have bounced back, and how better to silence the critics than to win the European Cup. The job done in a relatively short space of time by coach Andy Robinson and his willing helpers Jon Callard and Nigel Redman, has been little short of outstanding. Callard, the kicking machine, who now also coaches says there's no secret to the success:

"We didn't turn from a great side to a bad side in one season. The players were still basically the same that had brought us so much success in recent years. But in some ways we lost our direction, and with it the Bath spirit seemed to go. This year we've gone

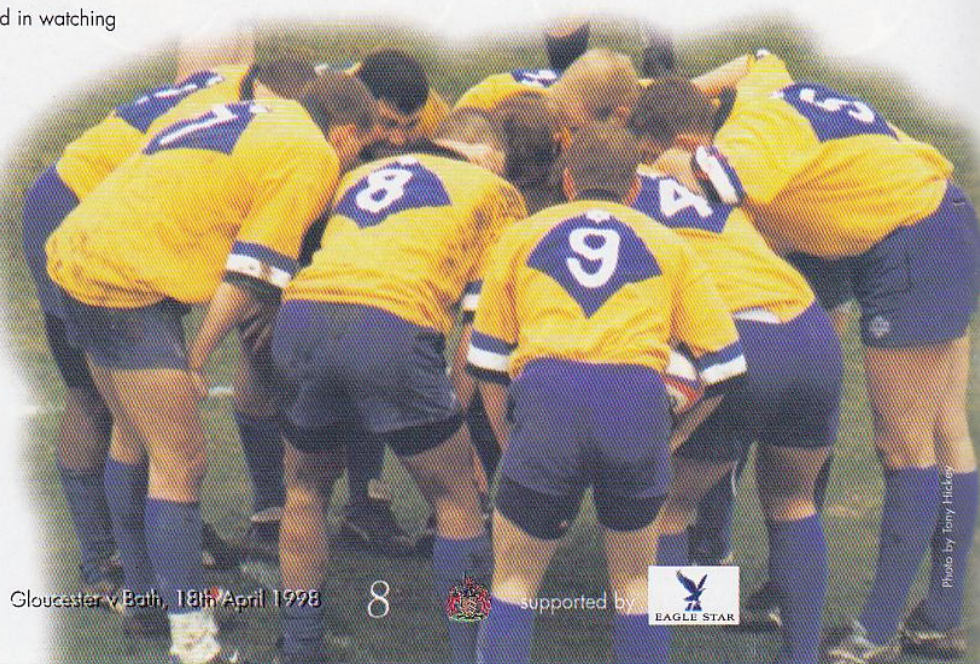
back to basics, put in a lot of hard work, and we've got back to the Bath that I and every one else knows"

Bath will admit that the European Cup was this season's main priority, and Callard admits it's been difficult to be successful at home and abroad.

"The days of one Club, usually us, dominating every competition are gone. The standard of the game has got so much better since professionalism. And whereas a few years ago we only had a couple of Clubs who got near us, now almost everyone in the Allied Dunbar Premiership is strong."

Today's game is important to Bath, as old adversaries Gloucester and Bath, yet again battle it out again for the sake of West Country pride in their rugby

**By Keith Malcolm**



Gloucester v Bath, 18th April 1998

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Photo by Terry Hickox

# The Player Profile



## Laurie Beck



One of the secrets of Gloucester's century-long survival at the very top of the English game is that the club has always been able to rely on a hard core of intensely loyal players: chaps who haven't been able to count on a regular first-team spot, but are always there, playing their hearts out when they're needed. It restores one's faith a little to realise that this is one aspect of the Kingsholm scene which has persisted through the onset of the professional era.

Hard-working scrum-half, LAURIE BECK is a case in point. Having arrived here from Cheltenham (also his home town), he played his first game for the Senior XV at the age of 19, when he turned out against Lydney. A measure of his elation at that selection is that he can tell you exactly when it was. March 1990, in fact, which makes him just over 28 years old now.

The arrival of Scott Benton and later, Ian Saunders, at Kingsholm must have given him cause for concern, but he kept on beavering away, showing everyone his guts and determination. In fact, he stuck to his guns to such an extent that he was named in the starting line-up for the Cup

Final game against Bedford a week or so ago. Scott Benton was, of course, away on England duty, but Ian Saunders was available and was on the bench for the game.

