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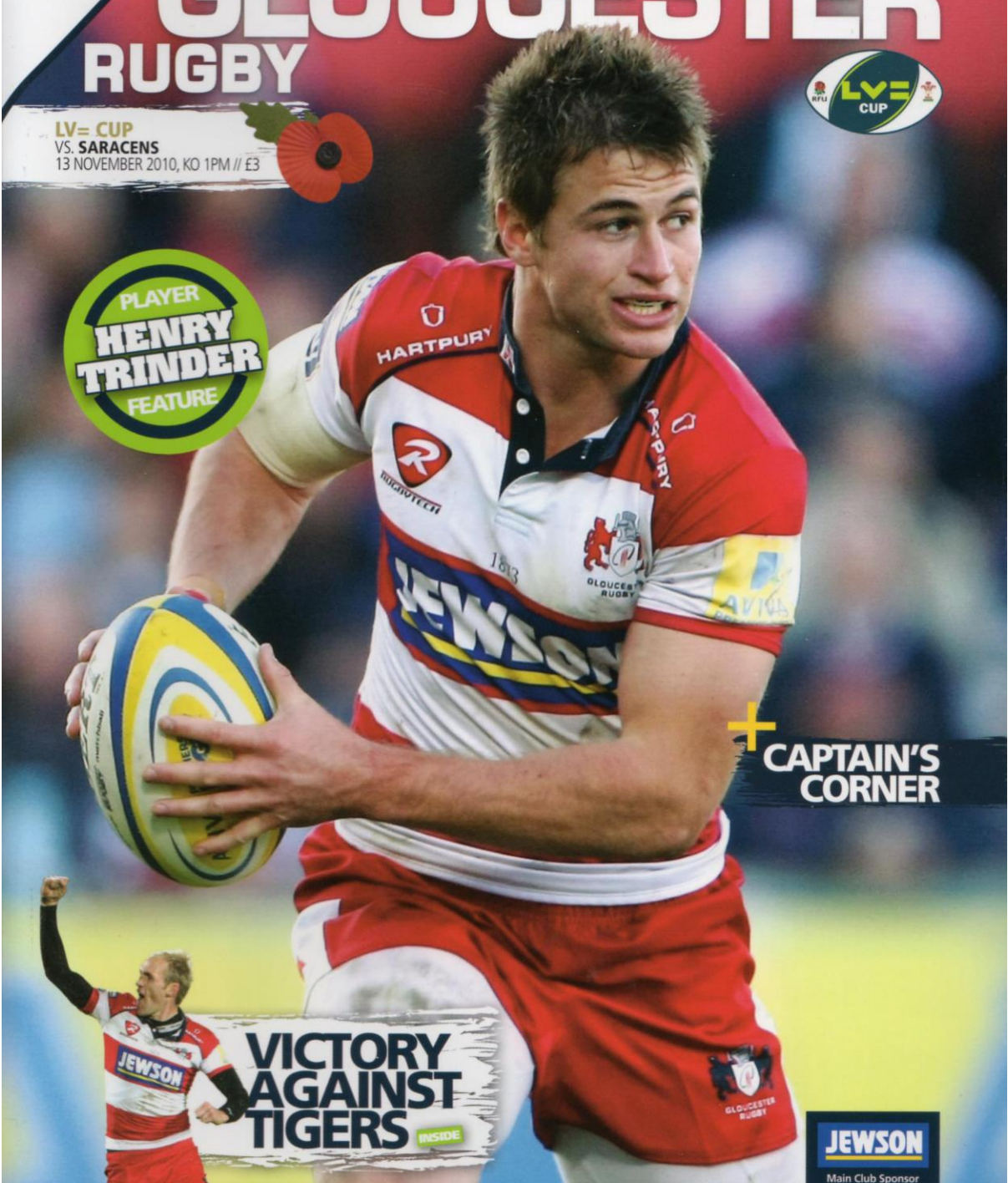
# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



**LV= CUP**  
VS. SARACENS  
13 NOVEMBER 2010, KO 1PM // £3

**PLAYER**  
**HENRY TRINDER**  
**FEATURE**



**+ CAPTAIN'S CORNER**



**VICTORY AGAINST TIGERS** INSIDE



**PLUS...**

RUGBY NEWS, ACADEMY, BRYAN REDPATH & MATCH ACTION



LUKE NARRAWAY

# Captain's Corner



Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm as we entertain Saracens for the first of their two visits in the space of two weeks.

The fixture calendar has a bit of an odd look to it at this time of year as we compete in a number of different competitions but confronting the same opponent in successive home games in different competitions is a bit unusual.

Saracens will present a tough challenge this afternoon and will do again in a couple of weeks when we meet in the Aviva Premiership.

They started their LV= Cup campaign off with a draw last weekend against the Northampton Saints and will doubtless be looking to bounce back today as they'll have been disappointed not to win in front of their own supporters.

We, of course, came unstuck down in South Wales against the Newport Gwent Dragons in a game which, in hindsight, we feel

that we should have won.

It certainly wasn't a case of over confidence. We knew exactly what a trip to Rodney Parade in the rain and under the floodlights entails.

It's easy to be wise after the event but I think we tried to play a bit too much rugby on the night, particularly in the first half when we had the wind at their backs.

We are a team that likes to keep the ball in hand and play a bit of rugby but, if you look at the way the game unfolded, perhaps putting boot to ball a bit more frequently would have yielded better results.

We did look dangerous and our pack seemed to have the upper hand throughout. But we made a lot of handling errors which was understandable in the conditions and should perhaps have been a bit more pragmatic and kept it tight.

It was a bit of a wake up call following the highs of the previous weekend's victory over

the Leicester Tigers.

That certainly was a night to remember, an occasion when Kingsholm was absolutely rocking and you, the supporters, more than played your part on the night.

That was a performance that showed exactly what we're capable of as a side. Both teams may have been missing players because of international commitments but I've never come across a poor Leicester side during my time in the game so any win over them has to be cherished.

It's important that we get back to that level of performance this afternoon. Not just to keep our ambitions in the LV= Cup alive but also because we return to Aviva Premiership action with a tough trip to Newcastle next weekend.

We need to be ready for that and it'd be nice to go into that game on the back of a win.

Enjoy the game!

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**"ONE PLAYER WE WON'T BE FACING THIS AFTERNOON, THOUGH, IS GAVIN HENSON. HE'S STILL TAKING PART IN STRICTLY COME DANCING AND I'M SURE A FEW VOTES FROM THE GLOUCESTER AREA HELPED TO KEEP HIM IN THIS WEEK!"**

# **BRYAN REDPATH**

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

As ever, it's been an interesting couple of weeks since I last wrote these programme notes!

At that point we were preparing to take on the Leicester Tigers and I was expecting a battle royale. I wasn't disappointed and I'm sure you weren't either!

There might not have been a hatful of tries at either end as you see in some of the Super 15 rugby nowadays where the final score line is more like that of a basketball match than a rugby game!

However, what you did get was two good teams taking it to one another and not conceding an inch as they battled for victory.

There was barely anything between the two sides all afternoon and, had it been a football match, both sides might have settled for a score draw.

