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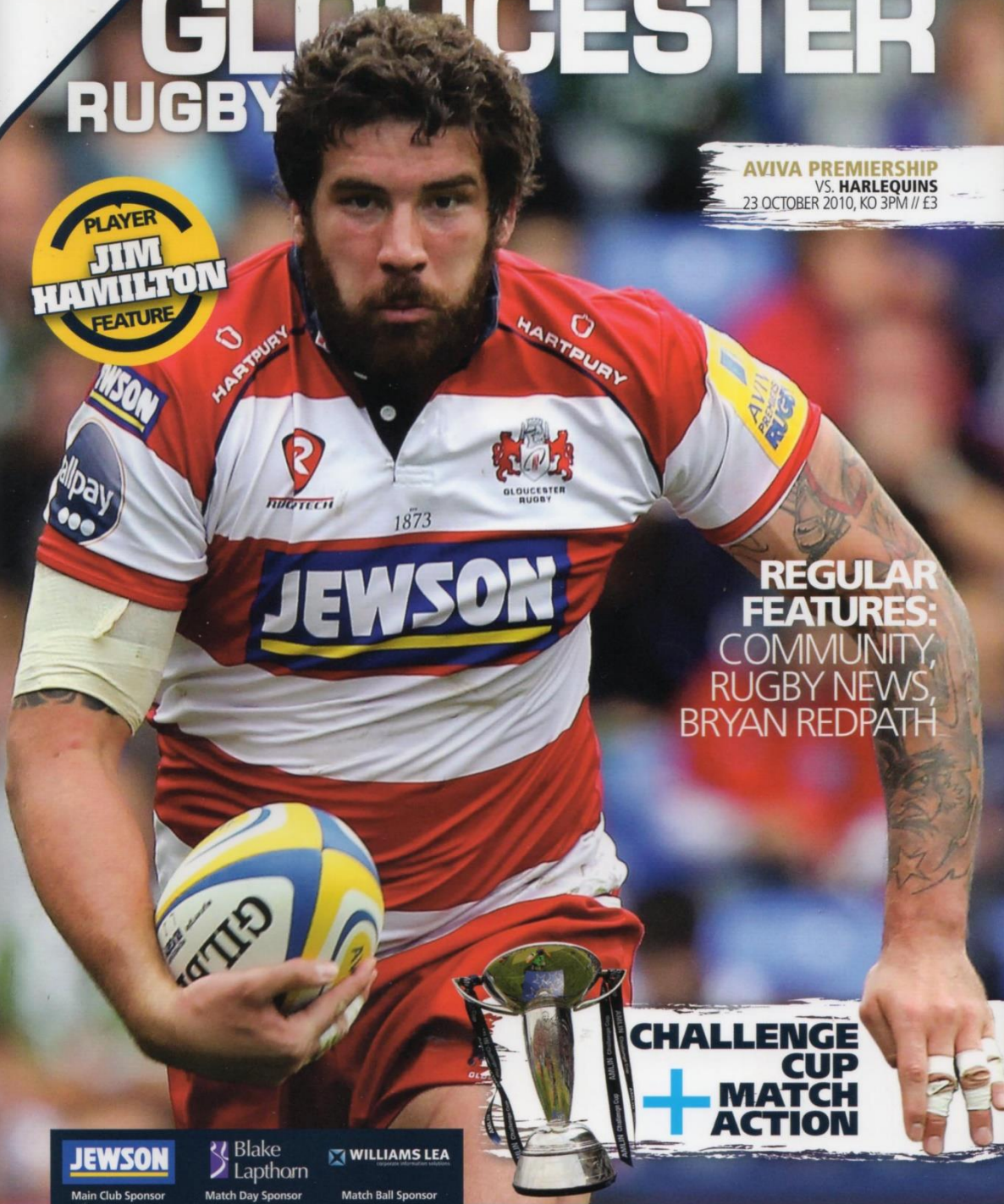
Club News › Player poster › Opposition feature › Kingsholm Hospitality

GLoucester RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

AVIVA PREMIERSHIP
VS. **HARLEQUINS**
23 OCTOBER 2010, KO 3PM // £3

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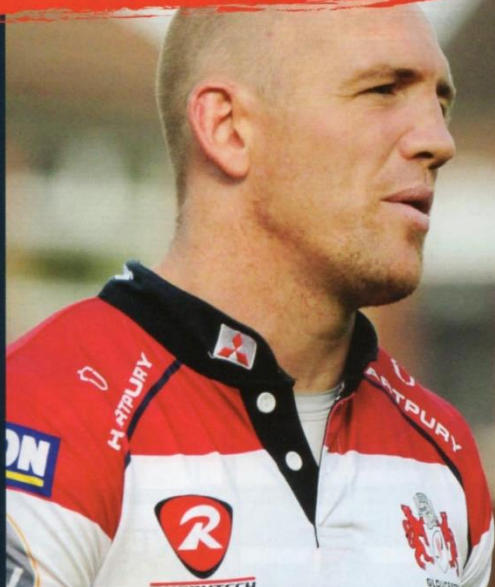
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Captain's Corner



"THE KINGSHOLM FACTOR IS ALWAYS CRUCIAL TO US. IT'S NOW ALMOST EXACTLY A YEAR TO THE DAY SINCE WE LOST HERE IN THE PREMIERSHIP. IT'S A RECORD WE'RE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF..."

Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm as we resume our Amlin Premiership Rugby campaign against Harlequins this afternoon.

Following our venture into Europe for the past two weekends, these next two weekends, when we play Quins and Leicester here at Kingsholm, are particularly important to us.

Coming into this weekend, we sit in fifth place in the table and, after two defeats in our opening three games this season, we'd probably have taken that!

But, the table is pretty tight at the moment. It always is in the early stages of the season. We're behind Bath by just one point and right behind us in the table but level on points are Leicester and Harlequins.

So, the next two weekends will have a big say on how the table starts to shape up. Two wins and we'll really start to cement our place in the top half of the table. On the other

hand, it's a great opportunity for Harlequins and Leicester to steal a march on us.

What is in our favour, of course, is that we're at home. The Kingsholm factor is always crucial to us. It's now almost exactly a year to the day since we lost here in the Premiership. It's a record we're justifiably proud of and, if it's still intact going into the Autumn internationals, then we'll be in good shape.

The first of this trio of home matches was the Amlin Challenge Cup fixture with Rugby Rovigo last weekend, of course, and I thought the boys did a great job.

The danger with that sort of game is that you're expected to score a hatful of points. In those circumstances, it can be easy for individuals to get a bit carried away and go off script.

But, I was impressed with how professional the boys were as they went about the task in

hand. They played as a team, nobody tried to do too much on their own and, as a team, we simply had too much in the locker for Rovigo.

From a personal point of view, it was also interesting for me to see how Jonny May and Henry Trinder went in the centre positions. These guys are getting better and better and, with them playing the way they are, it's going to keep me on my toes!

