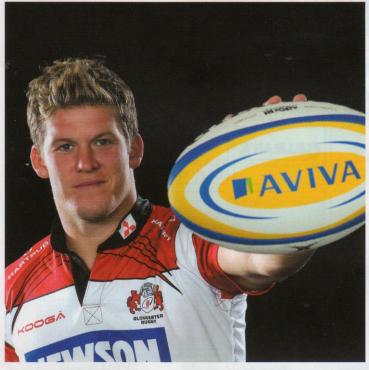


Captain's CORNER



" The atmosphere was great against Worcester a fortnight ago but I reckon it's going to go up a notch today - it always does when Bath come to town."

SOMETIMES writing these programme notes (and my column in the Citizen) is easy and sometimes it's really difficult.

This week has been one of the more difficult to pen as the memory of the defeat at Harlequins is still fresh in my mind.

Most of you will have read the match reports either online or in the newspapers and there's no hiding that we were second best on the day.

We were below par but that shouldn't take anything away from Harlequins who have had a really good start to the season and played like a team who are full of confidence and on top of their game.

But we certainly made life a lot easier for them with the amount of errors we made and the number of penalties we conceded.

It meant that we never had a platform to work on. For example, we'd defend doggedly, win a penalty and clear to around halfway. But then we'd lose possession and find ourselves back in our 22 and back to square one.

You can't get away with that at this level. A team like Harlequins won't turn down that much possession or that much territorial dominance and so it proved.

What's doubly frustrating was that we knew what could happen if we weren't on our A game because we went through at the Stoop only a few months ago.

Also the fact that we'd put in a really disciplined performance against Worcester the week before. They took some breaking down and it may not have been that spectacular to watch but it was a really professional display.

That's where we've got to get back to this weekend. Bath are a similar side to Harlequins in that they like to play a bit of rugby and, if you give them too much ball, then they're capable of running riot.

We have to learn from all our

performances so far this season and put it all into practice this afternoon. Ill discipline has cost us in our two away fixtures so far. It was much better against Worcester and we got a result.

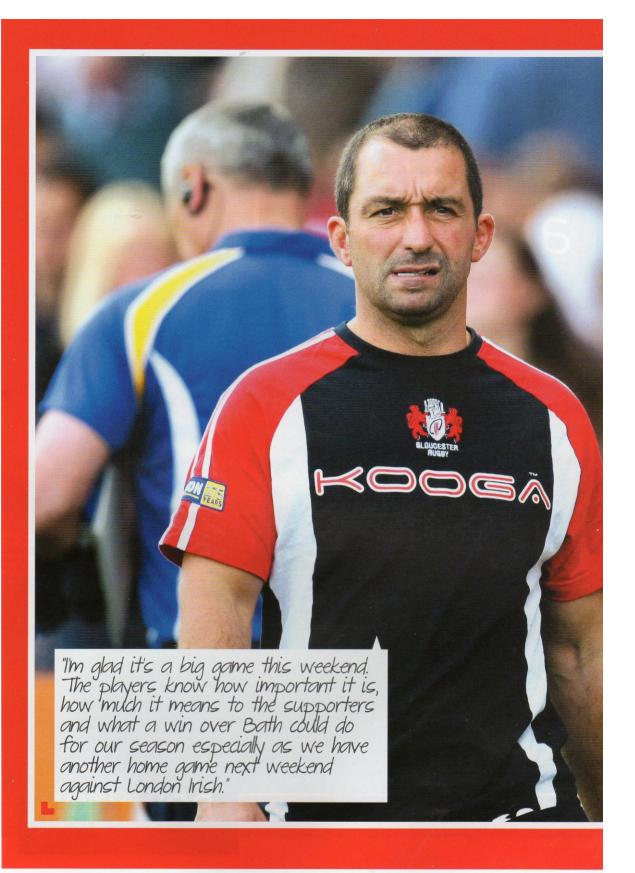
It's going to be tough against Bath and, in a way, it's a good fixture to have. We're determined to banish the memories of last weekend and, if you can't motivate yourself for a fixture like this, then you might as well pack it in!

We obviously beat them home and away last season and they won't need any reminding of that. In fact, I'm sure Geechs has been using that to fire them up all week.

The atmosphere was great against Worcester a fortnight ago but I reckon it's going to go up a notch today – it always does when Bath come to town.

It'll be no place for the faint hearted and hopefully we can rise to the occasion, buoyed by your fantastic support, and get back to winning way.

Enjoy the game!





Coach's NOTES

with Head Coach, BRYAN REDPATH

ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT GLOUCESTER RUGBY, I'D LIKE TO WISH THE PLAYERS, STAFF AND SUPPORTERS OF BATH RUGBY A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM THIS AFTERNOON.

It goes without saying that this afternoon's fixture against our friends from Bath Rugby is a pretty big fixture for Gloucester Rugby.

In some ways I'm stating the obvious. This particular rivalry goes back years and in every single fixture between the two sides, whether it's a preseason friendly, a cup tie or a Premiership fixture, there's always a huge amount at stake.

It's incredibly important for everyone connected with the two clubs – especially the supporters. There will probably be Gloucester and Bath supporters working in the same office who will be desperate to have the bragging rights on Monday morning!

It's a local derby and, although all the games in the Premiership are important, the ones against your nearest geographic rivals have that extra edge to them.

For our part, we need to bounce back. We had a very bad day at the office last weekend at the Stoop against Harlequins and owe it to ourselves, and the supporters who travelled to support us, to bounce back.

After the game, when I did my media interviews, I made no bones about the fact that I was incredibly disappointed with the nature of the defeat

It would be easy to talk about the amount of players we have at the World Cup and unavailable for other reasons. But the bottom line is that we lacked discipline and made too many errors on the day.

We've been through all that as a squad during training this week but, although there are things to learn from such an experience, we've moved on mentally and are well and truly focussed on Bath this weekend.

They've started well. They went to Newcastle and came away with the points which is never an easy thing to do and could so easily have beaten Saracens but for a late Owen Farrell penalty – we know how that feels!

And last weekend, of course, they beat an Exeter Chiefs side who have been going well during this World Cup period.

So, they'll be feeling quite good about themselves. My old mate Geechs will have them incredibly well prepared and we'll need to be at our best to get something from the game.

We need to get back to basics. We need to make sure that our set piece is spot on and that we look after the ball when we have it. Otherwise, we'll struggle to get into the game.

In a way, however, I'm glad it's a big game this weekend. The players know how important it is, how much it means to the supporters and what a win over Bath could do for our season especially as we have another home game next weekend against London Irish.

A return to the commitment, endeavour and execution that we showed in the first couple of weekends will be a start.

We competed well up at Northampton and could easily have



got the win. We were committed against Worcester, executed the game plan and were worthy winners as a result.

That's what I'm looking for and I know that it's the bare minimum that you as supporters expect to see from our players. 100% commitment to the shirt, to the cause, to the city.

In return, I know that we'll get magnificent backing and that will be significant on the day. It always is here at Kingsholm.

