

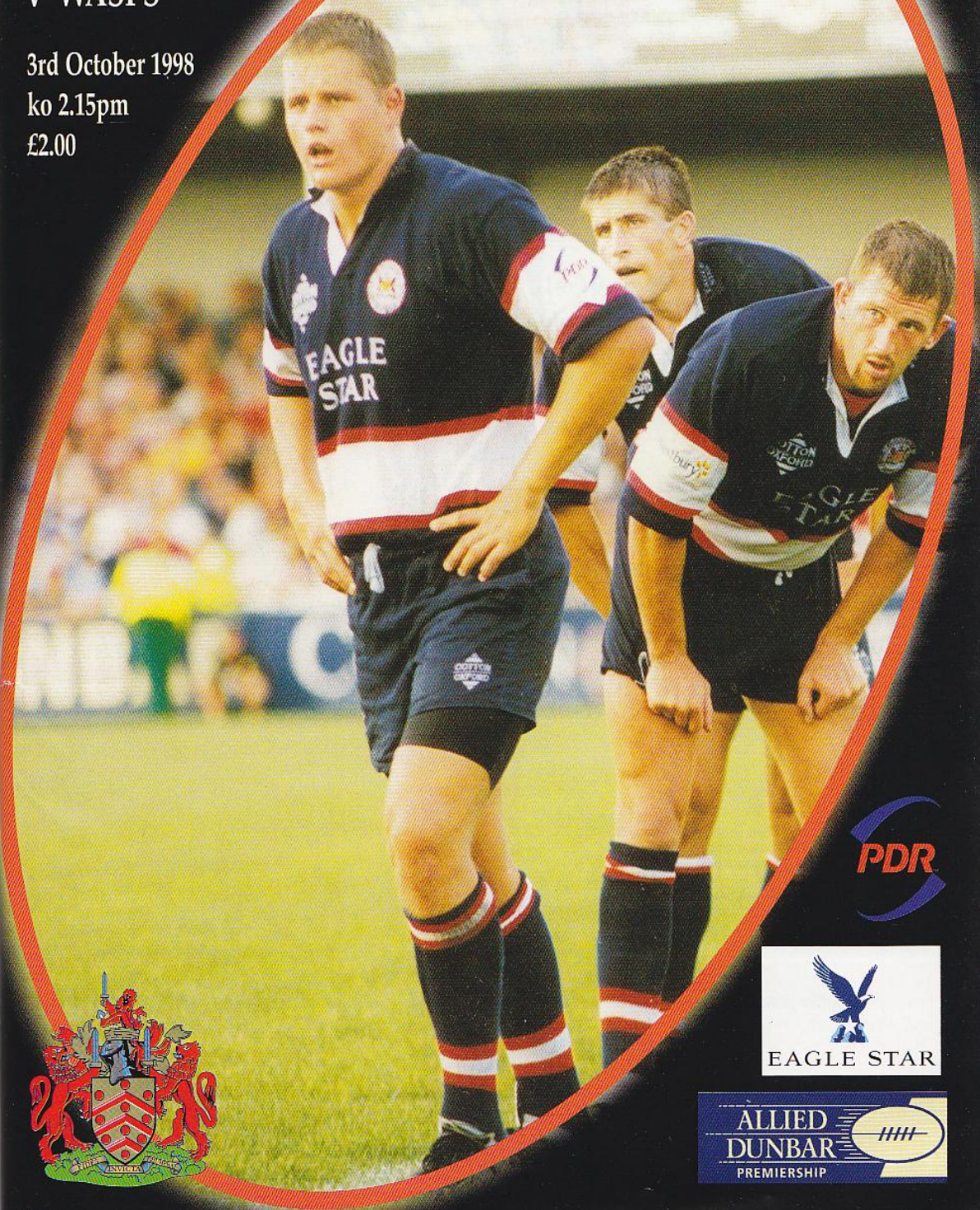
# Gloucester

v WASPS

3rd October 1998

ko 2.15pm

£2.00





# From the Director of Rugby

**W**elcome this afternoon to Wasps under the guidance of Nigel Melville the Director of Rugby and Rob Smith the 1st XV Coach. I know both men very well, Nigel as a former adversary on the pitch in my playing days and as a rival for the England No 9 shirt (which on most occasions he ended up with!) and Rob Smith as a coach with me for the current England A Squad.

Both have an excellent knowledge of the game and are great innovators. They are both believers in the ultimate '15 man game' where forwards should be

able to handle the ball and make decisions like three quarters and where the backs should be able to win the ball like back row forwards. This is why it has not been uncommon to see the likes of Damian Cronin and Laurence Dallaglio appear scoring tries on the wing.

