

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME // £3

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY



Vs CARDIFF BLUES  
SUNDAY 08/11/09  
KO 3:00PM



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# GARETH DELVE CAPTAIN'S CORNER

**WELCOME to Kingsholm for the first round of the new named LV= Cup.**

Amazingly, today's game is the fourth different type of fixture we've played in the past five weeks!

We played Heineken Cup rugby in Biarritz, Guinness Premiership rugby against London Wasps and Sale, a friendly against the Qantas Wallabies and today is an Anglo Welsh showdown against the Cardiff Blues.

You do have to have your wits about you to keep up with the fixture list nowadays!

I'm writing this column on the morning after the Australia game and what a fantastic night that was. I was on corporate duty but would have loved to have been involved on such a momentous occasion but I thought that the lads

from distance after we'd turned the ball over and they were absolutely clinical in the way they exploited the opportunities.

Despite the defeat, however, it was a great night for the club and hopefully we'll see many more occasions like that at Kingsholm in the future.

My last run out, of course, was last Friday night at Sale in our last Guinness Premiership match when we so very nearly came back home with the win.

It was a rough first half for us. We lost Tins and Hazezy to injury, arguably our two most experienced players. Then when Charlie Sharples was dismissed, we were well and truly up against it especially with Charlie Hodgson kicking everything.

But we didn't panic. We were still confident in what we were doing and actually played some of the best rugby of our season so far.

defence for the score.

You would think that, having played for more than a full half with only 14 men, that we'd have been happy with the losing bonus point. But there was genuine belief that we could have won that game.

What we have to do now is carry that form and commitment into today's game. We don't know exactly who we'll face in the Cardiff side as obviously a number of their players will be on Wales duty this weekend.

But we can't worry about that. We need to focus on ourselves and hopefully get one back for the defeats we suffered at their hands last season.

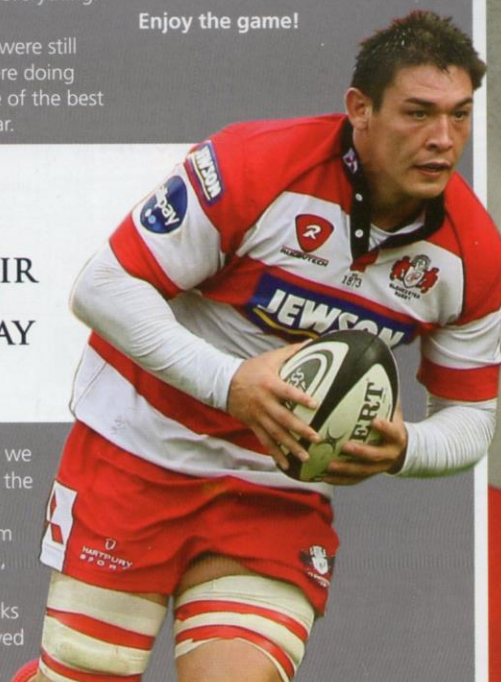
**Enjoy the game!**

**IN MY OPINION WE ACTUALLY MANAGED TO DOMINATE THE WALLABIES FOR LONG PERIODS BUT, WHERE THEY SHOWED THEIR CLASS, WAS IN SOAKING UP THE PRESSURE AND KEEPING US AT BAY BEFORE HITTING US ON THE COUNTER.**

who played did us proud.

In my opinion we actually managed to dominate the Wallabies for long periods but, where they showed their class, was in soaking up the pressure and keeping us at bay before hitting us on the counter. A couple of their scores were

If you look at all the tries we scored on the night, and the two in the second half in particular, they came from good, sustained pressure, keeping the ball through multiple phases with backs and forwards both involved and breaking down the



## GARETH BUTLER VIEW FROM THE CITIZEN

**A**fter all the debate around whether the Australia game was a good or a bad thing for the club on and off the pitch, everyone went home on Tuesday night with a smile on their faces having watched an excellent evening's rugby.

The Aussies scored most of the points but a few of the Gloucester youngsters showed their coming of age is only around the corner.

Hopefully we will see some of those youngsters this afternoon, with Freddie Burns' knock at the Kingsholm door getting all the more louder. It is a shame he is a fly-half in a way, because that is the one position Gloucester have not been caught short in so far this season.

Surely had Burns been a centre or a specialist full-back he would have been called into action much sooner. As it is, Bryan Redpath has asked him to play in the number 15 shirt a few times and, having never played there before, he has made a great fist of it. Surely his first start in his favoured position is not too far away, but Redpath is right to manage that correctly. Gloucester are a struggling side at the moment and to chuck in a youngster and put pressure on him to sort it out would be a mistake.

The other youngster to make an impression again was Dave Lewis. It was always going to take him time to get back to the heights of his first few games last season, but the couple of sniping runs he put in against the Aussies showed the pace off the mark remains. Perhaps he need to add strength



**THE OTHER YOUNGSTER TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION AGAIN WAS DAVE LEWIS. IT WAS ALWAYS GOING TO TAKE HIM TIME TO GET BACK TO THE HEIGHTS OF HIS FIRST FEW GAMES LAST SEASON, BUT THE COUPLE OF SNIPING RUNS HE PUT IN AGAINST THE AUSSIES SHOWED THE PACE OFF THE MARK REMAINS.**

and defensive qualities to his game to catch up with the likes of Joe Simpson of Wasps for example, but the Gloucester coaching staff must be happy with his re-emergence.

Henry Trinder was another to make his first team return and also never looked out of place. He was rightly frustrated afterwards with a couple of passes which went awry when the breakaway was on, but there was plenty to be encouraged by from the Cirencester boy. If he thought his error count was high on Tuesday night, a quick

## The Citizen



comparison with the overall number of unforced mistakes so far this season and he will find himself at about par.

