

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME // £3

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



VS LONDON WASPS
SATURDAY 24/10/09
KO 5:35PM



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HARTPURY
SPORT

GARETH DELVE CAPTAIN'S CORNER

AFTER a couple of weeks of European action, it's back to the bread and butter of the Guinness Premiership as we welcome London Wasps to Kingsholm this evening. It's been a couple of weeks where we've really had to pull together as a squad. Our injury list has been well documented in the press in recent weeks and we also lost Zed (Olivier Azam) and Eust (Adam Eustace) to suspension after the Saracens game.

As a result, it was good to welcome Jake Boer to the fold last week. I arrived at Gloucester after Jake left to return home to South Africa so I didn't get to play alongside him during his last spell at the club but I'd heard a lot about him from some of the other boys.

He only hooked up with us as we prepared to travel down to Biarritz last weekend and for him to

couple of weeks kicking my heels. I'm like any other player, I prefer playing to watching any day of the week and, given all of our injury problems, I couldn't wait to get back and do my bit.

The Dragons were tough but we honestly didn't expect anything else. They've become a really well drilled outfit in recent times and we knew we'd have to work hard to overcome them.

Conditions on the night weren't great but we can't use that as an excuse. We made too many mistakes and we simply tried to force things when it wasn't quite on and were indebted to Nicky's goalkicking to clinch the win in the end. Unfortunately, the errors followed us down to the south of France and Biarritz showed what a class outfit they are in the way that they took advantage of them.

It was frustrating because we'd set

One final thing from myself. We received superb support down in Biarritz last weekend and I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank the fans who travelled down to back us on behalf of the whole squad. It means a lot.

ONE FINAL THING FROM MYSELF. WE RECEIVED SUPERB SUPPORT DOWN IN BIARRITZ LAST WEEKEND AND I JUST WANTED TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE FANS WHO TRAVELLED DOWN TO BACK US ON BEHALF OF THE WHOLE SQUAD. IT MEANS A LOT.

contribute the way he did, given his lack of preparation, speaks volumes for the guy and he's sure to have a big impact here over the next few weeks.

From a personal point of view, it was good to return to playing action against the Dragons after a

out to take the game to Biarritz and I genuinely thought we were giving a good account of ourselves. But they punished us and we can have no complaints about that.

All we can do is keep working to eradicate the errors. It will all come together soon, hopefully starting tonight against Wasps.



GARETH BUTLER GLOUCESTER VS LONDON

The rugby might have been disappointing, but that did not seem to stop the travelling hoards of Gloucester fans enjoying themselves in Biarritz.

Depending on who you ask, the estimate was between 500 and 1,000 fans who made the trip to the south of France and had a great time, despite the not-so-cheap price of a pint on the continent.

One quartet, clearly visitors to the French seaside town before, found the best solution I saw – purchasing cheap red wine in plastic bottles from the local supermarket.

From what I could gather, however, they proceeded to give most of it away (some of it to me!) after buying too much at £1.50 a bottle, a complete bargain given the cheapest pint we found was a mere £4 and the most expensive as high as £8.

That puts in perspective exactly why the balance of power of European rugby so clearly lies in France at the moment.

The lack of a salary cap and the frightening exchange rate means players over there are making a killing.

Resource-starved Guinness Premiership clubs have no chance of competing against the big spending giants of Biarritz, Stade Français, Toulouse and the like.

The playing field is no longer level, and it is difficult to see when that will change.



WITH PLAYERS CONTRACTED FOR SO LONG AND FOR SO MUCH MONEY, HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT EVEN ATTEMPTING TO FIND A FAIR LEVEL FOR A CAP WHEN THE DIFFERENCE IN RESOURCES BETWEEN SIDES IS SO VAST?

Once a salary cap is not imposed like it hasn't been in France, putting one in place is almost impossible.

One reason is the types of sponsorship deals done by the French sides off the back of the players they have been able to attract.

With players contracted for so long and for so much money, how do you go about even attempting to find a fair level for a cap when the difference in resources between sides is so vast?

N WASPS

The Citizen



The French model cannot be sustainable – what do you do if the man with the deep pockets who is funding your club decides he can't afford it any longer? There could be some dramatic falls from grace in years to come.

Meanwhile, over here in the Premiership the struggle is on, and nowhere more so than Gloucester.

Bryan Redpath said before the season even started that a squad of 38 players would need some dramatic luck with injuries if it

IN BOTH GAMES AND IN TRAINING PLAYERS ARE FORCED TO DO MORE, TO COVER MORE GROUND AND THE PRESSURE IS ON FOR THEM TO COME BACK FROM INJURY QUICKER WHEN THE SQUAD IS SO DRAMATICALLY REDUCED IN SIZE.

was to prosper.

Instead, it is the bad luck which has been dramatic.

Gloucester used 53 players in all competitions last season, a whole 15 more than was even in the squad at the start of this campaign.

That number has swelled to a considerable 39 with the introduction of Jake Boer thanks to an incredible 10 unavailabilities in the forwards last week.

The problem is that small squads breed injuries and injuries are no good for small squads.

In both games and in training players are forced to do more, to cover more ground and the pressure is on for them to come back from injury quicker when the squad is so dramatically reduced in size.

Last Saturday you saw both Gareth Delve and Akapusi Qera playing carrying injuries – both doing pretty well as it happens – but that only opens them to risk of further damage.

The opening salvos of this season have made it clear that 38 players is not enough to maintain a sustained campaign on all fronts.

There is going to have to be some very careful management of players over the following months. No-one can envy the position head coach Redpath currently finds himself in. The one thing he certainly will not struggle with is selection because there is so little choice available.

BRYAN REDPATH HEAD COACH

AFTER two weeks of European action, our attention now returns to domestic action as we welcome London Wasps to Kingsholm this evening for the latest round of Guinness Premiership action.

It's a challenging time of year for players and coaches because we find ourselves preparing for action in several different competitions.

We've gone from the Guinness Premiership to the Heineken Cup then take on international opposition in the shape of Australia before two rounds of Anglo Welsh action followed by the Premiership again.

At the same time, the Autumn internationals kick in and we face the prospect of losing a few players to those games so the importance of strength in depth will really come to the fore.

It might not sound like much but we have to be aware of different rules, for example, length of half time intervals. We have to complete different match paperwork and even use different match balls. It certainly keeps us on our toes!

Since my last column, we've won one and lost one in Europe, a bit of a mixed bag for us really.

We got off to a good start against the Newport Gwent Dragons and dogged out a win despite not being at our best.



I think many people fell into the trap of underestimating the Dragons and expecting us to romp to an easy win. That certainly wasn't the case here at the club. We expected a really tough night and our Welsh friends didn't disappoint us on that score!

Under Paul Turner they have become a really competitive outfit. They came to Kingsholm with real expectations of leaving with the points and almost achieved their goal.

However, we came unstuck in the South West of France last weekend as we were defeated by a very good Biarritz side.

The irony of that game is that I genuinely think that we played better against Biarritz than we did against the Dragons and that the 42-15 scoreline wasn't a fair reflection of how the game went.

Don't get me wrong, Biarritz were worthy winners on the day. But we were guilty of making it a lot easier for them than it should have been. Two missed tackles and a dropped ball led directly to three of their tries and you can't compete at this level when you're making those sorts of errors.

