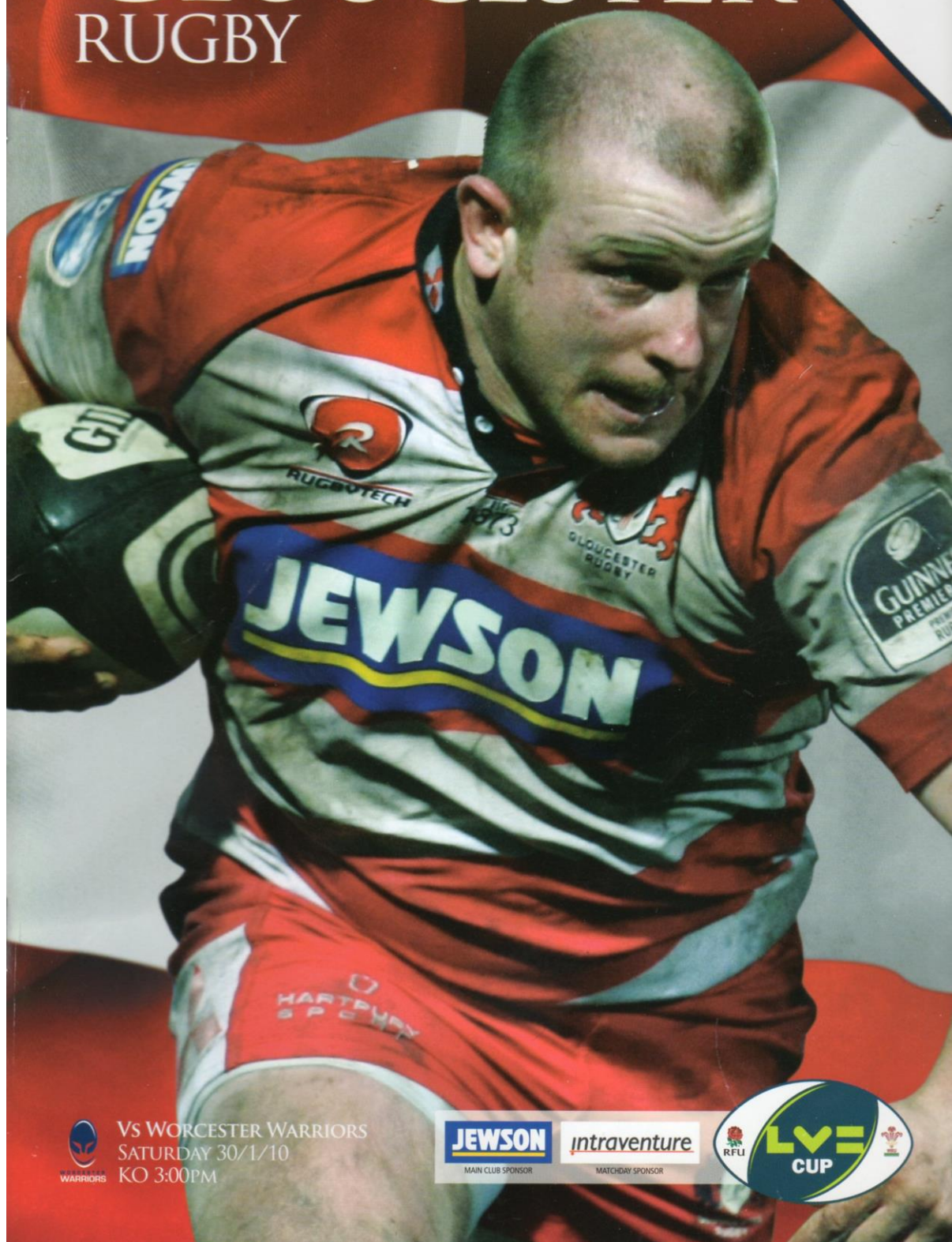


OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME // £3

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



VS WORCESTER WARRIORS
SATURDAY 30/1/10
KO 3:00PM

JEWSON

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MATCHDAY SPONSOR



GARETH DELVE CAPTAIN'S CORNER

IT'S a real pleasure to be writing these programme notes on the back of two good performances and two great wins for Gloucester Rugby in the Heineken Cup.

The last two weekends have shown exactly what we're capable of as a side which makes it a little frustrating that we haven't shown it on a few more occasions this season.

We went into the Biarritz game knowing that our European ambitions were hanging by a thread. The win over Glasgow prior to Christmas had got us back to a won two, lost two record but we were well aware that only victories over Biarritz and the Newport Gwent Dragons would keep us in the mix.

The first step was actually getting the Biarritz game on in the first place. Snow and ice had gripped the country and six inches of snow

tough proposition.

However, even though it took quite a while to break them down, I genuinely felt quite relaxed about how things were going. Some days, you just know that you're the better of the two sides and that if you stick to the game plan then you'll be ok and that proved to be the case.

There was a lot more pressure on us of course down in Newport last weekend because we knew that our fate was in our own hands if we could get a bonus point win.

That's always easier said than done! Winning on the road is never easy, whoever you're up against and defences are so well drilled in the modern game that you really have to work for your scores.

But, confidence is an amazing thing. We've been playing some good stuff in recent weeks. We've kept patient, retained

no panic and we got the job done. It's been a good couple of weeks. The various announcements have shown that the squad is shaping up for next season and 2009-10 is far from a write off for us just yet.

We're winning games, we're still in Europe and we'll be looking to climb the Premiership table.

Enjoy the game!

VARIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE SQUAD IS SHAPING UP FOR NEXT SEASON AND 2009-10 IS FAR FROM A WRITE OFF FOR US JUST YET.

on the Kingsholm pitch on the Monday before the game wasn't the most promising sign.

So, credit where credit's due. The stadium and ground staff put in an awesome effort that week clearing the pitch of snow not once but twice!

Biarritz were missing a few players, including our old friend Iain Balshaw, but were still a

possession and scored some good tries.

The half time score wasn't ideal after a good start but we knew that, if we tightened up and cut down on our errors, that we could damage them with our attack.

And, so it proved to be. There was a bit of a gap between the second and third tries when nerves could have begun to jangle but there was



GARETH BUTLER VIEW FROM THE CITIZEN

Ask the average Sheddite what they think is needed in a successful Gloucester side and a strong and balanced centre partnership would be pretty high on their list.

The modern era has seen several partnerships formed, but those which are given a chance to develop have often seen the most success.