The last man worth a mention falls just outside the youngster bracket, although probably not in terms of the position he plays. Paul Doran-Jones has made the switch from tight to loose-head seamlessly in the absence of both Alasdair Dickinson (shoulder) and Nick Wood (foot). Aficionados of the front row will tell you the technique difference between the

**LATER IN THE SEASON, WHEN BOTH WOOD AND DICKINSON ARE BACK (WISHFUL THINKING?), DORAN-JONES COULD WELL BE USED AS A WEAPON IN THE LAST 20 MINUTES OF GAMES TO COME ON AND MOP UP ONCE ONE OF THE OTHER TWO HAS WORN THE OPPONENT DOWN.**

two positions are basically opposite, so for Doran-Jones to switch and strengthen the Gloucester scrum is quite a feat.

That has also brought Greg Somerville more into his own. Tight-head is as defensive a position as loose-head is attacking so a player like Somerville is never going to have a destructive influence on the scrum. Instead, with a powerful loose-head going about his work if the All Black can hold firm, so the scrum prospers.

Later in the season, when both Wood and Dickinson are back (wishful thinking?), Doran-Jones could well be used as a weapon in the last 20 minutes of games to come on and mop up once one of the other two has worn the opponent down.

On a final note it was great to see Jake Boer back in cherry and white, back at Kingsholm and back as captain on Tuesday. With the injuries and international unavailability at Gloucester at the moment, there are far worse players to turn to than old Jakey. And the workrate and never-say-die attitude was back on Tuesday night. I for one would love to see the famous scrum hat and gloves stay until at least the end of the season, if not longer.

The message is the same as it has been for pretty much the whole season, including the Bath game: cut out the errors and the wins will start to come. As the wins come the confidence grows and the form improves. Redpath keeps saying it's time for the talk to stop and the rugby to start but he obviously knows that is easier said than done.

# BRYAN REDPATH HEAD COACH

**ON BEHALF** of everyone at Gloucester Rugby, I'd like to with the Cardiff Blues a warm welcome to Kingsholm this afternoon.

It's a new competition for us this afternoon and a new sponsor for me to talk about during interviews! But it's good for the tournament that LV= have come on board. We enjoyed a run to the final last season and are obviously keen to go as far as possible this time around.

We're up against familiar foes this afternoon in the Cardiff Blues. We were, of course, drawn in the same Heineken Cup group as them last season and faced them in the final that I mentioned above.

So, both teams are well known to each other although we're not sure at this point exactly who will be lining up for the Blues at Kingsholm with so many of their players away with Wales this weekend.

Ten of their players were absent last weekend when the Blues lost 23-6 at Leinster but you can hardly call any side weak when they can still upon the likes of Gareth Thomas, Dafydd James, Ceri Sweeney, Paul Tito and Xavier Rush!

And, bear in mind of course that the Blues are defending their crown. We know from bitter experience how much it meant to them to lift the trophy last season. Even missing their Welsh internationals, they'll be looking to get their defence off to a



good start and will be coming to Kingsholm to win.

Since my last programme column, it's an understatement to say that it's been a busy couple of weeks at the club.

The arrival of the Autumn internationals has an impact upon squad availability. Mike Tindall has been away with England and Alasdair Dickinson, Rory Lawson, Scott Lawson and Alasdair Strokosch were all named in Scotland's provisional squad.

To cope with Scott's absence, and the fact that Oliver Azam is unavailable for selection, we've brought in Ben Phillips on a short

term contract.

Ben's been with us for a couple of weeks having started the season at Birmingham & Solihull. He's shown up well in training, started a couple of A League games and also got a brief run in the Australia game.

He's done well and the opportunity is there for him to continue to impress over the next few weeks.

On the pitch, it's been a real mixture of good and not so good. For example, we were disappointed with our performance against Wasps.

I couldn't fault our work ethic on the night, we dominated possession and territory and forced Wasps into



a big defensive effort.

However, despite that, we simply didn't create any pressure. Wasps defended well but we needed to focus on our basics and our concentration.

That was why I was pleased to see the reaction up at Edgeley Park when we took on Sale.

Our error count was still too high and we gave away too penalties which gave Charlie Hodgson to kick seven penalties which was ultimately our downfall.

But our attitude in the second half was what pleased me. We played for 50 minutes with only 14 men but still managed to outscore them by three tries to one.

We were solid in defence, our pack gave them problems in the set piece and we were patient in our attack. Our clearing out was better than it has been in recent weeks which gave us quicker ball to work with and the difference was obvious.

The Greg Somerville try was a case in point as we kept hold of the ball, worked the phases and remained patient until Greg finally forced his way over.

And it was good to see that attitude carry over into the Australia game.

Obviously, it was a different looking team that was on display that night but the levels of commitment were right up there.

It was a great chance for some of our younger players to pit themselves against international calibre opposition.

And I genuinely thought we did well but the Wallabies' performance will prove to be a great learning experience for our boys. They put their bodies on the line to prevent us scoring when it looked as though we had them under the cosh and then pounced when we made the slightest error and punished us with those late scores.

Overall, it was a great occasion. It was great to see Kingsholm packed to the rafters and the ground was absolutely buzzing.

I think both sides enjoyed playing in front of a full house and all the players will benefit from the experience.

I'd like to think that there will be plenty more of those occasions at Kingsholm in the future.

**THE ARRIVAL OF THE AUTUMN INTERNATIONALS HAS AN IMPACT UPON SQUAD AVAILABILITY. MIKE TINDALL HAS BEEN AWAY WITH ENGLAND AND ALASDAIR DICKINSON, RORY LAWSON, SCOTT LAWSON AND ALASDAIR STROKOSCH WERE ALL NAMED IN SCOTLAND'S PROVISIONAL SQUAD.**





## PLAYER PROFILE: FREDDIE BURNS

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

#### WHAT'S THE FIRST GAME YOU REMEMBER WATCHING?

I think the first ever game of rugby I watched was Bath versus Treviso in the Heineken Cup down at the Rec going back a few years when me and a couple of mates climbed onto the clubhouse roof to watch it.

#### WHO IS YOUR SPORT'S BEST PUNDIT?

Anyone bar Brian Moore really!



