

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF LEICESTER TIGERS | £3

TIGERS



LEICESTER TIGERS

vs GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Gallagher Premiership Rugby | Round 12 | Saturday January 5, 2019 | KO: 3.00pm



Gallagher

PREMIERSHIP RUGBY



RICOH
imagine. change.

CITIZEN



THE SUNDAY TIMES



BT Sport

TODAY'S TEAMS



LEICESTER TIGERS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



HONOURS		T	P	C	D	T	P	C	D	HONOURS	
WAL	Jonah Holmes				15					Tom Hudson	
ENG	Jonny May				14					Charlie Sharples	
LIONS/ENG	Manu Tuilagi				13					Henry Trinder <i>Atkinson</i>	
AUS	Matt Toomua				12					Billy Twelvetrees	
	Jordan Olowofela				11					Matt Banahan	
ENG	George Ford (c)				10					Owen Williams	
LIONS/ENG	Ben Youngs				9					Willi Heinz (c) <i>Bradley</i>	
ENG	Ellis Genge				1					Josh Hohnack <i>Young</i>	
AUS	Tatafu Polota-Nau				2					Jaco Visagie	
LIONS/ENG	Dan Cole				3					Fraser Balmain	
	<i>↗</i> Graham Kitchener				4					Ed Stater <i>Grubbler</i>	
	<i>↘</i> Mike Fitzgerald				5					Franco Mostert	
	Mike Williams				6					Lewis Ludlow <i>Clarke</i>	
	Will Evans				7					Jaco Kriel <i>Evans</i>	
TON	Sione Kalamafoni				8					Ben Morgan (c)	
Replacements						Replacements					
	Jake Kerr				16					Henry Walker	
	Greg Bateman				17					Paddy McAllister	
	Joe Heyes				18					Ruan Dreyer <i>King</i>	
	Harry Wells				19					Tom Savage <i>Ed Stater</i>	
	Brendon O'Connor				20					Gareth Evans <i>Ludlow</i>	
	Ben White				21					Freddie Clarke <i>Vallant</i>	
ENG	Kyle Eastmond				22					Callum Bratey <i>Tindler</i>	
	George Worth				23					Henry Purdy <i>Scrubbin</i>	

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee:
Mr Wayne Barnes

Assistant:
Mr Anthony Woodthorpe

Assistant:
Mr Matthew O'Grady

TMO:
Mr David Rose

Citing Officer:
Mr Shaun Gallagher



TODAY'S VISITORS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

There were many reasons for optimism as Johan Ackermann and the Gloucester Rugby squad reported back for pre-season training in the summer, preparing for the new Gallagher Premiership season and also a return to the top table in Europe after an absence of a few years.

First and foremost, the head coach was able to oversee the whole of pre-season training, unlike the summer of 2017 when he could only take up the coaching reins at Gloucester once he had completed his commitments with the Lions in South Africa.

Ackermann had already signed his son, Ruan, from the Lions ahead of the 2017/18 season and went back to his old club to bring in Ruan Dreyer, Jaco Kriel and Franco Mostert ahead of the current campaign.

Fellow South African forwards Gerbrandt Grobler (Munster) and Franco Marais (Sharks) were also added to the squad, while Matt Banahan, Danny Cipriani and Todd Gleave made moves from Bath, Wasps and London Irish respectively.

It's been a promising season so far, yet still with plenty of room for improvement. The Cherry and Whites currently sit third in the Gallagher Premiership table.

There have been decent home wins over Northampton Saints and Bristol Bears, but disappointing defeats at Kingsholm against Harlequins and Sale. On the road, there has been a draw against Bath, which could easily have been a victory, and defeats at Saracens and Exeter in addition to impressive wins over Wasps and Newcastle making up the form guide so far.

That form has certainly caught the eye of the watching media, with Cipriani and Ollie Thorley picking up Player of the Month accolades.

The newly-formatted Premiership Rugby Cup was billed as providing opportunities for the game's best

up-and-coming talent, and the Cherry and Whites certainly embraced that philosophy as they fielded a large number of the academy's most promising young talents across the three games.

