



125th ANNIVERSARY 1873-1998

Gloucester

West Hartlepool



20th September 1998 ko 3.00pm

Souvenir Programme £2.00

Westbury



ALLIED
DUNBAR
PREMIERSHIP

From the Team Manager

Again I would like to welcome you all to Kingsholm during this very special week when Gloucester RFC celebrates their 125th year. The anniversary has been recognised by the city council by putting together a collection of various articles of memorabilia which are on display in the Gloucester Museum, Westgate Street, Gloucester. This is well worth a visit as you will see that the curator Chris Morris has done a lot of work to put the exhibition on.

The reason why Gloucester are playing in their away strip today is because that we are told that the original colour of our strip was blue and we thought it would be nice to recognise this.

What a fantastic day last Saturday at the Maedejski Stadium, Reading where Gloucester put in one of their finest away performances for many seasons, producing a win and hopefully putting our previous away form behind us. I am sure that you will all agree it was a very exciting game with the lead changing from side to the other and I am sure the superb support from the Gloucester fans that were present helped to encourage the lads to this very important away victory. Your vocal support was superb and many of the players commented to me after the game how many supporters were out there. From the amount of noise that was being made I said that there must have been at

least 10,000! The victory on Saturday is a result of all the hard work that has been put in by the players and coaching staff during the closed season and it was obvious after the London Irish game that there was a lot of work to do.

Whilst on the subject of London Irish, I think we were all taken back with the way they played and it is obvious that Dick Best has done a lot of work on and off the field. I am sure they will be difficult opponents during the Allied Dunbar campaign this season.

I would like to welcome our friends West

Hartlepool from the North East of the country as you are all aware they were promoted this season from Division 2 to Division 1 after a very successful season under the guidance of Mike Brewer. I am sure this afternoon's game will be a good contest and I would like to wish West Hartlepool all the best today and for the remainder of the season.

I am sure that you all have the Bath date in your diaries. It is very important to the side that we get as many of you down there at the Rec to cheer the lads on.



Today's Opponents



West Hartlepool

West Hartlepool have a special place in rugby for me. They are a tad too far south of the real North East, but they are a lot further north than nearly everybody else. So they must be OK.

West have had their ups and downs over recent years and they have been rather too close together for comfort. One mighty step forward for mankind has often been closely followed by a step backwards, yet the club has battled through and has never lost the gritty, competitive attitude needed to succeed in the modern game.

West are in the process of getting a team to compete in the Premiership and if Mike Brewer can't make it all gel, few others would have a chance. Away games do involve a fair amount of travelling in most cases, but the upside to that is that their visitors may see Hartlepool and its environs as a separate planet rather than a vibrant area of England.

Today is the classic exception, but I do wish West Hartlepool well in most of their other games this season. Their down-to-earth attitude will be well received at Kingsholm and, once the language difficulties are overcome and we've worked out their line-out signals from Geordie into Queen's English, all could be well. The

language barrier, of course, could be as much a problem for them as us; a quick trawl through the places of birth in the visitors' side would suggest that there may be more native-speaking Geordies in the Gloucester team than in West Hartlepool's.

Last week's flying visit to the Thames Valley's rugby hotspot at the Maedjski Stadium was an eye-opener in many ways, not least in the amount of music that hit the crowd when Richmond scored. Strange to say, the unrecorded cheering from Gloucester's faithful seemed louder and a whole lot sweeter; let's all hope for even more reasons for greater cheering today.

Keith Richardson



The 'Rorke's Drift Test' and

A trio of Gloucester players headed north in the early part of the century – all being enticed into the world of Rugby League.

And, though the original Oldham club is now no longer, the newly-formed Oldham RL club which inherited all the memorabilia from the Watersheddings is keen to locate some of the international Rugby League caps awarded to the players.

The three are Billy Hall, Dave Holland and Alf Wood. All three played for Gloucester. Wood headed north in 1908 while Hall and Holland arrived in Oldham in 1913.

The three former Cherry and Whites were in the Great Britain team that toured Australia in 1914 – and all three played in what is widely considered to have been the greatest international rugby game ever played.

