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# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

**AVIVA PREMIERSHIP**  
VS. LEEDS CARNEGIE  
11 SEPTEMBER 2010, KO 3PM // £3

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BOB FENTON,  
DAVE KING,  
PETER ARNOLD

**+ MATCH VS. MUNSTER & EXETER ACTION**

# SINBAD

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW INSIDE**



**REDPATH'S VIEWS ON THE SEASON SO FAR**

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MIKE TINDALL

# Captain's Corner



**Welcome to Kingsholm as we kick off our home Aviva Premiership (I'm still getting used to the new sponsor name!) Rugby campaign against Leeds Carnegie this afternoon.**

We got off to a poor start last weekend, we'll make no bones about it, so it's important that we bounce back this afternoon.

However, we're also well aware that Leeds didn't get off to a flyer last weekend as they lost at home to Bath so they'll be just as keen as us to get off to winning ways.

From a personal point of view, the games against Leeds last season are ones that I'd probably rather forget.

The away game at Headingley at the beginning of October was going alright until the final minute or so. We were on our way to our first away win of the season but then I tweaked my hamstring while scoring our third and final try.

The return game here at

Kingsholm was even worse for me. I'd played a full 80 a couple of weeks beforehand and was feeling good about my game but felt something not quite right in my groin and had to leave the field after only 6 minutes.

So, while my number one goal this afternoon is to see Gloucester win, I'd be delighted to get through the full 80 minutes unscathed!

As I mentioned earlier. It is important that we play as we know we can this weekend. The game down at Sandy Park was a real kick in the teeth for us as we know that we're capable of so much more but, on the day, we just didn't deliver.

We were obviously devastated by the way we performed even more so because of the huge number of supporters who followed us down to Devon. As we did our warm ups, we could see Cherry and White everywhere which was fantastic but, of course, we now know that we let them down on the day.

It's always difficult to put your finger on exactly why things went the way they did and always easy to make excuses.

We felt good going into the game. We'd had a good preseason including a couple of testing away matches to get us ready for opening up on the road. The preparation was spot on.

One thing I will say is that we definitely didn't underestimate Exeter or fail to pay them enough respect. We knew full well what a huge occasion it was for them and that they would lift their game to the highest possible levels.

It's easy to make excuses and I'm not going to. We know that we weren't good enough last weekend and we've been busting a gut this week in training to put things right.

Words are all very good but it's our actions on the field that count and hopefully we'll prove that to you this afternoon.

**Enjoy the game!**

**GLOUCESTER**  
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**O**n behalf of everyone at Gloucester Rugby, I'd like to wish the players, staff and supporters of Leeds Carnegie a very warm welcome to Kingsholm this afternoon.

It's good to be back on familiar ground after travelling to Wales to play the Ospreys, Ireland to take on Munster and then down to Devon last weekend to face the Exeter Chiefs.

Playing two of our three preseason friendlies away from home was a deliberate tactic, of course, as we sought to improve on our away form from last season.

Unfortunately, despite some decent performances in Swansea and Cork in preseason, we didn't deliver down at Sandy Park.

Even a few days after the event, the defeat at the hands of the Chiefs is tough to take. As I say, we'd done some good stuff in preseason but the display last weekend was a huge disappointment for everyone involved.

I spoke about it in some length after the game but the core basics of our game just weren't there. We made a huge number of clean line breaks but didn't finish them off. Forward passes, knock ons, they all contributed to chances going begging.

We also made it easy for Exeter to accumulate points. They did score a good opening try but ill discipline then gave Gareth Steenson far too many opportunities to kick for goal and he's too good a marksman to turn those chances down.

The bottom line is that our performance meant that Exeter didn't actually have to play much rugby to earn the win. They certainly didn't have to create too much.

I felt particularly bad for the thousands of Gloucester supporters

who made the trip down to Exeter to follow us. I thought we had terrific backing on the day, there was Cherry and White everywhere.

But we let them down on the day and we have to set the record straight, hopefully starting today.

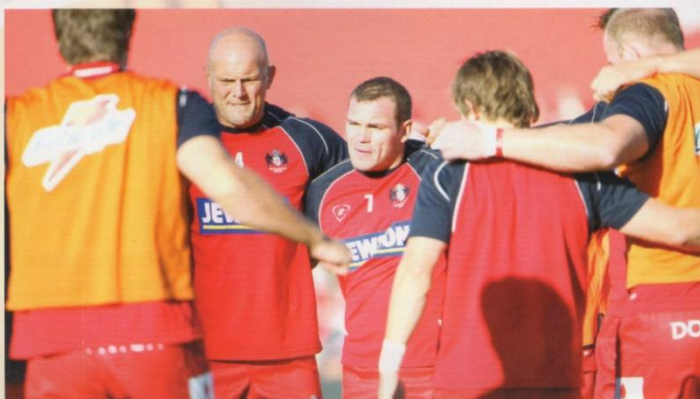
It won't be easy, however. Leeds also got off to a losing start last weekend, in front of their own supporters against Bath, and will be just as keen as ourselves to get some Premiership points on the board.

They are also a very difficult outfit to play against as we found out ourselves last season in our two encounters.

It'll be tough, it'll be physical. We'll have to be prepared to win every physical confrontation, to remain patient and keep hold of the ball, to make the most of the chances that come our way and to defend as though our lives depend on it.

We can't expect to just turn up and win. We have to earn that right and that's what we've been instilling in the squad this week at training.

As you'd expect, there's been a lot of hard work on the training paddock and a lot of straightforward talking. People have had to listen to things that they perhaps didn't want to hear but we know we were poor last week and



**"WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE EXTREMELY HONEST WITH OURSELVES AND UNDERSTAND THAT ANYTHING LESS THAN 100% WILL NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH."**

Neil Back and Andy Key did a tremendous job last season and it came as no surprise when the latter was named Director of Rugby of the Season at last season's annual Guinness Premiership awards.

So, we're under no illusions about what lies in wait for us this afternoon. We're going to have to be extremely honest with ourselves and understand that anything less than 100% will not be good enough.

know that we have to be better.

We had fantastic backing last week down in Devon and we'll be hoping for more of the same this afternoon and that the Kingsholm factor will be significant.

However, we know that we have to earn that support and that's one of the key objectives this afternoon.

**Enjoy the game.**



EXCLUSIVE  
**HEAD  
COACH**  
NOTES

**BRYAN  
REDPATH**

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**0871 871 8781** 09





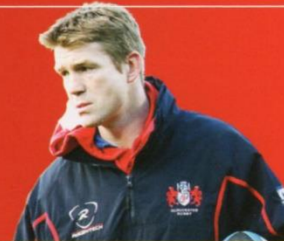
# GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD 2010/11

SPONSOR:



HEAD COACH: Bryan REDPATH

SPONSOR:



FORWARDS COACH: Carl HOGG



LOCK

**BORN:** 05.04.87  
**HEIGHT:** 6FT 7IN  
**WEIGHT:** 18ST 1LB  
**HONS:**

SPONSOR:



Dave ATTWOOD



HOOKER

**BORN:** 24.10.74  
**HEIGHT:** 6FT 11IN  
**WEIGHT:** 19ST  
**HONS:** FRANCE

SPONSOR:



Olivier AZAM



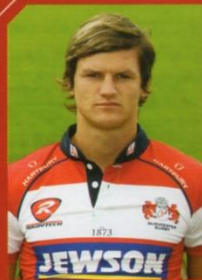
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**HONS:** ENGLAND

SPONSOR:



Alex BROWN



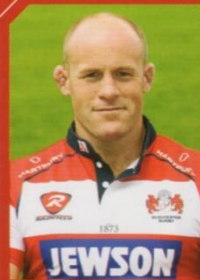
FLY HALF

**BORN:** 13.05.90  
**HEIGHT:** 6FT 11IN  
**WEIGHT:** 12ST 8LB  
**HONS:**

SPONSOR:



Freddie BURNS



BACK ROW

**BORN:** 21.08.78  
**HEIGHT:** 6FT 4IN  
**WEIGHT:** 18ST 1LB  
**HONS:**

SPONSOR:



Peter BUXTON



PROP

**BORN:** 30.03.74  
**HEIGHT:** 6FT 11IN  
**WEIGHT:** 19ST 5LB  
**HONS:**

SPONSOR:



Pierre CAPDEVIELLE





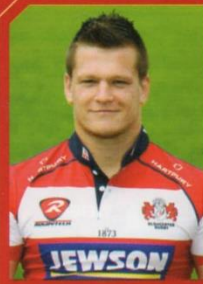
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06.03.88  
**HEIGHT:**  
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**WEIGHT:**  
155ST 5LB  
**HONS:**

**SPONSOR:**



Matt **COX**



**HOOKE**

**BORN:**  
21.09.87  
**HEIGHT:**  
5FT 11IN  
**WEIGHT:**  
145ST 12LB  
**HONS:**

**SPONSOR:**



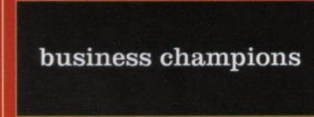
Darren **DAWIDIUK**



**BACK ROW**

**BORN:**  
07.03.82  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT 4IN  
**WEIGHT:**  
175ST 4LB  
**HONS:**

**SPONSOR:**



Brett **DEACON**



**PROP**

**BORN:**  
11.09.83  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT  
**WEIGHT:**  
175ST 5LB  
**HONS:**  
SCOTLAND

**SPONSOR:**



Alasdair **DICKINSON**



**PROP**

**BORN:**  
02.05.85  
**HEIGHT:**  
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**WEIGHT:**  
185ST 3LB  
**HONS:**  
ENGLAND

