



**INSIDE...**

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# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

**AVIVA PREMIERSHIP  
VS. LONDON WASPS**  
25 SEPTEMBER 2010, KO 2.30PM // £3

**REGULAR  
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**PLAYER  
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CAPTAIN'S  
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MIKE TINDALL

# Captain's Corner



Welcome to Kingsholm this afternoon as Gloucester Rugby host the ESPN live broadcast cameras for this afternoon's Aviva Premiership game against London Wasps.

It's probably fair to say that we still haven't really got our season going so far and, believe me, no-one is more frustrated about that fact than us players.

In our last home game, the 22-21 win over Leeds Carnegie, we flattered early only to deceive later. We got off to a dream start with two tries in the opening 10 minutes but then lost our way a bit.

We didn't respect possession enough and gave Leeds enough encouragement to stay in the game. Even when we got the third try just before half time, we didn't kick on to finish off the game and ended up owing the win to Nicky's late kick.

It was hugely frustrating and

there were some frank words in the dressing room after the game. We know we're so much better than that and you could see what we're capable of from the three tries we scored.

And frustration was again the main emotion last weekend. We did improve on our turnover rate but, after the first two games when our discipline was really good, we found ourselves on the wrong end of too many refereeing decisions.

Sometimes penalties are given away on purpose, but most are conceded because a player is trying his best to make something happen and gets caught half a yard offside or holds on to possession a fraction too long in a contact situation.

What is certain, though, is we can't afford to concede so many penalties today. Anyone who watched last weekend's game between Wasps and Leicester will have seen what good form Dave

Walder is in.

In fact, Dave has been on fire for the past couple of seasons and he will punish us severely if we give him the opportunity.

Wasps will be tough this afternoon. They were the last team to beat us here in the Premiership at Kingsholm and the defeat that day was certainly one of the low points of the season.

In fact we played them four times in all last season and lost the lot although we could argue that three of those games were played at Adams Park.

Playing at home is a massive advantage and we make no secret of the fact that we love playing here at Kingsholm.

We've feel we've a lot to prove and there would be no better occasion to deliver a complete performance than here today.

Enjoy the game!

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

Since I last wrote these programme notes, we've had a tough couple of weeks with a narrow win achieved here against Leeds Carnegie before we lost at London Irish last weekend.

Unfortunately against Leeds, despite the good start, we started to turn the ball over more than we would have liked and this gave them the possession they needed to get back into the game and we could never quite shake them off despite scoring a third try on the stroke of half time.

Quite a few turnovers stemmed from us trying an over ambitious offload out of contact when it would have been better to go to ground, recycle the ball and start over.

I'm certainly not going to tell the players to stop trying to keep the ball alive but we need to be smarter about when to do it.

And I genuinely thought that we improved on that front against London Irish last weekend. Our issue last weekend was getting a decent foothold in the game because we simply conceded way too many penalties.

There were some decisions which were no brainers and you can have no argument about that. However, there were some that left us genuinely bemused. As a result, we've been over the post match DVD and had a good chat with Ed Morrison, the RFU's Elite Referee Manager, to get some clarification.

It's very important because you simply compete when you're

being penalised that frequently. It gifts possession and territory to the opposition and points can follow.

However, considering how much ball Irish had last weekend, I was reasonably pleased with our defensive effort.

We came into the season knowing that we wanted to improve our defence. It's no secret that last season we conceded way too many points.

And that has been a plus point so far. We've played two of our three games to date away from Kingsholm and have defended

despite conceding four tries before half time.

They're always a tough opponent. They ended our participation in Europe last season and we need no reminder that they were the last side to win here at Kingsholm in the Premiership on an evening that sticks in the memory for the wrong reasons.

But, as I've said a few times in recent weeks, it's about us. We know what we need to do but we appreciate that we need to do our talking on the pitch.

We're all massively aware of the fact that we haven't played to



pretty robustly even when we've found ourselves under a bit of pressure. The goal line stand just before half time at the Madejski Stadium was a good example of that.

We do know, however, that we're going to have to step things up on all fronts against London Wasps this afternoon.

Like ourselves, Wasps have only won once so far this season but they'll be coming into this afternoon's game on a bit of a high having won a thriller against the Leicester Tigers last weekend

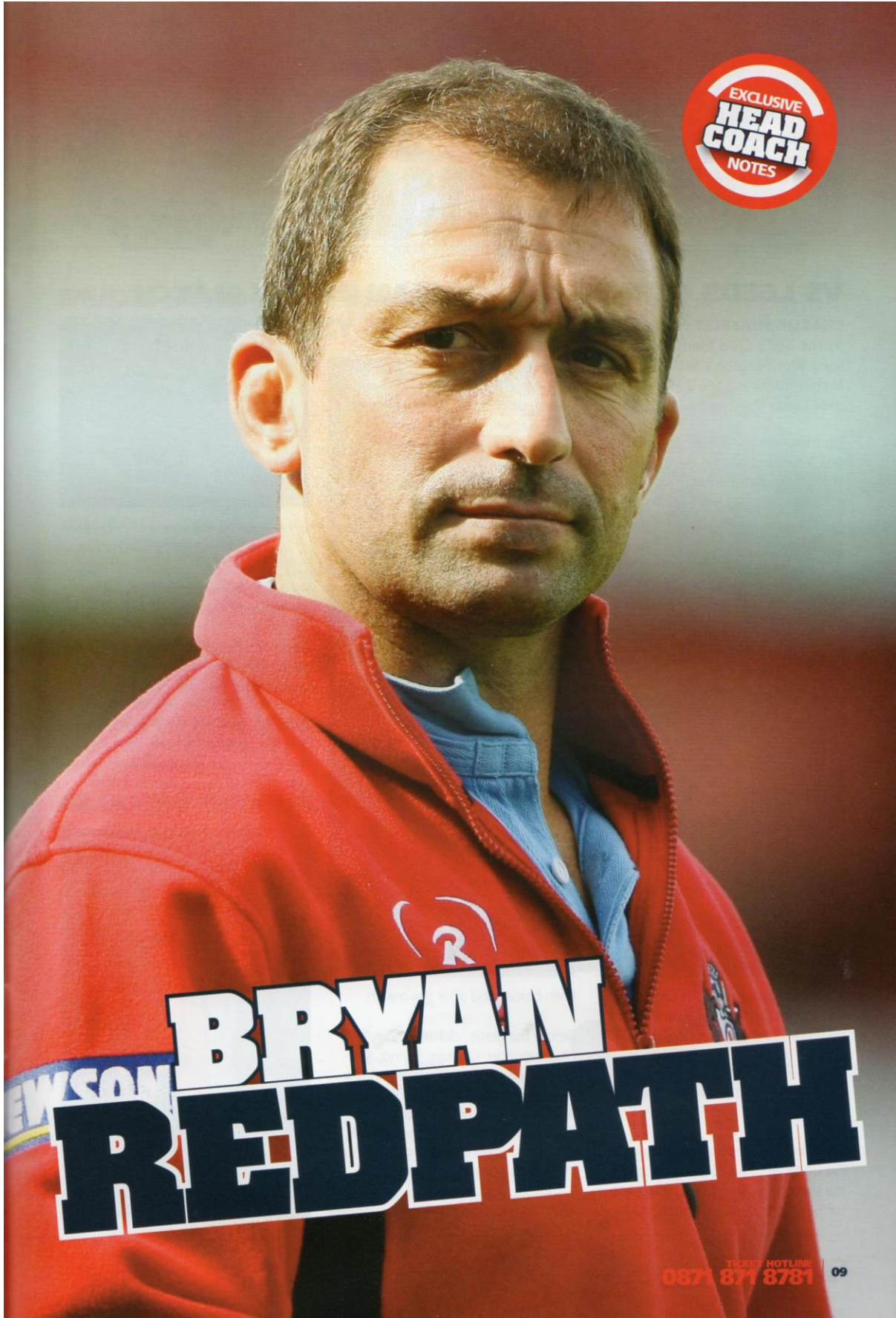
anything like our potential in the first few weeks of the season. But we're also aware of what we're capable of when it clicks.

