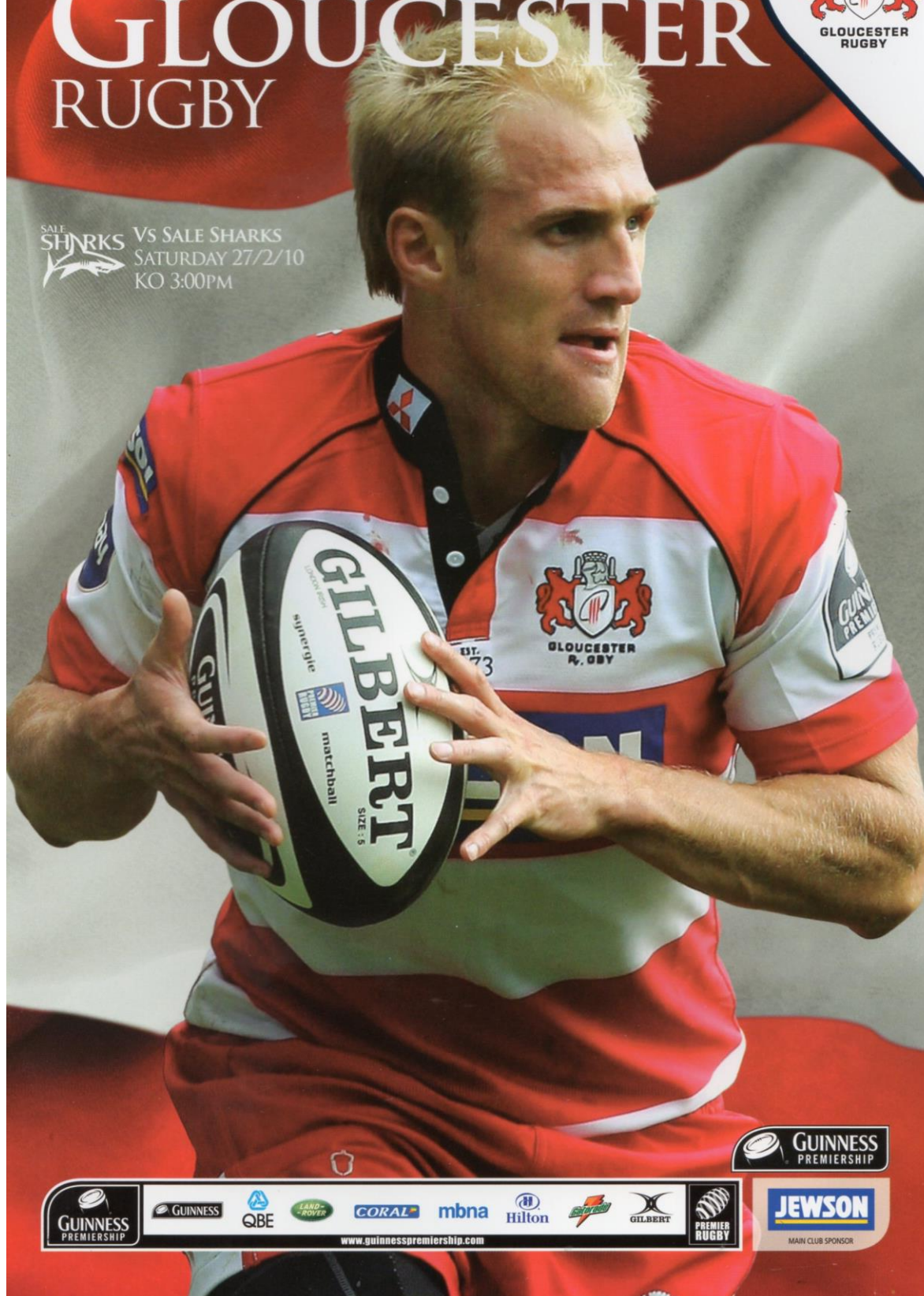


OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME // £3

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



VS SALE SHARKS
SATURDAY 27/2/10
KO 3:00PM



MAIN CLUB SPONSOR

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GARETH DELVE CAPTAIN'S CORNER

AFTER such a great rub of results to kick off 2010, it's slightly disappointing to be writing these programme notes after suffering our first defeat this calendar year.

Admittedly, that first reversal did take place at Welford Road, the home of the Leicester Tigers, and not too many teams come away from there with the points.

However, we didn't travel to Leicester with any trepidation. We went there in a positive frame of mind without being too confident and hopeful that we could give the Tigers a run for their money.

We duly started well, got an early lead and felt that we were reasonably competitive in the opening quarter.

However, Leicester gradually got their game together and Toby Flood had one of those afternoons when pretty much everything he

Games at this level can often be decided by small margins. We had chances at Welford Road but didn't take them.

Contrast that with the weekend before when we defeated Harlequins 46-6 here at Kingsholm. We didn't actually have too many chances on that occasion but were more clinical in taking them.

In fact, our second half tries largely came from our fine work in defence forcing errors from Quins. A charged down kick, an interception and a loose pass led to three second half tries. They were half chances but we did make the most of them.

On the subject of the interception, I have had quite a bit of stick for slowing up and waiting for our support to catch up with me before I gave the scoring pass to Sinbad!

In my defence, I had told the bench a few minutes earlier that I felt as though I was cramping up in my

nothing for granted.

Sale will be smarting after their home defeat to Leeds Carnegie last weekend and will be well aware that Worcester and Leeds aren't that far behind them in the table.

There's a lot at stake for both sides so it should be a good one.

Enjoy the game!

THE ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT WAS GREAT AND IT WAS OBVIOUS HOW MUCH IT MEANT TO OUR SUPPORTERS.

tried came off.