Think Richard Tombs and Terry Fanolua or Anthony Allen and Mike Tindall – two partnerships which, at their height, were a lot of the reasons why the side were successful.

In the last home game against Biarritz a partnership which could become the next to drive Gloucester on to silverware took shape in the form of Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu and Tim Molenaar.

A returning Mike Tindall will of course have something to say about that, but there was a feeling at Kingsholm as the game wore on that a new era was being born.

Darting breaks from Fuimaono-Sapolu and simple direct running from Molenaar gave the game a shape and a balance that has rarely been seen this season.

Both men, who played alongside each other for New Zealand Universities on a tour of Japan, speak very highly of each other, with Fuimaono-Sapolu revealing Molenaar kept a certain Conrad Smith out of the All Black side on that tour. Smith now has more than 30 caps for his country.

"Tim Molenaar is class, absolute



"...YOU COULD SEE THE SKILLS HE HAD THEN AND HE'S ONLY GOT BETTER SINCE THEN. HE'S ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MIDFIELDERS IN THE GAME."

MOLENAAR ON FUIMAONO-SAPOLU

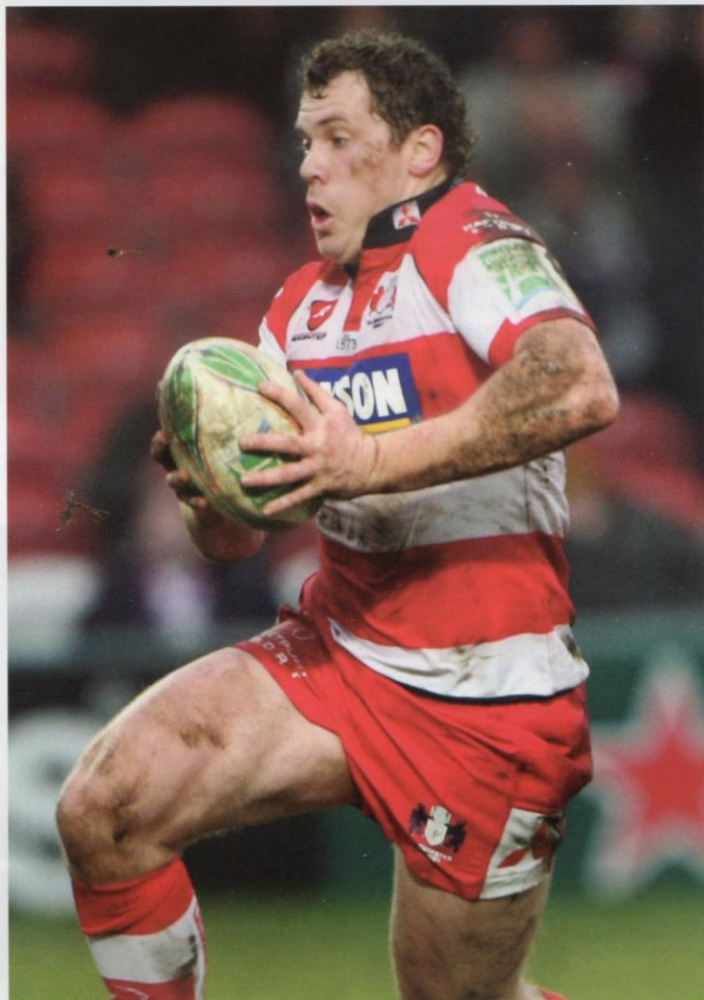
class," Fuimaono-Sapolu said. "I played with him for New Zealand Universities."

"I was at 10, he was at 13 and he was ahead of Conrad Smith."

"When I heard we had signed Tim Molenaar I knew we had scored. I told the coaches 'you have just bought some gold'."

Fuimaono-Sapolu, who is a qualified

The Citizen



"WHEN I HEARD WE HAD SIGNED TIM MOLENAAR I KNEW WE HAD SCORED. I TOLD THE COACHES 'YOU HAVE JUST BOUGHT SOME GOLD'."

FUIMAONO-SAPOLU ON MOLENAAR

solicitor, feels Gloucester deserve the rewards they have got for promoting players from the lower leagues, with Molenaar coming from Nottingham and Akapusi Qera from Pertemps Bees in 2007.

"That's what's good about Gloucester," he said. "They actually look within the English competitions.

"They look at who is doing well

in the lower levels. Not just Tim Molenaar but Qera as well came here out of doing well in the English leagues. That's a great thing."

For Molenaar's part, he has found the step up difficult but rewarding, especially given he missed the second half of last season with Nottingham through injury.

"I came into this season after being injured for a few months," he said. "I put on a few kilograms which I've worked off now."

"Naturally you will be a bit quicker and a bit more agile so that has helped.

"But the game is a lot quicker, you have to think on your feet so you can't leave anything for granted. Getting used to that is a big part of your game.

"Luckily I've had chances to be in the games we've played this year with injuries and it has worked out for me."

And Molenaar was equally unstinting in his praise of Fuimaono-Sapolu, who laid on his first try in Gloucester colours against Biarritz.

"I played with him quite a few years ago," Molenaar said. "I remember seeing him playing for Bath and wondering if it was the same guy.

"Now we've met up again so it's swings and roundabouts. We played against Japan A and won by 100 points so it was a bit of a loose game."

"But you could see the skills he had then and he's only got better since then. He's one of the most dangerous midfielders in the game."

BRYAN REDPATH HEAD COACH

ON behalf of everyone at Gloucester Rugby, I'd like to wish the players, staff and supporters of the Worcester Warriors a very warm welcome to Kingsholm this afternoon.

I think I can safely say that it's been quite a couple of weeks for Gloucester Rugby!

It's a strange part of the rugby calendar. The New Year comes and rumours start to circulate about which players might be coming and going.

You kick off the New Year playing in the Guinness Premiership, have a couple of weeks of European action and then straight into the LV= Cup!

With the RBS Six Nations just around the corner and the obvious impact that international call ups can have upon a squad, you have to keep your wits about you.

However, I think that we've started 2010 off in the right way. The game against today's opponents, Worcester Warriors, still frustrates me a little as we created so many chances but didn't finish them off.

Huge credit has to be given to Mike Ruddock's side whose defence was magnificent on the day and I'd expect nothing less from them this afternoon. They also took their chances and will be perhaps aggrieved that they didn't hang on for the win.

One positive, of course, is that



we were at least making things happen in attack. If we weren't, I'd have been worried!

