



**INSIDE...**

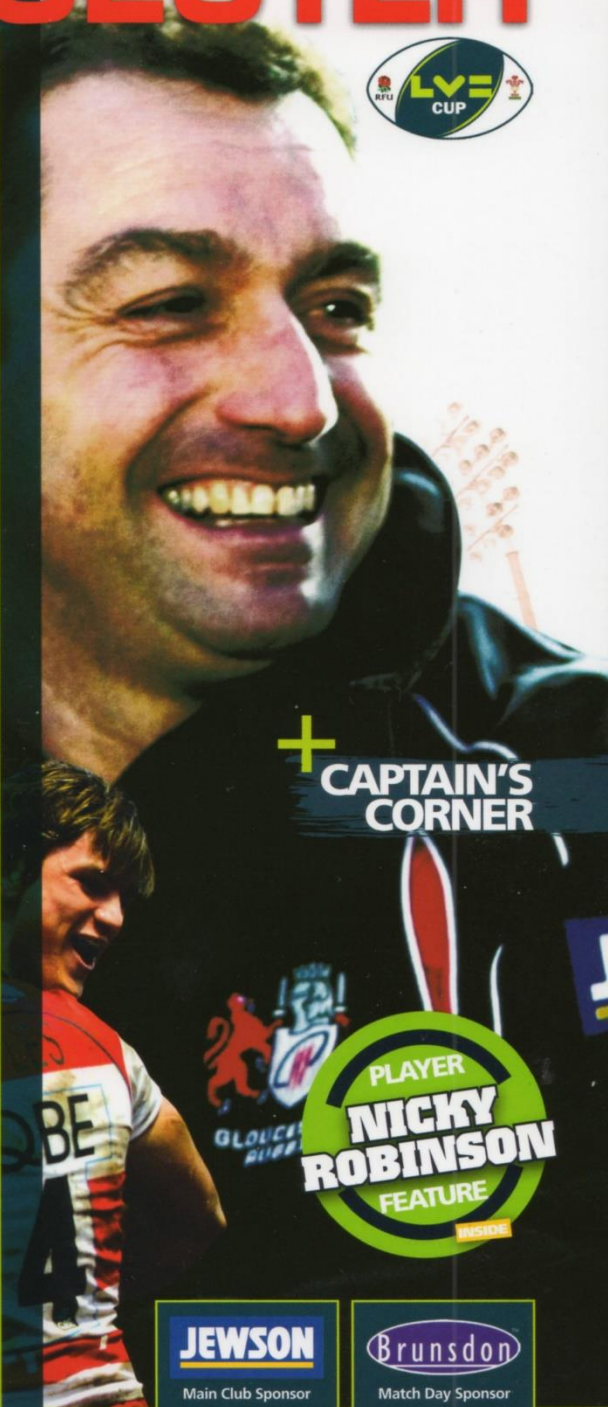
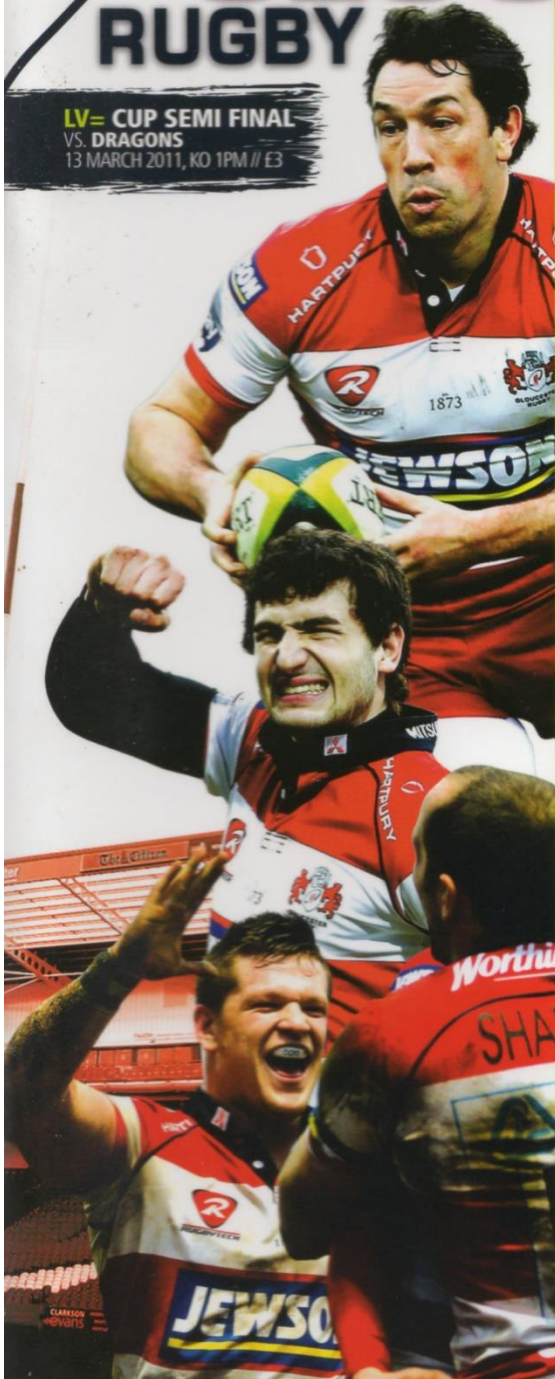
Club News › Player poster › Opposition feature › Kingsholm Hospitality