**SPONSOR:**



Paul **DORAN-JONES**



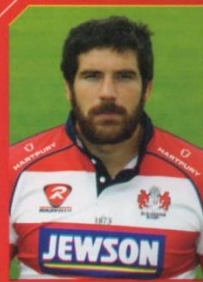
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**HONS:**  
SAMOA

**SPONSOR:**



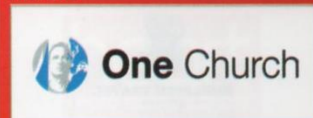
Eliota **FUIMAONO-SAPOLU**



**LOCK**

**BORN:**  
17.11.82  
**HEIGHT:**  
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**WEIGHT:**  
195ST 11LB  
**HONS:**  
SCOTLAND

**SPONSOR:**



Jim **HAMILTON**



**PROP**

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09.05.85  
**HEIGHT:**  
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**WEIGHT:**  
185ST 8LB  
**HONS:**

**SPONSOR:**



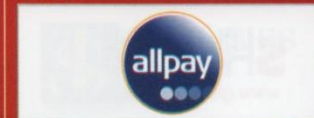
Rupert **HARDEN**



**BACK ROW**

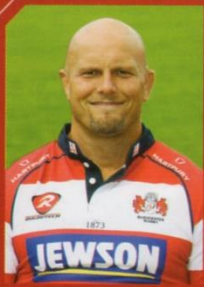
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25.04.78  
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**HONS:**  
ENGLAND

**SPONSOR:**



Andrew **HAZELL**





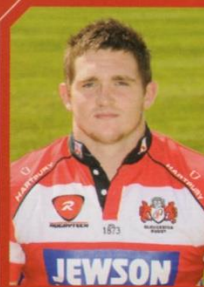
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**SPONSOR:**



Will **JAMES**



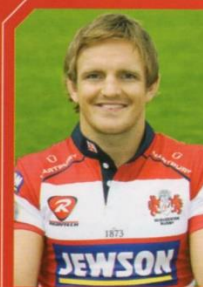
**PROP**

**BORN:** -  
**HEIGHT:** -  
**WEIGHT:** -  
**HONS:** -

**SPONSOR:**



Shaun **KNIGHT**



**SCRUM HALF**

**BORN:** 12.03.81  
**HEIGHT:** 5FT 8IN  
**WEIGHT:** 13ST 5LB  
**HONS:** SCOTLAND

**SPONSOR:**



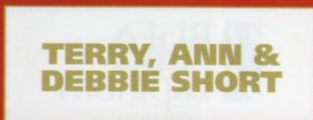
Rory **LAWSON**



**HOKKER**

**BORN:** 28.09.81  
**HEIGHT:** 5FT 8IN  
**WEIGHT:** 15ST 2LB  
**HONS:** SCOTLAND

**SPONSOR:**



Scott **LAWSON**



**SCRUM HALF**

**BORN:** 29.04.89  
**HEIGHT:** 5FT 7IN  
**WEIGHT:** 12ST 8LB  
**HONS:** -

**SPONSOR:**



Dave **LEWIS**



**CENTRE**

**BORN:** 01.04.90  
**HEIGHT:** 6FT 2IN  
**WEIGHT:** 90KGS  
**HONS:** -

**SPONSOR:**



Jonny **MAY**



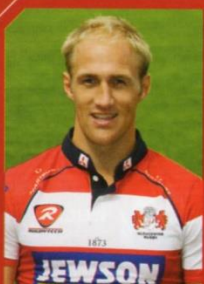
**CENTRE**

**BORN:** 19.02.81  
**HEIGHT:** 6FT 4IN  
**WEIGHT:** 17ST 2LB  
**HONS:** -

**SPONSOR:**



Tim **MOLENAAR**



**FULL BACK**

**BORN:** 03.11.85  
**HEIGHT:** 6FT 2IN  
**WEIGHT:** 14ST 2LB  
**HONS:** ENGLAND

**SPONSOR:**



Olly **MORGAN**



**BACK ROW**

**BORN:** 07.09.83  
**HEIGHT:** 6FT 3IN  
**WEIGHT:** 15ST 13LB  
**HONS:** ENGLAND

**SPONSOR:**



Luke **NARRAWAY**





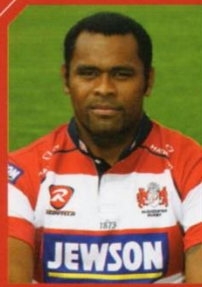
**SCRUM HALF**

**BORN:**  
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**HEIGHT:**  
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12ST 10LB  
**HONS:**

**SPONSOR:**



Jordi **PASQUALIN**



**BACK ROW**

**BORN:**  
24.04.84  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT 4IN  
**WEIGHT:**  
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**HONS:**  
FIJI

**SPONSOR:**



**CHARLES RUSSELL**

Akapusi **QERA**



**FLY HALF**

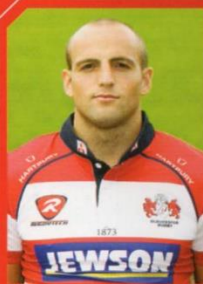
**BORN:**  
03.01.82  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT 11IN  
**WEIGHT:**  
14ST 9LB  
**HONS:**  
WALES

**SPONSOR:**



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Nicky **ROBINSON**



**WING**

**BORN:**  
17.08.89  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT  
**WEIGHT:**  
14ST 9LB  
**HONS:**

**SPONSOR:**



Charlie **SHARPLES**



**WING**

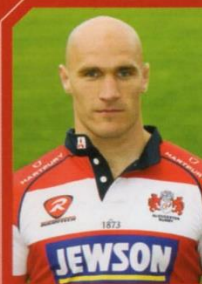
**BORN:**  
30.05.82  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT  
**WEIGHT:**  
14ST 6LB  
**HONS:**  
ENGLAND

**SPONSOR:**



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James **SIMPSON-DANIEL**



**BACK ROW**

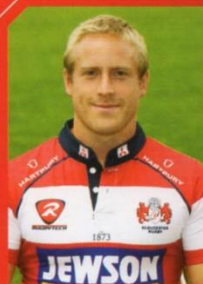
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**HONS:**  
SCOTLAND

**SPONSOR:**



WORLD OF FLORIDA

Alasdair **STROKOSCH**



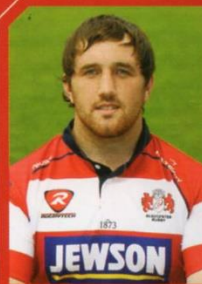
**FLY HALF**

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**HONS:**

**SPONSOR:**



Tim **TAYLOR**



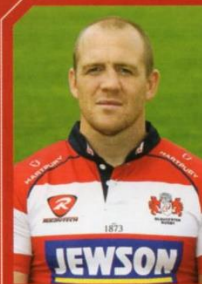
**PROP**

**BORN:**  
16.04.90  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT 2IN  
**WEIGHT:**  
18ST 11LB  
**HONS:**

**SPONSOR:**



Yann **THOMAS**



**CENTRE**

**BORN:**  
18.10.78  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT 2IN  
**WEIGHT:**  
15ST 12LB  
**HONS:**  
ENGLAND

**SPONSOR:**



Mike **TINDALL**





**CENTRE**

**BORN:**  
14.04.89  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT  
**WEIGHT:**  
13ST 5LB  
**HONS:**  
-

**SPONSOR:**

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Henry **TRINDER**



**WING**

**BORN:**  
04.05.79  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT 2IN  
**WEIGHT:**  
17ST 8LB  
**HONS:**  
ENGLAND

**SPONSOR:**

**Vets on the Park**  
"Treating your pets...like our own"

Lesley **VAINIKOLO**



**WING**

**BORN:**  
05.01.81  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT 1IN  
**WEIGHT:**  
14ST 13LB  
**HONS:**  
ENGLAND

**SPONSOR:**



Tom **VOYCE**



**NO. 8**

**BORN:**  
01.02.89  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT 5IN  
**WEIGHT:**  
16ST 7LB  
**HONS:**  
-

**SPONSOR:**



Dan **WILLIAMS**



**PROP**

**BORN:**  
09.01.83  
**HEIGHT:**  
6FT 1IN  
**WEIGHT:**  
17ST 5LB  
**HONS:**  
-

**SPONSOR:**



Nick **WOOD**

**GRFC 2009/10 PREMIERSHIP STATISTICS**

**TOP POINTS SCORERS**

PLAYER	TOTAL
NICKY ROBINSON	202
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	40
FREDDIE BURNS	37
CHARLES SHARPLES	35
LESLEY VAINIKOLO	25

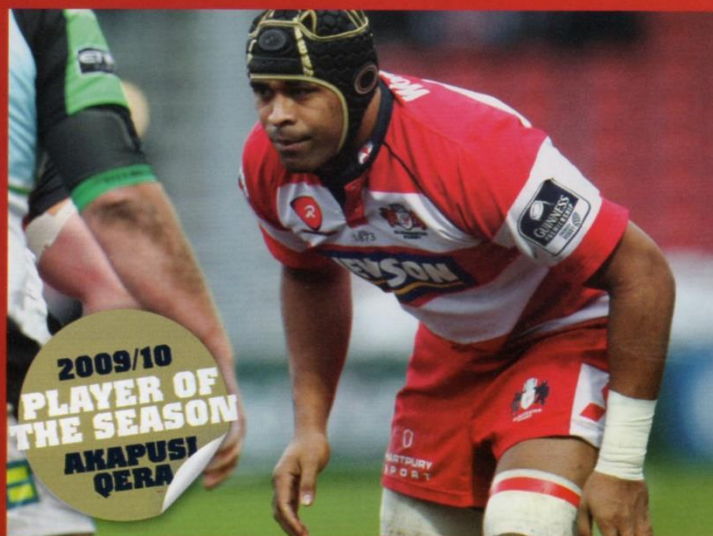


**TOP TRY SCORERS**

PLAYER	TOTAL
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	8
CHARLES SHARPLES	7
LESLEY VAINIKOLO	5
AKAPUSI QERA	4
NICKY ROBINSON	3

