



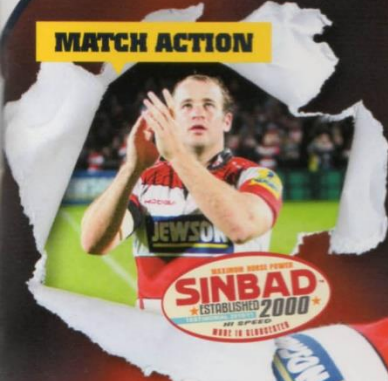
THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ONLY £3

MATCH ACTION



REGULARS

CLUB NEWS,
BRYAN REDPATH,
OPPOSITION,
TICKET INFO

NEW FEATURE



DreamTeam

DARREN

DAWIDIUK

AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY
vs. WORCESTER WARRIORS
10 SEPTEMBER 2011, KO 3PM

JEWSON CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

Main Club Sponsor



Captain's CORNER



"I'll obviously be on water boy duties again today but my rehab is going well. I'm doing a fair bit of running at the moment and hope to be back wearing the Cherry and White again before too long."

I HAVE to be honest. Sitting down to write these programme notes and thinking about the first Aviva Premiership Rugby fixture of the season here at Kingsholm is making the hairs on the back of my neck stand up.

After several months of strenuous fitness and skills work, followed by the preseason friendlies, it's always good to get down to the really serious stuff.

It's a slight shame that we kicked off the Aviva Premiership Rugby season on the road for the second season in a row. But that's the quirks of the fixture calendar. You can't do anything about it, you just have to get on with it.

I felt that we did ourselves proud up at Franklin's Gardens but it's incredibly frustrating that we couldn't quite hold on for the win.

We played some good stuff in the first half and should probably have scored at least once more. Northampton are too good a side to let you get away with that and they took their chances well in that

first period.

Things didn't go our way after half time. We lost Browner and we felt Bucko was harshly sinbinned but we did give away some soft penalties which allowed Stephen Myler to give them a bit of daylight.

But we always had confidence on our own ability and our own mental strength and, although things hadn't gone our way for 20 minutes or so, I always thought we were in it. And so it proved.

It would have been fantastic to secure the victory but it wasn't to be and we now have to put right the elements of our game that weren't quite where they should be.

We've been working on them in training all week and will hopefully reflect that hard work on the pitch here today against Worcester.

From a personal point of view, I'm really pleased to see them back in the Premiership. There's been a really close link between the two clubs in recent years and there always seem to be a couple of former Gloucester players

in their side looking to prove a point against us!

Not having them on the fixture calendar against us last season was a real loss. There's always a certain spice to the Gloucester vs Worcester matches and I'm sure we'll see more of the same this afternoon.

It will be strange though to see them lining up without Pat Sanderson. He was the sort of guy you love to have on your side but hate to play against and he really did become a talisman for Worcester.

The Warriors may well miss that gap toothed back rower, snarling at the opposition and urging his team mates on to a bigger effort but Richard Hill will have them well drilled and organised and it'll be tough for us today.

I'll obviously be on water boy duties again today but my rehab is going well. I'm doing a fair bit of running at the moment and hope to be back wearing the Cherry and White again before too long.

Enjoy the game!



"It's good to be back at Kingsholm. We're always lifted when we perform here in front of our own supporters and we'll be striving to give you all something to shout about this afternoon in what is sure to be a great atmosphere."

Coach's NOTES

with Head Coach, **BRYAN REDPATH**

ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT GLOUCESTER RUGBY, I'D LIKE TO WISH THE PLAYERS, STAFF AND SUPPORTERS OF THE WORCESTER WARRIORS A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM THIS AFTERNOON.

It's nice to see the Warriors back in the Premiership again. I know that for our supporters, it's become one of the most keenly awaited fixtures of the season and, on the pitch, it's one of the hardest fought!

In recent seasons, it seems that however Worcester are doing in the league, they always seem to raise their game against us and give us a hard time.

For example, two seasons ago, when they ended up being relegated to the Championship, they managed a draw here at Kingsholm and we only just scrambled a win up at Sixways. They always seem to be tense, close encounters!

Richard Hill has done a really good job there. He took over when they'd just gone down and managed to bring them straight back up which shouldn't be underestimated.

He's recruited some good players over the summer, he's always had an eye for a good player and they're not missing too many boys to the World Cup so they're looking a pretty solid unit.

And, of course, Hilly knows what it takes to get the job done at Premiership level. He kept Bristol in the Premiership for several seasons, often without a squad of big name players and probably the highlight was their third place finish in 2006-7.

So, we know that we'll have to be on top of our game this afternoon which means taking things up a notch from our performance at Franklin's Gardens last Sunday.

That was a pretty frustrating day at

the office. There were times when we looked very good but there were some aspects of our game where we weren't quite at our best and that's ultimately what cost us the win.

People outside the club might look at a losing bonus point away at Northampton as not a bad outcome. However, we know in our heart of hearts that the game was there for the taking. We could have and should have won it.

I couldn't fault our application on the day and we showed great mental strength in the second half when we trailed by ten points and were down to 14 men. We were committed as a team and all the players worked hard for each other.

We also created a lot of chances but we weren't quite precise enough when we got to the final third and left quite a few points out there.

There were lots of good things in our performance and I'm actually quite encouraged that we can be so competitive when we know that there are quite a few areas where we can improve significantly.

What's important is that, as a group, we know what we're trying to achieve on the pitch. What we now need is a little more precision in our execution.

It was the first game of the season and obviously nothing is won or lost at this stage and hopefully we've shaken off what remained of the rustiness from preseason.

We have improved throughout the matches we've played so far. There was a step up from the London Welsh performance when we took on Russia



and we went up another notch against the Saints last week.

We're still not quite at our best but we're getting better and hopefully we'll maintain that momentum this afternoon.

It's good to be back at Kingsholm. We're always lifted when we perform here in front of our own supporters and we'll be striving to give you all something to shout about this afternoon in what is sure to be a great atmosphere.

Finally, the World Cup gets underway this weekend so I'd just like to wish all the Gloucester players who are out there the very best of luck.

I was fortunate enough in my playing career to play in two Rugby World Cups and it really is the pinnacle of a player's international career.

I hope they all enjoy it, play to their potential and come back fit and healthy!

Enjoy the game.

MATCH ACTION
VS. NORTHAMPTON SAINTS, PAGE 64

View from
The Citizen



WITH NICK PUREWAL

WHEREVER, WHENEVER.

