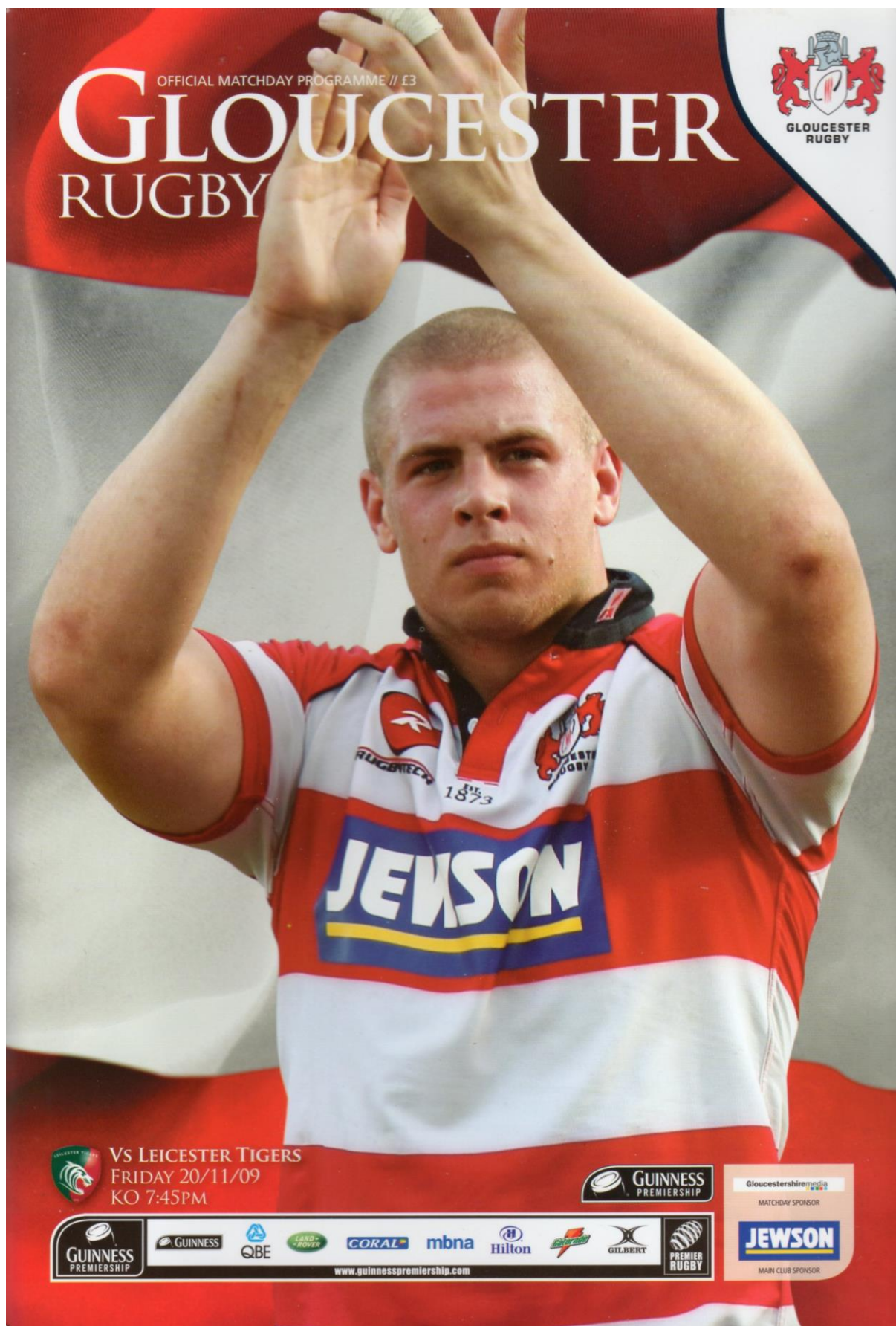


OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME // £3

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



Vs LEICESTER TIGERS
FRIDAY 20/11/09
KO 7:45PM



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GARETH DELVE CAPTAIN'S CORNER

WELCOME to Kingsholm this evening as we return to Guinness Premiership action after spending the past two weekends competing in the LV= Cup.

Every game we play is massive to us but the Guinness Premiership is our bread and butter and the next three matches are of huge importance especially as two of them are at home.

Since my last programme column, against the Cardiff Blues, we've been on the wrong end of the result in two really close matches.

On both occasions, there were moments when we genuinely thought that we were going to close out the win but, sadly, both games slipped through our fingers.

The last minute penalty kick against the Blues which condemned us to a one point defeat was the proverbial kick in the guts. But the Wasps game

last couple of games. But there are such fine margins between winning and losing at this level and two errors at Adams Park undid all the good work we put in.

However, there are positives from the past couple of games and it's crucial that we remain positive as we prepare for the Tigers tonight and the following games.

For example, it's been well documented that we've had a huge injury list at times this season and the physio room is still pretty well populated at the moment!

What this has done has opened up opportunities for some of our younger players. Paul Doran-Jones is a case in point. When he joined us, Paul was viewed as one for the future, someone who had been learning his trade in National League Division One and was ready to take the next step.

Paul will probably admit that he's had

Trinder and Jonny May have come in and done a great job in recent weeks.

They've done well but, that said, it's been good to see the likes of Peter Buxton, Olly Morgan and Nick Wood return. Alex Brown and Luke Narraway hopefully won't be too far behind them so things are looking up.

The last few weeks have been frustrating. We've lost some narrow ones but what better occasion to get back to winning ways than against Leicester tonight?

Enjoy the game!

I GENUINELY BELIEVE THAT WE'VE ACTUALLY CUT DOWN ON THE ERROR COUNT IN THE LAST COUPLE OF GAMES. BUT THERE ARE SUCH FINE MARGINS BETWEEN WINNING AND LOSING AT THIS LEVEL AND TWO ERRORS AT ADAMS PARK UNIDID ALL THE GOOD WORK WE PUT IN.

was just as painful because there were huge periods of that game when there was only one team in it and it still got away from us.