Defying massive injury problems, Britain beat

Australia by 14 points to six at Sydney Cricket Ground. The epic clash is known in RL folklore as "The Rorke's Drift Test."

It was not just the result that makes this Test stand out in British sporting history, but more the way the win was achieved.

The British team was plagued with injury following the second Test. Yet the third Test was to be played a week later. Cables were to-ing and fro-ing between Australia and England.

Eventually, the Rugby League committee sent the final cable to the beleaguered tourists "down under." The message read: "Play match as Australians desire stop England expects that every man will do his duty stop."

On receiving this cable, John Clifford, the British team manager, told his team in the pre-match pep talk: "You are playing a game of football this afternoon, but more than that, you are playing for England and even more than that, you are playing for right vs wrong. You will win because you

have to win. Don't forget that message from home – England expects every one of you to do his duty."

The British captain, Harold Wagstaff later recalled: "The men in my team were moved. You could see our fellows clenching their fists as Mr. Clifford spoke. I was

impressed and thrilled as never before or since by a single speech. When we left the hotel room in which the speech was delivered, not one of us spoke."

It is worth noting here that Clifford's pep talk was given some six years before the now legendary "one for the Gipper" pep talk given by Knute Rockne to the players of Notre Dame University and later immortalised by actor Ronald Reagan on Hollywood celluloid!

In Oldham, the names of Hall, Holland and Wood are revered. And the fact that the three went to the Lancashire mill town from Gloucester is often forgotten in these parts.

Wood played Union for England in 1908 – he appeared against France, Wales and Ireland, immediately before turning to the professional 13-man game. His Gloucester nickname of "Ginger" did not head north with him! He made at least 37 appearances for the Cherry and Whites, scoring 30 tries in the two full seasons at Kingsholm.

Hall was one of several brothers who all played for Gloucester in the early part of the century. He was a product of the old West End rugby club – and, of course



the Gloucester connection

that "rugby academy" officially known as Archdeacon School. Playing mainly at centre, Hall notched up 138 first team appearances, scoring 31 tries.

Holland, who left Gloucester to join the now defunct

Devonport Albion club in 1909, was also capped by England in the 15-man game. He appeared for Gloucester 100 times, scoring 16 tries.

The Oldham Civic Centre has a permanent exhibition on the famous old Oldham club, one of the very few top League clubs to never make it to a

Wembley final - and visitors can see many items of the "Gloucester Three."

But one thing is missing - the 1914 tour caps earned by the three players. If anyone knows the whereabouts of any items concerning the players including press cutting, old programmes, then Oldham RL historian Brian Walker in Oldham would be most grateful to hear from you. His telephone number is: 01457 875084.

It was thought that Wood's 1914 tour cap and his British RL and two RU England caps, were destroyed in a fire in the 1960s.

"Alf worked for A.V. Roe, the aircraft manufacturers, and his caps were known to be on display at Avro, Hawker Sideley and then British Aerospace until about five years ago," Brian Walker said. "These caps represent a fantastic piece of rugby league history - and rugby union history - and we are very keen to establish their whereabouts."

"We think that they may be gathering dust in someone's attic, maybe in Gloucester," Walker said.

The search for the caps is being backed by Barry Wood, Alf Wood's grandson. "The caps were my late grandfather's most prized possessions," he said.

ANDREW HARLEY



Souvenir Programme

Not So Simple

So where's the problem ?

Gloucester beat London Irish. London Irish beat West Hartlepool.

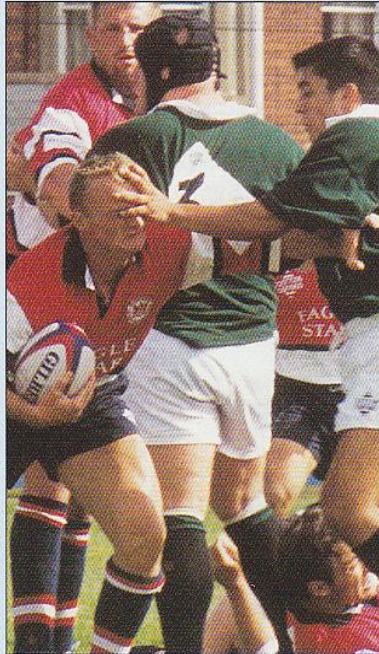
Piece of cake.

