



Gloucester arrive at Edgeley Park tonight after an up-and-down three weeks in which they've won the first piece of silverware of the season, been on the receiving end of a heavy defeat against Harlequins then secured a comfortable league victory over Newcastle.

The silverware came when the Cherry and Whites beat the Falcons, still struggling in the Aviva Premiership, 34-7 at Franklin's Gardens on to win the LV= Cup at the third time of asking. Having reached the past two Anglo-Welsh finals, they finally secured victory after

losing to Northampton Saints last season and shipping 50 points against Cardiff Blues in 2009.

But the following weekend their hopes of securing a play-off spot come the end of the season suffered a setback as they slumped to a 53-15 defeat against Quins at the Twickenham Stoop.

Something approaching normal service was resumed last time out when they eased to a 34-9 win over Newcastle which means they arrive in Stockport tonight sitting third in the Premiership with the potential to climb into second if they win their two games in hand on Saracens.

Newcastle, 29 points and eight places below Gloucester before kick-off, made life awkward for their hosts, trailing just 13-9 until the 64th minute, but they headed home to Kingston Park still just six points above bottom club Leeds Carnegie, who they host tomorrow. Gloucester head coach Bryan Redpath said: "We didn't have a huge amount of control in the first half. We ended up kicking poorly and kicked in the middle of the pitch too much.

"In the second half we had more continuity, and we got some form of reaction from last weekend. There was the summer of 2007 and was named head coach in June 2009 following the departure of Dean Ryan.

And in RORY LAWSON he has one of his successors in the Scotland No 9 shirt

playing for him.
The son of former Scotland star Alan
Lawson and the grandson of the late Bill
McLaren, this is Lawson's fifth season at
Kingsholm and he has made over 125
appearances.

A member of the Scotland squad in the 2007 Rugby World Cup, he has won 27 caps for Scotland and is regarded as one of the most consistent scrum-halves in the Aviva Premiership.

Namesake SCOTT LAWSON is, like his head coach, another former Sale Sharks player.

The hooker moved from Edgeley Park to Kingsholm in September 2008 after Gloucester lost Ross McMillan to a serious knee injury and has made over 60 appearances to date.

Signed by the Sharks in the summer of 2007 along with fellow Glasgow player Rory Lamont, Lawson had a frustrating first season in Stockport as he made just 11 appearances.

A combination of international duty as part of Scotland's World Cup and Six Nations squads – plus the form of Neil Briggs in his absence – meant Lawson had limited chances to show his undoubted ability to the Sale faithful.

Cut from the same cloth as former Sale and Gloucester man Andy Titterrell, Lawson is hardly the tallest of men but more than makes up for his lack of height with fearsome determination.

His main competition for the No 2 shirt at Kingsholm is the great OLIVIER AZAM. Brought to this country by another man with Sale connections, Philippe Saint-Andre, during his time at Kingsholm, the 36-year-old – who can play at both hooker and prop – is now in his second spell at Gloucester and remains a cult figure for his 100% commitment to the cause

A typically no-nonsense front-rower, a fact borne out by his 14 yellow and one red card in English rugby, Azam won 10 caps for France between 1995 and 2002. He first moved to Kingsholm in 2000 and would make 120 appearances for the club before departing for a one-year spell with French side Montferrand.

But the lure of the Shed proved too much and he returned and he came back no lesser player, most notably when being named Gloucester Player of the Year in 2009.

Competition remains fierce for the No 2 shirt at the club but Azam landed the started berth last weekend and has taken his total appearances in the Cherry and White beyond the 230 mark.
Gloucester also have England forwards in DAVE ATTWOOD and PAUL DORAN-IONES.

frustration in the first 60, but that's life credit to Newcastle, they were very dogged.

"We just had to focus on this game and cut all the expectation chat out of where we think we can and can't be. You have got to get on with the game that comes up next and not the game that is three or four weeks down the line.

"The honesty the players showed all week was great. There was a little bit of nervousness because we were so disappointed after last week, but we didn't concede a try and we worked hard to score four. On the whole, I am pretty happy."

Redpath is, of course, a former Sale Sharks scrum-half and can be guaranteed a warm reception.

'Brush' retired from playing in May 2005 after a successful professional career that saw him represent Sale, Narbonne, Edinburgh and Melrose, and win 60 international caps.

international caps. The 39-year-old signed a two-year contract as backs coach at Gloucester in

OLIVIER AZAM

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF SALE SHARKS - 37

VISITING EDGELEY PARK - GLOUCESTER

Attwood took precious little time to endear himself to the Kingsholm crowd after switching from Bristol to Gloucester at the start of last season.

As well as being a mainstay of their pack last autumn, he scored his maiden Premiership try off the bench in the final minute to give the Cherry & Whites a 13-13 draw with visitors Worcester Warriors in the opening match of 2010.

His consistency and skills brought him on to England's radar, into the Saxons' squad, selection for last summer's senior tour to Australia and New Zealand and a first cap off the bench for Tom Palmer against New Zealand at Twickenham in November. He represented England Under-19s in the 2006 Junior World Cup, scoring a try in the semi final, and figured in the Under-20 Six Nations campaign the following year.