And the good thing is that we have carried that on over the past two weeks with a couple of very significant victories in the Heineken Cup.

There was some pressure on us, there's no denying the fact. Had we lost either of those games then our European hopes would have been over for another season.

On this point, the changes that the European administrators made with regard to the quarter final qualifiers for both European competitions appears to have been universally acknowledged as a positive one.

Not many people who given much thought at the start of the season to the fact that the third, fourth and fifth best ranked second placed teams in the Heineken Cup would enter the Amlin Challenge Cup

quarter final draw.

However, it certainly caught everyone's attention for a couple of days last weekend as a number of sides, ourselves included, jostled for position.

It meant that there were virtually no dead rubbers. The result of every game had some significance and that can't be a bad thing.

It also adds to the credibility of the Amlin Challenge Cup as, apparently, that had been a concern in years gone by. With Cardiff Blues, the Scarlets and ourselves all now taking our places in that competition, it looks a pretty competitive quarter final line up!

There may only be one grumble from certain quarters and that would be that various teams went into their fixtures knowing exactly what they had to do to qualify.

For example, we saw Ulster win at Bath on the Saturday and knew that a bonus point win would be sufficient for us. On the flip side, Cardiff Blues and Sale Sharks would have kicked off knowing how we'd got on down at Newport.

The fact that the European games kick off on Thursday evening and don't finish until the final whistle on a Sunday means that you'll never get all the games kicking off at exactly the same time which would be the only truly fair way of doing things but that would severely impact the TV schedules.

Anyway, you can argue that knowing what you have to achieve creates its own pressure and getting your result done and dusted first up is the best way to proceed!

Overall, though, I think the changes have been a good thing and you only had to look at the expressions on the faces of our players after the game at Newport to see evidence of that.

Off the pitch has been pretty hectic as well as you'll have seen by the number of contract renewals that we've announced over the past couple of weeks. It's certainly kept our media department busy and given the Citizen a few back pages!

On a serious note, it's been pleasing to get these deals done and shows that we're in the throes of putting together a very good Gloucester Rugby squad for next season.

What's particularly satisfying is that so many members of our current squad have been happy to remain with the club despite some very attractive offers to go elsewhere in some cases. Those players are happy here, they've bought into what we're trying to achieve and are content to be on board.

Rest assured, the work on this front carries on and there will be other announcements to follow over the next few weeks. There will be some news faces and it is inevitable that some players will move on to pastures new. That's how it is in rugby union nowadays.

However, every decision will be made with the very best interests of Gloucester Rugby in mind.

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SCOTT LAWSON



PLAYER PROFILE: SCOTT LAWSON

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT'S THE FIRST GAME YOU REMEMBER WATCHING?

That would be the famous Scotland vs England Grand Slam showdown at Murrayfield in 1990. Everyone outside Scotland thought that England would stroll it but it turned into a memorable day for us Scots.

WHO IS YOUR SPORT'S BEST PUNDIT?

Bill McLaren, naturally. I was very, very sorry to hear that he passed away last week. Rory (Lawson) has told me some great stories about him over the years.



WHO'S GOT THE FLASHIEST MOTOR AT THE CLUB?

Les definitely. I know he always gets the nod so not a very original answer!

WHO'S THE BEST DRESSER IN THE PLAYING DEPARTMENT?

Peter Buxton due to his recent use of a personal shopper!

IF MONEY WAS NO OBJECT WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?

I would buy a really nice family home in Scotland.

BEST TRY YOU'VE EVER SCORED?

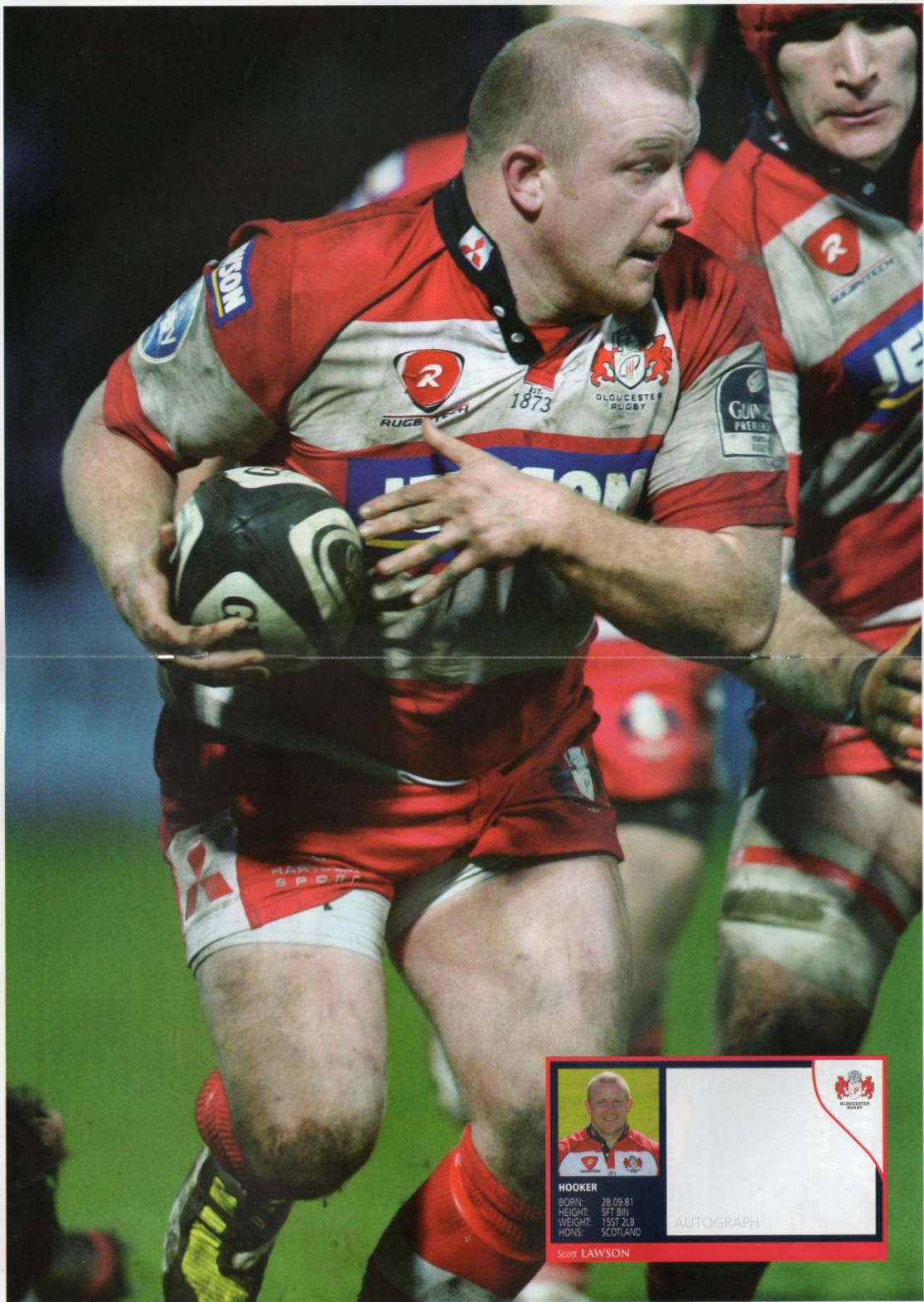
That would be in the 2007 Rugby World Cup when I was loitering on the wing and got on the end of a cross field kick in the game against Portugal.