In the last 2 seasons, Wasps have suffered from injuries to key players like Alex King, Andy Gomarsall, Nick Greenstock and Lawrence Dallaglio. I remember the season before last when neither Tuigamala nor Sheasby were fit to play on their visit to Kingsholm (much

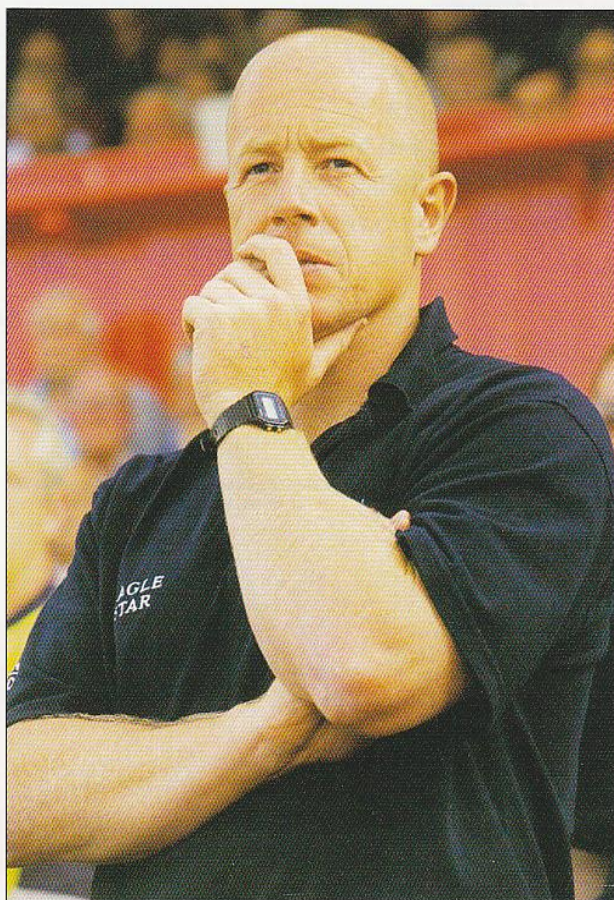
to our relief). When Wasps manage to field their full side, they look a well balanced outfit with a very good scrummaging unit under the guidance of their scrummaging coach, who is also the England scrummage coach, Phil Keith-Roach. They also have an excellent set of backs which include many internationals like Gareth Rees Nick Greenstock, Rob Henderson, Kenny Logan, Alex King and Andy Gomarsall etc. I would say that over the last two seasons, Wasps, along with Saracens have been the two sides to play effectively the 15 man game with continuity and ball retention the key aspects.

As for Gloucester, we have produced two excellent away performances (in comparison to recent years) and should now be confident that if we can re-produce our second half performance against Bath last Saturday then we should pick up several more away wins.

However, our home form has been less than impressive which is unusual. A scraped win against London Irish and a unimpressive second half display v West Hartlepool means that we need a much improved performance this afternoon against Wasps if we are to maintain our early unbeaten record.

There are sure to be many points scored and for Gloucester this is an opportunity to maintain our position in the top four of the Allied Dunbar League.

**Richard Hill**





# Player Profile

**T**wo sisters, Melisa and Stacey Jago, members of the Shed came along to the club and interviewed Richard Tombs this week on life at Gloucester.

*M&S Have you always wanted to be a rugby player?*

**RT** I just fell into it really. I started off playing when I was five - started playing rugby league, actually. I changed schools when I was 16 and the school that I then went to played rugby union. I then got into the school side and once you get into a representative side, you just keep going!

*M&S What would you be doing, then, if you weren't playing rugby professionally?*

**RT** I'd probably be stuck in a nine to five job, routine sort of work. I worked for an orthopedic company back home, so I guess I'd be selling artificial limbs! It was a good job, but not what I'd prefer at this stage!

*M&S So what made you decide to play for Gloucester?*

**RT** I played ten years of provincial rugby back home in Australia and then I got an offer via Gareth Chilcott. The timing was just perfect for me to uproot and to come over to England. Being newly married, it was a good opportunity to lift up and move overseas.

*M&S Do you think that the atmosphere at Kingsholm improves the way you play?*

**RT** Yes! They are a very fair crowd at Gloucester. They give us as much a hard time if we are not playing well, which was shown last year when we played here against Bedford. And if we are playing well, the crowd is fantastic, which in a tight game can make all the difference.

*M&S Do you miss the crowd when you play away games?*

**RT** I don't exactly miss the crowd. But I think it does make a difference to our team. It's not that you miss the crowd, but obviously if you are losing in an away match and the other side's crowd

is making a hellava lot of noise, it's more difficult ... and you wish you had the crowd with you.

*M&S Have you ever had dreams of forthcoming games - and have any of them come true?*

**RT** No - I'm not THAT obsessed with rugby!

*M&S Do you get nervous before a match?*

**TR** I used to quite a lot. My parents wouldn't come near me before matches. But these days not as much. I guess I've learned to control things and know where I'm at mentally. But through my early twenties I used to get nervous, but not so much now.

*M&S Do you remember scoring your first try for Gloucester?*

**RT** Yes I do! My first try for Gloucester was against London Irish here at Kingsholm. You see, the guy who actually made the error was an old club-mate of mine from Sydney, Nial Woods. He dropped the ball and it popped up to me. One of my usual tries - I only had to travel a metre and put it down!

*M&S Is it hard playing against people you are good friends with?*

**RT** No, not at all! It's great. It makes it so much more enjoyable. Generally, if you don't know them, all you want to do is just to beat them and not let them get over you. When you are playing against a friend, you want to beat them and you have fun with them also. You get into a ruck and you might give them a bit of a facial massage! And you have a good laugh with them. It's good fun! But I HATE losing to a friend!

*M&S What does it feel like when you do lose?*

**RT** I hate losing. But in saying that, I hate losing if we have played badly. But if we have played well, and we lose to a

better team, then it's not so bad. If we have done ourselves justice, then it's not too much of a problem. When we lose ... to an inferior team, I hate that.

