



GLOUCESTER
V
BRIDGEND



Saturday 18
December 1999
Kick-off 3.00pm



CLUB SPONSOR

“Adieu Serge!”

Gloucester

Issue 7 - £2.00

Gloucester RFC Official Programme 1999-2000 Season

Welcome from The Editors

A Warm Welcome

It appears that the Millennium Bug has hit the office at Kingsholm where these 48 pages were put together! We should have seen the warnings.

It was two weeks ago when the publishers phoned and dropped the bombshell. Because of the Great British Christmas Closedown in the printing industry, not only did the London Irish programme have to go to press a week before Christmas, but so did the programme for the visit of Bath next century.

If that was not enough, the deadline for this programme was brought forward to before last weekend's encounter at Bridgend.

We did manage to negotiate a handful of "late pages" which closed on Monday at lunchtime.

So if the teams are not as accurate as they usually are, please accept our apologies.

Anyway, the programme was coming along nicely and we were bang on target in production terms.

But we had reckoned without the Sunday Times.

A reporter from the "toyshop" (that's the department more formally known as "sports") wanted to know just how the average Gloucester supporter felt about the move into the professional era.

He wanted to know what you thought about the "imports" amongst the players – that sort of thing.

So, being a resourceful sort of a guy, the sportswriter posted a short message on the "Guestbook" of the Kingsholm Chronicle, the club's web site.

As we write this, we wonder if the Sunday Times were expecting a couple of people to reply.

Well, did YOU have news for the Sunday Times!

The guestbook carried scores of replies from scores of Glaws fans.

Virtually all of the replies posted on the guestbook for the world to see said much the same thing...

While we like to see local players in the Gloucester team, we don't really care if someone is from Mars as long as he wears the Gloucester jersey with pride and plays with passion.

Many did point out areas where there could be an improvement in the "bricks and mortar" and off-field activities of the club.

But the bottom line was really the passion showed by those who responded.

And that there was such an overwhelming consensus of opinion.

Steve Jones, who most of you would rate as their favourite

rugby scribe, admitted that the sports desk was taken aback with the response. We had no alternative, really, in doing a "Lou Grant" and throwing out an article to make room for one of the postings to the Sunday Times.

It was hard to make the decision of which one to print – the vast majority could easily have "made it" into print in this programme.

The one that is reproduced in *Dear Sunday Times* on page 29 reflects, we believe, the majority of what was written.

Nothing has been altered, except for a couple of spelling corrections and the introduction of paragraphs – Guestbooks on the internet, for some reason, puts everything into one long paragraph, just like a newspaper did 100 years ago.

Now, just when we thought it was safe to relax and venture down to Wales to watch Gloucester play, came the news that Philippe Saint-André and Tom Walkinshaw had agreed a deal that would keep our coach at Kingsholm for a further two years.

