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# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

PLAYER  
**ANDY HAZELL**  
FEATURE

**AVIVA PREMIERSHIP**  
VS. **SARACENS**  
27 NOVEMBER 2010, KO 4.30PM // £3

**BRYAN REDPATH**

**REGULAR FEATURES:**  
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ANGLO-WELSH CUP  
**MATCH ACTION**  
ON PAGE 60

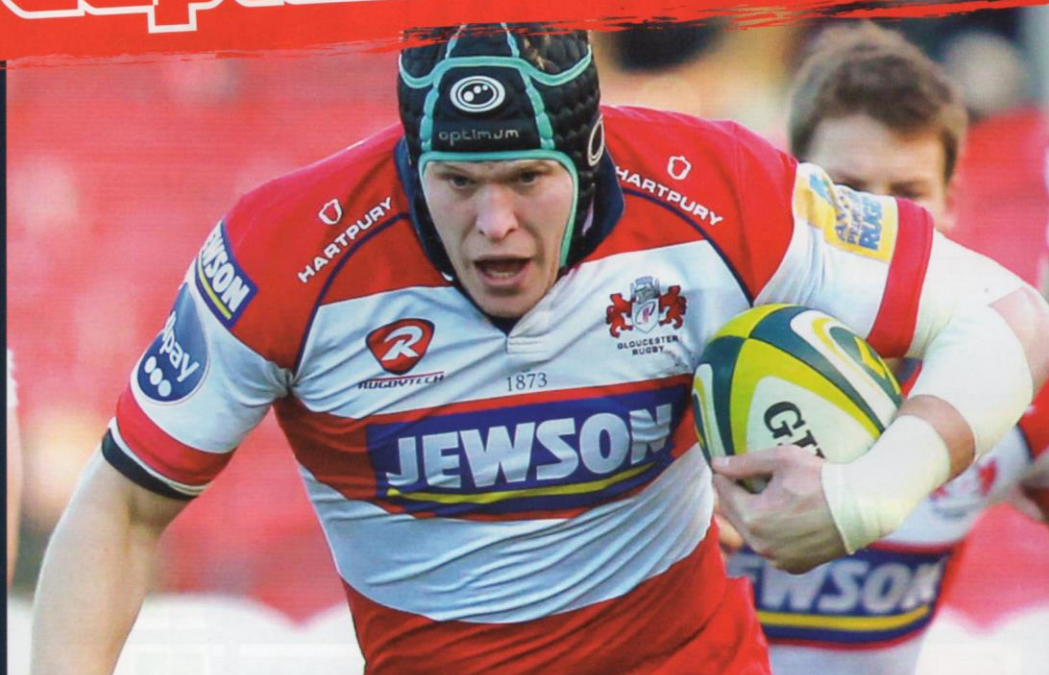
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LUKE NARRAWAY

# Captain's Corner



Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm as we welcome Saracens for the latest round of the Aviva Premiership.

Every game is important, that goes without saying, but this afternoon's fixture is significant for us as we desperately want to get back to winning ways after last weekend's setback up at Newcastle.

Last Sunday was a massive disappointment, there's no getting away from it. We travelled north feeling confident but certainly not over confident.

Kingston Park has been a tough place for us to visit in recent seasons and we've found wins tough to come by up there. Unfortunately, that proved to be the case again.

Conditions were poor up there but Sinbad spoke for the rest of the squad when he did media after the game when he pointed out that we've played in worse

conditions and played some good rugby. Sale at home last season is a case in point.

On the day, I think it was a game that we lost rather than Newcastle won and that's infuriating. We conceded a couple of really cheap penalties in the first few minutes and found ourselves chasing the game from there.

We felt fairly comfortable with the questions that we were asking of us offensively with ball in hand but their kicking game was pretty spot on and did cause us a few problems.

Overall, though, we see that as four points that we've missed out on. It was a pretty sombre coach ride back home on Sunday night and I can assure you that the defeat hurt every one of us.

We can't afford to dwell on it though. You do your analysis, you learn your lessons and you move on, starting with this afternoon's game against Saracens.

It's a bit of weird one because we played them here only a fortnight ago but, on that occasion it was in the LV= Cup.

Things went our way a fortnight ago and we ended up winning quite comfortably but we'd be naïve to think that the result that day will have any significance when it comes to today.

Sarries will be hurting after that one and determined to put the record straight. In some respects, playing us again so quickly is good for them.

They showed just how resilient they are last weekend when they turned over Bath down at the Rec, a game that could easily have run away from them when they trailed 13-3 at half time.

It'll need a massive improvement from us today and that's what we'll be aiming to deliver in a bid to get back to winning ways.

Enjoy the game!

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**"WE CERTAINLY  
NEED TO GET BACK  
ON THE FRONT  
FOOT BECAUSE  
WE'RE A TEAM  
WITH AMBITIONS  
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VIA OUR LEAGUE  
POSITION!"**

# **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 eventful couple of weeks. We've gone from the highs of a good win over today's opponents to the disappointment of defeat last weekend at Sunday.

It's all part of what the game of professional rugby can throw at you and things can turn around pretty quickly. It's how you respond that's key.

As I say, we played Saracens here a fortnight ago and things turned out pretty well for us. We were on our game that day and Sarries weren't quite at 100% and we ran out winners.

I'd be amazed if things went the same way today! They'll be the first to admit that they had a bad day at the office last time around and they'll be determined that it won't happen again.

They showed their mettle with the way that they bounced back last weekend against Bath. That's the kind of mental strength that Brendan Venter has instilled in his side and we'll be expecting a tough encounter against them this afternoon.

Talking of bad days at the office, we certainly had one last weekend at Kingston Park.

We felt good about things ahead of the game. We certainly travelled there in good spirits although we were well aware of our track record up in the north east and how hard we would have to work to earn the win.

I couldn't fault the effort that we put in on the day and I'd expect nothing less from anyone wearing the Gloucester shirt.

Conditions on the day, however, were a great leveller and Newcastle adapted far better on the day. It was pretty wet underfoot, quite a bit of standing water and it rained pretty much throughout.

