



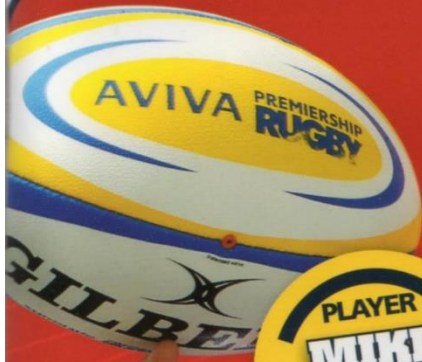
**INSIDE...**

Club News · Player poster · Opposition feature · Kingsholm Hospitality

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

**AVIVA PREMIERSHIP**  
VS. **EXETER CHIEFS**  
8 JANUARY 2011, KO 3PM // £3



PLAYER  
**MIKE TINDALL**  
FEATURE

**+ GLOUCESTER CREW**

REGULAR  
FEATURES:  
MATCH ACTION,  
THE CITIZEN,  
COMMUNITY



EXCLUSIVE NOTES

**BRYAN REDPATH**

ON PAGE 8

**JEWSON**

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# RYAN WALKINSHAW

## - THANK YOU -

**I want to express the gratitude of the Walkinshaw family for the amazing response from the Gloucester Rugby public to the news of my Father's passing recently.**

As you can imagine, it's been an incredibly difficult few weeks and it hasn't been easy to talk publicly but I felt that it was important to do so.

Gloucester Rugby has been a massive part of my family's life for a very long time. Dad used to bring myself and Sean along to watch matches even before he became officially involved with the club.

I was aware that there was lots of conjecture about whether the Walkinshaw family would continue to be involved with Gloucester Rugby going forward and that's why I took the decision to talk to the local media before Christmas. I wanted to put the record straight.

My Dad always used to say that Gloucester Rugby wasn't just a business, it was the family business and there's no question about us selling it now that Dad's not there to run it.

I will be involved going forward and will join the Board of Directors immediately. I was meant to do that anyway last year but I have been based in Newcastle and I wanted to start in that role when I would be around more.

I've worked at the club in the past, I've grown up with it, I know everyone here and I hope I'm in a strong position to take over the responsibilities from my Dad.

I'll be coming into it with my eyes open. Dad was very clever about getting everything he needed sorted out and put in place in a managerial sense. And also in a financial sense, he nursed the club through difficult times and briefed me fully before he died.

He sat me down and explained all the big decisions which he had



made, ensuring that I was fully up to speed with all the issues which the board had discussed.

I'll be working with Ken (Nottage) and any big decisions that need to be made will be made as a democracy with everyone at the club with Ken, myself and Martin St Quinton all involved.

I also have the support of a network of Dad's business partners who are always available for any help or advice I may need.

I feel that it's important to say thank you though. The thousands of messages we've received as a family show just how many lives Dad

touched and how many people cared for him.

Plans are well underway for a Memorial Service at Gloucester Cathedral on Friday February 4th, more details of which will be made available on the club website in due course.

Finally, the reception that my brother Sean and myself received at the La Rochelle game was incredible and I can't stress how much that meant to us.

On behalf of the family, a very sincere thank you.

**Ryan Walkinshaw**





**EXCLUSIVE  
HEAD  
COACH  
NOTES**

**"WE'D WORKED  
HARD TO GET  
OURSELVES IN A  
DECENT POSITION  
IN TERMS OF OUR  
OVERALL SEASON  
BUT WE ARE WELL  
AWARE THAT WE  
NEED TO CARRY ON  
WORKING HARD IF  
WE ARE TO ACHIEVE  
WHAT WE'VE SET  
OUT TO."**

# **BRYAN REDPATH**

**GLOUCESTER**  
RUGBY.CO.UK



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

This afternoon sees Gloucester Rugby enter a crucial part of the 2010-11 fixture calendar as we entertain the Chiefs.

Following today's game, we will return to European action for a couple of weeks as we play rounds 5 and 6 in the Amlin Challenge Cup.

Our last home game here at Kingsholm seems a long time ago now but was actually a European game, the pre Christmas fixture against La Rochelle.

We entered that particular game feeling in quite good shape as far as the season was progressing. In terms of Europe, we felt as though we were on the front foot.

We had quite a lengthy trip to Western France to take on La Rochelle in Round 3 of Amlin Challenge Cup. I said it before the game, and I'm sure I'll say it plenty more times but it's never easy to win in France. Although our 13-6 win wasn't spectacular, it was a valuable win for us.

That put us on the front foot in terms of our pool. We'd put ourselves in a position to take the group by the scruff of the neck. Now it's all the melting point and we can still top the pool but the odds are considerably longer than they were.

The performance itself was slightly puzzling. We had lots of possession and spent most of the second half in their 22. But, fair play to them, their defence was magnificent considering they spent so much with only 14, and sometimes 13, men on the pitch.

For our part, we fell off too many

tackles and let in two soft tries. It was disappointing as we must be mentally up for the physically challenge in every single game we play, not just now and then. The will must be stronger than the skill each and every time we play.

And, unfortunately, when we were looking to bounce back from that and get back to winning ways, we came unstuck at Leeds Carnegie last weekend.