Today, in front of our own supporters and also the ESPN cameras, would be the ideal stage on which to perform to our full potential.

We'll be giving it everything and hope you all recognise that and give us the superb backing that we've enjoyed so frequently in the past.

**Enjoy the game.**

EXCLUSIVE  
**HEAD  
COACH**  
NOTES



**BRYAN**  
**REDPATH**

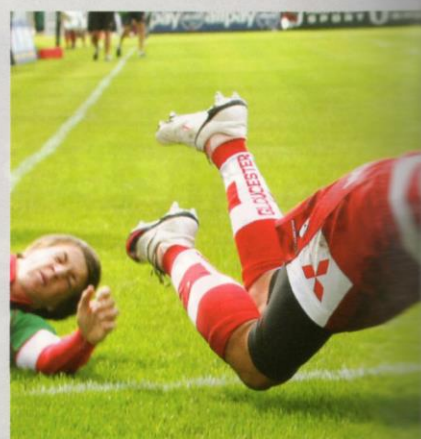
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# View from The Citizen

with Will Wood

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

## Charlie Sharples: 40 games young



**Y**OUNGSTER Charlie Sharples can no longer blame inexperience after establishing himself as a first-team regular in the Gloucester side.

The winger, who featured at full-back against Leeds last weekend in the absence of injured duo Olly Morgan and Freddie Burns, turned 21 last month but has racked up 40 games already.

In that time he has scored 13 tries in 27 starts, but the Hong Kong-born flyer says he has to accept the responsibility that comes with being elevated from the fringes.

"I would like to think now I have to consider myself a first-team regular, but with that comes the added pressure," said the former England Under-20s star.

"You can't consider yourself as a youngster anymore so you can't get away with making the same mistakes you have made in the past

if you want to put yourself in that bracket.

"You have to put pressure on yourself to perform and you can't say you're a first team regular and then pull out the youth card and say it is inexperience.

"You have got to learn from mistakes and experiences in the past and try and keep performing every week really."

Sharples admitted he was guilty of making an important individual error in the victory over Leeds at Kingsholm recently when



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he knocked on with the line beckoning.

At that stage in the game – just after half-time – had he held onto the ball to score it would have secured a fourth try and sealed a bonus point.

But Sharples, who made his debut in 2007, is not worried about losing his place in the side after that, and added that the team are working

hard to eradicate their errors.

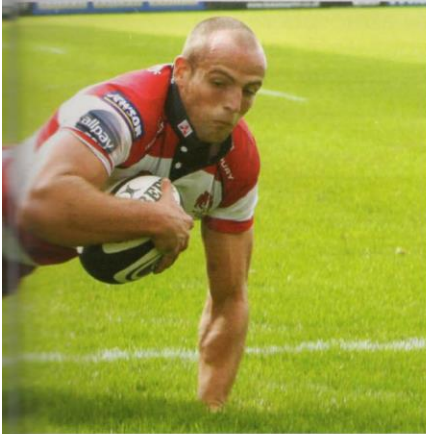
“You would only worry when you know in yourself when you have had a bad performance and an average performance because people are their own worst critic,” he added.

“I know I am and I don’t settle for average because you want to have high standards and so do the rest of the players.

“You could have a game where you don’t make any breaks but you have a solid game and you don’t make any mistakes.

“Or you could have a game when you might score a couple of tries and make lots of runs but you make a few silly mistakes.

“I would say I went all right and I would be disappointed if I had suddenly been relegated out of