**MATCH STARTS**

PLAYER	TOTAL
NICKY ROBINSON	17
LESLEY VAINIKOLO	17
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	17
RORY LAWSON	16
DAVID ATTWOOD	16

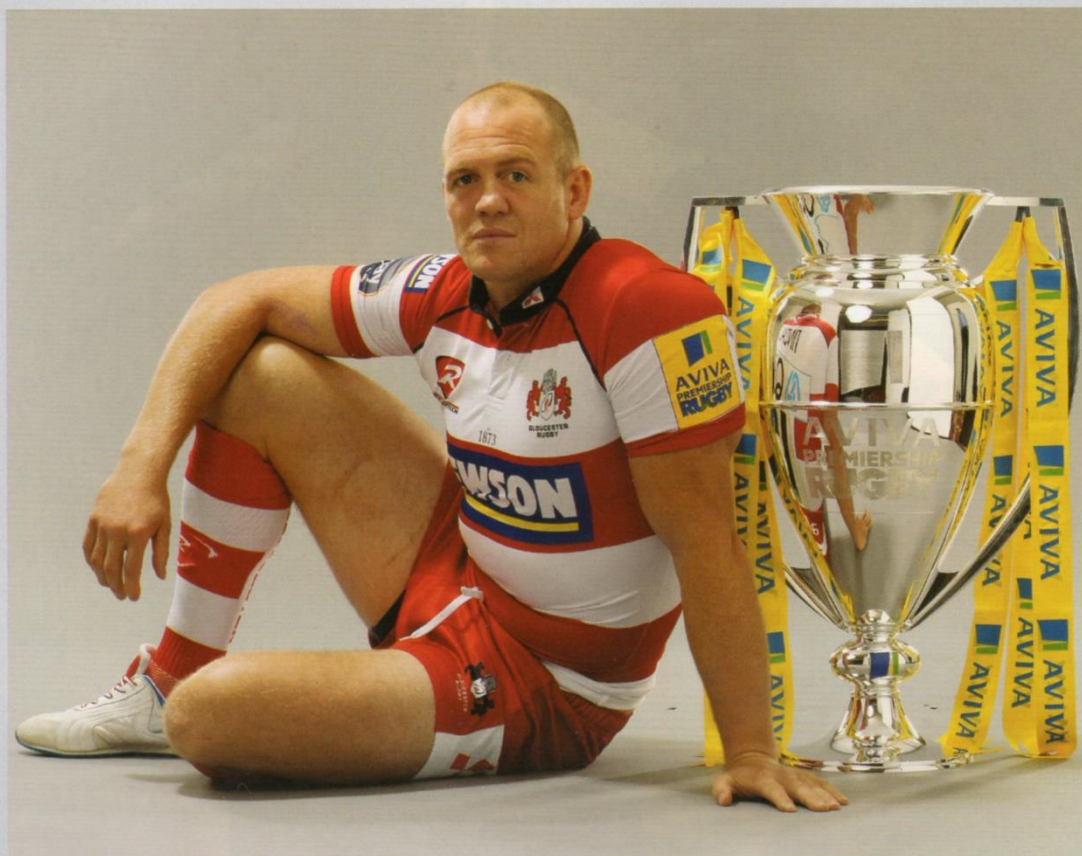




# View from The Citizen

with Will Wood

this is [gloucestershire.co.uk](http://gloucestershire.co.uk)



## Mike Tindall: We want silverware

**G**loucester Rugby skipper Mike Tindall is determined to bring some silverware back to Kingsholm this season.

Since the World Cup winner made the short journey from Bath in 2005, he has only lifted the European Challenge Cup with the Cherry and Whites in 2006.

But after coming so close to glory in 2007 and 2008 when Gloucester

finished top of the Premiership table, Tindall says his desire to win the title is as strong as ever.

"Massively, it has been my aim for the last 14 years of playing professional rugby," said Tindall who has 63 caps for England.

"I want a domestic title. I want the Premiership title. Yes, we won the European Challenge Cup a few years back but we have finished top of the Premiership two or three times and

not won it.

"That hurts after a while so we have still got to strive for that and that has still got to be our goal."

Bryan Redpath's side began the new campaign with a 22-10 defeat at newly promoted Exeter last Saturday to compound their away day woes.

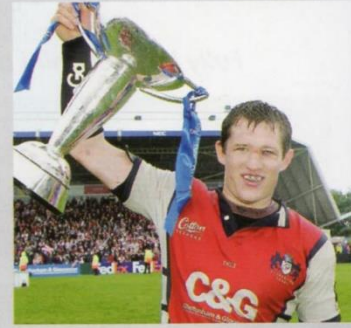
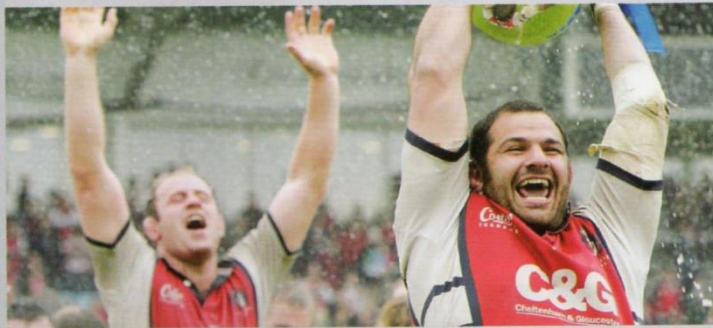
They did outscore their opponents by two tries to one with James Simpson-Daniel crossing in the first

**GLOUCESTER**  
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## *"I want a domestic title. I want the Premiership title"*



half and replacement Tim Taylor going over late on.

The setback at Sandy Park was all the more disappointing given that, during preseason, Redpath's men had looked impressive on the road when chalking up a 24-14 win at Magners League champions the Ospreys.

Gloucester also pushed 2006 and 2008 Heineken Cup champions Munster all the way in a 15-10 defeat at Musgrave Park, their only loss of the 2010-11 pre-season campaign.

It was a deliberate tactic to take

the side away from Kingsholm and out of their comfort zone to try and improve upon Gloucester's away record in 2009-10.

Last season the Cherry and Whites won just twice on the road all season, at this week's opponents Leeds Carnegie and local rivals Worcester Warriors.

Leeds finished ninth in the final standings and Worcester were relegated to the Championship. For Gloucester to compete for the places in the top half of the Aviva Premiership Rugby table, it's obvious that picking up away wins at teams in the top half of the table is essential.

And Tindall says working on their away day mentality has been a big focus of their pre-season preparations.

"The way the boys have reacted this summer has been exceptional really," added Tindall.

"Brush (Redpath) has tried to make it a hard and tough environment, tougher on yourself, tougher on other people and making people accountable.

"We are trying to grow as players and personalities and hopefully that will shine through in the tough games."



**J**ames Simpson-Daniel seems to have been part of the Gloucester Rugby set up forever!

However, the England international winger who recently became a father following the arrival of baby George, is still only 28 years old.

A rarity in the modern game, a one club man, Sinbad, as he is affectionately known in these parts, is now looking forward to a 2010-11 season which will be particularly significant for him as it will be his testimonial season.

**A testimonial at the age of 28 – that takes some doing?**

"Yes, I've been here for a long time and I remember coming down from up north and meeting up with the lads, meeting people like Terry Fanolua and Ian Jones and other Gloucester greats."

**"...OUR SUPPORTERS HAVE ALWAYS TRAVELLED WITH US, EVERYWHERE THAT WE'VE GONE, AND THEY'VE HAD THE SAME EXPERIENCES AS US PLAYERS."**

"It's my eleventh season coming up and I did have the option of taking it last season but we decided to delay it because I had things going on – like getting married!"

"So, we sat down and talked it over, opted for this year and got a great committee together. I am conscious that Olivier is also doing his this year but, provided our committees keep in touch with each other and arrange different events, then we'll get some support and everyone will enjoy what we do."

"The launch date will be confirmed probably some time in November and my committee have come up with some great ideas which will include something for everyone. There will be a testimonial website up and running very soon with events and dates."

With over 200 games under his belt, Simpson-Daniel can now be

considered a Gloucester veteran and admitted that the game has changed a lot over the years.

"Definitely. I came into it as a mere schoolboy who thought it was as simple as just dotting down the ball down over the line! I thought it was very simple and didn't really appreciate how much more detail there was to rugby."

"But I've loved every single season, the people I've played with, the supporters who have always been there for me."

"It's going to be an exciting year and I am glad my committee are looking after the testimonial side of things so I can remain as focused as ever on my rugby. The rugby will be a massive challenge, we're desperate to win something. I know that we say that every year but it is genuinely the case."

**Do any games or events in particular stick out as highlights over that time?**

"Someone did ask me this a few days

ago and I've been trying to get my head around it but there have been so many over the years. I'm my own worst critic and I remember every single aspect of my games."

"We have had so many highlights down here. Winning the European Challenge Cup was massive and there have been some very special individual matches."

"There have been so many positive experiences, playing against the top sides in Europe that it's a real challenge to pick a few out."

"Hopefully, as my testimonial year starts, other people will come forward with their memories as our supporters have always travelled with us, everywhere that we've gone, and they've had the same experiences as us players."

"There have been some real characters like Jason Little and Duncan McRae, Frank Schizano and Rodrigo Roncero.