An England discus thrower in his mid teens, he chose rugby above athletics. While Attwood has won two caps, Doran-Jones has picked up one more to date.

Recruited by Gloucester from London Welsh in May 2009, the 25-year-old has made the step-up to Premiership – then international level – with aplomb. Enfield born, he was educated at Wellington College and played for England Schools before representing Ireland in the Under-19 Six Nations and Under-21 World Cup.

His club career began at Dublin-based Lansdowne while he was studying at University College, Dublin and he had a spell with King Country, the province where England team manager Martin Johnson had played in his formative years.

Doran-Jones went on to spend four years with Leinster before moving to London Welsh in 2007 and helped Wasps to win the Guinness A League the following year. He has made over 40 appearances for Gloucester in nearly two years at the club. Attwood regularly has JIM HAMILTON as his partner in the second row. Born in Swindon, 'Big Jim' progressed through the Leicester Academy before making his debut for the Tigers' Premiership team in September 2003, also scoring a try in the 2006 Guinness Premiership Final at Twickenham against the Sharks.

Hamilton played for England at Under-21 level but decided to opt for senior honours with Scotland, qualifying courtesy of his Glasgow-born father, and has won over 30 caps.

He was the 1,000th man to be capped by Scotland when he made an appearance off the bench against Romania in 11 November 2006, and made his first start against England at Twickenham on the opening day of the 2007 RBS Six Nations Championship.

In the back row is the eye-catching Fijian AKAPUSI QERA.

The 26-year-old signed from Pertemps Bees after the last World Cup and in his 75 appearances for the Cherry and Whites has made quite an impression with several man-of-the-match displays. In his last season at Pertemps he scored a mammoth 16 tries in National League One before helping Fiji reach the quarterfinals of the World Cup prior to finalising his move to Gloucester.

His opening season at Kingsholm saw him cross eight times and he was shortlisted for the Guinness Premiership Player of the Year award, losing out to team-mate James Simpson-Daniel.

He suffered a serious knee injury playing for Fiji in the summer of 2008 which kept him out of Gloucester action until March 2009 but his game-breaking qualities, monstrous tackling power and eye for the try line have marked him out as real star quality in the Premiership.

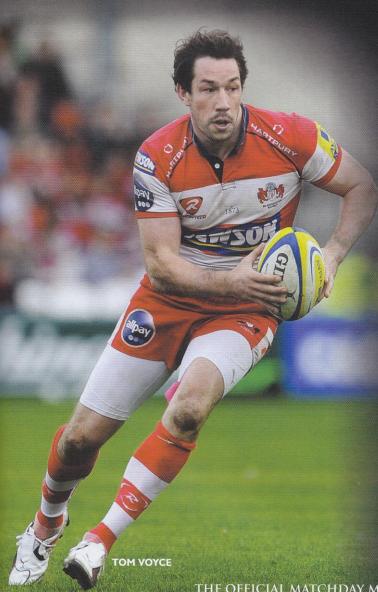
quality in the Premiership.
Gloucester's Player of the Year last season, Qera continues to go from strength to strength.

In the back division, TOM VOYCE is another consistently strong performer. The 30-year-old joined Gloucester in the summer of 2009 and is already over 40

appearances.
Voyce comes from good rugby stock with great uncle Thomas having won 27 international caps for England while playing for - yes - the Cherry and Whites during the 1920s.

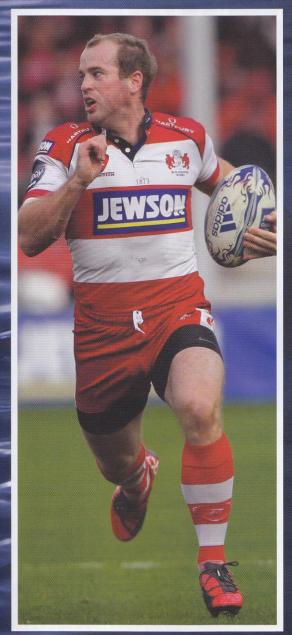
The younger Voyce made his breakthrough at Bath but really made his name at London Wasps, where he made over 175 appearances and scored over 280 points.

The winner of seven trophies while at Wasps, he has also won nine England caps.





QUIZ TIME JUST FOR FUN



James Simpson Daniel - Q3

- I. Ex Sale Shark Bryan Redpath is Head Coach at Gloucester but from which French side did he join Sale?
- 2. By what popular nickname is the famous "standing room only" stand at Kingsholm known?
- 3. By what nickname is James Simpson Daniel commonly known?
- 4. Name the Scottish hooker who played for Sharks before moving to Gloucester.
- 5. Name the Fijian Sharks were going to sign from Gloucester at the start of this season before the move fell through.
- 6. Name the ex Gloucester and Wales forward who is now a team mate of Danny Cipriani for Melbourne Rebels.
- 7. Name the French international who is a current club mate of former Sharks favourite Magnus Lund who used to play for Gloucester.
- 8. Name the ex England international currently playing alongside Magnus Lund who previously played for Gloucester.
- Olivier Azam has had two playing spells at Gloucester, but which French team did he play for between these spells.
- 10. Name the Sharks prop who signed for Sale from Gloucester at the start of last season.