*M&S What happens when (you) lose to a team when (you) should have won, like Newcastle? Was that really hard?*

**RT** Yes, it was hard to take. But we played well. We played as well as they did. It was really just the blow of the whistle which beat us on that game. In saying that, it wasn't such a bad one to lose because we played well. A few weeks earlier we played Wasps and lost at their ground. We had scored 20 points and were eight points ahead with 10 minutes to go. They scored two tries and we lost - that was hard to take!

*M&S How do you get your spirits up for the next game after you have lost?*

**RT** It's not too hard, really. We take one game at a time. It's my job to play





# Richard Tombs

rugby and each week I have to be up for it!

*M&S* You are playing centre at Gloucester. Have you played in any other position?

**RT** Not really. I have played centre for most of my career. However, I think I might be better at full back!

*M&S* We won't tell Chris that!

**RT** No one will ever play me at full back, that's for sure!

*M&S* How often do you train?

**RT** Every day, except for Fridays. Basically, we train twice a day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. A sharp team run on Thursday, Friday off, play Saturday and on Sunday, your own recovery. And then we start all over again! Training does vary, it's quite physical at times, the week starts off quite hard and it tapers off toward Thursday.

*M&S* is Richard Hill strict?

**RT** Yes he is, in a way. He sets high standards and he doesn't like it when we don't achieve those standards. I think he sets his standards by when he used to play and he was quite disciplined and quite strict on himself. So obviously he expects that from us.

*M&S* Is there a team that you really look forward to playing against?

**RT** There isn't a team I don't like playing against. But I like to play against the teams that play open rugby. I did like Newcastle out here - I really did enjoy that game. It was good fun. I was playing against Va'aiga Tuigamala who is a good friend of mine and a good friend of Terry's (Fanolua), so I enjoyed that game. But there's no real games in the Premiership at this stage that I don't really look forward to playing.

*M&S* If you weren't playing in a match, would you like to stand in The Shed?

**RT** Yes! Absolutely! Whenever United are playing here and I'm watching, I will go over and stand in The Shed. I enjoy that ... I enjoy the banter and the characters!

*M&S* Do you think that Gloucester should record a song?

**RT** Yeh, I think it's a good idea. And if there's a rugby club that could put out a recording and have supporters buy it, it's Gloucester! But you wouldn't want to hear ME sing! But I think that we should have some sort of a song rather than just "Glawster, Glawster"!

*M&S* Do you have a nickname in the team?

**RT** Because I'm an Australian, when I first arrived the boys were searching for a nickname. Tombsey is the one that stuck now. But originally it started off as "Dingo". And I can still hear Nathan Carter saying "a dingo's got my baby" in his best Australian accent! I must say, I like "Dingo"!

*M&S* Do you get fan mail?

**RT** A little bit. There's a little girl I met on our open day last year called Laura. She had her face painted as a tiger and whenever I see her now I call her "tiger". She sends me a card and I send her a photo ....

*M&S* Do you play any other sport in your spare time?

**RT** Cricket, when I can. I love playing cricket, but I haven't got to playing it too much over here. And I like golf ... my game has improved dramatically since I joined Gloucester. I was doing two jobs back home, rugby and work. Now I'm just doing rugby so there's a bit more time for golf.

*M&S* What were you like at school?

**RT** My reasons for going to school was: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday was to discuss what went on at the weekend, and Thursday and Friday was to discuss what you were going to do at the weekend! I was about that good at school!

*M&S* Have you got any embarrassing stories you can tell us about?

**RT** Er .... No - none that I can tell you, anyway!

*M&S* Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island, and what would you take with you?

**RT** As I haven't seen my wife for about four months, she would be the person! And I would like to take an unlimited supply of beer - Fosters, of course, a barbecue and some air conditioning. I have simple tastes!

*M&S* What's the worst injury you've ever had?

**RT** A dislocated finger! I've been very fortunate.

*M&S* What are your goals for the future?

**RT** Ummm! To win the Premiership with Gloucester and to secure a third year contract with the team.

If you wish to interview a player for the programme then please write to Claudia Cox at the club.



Richard Tombs



# Welcome to the ten-try wonders

Peter Arnold

While Gloucester were losing to Bath last weekend, our welcome and formidable visitors from the White City were recording an impressive and thorough ten-try demolition job on the hapless West Hartlepool side. Of course, one must take any team which can put 71 points on a Premiership One side very seriously indeed, but, as always, things aren't quite so clear-cut as all that.

As we saw right here a couple of weeks ago, West don't seem to have all that much to offer at the moment, and must be thoroughly disheartened by the way their season is turning out. They were probably beaten before they arrived - we know the away match syndrome as well as anyone - and the fact that they didn't get to South Africa Road until 30 minutes before kick-off can't have helped in the least. They conceded 30 points in the first half, and another 41 in the second, having apparently collapsed completely.

Gloucester's result could hardly have offered a greater contrast. The lads arrived at The Rec. really believing that they had a genuine chance of winning at a venue which is one of the most famous graveyards of visiting teams' aspirations in Europe.