I could name so many. Trevor Woodman and Phil Vickery who are very good friends of mine and who were ushers at my wedding."

"Who would have thought when I first started that someone like Mike Tindall would join Gloucester Rugby from our biggest rivals Bath? He's become a close friend."

"And then, of course, there all the positive off field influences as well. I'll make sure to acknowledge them as and when."

**Looking ahead to this season, Gloucester's squad has stayed relatively stable compared to most Aviva clubs. That could be an important factor?**

"I think that's a real positive. We don't need to start from scratch, we can build on what we've done before as a group, do some fine tuning and get really good at

executing what we consider to be our strengths."

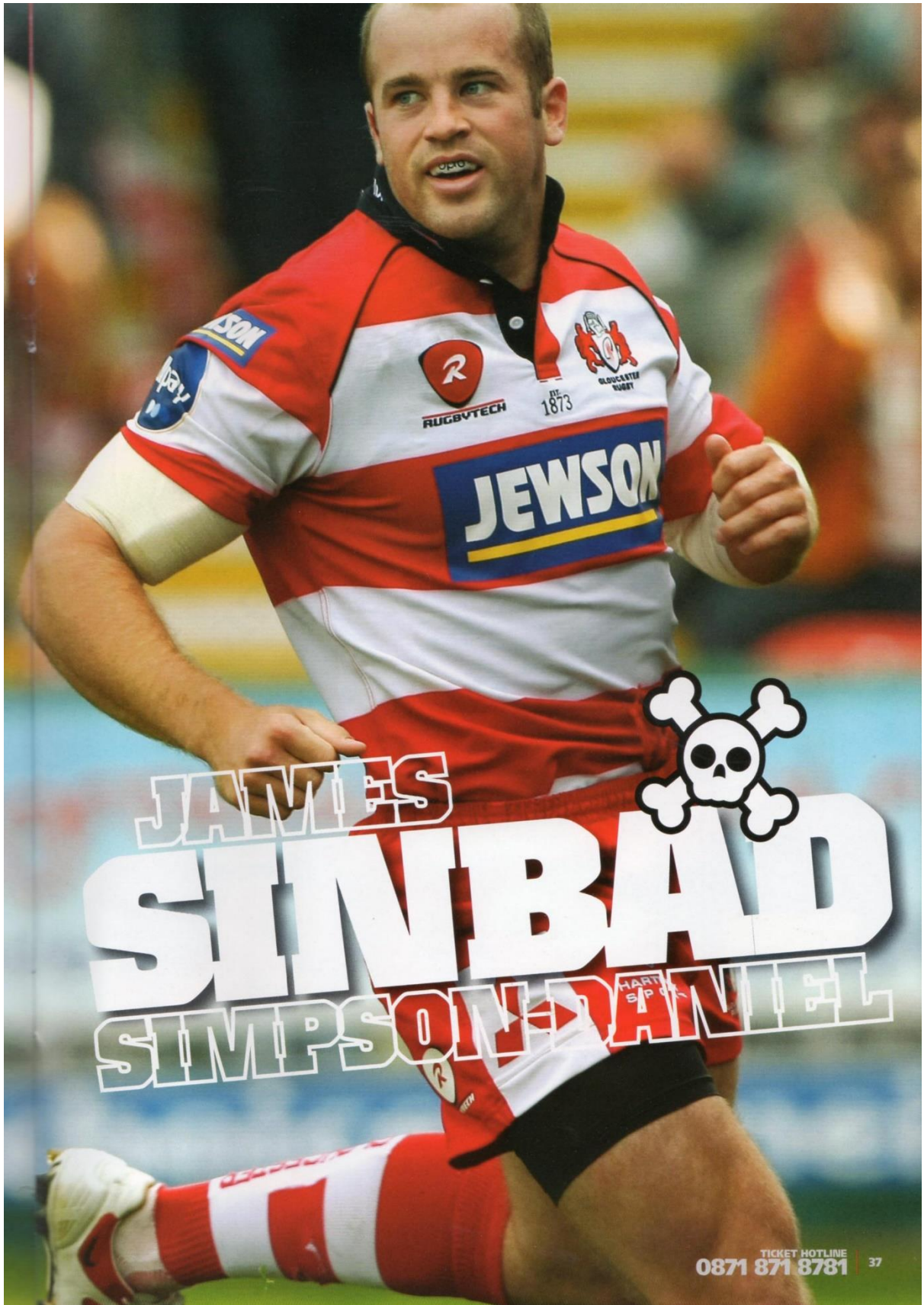
**Finally, has George's arrival given him a new perspective on things?**

"I think so. Matchdays and the associated build up are always nerve wracking but I think this will give me a real lift. It's difficult to explain but I'm seeing things through a different light and I'm hoping that I can go out there and really enjoy my rugby."

"You don't know how many years you've got left. I'm 28 so I've hopefully got another five or so left and I'm going to do my best to enjoy it."

"We don't know if we'll win anything but we need to put ourselves into a position when we can win. Like last year's final for example. It's what all the guys want and we're not a million miles off so who knows."



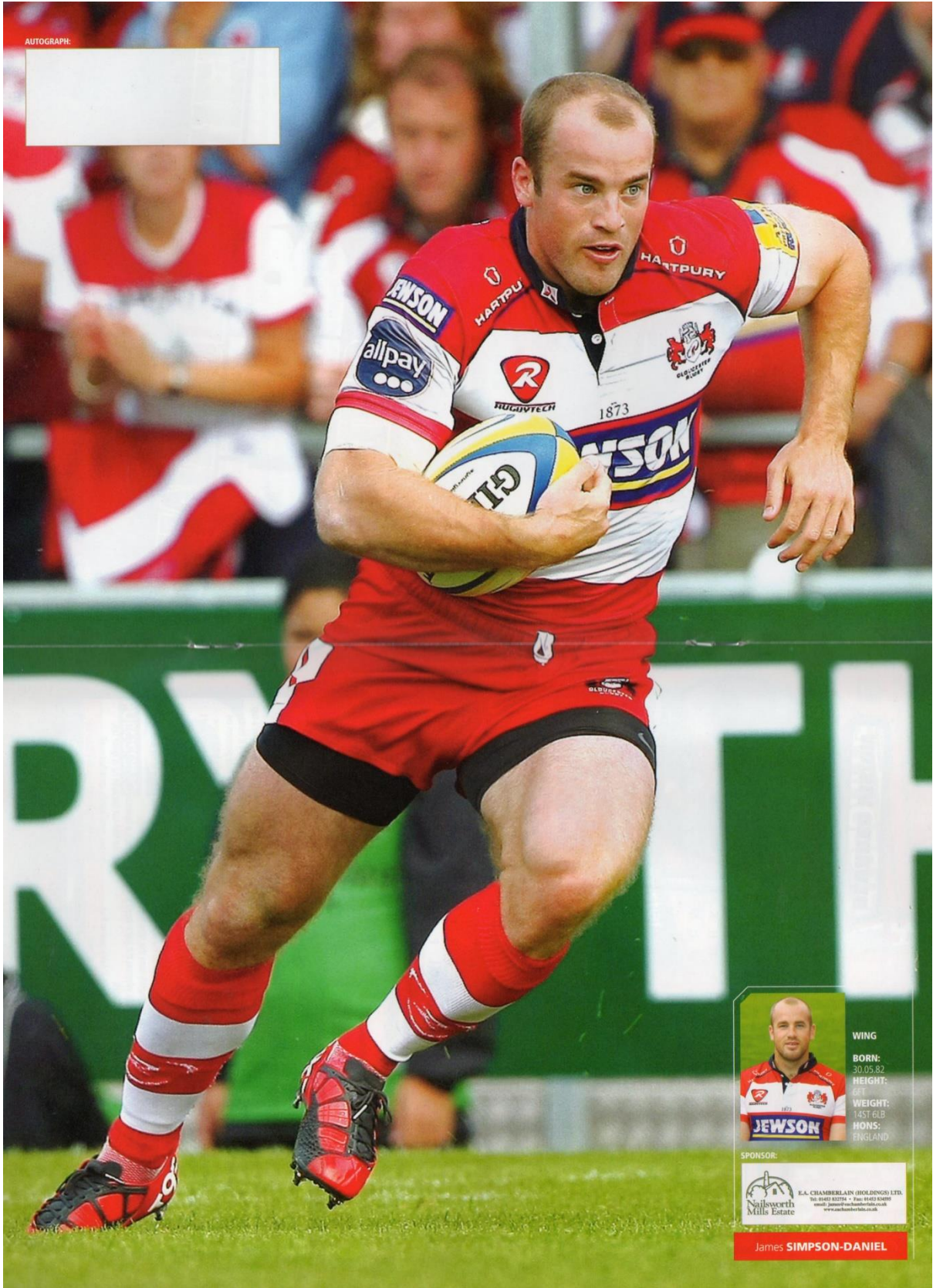


JAMES  
**SIMSBAD**  
SIMPSON DANIEL

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AUTOGRAPH:



**WING**  
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**HEIGHT:** 6'11"  
**WEIGHT:** 145T 6LB  
**HONS:** ENGLAND

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James **SIMPSON-DANIEL**



# Kingsholm News

with **Bob Fenton**

**A few new players, a new Premiership sponsor, same space on the terrace: welcome to the 2010-11 season.**

Without play offs and cup competitions it made for a very long summer, and the one home pre-season friendly seems a long time ago. So it's good to be back and good to be back in the heady world of the Premiership.

Unfortunately it wasn't the best start for us though... Our away form continues to let us down so we had a bit of a nightmare down in deepest Devon.

Those of us who have followed the side up and down the country are all too familiar with the 'you leave with nothing' syndrome; it doesn't make it any easier though.