There wasn't a great deal of rugby played on the day as a result and Micky Young and Jimmy Gopperth played it exactly right on the day with their tactical kicking game.

To a certain extent though, we didn't help ourselves. We gave away some pretty dumb penalties which served up cheap points for Gopperth and, on a day when points were always going to be at

and today's game will be the final one where we're missing players who are away representing their country.

Dave Attwood is looking more and more at home in the international set up and has, of course, earned his first caps. He's done well for us since he signed from Bristol and I think there's still more to come from him.

Tins (Mike Tindall) has done his usual solid job for his country as well. He does so much work that often doesn't catch the eye of the commentators or the spectators but which helps hold things together.



a premium, it left us with simply too much to claw back.

It's given us plenty to look at during our analysis sessions this week and there has been some pretty straight talking and I'm confident that we're in a position to bounce back.

We certainly need to get back on the front foot because we're a team with ambitions of making the Heineken Cup next season via our league position.

We'd worked hard to go into last weekend's round of fixtures in third place in the table. We only took a losing bonus point away from Newcastle when we were obviously looking for four points so we don't want to slip up again.

With the autumn internationals taking place, these past few weeks have been a test of our resources

Akapusi Qera, of course, took part in one of the biggest surprises when Fiji held Wales to a draw in Cardiff. Q had a difficult start to the season when he was unwell but he looks to be getting back to his best and that's good news for us.

However, as a proud Scot, I have to mention Scotland's win last weekend over South Africa! The hotel we stayed at in Newcastle were kind enough to record the games for us so we were able to watch them in the evening.

It was a tremendously committed performance from Andy Robinson's side, skippered of course by Rory Lawson and I was delighted for him.

For all of the above though, it'll be good to have them back in Gloucester colours!

**Enjoy the game!**



# View from The Citizen

with Nick Purewal

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



## Nick Wood: the burden of victory

**It is the burden of victory rather than defeat that leaves Nick Wood wary of Saracens today.**

The 27-year-old Gloucester prop admitted Sunday's bus journey south from Newcastle proved unsettling after the 12-6 Premiership defeat at Kingston Park.

But rather than bemoan the loss, Wood said Gloucester's LV=Cup victory over Saracens a fortnight ago provides an extra edge to this league clash.

Gloucester know two straight league clashes, Saracens today and next Friday night at Sale, will once again determine their top-four potency.

A losing bonus point at Newcastle kept Bryan Redpath's men fourth at the end of round eight's fixtures, but by the skin of their teeth.

Cementing that playoff berth is the name of the game, and Oxford graduate Wood said Gloucester can ill afford any more slip ups.

While Wood and Co will be desperate to erase the Newcastle memory at first opportunity, they are also well aware Saracens will be out in force in search of a reaction to Gloucester's 36-10 LV=Cup victory of two weeks passed.

The general expectation might centre around another Gloucester win then, especially given the impressive home record, said Wood,

but the Kingsholm squad know they will not gain anything for which they do not scrap with tooth and nail.

Wood explained: "It's risky in a way for us, playing Saracens again, and at home again, so soon.

"Firstly Saturday will be totally different because it's the Premiership. But secondly the pressure and expectation is all on us now."

"So we have to deal with that, and it's a huge challenge to go out there and repeat what we did two weeks ago. Some people will expect us to do that as a matter of course, but we won't, far from it."

"We know – and last weekend



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proved – that when you don't get everything exactly right, you don't win games at this level."

"We're definitely a top-four team: we're back to where we were three years ago. Sunday's defeat doesn't change that, it just makes us more determined

prospect of a pushover or penalty try in the first half of Sunday's defeat.

But after turning the screw, referee Martin Fox judged Paul Doran-Jones to turn in on the fourth scrummage: a decision that confused the Gloucester eight.

"So having fought ourselves into those positions, and then being fully on top, you hope you will get something out of that, and you need to really."

"For three straight scrums they were penalised, and then for



*"We're definitely a top-four team: we're back to where we were three years ago. Sunday's defeat doesn't change that, it just makes us more determined to continue to prove our top-four credentials in the coming weeks."*

to continue to prove our top-four credentials in the coming weeks."

"Now we've got two massive games where we can still cement our place in the playoff places, and that's what we intend to do."

Three-straight scrum penalties five metres from Newcastle's line had Gloucester's pack salivating at the

Wood said: "We didn't receive the just rewards for our dominance in the scrum to be honest. As a group we were confused by some of the decisions, especially given our total dominance."

"In a game like that five-metre attacking scrums, and driving lineouts, are always going to be pivotal: it was hardly a 20 or 30-point game or anything like that."

the fourth we were punished because the referee decided Paulie turned in."

"Logic suggests, and we certainly felt, that he wouldn't have wanted to do that. But you can't worry about that, or blame the result on that: we should have created more, and converted more of what we did create."



**I**n the Gloucester Rugby team room, following a morning training session ahead of the Aviva Premiership fixture at Newcastle Falcons, the atmosphere is upbeat.

The banter is flying thick and fast as it always seems to be in this environment. No-one is immune but one man seems to thrive on it more than most.

Step forward Andy Hazell, Gloucester born and bred and, whisper it quietly, currently playing his 14th season with his beloved home town club.

Despite the miles on the clock, and the number of young bucks in the Gloucester squad at present (so young that participating in Movember isn't an option!), Hazell is taking great delight in still setting the pace.

the first two Aviva Premiership fixtures away from Kingsholm, Gloucester have quietly moved through the gears and, going into last weekend's game at Kingston Park against Newcastle, had moved into third place at the table.

Hazell's contribution has been significant thus far, starting five Premiership fixtures and generally seeming to be enjoying himself marauding around the park.

"The refereeing of the breakdown has helped. We've worked quite hard at managing that and using different techniques. The new laws have seen the game become a bit more open, there's a bit more running and that suits my style of play."

"I'm enjoying the way things are going at the moment and I hope that the IRB leave it as it is for the minute and don't change anything!"

"To be fair, the boys have been

a position to push on in the New Year."

Away from the pitch, Olivier Azam and James Simpson-Daniel have embarked upon testimonial years. Hazey knows exactly what they're going through and is doing what he can to help them out.