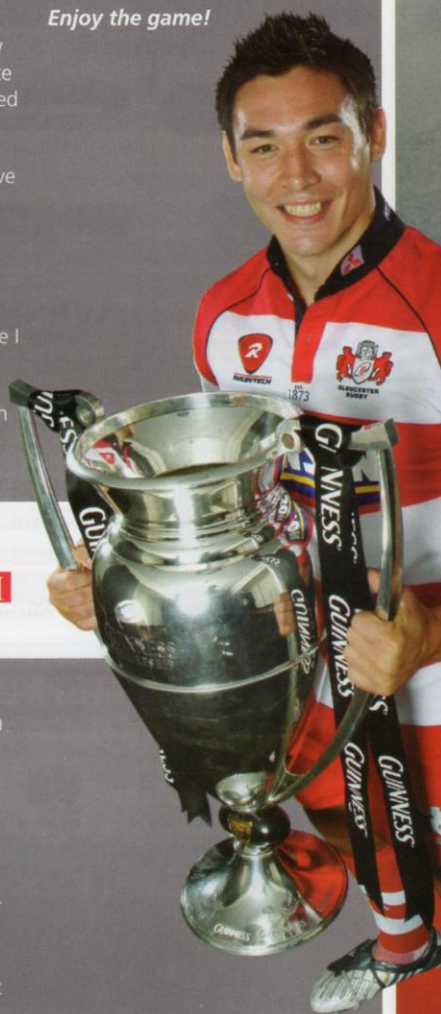
Leicester are a side who don't tend to have to chase a game too often. They slowly but surely build up the pressure on their opponents and that pressure very often results in points.

Even so, there were still phases of the game when we more than held our own and Jonny May's try wasn't the return we'd hoped for.

calves and that sprint was just one run too many. That's not stopped a few of the boys suggesting I need some sprint training however...

It was great though to win well at Kingsholm. The atmosphere throughout was great and it was obvious how much it meant to our supporters.

We'd love to deliver a similar result this afternoon but we'll be taking



GARETH BUTLER VIEW FROM THE CITIZEN

Since returning from a foot injury which plagued the start of his season, Gloucester prop Nick Wood has been in pretty impressive form.

He was the man to break the dam where contracts were concerned – the first of 12 to sign new deals when he put pen to paper on another three years in January.

After coming through surrounded by big named props of the like of Phil Vickery and Trevor Woodman, Wood is now starting to impart his knowledge of the game on to some of the new young props at Kingsholm, including the likes of Yann Thomas, who made his first start recently, and Shaun Knight, who was in action for England Under-20s last night.

Wood knows playing in the front row is all about performing as a unit that includes the whole front five.

"I've got the kind of game where if it's going well in the tight the rest comes off the back of it," he said. "It all comes from when my basics are going well, my scrum and line-out. It builds from there.

"For me to play well I need the guy next to me and the guy the other side of him doing their job well. Plus the two guys behind. It's massive.

"The front five is massive. It's never a single man battle, it's always together."

Wood felt a bit sorry for the guys who produce the heroics against Harlequins in the LV= Cup recently at the Stoop.



Despite coming back from 20-0 down, most of them found themselves on the bench or out of the squad altogether the following week.

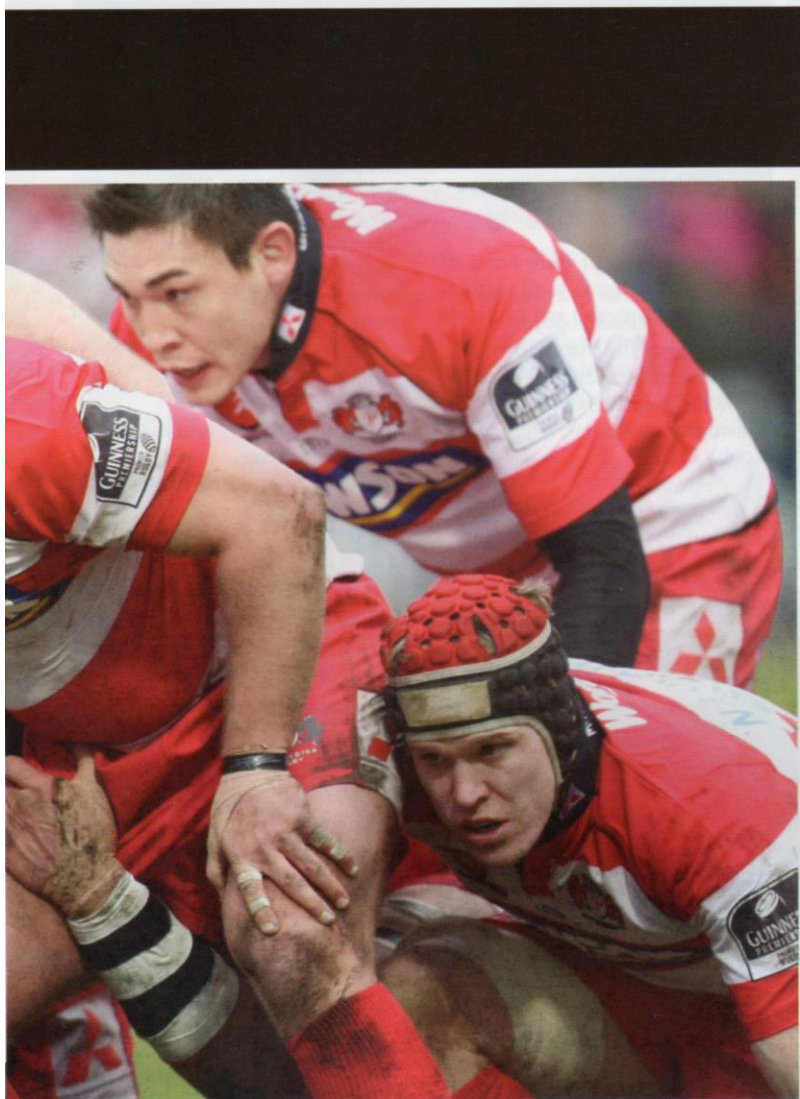
"It was tough for the guys who played at Harlequins in the LV= Cup," he said. "They went out and did a job against all the odds.

"They were up against it 20-0 down with a lot of new faces out there, including Yann Thomas and Rupert Harden from a front row perspective,

which was good to see."

Wood is careful about the advice he offers to the young props coming through. He feels it is important to respect that they are different players so only offers help when he thinks it is needed, or when it is invited.

He said: "I try to offer my bit here and there but at the same time I try and respect that they are different players to me. "I'll offer them advice on bits of



The Citizen

came under pressure against Leicester last week.

He also recently played for the England Saxons against Ireland, where he packed down alongside club colleague Paul Doran-Jones, something he saw as an important freshening up period.

"It was good to get involved in something different which gives you a fresh perspective," he said. "It meant I could come back to Gloucester with a real hunger for it again."

"It was a freshening-up period. Two weeks away, something different and you end up looking forward to coming back to what you know and who you know and playing the way you like."

And after signing a new contract back in January he sees no reason why he cannot finish his career at Kingsholm.

"I was fortunate that Gloucester gave me a good offer which allowed me to commit to the only club I've been at," he said. "It's a tough time of year for everyone. This is a tight-knit group and the reality is people do have to end up moving on due to financial constraints or if a big offer comes in."