WHO'S YOUR TIP FOR THE 2010 RBS SIX NATIONS?

Scotland – of course!

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

Oasis.



HOOVER

BORN: 28.09.81
HEIGHT: 5FT 11IN
WEIGHT: 155ST 2LB
HONS: SCOTLAND

AUTOGRAPH

Scott LAWSON

SCOTT LAWSON



PLAYER PROFILE: SCOTT LAWSON

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

I've got a few, not all of them printable. 'Wee Man' is an obvious one and I also get called 'Cube' because of my body shape. Nicky Robinson calls me 'Cheggies' but I'm not going to explain why!

WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN RUGBY?

Rory Lawson. I've known him for more than 10 years as we've come up through the age groups together. I also get on really well with Nicky Robinson.



DO YOU SUPPORT ANY OTHER SPORTING TEAMS?

Glasgow Celtic. I used to go and watch them a lot when I lived in Glasgow.

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

Keith Wood. He obviously plays the same position as me and I really remember the impact he had upon the Lions tour to South Africa in 1997.

HAS SPORT EVER

BROUGHT TEARS TO YOUR EYES?

No, I don't think so.

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

I think the breakdown needs cleaning up. It's frustrating at the moment.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE BEST NIGHT OUT?

Las Vegas.

BOB FENTON'S KINGSHOLM NEWS



SO we're not out of Europe yet, then... Although we failed to get into the knock out stages of the Heineken Cup we're still there in the Shambling Cup For Those Not Good Enough For The Real Thing – though there is probably a shorter name for it.

Because of the silly kick off time I couldn't get to Newport, with the boy playing in the Gloucestershire County Cup in the morning, my travel last Sunday took me as far as Coney Hill RFC.

There were a few more points there and his lot ran out 55 – 0 winners.

042// GLOUCESTERRUGBY.CO.UK

Quite why Sky chose to show the dead rubber of Biarritz v Glasgow was beyond me, something to do with taking a TV feed from the French and not having enough crews I suppose.

So I was reduced to 'watching' on the web, from where, I can assure you, Akapusi Qera's hat trick looked absolutely superb.

And our reward for being the one of the best placed runners up – an away trip to the exotic climbs of High Wycombe!

It could have been worse, for a

while in the week it looked like we could be going to Watford... That's going to be an interesting game, Wasps are not firing on all cylinders at the moment and have taken a bit of a pounding in recent matches. With any luck they will continue in this vein and we can sneak into the semi finals.

This year's Heineken Cup has not been the best for the Premiership, has it? Only Northampton have managed to scrape into the last eight with a couple of Irish and one Welsh regional side in tow, while four French sides have all gone through.

Just shows what can be achieved when money is no object. What this does mean, though, is that we are likely to have one less spot in the competition next season. And given our current position in the Premiership table, which might be very bad news indeed.

Still that's some way off yet, we have another cup competition to think about today. For the life of me I can't work this one out. I don't know how the pools work or whether we are in with a chance of progressing to the quarter-final stages, it all seems to be completely random.

As a result it does make it hard to get excited about the competition. But having said that, winning the tournament does represent a route into the Heineken Cup, so is definitely worth chasing. That is if we are not out of it already.

Added to that is the not inconsequential matter of it being another local derby. It's only a few weeks since we hosted Worcester in the Premiership and managed to score a last gasp equaliser to salvage a couple of points, maybe we can go one better today and get the win.

That would be doubly rewarding as it might help us out in the competition, it would be the first time this season that we have managed three wins in a row. Also any win over our nearest but not so dearest rivals is a good one, so that's reason enough on its own.

Away from the pitch the transfer merry go round has cranked and wheezed itself into life. As ever, there are more rumours than fact at this stage, and so far I reckon all our players are leaving and quite a few are coming. I prefer to leave it to others to speculate, but it does make me smile to read all the latest 'inside' information.

One player we know who has

gone is King Carlos, who has landed himself a dream contract in South Africa.

Those people who have been living on a desert island somewhere for the last ten years will be the only ones who don't know that I had been saying that the great man would play for Gloucester, and even bet a mate a gallon of beer that this dream would become a reality. I paid up on that a long time ago and protracted negotiations are still taking place for suitable recompense.

I bumped into Carlos at a gym not long after he arrived and told him that story – I think for a moment he was expecting me to ask him to pay up for being late.

He just looked at me with a mixture of quizzical puzzlement and fear on his face like he was being confronted by a nutter, something I have become accustomed to over the years. I wish him well though – a top man and, in his day, a genius.

Finally lots will have been written about the passing of Bill McLaren. Like many I grew up listening to his fantastic commentary and the colour he brought to the game.

I had the pleasure of meeting him once at a charity auction, he had offered up one of his legendary A2 sheets of notes. It was a thing of beauty to look at, I would have loved to have owned it but the bidding went way beyond my meagre limits.

Watching some of the games over the weekend, and listening to the over-excited babble of the schoolboys that Sky employ to do the commentary, I thought of Bill.

There really is no comparison, they're not in the same book let alone on the same page...



**THIS YEAR'S
HEINEKEN
CUP HAS NOT
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HAS IT? ONLY
NORTHAMPTON
HAVE MANAGED
TO SCRAPE INTO
THE LAST EIGHT
WITH A COUPLE
OF IRISH AND
ONE WELSH
REGIONAL SIDE
IN TOW, WHILE
FOUR FRENCH
SIDES HAVE ALL
GONE THROUGH.**

DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

IT IS always of interest to note where our former players continue their careers. Especially some of the lesser known who have either been included in the squad of players in recent seasons or were former members of the Academy.