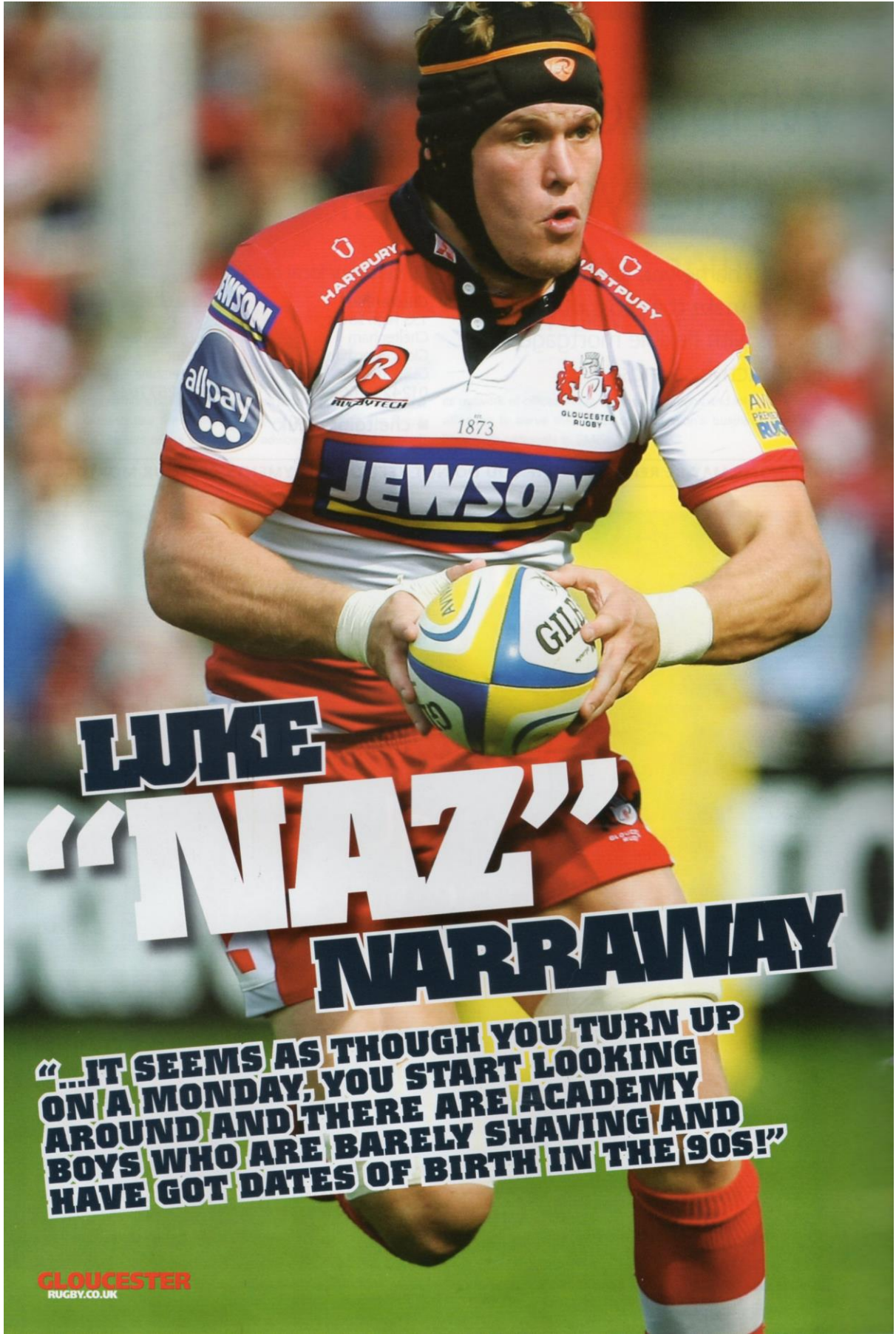


*“You have got to learn from mistakes and experiences in the past and try and keep performing every week really.”*

the team off the back of a couple of mistakes.

“It usually takes a fairly poor performance for somebody to get dropped, but also not just a poor performance but if someone else is playing well in your position.”





**LUKE**  
**“NAZZ”**  
**NARRAWAY**

**“...IT SEEMS AS THOUGH YOU TURN UP ON A MONDAY, YOU START LOOKING AROUND AND THERE ARE ACADEMY BOYS WHO ARE BARELY SHAVING AND HAVE GOT DATES OF BIRTH IN THE 90S!”**

**T**hey say that a week is a long time in politics. It can represent a long time in rugby as well.

So, when a player, entering the prime of his career is faced with the prospect of being sidelined for several months, that impending lay off can seem like a lifetime.

Yet, that was the situation facing Gloucester Rugby's England international, Luke Narraway, just over 12 months ago when he finally went under the surgeon's knife to sort out a bulging disc problem that had bothered him for some time.

"It came and went to be honest. I actually discovered that I had back issues about four years ago and I went down the route of rehabbing it rather than opting for surgery."

"But, every now and then, I would have an episode and I wouldn't be able to move for a couple of days and would just have to lie on my bed."

"So, we revisited the scans and spoke to the specialist. We proceeded with the operation and I haven't looked back. It's given me no grief whatsoever, touch wood!"

Despite the lengthy rehab period, 'Naz' as he is affectionately known by the Gloucester supporters confirmed that he didn't really have any serious concerns about returning to full fitness after the op.

"As a player, you don't really think that much about it. You know you're going to pick up injuries throughout your career and some are more serious than others."

"Once you have the operation, all you're looking forward to is starting your rehab and getting

back with the boys. You work hard, probably harder than when you're fit and training every week."

However, Narraway, who turned 27 recently, did confirm that a forced absence does result in a renewed zest for the game once back to full fitness.

"I missed a lot of last year and playing rugby was taken away from me which was pretty much all I'd known since I was a lad. And that can be hard."

"So, you do come back with great enthusiasm and can't wait to start playing again. You don't take being a professional rugby player for granted."

Returning in the New Year, Narraway was one of a host of players who were out of contract at the end of 2010-11 but was one of the first to nail his colours to the Gloucester mast and agree a new deal.

"There were a lot of us who were out of contract so I sat down with the coaches and I liked the way that they were going forward and what they were trying to build here. It's very much a club rather than a franchise."

"They want the boys to get along, on and off the pitch. It's like a family. So, I liked the direction they were taking the club in and I wanted to be a part of that."

2009-10 finished on a high note personally for Narraway. Part of the England Saxons squad in the spring, he was also part of the Saxons squad who won the Churchill Cup in North America in the summer.

"It was good to be part of it. I wasn't expecting it as I'd played so little. First and foremost, I wanted to come back injury free and, secondly, I wanted to

put in some good performances and show people that I was still around although I'd been out for a while."

Turning 27 a couple of weeks ago and having spent his whole career to date at Kingsholm, he admitted that it's a funny feeling looking around the dressing room and now seeing himself as one of the senior players.

"(Laughs) By senior, I think you mean old! It's strange. For so long, you're coming through the ranks. From 18 to 24, you're still one of the young ones."

"Then, literally, it seems as though you turn up on a Monday, you start looking around and there are Academy boys who are barely shaving and have got dates of birth in the 90s!"

"I guess it happens to everybody and we're just lucky that we've got so much good young talent coming through and taking the club forward."

Finally, with the season only a couple of weeks old, Naz insists that it's early days and the best is yet to come.

"We're only a couple of days into the season and we've been on the end of a bit of flak due to the results. And, by and large, we've deserved it."