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



**LV= CUP SEMI FINAL**  
VS. DRAGONS  
13 MARCH 2011, KO 1PM // E3



**+ CAPTAIN'S CORNER**

**PLAYER NICKY ROBINSON FEATURE**

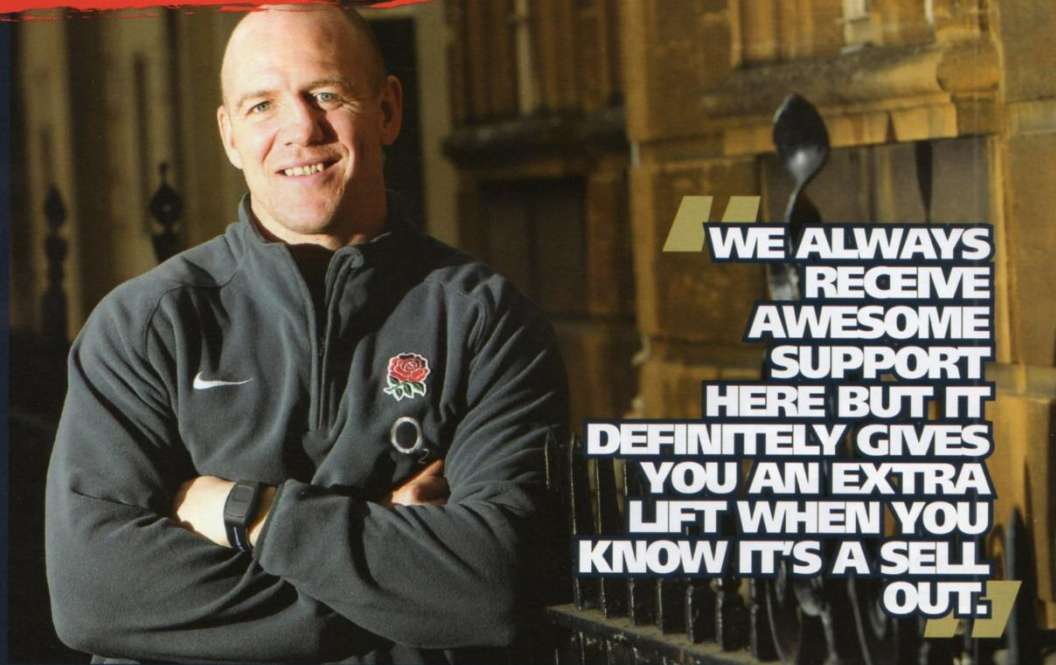


**PLUS...**

RUGBY NEWS, ACADEMY, BRYAN REDPATH & COMMUNITY NEWS

MIKE TINDALL

# Captain's Corner



**“WE ALWAYS RECEIVE AWESOME SUPPORT HERE BUT IT DEFINITELY GIVES YOU AN EXTRA LIFT WHEN YOU KNOW IT'S A SELL OUT.”**

## **ANOTHER week and another big game beckons for Gloucester Rugby! of weeks for Gloucester Rugby.**

It's been a gruelling run of fixtures recently and the boys' attitude to it all has been exemplary. Everyone at the club is working incredibly hard and the results are there for everyone to see.

Last weekend's win over Bath was particularly impressive. I know Leicester and Saracens fans might have something to say about it, but I reckon Gloucester and Bath were possibly the two form teams coming in to the game.

For us to take five points from the game was a superb outcome and the fact that a number of our nearest rivals slipped up was a bonus.

The great thing is that we were able to chalk up a bonus point win against such a good opponent without actually being at our very best. We had several really good

positions, positions we've converted into points in recent weeks, but uncharacteristic errors crept in at a couple of key moments.

It was also an intense occasion. It's very easy to get caught up in all the hype and the emotion in games like that but we kept our heads and delivered a professional performance which was well worthy of the win.

It was an interesting day for me personally as well. Those of you who watched the game on ESPN will have noticed that it was my turn to represent Gloucester in the studio.

All sounds great in theory but when my taxi didn't turn up on time, there was a flurry of panicky phone calls while they tried to find out exactly where I was!

It all worked out though. I made it in time for kick off and they were also kind enough to let be blatantly plug Sinbad's testimonial by wearing one of his T shirts!

Being with the ESPN people for a

couple of hours was interesting and I also found out how much they love broadcasting games from Kingsholm.

They've been here a few times this season, the games have been pretty spectacular ones and they can't get enough of the matchday atmosphere here at the ground.

Last weekend of course was a sell out and it was fantastic. We always receive awesome support here but it definitely gives you an extra lift when you know it's a sell out.

That support will be a massive factor this afternoon. We're taking absolutely nothing for granted against the Dragons who would love nothing better than to turn us over on our home turf.

They can draw upon the fact that they beat us at Rodney Parade earlier this season and, with a place in the LV= Cup final up for grabs, there's a massive amount to play for.

**It should be a great game.**

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

So, here we are again. Another weekend and another big fixture for Gloucester Rugby. There's not much time for stopping and smelling the roses at the moment!

Not that we're complaining, though. Ask anyone who works in rugby and they'll tell you that they'd rather be involved in these games than sat at home watching them on television.

As a result, while a number of our Aviva Premiership rivals now have a couple of weekends off, we're entertaining the Dragons this afternoon and our schedule for the next week will depend on today's outcome.

It's a test for any squad, particularly at this time when the RBS Six Nations is taking place. Most teams are missing a couple of players and every team has boys out with injuries.

That's where careful squad management comes into the equation. We're getting into the business end of the season and you have to keep an eye out for anyone who is looking jaded.

Naturally, every player wants to play every game but, given the intensity of modern rugby, that's not a realistic option.

That's why, following the win over Bath Rugby last weekend, we've given the squad a couple of days off this week. Time for them to recharge their batteries and be as fresh as possible for today's game.

At the post match press conference last weekend, I spoke about the important role that the likes of Carl Hogg, Bob Stewart (Head

of Medical Services) and Barny Allen (Head of Strength and Conditioning) play at times like this.

Fitness work doesn't just take part in preseason. Each and every week, we devise a schedule to ensure that we have as many players as possible fit and healthy and available for selection and the part the back room staff play cannot be underestimated.

Looking back again to last weekend, I was pleased with the victory. Bath are a very good side and came to Kingsholm on the back of a terrific run of room so, to earn a bonus point, was a good effort.



We're always striving to improve though and we all know that there were a few things that could have been better despite the win.

Our defence wasn't quite as sharp as it has been in recent weeks and we weren't quite as clinical in the opposition 22 as we would like. It's given us something to work on in training this week.

And we know that we'll need to be at our best this afternoon. I've seen a lot of talk about us being at Kingsholm and our home record etc but we've still got a big task on our hands.

We've already played the Dragons this season of course and it didn't go our way. We weren't particularly on our game on a wet and windy evening down in Newport and we paid the price.

That's the sort of side they are. They have a very solid squad

and an impressive team spirit that helps them get out of some tough scrapes. And they will take advantage of a side which isn't at its best or which doesn't pay them the respect they deserve.

In terms of results, they weren't having the best of seasons until recently and Paul Turner obviously left the club a few weeks back.

However, since the turn of the year, they've run into a bit of form. They've won five out of their last nine games which includes a couple on the road at Sale and Aironi.

Factor into the equation that a cup final place is up for grabs, and the

delight that a Welsh side takes in turning over an English opponent and we could have quite a game on our hands.

It's in our hands, however. We worked hard after the result at Rodney Parade to win our next three group matches and qualify for the semi finals.

We've made the final for the past two years and would like to make it three in a row but we'll have to earn our place in the final, it certainly won't be given to us.

Thanks, once again, for the magnificent support we've received this season and which was unbelievable last weekend against Bath.

More of the same this afternoon will definitely help to set us on the road to victory.

Enjoy the game!

**“WE’VE MADE THE FINAL FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS AND WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT THREE IN A ROW BUT WE’LL HAVE TO EARN OUR PLACE IN THE FINAL, IT CERTAINLY WON’T BE GIVEN TO US.”**

**BRYAN  
REDPATH**  
**EXCLUSIVE COACH’S NOTES**

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# View from The Citizen

with Nick Purewal

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



## Redpath: The jaws of success

*"...the work ethic of all the staff underneath has been great, and I'm as chuffed for them as I am for the players really."*

**C**andid Bryan Redpath believes only brutal honesty can lift Gloucester out of their prizeless rut.

The Cherry and Whites boss admitted he has forced his whole operation to confront the deep-seated reasons for consistently snatching failure from the jaws of success.

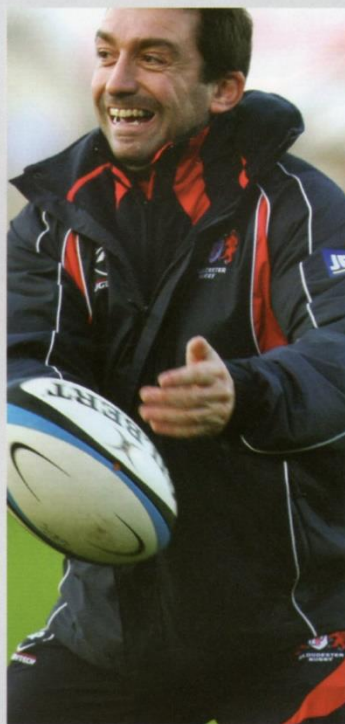
Gloucester stand on the brink of silverware once again – but head coach Redpath knows his squad have crumbled at the crunch all too often.