After the game last week I caught up with Ash Rowden, he of touch judge and ex-referee fame. After properly correcting him on his numerous errors, omissions and

general extra-bulkiness (yeah, yeah: pot and kettle) I asked him what he thought of the game.

"Same old Gloucester – you can't win away from home... I remember up at Quins a few seasons ago I even sent off Ace Tiatia to help you, but you still lost by 20 points!" Thanks Ash, I remember that one only too well...

And those of us with long enough memories will remember another first game of the season away day to Harlequins, the score was so bad – I think we shipped around 60 points – that the score board operator was taken off with repetitive strain injury

It's not as if we were alone in losing last weekend, Leicester and Saracens both went down and come the end of the season they will be at the right end scrapping for honours.

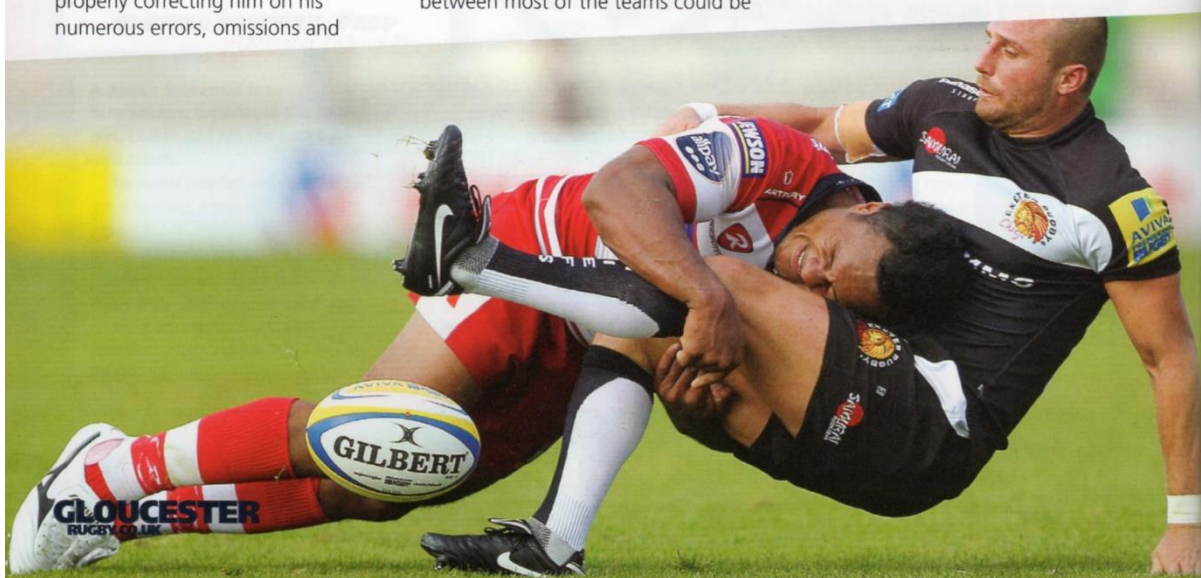
Such is the nature of the Premiership that – in my view – the difference between most of the teams could be

separated by a fag paper.

We're going to lose a few more games, but being the eternal optimist that I am, I believe we will win more than we lose and will reach one of the hallowed Heineken Cup places for next season. Yes I know, humble pie and egg on face may follow such a prediction, but that's where I am.

There's little point dwelling on what happened last week any more. What happened, happened and we can't change it. So let's look ahead and think about what we need to do today. Well the answer to that question is pretty simple really – beat Leeds today!

Of course that's a lot easier to write than it will be to accomplish. Last season we did the double over Leeds. When they visited us in March this year Nicky Robinson scored all the points, a performance like that from him today will serve us very well indeed.





**I TELL YOU ANOTHER INTERESTING FACT ABOUT MR THOMPSON... DID YOU KNOW THAT AT AGE 13 HE WAS – APPARENTLY – THE BRITISH ROLLER BLADING CHAMPION AND CAME SECOND IN THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP!**



Leeds have strengthened since then and will include Semi Tadulala – who ran out in a couple of 'A' games for us last season – in their ranks.

Actually Leeds has become a bit of a second home for players leaving Gloucester, they've also given a home to Jon Pendlebury and Andy Titterell.

Andy's departure from Kingsholm was a bit odd, he just seemed to disappear. He was always a good player and I could never work out why he hadn't been snapped up by one club or another. It's good to see him back on the paddock, and he's going to be itching to prove a point or two today.

Talking of hookers, Leeds also have the hugely experienced Steve Thompson in their ranks. I think it's fair to say that Mr T has never been

one of the guys to make it onto the all time list of Gloucester fans favourites. However you do have to take your hat off to him for the way he has rebuilt his career after it looked like it was all but over.

Having suffered from a long-term a neck injury he 'retired' in 2007. Fifteen months later he was playing again at Brive and two years later he was recalled to the England squad.

That is a comeback of Lazarus-like proportions and you have to salute his courage and determination for achieving it.

Someone needs to have a word with him about his beard though... Presumably the person who made the bet has paid out, so surely it's time for it to go!

I tell you another interesting fact about Mr Thompson... Did you know that at age 13 he was – apparently – the British Roller blading champion and came second in the European championship!

I say 'apparently' because that stunning fact comes to you courtesy of Wikipedia and everyone knows you can put pretty much whatever you like on there.

For all I know Steve added it himself at the same time as the other joke facts about him on there that says "...he is regarded by some as England's finest ever hooker..." and "...he was also very fast...".

Like I said, you can add anything you like on Wikipedia...



# Dave King's WORLD OF RUGBY

**T**he close season is now over, a period for dreams and aspiration, now the reality is upon us. Optimism abounds and rightly so stretching from Sandy Lane in Exeter to the extreme north of England in Newcastle.

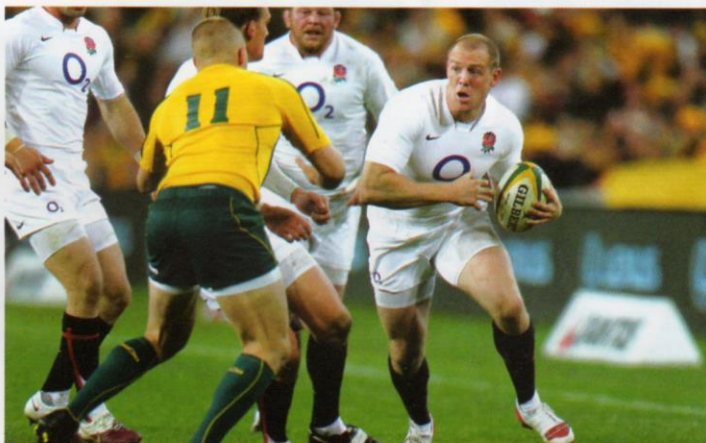
Summer months came and passed with a glimmer of hope for the England international team with a rare victory in Australia in a team containing **Mike Tindall**.

It would be unwise not to appreciate that there will have to be a concerted effort of higher dimension for England to prosper in the forthcoming World Cup of next year. This is surely where the coaching regime appointed by Rob Andrew and Martin Johnson will be judged.

The demise of the England soccer team and their manager Fabio Capello has been well documented. Newspaper post mortems have highlighted the fact that there is an acute shortage of players born within these shores and playing in the Barclays Premiership as the main reason for the perceived debacle.

World Cups in any sport highlight the availability of players to any national coach. It is interesting to note that from a twelve team Rugby Union Premiership, that this past summer England were able to select 100 players to go on tour!

Forty six went to Australia, a further twenty eight players travelled to the United States of America for the



Tinders takes on Drew Mitchell during the Cook Cup Test Match between the Australian Wallabies and England at ANZ Stadium on June 19, 2010 in Sydney

Churchill Cup. Another twenty eight players then travelled to Argentina for the IRB Under-20 World Championship.

Time will dictate whether this trend will be allowed to continue. Currently there are 64% of Premiership players that are England qualified. To the credit of the game of rugby union this figure remained constant since the game became professional.

The creation of the England qualified player scheme which gives incentives for clubs to field home grown players in their match day squads has caused a degree of consternation.

A recent report stated that Wasps, Bath and Harlequins comfortably exceeded the target of fielding an average of fourteen or more England qualified players in their twenty-three match day squads. It also recorded

that several clubs failed to meet the target set by quite considerable margins!

What a contrast to the background of two individuals with Kingsholm connections starting this season with new clubs in a coaching capacity.

Former British and Irish Lions Head Coach, Sir Ian McGeechan O.B.E. has been appointed Performance Director by Bath. Sir Ian was the Lions Chief in 1989, 1993 and 2009. He has also coached Scotland, Northampton and London Wasps. He left the Adams Park club in May 2009 to manage the Lions.

As a player he represented Scotland thirty two times and toured with the British Lions in 1974 and 1977.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the spectrum, Richard Ward, our former lock forward has taken up a



coaching role with Stroud R.F.C. at Fromehall Park.

Our visitors today, Leeds Carnegie, registered their eighth signing of the close season when they signed back row forward Daniel Browne from Bath on a two year contract. The club's intent to cement a place in Rugby Union's Premiership cannot be questioned.

Leeds Carnegie in seven visits to Kingsholm for league encounters have recorded only one victory! That win occurred in the 2004-05 season when they triumphed by a 33 points to 15.

Those seven visits saw the 'Cherry & Whites' record 214 points while today's opponents have registered 99.

