



INSIDE...

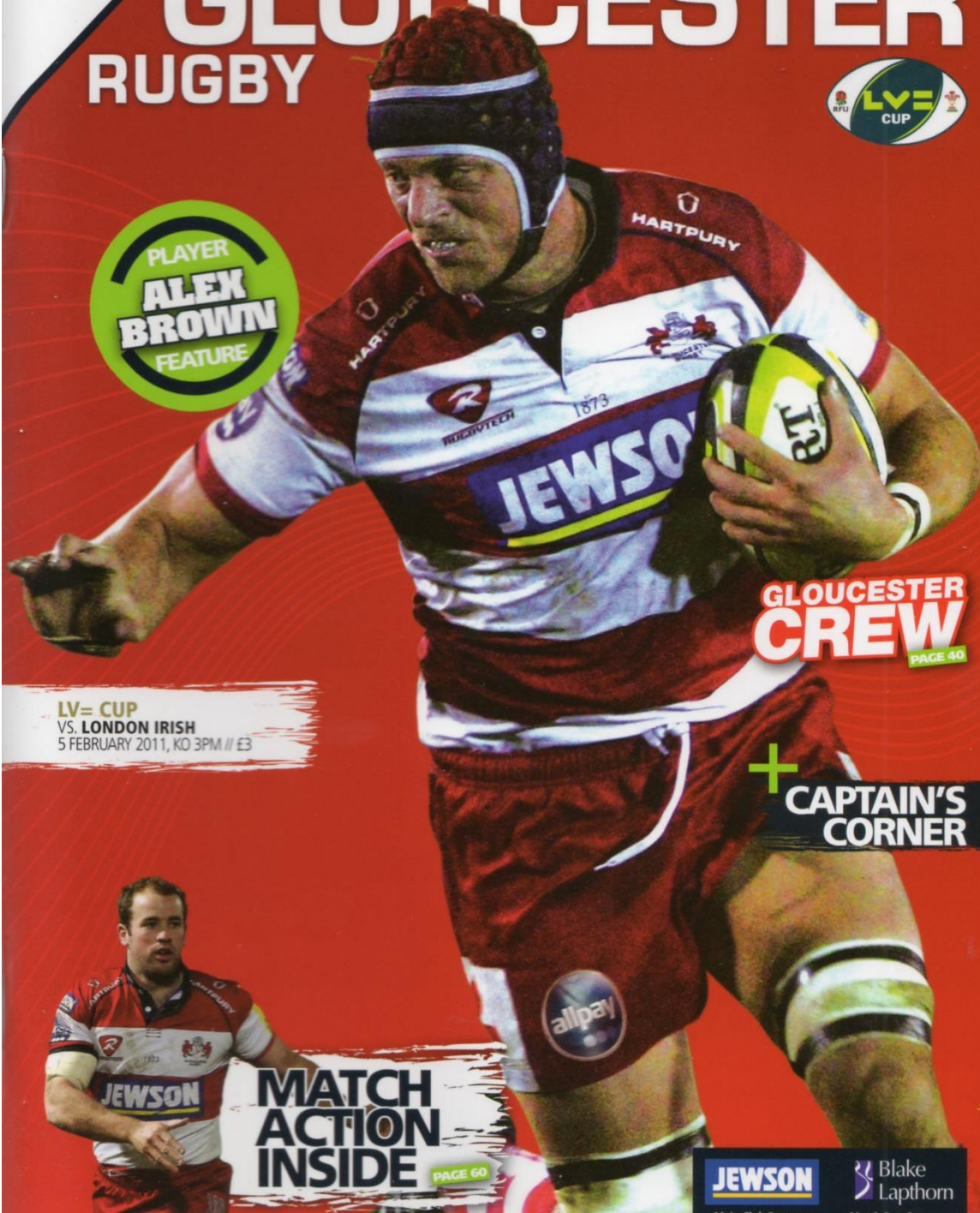
Club News › Player poster › Opposition feature › Kingsholm Hospitality

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



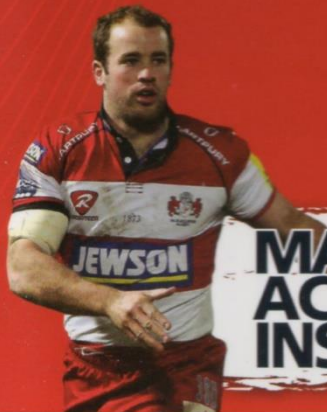
PLAYER
ALEX BROWN
FEATURE



GLOUCESTER CREW
PAGE 40

LV= CUP
VS. LONDON IRISH
5 FEBRUARY 2011, KO 3PM // £3

+ CAPTAIN'S CORNER



MATCH ACTION INSIDE
PAGE 60

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PLUS...

RUGBY NEWS, ACADEMY, BRYAN REDPATH & COMMUNITY NEWS

MIKE TINDALL

Captain's Corner



Another busy couple of weeks in the world of Gloucester Rugby!

Since we last played here, against Agen in the Amlin Challenge Cup, a lot's been going on around the club and it's been positive stuff.

Winning last weekend up at Leeds means that we've now won four in a row for the first time this season and you can imagine the lift that sort of form gives everyone around the club.

You'll often hear people in sport saying it, but winning does become a habit and stringing together a run of decent performances does wonders for morale.

We've also been putting in some good performances. Obviously everyone was bitterly disappointed that we bowed out of the Amlin Challenge Cup following the Agen game. However, we did show what we're capable of on the evening.

The most frustrating aspect of our European challenge this year is that we really feel that we let it slip. We lost down in Agen when we held a 13-3 lead at half time then took things back into our own hands by winning in La Rochelle only to slip up at Kingsholm the following weekend against the same opposition.

We've only ourselves to blame and we're well aware of that. However, we have to learn from it and move on. There's no point in pondering on what might have been.

And last weekend's win up in Leeds was another step forward for us. Say what you like, winning up in Leeds is never easy – we found that out for ourselves on New Year's Day.

They had a team out that didn't differ that much from the side that beat us whereas we had to make a number of changes for

obvious reasons.

So, I was delighted with the attitude and commitment of the boys up at Headingley. They started well, absorbed what Leeds had to throw at them and kept the line intact at crucial times before clinching the win late on.

It puts us in a good position with regard to the pool standings. The maths are simple – win and we make the semi finals.

