



GLOUCESTER

V

**BIARRITZ
OLYMPIQUE**



**Saturday 20
November 1999
Kick-off 3.00pm**

Match Action

Gloucester versus
Saracens...

Player Poster

Chris Catling...

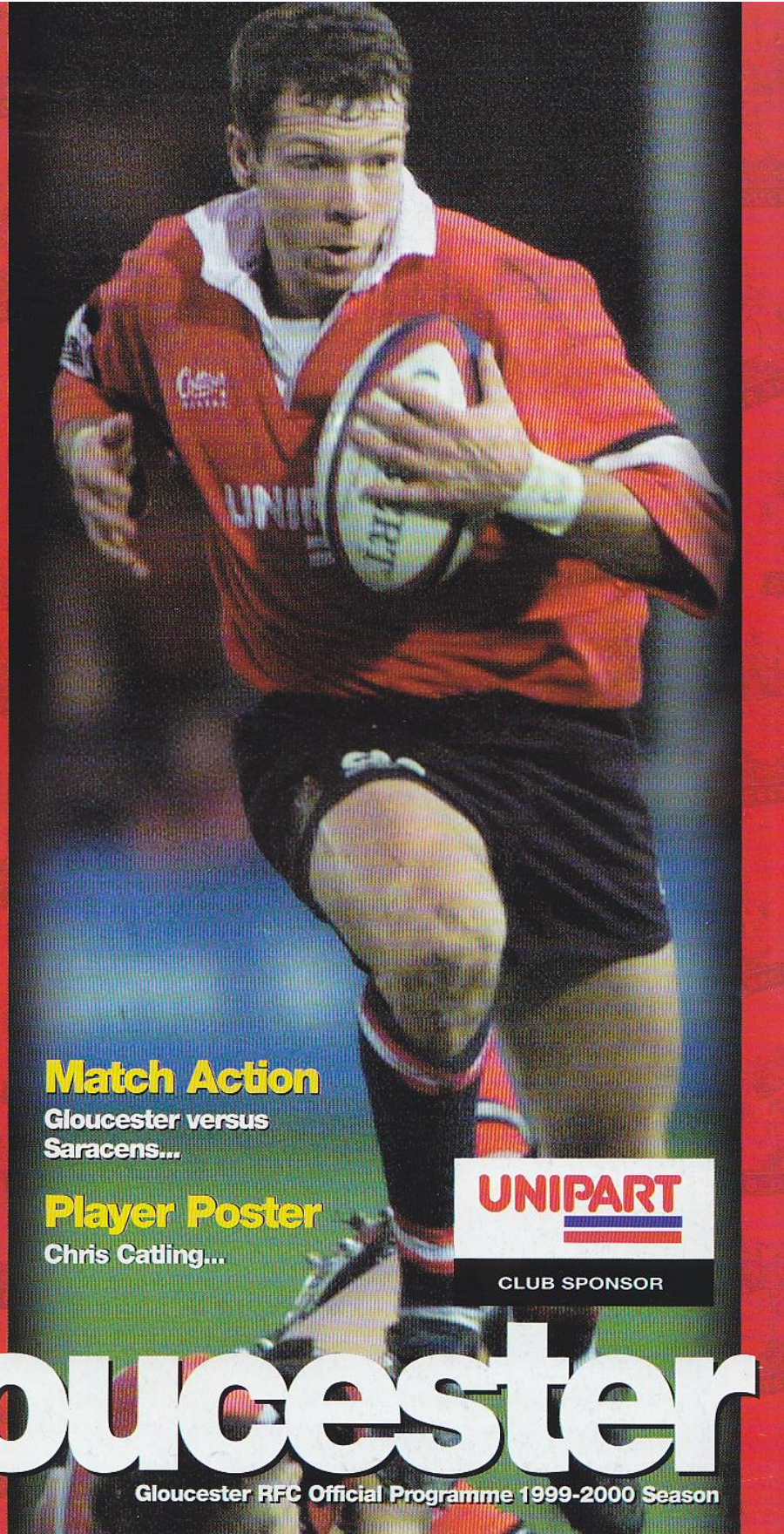
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Gloucester RFC Official Programme 1999-2000 Season



Welcome from The Editors

Gloucester V Biarritz

A Warm Welcome

Un accueil chaleureux sur leur première visite à Kingsholm est attendu à chacun de Biarritz Olympique, leur première visite vers Gloucester.