#### WHO'S GOT THE FLASHIEST MOTOR AT THE CLUB?

Definitely Big Les, that's just an outrageous motor. I've Carlos has quite a nice new one but I haven't seen it yet.

#### WHO'S THE BEST DRESSER IN THE PLAYING DEPARTMENT? WHO'S THE WORST?

Tough one. Rory's quite a trendy guy but I'll try and change it up a bit – Los (Carlos) is quite a cool guy.



#### IF MONEY WAS NO OBJECT WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?

My parents wants to move house so I'll be a good kid and say that I'd buy their house off them.

#### WHICH CHARITIES DO YOU SUPPORT AND WHY?

I did give one of my England shirts to Phil Greenaway for Cancer Research and I also do stuff for Wooden Spoon.

#### BEST TRY YOU'VE EVER SCORED?

It has to be the one against Australia the other night. Probably not the best in terms of skills from my point of view but I think you could see how much it meant to me by my celebration!



#### CAN YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

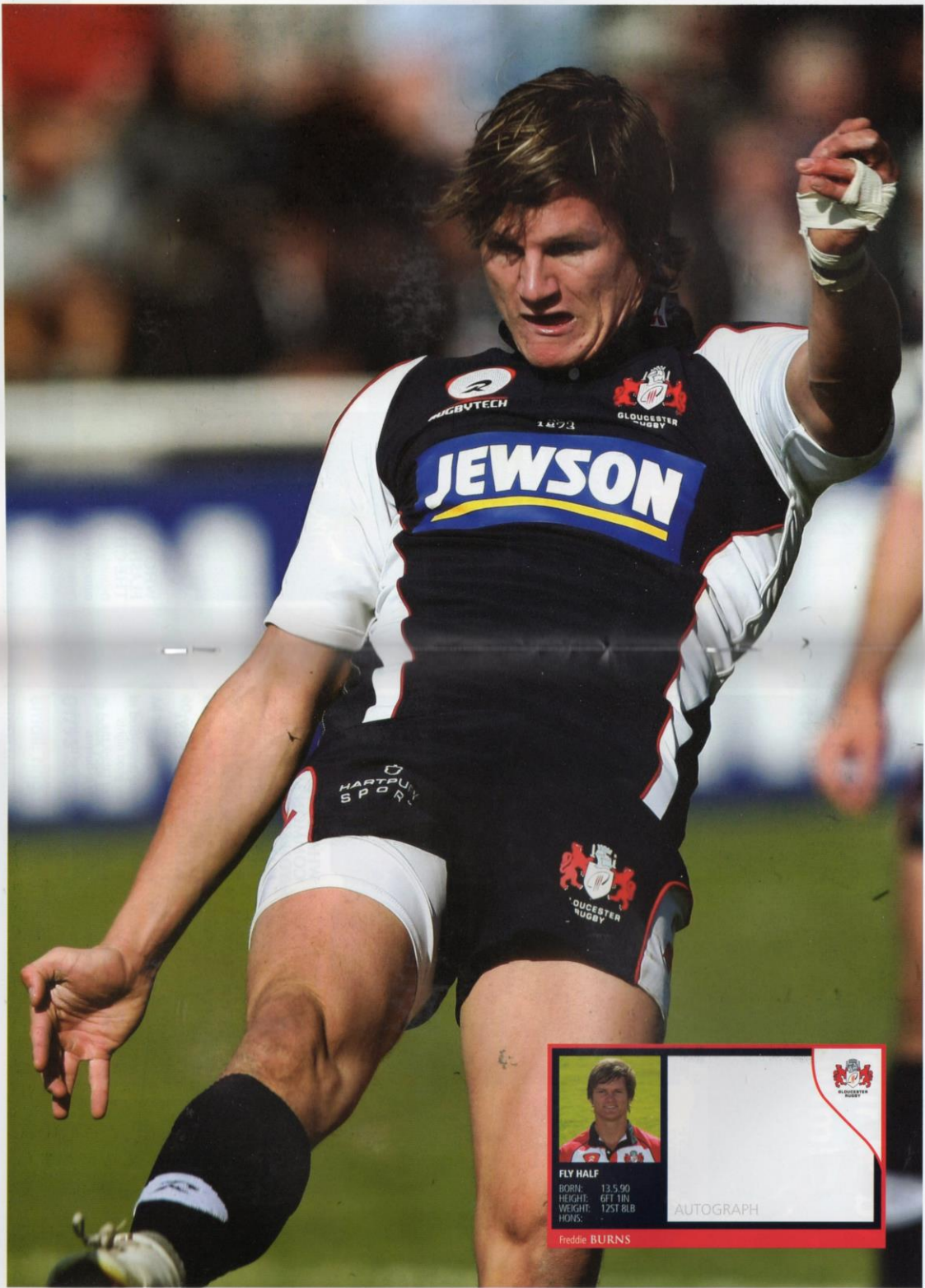
No, I'm useless. My brother can play guitar but I can't play anything.

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

I'll say JLS for the girls!

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

I was christened Freddie so Sinbad and Voycey, who are my gym partners, call me Frederick when they're trying to wind me up or get me going when I'm struggling a bit on the weights.



**FLY HALF**

BORN: 13.5.90  
HEIGHT: 6FT 1IN  
WEIGHT: 12ST 8LB  
HOVS:



AUTOGRAPH

Freddie BURNS



## PLAYER PROFILE: FREDDIE BURNS

### WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN RUGBY?

I've two really. Ollie Hayes who is down at Bristol is a really good friend of mine and also a lad in the Academy at Bath called Guy Mercer.

### DO YOU SUPPORT ANY OTHER SPORTING TEAMS?

Bath City football. I try and get down to Twerton when I can. And I also kind of follow Newcastle United.

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

I guess someone like Jonny Wilkinson. It's good to see him fit and playing regularly again.



### HAS SPORT EVER BROUGHT TEARS TO YOUR EYES?

Only when I was a lot younger and we lost a big game like a cup final.

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

I'd keep things pretty much as they are but I'm not a big fan of the playoffs. I think if you finish top at the end of the regular season then you should win it. We have the Heineken and LV= Cups to decide who are the best knockout teams.