Things started promisingly as the young guns made the most of their opportunity with a fine 31-7 win over Wasps at Kingsholm, but a similarly youthful line-up didn't really get going at Bristol the following week and slipped to a disappointing defeat.

However, in dreadful weather conditions at Kingsholm, Gloucester kept their hopes of qualifying for the semi-finals alive with a last-gasp victory over Northampton Saints in Round 3. The local derby in Round 4 at Bath will determine the team's knockout ambitions.

The return to the Heineken Champions Cup this season has tested the squad's depth to the maximum. An excellent win in Round 1 at home to French champions Castres Olympique was followed by a frustrating reverse at Munster.

And the December double-header against Exeter Chiefs was hard-fought and bruising. Throwing the form book out of the window, both legs were won by the away team on the day.

Today, though, is all about domestic action, and a trip to Welford Road. It has not been a happy hunting ground for Gloucester in recent seasons and in the first fixture of 2019 both teams would love to greet the New Year with a win.



» **RUAN ACKERMANN / 22 / BACK ROW**

Son of coach Johan, he played for the Golden Lions and Lions XV before joining Gloucester in 2017.

» **MARK ATKINSON / 28 / CENTRE**

Previously at Sale Sharks, Wasps, Esher and Bedford Blues before returning to the Premiership with a move to Kingsholm in 2014.

» **FRASER BALMAIN / 27 / PROP**

Joined Gloucester in 2017 after six years at Tigers. After coming through the academy at Welford Road, he established himself at senior level and in 2014 played in an uncapped match for England against the Barbarians.

» **MATT BANAHAN / 31 / WING**

Played hockey for Jersey and West of England before switching to rugby and joined Gloucester this summer after 12 years and 250 appearances with Bath. Earned England caps between 2009-11 and has played at centre or wing.

» **CALLUM BRALEY / 24 / SCRUM-HALF**

Joined Gloucester academy in 2014/15 and represented England age-groups, including a spell as Under-20s captain in the 2014 Junior World Championship.

» **DANNY CIPRIANI / 31 / FLY-HALF**

Joined Gloucester last summer from his second spell at Wasps. He has also played in the top flight with Sale and in Super Rugby with Melbourne Rebels. He made his England debut in 2008.

» **FREDDIE CLARKE / 26 / BACK ROW**

Signed a one-year deal with London Scottish in 2015 before moving to Gloucester in the 2016/17 season. Represented England Sevens in the 2014 Grand Prix Series.

» **GARETH DENMAN / 28 / PROP**

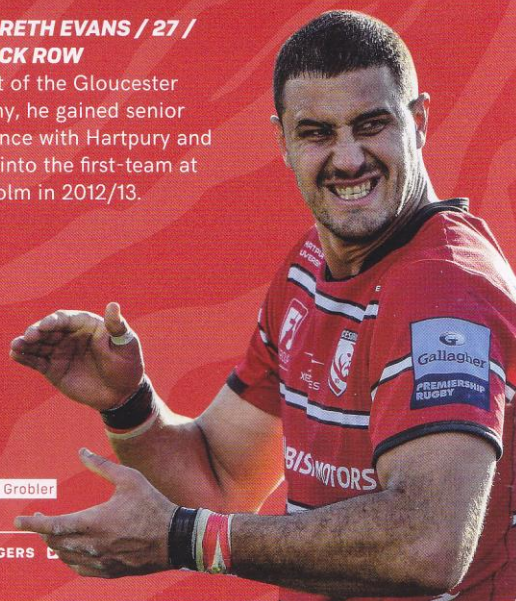
Joined from Northampton in 2017 after spells with Yorkshire Carnegie and Rotherham.