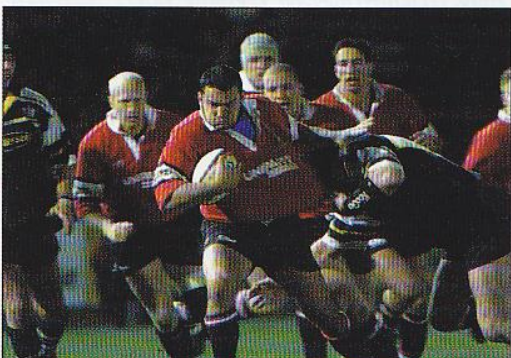
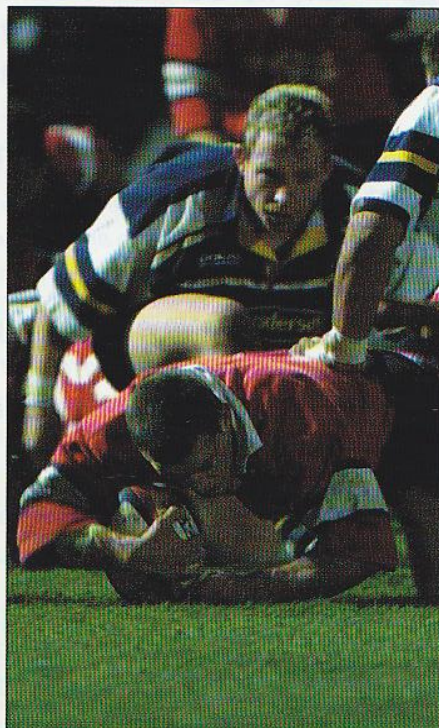
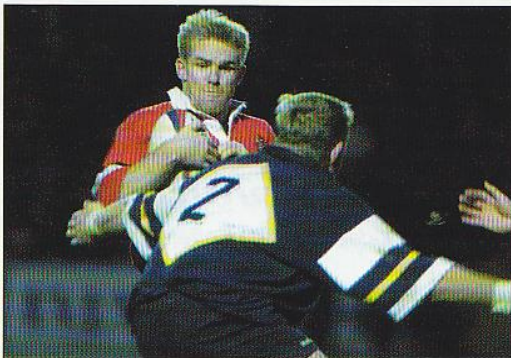
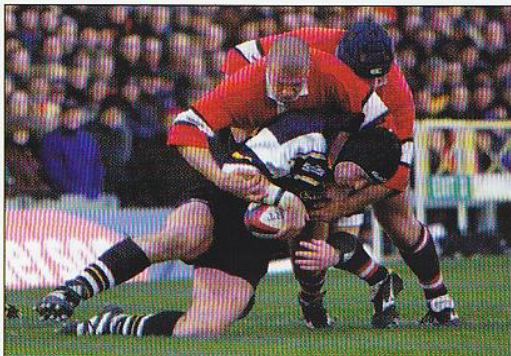
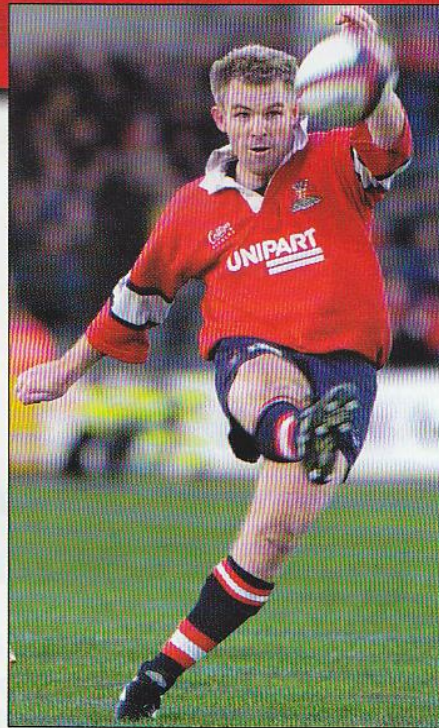
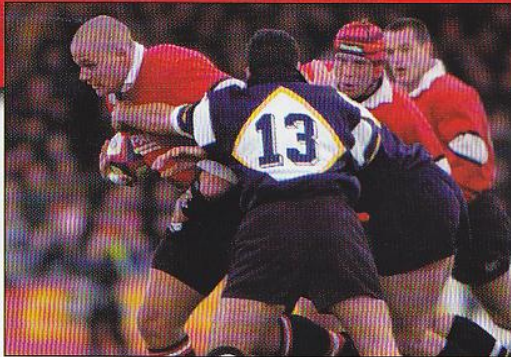
Back to the drawing board?
Naw!

The French flavour today reflects on a Frenchman who has become almost a Kingsholm icon after less than 10 appearances.

So while we say Joyeux Noel, we also say Au Revoir, Serge.

Match Action

Bristol 25 Gloucester 38



Match Action

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



Bridgend

**Back to Kingsholm
by Colin Williams**

It's nice to return to this famous ground after a break of five years, and to sample the great hospitality that has always been a feature of the club.

On our last visit to the club on that cold wet Friday night of the 25th November 1994 it was possibly the longest game in the history of both clubs.

The journey started eventfully as we were unable to call on the services of our international players we had to borrow players and also recruit youth players like Nathan Thomas one of the Bath players you love to hate.

The game started on time (7.00 pm) with Gloucester dictating the game and scoring four lucky tries without reply. The referee Mr Paul Murgatroyd was completely neutral, as are all English Referees. I was enjoying the game by running the line and getting involved in some good humoured banter with the supporters on the far terracing, then it happened.