Before I sign off, it's been good to see all our players at the World Cup getting a run out for their countries and doing themselves justice.

The result of the tournament so far, however, has obviously been Ireland's win over Australia. That's shaken things up a little!

But it's also interesting to see how some of the 'junior' nations have progressed. Not so long ago, there were some really one sided encounters when they took on the Tier One nations but the gap appears to be closing and that can only be good for the game.

Enjoy the game.

Dreamleam
ON PAGE 56







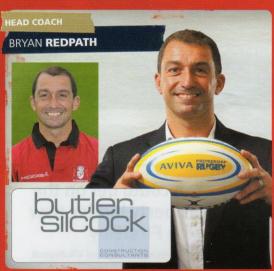


SEASON 2010/11:



Most Premiership Appearances 171 (Andrew Hazell) **Top Premiership Points Scorer** Top Premiership Try Scorer **Biggest Premiership Win**

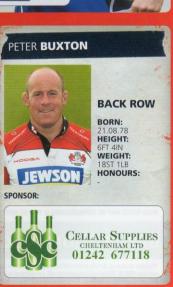
855 (Ludovic Mercier) 59 (James Simpson-Daniel) 68 - 12 (v Bath Rugby 2002)

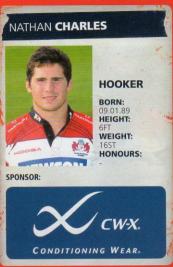


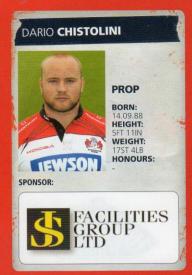


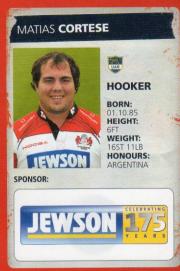


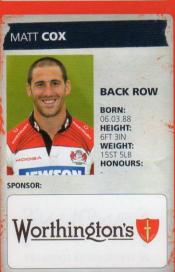


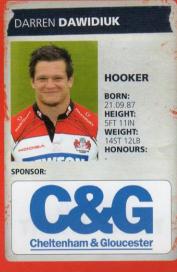


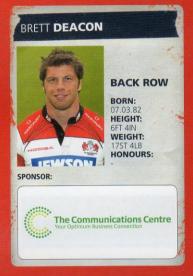






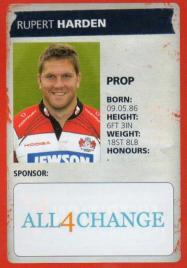




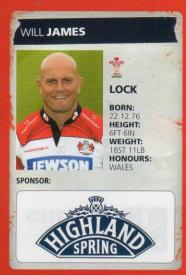


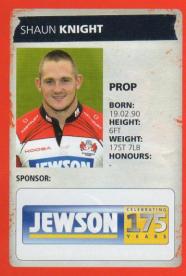








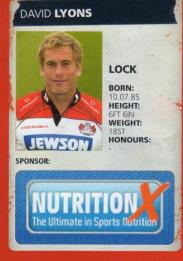


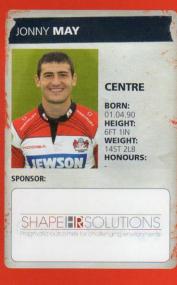


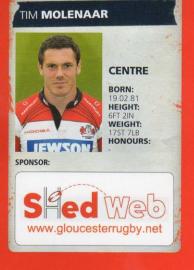


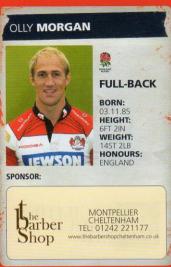


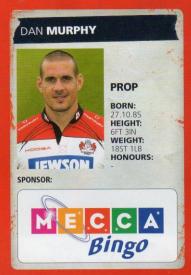








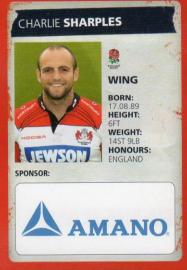




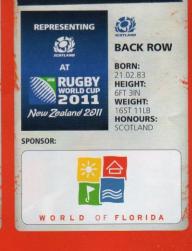




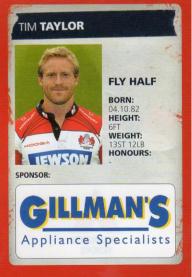


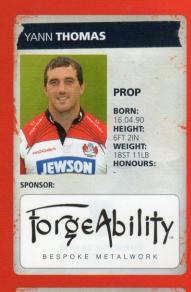


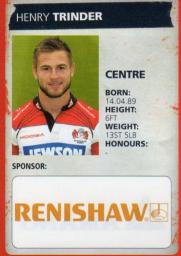




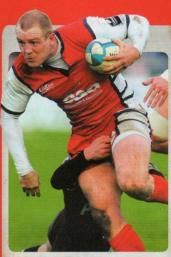
ALASDAIR STROKOSCH













EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS

106 - 3 (v Bucharest Oaks 2005)

Most Points In A Match

106 (v Bucharest Oaks 2005) Most Tries In A Mato

16 (v Bucharest Oaks 2005)

13 (v Bucharest Oaks 2005)

OVERALL

Played 94

Won 63 Drawn 2 Lost 29

38 (Peter Buxton)

Top Points Scorer

181 (Henry Paul)

Top Try Scorer 19 (James Simpson-Daniel)

