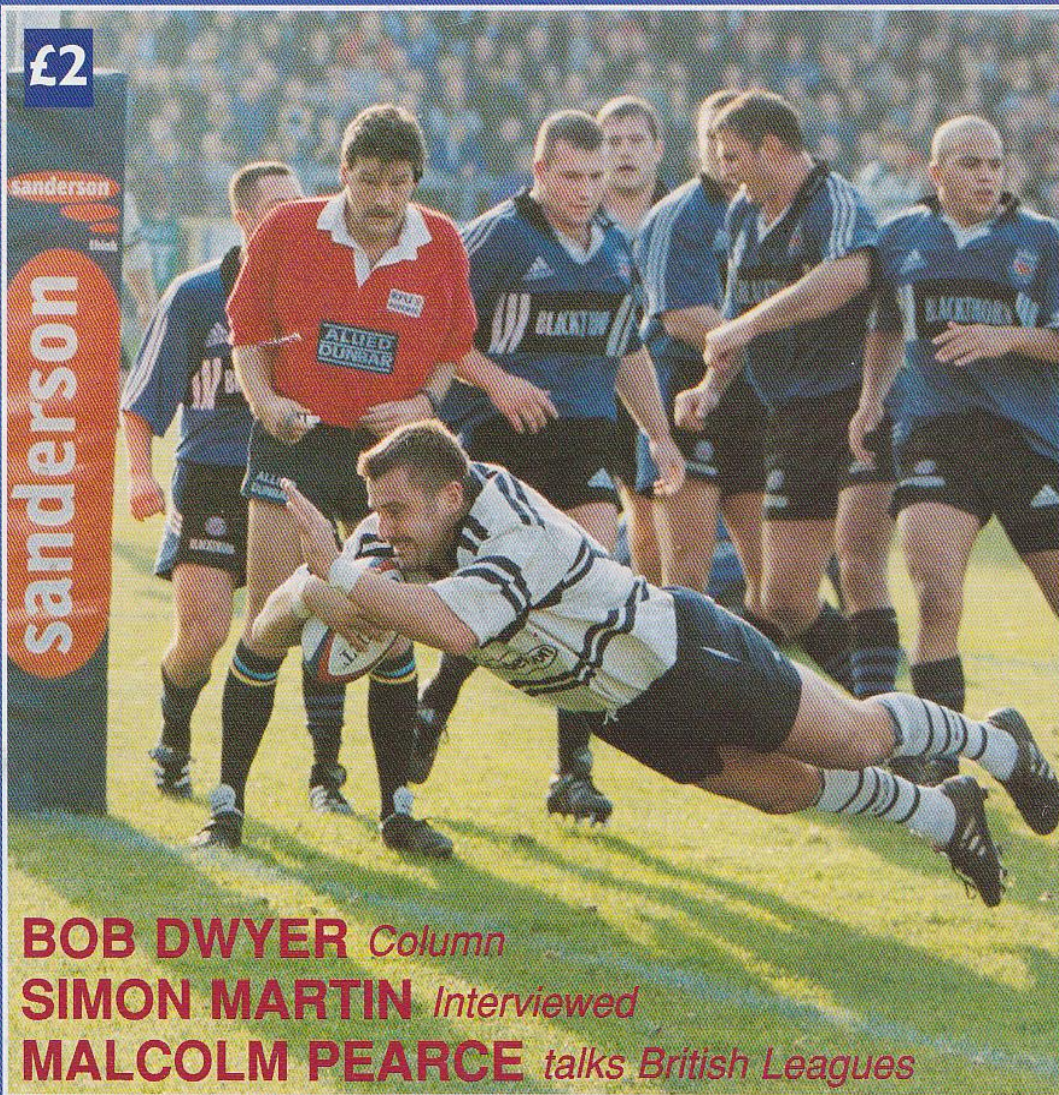


BRISTOL RUGBY

Saturday 4 December Kick off 3pm

vs Gloucester

£2



BOB DWYER *Column*

SIMON MARTIN *Interviewed*

MALCOLM PEARCE *talks British Leagues*

Win Virgin Express Flights • Action Shots • Competitions



Official Matchday Programme Volume 4 Issue 7



BRISTOL

vs



GLOUCESTER

Saturday 4 December 1999

Allied Dunbar Premiership One

1	PAUL JOHNSTONE	Prop	SERGE SIMON	1
2	BARRY WILLIAMS	Hooker	CHRIS FORTEY	2
3	DARREN CROMPTON	Prop	ANDY DEACON	3
4	OCKERT BOOYSE	Lock	ROB FIDLER	4
5	DEAN RYAN (capt)	Lock	IAN JONES	5
6	CHRISTIAN EVANS	Blindside	STEVE OJOMOH	6
7	ADAM VANDER	Openside	KINGSLEY JONES (capt)	7
8	JIM BROWNRIGG	No.8	ED PEARCE	8
9	AGUSTIN PICHOT	Scrum Half	ELTON MONCRIEFF	9
10	HENRY HONIBALL	Fly Half	SIMON MANNIX	10
11	SPENCER BROWN	Left Wing	TOM BEIM	11
12	PAUL WHITTAKER	Centre	CHRIS YATES	12
13	JAMIE MAYER	Centre	TERRY FANOLUA	13
14	LEE BEST	Right Wing	CHRIS CATLING	14
15	MATTHEW BACK	Full Back	BYRON HAYWARD	15
16	SEAN MARSDEN	Replacements	TBC.	16
17	GARETH BOWEN			17
18	GARETH BABER			18
19	CRAIG SHORT			19
20	DAMIEN RUDHAM			20
21	ALEX BROWN			21
22	PABLO LEMOINE			22

HOTEL du VIN
&
BISTRO

Bristol RFC's
Hotel Partner

RFU Advisor & 4th Official

Mike Curling
(Bath)

Mark Doran
(Bristol)

Match Referee

Steve Lander
(Wirral)

Touch Judges

Steve Savage
(Nuneaton)

Andy Melrose
(Cheltenham)

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A very warm welcome to everyone here at the Memorial Stadium for this the second of the West Country Derby matches.

Historically, the Bath fixture has always been **THE** match Bristol fans would love to see go their way, yet it is Gloucester who are setting the early pace. Currently running second in the Premiership with 13 points, they top their European Group after dispatching Biarritz at home and then the Spanish national side last weekend in Spain. I expect Gloucester will be looking forward to this afternoon's fixture when you look at their early season form in both in Europe and at home.