They then managed to go 18 points down in the first quarter, and not many teams can make up that sort of leeway against Bath on their own patch. Yet Gloucester very nearly managed to do just that. They did not subside tamely in the second half, as I've no

doubt some people in the Bath camp expected: rather, they came back with flair and ferocity to such an extent that quite a few rival supporters breathed an audible sigh of relief when the final whistle went with the score at 21-16.



*Richard Hill is on record as saying that there was a "nasty edge" to the team after their Bath defeat, and someone is going to have to suffer for that.*

Wasps, of course, will have their tails well and truly up. They will be out to prove that last Sunday's scoreline wasn't just a one-off scored against demoralised opposition, but represents an accurate reflection of the abundant talent which their side undoubtedly possesses. In fact, they are likely to prove a right handful.

Gloucester won't have any truck with that sort of thinking. Richard Hill is on record as saying that there was a "nasty edge" to the team after their Bath defeat, and someone is going to have to suffer for that. Today, they are playing in front of their own crowd, which is likely to be a large one, rather than the scant 2,800 which was all the Wasps club could attract to watch West Hartlepool. Several players are probably playing for their places: it has become increasingly obvious already this season that no one can consider he has a God-given right to stay in the side.

But they mustn't allow themselves to be caught cold, and Wasps have always had the knack of starting like a bunch of whirlwinds.

One way and another, we could be in for a memorable game today. So we lost away to Bath. So did Wasps - and they managed to concede 36 points in doing so.

Be that as it may, it's always good to see the Wasps contingent at Kingsholm. They play highly attractive rugby, and are an amiable crowd, to boot. We hope they thoroughly enjoy their afternoon with us.



# The heat was on

**D**id you happen to read the press reports on the Saracens v. Sale game the other Sunday? If so, you will probably have noticed how similar they were to the ones describing our own encounter with West Hartlepool on the same day.

There were comments about the stop-start nature of the whole game, about unconvincing forward play, about handling errors and the number of replacements used. It all sounded a bit familiar.

On thinking about it, perhaps we shouldn't be all that surprised. The overriding factor, to my mind, was that both matches were played in very similar conditions - hot, humid, without a breath of wind for most of the game. It was

warm enough watching, and I hate to think how the lads must have felt after trying to play for eighty minutes at the level of effort demanded in today's Premiership One. The word that springs to mind is 'knackered'.

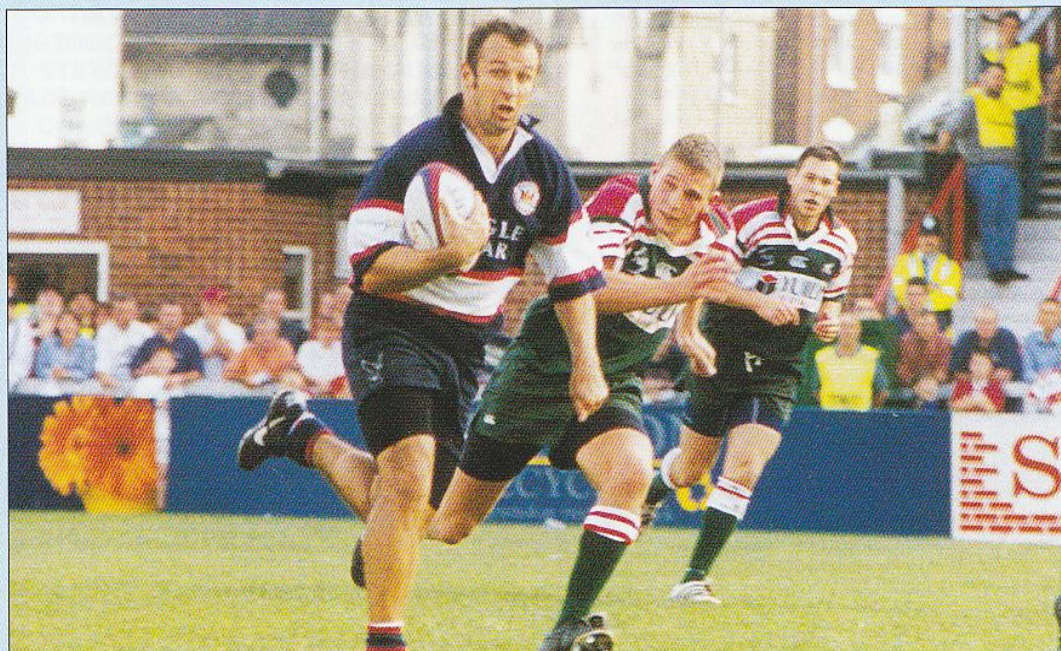
Richard Hill, never a one to call a spade a horticultural implement, described Gloucester's performance as "sluggish", and as always, he seems to have picked on the most apposite adjective for the occasion. Sluggish, it was, especially in the second half, but can you really wonder at it?

I don't know what the temperature was out in the middle, but any discomfort from that source must have been severely compounded by the level of humidity. It couldn't have been easy for anyone, and if you

combine that factor with the number of stoppages, sometimes for incomprehensible reasons, and an opposing team who appeared to be attempting to slow the pace down for their own, perfectly proper, tactical motives, then in my humble opinion, you're going to get a sluggish game.

There were moments to savour, of course. Philippe St. André's two tries were worth the entrance money on their own. Yes, I did say two tries. One of them may have been disallowed for a forward pass which, from where I sat, wasn't, but it was a sight to remember, nonetheless.