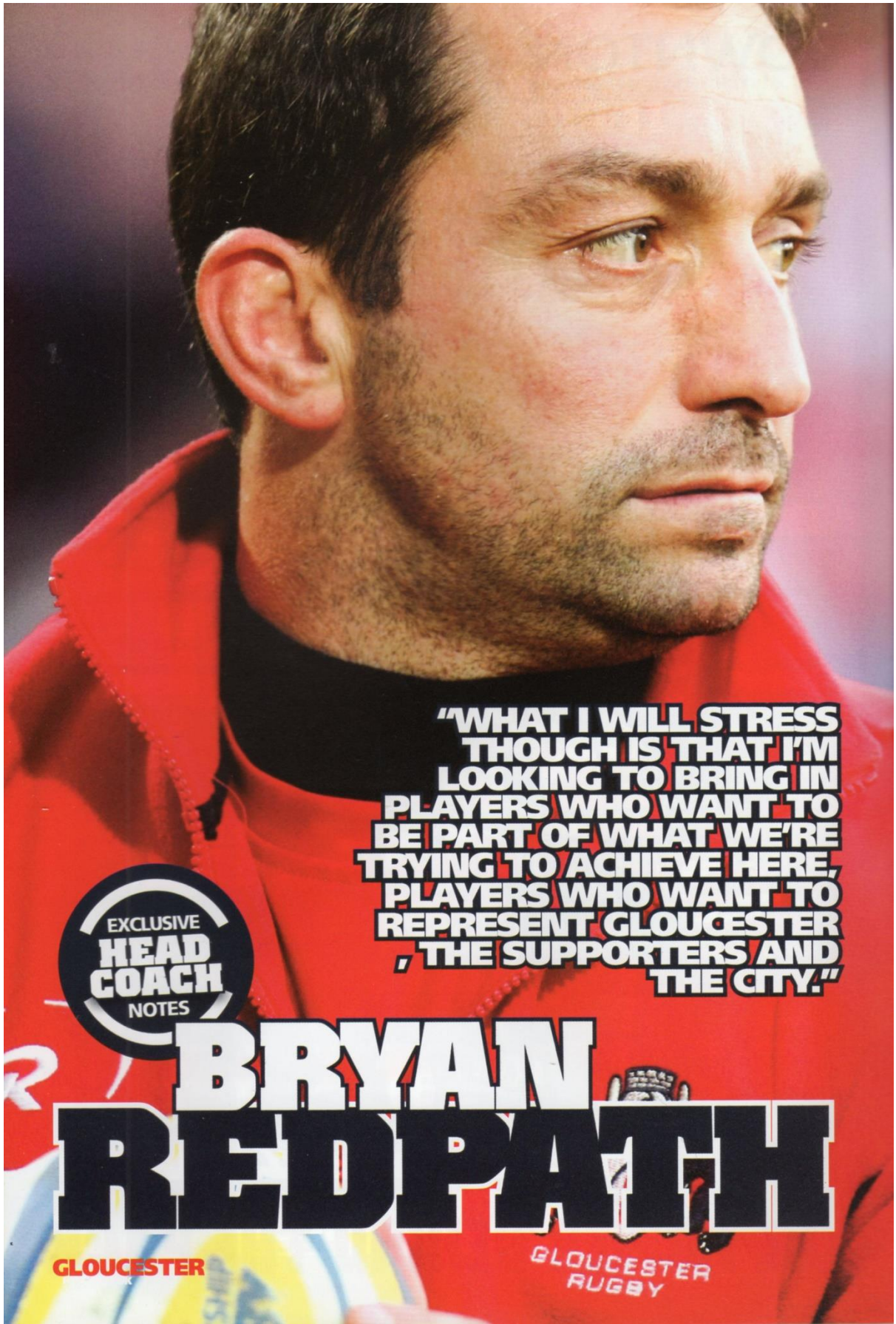
I know the LV= Cup generates a lot of debate around the game but I can assure you that when it comes to the semi final and final stages, you'd much rather be in it than watching at home on TV!

We're taking absolutely nothing for granted today against an always tough Irish side but it'd be great to make the knockout stages.

Enjoy the game!

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**"WHAT I WILL STRESS
THOUGH IS THAT I'M
LOOKING TO BRING IN
PLAYERS WHO WANT TO
BE PART OF WHAT WE'RE
TRYING TO ACHIEVE HERE,
PLAYERS WHO WANT TO
REPRESENT GLOUCESTER
, THE SUPPORTERS AND
THE CITY."**

**EXCLUSIVE
HEAD
COACH
NOTES**

BRYAN REDPATH

GLOUCESTER

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

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

Another day and another big game for Gloucester Rugby – they seem to come thick and fast at the moment!

At least things are a little bit simpler this season in terms of what it will take in order to make the LV= Cup semi finals.

A year ago, we travelled up to Harlequins on the Saturday afternoon, receiving text updates about what was happening in West Wales. We needed the Cardiff Blues to beat the Scarlets for us to have any chance of going through. And they did.

Then we needed a bonus point win at the Stoop to top the group. And, when we trailed 20-0 after 24 minutes, things weren't looking too clever!

What followed was one of the more memorable comebacks that I've been involved in during my time in rugby as Tom Voyce eventually got the crucial try with the last move of the game and Tim Taylor showed nerves of steel to slot the conversion and earn the win.

This time around, it's a little bit easier to get your head around. We're two points clear of Sale Sharks and the Scarlets in our pool so a win of any kind will take us through to the semi finals.

And I say it virtually every week but it won't be easy this afternoon. London Irish are a very good opponent, in any competition at any time of the year.

They've had a curious season. They started well including beating us at the Madejski but then they had a losing streak which was bizarre for a team of their quality.

However, they've bounced back in the past couple of weeks

and any side that is capable of beating the Ospreys and Northampton Saints has to be respected.

And, as things stand as I write these notes, they can still win their own group so we're not expecting any favours at all from them!

Focussing on ourselves for a moment, we've had a good couple of weeks. We entered the Agen game knowing, in our heart of hearts, that even a win was probably not going to be enough with us needing Rovigo to do us a favour in La Rochelle.

So, I was delighted with the way we set about the task in hand. We didn't allow the worries about the weather conditions to affect us and we were professional and clinical on the pitch.

Agen were a huge side yet we matched them physically and scored some very good tries on

threw at us until they scored their try pretty much from nothing.

But we responded well and closed out the win efficiently when it could have been a nervous final 10 minutes. I was delighted to head home with the five points.

Off the field it's been pretty hectic as well as we've been working hard to get as many players re-signed as possible.

It's meant that it's been a busy time for me personally but I'm delighted that the likes of Jonny May, Andy Hazell, Alex Brown, James Simpson-Daniel and Dave Lewis have all committed to the club

We're still working on some and it's only when that process is complete that we can move on to bringing in people from outside of the club.

Contrary to what you may have read in the paper, it's early days on that front – if we sign every player we're linked with, we'll have



the way to a pleasing win.

Leeds last week was a different type of performance and, of course, we had a very different looking side out.

We managed to put aside the fact that we'd lost at Headingley in the Premiership only a few weeks ago and tried to focus on the job in hand.

It was an opportunity for a number of players who haven't had as much game time as they probably would have liked to come in and show me what they're all about and what they can do at this level.