Results in seasons where the Yorkshire club have been our visitors have been as follows: -

**2001-02**, 58-17. **2002-03**, 28-10. **2003-04**, 24-19. **2005-06**, 31-7. **2007-08**, 39-16. **2009-10**, 19-0.

Leeds first visit to Kingsholm came on 21st December 1996 for a Pilkington Cup tie. We were able to record a comfortable win by



1 Dec 2001: Frederico Pucciarello of Gloucester runs with the ball during the Zurich Premiership match against Leeds played at Kingsholm. Gloucester won the match 58-17

55 points to 21 on that winter's afternoon. Leeds were at the time members of Division Three.

The 'Cherry & Whites' were represented by: Chris Catling; Mike Peters, Don Caskie, Martyn

Roberts, Mike Lloyd; Mark Mapletoft, Scott Benton; Tony Windo, Phil Greening, Andy Deacon, Rob Fidler, Dave Sims, Pete Glanville, Ian Smith and Simon Devereux.

Today's match is our first home fixture in the **Aviva Premiership**. The new sponsor has been one of the more easily recognised financial institutions paying £20 million for the right.

This sum will help balance the accounts of clubs such as Harlequins, Sale Sharks, London Wasps, Saracens and Worcester Warriors who are reported to be losing substantial amounts verging on 2 million each.

Will we ever see a 14 club professional Premiership? It would not appear to be imminent for Premier Rugby have stated that relegation will stay in place for the next six years. Scrutiny shows that there are only fourteen clubs capable of staging top flight rugby union.

Who will join the Aviva Premiership next season? Worcester Warriors must be odds on favourites to gain promotion with their £2 million parachute payment





# GL13AX Gloucester Talk

with Peter Arnold

## HERE WE GO AGAIN



**I**t's nice to be home, but I don't seem to have been away. It only seems a couple of weeks ago that I was wrapping up my final contribution for the 2009/10 season, yet here I am, hunched over the Iron Maiden, starting the whole process over again.

Summer, such as it was, has passed in a flash, partly, I suspect, because the close season has regaled us with much to remember on the sporting front.

Tennis fans will have been delighted with the best Wimbledon for years. At the time of writing,

Lewis Hamilton is leading the Formula 1 drivers' championship.

And as for cricket – well, I suppose you could call it “interesting”, Not that we're in any position to be holier than thou over the no-ball betting scandal, bearing in mind the Bloodgate' affair at Harlequins.

Which brings me to the object of the exercise. I think we can be quite satisfied with the pre-season games. To have beaten both the Scarlets and the Ospreys and only lost by a score over the sea on Munster's own peat bog offers a modest degree of approval and cautious optimism for

the new season.

I'm well aware that one can't read too much into such games - there is too much experimentation and too many substitutions on both sides for that – but it wasn't a bad return for three matches against testing opposition nonetheless. From all points of view, we're in a better position than we were this time last year.

So here we go for our first Kingsholm game of the season. It wouldn't do to underestimate Leeds, even if they are relatively new kids on the block.

As I say. Cautious optimism.



## WHERE NOW?

**S**o I think we're entitled to have a reasonably hopeful few of the new campaign. I see that most pundits don't give us much chance of doing better than last season, and the doubters include the sainted Martin Johnson.

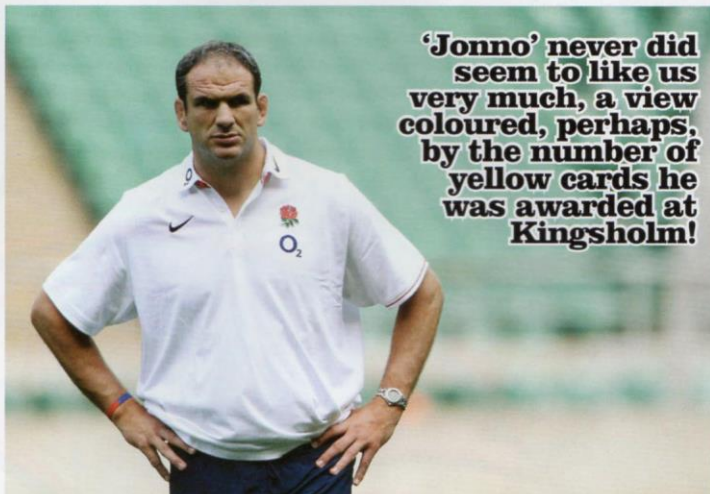
'Jonno' never did seem to like us very much, a view coloured, perhaps, by the number of yellow cards he was awarded at Kingsholm!

Perhaps I should wash my mouth out – the England Manager couldn't possibly be influenced by such thoughts, could he? Perish the thought.

Nevertheless, we should, perhaps, take stock of the opposition. It seems to me that Jonno's former club, Leicester, are still the front runners.

They have a settled squad, are well drilled and have got into the habit of winning consistently and topping the table. Like Gloucester, they all seem to play for the shirt, rather than glory or money, and long may that remain so.

You could say much the same thing about Northampton. Their ground is as near as impregnable as it gets, and they have a crowd of supporters as passionate as our own.



**'Jonno' never did seem to like us very much, a view coloured, perhaps, by the number of yellow cards he was awarded at Kingsholm!**

They will always be a danger.

And talking about danger, everyone will have to keep a sharp eye on Bath. They came back very strongly towards the end of last season, they have made some very impressive signings and have Ian McGeechan aboard. This could just be their year,

As for the rest you pay your money and you take your choice. Today's welcome visitors have also made some shrewd signings, and

there is a decided air of optimism about them.

London Irish, Saracens and Harlequins all have the capacity to shock anyone on their day, but don't seem good candidates for the long haul to me. Sale and Newcastle look promising. But then, they have done for years.

I'm not going to make any forecasts, other than to say that we should be able to make the top six. Perhaps even the top four.

## WHY CAN'T I KEEP MY BIG MOUTH SHUT?



**I should have known it. As soon as I come over all optimistic, something happens to take me down a peg or two. In this case, it was the defeat down at Exeter, which I doubt that many of us expected. Let's face it, it was a bit of a kick in the teeth.**

In any other circumstances I would have been pleased for Exeter. They've been knocking at the door of the Premiership for several years and at last have managed to get past Bristol and make the step up.

Pity it was at the expense of Worcester, but there you go. I wish them well, but I'm sure the lads will be laying in wait when they pay their

visit to Kingsholm.

If it's any consolation, I'm sure Leicester supporters will be feeling worse than we do. It's one thing to lose to the eager new kids on the block, but quite another to come out at the wrong end in one of the most fiercely contested local derbies in the game. The Saints supporters must be having a good gloat.

About the only other upbeat factor I can think of is to point out that we started last season with a famous victory over Bath, and things pretty much went downhill from there. So I still remain cautiously optimistic.

Keep your chins up lads. We still love you





# GLOUCESTER

## ACADEMY SQUAD 2010/11

### THE NEXT GENERATION

The latest generation of Gloucester Rugby Academy prospects are on their way and pulled on the Cherry and White hooped shirt for the first time in a senior capacity when they competed in the JP Morgan Asset Management Premiership Rugby 7s tournament in July.

Gloucester didn't make it through the pool stages, suffering two narrow defeats before thumping Bath. However, Phil Greenaway the Assistant Academy Manager who took charge of the squad on the night saw plenty of potential for the future.

"I was very proud of the lads on the night and the way they carried themselves on their first senior tournament."

"There were 7,500 people watching and a live television audience so it was a big occasion for them. I was absolutely chuffed to bits for them."

"They were a little 'rabbit in the headlights' when they first arrived but once we'd warmed up and had a bit of a chat, it was like any other game of rugby for them."

"That shows their maturity, they're a good bunch of lads and hopefully reflects the Academy system that we have in place here at Gloucester."

#### DAN ROBSON

"Dan's a good player. He was a bit jaded as he'd just got back from South Africa with England U18s but showed some lovely touches on the night, good composure and quick feet and took his try well."

#### RYAN MILLS

"Ryan made a lot of breaks and his



defensive work and aggression showed up well. He's there to learn and get better and the Sevens tournament was a good place to do that."

#### ROB LANGLEY

"Rob was probably the one who impressed me the most because he played virtually every second until he pulled his hamstring. His competitiveness and sheer drive keep him going and he took his tries well showing pace and awareness."

#### GARETH EVANS

"Gareth again did well. He didn't get as much game time but got some key turnovers and put in some big hits. He chased back well in defence and his work rate and attitude were excellent."