Mike Guess – Bedford,
Richard Jenkins – Cinderford,
Danny Pointon – Cinderford,
Rory Greenslade-Jones –
Basingstoke,
Rob Thirlby – Moseley,
Neville Codlin – Cinderford,
Jed Hooper – Cinderford,
Tom Skelding – Plymouth Albion,
Haydn Thomas – Exeter Chiefs
and Ross McMillan – Coventry.

BLOWING the whistle! Chris Horsman, once of Worcester has passed his first two refereeing exams. Saracen's fly half Glen Jackson is following suit when he returns to New Zealand at the end of the season.



WHEN Tim Molenaar joined the Kingsholm ranks last August he became the 21st player to move from Championship level.

He followed in the footsteps of Marika Vakacegu who moved from Cornish Pirates to Sale; Josh Drauninui (Exeter – Harlequins); Billy Twelvetrees (Bedford – Leicester); Tom Biggs (Leeds – Newcastle); Jamie Lenard (Doncaster – London Irish); Kevin Barrett (Exeter – Harlequins); Robbie Harris (Nottingham – Leicester); Joe Duffy (Nottingham – Leicester); John Andress (Exeter – Harlequins); Lewis Stevenson (Exeter – Harlequins); Mouritz Botha (Bedford – Saracens); Chris Cracknell (Exeter – Bath then Worcester); Rob Vickerman (Leeds – Newcastle); Josh Afu (Doncaster – Newcastle); Paul Doran-Jones (London Welsh – Gloucester); James Tideswell (Plymouth – London Irish); Chris Whitehead (Coventry – Wasps); Darren Dawidiuk (Cornish Pirates – Gloucester); Michael Tagicakibau (London Welsh – Saracens).



THE CROWD capacity for the various Premiership clubs vary as can be seen from the following:
Bath Rugby 10,600,
Kingsholm 16,500,
Harlequins 12,638,
Leeds Carnegie 21,200,
Leicester Tigers 23,500,
London Irish 24,105,
London Wasps 10,000,
Newcastle Falcons 10,000,
Northampton Saints 13,500,
Sale Sharks 10,541,
Saracens 20,000,
Worcester Warriors 12,024.

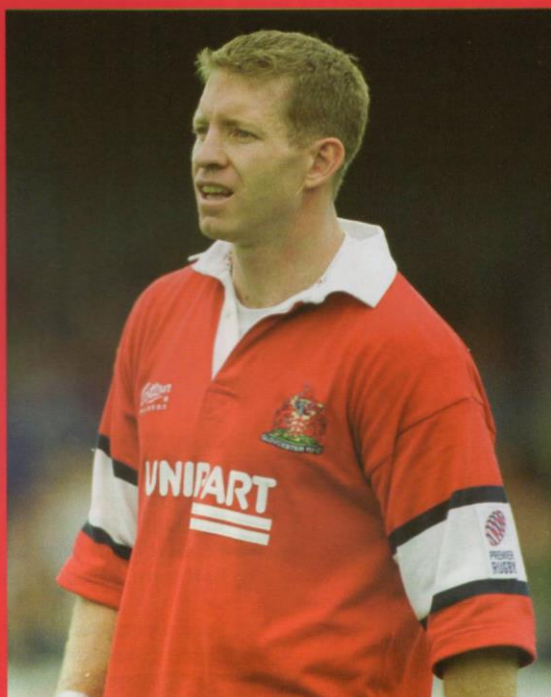
REMEMBER Dave Lougheed? The former Leicester winger who made two appearances for Gloucester at the start of the 2000-2001 season?

At the time of writing Dave had returned to his native Canada to begin his Masters in a business degree. His brief tenure at Kingsholm came about when his agent contacted our Head Coach at the time, Philippe St Andre, who was short of backs and arranged for Dave to cover the shortfall. One week, but he was tempted to stay!

Dave now lives in Calgary; he completed his MBA and successfully built a wealth management practice at B.Mo Nesbitt Burns. Married to Dana they have two daughters Taylor 5 and Tatum 3.

Dave serves on the Board of Rugby Canada and is involved with the University of Calgary and Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

His most memorable match for the Tigers, scoring two tries against Gloucester in December 1998! In total, Dave recorded 18 tries in 32 matches for Leicester.



SINCE the conception of league fixtures we have had nine players who have scored a hat-trick of tries or more, they have been:-

5. Lesley Vainikolo v Leeds (away) 16 September 2007.
4. Elton Moncrieff v Bedford (home) 6th May 2000.
3. Derek Morgan v Rosslyn Park (home) 11th November 1989.
3. Simon Morris v West Hartlepool (home) 17th September 1994.
3. Mike Lloyd v West Hartlepool (home) 18th January 1997.
3. Chris Catling v Newcastle (home) 17th October 1998.
3. Frank Schisano v Rotherham (away) 2nd September 2000.
3. James Simpson-Daniel v Bath (home) 4th May 2002.
3. Akapusi Qera v Leeds (home) 19th April 2008.
3. Iain Balshaw v Newcastle (home) 30th September 2008.

Lesley Vainikolo and Frank Schisano are the only players to have recorded 3 or more tries in away fixtures.



WHISTLE happy? The elite referees for this season have other interests a look through their varied pastimes reveal the following:-

Wayne Barnes (30) law, theatre, comedy and squash; **Dave Pearson** (43) golf and cooking; **Sean Davey** (45) skiing, playing in a rock band and theatre; **Dean Richards** (40) beast quest books, Peppa Pig, High School musical, Doctor Who!; **David Rose** (46) golf, travel, cricket and athletics; **Rob Debney** (35) languages, of which he speaks six, travelling, cricket and athletics; **Andrew Small** (35) golf, skiing, mountain biking and travel; **Greg Gardner** (29) golf, cricket and travelling; **Chris White** (46) cricket and football.



FROM this season of 2009-2010, a total of £1m is available from the Rugby Football Union which is to be split between clubs who average 14 English qualified players in their match day squads in Premiership and European matches.

That sum will increase to £2m for three years from the season 2010-2011 and then £3m from season 2013-2014 until the current eight year deal ends after season 2015-2016.

Members of Martin Johnson's England squad will not qualify for payments as clubs are compensated for providing players under a separate payment schedule.