But I was delighted that we kept going right up until the very end. The score we created for Big Les in the corner was a fine piece of rugby and I was impressed with the composure that we showed to finish off the move given the state of the game at that point.

The win takes us up to third place in the Aviva Premiership table with five wins from seven matches so far and that's not a bad return so far.

We did let ourselves down on the opening weekend of the season down at Exeter but I think the Chiefs have since gone on to show that they're going to be a force to be reckoned with.

And picking up a losing point at London Irish isn't too shabby when you look at how well they've gone so far this season.

The margin between winning and losing at this level is incredibly small though – our results here at Kingsholm have been testimony to that. They've all gone right down to the wire.

What that does mean though is that you've only got to be a fraction below your best to come unstuck.

And we certainly weren't quite at our best last Thursday down in Newport when we kicked off our LV= Cup campaign against the Dragons.

We had a lot of possession in the first half when we had the elements in our favour and only



came away with a penalty try right on half time. On the other hand, they didn't create anything yet had 13 points on the board courtesy of our mistakes.

In conditions like those we experienced on the night, you have to be very clean and very thorough in your execution and we weren't clinical enough to earn the win. We were sloppy and our errors gave them a sniff and they took it.

We did have some young lads

out there at Newport and they did some good things but also made some mistakes. It's all part of the learning process and they'll probably take more from that than from the win over Leicester.

It's important that we bounce back today. Starting this competition with a defeat was disappointing. We've been lucky enough to be involved in the past two finals and anyone will tell you that they'd rather be involved on the day than sat at home watching it on the television.

We did kick off this competition with two defeats last season and still managed to qualify for the final but it's difficult to see lightning striking twice!

No, if we're going to progress at all in this competition then we do need to get something out of today's game.

Saracens won't make it easy. They will be disappointed to have only drawn their opener at home last season and they're probably in better shape than us at the moment as they've lost fewer players to the Autumn internationals.

One player we won't be facing this afternoon, though, is Gavin Henson. He's still taking part in Strictly Come Dancing and I'm sure a few votes from the Gloucester area helped to keep him in this week!

It's not just about the result, however. We want to deliver a performance that we're happy with and one that sets us up nicely for next weekend's trip to Newcastle.

As we found out last season, and also in seasons gone by, it's a difficult place to go to and win and we need to pick up one or two wins on the road if we're going to maintain a top four challenge.

**Enjoy the game!**



# View from The Citizen



with Nick Purewal

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



## Eliota: 'We don't have an army so rugby is our battlefield'

**F**OR the Combined Services, rugby is an honour, a privilege and an opportunity to bring cheer and respite to men and women serving in conflict situations around the world.

For the Samoans, rugby is war.

Growing up in Apia, Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu was desperate to win the honour of performing the Siva Tau for Manu Samoa.

The 30-year-old won that esteem 17 times, leading his country into the 2007 World Cup, the launch pad for his move to English club rugby.

Samoa has no military with which to flex its might, so the island turns to

his countrymen will step into the contest bursting with pride at squaring up to Her Majesty's finest.

Expecting an electric atmosphere when the Samoans lay down the traditional pre-match challenge, he said: "It's a chance for the Gloucester fans to see the Siva Tau, which is the traditional Samoan war dance.

"I played for Samoa for five years, and every time you perform that, it really does charge you up emotionally: it sets the tone that the Samoan players are here for war.

"This is our modern-day warfare, our hand-to-hand combat, so it's very exciting.

army, a navy or an air force.

"Last year we had Australia here, and now it's Samoa, they're notorious for big hits, and very exciting play, so it's going to be awesome.

"There's actually a lot of Pacific Islanders in the armed forces over here anyway, so it's not lost on the Samoans how important the armed forces are.

"It's a unique opportunity, our armed forces is the Manu Samoa rugby team, this is our army that goes out and battles.

"This is our modern-day warfare, we don't have armed forces, we simply have a very strong bunch of rugby

***"I played for Samoa for five years, and every time you perform that, it really does charge you up emotionally: it sets the tone that the Samoan players are here for war. This is our modern-day warfare, our hand-to-hand combat, so it's very exciting."***

rugby to instil discipline and respect, and to offer the talented the chance to broaden horizons.

When the best of British Army, Navy and RAF rugby take on the best of Samoa at Kingsholm on November 17 (kick-off 7.45pm), Fuimaono-Sapolu believes the assembled fans will be in for a real treat.

The Samoans are fanatical about their rugby, but they also respect the British armed forces, and the powerful Gloucester centre knows

"Even in New Zealand growing up, Samoans will learn that, there's probably more Samoans living in New Zealand than there are in Samoa.

"And even there everyone wants to represent Manu Samoa, everyone wants to do the Siva Tau and it all starts from learning that at school as a youngster.

"It's an honour for the Samoans to play against the Combined Services, because in Samoa we don't have an

army, a navy or an air force, and hopefully they can put on a great show for everyone."

The qualified lawyer sustained a knee injury in Gloucester's 18-3 Premiership victory over Bath at the Rec, but is on course for a return in next weekend's LV=Cup clash with Saracens at Kingsholm.

The opposite of frustrated in watching Gloucester's 19-12 home win over Leicester, Fuimaono-Sapolu erupted in



joyous celebration when Lesley Vainikolo plundered the last-gasp winning score.

If the intelligent and grounded midfielder was slightly embarrassed so many people picked up on that reaction, he was happy to

would put us in third place.

"So I was very happy for the boys, very happy for the young guys as well, because they've really been showing what they're made of.

"We all know they're awesome

Sharples and Simpson-Daniel ahead of himself, but that's the type of person he is, and everyone loves him.

"It's easier for us to be in third place right now, because no one has given us a chance and we've got under the radar.



explain why the win buoyed him up so much.

He continued: "Last year everyone threw a lot of rubbish at us, threw a lot of mud at us, but the bonds you make when you go through times of struggle have a lot more meaning and more depth than those that are made through good times.

"So we'd been dragged through the mud for maybe a whole year now.

"So for me, I knew that Saracens had lost that game and that a win

players, so it was good for them to show other people.

"But we've still got 30-odd games to go, so it's important that we knuckle down and stay humble.

"But at that point it was important to enjoy the moment.

"I'm really happy for Les, he's been training hard all pre-season, all year, and he's probably one of the most humble people you'll ever meet.