So it wasn't a complete dead loss, and it is another two points, and a 33-point difference to boot, which could be important come the end of the season.



Philippe Saint-André, during the West Hartlepool match



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### INTERESTING PRECEDENT ?

I picked up a story on our unofficial web site recently, which I thought I should share with you. It was contributed by a chap, obviously a gentleman and a scholar, named Rob Furio, who is one of the many regular readers of said 'Kingsholm Chronicle', and a devout and practising Gloucester supporter. This, in spite of the fact that he appears to live in Sydney New South Wales.

A couple of weeks ago, Sydney's Parramatta Stadium was graced by the Tongan and Western Samoan sides, meeting in a Pacific World Cup qualifier. Our Mr. Furia, naturally, was there, mainly to have a look at our own Terry Fanolua. According to Rob, 'Tezza' had a quiet first half, during which time Tonga had the better of things. Then the Machiavellian Mr. Furio made his move.

He had, apparently gone along to the game, armed with his trusty ghetto blaster. What's more, he'd loaded it with a recording of the "Glaaaawwsster" war cry, direct from the Shed. Aiming carefully, he blasted it in the direction of our Terry.

It worked wonders for Terry Fanolua. He put in some of his bone-jarring tackles, scored a try, and his side ran out 28-20 winners.

Fine. Great. Super initiative, Mr. Furio. But, I ask myself, doesn't this set a fascinating precedent ? Suppose everybody did it. Can you imagine the effect of a few hundred of such instruments, echoing around one of those cavernous, half-empty football stadia we seem to be fated to play in these days ?

The mind, as they say, boggles.

### FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

According to the fixture list I have before me as I type, the next game scheduled for Kingsholm is a real blast from the past, and perhaps a little sad. It's the United meeting with Oxford University. I don't know the quality of the side which the students will bring along, but it's nice to see that particular name on the list again.

This being a historical sort of season, it's all fairly appropriate. Long-standing members of the Kingsholm Faithful will recall that, for many years, the visit of Oxford University was one of the highlights of the season. It was always the 'Varsity's final game before meeting Cambridge at Twickenham, it was said, so that Oxford to pit their forwards against really tough opposition.

The great Prince Obolensky knew all about that. He, of course, attained immortality with his amazing diagonal run to score against the 1936 All Blacks, and the next time he visited Kingsholm with the University side, he attempted to repeat the dose. He might have got away with it, too, if the formidable figure of Roy 'Digger' Morris had not got in the way. He stopped the flying prince absolutely dead in his tracks, and I know at least one elderly gentleman who still shudders at the manner of it more than sixty years later. "It was me right 'ander" The Digger told me, grinning reminiscently.

My most recent memory of the Oxford side concerns the last time they played

the First XV at Kingsholm. (They lost by around 80 points as I recall). As was their wont, the Students came out on the field a little early to indulge in some

pre-match callisthenics, not a common sight in those days. This caused some hilarity from the hardy traditionalists in The Shed, and the sight of the big No.8 dropping down on the halfway line and doing half-a-dozen press-ups broke them up completely. "It's all right, mate !" came a voice. "You can get up now. She's gone 'ome !"

Of course, the days when the Oxbridge sides could take on any club team in the country are long gone, which is a shame, but it will still be nice to see Oxford at Kingsholm, if only at United level.

Perhaps I should wash my mouth out. There's no 'if only' about United matches. Our second string is playing some great rugby, as the regular watchers will readily tell you. So a visit to Kingsholm next Wednesday evening is highly recommended, for more than one reason. Why not come along ?

Next Saturday, Gloucester are away to Swansea to play the first of the so-called Welsh Friendlies, although how any game between Gloucester and a Welsh side can be called 'friendly' does baffle me somewhat.

On the following Wednesday, United are at home to Chippenham, and then, on Saturday, October 17th, we're down for a visit from Newcastle Falcons.

I really don't have to remind you about what happened the last time Rob Andrew's side came to Kingsholm. Let's just say that the visitors went away with two points from one of the most controversial games played in England last season - and then went on to win the Premiership by just one point. So you won't want to miss the rematch.



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## FINAL WHISTLE FOR SMITHY ?



**I**t was sad to read that our old friend Ian Smith may be facing the end of his distinguished career. A serious knee ligament injury put him out of action towards the end of last season, and the consequent operation has not proved to be a success.

Even without the injury, at age 35, 'Smithy' had probably come to the end of his series of Scottish Caps, but he could have given Moseley a couple more seasons of sterling service, no doubt. All that experience gained at Kingsholm must count for something, and it is to be hoped that he can stay in the game in some capacity or other.

Now, the doctors are telling Ian that another operation is necessary, if he is to regain full mobility at all, let alone carry on playing rugby. Ligament damage is always worrying, and this one seems to have been particularly nasty.

In his Gloucester days, Ian Smith wasn't always everyone's favourite player. There were those who thought him an extremely effective performer, and another school of thought wished he would get stuck in to the rucks and mauls more decisively, rather than laying off and clobbering opponents as they broke away. I suppose it depends on how you think a flanker should be playing, and just what his role around the park should be.