Again, it was frustrating as, going into the game, we were in sixth place with a couple of games in hand over most of our rivals. We'd flirted with the top four in the Aviva Premiership table and it was an opportunity to press our claims.



However, our performance at Headingley was disappointing. To their credit, Leeds worked hard and were very efficient. But, on the day, our standards on the day weren't good enough.

We scored a reasonably good try but conceded two relatively soft ones. Our basics let us down in terms of possession, ball control in the contact area and playing too narrow.

We'd worked hard to get ourselves in a decent position in terms of our overall season but we are well aware that we need to carry on working hard if we are to achieve what we've set out to.

And, it all begins of course this

afternoon against Exeter who have impressed so many people this season in their first campaign in the Premiership.

They served notice against ourselves in the very first fixture of the season that they weren't just in the top flight to make up the numbers and they've gone on to back that up with a number of strong displays against some very good sides.

Only last weekend, the Leicester Tigers had to fight tooth and nail to leave Sandy Park with the points but it went right down to the wire and Rob Baxter's side will be slightly disappointed not to have got anything more than a

losing bonus point.

So, we know full well what lies ahead of us this afternoon and how tough it's going to be. We've had a couple of disappointing outings and I can assure you that everyone at the club wants to get back to winning ways and get us back on track.

It might not be pretty this afternoon but we need to do what we have to in order to claim the victory.

We'll be looking to bounce back today in front of our own supporters and your support, as ever, will be crucial to us.

**Enjoy the game!**



# View from The Citizen

with Nick Purewal

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



## Rory Lawson: "We've got to see a reaction..."

*"As a group of players we're very honest with each other, and the coaches are very honest with us too. So no one sugar coated what happened at Leeds, it was dealt with straight away."*



**F**rustrated Rory Lawson has warned Gloucester to remember they can be the architects of their own failure, just as much as success.

Admitting the Cherry and Whites could only blame themselves for their 15-13 Premiership defeat at Leeds, Scotland scrum half Lawson said Gloucester must realise their destiny rests solely with themselves.

Bryan Redpath's men possess the clear potency to progress to a playoff battle this season - but Gloucester have long since been able and wound up wanting.

Calling on his team mates to cut their two-straight defeats dead when Exeter arrive at Kingsholm today, Lawson said:

"We've got to see a reaction, we can't change what's happened on Saturday, but we can affect what happens next.

"We've got to understand that these things are within our power to control, provided we get our parts right.

"We didn't get it right at Leeds, and we lost - but if we get it together



*"...we want to be in the playoffs, we want to be in Europe, and we want to progress in the cup competitions."*

then we can control what happens to us."

Apologising for the below par performance at Leeds, Lawson said the motivation this week has centred around reacting to the Headingley loss and the La Rochelle home defeat.

Where Gloucester could easily have fuelled the fires of that ignominious opening day defeat at Sandy Park given their opponents today, Lawson said the squad has had far more pressing issues to confront.

He continued: "Everyone's looking forward to Exeter and the opportunity to put it right.

"We would all have happily gone straight back out and played another full match against Leeds right at the end of the game on Saturday, so this weekend cannot come soon enough in some respects.

"But we know it must only come at the end of a tough week where we scrutinise what's gone wrong in the last two games, and then roll up our sleeves on the training field.

"We've had two poor





performances, and we've got to have that hunger to show the right reaction now this week.

"We're disappointed with ourselves, we knew the challenge in front of us when we went up to Leeds and we've got to look at ourselves.

"The performance was a long way off where it should have been, and to a man I don't think we performed the way we can."

Confident Gloucester still have what

it takes to hit the Premiership's top four to qualify for the playoffs, Lawson said the men from Kingsholm must not lose any more ground in the league now though.

Should Gloucester win their two games in hand they could fire back as high as third - but none of Redpath's men are taking wins over Northampton at home or Sale away for granted.

Lawson said: "As a group of players we're very honest with each other, and

the coaches are very honest with us too.

"So no one sugar coated what happened at Leeds, it was dealt with straight away.

"We're still capable of hitting and staying in that top four though, and that remains our chief aim for this second half of the season now.

"That's what we're hunting for, we want to be in the playoffs, we want to be in Europe, and we want to progress in the cup competitions."





**FACT**

Tins served Fish and Chips from a van whilst studying at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield.

EXCLUSIVE  
**MIKE  
TINDAL**  
FEATURE

**CAPTAIN**

**MARVEL**

GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY.CO.UK



**M**ike Tindall will be the first to admit that the 2009-10 season wasn't the most auspicious of what has been a fairly glittering career to date.

Starting the campaign as joint club captain with Gareth Delve, the England international centre was frustratingly sidelined with a hamstring injury which prevented him from taking the field for Gloucester between October and the end of February.

His fight to return to full fitness was rewarded with a call up to England's Six Nations squad and a date against the French in Paris. However, even that silver lining had a cloud as it meant Tindall missing out on the EDF Energy Cup final for

got to gain momentum from here on in rather than lose it. And, if things go our way over the next few weeks, we'll be set up nicely for a top 4 push."

Tindall's absence last Autumn coincided with a rough patch for Gloucester. Having come though that, however, Gloucester have been steadily improving ever since.

