



**INSIDE...**

Club News › Player poster › Opposition feature › Kingsholm Hospitality

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

**AVIVA PREMIERSHIP**  
VS. **BATH RUGBY**  
5 MARCH 2011, KO 1.00PM // £3

**PLAYER**  
**FUIMAONO-SAPOLU**  
**FEATURE**

**+ LV=CUP SEMI-FINAL HOSPITALITY INFORMATION INSIDE**  
PAGE 28



**+ GLOUCESTER CREW**

**REGULAR FEATURES:**  
TICKETS,  
THE CITIZEN,  
COMMUNITY,  
BRYAN REDPATH

WORLD & LOCAL

**RUGBY NEWS**

INSIDE



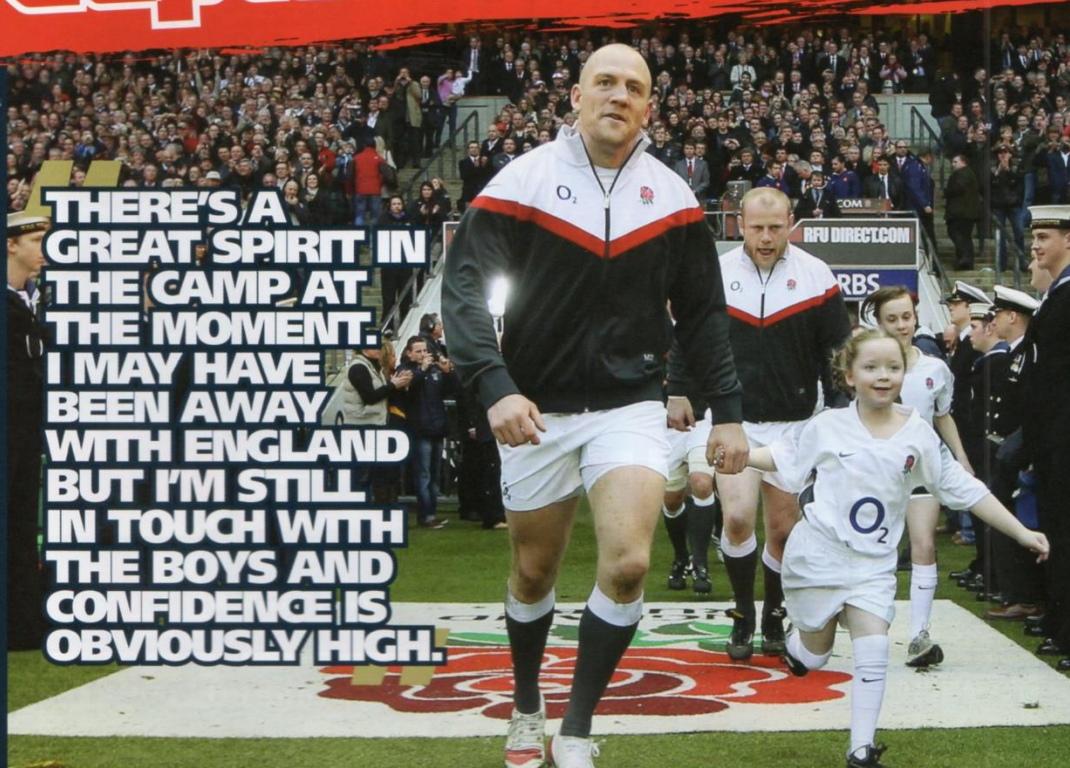
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MIKE TINDALL

# Captain's Corner



**THERE'S A GREAT SPIRIT IN THE CAMP AT THE MOMENT. I MAY HAVE BEEN AWAY WITH ENGLAND BUT I'M STILL IN TOUCH WITH THE BOYS AND CONFIDENCE IS OBVIOUSLY HIGH.**

It's a great feeling to be able to sit down and write these programme notes on the back of another good couple of weeks for Gloucester Rugby.

The boys have been given a really tough examination in the past few weeks. We could see this run of fixtures looming ahead of us and knew full well how tough it was going to be. But, so far, and I'm crossing my fingers when I type this (!), we've done pretty well so far.

The last month have seen us take on London Irish twice and travel to London Wasps and Northampton Saints. That's a pretty testing run of games and to emerge from that with four wins is the result of a superb effort from the lads.

In particular, going to the likes of Adams Park and Franklin's Gardens and returning with the points is a great achievement.

There's a great spirit in the camp at the moment. I may have been away with England but I'm still in touch with the boys and confidence is obviously high.

However, this is no time to be relaxing, patting ourselves on the backs and telling ourselves how great we are. The Aviva Premiership table is incredibly tight at the moment and even a brief run of results, good or bad, can have a massive impact.

Look at London Irish and Northampton Saints. They were both looking really comfortable at the top of the table not so long ago. A few defeats in a row and they've slid down a few places.

On the other hand, ourselves and Bath have strung a few good results together and moved into the play off positions. It can all change so quickly – we're only five points clear

of Harlequins who are in 7th place...

On to this afternoon's game, though. As I say, both teams are in good form which adds a little bit more spice to what is always one of the most hard fought fixtures on the calendar – as if it needed it!

In fact the banter started last weekend after England beat France. I was told of our win at Northampton after the game which put me in a pretty good mood and the Bath boys got wind of their win down at Exeter a bit later on.

We obviously won down at the Rec earlier this season and would like nothing better than to complete a double.

However, the Bath boys remember that game just as much as we do and they'd love to restore their pride by winning at Kingsholm.

**It should be a great game.**

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

Gloucester Rugby vs Bath Rugby. A West Country derby in front of a sell out crowd at Kingsholm with both teams going well in the league as well. They don't come much bigger than this do they?

It's also a fixture that will always hold a special place in my heart as it's the first competitive fixture, if you ignore preseason friendlies, that we played after I was named Head Coach of Gloucester Rugby.

And they're coming here in pretty good form. They've had a real resurgence in form in the last few weeks. Since they lost down in Biarritz in the Heineken Cup in late January, they've reeled off five wins in a row. So, they'll be feeling pretty good about themselves.

The last couple of weeks have seen this run up a bonus point win at home to Northampton Saints and then they dogged out a win at the Exeter Chiefs which isn't to be sniffed at. That's the sign of a good side.

I don't think it's any coincidence that their resurgence in form has come following the return of Butch James. He didn't play his first game of the season following a knee injury until just before Christmas but he's been pulling the strings ever since.

He's a big part of what they do but we also need to respect the likes of Matt Banahan, Olly Barkley and Michael Claassens. They're all potential game winners.

As ever, though, we'll respect our opponents and prepare accordingly but we'll focus more on ourselves and on what we can do.

As you can imagine, we're feeling

pretty good about ourselves at the moment. That's what winning eight games in a row can do for you.

However, we're definitely not getting carried away. One look at the fixture list is all it takes to keep your feet well and truly on the ground! Bath today, an LV= Cup semi final against the Dragons next weekend and trip to Harlequins looming in the background.

And, take a look at the Aviva Premiership league table. Third place might seem like a good place to be at present. But, we're only four points ahead of Bath and five points ahead of Northampton Saints, London Irish and Harlequins



who are in fifth, sixth and seventh places respectively.

It's tight and a couple of results, good or bad, could see that table change dramatically so we know we have to keep our foot on the gas pedal.

We've managed to do that over the past couple of weeks and I have to pay tribute to the whole squad because we've had to cope with a few international absentees and we've picked up a few knocks along the way.

Last time out here at Kingsholm we knew that we'd face a far different London Irish outfit from the one that had played here a couple of weeks earlier in the LV= Cup.

And they didn't disappoint! They were a much different proposition but I felt that were in control throughout and did a very professional job on the night.

Last weekend at Franklin's Gardens was perhaps a bigger achievement though. Northampton are every bit as good on their own patch as we are here at Kingsholm. They have a proud home record and they defend it with everything they have.