Bridgend's wing Gwilym Wilkins, broke out of defence and crossed the half way line for the first time and then the

Gloucester's plan "B" came into force as the floodlights failed and stopped our chances of fighting back. Both teams then left the field and after ten minutes some players wanted to call it a day and retire to the bar, but after twenty minutes the lights came back on the game restarted.

The plan had worked Bridgend failed to cross the half way line for fear of fusing

the lights again and were unlucky to concede three more tries to loss by 45 pts to 0pts when the referee blew his whistle at about 9.00 pm.

All jokes aside it's great to back at this famous ground and if the two sides aside it's great to black at this famous ground and if the two sides play in the way they played in Bridgend last Saturday we will all be in for a wonderful game.

There was a pleasant surprise for Gloucester club officials at Bridgend last Saturday.

Jeff Coleman, a long-time Bridgend supporter, was there to greet such club luminaries as Bob Clewes, Mike Potter and Alan Brinn.

The three all played in the Gloucester team that visited Brewery Field on Friday January 23, 1970.

And Jeff had the programme for that game, which he gave to us – a gesture that is greatly appreciated.

For Brinn, that game was his 299th Gloucester appearance, and Bob Clewes was a strapping 20 year old in his second Gloucester season.

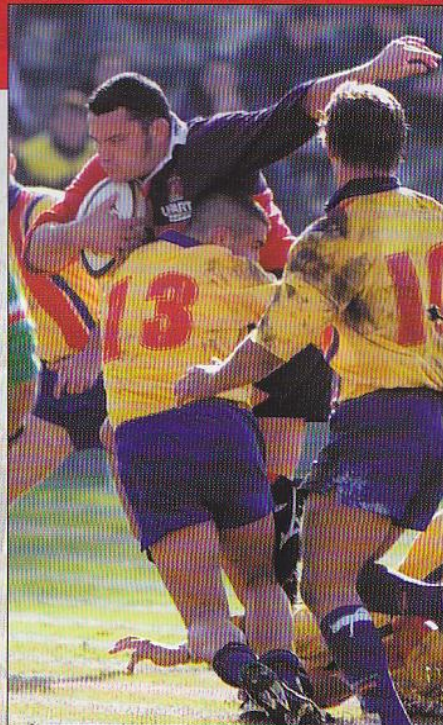
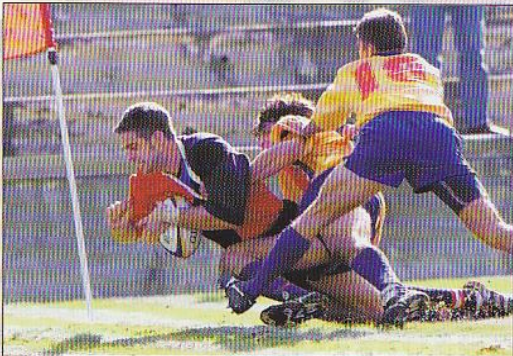
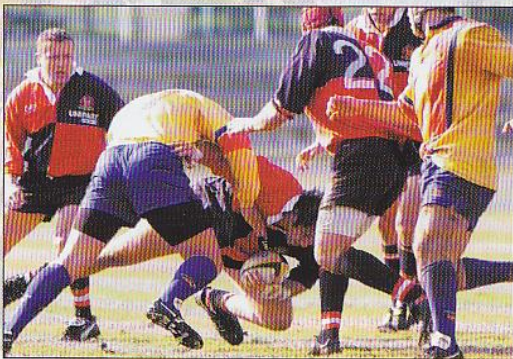
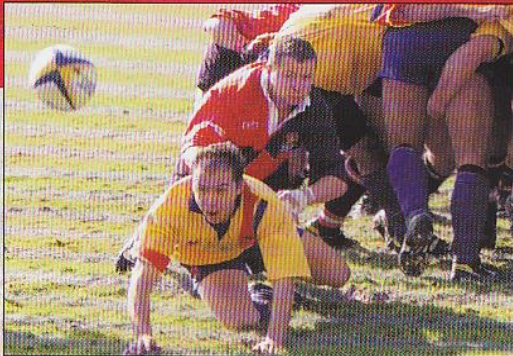
As for Potts, the programme lists him as playing in the 14 jersey!