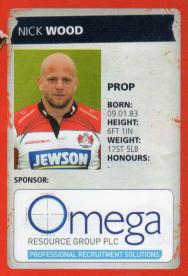
Highest Attendance 27114

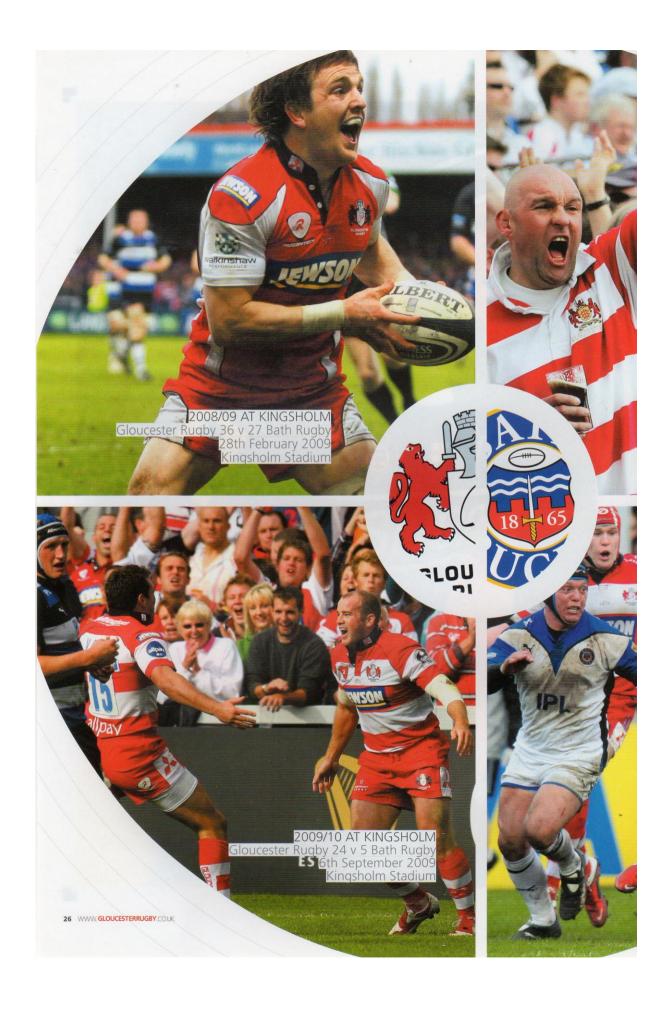
Total Home Attendance 542281













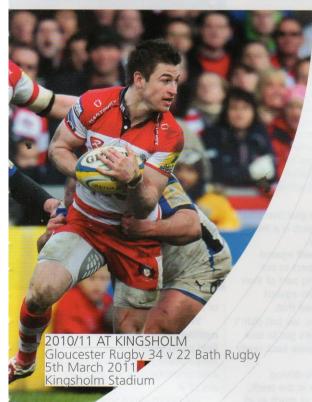
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RECENT years have seen some memorable clashes between Gloucester Rugby and Bath Rugby at Kingsholm.

2008-9 saw a first senior try for Charlie Sharples as Gloucester took the spoils in a scintillating 36-27 encounter which also saw James Simpson-Daniel score twice and Rory Lawson add a fourth.

The clash in 2009-10 was the first game of the season and again saw Sinbad cross the line on two occasions. Nicky Robinson also scored on his debut as Gloucester started their season with a 24-5 triumph.

And last season saw a Bath old boy come back to haunt the men from the Rec as Tom Voyce scored two tries against his former club to help Gloucester on their way to a bonus point win. Henry Trinder and Paul Doran-Jones were also try scorers.



HEAD TO HEAD

35	PLAYED	35
<u>15</u>	WINS	18
18	LOSSES	15
2	DRAWS	2
68	TRIES	76
34	CONVERSIONS	51
82	PENALTIES	92
9	DROP GOALS	7
681	POINTS	779
26	AVG. AGE	26

View from

The Citizen



WITH NICK PUREWAL

SOLVING THE PROBLEMS

WE'VE GOT TO RESTORE PRIDE AS A MINIMUM, AND WE'VE GOT TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO BATTLE FOR VICTORY.

HE Cherry and Whites pack owes Carl Hogg just as much as it owes itself this afternoon, believes Pete Buxton.

Frustrated back rower Buxton expects Gloucester's players to repay their driving maul debt to forwards coach Hogg - and to each other.

The 33-year-old stand in skipper said Gloucester have been working hard to solve the hitches that allowed Harlequins to drive home

KOOGA

two maul scores last weekend.

Harlequins made light work of Gloucester for the second year running at The Stoop on Saturday, easing away to win 42-6.

With a week to turn disarray into deadly accurate derby resolve, Cheltenham born Buxton said the Cherry and Whites must right a host of wrongs at the first opportunity.

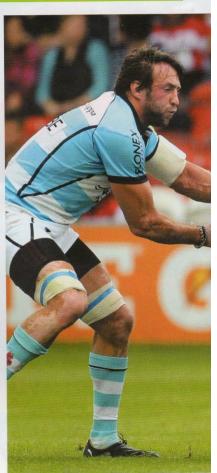
Expecting just as intense a challenge as ever from the Blue, Black and Whites, Buxton said only a giant leap forward will do this week.

He explained: "To give two tries away at driving lineouts is a massive kick up the backside.

"We performed well against Northampton in respect to our mauls, it was a strong part of their game, and then again against Worcester we stopped that.

"But at Harlequins, we just didn't get it right. Everyone's got to look at themselves and come back ready to rebuild for Bath.

"To give away two driving lineouts is a big kick in the teeth, probably for Hoggy as much as all



of us in the forwards.

"We lacked discipline, that was a massive factor. We gave away cheap field position through discipline, we talked about things, we worked on a lot of things, and we didn't do any of it.

"We talked about stopping them

from relieving pressure easily, but that's what they were able to do.

"Now the focus has to be analysing it to put it right, and then working through that in time for Bath.

"We've got to look at the game, and what didn't work, we've got to be honest with ourselves, and what we got wrong within the build up.

"Possibly we could have looked for outcomes in terms of lineclearing scenarios a bit earlier when we did have the ball, but even that goes back to discipline.

the top sides in the Premiership this term

The former Newport flanker said clawing back some pride is the least Gloucester must demand today - and only a creditable win will start to ease the Harlequins hurt.

He continued: "We might think ourselves capable of beating top sides, but we've got to prove that again.

"In the Northampton defeat we ran them close and played fairly well, so that was not as tough to take. But at The Stoop we were

as it clearly is this week.

"We've had to move on and prepare for Bath. If we can prepare properly and beat Bath, then some of the hurt will be lifted.

"At the end of the day it's four points lost over the season. It's still a big deal, and I would never say the Quins performance was anything other than unacceptable.

"But the challenge now is to make up for it, and be disciplined enough on the field to be able to put it behind us.

"We've got to restore pride as



URSELVES, ILD UP. 99

"You give away silly penalties, they take quick taps and suddenly you're on the back foot. We knew it would be coming, we didn't deal with it - and we can't let that happen again."

Buxton said Gloucester are still to prove themselves capable of beating nowhere near a good performance, and we've got to do something about it.

'As it stands we don't know if we're capable of competing with sides like that. If we learn from it and react to it properly, we can make sure it's not quite as big a deal

a minimum, and we've got to do everything we can to battle for victory.

"Beating Bath would not excuse the Quins result, but we've got enough time and matches to turn that performance and result into the exception rather than the rule."



DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

HOME ADVANTAGE?

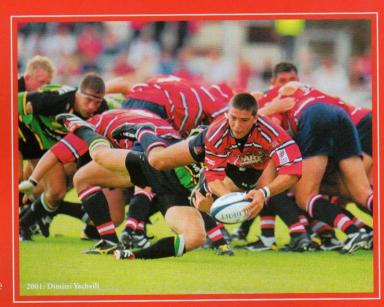
as the opening day fixture of the season been fortunate for the 'Cherry & Whites' since the introduction of the professional game, in respect of home advantage?

Taking into account this season's opening match at Franklins Gardens versus Northampton, the statistics are as follows: Home games = 9 and Away games = 8. Therefore it would obviously appear they are somewhat on an even keel.

With the opening day fixtures of the past two seasons having been staged at Exeter and then Northampton, have we the right to expect Kingsholm to stage the 2012-2013 opener?

An in depth look at the initial games of each season reveals that we have only lost once on the opening day of the season here at Kingsholm. That was when Leicester won by 20 points to eight on September 7th 2008 in front of 13,159 spectators. An Olly Morgan try and a Willie Walker penalty were the Gloucester

If we take each season in chronological order, the opening day of the 1996-1997 season saw our visit to Harlequins cause a great deal



of consternation to the Kingsholm

Head Coach Richard Hill decided to send a depleted fifteen to The Stoop and suffered the consequences in dramatic style.