Redpath's resurgent men batted Bath aside 34-22 for their ninth consecutive victory last weekend, and entertain the Dragons this lunchtime in the LV= Cup semi-final.

Win-or-bust rugby has backfired too regularly, and former Scotland scrum half Redpath revealed Gloucester have tackled the problem with a consistent wide-ranging review this season.

Paying tribute to assistant boss Carl Hogg and the rest of his back room staff, Redpath said question marks about their experience only redoubles their determination to succeed.

Redpath explained: "I'll be honest with you it's come down to challenging the people who have been here the longest; we need to change the culture around here and we need to really understand why in



the last six seasons nearly now, we've been in finals nearly every year and we've not won.

"We've won one in the six years that I've been here, and we've lost three finals, a semi-final and a quarter-final, and we've had to ask why.

"Now that generally comes down

to mental strength, or core belief in the group.

"When you get to these stages it's a one-off game, and I think we've tried to target that within Monday to Friday.

"And we've just been honest with ourselves, and said if we're not willing to do it then we're never going to change this rut that we've been in.

"Is that the reason why we've been winning since Leeds? I wish I had an answer, and I wish it was as simple as that.

"But we're doing alright, we are working hard Monday to Friday, and that means we bash each other around a little bit more, nothing crazy but just little bits.

"But you've got to keep modifying that.

"I thought we looked a little bit flat on Saturday, I thought we looked a little bit tired, so we'll need to be smart with the lads this week in terms of how everyone has to front up in training.

"But the boys have got to take a lot of credit, and the staff as well."

Highlighting his back room staff's hard work, Redpath said the coaches are just as determined to secure silverware as the players.

He continued: "Hoggy gets a lot of criticism from people in saying he's not this, or he's not that, but



he's taken on 60 per cent of the defensive chores, and I do probably 40 per cent of it.

"And he's got his forwards, but people knock him, well maybe not knock him, but say myself and him aren't experienced enough to cope, and that drives us on.

"But with Bob Stewart the physio and Barry Allen the conditioner, we sat down as a staff group and said we need to change and set standards prior to the players actually doing it, we need to make sure they are set, and stuck to, throughout the whole season.

"And we need to make sure

they're not just set in pre-season, and it's great when everyone's excited and working hard, but then allow them to slip off when the first defeat comes, or when the first time the coach gets questioned and says it's this or it's that.

"So it's a credit to the staff for fronting up and coming through with that, with only two coaches, it makes it tough.

"That's tough on myself and Hoggy, but at least we know where each other stands.

"So for me it's a big thank you to them as much as anything.

"It's a driver every time, you want

to succeed, I want to succeed as a coach. It's the same when you're a player.

"And we've got this challenge to go out there and make sure we can make the players better, and try to win something, that's the ultimate aim.

"And if you don't, quite rightly you're going to get questions thrown your way why, or whatever, and what about ifs and buts, and then you can only try to answer them.

"But I think the work ethic of all the staff underneath has been great, and I'm as chuffed for them as I am for the players really."

**T**he LV= Cup competition is one that holds mixed memories for Gloucester Rugby fly half Nicky Robinson.

He played a pivotal role in helping the Cardiff Blues win the tournament back in April 2009, unfortunately at the expense of the team he was about to join – Gloucester Rugby.

Just under a year later, he was pulling the strings from outside half as Gloucester took on Northampton Saints in one of last season's most memorable matches. The lead switched hands several times before the Saints eventually ended up victorious.

A pivotal moment in the game occurred when Robinson thought he had touched down only for the Television Match Official to rule it out. Once and for all, to put the record straight, did he score?

"I did score it and even Roger Wilson (the Northampton number eight) told me afterwards that he knew I'd scored it. It was ok for him to admit it then because he had his winners' medal!"

"But he'd got in the way and prevented the TV replay from seeing the ball being grounded which kind of summed up our season a little bit in a way. We were so close to being really good but not quite there."

"People came up to me for weeks afterwards and told me what a great game it was but it was small consolation."

"But we've learned our lessons from that game. It was our mistakes that helped Northampton win that match and lift the trophy. Sometimes you learn more from the games you lose rather than those you win."

"I've enjoyed the LV= Cup, though. The year Cardiff won, it was a really big competition with the final held at Twickenham, the game televised live on BBC with a big crowd etc. It was a big day and one of my best moments in a Cardiff jersey."

"It's a different competition now but I think it's a great competition given its place in the fixture calendar. It tests the strength of your squad and gives you the chance to lift a trophy and also qualify for Europe."

"We've actually found some form this year in the LV= Cup and it's benefitted

our league form as we've carried our LV= form into that competition."

That's all history of course and this weekend offers an opportunity to return to the final although the visiting Dragons, understandably, will have something to say about that?

"Definitely. They've built a good squad over the past couple of years and had a good season last year in the Magners League. It's not been so easy for them this season and they've lost their coach which must have been disappointing for them."

"Since then though, they've kicked on and had some quite good wins and are mid table in the Magners. And this competition



**"I'M 100% FOCUSED ON MY RUGBY AND TRYING TO MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY MINUTE I HAVE LEFT AT GLOUCESTER."**

is a chance for them, just like us, to get to a final, to win a trophy and to clinch Heineken Cup qualification."

"As a Welshman, I know how much we enjoy playing against English opposition. They'll be up for it and we have to match that ferocity."

The two teams have already met once this season as the Dragons took the spoils in the opening round of pool matches at Rodney Parade. The 29 year old, who is closing in on 500 points for Gloucester, admits there's not much between the two sides.

"We beat them home and away in the Heineken Cup last season but it wasn't easy. In the first game at Kingsholm, they

ran us right to the end."

"They've got a squad of good players. They don't lose many to the internationals, a bit like us so they'll be nearly at full strength. It's a big game for both teams."

2011 got off to a tricky start for Robinson as a niggling hamstring injury kept him sidelined for a few weeks but he's come back in pretty good nick and played his part in some impressive wins recently.

"I'm feeling good. It was frustrating to be injured as it always is, especially when the boys are playing really well and getting some good wins. It really makes you eager to get back and show what you can do."

"I wasn't too pleased with my own form prior to Christmas but, certain things are sorted out off the field, and I'm 100% focussed on my rugby and trying to make the most of every minute I have left at Gloucester."

Away from the game, it's Cheltenham week and a love of horse racing almost seems to be a prerequisite for members of the Gloucester Rugby back line. Will training finish early enough to be able to sneak up to Prestbury Park?

"I'm hoping to. Last year, I managed to make it up there for a couple of afternoons. Living locally means I can get there quite easily."

"I've learned quite a bit about it from a couple of the boys this year so I know more about the festival and the horses. It's always good to get over there and sample the atmosphere."

Those couple of boys would probably include James Simpson-Daniel and Mike Tindall. All three have an investment in a horse – so, how's it going?

