

#### **DIRECTOR OF RUGBY DAVID HUMPHREYS**

David Humphreys was announced as the Director of Rugby at Gloucester Rugby in June 2014.

Belfast born, he started his playing career at his home province of Ulster, and enjoyed a spell in the Premiership with London Irish before returning to Ulster ahead of the 1998/99 season.

That season saw him play a pivotal role in the Irish province lifting the Heineken Cup, defeating Colomiers in the final at Lansdowne Road.

Capped 72 times by his country, scoring 560 points, Humphreys spent the rest of his playing career with Ulster before retiring in 2008 and taking on the role of Director of Rugby at Ravenhill.

A qualified solicitor, his time at Ulster saw him oversee the province establish itself as one of the true giants of the European rugby scene, regularly reaching the knock-out stages of the Heineken Cup in the last few years, losing out in the final in 2012.



### THE CAPTAIN: BILLY TWELVETREES

Billy Twelvetrees joined Gloucester Rugby from Leicester Tigers ahead of the 2012/13 season.

> Originally from Sussex, Billy joined the Tigers Academy in 2007 and had a spell at Leicester Lions as well as scoring 18 tries, 16 conversions, and 13 penalties for Bedford in 2008/09.

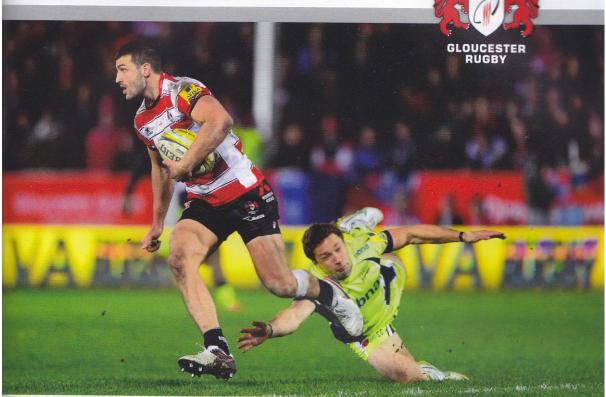
> > His form for Bedford saw him quickly recalled by the Tigers and he went on to become a first-team

He quickly impressed with Gloucester and earned a call-up to England's Elite Player Squad for the 2013 Six Nations, making his debut against Scotland at Twickenham - scoring a try in the process.

the England tour of Argentina. He scored a try in the first test before being called-up to the British & Irish Lions squad.

Billy has now won 22 caps for England and featured in more than 20 games for Gloucester in each of his three full seasons with the club, as well as taking over the captaincy last

# GLOUCESTER LOOKING TO MAKE STRIDES FORWARD



The Cherry and Whites headed into the 2015/16 campaign with a greater sense of familiarity than in recent years, with a much quieter and settled summer setting the squad up well ahead of the new season.

As Gloucester kicked-off 2014/15 at Northampton, a whole host of new players were finding their feet and the coaching team had literally just arrived.

It was little surprise that the season got off to a shaky start away at the then defending champions.

Wind the clock forward and Director of Rugby David Humphreys and Head Coach Laurie Fisher embark on their second season at the helm, with the only new face seeing Jonny Bell join as Defence Coach alongside the Senior Coaching Team of Nick Walshe and Trevor Woodman.

With All Black Jeremy Thrush and stand-out Super Rugby performer Tom Marshall two new high-profile signings, the Cherry and Whites are building a strong squad as well as focusing on continuing to utilise the efforts of the Gloucester Rugby Academy following impressive debut seasons from a number of their

Meanwhile, Paul Doran Jones returns to the club for a second spell, joined as new front row resources by fellow props Paddy McAllister and Nicky Thomas, while former Wasps Tom Lindsay will add considerable experience to the hooking ranks.

The challenge for Gloucester is to build on the progress made last season. The team may well have lifted the European Rugby Challenge Cup, but no one was happy with the team's finishing position in the Aviva

Premiership.

To date, it's been a steady start for the Cherry and Whites. An efficient opening day win at Newcastle, traditionally a tough venue for Gloucester, was followed by a narrow home defeat at home to Saracens.

However, Gloucester bounced back with a hard-fought victory over today's opponents Worcester Warriors before an away defeat at

The defence of the European Rugby Challenge Cup got off to a decent start with wins over Zebre and La Rochelle setting-up the doubleheader against the Warriors and Gloucester come into today's 'first leg' off the back of an away defeat at Northampton and a hard-fought home win over Sale Sharks.

## CAPTAIN TWELVETREES LOOKING O BUILD ON SALE VICTORY

The Cherry and Whites pickedup a crucial Aviva Premiership victory last Friday evening over Sale Sharks.

And with a short turnaround to contend with, skipper Billy Twelvetrees is delighted with the win to boost the squad ahead of a tricky European double header.

He said: "We knew coming back home we needed to defend well and we did that in patches, put Sale under pressure in their half and came away with some good tries.

was a lot of relief at the end to get over the line."

The Gloucester forwards were put

under the microscope by certain media pundits in midweek, but Twelvetrees was thrilled that the Cherry and White pack was able to show its true quality against a stubborn Sharks' engine room.

He continued: "We've got a great squad here and we really believe in what we are doing as a team.

"A lot of the boys were angry about the Saints game and they wanted to get back out there and against Sale we were judged on that 80 minutes.

"The boys love being out there playing rugby, so we thoroughly deserved to get those four points

Captain Twelvetrees noticed the lift in atmosphere as the hosts hit their straps in the second-half, and their backing.

"It's massive for us, to have the support that they give us and how passionate The Shed is.