We're well aware that it's been errors costing us dearly in recent weeks. I genuinely believe that we've actually cut down on the error count in the

more opportunities than he might originally have expected at Gloucester but he's made the most of it and he's now the latest addition to our international ranks!

He's not the only one. Dave Attwood has been superb this season and young guys like Freddie Burns, Henry



GARETH BUTLER VIEW FROM THE CITIZEN

Speak to any professional sportsman and they will tell you what they do is all about taking chances. As they progress from level to level in the game, the big moments come along and those who are destined for the top save their best for those opportunities.

Injuries gave Gloucester prop Paul Doran-Jones his chance for England last week, and he took it with open arms. This is written before Martin Johnson's team was announced for New Zealand, and I hope Doran-Jones was in it, but even if he wasn't, he did enough last Saturday against Argentina to put him firmly on the international radar. At 23, he is now in the minds of the coaching staff as someone they can turn to. It will take a lot less of a crisis than the one that currently grips the front row for Doran-Jones to get the call up next time.

Much of that ability to take a chance is down to personality, and Doran-Jones has the right attitude. You could tell from the moment he touched down in Gloucester there was an air of confidence about him. It borders on the arrogance, and I'm sure many of the squad went home thinking 'just who is this upstart from National One' the first time they met him. But he talks with a passion about the game from a standpoint beyond his years, and he plays like it too. Doran-Jones is not arrogant, he knows where the line is in those terms and at the moment is just a boy living the dream – a boy with a very bright future.

Apart from the position they play, there are stark comparisons to be



...DORAN-JONES HAS THE RIGHT ATTITUDE. YOU COULD TELL FROM THE MOMENT HE TOUCHED DOWN IN GLOUCESTER THERE WAS AN AIR OF CONFIDENCE ABOUT HIM...

made between Doran-Jones and another new boy, Freddie Burns, another with confidence bordering on the arrogant but rarely on the wrong side of that line. He also has an ability to speak about the game with an authority beyond his years and is another who has taken the chance afforded him at Gloucester this season. I would go as far to say that, maybe Lesley Vainikolo aside, Burns has been

The Citizen



Gloucester's most dangerous-looking back. That may be more of a comment on what the others have produced, but it is also a compliment for Freddie, who, in a side with a somewhat blunt attack this season, has been a real bright spark, his 14 points against Wasps last week evidence of that.

There is one final name on the list of chance takers, and that

ATTWOOD WAS FAR AND AWAY GLOUCESTER'S BEST BALL CARRIER AGAINST WASPS LAST WEEK, AND AS THE STATS WILL PROBABLY SHOW HE HAS BEEN ALL SEASON.

is lock Dave Attwood. He is confident, probably not so near the arrogance line as the other two, but has certainly stood up and taken his chance so far this year. Attwood was far and away Gloucester's best ball carrier against Wasps last week, and as the stats will probably show he has been all season. None of the other Gloucester forwards have been able to break tackles like Attwood. He has gone quiet in some games, but for a young guy his presence has been a welcome one in a Gloucester effort struggling for form, consistency and ultimately victories.

Doran-Jones, Attwood and Burns are three players new to the squad this season. Three players who would have been nowhere near most fans' starting line-up before the competitive games began. But three players who have been given chances, initially through injuries, and taken them with open arms. Now, with everyone available, Attwood is a certain starter, Doran-Jones a probable starter and Burns at least a realistic alternative to Nicky Robinson and Carlos Spencer at fly-half, and a handy option at full-back where Olly Morgan has suffered yet more wretched luck with injuries this season.

So by all means curse Gloucester's luck with injuries, the reduction in squad size and the poor start to the campaign. But always remember, injuries mean opportunities for others to step up, and Gloucester have already found three gems this season as a result. Could the next one emerge from tonight's clash with Leicester? I hope so.

BRYAN REDPATH HEAD COACH

ON BEHALF of everyone at Gloucester Rugby I'd like to wish the players, staff and supporters of the Leicester Tigers a very warm welcome to Kingsholm this evening.

There's never any extra incentive needed when Gloucester come up against Leicester but the fact that Guinness Premiership points are at stake this evening will help focus the mind a little.

We've obviously been competing in the LV= Cup over the past two weekends and they have both been very competitive games with little to choose between the sides.

When you consider that the combined points deficit in those two defeats was a mere eight points, then you can see that it could very easily have been two wins from two and we'd be entering tonight's game smiling and with a spring in our step rather than grimacing.

Take into account the fact that we lost up at Sale Sharks by a single score in our last Guinness Premiership fixture and it becomes apparent how close we've been in recent weeks but that in a way makes the defeats all the more frustrating. Rugby at the highest level can be an unforgiving game. If you make an error and get away with it then you've been very lucky. And that was proved emphatically last weekend at London Wasps.

For a large part of the game, we were well on top and were playing some good rugby in the



right areas of the field.

What we had to do was carry on in that vein. Keep our half of the field clean by playing rugby in Wasps' half, avoid giving away penalties and deny them the chance to build any momentum.

Unfortunately, a couple of key errors resulted in them scoring two tries and we started to get penalised at the breakdown area. Wasps' game is all about momentum and, once they had it, they were in the driving seat.

We had some young players out there on Sunday and it's all part of their learning curve. Freddie Burns, for example, was excellent at 10

and he'll have learned a huge amount from the experience.

Our injury woes have been well documented but, if you can draw a positive from that state of affairs, it's that it's given game time to people like Dave Attwood and Paul Doran-Jones.

At the start of the season, they may not have expected to be playing every single week but they've risen to the challenge and deserve credit for that.

It's a good moment to add my congratulations to Paul for making his England debut against Argentina last weekend. He's worked incredibly hard since he



WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT THE COMBINED POINTS DEFICIT IN THOSE TWO DEFEATS WAS A MERE EIGHT POINTS, THEN YOU CAN SEE THAT IT COULD VERY EASILY HAVE BEEN TWO WINS FROM TWO...

arrived here in the summer and, as a coach, it's always gratifying to see your players develop and achieving international recognition is part of that.