However, whatever your own position on that particular debate, you do have to be grateful that the Scottish selectors gave him his chance, and then kept faith with him. Even his sternest critics were forced to concede

that he put in some storming performances for Scotland, against some of the best opposition in the world.

It's always a shame when a fine career is brought to an end in this way. Knowing Ian Smith as we do, we won't be particularly surprised if he weathers this storm and does turn out again, but if that isn't to be, then we hope that further surgery does return him to full fitness with as few problems as possible. As I recall, he doesn't have much of a record of serious injury, he's a resilient character, and will, I'm sure, want to play again if he can.

Whatever happens, we wish him well.

Just one little footnote is worth mentioning. Since Rob Fidler emulated his formidable father in playing for England, there has been quite a bit of comment about father and son combinations playing for Gloucester. Dick and Ian Smith can add a (so far) unique entry into that particular list. They are Gloucester's only pair of father and son Barbarians.

And that's a little bit of history for the Smith family.

## GOLDEN DAY FOR THE TOMBS'S

Another nice little piece of history was made on Saturday, September 19th. On the very day that Richard Tombs was scoring two tries for Gloucester against West Hartlepool, his wife, Clarissa, was winning a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. She was a member of the Australian netball squad, which as expected, saw off all opposition to take gold in Kuala Lumpur.

Well done both ! You've added yet another little oddity to the long list of such anecdotes which adorns Gloucester's 125 years of history.



## THE BRIGHTER SIDE

No one likes seeing people get hurt, of course, but I came across a couple of injuries, recently, which did show me that there can even be a brighter side to such incidents.

The first occurred in a game not 100 miles away, but I have been asked not to reveal any more detail than that to protect the innocent, as they used to say in 'Dragnet'.

It appears that one promising young player was chasing after the ball when an opposing prop forward fell over in front of him. Our Hero attempted to jump over him. Unfortunately, just as he became airborne, the recumbent warrior stuck his head up - just in time to meet the boot of the flying follower-up smack on the cranium.

Such things do happen, of course, and usually result in a headache, and in extreme cases, 21 days off for concussion. Not this time. The apparently injured party got to his feet, muttering obscenities and rubbing his head. The other guy collapsed, writhing in agony, having broken a bone in his foot.

Unkind people might have comments to make about the well-known thickness of the skulls of prop forwards.

The other incident was brought to my attention by a relative who rang me having just watched Central South TV's report on the Gloucester v. London Irish game. He commented on the sight of Mark Maplettoft and Scott Benton performing the manoeuvre known as 'high fives' after 'Tofty' had scored a try from a break by 'Scotty'.

Apparently, there are dangers in it. In one of my caller's local matches, a similar incident occurred. The two players ran towards each other, palms upraised, and brought them together in the gesture of mutual congratulation. At least, that was the idea. What actually happened was that the two hands missed each other, and one player had to go off with a broken nose.





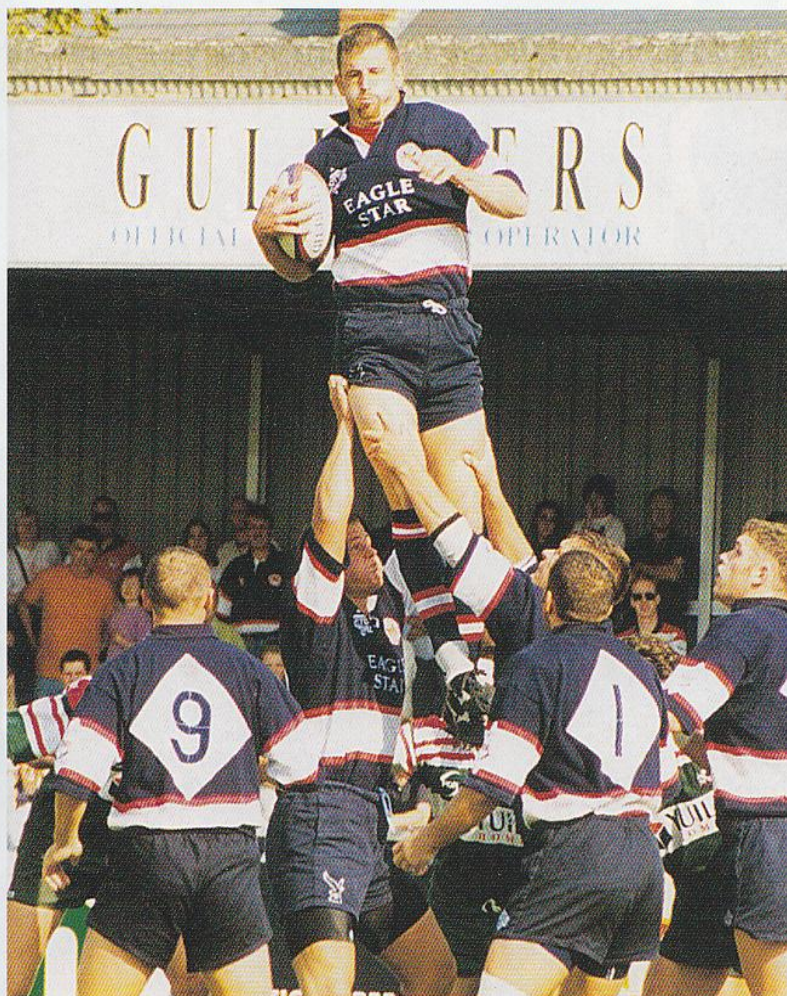
# Farewell Roy



## ROY LEITCH

Roy, who for many years sold programmes at the Kingsholm Ground passed away at the age of 64.