Potts at right wing?

No, just the programme listed Gloucester in the old numbering system!

Action from Madrid

European Shield - Spain v Gloucester



Match Action

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

Match Report

Bridgend 29, Gloucester 29

By Luke Broadley

The Allied Dunbar leaders produced a below par performance against Welsh side Bridgend but still managed to come home with a point, which took them back to the top of the European group table.

Bridgend were up for the game and scored three tries before Gloucester even woke up. Dinlle Francise opened the scoring with a

try not long after the start which was converted by Paul Williams.

Simon Mannix got Gloucester on the board in the sixth minute with a penalty. But anything Gloucester tried Bridgend seemed to have the answer.

Williams hit back with two penalties of his own. British Lions centre John Devereux and Bridgend captain Owain Lloyd gained a try apiece without a reply from Gloucester who trailed 23-3 after 30 minutes.

Gloucester started to show their form that beat Bristol so convincingly seven days previously with a try from young centre Joe Ewens after 38 minutes. Then in time added on, the French referee awarded Gloucester a penalty try when Bridgend collapsed a five metre scrum.

Mannix converted both tries, and this late rally from Gloucester brought the score at half time to Bridgend 23, Gloucester 17

Early in the second half Bridgend extended their lead with two penalties from Williams. But then the Gloucester defence got into gear and held firm.

A controversial try from Samoan replacement Terry Fanolua and the conversion from Mannix lifted the side. The home crowd showed their anger at Fanolua's try which fell short of the try line. The anger of the crowd was fuelled by the try being showed on the large screen from the live television coverage.

Even after Fanolua's try Gloucester were still short of Bridgend's 29 points. With both teams trying to extend their points, the match became end to end rugby.

With time virtually up Ian Sanders divided over in the corner to level the scores, Mannix's long range touchline conversion attempt just drifted left of the posts.

Gloucester had been let off the hook and were able to share the points with Bridgend.



**Terry Fanolua -
Controversial try**

Dear Sunday Times

The Sunday Times posted a request to Gloucester's growing number of supporters who surf the internet for views on Gloucester Rugby Football Club, the "foreign invasion" and professionalism. Here is what one supporter said - it is typical of the scores of replies posted for the world to see. Nothing has been altered, except that paragraphs have been added.

Mr Incognito Sunday Times Reporter:

Gloucester have ALWAYS fielded players from further afield. I well remember the days when we snaffled players from Lydney, Stroud and Cheltenham to name just three clubs outside the environs of this city.

Seriously though, Gloucester have never discouraged players from outside the city from wearing the fabled Cherry & White jersey. Rather the emphasis has changed in that, for the last couple of seasons, the Club have actively encouraged it.

Previously it was incumbent upon the player concerned making the first approach which frequently fell upon deaf ears. And, at the end of the day, the Club will always be bigger than the players, irrespective of who they are.

An enormous kerfuffle was made about Phatboy Phil Greening (being a local lad and all that) but he ultimately paid the price for

trying to become bigger than the Club (in more ways than one) and that was quickly accepted by all genuine supporters.

On the other side of the coin, because he's still a local lad, most Gloucester followers would, and do, cheer Phil to the rafters in every game he plays - apart from against Gloucester of course.

You see, unlike some clubs, Gloucester have always had the luxury of a huge groundswell of support which encourages local youngsters to dream of running onto the turf at Kingsholm. And that will, most assuredly, continue - even now there's probably a young kid playing at school who will be the next Mike Teague, or Mike Burton, or Digger Morris, or Tom Voyce ... let's just hope he don't look like any of them....*laff*

To be honest, the "winds of change" would've been gusting through the Club many years ago if it hadn't been for local kids having this dream. Gloucester were certainly culpable of adopting an ostrich mentality during the Eighties when it became apparent that local schools/clubs were not producing players of sufficient quality. And the Club's only active recruitment policy was to invite "interested players" to a couple of trials each August. This huge support for the Club is the main reason why Gloucester can quite rightly claim to be the "Manchester United" of rugby union - try asking the other ADP clubs how much our

away support adds to their bottom line each year!