What was really frustrating was that we'd been really competitive



for half an hour or so. We were strong defensively and managed to turn over quite a bit of their ball. Approaching half time, we were actually feeling quite comfortable and that we didn't have too much to worry about.

Our defensive structure had been good and some of our hits had been outstanding. Then we missed a couple of tackles, dropped the ball and, suddenly, we were out of the game.

There were some positives for us to take away from it, however. Biarritz are a very good side, particularly defensively and we managed to score two tries and probably should have had more. But the individual errors killed us.

Another plus was the return of Jake Boer. I've kept in touch with Jake over the months and he'd always said that he's help us out if we needed him.

Our injury situation in recent weeks has been well documented and he came in and played very well considering that he hasn't played for a wee while now and certainly not at this level. He's a good man to have around, a good leader and he will give us something.

So, we know what we need to

improve on from last weekend and our focus this week has well and truly been on London Wasps. They're going well in the Premiership so far this season with four wins from five and will provide a very tough test for us.

They've suffered with injuries, the same as us but despite missing some key players have got off to a good start which bucks the trend for them in recent years when they've tended to start slowly and finish well.

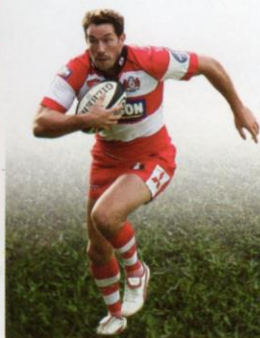
We know that we'll have to step it up a gear and cut down on the errors if we're to get something out of the game. We're preparing well throughout the week but we need to take that onto the pitch on matchday.

Being back at home is a bonus though. When we've really needed a lift from the crowd, we've received it and it genuinely gives everyone a real boost to see how many supporters travelled down to Biarritz to back us last weekend.

We know, however, that we have to play our part in return and we'll be doing our level best to give them something to shout about this afternoon.

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PLAYER PROFILE: TOM VOYCE

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT'S THE FIRST GAME YOU REMEMBER WATCHING?

On television, I remember watching a Bath versus Leicester game at the Rec back in the days when Andy Robinson was playing.

My first live game was when the South West took on the All Blacks at Redruth back in the early nineties, the game when Phil de Glanville took a brutal rucking. We played a curtain raiser on the pitch beforehand so it's a memorable day for me.

WHO IS YOUR SPORT'S BEST PUNDIT?

I've always been a big fan of Ian Robertson but I've actually grown to quite like what Matt Dawson does with his Five Live show on a Thursday evening. I think he's got a good approach and doesn't always say what he thinks people necessarily want to hear.

WHO'S GOT THE FLASHIEST MOTOR AT THE CLUB?

Les, without a doubt.

WHO'S THE BEST DRESSER IN THE PLAYING DEPARTMENT? WHO'S THE WORST?

If you're talking about a cool trendy



look, then I'd go for Carlos but, when it comes to dressing up in a suit, I think Tins has the edge.

In terms of who gets it wrong, I'd have to name and shame Dave Lewis!

IF MONEY WAS NO OBJECT WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?

A helicopter. It's something I've always thought about and I was taken up for a ride in once recently which was pretty cool. It'd mean that you could live just about anywhere and not have to worry about traffic!

WHICH CHARITIES DO YOU SUPPORT AND WHY?

The Countryside Alliance and I do a lot of Wooden Spoon stuff.

BEST TRY YOU'VE EVER SCORED?

It'd have to be one I scored a few years back against Bristol for

Wasps. I was trying to break into the England squad and Andy Robinson had challenged me to be on the end of a few exciting scores. This one went the length of the field and was a pretty good one.

CAN YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

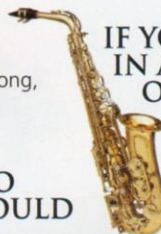
Yes, the tenor saxophone.

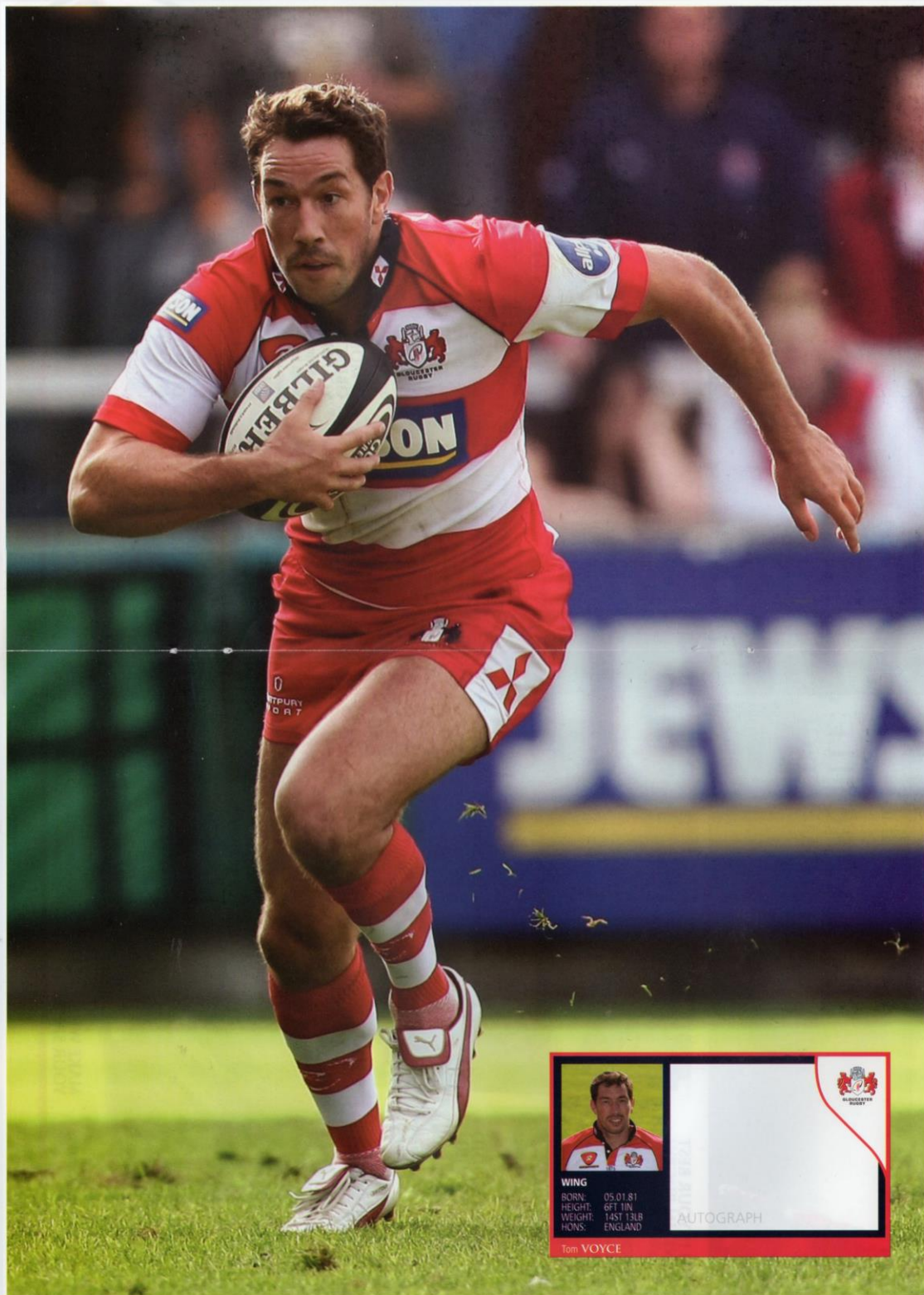
IF YOU COULD BE IN A BAND, WHICH ONE WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

The Kings of Leon, they're pretty cool.