"That's right and hopefully we'll do what we usually do and start picking up our performances as we go towards the end of the season. If we can do that, it really puts us in a good place."

It could potentially have been a dark old winter for Tindall as his comeback was delayed on several occasions and he admits that it wasn't easy to deal with.

"It was frustrating. We didn't start that well and you just want to be out there helping the boys and, when we

and Rory (Lawson) has led when he's needed to. The senior players take over quite easily. We've got a good leadership group. I just get the lucky job of leading the team out every weekend!"

Having missed out on a significant chunk of the 2009 Autumn campaign and 2010 Six Nations, the 2003 World Cup winner was prominent in England's recent internationals and feels England are in a good place going into 2011.

"I think we came on leaps and bounds. It was disappointing to finish on a down note against South Africa as you don't get to put it right straight away and you have to dwell on it for a few months."

"But our approach to the game has changed, in a good way, and



**▶ "WE ARE IN A GOOD SPOT BUT WE'VE GOT TO GAIN MOMENTUM FROM HERE ON IN RATHER THAN LOSE IT. AND, IF THINGS GO OUR WAY OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, WE'LL BE SET UP NICELY FOR A TOP 4 PUSH."**

his club.

2010-11, on the other hand, has got off to a far better start for the Otley born World Cup winner although you wouldn't blame him at all for avoiding crossing black cats or walking under ladders.

As Gloucester Rugby kick off their 2011 home fixture calendar at Kingsholm today against the Exeter Chiefs, he and the side are handily placed in all three competitions?

"Definitely. We obviously knew the five week period with Northampton, Leeds and Exeter coming up would really shape where we are in the Premiership. It was disappointing to lose out before Christmas against La Rochelle because our European destiny was in our own hands."

"Ideally, we wanted to bounce back from that straightaway and Northampton in front of our own supporters would have been perfect but the weather put paid to that."

"We are in a good spot but we've

started to turn it around, you want to be part of that improvement."

"It's been great this year to have been available for selection on a regular basis and to see the boys growing as a squad."

"I think we perhaps haven't attacked as well as we know we're capable of but, in terms of what the team is all about and how we represent ourselves on the pitch, it's been outstanding."

Having shared captaincy duties with Gareth Delve last season, the Welshman's departure for the Melbourne Rebels has seen Tindall take on the mantle on his own this time around but he insists that his approach hasn't changed.

"The idea with Delve and myself last year was that, if I was away with England, he should be around and vice versa if he was called up by Wales. We wanted to always have someone to be around to be that head guy."

"Naz (Luke Narryway) has stepped up to the plate in terms of what he's needed to be when it's been required

if we can stick to that and keep improving then we'll hopefully have a good Six Nations and build up to the World Cup."

The period leading up to Christmas was a tough one for everyone at the club following the sad passing of Tom Walkinshaw and Tindall was quick to pay tribute.


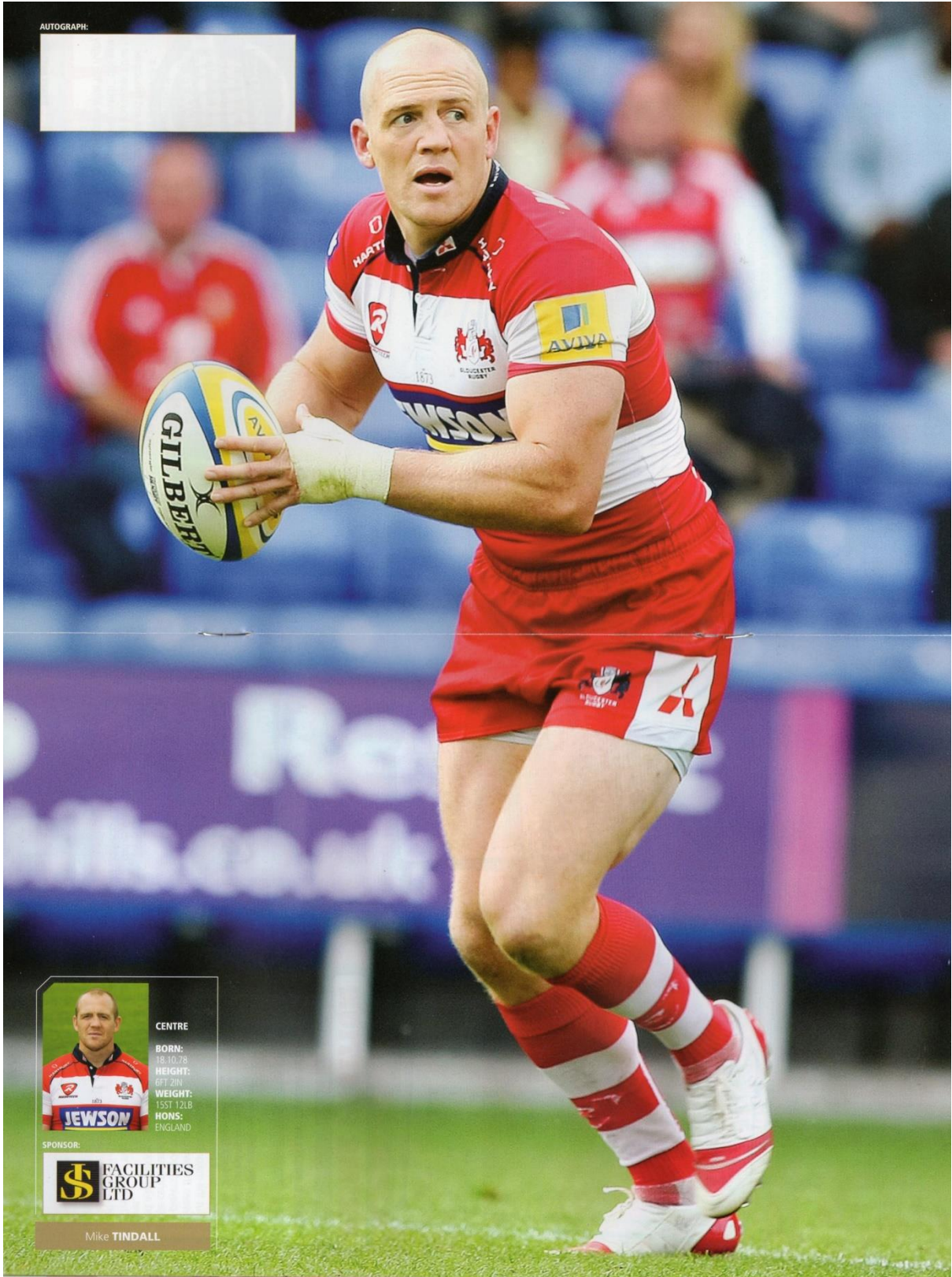
"He was outstanding for the club in everything he's done. It takes passion to be involved with a rugby club and be involved as much as he wanted to be."