"They've tapped me up for a little bit of advice here and there. I was pretty lucky with mine, it was just me and they're having to work together to avoid any clashes."

"I've been roped into doing a few things for them already. It's payback time now as they helped me out so it's the least I can do really."

Also taking up some of his time when he's not on Gloucester duty is a new business venture. He's always loved to keep his finger on the pulse when it comes to new technology and it's now possibly

**"IT'S GOING REALLY WELL BUT THAT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE IS WORKING REALLY HARD. THERE'S A GOOD FEELING HERE AT THE MOMENT."**

"It's still really enjoyable coming in every day. There are a lot of new lads around who are making the step up and they bring something new to the squad."

"Rugby's not a job to me, it's still a pleasure. I wake up every morning and look forward to coming in to train and giving some banter out and just enjoy the whole day really."

With the youngsters around, some of whom aren't exactly shrinking violets, does the veteran of more than 200 appearances for Gloucester find himself on the end of any 'old man' type jibes?

"Not all all. In fact, it's usually me dishing it out! I just ask them how someone so old can keep coming in ahead of them and things like that!"

"I try and look after myself and I'll carry on doing so and I'm going to try and keep on playing for as long as I can."

After a hesitant start, losing

working really hard ever since July when we reported back. It's the toughest preseason I think since I've been at the club."

"That's starting to pay off. We had a lot thrown at us last year and that hurts. You don't forget that, you don't forget what people write in the papers or what people say to you in the street."

"You tuck it away and use it for motivation. Sometimes, you can't put it right in a week but you keep using it to drive you on."

"Brush (Bryan Redpath) wants Gloucester to be what Gloucester is all about. He wants us to be successful but to remain a traditional club. It's going really well but that's because everyone is working really hard. There's a good feeling here at the moment."

"We've got some wins on the board but we're not getting ahead of ourselves. The hard work will continue and hopefully we'll come through the next few weeks in good shape and in

opening up a future career path.

"Basically, my wife was getting fed up of the boys ringing me up and asking for technical advice! So, I decided to do a few courses in the off season and I've set up a company called Smart Home Solutions."

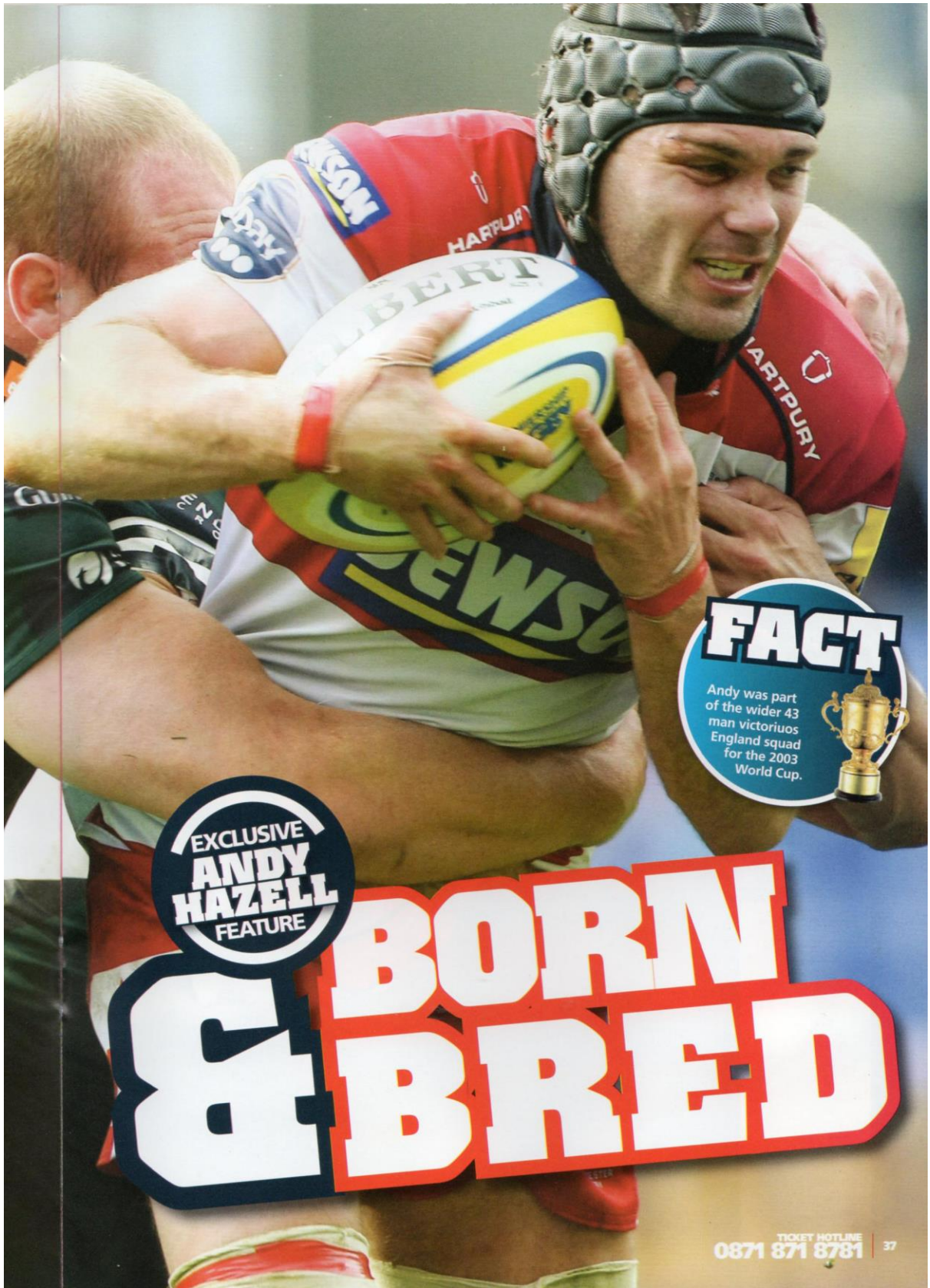
"It's early days but I've done some work for some of the boys, setting up gaming rooms or surround sound or intelligent lighting."