WHAT'S YOUR NICKNAME AT THE CLUB AND HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?

The obvious one, really – Vocey. I'm also called "The Eel" because I can slip tackles.







WING
BORN: 05.01.81
HEIGHT: 6FT 1IN
WEIGHT: 145LBS
HONS: ENGLAND



AUTOGRAPH

Tom VOYCE

TOM VOYCE



PLAYER PROFILE: TOM VOYCE

WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN RUGBY?

That'll be Paul Sackey.

DO YOU SUPPORT ANY OTHER SPORTING TEAMS?



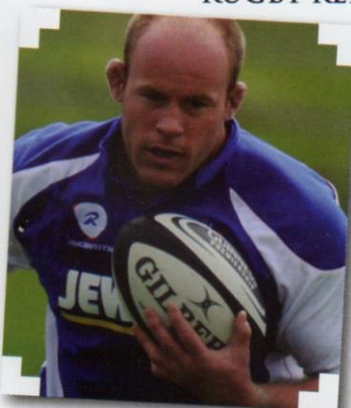
I follow Arsenal football. I'm not the world's biggest fan but I got taken to an Arsenal FA Cup tie by my Dad when I was young and he bought me the rosette etc.

WHICH PLAYER DID YOU MOST ADMIRE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?

Christian Cullen. A great runner with the ball and he was also such an amazing support player.

HAS SPORT EVER BROUGHT TEARS TO YOUR EYES?

I was pretty moved in the Wasps dressing room once when Lawrence Dallaglio delivered a pre match speech. Trevor Leota had been going through a hard time on a personal basis and Lol was basically saying that we were Trev's family and would look after him etc.

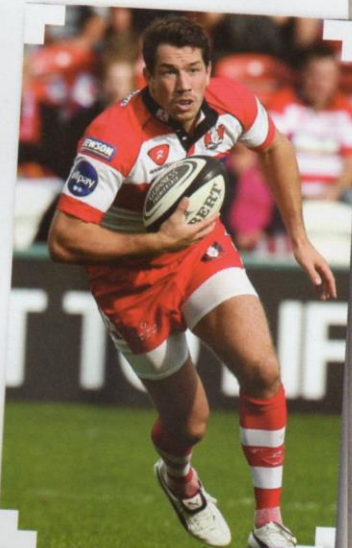


IF THERE WAS ONE RUGBY RELATED RULE OR LAW THAT YOU COULD CHANGE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Do away with referees! Only joking, honest!

WHAT'S THE MOST COMMON MISTAKE YOU SEE PEOPLE MAKE WHEN PLAYING YOUR SPORT?

MAKE WHEN PLAYING YOUR SPORT?

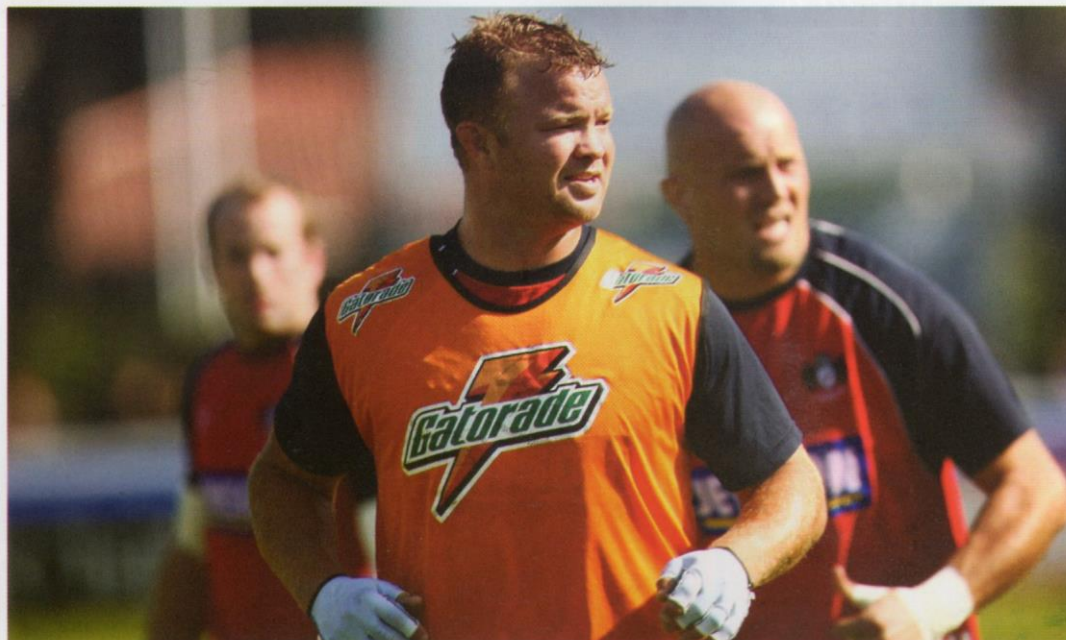


People don't see the wider game sometimes, they just see the fancy stuff. Look at how Richard Hill was largely underappreciated for Saracens and England for quite a while but was doing an outstanding job for club and country. Bucko's another one like that.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE BEST NIGHT OUT?

London. You can't beat a night out in London.

BOB FENTON'S KINGSHOLM NEWS



WELL here we are then, back from Europe and into the Premiership against the team everyone (well everyone from Gloucester, anyway) loves to hate - Wasps. And we're on the telly too, so best behaviour everyone!

Seeing Wasps come to town means that there is a bit of a home coming for two of the most dynamic props to have ever played the game. Vickster has been back a few times, but – to the best of my knowledge this – this is one of only a couple of occasions when Trevor (Dougie) Woodman has been back at the 'holm.

He was here the other Monday when the Wasps 'A' team wreaked a bit of havoc on us, he was prowling round at the back of the stand looking very fit indeed – that Australian climate must have

done him some good.

For me Trevor was one of the first of the 'new breed' of props. Good at the day job of pushing and lifting (© Andy Deacon) but also mobile, quick and good with the ball in hand. He also possessed a mean side step. I believe our front row of Vix, Dougie and Olly Azam was one of the most potent front threes around for many a year. What we would give for an equivalent now...

One of my abiding memories of Trevor is not from his Gloucester career, it's from the World Cup final. After St Jonny had dropped his match-winning goal the Aussies took a quick restart, it was Dougie who caught the ball and made it safe.

For the life of me I can't remember whether he had hurtled back into position from some far flung corner

of the pitch, or whether he was just knackered and had decided to hang about in his own half as the move for the final drop goal played itself out, either way he was there to take the ball when it mattered.

Seeing the two props back here reminds me of a conversation I had with Terry Fanolua about his early days at Gloucester. For a while he shared a house with Messrs Woodman and Vickery. Terry spoke of meal times, he said that he had never seen so much food piled onto plates and consumed by the two props. You kind of got the feeling that Tezza was like some sort of little pet begging for a few scraps as the two big guys devoured everything in sight.

He also told me that Dougie and Vix were – and I'm using the censor's pen now – umm... slightly lazy when it came to mornings.

Apparently the two of them would resort to phoning each other from their respective bedrooms to argue about who should be making breakfast. Wonder if that is going on now they have been reunited???