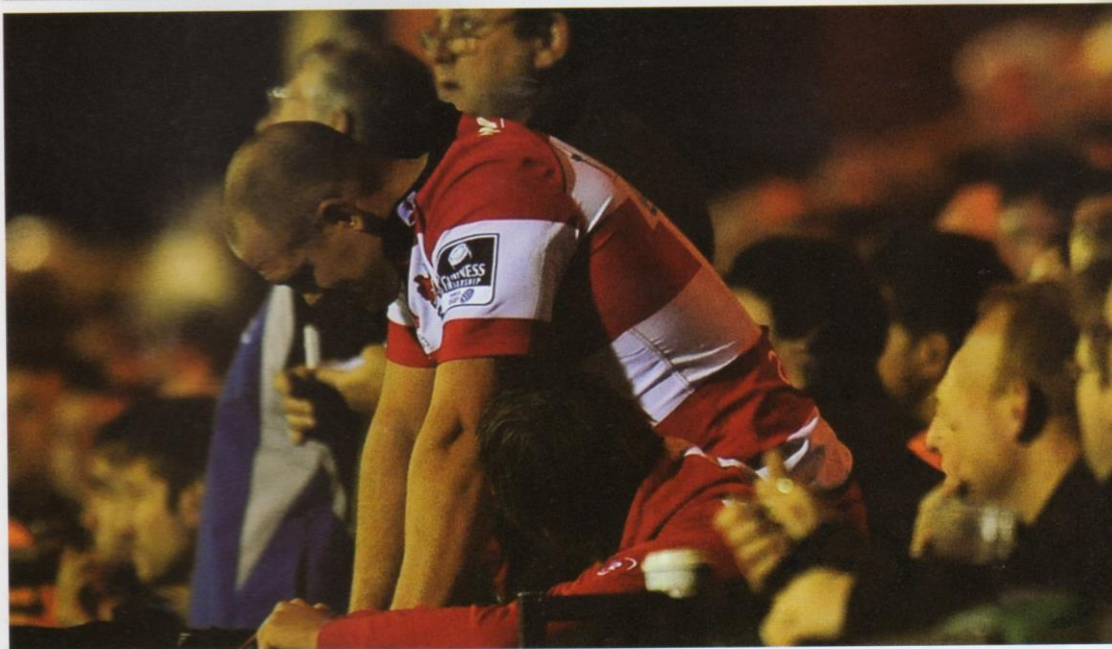
### WHAT'S THE MOST COMMON MISTAKE YOU SEE PEOPLE MAKE WHEN PLAYING YOUR SPORT?

Just basic catching and passing. It's the most basic mistake you see.

### WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE BEST NIGHT OUT?

I'm still only 19 so I haven't seen that much of the world but I've had a few good nights out in Magaluf but I think the best was probably in Buenos Aires in Argentina after the U18s Test Match.

## BOB FENTON'S KINGSHOLM NEWS



**IT'S November so it must be time for another competition to kick off, the Anglo-Welsh - or LV= Cup.**

Once again we are in a group with a mixed bag of teams, once again I have no clue how it is all going to work.

I'm guessing that it is pretty much the same as last year, but with the teams shuffled up a bit. Given the weekend number of call ups to the international teams and the pressure of the respective championships and Heineken Cup fixtures, it's no real surprise that many coaches use this competition as something of a proving ground for younger members of their squads.

I'm not saying that's a bad thing as it gives them a bit of meaningful game time and gives supporters the chance to see some of the young talent at the clubs that they

may not see otherwise.

I do wonder about the ever-changing structure of the competition though. With the amount of rugby being played these days I'm pretty sure that the players and coaches yearn for the olden times of a straightforward knock-out tournament.

I have to say I prefer that, it seems to work well enough for our roundball cousins in their domestic competitions, and as I recall, we didn't do so bad not so long back...

Still, we are where we are and the competition organisers are not going to pay too much attention to me, but I can't for the life of me work out how there are only four clubs in Wales that qualify for this thing.

Surely we would be better getting

a few more clubs involved from the other side of the ditch, that way they could get a few more quid in their coffers without it all going to the same ones?

But today it's Cardiff, a club we came up against in the last act of this trophy last season. You'll notice that I didn't say 'played' just then, because I'm pretty sure we didn't get much of a chance to play.

They swarmed all over us in a one sided horror show. Some bloke called Nicky Robinson was playing for them that day and he had more than a hand in our destruction, I wonder where he is now? So today is a pretty good chance for some revenge, if nothing else.

I actually think that this competition has come at a pretty good time for us this year. I'm not going to give away many secrets when I say that



it has been a bit of a struggle so far this term, so this competition gives us a chance to take a break from the intensity of the premiership and get a few broken players back together and take the opportunity to rest a few more.

Speaking for myself I do find some of what is being said and written about our present position a little over the top. Of course it's not great at the moment and I wish it was different, but I don't think you can fault the effort or commitment of any of the players or coaches, or their will to succeed at this club.

Of course we would all, to a man, make superb coaches ourselves, that is a given. For a start we would not have to contend with a horrific injury list, or the fact that one or two players have transgressed the laws and have been handed an enforced holiday from the action from time to time.

We would not have to worry about budgets or salary caps, and money would be no object in getting a few new players in from somewhere whenever the situation demanded it.

But unfortunately the real world isn't like that. Looking back a few weeks I think we all knew that we were going into the season with a lighter squad than we had last term, or perhaps for a good few years.

However we all know that we

have a number of quality players who would grace pretty much any professional club so we're hardly scraping the barrel. The problem seems to be getting them all on the pitch at the same time.

