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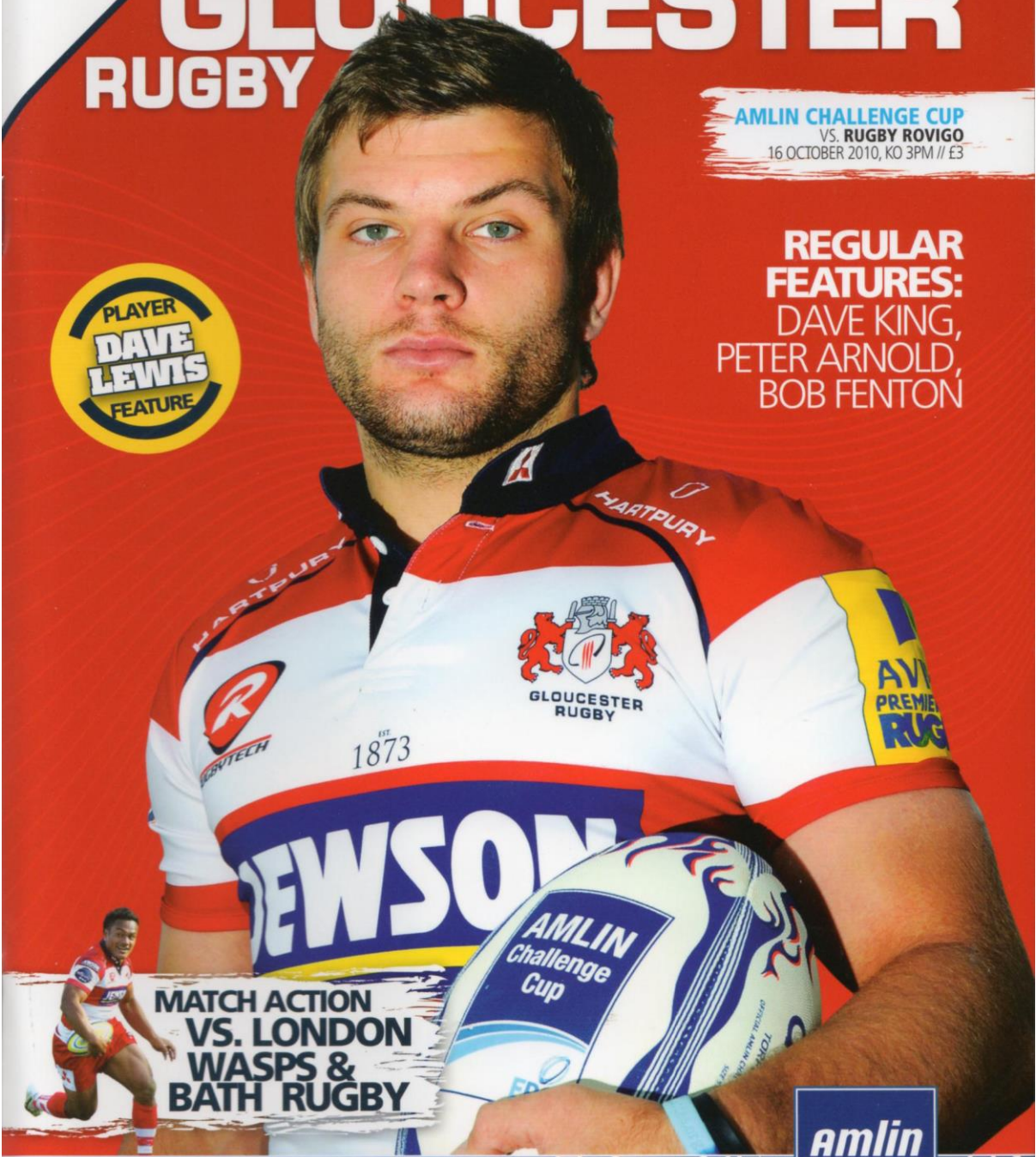
GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

AMLIN CHALLENGE CUP
VS. RUGBY ROVIGO
16 OCTOBER 2010, KO 3PM // £3



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MATCH ACTION
VS. LONDON
WASPS &
BATH RUGBY

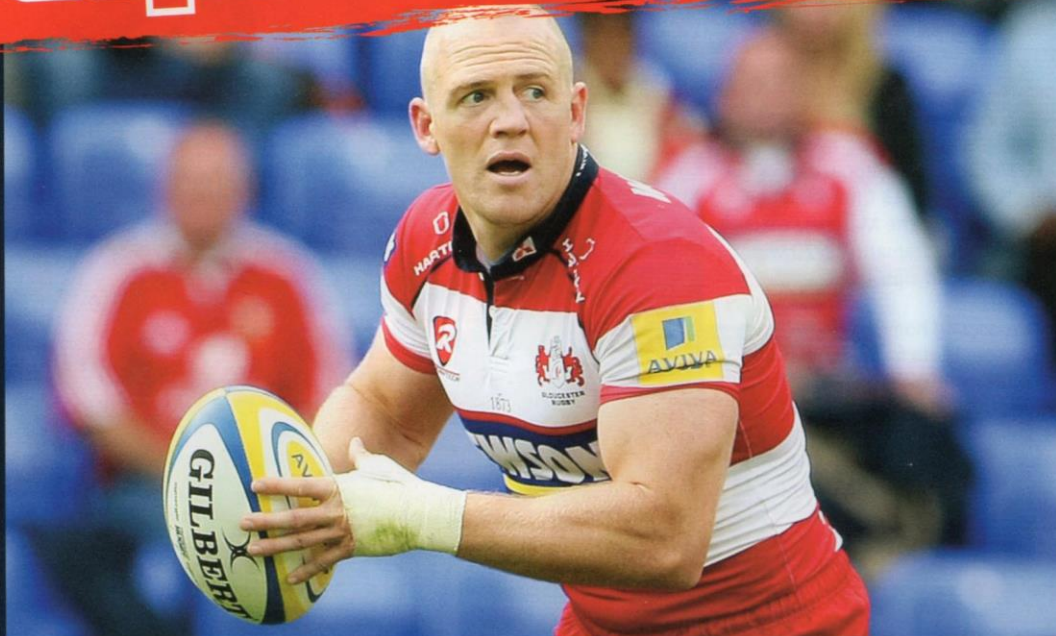
Amlin Challenge Cup Round 2

Amlin
Challenge
Cup



MIKE TINDALL

Captain's Corner



Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for this afternoon's Amlin Challenge Cup encounter against Rugby Rovigo.

After two weeks on the road, it's good to be back in familiar surroundings this weekend and I know I speak on behalf of everyone in the squad when I say that we're really looking forward to playing at home for the next three weekends.

Since I last prepared this column, we've had an interesting few weeks. Actually, life is never dull here at Gloucester Rugby but the last couple of weeks have been particularly lively!

After a disappointing performance at London Irish, I felt that we showed a huge amount of character in our last home game against London Wasps.

It was especially important for us to bounce back in front of our own supporters and the game being televised by ESPN sent out a bit of a message to the watching world.

Having ESPN here for the first

time was interesting in itself. They've deliberately set out to offer a very different viewing experience from that offered by Sky in recent years. That said, I'm not sure that putting their mobile in front of the Shed is something they'll repeat!

We showed some real character on the day and a lot of skill and commitment. Wasps are a very good side and take some beating.