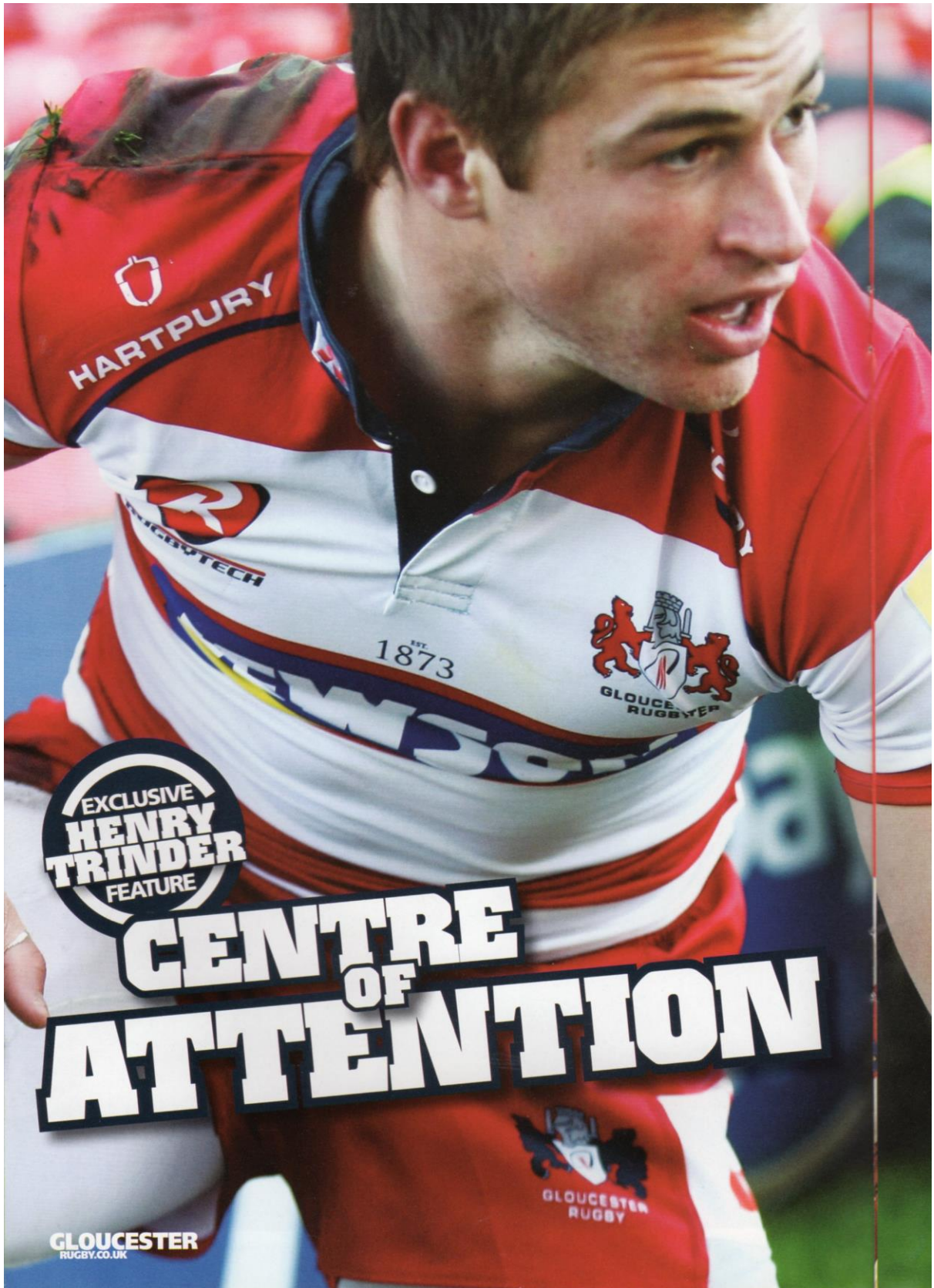
"He's talking up England to select

"The win at Bath was awesome for us, no one gave us a chance, everyone had said Bath by ten points, and then we absolutely slaughtered them – they didn't even come close.

"Then we played London Irish away, no one's come close to beating them, and we managed a bonus point.

"So we can do it, it's all psychological, so we've got to switch on, take the belief out of Bath and into the away games ahead."





EXCLUSIVE  
**HENRY TRINDER**  
FEATURE

# CENTRE OF ATTENTION

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**C**ompetition for places in the Gloucester midfield is fierce at present. When everyone is fit and available, Head Coach Bryan Redpath has a myriad of possible permutations to choose from.

This autumn, though, one player in particular is relishing the opportunity to get a decent run in the side and there's no danger of him asking for a weekend off!

21 year old Henry Trinder has seized his opportunity in recent weeks and delivered a string of impressive performances perhaps making up for lost time after the 2009-10 season took an unexpected turn for the Swindon born centre.

Having starred for the England U20 side in the Junior World Cup in June 2009, Trinder entered

almost unbelievable."

Although his appearances were limited because of the injuries, there were still a couple of memorable occasions as he started the historic game against the Qantas Wallabies and also the hard fought 12-9 win over the Leicester Tigers which was very much a turning point in Gloucester's season.

"The Leicester game was great as we were coming in to it on the back of some rocky form. Beating Leicester here recently brought back a lot of those memories and we've worked hard to make Kingsholm a tough place to play for visiting teams."

"Australia was awesome as well. It was a fantastic opportunity for a young player like me to play against a high profile international side. They put out a really good side and there was a fantastic atmosphere at a sold out Kingsholm so that one will stick in the memory for a very long time."

"This is what I was hoping for last season, wanting to be involved, wanting to play and wanting to make that step up. It didn't happen last season so I'm going to make the most of it this time around."

Playing against Rovigo in Amlin Challenge Cup recently was one thing but the hard fought battle against the Tigers was a completely different kettle of fish and showed that Trinder and close friend Jonny May could really cut it at the highest level.

"Rovigo was good. They weren't the highest calibre opposition but we stuck to our structure and it all went pretty much according to script."

"And, yeah, Leicester was completely different! It was one of the hardest games I've ever played in and great to get the win and keep the home win going."

## **"THIS IS A SEASON WHEN I REALLY WANT TO PUSH ON AND DEVELOP MY SKILLS..."**

preseason training looking to make a big impression for Gloucester.

However, it didn't quite go according to plan.

"Tokyo was great. They were a great bunch of boys and it was awesome for us to get to the final. We'd achieved what we set out to in terms of taking each game as it came and winning by a decent margin."

"Obviously, it was disappointing to lose in the final to New Zealand but they were a good team and put in a great performance on the day."

"Off the back of that, I was hoping for a really good season with Gloucester but unfortunately injuries meant that it wasn't meant to be."

"I picked up a dead leg just before we went to St Andrews for our preseason tour which got worse and kept me out for the first couple of months."

"Then I came back and played a few games before I did the same thing to the other leg which was

In the depths of winter, sidelined with injury and uncertain as to a return date, it's easy for a player to feel disenfranchised. However, Henry admits that he was given a massive boost when the club showed their faith in him and offered him a new two year contract.

"It was a huge boost to my confidence. I was coming back from two injuries, I hadn't been playing much and Gloucester sat me down and told me I was part of the long term planning and offered me the new deal."

"I've always had good feedback from Brushy and the other coaches and they just told me to focus on getting healthy, getting back and taking it from there. It took a lot of pressure off me."

And, the faith shown in him is now being repaid in spades as Trinder plays his part in Gloucester's surge into the top three of the Aviva Premiership.

"It's been a dream start. This is a season when I really want to push on and develop my skills and I've been involved a lot more."

The presence of the Sky cameras also helped to showcase some of Gloucester's young talent. They're a tight knit group and enjoying each other's success.

"Freddie (Burns) and Charlie (Sharples) got some exposure last year and me and Jonny are coming into it a bit more now."