Oh dear. If only things were that simple. But in rugby they rarely are, as you well know. Exactly five years ago, West Hartlepool came here under similar circumstances and won quite convincingly, horrifying the Kingsholm Faithful and confounding all the pundits. On-paper calculations are all very well, but go straight into the waste bin the moment thirty players run out on the field.

Look at the situation a little more deeply. While Gloucester were struggling to beat the rejuvenated Irish side, Swansea had to rely on a scrambled last-second score to come away from West Hartlepool with a face-saving victory. Yet, last Sunday, the Welshmen put away Wasps quite handily, which would seem to argue that today's welcome visitors to Kingsholm can be a force to be reckoned with. So any chicken counters out there might be advised to keep their heads down a little.

The operative word in that last sentence is 'welcome'. We've had some great times with the 'West' contingent over the years, and some of the overnight away trips from Kingsholm have passed into Gloucester mythology. Some people will even recall going up by plane.

Of course, we missed out on that sort of safari last season. West Hartlepool were recharging their batteries in Premiership Two, so we were denied the pleasure of entertaining them, or enjoying the undoubted hospitality they extend



to visitors to Geordieland.

Rather cruelly, I thought, one reporter described West Hartlepool as 'English rugby's yo-yo club', pointing out that this season marks their third promotion to the top division in seven years. That would seem to indicate a very high level of determination throughout the club, to say nothing of a resilient character which deserves to reap rewards as the campaign goes on.

I'm sure Richard Hill and the lads won't be taking today's encounter at all lightly. No one in Premiership One can be discounted, least of all a side which has demonstrated its ability to hang on in there as convincingly as West Hartlepool have.

We should be in for a good game today. This is the match where

Gloucester celebrates 125 years of bringing rugby to the City, and we couldn't wish for better company to do it in.

Hope you enjoy your visit, everyone.

Two points are two points

I plead guilty to being absent without leave from the London Irish game which started the Kingsholm season. In mitigation, I can only say that my presence was required at Barton Fayre, which was enormously successful again, and attracted some 30,000 people.

A fair sprinkling of those were wearing cherry-and-white shirts, which may just possibly have had an effect on that afternoon's gate. After all, even Shedheads can't be in two places at once. (Although, come to think of it, I wouldn't even be sure about that, judging by the decibel levels).

That didn't mean I was short of information, however. There were a lot of trannies stuck to ear'oles, and a continuous string of people kept giving me the latest score all afternoon. Now that's stressful if you like. Not being able to see or hear anything for oneself, and relying on third-hand information received via a crackling radio in noisy surroundings, doesn't do much for the heart flutter.

So I can't really make any sensible comments about the game itself. Which doesn't stop me having a thought or two. To start with, London Irish were a

Arthur and Gordon

I was lucky enough to be invited to the Private View of the 'CHERRY AND WHITES 1873-1998' exhibition at the Folk Museum in Westgate Street. More of that in a moment, but while there, I was approached by a couple of chaps - separately - who asked me about a comment which had been made on the Invitation Card.

According to the invite, John and Rob Fidler are Gloucester's only pair of father-and-son England Internationals. "What about," I was asked, "Arthur and Gordon Hudson?"

Yes, the Hudsons pere et fils did both play for England sides. There's no hardship about Arthur; he played on the wing for England eight times, making his debut against Wales in 1906, a game in which Dai Gent of Gloucester and Gloucester Old Boys also played. Wales won 16-3, the England points being contributed by Arthur Hudson scoring his first International try. He scored eight more tries for England in his career, and you do have to say that a tally of nine tries in eight games is a record which any of today's players would envy. Remember, they played far fewer games in those days.

Gordon's case is more equivocal. Yes, he played for the England side in the so-called Victory Internationals just after the Second World War. These do not count as full Internationals, mainly, I understand, because rugby

players were scattered all over the world at that time, and you couldn't just nip on a plane and come to England in those days, so the various sides couldn't really be said to be representative.