Conditions weren't great but they were the same for both sides and I thought the boys executed our game plan brilliantly on the day.

There was a bit of a wobble when we conceded a try early in the second half which gave them a one point lead and then Stephen Myler had a kickable penalty which thankfully he missed.

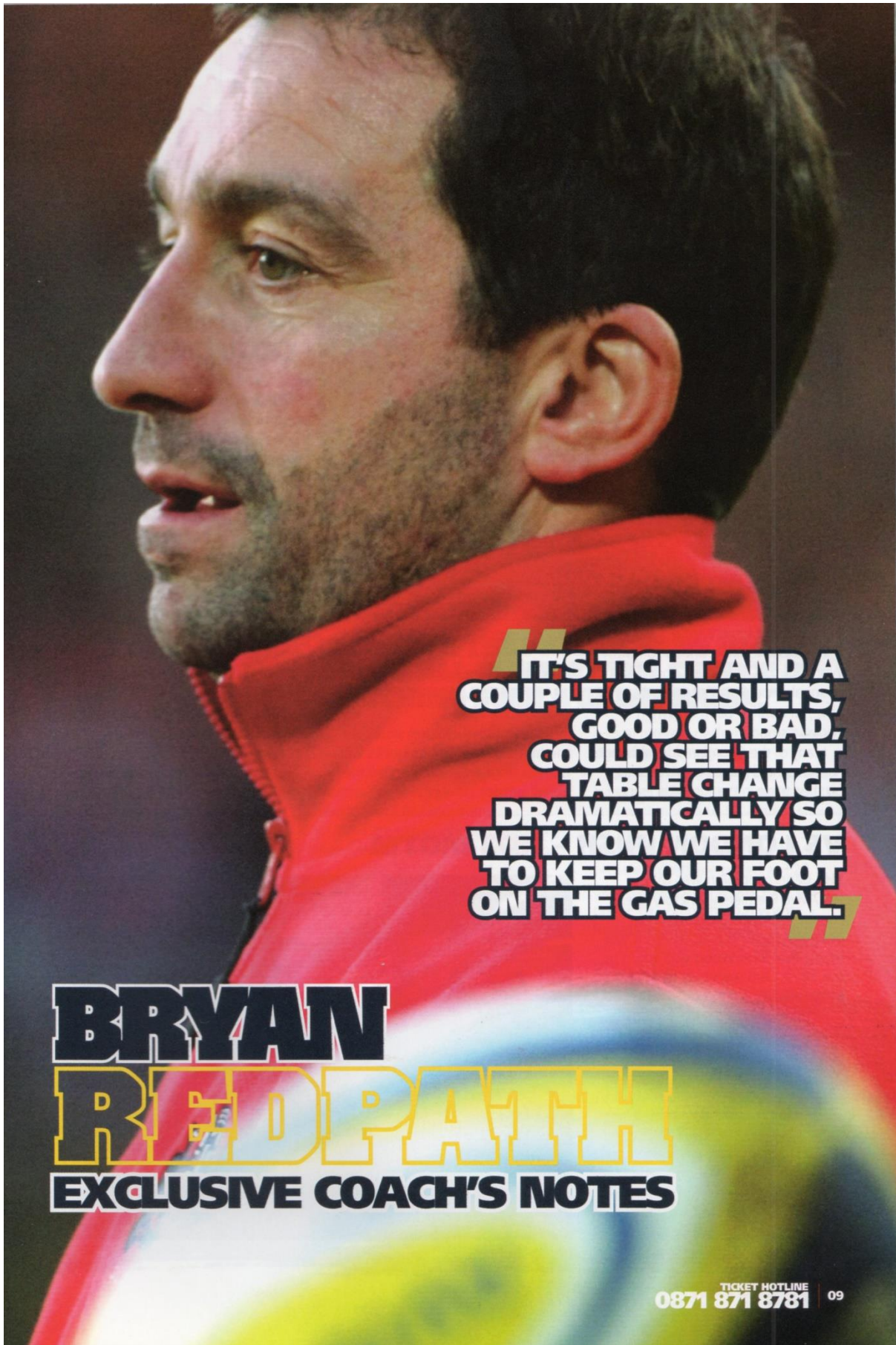
Those are the sort of situations in the past where games have slipped away from us on the road. But we took a grip of things in the second half and I thought we thoroughly deserved the win.

I don't like to single players out but Nicky Robinson did a terrific job for us on the day. His kicking out of hand was superb in the second half when we were playing into that strong wind and the two penalties he nailed were crucial.

Back to today and I can't tell you how much it means to the team to hear that a fixture is sold out weeks before the event.

It'll be our first full house of the season and we can't wait for it. The support you give us is a big part of what we are here at Kingsholm and will be vital this afternoon.

**Enjoy the game!**



**“IT’S TIGHT AND A COUPLE OF RESULTS, GOOD OR BAD, COULD SEE THAT TABLE CHANGE DRAMATICALLY SO WE KNOW WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR FOOT ON THE GAS PEDAL.”**

**BRYAN**  
**ROBSON**  
**EXCLUSIVE COACH'S NOTES**

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# View from The Citizen

with Nick Purewal

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



## Pasqualin : The Premiership semi final mission

*"We've got massive confidence behind us going into the Bath game, we beat them over there and we're going in off eight wins in a row."*

**U**nsatisfied Jordi Pasqualin is pleased Gloucester have proved their play off potential – but now challenged the Cherry and Whites to vindicate preseason predictions.

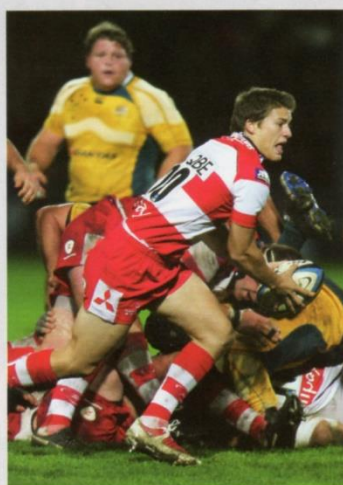
The 20-year-old scrum half calmly guided Gloucester to an impressive 18-16 Northampton Saints victory on Saturday, and now wants the men from Kingsholm to raise their resurgence still higher.

Gloucester's fourth straight Premiership win cemented third place, and with two games in hand the top four charge is on course.

Cherry and Whites boss Bryan Redpath revealed Gloucester's Premiership title ambitions in preseason, to some eyebrow raising outside this county.

Pasqualin believes Gloucester have now done enough to warrant top four respect – but admitted that will evaporate if the Cherry and Whites do not complete their Premiership semi final mission.

Pasqualin explained: "A lot of people questioned statements like that at the beginning of the season, especially when we didn't finish where we wanted in the league last year.



*"Waiting for your opportunities when you're young, you've got to be patient – but when they come, you've got to make an impression."*

"But this year we've put in performances against the best teams out there – or what people think are the best teams out there – and we're proving that we're just as good as them and that we deserve to be in the reckoning.

"But we've got to keep the hard work going, we've got to keep pushing for that top four and the play offs.