And, to be fair, they didn't let me down. We started well and we finished well. We had a quiet middle third but we looked pretty comfortable handling what they

a squad of about 60 players next season!

It's a work in progress and we'll make announcements when we're in a position to do so but only at a time when it's right for the player and the club.

What I will stress though is that I'm looking to bring in players who want to be part of what we're trying to achieve here, players who want to represent Gloucester, the supporters and the city.

For now, however, it's about taking care of business today. Qualifying for the LV= Cup semi finals is important to us but it's also about maintaining our momentum as we prepare to return to Premiership action next weekend.

Enjoy the game!

View from The Citizen

with Nick Purewal

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Alasdair Strokosch : It's personal, but not too personal.

It's personal for Alasdair Strokosch against London Irish – but not too personal.

The intimidating back-rower admits he still harbours anger from Gloucester's 23-16 September defeat in Reading – but he will not allow that to spill over into a revenge mission.

Strokosch proudly captained Gloucester for the first time at Leeds on Sunday, as the Cherry and Whites eased past their Headingley hosts 30-16.

A win over Irish at Kingsholm this afternoon, and Gloucester will jump into the LV=Cup semi-finals.

Some rugby circles put little stall by the Anglo Welsh competition, but Strokosch still feels the pinch of last year's final defeat to Northampton: and he defied anyone to talk it down on the day they lift the trophy.

Pledging to go all out to atone for that September Madejski Stadium defeat where the Irish pack got the better of Strokosch and Co, the 27-year-old said it is vital to balance old scores with clear heads.

The Scotland flanker explained: "I always take it very personally when we get outdone by another forward pack, by another set of individuals, so we'll definitely have that in the back of our minds.

"But we've got to ally that with clear thinking as well, and good execution.

"You need to find the balance between aggression and control, all out aggression does not pay off, you've got to harness it properly.

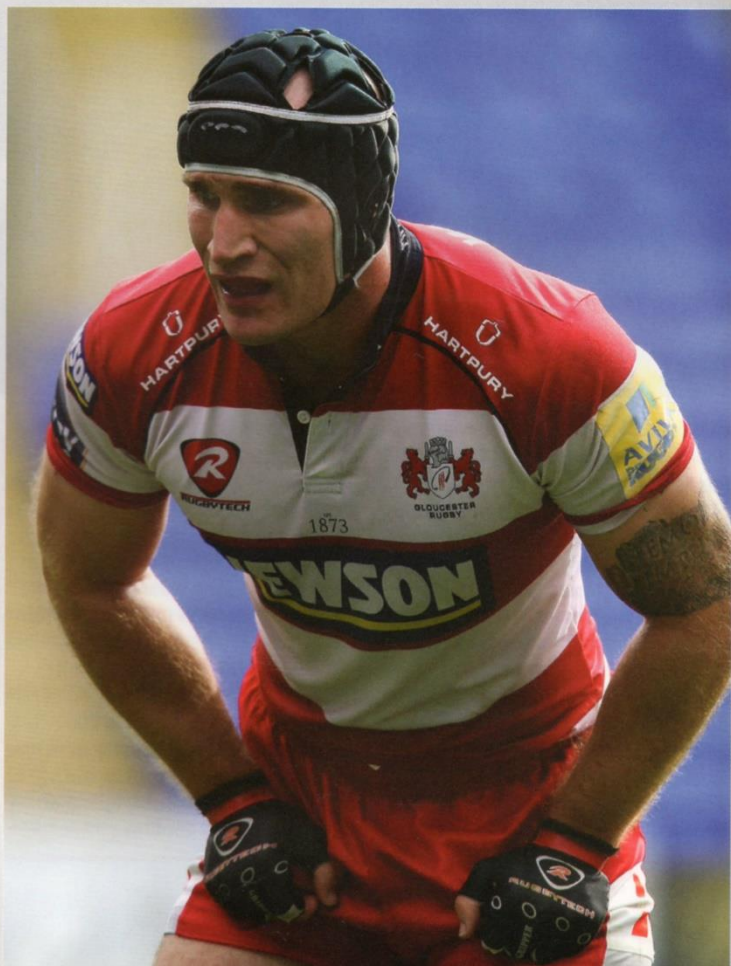
"And you can't go too far the other way, because then you end up lacking that cutting edge.

"I don't know why people give the competition a bad name, I think it's a great competition.

"We've done well in it over the years and obviously we reached the final in the last two seasons.

"People can talk all they want – but ask anyone clutching a winner's medal after a final if it's devalued or not."

Humbled to take the captain's armband for the first time at Leeds, the martial arts master said securing Gloucester's first four win streak of



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“We’ve got four on the bounce and that’s what we need, we’re full of confidence and looking forward to next week.”

the campaign must prove significant.

Challenging the squad to extend their impressive run, he said he is quickly getting back to prime form after his knee ligament injury lay off.

He continued: “It’s the first time I’ve captained Gloucester and I was really proud, but everyone else made my job very easy.

“We had a really good week, and prepared well, and that paid off, but our will to win during the

contest was very pleasing.

“We had a bit of a lull in the middle third but in the end we got all the tries we needed, for that important bonus point.

“We showed our character: when we come under pressure like that we need to keep responding the way we did on Sunday.

“We’ve got four on the bounce and that’s what we need, we’re full of confidence and looking

forward to next week.

“We’ve got good momentum, we’ll take that forward and progress with confidence.

“I feel like I’m getting there, that’s my second start after the injury, and I feel like I’m getting closer and closer to where I want to be.

“We’ve just got to maintain control through that middle third, once we get ahead we’ve got to keep structure and keep calm.”

When Alex Brown first turned up at Gloucester, he was a fresh faced second row forward who had made a name for a himself in a Bristol Shoguns side that had spent the previous season struggling, ultimately unsuccessfully, to avoid relegation from the Premiership.

Wind the clock on almost eight years and he's more than made his mark at Kingsholm. He's featured in well over 200 Gloucester Rugby matches, chalked up his 200th Premiership appearance, been capped by his country and won a deserved reputation as one of the finest lineout exponents in the modern era.

With the ink barely dry on a new two year contract with Gloucester, with the second year designated as a testimonial

used to train at Kingsholm, on the main pitch, and do our weights at various locations. In terms of professionalism, everything has stepped up massively."

"What hasn't changed though is the fantastic feelings you experience when you play for Gloucester. There's the awesome atmosphere from the Shed that everyone's aware of but simply playing at Kingsholm is a magnificent experience. The crowd is fantastic and always have been."

And, of course, there are the characters who help to make Gloucester the club that it is. Thinking back on some of the powerful personalities that have helped to shape his career, a bit of a forward theme develops.

"Chris Fortey, Deacs, Phil Vickey, Trevor Woodman, Junior Paramore. They were all a massive influence. Also backs like Terry Fanolua, Toddy, Ludo. The list could go on and on!"