PETER ARNOLD'S GLOUCESTER TALK



WE HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE

It's like catching a bus really. You wait for ages and then two come along at once. Our neighbours from just up the road have graced us with their presence twice in a month. Not that we mind. Our last encounter at Kingsholm ended in a rather unsatisfactory draw. A game which both sides probably thought they could and should, have won. Anyway, as what seems like half the Worcester side have Gloucester connections, the game must almost seem like a home fixture for some of them. Hardly worth going home really.

BILL McLAREN

The whole rugby world has been saddened by the news of the death of Bill McLaren, but perhaps it strikes a little closer to home for us than

for most English clubs. You'll probably know that he was the grandfather of our own Rory Lawson, and we send our own condolences to Rory and the whole family.

There are other reasons why we feel his passing a little more personally than most. He was always a great supporter of Gloucester throughout an era when many representatives of the media seemed to go out of their way to denigrate us whenever possible. I remember him saying once that Kingsholm is "a very special place to play rugby", and on another occasion stating that Gloucester is "the true heart of English Rugby"

If you come across any of the old handbooks issued by the club over the years, the chances are that you'll find therein an article contributed by Bill McLaren.

It is a cliché to call him the 'Voice of rugby' but he really could lay claim

to that title in the same way that John Arlott and later, Richie Benaud, could for cricket and Dan Maskell could for tennis. His commentaries were comprehensive, intelligent and well-informed. He always seemed to be watching the same game that we were, which is more than I can say for some of his successors.

He never made any secret of his allegiance to Scottish rugby, although he never let that colour his judgement. There was always a vein of humour running through his commentaries, and I suspect he would have said that you needed a sense of humour if you were going to support Scotland in his day.

Yet his humour was never cruel or malicious. His remark after an Irish outside half had fluffed a penalty was typical "that ball flew like three pounds of wet haggis" he pronounced, not blaming the kicker in any way at all.

We simply don't have Bill McLaren's equivalent now, more's the pity, but at least some of us had our rugby enjoyment enhanced by decades of his presence on the scene.

Ave atque vale Bill McLaren. Hail and farewell.

WHAT DID YOU DO ON YOUR HOLIDAY?

Well, whatever you did, the enforced break when the Newcastle game was frozen off seems to have done our players a power of good. When Biarritz came calling you wouldn't have thought you were watching the same side as the lacklustre, going-through-the-motions squad who entertained – and I

TO HAVE THRASHED A QUALITY FRENCH SIDE AT KINGSHOLM THEN FOLLOWED THAT UP BY TAKING A WELSH REGION APART ON THEIR OWN TURF MUST SURELY HAVE GIVEN THE LADS THE CONFIDENCE THEY HAVE SO OBVIOUSLY NEEDED.



use the term loosely – us in the preceding matches.

Perhaps they needed the break. After all, week-in, week-out rugby must tell on the players eventually. There may be a danger of the whole thing becoming just another job, like turning up at work on Monday morning yearning for Friday to roll around again.

Our players have been under an awful lot of pressure this season. For whatever reason, they have not been delivering results, and no one will have felt that more keenly than the squad members themselves.

But how different do things look now! To have thrashed a quality French side at Kingsholm then followed that up by taking a Welsh region apart on their own turf must surely have given the lads the confidence they have so obviously needed.

But what now? It's a pity we couldn't have gone straight back into the Premiership with a full

squad and be given a chance to build on the momentum gained over the last couple of weeks. As it is, the Cup and Six Nations season is bound to cause some disruption.

However, I have faith. I hope I don't put the mockers on things by saying that we shall still be in extremely good shape when the Premiership does roll around again.

BRYAN BRAIN

I don't often have the melancholy duty of commenting on two deaths in the same programme, but I think must do just that today.

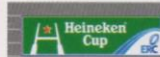
Bryan Brain did not have the international prestige of Bill McLaren, but he was certainly a well liked and respected figure in rugby circles in Gloucester. He was not a player, as far as I know, but his son was. Many people will recall John Brain performing at lock for Gloucester, and coming pretty close to the England team while he was about it. After he

left us, of course, he was a pivotal figure in building today's visitors into the genuine Premiership side they are today.

While John was risking life and limb at Kingsholm, his dad, Bryan, was well known as the genial landlord of the dear old York House in London Road, a pub which has now, sadly, fallen victim to the deadly malaise which is so afflicting the pub trade generally.

Over that period, John, naturally, took his mates along to his dad's pub. You could drop in for a pint and frequently find yourself chatting to the Mike Teagues and John Gadds of this world. The York House became the Mecca of Gloucester's rugby fraternity, presided over with great jocularly and good fellowship by Bryan Brain.

The pub was never the same after he retired, and now he is lost to us for good. Many people will wish me to send their condolences to John and the whole family.



SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY 2010 / 15:00 KO



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 23 BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE 8

COACH'S COMMENTS

"We were smart and kept the scoreboard ticking over and we kept our patience. I'm delighted with the win."

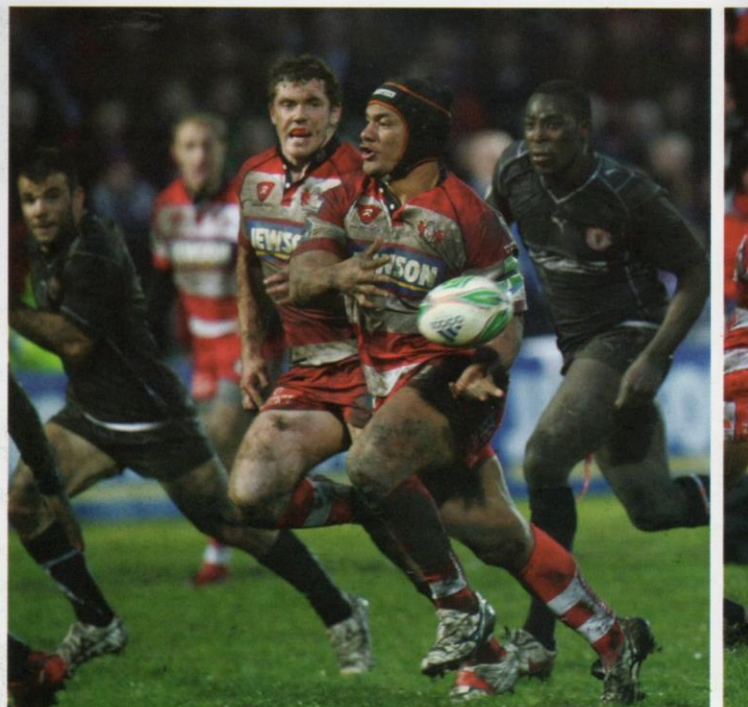
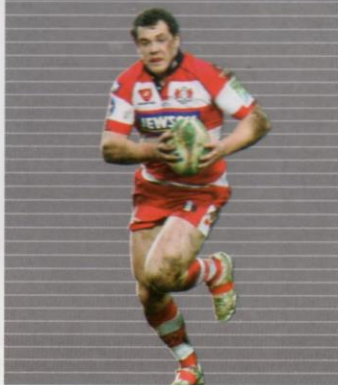
"The key thing was that we stuck to our guns and held them at bay. We knew that if we played in the right areas we would create chances - and we took them."