He will be best remembered by the supporters for remaining cheerful even in the most inclement of weathers and always having a pleasant word for those he came into contact with. He will be greatly missed by the supporters, club officials and programme producers. ROY who was not married leaves a step-mother and step-father to whom we all extend our heart felt sympathy



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Ouch ! If our lads are going to do it, perhaps they should practice it on training nights

### GOOD LUCK REG !

It's always nice when an old friend crops up in unfamiliar surroundings, and it was good to see that trenchant hooker from a couple of decades ago, Reg Daldry, in just such a situation. As anyone who knows the local rugby scene is very well aware, quite apart from turning out for Gloucester, Reg has been associated with Tredworth since William Webb Ellis was a lad, and still looks as if he could be a handy customer in the tight scrums.

Barton Street's 'Vauxhall Inn' has had a troubled year, what with one thing and another, but it's now open again, with the amiable Reg as Mine Host. He says he'd love to see any of his old rugby mates drop in and share reminiscences with him.

As most people know, Reg is Chairman of the fine old Tredworth RFC, and somehow the combination of that job and Landlord of the good old Vauxhall seems entirely appropriate.

### HARDER C. & G.

We shall probably find it a bit harder to win the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup this season than we did last time round. To start with, there are now ten Premiership One clubs climbing on the £172,000 bandwagon, including Newcastle, Bath and Saracens.

In fact, the whole format has changed. At least, I think it has: I have two pieces of paper in front of me which give conflicting accounts of the matter. As far as I can tell, the first round will be played on a home-and-away basis, while the later encounters will be straightforward knockouts.

The good news is that Gloucester, along with Bath, Newcastle and Saracens, have been presented with byes into the second round. The bad news would seem to indicate that we are without games on November 25th and December 5th. At the moment, anyway.

Those are the two weekends when the first round ties are to be played. As originally intended, the C. & G. games are to be staged around England's six international weekends. The timescale has been extended, however: matches

may now be played between the Wednesday before an International and the Wednesday afterwards.

If you recall, one of the attractions of the competition last season was that it provided an opportunity for fringe players to step into their International colleagues' boots, and show what they could do. Whether that will be quite as true this time around remains to be seen. After all, a chap could quite easily play in a Test match on Saturday and turn out for his club on the following Wednesday.

There would also seem to be a built-in bias in favour of the clubs who have bought in large numbers of overseas players, rather than relying on chaps who qualify for one of the home countries. The latter could well be deprived of the services of their International players, while the former won't.

Clubs joining Gloucester, Newcastle, Saracens and Bath in the second round will consist of the ten winners from the first round plus two 'wild cards' - losing sides with the highest aggregate scores.

Drawn games will be decided on the basis of most tries scored, and if the two sides can't be separated that way, then there will be (hold your breath) a drop-kick shot-out from the 22-metre line.

For your information, the first-round draw is as follows;

Northampton v. Moseley,  
Sale v. Orrell,  
Worcester v. Exeter,  
Richmond v. London Welsh,  
Leeds v. Rotherham,  
Rugby v. Leicester,  
Bristol v. Wakefield,  
Fylde v. Waterloo,  
Blackheath v. London Scottish,  
Coventry v. Bedford.

At least, I'm told it's a draw, but just look at the number of local Derbies in that list !

Ah, well ! We'll just have to see how it all works out. But it does look interesting.

### UNSIGNED

Will the gentleman (I assume) who wrote to me about Gloucester and Scotland player Donald Crichton-Miller please get in touch? 01452

537880. Sorry, Sir, but you forgot to sign your letter.

## The New Season

By Stacey and Melissa Jago

The new season's begun  
And they've started to play,  
We're doing so well,  
We beat Richmond away!

The Glos boys are ready  
And so is the Shed,  
The Cherry and Whites  
Are a team to dread!

Simmer is captain,  
He's tall and he's strong,  
When he is in charge  
We can't go far wrong!

Tofty is scoring  
Through kicks and  
through tries,  
England should pick him,  
He's the best in our eyes!

With so many international's  
Tombs, Fidler and Vicks,  
The players are ready  
With old and new tricks!

Hill's the best coach  
And everyone knows,  
By the way we are playing  
It really does show!

The kit has been changed  
From red, white and Black,  
But whatever the colours  
We're on the attack!

We know we'll go far  
With Walkinshaw's backing.  
When we play a game  
No spirit we're lacking!

Though the prices are high  
There will still be a crowd,  
We know that the Glos boys  
Will do us proud!

So good luck to Gloucester  
As the season goes on,  
The fans will be there  
All cheering you on!

### TAILPIECE

Gourmets among us will probably know all about truffles, those astronomically expensive, extremely posh, fungus-type delicacies which the French train pigs to root out for them.

The location of patches of truffles are a closely-guarded secret in those areas of France where they occur, so I was fascinated to read that a source of them has now been discovered on this side of the Channel.

"What has that to do with rugby ?" you may well ask. Not a lot really. Except that the highly up-market delicacies were found in Bath.

Why does that not surprise me ?