Olympique regardera pour répéter le résultat de leur et seulement rencontre précédente avec les blancs et cerises - les deux équipes se sont rencontrées le samedi 9 août, 1997 en France, avec Biarritz gagnant la rencontre 35-19 de pré-saison. Mais le jeu chez Kingsholm est une autre chose! Même dans le bouclier européen, Kingsholm est une "forteresse". Gloucester a gagné quatre des six matchs européens joués ici.

Il ne sera pas passé inaperçu dans le sud à l'ouest de la France que Gloucester a seulement détruit 447 des 2.302 jeux joués par Gloucester chez Kingsholm depuis que le stade a été ouvert en 1891 - actuel, Gloucester a gagné les huit derniers matchs successifs joués ici.

Il ne sera passé inaperçu que le dimanche dernier Gloucester a eu une victoire 22-19 magnifique ici contre Saracens dans un "classique" match de Kingsholm.

Naturellement, nous devons nous occuper de nos propres intérêts dans le bouclier européen, mais nous voudrions souhaiter à Biarritz Olympique une bonne campagne européenne.



A warm welcome on their first visit to Kingsholm is extended to everyone from Biarritz Olympique, their first visit to Gloucester.

Olympique will be looking to repeat the result from their one and only previous encounter with the Cherry and Whites - the two sides met on Saturday August 9, 1997 in France, with Biarritz winning the pre-season encounter 35-19.

But playing at Kingsholm is another matter! Even in the European Shield, Kingsholm is a "fortress". Gloucester has won four of the six European matches played here.

It will not have gone unnoticed in the South West of France that Gloucester has only lost 447 of the 2,302 matches played by Gloucester at Kingsholm since the stadium was opened in 1891 - currently, Gloucester has won the last eight successive games played here.

Nor will it have gone unnoticed that last Sunday Gloucester had a magnificent 22-19 win here against Saracens in what could well become a "classic" Kingsholm match.

Unashamedly, we have to look after our own interests in the European Shield, but we would like to wish Biarritz Olympique well in their campaign.

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Gloucester RFC Hotline - 09068 333040*

Valid from 20th September 1999 - *Calls cost 60p per minute at all times



Coach's Viewpoint

John Fidler

"Serge would have fitted right into the Gloucester teams of the seventies and eighties and he would have enjoyed it. Just imagine, Simon, Nicholls and Burton. They would have been very useful!"

Once the season finishes the recruitment and sorting out contracts really takes over and it is my busiest time. You have to meet prospective new players after Philippe has identified them, sort out contractual terms, accommodation for the player and his family and generally ensure that we provide a happy environment.

Its common knowledge that new players stay at my house when they first arrive. If Jean-Pierre isn't there then one of the players will be! Ian Jones is currently there with his wife and young child.

Looking forward to today's match, I well remember when we last played Biarritz. It was August and very hot. The coach journey took two hours and when we got to the ground it was still 35 degrees at eight o'clock at night. The humidity was incredible!

I'll always remember Andy Deacon coming up to me after the game and saying, "Fids, it was like having a polythene bag over your head, there was no air and it was ever so hot!". Biarritz are, like all French sides, a

strong team with a powerful scrum and classy backs - It won't be an easy game.

Talking of Ian, he's very pleased to be here and he keeps going on about the reception the fans gave him. Although he had a disappointing World Cup with the All Blacks the reception they got when they got home wasn't all that bad. But now he's made the long return journey and he's looking forward to being involved.