"Dean, of course, was a huge part

we'd literally just run through a VHS tape."

"Now it's all on computers, with the benefit of slow motion and it's all cut up perfectly so you can focus on the areas relevant to you rather than trudge through the whole game."

There have been plenty of highlights to look back on over the past few years, one of the challenges is that there are so many to choose from.

"Winning the European Shield was a highlight. Winning anything is fantastic but even getting to finals is still a highlight. You obviously want to win but making the finals themselves is still an achievement and the occasions themselves are still memorable."

With his immediate future now secured following the announcement that he'd signed a new two contract last week and

"IT'S BEEN AMAZING REALLY. WE USED TO TRAIN AT KINGSHOLM, ON THE MAIN PITCH, AND DO OUR WEIGHTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS. IN TERMS OF PROFESSIONALISM, EVERYTHING HAS STEPPED UP MASSIVELY."

season, he confesses that he can barely remember the time he moved up the A38 to join the club.

"It was a long time ago and it had been a tricky time personally. Bristol had been relegated which was disappointing on a personal level."

"Things happened quickly. Bristol were relegated on the final day of the season and a lot of us had to find new clubs."

"It was quite an easy decision for me really. Gloucester were really starting to move in the right direction. They'd won the Zurich Championship and the Powergen Cup. It was obvious that Nigel (Melville) and Dean (Ryan) had them going places."

It may be less than eight years but the 6ft 7" lock is in a perfect position to reflect upon the myriad of changes that have occurred at the club in that time.

"It's been amazing really. We

of my career. We worked together down at Bristol and he was a major factor behind my decision to come to Gloucester as he moved up here the year before I came."

"I learned a lot from him but also from all of those other guys. I've tried to pick up bits and pieces from all of them to try and be the best player I could."

The role of the second row forward has certainly developed over the years. Watch a match from ten years ago on ESPN Classic and check out the battle that ensued at every lineout!

"It has changed hugely. Back then you used to throw the ball in, slap it back and hope for the best! It's so much more technical now. Far more analysis goes on, studying which options will work against certain teams, who are the weak and strong defenders, who to target etc."

"Analysis was just starting to get serious when I came on to the scene. In those days, however,

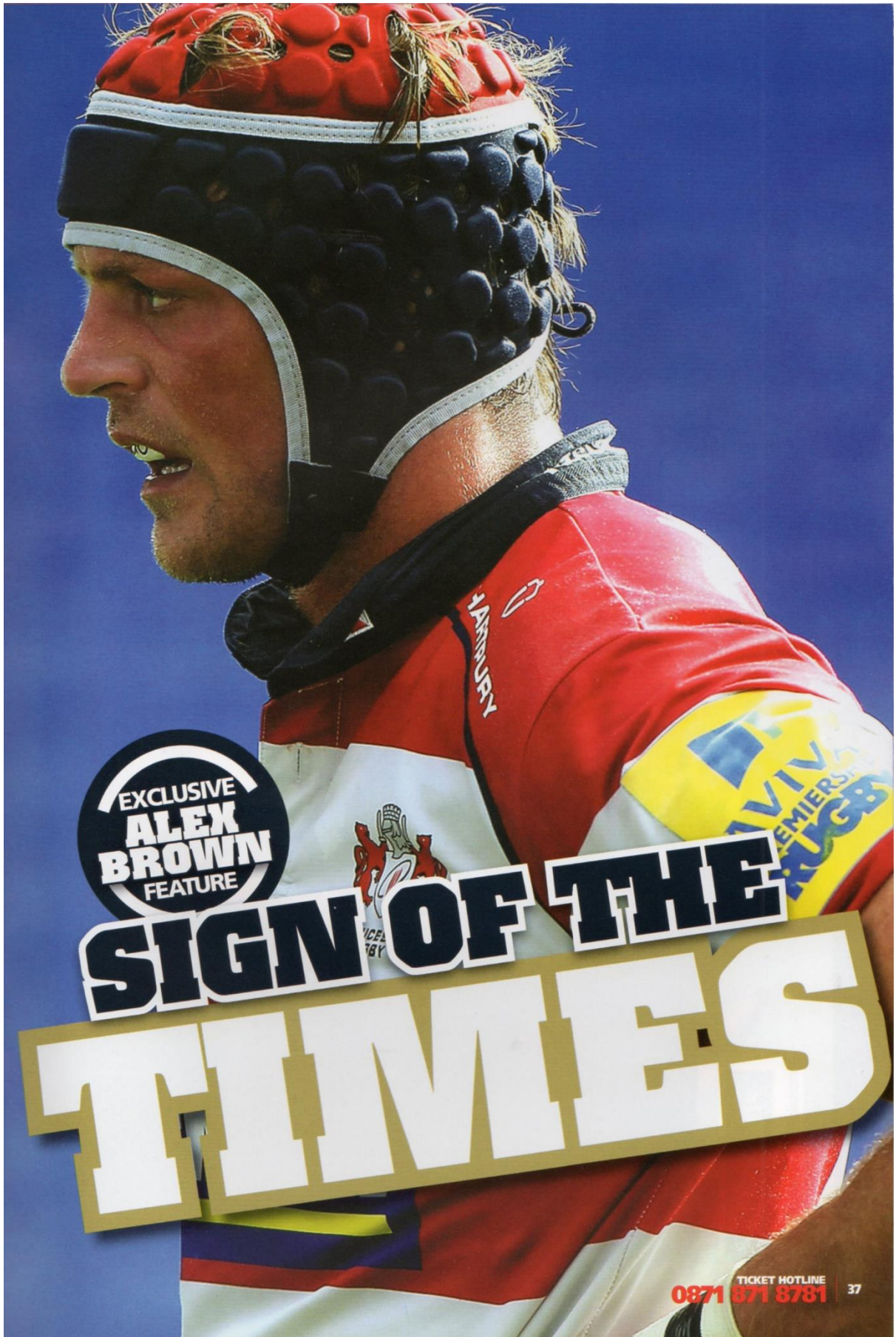
the prospect of a testimonial on the horizon, does he ever look at some of the younger faces in the dressing room and wonder where the time went?

"It keeps you young, that's for sure. Sometimes you try and think that you're still their age but you're not!"

"It's just gone so quickly. I talk to some of the guys in their mid twenties and, before you know it, they'll be at the same stage as me. The seasons just fly by."

It's been a magnificent Gloucester career to date but Brown is still looking forward as he insists that there is still so much more to achieve.

"We've got lots to play for this season and also in forthcoming seasons. I'd like to see us back in the Heineken Cup next year and doing ourselves justice in Europe but also pushing for a top four place in the Premiership this season."