That said, it was still good to be able to welcome back the likes of Peter Buxton, Olly Morgan and Nick Wood last weekend. You could see the positive impact they have upon the side and, hopefully, we'll welcome a few more back over the next couple of weeks.

If there is one team in the Guinness Premiership that will be able to identify with the issues we've faced in recent weeks in terms of injuries and players absent on international duty, it's Leicester.

They'll be without a number of their first team regulars this weekend but I'm sure that they'll still be able to field a fairly decent side this evening!

Only a couple of weeks ago, a Tigers side featuring a number of familiar names chalked up a 22-17 over South Africa so it's fair to say that they've got some strength in depth!

They kicked off their LV= Cup

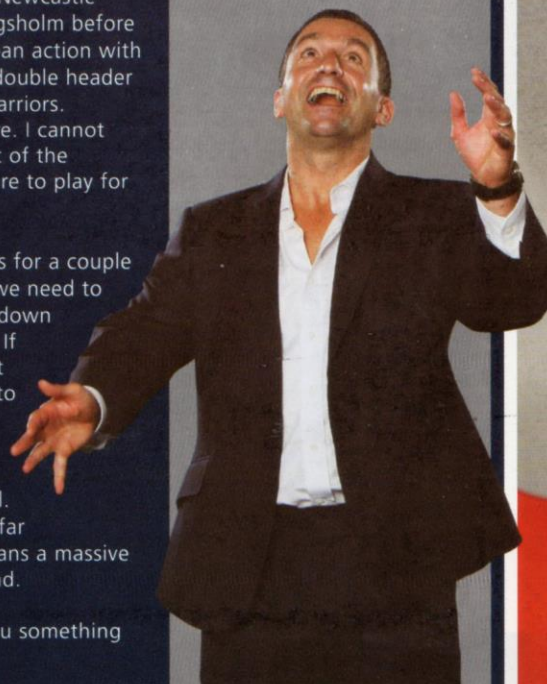
campaign with a defeat at Leeds Carnegie which will have dented their pride but they bounced back with a victory over the Newport Gwent Dragons last weekend, a game which saw Toby Flood return to playing action.

So, it's a big ask this evening. In fact, it's a big couple of weeks with a trip to Quins next weekend then we entertain Newcastle Falcons here at Kingsholm before returning to European action with the Heineken Cup double header against Glasgow Warriors. We are getting there. I cannot fault the work ethic of the players or their desire to play for Gloucester Rugby.

I've been saying this for a couple of weeks now but we need to play smart and cut down on our error count. If we can achieve that then we'll be back to winning ways.

Your support this evening will be vital. It's been superb so far this season and means a massive amount to the squad.

We hope to give you something to cheer about!





PLAYER PROFILE: DAVE ATTWOOD

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT'S THE FIRST GAME YOU REMEMBER WATCHING?

Frampton Cotterell vs Keynsham, my first ever game, I got red carded after 5 minutes for slide tackling and spent the whole game watching from the sideline!!

WHO IS YOUR SPORT'S BEST PUNDIT?

The inane clamourings of Stuart Barnes. I liken listening to him somewhat to watching "The Office".



WHO'S GOT THE FLASHIEST MOTOR AT THE CLUB?

Probably Les, although rumour has it that a blinged up champagne Vauxhall Omega is roaming the car park!



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

Rory Lawson is the best. The worst? Brownny (Alex Brown) has a running trainers/ jeans combo that reminds me of Ronnie Regan from Bristol a lot. Or possibly Tom Voyce – I'm not much into tweed and Barbours myself.

IF MONEY WAS NO OBJECT WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?

A Rolls Royce, so I could finally be driven around and have leg room!!! And Google - think of the Power!!!



WHICH CHARITIES DO YOU SUPPORT AND WHY?

The PRA benevolent fund and Great Western Air Ambulance were the main beneficiaries of a Charity cycle ride across Iceland I did in the summer.

BEST TRY YOU'VE EVER SCORED?

Forwards don't score tries, they make them!!!!

CAN YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

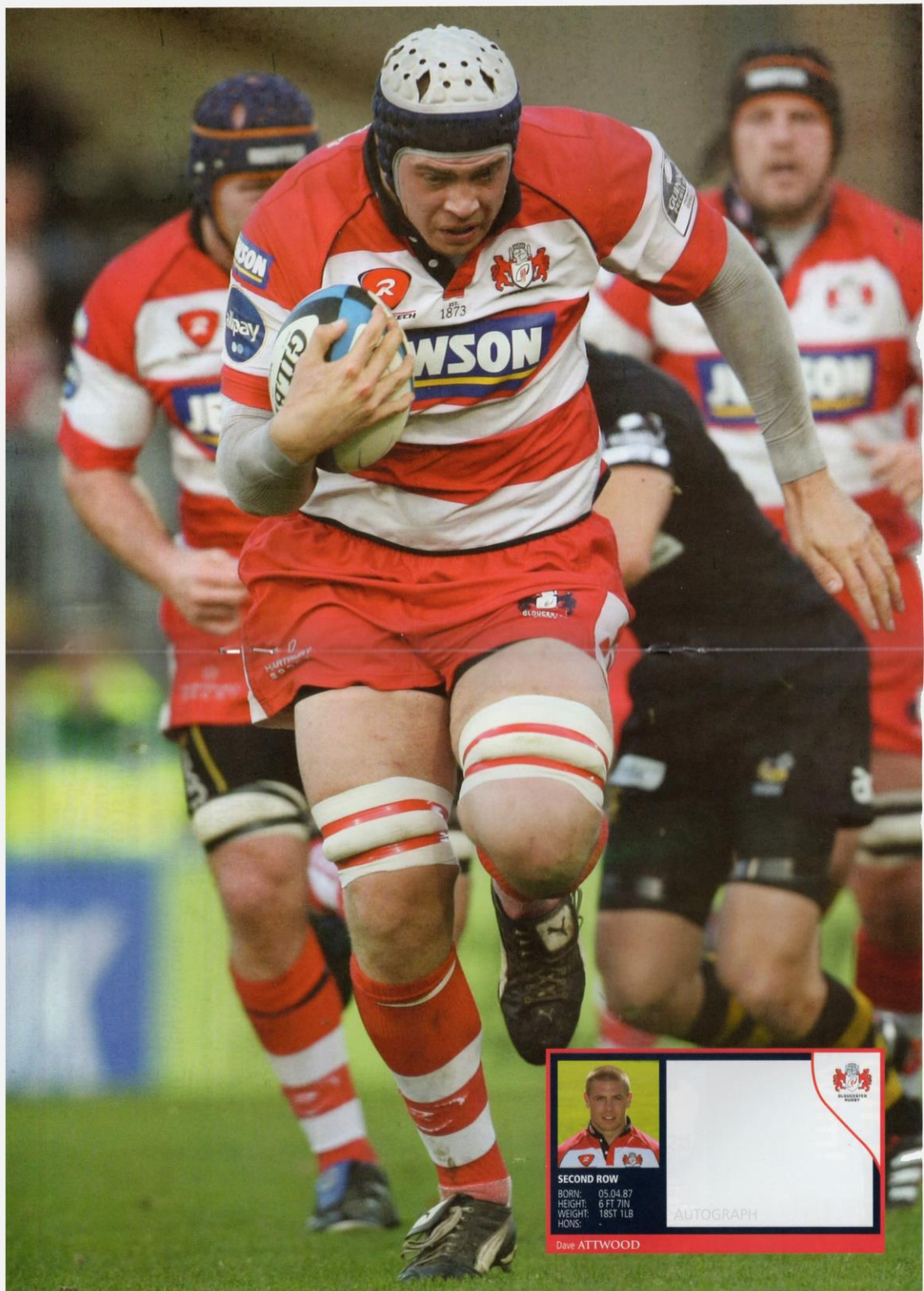
Does whistling count? I'm not very good but I can make a sort of noise when I want to!