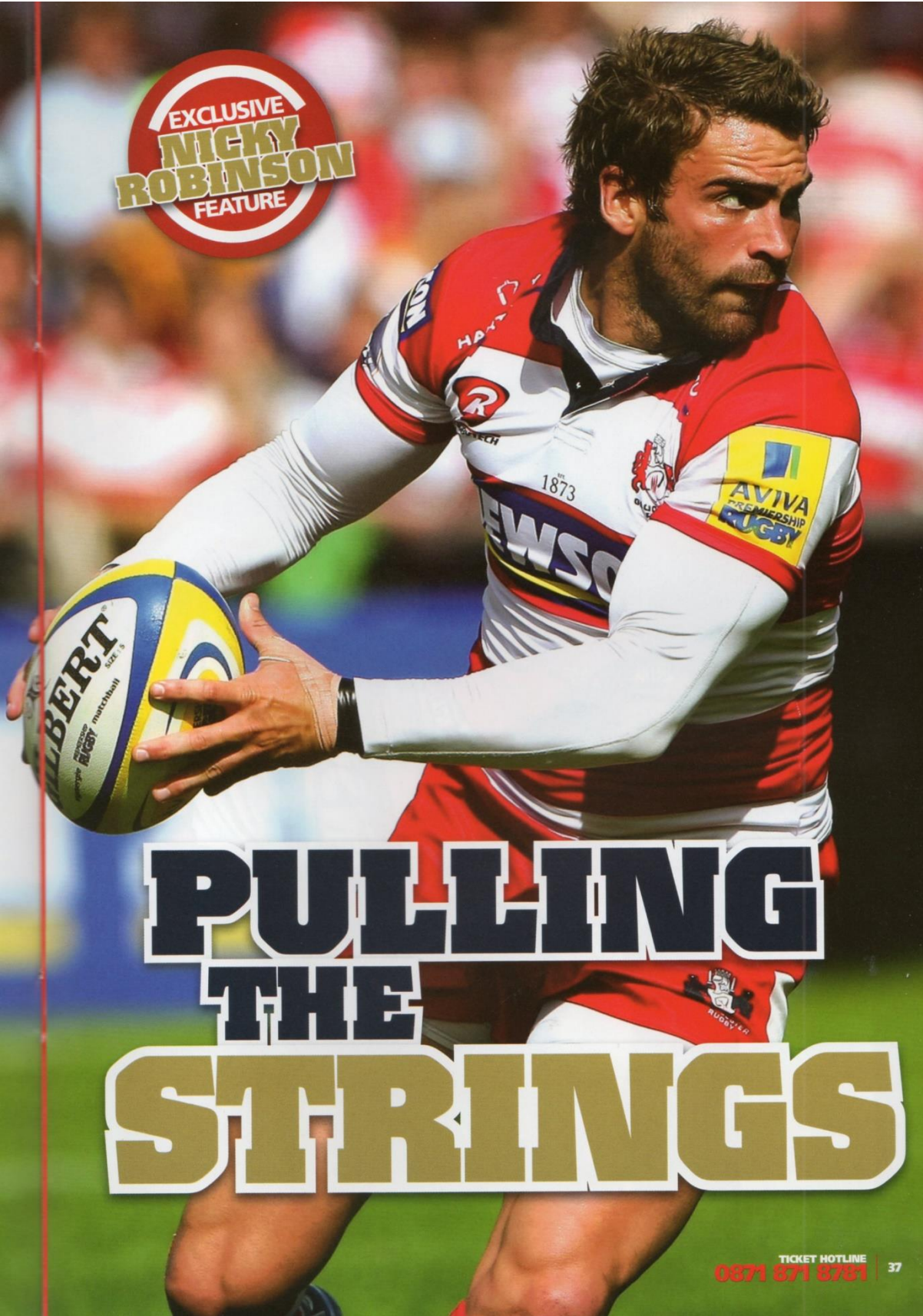
(Laughs). Well, it seems to have picked up a few of the injury problems that the three of us have had but he's still quite young so we're hopeful he'll get a few more runs this season."

"He won't make Cheltenham this year but we've got dreams of taking him out to the Dubai Carnival! You can dream big."

And Sinbad's tips have been the subject of much mocking amongst the squad. Are they improving at all?

"I don't think they'll ever improve. You'd have thought they could only get better but there's no sign of our luck changing..."

EXCLUSIVE  
**NICKY  
ROBINSON**  
FEATURE


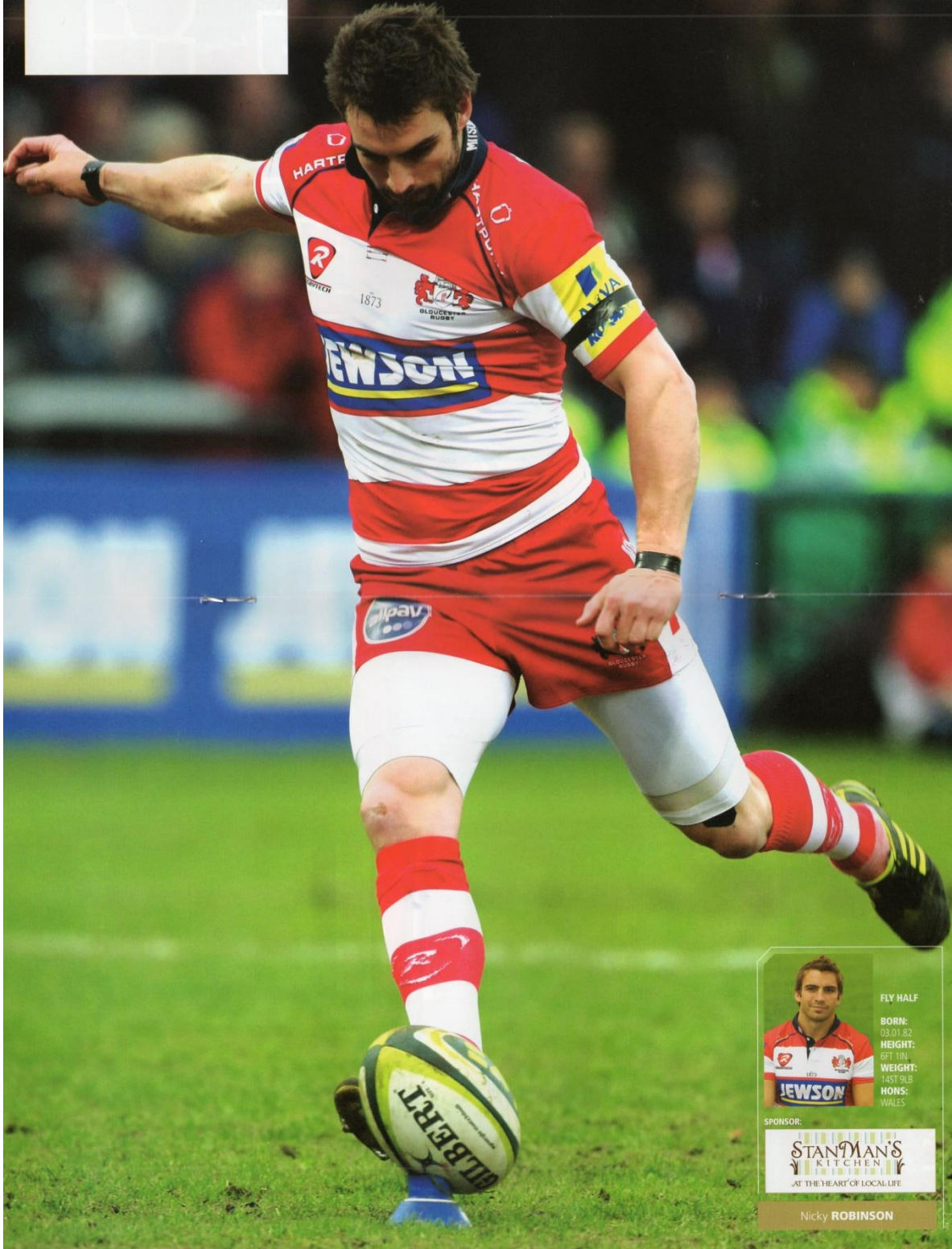
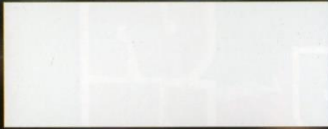