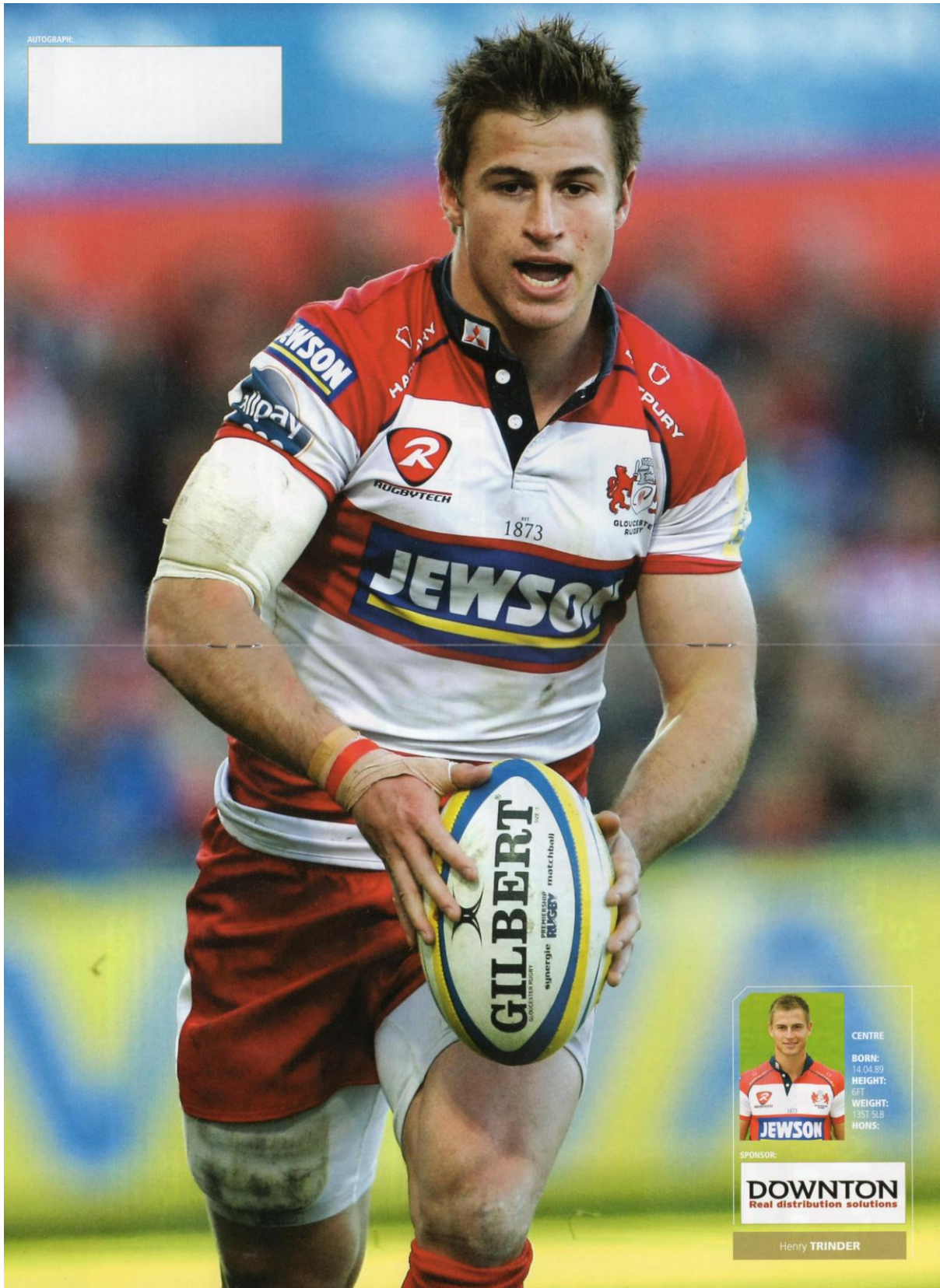
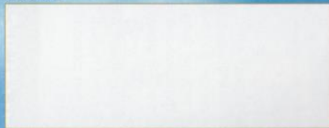
"We've all followed pretty much the same path and we swap a bit of banter about it. Jonny playing centre means that we're driving each other on and helping the other to improve."

"We're also close of the pitch. I share a flat with Sharps and Freddie and Dave (Lewis) are two doors down so we spend a lot of time chilling out together doing the usual stuff, DVDs, Nandos, coffee etc. We're a tight group on the pitch and socially as well."

"Having a smaller squad this year has helped in that respect. We've come together more and there's a good vibe."



AUTOGRAPH:



**CENTRE**  
**BORN:** 14.04.89  
**HEIGHT:** 6FT  
**WEIGHT:** 135T, 5LB  
**HONS:**

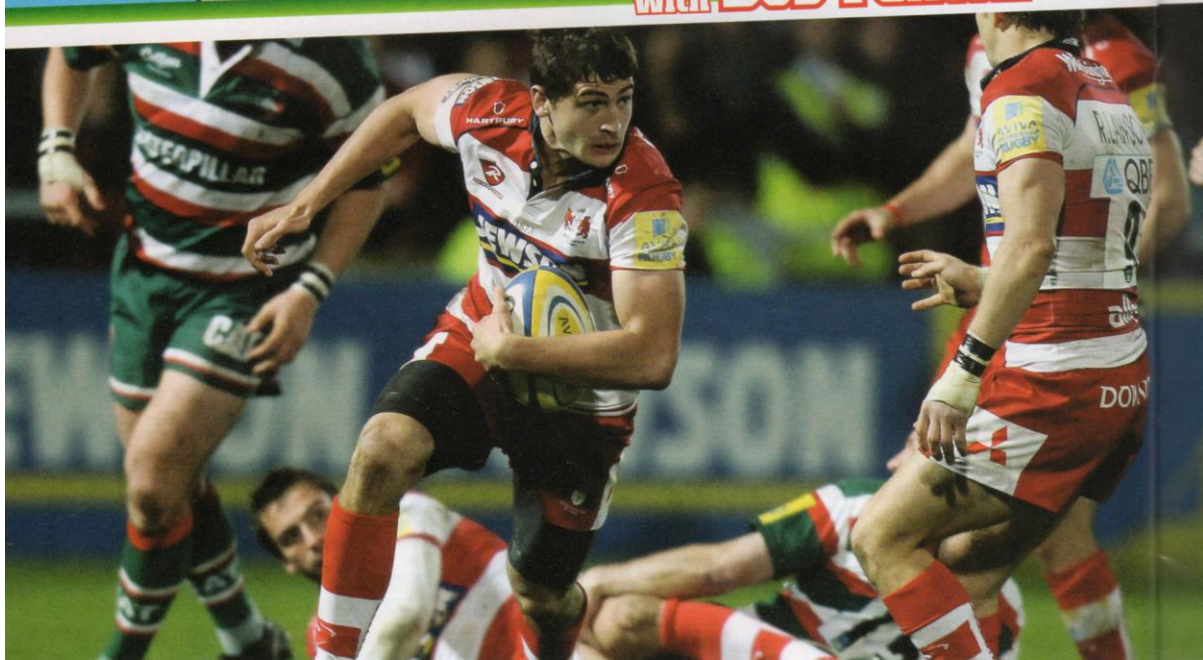
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# Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton



**HOW good was that win over Leicester then? Perhaps the purists will say that it was not a great spectacle, not a feast of running rugby with the ball pinging around all over the place and a zillion points scored a la some of the recent Super 14 games.**

Well what do they know... Kingsholm under lights, the crowd in noisy, boisterous form, attritional rugby, outstanding defence from both sides and a smash and grab win in the last seconds for our boys.