What I was pleased about was that we showed the character to fight back when it would have been so easy to think it wasn't going to be our day when they scored their two tries. Having dominated proceedings up to that point, those scores could have been a real body blow.

But we dug deep and kept fighting and massive credit is due to Nicky for kicking those two late penalties from inside his own half to clinch the game.

And then to back that up with a victory over Bath down at the Rec was a massive achievement.

We all know how difficult it

is to win down there and the way we dominated proceedings was immensely satisfying. Anyone watching the post match interviews could see how much it meant to me and I was delighted for the whole squad.

However, we did get a bit of a wake up call down in France last weekend and that was disappointing for all of us.

As the captain I have to hold my hands up. I was yellow carded a couple of minutes from time and, while I was off the pitch, Agen scored 10 points to take the game 26-19.

It was frustrating as we'd led 13-3 at half time and looked to be in control but our indiscipline allowed Agen to get back into the game and we just couldn't turn the momentum.

We have to learn from that and look to start putting the record straight this afternoon.

Enjoy the game!

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

To my knowledge, we haven't played against Rugby Rovigo before and, to a certain extent, they're something of an unknown quantity.

They don't have a squad packed full of internationals or household names and it's not as easy analysing an Italian club side as it would be if we were playing in the Aviva Premiership today.

But, rest assured, we will be coming into today's game fully prepared and focussed and looking to bounce back after a bit of a blip in Agen last weekend.

It was incredibly disappointing to slip to defeat against the French side in a game that I still genuinely think we should have won.

However, anyone who has read my comments following the game, will know exactly why I think we lost the game.

We picked up two yellow cards in the second half which meant that we ended up playing for 20 minutes with only 14 men on the pitch.

You just can't get away with that at the highest level. The best teams will make you pay and Agen made the most of their numerical superiority.

What was particularly galling was that they hadn't really done anything to hurt us up to that point. They had some big old boys in the pack and they were quite adept at the pick and go from the ruck. But, we were coping pretty well and 13-3 was a decent return at half time.

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I was unhappy after the game and I'm not going to make any bones about that fact. We went down there with a good side, a side capable of leaving with the win and we didn't deliver.

It was annoying after the two performances that we put in leading up to that game when we defeated London Wasps here at Kingsholm and then went down to the Rec and won.

Those two performances had us in really good shape heading into the opening round of the Amlin Challenge Cup and I was hoping we'd continue that good run.



Our last game here, the win I mention above against Wasps, was a terrific occasion. We may not have had a full house here but it certainly sounded as though the place was full.

We had great support throughout the whole game and I certainly had the crowd behind me when I popped into the ESPN studio after the game to do the post match interview!

It was an important match for us. Wasps had been the last team to

beat us here at Kingsholm in the Premiership and we're proud of that record.

We had also had an indifferent start to the season up to that point and the critics were starting to sharpen their pencils and start writing us off.

So, to show the character we did in defeating Wasps and then back that up with a fine win down at Bath showed what we are capable of.

And, it's important that we get back to that level of performance today. Rovigo may not be the biggest name in

European rugby but they will travel here today and play with a lot of pride and passion.

We can't expect to simply turn up and run away with it. We have to earn to the right to play our rugby and win the game.

Win well today and our Challenge Cup ambitions are still very much alive. But I'm also looking for a display which sets us up for the next two weekends.

Enjoy the game.



"WIN WELL TODAY AND OUR CHALLENGE CUP AMBITIONS ARE STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE. BUT I'M ALSO LOOKING FOR A DISPLAY WHICH SETS US UP FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKENDS."



BRYAN REDPATH

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View from The Citizen

with Nick Purewal

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Jim Hamilton: Learning from our mistakes is crucial

Jim Hamilton believes Gloucester must start dealing with referees to end their high penalty count.

Calling on the Cherry and Whites to stop handing opponents cheap three-point chances, the hulking lock said the build-up of a string of conceded penalties always takes its toll.

Admitting Bryan Redpath's men must do far more than simply cut out the yellow cards, the Scotland international said the players must deal far better with differing refereeing interpretations.

Gloucester must now get their Amlin Challenge Cup Pool Five campaign back on track.

Hosting Harlequins and Leicester on successive following Saturdays in the return of the Premiership, Gloucester know the importance of emerging in win credit.

Hamilton believes Gloucester must react more quickly on the field to how different referees will handle specifics of the game.

He explained: "That's very hard to gauge to be honest, but that's what

"But we've got to pick ourselves up and learn from that.

"It's not just the yellow cards, it's the penalties too, it allows the opposition a route into the game through either field position, or getting points on the board.

"We gave away too many penalties at Agen, and we've been guilty of that on a number of occasions so far this season.

"So we've got to react very quickly to how the referee will interpret the game on the day, and in the match itself.

"We gave away too many penalties at Agen, and we've been guilty of that on a number of occasions so far this season. So we've got to react very quickly to how the referee will interpret the game on the day, and in the match itself."

The vagaries of rugby law dictate that no two referees will see certain situations the same way, and former Leicester Tiger Hamilton knows Gloucester must end the errors, and watch their step more closely.

Gloucester begin a three-game Kingsholm sequence today, where a bonus-point win against Rovigo is an absolute must.

After disappointing 26-19 turnaround defeat in Agen,

we've got to start doing, and doing well.

"I felt terrible about my yellow card at Bath, but luckily it didn't affect the result.

"It was one of those where if we'd been at home, maybe it would never have happened.

"The boys who were sin-binned in Agen, it's a terrible feeling for them, and I know just how they feel.

"We've got to be whiter than white, and make sure we don't give the referee any reasons to find fault with what we do."

Asserting that Gloucester still need to grow together as a unit, he continued: "It's frustrating and it shows you where we are as a team at the minute.

"We're not good enough just to go through the motions and we've got to be fighting for every single scrap.

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"We were the ones who let Agen back into the game.

"Credit to them for coming back, but we're not quite there at the minute.

"Maybe a few of us were still at the

Rec last week.

"No matter who you play, away in France it's a tough place to win.

"It's disappointing to concede a try the way we did at the end, and the way things were going in the second

half we maybe would have taken a draw, to be honest.

"But that wasn't the case and it brings us back down to reality a little bit that we're not quite there, and that each week we need to bring it."

Gloucester Rugby scrum half Dave Lewis is a name who seems to have been part of the first team squad for quite some time.

However, despite being in his fourth season at Kingsholm, the Manchester born scrum half who moved up the M5 from the Exeter Chiefs for the 2007-8 season is still only 21 years old.

Time has flown for the England U20 international, a fact that he was reminded of by his parents only recently.

"It's funny. It wasn't that long ago that my Mum and Dad mentioned to me that this season is my fourth with Gloucester and I was genuinely surprised – the time has flown by."

"But it's a bit of a trend in modern rugby, particularly with young backs, that you can get put in quite early."

"Personally, I was quite lucky to

However, when he joined Gloucester Rugby, Lewis was one of the first players to benefit from the link.

"It all worked really well for me because I was looking to go to University. I was talking to Gloucester and Dean (Ryan) told me about this degree that I could do whilst training with the club."

"It all tied in really well because lecture times worked well with training sessions and, if there were any occasional clashes, both sides helped work things out for me."

The Gloucester Rugby Academy has done a great job in recent years in terms of producing young, locally based talent for the first team squad and Dave admits that he feels fortunate to have been part of a group who have all come through the ranks together.