And each one of those supporters knows exactly what they want - players that live and breathe the ethos of Gloucester rugby; i.e. an in-ner-face readiness to put their body on the line for those who've paid good money to watch them week in and week out, and a sense of belonging to the local community. Providing they exhibit those qualities we'll be quite happy for Martians to come and play for us. Unfortunately, while it's undoubtably true that the massive injection of capital that Tom Walkinshaw provided has probably kept Gloucester Rugby Club in the upper echelons of English rugby, there is a sense of unease that the Club no longer belongs to the community that supports it.

And, as has already been pointed out below [in previous messages - editor], the supporters seem to be second class citizens in this relationship. They are treated very much as inexhaustible cash cows what with the inexorable increases in admission prices; all-too frequent changes of strip; very little spent on facilities; etc.

Despite this I, and a few thousand others, will still travel home and away to follow our team of naturalised Gloucestersians. And finally - any responsible reporter would've left an e-mail address to confirm their bona fides as it were and even taken the opportunity to drum up a few extra readers by leaving the Sunday Times URL.

SK III grfcsupporter@impudicus.org.uk

Glos UK - Wednesday 8th December 99 at 22:52:25 (GMT)

Don't Forget the Junior Clubs

By Ian Randall

As Gloucester look towards the New Year hoping for success both at home and in Europe, four junior clubs across the County have their thoughts firmly on surely the pinnacle for any amateur player - getting to Twickenham.

Gloucestershire has a proud tradition in what began as the Provincial Insurance Cup, and since the RFU split the pyramid into three tiers and created the NPI Cup, we've had our first club reach HQ since Gloucester went there almost ten years ago.

Our survivors this season - Gloucester Old Boys and Longlevens in the NPI Cup, and Painswick and Tewkesbury in the Tetley Vase - have a lot to live up to, with the city having been well represented since the competitions were formed. Tredworth were first to make their mark - ironic bearing in mind their recent problems in raising any sort of side at all. The Lanmet was a regular haunt during the 1992-3 season, when Tredworth reached the semi finals of what was popularly known as "The Junior Cup." Fleetwood beat them at The Reddings on a snowy day marred by crowd trouble. The Moseley club had put a stock of canned beer on pallets outside the club house to try and ease the demand inside. With hindsight, perhaps it wasn't the best decision.

Hucclecote's semi final was the following season, but another famous midlands venue, Coundon Road, Coventry, was to witness more Gloucestershire disappointment. If Tredworth were soundly beaten,

Hucclecote's Dave Strain will for ever be remembered for his last minute penalty on which the match depended. The kick was missed, and Malvern made the final. Post match interviews on such occasions are never easy and former Gloucester favourite Steve Parsloe needed only two words. "We're devastated."

In March 1997, we hoped for a Twickenham double. On the day Gloucester lost at Bath, Old Centralians travelled to another ground Gloucester know well, College Grove, Wakefield. The Old Cents were skippered by a real character, Tony "Banger" Ridler, but even his motivation couldn't get his side past Medicals, a student side from Newcastle. Tony was great value in terms of PR, and his reaction at the final whistle to the home win over Enfield was the quote of the season. "It hasn't sunk in yet...(pause)...it's like yer missus givin' birth, innit."

None of these three stalwarts of Gloucester rugby have got as close to Twickenham since, but Painswick are in the last 32 of what is now the Tetley Vase for the second time in four seasons, and the club, with its semi rural backdrop, offers a contrast with the more earthy determination of teams in the city. Painswick had a role to play in Gloucester's history too, or so the story goes.

Formed in 1872, the club needed a sash to make its colours distinguishable, so the village curate cut up a pair of his wife's cherry curtains, hence Painswick's claim to be the original Cherry & Whites. Gloucester of course, were formed the following year...and legend has it that 126

years of history was founded on Gloucester borrowing Painswick's kit.

Their semi final also ended in defeat against Crewe & Nantwich, but they'll hope to reach the last 16 this year with a home win over Liskeard-Looe. Tewkesbury, our other Vase survivors, are having an excellent season in Gloucestershire Division 2, and they will fancy their chances of upsetting the odds against Gloucestershire 1 side Aretians.