We'll probably play in more open games and feature in games that have a lot more tries, the game doesn't come much better than a couple of weeks ago for me.

It took me right back to that now legendary win over the Tigers back in April 1997 – Les even scored in almost the same spot as Phil Greening after he burrowed over at the death!

I say almost – there's a whopping great stand on the exact spot now, but you get the drift... Then Nicky Robinson 'did a Mapletoft' and converted from the touchline.

Absolute magic. And if it's the extra atmosphere that comes from playing under the lights that swings it, I'll be happy to play every game in the late afternoon or evening.

That was then and this is now. And here we are then, in the first of many breaks from the Premiership

competition to take part in the impossible-to-understand cup. Where teams from different groups play against each other and amass points and table positions that no one can quite work out.

When I sat down to write this I have to confess that I didn't even know who the other teams are in our group. I know we won't play them though. For the record we are, apparently, in Pool Three, along with Northampton, Sale and Scarlets. But we play the teams in Pool Two for some reason!

I'm sure the person who dreamt up the fixtures list and the way the whole thing works know what he was doing, and that there was a reason why you don't play the teams in your group



**I GUESS WE'LL BE WITHOUT A FEW ENGLISHMEN AND SCOTSMEN WHILE SARACENS WILL LOSE... WELL PRETTY MUCH NOBODY ACTUALLY... WELL NOT UNLESS SOUTH AFRICA NEED A FEW BODIES ANYWAY.**

but frankly I am totally confused by the whole shooting match, Perhaps it's just me, but somehow I suspect not...

I've probably said this before, but what is really wrong with a knock out competition? Apart, that is, from the fact that some teams would not get to play so many games as they would get dumped out in the early rounds. It would certainly make all the matches a bit more meaningful and get a bit more attention as a result.

As things stand many – maybe most – clubs use the competition as a way of giving a bit of game time to some of the squad members who don't get much game time in the Premiership or Magners competition.

And, why that is reasonable enough I do wonder how the sponsors feel. I'm guessing that LV= put a fair bit of money into this competition so I'm a bit surprised that they haven't had something to say already about getting value for their money.

We didn't get off to the best of starts last week, slumping to defeat in the rain at Newport. I watched it on the telly and felt wet through, gawd knows how those brave souls who made the trip felt.

It looked like we were going to walk away with it at one point, but we seemed to decide that we would play a game more suited to a dry, hard, pitch rather than one that would have had Noah reaching for his hammer and nails. But there we are.

And today we play, for reasons that I still can't understand, Saracens. With all four home nations taking part in the



autumn international matches, clubs will be without a number of players for these games.

I guess we'll be without a few Englishmen and Scotsmen while Saracens will lose... well pretty much nobody actually... Well not unless South Africa need a few bodies anyway.

I read on the web the other day that Saracens were looking to move home again, heading to Barnett to a new stadium.

It'll take them back to just a few miles away from their old spiritual home at Southgate, and while it'll make the journey

a bit more difficult, I think it's a good thing as Vicarage Road is about the worst venue on the Premiership circuit – Stockport runs it very close – so any move has to be a good thing as far as I am concerned...

When the story broke about the possible new ground I read a comment that went along the lines of having a running track around the perimeter might not be too good.

The great sage Pricey hit the nail on the head when he said that a running track '... was preferable to having Watford around the outside...'

Yes indeed!



# GL13AX Gloucester Talk with Peter Arnold

## SIMPLY THE BEST

**O**lly Morgan is the best full back in England. I will repeat that. Olly Morgan is the best full back in England. Foden, Abendonon and Armitage all have their strengths, but none of them have the all round game that Olly offers.

Nowadays, the fashion is to talk about 'the back three', inferring that No.15 should be a pure speedster running from deep. The defensive role is underplayed. This, in my view, is unwise.

Surely, a full back can be expected to be unflinching under the high ball, be able to make – and take – tackles when needed and be on hand to carry the attack forward in support of his wingers when he can.

Olly Morgan has all those things, and this was never more exemplified than in his performance in the win over Leicester.

He won the Sky Man of the Match award for that, and deservedly so. Quite simply, he never put a foot wrong. I tell a lie: he did slip once after the rain started and the grass got a bit slick.

Of course, Big Les got the plaudits for scoring the winning try, but the move that led to it was started by the vision and pace of Olly Morgan.

His problem is that he is seen to be injury prone, and he has had a lot of bad luck in that regard. That is probably what is keeping him out of the England squad, and I can't say I'm unhappy about that.



Gloucester are a stronger side with Olly Morgan in it.

As a friend of mine says, "He's a proper full back."

## FIRST CONTACT

**Y**ears ago, John Godsell, acclaimed landlord of the much-missed Vauxhall Inn in Barton Street, decided to run a major draw in aid of multiple sclerosis. He chose this charity because the wife of one of his regulars had recently died of the foul disease.

The bereaved husband just happened to be a devout and practising Shedhead, so it was decided that someone from the rugby club should be invited to perform the draw.

Phil Greening, Gloucester hooker and very much an England prospect at the time, gladly agreed

to perform the honours, and duly tuned up. But he didn't come alone. He brought along a vast young man who was completely unfamiliar to any of us.

Quite frankly, he seemed a bit at sea. He was quiet, shy, and didn't seem quite able to cope with the crowd of assembled reprobates, who could, admittedly, be a bit intimidating if you weren't used to them. He certainly didn't appear to be any sort of raging bull.

As one of the hosts, I thought I'd try and make him more at home, so I strolled over and said, "Hello. I'm Peter Arnold. I write for the match programme. Who are you?" He smiled gently, and replied, "I'm Phil

Vickery. Prop forward."

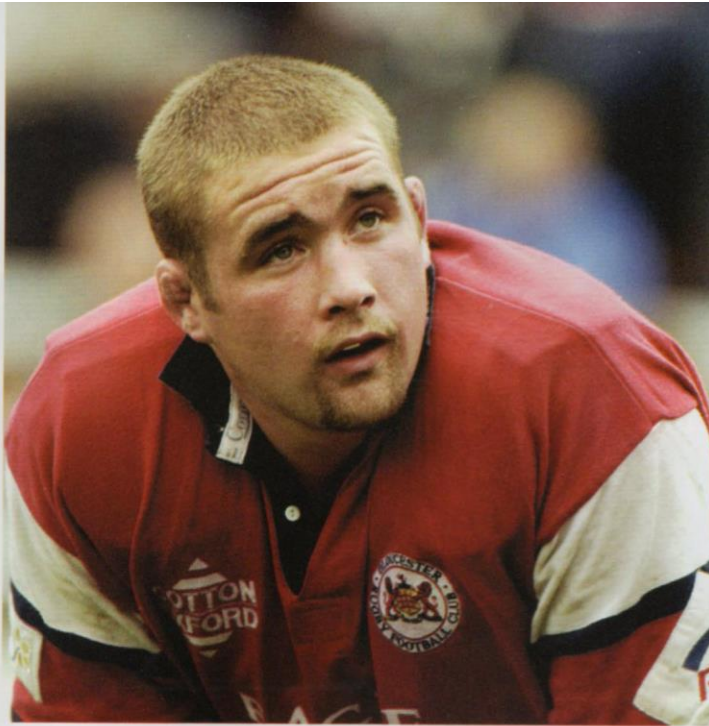
As I say, the name meant nothing to us at the time, but he mingled more easily once the ice was broken. "Blimey!", remarked John Godsell. "He's a big bugger isn't he!"