"Yeah, I've known Charlie (Sharples) and Dan Williams at 16s and then Trinds (Henry Trinder) at 18s and then the likes of Freddie (Burns) and Shaun (Knight) at 20s."

What does he remember of that game?

"I was really nervous. (Laughs) I think was sick just before the match! The game just sort of flew by to be honest and I didn't really take it in."

"I'd had my first start the week before but this was a local derby and it was live on Sky so it was a big deal for me. I think Shaun Perry was coming back for them and he'd just come back from the World Cup so it was pretty massive."

"But, we'd hit a good patch and were playing with some confidence and that showed in the way we played on the night. There were a few gaps for me on the night and that helped me settle into it."

However, later in the season came a setback as, in another televised game, he suffered a broken ankle which proved frustrating for a young player who just wanted to get game time and establish himself.

"I don't actually remember

DAVE LEWIS

4 YEARS, MAN & BOY

come in during a World Cup year with Rory (Lawson) and Coops (Gareth Cooper) away so that gave me a bit of a chance and it's gone on from there really."

The link between Gloucester Rugby and Hartpury College is quite well known nowadays and the AASE scheme, which offers professional rugby coaching alongside the chance to study for A Levels or a BTEC National Diploma, now well established.

"It is really good to have those lads around you. They're going through the same things at the same time but it's also nice to think that you could be playing with them for the next 10 years if things work out because we all get on really well and there's some real talent in the group."

It wasn't his first appearance for the club but the first game where Dave became known to a wider audience was a televised Friday night game against Bristol Rugby at Kingsholm.

that much about it because I got knocked out at the same time. I spent about a day or so moping but, on the Sunday, I got a text from Barny (Allen) telling me that I had physio at 8am the next day and weights from 10am so I didn't have too much time to feel sorry for myself!"

"And that was good to be fair because the physios were awesome and they kept stressing to me that I could get back before the end of



the season if I worked hard and my rehab went well."

"And luckily I got back for the last Gloucester game and made it into the England U20 squad for the Junior World Cup in Tokyo and massive credit goes to our medical department for that."

Scrum half has been a particularly competitive position in the

Gloucester Rugby squad over the past couple of seasons. As well as Dave, Rory Lawson and Jordi Pasqualin, internationals such as Gareth Cooper and Andy Williams have also featured.

Lewis admits that he's taken heart from the fact that Head Coach Bryan Redpath backed his nines over the summer and focussed on strengthening other areas of the squad instead.

"It is a confidence builder. It helps to know that the coaches have faith in you and all you have to do is focus on delivering on the pitch and proving them right."

Talking of Bryan, he must be a great mentor for a young scrum half?

"To be fair, I've always said that one of the main reasons for me coming to Gloucester was to get the opportunity to work with him because I knew that he would aid my development."

"He'll come up to me in training and share a few tricks of the trade that I wouldn't even have thought of and that's been invaluable to me."

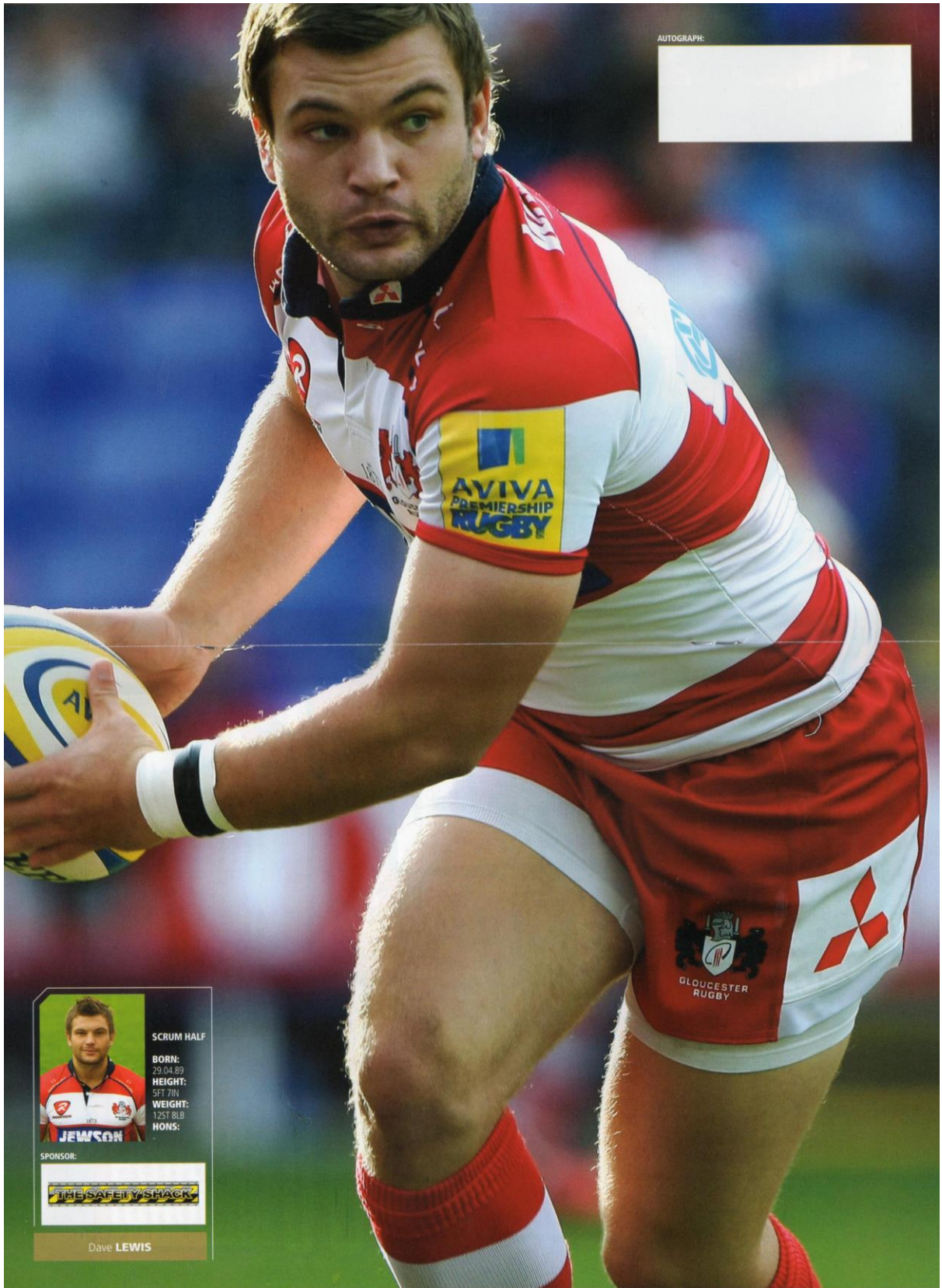
Does it make you open to more criticism at analysis sessions when your Head Coach knows your position inside out though?

"(Laughs) Analysis can be quite interesting. But, it's good because you can only learn from your mistakes and he can help me turn those into a positive thing."



Finally, with Rory currently sidelined and obviously set to be away with Scotland, it's a great chance to get a run in the team?

"It's unfortunate that he's got injured because he was playing really well. But he's a great team player and, credit to him, he's helping me out."