Philippe and the coaches have done a good job, they play the game plan they want to play and at the moment it's successful. It's always been my philosophy that rugby is a simple game and if you are on top in the scrum, win your line-out and do the basics well it creates the platform for a successful team.

The introduction of Serge Simon has helped the team tremendously. He is a superb guy and another player who has stayed at my house. My wife will tell anyone that he is the perfect gentleman, but he is definitely a Jekyll and Hyde character because on the rugby field its a different story.

He's very hard, very physical and he's not gonna change for anyone. Serge would have fitted

right into the Gloucester teams of the seventies and eighties and he would have enjoyed it. Just imagine, Simon, Nicholls and Burton. They would have been very useful!

Today we'll see our newest signing Byron Hayward make his debut. He'll be able to provide cover at fly-half and full-back, an area that Philippe was very concerned about.

The coaches now feel that they have good cover in all positions and we're confident that the competition for places will breed success.

Our overseas players are Richard Tombs, Terry Fanolua, Elton Moncrieff and Junior Paramore - Richard is now contracted to the end of the season. The rules are an absolute minefield and were changed during the summer. Now the only qualification is through your wife or your parents - its now considered that grandparents are too distant.

Elton could still play for Scotland but he would still be classified as an overseas player, just as the Leslie brothers are. We have to be so careful because if we field an ineligible player we could forfeit a game or lose points.

Captain's Comment

Kingsley Jones



"There are some good sides in the competition and there are more than 80 players from 17 countries who were in the World Cup playing in the 28 Shield teams."

The European Shield! Now, despite what some might think, we are taking this competition very seriously.

We have quality players in the squad and it gives a chance for those who have not had much playing time to come in and prove a point - and I am sure they will.

It is no secret that the top priority is for a good final position in the Allied Dunbar Premiership - and a place in next season's Heineken European Cup.

But at the end of the day, there is a trophy to be won in the Shield. We have a settled Premiership side and have stuck largely to the same team for our eight Allied Dunbar games.

Now is the chance for some of us who have started every Premiership game to have a welcome break - myself included!

But I am looking forward to the Shield campaign - it is going to be a good tournament. I think that with teams like Biarritz, Bridgend and Spain, it will be a new experience for us.

In the case of Biarritz, Philippe has got inside information on French rugby, so we have a little bit of an advantage there. I have an insight into the Bridgend side and Welsh rugby.

It is good to have this awareness and I am sure it will come in handy. Don't let anyone tell you that the

Shield is "the other European competition". There are some good sides in the competition and there are more than 80 players from 17 countries who were in the World Cup playing in the 28 Shield teams. But, while I understand where he is coming from, I don't totally agree with Graham Henry who said this week that the European Shield is a tougher competition than the European Cup. Both will be tough to win ... both have some good English and French clubs.

Now, to last Sunday. Wow!

It was a marvellous occasion. It was an honour and a privilege to be part of the game - and it will stay with me forever.

I do, however, have to be honest. From a players' perspective, we did put a lot of balls down and we did

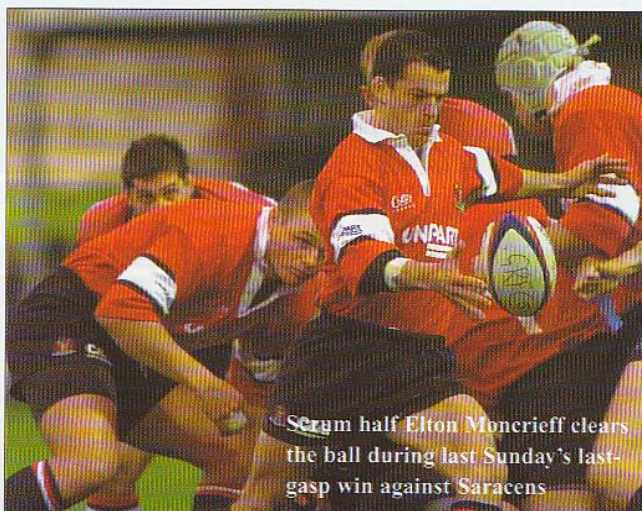
make a lot of mistakes, but it is possible to come off with a win yet be disappointed with the performance, both as a team and individually.