Focussing on today's game, we're expecting a tough one. We shared some pretty entertaining games with Quins last year. We lost there by a score in the Premiership, nicked a close one in the LV=Cup before everything clicked here on the day at Kingsholm in a 46-6 win.

They'll certainly remember that and be looking to make amends and we're definitely not naive enough to think that a repeat will be easy.

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 Harlequins a very warm welcome to Kingsholm this afternoon.

Home games are like buses aren't they? You wait weeks without having one and then you get two in a row!

Joking aside, despite the warm and sunny weather we experienced in Agen a fortnight ago, it was good to be back in front of our own supporters against Rovigo last weekend and great to be back here this afternoon.

These three matches at home represent an important part of our season. In terms of Europe, having lost down in Agen, it was important for us to get the win over Rovigo and we had to win well.

So, I was very satisfied to see us go out and run in 14 tries against Rovigo last weekend. But, I was possibly more impressed by the way we went about it.

Having scored two tries in the opening few minutes, it would have been very easy for us to lose our heads a little and for individuals to go off script and try and do everything on their own rather than playing as a team.

That wasn't the case, however. The forwards supplied great ball all afternoon and I thought the young lads in the back line kept their heads and used it very well.

I mentioned it at the post match press conference but the approach was typified in my opinion when Henry Trinder put Lesley Vainikolo in for a try. It would have been easy for Trinds to try and pin his ears back and make the line himself but he was thinking of the team and did the right thing

which really pleased me.

However, we've not dwelled too much on the Rovigo game in our analysis and training sessions this week. We went well last weekend but what happened against Rovigo will bear little relation to this afternoon's game. This week, the work has been all about Harlequins.

Even at this early stage of the season, it's an important game because Harlequins and ourselves are level on points in the Aviva Premiership table.

On the same number of points are the Leicester Tigers so you can see

and close games with Quins in recent times. We lost 35-29 down at the Stoop in the Premiership last November when our defence either side of half time let us down but showed great character to snatch a win there in the LV=Cup when Tim Taylor converted Tom Voyce's try with the last kick of the game.

They've had some good results this season after a slightly shaky start. A draw with Wasps was followed by defeats at home to Northampton and away at Sale but they've won their past two in the Premiership.



why the next two weeks are so important to us. A couple of wins would establish us in the upper reaches of the table.

And, make no mistake, that's hugely important to us. It's great to run in 14 tries against Italian opposition in the Amlin Challenge Cup. However, the Aviva Premiership is our bread and butter and qualifying for the Heineken Cup as a result of our league position has to be our number one priority.

We've had some entertaining

They've got a good track record of developing young talent via their Academy, play some good rugby and are capable of defeating anyone on their day.

We have to make sure that our game reaches the levels that we achieved when we defeated London Wasps and Bath.

If we can hit those heights, here at Kingsholm in front of our own supporters, then we'll be in with a shout.

Enjoy the game.



**"WE HAVE TO
MAKE SURE
THAT OUR GAME
REACHES THE
LEVELS THAT WE
ACHIEVED WHEN
WE DEFEATED
LONDON WASPS
AND BATH."**



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REDPATH**

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View from The Citizen



with Nick Purewal

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Sinbad: Defence is Key

F IRED-UP James Simpson-Daniel is happy to harangue his engine room enforcers to make sure Gloucester complete the defensive jigsaw.

The 28-year-old pace master knows Gloucester face a season defining two-game Kingsholm streak, starting this afternoon as Harlequins come calling to the West Country.

Bryan Redpath's resurgent men entertain ever-powerful Leicester Tigers on Saturday week, and Sinbad expects two unforgiving tests.

that seeing numbers go missing across the defence, he said he has no qualms ordering Gloucester's big men around.

He explained: "The hardest thing is when you come off the pitch, do your analysis and you're told you need to talk more.

"Because you know the whole time you've been stood there screaming your head off.

"Everyone's hyped up, but it's important we focus strongly on that communication.

"It's about putting two men into the tackle and no more: you suddenly commit three or four, and you're short across the line.

"Hoggy's pointed it out to us, as a back-three we've got to shout up and call the guys out.

"If we over-commit at the tackle then we're the guys out wide who are going to get burnt on the outside.

"So the damage can be done on the inside, even if they exploit space wide out through their

"Your defence has got to be white-hot in the Premiership, but against a team like Quins, even if you manage that, they'll still make breaks. Even if your defence is on fire, they're still going to be dangerous, because they're such a good attacking force."

Excited by the bruising double-header, the Stockton-on-Tees-born wide man explained that Gloucester must maintain their dogged defence to emerge from this fortnight in win credit.

No longer do Gloucester smash the breakdown with all their forward might: now the Cherry and Whites send two raiders into the tackle, and everyone else sets an impenetrable line.

Admitting there is no worse feeling

"Morgy gets a great view from behind and he can boss, and the same with the scrum halves.

"They can police things to make sure no one's ball-watching at the rucks, to make sure we do hold a bit of width.

"Stood on the wing looking in you can see the whole puzzle setting up, and it's so much easier for us when guys are sticking to their jobs.

lightning wingers.

"So we need two guys being a menace in the tackle, and everyone else setting the line and staying patient.

"If we can keep focused and stay clean, then it forces them to be a lot better than us to break us down."

Gloucester hold the second-meanest Premiership defence

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after five rounds - only table-topping London Irish have conceded fewer points, and only one less at that.

Former Sedbergh School pupil Simpson-Daniel knows though, that high-octane Harlequins will still threaten and break that resolute line.

Calling for calm when Nick Evans, Danny Care and Co steal a march, he continued: "Your defence has got to be white-hot in the

Premiership, but against a team like Quins, even if you manage that, they'll still make breaks.

"Even if your defence is on fire, they're still going to be dangerous, because they're such a good attacking force.

"They've got real danger in their team, so if we're not clinical enough in our defence, then they'll pull us apart.

"So it's the type of game where

you can be 14 points down in a flash.

"I love playing against them, it's the type of game where you can get your hands on the ball.

"We've got to make sure we don't get caught cold going back into the Premiership.

"So this week it's all about raising the fire and intensity in training, so we can head back into the Premiership and regain the levels we had at Bath."

Looking at him now, you'd be forgiven for thinking that Jim Hamilton, at 6 feet 8 inches tall and tipping the scales at nearly 20 stone, was born to be a second row.

However, relaxing in one of the corporate boxes at Kingsholm after the team run ahead of the Rovigo game, the Swindon born lock insists that it was initially football that attracted his attention.

"Rugby wasn't really around when I was a kid. I was always a little bit taller than kids of my age although I wasn't a big baby or anything!"

"It was when I was in secondary school, around 14 or 15, when I started to shoot up as it were. It seemed as though I grew taller the more I ate!"

"It was fantastic as a whole. There was no better apprenticeship in rugby to have than the one I had at Leicester. Learning not just from the second rows but from the Neil Backs and the Darren Garforth's of this world."

"Josh Kronfeld was a big influence as well, he had a more relaxed approach but the overall apprenticeship was second to none and one of the reasons for me being where I am today."