"It does give me a chance but I have to be on top of my game because I've got Jordi (Pasqualin) pressing me as well as Dan Robson so I have to push on and can't afford to rest on my laurels."



AUTOGRAPH:



SCRUM HALF

BORN:
29.04.89


HEIGHT:
5FT 7IN

WEIGHT:
125T 8LB

HONS:

JEWSON

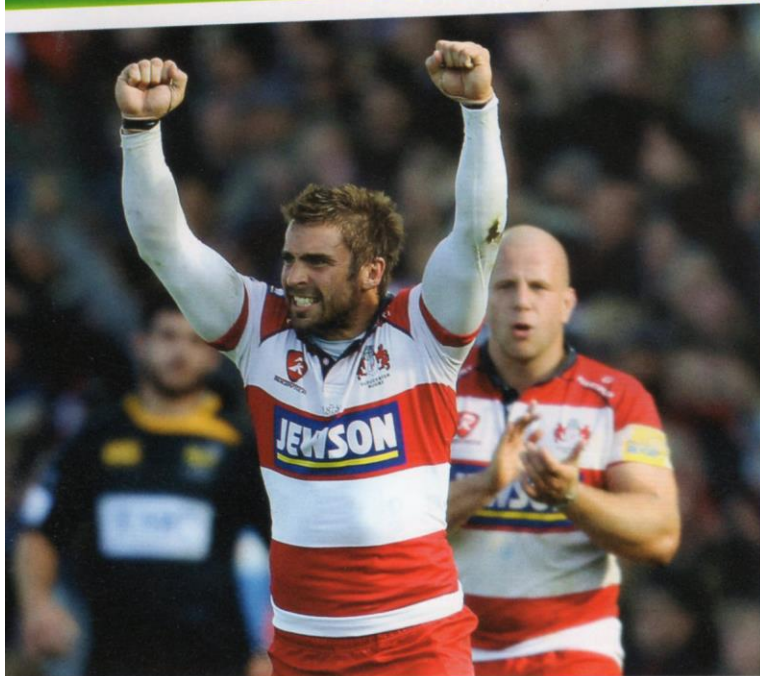
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Dave LEWIS

Kingsholm News

with **Bob Fenton**



WELL what a difference a couple of weeks make... When I sat down to write the stuff for the Wasps game the Gloucester world was full of doom and gloom, since then we've gone to stratospheric highs and the lows of narrowly losing away to Agen.

The highs first. The Wasps game was perhaps not the stuff of dreams for the rugby purist. What it was, though, was mighty gripping stuff.

Eliota scored what has to be a contender for try of the month if not season – I've lost count of the times I have replayed that, not for twinkle toed side steps or the final dive for glory over the line – it's the big hand off that sat the Wasps defender on

his backside that does it for me... pure magic!

Having done that, we decided to let Wasps in to sneak in front before Nicky Robinson landed two monster kicks to seal the deal. I have to say when he pointed to the posts for the first one I feared the worst, it was well beyond anything I had seen him kick in the past. I'm not sure whether surprise or relief was the overriding emotion when the ball sailed over the posts.

Sometimes narrow wins like that are more fun than runaway try-fests. It certainly adds to the wind up opportunities when you meet your mates from the other side in the bar afterwards... For some reason several friends from Wasps didn't seem to

share my enthusiasm for the nail biting endings though!

Then a couple of days later it was off to Bath for what the experts predicted would be a total hammering. Sad to say I didn't make the trip, though I reckon I must have been the only bloke in Gloucester who didn't as everyone I have spoken to since has told me that they made the trip!

Much as I hate watching Gloucester play on TV – I find it really stressful, and it's a real effort to stop walking out of the room – this was a joy to behold.

I'm not sure which half I enjoyed more: the first where we simply danced past them, doing the simple things really well and scoring a couple of cracking tries, or the second when we defended like demons smashing everything that moved.

Performances like that don't come along very often and those that were at the match – those that were REALLY at



77 WHILE THEIR RECORD IN THE COMPETITION IS NOT TOO CLEVER WITH ONLY SIX WINS IN 45 EUROPEAN GAMES WE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THEM.



the match – will cherish the memories for a long time to come.

I think it was quite lucky that the match was played on a Friday, it gave an additional day for the hangover to clear and the sore throat from shouting too much to wear off. Not long enough to wipe the smile off though!

But now it's break time from the Premiership and time for the first couple of rounds of the Amlin Challenge Cup.

Just in case anyone needs a bit of a memory jog, this was the last competition that we won. Repeating that is going to be difficult, especially as

not only are there a few big clubs in the competition already, the new system of parachuting in those who have bombed out of the proper European Cup make the task doubly difficult.

Is it beyond us? I don't see why it should be... Our start to the competition was not the most auspicious though, the defeat away in Agen was a bit of a blow, at half time it looked like we were in the driving seat but it was not to be.

A last minute try – and by all accounts a very dodgy last minute try – was enough to deprive us of a hard-earned draw. Coming away with a bonus point was important though,

if we can prevent teams from doing that when they visit Castle Grim we should progress.

Today should give us a chance to run in a few tries – not that I want that to be seen as being disrespectful to our opponents. While their record in the competition is not too clever with only six wins in 45 European games we should not underestimate them.

Italian rugby is going through a bit of a renaissance, maybe their 'Super 10' competition and these competitions will help.

What it needs is for one of their sides to score a really good win against a bigger side – Treviso almost did it last week against Leicester, that would have got them really good headlines and a whole lot more interest. Having said that, I hope to all things sacred that such an upset does not happen today!

While writing this I tried to find out a bit more about our visitors, but not speaking Italian meant that their website was not much help.

What it did prove beyond all reasonable doubt is that they are stereotypical Italians. To find out what I mean fire up their website when you get home and then look at the squad page.

Check out the picture – the usual big blokes are liked up, but look at the front row – right in the middle. For reasons that are totally beyond me they have a rather – no very – attractive young lady sat among them...

A single flower in a field of surging testosterone. Like I said – typical Italians!



For this season at least, in terms of European competition, we have to focus our attention towards the Amlin Challenge Cup. Anyone who does not believe that to win this tournament will be difficult is deluding themselves.

The participants have a pedigree to behold, for instance, both Sale Sharks and Harlequins will be bidding to become the first teams to hold a hat-trick of European Challenge Cup titles!

Sale Sharks, who in recent seasons have been guided by Philippe St

Andre and Kingsley Jones, won the cup in 2002 and 2007.

They have a tough task with the 1997 Heineken Cup winners and 1998 beaten finalists Brive in their group. Although they have Italian club Petrarca and Spanish newcomers Centrasa El Salvador in their Pool 2, this will not be so easy to qualify.

The most important ruling in this competition is to remember that ONLY the club that tops each pool is allowed to advance to the knock out stage of the competition.