"Whatever he took on, he did so with passion and that was the same here at Gloucester. He moved the club a long way forward and hopefully we can continue that progress and honour him in the best way possible by winning things."


2011 certainly looks to be a big one for Mike and Gloucester Rugby although you suspect that his biggest "personal match" this year may well take place after the rugby season finishes!



AUTOGRAPH:



**CENTRE**  
**BORN:** 18/10/78  
**HEIGHT:** 6FT 2IN  
**WEIGHT:** 155ST 12LB  
**HONS:** ENGLAND

**SPONSOR:**  
 **FACILITIES GROUP LTD**

Mike **TINDALL**



# Kingsholm News

with **Bob Fenton**



**SEEMS like last year since we were here – oh yeah, it was – a belated happy New Year to all our readers.**

Last time we were here we were suffering in the cold in more ways than one, hopefully today it is going to be a bit warmer.

I can't remember being at Kingsholm on a cold day like the La Rochelle fixture and huge congratulations must go to the ground staff and volunteers that made that game possible.

Driving – or should I say skidding - down to the ground, the temperature gauge in my car read 'too flipping cold to be outside'. But at least I got

to wear a coat while those on the pitch had to trundle around in those thin modern shirts and shorts. Bet they wished they had the old heavy cotton jerseys of the 70s and 80s!

But run around they did, though unfortunately not to much avail as the game went away from us pretty early on. It was just one of those nights when things didn't seem to click for us, maybe the occasion got to the players a bit but that's not to take anything away from La Rochelle who played a heck of a lot better than most people would have expected. Just goes to show that you can't take anything for granted.

The result all but ends our involvement in the competition. Of

course a set of freak results may mean we qualify though that is highly unlikely.

So we must accept that the real challenge for us now is to finish in a Heineken Cup spot for next season. And, with the top teams all capable of getting a result at pretty much any time, that is not going to be easy.

With all the cancellations and time off you would have thought that everyone would have been raring to go up at Leeds last week.

With a couple of games in hand and what should have been a routine away win (oh for the chance to think we could ever get routine away wins) it was a big chance to catapult



**“...I WAS CHATTING TO AN EX PLAYER THE OTHER DAY, HE TOLD ME THAT THE WORD FROM INSIDE THE CAMP IS THAT TEAM SPIRIT HAS NEVER BEEN BETTER...”**

ourselves back into the mix for a top four place. Didn't happen though, did it...

Actually I have a theory that we let Leeds win, all part of a cunning plan to get Newcastle relegated so we don't have to trek all the way up there on a Sunday every season.

I may be deluded or clutching at straws – or even both – but surely there must be a reason why we gifted a side, that had not won a game all season, the points.

Unfortunately our away from home fragility caught up with us again, though if you saw the picture that one of the guys posted on Twitter (wonder how he managed to take that while he was playing?) it seems we were undone by a dubious try. Such is life – swings and roundabouts and all that.

And talking of roundabouts, let's hope we are able to exact a bit of revenge on today's opponents, Exeter Chiefs, for the sound beating they gave us down at their place in the first game of the season.

At the time that result was seen as something of a shock result. Bearing in mind some of the Chiefs performances through the first half of the season, they are making a bit of a habit of shocking people.

With five wins under their belts the team that many predicted would be heading south into Division One come May have been proved wrong. Already their place in the top flight seems assured for next season, so huge credit must go to the players

and staff who have done so well not only to get up, but also to stay up.

They've done it with a huge amount of team spirit – no huge signings or big name superstars, just everyone working for each other.