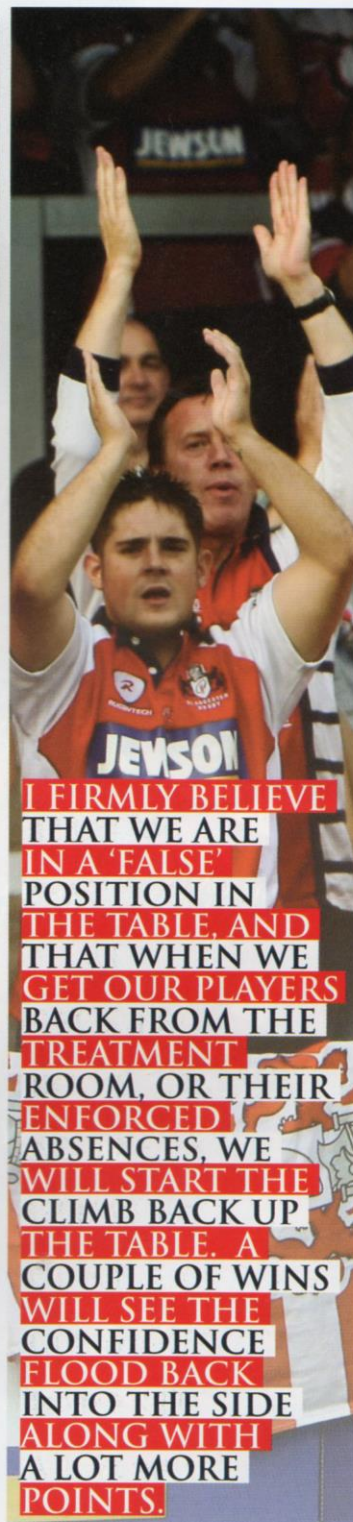
If you had been asked to write your opinion of the best starting line up for a Premiership match it's a pretty fair bet that Olly Morgan, Mike Tindall, Alex Brown, Olly Azam, Luke Narryway et al would have figured in it somewhere.

To my recollection we have not yet been able to field what would probably be the first choice team in a match yet, so it's not that surprising that things are not all rosy in the garden.

I'm not knocking anyone's right to criticise here, you pay's yer money you has yer say – and that's fair enough. But calling for sackings after seven games... Is that really fair???

I firmly believe that we are in a 'false' position in the table, and that when we get our players back from the treatment room, or their enforced absences, we will start the climb back up the table. A couple of wins will see the confidence flood back into the side along with a lot more points.

Anyway, now that I have fallen out with loads of people I'm going to go into hiding (or a seat) for today's game.



**I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WE ARE IN A 'FALSE' POSITION IN THE TABLE, AND THAT WHEN WE GET OUR PLAYERS BACK FROM THE TREATMENT ROOM, OR THEIR ENFORCED ABSENCES, WE WILL START THE CLIMB BACK UP THE TABLE. A COUPLE OF WINS WILL SEE THE CONFIDENCE FLOOD BACK INTO THE SIDE ALONG WITH A LOT MORE POINTS.**

# DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY



**NEWS** of two of our former players. Our former captain in the early days of professional rugby was Dave Sims and the lock forward is still playing and coaching. Despite the fact that he led Taunton to promotion last season he declined to follow his charges into a new division. Dave felt it would be a step too far at his age and took up a similar role with Wellington in the Tribute Cornwall and Devon League.

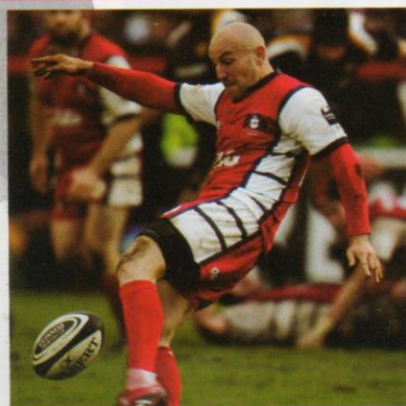
Our former Australian centre Richard Tombs is now a general manager for a small Swiss orthopaedic company in Australia selling knees and hips! Richard now plays a casual over 35's soccer. Reflecting on his three year spell at Kingsholm recently he said, 'I loved it, it was great playing at Gloucester'. Richard last visited the United Kingdom last May.



**A DILEMMA** faces Bath, Harlequins and Sale along with Northampton when they qualify for the Heineken Cup. Under new regulations introduced by ERC this season, all quarter final venues must have a minimum capacity of 15,000. This season London Irish, Leicester and ourselves did not face this crisis as all three clubs play at venues with a capacity in excess of 15,000.

**THE WINNER** of this season's Championship are deprived of a bumper pay-out this season. Under former rules the club that finished top of the old National One would received a £750,000 compensation package from the RFU if they were unable to take their place in the Premiership. This did occur in 2002 when National One Champions Rotherham were unable to replace Leeds due to their Clifton Lane ground being deemed inadequate.

**FORMER** Kingsholm favourite Ludovic Mercier is still playing for Italian club Petrarca. That unerring accuracy with the boot has still not deserted the well travelled Frenchman. Penalties, conversions and dropped goals are still being put to the test for his Italian club. A man with a still mighty boot! Ludo recently recorded his 431st point in the second tier European competition.





**MOSELEY** who have two of our former players in Ian Smith and Don Caskie at the helm are hoping to increase the capacity of their Billersley Common ground to 7,500. A decade has passed since they sold their famous old stadium at The Reddings. After flirting with the University ground they moved to Billersley in 2005. They still have money in the bank from the sale of their original ground thought to be in the region of £1.2m.

**HAVE** you noticed the various names to grounds of clubs who play in National League One? They are certainly diverse! Blackheath play at Rectory Field, Blaydon at Crow Trees, Cambridge at Grantchester Road, Cornish All Blacks at Polson Bridge, Esher at Pillar Data Arena, Nuneaton at Liberty Way, Otley at Cross Green, Sedgley Park at Park Lane to name a few.

**BISHOPS STORTFORD RFC** in Hertfordshire have had a new RFU funded drainage system installed. The £59,000 project comprised of £35,000 from RFU's Capital Facilities Investment Programme. Previously the club received an RFU Community Club Development Programme grant of £30,000 towards their new training floodlights in 2006.