» **RUAN DREYER / 28 / PROP**

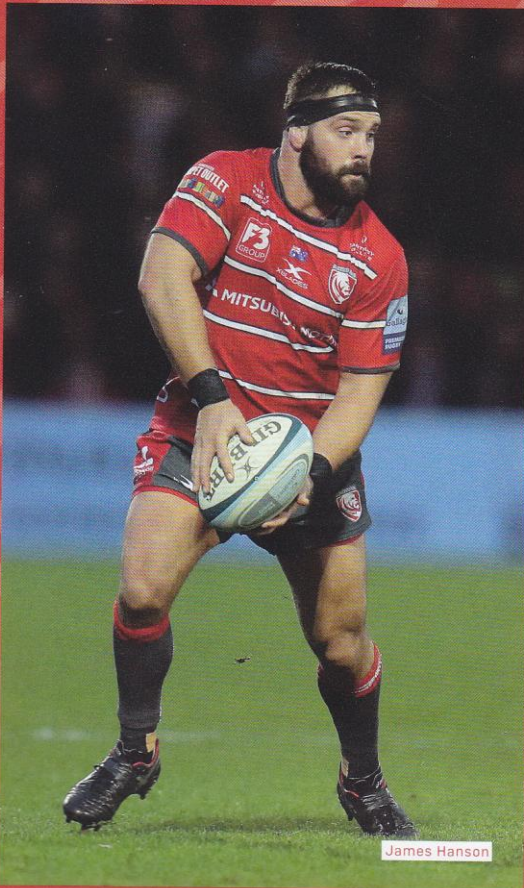
South Africa international who signed this summer after spells with Golden Lions and the Lions. He represented South Africa Under-20s in 2010 and made his Test debut in 2016.

» **GARETH EVANS / 27 / BACK ROW**

Product of the Gloucester academy, he gained senior experience with Hartpury and moved into the first-team at Kingsholm in 2012/13.



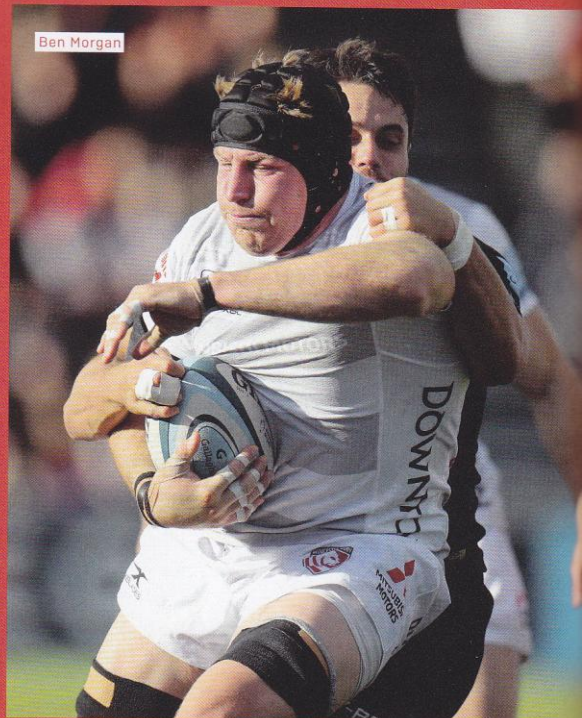
Gerbrandt Grobler



James Hanson

- » **LLOYD EVANS / 22 / FLY-HALF**
Promoted from the academy, he signed his first professional contract in May 2017 and has represented England age-groups.
- » **TODD GLEAVE / 23 / HOOKER**
Signed from London Irish after also playing for Bath, London Scottish and Rosslyn Park.
- » **GERBRANDT GROBLER / 26 / LOCK**
Joined last summer after a year at Munster and has also played for Western Province, Stormers and Racing 92.
- » **JAMES HANSON / 30 / HOOKER**
Australia international who had spells with the Rebels in Super Rugby as well as North Harbour, Brisbane City, Sydney Stars and Melbourne Rising before joining Gloucester last season.
- » **WILLI HEINZ / 32 / SCRUM-HALF**
Former New Zealand Under-21s cap with spells at Canterbury and Crusaders before joining Gloucester in 2015, where he has been club captain. Called up to an England training camp in May 2017.