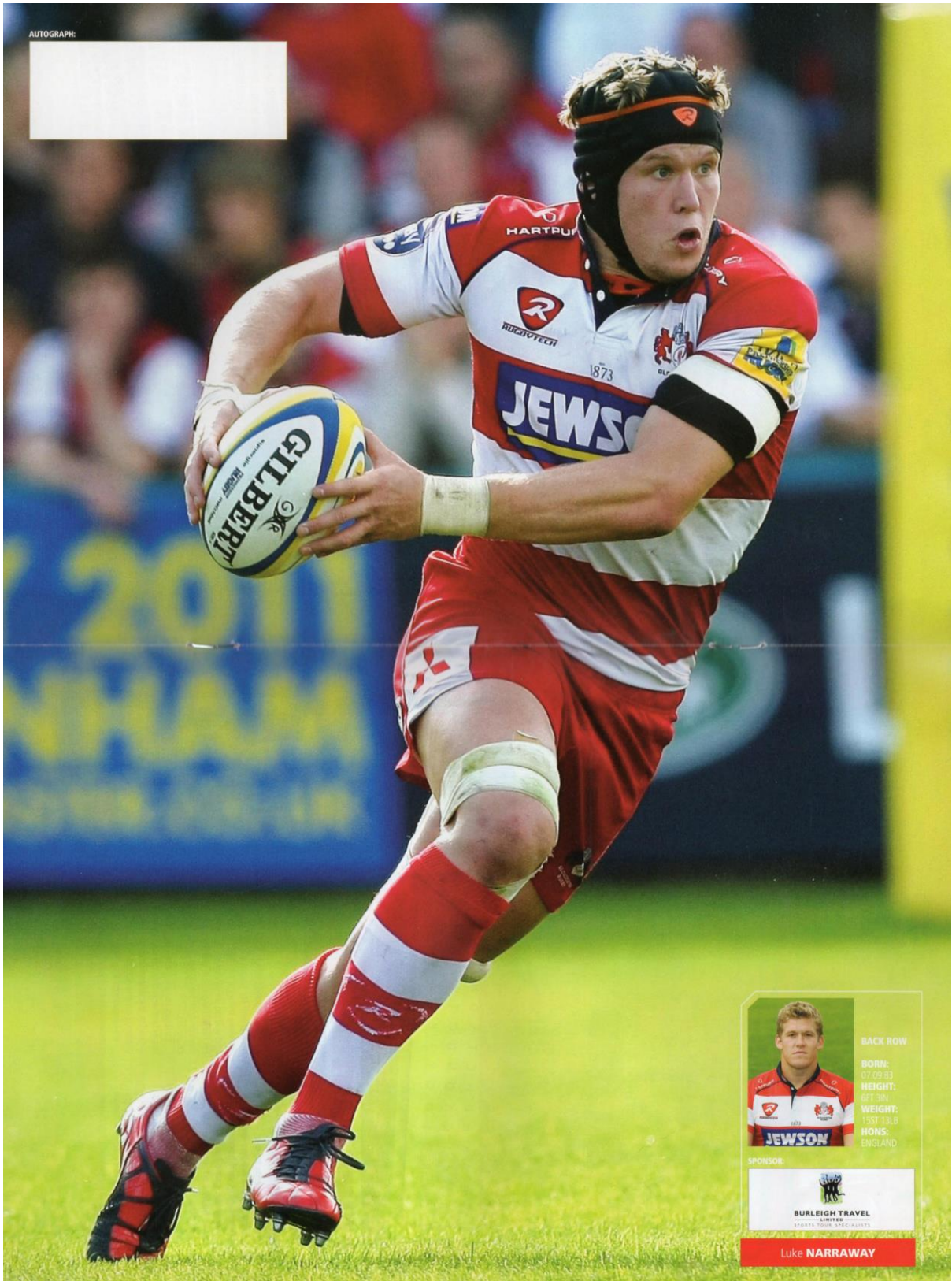
"But, I think we're still a very good team. We're going to grow as a side and, as a team, we want to be in that top 4. I honestly believe, with the quality we've got, we can push for that."

And personal goals for the season?

"Well, it's a World Cup year and that's the ultimate aim but my bread and butter is playing for Gloucester. If I do that well and to the best of my ability, the rest will take care of itself."



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Luke **NARRAWAY**

# Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton

**I'VE BEEN mulling about how to start this particular programme slot for a little while now, you try to be upbeat and positive but sometimes things don't quite work out right do they.**

So, here is a personal view – after all that's what it says at the top of the page.

The Premiership has, over recent years, become tighter and tighter, the gap between 5th and 10th almost indeterminate, so winning the home games becomes more and more important as away wins are going to be like rocking horse droppings.

Even the mighty Leicester failed on the road twice this season – in fact, with the honourable exception of Northampton, every team in the division has lost away from home at least once.

Despite what seems to be a view among a small minority of people, we have no divine right to win games. Yes the manner of the defeat at Exeter was disappointing, and we lost last week up at London Irish – hardly a surprise given recent form. In between, we won our home game.

What makes me sad – and I thought about that word a lot before using it – is the seemingly modern trend of vilification of certain players and officials when things don't go according to plan.

After Exeter I half expected to see a lynch mob turning up at Nicky Robinson's house. After Leeds it was

Luke Narryway's turn to face the mob. I haven't had an opportunity to read whose fault it all was last weekend, so am not sure who the latest one on the hit list is.

Of course it's hard to take when your team fails to hit the ground running, fails to steam roller every defence in the land etc but after just three games is it really sensible to start asking whether we are favourites for relegation???

In any job you do, when things are not going well, your confidence take a hit. It must be a heck of a lot worse when you have the weight of expectation and the hopes of several thousand people on your shoulders too.

I guess I'm lucky, if I'm having a bad day at work, I don't have people who want to bawl me out (well not often anyway). Rather I have people who encourage and support.

I'm old enough to remember the days when our losing streak away from home could be measured in months – almost seasons - rather than weeks.

Steve Ojomoh had to give up on his pledge not to cut his hair until we won away from home because he started to look like a yeti, such was the length of our dismal away form.

Perhaps it's the mists of time or rapidly advancing old age, but I don't remember this kind of constant angst and public handwringing.

I can kind of understand it in the

immediate aftermath of the game when emotions are high, but to constantly go back to it days (weeks) after the game has ended... I have to ask, what purpose does that serve? I'd hazard a guess that it does little good for anyone involved really.