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

Jedward, so I could take them down from the inside!!

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

Atts for obvious reasons or "Big Dave Attwood" thanks to the Commentator a few weeks ago!



SECOND ROW

BORN: 05.04.87
HEIGHT: 6 FT 7IN
WEIGHT: 185T 1LB
HONS: -

AUTOGRAPH

Dave ATTWOOD



DAVE ATTWOOD



PLAYER PROFILE: DAVE ATTWOOD

WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN RUGBY?

James Phillips down in Bristol is a really good friend of mine, or possibly Shaun Perry of Brive.

DO YOU SUPPORT ANY OTHER SPORTING TEAMS?

UBRUB Netball (university affiliation) or Canterbury Hockey Club.

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

Geraint Lewis, as someone who could never train for fear of his body breaking down, he could play some rugby!!



HAS SPORT EVER BROUGHT TEARS TO YOUR EYES?

Maybe a sneaky kick to the groin but not emotionally.

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

I would restrict the number of games in a season more rigidly. There are enough injuries as it is without cramming in more games!

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

Dropped balls - ten a penny and so frustrating!

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE BEST NIGHT OUT?

I've never been, but I'm desperate to get to Vegas for a few nights out!

BOB FENTON'S KINGSHOLM NEWS



BACK to the league action today, and they don't come much harder than Leicester. Recent form will suggest that this is going to be a horribly one sided affair with us being lucky if we manage to hang on long enough to come second.

Both sides will be shorn of key players, while Leicester will have a whole bunch on international duty, we'll have loads in the sick bay. In fact things are now getting so bad that I've heard rumours that the Government are about to investigate waiting times for the treatment rooms at Kingsholm!

We go into the game in the worst possible run of form, does that mean it's really all over? Well I don't think so. Yes I am an optimist, yes I did get a bit of stick for what I said in the last programme, and yes I still think

that we are in a false position courtesy of the decimation of the squad.

I know I will have banged on about this match in the past, but on April 8 1997 a Gloucester side played Leicester under the floodlights at Kingsholm. The Leicester side contained such luminaries of the game as Joel Stransky, Graham Rowntree, Richard Cockerill and Martin Johnson. Their captain was a bloke called Dean Richards and fellow England regular Neil Back wore the number seven shirt.

The Gloucester side was hardly full of household names. In fact you would have been hard pressed to find anyone outside Gloucester who could tell you who Mikey Peters, Errol Anderson or Nathan Carter were. According to the experts, we didn't have a prayer.

Except games under lights do funny things. Leicester had the all the first half but we destroyed them in the first quarter of the second, before the Tigers came back and smashed us all over the park.

Andy Stanley got crocked, told his captain – the great Dave Sims – that he needed to go off, only to be told in no uncertain terms that he had to stay on and fight. His club needed him. 'Stan' stood his ground.

Leicester went ahead by five points with minutes to go, only to see Phil Greening level the scores, burrowing over right in the corner in front of where the Shed bar is today. Mark Mapletoft kicked the conversion from the touchline – though if you ask him he will tell you he was standing in the Shed when he lined up the kick. No pressure!

It was never going to miss and as the ball split the uprights the celebrations were immense, the noise from the crowd deafening. We hadn't won a cup, we hadn't won the league – it was just another game. But a game where the underdog turned the tables, a day when the Gloucester dog showed its teeth.

And this is what we have to do tonight. If our coaches or players are looking for any kind of inspiration for tonight's game, sneak over into the Shed bar – don't have a few crafty ones, that wouldn't be good – and take a look at the big picture at the back of the room.

Look at the players; look at Phil Greening's big smiling face as he sprawled on the floor, the complete exhaustion and joy in equal measures etched onto the faces of Dave Sims and Simon Devereux et al.

That is the 'dog' we need to find today, summon up the spirit of 1997. We're one win away from turning our season around so why not get it when it is least expected? Get it against the most fancied team in the league and slam it back in the faces of people who want to write us off.

We have the squad, we have key players returning from injury. Maybe we are getting closer to putting out the first team we all wrote down in our heads at the start of the season.