However, Bristol sixth in the table and only 3 points off the pace will want the win that could jump them right into contention. They look as if they have enjoyed the first phase of their European campaign. An excellent result at Dax, coupled with last weekend's bruising win over Calvisano have set up an early showdown with Begles-Bordeaux next Friday night.

Having not seen last Sunday's



Ben Breeze - Programme Editor, Research & Designer

I'm sure most rugby supporters in the ground are looking forward to a fiercely competitive and physical game.

game I can only rely on match reports of what seemed to be a rather bad tempered affair. There is no doubt that physical contact is an integral part of rugby union but there is no room in my book for out and out thuggery (as I'm sure Jim Brownrigg's nose will agree). However, I was glad to see how swiftly the punishments for dirty play have been administered. The 21 day ban given to Mr Vaghi resulting from his red card received last Sunday could be considered as a let off when compared to the two year ban given to Colomiers replacement prop for eye gouging in their game against Pontypridd last weekend.

It sounds almost hypocritical yet I (as I'm sure most rugby supporters in the ground would agree) am looking forward to a fiercely competitive and physical game. There is no doubt Gloucester's travelling support will contribute to the type of atmosphere every Bristol (and Gloucester) player will want to play in.

I'm gutted that again I will not be able to see today's battle, but Newport has a local derby of it's own to fight for. It will be my first experience of Newport vs Cardiff at the Arms Park and one I have been looking forward to for some weeks.

I hope by 7 o'clock tonight both Bristol and Newport will be threatening the top of their respective tables!

Enjoy the game.

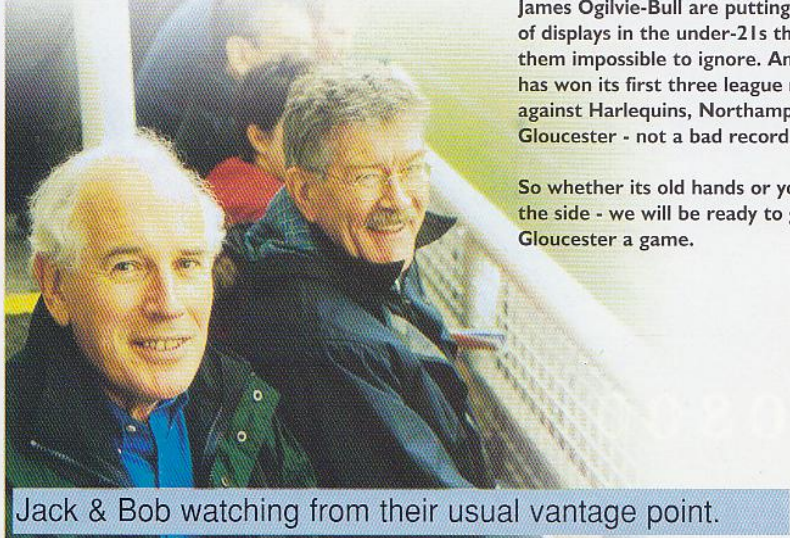
Here we are with the opportunity to do well in another local derby. We are fortunate that the fixtures have allowed us to play first Bath, and today Gloucester in home matches at a time when we are re-establishing our credibility as a Premiership force.

The game against Bath was an exciting affair, though they managed to squeak a draw from it right at the end. I have no doubt that today's encounter should bring us more of the same.