'Stonky', as Laurie is, somewhat mysteriously, known among his squad colleagues weighs 13 stone and stands at 5' 10". He has a partner, Faye Nash and one son who is named Jack. He lists his favourite colour as green, is inordinately fond of the music of Oasis and salivates at the thought of curry and pasta, although it isn't clear whether he means separately or both together. Like me, he has a great fondness for that marvellous film 'Forest Gump'.

He also tells us that, before joining the professional ranks, he held various jobs, including stints as a drayman and a warehouseman.

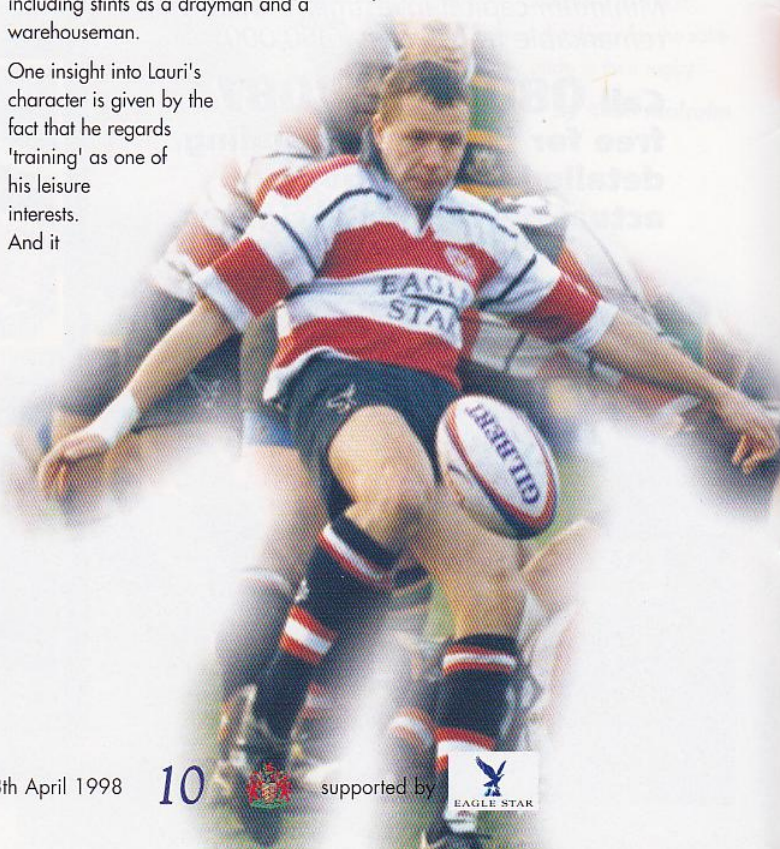
One insight into Laurie's character is given by the fact that he regards 'training' as one of his leisure interests. And it

shows on the field. He lists his most admired player is Mike Teague, and he is by no means alone in that.

His favourite moment in rugby is simply 'joining Gloucester', although he admits that being invited to join the England Under 21 squad, for whom he appeared as a reserve twice, runs that occasion close.

His ambition? To hold down a regular First XV place. Now why doesn't that surprise me?

Laurie Beck is one of these players who will probably never hit the national headlines, but we couldn't without him and others of his calibre. He's one vertebra in the solid backbone which makes Gloucester RFC what it is, and we're fortunate to have him.



# Player of the Month



## Mark Mapletoft

### MARK'S MARK

Hearty congratulations to Mark Mapletoft on deservedly winning the Allied Dunbar/Rugby World Player of the Month Award for March 1998. Apparently, his achievement of 1,000 points for Gloucester in record time had a lot to do with the selection.

It occurs to me that his 18-point match-winning performance against Bedford in the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup Final wasn't even included in the reckoning, so perhaps there are more honours in prospect for our pocket genius.

They tell me that the Award consisted of a T-shirt, an engraved trophy and a bottle of champagne, which probably made him popular in the clubhouse last Saturday.

Well done, Tofty! Nice to see your talents recognised.



Photo by Tony Hickey

Stuart Barnes presents Mark Mapletoft with his Player of the Month award

## IF ONLY...

Someone once wrote that "if only" are the saddest two words in the English language. We now know what he meant. If only Mark Mapletoft's last-gasp drop-kick had been a few feet further to the left last Saturday. If only Saracens had not put it across the injury-ravaged Bath on Good Friday. If only those two things had happened, then today's game might well be the most important one we've had this season, with a decisive role in the outcome of the 1997/8 Premiership title. As it is, we'll just have to make do with what we've got. Which is no hardship at all. Gloucester v. Bath is always the highlight of the Kingsholm season, and nothing which has happened in the past few weeks is going to change that. If you've been around for the past decade or so, then I don't have to tell you about the long and pulsating history of the meetings between our two great clubs: meetings which have never been less than

enthraling, and at times have approached classic, even epic, proportions.