The 'Cherry & Whites' conceded 75 points with nineteen in reply. Mike Lloyd, Charlie Mulraine and Lee Osborne scored the Gloucester tries in front of 3,654 spectators

Bristol visited Kingsholm the following year allowing the season to kick off in an altogether happier yein.

Two tries by newcomer Philippe Saint-Andre were added to by one each from Rob Fidler and Tony Windo The metronomic kicking of Mark Mapletoft with a trio of conversions and penalties enabled supporters to

in 1996 and 23rd in 1997, the latter

Our first visitors on the opening day of 1998-1999 were London Irish on

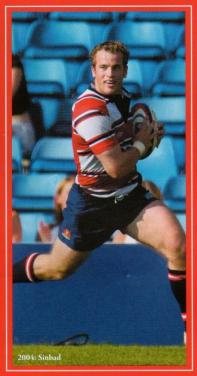
2000 season when Newcastle defeat. Elton Moncreiff with two our account for the new campaign

The 2000-01 season witnessed & Whites' suffer a 50 points to 20 penalties in front of 7,682 fans.

It was back to winning ways in 2001-2002 when Northampton were on the first day of September. Junior before 8,862 onlookers.

debacle at Harlequins came when we A 25-19 victory came from tries by Trevor Woodman.

to Castle Grim on September 13th return home with a 22 points to eight scorer. Henry Paul with 5 penalties



Terry Fanolua were our duo of try Duncan McRae drop goal ensured a

Our only draw in a opening day fixture heralded the 2005-2006 season when we drew 15 points Ludovic Mercier with 4 penalties and a drop goal allowed us to leave

The outcome? A 24 points to 19 victory at Kingsholm. Olly Morgan and Willie Walker with 4 penalties and a conversion sent the 12,500 present at

A dream debut for Lesley Vainikolo Balshaw were mere sideshows.

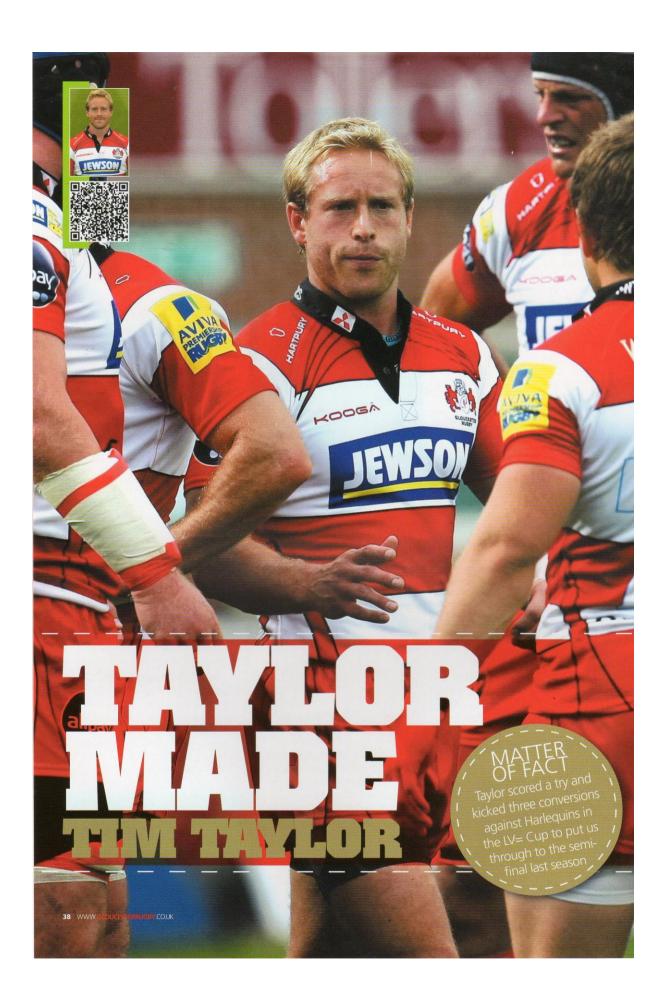
Ryan Lamb with 3 conversions and was the first of five straight wins to give the Club a flying start to the

September 6th gave the bragging rights to the 'Cherry & White' fans on

on our visit to Devon on September 4th for the initial fixture of 2010-2011 Daniel and Tim Taylor were to no avail.

As we were aware we lost our and a conversion from Tim Taylor

HOMI Pld	E W 7	D 0	L 1	F 195	A
AWAY Pld 8	w 3	D	L 4	F 183	A 247



He's one of the quiet men in the Gloucester Rugby squad, happy to take a back seat when some of the more media confident members of the squad step forward to do the public talking.

In fact, it's fair to say that Tim Taylor is content to let his play on the pitch do his talking for him. And 2011-12 has seen the former Nottingham man afforded a greater opportunity to pull the strings at first team level.

With Nicky Robinson now plying his trade at London Wasps, it's down to Taylor and Freddie Burns to carry the burden at fly half. It's a challenge they both seem to be enjoying as they bring their respective talents to the fore.

Taylor got the nod for Gloucester's first two Aviva Premiership fixtures and looked to be a man quietly confident in his own abilities as he went about his job.

"I'm really enjoying it. We had a long, hard preseason where all the boys worked really hard and it's just good to get out there and play a bit of rugby."

"There's competition for places all over the team and the boys are all pushing each other. We've got Freddie, Millsy (Ryan Mills) and myself are going for the ten spot and it's tough. But it's good competition, it keeps you on your toes and working hard."

"You need that competition, you need that edge. But we all help each other out, do our kicking driiis as a group and try and make sure that we're all on top of our game."

The last home game, against the Worcester Warriors, was an example of two individuals spurring each other on. Taylor started and helped guide Gloucester into a comfortable lead before Burns took over and played his part in applying the coup de grace.

"It was key for us to get points on the board and important to take them when they were on offer. So, we mixed it up quite well, having a few shots at goal to get us off and running and then kicking into the corner when we had a bit of a lead."

"Credit to the forwards though.

They worked hard throughout and gave us a solid platform. The set piece was good and they provided good go forward ball to work with."

2011-12 is Taylor's third at Kingsholm although he arrived halfway through his first campaign, signed initially on loan from Nottingham when Carlos Spencer left for South Africa.

Moving from the Championship to the Premiership halfway through a season is tough enough but Tim had no time to think about it as he was parachuted straight into the

"Normally when you move dubs you have the preseason to find your feet but I was kind of like the new kid at school!"

Gloucester squad.

"It was quite tough really, all a bit off the cuff. Normally when you move clubs you have the preseason to find your feet but I was kind of like the new kid at school!"

"But the guys were great and helped me to settle in quickly. And, of course, my former Nottingham team mate Tim Molenaar was already here and he'd been through the same thing just a few months earlier so that helped."