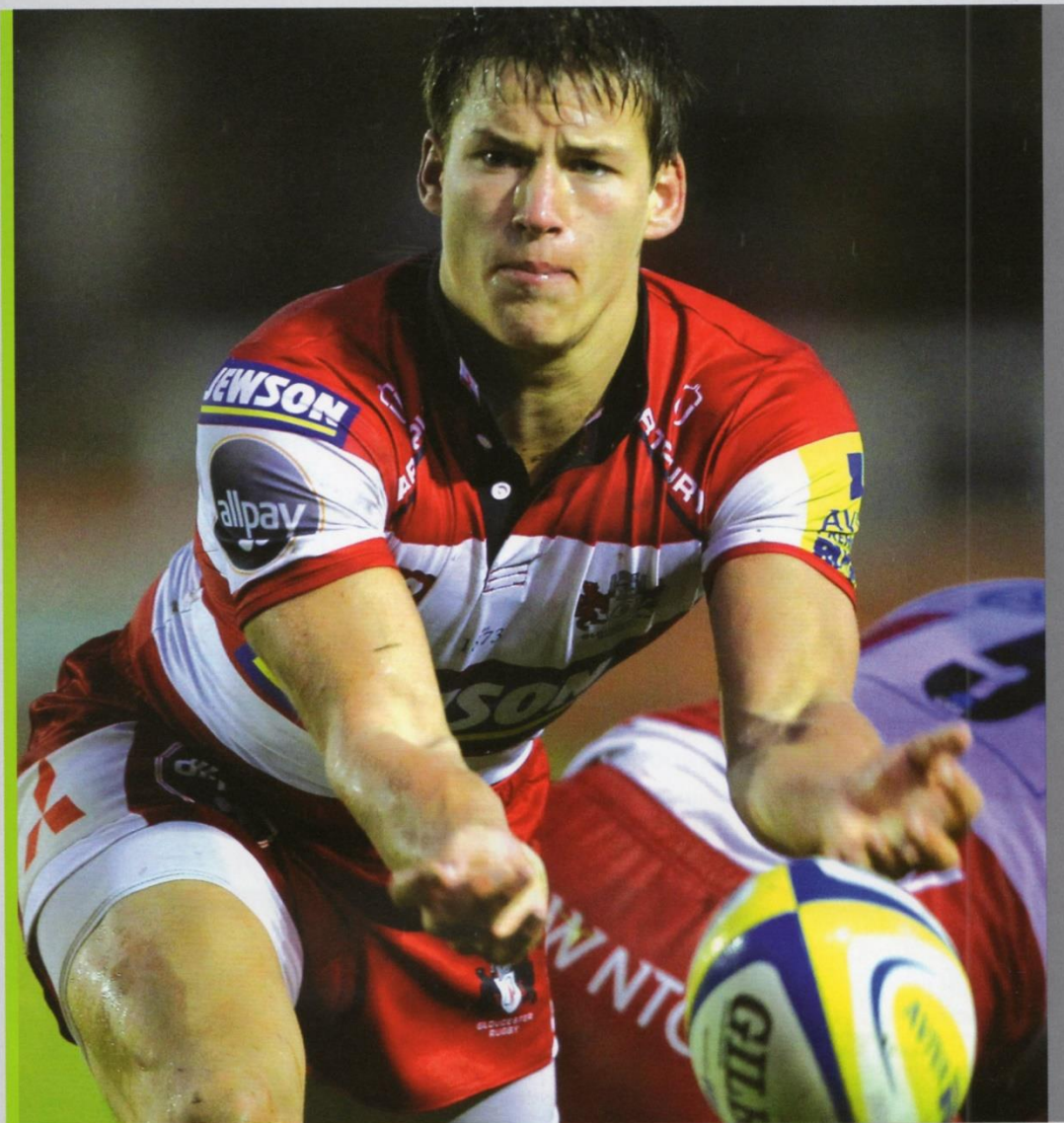
"There's no point proving we're good enough, then not seeing that through, no one will accept half a job.

"Not only can everyone be pleased with their individual performances from Saturday, but as a team we played very well, and fed off each other's energy.

"We put in some big hits in defence and in attack we offered great variation off lineouts, and that paid off.

"We carried our defence through again, and it's about doing whatever it takes to bring them down."

An ankle injury to Dave Lewis and Rory Lawson's Six Nations duty could hand Pasqualin an extended run that might lead to LV=Cup semi-final



action and beyond.

Young Dan Robson came off the bench for an impressive cameo at Northampton too, but Pasqualin is keen to take his chance while he can.

Paying tribute to Gloucester's forward dominance, he also hailed the fans' strong contribution in the East Midland fortress.

He continued: "It makes my job a hell of a lot easier, the boys up front put another cracking performance in and we're just growing in confidence off that all the time.

"Waiting for your opportunities when you're young, you've got to be patient – but when they come, you've got to make an impression.

"I've been fortunate enough to have quite a lot of involvement this year, through international duty or injury, and if I keep progressing hopefully I'll be earning my spot purely through merit.

"Those boys are tough up there, just like we are at Kingsholm, so we're delighted to have come away with a win.

"Any win at Franklin's Gardens is

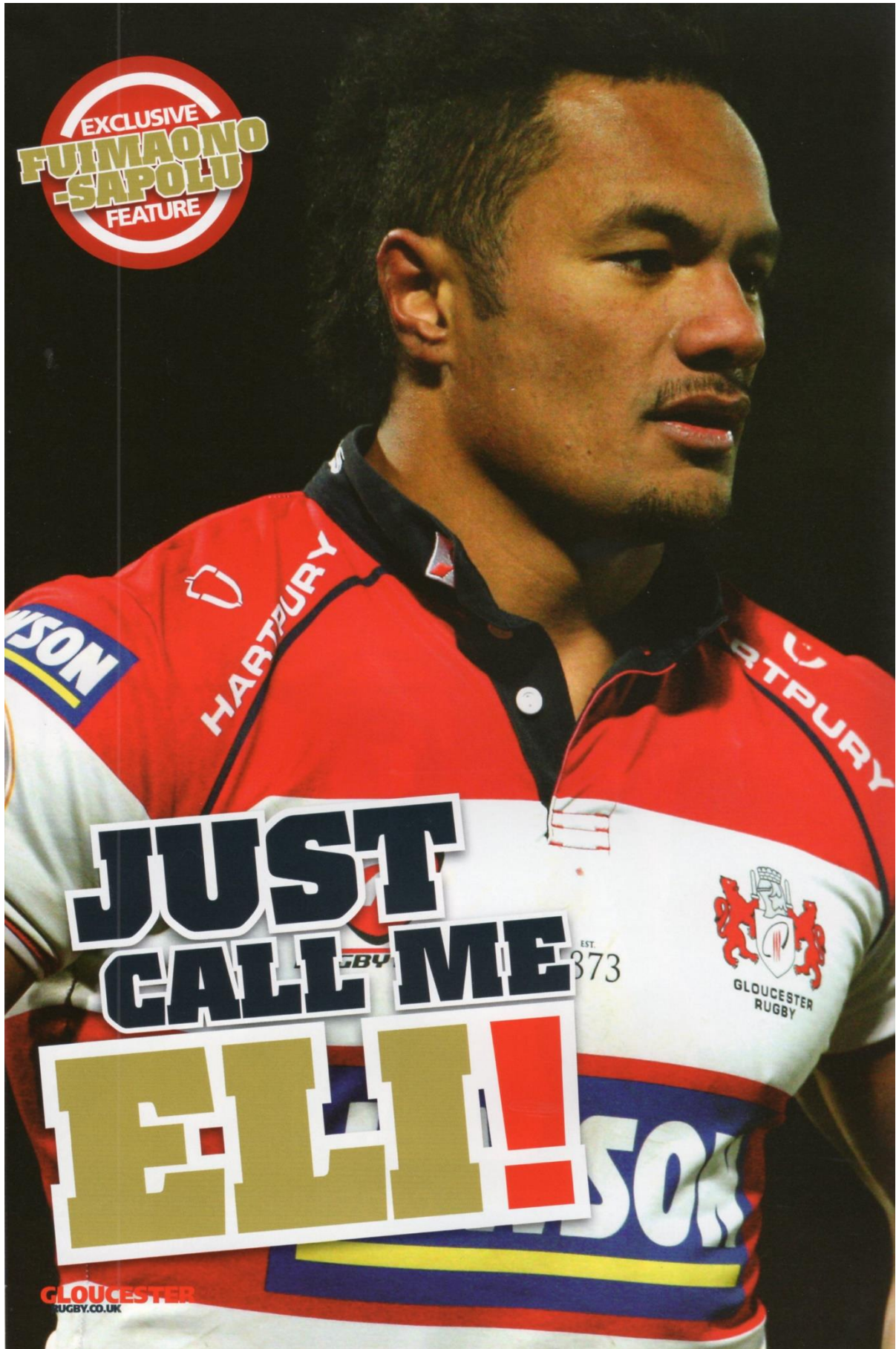
something to cherish, and we did feel our supporters out there, and we really appreciate that.