# PULLING THE STRINGS

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AUTOGRAPH:



FLY HALF  
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HEIGHT: 6FT 1IN  
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Nicky ROBINSON

# Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton

IT'S surprising what a win like last week can do for you isn't it. It should have been just another match but it's always more than that when you put one – or more precisely four – over your nearest and dearest.

So at the time of writing the sun is out, birds are singing, buds are appearing on the trees and plants, and people are walking around with smiles on their faces. Of course some – misguided – people will say that this is due to the onset of spring, but they'd be wrong.

It's because we stuck it to Bath last weekend and as a result the world is a better place. And that's official. Unless you are a Bath fan, perhaps.

It was a great game to watch, I have to say that I never once thought that Bath were going to win and from the moment Paul Doran Jones, Scott Lawson and Nick Wood wreaked destructive havoc on their opposing numbers it was always going to be by how many points we were going to be clear at the end.



Poor old Dave Balmer probably had to put in an extra shift or two levelling out the dents in the pitch caused by the regularity and amount of times the Bath front row hit it with their faces.

Still it'll give (the very aptly named) David Flatman something to write about next time he pens his – really rather good – newspaper columns: something like a 'turf I have eaten' recipe perhaps!

Of course the edge was taken off the result by the horrible injury that Olly Barkley suffered. A scary reminder of the amount of punishment these guys put themselves through for our entertainment. Given the year he spent with us, and the manner of his departure back to Bath it's fair to say opinion is divided on him.

Personally I think you have to respect someone who is prepared to say 'this isn't working for me' and move on,



**IT'S ALL PART OF THE COLLECTIVE SPIRIT THAT IS THERE IN THE SQUAD NOW, EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT THEIR ROLE IS, EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT IS EXPECTED AND EVERYONE WILL PERFORM TO THE MAX.**

it would have been easy for him to cruise through his contract and not put the effort in – and we all know players who have done that – but he didn't. I can't help but respect him for that honesty.

But whatever people think the simple fact is that you wouldn't wish that kind of injury on any player, and the huge applause when he went off provided, I hope, a degree of comfort. I hope he's fit and well enough to play here next season.

So today then. Let me start with a bit of an apology. Earlier in the season I may have given the impression that the LV= Cup was in some way an irrelevant, poorly thought out competition that was too complicated for the average supporter to understand and that as a result the clubs were not really all that interested in it.

I am now prepared to accept that I was entirely wrong in forming this view and the competition is without doubt the best thing since sliced bread. If that brewery which isn't the one who do the other cup did rugby competitions they would do this one; it is without doubt the knees of the bees when it comes to domestic rugby cups.

This is going to be a great encounter, for both side the final represents a chance to get the holy grail of Heineken Cup rugby next season, not to mention a very fat winner's cheque too.

For us it's a chance to finally wipe out two years of falling at the last hurdle, first to Cardiff then to Northampton.

But before we start counting our chickens let's not dismiss today's opponents. There are many who

feel that the Magners League clubs – a few big names aside – do not represent much of a challenge to those in the headier climbs of the Premiership. I think this is more than a little disrespectful, not to say arrogant.

Newport will cross the bridge today believing that despite a fairly lengthy injury list and at the beginning of this week they seemed to have more players on that list than the team sheet. We'll be without a few key names too, so it's going to be about who has the strength in depth in the squad to cope with injuries and international call ups.

And this is where I think we have an advantage. We may not have a string of household name players to step up to the plate when we lose key players, but what we do have are players who can slot in seamlessly to fill the gaps. Jordi Pasqualin and Jonny May at Northampton for example.

This will, I believe, give us the edge today. It's all part of the collective spirit that is there in the squad now, everyone knows what their role is, everyone knows what is expected and everyone will perform to the max.

So without getting ahead of ourselves I am confident that come 4pm today the only thing on my mind will be whether I was successful in the draw for cup final tickets.

And then it doesn't matter who is on the other side of the pitch at Northampton – Quins or Newcastle, either will do.

It's got to be third time lucky, hasn't it?



# GL13AX Gloucester Talk with Peter Arnold

## THE CUP THAT CHEERS

**O**ne good thing about Cup matches is that sometimes they throw up opportunities to renew acquaintance with old friends and opponents we don't see any more.

Newport. Now there's a name which resonates with those of us who were around in the old pre-professional days. There was a time when Newport and Cardiff were the undisputed kings of the Welsh game. So much so, in fact, that they used to play each other four times in a season.

Newport often came to Kingsholm just after Christmas, and provided a very stern test after the lighter fare with which we were presented during the festive season.

We won some and probably lost a few more, but you could always rely on seeing a tough and hard-fought encounter. I particularly remember that Mike Burton always seemed to be in his element.

These matches weren't ones you would take an impressionable maiden aunt to, but, as always, both



teams happily got drunk together afterwards.

In those days, Newport was unique in that the club was affiliated to both the, RFU and the Welsh Rugby Union so that a Newport player qualified to play for either Wales or England.

National qualification was both stricter and simpler in those days. This fact led to one of the best bits of Kingsholm badinage I can recall, I was sitting in the front of the

old stand and the game was getting its fair share of penalties, mostly in Gloucester's favour. At one point, the ref blew up right in front of us, and awarded another penalty our way.

An anguished Welsh voice from the enclosure declaimed "Jesus Christ, referee!"

A rather posh English voice responded "No. That's the English part of your affiliation old boy!"

In fact, as I learned later, the respondent was a local clergyman.

## GET WELL SOON

**I**t was a great shame that a match which had so many good things as the Bath game should be marred by an injury as nasty as our old friend Ollly Barklay suffered. To break both tibia and fibula at the same time is bad luck indeed.

I didn't actually see the incident,

but it all looked fairly innocuous until I noticed the concern exhibited by the other players and the speed with which the medics got on to the field. Then it looked very unpleasant indeed.

No one wants to see a player from either team go down with an injury like that, and we all wish Ollly the very best for a speedy recovery. We

shan't see him again this season, and I imagine that he will now have lost any chance he might have had to join England's World Cup party.

His sojourn at Gloucester can't have been the happiest in his career, and now this happens.

Kingsholm is certainly not his lucky ground.

## SUPER

**W**atching the replay of the ESPN coverage of the Bath game, I spotted a familiar face. To be fair, I couldn't really miss him, because it was our remarkable Town Crier, Alan Myatt in full uniform.