"We now know that we have to get a good performance against Newport to stand a chance of a quarter-final."

KEY MOMENT

Gloucester had been well on top and looked reasonably comfortable with a 16-3 lead and just quarter of an hour to go.

However, Tim Molenaar's first try for the club, helped settle any nerves that may have been starting to form and gave Gloucester an unassailable lead.



Gloucester kept their European ambitions alive with a comprehensive victory over Biarritz Olympique, possibly the most complete performance of the season.

The lack of a try scoring bonus point guaranteed that Biarritz will finish top of pool 2 but Gloucester's win kept them in the hunt for one of the quarter final places on offer to the best second place teams.

The Kingsholm ground staff had worked themselves to a near standstill to get the game on and the team didn't let them down.

Each and every player wearing a Cherry and White shirt did their

bit for the cause and, from the off, the Kingsholm faithful recognised the commitment on the pitch and responded in vociferous fashion.

Despite the heavy conditions underfoot, however, it wasn't a display of 10 men rugby. Gloucester showed ambition from early on with both wingers getting ample touches of the ball. In Lesley Vainikolo's case, he received more quality ball than any other game this season.

The centres also caught the eye with Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu, later to be named Heineken Man of the Match, making several clean breaks and the ever improving Tim Molenaar capping a fine display

ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU, LATER TO BE NAMED HEINEKEN MAN OF THE MATCH, MAKING SEVERAL CLEAN BREAKS AND THE EVER IMPROVING TIM MOLENAAR CAPPING A FINE DISPLAY WITH HIS FIRST TRY FOR THE CLUB.



with his first try for the club. As always, however, the hard work is done up front and the Gloucester eight never took a backward step against a Biarritz pack featuring some notable names.

The forwards didn't merely content themselves to limit their efforts to their work in the tight either. Scott Lawson was a bundle of energy around the pitch and Alasdair Dickinson's half break and offload to set up Lesley Vainikolo's try may well jeopardise his membership of the front row union!

Just as important was the work of their fellow forwards in defence who put their bodies on the line in defence of their lead to the extent

that Biarritz's late try came as a slight surprise.

Perhaps the only thing missing, as against Worcester recently, was the killer score to put the opposition away. It looked as though it was coming on several occasions but Nicky Robinson kept the scoreboard ticking over as Biarritz infringed to keep their line intact until Molenaar's score settled the nerves and made the game safe.

To put this into context, Biarritz may have been missing a few big names but were the only unbeaten side left in the competition.

On the day, they were distinctly second best.

THE TEAMS

GLoucester RUGBY

Morgan
Simpson-Daniel
Molenaar
Fuimaono-Sapolu
Vainikolo
Robinson
R Lawson
Dickinson
S Lawson
Somerville
Attwood
Brown
Strokosch
Qera
Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

Voyce for Vainikolo (67), Wood for Dickinson (67), Narraway for Strokosch (36), Eustace for Attwood (76), Burns for F-Sapolu (77).

NOT USED: Dawidiuk, Capdevielle, Lewis.



BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE

Couet-Lannes
Ngwenya
Mignardi
Erinle
Bolakoro
Courrent
Lesgourgues
Coetzee
Terrain
Hughes
Thion
Carizza
Lund
Vahafolau
Harinordoquy

REPLACEMENTS:

Tranier for Courrent (68), August for Terrain (52), Moala for Hughes (49), Hall for Carizza (52), Alexandre for Vahafolau (64).

NOT USED: Watremez, Guyot, Brusque



24TH JANUARY 2010 / 12:45 KO

NEWPORT
Gwent Dragons

NEWPORT G' DRAGONS 23

GLoucester RUGBY 32

COACH'S COMMENTS

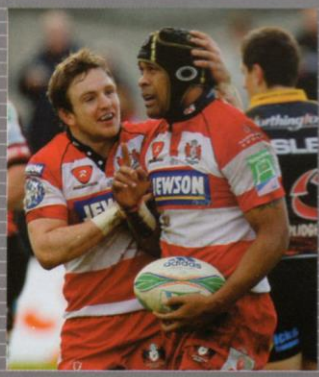
"We haven't had a great record away from home, and we were aware of that. We got the four tries that we needed."

"I was frustrated with our first-half performance - we did not look energised - but we were a lot stronger in the second period, particularly the forwards. To score four tries away from home is a good return."

KEY MOMENT

The penalty try - it has to be! Gloucester had dominated the second half and looked well set for the win but knew that they still required a fourth try to pip Ulster in the chase for a place in the Amlin Challenge Cup quarter finals.

The Gloucester pack dug deep and splintered the opposing scrum to secure the all important score.



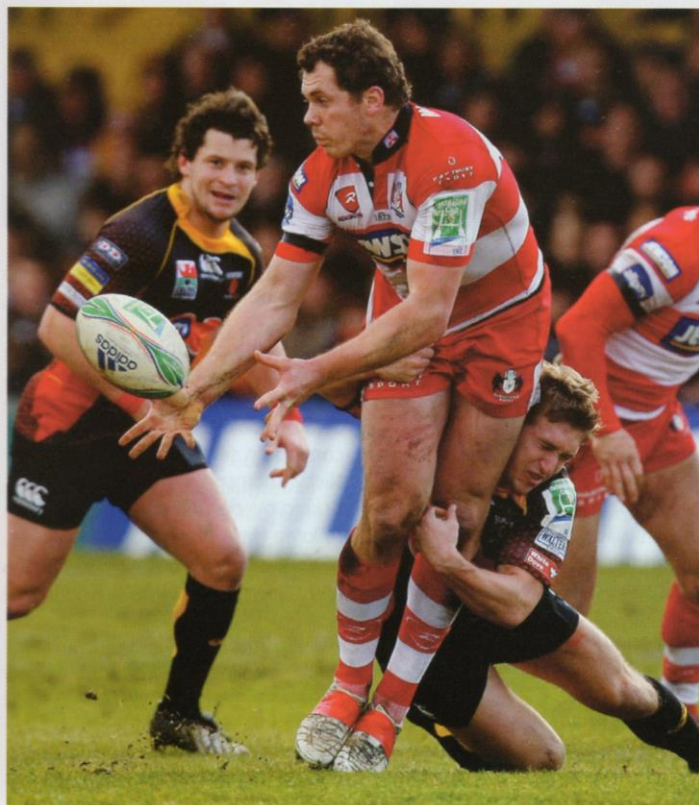
Only time will tell how important that 40 minutes in the second half at Rodney Parade will prove to be. But an inspired Gloucester fronted up and scored three tries after the break to maintain European interest via a vital win on the road.