"It's going quite well, I'm learning all the time and I've got some big plans for it for when I'm through with rugby."

It's exciting stuff and Gloucester fans will wish him well with it but they'll also be relieved to hear that he still feels that there's petrol in the tank in terms of rugby.

"Massively. I'm really enjoying my rugby at the minute, the way we're playing and the way the coaches are taking the club forward. It's all positive."





**EXCLUSIVE  
ANDY  
HAZELL  
FEATURE**

**FACT**  
Andy was part  
of the wider 43  
man victorious  
England squad  
for the 2003  
World Cup.



# BORN & BRED

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BACK ROW  
BORN:  
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5'11"  
WEIGHT:  
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HOOPS:  
ENGLAND



Andrew HAZELL



# Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton



**NO** doubt the boys will be pleased to be back in the slightly sunnier climes of Castle Grim after a pretty fruitless trip to the north east last weekend.

To be honest that was a game I thought we would win, but it wasn't to be. First half indiscipline cost us by the sound of it, and once we had gifted a few penalties we were always struggling to get back on terms.

With Exeter continuing to go well in the league it looks like the fight to avoid the drop could well be between Newcastle and Leeds, but Sale are looking pretty shaky too.

There's a long way to go yet

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though and, unless we can cure our away day blues, the latter two will be hoping to grab some points and put a bit of a dent in our European Cup hopes for next season. I won't be making any trips to the bookies just yet...

So Saracens again today, I can't remember the last time we played them... oh hang on it was two weeks ago in the Noonecaresverymuch Cup, wasn't it? If I remember correctly we just scraped past them by the odd try or five.

It would be lovely to think that the result back then might have some bearing on today's encounter, but maybe apart from a little self-belief among players it doesn't give too

much of a clue as to what may happen today.

Saracens though, will be coming here full of confidence after a win on the road down at Bath last Sunday. They shouldn't get too far ahead of themselves though, even we – with our away from home phobia – have won down there!

I know it's a bit fashionable to say that Saracens are not exactly hurt by the Autumn International call-ups – and I'm as guilty of that as everyone else – the record shows that they were without more than a few first team regulars through either country commitments or injury.

As was pointed out when we met



**WE TOO HAD MORE THAN A SPRINKLING OF YOUTH THROUGH THE TEAM, AND ENDED THE GAME WITH A BACK ROW FORWARD PLAYING IN THE CENTRE AND AN 18 YEAR OLD SCRUM HALF PLAYING FULL BACK**

two weeks ago they had an 18-year-old at full back and 19-year-old outside half on duty two weeks ago and were without the likes of Alex Goode, Brad Barritt, Richard Wigglesworth, Kelly Brown, Rhys Gill, Derick Hougaard, Chris Wyles, Kameli Ratovou and Michael Tagicakibau.

But then we had more than a handful of first team regulars out too!

Whether that will be the case today remains to be seen, the fact that Sarries have such a large contingent of first team players from across the world means that they are perhaps better placed to go through the international period without too much disruption.

It's their choice, of course, and the arguments will go on forever about the fairness of it all.

Personally speaking I would rather see the Premiership clubs bringing more home nation qualified players through – something that is being rewarded by the RFU already in respect of English qualified players.

But regardless of who was missing, our last encounter was a great game to watch – if you were a Gloucester fan - though.

We too had more than a sprinkling of youth through the team, and ended the game with a back row forward playing in the centre and an 18 year old scrum half playing full back so things were pretty even on the player missing front.

What surprised me more was that

the umm... slightly outspoken (is that the right phrase?) Brendan Venter had nothing to say on the matter. Perhaps his good wife now pins a copy of his latest bank statement to the changing room wall to remind him that he can't afford another outburst or something.

To be honest, I was a bit disappointed really – some of his 'outbursts' have been quite funny. My one view for what it's worth is that a lot of what he, and other coaches (Mr V is not alone in this area), in the heat of the moment after a game when the blood is still racing and emotions are running high is quite pertinent.

Same thing happens in every sport really, and perhaps in a calmer environment he would not say half

the things he does. Anyway, is it really wrong for a director of rugby to care that much about his team?

What I do think is crazy is when daft players resort to twitter (and perhaps the clue is in the first four letters) to sound off about something a la Danny Care after Quins' loss at Leicester, when he slated Wayne Barnes for his handling of the game.

I didn't notice any 'tweeting' from him along the lines that, had a couple of Quins players had hands instead of cows hoofs and could actually catch the ball, then they wouldn't have butchered at least two easy tries and been out of sight before Leicester got a point on the board regardless of who the man with the whistle was!





# GL13AX Gloucester Talk

with Peter Arnold

## HARDLY WORTH THEIR GOING HOME, REALLY WAS IT?

**A**lthough after the conspicuous drubbing Saracens received two weeks ago, they were probably glad to see the back of the place.

Not that we should read too much into the events of November 13th. This is a different day and a different match.

To start with, we didn't see the real Sarries on that occasion. They had been slightly disrupted by International calls and injuries, although no more so than we were, and the side looked strong enough on paper.

Secondly, there is no doubt that they did not have a good day at the office, and we all know that they can play considerably better than they did then, and probably will today. They'll be smarting and wanting to put the record straight.

And this is not the LV= Cup. We're back to the real deal today, and the Premiership concentrates the mind like no other competition in Europe.



This is certainly no walk in the park, and I'm sure Bryan Redpath will have been drumming that message into the players all week.

Saracens are an interesting club. What their founding fathers would have made of Brendan Venter's happy band of voortrekkers I just don't know.

The club was founded in 1875, by a group of old boys of the fascinatingly named Philological College, which later became St. Marylebone Grammar School. They didn't stand alone for long

however, and amalgamated with a similar local outfit called Crusaders.

Their inaugural match was against the formidable Blackheath Club. After that, they seem to have led a fairly hand-to-mouth existence until, nine years later, Harlequins offered them a regular fixture.

They have had a fairly up and down record since then. But this is definitely one of the 'up' periods and they are not a side to be taken lightly.