"Yes" said Phil Greening "And we've got another coming on. He's younger, bigger and faster. His name is Trevor Woodman."

I have often thought of that encounter since, especially when I watched the pair of them packing own against Australia in that legendary World Cup Final.

They were both penalised for no apparent reason, and the only thing I can think of is that they were making such a meal of the Aussie





props, with such apparent ease, that the ref thought they must be doing something sinful somewhere, and awarded the penalties just on principle.

I thought of that Vauxhall encounter again the other week when I saw the TV pictures of Phil Vickery walking past the Shed before the Leicester match. Even the Raging Bull himself seemed touched and moved by the rapturous reception he got in what was something like a royal progress.

We all wish 'Vicks' all the best for the future, and hope he comes home soon.

In fact, he's half way here already. He has a home not far away, and is opening one of his Raging Bull stores in Cheltenham. He has also published a book. Which might be a good one to add to your Christmas list.

It's title? Raging Bull, of course.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK SO FAR?

**W**hat did you make of England's encounter with the All Blacks last week? At half time I was seriously considering switching over to 'Midsomer Murders' because I knew that would have a happy ending, whereas I could see a 40 or even 50-point shellacking on the horizon.

As we all know, things didn't quite turn out that way, and I thought England looked the better side in the final quarter.

But what about the Gloucester involvement?

The egregious Mr Barnes made one or two snifty comments about Mike Tindall's early performance reckoning it to be 'indecisive' I couldn't quite see that myself, although I did think that there didn't seem to be too much understanding between

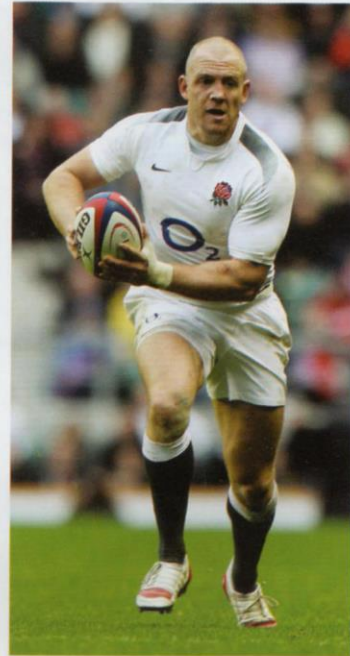
Mike and his centre partner. That's hardly surprising, given that he had probably never played with Shontayne Hape before.

I also thought that 'Tins' looked after the monstrous Sonny Bill Williams pretty well. The former League player certainly didn't smash through the midfield as well as was feared.

And did you notice that Mike added his weight to the drive which pushed Dylan Hartley over the line? All in all, I thought our Mr. Tindall did pretty well.

But the thing which really pleased me was the impact which Dave Attwood made when he went on. Palmer had been fairly anonymous for much of his stay, but you certainly noticed Dave's presence once he got stuck in.

If I were Martin Johnson, I would start with him next time round.



## IS THIS A RECORD?

**G**loucester are nothing if not consistent. Have you realised that we've managed

to lose our first games in all three competitions, Aviva Premiership, Amlin and LV= Cup, this season?

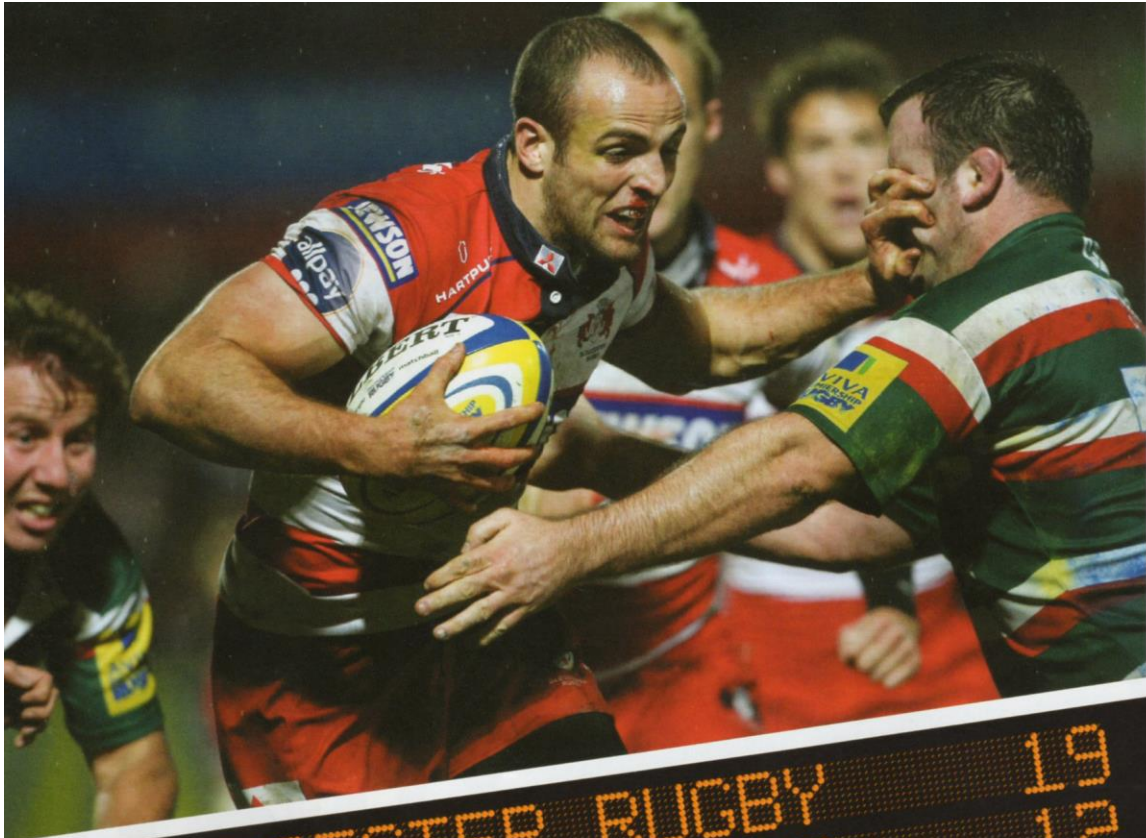
Giving Exeter, Agen and Newport a



sporting start, I suppose.