When asked how he felt the game would go, he boomed, "Beating Bath will be super-doooper!"

He wasn't wrong. We did beat Bath, and it was one of the super-doooperest Kingsholm occasions for a long time.

Everything was right. We had a full house, and a packed Kingsholm supplies an atmosphere unique in the English game. The weather was fine for rugby, a little chilly, perhaps,

but with none of that pesky rain and wind that has bedevilled recent matches.

And you couldn't fault the rugby, either. It was played at great pace and with a very high skill level on both sides. Don't make any mistake. Bath are a good side and they probably won't lose many more games this season. Unless they meet Gloucester in the play-offs of course.

To my unprofessional eye, it seemed that the game was won in the pack, and in the front three in particular.

You have to respect an international front row consisting of Bell, Mears and Flatman, but Wood, Lawson and Doran Jones, frankly, took them apart.



The only query I have, was where was the yellow card? Bath were penalised for scrum offences five or six times, yet no one was given ten minutes detention.

No doubt the ref had his reasons, but I did wonder if he'd left his cards back in the dressing room.

No matter. It all came out in the wash, and gave us one of the most enjoyable afternoon's rugby we've seen for years.

Even Austin Healey said so...

## MIKE'S HOOTER

**W**hat's all this about Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal suggesting that Mike Tindall have his nose straightened in time for his wedding?

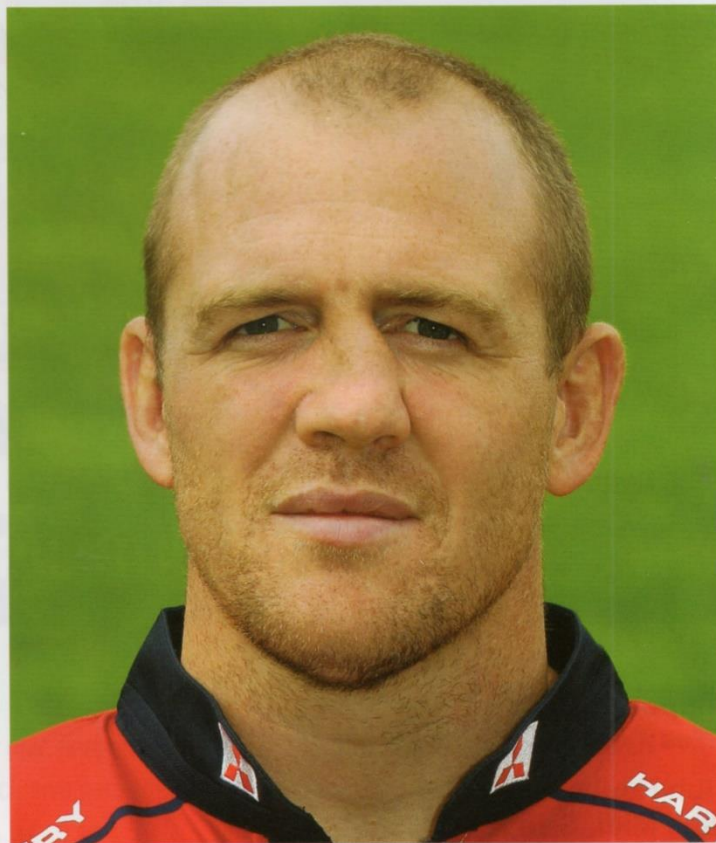
Personally, I think Mike's S-shaped appendage is a badge of honour which should be preserved for posterity. Has anyone asked Zara how she feels about it?

I've had the pleasure of meeting Princess Anne several times, and had quite long chats with her on two or three occasions. Asking Mike to undergo cosmetic surgery just for the wedding day simply doesn't seem her style.

After all, as a top sportswoman herself, who has had her share of thrills and spills, she must know perfectly well that, if he does have the thing straightened, it is quite likely to get itself bent out of shape again as soon as next season gets under way.

Stick to your guns, Tins. Or, rather your characterful hooter. You wouldn't be so interesting without it.

Funny. I've heard of Royals shouting, "Off with his head" but never "Off with his conk!"





NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 16  
 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 18

**G**loucester defied the travel, the weather, the away crowd and the not inconsiderable hurdle that the Northampton Saints represent to clinch a vital away win and keep alive the push for a Top four Aviva Premiership place.

Both teams could quite rightly point out to the absence of a plethora of players due to injury and international call ups but Gloucester muscled up on the day and thoroughly deserved the win.

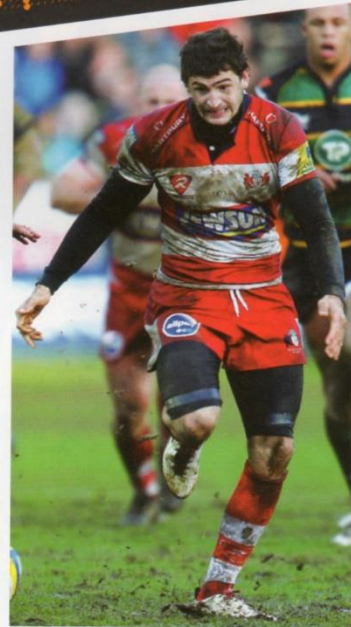
It was a day when mastering the conditions would be crucial. Heavy rain hadn't quite reduced the

Franklin's Gardens pitch to a swamp, but it wasn't far off and a strong wind blew from one end to the other.

And, on the day, Nicky Robinson outdueled his opposite number Stephen Myler with the boot and it proved to be a crucial difference between the two sides.

Robinson, though, will be the first to acknowledge the efforts of his pack who slugged it out with their Saints counterparts, Paul Doran-Jones in particular seeming to relish the confrontation with the men he will call his team mates next season.

The pack made the hard yards but one player above all others skated his way over the boggy surface to score two crucial tries.



PEN 7min Myler (3-0)	TRY 21min May (3-5) CON 22min Robinson (3-7) PEN 26min Myler (6-7)	TRY 37min May (6-12)
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2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 22 | 24 | 26 | 28 | 30 | 32 | 34 | 36 | 38 | 40

## KEY MOMENT



**PEN** 56min  
Robinson (13-15)  
Gloucester  
were reeling  
slightly in the  
second half having  
surrendered their half  
time lead to a Greig  
Tonks try and Stephen  
Myler conversion.

However, Nicky Robinson's excellent long range 56th minute penalty, into the teeth of the wind, settled the nerves as it restored Gloucester's superiority.



Step forward Jonny May, a late call up for the injured Charlie Sharples. May's balanced running and searing pace were too much for the Saints defence to handle.

May's first try, a weaving run at top speed gave Gloucester a deserved

**"IT'S A MASSIVE STATEMENT OF INTENT BUT I'M AWARE OF WHERE WE ARE AND AWARE OF WHERE THEY ARE TOO. WE'RE DOING THE BASICS WELL, NOT GETTING TOO PANICKY, WORRYING, OR GETTING OVER EXCITED AND CARRIED AWAY."** **BRYAN REDPATH**



7-3 lead and he added his second after fine work from his fellow backs to ensure his side went into half time with a narrow 12-6 lead.

The home side had the wind at their backs in the second half and quickly took the lead when Myler's slide rule grubber kick behind the defensive line was scooped up by Greig Tonks for the only Saints try.