We must not be complacent and we have to keep our feet firmly on the ground. If we lose our next three Premiership matches, it will all be in vain - and we will be mid-table.

I feel that with your continued support, we will meet our targets. We need as many of you as can make it at the Memorial Ground on December 4 when we play Bristol.

And we are all aware that there are a lot of you who are going to Madrid next weekend. See you in Spain ... Ole!

Kingsley Jones was talking to Andrew Harley



Scrum half Elton Moncrieff clears the ball during last Sunday's last-gasp win against Saracens

Byron Hayward Signs For Gloucester

Welsh International utility back Byron Hayward has finally signed for Gloucester after much speculation. Hayward, capped twice for Wales, was at Kingsholm yesterday (Sunday) to see his new team beat Saracens 22-19.

"The atmosphere was electric - and this was only a league game," he said. "The atmosphere was like a SWALEC Cup semi-final match and I was impressed immensely.

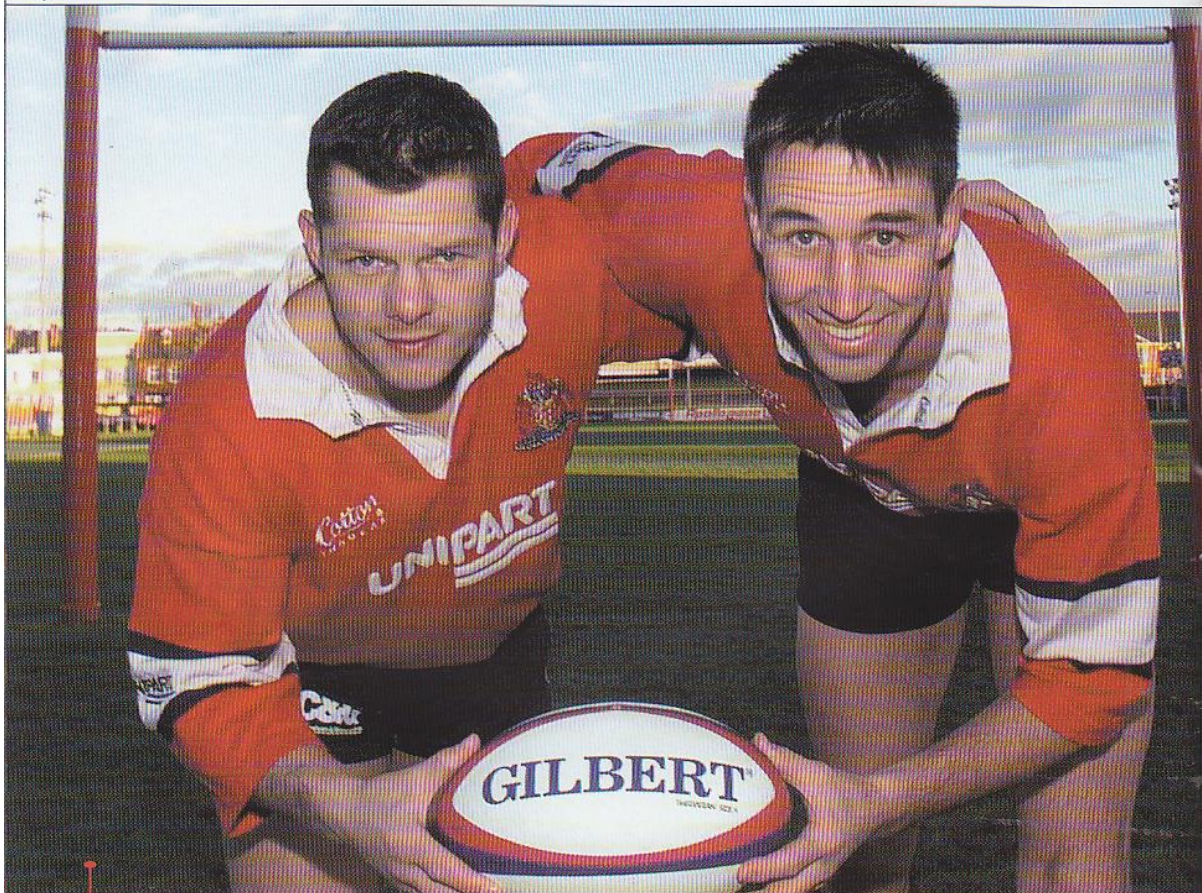
"It is one of the reasons that my first choice was Gloucester - they are passionate about their rugby here. I have played in Wales for eight seasons and this will be a new challenge.