Despite spending his whole rugby career at Welford Road to that point, he admits though that he did need a change of scenery which prompted a move north of the border to join Edinburgh.

"I was an established international by this point but I wasn't a fully established club player and it was always going to be difficult with people like Johnson, Kay, Louis Deacon and Leo Cullen at the club."

Moving to Gloucester in the summer, missing several weeks must have been incredibly frustrating after returning from Argentina on such a high?

"Frustrating and embarrassing. Even when you're injured, you're still around the squad. But, I had to keep to myself and with, me and the medical team still getting to know each other, it took a while to get to the bottom of it."

"When I did get back though, it made it all the more special and I feel that I'm just about there now in terms of fitness. In Agen, I was around 90% there I guess but there's still a bit more to come."

Whilst in isolation with the virus over the summer, there were various mentions of the "One Man Wolf Pack" across the Twitter network – what's the story?

ONE MAN WOLF PACK

"I played one or twice at hooker when I was under 10s or under 11s but didn't really start playing seriously until I was nearly 16 and taller than everyone was I was fairly late to the game."

"Up until then, I'd played football mainly. I played midfield and was a Manchester United supporter. Football was the main game at my school. My claim to fame is scoring a goal from halfway."

However, despite taking up the game relatively late, Hamilton was spotted by the Leicester Tigers Academy and admitted that it was an ideal place to learn his trade with the likes of Martin Johnson and Ben Kay at their peak at this point in time.

"I was really lucky to play alongside both of them and it was a bit surreal at the beginning with Martin Johnson just coming back lifted the World Cup and the next week I was packing down with him away at Northampton."

"I was still only 23 but needed to be playing every week. Going to Edinburgh helped me to achieve that and also showed the Scottish public that I was committed to playing for Scotland."

Talking of Scotland, winning the summer tour of Argentina was a massive achievement but will increase expectations ahead of the Autumn internationals and Six Nations?

"The whole tour was a statement. In fact, even before that, when we played Wales in the Six Nations, I'd never been in an away dressing room for Scotland where we felt so genuinely confident of winning."

"It didn't happen that day but the momentum started to build from then. Losing in Italy I think was a reaction to the Wales game but Ireland at Croke Park was, for me, the start of Scotland moving forward."

"We've got a tough Autumn coming up but we're setting high standards within the squad and we feel, for the first time, that we can genuinely beat the likes of New Zealand."

(Laughs). I was on my own a lot and growing the beard and my hair was getting long. It's from the film 'The Hangover' and they were calling me 'Alan, the one man wolf pack!'"

"And it seems to have stuck but I don't mind."

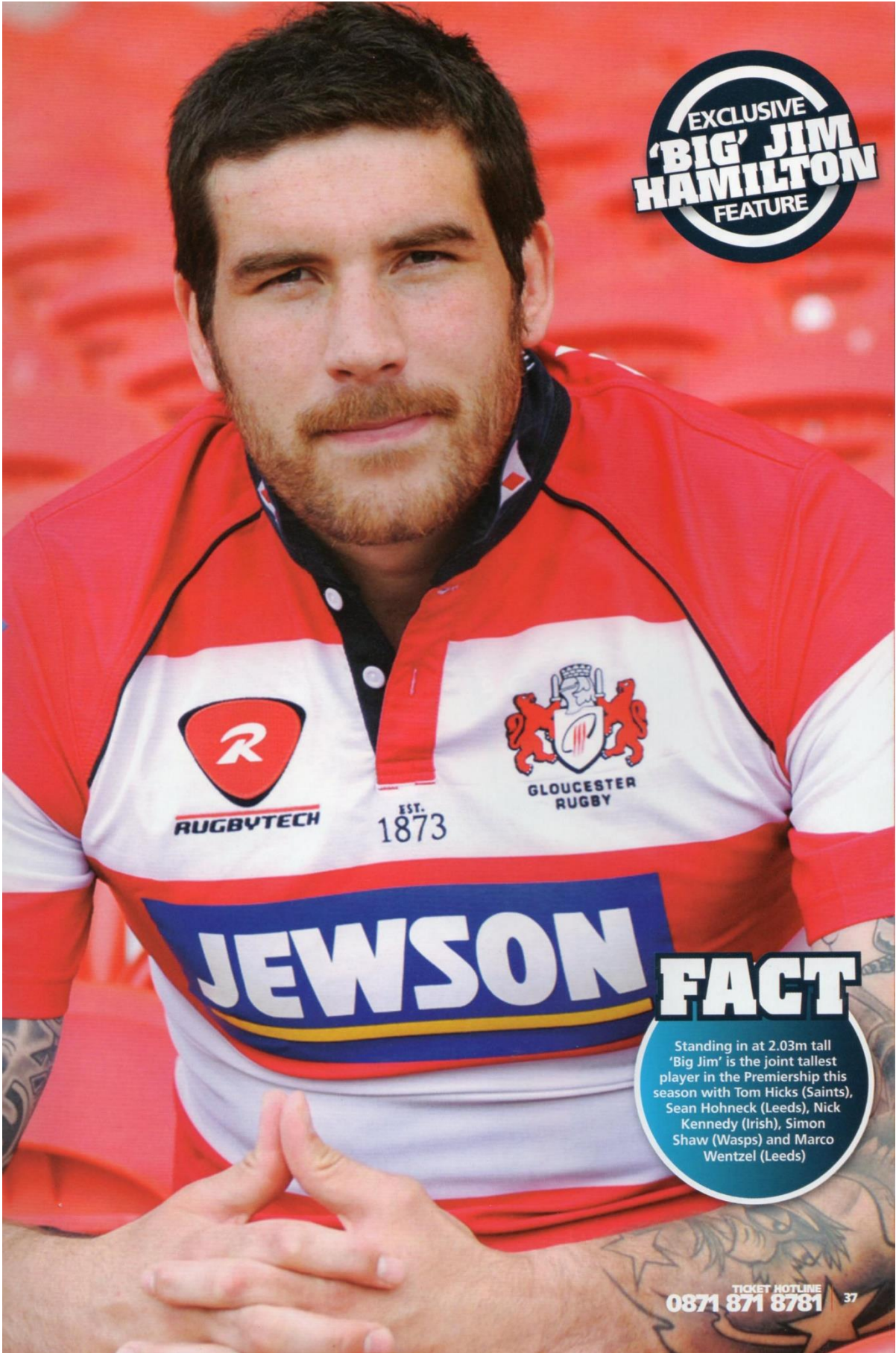
Finally, everyone must have noticed that Jim possesses a fine collection of tattoos. He explained that they're a real source of fascination.

"I've always been into them and got a few in New Zealand. But, as I've got older, I've started to look into them and their meanings a bit more."

"There are some stories behind mine. I've had them done in New York, Miami, London and even Jerusalem."

"I'm lucky being in a profession where they can be displayed without any disapproving looks and I'm sure I'll get a few more even though the missus might not be too happy!"