EXCLUSIVE
**ALEX
BROWN**
FEATURE

SIGN OF THE TIMES

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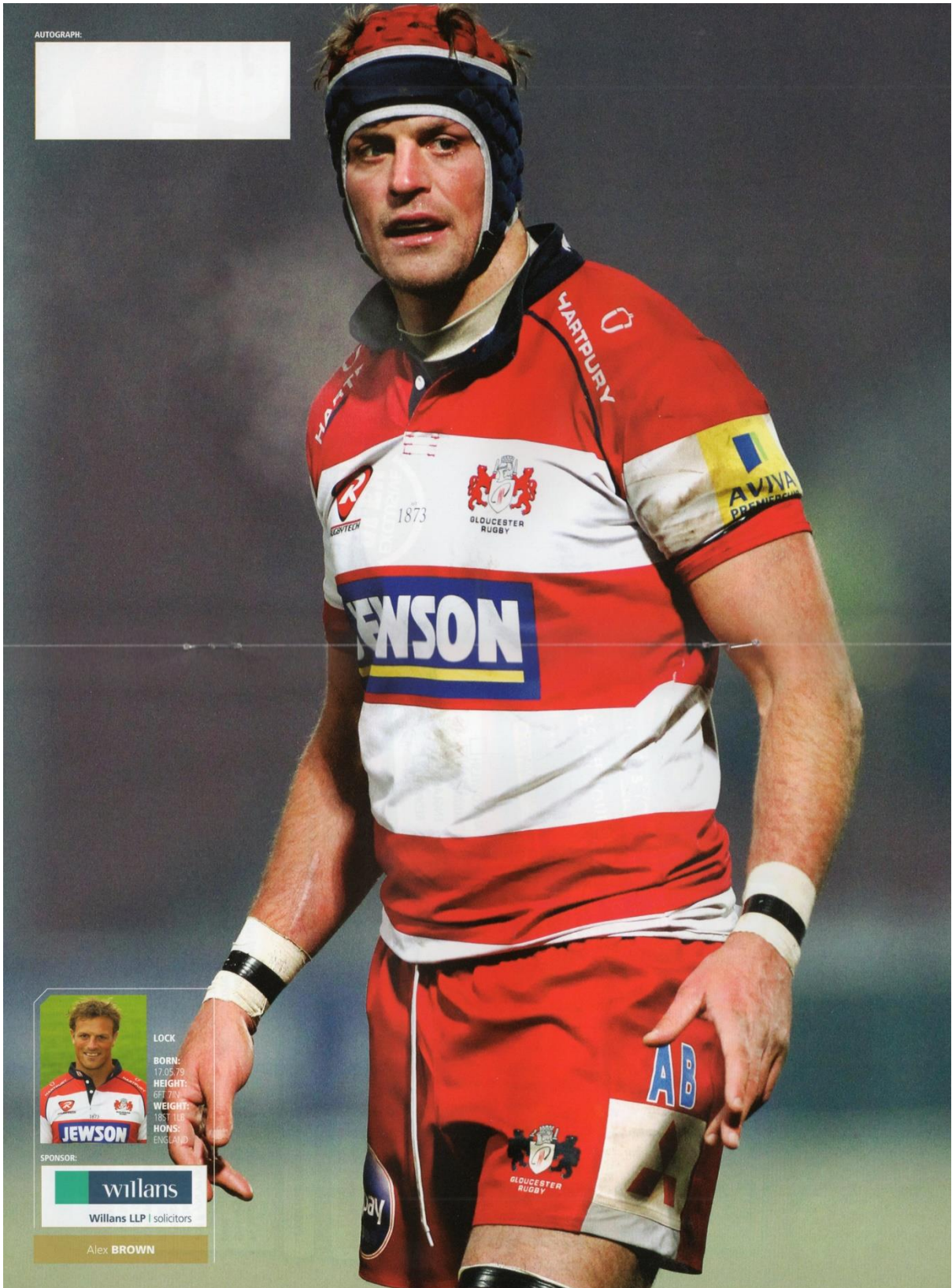


LOCK
BORN:
17.05.79
HEIGHT:
6FT 7IN
WEIGHT:
185 LBS
HONORS:
ENGLAND

SPONSOR:



Alex BROWN



Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton



SO here we are, back in the mind bendingly difficult to fathom out cup, or, just in case the sponsors are reading, the rather marvellous LV= Cup competition.

A good win at Leeds last weekend has, according to some pundits who have more functioning brains cells than I on a Sunday evening, claim that this puts us into the semi finals, and a win today will mean a home draw.

It is possible they are wrong, and a more careful pundit than I might be tempted to check these facts, but in the words of the esteemed gentleman who stands just behind me in The Shed says every time we miss a kick at goal 'that's close enough!'

GLoucester
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We welcome London Irish today, they've had a bit of a strange season so far this year. They were out of the blocks like a sprinter at the start of term but have now come down a bit faster than a fireman on a well oiled pole.

They got a morale boosting win last weekend against Northampton and will be keen to put one over on us ahead of the possible more important Premiership game in a few weeks time.

The carrot of a home semi-final fixture should be a good motivator for us though, and hopefully it'll be enough to see our guys home.

Last weekend I was confined to

barracks for reasons that are too boring to go into, but at least there was a bit of rugby on to keep me amused.

The England A game (hate that Saxons tag) was good, nice to see a trio of Gloucester players on the park and to see Sinbad ripping through the defences to score two tries. It would have been three had our old boy Marco Bortolami not managed to grab him just before the line.

I'm firmly in the camp that as one of the most creative players in the country Sinbad should be a shoe in for the proper international team let along the second string. Instead our esteemed coach seems to think he's better off with a couple of dreadnaughts on the wing.

I can't begin to understand how frustrating it must be for Sinbad when he sees some of the names getting onto the team sheet ahead of him. "What have I got to do???" must ring through his head



IT REALLY IS QUITE SILLY. LET'S HAVE SOME HONESTY – 'I'M HERE BECAUSE THEY GAVE ME A WHEELBARROW FULL OF CASH' – WOULD BE A FAR MORE BELIEVABLE COMMENT.

every time he looks at the paper. Sometimes there really is no justice.

Away from the pitch we're in the silly season of transfers and player movements. So far I think we've either offered contracts to, or signed about a hundred players and roughly 300 have left.

Every man in a pub knows someone who knows something. All of which are always nailed on. Or not.

Just eight days ago I was told by someone who knew someone in France that it was '...100 per cent certain...' that Sinbad was going to Toulon to hook up with Philippe. Except he didn't, he put pen to a new three year deal at the 'holm. Coming on the back of Andy Hazell and Alex Brown signing new contracts, that was the best news I have heard in ages. Hopefully a few more will do the same.

But players come and players go, that's the nature of the game now. And who can blame a young man if

he decides to jump ship in favour of another club that is prepared to offer three or four times as much as he earns now.

It's a profession, and a short one at that. So while loyalty may count for something in some quarters it's the cash that matters in others.

Perhaps, though, it'll put paid to the usually sycophantic comments that we get when some players sign for a new club. It's always their dream move, the club they have always wanted to play for; on top of that we get the slightly silly badge kissing.