"I am also impressed by the club. There is a good and professional set-up here at Gloucester under Philippe Saint-André." But he denied that former clubmate Kingsley Jones had influenced his decision. "The fact that Kingsley is here made very little difference. I spoke with Philippe and he is very knowledgeable and very professional. I had no doubts that Gloucester is where I want to be.

Hayward said he was looking forward to playing his part in the revival of rugby at Gloucester.

"I know that Philippe's target is for a top four finish," he said. "But it would be quite something if Gloucester could win the Allied Dunbar Premiership this year."

Hayward, who has signed a two year contract, starts training with the Gloucester squad tomorrow (Tuesday). He could be available to play for Gloucester in today's European Shield opener against Biarritz Olympique.



Peter Arnold

Change of Scenery

Peter Arnold

Phew ! Don't want too many like last Sunday. That crucial win against the 'Sarries' was far too close for comfort. Indeed, that sort of tight squeeze does seem to be something of a habit this term but I suppose that, if nothing else, it proves that what Stewart Barnes calls 'Good old West Country Dog' is alive and well and living at Kingsholm.

But it's a different scene altogether this week. There's no such thing as an 'easy' French team, and today's visitors from the South of France are very welcome. The 'beef war' in the front row will be interesting.

But what of our other European opponents ? Most of us probably wrote off Spain as easy points when the draw was announced, but they've been tempered in the fires of the World Cup since then, and didn't do too badly at that. So they're not to be underrated.

And as for Bridgend - remember Mike Burton's famous remark? "You don't know about rugby until you've played on the side of a slagheap in South Wales on a wet Wednesday night !"

LET'S MAKE A LIST

On November 5th my son brought his little boy along to the Sale game, young Michael's first visit to

Kingsholm. This merely carries on the family tradition, and it also means that six generations of Arnolds have now supported Gloucester RFC. My great-grandfather had seven sons, and they all watched Gloucester on the Spa in the 1870's and '80's.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not claiming anything unique, or even particularly unusual. There must be a great number of families who could claim similar records, including my old friend Mike Price, aka 'Pricey of the Tump'. I think we sometimes forget, in these professional days, just how powerful a social influence Gloucester Rugby Football Club has always been in our fair City.

But, as we approach the new Millennium, wouldn't it be nice to dig a little deeper? It would be good to compile a little list of families who have supported Gloucester in all three centuries during which the Club has been in existence. Having done that, perhaps we could get together, sometime in the New Year, for an old-fashioned chin-wag and a beer or three.

What do you think ? Anyone who qualifies can drop me a line at 74 Victoria Street, Gloucester GL1 4EW, ring me on 01452 537880, or Email me on: PeteArnold@aol.com.

CYRIL'S BACK !

Did you notice that Cyril Ravenhill has decided to come out of retirement and add to his 775 appearances for Old Cryptians ?

Apparently, he's afraid that Paul Clack will overtake his record in a season or so.