"But I'm happy to commit my next three years here along with the majority of the squad."

"That will take me to 10 years in the first team, which is good. I don't see any reason why I can't start and finish my career at Gloucester. Things may change in the next few years but the way I feel is there's nothing wrong with that."

the game I can help them with and after that it's down to them to develop and put the work in where they need to. So I offer technical advice if I think it's needed."

That he is now offering advice comes from the fact that his own game has developed well, although he still feels he has a way to go as his 'man-strength' develops.

"Skills wise I don't struggle," he said. "But I've been through a stage where I poured all my energy

into scrum, into line-out and into defence and occasionally other parts of the game were sacrificed.

"The scrum doesn't get easier but as you get your man strength at round about my age it gets easier in a sense that you're not pouring all your energy into one thing so you can start contributing more elsewhere in a game."

Wood has hit some good form with the rest of the team of late, although he will admit the scrum

BRYAN REDPATH HEAD COACH

IT'S obviously good to be back at Kingsholm after the trip to Welford Road last weekend when we suffered our first defeat of 2010.

One of the journalists at the post match press conference asked Denis Betts if he considered the defeat at Leicester not to be as big a setback as if we'd lost at Worcester for example!

Putting aside the fact that the question was slightly disrespectful to Worcester and that we don't actually have a great record at Sixways, we were disappointed because you go into every game wanting to win.

We'd travelled to Leicester full of hope and ambition. We'd taken a lot of confidence from our recent performances and knew that the game against the Tigers would tell us exactly where we are with our game.

The obvious answer is that we're not currently at the same level as Leicester. Don't get me wrong, we competed well and I felt that we genuinely caused them problems at times.

However, we were guilty of not capitalising on the half chances that we created and, some key errors when we found ourselves in good positions in their 22, prevented us from building the sort of pressure that the Tigers applied to us.

But, in the same way as we didn't get too carried away after the wins over Harlequins, we shouldn't view the Leicester



defeat as a setback.

We have to do our analysis, take heart from the positives and use the rest to help us establish exactly where we stand in relation to the likes of Leicester and how hard we have to work in order to be competitive over the remaining weeks of the season.

We have to work hard because we still have an awful lot to play for this season on three fronts. If we are to achieve any degree of success this season, it'll take application and a little bit of luck.

There are going to be no easy games. People may have looked at the 46 points that we scored against Harlequins here a fortnight ago and thought that we were going to be able to do that on a regular basis.

But, being brutally honest, we were gifted a few scores against Quins and that's why we weren't getting too excited after that game.

The Guinness Premiership this season is incredibly tight. We beat Quins and moved up to sixth from ninth. We lost at Leicester and dropped to ninth from sixth! That's how quickly things can change.

Sale will come here today in no mood to roll over and let us get back to winning ways. They'll be desperate for a win themselves. They've lost six (?) on the bounce and their home defeat to Leeds Carnegie last Friday will have sent a few alarm bells ringing in Stockport.

They're just above Worcester and Leeds in the league table and will come here scrapping for everything. Plus, when you have someone like Charlie Hodgson in the side, you'll always have someone capable of putting points on the board.

If we needed any reminder of that, we only had to look back on our trip to Edgeley Park back in October when we lost 28-23.

We lost Mike Tindall to injury after a quarter of an hour, had Charlie Sharples sent off before half time and outscored them by three tries to one. We still lost though and that was because Charlie booted seven penalties and a conversion.

I obviously finished my playing career at Sale, still have a number of close friends there and will always look back fondly on my time at the club.

Yet there'll be no room for sentiment on my part this afternoon. To keep challenging for the top half of the table, we need a win this afternoon and everyone at the club has been 100% focussed on that goal this week.

It's a massive few weeks for Gloucester Rugby. We've got ourselves into a position where every game matters.

Next week we travel to Wasps in the Premiership, the following week we've got Cardiff Blues in the semi final of the LV=Cup. If we win that, the final is the week afterwards!

If we don't make the final of the LV=Cup, we'll be straight back into the Premiership for a couple of weeks before the Amlin Challenge Cup quarter final.

That kind of schedule is exactly why I said earlier that we'll need to work hard and enjoy a bit of luck. But, we'd rather be competing in these competitions rather than be on the outside looking in!

THAT KIND OF SCHEDULE IS EXACTLY WHY I SAID EARLIER THAT WE'LL NEED TO WORK HARD AND ENJOY A BIT OF LUCK. BUT, WE'D RATHER BE COMPETING IN THESE COMPETITIONS RATHER THAN BE ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN!





PLAYER PROFILE: OLLY MORGAN

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT'S THE FIRST GAME YOU REMEMBER WATCHING?

Probably the first game I can remember watching would be from the 1997 British Lions tour of South Africa. I can remember Jeremy Guscott kicking that famous drop goal.

WHO IS YOUR SPORT'S BEST PUNDIT?

Like a few of the other lads, I'd have to say Will Greenwood. He's the best sports pundit at this moment in time. He's very honest and played the game at the highest level until relatively recently so his knowledge of the game is a bit more relevant than some of the others.

WHO'S GOT THE FLASHIEST MOTOR AT THE CLUB?

I'm not going to go for Les who has been the popular choice this year! I'll say Eliota.

WHO'S THE BEST DRESSER IN THE PLAYING DEPARTMENT?

Everyone says Rory Lawson but I can't see it. He's probably the most outrageous with his silver shoes and everything! I'll say Peter Buxton after his recent session with a personal shopper.

IF MONEY WAS NO OBJECT WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?

I'd probably buy some land and build on it. Land in the countryside with some scenic views. Not for development reasons, just somewhere to build a personal home. Land's always a good investment as well.

BEST TRY YOU'VE EVER SCORED?