Which is a pity, because Gordon Hudson scored a record for a flanker by scoring four tries in one game against Ireland. I spoke to him about it several times, and felt I detected a faint air of grievance in his usually cheerful attitude. I suspect he felt that he did not really get the chances he might have done when normal service was resumed the following season. So that's the answer to the query. And incidentally, Gordon, in his tenure as Club Chairman, was the fellow who got me involved in this programme in the first place.

That's more years ago than I like to remember. But at least you know who to blame.

P.S.

I thought I'd got all that straight. Then I had a chat with Gordon's son, John, who still runs Gloucester's oldest sports

shop on the corner of St.Aldate Street and Northgate Street. He tells me of a slightly amazing coincidence in his father's and grandfather's respective careers. As I say, Gordon scored four tries in the game against Ireland. What I did not know was that Arthur performed the same feat, crossing the line four times for England in the first game they ever played against France. So I looked it up. The game was played in a hurricane at the old Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, and Arthur Hudson scored his first two tries in the first ten minutes. That was on March 22nd, 1906 and England won 35-8. Those were the days !

There's a regrettable little addendum. The next time England and France met, at Richmond during the following season, D. Lambert of Harlequins scored five tries, so Arthur Hudson's record didn't stand for long.

But I don't suppose that Gloucester has another father-and-son pairing who each scored four tries in a match. Unless you know different, of course.

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Do Go Along

I took the precaution of revisiting the CHERRY AND WHITES 1873-1998 exhibition at the Folk Museum on the following day when there were fewer people about, and I could take a more leisurely look round. I'm glad I did, because there is so much fascinating detail that any committed Gloucester supporter would be intrigued to inspect.

One of Tommy Voyce's England shirts provides a case in point. As another visitor remarked, "Looks more like a woolly pullover" - and it does. He couldn't possibly have actually played in it. Must have been one awarded by the authorities for show, rather than a business article. There's also a happy little 'Citizen' cartoon, referring to 'Last Week's game against Richmond', and simply depicting piles of battered bodies with black eyes and cauliflower ears galore. I certainly recommend you go along and see the exhibition, which runs until October 31st. But allow yourself plenty of time. You'll need it.

completely unknown quantity. They had a side full of highly competent performers, out to make an impression on the rugby world in general, and on their own fans in particular. With the best possible research in the circumstances, Gloucester can't really have known what they were getting themselves into.

Add that to the, quite natural, nerves attendant on playing the first match in front of one of the most knowledgeable, and critical, crowds in the game, and you have a recipe for error and tentative play.

However, it seems to me that one of the most familiar clichés in sport applies here. The one they always used to apply to Bath in their heyday, when they exhibited that annoying ability to snatch a win, against all the odds, after being outplayed for most of the game.

It goes, 'It's a good team that can play badly and still win'. Last Saturday's win over the much-fancied Richmond side would appear to lend strength to that argument.

Tough Tony

We always knew that Tony Windo is a tough character, but his rapid recovery from the hamstring injury which shortened his England tour is nothing short



of remarkable. We know how such injuries can niggle on for absolute ages, and my medical sources tell me that Tony's problem was a particularly nasty one of its kind. Yet, at the time of writing, he is due to start the Richmond game on the bench, and has come through a searching test for United against very competent opposition. A full

month before any of us expected to see his reassuringly bulky presence anywhere near the front row.

No wonder Mike Worsley decided to go all Irish on us. He obviously didn't like the competition. It's also good to see Ed Pearce back in the reckoning. On the limited number of occasions on which we have been able to see him in action, he has looked a formidable customer indeed, with the potential to become a lot better than that.

Groin injuries, like hamstring problems, are notoriously difficult to recover from, and for Ed to have to endure two operations on that sensitive part of the anatomy within twelve months must have been infuriating and depressing for him. Not to mention distinctly uncomfortable.

However, it's that sort of experience which proves just how resilient, committed and determined a player is, and we must congratulate Ed Pearce on his obvious capacity to exhibit all those qualities. We all hope that he's got all his bad luck over in one fell swoop, and look forward to watching his obvious talent develop from here on in.