"It's massive for them too, and we're really proud to be able to secure results like that in front of them.

"It's massively unfortunate for Dave and I wish him a speedy recovery, but it's an opportunity for me now which I've got to take.

"We've got massive confidence behind us going into the Bath game, we beat them over there and we're going in off eight wins in a row."

EXCLUSIVE  
**FUIMAONO  
-SAPOLU**  
FEATURE



GLOUCESTER  
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**A few of the players who may well be performing on the Kingsholm turf this afternoon will have experienced what it's like to play for both Gloucester and Bath.**

Mike Tindall and Tom Voyce both started their careers at the Rec while Olly Barkley, of course, had a short stint in the Cherry and White hoops.

However, one man who has genuinely seemed to enjoy these West Country clashes in the past couple of seasons is a man who doesn't even hail from anywhere near these parts although the Kingsholm faithful are now happy to hail him as one of their own.

Samoan international Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu spent four seasons in the blue, black and white of Bath before moving to join Gloucester in the summer of 2009.

In fact, his first senior game for Gloucester was against his former club here on the opening day of 2009-10, a day which turned out to be one to remember.

Intriguingly, when asked this week of the significance of the fixture for the two clubs, the qualified solicitor focussed initially on the similarities between the two clubs.

"It may just be my viewpoint but I find that there are more similarities between the two clubs than there are differences. I know that the Shed like to wind up the Bath fans and vice versa. But, having been at both clubs, I think they're quite similar."

"This game is incredibly important to both sets of supporters, I know how much it means for both. With us having won at Bath and having such a good record at Kingsholm, they have all the motivation they need to try and turn us over."

Not that long ago, of course, Bristol were a paid up member of the Premiership and there were other local clashes to look forward to. However, with Bristol now playing their trade in the Championship, the Apia born centre can understand why this game is so keenly anticipated.

"This is the West Country derby now. It's a shame Bristol have dropped out. I wrote something on Twitter not long ago which said that, if the West Country had a combined side, it'd be incredibly strong."

Looking back to this fixture last season, perhaps it was because he'd just made the move up from the Rec but he seemed to

relish the whole occasion?

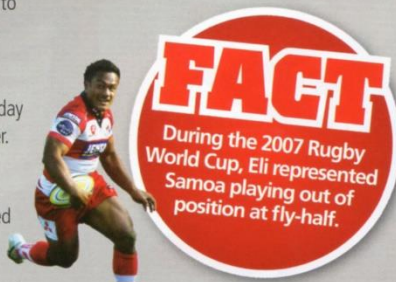
"It was good because no-one gave us a chance really. Even though it was at Kingsholm, people said Bath were the better side and they might say so again this weekend with the likes of Butch James and Olly Barkley playing well and Shontayne (Hape) and Matt Banahan could be back."

"It could be a typical star studded Bath team but we like it when people write us off. They have a go at us on The Rugby Club but it just spurs us on, we thrive on it."

Like any top class sportsman, the 30 year old wants to be pitting himself against the very best.

"Absolutely. You don't want them to have any excuses, that they weren't at full strength. But bring their best, bring their worst – we'll play them."

One thing that has characterised



**"...LET'S BELIEVE IN OURSELVES. LET'S GET BACK TO PLAYING AND LOVING THE SPORT."**

Fuimaono-Sapolu's performances for Gloucester so far this season has been that he has played with a smile on his face. He genuinely seems to be enjoying his rugby.

"I am but it's down to the team really. They've been so positive and the focus this year has been for us to be so much better than last season and it's been really enjoyable."

"It also helps that we haven't had too many rainy games. Last season we had muddy game after muddy game!"

"But the main thing is the spirit, being underdogs and going under the radar. The boys are clicking."

Is it too wide of the mark to say he's fallen in love with the game again this year?

"Yes, that's it exactly. We said amongst ourselves a few months ago that we just need to love to play. Our defence will sort

itself out but we need to play like we're 5 years old again, trying to get the ball from your friends."

"We talked after the defeat up at Leeds and realised that the backs were encouraging the forwards to take the ball up and it shouldn't be like that. We should be demanding the ball off them!"

"And we made a conscious choice to start playing that way. Let's not be too systematic, let's go and enjoy it, let's believe in ourselves. Let's get back to playing and loving the sport."

Noble ideals but he firmly believes that the young guns at Gloucester have the talent to turn those ideals into reality.

"Some of our youngsters have extraordinary talent. They're in the mould of New Zealand players. They're all fit, they're all very skinny but very powerful – they remind me of back home."

"You see Freddie (Burns) with his chip and chasing and little offloads. Charlie Sharples, someone not that big but running over players and bowling them over like Jonah. It's amazing. They're really confident and they're putting a lot of pressure on us older guys."

"But it takes pressure to make a diamond and we're loving it. We relish the pressure and the competition because we know we're getting better as a result."

Pressure is of course part and pace of the modern game and everyone has their own individual escape valve. Managing a quick trip home to see family has helped revitalise Fuimaono-Sapolu ahead of the tough run in.

"It really helps. I think I play my best games after a few days away. I went to Portugal, came back and went well against Saracens. I had five days at home before we played Irish."

"I'm one of the few guys who doesn't have family around, not even anyone in the northern hemisphere. So, I'm so grateful that Brushy gave me 5 days to go home."

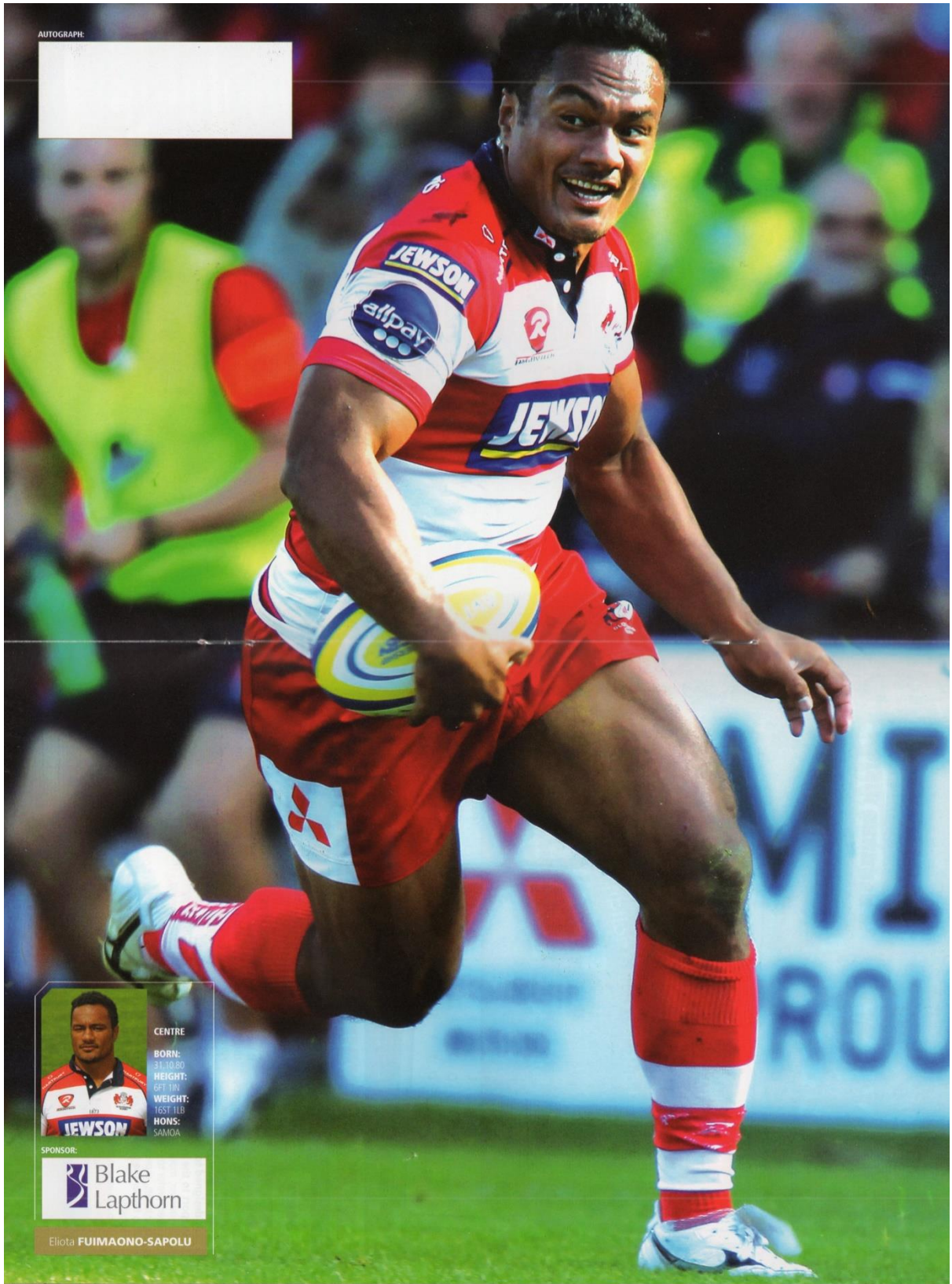
"It wasn't the quantity of time, it was the quality. My sister has just had a baby and in our culture we get together as a family for a birth as we would for a death. As everyone gets together for a funeral, everyone comes together for a birth in Samoa."