Robinson, though, displayed ice cool nerves and a siege gun boot to slot two long range penalties with Myler only able to respond with one leaving Gloucester to defend an 18-16 lead for the last 17 minutes.

They duly did so by the pack completely dominating possession, wearing down the Saints forwards and playing the final exchanges almost exclusively in the Saints 22.

Appropriately, it was a penalty won at a scrum on the Saints put in that clinched the win and the celebrations began, on and off the pitch.

## THE LINE UPS

### NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

15. Greig Tonks
14. Bruce Reihana
13. Jon Clarke
12. James Downey
11. Paul Diggin
10. Stephen Myler
9. Ryan Powell
1. Soane Tonga'uiha
2. Brett Sharman
3. Brian Mujati
4. Dan Vickerman
5. Mark Sorenson
6. Calum Clark
7. Phil Dowson (C)
8. Mark Easter

16. Andy Long
17. Alex Waller
18. Tom Mercey
19. Christian Day
20. Courtney Lawes
21. Ryan Glynn
22. Shane Geraghty
23. Scott Armstrong

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Olly Morgan
14. Jonny May
13. Tim Molenaar
12. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
11. Tom Voyce
10. Nicky Robinson
9. Jordi Pasqualin
1. Nick Wood
2. Olivier Azam
3. Paul Doran-Jones
4. Will James
5. Jim Hamilton
6. Peter Buxton
7. Akapusi Qera
8. Luke Narraway (C)

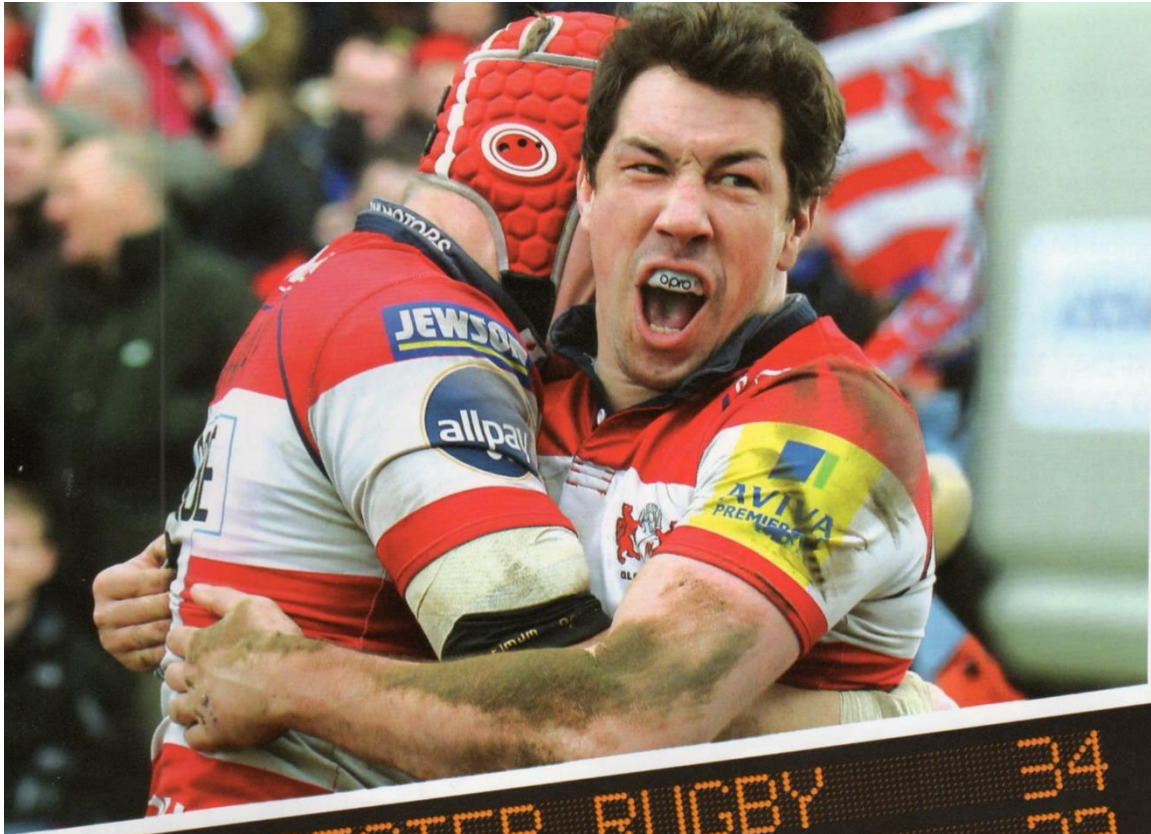
16. Darren Dawidiuk
17. Yann Thomas
18. Rupert Harden
19. Dave Attwood
20. Alasdair Strokosch
21. Dan Robson
22. Freddie Burns
23. Henry Trinder

**TRY** 47min Tonks (11-12)  
**CON** 48min Myler (13-12)

**PEN** 56min Robinson (13-15)

**PEN** 61min Robinson (13-18)  
**PEN** 63min Myler (16-18)

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

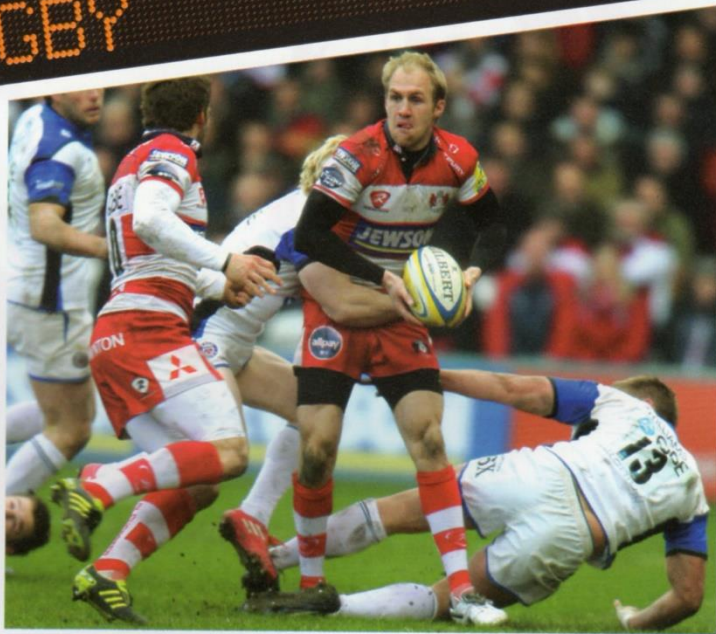


GLOUCESTER RUGBY 34  
 BATH RUGBY 22

**G**loucester's hopes of a top six Aviva Premiership finish and possibly a playoff spot, took a massive step forward last weekend thanks to a 34-22 victory over Bath.

There was so much more than local bragging rights at stake. Both teams were in a rich vein of form coming into the game and a trawl of the respective internet messageboards saw anything from grudging admiration for one's opponent to unbridled hostility – all safely delivered from behind the anonymity of a pseudonym of course!