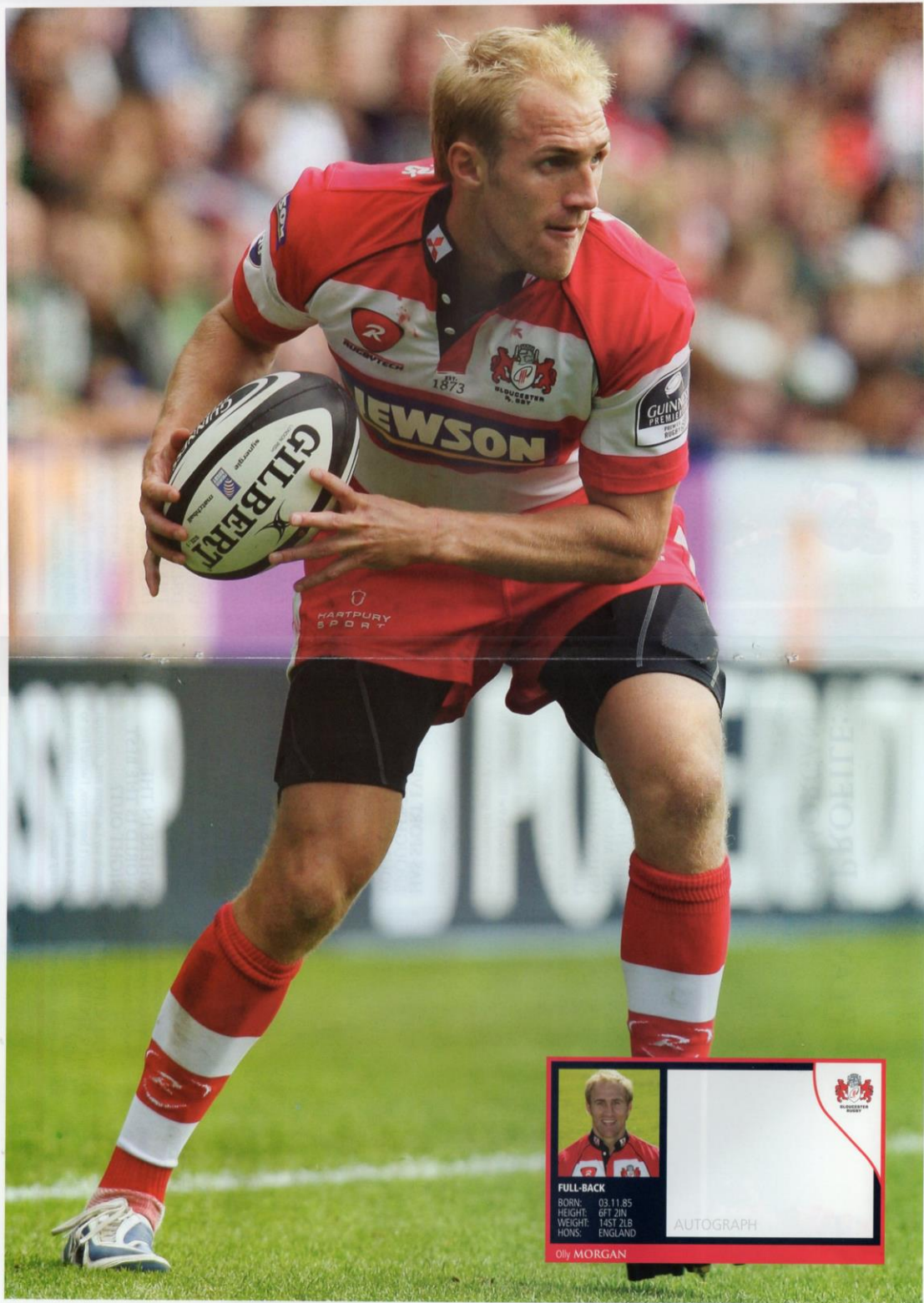
Probably the one I scored last year

against Wasps here at Kingsholm. I dived over in the corner taking advantage of the new rule where, if you touch the corner flag, you're not in touch.

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

I'd go for the Jackson 5 because I like that kind of music and it would involve a lot of dancing which is always good fun.





FULL-BACK

BORN: 03.11.85
HEIGHT: 6FT 2IN
WEIGHT: 145ST 2LB
HONS: ENGLAND



AUTOGRAPH

Ollie MORGAN

OLLY MORGAN



PLAYER PROFILE: OLLY MORGAN



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

I've had a few and not all of them are printable! Morgs for obvious reasons but the most popular at the moment seems to be Baldy because I'm potentially going bald...

WHO IS YOUR BEST

FRIEND IN RUGBY?

That would be Anthony Allen who is now at the Leicester Tigers. We were at Millfield together and played all our school rugby together even though I was in the year above him.

DO YOU SUPPORT ANY OTHER SPORTING TEAMS?

Not really. I enjoy following the

tennis and watched Andy Murray quite a lot recently when he got to the final of the Australian Final.

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

As a role model, I would say Matt Burke. He was always cool and calm under pressure and took the right decisions even if his side were five points down in the 80th minute. My first Premiership game at Kingsholm was against Newcastle and he was in their side which made it an extra special occasion.

HAS SPORT EVER BROUGHT TEARS TO YOUR EYES?

Only through injury! I'm sure that if and when we go on to win some silverware then the old tear ducts might fill up a bit.

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

I think the game is doing ok at the moment and I wouldn't really change anything.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE BEST NIGHT OUT?

People say Las Vegas and, although I haven't been there, I would like to go. I'd say Rio de Janeiro which was pretty special.

BOB FENTON'S KINGSHOLM NEWS



IF you look closely at the player profile pages in this programme you'll notice one small change. Not another new signing, but a new sponsor for one of the players.

After a brilliant idea was floated on the Shedweb site to sponsor our own player and a quick show of hands indicated that there were enough people ready to contribute to the cost, a vote was set up and Tim Molenaar was duly elected as the representative for the Shedweb constituency.

It was a close run thing though as Dave Lewis pushed him all the way. Between the two of them they polled over 80% of the vote and at the end there were just ten votes between them.

Hopefully Tim is hugely proud of the

honour we have bestowed upon him and will not let it go to his head too much.

But with such high office comes responsibility. We now own him, he's ours. He has to do what we want. No more being taken prisoner and made to go to Tesco's for me, a quick phone call and it is Mr M who will be carrying the bags for the Missus – though to be fair she will probably be more than happy with this arrangement. In the summer when the grass needs cutting, the barbeque needs cleaning or there's a bit of heavy lifting to be done – you know who to call.

OK I may have misunderstood a few of the exact details of what we get for the sponsorship, but I do know a number of ladies who have already offered to '...take Tim home...' at the end of the season!

What I do know is that we literally get the shirt off his back. We'll get a signed one which we will raffle for the Help 4 Heroes fundraising effort.

But it's not all bad news Tim – just remember as you are now our man you are above criticism, you can do no wrong.

Drop the ball and it'll have been a bad pass, if a pass goes astray it'll be the recipient who was in the wrong position, miss a tackle – someone else's fault – they should have covered it etc etc. From now on, Mr Molenaar, you are Mr Untouchable!