I haven't seen either of today's teams at the time of writing, of course, but it is to be hoped that Bath's walking wounded are back in action this week, and that last Saturday's enormously hard game against Newcastle Falcons hasn't left Gloucester with too many injuries. We wouldn't want to see today's encounter played out between half-strength sides, after all. Nothing less than the best is good enough for Gloucester v. Bath.

Recent history would seem to indicate that there are two evenly matched sides trying conclusions out there today. That's something of a change for Gloucester, who for year after year, had to start the game as underdogs. Not that things always turned out that way, because we were always likely to win the affair, whatever the sides on paper and the expert pre-match analysis decreed. On

more than one occasion we have upset the Bath apple cart, and we have also gone down agonisingly close at times. I can't imagine that either side is going to run away with it this afternoon - but again, I could be wrong. Bath will certainly be smarting over that Saracens defeat, and will wish to show the world that they're still the best side in England, and can't be written off that easily. Conversely, we're quite certain that we wuz robbed last Saturday, and thoroughly deserved to win a game that had everything. Against that background, we couldn't ask for better opposition to make our point against than today's respected and welcome visitors. Whatever the newcomers from the North East may think, Bath is still the side everyone wants to beat, which is as it should be.

As always, Bath are welcome to Kingsholm. We hope they enjoy their visit.





Many thanks to  
today's Match Day  
Sponsor: Michael Beer  
Associates



A HIGHER CLASS OF RUGBY

Sunday 18th April 1998 Kick-off 3.00pm

**GLOUCESTER** 24  
Cherry & White

**BATH** 17  
Blue Black & White

15	CHRIS CATLING	Full Back	MATT PERRY	16
14	BRIAN JOHNSON	Right Wing	IEUAN EVANS	15
13	TERRY FANOLUA (I)	Centre	PHIL DE GLANVILLE	14
12	RICHARD TOMBS (I)	Centre	JEREMY GUSCOTT	12
11	PHILIPPE SAINT-ANDRE (I)	Left Wing	ADEDAYO ADEBAYO	11
10	MARK MAPLETOFT (I) <sup>SP</sup>	Outside Half	RICHARD BUTLAND	10
9	SCOTT BENTON <sup>10</sup>	Scrum Half	ANDY NICOL	9
1	TONY WINDO	Prop	DAVE HILTON	1
2	PHIL GREENING	Hooker	MARK REGAN	2
3	PHIL VICKERY (I) or ANDY DEACON	Prop	VICTOR UBOGU	3
4	ROB FIDLER <sup>T</sup>	Lock	NIGEL REDMAN	4
5	DAVE SIMS	Lock	MARTIN HAAG	5
6	PETE GLANVILLE*	Flanker	RUSSEL EARNSHAW	6
7	NATHAN CARTER	Flanker	RICHARD BRYAN	7
8	STEVE OJOMOH (I)	No. 8	ERIC PETERS	8
16	AUDLEY LUMSDEN	Replacements	STEVE HATLEY	16
17	LAURIE BECK		ANDY LONG	17
18	ANDY DEACON		JOHN MALLET	18
19	MARK CORNWELL		IAN BALSHAW	19
20	SIMON DEVEREUX		JON CALLARD	20
21	NEIL MCCARTHY		NATHAN THOMAS	21
22				22

Referee

NICK COUSINS



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by



Touch Judges

GEOFF WARREN  
GEOFF WILLIAMS



# CLUB

# NEWS

## THE UPS AND THE DOWNS

The various Gods of Chance have been in a particularly capricious mood this season: at least, as far as Gloucester players are concerned.

I suppose that the writing was on the wall when Phil Greening started off the campaign as, to all intents and purposes, the heir apparent to the England hooker's shirt. A succession of injuries allied to a loss of form put paid to that, and he has only just got himself back into the reckoning by putting in a highly creditable display in England A's win over Ireland. I wonder if his selection for that game means that he is in the reckoning for this summer's tour party?

It's an ill wind, they say, and the good-luck side to that equation fell to Chris Fortey, who, thrust into the furnace by injuries to both Neil McCarthy and Greening, seized his chance with both feet. And forced himself into the first-choice Gloucester spot.