"I'm so grateful to the club. It meant a lot to me but also to my family as it showed that I came and that I care."

"Mentally and spiritually it's huge but I did train every single day in 30 degree heat!"



AUTOGRAPH:



CENTRE

BORN:

31.10.80

HEIGHT:

6'9" 1/2

WEIGHT:

165ST 11LB

HONS:

SAMOA

SPONSOR:

 Blake  
Laphorn

Eliota FUIMAONO-SAPOLU

# Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton

IT'S been a few weeks of mixed emotions, hasn't it...

On the one hand we have the great run of wins – including away wins at Bath, Wasps and Northampton – we have a very winnable cup semi final coming up and are currently sitting in third place in the league.

On the other, the news that a few of our favourite sons are leaving town come the end of this term.

The worst kept secret in the rugby world was confirmed when the announcement of Dave Attwood's departure for today's visitors was announced. Shortly afterward we heard that the Disco Kid was off to Northampton and then finally Nicky Robinson was announced as leaving for the slightly less crowded environment of High Wycombe and Wasps.

One ironic note in that list though – look at the teams they are heading for... we've beaten them all on their own turf this season.



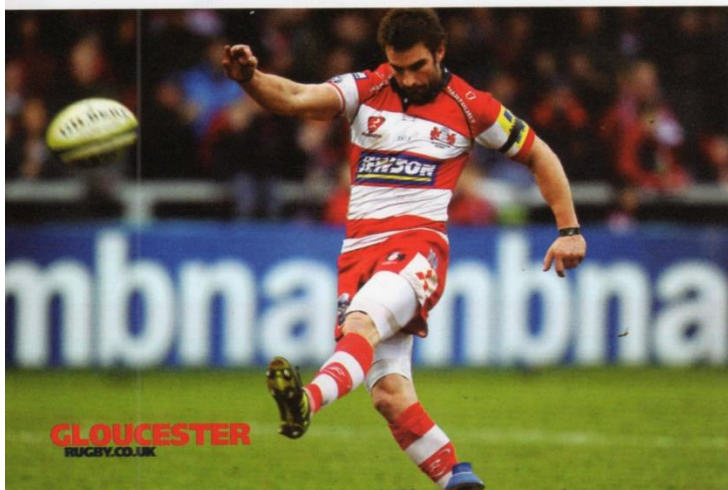
My memory does not go back far enough to recall when, or even if, we have beaten those three sides on the road in the same season. Where's

Dave King when you need him???

As we know, players come and players go, such is the nature of the beast called professionalism. It's a short career for these guys so good luck to them. Except when they play against us in the future, of course!

It is worth comparing what goes on in our game to that which occurs in that of our roundball cousins. A player wants to leave so he sulks and mopes about and hardly puts a shift in despite the fact he earns in a week more than most of us earn in a year. Eventually he gets a move to his new dream club.

Contrast that to the attitude of Paul Doran Jones and Nicky Robinson who



**” BUT WHAT OF PLANS FOR A NEW STADIUM – THEY CAN’T CONTINUE PLAYING ON THAT LITTLE SCRAP OF LAND BY THE RIVER, CAN THEY? IT MAY BE THE MOST SCENIC GROUND IN THE DIVISION (ACCORDING TO SOME) BUT LET’S BE HONEST; IT’S PRETTY RUBBISH AS A RUGBY GROUND.**

have played their hearts out over recent weeks, determined to go out on a high and put a trophy on the club shelf before they leave.

I’m sure that as soon as Dave Attwood is back in regular action he’ll be just the same. Today would be a very good opportunity for that, Dave...

This is professionalism at its best, and shows a huge amount of respect for the club and fans. Perhaps that’s why when these players return next year with their new clubs they will be treated with the same respect and appreciation (unless they engage in ostentatious badge kissing in front of former supporters – that doesn’t go down very well), rather than a barrage of jeers, ‘Judas’ chants and abuse. I am so glad I’m not a soccer fan!

As we get into the business end of the season we face a tough old run in. On

the face of it trips to the likes of Sale and even perhaps even Harlequins should see us bringing home the points, and home games against Newcastle and Sale (again) should be pretty straightforward.

But we play Bath today and Northampton in a few weeks – both of which will be seething to right the wrongs of us beating them at their places, and a trip to the mud bath that is Leicester.

So let’s not get carried away with where we are in the Premiership now, I said at the start of the season that if we finished in 6th place or above it would have been a good year and an improvement on last season.

It’s in our hands to do a heck of a lot better, but I’m really hoping Bryan Redpath and his team are being a bit more focused than me. I’m sure he’s

banging out the old mantra of one game at a time. Starting with this one.

Bath have hit some form of late, I think they are unbeaten home or away in the Premiership since the start of the year.

When you look at the players they have at their disposal you would think they should be nailed on for a top four place – that’s where I had them in my pre-season final table places prediction anyway.

But for whatever reason they have been slow out of the blocks this year – injuries to key players, no doubt.

They’ve also found themselves a new owner who is tipping money into them like there is no tomorrow – good luck to him, there is no guarantee that money can buy you success. But he is putting in a heap of work behind the scenes. New training facilities and the like are, I am told, outstanding.

But what of plans for a new stadium – they can’t continue playing on that little scrap of land by the river, can they? It may be the most scenic ground in the division (according to some) but let’s be honest; it’s pretty rubbish as a rugby ground.

Every trip down there means either being crammed into that little corner behind the dead ball line looking sideways all match, or cramming onto the tiny terrace by the clubhouse. Sooner they move from there the better, and I reckon a good number of their supporters will agree.

Then again if, as we did earlier this year, we can continue to win down there, they can stay as long as they like!



# GL13AX Gloucester Talk with Peter Arnold

## HERE WE GO AGAIN!

**I**t would be boring in the extreme to say that visits of Bath to Kingsholm are always a bit special, so I won't bother.

The fact is that, for decades, the West Country's golden triangle consisted of the clubs from Bath, Bristol and Gloucester.

But since our old mates from Bristol appear to have dropped off the edge of the world, and don't really look like clambering up again any time soon, it's up to today's participants to fly the flag.