Continued from page 16

All we need now is for a fully fit Phil Greening to rejoin the fray. Indeed, he may already have done so by the time you read this. We're not short of excellent hookers at Kingsholm, but Phil always adds an element of spice to the proceedings, and we miss him when he's not around.

Best of luck, all three ! We're watching how events unfold with enormous interest.

Unfortunately, the injury count hasn't stopped there. We hear that the formidable Phil Vickery has injured his neck - which may or may not have been sorted by the time you read this - and that yet another of those accursed hamstring tears has stopped flying winger Brian Johnson in his tracks. I'm told that he'll probably be out for at least three weeks, which would mean that we would have to manage without him for the games against Bath, Wasps and possibly Swansea. It's good to have Andy Deacon and Rob Jewell to step into the breach, but we wish both Phil and Brian the speediest recovery possible.

On the Web

Just to remind the growing army of people who have access to Internet facilities, that Gloucester's web site is reckoned by good judges to be one of the best and most useful around. Indeed, it has been described, more than once, as 'a real fans page'.

I have been noticing that it is updated virtually every day since the season started, and therefore represents a very handy way to keep up to date with the latest developments around the Club. What's more, it's interactive, so you can post your own opinions about things, and also read those

of other 'Glawster' people from all over the world. Which is intriguing to say the least.

I do hear a whisper, however, that ERP are proposing to establish their own web site, which would cover all the Premiership clubs, including, of course, Gloucester, so things could change. However, for the moment, you can find our version on:

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

Give it a go ! Then bookmark it.

Manu Samoa.

That's Western Samoa in old money. That small, rugby-mad nation can never have aroused as much interest in this part of the world before, except, perhaps, when they beat Wales in the World Cup.

The reason for all the fascination is, of course, Terry Fanulua, 'Shedhead' Player of the Season last time round. For the benefit of our welcome visitors, you can't see him in action today because he's a member of the Manu Samoa squad contesting their World Cup qualifiers at the moment.

We wish him, and his side, all the luck in the world. But the reason I mention it this week also has to do with web sites. The Manu Samoa one is very comprehensive and worth a look if you'd like to keep up with the fortunes of our 'Tezza'. However, the address has changed recently, and the site can now be found on:

<http://www.manusamoa.nzl.com/frmain.html>

Baby Blues

It's all very well going out and buying home and imported players like vegetables from Tesco, but the time must inevitably come when you have to tend your own patch and start growing your own. Which is why I found a conversation with my drinking buddy, 'Mac' McTaggart, so gratifying lately. 'Mac' is known throughout the local rugby scene as a highly competent scrum-half, a reputation he has held for more years than he would probably like to recall. His club is the All Blues, which is one of the oldest in the area, and the breeding ground for many fine players, up to and including Mike Teague.

Nowadays, 'Mac' spends his Sunday mornings coaching the All Blues mini squad, and I was delighted to hear last weekend that he has actually lost count of how many youngsters he has to work with at the moment. He thinks the number is between 30 and 40, and they range from Under 12s right down to Under 6's. Just how you keep a rumbustious gang like that under control, I simply don't know. After all, teachers complain about having a class of over thirty children, and they're all in the same place at the same time.

I am, of course, fully aware that the Blues are by no means the only local club to have that sort of Sunday morning activity, and that can't be anything but a good thing.

"This is a rugby town, and always was !" explains 'Mac'. And if he, and others like him, have anything to do with it, it always will be.

Last word on last Saturday

Press reports on last Saturday's very gratifying away win over the highly - regarded Richmond outfit were rife with words like 'shock', 'surprise' and even 'sensational'. You'd think they would have learned by now never, never to take a Gloucester side for granted.

It wasn't the win which pleased me so much as the manner of it. When Richmond came storming back with two tries after being on the receiving end for a long period, regular Gloucester-watchers could have been forgiven for thinking "Here we go again! They're going to throw away a game they should have won, just like so many they lost last season."

But it wasn't like that at all. The defence looked well organised and simply didn't give way at all. Quite simply, they were the better side on the day, and deserved to win. Is this the end of our away jinx? Only time will tell, but the omens are looking favourable.