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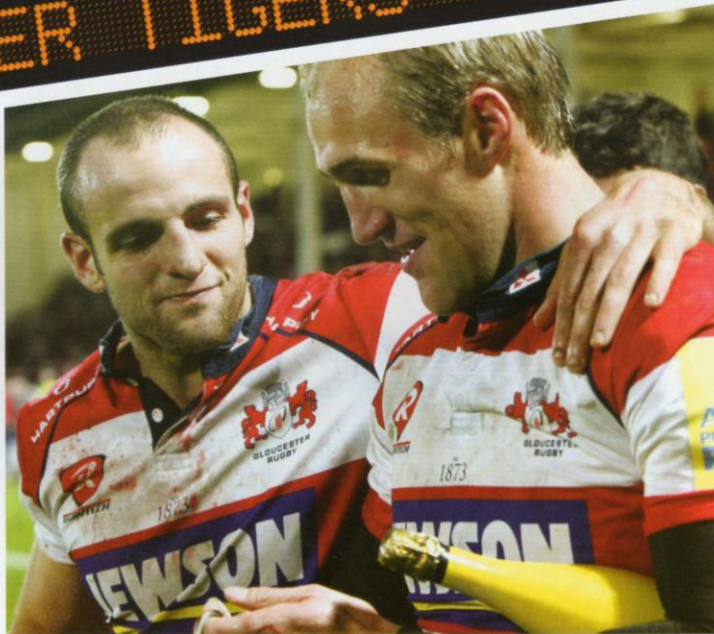


GLOUCESTER RUGBY	19
LEICESTER TIGERS	12

**O**n a pre Halloween evening at Kingsholm, Gloucester laid a few ghosts of their own to rest as they served up a treat rather than a trick to their supporters with a 19-12 win over the Leicester Tigers.

On several occasions over the past few seasons, Gloucester have been accused of bottling it on the big occasion and Head Coach Bryan Redpath told reporters after the game how happy he was that his side had bucked that trend.

It was a game with a significant amount riding on it. Both sides were vying for a top four place in the Aviva Premiership and the absence due to



PEN 3min Twelvetrees (0-3)	PEN 11min Twelvetrees (3-6)	PEN 21min Robinson (6-6)	PEN 34min Robinson (9-6)
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## KEY MOMENT

**TRY** 78 min Vainikolo (17-12)

Undoubtedly, Lesley Vainikolo's try. Superb running from James Simpson-Daniel, Olly Morgan and Charlie Sharples. A cool head in midfield from Olivier Azam followed by smart handling by Paul Doran-Jones, Henry Trinder and Peter Buxton and the big winger finished it off in style.



**"I'M DELIGHTED WITH THE WAY THE PLAYERS ARE FIGHTING FOR EACH OTHER, THEY WERE PROFESSIONAL, THEY STUCK TO IT AND I'M CHUFFED TO BITS."**

England duty of a number of players on both sides little to dampen the enthusiasm.

Much pre match gossip had focussed on the youthful Gloucester midfield pairing of May and Trinder. The duo had

## MATCH STATISTICS



1	Tries	0
1	Conversion	0
4	Penalty goals	4
0	Dropped goals	0
6	Clean breaks	4
12	Defenders beaten	5
13	Offloads	8
85	Rucks won	55
10	Turnovers conceded	19
59	Tackles	103
5	Missed tackles	12
8	Penalties conceded	13

run riot against Rugby Rovigo in the Amlin Challenge Cup but this would present a far tougher challenge.

And the precocious pairing came through this testing examination with flying colours. Dogged defence was interspersed with powerful running in attack and an intelligent kicking game.

However, it seems wrong to single out individuals. Gloucester's pack went toe to toe with a formidable Leicester eight and laid a great platform upon which the win was built and the backs shackled some illustrious opponents whilst posing questions in attack.

There does seem to be an unwritten rule this season which decrees that all Gloucester's home games will go down

to the wire and this one was no different.

Nicky Robinson and Billy Twelvetrees exchanged penalties and the match was deadlocked at 12 points apiece going into the final few minutes.

Leicester have closed out so many of these tight games in recent years that Gloucester supporters could have been forgiven for fearing the worst.

The Tigers started to play the game in exactly the right way, dropping kicks in behind the Gloucester backs, applying pressure and forcing Bryan Redpath's side to play from deep.

The visitors were blatantly looking for an error or to force a penalty to steal the win. After all, it's worked so many times before.

But, backed by a Kingsholm crowd who almost lifted the roof such was the volume generated around the ground, Gloucester timed their surge for the line perfectly as Lesley Vainikolo finished off a sublime piece of attacking play to send the Tigers home empty handed and Gloucester ascend to third place in the table.

## THE LINE UPS

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Olly Morgan
14. Charlie Sharples
13. Henry Trinder
12. Jonny May
11. James Simpson-Daniel
10. Nicky Robinson
9. Rory Lawson
1. Nick Wood
2. Scott Lawson
3. Paul Doran-Jones
4. Jim Hamilton
5. Alex Brown
6. Brett Deacon
7. Andrew Hazell
8. Luke Narraway

16. Olivier Azam
17. Alasdair Dickinson
18. Pierre Capdevielle
19. Peter Buxton
20. Akapusi Qera
21. Jordi Pasqualin
22. Freddie Burns
23. Lesley Vainikolo

### LEICESTER TIGERS

15. Geordan Murphy
14. Scott Hamilton
13. Matt Smith
12. Anthony Allen
11. Alesana Tuilagi
10. Billy Twelvetrees
9. James Grindal
1. Marcos Ayerza
2. George Chuter
3. Martin Castrogiovanni
4. Ed Slater
5. George Skivington
6. Craig Newby
7. Ben Woods
8. Thomas Waldrom

16. Rob Hawkins
17. Pete Bucknall
18. Julian White
19. Steve Mafi
20. Jordan Crane
21. Jason Spice
22. George Ford
23. Horacio Agulla

**PEN** 46min Robinson (12-6)  
**PEN** 50min Twelvetrees (12-9)

**PEN** 62min Twelvetrees (12-12)

**YC** 72min Smith (Leicester Tigers)  
**TRY** 78min Vainikolo (17-12)  
**CON** 79min Robinson (19-12)

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

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NEWPORT G DRAGONS	18
GLOUCESTER RUGBY	12

**T**hey say that conditions can be a great leveller and so it proved at Rodney Parade in Gloucester's opening LV= Cup fixture.

Persistent rain and a wind blowing from one end of the pitch to the other created the sort of conditions that locals love. Throw in the prospect of defeating an English side and it was heaven on earth for the Dragons.

With the Newport crowd loving every minute of it, roaring on their heroes and gleefully deriding any Gloucester shortcomings, it made things tough for Bryan Redpath's side but certainly not impossible.



2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40
PEN 16min M Jones (3-0)										PEN 21min M Jones (6-0)					TRY 33min Hughes (11-0) CON 33min M Jones (13-0) TRY 38min penalty (13-5) CON 38min Burns (13-7)				



## KEY MOMENT

**TRY** 33 min Hughes (11-0)

With time running out in the first half and Gloucester in danger of wasting the wind at their backs, the team were pushing hard to wipe out a 6-0 deficit.