We've been doing a pretty good job of it so far. I was very impressed by Bath's demolition of Northampton the other week, but was equally chuffed by the way Gloucester disassembled London Irish on the same weekend.

Both have come into good form after early tribulations – remember the September fixture down at the Rec? I won't dwell on the result for fear of embarrassing any Bath supporter who may have strayed this way this afternoon.



Both teams have effective game plans, a very high work ethic and some outstanding individual players. And you never know who the star is going to be.

When both Lesley Vainikolo and James Simpson-Daniel suffered nasty looking injuries, we wondered where our next flying winger was coming from. Then, up popped Tom Voyce, in something like his old England form and made himself a thorough nuisance against both Wasps and London Irish,

Tom, of course has a foot in both camps, which is as good a way of getting a groin injury as I can imagine. He is an old Bath player, but the great nephew of the great Tommy Voyce who, some claim, invented wing forward play and was a Gloucester stalwart for many years as both player and official.

This is one match which I don't think many of us would really like to predict. It has all the signs of being a cracker, but one never really knows.

## LATTER DAY SAINTS

**A**ny win over Northampton at their fortress Franklin's Gardens is to be savoured. I know they have had an attack of the collywobbles lately, but there are some formidable performers in their line-up.

We know from our own experience how these inexplicable

lapses in form can turn around between one match and the next for no apparent reason. Add to that the thought that the Saints very rarely lose at home, and you have a recipe for a difficult 80 minutes.

On paper, our win may not look as impressive as the rugby lesson handed out the weekend before, but there were significant differences between the two

performances.

Before the game, the Presenter of ITV's highlights programme was at pains to point out that Gloucester were without the services of no fewer than eleven players through injury and international duties.

Not that it seemed to make all that much difference when play started. There were no Six Nations games on the weekend of Bath's

deconstruction of the Saints. So neither side was as badly affected as our match was.

When I saw the pitch on the telly I was put in mind of Conan Doyle's Great Grimpen Mire from the 'Hound of the Baskervilles'. Any chance of running rugby seemed to have sunk in the mud. Indeed, the start was delayed for a few minutes while the ref insisted on some running repairs.

No one seems to have told Jonny May that. The first of his brace of tries would have made James Simpson Daniel proud.

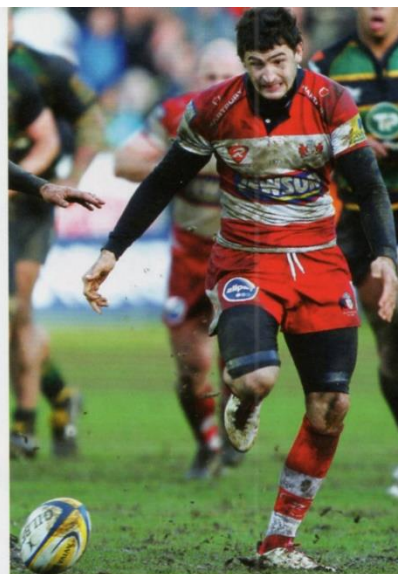
Young Jonny wove his way

through the opposition in distinctly Sinbad-esque fashion, mud or no mud, and later finished his second try with an efficiency which made things look simpler than they were.

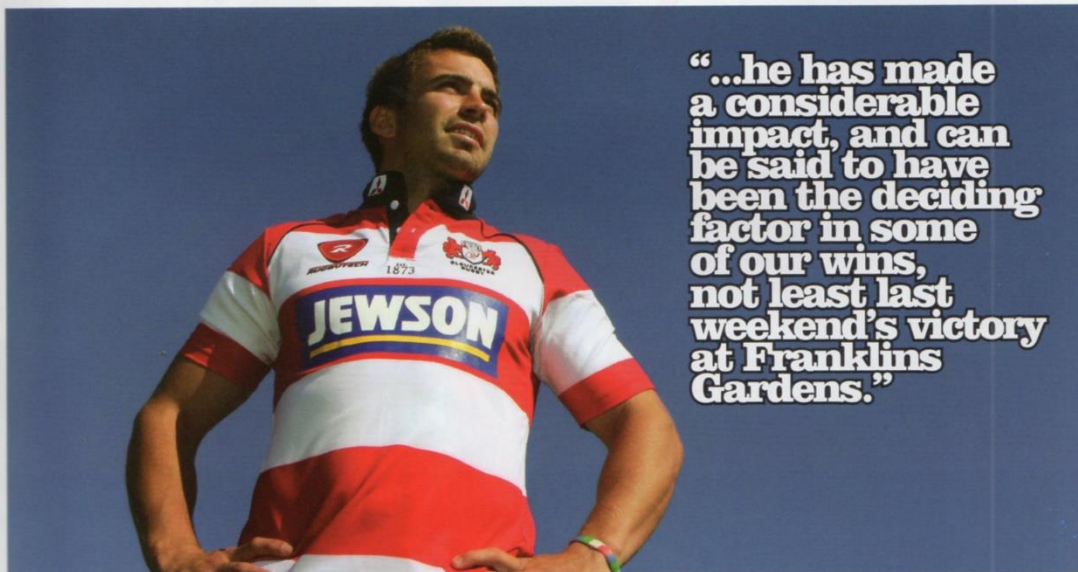
But of course, our pack, which looks more formidable game by game, murdered the opposing eight, and their highly-rated front row must have wondered what day it was.

All in all, the record and the circumstances point to a memorable engagement today.

But then Gloucester v. Bath usually is.



## HERE'S TO YOU MR. ROBINSON



**"...he has made a considerable impact, and can be said to have been the deciding factor in some of our wins, not least last weekend's victory at Franklins Gardens."**

**I think we were all fairly sure that Nicky Robinson would be leaving us at the end of the season. It's a pity, because in a relatively short stay – only two seasons – he has made a considerable impact, and can be said to have been the deciding factor in some of our wins, not least last weekend's victory at Franklins Gardens.**

We thank him for that, and wish he wasn't going to Wasps, where he will have to get used to playing on a football pitch rather than a real rugby ground like Kingsholm.

What I find intriguing is that, according to reports, he wasn't offered a new contract. In my experience that only happens to a player of Nicky's class if he is (1) too expensive, (2) there is a personality/dressing room problem, or (3) both.

I have no way of knowing whether this is true in this case, and it's no business of mine, anyway. But one can't help wondering.

I actually think that more of a factor has been the meteoric rise of one Freddie Burns over the past 18 months.

Freddie has shown that he is a

precocious talent. If he is going to go on and realise his undoubted potential then he needs to get a significant amount of game time at the highest level and I'm sure we'd all prefer to see him do that in the Cherry and White of Gloucester than elsewhere.

If Nicky had signed on for another couple of years then Freddie's opportunities would have been more limited than they may be now.

It was obviously a very tough decision but I'm sure both Nicky and Freddie will shine in their respective environments.



LONDON WASPS 09  
 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 10

**G**loucester continued their recent run of good form with a dogged 10-9 victory over London Wasps at one of their least favourite Premiership haunts, Adams Park.

The form line was very much against Gloucester. Only once in their previous 12 visits had they triumphed in Wycombe and 2009-10 had seen three defeats in three separate competitions.

It wasn't pretty, hardly surprising given the incessant torrential rain but the result was what mattered and Gloucester edged it by a point.