There they will be joined by three

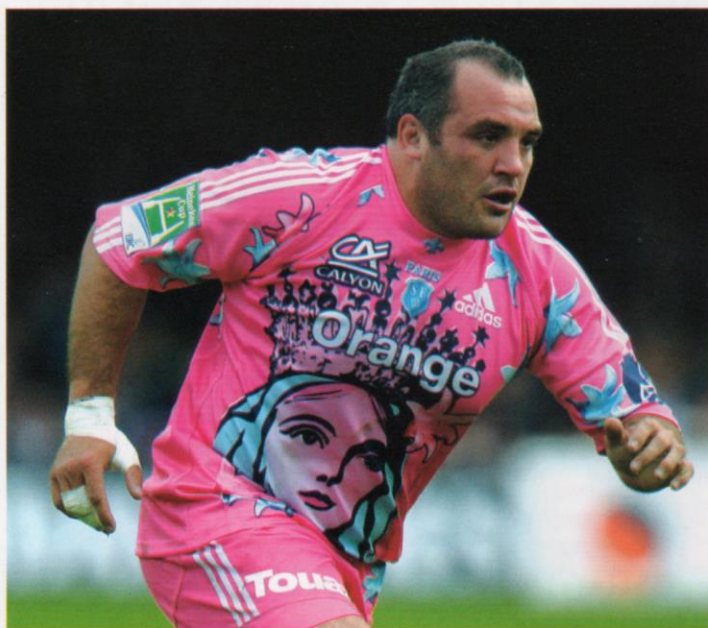
14/10/2010
Montpellier v Newcastle Falcons
15/10/2010
Connacht Rugby v Bayonne
Bourgoin v Exeter Chiefs
16/10/2010
Bucharest Oaks v Crociati Rugby
Gloucester Rugby v Rugby Rovigo
Harlequins v I Cavalieri Estra
Petrarca Rugby v Sale Sharks
El Salvador v Brive
La Rochelle v Agen
17/10/2010
Leeds Carnegie v Stade Francais

clubs that have finished third, fourth and fifth best runners up their pool group Heineken Cup matches.

Harlequins were the winners of the Challenge Cup in 2001 and also 2004. In their Pool Group 1 they face Connacht, Bayonne and the Italian club Cavalieri Prato.

Along with Sale Sharks, Harlequins, Brive and Stade Francais, we are one of five clubs who participated in the Heineken Cup last season.

Amazingly, **Stade Francais** appear in this competition for the first time since 2003. It was beyond comprehension at the outset of last

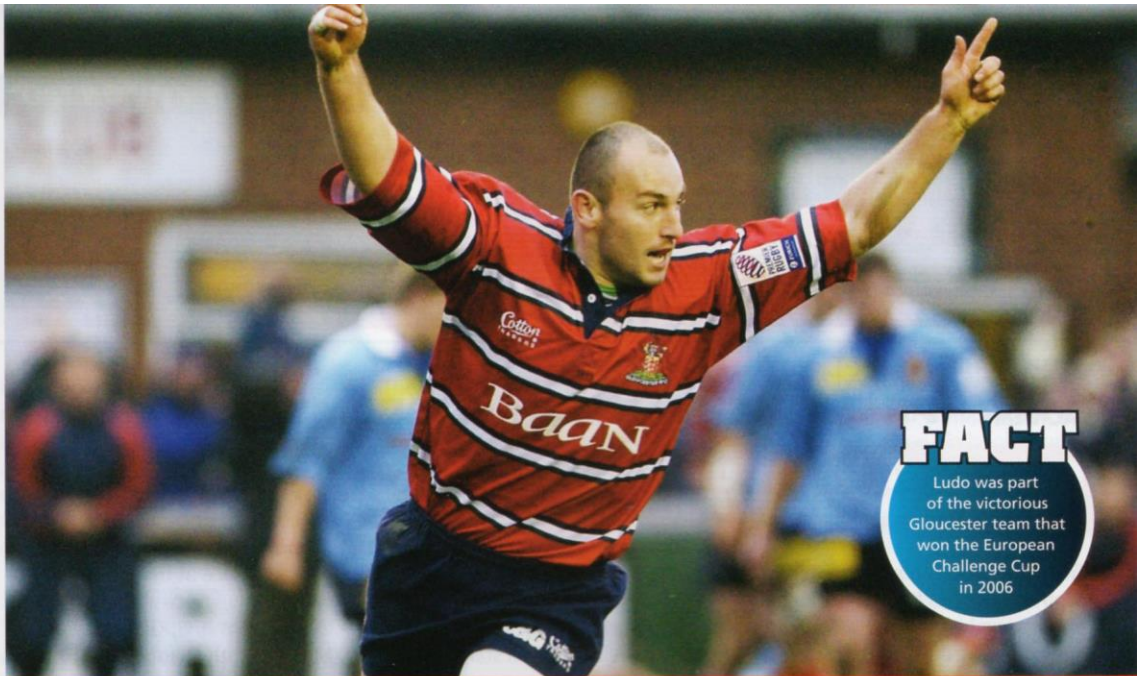


Stade Francais, as always, will stand out as a club to watch in this years Challenge Cup

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CHALLENGE CUP STATISTICS

Played: 37
Wins: 27
Draws: 1
Losses: 9
Total Points For: 1423
Total Points Against: 682
Total Tries For: 185
Total Tries Against: 82
Most Appearances: 23 (Terry Fanolua)
Top Points Scorer: 196 (Ludo)
Top Try Scorer: 14 (James Forrester)
Biggest Win: 106 - 3
(v Bucharest Oaks)
Heaviest Defeat: 12 - 62
(v Swansea)
Most Tries: 17
(v Bucharest Oaks)
Highest Attendance: 12, 053



FACT

Ludo was part of the victorious Gloucester team that won the European Challenge Cup in 2006

Ludo played a massive part in Gloucester's european exploits over the years

season that they would have finished in eighth place in France's Top 14 League!

The glamour club of Paris are in Pool 4 where they will attract plenty of attention in visiting Leeds Carnegie, Rugby Parma and Bucuresti Oaks.

There will also be a return to these shores for Tom Palmer and James Haskell, who are two of a bevy of stars in the Parisian club's gaudy colours.

It will be fascinating to see how Aviva Premiership newcomers Exeter Chiefs progress in their European bow. They have a tough pool to emerge from where they meet Montpellier, Bourgoin and Newcastle Falcons.

On a parochial note we face two clubs who were in the French second division last season. They are SU Agen and La Rochelle. Rovigo from Italy completes the group. Agen are no strangers to Kingsholm. Remember in the 2006-007 Heineken Cup, the French club completed the double over us! Can you recall Rupeni Caucaunbuca wreaking havoc here at Kingsholm?

Talking of La Rochelle, Seru Rabeni came close to joining the Kingsholm

ranks ahead of the 2009-10 season.

The Fijian was reported to have been on the verge of signing a three year contract. If there was solace for Rubeni it came in the shape of a short term contract offered to him by Leeds Carnegie.

Seru Rabeni's contribution to Leeds Carnegie successful Premiership survival bid in fact earned him a place in Sky Sports Dream XV and then a lucrative move to one of our pool opponents La Rochelle.

We have faced La Rochelle before in the 2001-002 Challenge Cup. We defeated the French club 34-15 here at Kingsholm on September 29th before an attendance of 6,568.

Our try scorers that day were Junior Paramore, Joe Ewens and Christian Stoica with **Ludovic Mercier** converting 2 tries and landing 4 penalties.

It was on 12th January when we made the trip to La Rochelle, a torrid affair ending in a 36-12 victory but not without mishap with Trevor Woodman being dismissed.

Darren O'Leary, Chris Fortey and Patrice Collazo were our try scorers. Ludovic Mercier weighed in with

19 points from 2 conversions, three penalties and two dropped goals in front of 5,000 spectators.