Tim made a brief appearance as a replacement against Worcester to get his Gloucester career underway but, just a week later, played a pivotal role in a memorable win as he kept his nerve to slot a match winning conversion in an LV= Cup group game at Harlequins.

It was a topsy turvy game.

Gloucester needed a bonus point win to qualify for the semi finals but trailed 20-0 after 25 minutes. However, a second half fight back pegged Quins back and Taylor's conversion of Tom Voyce's last gasp try sent the travelling Gloucester supporters into a frenzy of delight.

"We were down and out really but we just kept working hard and started to chuck the ball around a bit and suddenly we were in contention! I just had to focus on my technique with the last kick, keep my head down, follow through properly. It went over and I was mobbed!"

Gloucester made the final of the LV= Cup that season, of course, but were just edged out by Northampton in a thriller of a final but went one better in 2011 when Tim found himself in the unusual situation of covering scrum half and fly half!

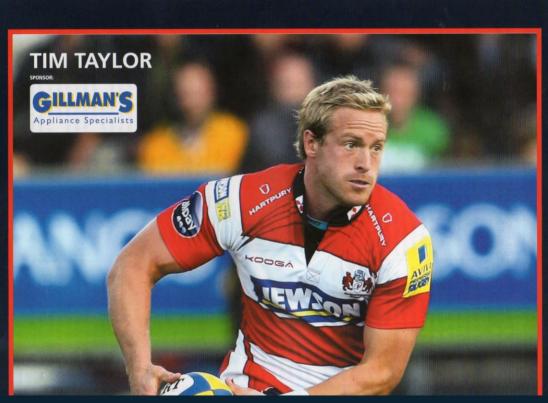
"It was great to be involved, of course, but slightly strange. Davey (Lewis) was injured, Rory (Lawson) was with Scotland, Dan (Robson) with England U20s so we only had Jordi (Pasqualin) at scrum half!"

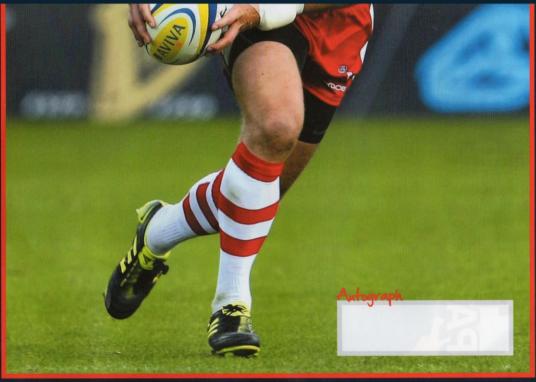
"So, I had a bit of a crash course in scrum half skills from Brushy, spent a lot of time passing off the deck and just remembering to go to the breakdown and not staying out! Davey was helping me a lot even though he couldn't play."

Finally, at the time of this interview, the Rugby World Cup was well underway. Tim spent some of his earlier career playing in New Zealand so is well positioned to comment on what the tournament must mean to the locals.

"It's huge. Rugby is 24:7 over there. I played four seasons over there and really enjoyed it. Everyone plays rugby over there, it's part of the culture."

"They're filling the stadiums which is good and they've every chance of winning it. If they don't, there will be serious questions asked."





KINGSHOLM NEWS WITH BOB FENTON

IF THIS IS A BIT MORE
DISJOINTED THAN USUAL,
BLAME SLEEP DEPRIVATION.
WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO HOLD
A WORLD CUP IN A COUNTRY
THAT WOULD MEAN I WOULD
HAVE TO BE GETTING UP
AT STUPID 'O' CLOCK ON A
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY TO
GET MY FIX...

It's been an interesting start to the tournament, some quite good games and some quite ordinary ones too.

Sad to say the Irish win last weekend ended my predictor bet. I had them down to lose that one and it'll take a minor miracle for things to pan out the way I thought they would now. Oh well there's always the next one...

Mr Tindall has had a bit of an interesting tournament hasn't he? Getting the kind of headlines he could do without. Personally I think it's all rubbish – rugby player drinks beer and does something that he maybe shouldn't have done. Well slap my thigh, who would have thought it?

Shows how things have changed though, it used to be 'what goes on on tour, stays on tour'. Now it's more like 'what happens on tour is plastered all over Facebook or You Tube within ten seconds of it happening'.

And I'm not so sure that is a change for the better. Still hopefully he'll make the right kind of headlines soon enough and all that stuff will be forgotten.

Away from the World Cup the Premiership has been



producing a bit of a mixed bag of results. Pretty much all of the clubs have lost players – some more than others – to the tournament and this has obviously had a huge impact on the results so far.

I know the argument goes that it's the same for everyone, but it patently isn't the case. A club like Leicester has lost pretty much its first team and sit one from three in the league. We're the same – a bunch of players go to the tournament and we suffer as a result.

I know Brush quite pointedly said that the absentees were not the reason we lost last weekend – he may be right – but you can't help feeling that it was.

After all Harlequins were pretty much at full strength, soon they will be weakened by the return of Nick Easter though... We'll get our players back in due course – just in time for the Six Nations!

Having said that, we get to

see some of the up and coming players getting a run out who we would only otherwise see in the 'A' league games. This gives them a chance to shine on the big stage and is undoubtedly good for their development.

But it can't be fair to play league games under these conditions. There is too much at stake now given the prize money that is available for qualification for the Heineken Cup and the play offs.

Of course I should now come up with a stunning solution to this problem, but I don't have one. Suspending the league? But you know this situation would never happen in another professional sport, that's for sure

So today is going to be a massive test for us. Bath always present a massive challenge when we are at full strength, let alone when we are short of a player or seven.

When you compare the sides that played last weekend

FOR US. BATH ALWAYS PRESENT A MASSIVE TEST CHALLENGE WHEN WE ARE AT FULL STRENGTH LET ALONE WHEN WE ARE SHOP OF A PLAYER OR SEVEN.

you do fear the worst, but this is Gloucester and this is Kingsholm and it won't be the first time that a Bath side full of 'big names' has turned up and taken a bit of a pasting.

And you know that whoever pulls on the cherry and white jersey is going to be in absolutely no doubt as to what is expected of them.

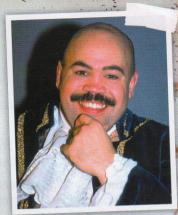
Talking of Bath, did you watch that 'Come Dine With Me' special with Cooch Chilcott, Victor Ubugu et al the other week? Man that was funny. If you haven't seen it, find it online, it's 45 minutes of

laughter.

Cooch got me into trouble some years back – the day after my daughter was born, in fact. I had been at Gloucester Royal all evening and night, and she eventually decided to come into this world at about 6am.

While Mrs F was sleeping it off I made all the phone calls and agreed to pick up my in-laws from the home at about 2pm to take them to the hospital.

After scooting home I headed back into town to drop off some photographs at Kingsholm. As I wandered



in Cooch was there – in his old marketing capacity – he greeted me by telling me that I looked 'dog rough'. I told him where I had been and why I may have looked a bit rough round the edges. Bad mistake...