- » **JOSH HOHNECK / 32 / PROP**
Played for Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Chiefs, Highlanders and Otago before joining Gloucester in 2016 and represented Maori All Blacks in 2015.
- » **TOM HUDSON / 24 / FULL-BACK**
Graduate of the Leicester academy, he had some time out of playing rugby to work with the Tigers' partner club in Kuala Lumpur before earning a contract at Gloucester.
- » **JACO KRIEL / 29 / BACK ROW**
Joined last summer from Lions after spells with Golden Lions and Kubota Spears. He made his Test debut with South Africa in 2016.
- » **LEWIS LUDLOW / 24 / BACK ROW**
Promoted from the academy in 2013, making his debut in the cup against Newcastle in 2013/14, and started in the 2017 European Challenge Cup Final against Stade Francais.
- » **FRANCO MARAIS / 26 / HOOKER**
Signed from Sharks this summer after playing for them since 2012. Represented South Africa Under-20s and South Africa 'A'.
- » **TOM MARSHALL / 28 / FULL-BACK**
Former New Zealand Under-20s player who had spells at Tasman Makos, Crusaders and Chiefs before moving to England in 2015.



Ben Morgan



Fraser Balmain

» **WILL SAFE / 22 / BACK ROW**

Played in Development League fixtures last season, scoring a try against Irish, as he established himself in senior rugby.

» **TOM SAVAGE / 29 / LOCK**

One of the league's youngest captains when he was chosen to lead the Cherry and Whites during 2013/14.

» **CHARLIE SHARPLES / 29 / WING**

Born in Hong Kong, he has a best 100 metres time of 11.30 seconds and was the fastest member of the England squad at their 2011 Rugby World Cup training camp. He made his debut for Gloucester during the 2007/08 season.

» **ED SLATER / 30 / LOCK**

Moved to Gloucester last summer after seven seasons at Tigers, including two years as captain. Represented England Saxons and led England in a midweek game on the 2014 tour to New Zealand.

» **OLLIE THORLEY / 22 / WING**

The club's youngest player in the professional era, after starting the cup fixture against Northampton in November 2013.

» **PADDY McALLISTER / 29 / PROP**

Had four years at Ulster before moving to Aurillac in France for a year and joined Gloucester in 2015, and represented Ireland Under-20s in 2009.

» **BEN MORGAN / 29 / BACK ROW**

Spent three years at the Scarlets before signing for Gloucester in 2012 and quickly progressed to England international status.

» **FRANCO MOSTERT / 28 / LOCK**

Spells with Blue Bulls, Golden Lions XV, Lions, Golden Lions and Ricoh Black Rams preceded a move to Gloucester this season. Made his Test debut for South Africa in 2016.

» **JAKE POLLEDRI / 23 / BACK ROW**

Son of Peter Polledri who made more than 450 appearances for Bristol, Jake joined Gloucester after two years with Hartpury. After playing for Italy Under-20s, he made his Test debut in March 2018.

» **HENRY PURDY / 24 / CENTRE/WING**

Spent two years with the Tigers academy, playing in the World Juniors with England Under-20s, and joined Gloucester in 2014.

» **VAL RAPAVA-RUSKIN / 26 / PROP**

Signed from Worcester in 2017 after spells with Western Province, Saracens and Toulon. Represented Georgia Under-19s in 2011.

» **KYLE TRAYNOR / 32 / PROP**

Scotland international who was with Tigers last season and moved to Gloucester on a short-term deal this year. Previously with Edinburgh and Bristol Bears. He made his Scotland debut in 2009.

» **HENRY TRINDER / 29 / CENTRE**

Made his club debut in 2007/08 season, initially covering for Mike Tindall when he was with England.

» **BILLY TWELVETREES / 30 / CENTRE**

Came through the Tigers academy and played at Leicester Lions and Bedford before returning to establish himself at Welford Road. Joined Gloucester in 2012, gained representative honours with England and call-up to the British & Irish Lions tour in 2013.

» **BEN VELLACOTT / 23 / SCRUM-HALF**

Academy graduate with Scotland honours at age-groups up to Under-20s.

» **OWEN WILLIAMS / 26 / FLY-HALF**

Joined Gloucester after four years with Tigers, he also played for Llanelli and the Scarlets. Gained his first caps for Wales in the summer of 2017 in Tests against Tonga and Samoa.

» **JASON WOODWARD / 28 / FULL-BACK**

Signed from Bristol in 2017 after playing for Wellington, Rebels and Hurricanes. A former New Zealand Under-20s cap.