“WE KNOW WE’VE GOT THE POWER AND THE STRENGTH, AND THEN THE SPEED OUT WIDE, BUT WE’VE GOT TO USE THEM ALL PROPERLY.”

MASTERING a new role means nothing to Lesley Vainikolo – nothing in comparison to the struggles of the countless before him.

Experienced wing Vainikolo has been tasked with securing Gloucester’s midfield amid injuries and World Cup absences.

A 32-year-old challenged with changing position at the last minute in a personnel shortage – some would

baulk at the demand, and the timing. But not Big Les.

The likeable Tongan said anyone at Kingsholm would do whatever it takes to play wherever, whenever, in Cherry and White.

When the current crop of players think about their predecessors, Vainikolo said they are all well aware modern day sacrifices simply do not compare.

So when Gloucester boss Bryan Redpath asked Vainikolo if he was ready to step in at 12, there was only ever going to be one answer.

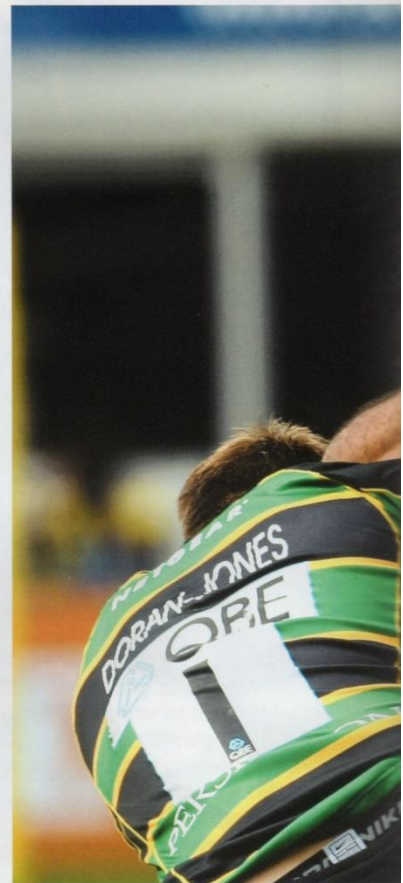
Big Les has filled the inside centre berth sporadically over his four years at Gloucester, but will always view himself a winger.

But a chance is a chance, whatever the shirt, he said.

“Any opportunity to play in any position, that’s all you work hard for,” explained Vainikolo.

“We all talk about pulling on the Gloucester jersey and the pride in doing that, the glory and the history behind it.

“A lot of things have happened, we’ve got a small group, but it’s a

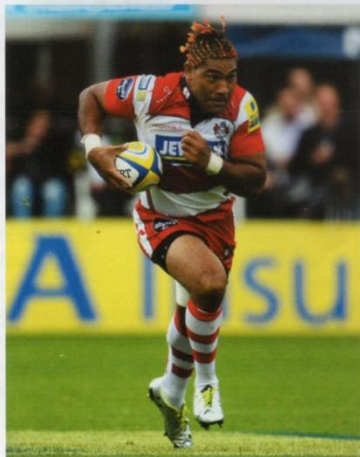


passionate one too.

“Every time we pull on the jersey we just want to do everything we can and give everything to make sure we can be successful and leave it on the field.

“It’s going well, a new position for me, a good challenge, both for me and for other people around me.

“I challenge myself to get up to



what's required for the position, and hopefully I can manage it.

"It's going good, I just need to tidy up a few things. Hopefully the more games I get at 12, the better it will be.

"It's an honour to have that responsibility, but at the same time I've got to perform as well, and take that opportunity with both hands.

"It's not good to see a great player and team mate like Tim Molenaar out with injury, and I think it would have been a different result for us if he'd been there on Sunday. But he's out at the moment and we've just got to

opportunity.

He continued: "It's good to play with all those guys with that speed, their raw pace is so difficult to defend against.

"On our strikes it's so effective because it allows us just to get the ball out as quickly as we can, get it to the quick guys and give them a chance to do what they can do. We've got to hit that ball, crash the line hard before we give it out wide.

"We know we've got the power and the strength, and then the speed out wide, but we've got to use them

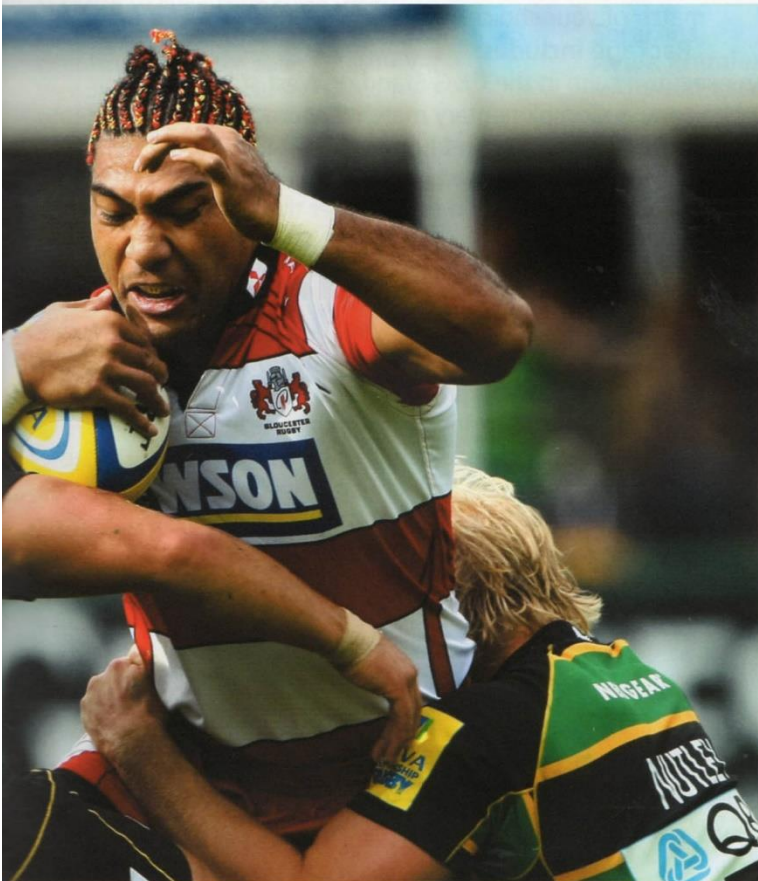
zeal, Vainikolo said the Cherry and Whites must open their win account on Saturday now.