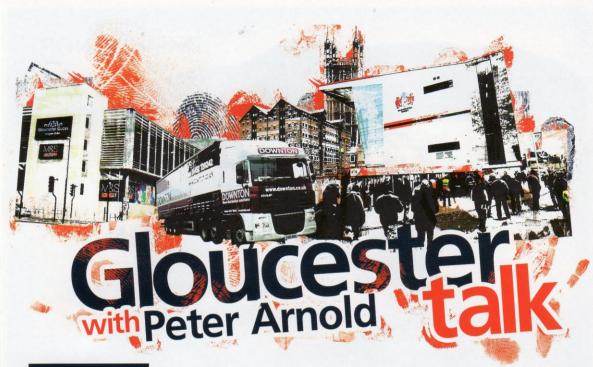
Thirty seconds later he was marching me across the road to the Jockey to 'wet the baby's head', not once but about five times

Upshot was a complete inability to drive anywhere, the abandonment of my car in the Kingsholm car park and a number five bus back home, and some pretty slurred apologies.

It's fair to say that the reception from my in-laws was err... cooler than it might have been. At least Mrs F saw the funny side!

So back to today – whether or not you are taking part in the rather bizarre heart-rate challenge thing I suggest that today is a day that will get the pulse rate up. Time to be that 16th man again - let's give it to the nouveau riche dandiés from down the A46!





ALL BALLS

THE Worcester match may not have provided a spectacle of free running rugby; indeed, one commentator referred to it as 'turgid'. But hey - a win's a win, and it did have one priceless attribute as far as Gloucester is concerned.

The supremacy of the defences meant that Tim Taylor and to a lesser extent, Freddie Burns had ample opportunity to shake off their early -season rustiness and get their kicking boots on.

A score of 29 points including only two tries speaks for itself, which was reassuring, because accuracy with the boot had been comparatively lacking up at Franklin's Gardens. Nevertheless, we should have won that game, but that's another story.

Meanwhile, down at the Rugby World Cup, they seem to have been having trouble with the balls judging by the way the ball flies from several quarters, not excluding Wales.

Let's face it, when Jonny Wilkinson can only land three kicks from eight attempts in an excellent stadium with the roof closed, you know something has gone pear shaped somewhere.

And don't forget, in that same match, the opposition kickers were

having their troubles too, and no one ever accused Contepomi of being an idiot where kicking for points is concerned.

Having said that, I notice that someone kicked a 56 metre penalty the other day, just to teach me to keep my big mouth shut! Anyway, I recall the same problem cropping up at previous World Cups, but everything sorted itself out as the kickers got used to an unfamiliar ball.

Then there was the hoo-hah that arose when some of the England players dared to go out for a drink after the Argentine match, Martin Johnson hasn't always been one of my favourite people, but I do have to congratulate him on his robust defence of his lads when the sensationalist press came calling.

He knows, as well as anyone who has ever played the game, that a post match snifter or three is part and parcel



of the whole ethos of rugby, especially when you have just won a hard and bruising match.

It's one of the things which makes rugby the most sociable sport of them all. Anyone who has played the game to any extent and says he's never got bladdered after a match is either an amnesiac or is telling porkies.

In this case, the players had just come away from a tough encounter against one of the hardest sides in the world. Not the way to start a long campaign. They had a right to let their hair down.

What were they supposed to do? Retire to some monkish cell after enjoying a supper of this gruel?

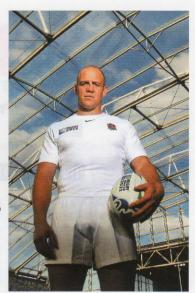
Remember the experience of the footballers during their World Cup. They were sequestered away from

the common gaze for much of their campaign, and look what happened to them

Then there was the matter of Mike Tindall's encounter with a young blonde. I've watched the video, and it all looked fairly innocent to me. One paper accused him of 'cavorting' and said that his wife, Zara, was 'devastated'. I simply don't believe it. The Queen's granddaughter has been around the top echelons of her sport for years, and knows perfectly well how these things go.

I think we need to ask ourselves two things. (a) Was it a set-up? (b) Would anyone have bothered if Mike had not just married into the Royal Family?

If you want my opinion on the whole affair, just take a look at my headline.



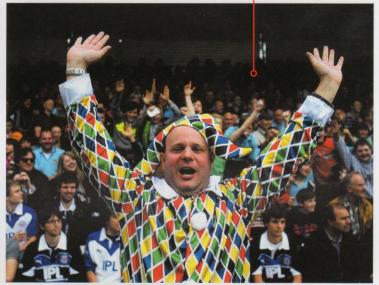
WHAT is it with The Stoop? We've managed to ship 100 points there in the last two visits.

It's an odd syndrome this, but one we've faced before. Sometimes a particular ground seems to exert a strange influence so that players make mistakes that they wouldn't normally, and the ball doesn't run for us.

I think the problem lies in players' heads. Things get to the point where they simply know they're not going to win on one ground or another, so they don't.

Some years ago we had the same problem at, of all places, Richmond. If we got drawn against them in the Cup, as we often did, we simply couldn't beat them.

We had more excuse for losing year after year at Leicester, but we also lost some London Irish games for no apparent reason. There was



more reason for consistently losing at Bath, because for a long period, everyone else was too.

That's changed a bit in recent years. Today will decide if the trend is to continue.

GET IT OVER WI

IT didn't take long for Sinbad to get his obligatory injury did it? Not that it seems too serious this time; just a turned ankle I read.

Is it too much to hope that this will be his injury for the season? We can but hope.



TheACADEMY





KOOGÃ



Academy success story

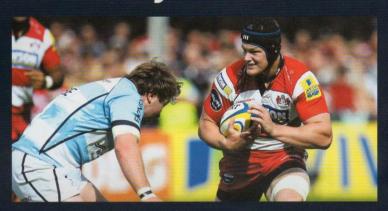
ONE of the success stories from the opening few weekends of Gloucester Rugby's Aviva Premiership season has been the emergence of second row forward Tom Savage.

The 21 year old only took up the game five years ago and last season captained Hartpury RFC before joining Gloucester Rugby in the summer.

However, a meteoric rise was capped by a full Premiership debut in the victory over Worcester Warriors at Kingsholm a fortnight ago, an occasion he admitted afterwards will stay long in the memory.

"It was obviously a massive day for me, running out in front of the Shed for the first time, my first start with the boys etc. Hopefully it went ok and I was just happy to get the win really."

With the best will in the world, he perhaps hadn't expected to make his first team breakthrough quite so quickly but an injury to Alex Brown created an opening.



Savage though paid tribute to the experienced players around him for making his transition to first team rugby so smooth.

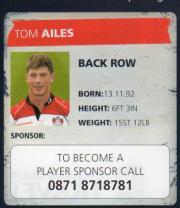
"When you've got people like Nick Wood and Will James in the pack, they help you out in training and to carry it into the game. You can't understate the value of that."

"Someone like Will takes care of you throughout the game, makes sure you don't get called into any bad places. Then I can just focus on securing some good ball for the quick backs we've got out there."