Our meetings with Agen were not so fruitful. We entertained the French club in the Heineken Cup on 26th October 2006 at Kingsholm losing by 32 points to twenty-six before 10,134 spectators. Anthony Allen scoring 2 tries with one from Olly Azam. Willie Walker converted one try and Ryan Lamb kicked three penalties.

An evening match on 12th January 2007 in front of 8,000 fans saw Agen triumph again this time by 26 points to eighteen. Our points were accumulated by Iain Balshaw and Peter Richards with a try apiece. Ryan Lamb added a single conversion along with 2 penalties.

Can we exact revenge this season? The Challenge Cup has fond memories for 'Cherry & White' fans when Dean Ryan guided the club to success at the culmination of the 2005-006 campaign.

Those amongst the 12,053 spectators at The Stoop on 21st May 2006 will always remember that final whistle, a moment of triumph.

Can we repeat it again?

GL13AX Gloucester Talk

with Peter Arnold

THE ITALIAN JOB



I hope today's welcome visitors won't think me too irreverent if I start with a Kingsholm tale of yesteryear.

Years ago, following a Calcutta Cup match, a spoof advertisement appeared on the noticeboard in the clubhouse.

It read, "Mike Burton has returned from Scotland with a badly bruised leg. Owner may reclaim it by writing to..."

As I say, no disrespect. I was reminded of the story when looking into the history of the Rovigo Rugby Club.

Apparently, it was founded in 1935 – comparatively recently by our standards – by a medical student who conceived a love of the game while studying at university.

It did just occur to me that perhaps he was of a Burto turn of mind and saw an opportunity to acquire some anatomical specimens to assist him in his studies.

Whatever his motivation, his venture was supremely successful. The club has never been out of the Italian Super 10 league, which is their version of our Premiership. Over the years, until recently, Rovigo has won a whole raft of honours, although they fell on hard times, a few years ago, when a charismatic president and benefactor died.

Financial problems followed, and at one time, the club's very existence was threatened, but happily they weathered the storm, and survived to visit us, here at Kingsholm.

Come to think of it, that might be something of a culture shock. Their stadium only holds some 6,000 people, which is probably respectable by Italian standards, but hardly sufficient preparation for a Kingsholm crowd in full cry.

A whole galaxy of famous names have been associated with the Rovigo club over the years. Naas Botha played for them, as did one of the Contemponis.

They were also coached by the great Carwyn James at one time, and in case you're too young to remember, he was the manager who led the Lions to a series victory in New Zealand.

So a hearty welcome to our Latin visitors. We hope they thoroughly enjoy the Kingsholm experience.

SUNKEN BATH



I can't let the opportunity to comment on the Bath match slip. Well, can I?

That wasn't just a win - it was a triumph. And if that sounds like a bit of a gloat, then I plead guilty as charged. After all, we have been waiting long enough for it, and all the pundits were telling us beforehand that we hadn't a snowball's chance, and I do like to see them confounded

now and then.

We won in style. By two tries to nothing. The famous Bath attacking style just wasn't allowed to materialise.

Predictably, after the match the excuses started to emerge. It was pouring with rain, which somehow gave an advantage to Gloucester. But hang about a bit - It was raining on our lads too.

"Ball's like a piece of soap"

complained one commentator as yet another Bath pass went to ground. Perhaps it was, but our backs seemed to be able to handle it.

In any case, even on a dry day is our back division that inferior to the much-hyped Bath flyers? On the evidence of the other Friday, a genuine neutral wouldn't think so.

So perhaps the conditions favoured the forwards. The fact was that our front eight was better than theirs. Even when we had our biggest forward in the sin bin, the opposition couldn't make any headway.

Finally, our decision making was better than theirs, even though the mighty Geech was looking on. That, I think, is a tribute to Mike Tindall, who has had his critics, but showed his true potential at the Rec.

Of course, it's only one game in a long season, but it's one which will live in the mind until the bitter end, or even longer.

Who says Gloucester can't win away from home?

SELF DESTRUCT

Well, we don't seem to be able to win in the South of France do we?

There's little doubt that we could and should have come away with the spoils after the trip to Agen. I wasn't there, but by all accounts it was a severe case of shoot ourselves in the collective foot.

I feel particularly sorry for the Skipper. Down at the Rec, Mike Tindall put in a coruscating performance and deservedly won the Man of the Match award. Barely a week later he became the villain of the piece when he was sin binned at a crucial point in the game.

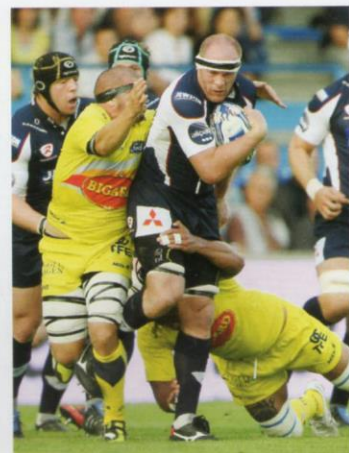
Apparently he was adjudged to have either taken a man out in the air, or put in a high tackle depending which report you read or listen to.

Either offence would seem to indicate a high degree of commitment, and those are things we have been criticised for lacking once or twice lately. The other yellow card, of course was awarded to Pete Buxton, and as we all know, he never gives us less than 100%.

You don't win cup matches by playing a quarter of the game with fourteen men, but the famed Bath back division couldn't get through in similar circumstances, so what was so different about Agen?

Having built a handy lead by half time, we seem to have taken the foot off the pedal after the break. Of course, Attwood's injury didn't help, but you would have regarded Will James as an adequate replacement

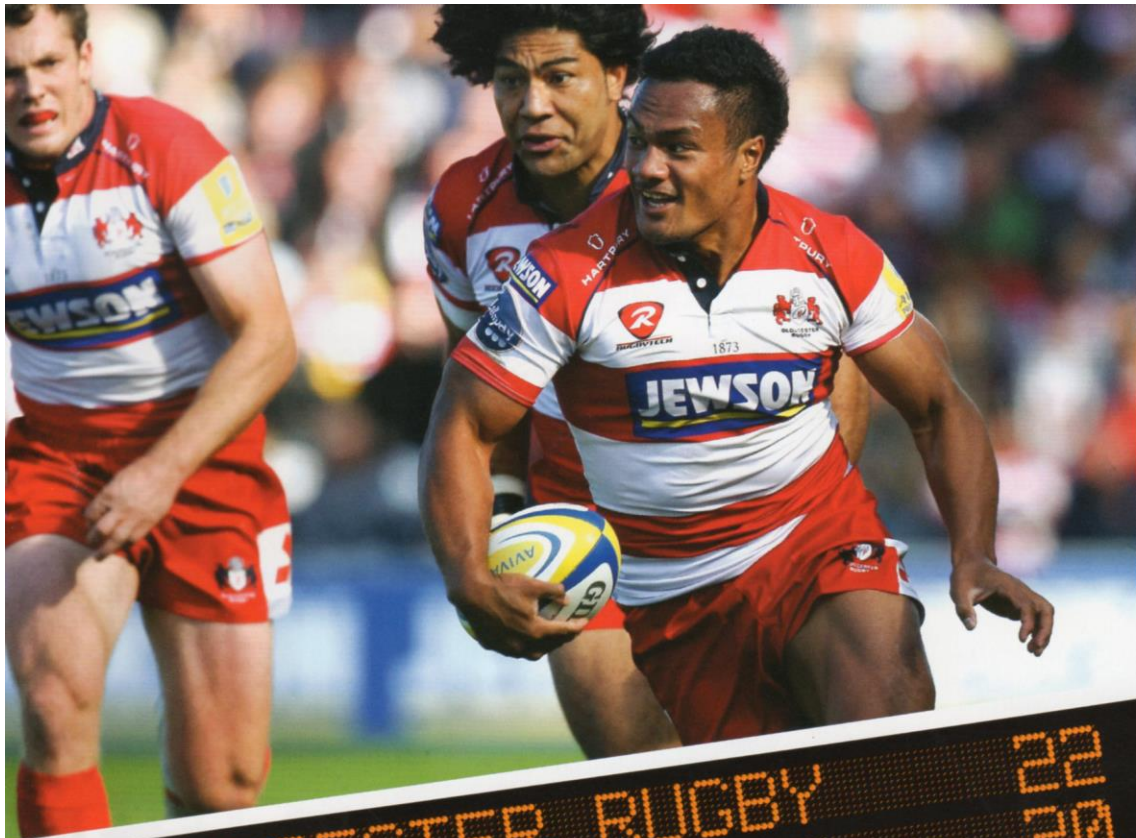
Admittedly, there seems to have been considerable doubt