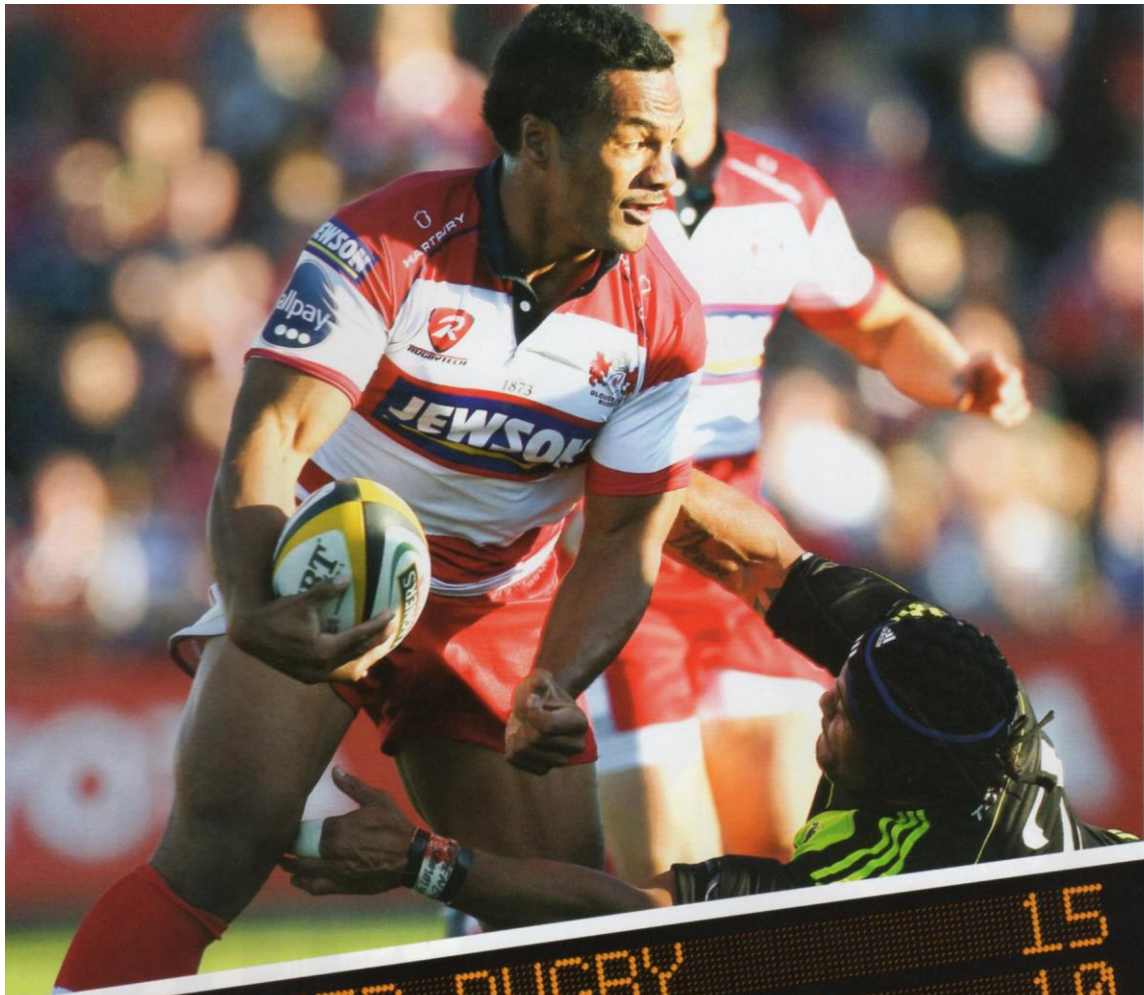
"We were also really grateful to some of the others like the Jarvis brothers, Tim Stevenson and Jake Carter who came in on the night along with Apo (Satala) who calmed things down and was a great help to the youngsters!"



#### GLOUCESTER UNITED FIXTURES 2010/11

06/09/10	v. London Irish(H)	L11-13
13/09/10	v. Harlequins	A
27/09/10	v. Exeter United	H
25/10/10	v. London Wasps	H
01/11/10	v. Bath United	A
06/12/10	v. Saracens	H
13/12/10	v. London Irish	A
03/01/11	v. Harlequins	H
10/01/11	v. Exeter United	A
28/03/11	v. London Wasps	A
04/04/11	v. Bath United	H
11/04/11	v. Saracens	A



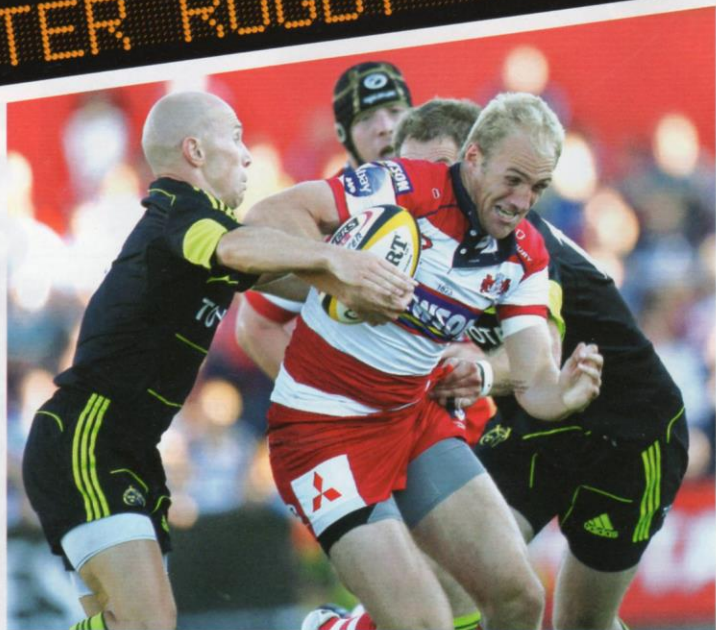


MUNSTER RUGBY 15  
GLOUCESTER RUGBY 10

**G**loucester Rugby wound up their preparations for the 2010-11 season with possibly their best preseason friendly performance but just finished second best to a determined and disciplined Munster side who edged a close game by 15 points to 10.

Bryan Redpath's side went into the game having defeated the Scarlets at Kingsholm and the Ospreys at the Liberty Stadium. But the trip to Cork was eagerly anticipated as the most testing preseason assignment.

Both sides were missing a host of



**GLOUCESTER**  
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## KEY MOMENT

**TRY** Trailing 10-7 at half time but with the wind at their backs in the second period, Gloucester needed to score first. However, the opening kick off was fumbled giving Munster great field position and the Irish province needed no second invitation. A well executed catch and drive resulted in a second try and Munster had a lead that they wouldn't relinquish despite Gloucester's best efforts.



**GLOUCESTER RESPONDED BY DRIVING THE HOME SIDE ONTO THE BACK FOOT AND SUCCEEDED IN QUIETENING THE HOME CROWD...**



international stars but sought to go out and win the game by playing positive rugby.

The Munster defence, as expected in front of a lively home crowd, was well organised and full blooded and, despite Gloucester enjoying more than their fair share of possession and territory, it took a moment of inspiration to break through.

With referee David Wilkinson playing an advantage to Gloucester deep in the Munster 22, fly half Tim Taylor slid a grubber kick behind the advancing defence and won the chase to touch down his own kick.

Gloucester looked well set to make it three from three but Munster tightened up their approach and scored twice from close range catch and drives either side of half time to open up a 15-7 lead.

Showing great resolve and no little skill, Gloucester responded by driving the home side onto the back foot and succeeded in quietening the home crowd as the tension grew.

Redpath emptied his bench and the replacements succeeded in providing fresh impetus to the cause. Taylor narrowed the gap to 15-10 with a penalty and the game was in the balance going into the final quarter.

Munster defended tenaciously but Gloucester very nearly snatched the spoils right at the death with Tom Joyce just bundled into touch at the corner as time expired.

Defeat equalled disappointment on the night but satisfaction in the knowledge that progress was made and another step taken forward in the build up to the Aviva Premiership kick off.

## THE LINE UPS

### MUNSTER RUGBY

15. Jones
14. Howlett
13. Murphy
12. Tuitupou
11. Dowling
10. Warwick
9. Stringer
1. du Preez
2. Varley
3. Buckley
4. Nagle
5. Ryan
6. Quinlan
7. Leamy
8. O'Donnell

16. Fogarty
17. Ronan
18. Williams
19. O'Driscoll
20. Holland
21. Archer
22. Deasy
23. Zebo
24. O'Mahony
25. Dinneen
26. Barnes

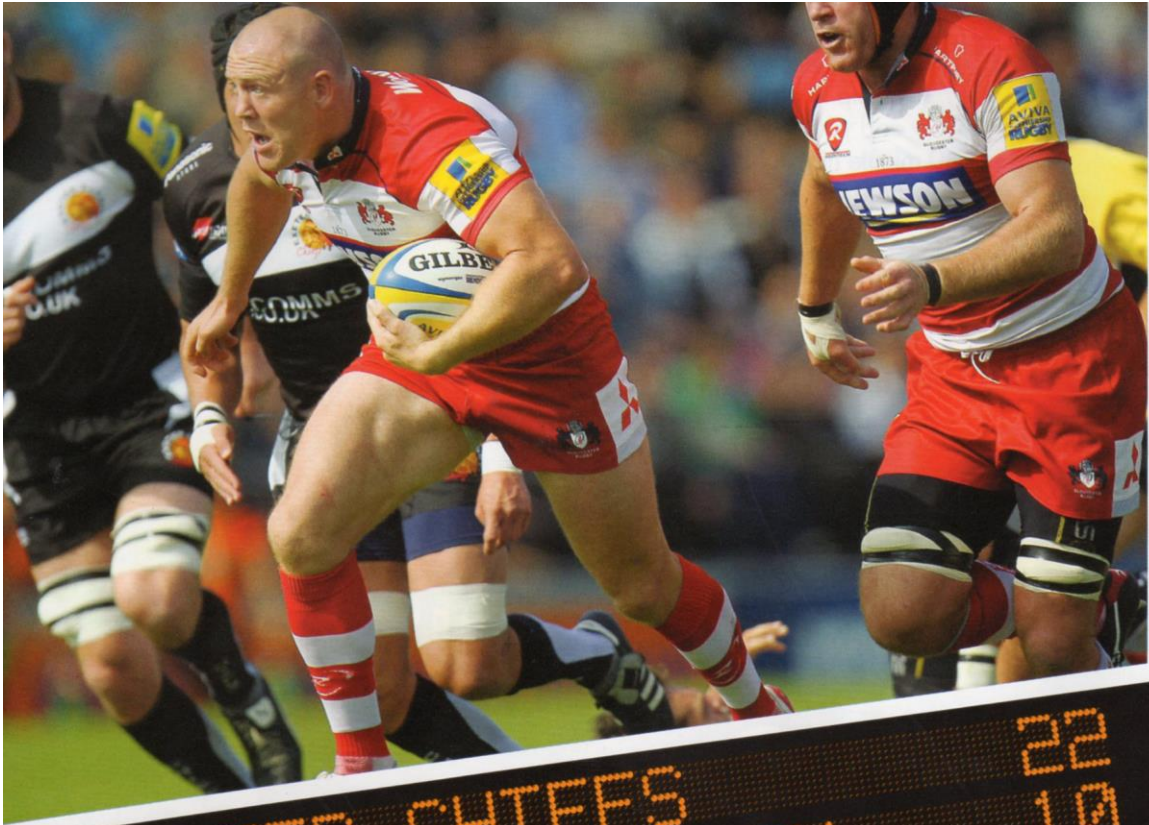


### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Morgan
14. Simpson-Daniel
13. Molenaar
12. Fuimaono-Sapolu
11. Joyce
10. Taylor
9. R Lawson
1. Dickinson
2. Lawson
3. Capdevielle
4. James
5. Brown
6. Strokosch
7. Hazell
8. Narraway