I've probably jinxed them now and they'll crash and burn. Hope not – well apart from today - as I enjoyed my trip down to Exeter, and am looking forward to heading back next season.

Far better to go somewhere like that than the soulless dumps like the Mad Stad or the worst rugby venue in the whole wide world - Watford.

While many clubs are seeming still intent on raiding here there and everywhere to sign big name players, clubs like ourselves, Exeter and to a point Northampton are going about things a bit differently and are developing our own conveyor belt from the academy through to the first team.

I don't know what today's team is going to look like, but I'm prepared to gamble 50p or so to say that more than a handful will have come up through the ranks.

These are guys we have seen in the 'A' team on a Monday night (just behind Face and Mr T in the helicopter) and to me this is far more exciting than waving a cheque book around and dragging in a few people from south of the equator.

We've gone through the mega-star signing bit with varying degrees of success and are now building much more of a team.

In fact I was chatting to an ex player the other day, he told me that the word from inside the camp is that team spirit has never been better, that the players really buy in to what Bryan Redpath and co are trying to achieve, and that we really are a team – not a group of players who come together on a match day, but a proper collective unit.

Saint Philippe Andre would be very proud.





# GL13AX Gloucester Talk with Peter Arnold

## THE SHARP END

**W**e really are up the sharp end today. This game was always going to be important because we have a point to prove after sadly underestimating Exeter in the first game of the season. However, the frozen off matches combined with the debacle up at Leeds, means we badly need the points.

We must also admit that Gloucester have not exactly been firing on all cylinders over the last two games, and that has to be rectified somehow.

In spite of all that, many of us have an affection for Exeter, and it's good to see them back after a good many years. Of course, they're not the same team as the one which used to come right at the end of the season, and gave a chance for some United players to strut their stuff.

If I remember rightly, it was a visit of Exeter which saw one of the most affecting moments I have seen at Kingsholm.

We had just won the Cup, and



the team, led by the captain, John Watkins, paraded the silverware around the ground. A few days previously, Mike Burton had announced that he was to retire at the end of the season.

As the parade passed the stand, John handed the Cup to 'Burto' to raise to the crowd. He did that, returned the Cup to the captain, and then that big, tough warrior

who struck fear into the hearts of prop forwards throughout the known world, quite unashamedly, wept. It was one of the most moving moments I have ever experienced.

There was also the game where we scored 17 tries against Exeter, and managed to convert just one of them.

We don't expect that many today. Four will do nicely, thank you.

## KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

**I** had intended this piece for the postponed Boxing Day match against Northampton.

However, with the very welcome news that there is to be a memorial service for Tom Walkinshaw at the Cathedral on February 4th, I thought it worth resurrecting, albeit a little late. I hope you approve.

The tradition of fathers and sons

doing their bit for Gloucester is probably as old as the club itself.

Between the wars there were Arthur and Gordon Hudson who had the distinction of both scoring four tries in a single international match. Oddly, as far as I know, neither of them ever played for England again.

Closer to living memory, there were Dick and Ian Smith, both considerable flankers, although

I have seen Dick making a very reasonable fist of turning out in the centre.

Ian, of course had a distinguished international career playing for Scotland, which bemused Dick because he could have played for them too in an era when the Scottish selectors would have given their right arms for a wing forward of Dick's class. They are Gloucester's



only example of father and son Barbarians.

We nearly had another. John Fidler was a BaaBaa but his son Rob managed to get himself injured just as he was about to play for that prestigious club.

Now we have another father and son combination of an entirely different kind. We were all delighted to hear that Ryan Walkinshaw is to join the Board of the club, following in the footsteps of his sadly departed father, Tom.

They tell me that Ryan has already worked in all departments of the club, so should fit right in. He also has a brother who is just as keen on the game as he is, so the connection is strong.

**“We were all delighted to hear that Ryan Walkinshaw is to join the Board of the club, following in the footsteps of his sadly departed father, Tom.”**

I was impressed with the speed with which Ryan leaped in to squash any rumours that his family meant to sell their shares in Gloucester Rugby, and reiterated their strong commitment to the club.

Personally, I never doubted it for a moment.



## UNEDIFYING



**I**t seems an awful long time since we had a home game and we don't particularly want to remember the last one, not least because of the temperatures involved.

I can only think of one occasion

when a Kingsholm match was played in anything approaching the cold conditions which prevailed at the La Rochelle game.

That was for a game against London Scottish on one New Year's Day. I can't even remember who won,

only that it was cold enough to freeze the ballcocks off a brass cistern.

However, I don't think it can have been quite as cold as on December 19th. Even the TV commentators' water froze in their bottles while they were covering the match. It made me shiver just to watch, and I was sitting in my nice, warm living room behind a glass of Scotch!

Personally, I thought that the game was a pretty unedifying spectacle. Whether there was some niggles left over from the week before, I don't know, but there seems to have been a lot going on, both on and off the ball, which isn't actually covered by the laws of the game.

I'm not pointing any fingers, but three yellow cards and a red one, all awarded to La Rochelle players, must indicate something. Why, even Ollie Azam got involved in a spot of fisticuffs as soon as he came on, and we all know what a shy, retiring soul he is.