Which I'm sure they won't.

## WAKE-UP CALL

**D**o you agree that the Samoan game last Saturday constituted something of a wake-up call for the England side?

It certainly dispelled some of the euphoria we felt after the conspicuous demolition of Australia. Fair play to the Islanders – they certainly displayed all the passion and physicality we were warned

to expect, but perhaps they showed rather more skill than we anticipated.

It's worth remembering that about a dozen of the side playing at Twickenham usually ply their trade at English or French clubs, so perhaps they've learned a few things along the way. We can certainly see where our own Eliota gets his style of play from.

One thing I would say is that, from what I saw of both matches, Samoa looked to me to be a better side than their neighbours from Fiji, which doesn't say much for our friends from the Principality.

Sending a whole bunch of their big guns on from the bench, including both half-backs, seemed to me to argue a severe case of underestimating your opponent on





the part of the Welsh authorities.

I know that Wales were ahead until that last-minute penalty squared things, but I honestly think that a draw was no more than the Fijians deserved. I'll bet Akupusi Qera, who certainly made an impact when he went on, was absolutely delighted.

As he had every right to be.

## STINGING IN THE RAIN



**Y**ears ago, a friend of mine, whom I shall call Pete Gould, because that was his name, arrived in Gloucester from Hertfordshire.

He had played a reasonable standard of rugby, and was on Northampton's books for a time. Soon after arriving, he asked me to recommend a club he could join.

I picked up the phone and rang Norman Partridge of Gloucester Old Boys, telling him I had a new player for him. Pete told him that he had only just moved in and had work to do on his house, but could he train with the Old Boys until he felt able to play.

No problem. But the Old Boys being the Old Boys, Pete was

carded for the following Saturday. Pete being Pete, accepted readily, and duly found himself playing up the slope at Berry Hill in pouring rain.

He told me afterwards, "Twenty minutes in, I hadn't touched the ball, had my face pushed into the mud four times, was absolutely soaked and thoroughly fed up. 'What's bloody Arnold got me into this time' I thought". "Welcome to Gloucester rugby Pete!" I replied.

I was reminded of that story when reading the descriptions of the Newcastle game last Saturday. A visit to Kingston Park is always a potential banana skin, but when you're playing in half a gale, with rain growing harder as the match wears on, and the temperature

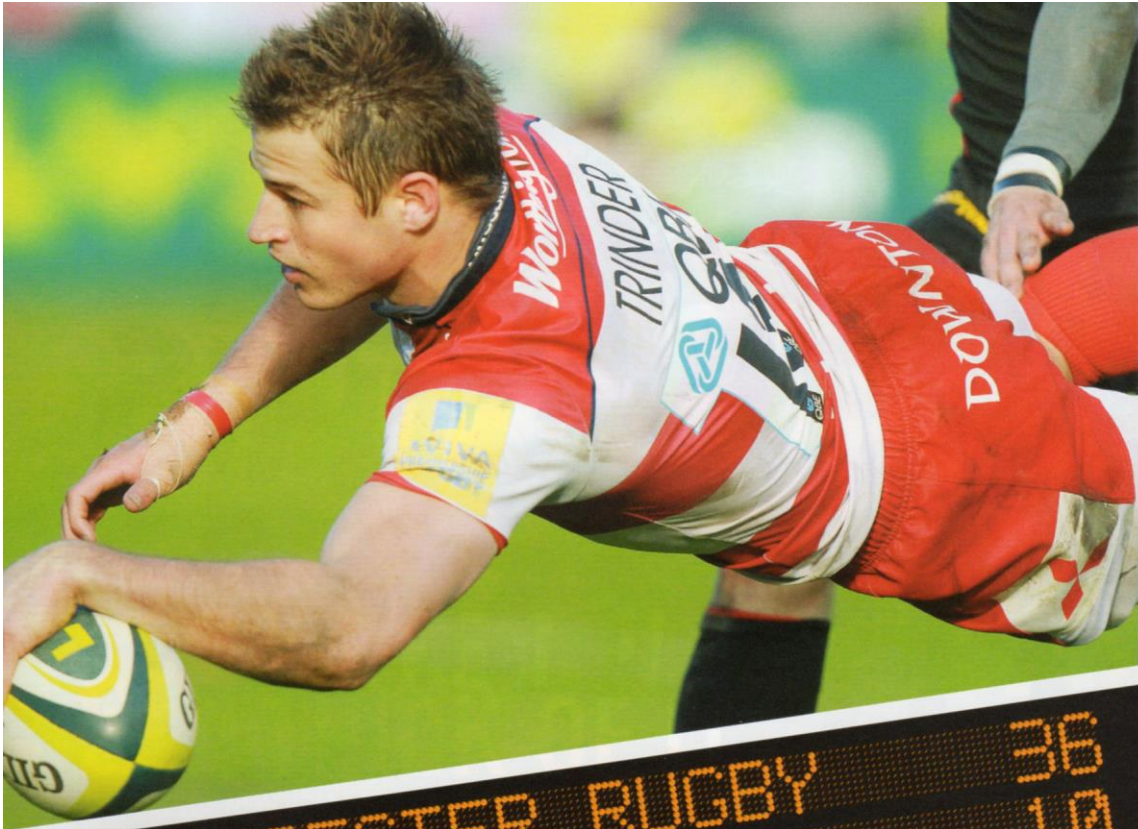
dropping like a stone, it must tempt you to give up rugby and try your hand at needlepoint.

In those circumstances, the home side always has an advantage. They know their pitch and where the slopes and muddy patches are. They know where the wind is swirling from, and their kickers have practised on the pitch countless times.

Remarks have been made about the number of times Gloucester dropped the ball, but it's easy for the writer. He doesn't have to deal with a sopping wet melon with the consistency of an overripe melon.

I was disappointed with the loss without being surprised. But I had every sympathy for the saturated warriors.





GLOUCESTER RUGBY 36  
 SARACENS 10

**G**loucester needed a win to keep their LV= Cup qualification hopes alive and duly achieved that goal against Saracens but probably didn't expect the margin of victory to be quite so wide.