The plan is to carry the sponsorship on into next season, there will probably be another vote to see who we sponsor next term.

It's not the first time that Shedweb has been involved in player

sponsorship though. In our early days before we got booted off the Rivals network we actually sponsored the Gloucester Academy for a season. There was a young lad called Ryan Lamb captaining the side that the time – I wonder whatever happened to him???

For the life of me I can't remember how we managed it, but we got a huge marketing budget from the company and sunk it all into Gloucester. They (Rivals) went bust shortly after that – I don't think the two were related though!

Back to matters on the field. How good was that result against Harlequins two weeks ago? To run in tries like that put a smile on everyone's face. Well everyone who wasn't wearing Harlequin's colours and definitely not John Kingston. If you saw him after the game... talk about having the face of a man chewing a wasp – he was not a happy bunny.

I suppose the comedown at Welford Road was a bit predictable. I thought we played well in patches and maybe deserved a bit more from the game but could not match the power of the Leicester forwards. As Denis Betts said after the game 'they outperformed us' I don't think that there can be any arguments about that.

What about that new stand at Welford Road though – it's huge! I sat on one of the benches in the Crumbling Terrace looking across at the thing.

I am mighty glad that I didn't take up the offer of tickets at the top of the Caterpillar. For a start I'd probably have to moderate my language a bit given that I would have been so high up St Peter and a few other angels would have been the nearest stewards, and my view of proceedings would have been hampered by air planes flying by beneath me.

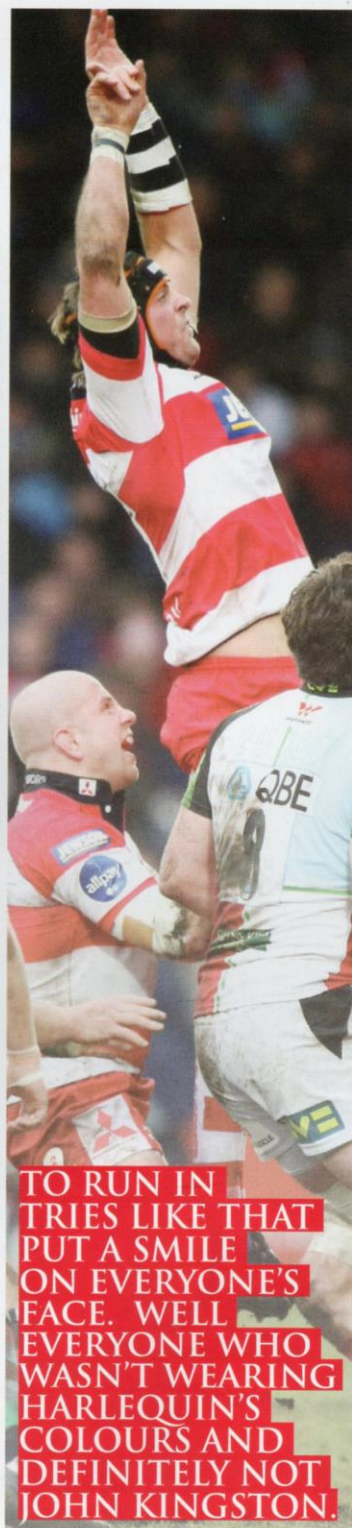


So today then: Sale are having a difficult time of things at the moment and have slipped down the table a bit. That's not to say we should be overconfident or complacent and I'm sure the coaches and players will be anything but. Me though – five points, nailed on. Isn't it??

Finally I had to smile when it was announced that Sir Ian McGeechan was joining us as a consultant. First my good mate Barney assured me that it was very like him to do this kind of missionary work in far flung areas – Barney is a Wasps supporter.

Then, just before the Quins game, I met the only Gloucester fan who thought that Geech's involvement was a bad idea.

Good manners prevent me from naming names – but you know who you are!



**TO RUN IN
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DEFINITELY NOT
JOHN KINGSTON.**

HEAD TO HEAD

GLOUCESTER RUGBY V. SALE SHARKS


opta sportsdata



NICKY ROBINSON



13	MATCHES	9
60	TOTAL TACKLES	59
12	TOTAL MISSES	6
65	TOTAL CARRIES	37
486	TOTAL METRES	191
378	TOTAL PASSES	186
12	DEFENDER BEATEN	13
25	PENALTY GOAL	21
172	TOTAL KICKS IN PLAY	123
11	CLEAN BREAKS	4

CHARLIE HODGSON 



ALEX BROWN



10	MATCHES	7
60	TOTAL TACKLES	35
6	TOTAL MISSES	5
15	TOTAL CARRIES	18
12	TOTAL METRES	19
7	TOTAL PASSES	17
30	LINEOUTS WON	21
4	LINEOUT STEALS	1
3	NUMBER OF ONE OUT DRIVES	3
1	CATCH FROM KICK	2


CHRIS JONES 



LESLEY VAINIKOLO



11	MATCHES	12
22	TOTAL TACKLES	42
2	TOTAL MISSES	7
62	TOTAL CARRIES	78
397	TOTAL METRES	406
27	TOTAL PASSES	42
19	DEFENDER BEATEN	12
0	OFF LOAD	0
1	TRY SCORED	2
5		0

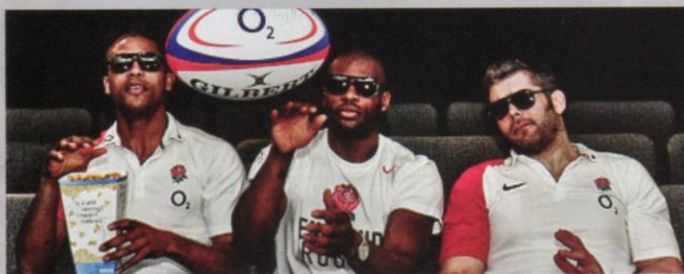
BEN COHEN 



JOBS THAT TAKE EVERY DAY

DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

THE recent Wales International match at Twickenham was shown in cinemas in 3D. Attendances at all 38 venues sold out. Sixty-five per cent of priority tickets sold by O2, sponsors of the event, were sold on the first day of sale. General sales of all 8,300 tickets were bought within 48 hours of the kick-off.



IT will be interesting to see what effect Carlos Spencer has on his new club. Our former fly-half has joined the Golden Lions in South Africa. Last season they lost nine of their thirteen Super 14 matches!