Fair play to the Frenchmen, though. Even when they were down to thirteen men for quite a long period, we only managed to breach their defence once.

We lost, and that's never a good thing. However, I always think that a ground record is a mixed blessing. It can become a bit of a millstone, and leave the side trying to defend it at all costs, which doesn't make for good rugby.





LA ROCHELLE	6
GLOUCESTER RUGBY	13

**G**loucester entered round 3 of the Amlin Challenge Cup knowing that only a win would keep their competition hopes alive.

La Rochelle were two from two following the opening two rounds whereas Gloucester had dropped their opening fixture, away in Agen.

So, with this game representing the first in the usual double header at this stage of the competition, a win would bring Bryan Redpath's side well and truly into the mix in pool 5 whereas a defeat would effectively end their hopes.

And it turned out to be a case of job done on an evening when there was never going to be an opportunity to play champagne rugby.

It was a night for digging in deep. A night for discipline and strong defence. A night for silencing the



home crowd and taking the chances that come your way.

Gloucester ticked all the above boxes and did so with some

professionalism.

From the off, it was apparent that La Rochelle wanted to force the pace and drive Gloucester onto



## KEY MOMENT



### TRY Simpson-Daniel

Without a doubt, James Simpson-Daniel's try, the only one of the game. Gloucester had soaked up a lot of pressure but moved downfield to perfectly execute a move straight off the training ground and take a lead that they would never relinquish.

**"THERE'S BEEN TALK ABOUT US NOT BEING COMPETITIVE AWAY FROM HOME BUT I THINK WE WERE SOLID TODAY WHICH ENABLED US TO GO ON AND WIN."**



the back foot. Much of their play revolved around the muscular Fijian Seru Rabeni who abandoned any thought of passing the ball, opting instead to lower his head and smash into the nearest Cherry and White shirt.

Gloucester soaked up the pressure with the home side enjoying a clear advantage in terms of territory and possession. However, crucially, all they could muster on the scoreboard was a solitary penalty.

Having absorbed all that La Rochelle could throw at them, Gloucester then seized their moment magnificently. A lineout

in the home 22 was driven infield before Luke Narryway spun off the maul and found James Simpson-Daniel with a neat inside pass. The winger did the rest.

It stunned the crowd and, one of two nervy moments apart, La Rochelle simply didn't have the firepower to fight back.

The remainder of the game was played on Gloucester's terms. The first up defence was immense and the tactical kicking game saw much of the second half played in the La Rochelle half.

Two penalties from Freddie Burns extended the lead before Dambielle clawed the home side back within losing bonus point range.

A late flurry from La Rochelle had to be withstood as desperation overcame the home side as they saw the game slipping away but a crucial scrum taken against the head sealed the deal.

Gloucester now lie second in the table, one point behind La Rochelle, with the return fixture today here at Kingsholm.

With Agen still to come here and a trip to Rovigo early next year, Gloucester's destiny is now in their own hands.