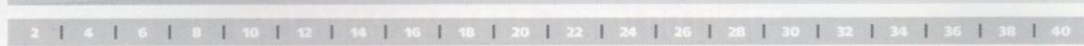
Saracens had named a strong looking side and, with Gloucester deprived of the services of several international players, a tough encounter looked on the cards.

It certainly looked that way in the opening few minutes as both sides strove to establish their superiority but, once Gloucester got their noses in front, they never looked back.

Gloucester supporters saw two vastly



<b>TRY</b> 9min Sharples (5-0)	<b>TRY</b> 18min Simpson-Daniel (12-0)	<b>YC</b> 36min Narraway (Gloucester)
<b>CON</b> 10min Taylor (7-0)	<b>CON</b> 19min Taylor (14-0)	<b>PEN</b> 37min Farrell (14-3)
		<b>PEN</b> 39min Taylor (17-3)
		<b>TRY</b> 40min Trinder (22-3)
		<b>CON</b> 40+1min Taylor (24-3)



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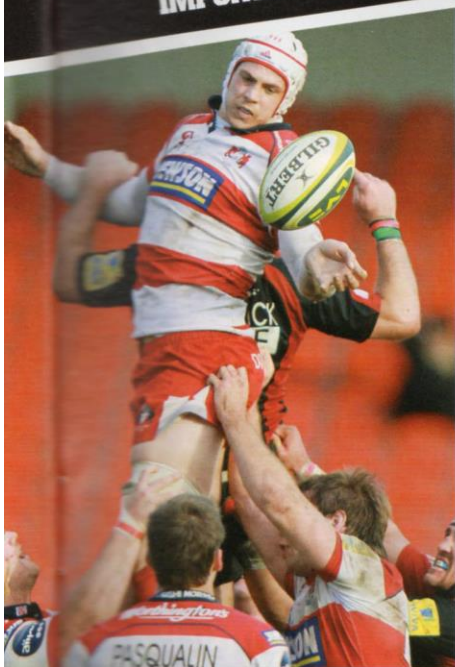
## KEY MOMENT



### TRY 40min Trinder (22-3)

Luke Narraway was in the sin bin with half time approaching and Gloucester would probably have been happy to go into half time with a decent 17-3 lead. But centre Henry Trinder picked off Owen Farrell's pass in midfield to all the way and open up an unassailable lead.

**"I'M DELIGHTED WITH THE WAY THE PLAYERS HAVE RESPONDED TO HAVING A LITTLE BIT OF TIME OFF. WE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THIS MONTH IS FOR US."**



different Saracens sides last season. Early in the season at Vicarage Road, they booted the leather off the ball and chased like demons. Later in the season, they were playing some champagne rugby and more than played their part in a televised thriller at Kingsholm.

Saturday's game saw them revert to the tactics which saw them win lots of games but few friends in the first part of last season. And, it led to their downfall...

Kicking the ball deep handed possession aplenty to the Gloucester back line and they more than made the most of it.

With the excellent Eliota Fuimaono-

Sapolu, returning after injury, pulling the strings, Saracens had no answer to the wave of Cherry and White attacks that threatened to completely overwhelm them.

Well crafted tries for Charlie Sharples and James Simpson-Daniel got the ball rolling and Henry Trinder's interception just before half time killed the game as a contest.

Trinder's second and a catch and drive effort from Olivier Azam early in the second half completed the scoring for Gloucester and Bryan Redpath's side only conceded when they were down to 14 men with Nick Wood in the bin.

It was a dominating display from Gloucester who took full advantage of the surfeit of possession and territory that they enjoyed on the day.

However, it was a curiously subdued performance from the Men in Black who will surely present a far tougher proposition today in the Aviva Premiership than they did in this one sided LV=Cup encounter.

## THE LINE UPS

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Olly Morgan
14. Charlie Sharples
13. Henry Trinder
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
11. James Simpson-Daniel
10. Tim Taylor
9. Jordi Pasqualin
1. Nick Wood
2. Olivier Azam
3. Paul Doran-Jones
4. Dave Attwood
5. Peter Buxton
6. Brett Deacon
7. Andrew Hazell
8. Luke Narraway
16. Darren Dawidiuk
17. Yann Thomas
18. Pierre Capdevielle
19. Dan Williams
20. Matt Cox
21. Dan Robson
22. Freddie Burns
23. Lesley Vainikolo

### SARACENS

15. Ben Ransom
14. David Strettle
13. Adam Powell
12. Nils Mordt
11. Noah Cato
10. Owen Farrell
9. Neil de Kock
1. Deon Carstens
2. Schalk Brits
3. Carlos Nieto
4. Steve Borthwick
5. Mountz Botha
6. Don Barrell
7. Andy Saull
8. Ernst Joubert
16. Jamie George
17. Jared Saunders
18. Petrus du Plessis
19. Hugh Vyyyan
20. Jacques Burger
21. Kevin Barrett
22. Sam Stanley
23. James Short

TRY 43min Trinder (29-3)  
CON 44min Taylor (31-3)