EXCLUSIVE
**'BIG' JIM
HAMILTON**
FEATURE



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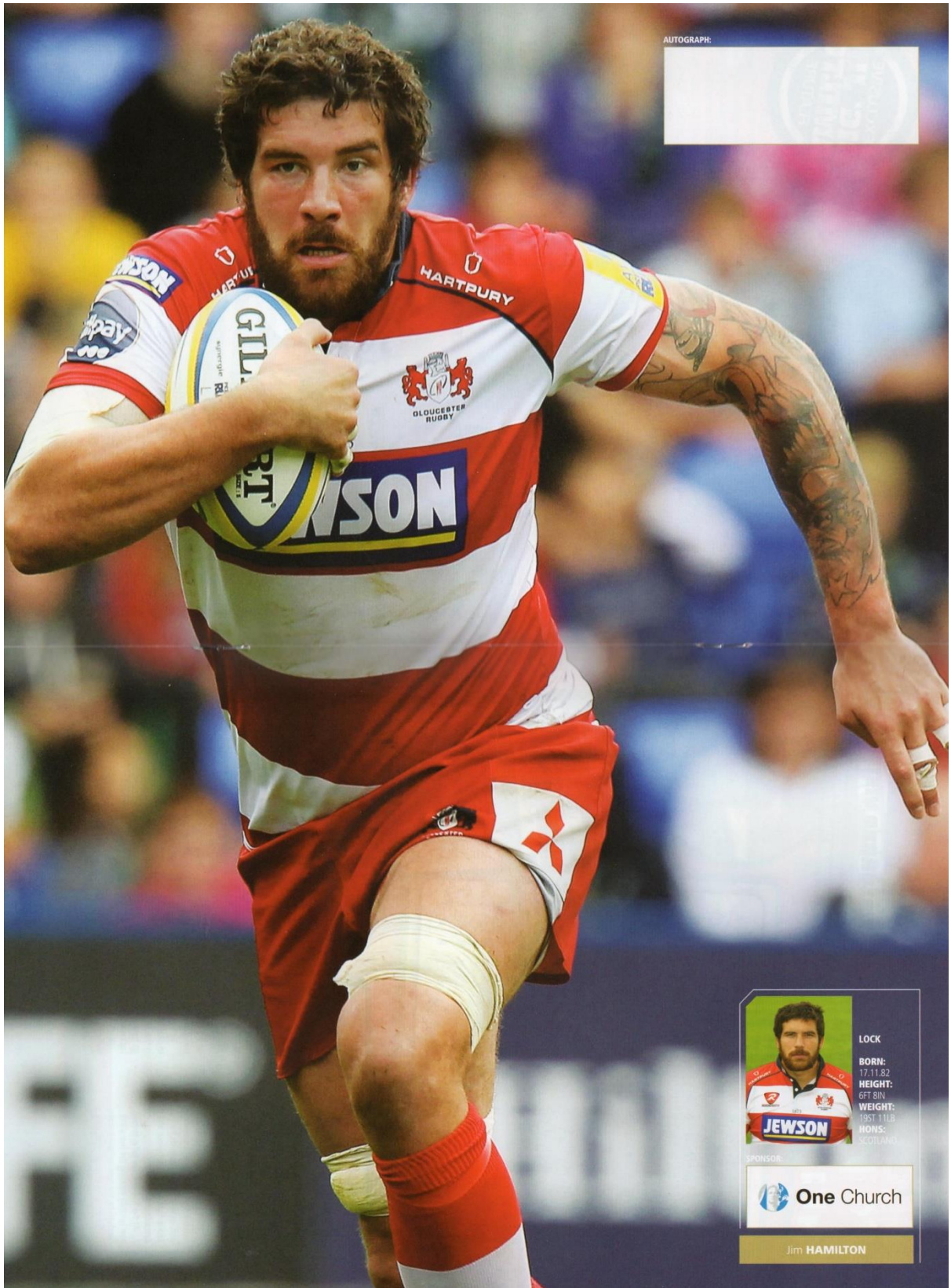
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FACT

Standing in at 2.03m tall 'Big Jim' is the joint tallest player in the Premiership this season with Tom Hicks (Saints), Sean Hohnock (Leeds), Nick Kennedy (Irish), Simon Shaw (Wasps) and Marco Wentzel (Leeds)

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AUTOGRAPH:



LOCK
BORN: 17.11.82
HEIGHT: 6FT 3IN
WEIGHT: 195T 11LB
HONS: SCOTLAND

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Jim **HAMILTON**

Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton



THESE games are coming a bit thick and fast for me - I'm going to get repetitive strain injury from writing all this stuff!

So last week was a bit of fun wasn't it? 14 tries is not something you get to see every week - well 15 if you count the one that Rovigo scored. I think you've got to go back to a similar European game in 2005, versus Bucharest when we hit 106 points, to see that kind of tally on the score sheet.

You don't learn much from games like that, but running in a bunch of tries can't be a bad thing. The old adage of 'you can only play what's in front of you' applies though, and I thought we turned in a thoroughly professional display.

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Credit must also go to Rovigo who kept going. A plus side for them must be that their re-starts are going to be a heck of a lot better than they were, given the practice they had last week.

I remember years ago when the England soccer team used to play against a non-league side in the run up to international fixtures. The thinking behind them was along the lines that players would get in the habit of scoring, and that would carry over to the proper games.

If that is the case, then today is going to be a try fest as both teams here today ran in a bunch of scores last week in their respective Amlin Challenge Cup matches.



“ I REMEMBER GOING TO QUINS IN THE 90S WHEN A CROWD OF ABOUT 1,500 SEEMED TO BE THE NORM, SO THERE CAN BE NO DOUBTING THAT THEY ARE A GENUINE SUCCESS STORY.”

So after a brief sojourn with all things Europe, it's back to the day job of the Premiership and a visit of the team that might well be twinned with aforementioned Bucharest (OK, cheap Dracula/blood reference, there'll be no more of those), Harlequins.

Quins are a funny old team - old being the operative word too as they were one of, if not the, oldest rugby clubs around. According to their official history to be found on their website they were established in 1866.

The article goes on to say that, according to which version of their history you believe, they could have been set up after an historic '...meeting under a street lamp at two o'clock in the morning in Hampstead...'

If ever there was a sign that things have changed, this is it. Nowadays when you read about clandestine meetings under street lamps in Hampstead it is usually closely followed by news of someone in public life resigning to spend more time with their family, or the release of another dull song by a certain singer.

And it would be a heck of an excuse to give the local policemen! "It's okay officer, we were just discussing setting up a rugby club!" Not sure where that would rank on the lists of plausible excuses.

But I digress... I was talking to a mate of mine about Quins the other day - he is a Leicester fan, by the way and we both used to live a stone's throw away from the Stoop.

We were wondering why so many people seemed to have an antipathy

towards today's multicolored visitors?

We thought that nowadays it could be a bit of 'ground jealousy' as the Stoop has become a very nice stadium to visit (apart from the motorway sized road that runs in front of the East Stand); and agreed that such feelings could not be a result of their success on the field - a couple of wins in the minor European competition apart, I think you have to go back to 1991 to find anything significant on their honours board.