Perhaps they would do well to remember comments made in the past like '...I'll never play for them...' and then whaddayaknow... money talks and playing for 'them' suddenly becomes a lifetime's ambition realised.

We're amateurs at that in our sport, in soccer they have been doing it for years. By my reckoning Robbie Keane, who has played for around 85 clubs has said the same thing every time he joins a new one.

It really is quite silly. Let's have some honesty – 'I'm here because they gave me a wheelbarrow full of cash' – would be a far more believable comment.

Enough about that, let's get on with today's game. Let's get that win and silence the intensely irritating London Irish drummers (by the way, note to whoever it was at Kingsholm who answered the phone to the guys from Exeter and said they were not allowed to bring their drums with them: thank you, thank you, thank



you... best decision EVER! Musical instruments have no place in sporting crowds).

Let's get the home semi final, let's win that. And then, just for a change, let's win the whole competition and enjoy a great day out in Cardiff.

Well I can dream, can't I?

GL13AX Gloucester Talk

with Peter Arnold

SCINTILLATING SINBAD



watched the England Saxons v. Italy A game on the telly last Saturday and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Of course, you can't say that the Italians provided the toughest opposition you've ever seen, but they were strong enough to enable the England second string to show what they can do.

You had to expect some rough edges because the players had only been together for four days before the match, so a 45 point win wasn't a bad return for their labours.

Three Gloucester players took part, and they all showed up well. Messrs Narroway and Morgan didn't play the

whole game, but both looked decided class and made telling contributions. And Simpson Daniel was – well - he was Sinbad.

But there was one rank injustice which needs to be mentioned. Chris Robshaw, who captained the side, was awarded the title of Man of the Match.

He certainly played very well and, on many another occasions, would have deserved the accolade, but this time round, his contribution was simply eclipsed by the wizardry of James Simpson Daniel.

Every time he got the ball, especially in the second half, there was trouble. He shredded the Italian defence at

will, left opponents standing, found holes which seemed to open up for him and generally made a confounded nuisance of himself.

Above all, he was always in the right place at the right time, and created chances for other people. Even by his standards, it was an eye-opening performance.

Ironically, both of his tries didn't leave him a lot to do, and both were created for him by Gloucester team mates.

First of all, Narroway had a good run and was bundled into touch by two or three defenders around ten metres from the line, if that. Only then did anyone, myself included, notice that he had smuggled the ball to Sinbad with the dexterity of a Forest of Dean poacher. James doesn't miss those, and almost strolled over.

His second try came courtesy of Olly Morgan. The full back made one of his familiar bursts and, when he looked blocked, gave Sinbad a perfect pass which gave him the chance to glide down the wing and into the corner.

The point about it was that Olly didn't even look. He kept his eyes firmly to the front, and then delivered his pass to where he just knew Sinbad would be. That's club understanding for you.

This isn't just an ardent Gloucester supporter talking. Everyone, without exception, who commented on the game during the TV interview slot, praised Sinbad's performance. The coach, Mr Lancaster, called him electric.

How he didn't get the match award, only the rugby gods and Stuart Barnes know.



TIME OF THE SIGNS

It was, of course, great news that Sinbad had signed on again. Not that I ever had much doubt about it. Even when I heard that he'd visited a couple of French clubs, I thought it was probably more an exercise in testing his market value than anything else, and you can't blame the guy for that.

After all, he's been here a long time now, and I imagine his roots are now running too deep for him to walk away easily. Anyway, it's difficult to imagine Kingsholm without Sinbad.

Another chap I didn't have any doubts about was Andrew Hazell. He's Gloucester through and through, and although I heard that French clubs were queuing up to sign him, I couldn't see such a thoroughgoing Elver Eater being tempted by a diet of snails and frogs' legs.

Talking about Chris Robshaw on the telly last Saturday, we were told that he had recently switched from No.6 to Number.7. "Oh" said one of the commentators. "Another six-and-a-half!"

It's a point. Andy Hazell is known throughout the land as a pure No.7, and there aren't many of those about. Martin Johnson please note.

Round here, we can't understand why he's only been awarded about half a dozen Caps. Quite simply, as the James Bond theme tune has it, 'Nobody Does It Better'. If there's one chap we certainly wouldn't want to lose, it's Andrew Hazell.

Another player we're delighted to retain is Alex Brown. The first time I saw him he was a young, green lock playing for Bristol. He didn't seem to carry much weight, and got knocked over a lot. But he was lively round the field, and leapt in the line-out like a

young Wye salmon.

When he came to Kingsholm and was, as Mike Burton would say, 'Gloucesterised', he rapidly became a real asset, and it cries out aloud that he should have more England Caps.

He's certainly as good as people occupying the lock positions at the moment. And now, unlike some I could mention, he has shown his loyalty by re-signing.

But, in some ways, the most gratifying signing is that of Jonny May. He, and a whole clutch of players around his age are Gloucester's future, and it's good that both he and the management seem to see it that way.

Did you notice that it was Thomas and Harden who started in the front row against Leeds? That must be our youngest pair of props since Deacon and Preedy.

Ones for the future....



RUGBY ROVIGO	06
GLOUCESTER RUGBY	55

La Rochelle's win on the road in Agen on the Thursday evening before this game rather put the boot into Gloucester's potential European challenge but the side maintained their focus and delivered a professional performance on the road to take home the points.

When the sides had met at Kingsholm earlier in the competition, the Italians had flown home shell shocked having been on the wrong end of a 90 point thumping. Nobody realistically expected a similar scoreline in the return fixture in Northern Italy but a comfortable win would have been the pre match target.

And the game was effectively in the bag within the half hour as Gloucester chalked up the try scoring bonus point against a spirited, but ultimately limited, Italian outfit.



KEY MOMENT



TRY 34mins Sharples

Charlie Sharples' try on 34 minutes clinched the bonus point and also put the game beyond Rovigo's reach.

"I'M VERY PLEASED. I THINK IT'S SUCH A DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENT TO COME TO. NOT A MASSIVE CROWD OVERALL BUT IT WAS GREAT TO SEE OVER A HUNDRED GLOUCESTER PEOPLE HERE. THEY'RE A CREDIT TO THE CLUB."



Henry Trinder got things going with two early tries, the first of which was rather gifted to him though as the Italian full back showed the turning speed of a small tanker in trying to deal with the centre's grubber kick through and Trinder needed no second invitation to pounce for one of the easier tries of his career.

Matt Cox and Charlie Sharples followed up with further scores to ease Gloucester clear with Bryan Redpath's side having far too much in the tank although they clearly only had to engage top gear on rare occasions.

When Sharples and Olly Morgan combined superbly at the beginning

of the second half for the fifth try, Gloucester were coasting and seemingly able to engage cruise control.