How Keith Richardson sees it

It's great to have former Club Captain and Coach, Keith Richardson, back after several seasons doing wonders for Newbury for more reasons than his widely acknowledged coaching skills. As anyone who reads The Pink'Un will know, Keith is a very literate, wise writer in his own right. One who pens his pieces from a position of

unarguable knowledge of his subject. It's good to have him back in the pages of the programme, therefore.

Keith once said to me, "Writing is easy. So long as you don't have to do it to a deadline." Well, he's managed it this time, and we thank him for it.

Tail Piece

It's interesting to see Gloucester's new away strip on view today, especially appropriate today because we used to play in blue before we took over cherry- and-white.

The other evening, I told Richard Hill my favourite version of the reason Gloucester switched colours in the first place. That states that one of the player's Mums used to wash the kit for the side, and on one occasion she failed to get the laundered articles back to the club in time for a game.

As it happened, Painswick didn't have a game that day, and magnanimously allowed Gloucester to borrow their shirts. Gloucester liked them, partly because they reflect the colours on the City coat of arms, and stuck to them thereafter.

Richard listened politely, and used his Michael Caine voice to reply "Notta lotta people know that!"

They do in Painswick, Richard, they do. And will tell you that they've been wearing cherry-and-white longer than Gloucester has at every possible opportunity.

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No this is not at Kingsholm, but the essential support at Richmond last weekend



Tom Walkinshaw thanking John Brain for all his work at Gloucester

The New Zealand leg of the tour

NEXT STOP

NEW ZEALAND

By Phil Vickery

Our arrival in New Zealand was followed by a three hour bus journey to Rotorua. The first thing that hit us was the smell of the sulphur which reminded us of rotten eggs!

The training schedule as you can imagine after the Oz defeat was not pleasant, but spirits were kept high within the squad and mine were certainly lifted by having the other Gloucester lads around me.

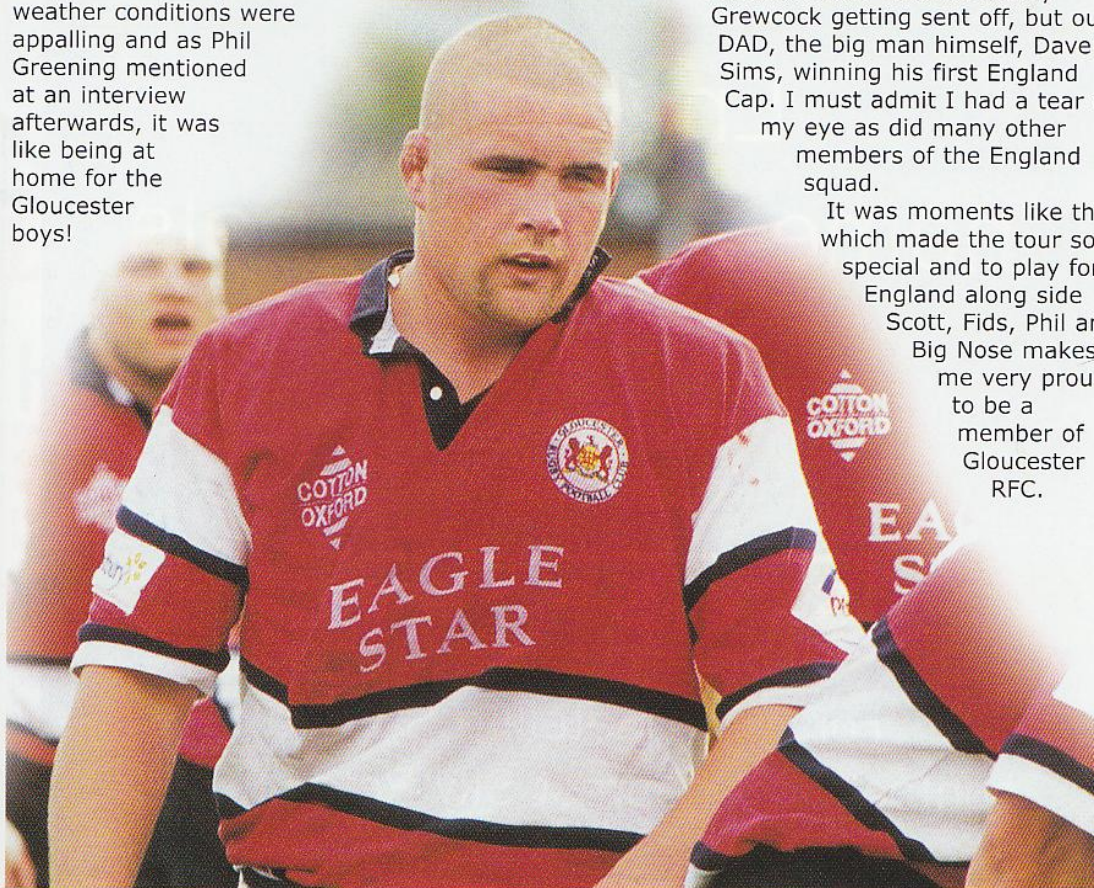
If you remember, the weather conditions were appalling and as Phil Greening mentioned at an interview afterwards, it was like being at home for the Gloucester boys!