Sadly, they tried to force things too much and an ambitious offload went straight into the hands of a Dragons leading to a breakaway try and a 13-0 lead that Gloucester were never quite able to claw back.

**"OUR BASIC EXECUTION WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH. EVERY TIME WE TRIED TO CREATE SOMETHING WE WERE EITHER TOO FLAT OR WE MADE A HANDLING ERROR AND KNOCKED ON, WHICH CREATED A VERY FRUSTRATING EDGE TO THE GAME."**

And, it has to be said, that Gloucester more than played their part in their own downfall. The pack had their Welsh counterparts on toast. In hindsight, one penalty try seems scant reward for the overall dominance they enjoyed.

However, the real damage was done in the first half when Gloucester should have made more of having the elements in their favour.

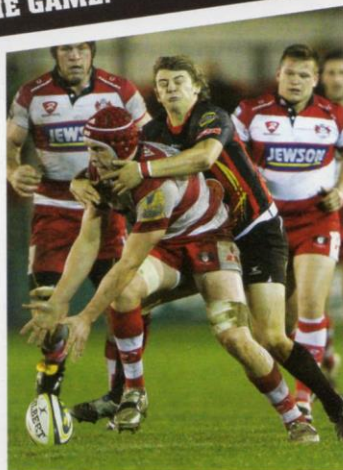
It certainly looked as though that was the intention from the off. From the very first whistle, Gloucester tore into their hosts but were unable to make any impression on the scoreboard.

Time and again, a promising situation was squandered due to a knock on and a forward pass as an ambitious offload was attempted when taking the tackle and recycling the ball could have been the better option.

When the Dragons hacked downfield and earned two penalties for a 6-0 lead, the crowd loved it. And, when Pat Leach intercepted on halfway and sent Adam Hughes screaming unopposed to the line for 13-0, it was like Christmas had come early!

Gloucester regrouped and kept it tight. A penalty try followed as the Dragons pack buckled under constant pressure and Lesley Vainikolo smashed his way over from close range to get Gloucester back into the game.

Freddie Burns' attempted conversion of the latter thudded against the post and stayed out



which was as close as his side would get.

The errors crept back in and a close range score for Robin Sowden-Taylor clinched the win for the home side leaving Gloucester to reflect on what might have been and the fact that they lost their opening two games in this competition last season yet still made the semi finals.

## THE LINE UPS

### NEWPORT GWENT DRAGONS

15. Patrick Leach
14. Adam Hughes
13. Rhodri Gomer-Davies
12. Ashley Smith
11. Aled Brew
10. Matthew Jones
9. James Leadbeater
1. Hugh Gustafson
2. Tom Willis
3. Patrick Palmer
4. Adam Jones
5. Scott Morgan
6. Lewis Evans
7. Robin Sowden-Taylor
8. Hugo Ellis
  
16. Lloyd Burns
17. Dan Way
18. Nigel Hall
19. Robert Sidoli
20. Jevon Groves
21. Gareth Williams
22. Tom Cooper
23. Steffan Jones

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Olly Morgan
14. Tom Voyce
13. Henry Trinder
12. Jonny May
11. Lesley Vainikolo
10. Freddie Burns
9. Jordi Pasqualin
1. Alasdair Dickinson
2. Olivier Azam
3. Pierre Capdevielle
4. Dan Williams
5. Alex Brown
6. Peter Buxton
7. Akapusi Qera
8. Matt Cox
  
16. Darren Dawidiuk
17. Yann Thomas
18. Rupert Harden
19. Jim Hamilton
20. Luke Narraway
21. Rory Lawson
22. Tim Taylor
23. Charlie Sharples

**TRY** 46min Vainikolo (13-12)

**TRY** 69min Sowden-Taylor (18-12)

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



VS. SARACENS // 13.11.10

# TODAY'S LINE-UPS

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 7-0  
14-0  
14-3  
17-3  
24-3  
31-3  
36-3  
36-10
- 15** OLLY MORGAN
- 14** CHARLIE SHARPLES
- 13** HENRY TRINDER
- 12** ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU
- 11** JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL
- 10** NICKY ROBINSON
- 9** DAVE LEWIS
- 1** NICK WOOD
- 2** OLIVIER AZAM
- 3** PAUL DORAN-JONES
- 4** DAVE ATTWOOD
- 5** ALEX BROWN
- 6** BRETT DEACON
- 7** ANDY HAZELL
- 8** LUKE NARRAWAY
- 16** DARREN DAWIDIUK
- 17** YANN THOMAS
- 18** PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE
- 19** DAN WILLIAMS
- 20** PETER BUXTON
- 21** JORDI PASQUALIN
- 22** TIM TAYLOR
- 23** LESLEY VAINIKOLO

## SARACENS

- 15** ALEX GOODE
- 14** MICHAEL TAGICAKIBAU
- 13** KAMELI RATUVOU
- 12** ADAM POWELL
- 11** NOAH CATO
- 10** NILS MORDT
- 9** RICHARD WIGGLESWORTH
- 1** DEON CARSTENS
- 2** SCHALK BRITS
- 3** CARLOS NIETO
- 4** STEVE BORTHWICK (C)
- 5** MOURITZ BOTHA
- 6** JACQUES BURGER
- 7** ANDY SAULL
- 8** ERNST JOUBERT
- 16** ETHIENNE REYNECKE
- 17** MATT PARR
- 18** PETRUS DU PLESSIS
- 19** HUGH VYVYAN
- 20** JUSTIN MELCK
- 21** NEIL DE KOCK
- 22** 22 OWEN FARRELL
- 23** JAMES SHORT

### MATCH SCORE

GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
v  
SARACENS



REFEREE: Tim Hayes  
ASST REFEREES: Paul Burton  
and Peter Huckle



### THE STATS THAT MATTER

#### FRIDAY - 12TH NOVEMBER

Cardiff Blues vs Exeter  
Ospreys vs Leicester  
Northampton vs Newport-Gwent D'gons

#### SATURDAY - 13TH NOVEMBER

Gloucester vs Saracens

#### SUNDAY - 14TH NOVEMBER

London Irish vs Scarlets  
Wasps vs Bath  
Harlequins vs Newcastle  
Leeds Carnegie vs Sale

#### GROUP A

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pt
Newcastle	1	1	0	0	18	17	0	4
Cardiff Blues	1	0	0	1	19	29	0	0
Leicester	1	0	0	1	25	34	0	0
Wasps	1	0	0	1	6	29	0	0

#### GROUP B

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pt
NG Dragons	1	1	0	0	18	12	0	4
Saracens	1	0	1	0	22	22	0	2
Leeds Carnegie	1	0	0	1	13	52	0	0
London Irish	1	0	0	1	14	39	0	0

#### GROUP C

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pt
Sale	1	1	0	0	39	14	1	5
Scarlets	1	1	0	0	52	13	1	5
Northampton	1	0	1	0	22	22	0	2
Gloucester	1	0	0	1	12	18	1	1

#### GROUP D

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pt
Bath	1	1	0	0	29	19	0	4
Exeter	1	1	0	0	29	6	0	4
Harlequins	1	1	0	0	34	25	0	4
Ospreys	1	0	0	1	17	18	1	1