Stroud's Twickenham appearance against Bedford Athletic in the NPI Cup the season before last broke the run of Gloucestershire sides falling at the final hurdle. Penzance/Newlyn were conquered at Fromehall Park in the semi's, and Richard Hill gave Stroud a session at Kingsholm before the final, along with a few words for another familiar face, Dave Spencer. It very nearly worked, Stroud only losing in extra time.

Trying to emulate them this season are Longlevens, whose forwards ought to know a thing or two under Andy Deacon's watchful eye, and Gloucester Old Boys, who've lured Coach Bobby Fowke from Spartans. The Old Boys will have the Horton Road slope to help them against Dorchester, while Longlevens are away to Old Merchant Taylors, regular Boxing Day visitors to Kingsholm in days gone by.

On your way home from the Spain game here on January the 8th, listen out for the 4 results involving our local clubs. Success at a junior level is just as sweet as it is at the top.

Ian Randall is Sports Producer at BBC Radio Gloucestershire.

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

Peter Arnold

Joy to the World

Peter Arnold

Let it be proclaimed throughout the land that on the last Christmas Day of the Second Millennium since the Birth of Our Lord, Gloucester are at the top of the Premiership table.

Tidings of Comfort and Joy and then some.

How long we shall remain Lords of the Universe remains to be seen, but if we can beat London Irish at home on Boxing Day, and Bedford, away, on December 29, then we shall be the Championship leaders when the year 2000 dawns, and whatever happens thereafter, they'll never be able to take that away from us.

And it all happened courtesy of that storming win over the Old Enemy down at the Memorial Stadium, which makes it all the sweeter.

I don't take much notice of the abortive citing affair. It's nice to see that wiser counsels prevailed in the end, and the whole thing was allowed to expire gracefully.

As one, slightly cynical, supporter said to me: 'Can't see what all the fuss was about. If I were to see a Gloucester and Bristol match without a punch-up in it, I'd ask for my money back!'

A reprehensible view, you may feel, but it does demonstrate the weight of history there is behind that fixture.

But today, we're concentrating on European matters. More than that, we're saluting the arrival of Bridgend after far too long an absence. In the dear, dead days when we had the best Anglo-Welsh fixture list in the two countries, the Bridgend games were always eagerly awaited. Always hard fought and full of incident, they certainly used to represent one of the highlights of the Gloucester season.

In fact, the restoration of friendly hostilities between our two great clubs is one of the best arguments for membership of the European Community I've come across.

So it's good to see the lads from over the Severn back again. I expect they're glad to be here, too.

WHERE'S THE LOGIC?

The more time goes on, the more the regulations for registration of players make my brain hurt.

As we all know, when the World Cup had been and gone, clubs were constrained into playing only two non-European players in Premiership games. Fair enough, but it's the fine print which gets me.

When the team for Bristol was announced, Terry Fanolua and Elton Moncreiff were declared to be

our two 'foreign' players. I reflected that the Home Office had moved the goal posts during the close season dashing our understanding that Elton would be classed as a 'local' player by virtue of his Scottish grandparents. That was a pity, but que sera, sera, as they say down Treviso way.

Then I thought to myself: 'Ang about! What about Ian Jones?' So I enquired.

It seems that Ian's wife, Jeannine, has Irish parents and is the proud possessor of an Irish passport, so the legendary lock classifies as 'local'.

So now we have the ridiculous situation where one of the finest All Blacks of all time, with zillions of Caps for New Zealand, and no discernible blood ties with a European country, escapes the net, while a scrum-half who has never played for his country at senior level, and whose ancestry qualifies him to play for Scotland, has to be classed as a 'foreign' player.

I ask you - can anyone see the logic in that?

As Andrew Harley said when I enquired, 'I once ate some Turkish delight. Does that mean I'm Turkish?'

Don't bother, Andrew. Even if Turkey were to join the EC, you wouldn't pass the fitness test.

Have a great Christmas, everyone. See you on Boxing Day.