One lasting memory from his senior debut though was the sheer physicality of the encounter.

"There were some massive hits flying around. It's what you'd expect from a local derby really, everyone wants to come out and prove a point."

"It was tough but I think I did ok out there."







GARETH EVANS



BACK ROW

BORN: 19.09.91 HEIGHT: 6FT 3IN WEIGHT: 17ST 4LB

SPONSOR:

mb

MIKE BURTON

WILL GRAULICH



LOCK

BORN: 05.10.92 HEIGHT: 6FT 4IN WEIGHT: 16ST 11LB

SPONSOR:

TO BECOME A PLAYER SPONSOR CALL 0871 8718781

TOM HEARD



PROP

BORN: 24.08.93 HEIGHT: 5FT 11IN WEIGHT: 18ST 13LB

SPONSOR:



ROB LANGLEY



BACK ROW

BORN: 18.11.91 HEIGHT: 6FT 3IN WEIGHT: 16ST 7LB

SPONSOR:

TO BECOME A PLAYER SPONSOR CALL 0871 8718781

DAVE MARKHAM



LOCK

BORN: 14 11 91 HEIGHT: 6FT 4IN WEIGHT: 16ST 11LB

SPONSOR:

TO BECOME A PLAYER SPONSOR CALL 0871 8718781

RYAN MILLS



FLY HALF

BORN: 30.05.92 HEIGHT: 6FT WEIGHT: 14ST 11LB

SPONSOR:

m MIKE BURTON

DAN ROBSON



SCRUM HALF

BORN: 14.03.92 HEIGHT: 5FT 7IN WEIGHT: 11ST 13LB

SPONSOR:

mb MIKE BURTON

OM SAVAGE



LOCK

BORN: 18.04.89 HEIGHT: 6FT 5IN WEIGHT: 18ST 1LB

SPONSOR:

THE SAFETY SHACK

OUIS SPENCER



BACK ROW

BORN: 27.11.92 HEIGHT: 5FT 10IN WEIGHT: 14ST 2LB

TO BECOME A PLAYER SPONSOR CALL 0871 8718781

ALEX WOODBURN



BACK ROW

BORN: 02.05.92 HEIGHT: 5FT 10IN WEIGHT: 14ST 2LB

SPONSOR:

TO BECOME A PLAYER SPONSOR CALL 0871 8718781

GLOUCESTER UNITED FIXTURES 2011/12



Aviva Premiership Rugby, Kingsholm, 10 September 2011, 15:00 KO









In fact, given their record at Kingsholm in recent seasons, they probably viewed the fixture with far less trepidation than some of their Premiership rivals.

However, they ran into a Gloucester Rugby outfit determined to clinch their first win of the Aviva Premiership season after the opening day defeat at Northampton.

Preparations had been far from ideal for Bryan Redpath. Alex Brown

and Dave Lewis were both ruled out having picked up injuries at Franklin's Gardens while James Simpson-Daniel failed a late fitness test.

However, in truth, the outcome was never in doubt after Jonny May scored the game's opening try after scooping up a misdirected pass in midfield from Worcester fly half Joe Carlisle and running it back under the posts.

Despite playing into the wind in the first half, Gloucester went on to control possession and territory with fly half Tim Taylor controlling the game nicely.

The visitors were frequently stretched in defence and the only way they could keep Gloucester at bay was to concede penalties and,

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

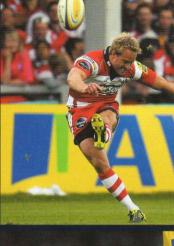
TRIES May (7), Voyce (76) CONS Taylor (7), **Burns** (78)

PENS Taylor (21, 27, 33, 40), Burns (62)

WORCESTER WARRIORS TRIES Rasmussen (80)

PENS Carlisle (36)













with Taylor and later on Freddie Burns, in imperious goal kicking form, the scoreboard was kept ticking over and Worcester slowly but surely had the life strangled out of them.

Gloucester led 19-3 at half time and looked to be in complete control especially given that the elements would be at their backs after the interval.

The second half was a more attritional affair. There was plenty of spirit from Worcester as they dug deep when not in possession but they were barely able to put a dent in Gloucester's defence and a comeback never really looked on the cards.

Turnovers from both sides were

probably the biggest feature of the second period but Gloucester strung enough possession together for the pack to carve out a score in the corner for winger Tom Voyce on 76 minutes to well and truly put the game to bed.

Worcester did manage to finally cross the Gloucester line for a consolation try with no time left on the countdown clock to restore some pride. However, it will come as little consolation for Head Coach Richard Hill.

Gloucester now off and running in the win stakes and the challenge is now to carry that over to Harlequins the following week.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Olly Morgan
- 14 W **Charlie Sharples**
- 13 C Jonny May
- 12 C Lesley Vainikolo
- 11 W Tom Voyce
- 10 FH Tim Taylor
- 9 SH Nick Runciman
- P Nick Wood
- Н **Darren Dawidiuk** 2
- P Dario Chistolini 3
- 4 Tom Savage
- 5 Will James
- **Peter Buxton**
- **Andrew Hazell**
- N8 Matt Cox

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 R **Nathan Charles**
- 17 R Dan Murphy
- Rupert Harden 18 R
- 19 R **David Lyons**
- 20 R **Gareth Evans**
- Dan Robson 21 R
- Freddie Burns 22 R
- 23 R Henry Trinder

WORCESTER WARRIORS

- 15 FB Errie Claassens
- 14 W Marcel Garvey
- Alex Grove 13 C
- 12 C Dale Rasmussen
- 11 W Miles Benjamin
- 10 FH Joe Carlisle
- 9 SH Shaun Perry
- P Matt Mullan
- **Chris Fortey** 2 H
- 3 Tevita Taumoepeau P
- James Percival 4
- Craig Gillies 5 L
- 6 **Neil Best**
- Jake Abbott
- N8 Kai Horstmann

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 R George Porter
- 17 R **Ed Shervington**
- 18 R **Bruce Douglas**
- 19 R **Chris Jones**
- 20 R Matt Kvesic
- 21 R Jonny Arr
- Andy Goode 22 R 23 Tom Arscott



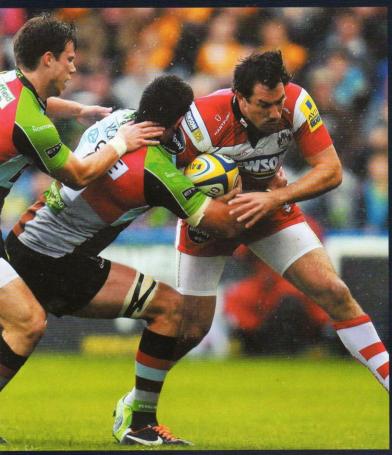
CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

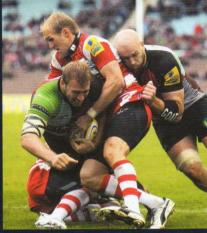
Jonny May showing the Worcester defence a clean pair of heels when he latched on to Joe Carlisle's misdirected pass and simply scorched his way to the Worcester line without a defender getting anywhere near him.