Credit to the Italians, they showed a lot of fight in the second half. There was little atmosphere in the ground and the announced crowd figure of 800 seemed to contain as many sporting Cherry and White as those wearing home colours.

But Rovigo dug deep and gave their followers something to cheer about as they conjured up a try for Younes Anouer midway through the second period.

Such affrontery seemed to stir Gloucester from their slumbers and, with Tim Taylor taking advantage of a rare run out in the fly half berth, a trio of late tries put the game to bed.

Taylor himself crossed for two of those, the first a noteworthy solo effort from halfway as he stepped his way through the initial defensive line before taking on and outpacing the full back.

Jonny May's try with the final move of the game rounded the game off nicely and Gloucester could reflect on a job well done in less than inspiring surroundings.

THE LINE UPS



RUGBY ROVIGO

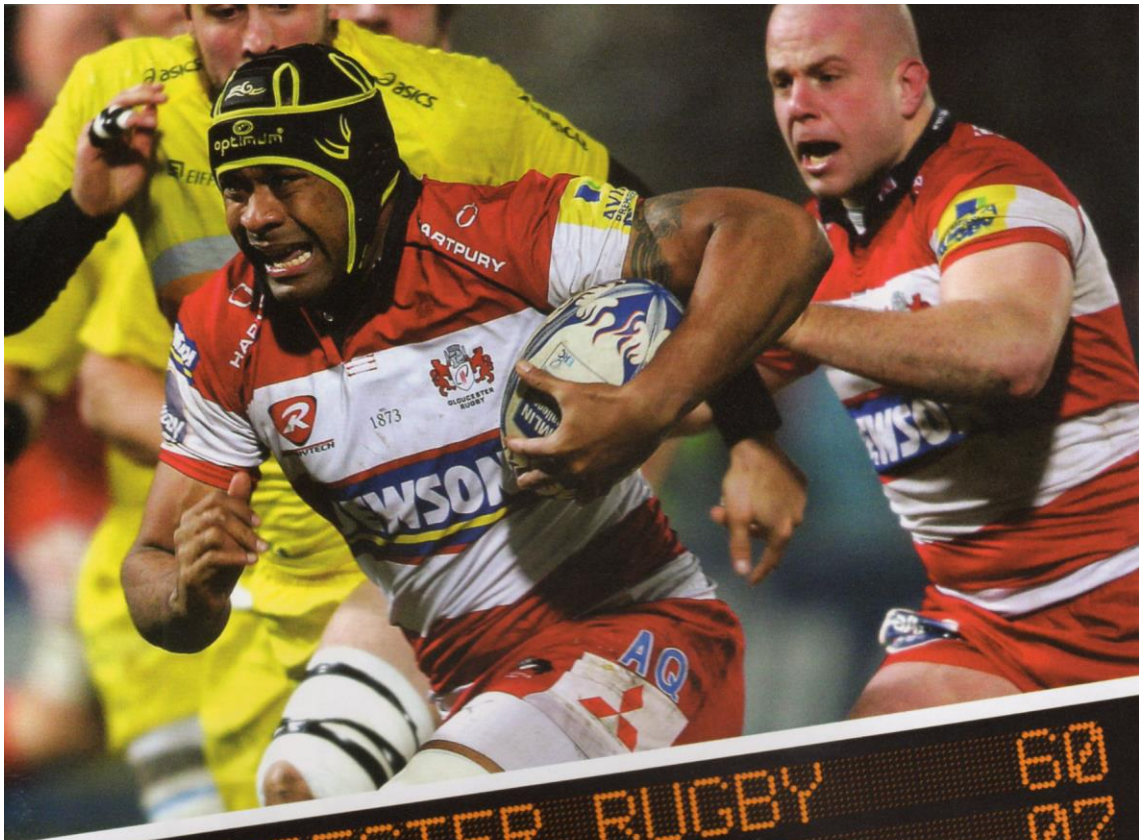
15. Pablo Calanchini
14. Marko Stanojevic
13. Samuele Pace
12. Francesco Zarattini
11. Andrea Bacchetti
10. German Bustos
9. Michele Zanirato
1. Giovanni Boccalon
2. Luke Mahoney
3. Massimiliano Ravallo
4. Tommaso Reato
5. Jean-François Montauriol
6. Aaron Persico
7. Edoardo Lubian
8. Agustin Guzman

16. Rik Dolcetto
17. Nicola Marzolla
18. Giuseppe Datola
19. Marco Barion
20. Davide Duca
21. Alberto Zorzi
22. Alberto Lunardon
23. Younes Anouer

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Olly Morgan
14. Charlie Sharples
13. Henry Trinder
12. Tim Molenaar
11. Lesley Vainikolo
10. Freddie Burns
9. Dave Lewis
1. Yann Thomas
2. Darren Dawidiuk
3. Paul Doran-Jones
4. Peter Buxton
5. Will James
6. Alasdair Strokosch
7. Andy Hazell
8. Matt Cox

16. Olivier Azam
17. Pierre Capdevielle
18. Rupert Harden
19. Alex Brown
20. Luke Narryway
21. Jordi Pasqualin
22. Tim Taylor
23. Jonny May



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 60
 SU AGEN 07

In front of a watching television audience, Gloucester completed a demolition job on SU Agen in the final pool action of this year's Amlin Challenge Cup, romping to a 60-7 win.

Agen, despite slipping to a home defeat against La Rochelle in the same competition seven days previously which all but ended their hopes of progression fielded a strong side and possible one of the biggest line ups ever seen at Kingsholm in terms of sheer size and bulk.

However, Gloucester delivered a performance of pace and precision right from the very off which left the French side grasping at straws and left



TRY 26sec Simpson-Daniel (5-0)
CON 1min Burns (7-0)
PEN 8min Burns (10-0)
TRY 10min Burns (15-0)

CON 11min Burns (17-0)
YC 11min Wood (Gloucester)

YC 22min Barnard (Agen)
CON 22min Burns (20-0)
TRY 28min Trinder (25-0)
CON 29min Burns (27-0)

TRY 35min Trinder (32-0)
CON 36min Burns (34-0)
TRY 40+1min Voyce (39-0)
CON 40+1min Burns (41-0)

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

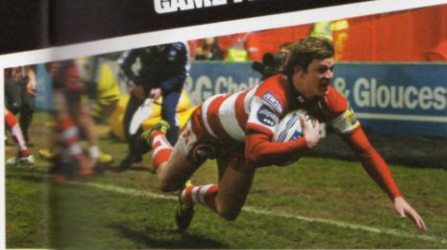
KEY MOMENT



TRY 26sec Simpson-Daniel (5-0)

Olly Morgan climbing majestically to claim a high ball only seconds into the game helped pave the way for James Simpson-Daniel's opening score and set Gloucester on their way to a handsome win.