Then, there was the Philippe St. Andre affair. Having fairly scorched the Kingsholm turf at the start of the season, he reclaimed the Captaincy of the French side, only to succumb to a nasty injury which deprived both France and Gloucester of his scintillating services. He looks as if he's back with a vengeance now, but in the meantime, Rob Jewell made an impact to such an extent that he won Caps on the wing for England Colts.

And, talking about wingers, what about Bryan Johnson? Virtually unknown at the start of the season, he has impressed everyone on his introduction to the side, scoring an unforgettable try against Saracens. Then he goes and gets himself concussed while playing for England A. I suppose he might just have been an outside bet for the tour, and it is to be hoped that his enforced three-week layoff hasn't put the mockers on that.

Then there was the Phil Vickery affair. He virtually forced himself into the England side where he put in a blinder of a performance

against Wales. That silly citation business was resolved, although it couldn't have done his confidence any good. Then he got a shoulder injury which sidelined him for the rest of the Five Nations campaign. There simply ain't no justice.

There have been other little malign jabs of fortune, too. Dave Sims, Rob Fidler, Mark Cornwell and Scott Benton (who was within a whisker of getting on the pitch at the England v. Ireland game), all had injuries just when they could have most done with staying fit.

All those misfortunes appear to be resolved now. Perhaps the luck might turn our way for the last few games of the season.

We did, after all, win the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup, didn't we?

## NIGHT OFF FOR ROB ?

We only have one more home First XV jobbie this season, that against Sale in May. That does not mean, however, that there aren't any major Kingsholm occasions to come along and watch. On Wednesday 29th April, we have the County Cup Final.

I suppose that welcome visitors to Kingsholm supporting the opposing sides may well have trouble appreciating the importance which any Gloucester rugby supporter attaches to what is, after all, a local rugby occasion. It might be equally surprising to learn that the conversations around the pubs are just as likely to be about the doings of Gloucester Old Boys or Coney Hill as it is to be about Gloucester RFC.

To them I can only say that, over a century or so, the strength of our so-called 'junior' clubs has been the foundation of Gloucester's success. To an extent that is still so, even in an era of professionalism, transfer fees and all the rest.

If you doubt that, take a look at the Gloucester pack. Every one of the first-choice eight, with the exception of Phil Vickery, has come up through the local

rank's, and has held its own against just about every pack in the country, regardless of their place - even country - of birth.

That can't be anything but healthy. After all, players don't spring into this world fully armed, so to speak. They have to learn the trade somewhere. And you can't go on building a side by simply attracting big stars from all over the place, otherwise you end up by taking in each other's washing.

This year's County Cup Final features Matson, who are old hands at this sort of thing of course. They will be opposing Spartans, and I find it quite surprising that this is the first time that the good old Red Ants have reached the ultimate round of the competition.

One Kingsholm stalwart, who will have a more than passing interest in the events of next Wednesday evening, is our genial Bar Manager, Rob Gough. Not only is he metaphorically rubbing his hands at the thought of the bar takings which will assuredly ensue, but he can claim to be a Red Ant himself.

He might even leave the bars to his competent assistants and join in the fun and games that evening, and there's no doubt which side he will be shouting for. Should be a good match, and I do assure you, it will be an occasion worth coming along for.

And incidentally, you may have heard a rumour that Rob is thinking of giving the job up at the end of the season. I've taxed him on the matter and he quite categorically assures me that there is no truth in the story whatsoever.

That may be the best news I've heard so far this week

## ANOTHER BATTLE HOTTING UP

The Premiership isn't the only top-of-the-table competition entering a very interesting run-in at the moment. Have you noticed how the Unisys top point scorers list is hotting up?

The last such list published reads as follows:



# CLUB



# NEWS

- 1). STEVE SWINDELLS, (MANCHESTER) 419
- 2). JOEL STRANSKY, (LEICESTER) 383
- 3). MARK MAPLETOFT, (GLOUCESTER) 376
- 4). GARETH REES, (WASPS) 347

You'll notice that Tofy has leapfrogged his Wasp rival since the previous list was published. I note that last weekend, Mark scored 17 points to Strasky's 11, so he's closed the gap somewhat. On the other hand Gareth Rees slotted 19 points, so he's made up a little leeway.

It seems a bit much to ask for Tofy to overtake Swindells, but Joel Stransky looks to be well within his sights. Keep slotting 'em over Mark!