And we have one more thing: we have the support. For time immemorial the Gloucester support has been legendary, lately it's been

quieter – and yes I know sometimes it's hard to get behind a team that is struggling and is low on confidence. But that is when they need us most.

So tonight, of all nights, let's earn the right to be called the '16th man'. If you can still speak tomorrow, you haven't tried hard enough.

Nurse! My sedatives, please...

Finally, here's a date for your diaries – a little way off so you have no excuse to not be there. On April 18th next year, the motley crew that make up the 'Team Shedweb' rugby squad will be picking their wits against the Cherrypickers in a rematch of last season's now infamous match.

This time the match will be played to raise money for Help 4 Heroes, and will – once again – be played at Widden Old Boys RFC. Just as last year the match will be followed by raffles and auctions, we've been promised all kinds of goodies so it'll be well worth coming along.

We are also hopeful of dragging in a few – well how can I put this – ringers to run out in the spectacular Shedweb XV shirts that 'Raging Bull' are sorting out for us. You really do have to be there, not least because of the cause we are supporting.

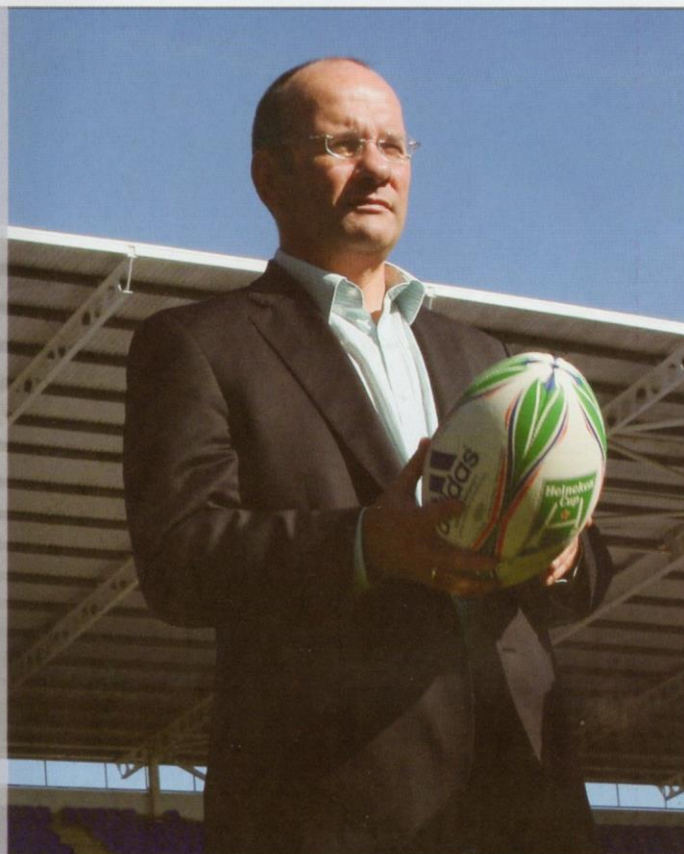
Details are still being finalised, and added to, by the day so I'll keep you updated on how things are progressing via the match day programme and, of course, via Shedweb itself.



DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

QUITE a profile to Mark Evans, the Harlequins Chief Executive. Mark was raised and educated in South Wales and eventually graduated from St John's College, Cambridge University. It was at Cambridge where he was awarded a degree in history and economics. Having completed a post graduate teaching course at the University of Bristol he spent the first fifteen years of his professional life with various state comprehensive schools in around London. His final destination within the realms of education was a six year period as First Deputy Head at Saffron Walden County High School in Essex.

Mark made over a century of 1st XV appearances for Saracens Rugby Club. He retired from playing to become the Club's Head Coach in 1993. When Rugby Union went professional in 1996, he was appointed Director of Rugby at Saracens. In 1998 the club won the Tetley Bitter Cup and were runners up in the league. In 2000 he joined Harlequins as Chief Executive. Although during this ten year tenure he has also been Head Coach and Director of Rugby.

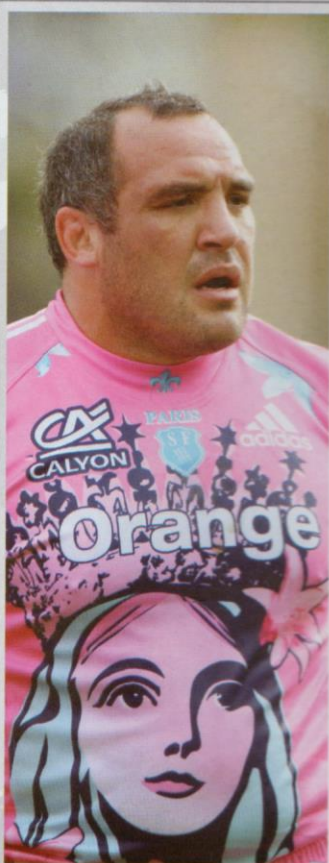


THE NAME Cyril Brownlie may not be prominent in the minds of the game's followers today. Yet for forty-two years he was the only player to have been sent off in an international match. He was given his marching orders by a retired first class cricketer! It was on 3rd January 1925 when England faced New Zealand. A record crowd of 60,000 including the Prince of Wales witnessed Albert Freethy from Swansea issue the dismissal. Colin Meads of New Zealand became the second player to receive a red card against Scotland.



HOW unpredictable are the French International teams? Well, they have lost eight matches against Romania; one of those was in Auch in 1990 with our former Director of Coaching, Philippe St Andre in the French side. They have lost away to Tonga in 1999. Other defeats have been encountered versus United States and amazingly Germany in 1927 and 1938, both matches staged in Frankfurt. Germany have actually appeared at Twickenham! They lost by 26 points to eight against Harlequins in 1956.

NIGEL MELVILLE, our former Director of Coaching, certainly took on a mammoth task when he moved to the United States, a fledgling country in terms of modern day universal recognition. Yet, rugby was introduced to the United States in 1870. They even won the gold medal for rugby in the 1920 and 1924 Olympic Games. However, the games popularity ceased and for fifty years the United States did not play international rugby!