Maybe it was a hangover from their reputation as the city banker's club from the 80s and 90s or something? Either way we agreed that it was hard to find anyone outside the Quins community who had much of a good word to say about them.

So I'll buck the trend a bit here. I know from friends who are involved with youth rugby in and around London that Quins do a huge amount of work in the community and have developed great links with local clubs and schools.

According to their website they are involved with 50 local clubs, I can believe this - just check out the number of junior sides who are at The Stoop next time we go there.

As a result they have built their fan base and are seem to be averaging a gate of around 10,000 for their home games. I remember going to Quins in the 90s when a crowd of about 1,500 seemed to be the norm, so there can be no doubting that they are a genuine success story.

And while mulling over that fact, remember that they are the London



club (despite the pretences of those in the Thames Valley and Hertfordshire) and have built that fan base against the backdrop of two premiership soccer teams located less than a dozen miles away and host more within easy reach.

But they're two places below us in the table. Let's hope the result today will keep them in that position. Actually no need to hope... it's a foregone conclusion. Isn't it???

Dave King's WORLD OF RUGBY

As the season has progressed it is interesting to take a look at the stabilised squads of various clubs up and down the British Isles and trace the whereabouts of some of our former players.

In the Aviva Premiership we have former players with every league club except Newcastle and Harlequins.

There are three former staff with Leeds Carnegie. There are Jon Pendlebury, Andy Titterell and Semi Tadulalu. Prop forward Jack Forster is with Sale Sharks. **Kingsley Jones** is now in an elevated position and no longer Head Coach.

Moving southwards, Anthony Allen is in his second season with Leicester Tigers. Lock Forward Adam Eustace is now with fellow East Midland club Northampton Saints.

Our West Country rivals Bath saw the return of Olly Barkley last season while Premiership newcomers Exeter have **Mark Foster** and Haydn Thomas in their ranks.

Travelling along the M4 to London Irish we find fly half Ryan Lamb in the final year of a two year contract. Our former defence coach Dave Ellis is in a similar capacity with London Irish.

Another London based club,

Saracens can boast the effectiveness of **Carlos Nieto** in their front row.

Stepping down into the Championship our South West neighbours Bristol have James Merriman, Dan Norton, Mark Irish and Jack Adams on their reduced playing staff.

Yorkshire club Doncaster Knights recruited fly half Tristan Roberts in the close season while Championship newcomers Esher have signed Clive Stuart-Smith and **Jon Goodridge** and also line out forward Karl Rudzki.

Midlands club Moseley, under the guidance of Ian Smith and Don Caskie, have Brad Davies, Terry Sigley, Adam Caves and Richard Stott in their squad. They also have Koree Britton, Sean Knight, Jonny May and Ryan Mills dual registered from Kingsholm.

Rotherham Titans have recruited Henry Paul alongside Peter Swatkins. While at Sixways home of Worcester Warriors you can find Richard Hill as Head Coach with Willie Walker, **Marcel Garvey**, Adam Balding and Andy Williams along with venerable Chris Fortey among his charges.

In National One Andy Deacon is Director of Operations at nearby Cinderford where his new look coaching set up includes Jake Boer, Dave Pointon and Lee Fortey as forwards coach. Ed Archer is



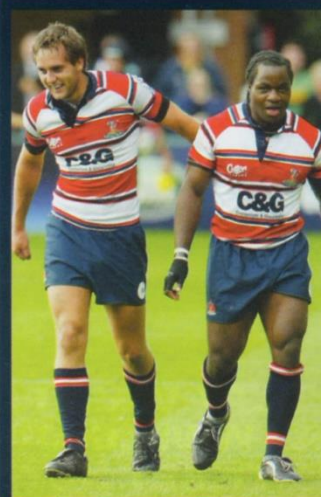
Kingsley Jones & Philippe St Andre



Mark 'Foz' Foster



Carlos Nieto



Jon Goodridge & Marcel Garvey

assisting as a fitness advisor. Mark Davies has linked up with Severside club Lydney where James Bashford remains.

Our former scrum half **Simon Amor** has joined London Scottish after foregoing his job at U.K. Sport which would have taken him to London 2012. Now 31 years of age he had previously been performance advisor to Olympic and Paralympics athletes.

Simon is now the full time head coach of London Scottish. Rob Elloway remains with Cornish Pirates in National One. Two of our former players Rob Baxter and Robin Cowling are coaches at Sandy Lane, home of Exeter.

Mike Guess has returned to his former club Southend where he has renewed his acquaintance with Adrian Frost in National League Two South. Rob Fidler is still playing with Cheltenham club Old Patesians.

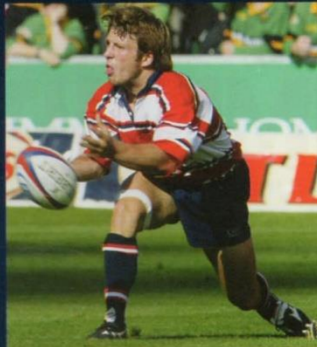
Coaching is the forte of Phil Greening and Richard Ward who are in their first full seasons in this capacity with London Welsh and nearby Stroud respectively.

Stepping outside the confines of the English Club scene we find Mathew Watkins with Newport Gwent Dragons where Paul Turner is the Head Coach.

Also, in the Magners League is Gareth Cooper with Cardiff Blues while our former lock forward Dan Touhy is with Ulster.

Newcomers to that league are Italian club Aironi where the evergreen Ludovic Mercier is a newcomer along with **Marco Bortolami**. Former Gloucester and Leicester hooker, Mefin Davies has moved back to Wales to join Ospreys. Chris Paterson is still with Edinburgh.

Looking further afield Gareth Delve and Greg Somerville have joined Melbourne Royals in Australia.



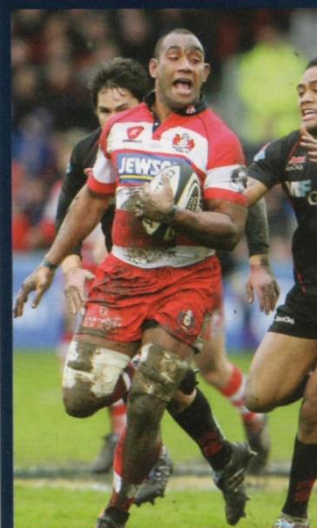
Simon Amor



Marco Bortolami



Simon Mannix



Apo Satata

Moving to France, Iain Balshaw is still with Biarritz as is Dimitri Yachvili. Over at Toulon **Philippe St Andre** is still the French club's Head Coach where title success is paramount to the club owner and, further north, **Simon Mannix** is Head Coach with Racing Metro of Paris.

Meanwhile Nigel Melville is still Chief Executive Officer and President of Rugby Operations at U.S.A. Rugby. Nigel has been in the United States for four years.

Our former scrum half Andy Gomersall now retired from playing is now working with his father's company N25, who are specialists in I.T. and telecommunications installation management.

Andy is also setting up his own sports management team. He also writes a weekly column for Rugby Times.

Our former coach Keith Richardson also writes a weekly column in the Stroud News & Journal on all Kingsholm matters.