He added: "We talk a lot in training when we're defending, and we talk a lot on the field.

"But that's absolutely vital, that communication.

"You've got to feel confident in whoever's inside and outside, and we did that really well on Sunday. So we just need to work on a few things and see what happens.

"We've got to cut out the silly penalties; it's us, we don't need to



“EVERY TIME WE PULL ON THE JERSEY WE JUST WANT TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN AND GIVE EVERYTHING TO MAKE SURE WE CAN BE SUCCESSFUL AND LEAVE IT ON THE FIELD.”

deal with it.”

A return to fitness for Henry Bryan Trinder this weekend could see Bryan Redpath slot Jonny May in at 12 alongside his old Hartpury College midfield partner.

Whatever the line-up, Vainikolo said Gloucester must make sure they set their young pace aces free at every

all properly. And if we don't, then it's just a waste of time.

"We talk a lot about striking to score if we're in the right area of the field. But wherever we are, we always strike to break the line, and it pays off. That's what we can do if we stick to the patterns."

Pleased with Gloucester's defensive

worry about anyone else, it's just us. We played fairly well at the weekend, but we were a bit loose in a few areas and that cost us.

"Worcester had a great start and they'll want to carry on the momentum. They will pose a major threat, but we've got to get going now."



DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

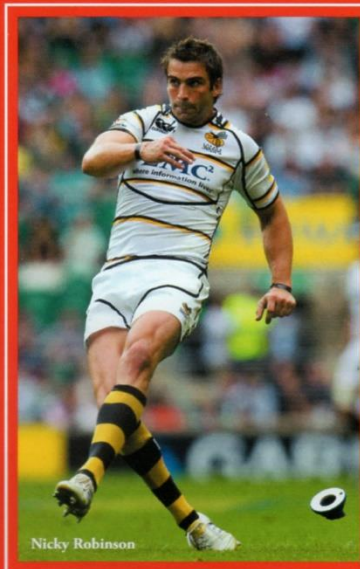
DEPARTURES LOUNGE

Each close season brings its inevitable personnel changes within each club but also within league structures. It is always of interest how that affects Kingsholm past and present. Departures are always of concern or interest and it is with a degree of consternation as to whether we all approve of each individual change.

Irrespective of any personal choice we have to readily acknowledge that we are not aware of all the facts that surround individual alteration. It is only natural that in the first instance we are principally concerned with the Premiership.

As we are all aware **NICKY ROBINSON** has moved to London Wasps where yesterday's success is light years from present day standards. He has been joined at the London club by our former coach **PAUL TURNER** who departed from Newport Gwent Dragons last season.

PAUL DORAN-JONES has moved to boost a Northampton squad that was found to be bereft of overall strength when faced with the onslaught of Leinster in last term's Heineken Cup Final. Our former fly-half **RYAN LAMB** has also moved to



Franklin's Gardens from London Irish. The duo will link up again with **ADAM EUSTACE** who is still on the Saints pay-roll.

The shekels of Bath attracted **DAVE ATTWOOD** to enlist with Bruce Craig's intended Recreation Ground revolution. The former Bristol lock still had to prove to the Kingsholm faithful that he merited the hype placed upon

his shoulders in some quarters.

He joins a recovering **OLLY BARKLEY** who is recovering from the broken leg he sustained here at Kingsholm last season. Olly has been busy in the close season forming his own company – Elektrik, where he had lined up Luke Narraway and Freddie Burns for his inaugural three day academy at Colstons School, his old stamping ground, in July.

A full recovery from the broken leg sustained by **MARK FOSTER** now of Exeter Chiefs will be the earnest wish of all his supporters whether here in Gloucestershire or Devon. **ANTHONY ALLEN** remains with the consistent Leicester Tigers.

CARLOS NIETO, likewise with last season's Premiership Champions Saracens. **JORDI PASQUALIN** has moved from Castle Grim to Newcastle, hoping to prove a point that he deserved a more regular spot. Whether he can maintain or attain that in the bleak North East is a conundrum.

We welcome back our new neighbours Worcester to the Premiership fold. Led by our former coach **RICHARD HILL**, they will be looking towards ending their yo-yo existence between the Premiership and the Championship. **THINUS DELPORT**

has been appointed as overseas consultant for player recruitment.

Another off the field appointment has seen former Kingsholm employee **CHARLIE LITTLE** elevated to Managing Director by the Sixways owner, Cecil Duckworth.

On the field of play there are former Kingsholm favourites in **MARCEL GARVEY**, **ADAM BALDING**, **CRAIG GILLIES** and the veteran **CHRIS FORTEY**. Elsewhere, London Wasps released back-row forward **WILL MATTHEWS** at the completion of last season.

Other departures have seen **DAVE ELLIS** leave London Irish. There were also end of season departures at Sale Sharks which included **JACK FORSTER** and **PETER FINCH** along with **BYRON HAYWARD**. The Edgeley

Park Club however welcomes our former prop **ALASDAIR DICKINSON**.

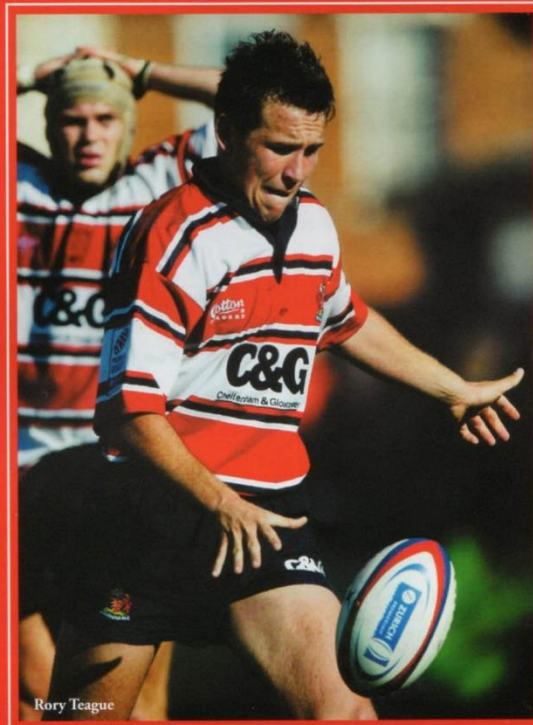
KINGSLEY JONES is coaching Russia ably assisted by **HENRY PAUL**. **DON CASKIE** is performing likewise duties with Georgia.