THAT FAMOUS French club Stade Francais is in fact Stade Francais Club Athletique des Sports Generaux in its full name. Founded in 1883, their first championship final against Racing Club was refereed by Baronde Coubertin, the future founder of the Olympic Games.

THE HEAVIEST defeats inflicted in the game of rugby union in England have been of cricket score proportions. In a Midland Six West (South East) match Alcester defeated Coventry Saracens by 194 points to three last season scoring 32 tries in the process. This score line surpassed the previous English record set by Norwich against Eccles and Attenborough in 1996 when the East Anglian team won by 177 points to three! The strange part of the Alcester record was that they had only recorded a 29-3 victory at Coventry earlier in the season. The world record score is 350-0 set by French club Laverdec versus Vergt in 1984.

HOW STRANGE that it was not until 1987 that Rugby Union staged a World Cup. Soccer have been holding one since 1930, Rugby League since 1934 and cricket did so in 1975. The first tournament for Rugby Union began on 22nd May 1987, at Eden Park, Auckland between New Zealand and Italy in the first match. England's first match was versus Australia.



HOW outside pressures have affected Rugby Union! Race relations cast a blight on South African rugby in the latter half of the 20th century. Foot and Mouth disease in Great Britain, affected the Six Nations in 2001. The threat of the IRA meant the 1972 Five Nations was disrupted and therefore became the first championship not to be completed after Scotland and Wales refused to travel to Dublin to fulfil their fixtures.

PETER ARNOLD'S GLOUCESTER TALK



DARK DAYS

ONE thing about this season. It seems to be going quickly. Do you realise that, after today, we only have two more home games this year?

In the days before tractors and combine harvesters, when a cow's horn full of home-brewed cider was an essential component of the haymakers' wages, the old folk had a phrase for this time of year.

They used to talk about 'the dark days before Christmas' I don't suppose they were talking about rugby, but at Kingsholm this year, the phrase is singularly apposite.

Even the most sanguine of us, and I probably should count myself among that number, must admit that we have seen sunnier days.

Injuries, suspensions, loss of form, international call-ups... it seems that just about everything which could

go wrong has done so. But I mustn't say that too loudly, or the malignant fates which seem to be in control at the moment will find something else to shower upon us from a great height.

BRIGHT LIGHTS

WE could be in danger of falling into that most deadly trap of all: the expectation of failure. Let me give you an example.

In 2005, England's cricketers won back the Ashes on home soil. Barely two years later, they lost them again. In the interim the winning side had been disrupted by injuries and retirements, but the side which toured Australia wasn't that bad.

However, the tourists expected to lose, even before they left from Heathrow. They might not have known it themselves, but you could see it in their body language and hear it by reading between the

lines in some of their statements. Consequently, they got smashed by five matches to nil.

I'm not saying they would have won in any case, but they shouldn't have been thrashed like that. Now, I fear that Gloucester Rugby may be embroiled in the same snare. We've had some bad luck and some games which have only been lost by a whisker, but if the team's collective subconscious lets those things suggest that they're not going to win whatever they do, then they jolly well won't.

Last Sunday's Wasps debacle was a case in point. That match was, to all intents and purposes, done and dusted yet it was allowed to slip away. It was almost as if the team were afraid they might win.

I'm no sports psychologist - I'd be a lot richer if I were - but it seems to me that everyone should be concentrating on the positives, rather than allowing the negatives

ALLY STROKOSCH, I THOUGHT DID MORE THAN HIS CORNER IN THE SCOTTISH BACK ROW, WHILE AKAPUSI QERA WAS THE ABSOLUTE STAND-OUT PLAYER FOR FIJI, FOR MY MONEY.

to take root in the mindset.

To start with, if everyone is fit and available we could field a completely international side. Consider.

Morgan; Simpson Daniel, Fuimaono-Sapolu, Tindall, Vainikolo; Robinson, Lawson; Doran-Jones, Azam, Somerville; James, Bortolami; Qera, Strokosch, Delve. And we'd still have a few internationals left over, such as Brown, Spencer, Narraway, Voyce and Hazell.

All right, I know that doesn't guarantee a string of successes. But you have to admit that it's not a bad side. It wouldn't get smashed every time it ran out.

Of course, the side isn't getting regular thrashings now, and the best medicine of all would be to get a good win under the belt. Our margins of loss are very narrow, and one decent victory is possibly all we need.

You'd see some different performances then.

BRIGHTER LIGHTS

SO what else can I say to lift the gloom? It occurs to me that we did have three players in last weekend's international squads, and could well have had more.

The two Lawsons have a case for inclusion in the Scottish squad and, had not injury intervened, surely Olly Morgan, Mike Tindall and Luke Narraway would have been in the England reckoning.

Italy would have certainly been looking at Marco Bortolami. You don't get a menu like that from a squad of no-hopers.



As for the games themselves, I only saw the highlights of the England game, which almost sent me to sleep, and I'm not sure if Paul Doran-Jones got on or not.

Anyway, although I'm well aware that his presence in the squad is mainly down to England's own injury problems, but it's still a considerable achievement for a lad who was playing for London Welsh last season to make the list. The experience will have been invaluable to him, and who

knows? The lessons learned (if any) might rub off on us.

The Scotland-Fiji game, though not exactly a classic, was much more interesting from our point of view.

Ally Strokosch, I thought did more than his corner in the Scottish back row, while Akapusi Qera was the absolute stand-out player for Fiji, for my money.

Well done, Q! You did us proud.

vs LEICESTER TIGERS //051



SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2009 / 15:00 KO

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY 25****CARDIFF BLUES 26****COACH'S COMMENTS**

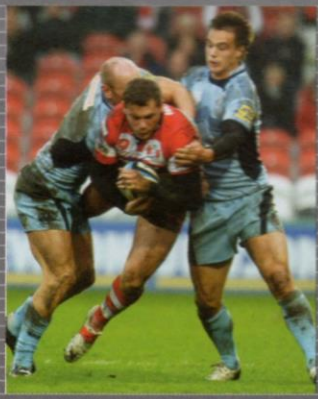
"One of the things we talk about is if we create problems, we create points. When we go outside of that and go on our own agenda we cut our own throats and it has been happening too long."