Did you just hear that thump? That was me jumping down from my soap box.

Back to today then. I guess if you were to compile a list of teams that you wouldn't want to face when you are having a bit of a tough time, then Wasps would be either at, or near, the top.

While they may not have fully recovered from the loss of big name players like Dallaglio, Lewsey and Waters, they have enough of a squad to be up there at the right end of the table come the end of term.

They'll come into the game full of confidence on the back of their great



” STEVE OJOMOH HAD TO GIVE UP ON HIS PLEDGE NOT TO CUT HIS HAIR UNTIL WE WON AWAY FROM HOME BECAUSE HE STARTED TO LOOK LIKE A YETI, SUCH WAS THE LENGTH OF OUR DISMAL AWAY FORM.



fight back last weekend against Leicester. They looked dead and buried at half time, but not only did they shut their visitors out completely in the second half they took every opportunity to score courtesy of the boot of Dave Walder.

He may not attract the kind of attention that Wilkinson did, or that some of his contemporaries do now, but he must be one of the best around in the country now.

For me Dave Walder is a real value for money player, he just quietly goes about his business on the field and does exactly what you would want him to do. I guess some of that

comes from learning his trade under rugby's equivalent of a Jedi Master – or Jonny Wilkinson to you or me.

But to suggest he was just a stand in during his days in the frozen north would do him a massive disservice. I don't know how many games he started, or points he scored at Newcastle – and frankly I don't have time to look it up either – but I bet it compares favourably with Saint Jonny.

One thing we know he did pick up from his former team mate is his ability to kick a rugby ball. Against Leicester his restarts were excellent, giving his pack ample time to contest



the ball. And off the tee – well he's up there with the best. If we have another performance where we allow our discipline to wander he will exact terrible vengeance from all over the park.

We always seem to be able to raise our game at home against Wasps, we need to do that again today. Like I said they have a squad that is capable of challenging for honours, looking into my half-full glass I think we have too – they just need to click properly.

Today would be a very good day for all of us at Kingsholm for that to happen!

# Dave King's WORLD OF RUGBY

**E**nigma, a word which could be appropriated to a Second World War military operation! Yet, it is often used in the description of many a player from various sports. In my lifetime it has been bandied about with regard to several participants.

Boxing witnessed Randolph Turpin, soccer has had more than its fair share of enigmas, players who failed to fulfil a promising talent, for example, Alan Hudson or Stanley Bowles. In rugby union are we witnessing likewise in the latent mercurial talent of **Danny Cipriani**?

The 22 year old former Wasps fly half is heading to the southern hemisphere to join the newly formed Melbourne Rebels alongside two of our stalwarts from last season, Gareth Delve and Greg Somerville. It is easy to imagine that Danny Cipriani is a somewhat confused young man, blessed with outstanding ability but not knowing where it is best portrayed, not only in rugby union but also in sport in general.

For preseason he chose not to join a rugby club for training but to play soccer instead! He is reported to have even played at left back for a Tottenham reserve team in a preseason match in Malaga in July.

Not content with exercising with Tottenham he then turned his attention towards another London club, Queens Park Rangers.

Such is the talent he exudes, many believe he could have made a career in the round ball game. Colorado was another quest and the M.K. Dons have been the latest club to encourage the Cipriani flirtation with soccer.

Where this all fits in with pre-season for the Melbourne Rebels is anyone's guess. When questioned about his reasons for his involvement with soccer, he was dismissive and merely expressed that he was keeping fit. Maybe, but why not train with an



Will Cipriani give football a go?

appropriate rugby club?

Interesting to know what Rod McQueen, the Rebels Head Coach makes of Danny's choice of training! It must be stated that the seven capped stand-off had spent time as a teenager with the Queens Park Rangers academy.

Will Danny Cipriani reach the levels once predicted by many of the game's wiseacres or will he prove to be an enigma? To date, it is not difficult to imagine that England Head Coach, Martin Johnson has his doubts.

It was common knowledge that Danny Cipriani had become disillusioned with the game of rugby union in this country. It is not difficult to imagine that his move to Melbourne Royals on a two year contract is a bid to reinvigorate his belief and love for a game he had become disenchanted with.

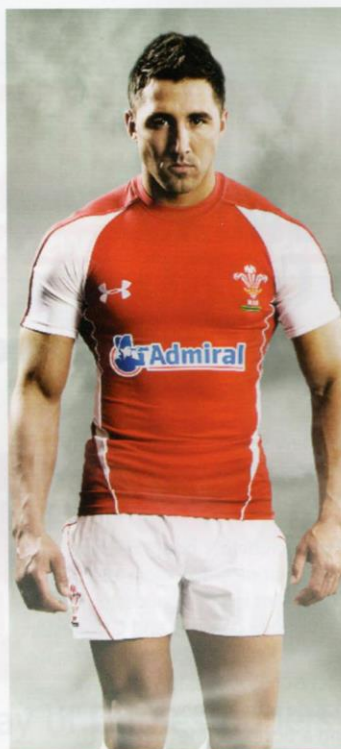
There are many who believed he had doubts about his move to Australia when he began to regain some of his form towards the tail end of last season.

Training for Melbourne Rebels does not begin in earnest until November. It would not have been too difficult for any club in these Isles or Europe to have taken him on loan until he embarked on what may become a career defining move.

Potential is a word that can follow a player throughout his career without manifestation. It is easy to cast an eye in the direction of **Gavin Henson** in Wales. Have these players become styled to only want acclaim or the headlines in the daily tabloids?

Will Danny Cipriani become an inspirational genius or just one of the game's lonely outsiders? Can he remain an instinctive outside half, one that the game adores?

There is no doubt that, at his best, Danny Cipriani is a silky runner, a player who attracts magnetic attention. Yet, it is not difficult to imagine that in seeking new



Gavin Henson is looking to get his career back on track



England v Ireland 2008, the day England fans believed in Danny Cipriani

pastures, he grown tired of the entrenched attitudes that surround England International teams.

Nobody could accuse Danny Cipriani of being robotic, yet many of England's displays in recent times have been described in just such a manner. Can he compromise? Doubtful. And a move to Australia may well put him out of the reach of international reckoning.

Is Danny Cipriani destined to become one of the game's incorrigible mavericks, a player who becomes unfulfilled? There are many who believe that his path is destined to be so. A player of so many talents, will it go to waste?