**HOW** demoralising it must have been for the Manchester Club players at the onset of this current season. In their opening two matches in their National One campaign they conceded no fewer than 243 points and failed to open their own account.



**OH DEAR!** At the beginning of September when Saracens entertained Northampton at Wembley, New Zealand entertained South Africa in Hamilton in the Tri-Nations. Well, the Guinness Premiership tussle attracted more spectators than the Southern Hemisphere international! Perhaps the intended inclusion of Argentina into a four nation tournament in 2012 will add spice to an event that has lost its appeal.

When Saracens staged their Premiership match with Northampton at Wembley last September it was widely believed to have cost in the region of £300,000 to hire the stadium along with organising various events which included Diversity, the 'Britain's Got Talent' winner.

# PETER ARNOLD'S GLOUCESTER TALK



## KEEP THE FAITH

**ALL right, so things aren't going well at the moment. So what else is new? Some of us have seen it all before. More than once in fact.**

Things weren't easy in the first few years of the professional era, either. In those days we didn't bother about whether we were going to win the Premiership: the worry was that proud Gloucester was going to be relegated. On at least two occasions we weren't sure that we were safe until the last match of the season.

But we kept the faith. We supported the lads through thick and thin, went to away games in droves, and shouted our heads off all through the game at Kingsholm.

Oh sure – we complained. We

criticised the club management, moaned about the coaching, and soon let a player know if we didn't think he was good enough. Which didn't stop us cheering if he changed our minds for us.

I remember one guy, who hardly missed a match and used to stand somewhere under the clock. His mantra was to shout, every ten minutes or so, "Sell 'em all and buy one good 'un!"

And I mean, every ten minutes. Right through the game until the final whistle. He didn't leave half way through. He didn't chicken out by walking out on the guys just when they needed his support most.

It's easy to support a team when they are winning everything. The measure of a good supporter is how he (or she) acts when everything appears to be going down the pan.

By all means moan and complain – in the press if it makes you feel better – but hold your ground and stay put during the match itself.

If you feel bad after a game, think how the players must feel. It's their livelihood after all, and many of them have families to support. On top of that, they have their own pride, even if, or perhaps especially if, depression after a poor performance prevents them from showing it.

So do we. We have the reputation of being the most loyal and committed supporters in the country. How do you think the telly audience considers us if they see a stream of fans slinking out of the ground with tails between their legs before all is done and dusted?

So keep the faith. Stand your ground. Show everyone, especially

**SO KEEP THE FAITH. STAND YOUR GROUND. SHOW EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY THE PLAYERS, THAT WE ARE GLOUCESTER. AND AREN'T GOING TO BE PUT DOWN HOWEVER STORMY THE WEATHER SEEMS FOR A WHILE.**

the players, that we are Gloucester, and aren't going to be put down however stormy the weather seems for a while.

It'll all come right in the end, you'll see.

### GOOD PROGRESS, COULD DO BETTER

**JUST** maybe, that process has started. The Sale match, played at the notoriously difficult Edgeley Park, gave us much to be encouraged about. All right, so we lost, thanks largely to the boot of our old nemesis, Charlie Hodgson. What is it about him? He just never seems to miss a kick when he's facing Gloucester, but even by his standard, seven out of seven is rubbing it in a bit.

Had it not been for that, we could well have won. To lose Mike Tindall and Andy Hazell to injury early on was bad enough. But to see Charlie Sharples sent off before half time on top of that would have knocked the stuffing out of many sides.

Not so Gloucester. The boys got stuck in, never gave up, and although condemned to playing most of the game with fourteen men, they outscored the Sharks by three tries to one.

On the down side, we were still dropping the ball too often, and giving away too many penalties, but nevertheless the match must have put some heart into the lads, and convinced them that they are capable of winning some good matches.

I don't think I'm taking a rose-coloured-spectacles view, but of



course, I could just be biased, and I make no apology for that.

### FAREWELL SHEP

**YOU** will, I'm sure, have been saddened by the news of the death of cricketer David Shepherd. He was one of the finest servants Gloucestershire ever had, and after he retired, became acknowledged as the best umpire in the world. His large, rotund frame was a familiar figure all over the planet.

I got to know him reasonably well in his playing days, and I'm here to tell you that he was one of the nicest blokes who ever walked, with a friendly smile for everyone. Although his name will always be linked with Gloucestershire, he was, of course, a Devonian. A fact he betrayed every time he opened his mouth. You could always tell when Shep was around, simply by hearing that rich Devon accent sounding around the bar.

We're all sad to see him go, but why should I mark the passing of a Devonian cricketer in the pages of the Gloucester Rugby Club match programme? Thereby hangs a tale.

He was in a group of us at the old Gloucester Cricket Festival in the happy days when it was played at what I still persist in thinking of as the Wagon Works Ground. Someone mentioned rugby and, in the ensuing conversation, it became obvious that Shep knew quite a bit about the game. We asked him if he ever played.