WILLIE WALKER has been appearing for North Harbour in his homeland of New Zealand after his departure from Worcester. **NIGEL MELVILLE** remains in the United States of America promoting Rugby Union in his administrative role.

Our former Head Coach **DEAN RYAN** has proved to be one of Sky Sports more enlightened pundits! **KEITH RICHARDSON** continues to write his weekly column in the Stroud News & Journal on all matters relating to Kingsholm and the game in general.

The Magners League witnessed the departure of **MATT WATKINS** from Newport Gwent Dragons. He followed in the footsteps of **GARY POWELL** and **GARETH COOPER** who both left Cardiff Blues during the course of the past season. **CHRIS PATERSON** remains with Edinburgh, likewise **DAN TUOHY** with Ulster.

Across the English Channel, **DIMITRI YACHVILLI** and **IAIN**



BALSHAW remain with Biarritz.

The veteran **RODRIGO RONCERO** remains at Stade Francais.

OLLY AZAM has once again linked up with our former Head Coach **PHILIPPE SAINT-ANDRE** at Toulon. The liaison will be brief due to Philippe being elevated to the Head Coach of France at the completion of the World Cup.

Olly's progress will be watched with interest here at Kingsholm. **RAPHAEL SAINT-ANDRE**, brother of the celebrated Philippe is Head Coach at Lyon where **JAMES BAILEY** is on the playing staff.

TERRY FANOLUA, now in the twilight days of his playing career, is appearing with A.S.Cannes in the south of France. **DAN WILLIAMS** joined Colomiers in the close season.

MARCO BORTOLAMI is in his second season with Aironi Rugby.

The summer has seen **RORY TEAGUE** late of F.C.Grenoble in France join **MARK RIMMER** at Cinderford. **JUNIOR PARAMORE** is coaching Basingstoke having joined the club from Bournemouth.

SCOTT BENTON is the new rugby coach at Silicotes School in Yorkshire. **ADEY POWLES** is a lecturer at

the Royal Forest of Dean College. **TOM JARVIS** is with Stourbridge, **PETER SWATKINS** remains at Rotherham.

Across the seas **DIEGO ALBANESE** is in a coaching capacity with Pumitas M20 in his homeland of Argentina. **JAMES FORRESTER** has a nutrition consultancy business in Singapore. **GARETH DELVE** remains with Melbourne Royals where **GREG SOMERVILLE** was a team mate until his recent retirement.

At home in Gloucestershire **NATHAN CARTER** is the new coach for local club Gordon League. **MARK NICHOLSON** retains his teaching role at the Marling School in Stroud. **JAMES BASHFORD** is still with Lydney. Our former scrum

half **CLIVE STUART-SMITH** is with Surrey club Esher.

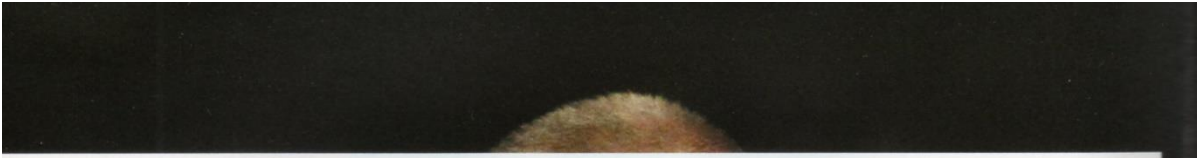
Former England Sevens specialist **DAN NORTON** departed from Bristol in the close season and has just signed a full time contract with the England Sevens squad. **ADRIAN FROST** and **MIKE GUESS** are reunited at Southend.

JAMES MERRIMAN captained Bristol pre-season where he was joined by **TRISTAN ROBERTS** who has moved back south from Doncaster. Our former full back **JON GOODRIDGE** has moved to the Memorial Ground from Esher.

Our former hooker **ANDY TITTERELL** has been handed the captaincy at relegated Leeds Carnegie where **JONATHAN PENDLEBURY** is a team mate.

JACK ADAMS has returned to Moseley. **SIMON AMOR** who is Head Coach at London Scottish led his club to promotion last season. **ANDY DEACON** is still in charge at nearby Cinderford ably assisted by **DAVE POINTON** and **LEE FORTEY**.

Former Scotland and Gloucester back row forward **IAN SMITH** has left Moseley to be the new Head Coach at Hartbury College.



When Darren Dawidiuk picked himself up and finished receiving the congratulations of his team mates having scored the final try of the LV= Cup Final win over Newcastle Falcons last March, he made a point of pointing to the skies.

In amongst the joyful mayhem that was greeting Gloucester's first silverware in five years, it was a silent and poignant moment as the 23 year old hooker's thoughts turned towards his younger brother Jack who sadly lost his fight against an incurable brain stem tumour in August 2009.

The popular Truro born hooker may not even have been at Gloucester had it not been for Jack's courage. Dawidiuk moved to Kingsholm from the Cornish Pirates in the summer of 2009 but only did so once he had his brother's blessing.

Dawidiuk was torn between pursuing his ambition of playing Premiership rugby and staying at home to support his family as Jack fought on. And the brave youngster had the casting vote as Darren explained:

"It was a big decision for me to come up here. I remember sitting down with my family, and just saying 'I don't want to leave the family'.

"But there was also Jack saying 'look, I want you to go – go and do it'. Even he was saying that. He didn't want me to miss out."

So, in the circumstances, it was entirely natural that even as Gloucester started to celebrate, Dukey thought of Jack:

"There's a little moment where I dotted over that try and the boys were jumping over me and going nuts, and I just pointed up to the sky and looked up.

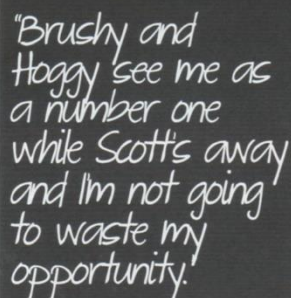
"I had a text on my phone from my mum saying 'we all know why you pointed up.' It was just nice that the family knew that as well."

There's obviously character by the bucket load in the Dawidiuk family, epitomised by Darren's Mum

Samantha Wearne who carried out a sky dive over the summer helping to raise £3,000 for the Little Bridge Children's Hospice in Bridgwater.

"My mum did the jump a couple of weeks ago, and the support that the Gloucester fans gave her has been overwhelming.