There is no excuse culture, you can't hide from it, it is as clear as night and day. We made two set-piece defensive errors."

KEY MOMENT

Gloucester weren't exactly cruising with a 13-3 lead after half an hour played but they were certainly good value for that lead after a good period of play

But when Xavier Rush smashed through Gloucester's midfield defence like a sky blue clad wrecking ball to score under the posts, the Blues were back in the game largely against the run of play.



Gloucester Rugby and the Cardiff Blues, both missing many of their big names, went toe to toe on a damp and gloomy Sunday afternoon at Kingsholm with the Welsh region snatching the win thanks to Ceri Sweeney's last minute penalty.

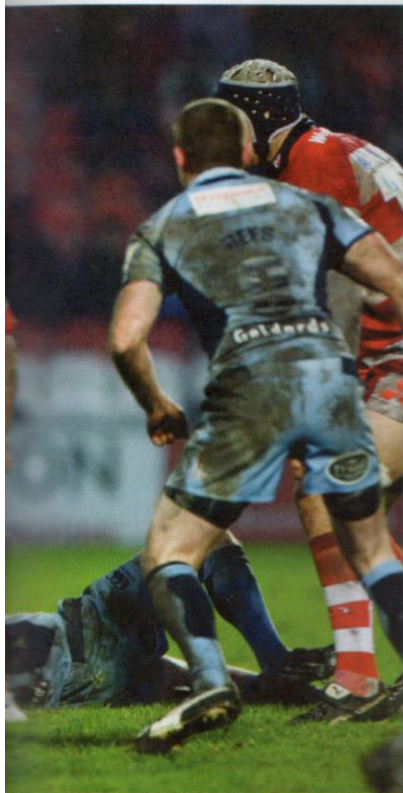
On a day when many Bonfire Night displays were taking place up and down the country, there were few fireworks on display but the two sides managed to serve up an entertaining afternoon of rugby in less than perfect conditions with heavy rain having fallen at Kingsholm for most of the day.

Whilst the Blues will be happy with the victory, Gloucester will be hugely frustrated not just at losing the game in the last minute but at the way they failed to capitalise on a ten point lead in the first half.

For a twenty minute period in that first half, it looked as though Gloucester's recent ill fortune had changed for the good as two tries in two minutes capped a spell when everything went right for the home side.

However, even in the build up to that second score, fly half Nicky Robinson, who to that point had

FOR A TWENTY MINUTE PERIOD IN THAT FIRST HALF, IT LOOKED AS THOUGH GLOUCESTER'S RECENT ILL FORTUNE HAD CHANGED FOR THE GOOD AS TWO TRIES IN TWO MINUTES CAPPED A SPELL WHEN EVERYTHING WENT RIGHT FOR THE HOME SIDE.



been going well against his former club, pulled up with a groin injury.

With Gloucester hoping to move further clear, Xavier Rush's try out of the blue well and truly turned the tide and the game was then turned over to the kickers with Carlos Spencer, Freddie Burns and Ceri Sweeney all trading penalties.

Sam Norton-Knight's try on the hour was another score from first phase that the Gloucester defence will be kicking themselves about when they study the match DVD in detail but Carlos Spencer was in the mood to inspire a



comeback as he embarked upon a series of mazy runs and kicked the penalties which nudged his side back in front.

With less than a minute to go, Gloucester just had to keep the Blues at bay and seemed to be doing just fine until a hand sneaked into a ruck on the 10m line and held onto the ball for just a fraction too long.

Ceri Sweeney never looked as though he was going to miss and Gloucester were left to reflect on a defeat that really should have been a win.

THE TEAMS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Burns
Simpson-Daniel
Trinder
Molenaar
Vainikolo
Robinson
R. Lawson
Doran-Jones
S. Lawson
Somerville
James
Attwood
Eustace
Strokosch
Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

Satala for Burns (61),
May for Simpson-Daniel (54),
Spencer for Robinson (19),
Capdevielle for Doran-Jones (41),
Qera for Strokosch (42).

NOT USED: Dawiduk, Thomas, Pasqualin.



CARDIFF BLUES

Norton-Knight
Mustoe
G. Thomas
Evans
Czekaj
Sweeney
Rees
Morris
R. Williams
Filise
Jones
Morgan
White
Sowden-Taylor
Rush

REPLACEMENTS:

D. James for Evans (67),
Hobbs for Morris (44),
Navidi for Sowden-Taylor (48),
Down for White (79).

NOT USED: R. James, Andrews, Allinson, Flanagan.



SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2009 / 15:00 KO



LONDON WASPS 21



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 14

COACH'S COMMENTS

"We are cutting our own throats with poor decisions and mistakes."

"I can't fault the desire or the work ethic. But we could help ourselves by sticking to what we set out to do."

"We try to become too positive when we need to start off a bit negative to create a foundation."

KEY MOMENT

Gloucester were deservedly leading 14-3 in front and seemingly on their way to victory thanks to two converted tries from Freddie Burns.

Gloucester really needed to maintain the lead for a while and keep Wasps at bay but conceded a try to Tom Varndell almost immediately to let the home team back into the game and seize the momentum.

A week after opening their LV= Cup campaign with a home defeat to the Cardiff Blues thanks to a last minute penalty, Gloucester lost a close one at Adams Park against London Wasps in the same competition.

The loss against the Blues hurt deeply but this one was equally as painful because Gloucester had been so dominant for the first 50 minutes and looked well set for the win.

The superiority in the first 50 minutes was based on a superb effort up front from the pack. The Wasps scrum was reduced to such

a shambles that both their props were gone by half time. One of them seemed genuinely injured but the other seemed to be taken off to spare him further humiliation.

In addition, the intensity of Gloucester in defence well and truly disrupted Wasps' momentum. Time and again, the Wasps ball carrier was smashed back in the tackle or a turnover created.