about Agen's last-gasp try. But the fact remains that they shouldn't have been within striking distance anyway.

All in all, something of a disappointment, but let's not brood on it. We know the side's better than that.

Onward and upward, I say.



No-one ever said that life was easy following Gloucester Rugby! However, the nature of the last two victories at Kingsholm will have seen even the most laidback of supporters feeling more than a touch of anxiety!

Following Nicky Robinson's late penalty which earned a 22-21 win over Leeds Carnegie, Gloucester Rugby were again indebted to their Welsh international fly half who boomed two penalties from inside his own half in the last 10 minutes to earn his side a late 22-20 win against London Wasps.

Even then, however, the Gloucester crowd had to endure the agony of seeing



<p>PEN 5min Walder (0-3) PEN 7min Taylor (3-3)</p>	<p>PEN 27min Taylor (6-3)</p>	<p>TRY 31min Ward-Smith (6-8) CON 31min Walder (6-10) PEN 35min Taylor (9-10) TRY 36min Fuimaono-Sapolu (14-10) CON 37min Taylor (16-10)</p>
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KEY MOMENT

TRY 36min
Fuimaono-Sapolu (14-10)

Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu's try ensured that his side hit straight back after Dan Ward-Smith's effort threatened to dent Gloucester's confidence. Sleight of hand was followed by a handoff that left Dom Waldouck on his backside and the centre had too much pace for the cover defence.



HEAD COACH
Bryan Redpath:

"The Gloucester fans are hugely passionate about the game, and it was key today that we showed them some passion."

"The expectation is massive every time we play here, and we are aware of that pressure, but you can't shrink from it."

MATCH STATISTICS



1	Tries	2
1	Conversions	2
5	Penalty goals	2
0	Dropped goals	0
3	Clean breaks	6
4	Defenders beaten	8
4	Offloads	11
66	Rucks won	75
8	Turnovers conceded	13
92	Tackles	87
8	Missed tackles	4
13	Penalties conceded	16

the visitors awarded a controversial late penalty.

Andy Hazell was the man penalised, wrongly as the televised pictures immediately confirmed, and the flanker admitted after the game that he wouldn't have slept for a week had Dave Walder successfully slotted the kick.

However, perhaps justice as done as Walder's kick dipped just underneath the cross bar and Gloucester sealed the win.

It brought a thrilling end to a seesaw encounter and saw Gloucester maintain their unbeaten home Premiership record which saw them last suffer defeat at Kingsholm against, ironically, Wasps back in October 2009.

Robinson's crucial contribution captured the headlines but he will be the first to pay tribute to the role played by his fellow fly half Tim Taylor.

Taylor, who had to limp out of the action at half time, had pulled the strings with great aplomb during his 40 minutes on the pitch and helped Gloucester edge the first half by 16 points to 10.

It was a massive overall improvement on the previous week's performance at the Madejski Stadium when Gloucester had slipped to a 23-16 defeat at the hands of London Irish and the Kingsholm faithful responded in style by raucously backing their team all afternoon long.

To be fair, Bryan Redpath's side earned that support. From the very first minute, they played with a snap and intensity to their game which frequently forced their opponents onto the back foot and got the crowd behind them.

After the respective fly halves swapped penalties, a try out of seemingly nothing from Wasps' Dan Ward-Smith could have dented Gloucester's self belief only for Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu to respond with an early contender for try of the season.

Wasps showed their resilience and a touch of class as scrum half Joe Simpson scored a superb individual try to edge his side back in front before the game was handed over to the fly halves to settle matters with their goalkicking.

Thankfully for Gloucester, Robinson came out on top!

THE LINE UPS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Charlie Sharples
14. James Simpson-Daniel
13. Tim Molenaar
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
11. Lesley Vainikolo
10. Tim Taylor
9. Rory Lawson
1. Nick Wood
2. Olivier Azam
3. Paul Doran-Jones
4. Dave Attwood
5. Jim Hamilton
6. Alasdair Strokosch
7. Andrew Hazell
8. Brett Deacon

16. Scott Lawson
17. Alasdair Dickinson
18. Pierre Capdevielle
19. Alex Brown
20. Luke Narraway
21. Dave Lewis
22. Nicky Robinson
23. Mike Tindall

LONDON WASPS

15. Mark van Gisbergen
14. Tom Varndell
13. Dominic Waldouck
12. Riki Flutey
11. David Lemi
10. Dave Walder
9. Joe Simpson
1. Tim Payne
2. Joe Ward
3. Phil Vickery
4. Simon Shaw
5. Richard Birkett
6. Joe Worsley
7. Serge Betsen Tchoua
8. Dan Ward-Smith

16. Robert Webber
17. Charlie Beech
18. Ben Broster
19. James Cannon
20. Andy Powell
21. Nic Berry
22. Ben Jacobs
23. Richard Haughton

TRY 61min Simpson (16-15)
CON 62min Walder (16-17)
PEN 65min Robinson (19-17)

PEN 72min Walder (19-19)
PEN 74min Robinson (22-19)

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

TICKET HOTLINE
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BATH RUGBY 3
 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 18

Gloucester Rugby gave their 2010-11 Aviva Premiership Rugby season a massive shot in the arm with a superb 18-3 victory over local rivals Bath Rugby at the Rec.

The fact that the victory took place on their opponent's home turf, and was achieved despite the majority of critics predicting an easy home win, made the triumph all the more sweet.

And, in front of the Sky TV cameras, two members of the Gloucester Rugby squad who had attracted more media attention than most in recent weeks, seized the opportunity to let their feats on the playing field do the talking for them.



TRY 9min Vainikolo (0-5)
CON 10min Robinson (0-7)

PEN 20min Robinson (0-10)

PEN 23min Barkley (3-10)
TRY 25min Robinson (3-15)

PEN 38min Robinson (3-18)

2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 22 | 24 | 26 | 28 | 30 | 32 | 34 | 36 | 38 | 40

GLOUCESTER
 RUGBY.CO.UK

KEY MOMENT

TRY 9min Vainikolo (0-5)

Both sides were still very much feeling their way into the game when Gloucester pounced for their first try and silenced the Rec. Tindall's kick chase and tackle led the way before Fuimaono-Sapolu, Robinson and Vainikolo combined to ruthlessly exploit the scoring opportunity and set Gloucester on their way.