DID you realise that it is possible to reach the semi-finals of the LV= Cup (Anglo Welsh) without winning a game? You can top your pool with a succession of draws and losing bonus points. It is a competition with no quarter finals.

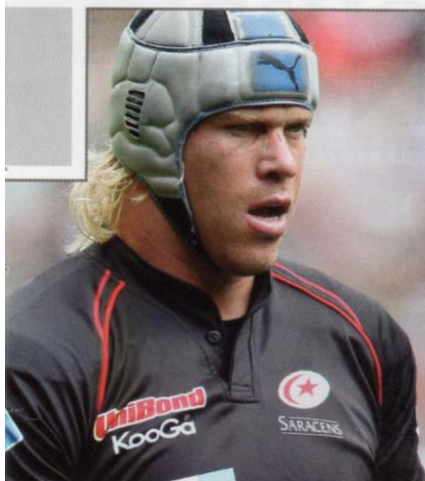


CRAZY rugby in the Super 14! The Chiefs defeated the Lions 72-65, a match that produced a staggering 18 tries! Yes, it was rugby union not basketball! The 137 points is the highest aggregate in Super 14 playing history.

CONGRATULATIONS to our former full back, Chris Paterson who collected his 100th cap for Scotland against Wales in Cardiff a fortnight ago. In actual fact he is not in possession of that total of caps. Chris received one for his 50th and 100th appearances and one each to mark his three World Cups. The 31 year old has scored 22 international tries, 153 penalties, 86 conversions and three drop goals.



HOW lucrative it has been for Premier clubs to scour the Championship for talent. Here at Gloucester we have seen Tim Molenaar, Tim Taylor and Darren Dawidiuk play at a higher level.



MORE than 20 players stepped up to the premier league. Consider the playing worth of Mouritz Botha with Saracens, formerly of Bedford and the Harlequins trio of Karl Dickson (Bedford), John Andress and Lewis Stevenson (both Exeter) and Josh Afu now with Newcastle from Doncaster.

Northampton has raided the Championship in no small measure with the signings of Soane Tonga'uiha and Scott Gray from Bedford and Doncaster respectively.

Rotherham, who are struggling in the Championship this season, have been dealt a body blow as their proposed ground share with the town's football club at a purpose built 12,000 stadium is now off.

Dan Norton who left Kingsholm at the completion of last season is one of the leading try scorers in the Championship with eleven tries. While Tristan Roberts who is dual registered with Gloucester and Moseley heads the Championship points table with 189 points this season.



NOW that Chris Paterson has joined the elite '100 caps' he is in illustrious company. Leading the way is George Gregan (Australia) 139, Fabian Pelous (France) 118, Jason Leonard (England) 114, Philippe Sella (France) 111, George Smith (Australia) 110, Stephen Larkham (Australia) 102, Percy Montgomery (South Africa) 102, David Campese (Australia) 101, Alessandro Troncon (Italy) 101, Gareth Thomas (Wales) 100.

AMAZING! Bridgwater and Albion's long serving coach Jack Smith has entered his 60th year with the club. He currently coaches the club's third team. Jack originally joined the Somerset club for the 1950-51 season. He was invited to Twickenham to watch one of England's International matches by the R.F.U. in recognition of his dedication.



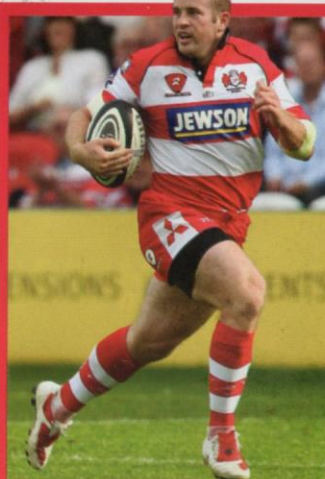
AGE is no barrier at The Rec, the home of Bath, for they recently signed Duncan Bell and Danny Grewcock on new deals, the combined age of the two players? A mere 72 years! When you consider David Barnes, Pieter Dixon, David Flatman, Lee Mears, Andy Beattie and Peter Short are all over 30 years of age, it is easy to see how Steve Meehan is banking on experience. Danny Grewcock has been at Bath since 2001 and was rumoured to be set to retire at the end of this current season.



FORMER Bath back row player, Dan Lyle, is now the United States of America Rugby Sevens tournament director. The States consider they have obtained a coup when Las Vegas Sevens, the North American leg of the I.R.B. Sevens circuit was staged a fortnight ago.



IT'S not all roses on the other side of the English Channel for England centre Ricky Flutey has been told by French Club Brive that he can leave the cash strapped club with a year left on his £300,000 a year contract.



JAMES Simpson-Daniel recorded his second hat-trick of tries in league matches versus Harlequins in our last home match. James had previously recorded a trio of tries versus Bath at Kingsholm on 4th May 2002.

PETER ARNOLD'S GLOUCESTER TALK



NOW WE KNOW

Last week's visit to Leicester came as a highly significant reality check. The Tigers aren't top of the table by accident.

They have a very talented side with enviable strength in depth, a whole squad of seasoned players and a very shrewd coach.

Our recent excellent record speaks for itself, but has now been put in perspective, and the lads now know the standards which they must achieve if they are going to get anywhere.

We can take some positives from the experience, however. I'm told that the final score line didn't really reflect the game, and that the boys fought like demons.

It was also good to see that young Jonny May, thrown in at the deep end at short notice, put in a sterling performance and continued his

England U20 form by scoring a try.

Today's welcome opponents also had a rude experience last weekend when they were beaten by Leeds – on their own patch at that. They won't take that lying down, and will be out to prove that they are nobody's pushovers.

Bit of an old pals match this. Bryan Redpath came to us from Sale, of course, while the visiting coach, Kingsley Jones, went in the opposite direction, having not only played for Gloucester, but served as an extremely charismatic and effective captain. So much so, in fact, that there were calls for him to skipper Wales.

However, neither of these two characters, old friends or not, will be doing the other any favours today.

Just one more thought about last weekend. Toby Flood put in a very assured and professional performance at Welford Road.

Given Jonny Wilkinson's uncharacteristic below par performance against Italy, the incumbent England No.10 will now know that he has a young gun breathing down his neck. If you'll pardon the mixed metaphor.

TIGER TIM

Well, he might well have been. Tim Taylor came up through the Leicester Academy and played for the old England U21 side before departing for New Zealand. There, he played at a very high level and learned, as he said himself, how to look for a gap and then go through it.