Trevor was a quality player, who would bet that if it hadn't have been for injury that he would be holding down a regular England spot?

Jason Leonard's record would, I believe, have been surpassed by Dougie. So welcome back Trev, great to see you making your mark as a coach now, I hope it goes well – well except today, obviously. I hope you have got it all wrong and your boys get tonked.

And talking of comebacks... Jake Boer! I thought this had to be some kind of wind up when I read that Jakey was on his way back to Gloucester for a couple of months. But here he is.

Jake was a bona fide superman a few years ago, he won just about every honour possible from writers and players, not to mention scooping the Shedhead Reader's Player of the Season award for two seasons in succession.

I watched the Biarritz game on TV, and there he was, looking just the same as he did when he left a few years ago. Maybe a few kilos heavier, but looking like he had never left. It was destined that he would score, wasn't it? I wonder what sort of odds you could have got on that!

Even though he may only be here for a few weeks I'm betting that he will have a very positive impact on

the squad. He's not the kind of guy to take a backward step and would tackle anything that moved for a full 80 minutes or more – including opposition mascots.

I reckon had he been around the squad last season some of those close run defeats wouldn't have happened. He had an iron will to win that permeated through the side, heaven knows we could do with a bit of that at the moment.

So welcome back Jake and enjoy the next few weeks, a true Gloucester legend and a top bloke too.

And on the subject of top blokes, a short message for Danny Cipriani. I'm not sure if he is here this afternoon what with being crocked and having a missus that you would not want to leave if you could find a reason not to, but if he is I just want to say thanks for sending me an autographed shirt to auction for my charity walk fund, it sold for about £120. So thanks very much Danny.

Finally, and on the subject of the walk fund, Ed Bowron – who is probably somewhere in the ground today – is £50 quid worse off this week after betting 10 other supporters a fiver each that we would pick up a bonus point last week in France.

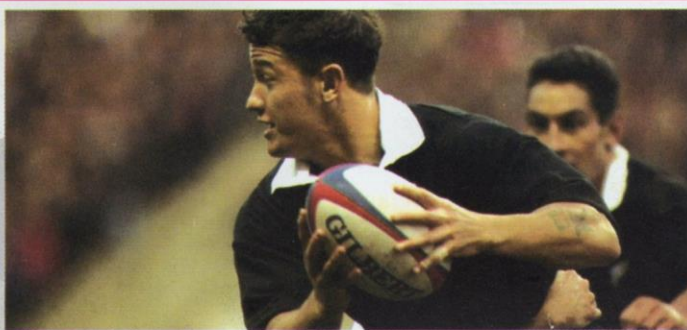
They would pay a fiver each if we did, he would stomp up fifty smackers if we didn't. Unfortunately we didn't even get close, but despite that the Foundation for the Study of Infant Death is £50 better off.

So a little bit of good has come from our defeat – thanks Ed, a fantastic gesture.

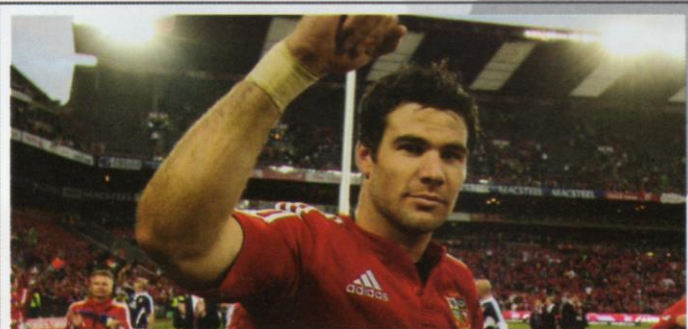
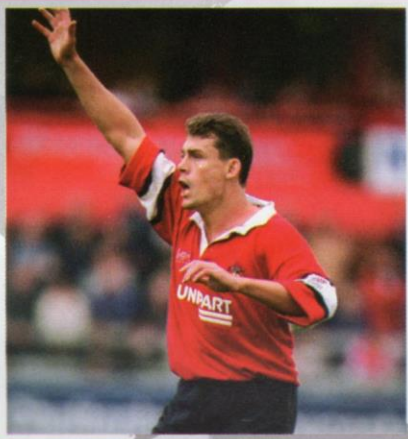


DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

OUR FLY HALF Carlos Spencer is in second place as the highest top scorer on his international debut. Carlos recorded 33 points on his debut for New Zealand versus Argentina on 21st June 1997, scoring 2 tries, 10 conversions and one penalty. In first place is Simon Culhane who made his debut on 4th June 1995 versus Japan with 45 points, scoring a try and 20 conversions for New Zealand.



JASON LITTLE, our former centre three quarter is in eighth position in players who have played the most Test matches against the 'All Blacks', with 18 appearances. That list is headed by another Australian in David Campese who played in 29 tests against New Zealand. Jason's appearances came in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000.



DESPITE the success Ospreys Welsh international Mike Phillips has enjoyed in Rugby Union, the same cannot be said for his brother Mark's career in his chosen sport. Mark is a 33 year old light heavyweight and is one of boxing's losers with 57 defeats in 66 professional fights. The Carmarthen born journeyman combines boxing with farming. He has won only one of his last 32 bouts!

SINCE the game of rugby union went professional the leading points scorers each season have been as follows in the Premiership:

Season	Points	Player
1996-97	291	Gareth Rees (Wasps)
1997-98	279	Michael Lynagh (Saracens)
1998-99	331	John Schuster (Harlequins)
1999-00	324	Jarrod Cunningham (London Irish)
2000-01	282	Kenny Logan (Wasps)
2001-02	343	Barry Everitt (London Irish)
2002-03	255	Ludovic Mercier (Gloucester)
2003-04	266	Andy Goode (Leicester)
2004-05	259	Andy Goode (Leicester)
2005-06	246	Jason Strange (Bristol)
2006-07	272	Glen Jackson (Saracens)
2007-08	207	Andy Goode (Leicester)



SEVERAL of our former players are now enjoying coaching roles with other clubs irrespective at what level. Some of those are Scott Benton (Moseley), Kingsley Jones (Sale Sharks), Philippe Saint Andre (Toulon), Peter Glanville, Mark Cornwell, Andy Deacon (Cinderford), Mark Mapletoft (England Under 20). Ian Smith and Don Caskie (Moseley), John Brain (Bristol).



DID you realise that in the 2007-2008 season we experienced twelve different kick off times! The sequence was: 12.35pm: 1pm: 2.45pm: 3pm: 4pm: 4.30pm: 5.30pm: 6pm: 7.30pm: 7.45pm: 8pm: 9pm.



A STATUE of Alexander Obolensky, the Russian prince who played rugby for England was unveiled in Ipswich in February 2009 thanks to a degree of financial help from Chelsea F.C. owner Roman Abramovich. Obolensky became known as the 'flying prince' after scoring two superlative tries on his international debut in 1936 which helped England to their first victory over New Zealand.

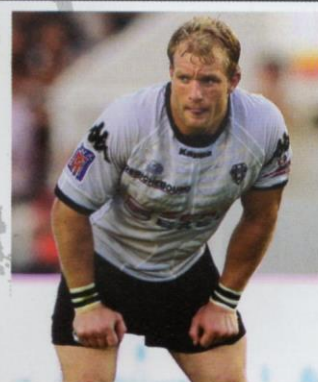
Abramovich added to cash from the R.F.U., local businesses and public donations in raising the £50,000 required for the 15 foot bronze and stone statue.