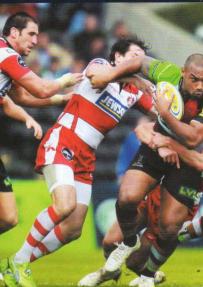
KEY QUOTE

"We went into the game with 13 players unavailable and to come out with a performance that was disciplined was great.

Bryan Redpath







Aviva Premiership Rugby, Twickenham Stoop, 17 September 2011, 15:00 KO

HARLEQUINS

TRIES Smith (18), Wallace (30, 60), Monye (54), Brooker (74)

CONS Evans (20, 55, 60), Clegg (74)
PENS Evans (23, 39),

Clegg (64)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY PENS Burns (5, 36)

FOR the second time in just six months, Gloucester Rugby left the Stoop following a good old fashioned beating at the hands of Harlequins.

Back in March, the 53-15 defeat was pretty much shrugged off. It brought to an end a run of eleven straight victories during which time Gloucester had won the LV= Cup.

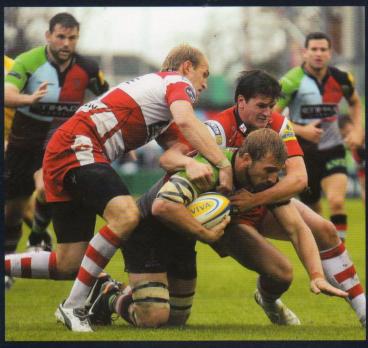
Last weekend's 42-6 defeat was a bit more difficult to stomach given that there was a lot to play for and that Bryan Redpath's side went into the game in good spirits having defeated Worcester comfortably the weekend before.

Sadly, outside of the first few minutes, Gloucester were never really in the game. A combination of errors and ill discipline gifted Harlequins all the possession and territory they needed to dominate the game and Nick Evans pulled the strings as only he can.

Granted, players were missing on World Cup duty and because of injury and suspension. Conditions were pretty foul at times but it was the same for both sides. They can't be used as excuses - Quins were just better on the day.

It had all started brightly. Possession was maintained in the opening skirmishes and a penalty from Freddie Burns was the least Gloucester deserved.

Subsequently, Gloucester simply struggled to get hold of the ball and, when they did, to hold on to



it. They were camped in their own 22 and forced to make tackle after

To be fair, the defence was pretty robust in the opening quarter. The commitment couldn't be questioned but, ultimately, something had to give and most teams would have struggled to successfully defend Sam Smith's opening try which was well worked.

Quins added a second on the half hour and Evans was in his usual good form with the boot but, only trailing 18-6 at half time, one score would have got Gloucester back into the game.

Unfortunately, the second half

produced more of the same. The game was pretty much played in the Gloucester 22 and that sort of pressure was only ever going to result in more points for Harlequins.

The try scoring bonus point was clinched on the hour and the home team had the luxury of bringing off a number of their starters for a well earned rest.

Gloucester did have a couple of opportunities to restore some pride in the final few minutes but Charlie Sharples couldn't scoop up the greasy ball with the line beckoning and Gareth Evans was bundled into touch at the corner.

It was that kind of day...

HARLEQUINS

- 15 FB Mike Brown
- 14 W Sam Smith
- 13 C George Lowe
- Jordan Turner-Hall 12 C
- 11 W Ugo Monye
- 10 FH Nick Evans
- 9 SH Karl Dickson
- P Mark Lambert
- 2 H Joe Grav
- Tim Fairbrother 3 P
- Ollie Kohn 4
- 5 George Robson
- 6 F Chris Robshaw (c)
- Luke Wallace
- N8 Chris York

REPLACEMENTS

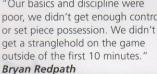
- 16 H Chris Brooker
- 17 P Daryl Marfo
- 18 P Kyle Sinckler
- 19 L **Charlie Matthews**
- 20 F Joe Trayfoot
- 21 SH Richard Bolt
- 22 FH Rory Clegg
- 23 C Charlie Walker

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Olly Morgan
- 14 W Charlie Sharples
- **Henry Trinder** 13 C
- 12 C Lesley Vainikolo
- 11 W Tom Voyce
- 10 FH Freddie Burns
- 9 SH Nick Runciman
- Nick Wood P
- **Nathan Charles** H
- P Rupert Harden
- 4 Tom Savage
- Alex Brown
- Peter Buxton (c)
- Matt Cox
- N8 Brett Deacon

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 H Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 P Dan Murphy
- 18 P Dario Chistolini
- 19 L David Lyons
- 20 N8 Gareth Evans
- 21 SH Dan Robson Tim Taylor 22
- 23 C Jonny May





A tough day at the office for Gloucester and few positives but the return from injury of back row forward Brett Deacon was a bonus

KEY QUOTE

"Our basics and discipline were poor, we didn't get enough control or set piece possession. We didn't get a stranglehold on the game outside of the first 10 minutes."

13-6

16.6

Line-UPS







- 15 OLLY MORGAN
- 14 CHARLIE SHARPLES T
- 13 HENRY TRINDER MAY
- 12 LESLEY VAINIKOLO
- 11 TOM VOYCE
- 10 TIM TAYLOR PCPP
- 09 NICK RUNCIMAN
- 01 NICK WOOD
- 02 DARREN DAWIDIUK
- 03 RUPERT HARDEN
- 04 WILL JAMES
- 05 ALEX BROWN SAVAGE
- 06 PETER BUXTON (C)
- 07 MATT COX
- 08 BRETT DEACON
- 16 NATHAN CHARLES COMOSE
- 17 DAN MURPHY
- 18 DARIO CHISTOLINI
- 19 TOM SAVAGE LYONS
- 20 GARETH EVANS
- 21 DAN ROBSON
- 22 FREDDIE BURNS
- 23 JONNY MAY THINDER

14 JACK CUTHBERT13 MATT CARRARO

15 NICK ABENDANON

- 12 DAN HIPKISS
- 11 TOM BIGGS
- 10 SAM VESTY 4 P
- 09 MICHAEL CLAASSENS
- 01 DAVID FLATMAN CAST
- 02 ROSS BATTY
- 03 DUNCAN BELL
- 04 STUART HOOPER (C) ATTIMES
- 05 RYAN CALDWELL
- 06 CARL FEARNS
- 07 GUY MERCER
- 08 BEN SKIRVING
- 16 PIETER DIXON LLEY
- 17 NATHAN CATT BEACH
- 18 KANE PALMA-NEWPORT
- 19 DAVE ATTWOOD SPISICUR
- 20 ANDY BEATTIE
- 21 MARK McMILLAN
- 22 TOM HEATHCOTE
- 23 BEN WILLIAMS SUNT

THE OFFICIALS



REFEREE: J P Doyle **ASST REFS:** Don Helme and Peter Huckle

TOP SCORERS 2011/12





- 51 Billy Twelvetrees
- 47 Nick Evans
- 42 Tom Homer
- 41 Nick Maclace
- 41 Ignacio Miere

WHAT ARE THESE ALL ABOUT?

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