## THE LINE UPS



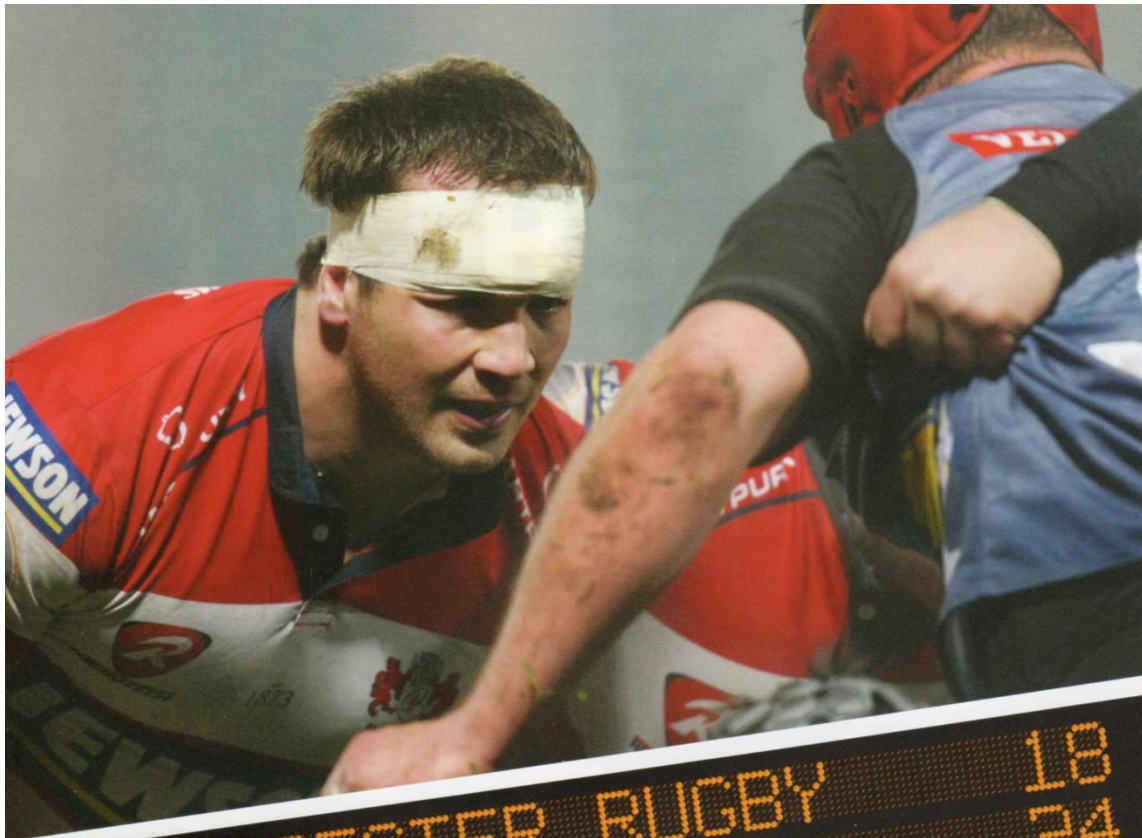
### LA ROCHELLE

15. Benjamin Dambielle
14. Thomas Combezou
13. Seru Rabeni
12. Vincent Roux
11. Maxime Le Bourhis
10. Greg Goosen
9. Damien Neveu
1. Romain Frou
2. Andres Bordoy
3. Tamato Leupolu
4. Piula Fa'asalele
5. Jacobus Grobler
6. Quentin D'Aram de Valada
7. Peio Som
8. Romain Carmignani
16. Stéphane Clement
17. Alexandre Bares
18. Jonathan Garcia
19. Robert Mohr
20. Franck Jacob
21. Florian Ninard
22. Guillaume Devade
23. Remi Tales

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Olly Morgan
14. James Simpson-Daniel
13. Mike Tindall
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
11. Lesley Vainikolo
10. Nicky Robinson
9. Rory Lawson
1. Nick Wood
2. Olivier Azam
3. Paul Doran-Jones
4. Will James
5. David Attwood
6. Peter Buxton
7. Andy Hazell
8. Luke Narryway
16. Scott Lawson
17. Yann Thomas
18. Pierre Capdevielle
19. Alex Brown
20. Akapusi Qera
21. Dave Lewis
22. Freddie Burns
23. Charlie Sharples



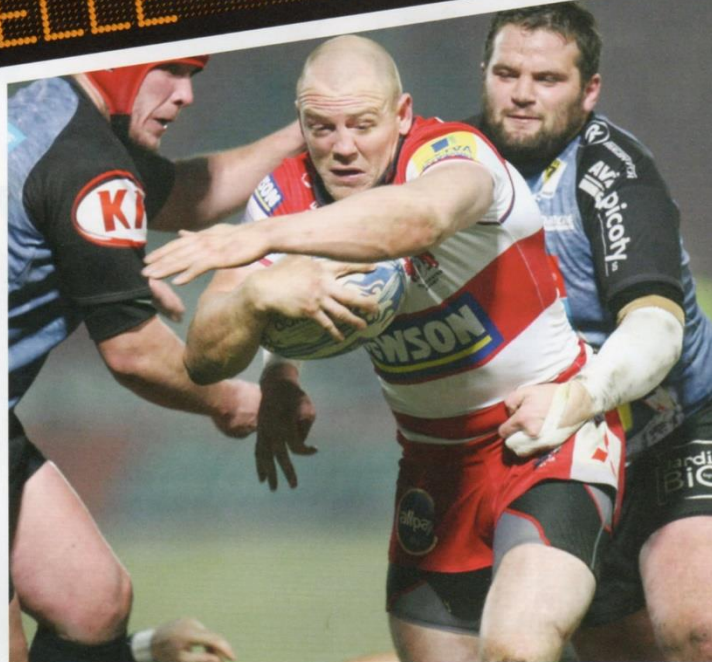


**T**he scene was all set for Gloucester to take an iron grip on pool 5 of the Amlin Challenge Cup on Sunday evening but La Rochelle hadn't read the script and left for France having pilfered the win.

The fact that the game even took place was miraculous given the Arctic conditions in the Gloucester area recently. Despite the presence of the famed dome, the game only proceeded after numerous pitch inspections.

La Rochelle were decent enough. They defended with spirit, so much spirit that referee Hodges awarded four yellow cards. They also kicked the majority of their goals and pounced on the couple of chances that came their way.

Gloucester, on the other hand, were probably their own worst enemies. They enjoyed the majority



of possession and territory but, time and again, turned over possession when a bit more composure would have resulted in a score.

It completely undid the good work done in Western France last weekend when Bryan Redpath's side won the reverse fixture and leaves



## KEY MOMENT



After a difficult first 40 minutes, Gloucester would probably have taken an 8-13 deficit at the break but La Rochelle prop Jonathan Garcia's try on the stroke of half time was a body blow.



Gloucester's chances of progression hanging by a thread.

After initially dominating, Gloucester were stunned when Thomas Soucaze opened the

**"I THINK FIRST HALF DEFENSIVELY WE WERE VERY POOR. WE MADE SOME REASONABLE HITS AND THEN FELL OFF IN GENERAL, WE DIDN'T GET MUCH LUCK. I THOUGHT THEY DEFENDED VERY WELL EVEN WITH ONLY 13 OR 14 MEN."**



scoring and it took a while to settle thereafter.