## WATCH THE LEAGUE LEADERSHIP BATTLE AT KINGSHOLM THIS SUNDAY

Watch Saracens v Newcastle live on Sunday in the Kingsholm Sportsbar, kick off 3pm.  
Enjoy a pint and settle down to watch the big game

## Forthcoming Kingsholm Events

Wednesday 29th April  
**County Cup Match**  
Kick-off 7.15pm

Wednesday 13th May  
**RAF v Army**  
Kick-off 7.15pm

Thursday 14th May  
**Senior Combination Cup Final**  
Kick-off 7.15pm

## TODAY AT KINGSHOLM

### PRE MATCH ENTERTAINMENT

Please welcome our young players to Kingsholm today for their Pre Match rugby curtain raiser (subject to pitch conditions)

Widden Old Boys v Gloucester All Blues  
(Mini rugby)

Abbeymead v Upton St Leonards  
(Touch rugby)

### TODAY'S MASCOT

#### JAMES CLARKE

James is 10 years old and lives in Westbury on Severn, he attends the local school and has an older brother.

His interests are: Football (Man Utd.fan), ten pin bowling and swimming.

### TODAY'S REFEREE

#### NICK COUSINS

Educated in Bristol Grammar School and Loughborough University, Nick was involved in rugby as a player, administrator, and coach before taking up the whistle. He was Secretary of the rugby club at Loughborough for three years whilst playing for the first XV as a winger. He went onto play briefly for Exeter before spending three seasons as player / coach at Sidmouth. A move to London followed, where, illness unfortunately curtailed his playing career and he was persuaded to take up refereeing. Nick joined the London Referee Society in 1983, was invited to join the A List in 1988, and the RFU Panel in 1990. He has some international experience having spent the 1991 season refereeing in Australia and having been invited recently to referee the Dubai 7's. Last season Nick refereed the Baltic Cup Final between Russia and Denmark's as well as the final of the

Middlesex Finals. Nick is the head of Physical Education and a Housemaster at Dulwich College. Nick is married with four young children - he also has a brother, Robin, who has done a bit of ice skating.

### MIKE METTERS CANCER RESEARCH APPEAL

An outstanding exponent of Karate by the age of 10, Michael Metters went on to prove his sporting prowess by playing for Bath Rugby Club's Under-19's and Durham University. Nicknamed the Gurkha by colleagues at Durham in recognition of his Nepalese mother and the courage and determination he displayed both on the Rugby field and in his life in general, he was fiercely competitive, yet always caring and unswervingly loyal to his friends.

At the age of 22 Mike was diagnosed with germ cell cancer. Over the next 5 months he battled fearlessly with the disease, dealing with demanding treatments without complaint, impressing the doctors and nurses who treated him as well as friends and family around him. Sadly, despite his courageous fight and the best care available, Mike died on Christmas Eve 1997. His funeral was attended by 400 people from the three main communities in his short life: Durham University, Bath Rugby Club and his local community in Lechlade, Gloucestershire, where he grew up.

Now, after Mike's death, his friends are continuing his fight against cancer by raising money to ensure the Imperial Cancer Research Fund can continue its vital research into the causes, prevention, treatment and cure of cancer.

Please give generously today to help others in their fight against cancer.

Collection 'buckets' will be available at the main gates on your way home.

Many thanks for your generosity







# Developing You



Dave Pointon

Phil Greening, Tony Windo, Dave Sims and Pete Glanville, they and many other current first teamers here at Kingsholm have all come through the thriving youth rugby set up that exists in Gloucestershire, and long may it continue to produce such talents! Every school in the county, and dozens of clubs can claim that they are the ones who are producing the next generation of heroes for The Shed. To ensure that the best do rise to the top teacher Dave Pointon has recently taken up a new role as the Schools Liaison Officer for Gloucester Rugby Football Club. "In and around Gloucester we've still got a thriving junior rugby set up. The kids still eat, sleep and breathe rugby, and my job is to make sure the best get even better." Dave, took up the post at Kingsholm in February, and has already cast his net far and wide for blossoming talent. Hundreds of youngsters have been watched, and a network of coaches and development officers have been holding trials for various age groups. "The players I and my coaches spot will continue to play for their schools and clubs. What we do is to identify talent, and

enhance it. We'll hold sessions so the best can train with the best and hopefully get even better. But those sessions will fit around the commitments these players have with their existing sides. It's a long term process, and if we look after these youngsters from an early age I'd like to think that they'll choose Gloucester when they are looking for a professional club." Another important part of Dave's job is to encourage current first teamers to go into schools and meet the young players. This is

already happening and has proved to be inspirational to potential Shed Heads and players alike. "The reaction the players get is tremendous. They enjoy the sessions and the kids are thrilled. As well as helping my work as a coach, it's also great PR for Gloucester Rugby Club." So the priorities for Dave are two fold, to promote rugby and to ensure that no potential young stars slip through the Kingsholm net un-noticed.