The firmer grounds of Australia may yet revitalise Cipriani and his game may blossom to new heights. Or is he just an angry young man who is upset because his level of talent is not recognised by the game's hierarchy?

Can Danny Cipriani's career blossom or will we retain scant affection for his talents? Surely the coaches who encounter the fly half should not try to change his game?

Rhythm and action, coupled with instinct should be allowed to flourish. His play is extrovert, his detractors are manifold. For the time being his emotional link with England is severed.

Sport is a wonderful emotion. The Ciprianis of this world offer the semblance of youth, glamour and excitement which we all seek, that normal life cannot provide.

His creative talent does not need to be diluted. Will he fulfil his undoubted promise or will we in the next decade remark that Danny Cipriani was an enigma?

Danny's former club Wasps arrive at Kingsholm today for their 14th league encounter in the professional era. To date they have recorded five victories and suffered 9 defeats. During that period we have totalled 310 points and conceded 308.

# GL13AX Gloucester Talk with Peter Arnold

## CORONARY TIME

**I** wrote in the Leeds programme that I was 'cautiously optimistic' for the coming season. I was right to be optimistic that day, and I was certainly right to be cautious.

Nicky Robinson's last gasp penalty might have spared our blushes and lifted us to the dizzy heights of eighth in the Premiership table, but it does nothing for the poor old coronary arteries.

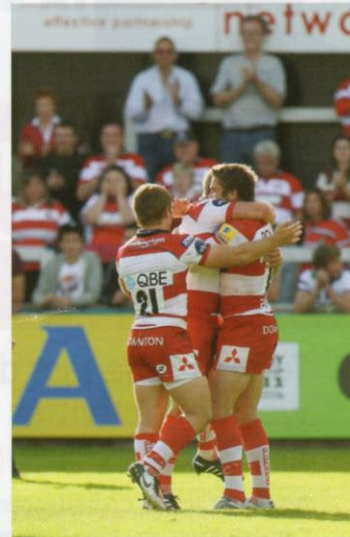
One thing about supporting Gloucester - we don't get bored! We might get screwed occasionally, but we don't get bored.

If past experience is anything to

go by, we might be in for a similar finish today. Wasps do seem to have a knack of coming from behind and pipping us at the post with depressing regularity. Sometimes in contentious circumstances, but that's by the by.

It is a special case of the wider syndrome we seemed to acquire last season: that of building a healthy lead and then allowing the opposition to chip away at it and take the spoils. And we got precious close to that again the last time we were here.

Please lads. Let's not have any of that today. Spare a thought for my poor old arteries.



## SUCK IT AND SEE

**I** see that, according to Teletext, Rupert Harden, our highly promising young tight head, revealed recently that Graham Rowntree has been sharing pearls of wisdom with our prop forwards.

Wonder if he brought any fruit gums with him?

**Wonder if he brought any fruit gums with him?**



## SPLIT PERSONALITY

**I** tend to go all schizophrenic at this time of the year. I wake up in the morning and have trouble knowing which season I'm in.

In the old days it was simple. From April until September you played cricket. The rest of the year belonged to Rugby.

It was quite possible for a chap to play both games at first class level, and some did. Tony Lewis, for example, had a couple of seasons playing full back right here while based at RAF Innsworth doing his National Service, but ended up as Captain of an England cricket team in India.

After his soldiering, he went back to Neath, but injured his shoulder and was sharply instructed by Glamorgan County Cricket Club that, if he wanted a first-class cricket career, he'd better give up that nasty rough winter game.

He probably made the right choice: he did, after all, win that Indian series,



a feat which not even Douglas Jardine had been able to accomplish.

Nowadays, to say that the edges have become blurred would be an understatement. When the cricket season starts, most of the important domestic rugby matches haven't happened yet. At the other end of the season things are even worse. Only last Wednesday I watched England's final one-day cricket

International against Pakistan, and we're well into the first month of the rugby season.

And don't even get me started on football, which some misguided souls seem to perpetrate for thirteen months of the year.

So can you blame me for acquiring a split personality?

Well, I may be schizophrenic, but at least I have each other.

## STRAIGHT OUT OF THE ARRC

**Suppose the acronym 'ARRC' wouldn't have meant much to most of us at this time last season, but now that the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps is firmly based at Imjin Barracks we are becoming very accustomed to it.**

Of course, we are more use to thinking about RAF Innsworth than we are Imjin Barracks, but a rose by any other name opens up some possibilities for us.

Time was when we had very close associations with the RAF boys. For a short period, we had so many airmen on our playing staff that we used to call the team '633 Squadron' and chant the Dam Busters march as they ran out on to the pitch.

Part of that close association was down to my old friend Tony Mason.

He was a mere Group Captain at the time, but is now retired as Air Vice Marshal Professor Tony Mason, and writes on defence matters for the local press from time to time.

In those days, he rarely missed a game at Kingsholm and was, in fact, a member of the RFU's Referees Panel. He also ran the RAF rugby team, where his captain was John Orwin.

He was a formidable lock forward, who played for Oxfordshire in the old County Championship, and went on to skipper England for a while.

I remember Tony Mason spitting blood when John got sent off in one game, thus depriving Tony of his RAF captain for part of the Services Championship. Of course, it was sheer coincidence that the

referee concerned lost his place on the International panel shortly afterwards...

Of course, ARRC has now replaced the RAF out at Innsworth, and they are very keen to build good relationships with the local community. I'd like to think that Gloucester Rugby would play a significant role in that, especially as some of our new neighbours, who are a mix of several nationalities, are about to be posted out to Afghanistan.

### STOP PRESS!

**I have just been told that the LV= Cup game against Saracens on November 13th will have an Armed Forces theme involving both ARCC and the Royal British Legion.**

## IMBALANCE

**I watched the London Irish game on the telly, and felt that there were positives, even if we did have to settle for a losing bonus point.**

I thought Jim Hamilton had a highly promising debut, and I liked the look of Brett Deacon. I also thought that Charlie Sharples made a decent fist of playing out of position at full back.

However, I couldn't, for the life of me, see why Gloucester conceded nineteen penalties, twice as many as the opposition.

It doesn't do to criticise referees, so I won't.