Basingstoke R.F.C. are now recipients of Junior Paramore's coaching skills in National League Three London and South East.

Tom Jarvis is now with Stourbridge in National One, having had brief periods with Plymouth Albion and Florence in Italy.

Dean Ryan our more recent Head Coach is now a pundit with Sky TV's Rugby Club and match day coverage.

After **Apo Satata's** move to Sale Sharks hit the buffers he has joined National South Two club Taunton.

The 32 year old Fijian International who is a private in the army has joined former Gloucester player Stephen Ward. The centre three quarter joined the Somerset club from Exeter.

Rob Thirlby has joined the staff here at Kingsholm as a video analyst.

GL13AX Gloucester Talk

with Peter Arnold

WELCOME TO HAMPSTEAD



There's always a bit of a buzz about Harlequins coming to town. We know that, for generations, their instinct has been to play real rugby and run the ball whenever possible, and that conditions, and officials, permitting we should be in for an entertaining afternoon.

As a matter of fact, Harlequins were the opposition when my father brought me to my very first match as a little Calton Road schoolboy in short trousers. I scandalised him at the time by shouting for the visitors on the grounds that they had prettier shirts than Gloucester.

As long as I am quoting ancient history, I might as well continue the trend. A little digging taught me that the Harlequin Football Club

was founded in 1866, although they didn't actually play a game until the following year.

In fact, they were originally formed as the Hampstead Football Club, and were an instant hit with the citizens of that august borough.

They were victims of their own success in one way. They soon attracted members from far and wide, so much so that they lost their local connotations.

A meeting was held – under a Hampstead street lamp according to one version of the story – and the decision was made to change the name of the club. The only problem was – to what?

Apparently they wanted to keep their HFC monogram, I imagine in order to avoid having to change their strip and reprint

their stationery.

That meant that the new name would have to begin with an 'H'. The story goes that someone produced a dictionary and solemnly read down the aitches until he reached the word 'Harlequin' when he was stopped and the new name adopted by acclamation.

This explains why the official name of the club contains the word 'Harlequin' in the singular and not the plural.

The move was not universally popular. A breakaway group took their toys away and formed their own club, called – wait for it – Wasps.

Well, we beat the splinter group the other week, so perhaps we should extend the same courtesy to the parents.

SOMEONE HAD IT COMING



I wasn't a bit surprised at the massacre of Rovigo last week, although I didn't really anticipate the scale of the carnage meted out.

Of course, the Italian side aren't exactly a fearsome proposition by Premiership standards, and I wouldn't expect today's visitors to implode quite so spectacularly.

However, I really believe that someone was going to suffer when the boys came home after

the debacle at Agen. They were obviously scarred by events in France and the next side to visit Kingsholm was going to feel the backlash.

It was hard on the Italians that they were the whipping boys who just happened to be in the way.

I don't suppose the coaches learned a great deal from the grotesquely one sided encounter, but you can only play against the opposition served up to you, and it

was very satisfying to see how well our youthful midfield of Burns, May and Trinder acquitted themselves and imposed their considerable talents on the match.

They are not, as yet, a heaven sent trio, but they are getting there. The whole thing reminded me of the occasion when Ryan Lamb, Anthony Allen and others were thrown into the melting pot and made a similar impression.

Sadly, that group of precocious talents are now lost to us, and there is an important lesson to be learned there. We mustn't let that wastage happen again.

While the coaches may be none the wiser, they do now have a considerable selection problem. This may well be eased by the forthcoming Autumn International season which is bound to wreak some depredations on our playing strength.

Balancing youth and experience is never easy, but the equation is going to have to be solved fairly quickly.

Rather than me.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEAGUE!

I had a call from John Emery the other day. Surely everyone involved in local rugby knows John. He is, undoubtedly, Mr Gordon League. I hadn't heard from him for some time, and, typically, he didn't take long to get down to brass tacks.

The purpose of his call was to inform me that the Gordon League will be celebrating its 125th anniversary next month. The club itself, that is. The rugby team came along a couple of years later.

For those of you who don't know, Gordon League is one of the last of a nation-wide network of boys' clubs set up in the 19th Century to commemorate the life of General 'Chinese' Gordon, Britain's foremost soldier, who was murdered by the Mahdi's

forces at the end of the siege of Khartoum.

Gordon had acquired his nickname by overcoming a line of Chinese forts during the opium wars. He was a practising, even slightly obsessive, Christian and the formation of a series of boys' clubs, dedicated to sport and clean living, was a highly appropriate way to remember him.

By tradition, the Mayor of Gloucester is offered the honour of serving as President of the Gordon League Rugby Football Club during his/ her year of office.

When the letter arrived on my desk in the old Mayor's Parlour at the Guildhall, I was able to reply to the effect that it would give me great pleasure to accept the honour as I was the first Mayor



for years who had actually played for the club.

To be fair, I only ever turned out for the 2nds and 3rds. "Never mind" said John Emery; "You wore the shirt!"

So I did. And I'm proud of it.

Best wishes to the League.

There doesn't seem much reason why they shouldn't continue turning out formidable players for another 125 years.



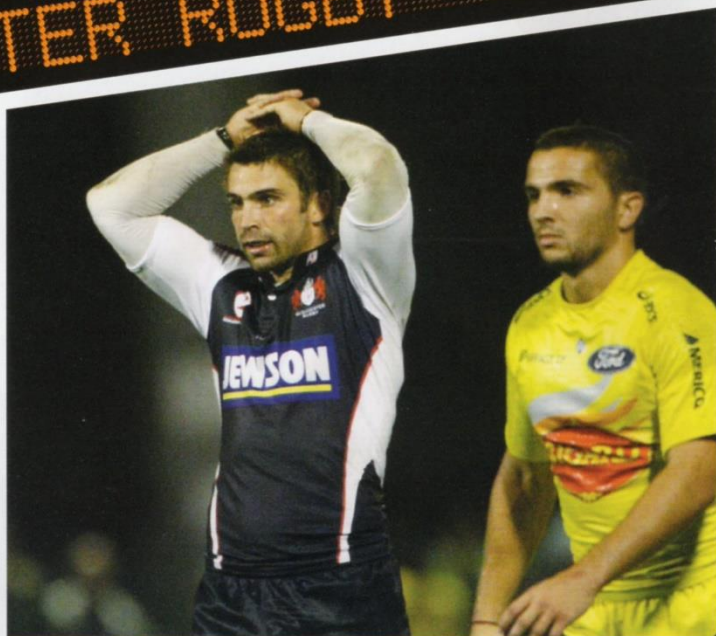
AGEN RUGBY 26
 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 19

Gloucester Rugby's Amlin Challenge Cup campaign got off to a disappointing start a fortnight ago with a 26-19 defeat in Agen.

Bryan Redpath's side had come into the game on the back of two excellent Aviva Premiership victories against London Wasps and Bath Rugby whilst Agen were propping up the French Top 14.