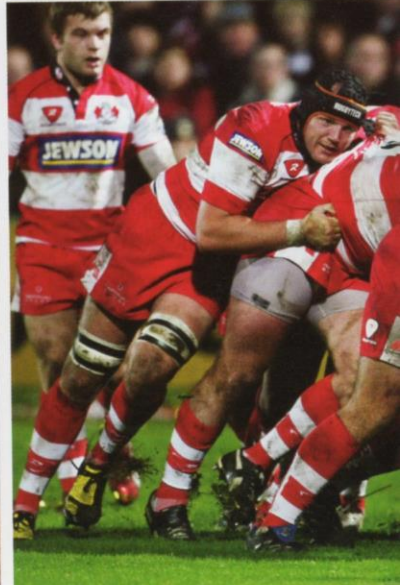
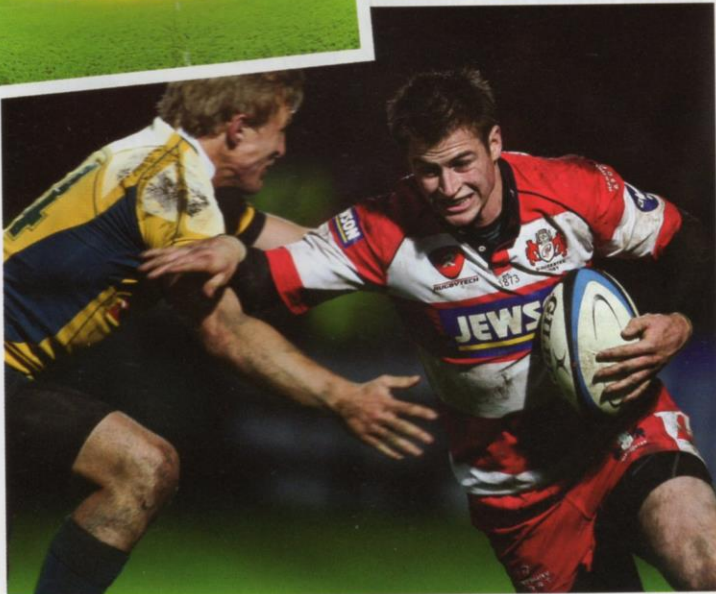
"Oh yes!" he replied "In my young days I used to turn out for Bideford". We could quite see that and remarked that his considerable size and weight would be an asset to any pack,

He grinned and explained. "Perhaps I would, but in fact I used to play scrum-half!!"

There was nothing to say to that.

WALLABIES GAME

# IN PICTURES vs. AUSTRALIA



052// GLOUCESTERRUGBY.CO.UK





FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2009 / 19:45 KO



SALE SHARKS

28



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

23

## COACH'S COMMENTS

*"To play with 14 men for 50 minutes and still outscore them by three tries to one, I'm delighted."*

*"There has been a lot of criticism thrown our way over the last couple of weeks - and in some aspects quite rightly so - but I've never doubted the players' ambition or passion to play for Gloucester."*

## KEY MOMENT

Gloucester were well and truly in the game at 13-8 when referee Wayne Barnes seemed to give a harsh offside penalty against the forwards. Sale fly half Charlie Hodgson kicked the penalty and, when Charlie Sharples was red carded for tackling a man in the air from the restart, the complexion of the game had changed completely.



**The record will show that Gloucester lost to Sale Sharks at Edgeley Park on Friday October 30th by 28 points to 23.**

What is difficult to convey in mere black and white is the sheer guts and determination shown by a Gloucester side that had it all to do at half time.

Faced with a 16-8 deficit, reduced to 14 men following a red card to Charlie Sharples and with two of the most experienced players having already limped out of the action due to injury, the second half could have been a complete nightmare for Gloucester.

What followed was a performance

of real character that may have started out as an exercise in damage limitation but very nearly resulted in an unlikely but heroic comeback win.

At half time, a losing bonus point looked as though it would be an unlikely reward. When the final whistle blew, there was genuine disappointment that Gloucester's quest for victory had fallen just short.

In the end, Gloucester were kicked to death. Sale fly half Charlie Hodgson may have been discarded for the time being by England but he's still more than capable of doing a very good job at Guinness Premiership level.

**REDPATH'S SIDE GOT TO WITHIN A SCORE WITH THE GAME GOING INTO THE FINAL TEN MINUTES BUT HODGSON LANDED TWO SWIFT PENALTIES TO KEEP GLOUCESTER AT ARM'S LENGTH.**



Every time Gloucester transgressed within kickable range, Hodgson's boot duly delivered three points. The only miss of the evening was by centre Lee Thomas and that was from four metres inside his own half!

Hodgson's seven penalties were, unfortunately, more than a match for Gloucester's three tries on the evening, two of which were scored when the side was down to 14 men.

It was one try apiece in the first half as Tom Voyce's effort cancelled out that of Thomas but already Hodgson's kicking was starting to have an impact.

However, a huge effort in defence and much improved ball retention helped Gloucester to stay in touch as the second half ticked by.

Redpath's side got to within a score with the game going into the final ten minutes but Hodgson landed two swift penalties to keep Gloucester at arm's length.

Even then the visitors refused to lie down and Greg Somerville's late try kept a spark of hope alive, a spark which flickered until Gloucester's final attack broke down.

In the circumstances, it was a gallant effort and many positives can be taken from this and carried forward.

## THE TEAMS

### SALE SHARKS

MacLeod  
Cohen  
Thomas  
Tuilagi  
Vakacegu  
Hodgson  
Peel  
E Roberts  
M Jones  
Forster  
Cockbain  
Schofield  
Fearn  
Abraham  
Koyamailbole  
Kennedy

### REPLACEMENTS:

Kennedy for Tuilagi (12), Schwalger for M. Jones (53), Kerr for Forster (53), Gaskell for Cockbain (49), Seymour for Abraham (66), Ripol for Kennedy (53).

**NOT USED:** O'Donnell, Leck.



### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Voyce  
Simpson-Daniel  
Tindall  
Molenaar  
Vainikolo  
Robinson  
R Lawson  
Doran-Jones  
S Lawson  
Somerville  
James  
Attwood  
Strokosch  
Hazell  
Delve

### REPLACEMENTS:

Sharples for Tindall (15), Capdevielle for Doran-Jones (63), Dawidiuk for S. Lawson (76), Eustace for James (74), Qera for Hazell (38).

**NOT USED:** Thomas, Lewis, Spencer.

TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2009 / 19:45 KO



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 5



QANTAS WALLABIES 36

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY COMMENTS:

**Jake Boer:** "I think with respect to them, and they did take their chances, but I think we played all the rugby. We tried to play but we made too many basic errors and you can't get away with that at this level."

**Carl Hogg:** "It was frustrating because we had a lot of possession but we couldn't make the killer pass. We had a young team out there against an international team and they'll learn from the experience."



### KEY MOMENT

With fifteen minutes to go, Gloucester were still well and truly in the game at 17-5 and pressing hard. Step forward Drew Mitchell. The winger delivered a shuddering hit in his own 22 to jar the ball loose and was quickly on his feet to finish off the counter attack and shut the door on Gloucester's attempted comeback.