Obolensky's family fled the Russian Revolution in 1917, one year after he was born and settled in London. He played in just four Tests but his legend was created by his performance on his debut.

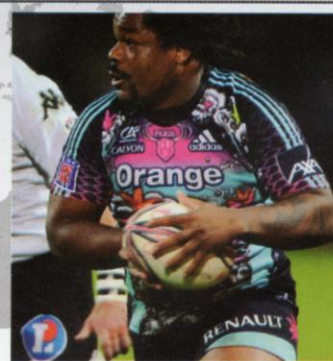
CARLOS SPENCER is not the first 'All Black' fly half to play for this club. There was also Simon Mannix who was born on 10th August 1971 and who played for Wellington made his Test debut in 1994 versus France. It was his only appearance for the silver fern country. This paled in comparison with Ian Jones who played for North Auckland and North Harbour who made 79 appearances for New Zealand and scored 42 points.



BRIVE are a cosmopolitan club, there are 35 professionals on their books, 18 French, 17 foreigners ranging from British to Georgians, Fijians, Moroccans and Australians. For a player joining Brive, French lessons are compulsory. Ten per cent of their season-ticket holders are British and there is a dedicated section – "News of the World – Brits" in the club programme. It is estimated that the number of foreigners playing in the Top 14 has risen 45 per cent.



THE POUND'S slump earlier this year against the Euro exaggerated the disparities so that the average budget at a French Championship is around £10 million, compared with a wage bill capped at £4 million in England. The big clubs – Toulouse and Stade Francais – stretch to £20 million and £15 million respectively. The attendances are higher in France and all the clubs have 400 to 500 local sponsors.



EACH season Martin Johnson names a 32 man squad at the start of the season on whom he can call for an August training camp, a fortnight lead into the autumn tests and Six Nations Championship and a summer tour. It is an eight year £110 million elite player squad deal between the R.F.U. and the leading clubs.



PETER ARNOLD'S GLOUCESTER TALK



HARD DONE BY?

ONE of the most cherished precepts in English jurisprudence is that not only should justice be done but it must be seen to be done. I put it to you that that maxim was not followed in the case of Olivier Azam's twelve-week ban.

I didn't see the incident involving the eye injury sustained by England captain Steve Borthwick, so I have no opinion about the justice or otherwise of the original suspension, but I certainly have a few questions about the result of the resulting appeal.

Let's see if I've got it right. As I read it, the appeals panel agreed with the club's contention that, as the original hearing had concluded, that there had been no intent to kick Borthwick in the eye, the 12-week sentence was too long, and should be reduced to eight weeks.

However, they then decided that Olivier's perceived poor record merited some further sanction and added six weeks to the ban, making a total of fourteen weeks. They then backed off a little, and subtracted two weeks because the player had pleaded guilty, in effect, restoring the 12-week suspension.

But hang about a bit. If the guilty plea merited a two-week reduction, should it not have been applied at the original hearing, making Olivier unavailable for ten weeks?

No doubt the members of the panel acted in good faith, but the result has left a faint odour of fish in the air. Some supporters are shaking their heads over this and contending that someone was out to get Olivier Azam, and get him they did. I've heard people wondering if the suspension would have been so severe if anyone other than the England captain had been involved.

I'm not one for conspiracy theories myself, so I don't give that much credence, but the fact is that the way the appeal was handled has given rise to such flutterings in the dovecote, and a little sensitivity could have avoided all that.

Let me make one thing quite clear. The opinions expressed here are mine and mine alone, with no promptings from anyone at the club, so no one apart from myself should get into trouble over them.

As for Ollie himself, he has been a great servant of the club for nearly a decade now. As supporters we hold him in affection and admire his wholehearted devotion to Gloucester Rugby. After all, he could have gone back to a lucrative deal in France had he so wished.

Give a dog a bad name and hang him, they say. But Ollie – you know who your friends are.

IF ANYONE CAN INSPIRE SOME SELF-BELIEF IN THE SQUAD, JAKE BOER CAN. HE'S DONE IT BEFORE, IS HIGHLY RESPECTED THROUGHOUT THE GAME, AND WILL CERTAINLY MAKE HIS PRESENCE FELT.

CHEQUERED HISTORY

IS IT JUST ME, or do we never seem to get much luck against Wasps? They often seem to pip us at the post.

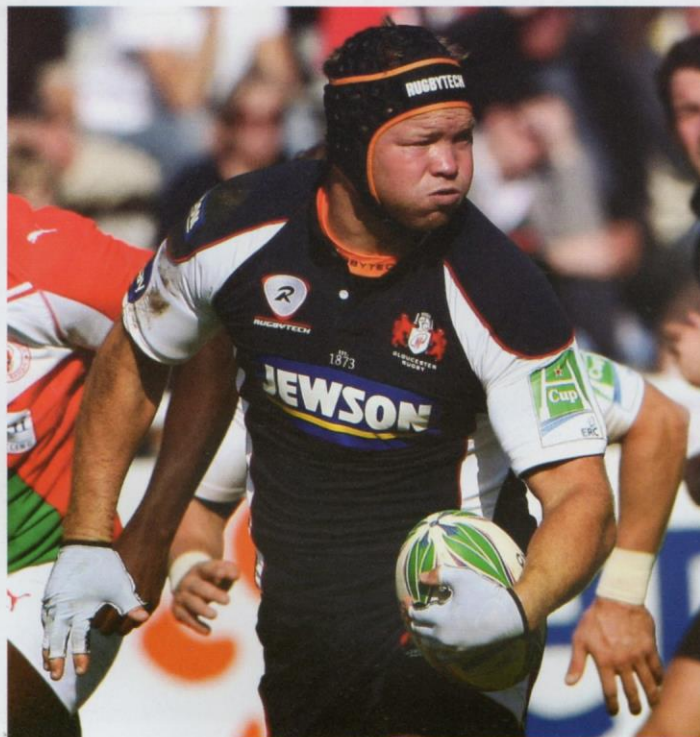
I can recall one game at Kingsholm when Wasps won on a drop goal after almost 15 minutes of injury time, and another when the visitors were awarded a try right at the death, although the ref had blatantly ignored the touch judge who had flagged foot in touch about 15 metres out.

There was also an away game where Adam Eustace was sent off in the first five minutes or so. You can't take on a side of the quality of Wasps with only 14 men on the field for virtually the whole game. The fact that the resulting disciplinary panel appeared to exonerate Adam wasn't much consolation. The game, and the points, had gone by then and there was nothing anyone could do about that.

There have been happier times, of course. There was the period when Rob Andrew defected from Wasps to the newly promoted Newcastle outfit and took several other Wasps with him, including Dean Ryan, incidentally.

The day that Wasps visited Kingsholm, I was having a quiet pint in the Jockey before the match with a group of like-minded aficionados when a party of visiting supporters arrived. Up piped my friend Mark Payne. "Oh!" he chirruped, "Nice to see you. We've never played Newcastle Seconds before!"

We won that one.



RETURN OF THE HERO

ISN'T it nice to see Big Jake Boer back in the fold? He may only be here for a relatively short time, but it's great to see him again. Many people will agree that Jake was one of the most charismatic and motivational captains the club ever had, a contention recognised by his contemporaries when he was awarded the Players' Player of the Year distinction.