16. Dawiduk
17. Thomas
18. Harden
19. Attwood
20. Deacon
21. Pasqualin
22. Trinder
23. Sharples
24. Cox
25. Buxton
26. May



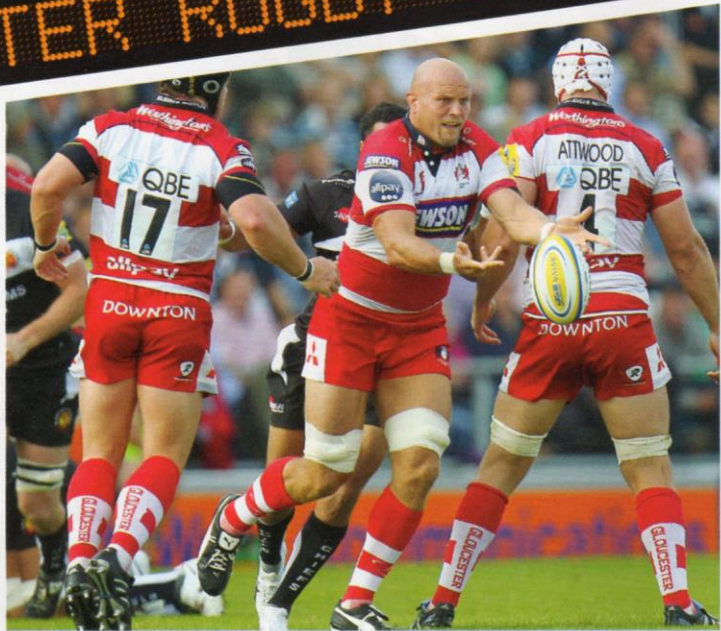


EXETER CHIEFS 22  
 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 10

**G**loucester's Aviva Premiership Rugby campaign got off to a frustrating and disappointing start at Sandy Park as the Exeter Chiefs secured a 22-10 victory in their first ever game in the top flight.

Truth be told, although the workload of the Chiefs was absolutely phenomenal on the day, and they were understandably backed by an incredibly passionate home crowd, they didn't have to create that much to clinch the win.

They did create a good early score but, from that moment on, merely had to play for position and rely on the



**TRY** 5min Foster (5-0)  
**CON** 5min Steenson (7-0)

**TRY** 12min Simpson-Daniel (7-5)  
**PEN** 17min Steenson (10-5)

**PEN** 31min Steenson (13-5)  
**PEN** 38min Steenson (16-5)





## KEY MOMENT

**TRY** 54min  
Taylor (16-10)

Tim Taylor's try got Gloucester back within striking distance at 16-10 on 54 minutes. However, a Steenson penalty immediately followed to move



**"TAKE NOTHING AWAY FROM EXETER, VERY EFFICIENT, VERY SIMPLE WITH WHAT THEY'VE DONE BUT WE HAVE TO BE HUGEY CRITICAL OF OUR OWN PERFORMANCE."**

Exeter clear once again and take the wind out of the sails of Gloucester's comeback.

## MATCH STATISTICS



1	Tries	2
1	Conversions	0
4	Penalty goals	0
1	Dropped goals	0
1	Clean breaks	10
10	Defenders beaten	18
9	Offloads	10
83	Rucks won	60
15	Turnovers conceded	25
89	Tackles	112
19	Missed tackles	9
11	Penalties conceded	7

unerring boot of Gareth Steenson to do the rest.

Steenson finished with a 17 point haul as he judged the elements perfectly, applying his local knowledge to good effect.

In contrast, Nicky Robinson struck the ball well off the kicking tee but found the swirling wind a tricky one to judge. Two of Robinson's kicks cannoned against the upright and stayed out whilst at least two others started perfectly on target but drifted inches wide after intervention from the strong breeze. It was that kind of day.

Ultimately, however, it was Gloucester's errors that led to their downfall in Devon. They made countless

line breaks and, on another day, would have scored several tries.

They still outscored the Chiefs by two tries to one but it was a disappointing return given the territory and possession they enjoyed.

Time and again, promising positions were squandered because of knock ons and forward passes. It was enough to give the coaching team sleepless nights.

Predictably, the Chiefs threw the kitchen sink at Gloucester in the opening stages and it was perhaps fate that saw former Gloucester winger Mark Foster score the opening try.

However, a good response saw James Simpson-Daniel score and even when Luke Narryway had a try disallowed, things looked positive.

But the errors halted any momentum Gloucester tried to build and ill discipline allowed Steenson to build a lead.

On the one occasion in the second period that Gloucester remained patient and worked the phases, a try for Tim Taylor followed.

Unfortunately, it wasn't enough.

## THE LINE UPS

### EXETER CHIEFS

15. Luke Arcscott
14. Nicholas Sestaret
13. Phil Dollman
12. Bryan Rennie
11. Mark Foster
10. Gareth Steenson
9. Haydn Thomas
1. Brett Sturgess
2. Neil Clark
3. Hoani Tui
4. Tom Hayes
5. James Hanks
6. Tom Johnson
7. James Scaysbrook
8. James Phillips
16. Simon Alcott
17. Ben Moon
18. Chris Budgen
19. David Gannon
20. Chad Slade
21. Garrick Cowley
22. Ryan Davis
23. Matt Jess

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Olly Morgan
14. James Simpson-Daniel
13. Mike Tindall
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapulu
11. Lesley Vainikolo
10. Nicky Robinson
9. Dave Lewis
1. Nick Wood
2. Scott Lawson
3. Pierre Capdevielle
4. Dave Attwood
5. Alex Brown
6. Peter Buxton
7. Akapusi Qera
8. Luke Narryway
16. Olivier Azam
17. Alasdair Dickinson
18. Rupert Harden
19. Will James
20. Alasdair Strokosch
21. Jordi Pasqualin
22. Tim Taylor
23. Tim Molenaar

**TRY** 54min Taylor (16-10)  
**PEN** 57min Steenson (19-10)

**DG** 68min Steenson (22-10)

42 | 44 | 46 | 48 | 50 | 52 | 54 | 56 | 58 | 60 | 62 | 64 | 66 | 68 | 70 | 72 | 74 | 76 | 78 | 80

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VS. LEEDS CARNEGIE // 11.09.10

# TODAY'S LINE-UPS

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

	CHARLIE SHARPLES	<b>15</b>	FULLBACK
7-0	JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	<b>14</b>	WING
7-3	MIKE TINDALL (C)	<b>13</b>	CENTRE
14-3	ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU	<b>12</b>	CENTRE
14-6	LESLEY VAINIKOLO	<b>11</b>	WING
14-11	NICKY ROBINSON	<b>10</b>	FLY-HALF
17-11	RORY LAWSON	<b>9</b>	SCRUM-HALF
19-14	ALASDAIR DICKINSON	<b>1</b>	PROP
19-21	SCOTT LAWSON	<b>2</b>	HOOKER
22-21	PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE	<b>3</b>	PROP
	DAVE ATTWOOD	<b>4</b>	LOCK
	ALEX BROWN	<b>5</b>	LOCK
	BRETT DEACON	<b>6</b>	FLANKER
	ANDY HAZELL	<b>7</b>	FLANKER
	LUKE NARRAWAY	<b>8</b>	NO.8
	OLIVIER AZAM	<b>16</b>	
	NICK WOOD	<b>17</b>	
	RUPERT HARDEN	<b>18</b>	
	WILL JAMES	<b>19</b>	
	PETER BUXTON	<b>20</b>	
	DAVE LEWIS	<b>21</b>	
	TIM TAYLOR	<b>22</b>	
	TIM MOLENAAR	<b>23</b>	

## LEEDS CARNEGIE

	MICHAEL STEPHENSON	
	LEE BLACKETT	
	LUTHER BURRELL	
	LACHLAN MACKAY	
	SEMI TADULALA	
	CEIRON THOMAS	
	SCOTT MATHIE	
	MIGUEL ALONSO	
	ANDY TITTERRELL	
	JUAN GOMEZ	
	TOM DENTON	
	MARCO WENTZEL (C)	
	KEARNAN MYALL	
	HENDRE FOURIE	
	DANIEL BROWNE	
	STEVE THOMPSON	
	GARETH HARDY	
	PHIL SWAINSTON	
	ALFIE TO'OALA	
	RHYS OAKLEY	
	WARREN FURY	
	SCOTT BARROW	
	LEIGH HINTON	

REFEREE: David Rose  
ASST REFEREES: Paul Burton  
and Nigel Carrick

## THE STATS THAT MATTER

### TOP POINTS SCORERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
NICK MACLEOD	22
NICK EVANS	19
MARK VAN GISBERGEN	19
GARETH STEENSON	17
SAM VESTY	17



### TOP TRY SCORERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
SCOTT HAMILTON	2
SOANE TONGA'UIHA	2
BRETT WILSON	2
NICK ABENDANON	1
DELON ARMITAGE	1