Robinson and Dambielle traded penalties and, when Lesley Vainikolo scored in the corner on the half hour, Gloucester looked to be over the worst.

However, prop Jonathan Garcia scored a morale sapping blow on the verge of half time and Dambielle's boot just kept the French side clear despite Gloucester's best efforts.

Vainikolo crossed for a second score as La Rochelle did anything within their power, but not necessarily within the letter of the law, to keep Gloucester at bay.

Freddie Burns dived over for Gloucester's third try and, even allowing for a crippling error count, an unlikely comeback win looked to be on the cards as Gloucester poured forward in the final few minutes.

Perhaps given 10 minutes more, the winning score would have come, who knows? But La Rochelle hung on for a famous victory and Gloucester were denied the win that they so desperately craved to honour the memory of late Chairman Tom Walkinshaw.

## THE LINE UPS



### GLoucester Rugby

15. Freddie Burns
14. Charlie Sharples
13. Mike Tindall
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapulu
11. Lesley Vainikolo
10. Nicky Robinson
9. Rory Lawson
1. Nick Wood
2. Scott Lawson
3. Paul Doran-Jones
4. Dave Attwood
5. Alex Brown
6. Brett Deacon
7. Akapusi Qera
8. Luke Narraway

16. Olivier Azam
17. Yann Thomas
18. Pierre Capdevielle
19. Will James
20. Peter Buxton
21. Dave Lewis
22. Jonny May
23. Tom Voyce

### LA ROCHELLE

15. Benjamin Dambielle
14. Maxime Lebourhis
13. Thomas Combezou
12. Vincent Roux
11. Florian Ninard
10. Romain Lacoste
9. Damien Neveu
1. Petrisor Toderasc
2. Andres Bordoy
3. Jonathan Garcia
4. Robert Mohr
5. Cobus Grobler
6. Quentin D'Aram
7. Romain Carmignani
8. Thomas Soucaze
16. Stephane Clement
17. Alexandre Bares
18. Tamato Leopolu
19. Piula Faasalele
20. Franck Jacob
21. Sebastien Boboul
22. Manoel Dall'igna
23. Pierre Som



VS. EXETER CHIEFS // 08.01.11

# TODAY'S LINE-UPS

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 0-3 T OLLY MORGAN
- 3-3 T JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL
- 8-3 MIKE TINDALL (C)
- 15-3 ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU
- 18-6 T SHARPLES  
LESLEY VAINIKOLO
- 25-6 PCFC  
FREDDIE BURNS
- 25-11 T RORY LAWSON
- 30-11 NICK WOOD
- 30-18 SCOTT LAWSON
- 37-18 PAUL DORAN-JONES
- 37-23 WILL JAMES
- ALEX BROWN
- PETER BUXTON
- ANDY HAZELL
- LUKE NARRAWAY
- OLIVIER AZAM
- YANN THOMAS
- PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE
- ALASDAIR STROKOSCH
- T AKAPUSI QERA
- DAVE LEWIS
- C TAYLOR NICKY ROBINSON
- TIM MOLENAAR

- 15 LUKE ARSCOTT
- FULLBACK
- 14 NIC SESTARET
- WING
- 13 JASON SHOEMARK
- CENTRE
- 12 SERELI NAQELEVUKI
- CENTRE
- 11 MARK FOSTER
- WING
- 10 RYAN DAVIS SEZNSON
- FLY-HALF
- 9 HAYDN THOMAS
- SCRUM-HALF
- 1 BRETT STURGESS
- PROP
- 2 CHRIS WHITEHEAD
- HOKKER
- 3 CHRIS BUDGEN TUI
- PROP
- 4 TOM HAYES (C)
- LOCK
- 5 JAMES HANKS
- LOCK
- 6 TOM JOHNSON T
- FLANKER
- 7 JAMES SCAYSBROOK
- FLANKER
- 8 RICHARD BAXTER
- NO.8
- 16 SIMON ALCOTT
- 17 BEN MOON
- 18 HOANI TUI
- 19 DAVE GANNON
- 20 DAVE EWERS
- 21 JUNIOR POLULEULIGAGA
- 22 GARETH STEENSON
- 23 PHIL DOLLMAN

## EXETER CHIEFS

### MATCH SCORE

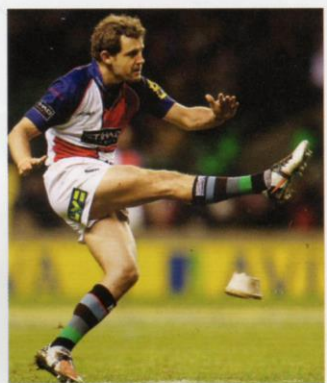
GLOUCESTER RUGBY	
VS	
EXETER CHIEFS	

REFEREE: Martin Fox  
ASST REFEREES: Rhys Davies and Andrew Watson

### THE STATS THAT MATTER

#### TOP POINTS SCORERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
NICK EVANS*	167
RYAN LAMB	136
DAVE WALDER	119
JIMMY GOPPERTH	103
NICK MACLEOD	88



#### TOP TRY SCORERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
TOPSY OJO*	7
TOM VARNDELL	6
SCOTT HAMILTON	6
SOANE TONGA'UIHA	5
SCHALK BRITS	5