"People got behind her and supported her, and she didn't just do it to raise money she also did it in memory of Jack, and it's just



"Brushy and Hoggy see me as a number one while Scott's away and I'm not going to waste my opportunity!"

great to know that so many people got behind her and did support us as a family, and I really did appreciate that.

"Whatever we can do to help other families that are going through the same heartache that my family has gone through, what the children's hospice did at Barnstaple, we can't thank them enough.

"The last two weeks of Jack's life was really tough for us, but the help and support we had from the hospice, without them we couldn't have helped him get through that tough time and ease it as much as possible.

"He was in a lot of pain and the help that the nurses gave to him and the support they gave to us, and they are still giving my mum

support now, the people that work at the hospice, they visit my mum and they make sure that she's doing ok. And it's fantastic they still support her even now."

The opening months of the 2011-12 season are huge for Dawidiuk. During his first two seasons with Gloucester, he's had to fight for a place in the matchday squad with the likes of Olivier Azam and Scott Lawson.

However, he's still managed to feature in some of Gloucester's biggest games during that time. He started in the vital rain sodden wins over Leicester Tigers and London Wasps and played his part in last season's surge towards LV= Cup triumph.

With Azam now plying his trade in the south of France, putting RC Toulon's much vaunted pack of forwards through their paces and Lawson in the southern hemisphere preparing for the Rugby World Cup with Scotland, it's a great opportunity for Dawidiuk to cement a place in the first XV.

"It's a good opportunity for me with Scott away. The injury to Matty (Cortese) means me and Koree (Britton) are competing right now.

"Brushy and Hoggy see me as a number one while Scott's away and I'm not going to waste my opportunity.

"I'm going to take my chance and make sure I make it hard for him to get back into the side when he comes back from the World Cup.

"I've got to kick on right from the start. From my first two years there's been learning curves that lead to me hopefully stepping up this year."

"But now I feel ready, and feel I can step up and be a number one."

Somehow, you feel that Jack would approve of that fighting attitude...

MATTER OF FACT
Darren made his debut for former club Cornish Pirates as a blind-side flanker in a league match against St. Ives.

You Tube **CLIP**
Darren's try in the LV= Cup Final 2010/11



GR MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

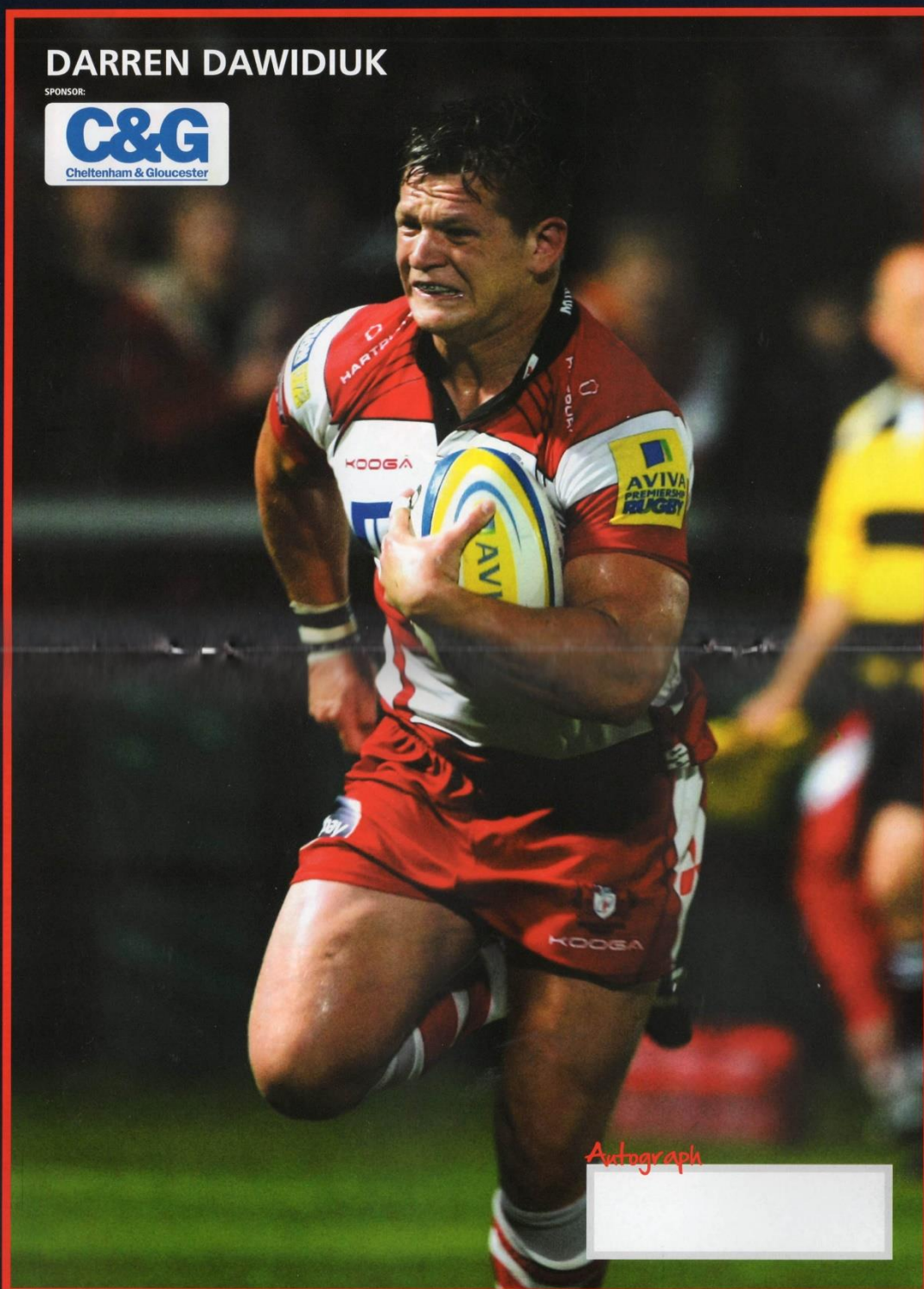


DOUBLE-D

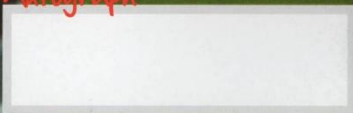
DARREN DAWIDIUK

DARREN DAWIDIUK

SPONSOR:

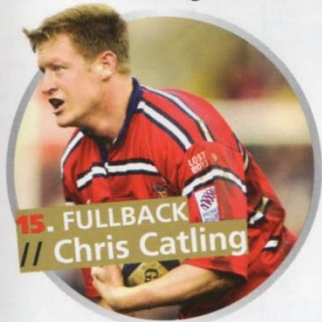


Autograph



DreamTeam

The first contribution to this season's brand new DreamTeam feature is courtesy of **Ian Taylor**. Ian describes himself as follows: *"I've been a supporter since my first match in 1980 when I was 5 years old. I lived in Kingsholm for much of my youth so the ground was always within earshot if I wasn't actually at a game. I'm usually found in the new grandstand or JS Stand these days as I'm too short to get much of a view in the Shed!"*



15. FULLBACK
// Chris Catling

Safe as houses and guaranteed to make his tackles. If he could have kicked goals as well he'd have been an England certainty.