Gloucester Rugby Supporters Association

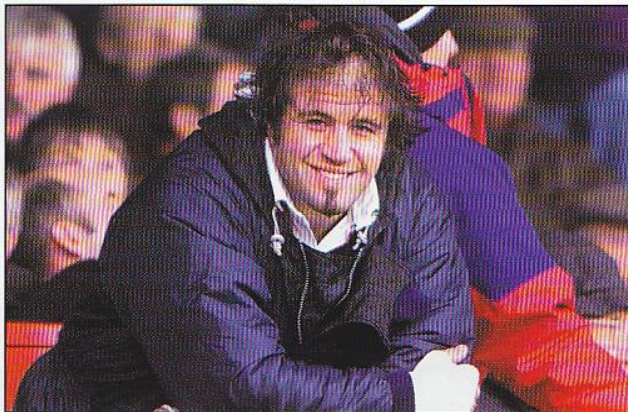
An Independent Voice for the Supporter

IS IT THE SOCKS?

We all remember that first glimpse, which stirred something inside us. A strange figure shambling along behind goal at the Hospitality End. It seemed a struggle to put one foot in front of another, the style of his hair was as individual as the beard; his shirt was pulling at his shoulders and the delicate drape outside his shorts, and his socks around his ankles was reminiscent of a six year olds attempt to dress himself.

This was no pitiful vagrant in search of butts of Gaulloise or sips of partially finished 'House Red'. That look on his face, the eyes; yes! the eyes said it all: focus, 'I have control', it was all there. Then, the finishing touch for a prop forward HIS KNUCKLES WERE TAPED!!

At that moment, we the supporters, the 'Kingsholm Faithful', 'The Shed', wherever we were, whoever we were, knew that he was our hero and he wasn't even on the field of play yet. He was obviously a Gloucester boy through and through, it's just that he had a French name and a French



accent. (Some say that the front row talk in a universal language anyway). We could imagine him in any front row at Gloucester, with any of Nichols, Burton, or Blakeway - and somehow you could see him and Digger Morris arm in arm leaving the field to celebrate another successful day.

Of more recent times and recent heroes Teaguey and Philippe ... wasn't their hair always immaculately coiffured, didn't their shirts have an individual drape, didn't they always look at their most drained (hands on hips) just before a blistering contribution, weren't their eyes saying 'I have control'? And didn't they have their socks rolled down too?

So there you are Serge (we've even learnt to pronounce that

too), you're one of us you're a Gloucester Boy and you're going to leave us. We hope that it is adieu not au revoir, but hey! Frank Sinatra officially retired nine times; you're only up to four. Get the Cherry and White shirt on, drape it outside your shorts, tape your knuckles, amble onto the field and ROLL DOWN THOSE SOCKS - you're a real GLAWSTER BOY

The Gloucester Rugby Supporters Association (GRSA) was formed to provide a focal point for all Supporters with the club on important issues - by arranging events, providing a forum for discussion with the Club, increasing our knowledge and understanding of the game and giving all supporters a voice. An Independent Voice, Run by Supporters - For Supporters

The Supporters

For more information or stories for inclusion,
please phone Trevor on 01452 857077



Saturday December 18, 1999

Today's Line-Ups

Gloucester 23

15	Richard Tombs
14	Chris Catling
13	Joe Ewens
12	Chris Yates
11	Tom Beim
10	Simon Mannix
9	Ian Sanders
1	Trevor Woodman
2	Neil McCarthy
3	Andy Deacon
4	Mark Cornwell
5	Ian Jones
6	Steve Ojomoh
7	Pete Glanville (C)
8	Adam Eustace

Bridgend 6

15	Adrian Durston
14	Owain Thomas
13	Gareth Jones
12	John Devereux
11	Dewi De Caux
10	Paul Williams
9	Andrew Jenkins
1	Matt Filipo
2	Chris Ferris
3	Dinlle Francise
4	Owain Lloyd (C)
5	Paul Clapham
6	Ceri Davies
7	Maama Molitika
8	David Hodges

Replacements

16	Ian Sanders
17	Rob Jewell
18	Terry Fanola
19	Adey Powles
20	Neil McCarthy
21	Adam Eustace
22	Andrew Hazell

16	John Funnell
17	Lloyd Davies
18	Steve Wake
19	Andrew Joy
20	Andrew Williams
21	Richard Webster
22	Chris Bugen

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**This programme went to press on the 14th December
making these best guess team line-ups**