So, whilst many outsiders may have tipped Gloucester as favourites before the game, no-one within the club was taking anything for granted. Indeed, the mantra in the week leading up to the game was that winning in France is never easy.

And the steely, determined way the



PEN 7min Robinson (0-3)

PEN 11min Robinson (0-6)
PEN 17min Courrent (3-6)

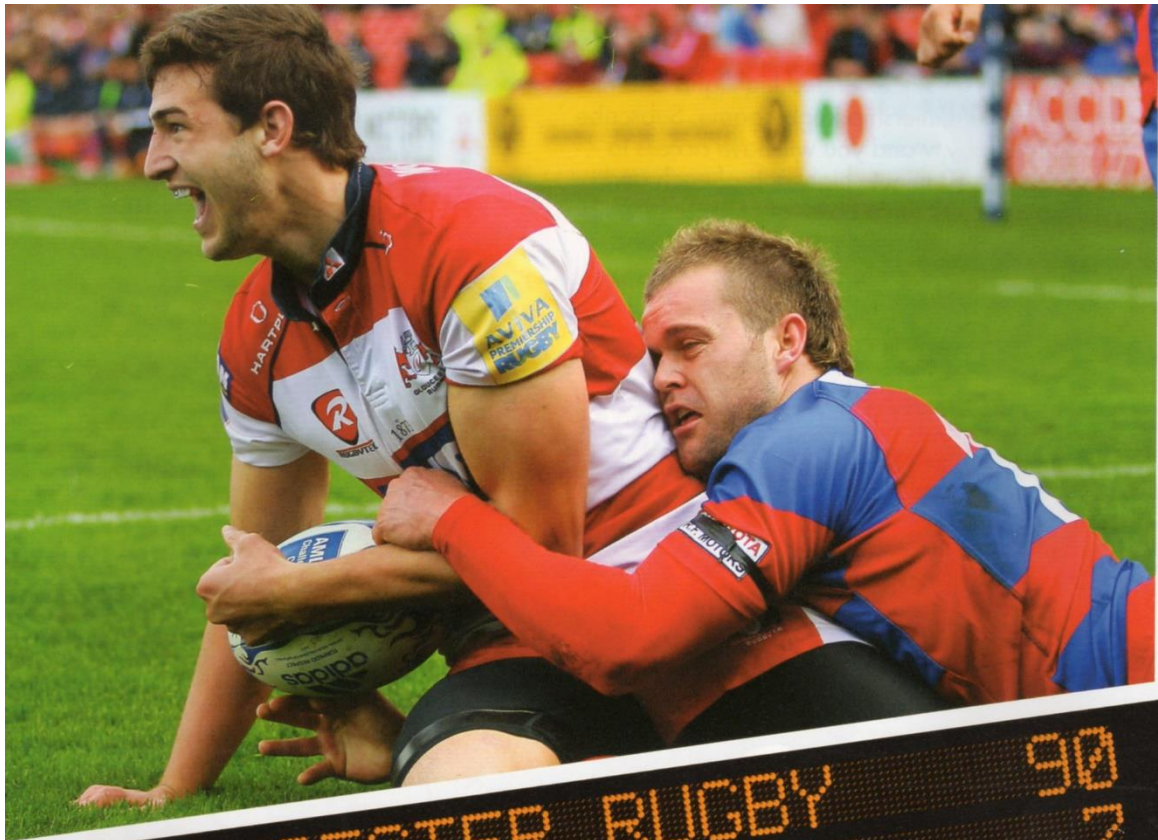
TRY 23min Lawson (3-11)
CON 24min Robinson (3-13)

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

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GLOUCESTER RUGBY	90
RUGBY ROVIGO	7

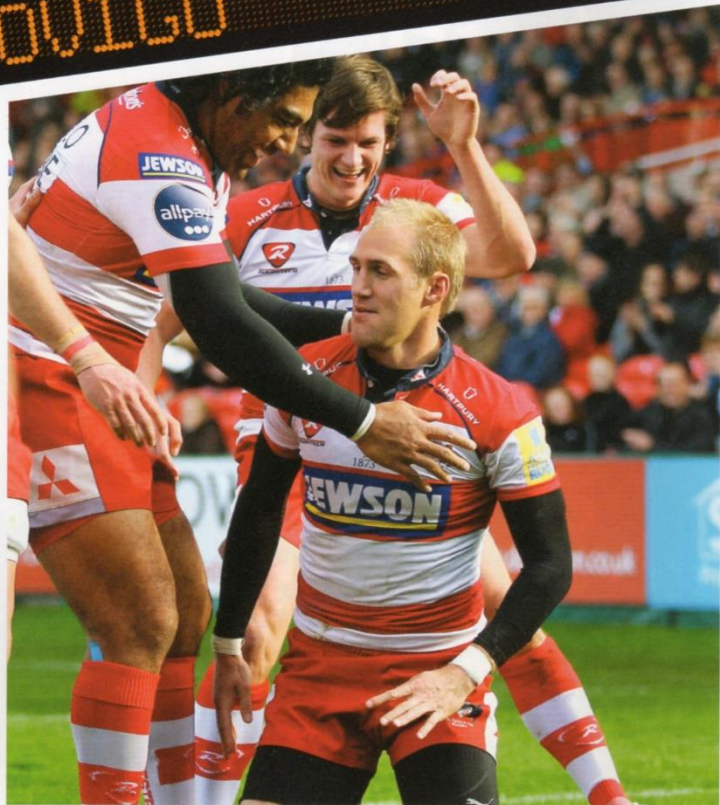
Critics of the Amlin Challenge Cup claim that there are simply too many mismatches in the group stages which adversely affect the competition's credibility.

And Gloucester Rugby's 90-07 demolition of the hapless Rugby Rovigo did little to dispel that myth as Bryan Redpath's side turned on the style literally from the very first minute without ever really having to get out of second gear.

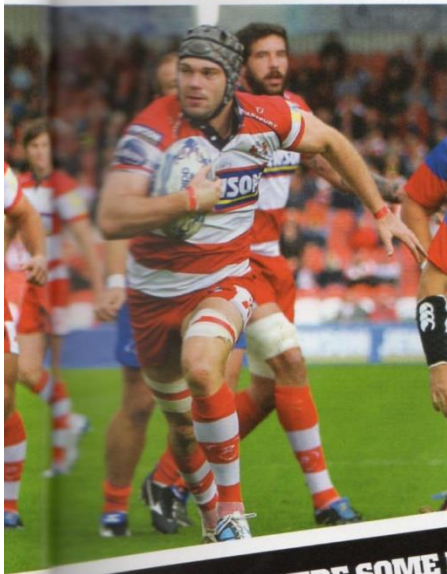
Of course, the 14 try win gets Gloucester back into the mix in Pool 5 of the Amlin Challenge Cup after the opening round defeat in Agen.

La Rochelle top the group with 10 points to Gloucester's 6 after two rounds of action and the double header with the French side in December looks set to determine the destiny of the group.