"It is intimidating for the reaction we get when we put the tries on the board. It's deafening and we love it."

another great contest between the





## THE DANGER MEN

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



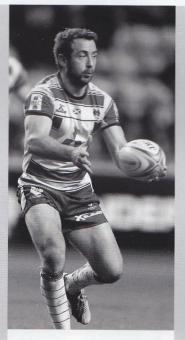
#### **HENRY TRINDER**

The talented centre has been working his way back to full match fitness after a series of injuries have disrupted the last 12 months.

The 26-year-old made his debut at the tail end of the 2007/08 season and is closing in on 100 competitive appearances for the club.

Capped at England Under 20 and Saxons level, Trinder has also represented England against the Barbarians in a non-capped international.

On his day, he can unlock the tightest of defences and boasts an impressive try-scoring record. His return to the Gloucester first-team squad helps to give the back line a different dimension.



#### **GREIG LAIDLAW**

Scrum-half Greig Laidlaw is in his second season at Gloucester, having moved south from Edinburgh.

Capable of playing both scrum-half and fly-half, but preferring the number nine jersey, Laidlaw is a top-class kicker and brings vital experience and leadership to the Gloucester Rugby squad.

He certainly shone in his first season in the Cherry and White of Gloucester, scoring 269 points in total and starring in the club's successful European Rugby Challenge Cup campaign.

Laidlaw has also been a regular for Scotland in recent seasons, skippering his country at the 2015 Rugby World Cup and being shortlisted for World Rugby Player of the Year.

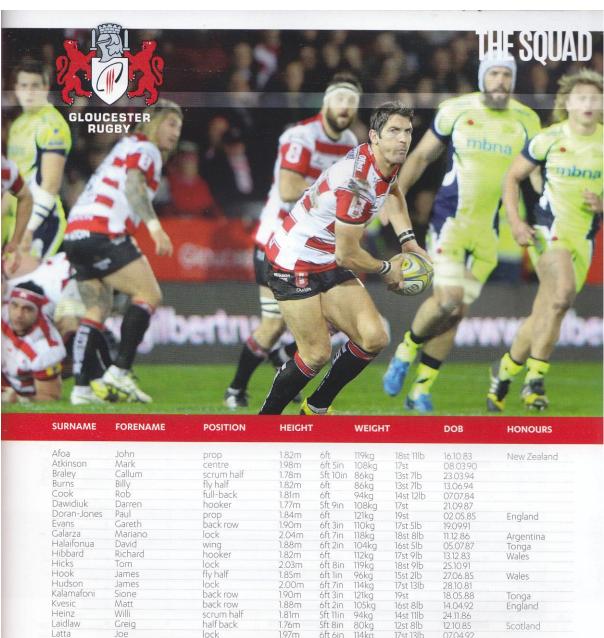


### **JACOB ROWAN**

Jacob Rowan is starting to make a real impression in the Cherry and White of Gloucester in his second season at Kingsholm.

Named as the youngest ever Leeds' captain in 2012, Jacob is a former England Under 18 and Under 20 international who captained the Under 20s during their Junior World Championship campaign in 2009/10.

His first season with Gloucester was disrupted slightly by injury, but he is pushing former Worcester favourite Matt Kvesic hard for the starting openside position, and has won some key turnovers in recent weeks in the wins over La Rochelle and Sale and skippered the side against Zebre Rugby.



Lindsay

Marshall

May McAllister

McColl

Meakes

Morgan

Moriarty

Murphy

Protheroe

Reynolds

Rowan

Savage

Stooke

Thomas

Thomas

Thomas

Thrush

Trinder

Twelvetrees

Sharples

Tom

Tom

Paddy

Steve Billy

Ross

Dan

Matt

Henr

Jacob

Charlie

Elliott

Nicky

Yann

Jeremy

Henry

Billy Nick

Dan

Tom

# TODAY'STEAMS

Vs Gloucester Rugby | Thursday 10.12.2015 | Kick-off 19:45

10-17 0-3







**DAN THOMAS** 

**CALLUM BRALEY** 

ROB COOK

BILLY TWELVETREES



#### CLOUCESTE

**FULL-BACK** BEN HOWARD 15 STEVE McCOLL WING DEAN HAMMOND 14 DAVID HALAIFONUA CENTRE ALEX GROVE 13 HENRY TRINDER CENTRE ANDY SYMONS 12 MARK ATKINSON WING TOM BIGGS 11 HENRY PURDY FLY-HALF RYAN LAMB 10 **BILLY BURNS** c Dhi **SCRUM-HALF** CHARLIE MULCHRONE (C) GREIG LAIDLAW (C) PCCC PROP RYAN BOWER NICK WOOD **HOOKER** JABA BREGVADZE TOM LINDSAY PROP **GARETH MILASINOVICH** 3 PAUL DORAN-JONES **DAN SANDERSON** LOCK **ELLIOTT STOOKE** LOCK DARREN O'SHEA MARIANO GALARZA **FLANKER** MATT COX SIONE KALAMAFONI **FLANKER** CARL KIRWAN JACOB ROWAN MARCO MAMA **NO.8 LEWIS LUDLOW** REPLACEMENT BEN SOWREY 16 DARREN DAWIDIUK VAL RAPAVA RUSKIN 17 REPLACEMENT YANN THOMAS REPLACEMENT MIKE DANIELS 18 **NICKY THOMAS** REPLACEMENT DARREN BARRY 19 TOM HICKS

#### **MATCH OFFICIALS**

REPLACEMENT

REPLACEMENT

REPLACEMENT

REPLACEMENT

SAM BETTY 20

JONNY ARR 21

TIFFEDEN 22

MAX STELLING 23

Referee: Alexandre Ruiz (FRA) Assistant Referees: Salem Attalah & Mathieu Noirot TMO: Philippe Bonhoure