He then returned home and was given a spot by Nottingham, so he's been around. No aspiring youngster, Tim Taylor, and a very shrewd piece of recruitment by the Gloucester coaches.

I suspect he's broken one record already. I can't recall another player

I CAN'T RECALL ANOTHER PLAYER ARRIVING HERE ON LOAN AND THEN SECURING A TWO-YEAR CONTRACT IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS. NOT THAT HE DOESN'T DESERVE IT...

arriving here on loan and then securing a two-year contract in about three weeks. Not that he doesn't deserve it, because he has oozed class and confidence every time he's stepped on the field.

It's not the first time we've plucked a valuable performer from the lower echelons of the game. One can mention Qera who came from Pertemps Bees. Molenaar, also from Nottingham and I suppose one could count Attwood since Bristol got themselves relegated, we hope temporarily.

This system of scouring the lower leagues does seem to have worked for us thus far, but it needs a shrewd eye for a player to pick the right aspirant.

Tim Taylor obviously has talent, as has several other new faces around the squad this season. Freddie Burns and Jonny May are just two examples. What makes Taylor stand out for me is his utter composure. He seems to be unfazed by anything, and appears to have plenty of time whatever he's doing.

Always a sign of class, that.

IMAGINE...

The clock is running down on a game which has seen you covering about every blade of grass on the field. Your legs are cramping up, and frankly, you're knackered. You are standing round about your own 22.

Suddenly, a guy comes running at you, ball in hand, with a supporting player outside him. It's the classic two on one situation. Miss your tackle or pick the wrong option and it's a try for the opposition. You decide to go for the interception, and to your relief, it comes off.

That's when you realise that this isn't the end of the story, but just the beginning. The field is open in front of you, but the ground is very heavy and the opposition posts seem an awfully long way off. Nevertheless, you go for it.

It doesn't seem too bad at first, but as you run, your legs get heavier and heavier, and your lungs are bursting.

The line doesn't seem to be getting any nearer.

Then, to your immense relief, you see one of your own guys steaming up inside you at a rate of knots. Gratefully, you slip the ball to him. The try is duly scored.

Now tell me. If you had to pick any player in the world to come alongside in that situation, who would you pick other than James Simpson Daniel? I suspect, no one.

Anyone who was here for the Harlequins game will recognise that as a rather fanciful description of Gloucester's penultimate try, and skipper Gareth Delve's epic part in it. And it wasn't really necessary.

The game was already well and truly won, and dying with the ball would have been perfectly acceptable. For that matter, a Harlequins try wouldn't really have mattered all that much.

But Gareth Delve didn't see it that way, and you have to admire him for that. It was a measure of the man, both as player and captain.





SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2010 / 3:00PM KO



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 46 HARLEQUINS 6

COACH'S COMMENTS

"We finished off every opportunity, from 1 to 23 it was a great effort from all of the players. We got better as the game went on, and not letting in a try built our confidence."

"We knew that it was key to get our set pieces right because we have a team structure and individuals that are dangerous when allowed to play."

KEY MOMENT

Plenty to choose from this week but an early scrum in the Harlequins 22 really set the tone. It was Quins' put in and the Gloucester eight made a huge statement of intent as they destroyed the visitors' scrum.

A penalty from Nicky Robinson followed and Quins were never confident in their set piece from that moment on.



At the Stoop six days earlier, Gloucester Rugby scored a late try against Harlequins to win the game.

At Kingsholm, against the same opponent, Gloucester again crossed the line in the final few minutes. However, on this occasion, Gloucester had already put the game to bed and James Simpson-Daniel's hat trick clincher was the icing on the cake.

It was the most emphatic home performance of the season for Gloucester. It was the first time

that the team had notched up a try scoring bonus point in the Guinness Premiership and it was well deserved on the day.

Right from the off, Gloucester enjoyed a clear superiority up front. The home pack were on the front foot whereas the Quins eight were struggling to secure any sort of quality possession.

Nicky Robinson kicked Gloucester into an early 6-0 before Gareth Delve made the first of his many significant contributions on the day by smashing through a



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flimsy Quins' midfield defence to create the game's opening try for Lesley Vainikolo.

Vainikolo was similarly omnipresent. His presence created the loose ball from which Tim Molenaar scored the second try and his sheer refusal to be tackled led to Simpson-Daniel's first score.

The bonus point was secured before the hour mark as Voyce galloped home after Delve charged down a Nick Evans kick and Bryan Redpath was able to make full use of his replacements with the game in the bag.

Harlequins contributed to their own downfall in the final quarter as they sought in vain to get back into the game and two loose Rory Clegg passes led directly to Simpson-

Daniel crossing twice before the final whistle.

The first featured one of the memorable moments of the season as Gareth Delve exploded out of the defensive line near his own goal line to pick off Clegg's flat pass and head for the Quins half.

As he approached half way, the skipper looked a good bet to make it all the way but the stride suddenly shortened and, with Mike Brown and Tom Guest closing in, Delve sensibly waited for the support and the inside pass to Simpson-Daniel did the rest!

Overall, Gloucester's best home win of the season and a huge morale booster ahead of the tough trip to Welford Road.

THE TEAMS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Morgan
Simpson-Daniel
Molenaar
Fuimaono-Sapolu
Vainikolo
Robinson
Lewis
Wood
Azam
Somerville
Attwood
Brown
Narraway
Qera
Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

Voyce for Fuimaono-Sapolu (43), Taylor for Robinson (72), R. Lawson for Lewis (53), Doran-Jones for Wood (69), Dawidiuk for Azam (64), Capdevielle for Somerville (69), Eustace for Attwood (56), Hazell for Qera (69)



HARLEQUINS

Brown
Strettle
Tiesi
Turner-Hall
Lowe
N. Evans
Dickson
Jones
Brooker
Johnston
Percival
Stevenson
York
McMillan
Guest

REPLACEMENTS:

Clegg for Brown (72), Smith for Tiesi (31), So'oialo for Dickson (69), Croall for Jones (69), Cairns for Brooker (60), Andress for Johnston (60), Valleyos Cinalli for Stevenson (65).

NOT USED: Wallace.



SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2010 / 15:00 KO

**LEICESTER TIGERS** 33**GLOUCESTER RUGBY** 11**COACH'S COMMENTS**

"The beast got us, the Leicester beast. They are top of the league and played very well."

"We came here with confidence. We have been working exceptionally hard recently to get the results and get us back into some form."