Last Saturday's events at Biarritz were absolutely vintage Boer. We may have been on the thick end of a beating, but the arrival of Jake as a replacement for Akapusi Qera showed us just what we have been missing.

He got straight into the thick of it and – lo and behold – scored a try. Typical! The guy hadn't played for five months.

Jake's couple of months back at Kingsholm could prove a turning point. To have him around, on the pitch, in training, in the changing rooms, and even in the bar could provide the spark of inspiration which the lads, who must be fairly low on confidence, badly need.

If anyone can inspire some self-belief in the squad, Jake Boer can. He's done it before, is highly respected throughout the game, and will certainly make his presence felt.

Welcome back, Jake Boer! We need you.

'A LEAGUE' MATCH ACTION

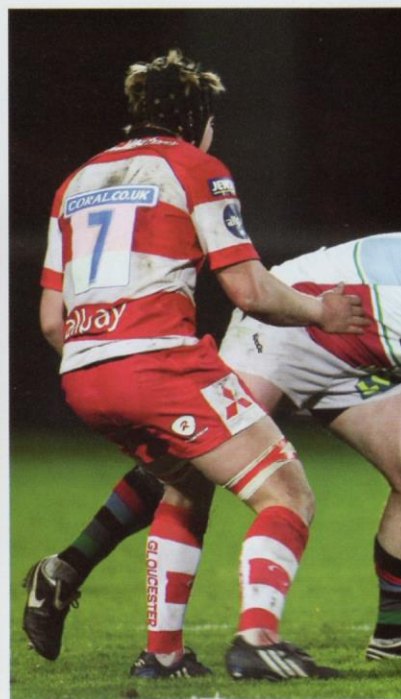
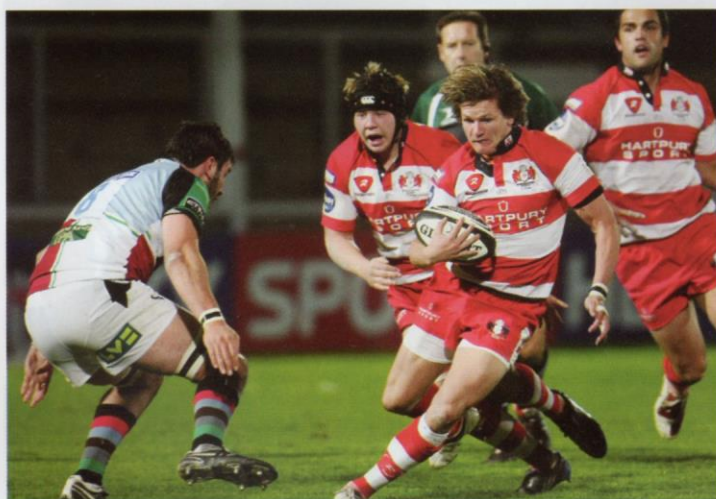
'A LEAGUE'

MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2009 / 19:45 KO



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 14
HARLEQUINS 45

QUINS ROMP TO 'A LEAGUE' WIN



Gloucester tasted defeat in the A League at Kingsholm on Monday evening as Harlequins produced a second half try scoring burst to overcome a half time deficit and emerge easy 45-14 winners.

The home side had competed well in the first period and went in with a deserved lead.

However, it was already obvious that Quins had the advantage up front with a number of gnarled veterans with Premiership experience enjoying themselves against a Gloucester eight who had barely met each other before kick off.

Cannily led behind the scrum by the likes of Steve So'oialo and Nils Mordt, Quins always had a little too much for a spirited Gloucester

side and it was always a question of when rather than if.

In fact it took only a couple of minutes of the second half for Quins to make a decisive move, scoring two quick fire tries to take a lead that they would never relinquish.

Gloucester drew first blood after Freddie Burns was taken out late having put in a chip ahead. Burns dusted himself off and chipped over a straightforward penalty for a 3-0 lead..

Quins responded well and pegged Gloucester back with a series of attacks near the line with the home defence having to work overtime to keep Quins at bay.

The visitors appeared to have the edge up front at this point and almost

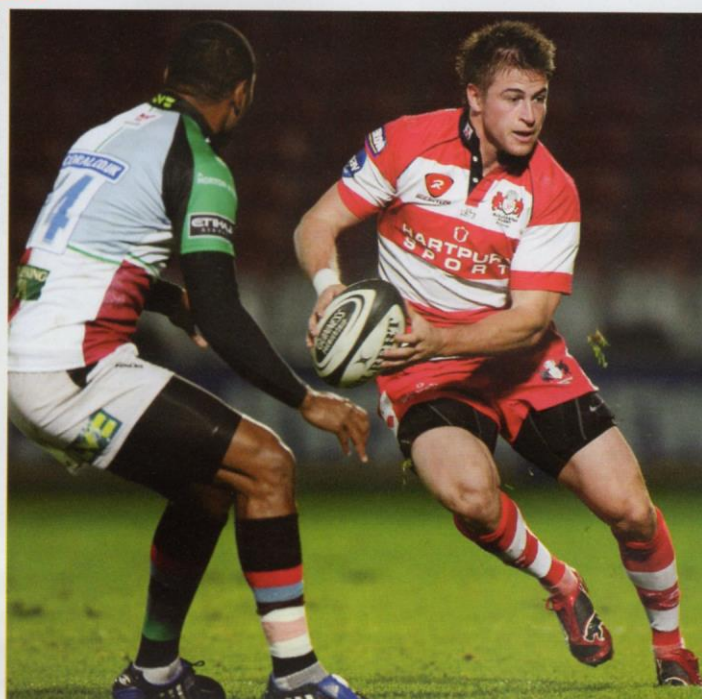
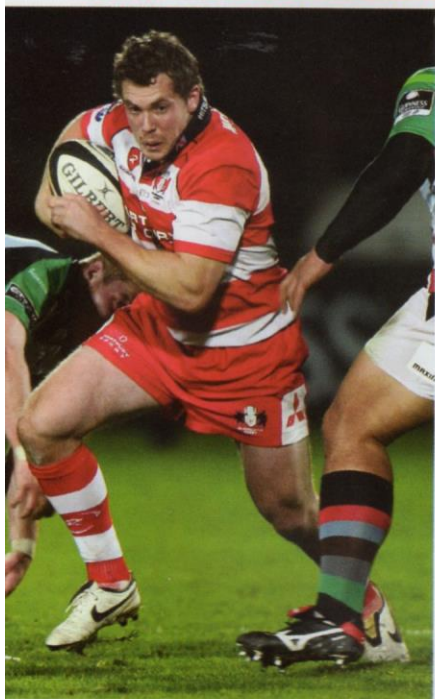
fashioned a try for George Lowe on the crash ball but the centre was held up over the line. However, the pressure eventually told and flanker Luke Wallace bulldozed over for the score. Rory Clegg converted and Quins took a 7-3 lead after 18 minutes.

Gloucester came back well, following up a hack through from number eight Phil Burgess. Jordi Pasqualin and Freddie Burns almost jinked their way through but had to settle for a Burns penalty.

It had been a good spell for Gloucester and they capitalised further with a fine score. Burns changed the direction of attack and linked with Henry Trinder who drew the last man for Jonny May to finish well in the corner. 28 minutes gone and Gloucester were up 11-7.