Playing on the front foot and quick ball gave Freddie Burns the platform he needed and the young fly half constantly asked questions of the home defence.



PLAYING ON THE FRONT FOOT AND QUICK BALL GAVE FREDDIE BURNS THE PLATFORM HE NEEDED AND THE YOUNG FLY HALF CONSTANTLY ASKED QUESTIONS OF THE HOME DEFENCE.



Perhaps the only negative of the first half was that Gloucester had been so on top and yet only led by 7 points to 3. A Wasps fightback, following what was sure to be a heated half time team talk, was inevitable.

But, when Burns took advantage of some slack Wasps defence, to extend the lead to 14-3 shortly after the restart, Gloucester took a massive step in the right direction.

However, a mere fifteen minutes later, Gloucester were huddled under their own posts watching Dave Walder slot the conversion that took Wasps in front.

Two mistakes had led to two tries for the home team and Wasps had taken a lead that they would not relinquish. The tide

had turned and Gloucester were powerless to respond.

Cardiff had been a game of nip and tuck with neither team able to really take a decisive lead. This defeat was possibly more disappointing as Gloucester had been so on top but still finished second best.

There were positives. Burns obviously showed huge potential for the future whilst Peter Buxton, Olly Morgan and Peter Buxton all came back from injury. Dave Attwood had probably his best game in a Gloucester shirt as he marauded around Adams Park swatting aside would be tacklers.

Yet those errors continue to haunt Gloucester. They're small things but they're the difference between winning and losing at this level.

THE TEAMS

LONDON WASPS

Jack Wallace
Paul Sackey
Ben Jacobs
Lachlan Mitchell
Tom Varndell
Eoghan Hickey
Warren Fury
Charlie Beech
Joe Ward
Joe Horn-Smith
Simon Shaw
Richard Birkett
Daniel Leo
Will Matthews
Hugo Ellis

REPLACEMENTS:

Walder for Wallis (41),
Odejobi for Varndell (71),
Simpson for Fury (49),
Bocca for Beech (21),
Broster for Horn-Smith (37),
Veale for Shaw (62),
Hart for Ellis (56).

NOT USED: Whitehead.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Olly Morgan
Tom Voyce
Henry Trinder
Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
Jonny May
Freddie Burns
Rory Lawson
Nick Wood
Ben Phillips
Pierre Capdevielle
Adam Eustace
Dave Attwood
Peter Buxton
Apo Satala
Gareth Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

Molenaar for Trinder (64),
Spencer for Burns (55),
Lewis for R. Lawson (71),
S. Lawson for Phillips (61),
Harden for Capdevielle (71),
Williams for Attwood (66),
James for Buxton (55),
Thomas for Wood (49)

TODAY'S LINE-UPS



VS LEICESTER TIGERS
FRIDAY 20/11/09
KO 7:45PM

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

Vs

**LEICESTER
TIGERS**

**GUINNESS
PREMIERSHIP**



VOYCE **OLLY MORGAN**

TRINDER
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

HENRY TRINDER

TIM MOLENAAR

LESLEY VAINIKOLO

PDP
Burns **NICKY ROBINSON**

DAVE LEWIS

NICK WOOD

DARREN DAWIDUIK

GREG SOMERVILLE

WILL JAMES

DAVE ATTWOOD

PETER BUXTON

JAKE BOER

GARETH DELVE (C)

15 **SCOTT HAMILTON**

14 **LOTE TUQIRI**

13 **ANDY FORSYTH**

12 **ANTHONY ALLEN** *min*

11 **MATT SMITH** *Timmer*

10 **JEREMY STAUNTON** *PDP*

9 **BEN YOUNGS**

1 **BORIS STANKOVICH**

2 **GEORGE CHUTER** *Davies*

3 **DAN COLE**

4 **GEOFF PARLING**

5 **BEN KAY**

6 **CRAIG NEWBY** *Duncan*

7 **BEN PIENAAR**

8 **JORDAN CRANE**

NO.8

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
1 Saracens	7	7	0	0	133	96	0	28
2 London Irish	7	5	1	1	176	80	3	25
3 Wasps	7	5	0	2	146	97	2	22
4 Leicester	7	4	1	2	122	97	2	20
5 Northampton	7	4	0	3	144	125	3	19
6 Newcastle	7	2	3	2	104	98	2	16
7 Sale	7	2	1	4	113	132	3	13
8 Harlequins	7	2	2	3	98	122	1	13
9 Worcester	7	2	0	5	110	127	3	11
10 GLOUCESTER	7	2	0	5	119	164	2	10
11 Bath	7	1	1	5	103	125	3	9
12 Leeds Carnegie	7	1	1	5	73	178	1	7

TOP POINTS SCORERS: 2009-2010

94	Jeremy Staunton	Leicester Tigers
86	Ryan Lamb	London Irish
67	Willie Walker	Worcester

TOP TRY SCORERS: 2009-2010

6	Sailosi Tagicakibau	London Irish
5	Tom Varndell	London Wasps
4	Jon Clarke	Northampton Saints

TOP PENALTY KICKERS: 2009-2010

27	Jeremy Staunton	Leicester Tigers
21	Ryan Lamb	London Irish
16	Willie Walker	Worcester

MOST APPEARANCES : 2008-2009

24	Chris Hala'ufia	London Irish
24	Richard Thorpe	London Irish
23	Steffon Armitage	London Irish

REPLACEMENTS

16	BEN PHILLIPS	0-3
17	PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE	3-3
18	YANN THOMAS	6-3
19	ADAM EUSTACE	9-3
20	DAN WILLIAMS	9-6
21	JORDI PASQUALIN	9-6
22	FREDDIE BURNS	12-6
23	TOM VOYCE	12-9

16	MEFIN DAVIES
17	ROBBIE HARRIS
18	JONNY HARRIS
19	CALUM GREEN
20	DAN HEMINGWAY
21	JAMES GRINDAL
22	TOBY FLOOD
23	WILL HURRELL

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE:
Sean Davey
ASSISTANT REFEREES:
Peter Huckle and Bruce Robertson
4TH OFFICIAL:
Greg Garner