## YOUTH RUGBY DEVELOPMENT KICKING COMPETITION FINAL

11th April 1998

Supported by



Photo by Tony Hickey

Eagle Star marketing Director Steve Wigsell presents the Kicking Competition winner, Lee Mansfield and runner up, Jason Schofield with their £100 and £50 prize cheques



# th Rugby Talent



Rob Jewell a Colts player now with first team experience

Victories over Bath, Bristol, Leicester and Saracens would warm the heart of any Cherry and Whites fan, and there's one team at Kingsholm that can already boast that Grand Slam of wins this season. The Gloucester Colts are fast building a fearsome reputation in Under 19's rugby and guided by Coach John Haines, the team is also gathering an honours cabinet full of international caps. John, a former first team flanker at Kingsholm, can trace his association with the club back three decades and more. He was brought back to Kingsholm in his current position by Richard Hill, who's keen to stress the importance of developing fresh young talent for the club, and spends as much time as first team commitments allow, watching and working with the youngsters.

The part time post of Colts coach, along with the day job of running the family business, more than adequately fills John Haines day. There are evening sessions twice a week, and then, of course, those Saturday matches. And he has a clear idea of his objectives.

"The aim of my job is simple, I'm here to

help create the next generation of first team players at Gloucester. If the Colts team is winning at the same time, then that is even better. But the results I'm chasing are national youth team caps and future first team appearances."

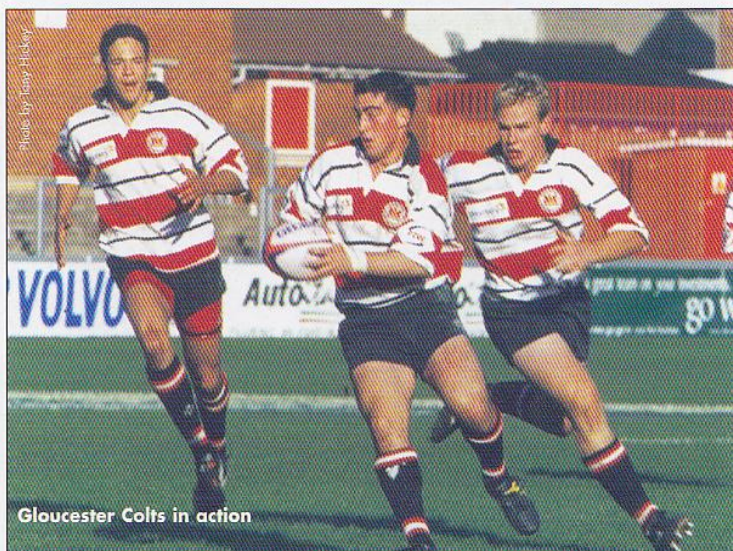
"The youth rugby set up in Gloucester has always been successful. We benefit from rugby being the main sport in the county. The changes made by Richard Hill have added some structure to the system, and brought the Colts set up under the umbrella of Kingsholm. More than ever now we feel part of Gloucester Rugby Club."

One player who's already making big strides towards senior recognition is winger Rob Jewell. He can already boast first team appearances in both league and cup competitions. And his Colts coach is confident he's going to succeed.

"Rob is very quick and very strong. At a young age he's already proving that he is an excellent player. I'm sure the professional game is going to thrust more and more

teenagers into senior action, and in most cases that's a good thing. It'll always be easier for threequarters to make the transition, for front five forwards it takes longer. But my philosophy is the same as Richard's, if they are good enough and strong enough then they are ready."

That philosophy is likely to pay dividends for Gloucester in years to come. It's simple mathematics that demands that every club produces it's own young players. As more and more money comes into the game from the financial backers, from sponsorship and from TV contracts then the price of players is likely to spiral. Recent transfers such as the deal that took Francois Pienaar to Saracens and Ieuan Evans to Bath have already demanded fees in excess of a quarter of a million pounds so the need to nurture home grown talent is obvious. And with no less than three England Colts internationals in the current Gloucester Colts sides, and many more pushing for places in the senior squad, the future of rugby seems to be safe in the hands of John Haines.



Gloucester Colts in action