Most postings had one thing in common though – the genuine belief



**PEN** 5min Robinson (3-0)

**TRY** 18min Trinder (8-0)  
**CON** 20min Robinson (10-0)

**TRY** 25min Banahan (10-5)  
**CON** 25min Barkley (10-7)

**TRY** 35min Doran-Jones (15-7)  
**PEN** 38min Barkley (15-10)

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

**GLOUCESTER**  
 RUGBY.CO.UK



## KEY MOMENT



**TRY** 59min Voyce (26-15)  
Gloucester played to the whistle while Bath hesitated when Matt Banahan's knock on threatened to derail a flowing home attack. Referee Greg Garner played advantage and Tom Voyce's first try was the result.

**"YOU KNOW THERE ARE BIG GAMES IN THE SEASON AND THEY DON'T GET BIGGER THAN THE BATH DERBY AT KINGSHOLM. WE LET IN A COUPLE SOFT TRIES AND WE MISSED SOME OPPORTUNITIES THAT COULD HAVE PUT A BIGGER SHINE ON THE DAY BUT ON THE WHOLE YOU CAN'T TAKE ANYTHING AWAY FROM THE BOYS, THEY WERE OUTSTANDING."** **BRYAN REDPATH**

that their side would come out on top. However, come full time, it was the Gloucester supporters who were in fine voice following what ESPN summariser Austin Healey declared as being his game of the season.

There was no cagey opening to this one. Gloucester went for the Bath jugular from the off, looking for an early score to rattle the opposition.

And a 10-0 lead after the first quarter was a dream start for Bryan Redpath's side with Henry Trinder's try created by an absolute peach of a chip over the top from Rory Lawson.

It wasn't going to be one way traffic and Bath muscled their way back into matter courtesy of Matt Banahan finishing off a half break from Ben Williams.

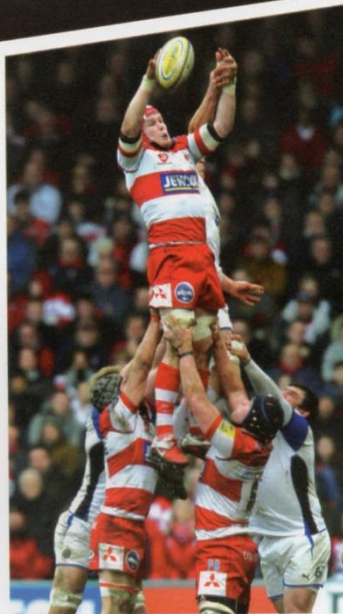
The sight of prop Paul Doran-Jones outwitting hooker Pieter Dixon to win the race to Nicky Robinson's cunningly engineered grubber delighted

the home faithful as Gloucester's advantage was restored but it was still a close encounter.

In fact, when Tom Biggs took advantage of some uncharacteristically slack defence to level matters shortly into the second half, the game was very much in the balance.

It was tense and a certain amount of niggles crept into proceedings. Stamps, high tackles, sly punches, pulling back off the ball – they were all in evidence as the game threatened to boil over.

The stage was set but it needed a star performer to step into the spotlight. Appropriately, from the wings entered Tom Voyce whose



two tries nearly bookended one from Williams to secure a famous, and possibly vital win for Gloucester.

Local derby wins don't come much sweeter!

## THE LINE UPS

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15. Olly Morgan
14. Charlie Sharples
13. Henry Trinder
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. Alex Brown
20. Alasdair Strokosch
21. Jordi Pasqualin
22. Freddie Burns
23. Tim Molenaar

### BATH RUGBY

15. Jack Cuthbert
14. Matt Banahan
13. Ben Williams
12. Olly Barkley
11. Tom Biggs
10. Butch James
9. Michael Claassens
1. David Flatman
2. Lee Mears
3. Duncan Bell
4. Stuart Hooper
5. Danny Grewcock
6. Ben Skirving
7. Luke Watson (C)
8. Simon Taylor
16. Pieter Dixon
17. David Barnes
18. Kane Palma-Newport
19. Ignacio Fernandez Lobbe
20. Guy Mercer
21. Mark McMillan
22. Sam Vesty
23. Nick Scott

**TRY** 41min Biggs (15-15)  
**PEN** 46min Robinson (18-15)

**PEN** 57min Robinson (21-15)  
**TRY** 59min Voyce (26-15)

**PEN** 73min Robinson (29-15)  
**TRY** 75min Williams (29-20)  
**CON** 75min James (29-22)  
**TRY** 79min Voyce (34-22)

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 | 65

VS. DRAGONS // 13.03.11

# TODAY'S LINE-UPS

## GLoucester Rugby

5-0  
12-0  
17-0  
24-0  
24-5  
31-5  
38-5  
45-5  
45-10  
45-17

OLLY MORGAN

*TTTT* CHARLIE SHARPLES

HENRY TRINDER

ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU

TOM VOYCE

*CTCCCC* NICKY ROBINSON

JORDI PASQUALIN

NICK WOOD

OLIVIER AZAM

RUPERT HARDEN

DAVE ATTWOOD

ALEX BROWN

PETER BUXTON

*T* ANDREW HAZELL

LUKE NARRAWAY (C)

DARREN DAWIDIUK

YANN THOMAS

PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE

WILL JAMES

AKAPUSI QERA

*TAYLOR* DAN ROBSON

FREDDIE BURNS

*MAY* TIM MOLENAAR

## NEWPORT GWENT DRAGONS

15 MARTYN THOMAS

FULLBACK

14 WILL HARRIES

WING

13 TOM RILEY

CENTRE

12 PAT LEACH

CENTRE

11 ALED BREW *T*

WING

10 JASON TOVEY *C*

FLY-HALF

9 WAYNE EVANS

SCRUM-HALF

1 PHIL PRICE

PROP

2 STEVE JONES *buyers*

HOOKER

3 DAN WAY

PROP

4 LUKE CHARTERIS (C)

LOCK

5 ADAM JONES *T*

LOCK

6 ANDREW COOMBS

FLANKER

7 LEWIS EVANS

FLANKER

8 TOBY FALETAU

NO.8

16 LLOYD BURNS

17 HUGH GUSTAFSON

18 PAT PALMER

19 ADAM BROWN *GROVES*

20 JOE BEARMAN *JONES T*

21 JONATHAN EVANS

22 MATTHEW JONES

23 ADAM HUGHES

### MATCH SCORE

GLoucester Rugby  
v  
DRAGONS

REFEREE: Christophe Berdos (FFR)  
ASST REFEREES: Martin Fox  
and Paul Dix



THE NEWS  
THAT  
MATTERS

## NORTHAMPTON TO HOST ANGLO-WELSH DECIDER



**FRANKLIN'S Gardens, the home of the Northampton Saints, has been confirmed as the venue for this season's Anglo-Welsh Cup final.**

The ground has a capacity of 13,500 and Rugby Football Union (RFU) competitions manager Chris Burns is anticipating a bumper crowd on March 20.

"We considered a variety of venues for the LV= Cup final and concluded that Franklin's Gardens offered the ideal location and ground capacity," he said. "The stadium itself is one of the best in the Aviva Premiership and presents a large range of facilities to make for an enjoyable match day experience. There will be numerous events going on in the build up to the game, including a supporters' village."

Northampton Saints chairman Keith Barwell is delighted that his club's stadium has been selected for the showpiece event.

"Having won the competition last year, Northampton Saints are honoured to be hosting the final, and no doubt whoever lifts the cup will find the success as beneficial as we have done," he said. "I am sure it will be an exciting occasion with supporters from both sides and indeed from the local area coming out to watch cup final rugby."