It was, as Luke Narryway quipped afterwards, the sort of day when forwards like Peter Buxton wake



**TRY** 16min Simpson-Daniel (0-5)  
**CON** 17min Robinson (0-7)

**PEN** 25min Robinson (0-10)

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

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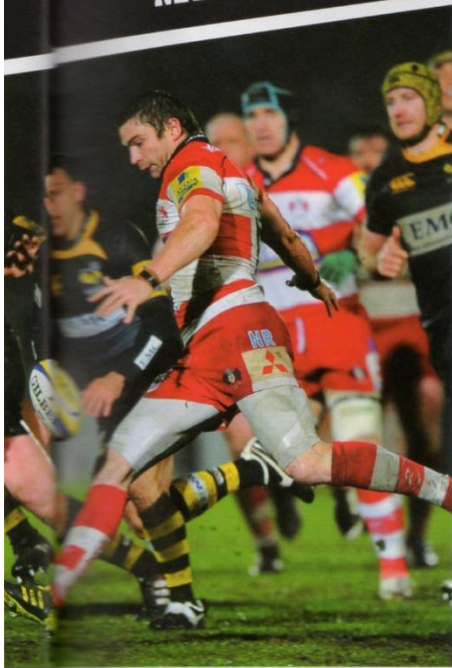
## KEY MOMENT



### TRY 16min Simpson-Daniel (0-5)

Without a shadow of a doubt, the game swung decisively in Gloucester's favour when Charlie Sharples' high kick created panic in the Wasps ranks. The ball was allowed to bounce and was then slapped back loosely allowing James Simpson-Daniel to pounce for the crucial try.

**"I AM DELIGHTED WITH THAT PERFORMANCE. WE WERE VERY GOOD IN THE FIRST HALF WHEN OUR DECISION-MAKERS WERE VERY CLEAR, VERY POSITIVE."**



up licking their lips at the prospect of playing in those conditions and Gloucester's pack were majestic on the day.

The forwards took the initiative at the lineout and maul and also worked their socks off in defence whilst the half back duo of Lewis and Robinson played the conditions and kept the home side pinned back whenever possible.

The game was effectively won in the first half. James Simpson-Daniel pounced on indecision in the home ranks and slid in for the game's only try while Nicky Robinson added the conversion and was also on target with

a penalty for a 10-0 lead at the break.

A second half comeback was anticipated and it duly came. Two early Dave Walder penalties gave the home side renewed belief and momentum and, when a third narrowed the gap to 10-9, an uncomfortable 20 minutes lay ahead of Gloucester.

However, a superb defensive effort ensued and Wasps were forced to try and manoeuvre themselves into a position where they could try and drop a goal to snatch the win, a tactic fraught with difficulty in such testing conditions.

One opportunity presented itself as Gloucester's superb discipline denied Walder any further penalty attempts and the attempted drop skidded low and wide to the glee of the travelling support.

As time expired, the pack took control, strangling the life out of the game, and even eked out a late penalty chance for Robinson. He missed but it didn't matter!

## THE LINE UPS

### LONDON WASPS

15. Ben Jacobs
14. Richard Haughton
13. Dominic Waldouck
12. Riki Flutey
11. Tom Varndell
10. Dave Walder
9. Joe Simpson
1. Tim Payne
2. Joe Ward (C)
3. Ben Broster
4. James Cannon
5. Richard Birkett
6. Joe Worsley
7. Serge Betsen Tchoua
8. John Hart
16. Tom Lindsay
17. Shaun Ruwers
18. Bob Baker
19. Marty Veale
20. Sam Jones
21. Nic Berry
22. Steve Kefu
23. Mark van Gisbergen

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

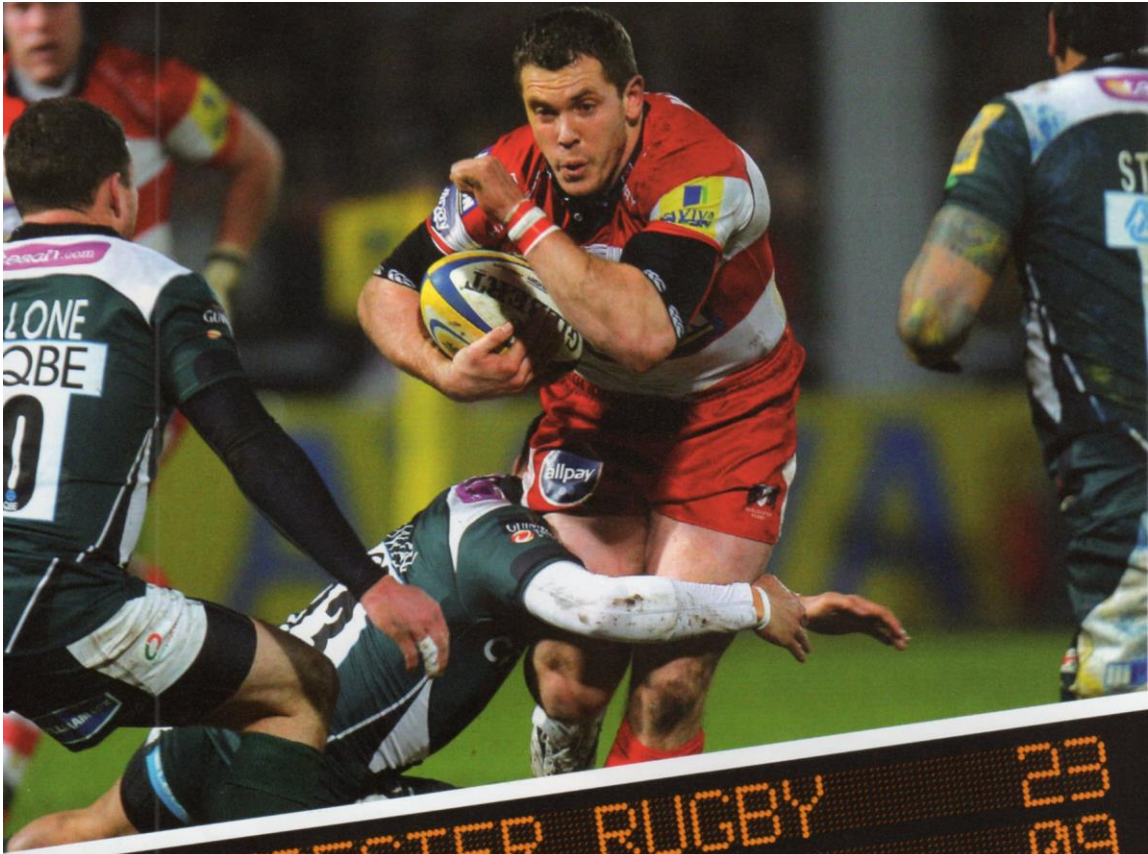
15. Charlie Sharples
14. James Simpson-Daniel
13. Tim Molenaar
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
11. Tom Voyce
10. Nicky Robinson
9. Dave Lewis
1. Nick Wood
2. Darren Dawidiuk
3. Paul Doran-Jones
4. Will James
5. Jim Hamilton
6. Peter Buxton
7. Andrew Hazell
8. Luke Narraway (C)
16. Olivier Azam
17. Yann Thomas
18. Rupert Harden
19. Alasdair Strokosch
20. Akapusi Qera
21. Jordi Pasqualin
22. Freddie Burns
23. Jonny May

PEN 43min Walder (3-10)  
PEN 45min Walder (6-10)

PEN 63min Walder (9-10)

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

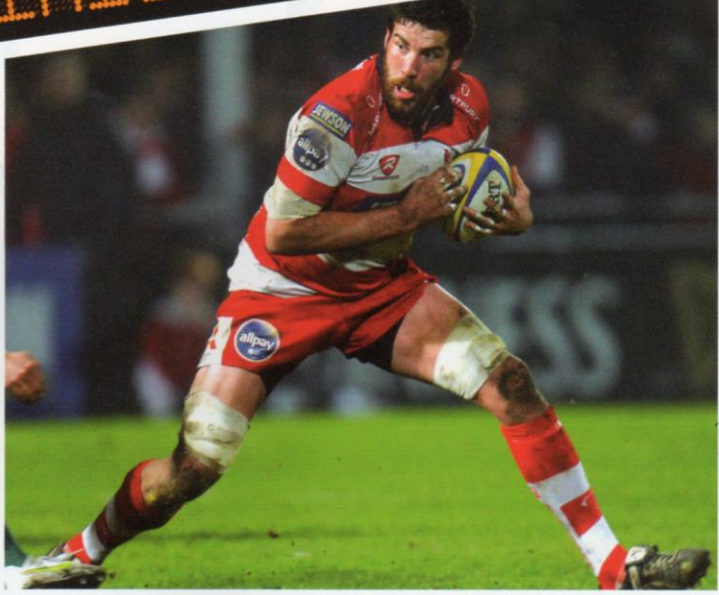


GLOUCESTER RUGBY 23  
 LONDON IRISH 09

**F**or the second time in a fortnight, Gloucester entertained London Irish at Kingsholm and, for the second time in a fortnight, Bryan Redpath's side emerged with the points.