"FIRST 40 MINUTES I WAS ESPECIALLY HAPPY WITH - I THOUGHT THEIR EXECUTION, THEIR INTENSITY, THEIR DEFENSIVE DISCIPLINE, THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GO OUT AND WIN THIS GAME FROM THE START WAS OUTSTANDING."



everyone wondering what might have been had the 13-3 half time lead in Agen back in October been translated into a win.

In fact, the biggest threat to Gloucester on the night came from the weather conditions. What is it about the Amlin Challenge Cup this season that leads to freak micro climates to descend on GL1?

Prior to Christmas it was freezing temperatures during the La Rochelle game that led to the game being in doubt right up to the eleventh hour and indeed caused one Sky commentator's bottle of mineral water

to freeze solid during the game!

On this occasion it was fog that threatened proceedings as a real pea souper descended on Kingsholm and had worried ERC officials frantically checking the regulations relating to postponed fixtures.

As it was, the fog ebbed and flowed and the Agen players perhaps would have wanted to have stayed as they would have at least then had an excuse for the pummeling they received.

Lack of visibility could not be blamed though as Gloucester blitzed their visitors from the first kick off. Indeed, only 36 seconds had elapsed when James Simpson-Daniel, in a real purple

patch of form at present, ghosted his way through a gap for the first try.

Bad rapidly went to worse for the visitors as they simply could not stem the Cherry and White tide although their cause was admittedly not helped by the loss of a couple of key forwards to injury in the opening half hour.

Gloucester showed little mercy, keeping their foot on the accelerator and easing to a 41-0 lead at half time. Agen knew that the game was gone and thoughts perhaps turned as to whether their flight home would be affected by the fog.

The French did show some resistance after the break and skipper Jean Monribot showed impressive pace for a flanker to finish off a break from winger Finisilau to get Agen onto the scoreboard.

It was the impressive Simpson-Daniel's day, however, and his stunning solo score was the highlight of the second half as Gloucester completed an emphatic win.

THE LINE UPS



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Olly Morgan
14. James Simpson-Daniel
13. Henry Trinder
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
11. Tom Voyce
10. Freddie Burns
9. Rory Lawson
1. Nick Wood
2. Scott Lawson
3. Paul Doran-Jones
4. Will James
5. Alex Brown
6. Peter Buxton
7. Akapusi Qera
8. Luke Narryway

16. Olivier Azam
17. Yann Thomas
18. Pierre Capdevielle
19. Alasdair Strokosch
20. Andrew Hazell
21. Dave Lewis
22. Tim Taylor
23. Tim Molenaar

SU AGEN

15. Florent Cazeaux
14. Osea Kolinisau
13. Manu Ahotaelioa
12. Jamie Robinson
11. Romain Edmond Samuel
10. Conrad Barnard
9. Maxime Machenaud
1. Semisi Telefoni
2. Brice Mach
3. Beka Sheklashvili
4. Lisiate Fa'aoa
5. Thibault Lassalle
6. Jean Monribot
7. Ueleni Fono
8. Opeti Fonua

16. Jalil Narjissi
17. Karim Kouider
18. Mosese Moala
19. Damien Lagrange
20. Hendro Scholtz
21. Sylvain Dupuy
22. Junior Pelesasa
23. Benjamin Petre

TRY 47min Monribot (41-5)
CON 48min Barnard (41-7)

YC 51min Kouider (Agen)

TRY 60min Simpson-Daniel (46-7)
CON 60min Taylor (48-7)
TRY 63min Morgan (53-7)

TRY 76min Narryway (58-7)
CON 77min Taylor (60-7)

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. LONDON IRISH // 05.02.11

TODAY'S LINE-UPS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 7-0 T OLLY MORGAN
- 12-0 TT CHARLIE SHARPLES
- 19-0 T TIM MOLENAAR
- 19-3 ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU
- 24-3
- 29-3
- 29-8 TOM VOYCE
- 34-8 EC NICKY ROBINSON
- 41-8
- DAVE LEWIS
- NICK WOOD
- SCOTT LAWSON
- HARDEN PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE
- T JIM HAMILTON
- ALEX BROWN
- ALASDAIR STROKOSCH (C)
- ANDY HAZELL
- MATT COX
- PT. OLIVIER AZAM
- YANN THOMAS
- RUPERT HARDEN
- WILL JAMES
- PETER BUXTON
- JORDI PASQUALIN
- C FREDDIE BURNS
- HENRY TRINDER
- T GERN

- 15 Topsy Ojo
- 14 Adam Thompsonstone
- 13 Seilala Mapusua
- 12 Dan Bowden
- 11 Sailosi Tagicakibau
- 10 Ryan Lamb P
- 9 Darren Allinson
- 1 Dan Murphy
- 2 Brian Blaney
- 3 Paulica Ion
- 4 Nick Kennedy
- 5 Kieran Roche
- 6 Jamie Gibson
- 7 Steffon Armitage
- 8 Chris Hala'ufia T
- 16 Rob Herring
- 17 Will Johnson
- 18 Max Lahiff
- 19 Kieran Low
- 20 George Stowers
- 21 Richard Thorpe
- 22 Elvis Seveali'i
- 23 Alfredo Lalanne

LONDON IRISH

MATCH SCORE

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
v
LONDON IRISH

REFEREE: Gwyn Morris
ASST REFEREES: Martin Buck and Rhys Davies

THE STATS THAT MATTER

- THURSDAY - 3RD FEBRUARY**
Dragons v Scarlets
- FRIDAY - 4TH FEBRUARY**
Leicester Tigers v Bath Rugby
- SATURDAY - 5TH FEBRUARY**
Gloucester Rugby v London Irish
Northampton Saints v Leeds Carnegie
- SUNDAY - 6TH FEBRUARY**
Newcastle Falcons v Exeter Chiefs
Ospreys v London Wasps
Saracens v Sale Sharks
Harlequins v Cardiff Blues

GROUP A

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pt
Newcastle	3	1	0	2	44	56	0	5
London Wasps	3	1	0	2	37	83	0	4
Cardiff Blues	3	0	1	2	49	81	0	2
Leicester Tigers	3	0	0	3	48	115	0	0

GROUP B

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pt
Dragons	3	2	0	1	49	60	0	8
Saracens	3	1	1	1	66	65	1	7
London Irish	3	1	0	2	67	84	1	5
Leeds Carnegie	3	0	0	3	46	105	0	1

GROUP C

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pt
Gloucester	3	2	0	1	78	44	2	11
Sale Sharks	3	2	0	1	82	59	1	9
Scarlets	3	2	0	1	84	63	1	9
Northampton	3	1	1	1	70	62	0	6

GROUP D

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pt
Harlequins	3	3	0	0	100	58	1	13
Exeter Chiefs	3	2	1	0	87	39	1	11
Ospreys	3	2	0	1	92	38	1	10
Bath Rugby	3	2	0	1	56	43	0	9