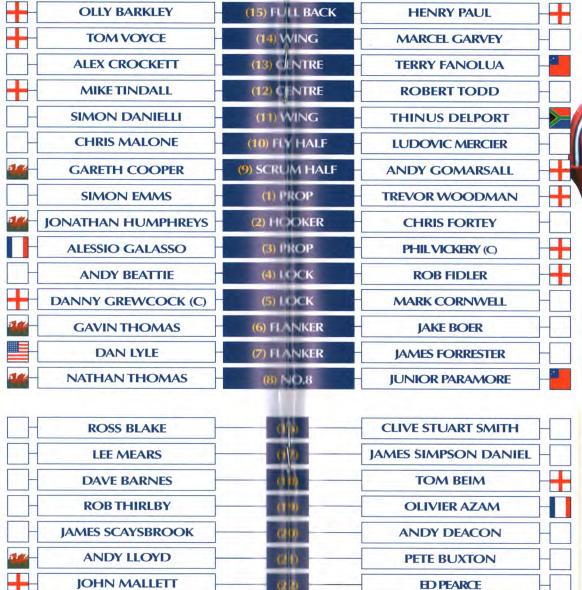






## **TODAY'S TEAMS**















REFEREE STEVE LAYSHON (RILL) **TOUCH JUDGES ASHLEY REAV AND** WAYNE BARNES



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## **Connections - Gloucester**

By Russell Gibbs

he rivalry between Bath Rugby and Gloucester has always been of the fiercest kind, with the men from the Rec very much the ones that they love to hate at a vociferous Kingsholm, with the feeling more than mutual. It seems strange, then, that so many players have pulled on the shirt of both sides and gained the affection of both sets of supporters during the professional era. Indeed, some of the players who have worn the Blue, White and Black have gone on to wear the Cherry and White with distinction, and vice versa.

Arguably the most famous player in recent times to appear for both sides wasn't even a union player to begin with. When Bath faced Wigan rugby league club in a challenge match in May 1996, the wheels were set in motion for a number of league players to make the switch to their union counterparts. Of the first to cross the divide, Wigan's Jason Robinson and Henry Paul arrived at the Rec. Paul made his Bath debut in the ill-fated Anglo-Welsh competition, scoring a brace of tries in the 87-15 drubbing of Swansea. He went on to complete nine appearances for Bath, crossing for a respectable tally of five tries in a short loan period, usually playing in the centre but occasionally on the wing. After rejoining his Wigan team mates, he transferred to the Bradford Bulls. where he enjoyed great success, before signing for Gloucester. Whilst at Kingsholm, Henry has earned his first England cap as a replacement in the defeat to France in Paris last year.

Making his Bath Rugby debut as a replacement in the 44-19 win over Wigan in the union leg of the challenge match was a precociously talented young centre from Colston's School. Joe Ewens was touted as the next big thing after an exceptional performance.

including the memorable tackle on Inga Tuigamala, but because of the form of England centres Phil de Glanville and Jeremy Guscott, Joe was destined to play a bit-part role at the Rec. This saw him start just eight matches in two seasons, in a Bath career that spanned thirteen games. He transferred to Bedford, where he shone, before gaining a move to Gloucester.

Flanker Steve Ojomoh was a cult figure at the Rec soon after making his debut in September 1989 during the 35-12 win over Romanian touring side Steaua Bucharest. Steve made a total of 134 appearances for Bath in a career that spanned both the amateur and professional eras, scoring a total of 26 tries from the back of the scrum. An allaction, energetic forward, Steve earned his rewards at the highest level, gaining twelve caps for England, with the critics arguing it could have been more. As well as his international caps, Steve was selected three times for the Barbarians, inevitably scoring a try in one match. He joined Gloucester at the end of the 1997/1998 season and has latterly played for Rugby Parma.

Scrum half Ian Sanders kicked a drop goal on his Bath Rugby debut way back in December 1990, in a 33-19 win over London Scottish - one of two he landed while with Bath during a total of 88 appearances that also yielded 25 tries. He was transferred to Gloucester when the emergence of Gareth Cooper pushed him down the queue for the position and he served the West Country club well before joining Exeter Chiefs. Ian was a member of the Chiefs side that competed in the Powergen Shield final at Twickenham last season.

Lock forward Craig Gillies signed for Bath upon completing his studies at Brunel College, but found chances restricted in a competitive second-row area. Craig made only two appearances for Bath, with his debut coming in a 40-20 win over the Combined Services at the Rec. Craig was transferred to Richmond and later gained rave reviews at Llanelli, before signing on loan for Gloucester at the tail end of the 2001/2002 season.

Other players to have played for both clubs during the professional era include Andy Gomarsall, hooker Neil McCarthy, full back Audley Lumsden and flanker Ed Pearce.

## For the Record



Season Home Away Other 1971/72 None None 3-12(C) 1972/73 None None 0-16(C) 1984/85 None None 12-11(C) 1987/88 16-9 None 1988/89 19-9 6-3 (CSF) 1989/90 None 6-13 48-6 (NCF) 1990/91 None 1991/92 29-9 27-18 (CSF)\* 1992/93 None 20-0 1993/94 46-17 16-6 1994/95 19-19 15-10 1995/96 37-11 10-16 19-10(CSF) 1996/97 71-21 45-29 1997/98 47-3 17-27 1998/99 21-16 7-23 1999/00 33-20 36-16 6-13(C) 2000/01 50-16 22-21 2001/02 12-9 \*aet \*(NCF) - Neutral & Cup Final \*(C) - Cup \*(CSF) - Cup Semi Final · OVERALL WD 33 23 1 9 762 516 D W 24 18 1 5 623 403 . LEAGUE - HOME WDL 12 11 1 0 400 159 . LEAGUE - AWAY WDL 12 7 0 5 223 244 . CUP OVERALL DL 0 4 139 113 . CUP - HOME WDL 0 40