I'm particularly pleased to play Gloucester at this stage, when they are bowling along at the top of the league, because it gives us a chance to test ourselves against the best. Last season they were a mid-table side, but Philippe Saint-Andre has built his squad slowly and surely and the results have gone their way so far. They have proved their critics wrong, who suggested that they might actually struggle this year.

Today they have got a new face in their team in Ian Jones. He was in the All Blacks squad for the World Cup, though he didn't play as big a part as he has done in the past. But he has won heaps of admirers all around the world during a long and successful career, and I am sure he still has a major contribution to make in our league.

Someone else I believe will make a similar, and I hope even greater contribution, is a man we will be watching during his home debut today in our colours - Henry Honiball.



Jack & Bob watching from their usual vantage point.

Henry and Augustin Pichot have been paired at half-back twice already, though ironically both games have been away from the Memorial Stadium. They were outstanding in our excellent win at Sale in their first game together, and their understanding of each others play had developed by the time we had to travel to France to face Dax. Henry's kicking on

"Alex Brown & James Ogilvie-Bull are putting in the sort of displays that make them impossible to ignore."

that day - eight from eight - was as impressive a demonstration of the art as I have seen in a long time.

If Henry and Gus continue to improve as a pairing, and develop the instinctive appreciation of each others play which is so important at the top level, then we have a chance of upsetting the early season pace-setters.

But we won't only be reliant on established stars of world rugby. The injuries we have picked up means we could be putting more of our under-21s into the First Team Squad. I said at the start of the season that our youngsters would get a chance at some stage, and there is no bigger challenge to a young player than to get that opportunity in a derby game.

Sean Marsden did a marvellous job for us last season, and he has done well again when we have called on him recently. But there are others who are close to getting a shot at the first team - Alex Brown and James Ogilvie-Bull are putting in the sort of displays in the under-21s that make them impossible to ignore. And that team has won its first three league matches against Harlequins, Northampton and Gloucester - not a bad record.

So whether its old hands or young guns in the side - we will be ready to give Gloucester a game.

Local derbies such as today's game bring out the best and the worst in players, referees and spectators alike.

No doubt Bristol Evening Post journalist Steve Hill will have been doing his utmost to unearth a scoop and stoke up the passion of his readers with stories of historic games between these two magnificent clubs. Will he find an angle to interest his readers and his editor? The latter is particularly challenging, as he always appears to give priority to the two local football teams despite their lowly status in the leagues.

Even at local junior club level Bristol v Gloucester derbies are legendary. I shall never forget the time when I played for my former club, Old Bristolian's, in their very first league fixture. We played Gloucester Old Boys at home in mid September. Luckily former Bristol player Simon Hogg was available to play for us. We won 26-3 with Simon having a great game as well as scoring most of our points. Gloucester Old Boys were smarting at the end of the game in what turned out to be just about the only league fixture they lost during the next 6 or 7 seasons. A year later in the return fixture and our luck had run out. Both sides were much changed and Gloucester Old Boys realised that all they had to do was take us on physically up front and frighten us. Boy did they take their revenge! They put more than 70 points on us and most of my team-mates had the battle scars to prove they had been in a tough game. I can remember it as if it were yesterday. Such memories are why local derbies are special and now that I am refereeing it is what makes me look forward to the weekend.

So what of today's game? If you were the referee how would you approach it? Reflect for a moment - would you go out intent on enjoying yourself or would you try to impose your authority right from the word go? Would you be looking for trouble or would you wait and see? In reality you will probably think and do all of these things especially when you think about the 8,000 spectators willing their team on? No referee

sets out to have a bad game. Most top referees arrive at the game about 2 hours before the scheduled kick off time. This might sound early but there is a lot to do. Although it's a time to relax, and get the stiffness out of the body after the journey, a referee uses the time wisely to familiarise himself with the ground, talk to his fellow officials and meet with players and representatives of both sides. About an hour or so before kick off a pre-match briefing will take place. It wasn't all that long ago that referees were not allowed under Law to speak to the teams before kick off but now it's ok to do so. Typically the pre-match briefing provides a good opportunity for the referee to explain to the captains what he is looking for during each phase of the game. Although the two captains may not listen too carefully to what is being said that isn't really the point. I believe that almost of greater significance than the words he says is the referee's body language and demeanour during the briefing. I have come to realise that even at the level I referee at, it is important to talk to captains before the game. It is at this time that the referee is able to demonstrate confidence in his own ability and his personality to the captains.

Of course during the initial phases of the game, which are inevitably played at 100mph, players of both sides will be looking to push the referee to the limit and test whether he will stick by what he said before the game. During this time you often see the referee forget about playing advantage and award more penalties than at any other time during the game. By doing so the players know what the referee will or will not tolerate. Eventually most games settle down and both players and referees are able to express themselves.

And if you waiver - well that's when the fun starts and you know you are in for a difficult afternoon!

Enjoy the game