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AND GLOUCESTER'S BRAVERY IN DEFENCE WAS REWARDED AS THEY MOVED UPFIELD, HENRY TRINDER ALMOST WRIGGLED FREE BUT BURNS ADDED HIS THIRD PENALTY AS QUINS OFFENDED AT THE RUCK TO SEND GLOUCESTER INTO HALF TIME WITH A 14-7 LEAD.



Clegg had a chance to hit back but he drilled a straightforward penalty attempt wide. However the Quins pack swiftly reimposed themselves to pile on the pressure until their over eagerness got the better of them and they conceded a free kick for an early charge at the scrum.

And Gloucester's bravery in defence was rewarded as they moved upfield, Henry Trinder almost wriggled free but Burns added his third penalty as Quins offended at the ruck to send Gloucester into half time with a 14-7 lead.

The Quins pack were quickly back into their stride from the restart, driving a maul 40 metres downfield before Steve So'oialo made the telling break and Nils Mordt took the scoring pass. Clegg was wide right with the

conversion but Quins were right back in it at 14-12.

So'oialo then caught the home defence napping as he scampered over from a quickly taken tap penalty after more pressure and had shipped ten points in a 5 minute spell. The floodgates looked to have opened.

After a flurry of changes, the Quins pack finally got their reward with a well executed catch and drive resulting in a score for prop James Johnston and Clegg belatedly got his kicking sights adjusted to convert. At 24-14, Quins looked to have taken a decisive lead.

Gloucester threatened but England Sevens winger Josh Drauniniui was next to cross for Quins as Gloucester made a mess of fielding a grubber

kick near their own line and Clegg added the extras and Drauniniui then moved smoothly through the gears to finish off a move set up by his own initial break and Clegg, who was by now kicking everything, converted from the touchline.

The final quarter simply drifted along with neither side able to make any real inroads although Reuben Haile's interception lifted the home crowd but Gloucester couldn't finish the move off.

With time virtually up, Gloucester kept plugging away but the Quins defence was resolute and salt was rubbed into Gloucester wounds as their final attacking move resulted only in a turnover and a length of the field try for Quins replacement winger Chris Rose.



FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2009 / 20:00 KO

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY 19****NEWPORT G' DRAGONS 17****COACH'S COMMENTS**

"We are very critical of ourselves but we have to take the win as well. We've had a tough start to the season and sometimes we'd have struggled to come back and we came back reasonably well."

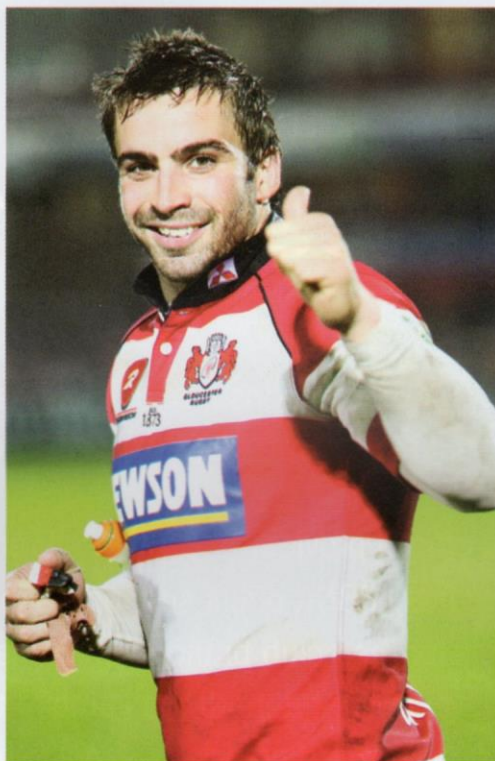
"A win will give us confidence. The Dragons came here and only had one aim, to win the game. And they showed a lot of composure and a lot of credit must go to them. They've started pretty well in the Magners League and they showed great character."

KEY MOMENT

With the clock ticking away in the second half, Gloucester still trailed despite an improved second half display.

The Dragons were showing great spirit in defence and refusing to buckle despite concerted pressure from the home side.

However, six minutes from time, the visitors were sufficiently stretched and conceded a penalty a few metres in from touch on the Shed side of the ground. Up stepped Nicky Robinson and the Welsh international fly half showed great composure in less than perfect conditions and under great pressure to nail the kick and earn Gloucester the win.



Gloucester Rugby got their Heineken Cup campaign off to a winning start against the Newport Gwent Dragons but it was a far from straightforward victory.

It's universally acknowledged that to progress in the Heineken Cup, you have to win your home games and that victories for Welsh sides on English soil have been hard to come by.

However, the Dragons came to Kingsholm firmly believing that they could take the points back to Wales with them and they very nearly achieved the task.

Gloucester's cause wasn't helped by a crippling injury list and the absence of Olivier Azam and Adam Eustace through suspension and were further hampered by the loss of Peter Buxton with a foot injury suffered at the team run.

And, on the evening, persistent drizzle throughout the day made handling rugby difficult to achieve and the game quickly became an arm wrestle up front.

After a scoreless first quarter, the stalemate was broken largely due to the impact of Lesley Vainikolo. Safely gathering a loose clearance kick, the Tongan winger accelerated through

A NERVY FINAL QUARTER TICKED BY SLOWLY WITH THE DRAGONS HANGING ON TO THEIR SLIM LEAD UNTIL ROBINSON'S CRUCIAL LATE PENALTY GAVE GLOUCESTER A 19-17 LEAD AND, ULTIMATELY, THE WIN AND THE FOUR POINTS.



the first line of defence before linking with Tim Molenaar who put Akapusi Qera in for the opening score.

Gloucester needed to kick on from there but fumbled the subsequent kick off to put themselves under pressure and give the Dragons an opportunity to get straight back into the game.

The visitors didn't need to be asked twice. Within minutes, they were level courtesy of Joe Bearman's plunge from close range and then, with the momentum firmly behind them, took the lead as James Arlidge forced his way over between the posts.

Trailing 14-7 as the second half commenced, Gloucester needed to turn the tide and the unerring boot of Robinson started to chip away at the lead as the Dragons gave away penalties to keep their line intact.

Frustratingly, Gloucester took the lead at 16-14 only to relinquish it almost immediately as Arlidge responded to Robinson's three penalties with one of his own.

A nervy final quarter ticked by slowly with the Dragons hanging on to their slim lead until Robinson's crucial late penalty gave Gloucester a 19-17 lead and, ultimately, the win and the four points.

THE TEAMS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Voyce
Sharples
Simpson-Daniel
Molenaar
Vainikolo
Robinson
R. Lawson
Somerville
S. Lawson
Dickinson
Delve
Qera
Strokosch
Brown
Attwood

REPLACEMENTS:

May for Sharples (72),
Lewis for R. Lawson (67),
Hazell for Delve (71),
James for Brown (23),
Doran-Jones for Somerville (71),
Capdevielle for Dickinson (58).

NOT USED: Dawidiuk, Burns.



NEWPORT

Tovey
Brew
Riley
Smith
Fussell
Arlidge
W. Evans
Charteris
Sidoli
Hall
S. Jones
McKenzie
Bearman
G. Thomas
Lydiate

REPLACEMENTS:

M. Thomas for Tovey (52),
Connor for Arlidge (75),
Lee for W. Evans (69),
MacDonald for Lydiate (64),
Gustafson for Hall (40),
Bracken for McKenzie (40).

NOT USED: Goodfield, L. Evans.



SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2009 / 14:35 KO

**BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE 42****GLOUCESTER RUGBY 15****COACH'S COMMENTS**

"Ultimately we shot ourselves in the foot by making so many basic errors."

"Three of their tries came from two missed tackles and one dropped pass. You just can't compete against a team of the calibre of Biarritz when you give away soft tries like that."

"We were suitably punished and we have to accept that we weren't good enough."

**KEY MOMENT**

Trailing only 9-3 with just a few minutes to go until half time, Gloucester were set to go into the interval reasonably satisfied with the scoreline.

The work rate had been immense up to that point and the first hints of discontent were starting to be heard around the Parc des Sports Aguilera.

Then Biarritz right winger Takudzwa Ngwenya fielded a box kick 40 metres out from the Gloucester line. He escaped from James Simpson-Daniel's despairing tackle before accelerating smoothly around Tom Voyce to swing the game decisively Biarritz's way.

For half an hour in the south west of France, Gloucester Rugby stood toe to toe with their hosts Biarritz and harboured hopes of creating an upset in the second round of the Heineken Cup.

However, step forward Takudzwa Ngwenya. Perhaps not the biggest name in Biarritz's squad of many internationals, the USA Sevens speedster nonetheless proceeded to etch his name indelibly on the memories of the Gloucester Rugby supporters vocally backing their team at the Parc des Sports Aguilera.

Displaying pace, power and no

little skill, Ngwenya tore open Gloucester's defence which had been little short of heroic to that point and left Bryan Redpath contemplating a half time team talk focusing on a 21-3 rather than a 9-3 deficit.

When Charlie Sharples committed a handling error in midfield shortly after the break, the Biarritz back line pounced ruthlessly to free Ngwenya and put the game beyond Gloucester's reach.

It could even have been worse. Ngwenya had a fourth score ruled out when his interception score was called back for a previous offence



IT'S A TOUGH GAME AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND TEAMS HAVE TO BE AT NEAR 100% TO CLINCH GAMES OF THIS NATURE. GLOUCESTER WEREN'T AT 100% AND WERE DULY PUT TO THE SWORD.



by a team mate.

Lesser teams would have capitulated completely but Gloucester showed huge reserves of character to keep trying to take the game to Biarritz and there were well deserved scores for Tom Voyce and the returning Jake Boer.

However, an understandably confident home side took advantage of some tired Gloucester defence in the final quarter and duly wrapped up their try scoring bonus pint and more besides.

It was a massively frustrating

afternoon for Gloucester. So much effort and commitment went into the opening stages and trailing 9-3 at half time would not have been harsh.

But the harsh reality is that, when Gloucester made errors, they were clinically punished by Biarritz. The first three scores came from two missed tackles and a dropped pass, it was that simple.

It's a tough game at the highest level and teams have to be at near 100% to clinch games of this nature. Gloucester weren't at 100% and were duly put to the sword.

THE TEAMS

BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE

Bosch
Ngwenya
Mignardi
Traille
Brusque
Peyrelongue
Yachvili
Barcella
August
Johnstone
Thion
Taele-Pavihi
Lund
Vahafolau
Harinordoquy

REPLACEMENTS:

Tranier for Traille (68),
Erinle for Brusque (53),
Courrent for Peyrelongue (53),
Coetzee for Barcella (61),
Terrain for August (64),
Moala for Thion (65),
Lauret for Lund (53).

NOT USED: Carlizza.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Voyce
Sharples
Simpson-Daniel
Fuimaono-Sapolu
Vainikolo
Robinson
Lewis
Dickinson
S. Lawson
Somerville
Attwood
James
Qera
Hazell
Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

Burns for Robinson (54),
R Lawson for Lewis (41),
Doran-Jones for Dickinson (51),
Dawidiuk for S. Lawson (74),
Capdevielle for Somerville (61),
Boer for Qera (54).

NOT USED: Molenaar, Spencer.

vs LONDON WASPS //065

TODAY'S LINE-UPS

Vs LONDON WASPS
SATURDAY 24/10/09
KO 5:35PM

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

Vs **LONDON
WASPS**

**GUINNESS
PREMIERSHIP**



TOM VOYCE	15	FULLBACK
CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	WING
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	13	CENTRE
ELIOTA FUJIMAONO-SAPOLU	12	CENTRE
LESLEY VAINIKOLO	11	WING
PP CARLOS SPENCER	10	FLY-HALF
RORY LAWSON	9	SCRUM-HALF
ALASDAIR DICKINSON	1	PROP
SCOTT LAWSON	2	HOOKER
GREG SOMERVILLE	3	PROP
DAVE ATTWOOD	4	LOCK
WILL JAMES	5	LOCK
ALASDAIR STROKOSCH	6	FLANKER
ANDREW HAZELL	7	FLANKER
GARETH DELVE (C)	8	NO.8

MARK VAN GISBERGEN <i>FT</i>
PAUL SACEY
BEN JACOBS <i>TS</i>
DOMINIC WALDOUCK
TOM VARNDELL <i>DL</i>
DAVE WALDER <i>CP</i>
JOE SIMPSON
TIM PAYNE
JOE WARD
BEN BROSTER
GEORGE SKIVINGTON
RICHARD BIRKETT
SERGE BETSEN <i>T</i>
JOE WORSLEY <i>H</i>
DAN WARD-SMITH

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
1 Saracens	5	5	0	0	100	70	0	20
2 London Irish	5	4	0	1	149	59	3	19
3 Wasps	5	4	0	1	102	76	0	16
4 Northampton	5	3	0	2	108	80	3	15
5 Leicester	5	3	1	1	81	64	1	15
6 Worcester	5	2	0	3	85	87	2	10
7 GLOUCESTER	5	2	0	3	90	101	1	9
8 Bath	5	1	1	3	76	86	2	8
9 Sale	5	1	1	3	69	88	2	8
10 Harlequins	5	1	1	3	63	91	1	7
11 Newcastle	5	0	3	2	63	79	1	7
12 Leeds Carnegie	5	0	1	4	43	148	0	2

TOP POINTS SCORERS: 2009-2010

62	Ryan Lamb	London Irish
52	Jeremy Staunton	Leicester Tigers
44	Lee Thomas	Sale Sharks

TOP TRY SCORERS: 2009-2010

6	Sailosi Tagicakibau	London Irish
5	Tom Varnell	London Wasps
4	Jon Clarke	Northampton Saints

TOP PENALTY KICKERS: 2009-2010

19	Jeremy Staunton	Leicester Tigers
13	Lee Thomas	Sale Sharks
13	Nick Evans	Harlequins

MOST APPEARANCES : 2008-2009

24	Chris Hala'ufia	London Irish
24	Richard Thorpe	London Irish
23	Steffon Armitage	London Irish

REPLACEMENTS

16	DARREN DAWIDUIK	3-0	16	GABRIEL BOCCA	6-28
17	PAUL DORAN-JONES	3-7	17	CHARLIE BEECH	6-35
18	PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE	6-7	18	BOB BAKER	
19	JAKE BOER	6-10	19	DAN LEO	
20	AKAPUSI QERA	6-13	20	JOHN HART	
21	DAVE LEWIS	6-18	21	WARREN FURY	
22	NICKY ROBINSON	6-21	22	EOGHAN HICKEY	
23	TIM MOLENAAR		23	LACHLAN MITCHELL	

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

Dave Pearson

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

Paul Dix and Peter Huckle

4TH OFFICIAL:

Mark Tovey