"Then you come to this place, you come with hope and with ambition but you have to perform and today they outperformed us."
- Denis Betts

KEY MOMENT

After a promising start by Gloucester, the Tigers had slowly taken control of the first half and went into the half time break with a 16-6 lead.

Gloucester needed to come out strongly if they were to fight their way back into the game but, when Geordan Murphy sliced through the defence for the Tigers' second try, it was always going to be an uphill struggle.



Gloucester were far from disgraced at Welford against the Tigers but their unbeaten start to 2010 came to a juddering halt as a powerful performance from the home side ground down Bryan Redpath's side.

It had all started well for Gloucester. A couple of early penalties from Nicky Robinson established a 6-0 lead and Gloucester's recent fine form seemed set to continue.

However, there's a reason why Leicester are the current Guinness Premiership champions and, slowly but surely, the Tigers established an

iron grip on the game.

It all started up front. It had been a rare old ding dong in the scrums in the opening quarter but the home pack established a slight edge and kicked on from there.

The Tigers had gratefully welcomed back a host of stars from international duty for this game and one of them, Toby Flood, enjoyed one of those afternoons when everything went right.

A 100% kicking record and a personal haul of 18 points were Flood's contribution to the game. His only



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blemish was failing to hold onto a scoring pass with the line beckoning.

Flood quickly bounced back. His neat inside pass put Lote Tuqiri in for the key first try and his long floated pass put Geordan Murphy into space for the killer second score.

Gloucester did have some half chances, the sort of half chances that have to be taken if you're going to defeat the Tigers in their own lair. Twice in the first half, Gloucester had possession just yards from the Leicester line but couldn't press home the advantage for the score.

Chasing the game, Gloucester played some ambitious rugby in the second half. Moving the ball wide from the

shadow of their own posts gave Jonny May the chance to stretch his legs on a 50 metre break and the England Under 20's try as the hour mark approached gave hope.

It proved to be a false dawn as the Tigers battened down the hatches to withstand the Gloucester fightback before clinching the game with Flood's fourth penalty and Youngs' late try.

Before the game, Bryan Redpath had said that this game would be a good marker as to where his team were in their development.

The answer was competitive, not currently as strong as the Tigers but on the right track.

THE TEAMS

LEICESTER TIGERS

G. Murphy
Hamilton
Hipkiss
Allen
Tuqiri
Flood
B. Youngs
Ayerza
Davies
Castrogiovanni
L. Deacon
Parling
Newby
Woods
Crane

REPLACEMENTS:

Stankovich for Castrogiovanni (71), B. Deacon for Newby (62), Staunton for Hipkiss (30), Tuilagi for Hamilton (71).

NOT USED: Chuter, R. Harris, Green, Grindal.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Morgan
Voyce
May
Molenaar
Vainikolo
Robinson
R. Lawson
Wood
Azam
Somerville
Attwood
Brown
Narraway
Qera
Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

S. Lawson for Azam (48), Dickinson for Wood (57), Capdevielle for Somerville (63), Eustace for Narraway (68), Hazell for Qera (57), A. Williams for Lawson (70), Taylor for Molenaar (72), Sharples for Voyce (60).

TODAY'S LINE-UPS



Vs SALE SHARKS
SATURDAY 27/2/10
KO 3:00PM

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

**Vs SALE
SHARKS**

**GUINNESS
PREMIERSHIP**



OLLY MORGAN

T JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

MIKE TINDALL

TIM MOLENAAR

TY LESLEY VAINIKOLO

CCFC NICKY ROBINSON

RORY LAWSON

NICK WOOD

OLIVIER AZAM

GREG SOMERVILLE

WILL JAMES

ALEX BROWN

PETER BUXTON

T AKAPUSI QERA

GARETH DELVE (C)

PT

15

FULLBACK

14

WING

13

CENTRE

12

CENTRE

11

WING

10

FLY-HALF

9

SCRUM-HALF

1

PROP

2

HOOKER

3

PROP

4

LOCK

5

LOCK

6

FLANKER

7

FLANKER

8

NO.8

MARIKA VAKACEGU

DAFYDD JAMES *RIPOL*

DAVID BISHOP

LEE THOMAS

BEN COHEN

CHARLIE HODGSON *P*

RICHARD WIGGLESWORTH

EIFION ROBERTS

NEIL BRIGGS *SCHWALGER*

MARTIN HALSALL

CHRIS JONES

DEAN SCHOFIELD (C) *CORNBAND*

CARL FEARN *BRIGGS*

DAVID SEYMOUR

SISARO KOYAMAIBOLE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
1 Leicester	15	10	1	4	327	188	7	49
2 Northampton	14	10	0	4	294	217	4	44
3 Saracens	14	10	1	3	241	201	2	44
4 Wasps	14	9	0	5	242	223	3	39
5 London Irish	14	7	3	4	298	201	5	39
6 Bath	14	5	2	7	244	226	6	30
7 Harlequins	14	5	2	7	235	298	4	28
8 Newcastle	14	4	4	6	192	221	3	27
9 GLOUCESTER	14	5	1	8	263	297	4	26
10 Sale	13	4	1	8	203	253	5	23
11 Worcester	14	2	4	8	202	268	4	20
12 Leeds Carnegie	14	3	1	10	182	330	5	19

TOP POINTS SCORERS: 2009-2010

121 Willie Walker	Worcester Warriors
116 Nick Evans	Harlequins
116 Ryan Lamb	London Irish

TOP TRY SCORERS: 2009-2010

11 Chris Ashton	Northampton Saints
6 James S-Daniel	Gloucester Rugby
6 Sailosi Tagicakibau	London Irish

TOP PENALTY KICKERS: 2009-2010

38 Jimmy Gopperth	Newcastle Falcons
34 Willie Walker	Worcester Warriors
33 Jeremy Staunton	Leicester Tigers

MOST APPEARANCES : 2008-2009

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

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 DARREN DAWIDIUK
- 17 PAUL DORAN-JONES
- 18 PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE
- 19 ADAM EUSTACE
- 20 ANDREW HAZELL *T*
- 21 DAVE LEWIS
- 22 TIM TAYLOR *CC*
- 23 ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU

- 16 MAHONRI SCHWALGER
- 17 ROB O'DONNELL
- 18 GAVIN KERR
- 19 SEAN COX
- 20 KRISTIAN ORMSBY
- 21 DWAYNE PEEL
- 22 ED STYLES
- 23 ORIOL RIPOL

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

Dean Richards

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

Kevin Stewart and Don Helme

4TH OFFICIAL:

Mark Tovey