Of course, there's nothing new about players making a comeback, but to do so at the age of 59 is stretching it a bit. Blimey, I thought I was doing well playing cricket until I was 56!

Of course, Cyril is famous for being one of the better wings in local rugby, but he's returning as a prop forward. Says that Phil Vickery's place isn't in danger. I'm sure that the 'Raging Bull' will be relieved about that.

On the other hand, it might curb the enthusiasm of one or two props that I know, when they realise they're packing down against a member of the County's Disciplinary Committee.

BAD LUCK FID!

It was hard on Rob Fidler when his injured shoulder kept him out of the Barbarians side the other week. If he had been fit he would have broken two records. First, he would have been the only living Gloucester player to represent the Barbarians at Kingsholm. Second, he would have become a member of only the second Gloucester-Barbarian father-and-son pairing, the other being Dick and Ian Smith.

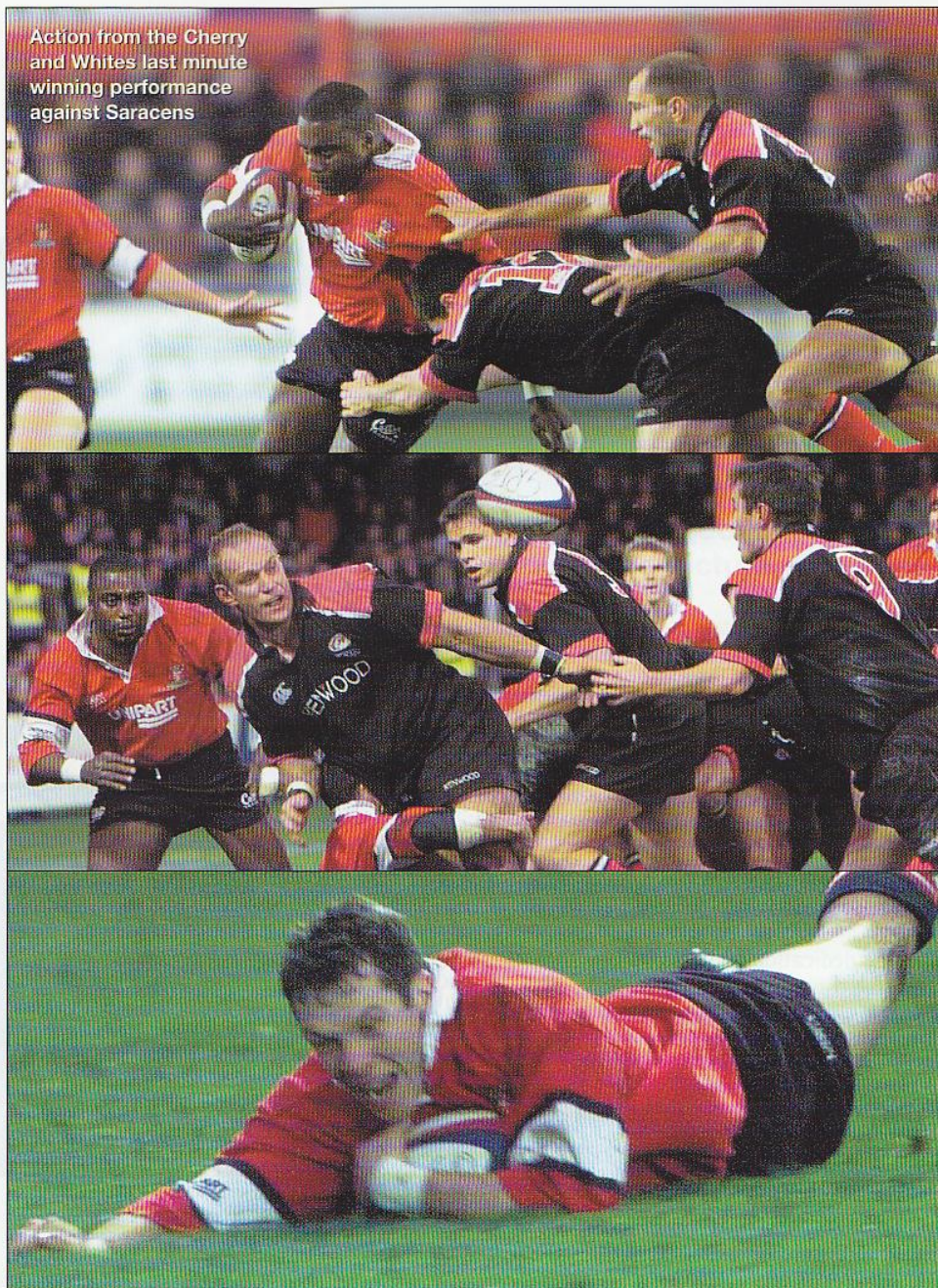
Rob's dad, John turned out at least once, on the traditional Welsh Easter tour, in a match where Malcolm Preedy also played.