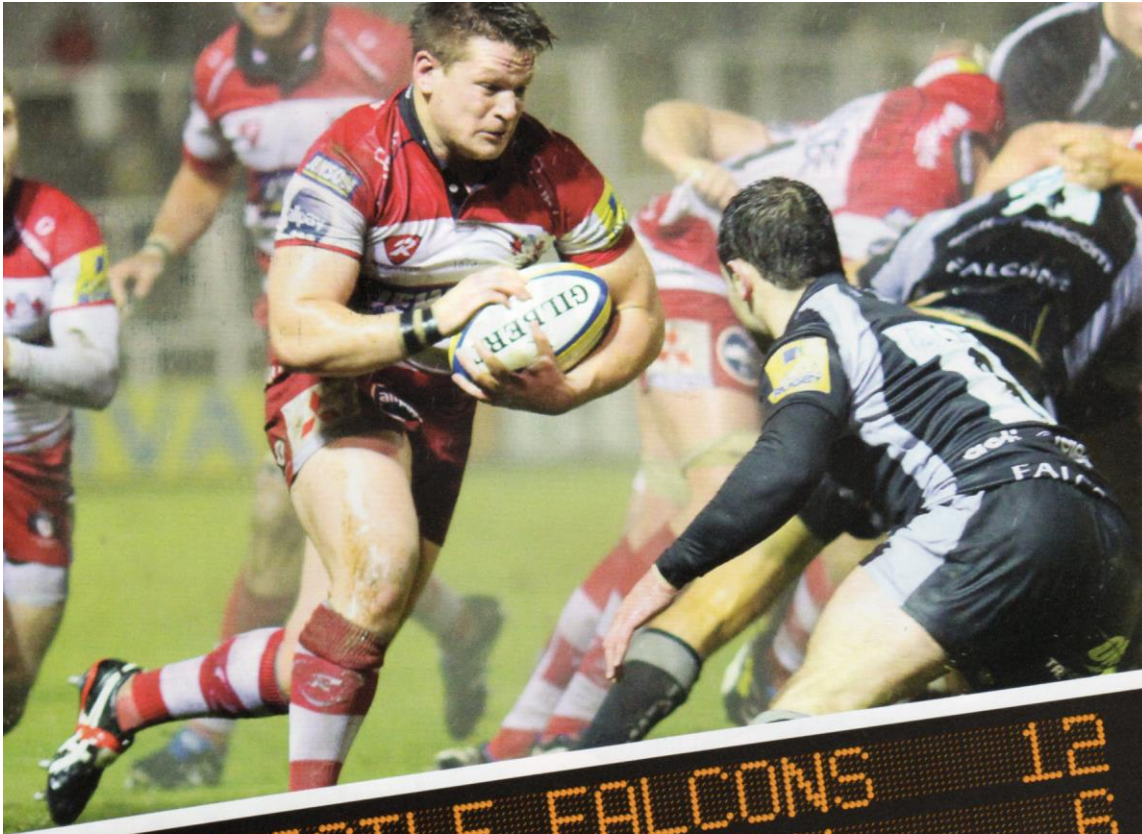
TRY 52min Azam (36-3)  
YC 59min Wood (Gloucester)  
TRY 60min Short (36-8)

CON 61min Farrell (36-10)

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 | 61



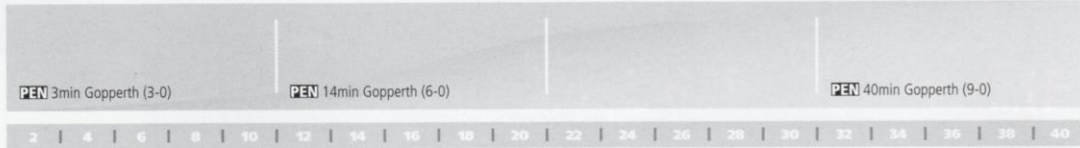
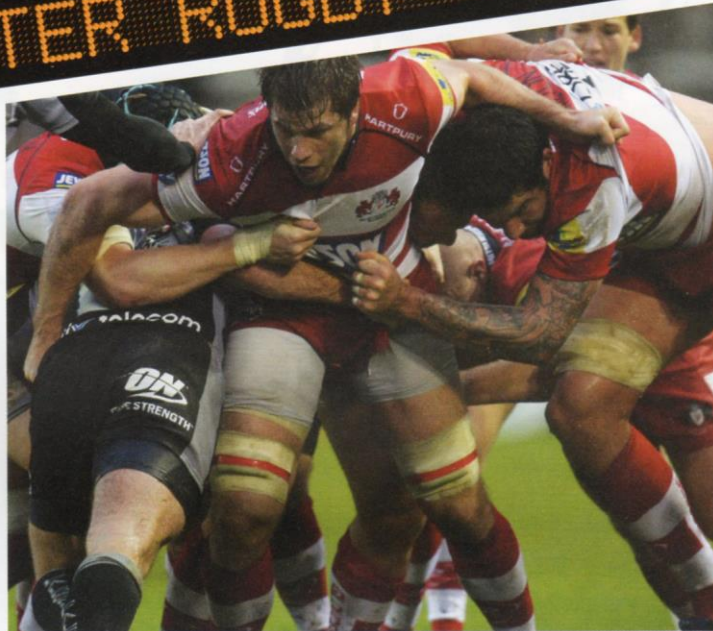


NEWCASTLE FALCONS	12
GLOUCESTER RUGBY	6

**K**ingston Park has been far from the happiest hunting ground for Gloucester in recent seasons and so it proved again last weekend.

In conditions that rendered handling the ball akin to trying to grab a bar of soap in the bath, four penalties from the boot of Falcons' fly Jimmy Gopperth were enough to earn the home side a 12-6 victory.

It all added up to a desperately disappointing afternoon for Gloucester who came into this game buoyed by some recent excellent form and looking to consolidate a place in the top four of the Aviva





## KEY MOMENT

Gloucester's pack sought to take the game by the scruff of the neck on the half hour and forced a series of 5 metre scrums near the Falcons line.

Three times the home side were penalised as Gloucester looked to drive over until, inexplicably, referee Fox awarded a penalty against Gloucester on the fourth occasion and the game's best try scoring chance was gone.

**"I THINK THREE DULL PENALTIES IN THE FIRST HALF WAS THE DIFFERENCE. WE DIDN'T KICK THE POINTS AT THAT TIME AND POTENTIALLY WE SHOULD HAVE CREDIT TO NEWCASTLE. MICKY YOUNG KICKED THE BALL, JIMMY GOPPERTH KICKED THE BALL BUT THERE WASN'T A LOT OF RUGBY IN THE CONDITIONS."**

Premiership Rugby table.

The post match reaction diplomatically refused to blame the conditions but there was no doubt that the constant rain reduced the fixture to a game of 10 man rugby.

And, in former Auckland Blue Jimmy Gopperth, the Falcons had just the man for the occasion. The New Zealander put the boot into Gloucester back in March and did so again with aplomb.

Frustratingly, the chances given to Gopperth were largely avoidable. Bryan Redpath called them 'dumb penalties' after the game and they were certainly soft.

A harshly adjudged late tackle, two dropped high balls leading to offences and chasers getting in front of the kicker and being ruled offside. Four lapses, four penalties.