# FINAL STOP SOUTH AFRICA

By Steve Ojomoh

## ***"LIFE WITH THE BOYS AWAY FROM GLOUCESTER"***

Being an experienced tourist, I have always set myself goals for each tour and this time was no different. I wanted to play in all the tests and win most matches! However, it was mainly an opportunity to get to know my new team mates away from home. I failed dismally



on the first two counts, but the third was worth the trip alone!

I saw Our Dad (Big Simmo) in seven weeks go from a big strapping 18st 7lbs to 16st. Our Dad, bless him is not the best of flyers, it was quite a sight to see him popping three sleeping pills with a glass of champagne to knock him out! after 5 weeks and 14 flights later it finally came to a head when Dad decided to take a three and half hour road journey with our kitman to avoid an half hour flight with the rest of the boys to Invercargill. The few hours he was awake he couldn't speak because he had toothache – bless!

I was proud that I managed to persuade "Tough Tony" that there was life beyond Cider and gave him a trip around the Gin & Tonic circuit, not only that but Tough Tony went on to qualify for the World Championship Back Gammon tournament before injury struck – Tough Tony's moment was not to be!

My most confusing time of the tour was the experience of sharing a room with our Bentos (Scott). Not only is he the first guy outside Mr Bean that I have to look at to crack up, but I realised within the first couple of hours that our relationship was not going to work for I couldn't understand a word he was saying. The only way forward was to bring in the translators who have spent more time with him. These came in the shape of Vickery and Greening who thankfully told me to nod and say yes and no in the right places.

Our last member is a man from my own heart, "Old School." The first guy I have come across that is more laid back than myself. He was very good with the cups of tea, first to shout one in and last to leave. He wasn't shy of training either, although he did create his own personal calendar of when his days started on tour which mainly fell straight after each training session. The one and only Rob (Brad) Fidler.



# WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE



Nathan Carter



Mark Cornwell



Andy Dawling



Andy Deacon



Simon Devereux



Ed Pearce



Terry Fanolua



Rob Fidler



Chris Fortey



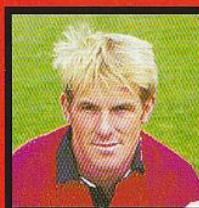
Pete Glanville



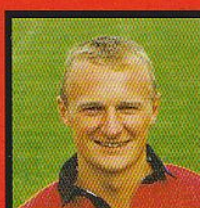
Phil Greening



Brian Johnson



Simon Mannix



Scott Benton



Laurie Beck



Audley Lumsden



Neil McCarthy



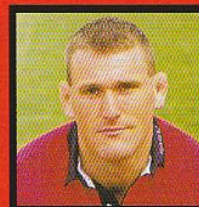
Steve Ojomoh



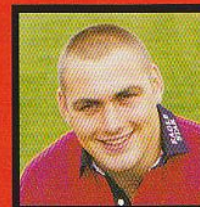
Philippe Saint-Andre



Richard Tombs



Richard Ward



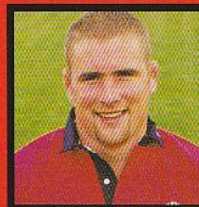
Trevor Woodman



Dave Sims



Tony Windo



Phil Vickery



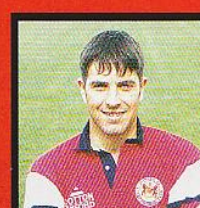
Chris Catling



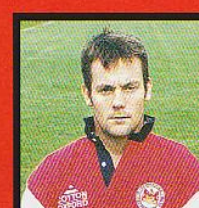
Mark Mapletoft



Rob Jewell



Rory Greenslade-Jones



Ian Sanders





# GLOUCESTER



# WASPS



Today's Match Day  
Sponsor: CRITIKON

15 Chris Catling  
14 Audley Lumsden  
13 Richard Tombs\*  
12 Simon Mannix\*  
11 Philippe Saint-André\*

10 Mark Mapletoft\*  
9 Scott Benton\*

1 Tony Windo  
2 Phil Greening\*  
3 Phil Vickery\*  
4 Rob Fidler\*  
5 Dave Sims (capt)\*  
6 Steve Ojomoh\*  
7 Nathan Carter  
8 Simon Devereux

16 Ian Sanders  
17 R Greenslade-Jones  
18 Rob Jewell  
19 Chris Fortey  
20 Trevor Woodman  
21 Mark Cornwell  
22 Andy Dawling

Full Back  
Right Wing  
Centre  
Centre  
Left Wing

Outside Half  
Scrum Half

Prop  
Hooker  
Prop  
Lock  
Lock  
Flanker  
Flanker  
No. 8

Replacements

\* Denotes international

Jon Ufton  
Shane Roiser  
Laurence Scrase  
\*Rob Henderson  
\*Kenny Logan

\*Josh Lewsey  
\*Andy Gomarsall

\*Darren Molloy  
Dugald Macer  
\*Will Green  
Mark Weedon  
\*Andy Reed  
\*Lawrence Dallaglio  
Paul Volley  
Joe Worsley

Mike Friday  
Alex King  
Nick Greenstock  
Simon Shaw  
Joe Beardshaw  
Adam Black  
Trevor Leota

Referee  
Brian Campsall

Touch Judges  
Chris Rees  
M Lambert-  
Gorman