After the game in Australia we needed a good result to lift morale, plus it was a very good opportunity for the Gloucester members to push for a test place. Although the game did not turn out to be the most exciting, the commitment shown was outstanding.

Leading up to the first test I personally was very uptight. New Zealand were the ultimate team for me to play against, with players such as Craig Dowd and Olo Brown who are players I worshipped when I started playing.

The best moment for me throughout the whole tour was not Danny Grewcock getting sent off, but our DAD, the big man himself, Dave Sims, winning his first England Cap. I must admit I had a tear in my eye as did many other members of the England squad.

It was moments like that which made the tour so special and to play for England along side Scott, Fids, Phil and Big Nose makes me very proud to be a member of Gloucester RFC.



WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE



Nathan Carter



Mark Cornwell



Andy Dawling



Andy Deacon



Simon Devereux



Ed Pearce



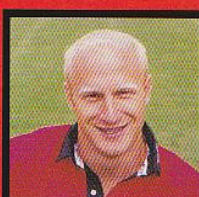
Terry Fanolua



Rob Fidler



Chris Fortey



Pete Glanville



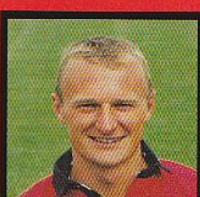
Phil Greening



Brian Johnson



Simon Mannix



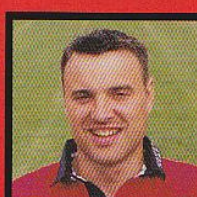
Scott Benton



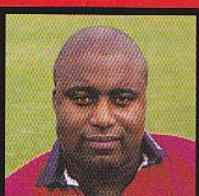
Laurie Beck



Audley Lumsden



Nick Osman



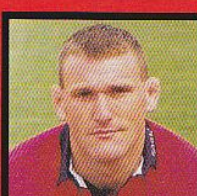
Steve Ojomoh



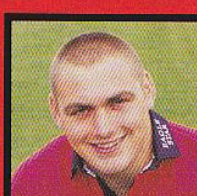
Philippe Saint-Andre



Richard Tombs



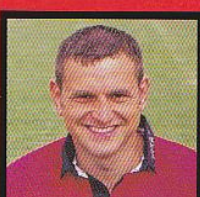
Richard Ward



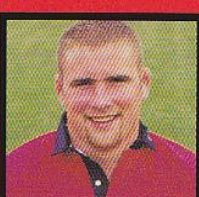
Trevor Woodman



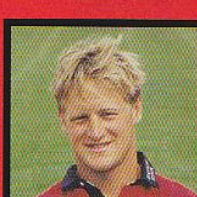
Dave Sims



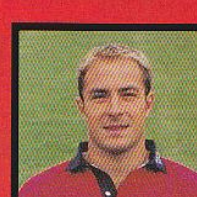
Tony Windo



Phil Vickery



Chris Catling



Mark Mapletoft



Neil McCarthy