**If Australia needed a workout to get the flight from Tokyo out of their system before they take on England at Twickenham on Saturday, they well and truly got one against Gloucester!**

On a fantastic occasion at Kingsholm, the Qantas Wallabies were forced to dig deep before emerging with a 36-5 win against a gallant Gloucester outfit.

Kingsholm was packed to the rafters and the Gloucester faithful were in fantastic voice from the off. It was an atmosphere to savour.

The teams entered the field of play

through a flurry of Green and Gold and Cherry and White ribbons with pyrotechnics firing flames into the night sky and 30 mascots for company.

It was an entrance fit for gladiators and the two teams were quickly into action and it was no place for the faint hearted with some big hits from the opening kick off and a dust up amongst the forwards within the first ten minutes.

Australia had class throughout the side, there was no doubt of that and scored two clinically taken tries through Ryan Cross and Tyrone Smith. Cross' father, following the



**THE TEAMS ENTERED THE FIELD OF PLAY THROUGH A FLURRY OF GREEN AND GOLD AND CHERRY AND WHITE RIBBONS WITH PYROTECHNICS FIRING FLAMES INTO THE NIGHT SKY AND 30 MASCOTS FOR COMPANY.**



tour, had travelled by taxi from London to watch his son play so the score will have eased the pain on his wallet!

However, Gloucester scored a fine try of their own with the pack, who troubled the Wallabies' eight all evening, making the initial inroads before Carlos Spencer's floated cross kick was neatly gathered and offloaded by Charlie Sharples for Freddie Burns to gleefully score.

Trailing 17-5 at the break, Gloucester came out and took the game to the Wallabies in the second half pinning the visitors back into their own 22 and coming perilously close to scoring the second try but, to their credit, the Wallabies were in no mood to have their line breached.

The game was still in the balance with just 15 minutes to go but the Wallabies showed their class as they scored three late tries to kill off the



Gloucester challenge and give the scoreboard a harsh final outcome.

Gloucester deserve massive credit on the evening but the Wallabies showed how to finish and how to punish errors.

However, it was a night that will live long in the memory!

## THE TEAMS

### GLoucester RUGBY

Freddie Burns  
Charlie Sharples  
Henry Trinder  
Tim Molenaar  
Tom Voyce  
Carlos Spencer  
Dave Lewis  
Paul Doran-Jones  
Darren Dawiduk  
Pierre Capdevielle  
Will James  
Adam Eustace  
Jake Boer (C)  
Akapusi Qera  
Dan Williams

#### REPLACEMENTS:

Ben Phillips,  
Rupert Harden,  
Dave Attwood,  
Apo Satala,  
Jordi Pasqualin,  
Jonny May,  
James Simpson-Daniel



### QANTAS WALLABIES

Kurtley Beale  
Lachie Turner  
Ryan Cross  
Tyrone Smith  
Drew Mitchell  
Quade Cooper  
Luke Burgess  
Sekope Kepu  
Tatafu Polota-Nau  
Salesi Ma'afu  
David Dennis  
Dean Mumm  
Mitch Chapman  
Matt Hodgson  
Richard Brown

#### REPLACEMENTS:

Pek Cowan,  
Matt Dunning,  
Mark Chisholm,  
Wycliff Palu,  
Richard Kingi,  
Matt To'omua,  
James O'Connor.

# TODAY'S LINE-UPS



**Vs CARDIFF BLUES**  
SUNDAY 08/11/09  
KO 3:00PM

**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY**

**Vs CARDIFF  
BLUES**

## ALL TIME POINTS



**Ludovic Mercier** 852  
Matches: 69

**Mark Mapletoft** 742  
Matches: 61

**Simon Mannix** 537  
Matches: 52

**Henry Paul** 444  
Matches: 74

**Ryan Lamb** 351  
Matches: 55

## ALL TIME POINTS



**Ben Blair** 200  
Matches: 28

**Nicky Robinson** 87  
Matches: 22

**Tom James** 55  
Matches: 16

**Ceri Sweeney** 42  
Matches: 15

**Jamie Roberts** 40  
Matches: 21

PP FREDDIE BURNS

15

FULLBACK

CHRIS CZEKAJ *T*

JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

14

WING

RICHARD MUSTOE

HENRY TRINDER

13

CENTRE

GARETH THOMAS

TIM MOLENAAR

12

CENTRE

DAFYDD HEWITT *EVANS*

LESLEY VAINIKOLO

11

WING

DAFYDD JAMES

NICKY ROBINSON

10

FLY-HALF

CERI SWEENEY *PCPPCF*

RORY LAWSON

9

SCRUM-HALF

DARREN ALLINSON

PAUL DORAN-JONES

1

PROP

DARREN MORRIS

SCOTT LAWSON

2

HOOVER

RHYS WILLIAMS

GREG SOMERVILLE

3

PROP

TAUFA'AO FILISE

WILL JAMES

4

LOCK

DEINIOL JONES

DAVE ATTWOOD

5

LOCK

PAUL TITO (C) *miss*

ALASDAIR STROKOSCH *T*

6

FLANKER

SCOTT MORGAN *ng*

AKAPUSI QERA *B*

7

FLANKER

BEN WHITE *Southern DTLA*

GARETH DELVE (C) *T*

8

NO.8

XAVIER RUSH *T*

## REPLACEMENTS

16 DARREN DAWIDUIK  
17 YANN THOMAS  
18 PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE  
19 ADAM EUSTACE  
20 JAKE BOER  
21 JORDI PASQUALIN  
22 CARLOS SPENCER *PP*  
23 JONNY MAY

16 RHYS JAMES  
17 GARY POWELL  
18 JAMES DOWN  
19 JOSH NAVIDI  
20 RICHIE REES  
21 SAM NORTON KNIGHT  
22 GAVIN EVANS

## THE OFFICIALS

**REFEREE:**  
Rob Debney  
**ASSISTANT REFEREES:**  
Paul Dix and Don Helme  
**4TH OFFICIAL:**  
Mark Tovey