The irony is that the crucial fourth try was a penalty try awarded by French referee Christophe Berdos. The same referee who had seemingly taken a dislike to Gloucester's scrummaging against the Glasgow Warriors at Firhill only a few weeks before!

It won't, however, be Berdos' name catching the headlines after Gloucester's first Heineken Cup win on the road this season.

That honour will go to marauding Fijian flanker Akapusi Qera, who capped a memorable week by scoring a hat trick of tries only days after putting pen to paper on a new two year contract at Kingsholm.

The reward is a trip to Adams Park to take on London Wasps in the quarter finals of the Amlin Challenge Cup so it's knock out rugby in Europe from now so who



**...MARAUDING FIJIAN FLANKER
AKAPUSI QERA, WHO CAPPED A
MEMORABLE WEEK BY SCORING A HAT
TRICK OF TRIES ONLY DAYS AFTER
PUTTING PEN TO PAPER ON A NEW
TWO YEAR CONTRACT AT KINGSHOLM.**



knows what will happen?

It's stating the obvious but it was a fine win for Gloucester who, before this game, had only triumphed once away from home this season and hadn't managed a try scoring bonus point.

It wasn't all plain sailing. Lesley Vainikolo was a late withdrawal with a stomach complaint and Olly Morgan had to be replaced after only 23 minutes.

With Dave Attwood in the sin bin for killing the ball, the Dragons snatched the lead via a penalty and converted try, the latter the result of a missed tackle. A subsequent drop goal for the Welshmen eased

them into a 16-10 half time lead and things didn't look rosy for Gloucester.

However, the second half was one way traffic. Qera was the beneficiary of a well executed catch and drive to give Gloucester an early boost and then finished off a well executed front of the lineout move courtesy of Olivier Azam's outrageous dummy.

Nicky Robinson kept the scoreboard ticking over on his way to a personal tally of 12 points with the boot but it was left to the pack to have the final word as they produced possibly their scrummage of the season to clinch the win.

THE TEAMS

NEWPORT

M Thomas
A Brew
R Gomer-Davies
T Riley
R Fussell
J Arlidge
W Evans
H Gustafson
T Willis
G Robinson
H MacDonald
R Sidoli
D Lydiate
J Harris
L Evans

REPLACEMENTS:

S Jones for Willis (63),
A McKenzie for Gustafson (22),
B Castle for Robinson (45),
A Jones for MacDonald (63),
J Leadbeater for W Evans (56),
A Smith for Gomer-Davies (46),
J Tovey for Arlidge (60)



GLoucester RUGBY

O Morgan
J Simpson-Daniel
T Molenaar
E Fuimaono-Sapolu
T Voyce
N Robinson
R Lawson
A Dickinson
S Lawson
G Somerville
D Attwood
A Brown
L Narraway
A Qera
G Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

O Azam for S Lawson (60),
N Wood for Dickinson (56),
P Capdevielle for Somerville (70),
A Eustace for Attwood (70),
P Buxton for Delve (64),
D Lewis for R Lawson (64),
F Burns for Robinson (78),
C Sharples for Morgan (29)

vs WORCESTER WARRIORS //065

TODAY'S LINE-UPS



Vs WORCESTER WARRIORS
SATURDAY 30/1/10
KO 3:00PM

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

Vs

**WORCESTER
WARRIORS**

ALL TIME POINTS



Ludovic Mercier
Matches: 69 **852**

Mark Mapletoft
Matches: 61 **742**

Simon Mannix
Matches: 52 **537**

Henry Paul
Matches: 74 **444**

Ryan Lamb
Matches: 55 **351**

ALL TIME POINTS



Shane Drahm
Matches: 59 **507**

James Brown
Matches: 46 **193**

Willie Walker
Matches: 21 **185**

Tommy Hayes
Matches: 15 **75**

Loki Crichton
Matches: 19 **73**

T FREDDIE BURNS

15
FULLBACK

CHRIS LATHAM

CHARLIE SHARPLES

14
WING

RICO GEAR

TIM MOLENAAR

13
CENTRE

DALE RASMUSSEN

ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU

12
CENTRE

SAM TUITUPOU

LESLEY VAINIKOLO

11
WING

MILES BENJAMIN

P NICKY ROBINSON

10
FLY-HALF

WILLIE WALKER

DAVE LEWIS

9
SCRUM-HALF

JONNY ARR

YANN THOMAS

1
PROP

ADAM BLACK

OLIVIER AZAM

2
HOOKER

ALEKI LUTUI

PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE

3
PROP

OLIVIER SOURGENS

MARCO BORTOLAMI

4
LOCK

GREG RAWLINSON

ALEX BROWN

5
LOCK

CRAIG GILLIES

PETER BUXTON

6
FLANKER

CHRIS CRACKNELL

T AKAPUSI QERA

7
FLANKER

PAT SANDERSON (C)

GARETH DELVE (C)

8
NO.8

KAI HORSTMANN

REPLACEMENTS

16 DARREN DAWIDIUK
17 GREG SOMERVILLE
18 SHAUN KNIGHT
19 ADAM EUSTACE
20 ANDY HAZELL
21 RORY LAWSON
22 TIM TAYLOR
23 SEMI TADULALA

16 MATT MULLAN
17 CHRIS FORTEY
18 TEVITA TAUMOEPEAU
19 GRAHAM KITCHENER
20 TOM WOOD
21 RYAN POWELL
22 MATTHEW JONES
23 CHRIS PENNELL

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

Leighton Hodges

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

Ashley Rowden & Paul Burton

4TH OFFICIAL:

Bob Mullis