GLOUCESTER RUGBY 22  
LEEDS CARNEGIE 21

**I**n front of their home supporters at Kingsholm, Gloucester duly clinched their first Aviva Premiership Rugby win of the season but it turned out to be an awful lot closer than it should have been.

Smarting after the opening day defeat against the Exeter Chiefs, Bryan Redpath's side started the game at a pace which it appeared that Leeds Carnegie would be unable to live with.

In hindsight, two well worked tries in the opening ten minutes may have given a false sense of security. Perhaps had a third score quickly followed to effectively seal the game, the game

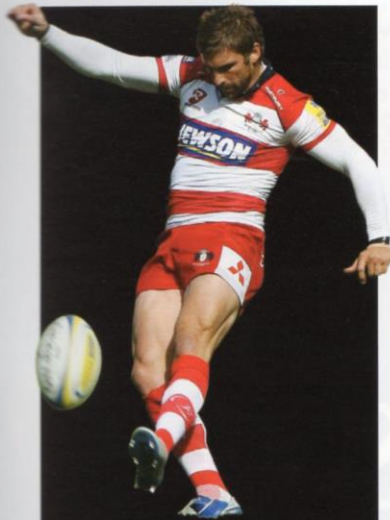


<b>TRY</b> 3min Narraway (5-0)			
<b>CON</b> 3min Robinson (7-0)			
<b>PEN</b> 6min Lewis-Pratt (7-3)			
<b>TRY</b> 8min Dickinson (12-3)			
<b>CON</b> 8min Robinson (14-3)			
	<b>PEN</b> 12min Lewis-Pratt (14-6)		
		<b>TRY</b> 30min Lewis-Pratt (14-11)	
		<b>TRY</b> 38min Dickinson (19-11)	





## KEY MOMENT



**PEN 78min**  
Robinson (22-21)

Not surprisingly, the match winning kick by Nicky Robinson. The penalty was awarded relatively wide out and there would be no second chances. But the Welsh international fly half held his nerve to bisect the posts and secure the victory.

## MATCH STATISTICS



3	Tries	2
2	Conversions	1
1	Penalty goals	3
0	Dropped goals	0
7	Clean breaks	5
12	Defenders beaten	6
14	Offloads	20
84	Rucks won	71
19	Turnovers conceded	13
99	Tackles	96
7	Missed tackles	12
7	Penalties conceded	10

would have been a lot more one sided?

As things turned out, Gloucester perhaps got a little over ambitious, attempting, for example, to offload out of the tackle when simply going to ground to recycling would have been the better option.

Instead, Leeds were able to inch their way back into the game as a host of turnovers started to give them the possession and territory they craved.

Young fly half Christian Lewis-Pratt kicked his goals confidently and then spun out of a tackle to score his side's first try and the game had a completely different complexion.

However, when Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu opened his try scoring account for the club on the stroke of half time, the hope was that the third try would settle Gloucester and that the side would kick on in the second half.

And Gloucester certainly seemed to start the second period with that intention but, despite carving out one glorious scoring opportunity, the fourth try would just not come.

The tension around Kingsholm rose as Leeds got more and more into the game and the unspeakable happened on 70 minutes when a Lewis-Pratt penalty bounced off an upright and into the arms of Luther Burrell who scored the somewhat fortuitous try that took his side into the lead for the first time.

Sensing that an unlikely defeat was looming, Gloucester threw everything at Leeds but were too over anxious.

Opting for a quick tap penalty in the shadow of the Leeds posts when an easy kick would have guaranteed the lead typified the over eagerness and the subsequent turnover sent anxious murmurs around the ground.

Ultimately, however, Leeds contributed to their own downfall as they tried to close out the game with too much time left on the clock.

Setting up ruck after ruck, they were eventually penalised for sealing off and an ice cool Nicky Robinson slotted the penalty to win the game.

## THE LINE UPS

### GLoucester Rugby

15. Charlie Sharples
14. James Simpson-Daniel
13. Mike Tindall
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
11. Lesley Vainikolo
10. Nicky Robinson
9. Rory Lawson
1. Alasdair Dickinson
2. Scott Lawson
3. Pierre Capdevielle
4. Dave Attwood
5. Alex Brown
6. Brett Deacon
7. Andrew Hazell
8. Luke Narraway

16. Olivier Azam
17. Nick Wood
18. Rupert Harden
19. Will James
20. Peter Buxton
21. Dave Lewis
22. Tim Taylor
23. Tim Molenaar

### LEEDS CARNEGIE

15. Michael Stephenson
14. Lee Blackett
13. Luther Burrell
12. Scott Barrow
11. Semi Tadulala
10. Chris Lewis-Pratt
9. Scott Mathie
1. Mike MacDonald
2. Andy Titterrell
3. Phillip Swainston
4. Tom Denton
5. Marco Wentzel
6. Alfie To'oala Vaeluaga
7. Hendre Fourie
8. Daniel Browne

16. Steve Thompson
17. Gareth Hardy
18. Miguel Alonso
19. Kearnan Myall
20. Rhys Oakley
21. Henry Fa'afili
22. James Tincknell
23. Warren Fury

**PEN** 51min Lewis-Pratt (19-14)

**TRY** 69min Burrell (19-19)  
**CON** 69min Lewis-Pratt (19-21)

**PEN** 78min Robinson (22-21)

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



**T**he Madejski Stadium has been a tough venue for Gloucester Rugby to visit in recent times, the last time the team left there with a victory was back in November 2006.

And, so it proved again as Bryan Redpath's side slipped to a 23-16 defeat meaning that they only had a losing bonus point to show for their efforts.

In many respects, this was a much improved performance from the victory the previous weekend over Leeds Carnegie.

The team played with passion, the defence was robust and the amount of turnovers was significantly reduced.

However, what cost Gloucester dear in



<p><b>PEN</b> 5min Lamb (3-0)</p>	<p><b>PEN</b> 14min Robinson (3-3)  <b>TRY</b> 19min Buckland (8-3)  <b>CON</b> 19min Lamb (10-3)</p>	<p><b>PEN</b> 26min Robinson (10-6)</p>
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## KEY MOMENT

### PEN 51min Lamb (13-9)

Gloucester were in the game at 10-9. Irish were back in their own 22 and even the Madejski's fabled drummers had gone quiet! However, a series of penalties allowed the home team to move downfield with ease and the pressure was relieved. Two Lamb penalties followed to give Irish daylight.



and probably the main reason behind Gloucester's defeat.