14. RIGHT WING
// JSD

World class and a true game breaker. Quick and strong.

13. OUTSIDE CENTRE
// Richard Mogg

An outside break to die for and very very quick. Shameful that he never got a cap. I tackled him once when he was playing for the Cherrypickers!

12. INSIDE CENTRE
// Richard Tombs

Silky smooth and with oodles of time on the ball. A real class act.

11. LEFT WING
// Phillipe Saint-Andre

At the time it was beyond comprehension that he had signed but what a player.

10. FLY HALF
// Mark Mapletoft

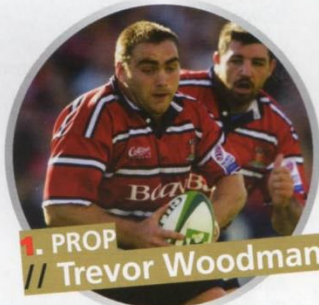
A real box of tricks and deadly accurate with the boot.

9. SCRUM HALF
// Andy Gomarsall

Best game management I ever saw from a 9 in a Glaws shirt. Great pass and superb tactical kicker.

1. LOOSEHEAD PROP
// Trevor Woodman

Equally as talented in the tight as he was in the loose. One of the first of a new breed of prop who could scrummage, tackle and, in Dougie's case, even side-step!



2. HOOKER
// Phil Greening

Outrageously talented and could probably have played in the backs. If only he could have thrown straight.

3. TIGHTHEAD PROP
// Phil Blakeway

As good as Vix was, Phil was better. A monster in the scrum who never took a backward step.

4. LOCK
// Dave Sims

Arrrd as nails and a born Gloucester captain.

5. LOCK
// Ian Jones

World class and it showed. Looked like a gust of wind could blow him over but so athletic.



SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR GLOUCESTER'S DREAM TEAM TO duncanwood@gloucesterrugby.co.uk

6. BLINDSIDE FLANKER
// John Gadd

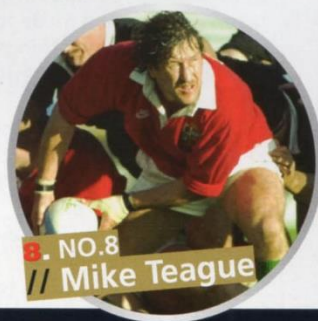
The hardest of the hard men. Did so much unseen work but was a fantastic blindside.

7. OPENSIDE FLANKER
// Andy Hazell

Quick and brave - just what you want from your openside. A proper Glaws boy.

8. NO.8
// Sir Michael Teague

Strong as an ox and another whose work often went unseen. Quite incredible on his day.



If you would like to see your DreamTeam published in a future Gloucester Rugby programme, all you have to do is get in touch providing the following information:

- 1. Your best 'team' of Gloucester Rugby players from 1 to 15. The only condition is that you've actually seen them play.**
- 2. A brief explanation (one or two sentences) as to why you chose each player.**
- 3. A couple of sentences to introduce yourself - how long you've been a supporter, where you watch the game from, favourite player or era etc**

KINGSHOLM NEWS

WITH BOB FENTON

IS IT JUST ME OR DOES THE SUMMER BREAK SEEM TO GET LONGER AND LONGER?

It seems a positive age since the semi-final at Vicarage Road (that place gets worse) and a lifetime ago that we trucked into Kingsholm for a meaningful match. Must be a sign of old age – a bit like policemen looking younger and all that.

Anyway, I'm very happy to be back. For me it seems that every Saturday since the end of the season has involved me shelling out heaps of money for something. Not having a reason to be elsewhere results in being taken prisoner and made to go shopping, always for things that don't interest me but inevitably cost me a small fortune.

The two pre-season friendlies at Kingsholm were interesting. London Welsh clearly didn't read the 'friendly' bit and crashed into everyone at every opportunity.

Poor old Freddie Burns took a pasting, some of the hits on him were so late that I wondered if they would ambush him outside when he was getting into his car!

And Sinbad versus Russia was fun; I actually think that Sinbad would have beaten them on his own if he wanted to.

Despite the foul weather on the day it was good to see around 5,000 people turning up to honour one of the most exciting players ever to pick up a rugby ball. Shame a few more couldn't make it.

Sinbad is a proper Gloucester legend now, in the same mould

as so many others. It'll be interesting to see how many teams he gets into in the new 'Fans favourite XV' feature that is elsewhere in this programme. At a very rough guess I'd say probably all of them.

It remains a mystery to me why his is so overlooked by England. I know we all want to be terribly myopic and suggest that every Gloucester player should represent their country, but Sinbad's exclusion is truly baffling. Not just for Gloucester fans, but for rugby fans up and down the country.

For what it's worth he would be the first name on my team sheet – England, fantasy rugby or Fans Favourite XV.

However, the sharp eyed, or terminally bored, may have noticed that I have already got a favourite XV on the Gloucester Rugby website, and Sinbad is err... not in it... Philippe Saint-Andre and Brian Johnson got the wing spots, but I did write that quite a few

years ago now.

For those that may not recognise Brian Johnson's name let me fill you in. Brian was a serving army officer and possibly the fastest man on earth (ok, I'm exaggerating a bit).

He made it to England A level before a back injury ended his career in September 2000. A flat out race between him and Charlie Sharples would have been interesting, I'll put my neck on the line and say that I think Brian would have shaded it.