It was a vastly different game from the previous encounter. The Exiles had looked a disinterested outfit during their 41-8 LV= Cup defeat despite qualification still being a remote possibility for Toby Booth's side.

It was a different matter this time around. Under the lights and in front of the ESPN cameras, Irish, led by Seilala Mapusua certainly had their game faces on.



<b>PEN</b> 10min Robinson (3-0)	<b>PEN</b> 13min Malone (3-3) <b>PEN</b> 16min Robinson (6-3)	<b>TRY</b> 23min Narraway (11-3) <b>CON</b> 24min Robinson (13-3) <b>YC</b> 28min Dermody (Irish) <b>PEN</b> 29min Robinson (16-3)	<b>PEN</b> 39min Homer (16-6)
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## KEY MOMENT



**TRY** 46min Qera (21-9)  
Having been comprehensively outplayed, Irish were threatening a comeback at 16-9 with half an hour to go. But a patiently worked build up saw Ollie Morgan spring into space down the left wing and the full back timed his inside pass to Akapusi Qera to perfection to nip the recovery in the bud.

**"WE HAD TO BE PATIENT AND NOT FORCE THE GAME AND OUR WORK ETHIC AS A TEAM WAS OUTSTANDING. THERE WAS GREAT EFFORT AND COMMITMENT, ESPECIALLY IN DEFENCE, AND WE WERE DISCIPLINED AROUND THE CONTACT AREA."**



For starters, the defence was certainly more robust. It took Gloucester 28 minutes to secure the try scoring bonus point in the LV=Cup. It took 24 minutes just to score the first try on this occasion.

However, a positive aspect of this performance was that Bryan Redpath's side didn't look at all perturbed by the amount of time it took to break down the visitors.

Full of the confidence created by winning six games in a row, a quiet air of self belief permeated throughout the side.

Robinson's boot got the side off and running before the first try was

patiently and clinically created, many pairs of hands touching the ball before Luke Narraway squirmed his way over.

16-6 at half time and Gloucester would perhaps have been disappointed not to have been further ahead given that the visitors had barely visited the Gloucester 22.

A Malone penalty early in the second half threatened to get the nerves jangling as it became a one score game but Gloucester promptly applied the collective foot to the accelerator and fashioned a fine try for Akapusi Qera to effectively put the game to bed.

To their credit, the Exiles weren't about to roll over and spent much of the final quarter trying to get back into the game.

However, they lacked a real cutting edge and the Gloucester defence was magnificent, jealously guarding their line which has only been crossed four times in the past six matches.

## THE LINE UPS

### GLoucester Rugby

15. Ollie Morgan
14. Charlie Sharples
13. Tim Molenaar
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapulu
11. Tom Voyce
10. Nicky Robinson
9. Rory Lawson
1. Nick Wood
2. Scott Lawson
3. Paul Doran-Jones
4. Will James
5. Jim Hamilton
6. Peter Buxton
7. Andrew Hazell
8. Luke Narraway (C)
16. Olivier Azam
17. Yann Thomas
18. Rupert Harden
19. Alasdair Strokosch
20. Akapusi Qera
21. Dave Lewis
22. Freddie Burns
23. Jonny May

### LONDON IRISH

15. Topsy Ojo
14. Adam Thompstone
13. Dan Bowden
12. Seilala Mapusua (C)
11. Tom Homer
10. Chris Malone
9. Darren Allinson
1. Clarke Dermody
2. James Buckland
3. Faan Rautenbach
4. Nick Kennedy
5. Kieran Low
6. Kieran Roche
7. Jamie Gibson
8. George Stowers
16. Rob Herring
17. Alex Corbisiero
18. Paulica Ion
19. Gary Johnson
20. Richard Thorpe
21. Marcus Watson
22. Jonathan Joseph
23. Ryan Lamb

**PEN** 43min Malone (16-9)  
**TRY** 46min Qera (21-9)  
**CON** 47min Robinson (23-9)

**YC** 74min Lewis (Glos)

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. BATH RUGBY // 05.03.11

# TODAY'S LINE-UPS

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

	OLLY MORGAN	<b>15</b>	FULLBACK
3-0	CHARLIE SHARPLES	<b>14</b>	WING
10-0	HENRY TRINDER	<b>13</b>	CENTRE
10-7	ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU	<b>12</b>	CENTRE
15-7	TOM VOYCE	<b>11</b>	WING
15-10	NICKY ROBINSON	<b>10</b>	FLY-HALF
15-15	RORY LAWSON	<b>9</b>	SCRUM-HALF
18-15	NICK WOOD	<b>1</b>	PROP
21-15	SCOTT LAWSON	<b>2</b>	HOOKER
26-15	T PAUL DORAN-JONES	<b>3</b>	PROP
29-15	WILL JAMES	<b>4</b>	LOCK
29-22	JIM HAMILTON	<b>5</b>	LOCK
34-22	PETER BUXTON	<b>6</b>	FLANKER
	ANDY HAZELL	<b>7</b>	FLANKER
	LUKE NARRAWAY (C)	<b>8</b>	NO.8
	OLIVIER AZAM	<b>16</b>	
	YANN THOMAS	<b>17</b>	
	RUPERT HARDEN	<b>18</b>	
	ALEX BROWN	<b>19</b>	
	ALASDAIR STROKOSCH	<b>20</b>	
	JORDI PASQUALIN	<b>21</b>	
	FREDDIE BURNS	<b>22</b>	
	TIM MOLENAAR	<b>23</b>	

## BATH RUGBY

	NICK ABENDANON		
	MATT CARRARO		
	BEN WILLIAMS		
	OLLY BARKLEY		
	TOM BIGGS		
	BUTCH JAMES		
	MICHAEL CLAASSENS		
	DAVID FLATMAN		
	LEE MEARS		
	DUNCAN BELL		
	STUART HOOPER		
	DANNY GREWCOCK		
	BEN SKIRVING		
	LUKE WATSON (C)		
	SIMON TAYLOR		
	PIETER DIXON		
	DAVID BARNES		
	KANE PALMA-NEWPORT		
	IGNACIO FERNANDEZ LOBBE		
	GUY MERCER		
	MARK McMILLAN		
	SAM VESTY		
	JACK CUTHBERT		

### MATCH SCORE

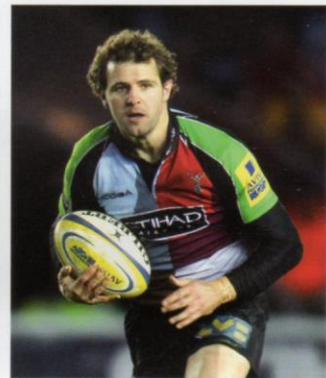
GLOUCESTER RUGBY	
v	
BATH RUGBY	

REFEREE: Greg Garner  
ASST REFEREES: Stuart Terhegge and Peter Huckle

### THE STATS THAT MATTER

#### TOP POINTS SCORERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
NICK EVANS*	175
DAVE WALDER	158
JIMMY GOPPERTH	146
RYAN LAMB	146
OLLY BARKLEY	137



#### TOP TRY SCORERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
TOPSY OJO*	7
TOM VARNDELL	6
SCOTT HAMILTON	6
ALESANA TUILAGI	6
MANU TUILAGI	6