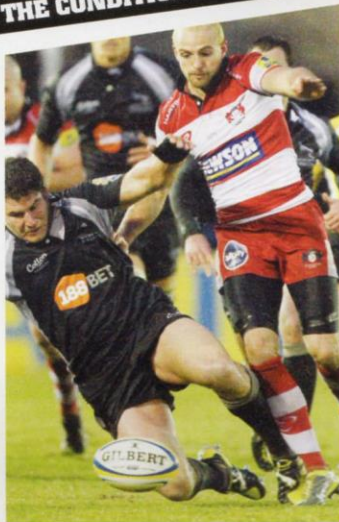
Gloucester did fight back. There was certainly no lack of effort. Freddie Burns stroked home two

second half penalties to give his side hope but chasing the game was tough in the conditions.

The majority of the final quarter was spent in the Falcons 22 but, time after time, a shuddering defensive hit, would jar the greasy ball loose.

A losing bonus point was the sole reward and a poor return for the effort invested. Newcastle offered little offensively but they got their points on the board early and that was the difference.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing but one can only wonder how the game would have panned out had referee Fox not penalised Gloucester



when they had seemingly reduced the home scrummage to jelly and a succession of penalties near the Falcons line?

It begged belief at the time (why would Gloucester have dropped it?) and was probably the game's key moment.

## THE LINE UPS

### NEWCASTLE FALCONS

15. Jeremy Manning
14. Luke Fielden
13. Gcobani Bobo
12. Luke Eyes
11. Charlie Amesbury
10. Jimmy Gopperth
9. Micky Young
1. Grant Shiells
2. Rob Vickers
3. Tim Ryan
4. James Hudson
5. Tim Swinson
6. Brent Wilson
7. Redford Pennycook
8. Ally Hogg
  
16. Joe Graham
17. Micky Ward
18. James Hall
19. Glen Townson
20. Will Welch
21. Chris Pilgrim
22. Tane Tu'ipulotu
23. Tom Catterick

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Freddie Burns
14. Charlie Sharples
13. Henry Trinder
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
11. James Simpson-Daniel
10. Tim Taylor
9. Jordi Pasqualin
1. Nick Wood
2. Olivier Azam
3. Paul Doran-Jones
4. Jim Hamilton
5. Alex Brown
6. Brett Deacon
7. Andrew Hazell
8. Luke Narraway
  
16. Darren Dawidiuk
17. Yann Thomas
18. Pierre Capdevielle
19. Peter Buxton
20. Matt Cox
21. Dave Lewis
22. Tim Molenaar
23. Lesley Vainikolo

PEN 45min Gopperth (12-0)

PEN 50min Burns (12-3)

PEN 69min Burns (12-6)

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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VS. SARACENS // 27.11.10

# TODAY'S LINE-UPS

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

## SARACENS

	OLLY MORGAN	<b>15</b>	ALEX GOODE
		FULLBACK	
T	CHARLIE SHARPLES	<b>14</b>	DAVID STRETTLE
		WING	
	<i>MULINASE</i> HENRY TRINDER	<b>13</b>	KAMELI RATUVOU
		CENTRE	
	ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU	<b>12</b>	BRAD BARRITT
		CENTRE	
	JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	<b>11</b>	JAMES SHORT T
		WING	
	<i>PP&amp;P</i> NICKY ROBINSON	<b>10</b>	OWEN FARRELL <i>PP</i>
		FLY-HALF	<i>WILKINSON</i>
	DAVE LEWIS	<b>9</b>	NEIL DE KOCK
		SCRUM-HALF	
	NICK WOOD	<b>1</b>	DEON CARSTENS
		PROP	
	OLIVIER AZAM	<b>2</b>	SCHALK BRITS
		HOOKER	
	PAUL DORAN-JONES	<b>3</b>	CARLOS NIETO
		PROP	
	DAVE ATTWOOD	<b>4</b>	STEVE BORTHWICK (C)
		LOCK	
	ALEX BROWN	<b>5</b>	HUGH VYVYAN
		LOCK	<i>MUCK</i>
	BRETT DEACON	<b>6</b>	JACQUES BURGER
		FLANKER	
	ANDY HAZELL	<b>7</b>	ANDY SAULL
		FLANKER	<i>W RAY</i>
	LUKE NARRAWAY (C)	<b>8</b>	ERNST JOUBERT
		NO.8	
0-3	DARREN DAWIDIUK	<b>16</b>	JAMIE GEORGE
0-10	YANN THOMAS	<b>17</b>	RHYS GILL
3-10	PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE	<b>18</b>	PETRUS DU PLESSIS
3-13	PETER BUXTON	<b>19</b>	MOURITZ BOTHA
6-13	MATT COX	<b>20</b>	JACKSON WRAY
9-13	JORDI PASQUALIN	<b>21</b>	RICHARD WIGGLESWORTH
16-13	FREDDIE BURNS	<b>22</b>	SAM STANLEY
19-13	LESLEY VAINIKOLO	<b>23</b>	NOAH CATO

### MATCH SCORE

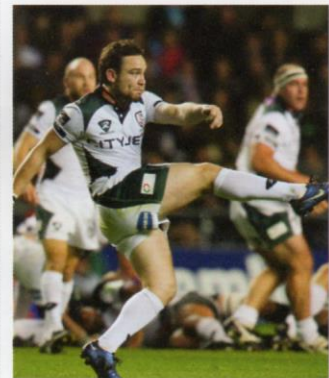
GLOUCESTER RUGBY	
v	
SARACENS	

REFEREE: Sean Davey  
ASST REFEREES: Nick Carrick and Martin Buck

### THE STATS THAT MATTER

#### TOP POINTS SCORERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
RYAN LAMB*	114
NICK EVANS	105
DAVE WALDER	75
JIMMY GOPPERTH	73
GARETH STEENSON	69



#### TOP TRY SCORERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
JONATHAN JOSEPH*	5
SOANE TONGA'UIHA	5
TOM VARDELL	5
CHRIS ASHTON	4
SCHALK BRITS	4