Hard luck, 'Fid'. Your chance will come again.

Match Action

Gloucester v Saracens

Action from the Cherry and Whites last minute winning performance against Saracens



Read The News And Air Your Views on the Official Gloucester RFC Website
www.kingsholm-chronicle.org.uk

Farewell Katie ... and Hello Alistair

By Alastair Downey

To say I am delighted to be covering Gloucester would be the understatement of the year. For as long as I can remember I have been standing in the Shed at Kingsholm watching one of the biggest domestic rugby clubs in the country and there is no better grounding in the sport than that.

I now have the chance to do it full-time which will be not only a challenge, but also a huge honour. I know plenty of people who would like to swap positions with me.

I stood in for Katie when she was away in Australia for a month earlier in the year and thoroughly enjoyed

the experience when Gloucester played their Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final at Wasps.

I am looking forward to travelling round the country and hopefully Europe with Philippe Saint-André and the team and hope to spread the news of a good Gloucester side.

When I was at Marling School I played rugby, cricket and football for the school and I now play for Frocester Cricket Club.

It will not be easy stepping into Katie's shoes, and I will be looking for lots of advice and support, which I am sure I will get from the Shed.

C'mon Glaws!

by Katie Coker

I will watch today's match against Biarritz with mixed feelings. There will be the usual excitement which is present whenever I report from Gloucester's games, but there will also be sadness because this is my last match as the rugby writer for the Gloucester Citizen newspaper.

I am leaving to join Rugby World magazine, so I will still be making occasional professional trips to Kingsholm, but Gloucester Rugby Club will no longer be my home from home. It is more than seven years since I took up the job at the Citizen and, in that time, I have followed Gloucester all over England - as well as to Wales, France and Italy.

Since September 1 1992 I have reported on all but a handful of Gloucester games. It has been a rollercoaster ride as the club fought a succession of relegation battles in the early years, but there has been success to enjoy too.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to everyone at Gloucester Rugby Club who have worked with me over the years. Almost without exception the players and back-room staff have been friendly, helpful and a joy to work with.

I would also like to thank all the supporters who have always had a kind word to say to me - happily there are quite a few of you.

I will take hundreds of happy memories with me as I leave Kingsholm and I will be back when I can . . . as a Gloucester supporter.



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Gloucester Leave it Late

Gloucester 22 Saracens 19 By David Musson

The Three Davids

You might recall that in our programme for the Sale match, there was a report on the win at Northampton by young Gloucester supporter David Musson.

We were so impressed with the work of this budding sports writer (aged 13) that last weekend he was invited to sit in the Kingsholm press box, seated between two respected rugby writers, David Hands of The Times and David Llewellyn of The Independent.

Both Hands and Llewellyn were also impressed at young Musson's aptitude and approach.

They willingly gave him a few "tips of the trade" and answered his questions.