Many of the penalties were justified, of that there is no doubt. However, some of the awards left the Gloucester coaching team scratching their heads in bewilderment particularly as only 14 penalties in total had been conceded in the opening two rounds.

It added up to a frustrating second half in particular as Nicky Robinson's third penalty got Gloucester back in contention at 10-9. However, a series of indiscretions in the eyes of the referee gave Irish a chance to move decisively clear and they needed no second invitation to do so.

What made it even worse was the fact that the side had dug so deep in defence to keep Irish at bay in the closing stages of the

**"WE GOT A POINT BUT, AT HALF TIME, I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING MORE FOR US. WE CUT OUR OWN THROAT WITH THE PENALTIES AND WE DID NOT ADJUST MAYBE TO THE REFEREE ON THE WHOLE."**

front of a televised ESPN audience was the amount of penalties conceded.

A quick totting up process immediately after the final whistle reckoned that they'd been penalised 19 times compared to the Exiles' 8. It was a telling statistic

## MATCH STATISTICS



2	Tries	1
2	Conversions	1
3	Penalty goals	3
0	Dropped goals	0
4	Clean breaks	3
6	Defenders beaten	6
11	Offloads	8
93	Rucks won	75
11	Turnovers conceded	13
86	Tackles	125
6	Missed tackles	6
9	Penalties conceded	19

first half when a second try at that stage could have been critical.

In fact, Gloucester went into the half time break perhaps feeling slightly aggrieved that they didn't have the lead as a length of the field counter, aided by a bizarre handling error from Ryan Lamb, very nearly resulted in a try.

As it was, Lamb, again enjoying himself against his former club, kept the scoreboard ticking over and kept Irish just far enough in front.

The home side did manage to string together enough phases to wear Gloucester down and score a try in each half but, on the whole, Redpath's side defended well.

A late try from Lesley Vainikolo restored some pride for Gloucester and Tim Taylor's cool head enabled him to drive home the conversion and clinch the losing bonus point.

It was the very least Gloucester deserved but the video analysis will have been interesting this week as the preparation for today's game takes place.

## THE LINE UPS

### LONDON IRISH

15. Delon Armitage
14. Topsy Ojo
13. Seilala Mapusua
12. Dan Bowden
11. Jonathan Joseph
10. Ryan Lamb
9. Paul Hodgson
1. Clarke Dermody
2. James Buckland
3. Faan Rautenbach
4. Nick Kennedy
5. Bob Casey
6. Kieran Roche
7. Declan Danaher
8. George Stowers

16. David Paice
17. Max Lahiff
18. Alex Corbisiero
19. Matthew Garvey
20. Jonathon Fisher
21. Marcus Watson
22. Chris Malone
23. Darren Allinson

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Charlie Sharples
14. James Simpson-Daniel
13. Mike Tindall
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
11. Lesley Vainikolo
10. Nicky Robinson
9. Rory Lawson
1. Alasdair Dickinson
2. Scott Lawson
3. Pierre Capdevielle
4. Jim Hamilton
5. Alex Brown
6. Alasdair Strokosch
7. Andrew Hazell
8. Brett Deacon

16. Darren Dawiduk
17. Nick Wood
18. Rupert Harden
19. Dave Attwood
20. Luke Narraway
21. Dave Lewis
22. Tim Taylor
23. Tim Molenaar

PEN 42min Robinson (10-9)

PEN 51min Lamb (13-9)  
PEN 55min Lamb (16-9)

TRY 63min Stowers (21-9)  
CON 63min Lamb (23-9)

TRY 80+2min Vainikolo (23-14)  
CON 80+3min Taylor (23-16)

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. LONDON WASPS // 25.09.10

# TODAY'S LINE-UPS

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

0-3	CHARLIE SHARPLES	<b>15</b>
		FULLBACK
3-3	JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	<b>14</b>
		WING
6-3	TIM MOLENAAR	<b>13</b>
		CENTRE
6-10	ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU	<b>12</b>
9-10		CENTRE
16-10	LESLEY VAINIKOLO	<b>11</b>
		WING
16-17	TIM TAYLOR	<b>10</b>
19-17		FLY-HALF
24-20	RORY LAWSON (C)	<b>9</b>
		SCRUM-HALF
22-20	NICK WOOD	<b>1</b>
		PROP
	OLIVIER AZAM	<b>2</b>
		HOOKER
	PAUL DORAN-JONES	<b>3</b>
		PROP
	DAVE ATTWOOD	<b>4</b>
		LOCK
	JIM HAMILTON	<b>5</b>
		LOCK
	ALASDAIR STROKOSCH	<b>6</b>
		FLANKER
	ANDY HAZELL	<b>7</b>
		FLANKER
	BRETT DEACON	<b>8</b>
		NO.8
	SCOTT LAWSON	<b>16</b>
	ALASDAIR DICKINSON	<b>17</b>
	PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE	<b>18</b>
	ALEX BROWN	<b>19</b>
	LUKE NARRAWAY	<b>20</b>
	DAVE LEWIS	<b>21</b>
	NICKY ROBINSON	<b>22</b>
	MIKE TINDALL	<b>23</b>

## LONDON WASPS

	MARK VAN GISBERGEN	
	TOM VARDELL	
	DOMINIC WALDOUCK	
	RIKI FLUTEY	
	DAVID LEMI	
	DAVE WALDER	
	NIC BERRY	
	TIM PAYNE	
	ROB WEBBER	
	BEN BROSTER	
	SIMON SHAW	
	JAMES CANNON	
	JOE WORSLEY	
	TOM REES (C)	
	ANDY POWELL	
	JOE WARD	
	CHARLIE BEECH	
	TOM FRENCH	
	RICHARD BIRKETT	
	DAN WARD-SMITH	
	CHARLIE DAVIES	
	STEVE KEFU	
	RICHARD HAUGHTON	

REFEREE: Andrew Small  
ASST REFEREES: Peter Huckle  
and Paul Dix

## THE STATS THAT MATTER

### TOP POINTS SCORERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
NICK MACLEOD*	41
NICK EVANS	37
GARETH STEENSON	29
MARK VAN GISBERGEN	26
SHANE GERAGHTY	24



### TOP TRY SCORERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
CHRIS ASHTON*	3
SCOTT HAMILTON	3
NICK ABENDANON	2
SCHALK BRITS	2
PHIL DOLLMAN	2