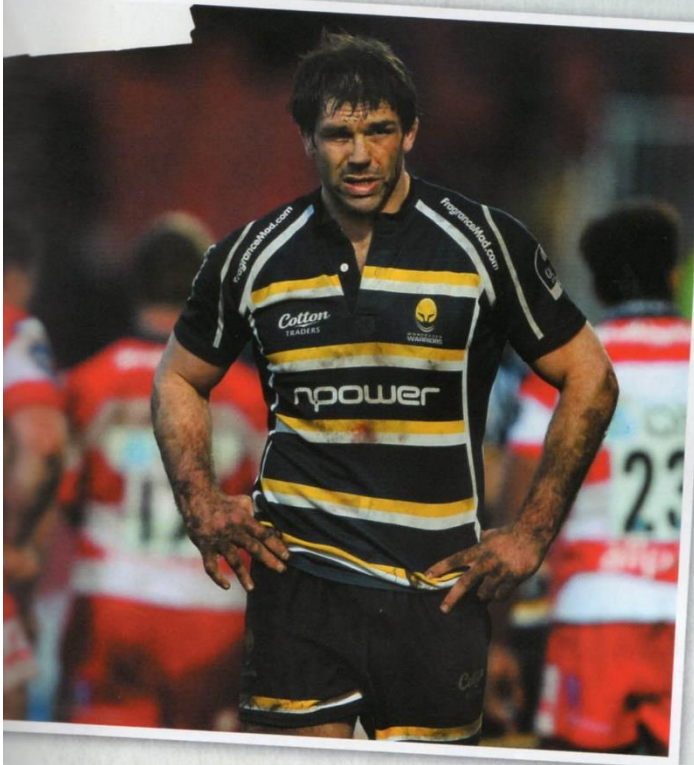
The Favourite XV is a great idea for a feature though, along with Sinbad and Mike Teague you have to find 13 other names as those two will be pretty much a given for supporters of a certain age.

It's great for that post (or pre) match discussion over a pint, I look forward to reading them through the season.

Another interesting development over the summer



“IT LL BE A BIT ODD SEEING WORCESTER WITHOUT THE GAP TOOTHED PAT SANDERSON RUNNING AROUND CREATING MAYHEM FOR THEM GOOD LUCK TO HIM IN HIS RETIREMENT.”



was Ryan Walkinshaw's 'open forum' on Twitter the other week.

I'll confess straight away to not really being into the whole Twitter thing, I have exactly two followers which is interesting as I have not made a single 'Tweet' since setting up an account several years ago.

But I did follow the discussions a bit, a mixture of funny (loved the guy asking for a game, or failing that could he borrow a tenner – answer from Ryan: NO!) and informative.

I wonder how many other Chairman would do this, not

many I wager so well done Ryan. Next time if I can figure out how to do it I may even ask a question...

But back to the rugby. The Northampton game was a close run thing and we could have nicked it. Will James has to accept the 'Villain' tag for his late err... intervention that gave away the fateful penalty, but such is life.

If earlier tackles had been made and not missed, passes not held and not dropped and kicks converted and not missed it would have been different.

That's the thing about team

sports, individuals don't lose games, teams do – just as an individual can't win a match on his own. Well Sinbad apart, that is.

We get off to a couple of crackers though; two home games and two derby games with Worcester being the first, they had a good win last weekend so will be buoyant coming into today's encounter.

It'll be a bit odd seeing Worcester without the gap toothed Pat Sanderson running around creating mayhem for them, good luck to him in his retirement. Pat was the kind of player fans love to hate – love him if he plays for you, hate him if he plays against you.

They do come with another pantomime villain in their ranks though – Andy Goode. He's another who will not figure too prominently on the Christmas card list of your average Shedhead, especially after he banged that penalty (and I mean really banged that penalty) into the Shed a few years back.

Hopefully he's mellowed a bit by now. One thing's for sure though, he's a great signing for a club like Worcester because what he will give you is points, lots of points. Any transgressions within about 40 metres today could be very costly.

But does he still wear girly gloves though? Perhaps Robbie Morris could let him know what happened when he decided to wear gloves in a match against us a few years ago. Suffice to say Messrs Azam and Collaço were not impressed and let him know in pretty emphatic style!



Gloucester

with Peter Arnold

talk

NO CONTEST

WHICH would you rather watch? A game between two scratch teams played on the other side of the world, or a genuine club match between two local rivals right here in front of the Shed?

Put that way, of course, there's no contest. Come next May, events at the World Cup, and especially England v. Argentina, played right at the beginning of the Kiwi extravaganza, will be a dim memory in most peoples' mind, while the Premiership will be in its most exciting phase.

The point is made even more sharp by the fact that Martin Johnson, in his infinite wisdom, has seen fit to leave at least four of England's best players back here at Kingsholm,

Not that we mind too much. We can put Simpson Daniel, Sharples, Morgan and Narraway, when fit, to very good use on their home turf.

CANNY SCOTS

ENGLAND may seem fit to have omitted most of the Gloucester lads (good luck to Mike Tindall, by the way), but the Scots had no such reticence.

They were happy to put our



At the time of writing, I don't know if all of them will be playing today, but I'm sure they would all relish the chance to try conclusions against a side originally built around surplus to requirement Gloucester players.

No, actually that's a bit harsh. Nowadays, Worcester Warriors are a highly efficient side who will give a

good account of themselves against anyone. The revamped Sale side didn't seem to give them too many problems, and there is nothing they would relish more than beating Gloucester at Kingsholm.

We shall see what we shall see. We get some funny results at this time of year,

Kingsholm Scottish on the plane, including Big Jim Hamilton, Strokosch, and the two Lawsons. They'd probably have included a partridge in a pear tree if we'd had one.



GOOD SHOW, BAD LUCK



WHAT do you think of it so far?

I watched the Saints game on Television, and I do have to say that there was much good rugby on view from both sides.

It was particularly interesting to see how the young players performed, given that many of them probably wouldn't have been given their chance had it not been for the number of chaps playing truant to go to the World Cup.

As far as Gloucester were concerned, it was particularly fascinating to observe how the backs went. In Morgan, Simpson Daniel, Vainikolo, May and Sharples, I think

we had the fastest back five I've ever seen in Cherry and White shirts.

That fact was surely underlined by the way that Jonny May took his kick ahead try, outpacing everyone in sight, and also the sight of Charlie Sharples burning up the Franklin's Gardens turf on the way to the line.

Altogether, it was an exhilarating way to start the season, even if the final result wasn't all we would have wished.

Much has been made of the fact that Ryan Lamb came back to haunt us with his final penalty, but in truth, if Tim Taylor and Freddie Burns had landed their earlier kicks, then we

wouldn't have been in that position in the first place.