Musson attended the post game press conference - and had the "courage" to ask a couple of questions in front of the hardened writers from the national and local papers.

The club received a delightful "thank you letter" from Musson who proclaimed that he definitely wants a career as a sports writer. Attached to the letter were 389 words - the Saracens match as he saw it.

Saracens have never won at Kingsholm. After what has now been the seventeenth meeting of these two teams at Gloucester, that fact remains the same. The cherry and whites won this tie with an 84th minute penalty from fly half, Simon Mannix.

Earlier in the second half, the score could have been more for Gloucester, but Mannix's penalty from point blank range hit the post. After the match, Gloucester's head coach Phillipe Saint-André said he was unhappy with the discipline of his players, but he also said that referees should have the use of video evidence to support their decisions.

The referee would have benefited from the use of the video in this game as he gave twenty-one penalties against Gloucester. If you were to read this you may think that

Gloucester were very ill disciplined, but most of those decisions were down to very strict refereeing from Mr Barnard.

The first half never really got going. The only things separating the two teams for most of this half were the boots of Mannix and Lacroix. In scoring his first of two first half penalties, Simon Mannix chalked up his 100th point of the 1999-2000 season. A late pushover try from Saracens lock Bill Davison, which was converted by Lacroix, gave Saracens a rather flattering 16-9 half time lead. Gloucester came alive in the second half and Mannix scored an early penalty to make the score 12-16. Lacroix then scored another penalty to extend his team's lead but three minutes later, Gloucester equalised with a superb try from winger, Tom Beim.

A pre-arranged, Saint-Andre-taught move started at a lineout on the

Saracens twenty-two. A short interchange of passes between Trevor Woodman, Rob Fidler and Kingsley Jones eventually got the ball back to Simon Mannix. Mannix held on to the ball for just the right amount of time before releasing Beim, who took it on the burst and scored under the posts - Mannix converted.

Gloucester kept on pressing and were rewarded with their late penalty. Saint-Andre said he would be happy with a top-four finish this season and, if Gloucester can repeat winning performances away from 'Fortress Kingsholm' as well as winning their home games, this huge task may be possible.

SCORING SEQUENCE

(Gloucester first):

3-0, 3-3, 3-6, 6-6, 6-9, 6-16, 9-16

(half time), 9-19, 19-19, 22-19.

Match Report



Today's Officials

Referee:

David Davies
(WRU)

Touch Judges:

Clayton Thomas
(WRU)
Tony Rowlands
(WRU)

Commissioner:

Andy Melrose
(GRFU)

Saturday November 20, 1999

Today's Line-Ups

Gloucester 22

15	Chris Catling
14	Brian Johnson T
13	Joe Ewens
12	Terry Fanolua
11	Tai Glassie
10	Byron Hayward
9	Ian Sanders
1	Adey Powles
2	Neil McCarthy
3	Andy Deacon
4	Rob Fidler (capt)
5	Mark Cornwell
6	Pete Glanville
7	Andrew Hazell
8	Ed Pearce

Biarritz 13

15	Philippe Bidabe
14	Bixente Artola
13	Nicolas Couttet
12	Denis Cech
11	Philippe Bernat-Salles
10	Franco Botica TC2P
9	Jean-Philippe Saffore
1	Sotele Puleoto
2	Pascal Berachateguy
3	Denis Avril
4	Jean-Philippe Versailles
5	Mikael Lefevre
6	Serge Betsen (capt)
7	Scott Keith
8	Olivier Nauroy

Replacements

16	Elton Moncrieff
17	Rob Jewell
18	Martin Kimber 2P
19	Jawad Djoudi
20	Serge Simon
21	Steve Ojomoh
22	Adam Eustace

16	Laurent Mazas
17	Eric Darritchon
18	Yannick Lamour
19	Christophe Milheres
20	Legi Matiu
21	Eric Dutrey
22	Michel Irazoqui

IAN JONES T
SIMON MANNIX 2P

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