Tindall was involved in both tries. Firstly, chasing up a high kick, nailing the tackler and forcing the ball to squirt loose leading to Lesley Vainikolo's try. Then it was his initial break that led to Nicky Robinson's score.

Robinson, in addition to his own try, timed his supporting run to perfection in the build up to Vainikolo's try, taking the pass off Fuimaono-Sapolu before offloading to perfection to the big Tongan.

It was certainly a night to remember for everyone connected with Gloucester Rugby although, the weather conditions earlier in the day would have given those heading to the Rec in the evening, the

"I THINK IT WAS CRUCIAL THAT WE BELIEVED IN THE FIELD POSITION CONCEPT BY TURNING THEM AND PUTTING PRESSURE ON THEIR BACK THREE IN THE CONDITIONS. AND WE GOT TWO TRIES FROM THAT."

Nicky Robinson and Mike Tindall had been under the spotlight in the lead up to the game but, cometh the hour, cometh the men and both players contributed vital performances.

MATCH STATISTICS



0	Tries	2
0	Conversions	1
1	Penalty goals	2
0	Dropped goals	0
2	Clean breaks	3
8	Defenders beaten	5
3	Offloads	5
63	Rucks won	50
24	Turnovers conceded	10
55	Tackles	96
5	Missed tackles	8
12	Penalties conceded	13

perfect excuse to cry off.

As it was, the Rec pitch, held up very well although there was still a lot of moisture around which did, it has to be said, inhibit Bath's ability to get their handling game going.

There was also a school of thought offered by a certain Mr D Ryan in the Sky studio that Bath went out and started to try and play expansive rugby without doing the hard work first.

Gloucester certainly didn't make that mistake. Every single player looked sharp and hungry. The defence was the best it had been all season, the chances that were created were seized upon with glee and there was a pride and passion in the performance which augurs well for the weeks and months to come.

It was a display which aptly showcased exactly what this squad is capable of when they're on song. Everything fell into place on this particular occasion and the challenge now is to back this result up, kick onwards and consolidate a place in the upper reaches of the table.

THE LINE UPS

BATH RUGBY

15. Nick Abendanon
14. Matt Carraro
13. Shontayne Hape
12. Olly Barkley
11. Matt Banahan
10. Sam Vesty
9. Michael Claassens
1. David Barnes
2. Pieter Dixon
3. Duncan Bell
4. Stuart Hooper
5. Danny Grewcock
6. Andy Beattie
7. Lewis Moody
8. Luke Watson

16. Ross Batty
17. Nathan Catt
18. David Wilson
19. Ben Skirving
20. Josh Owens
21. Mark McMillan
22. Tom Biggs
23. Jack Cuthbert

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Charlie Sharples
14. James Simpson-Daniel
13. Mike Tindall
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
11. Lesley Vainikolo
10. Nicky Robinson
9. Dave Lewis
1. Nick Wood
2. Olivier Azam
3. Paul Doran-Jones
4. Jim Hamilton
5. Alex Brown
6. Alasdair Strokosch
7. Andrew Hazell
8. Brett Deacon

16. Scott Lawson
17. Alasdair Dickinson
18. Pierre Capdevielle
19. Dave Attwood
20. Luke Narraway
21. Jordi Pasqualin
22. Freddie Burns
23. Tim Molenaar

YG 42min Hamilton (Glos)

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

TICKET HOTLINE 0871 871 8781

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VS. RUGBY ROVIGO // 16.10.10

TODAY'S LINE-UPS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

7-0 TT OLLY MORGAN
 14-0 TT JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL
 21-0 T HENRY TRINDER
 28-0 TTT JONNY MAY
 35-0 TT LESLEY VAINIKOLO
 42-0 cctcccc FREDDIE BURNS
 47-0 TT DAVE LEWIS
 54-0 ALASDAIR DICKINSON
 61-0 SCOTT LAWSON
 68-0 PAUL DORAN-JONES
 73-7 JIM HAMILTON
 78-7 ALEX BROWN
 85-7 ALASDAIR STROKOSCH
 90-7 T ANDY HAZELL
 +PT LUKE NARRAWAY
 DARREN DAWIDIUK 16
 NICK WOOD 17
 PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE 18
 WILL JAMES 19
 BRETT DEACON 20
 JORDI PASQUALIN 21
 NICKY ROBINSON 22
 CHARLIE SHARPLES 23

15 STEFAN BASSON
 FULLBACK
 14 MARKO STANOJEVIC
 WING
 13 ALBERTO LUNARDON
 CENTRE
 12 MARCELLO DE GASPERI
 CENTRE
 11 ALBERTO ZORZI
 WING
 10 GERMAN BUSTOS C
 FLY-HALF
 9 MICHELE ZANIRATO
 SCRUM-HALF
 1 RIK DOLCETTO
 PROP
 2 LUKE MAHONEY (C)
 HOOKER
 3 MASSIMILIANO RAVALLE
 PROP
 4 TOMASSO REATO
 LOCK
 5 JEAN-FRANÇOIS MONTAURIOL
 LOCK
 6 AARON PERSICO
 FLANKER
 7 YOUNES ANOUER
 FLANKER
 8 AGUSTIN GUZMAN
 NO.8
 16 FLAVIO DAMIANO
 17 GIOVANNI BOCCALON
 18 NICOLA QUAGLIO
 19 DANIELE TUMIATI
 20 NICCOLÒ BADCCHI
 21 DAVIDE DUCA
 22 FRANCESCO ZARATTINI
 23 ANDREA BACCETTI

RUGBY ROVIGO

REFEREE: Mathieu Raynal (Fra)
 ASST REFEREES: Patrick Pechambert (Fra) & Jean-Pierre Matheu (Fra)

THE STATS THAT MATTER

POOL 1

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	B	Pts
Cavallieri Prato	1	1	0	0	23	21	2	0	4
Connacht	1	0	0	1	21	23	-2	1	1
Bayonne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harlequins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

POOL 2

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	B	Pts
Sale Sharks	1	1	0	0	97	11	86	1	5
Brive	1	1	0	0	32	6	26	1	5
Petrarca	1	0	0	1	6	32	-26	0	0
El Salvador	1	0	0	1	11	97	-86	0	0

POOL 3

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	B	Pts
Montpellier	1	1	0	0	20	13	7	0	4
Newcastle Falcons	1	1	0	0	22	16	6	0	4
Bourgoin	1	0	0	1	16	22	-6	1	1
Exeter	1	0	0	1	13	20	-7	1	1

POOL 4

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	B	Pts
Stade Francais	1	1	0	0	57	6	51	1	5
Leeds Carnegie	1	1	0	0	23	9	14	0	4
Bucuresti	1	0	0	1	9	23	-14	0	0
Crociati Rugby	1	0	0	1	6	57	-51	0	0

POOL 5

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	B	Pts
La Rochelle	1	1	0	0	38	3	35	1	5
Agen	1	1	0	0	26	19	7	0	4
Gloucester	1	0	0	1	19	26	-7	1	1
Rovigo	1	0	0	1	3	38	-35	0	0

Amlin Challenge Cup

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