Against Rovigo, the Gloucester pack got the upper hand from the very first



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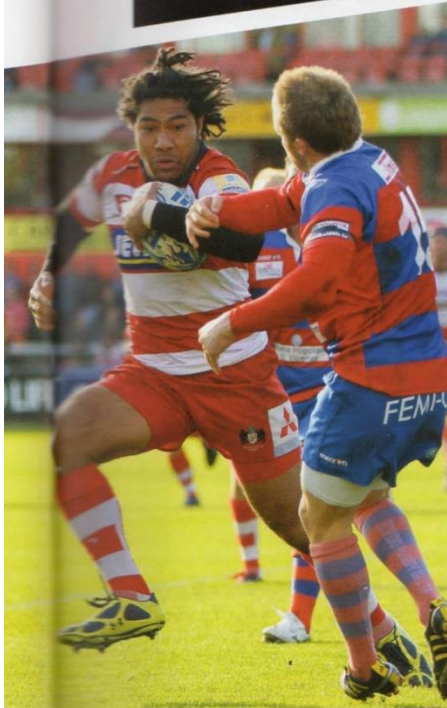
minute and flanker Andy Hazell was soon strolling through a gap in the defence to open the scoring.

Blessed with a surfeit of quick ball and facing a defence that was less than well organised to say the least, the Gloucester backs enjoyed the type of freedom that they would never see in an Aviva Premiership match and duly cashed in.

Jonny May, Olly Morgan and Henry Trinder all had ample opportunity to stretch their legs and score well taken tries while Lesley Vainikolo brought the bludgeon to their rapier and treated himself to a couple of tries.

Making his first start of the season, fly half Freddie Burns must have been sorely tempted to dip further into his box of tricks

"THERE WERE SOME REALLY GREAT DISPLAYS OF TEAM WORK, LIKE LESLEY VAINIKOLO'S TRY JUST BEFORE HALF TIME, WHILE HENRY TRINDER PASSED THE BALL LIKE ALL HE WAS THINKING ABOUT WAS THE TEAM AND NOT HIMSELF AND THAT REALLY PLEASED ME."



but contented himself with a composed display, mixing kicking and passing astutely on the way to a personal haul of 23 points.

The visitors simply weren't up to the task in hand and two of their pack had to be replaced before the first half was over. There were no signs of injuries, they simply looked exhausted.

Knowing that the tries scored total could be important at the end of the group stages, Gloucester didn't take their foot off the accelerator and there was no let up to Rovigo's misery save for a rare excursion into Gloucester territory which resulted in their only try.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the Gloucester performance was the way they stuck to the game plan. There was no evidence of showboating or individuals trying to do too much on their own.

Instead, Rovigo were despatched with the clinical precision of a master surgeon, each and every Gloucester player focussing on his individual role and the collective result was simply way too good.

Little will perhaps have been learned ahead of today's visit of Harlequins but the display warmed the hearts of the Kingsholm faithful.

THE LINE UPS



GLoucester RUGBY

- 15. Olly Morgan
- 14. James Simpson-Daniel
- 13. Henry Trinder
- 12. Jonny May
- 11. Lesley Vainikolo
- 10. Freddie Burns
- 9. Dave Lewis
- 1. Alasdair Dickinson
- 2. Scott Lawson
- 3. Paul Doran-Jones
- 4. Jim Hamilton
- 5. Alex Brown
- 6. Alasdair Strokosch
- 7. Andy Hazell
- 8. Luke Narraway (C).

- 16. Darren Dawidiuk
- 17. Nick Wood
- 18. Pierre Capdevielle
- 19. Peter Buxton
- 20. Brett Deacon
- 21. Jordi Pasqualin
- 22. Nicky Robinson
- 23. Charlie Sharples

RUGBY ROVIGO

- 15. Stefan Basson
- 14. Andrea Bacchetti
- 13. Alberto Lunardon
- 12. Francesco Zarattini
- 11. Marko Stanojevic
- 10. Davide Duca
- 9. Michele Zanirato
- 1. Nicola Quaglio
- 2. Flavio Damiano
- 3. Vittorio Golfetti
- 4. Tommaso Reato
- 5. Daniele Tumiati
- 6. Younes Anouer
- 7. Jean-François Montauriol
- 8. Agustin Guzman

- 16. Luke Mahoney
- 17. Rik Dolcetto
- 18. Giovanni Boccalon
- 19. Marco Barion
- 20. Aaron Persico
- 21. German Bustos
- 22. Marcello De Gasperi
- 23. Alberto Zorzi

VS. HARLEQUINS // 23.10.10

TODAY'S LINE-UPS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 3-0
- 3-7
- 10-7
- 10-10
- 13-10
- 16-10
- 23-10
- 23-13
- 26-13
- 26-20
- 26-23
- 26-26
- 33-26
- ASD+D
- MARSHAM
- ↑
- ↑
- OLIVIER AZAM
- ALASDAIR DICKINSON
- PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE
- DAVE ATTWOOD
- LUKE NARRAWAY
- JORDI PASQUALIN
- FREDDIE BURNS
- LESLEY VAINIKOLO

- 15** FULLBACK
- 14** WING
- 13** CENTRE
- 12** CENTRE
- 11** WING
- 10** FLY-HALF
- 9** SCRUM-HALF
- 1** PROP
- 2** HOOKER
- 3** PROP
- 4** LOCK
- 5** LOCK
- 6** FLANKER
- 7** FLANKER
- 8** NO.8
- 16**
- 17**
- 18**
- 19**
- 20**
- 21**
- 22**
- 23**

HARLEQUINS

- MIKE BROWN
- GONZALO CAMACHO
- OLLIE SMITH
- JORDAN TURNER-HALL
- GEORGE LOWE
- NICK EVANS
- DANNY CARE
- JOE MARLER
- MATT CAIRNS
- JAMES JOHNSTON
- OLLIE KOHN
- TOMAS VALLEJOS
- CHRIS ROBshaw (C)
- WILL SKINNER
- NICK EASTER
- CHRIS BROOKER
- CERI JONES
- MARK LAMBERT
- PETE BROWNE
- TOM GUEST
- KARL DICKSON
- RORY CLEGG
- TOM WILLIAMS

MATCH SCORE

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
v
HARLEQUINS



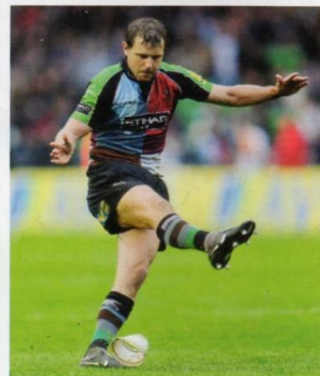
REFEREE: Tim Wigglesworth
ASST REFEREES: Kevin Stewart
and Roy Maybank



THE STATS THAT MATTER

TOP POINTS SCORERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
NICK EVANS*	70
RYAN LAMB	68
GARETH STEENSON	63
DERICK HOUGAARD	62
DAVE WALDER	52



TOP TRY SCORERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
SCHALK BRITS*	4
TOPSY OJO	4
SCOTT HAMILTON	4
TOM VARDELL	4
CHRIS ASHTON	3