Neither of them seem to have got their kicking boots on at the moment, but it's early days yet, and if the way Freddie took his sweetly struck drop goal is any indication, then it won't be long before normal service is resumed.

And what do you make of that final penalty which snatched the spoils from us? I could be wrong and camera angles can be tricky and highly deceptive, but my view of it wasn't quite the same as has been reported.

I watched the offending incident two or three times, and it seemed to me that a ruck formed and a Northampton player came in from the side, illegally, whereupon Will James hung one on him.

Retaliation is severely frowned upon, of course, and Big Will shouldn't have done it, but the referee should have picked up the earlier offence and blown up for it.

As I say, I could be wrong, but I can only say what I saw.

I really wasn't too worried about losing what was a highly entertaining game. If you look back over the last several seasons, you'll find that the sides who start the season with all bells ringing and whistles blowing tend to fade badly towards the end of the campaign and are rarely in the final shoot-out.

I usually don't deal in clichés, but it really is true that the Premiership is a marathon and not a sprint.

DILEMMA

AS I say, Gloucester's back five looked impressive last Sunday, which begs the question about what to Bryan Redpath and Carl Hogg do when they have a full pack to deal from?

The dilemma is further compounded by the fact that the experiment of playing Big Les in the centre looks like one which is worth persevering with.

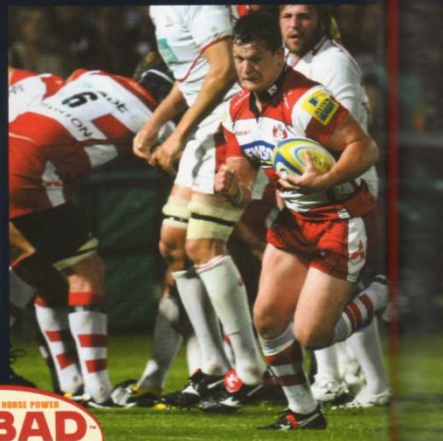
Remember, we have Mike Tindall

and Eliota away at the World Cup, while Tim Molenaar is injured. All three are performers are high quality ones, and we also have a clutch of aspiring young hopefuls waiting in the wings.

I have a feeling we're going to need all of them before next May, bearing in mind we have the Heineken and the LV= Cup to accommodate as well.

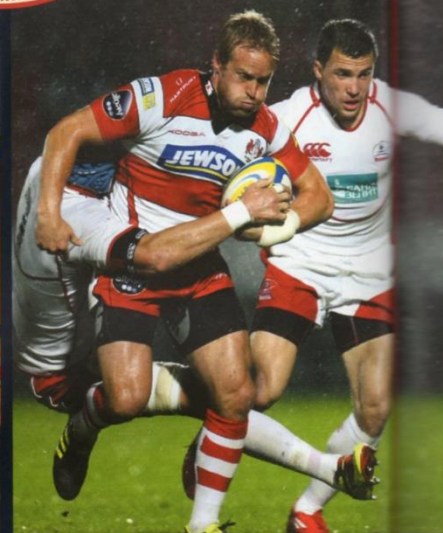
But it's a selectorial problem, albeit a nice one to have.





GLOUCESTER RUGBY 47
RUSSIA 07

Sinbad Testimonial Match, Kingsholm, 26 August 2011, 19:45 KO



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES Evans,
Morgan,
May (2),
Dawiduk,
Taylor,
Vainkolo

CONS Taylor (5), Burns

RUSSIA

TRIES Khrokin
CONS Klyuchnikov

AGAINST a backdrop of teeming rain, thunder and lightning, Gloucester Rugby paid suitable tribute to a man whose skills have graced the Kingsholm turf since the 2000-1 season.

Russia were the visitors as James Simpson-Daniel celebrated his testimonial fixture and his team mates did him proud and turned on the style with a try from the man himself the only thing lacking on the night.

If truth be told, it wasn't that much of a contest and, despite the comfortable and morale boosting win, Gloucester would probably have wanted a slightly tougher contest ahead of the Aviva Premiership Rugby opener against Northampton Saints.

Russia simply didn't have a set piece which doesn't augur well for their forthcoming World Cup campaign. Gloucester blew them away at scrum time and their lineup misfired more often than not.

It guaranteed a surfeit of possession for the Gloucester backs and they needed no second invitation with Jonny May in particular scaring the wits out of the Russian defenders with his searing pace.

The forwards struck first as Gareth Evans drove over as the Gloucester eight obliterated their counterparts at scrum time before the backs clicked into action creating tries for Olly Morgan and Jonny May.

Hooker Darren Dawiduk showed great mobility to escape the Russian



fringe defence and no little pace to sprint home from the 22 before May added his second.

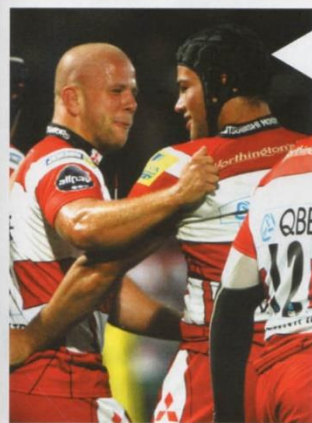
The half time score was 33-0 and the game was over as a contest but, to their credit, the Russians came out fighting in the second half presumably inspired by a half time rollicking from former Kingsholm favourite Kingsley Jones.

Tim Taylor and Lesley Vainikolo added second half tries for Gloucester but the collective foot was most

definitely taken off the pedal as time ticked away and the Russians battled their way to a popular consolation score from Alexander Khrokin.

However, the biggest cheer of the evening was naturally reserved for Simpson-Daniel who was sympathetically replaced just a minute or so before the final whistle to allow him to take the applause of the adoring Kingsholm crowd.

A great night and a great reception for a great player.



CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

Debutant Gareth Evans, a member of the Gloucester Rugby Academy, benefitting from a powerful scrummage to pick up and drive over from close range for the game's opening score.

KEY QUOTE

"It was great to see so many people here tonight for him and I'm glad that we got a performance and a result that mirrored how he's been for Gloucester Rugby."

Bryan Redpath

GLoucester RUGBY

- 15 FB Olly Morgan
- 14 W James Simpson-Daniel
- 13 C Jonny May
- 12 C Lesley Vainikolo
- 11 W Tom Voyce
- 10 FH Tim Taylor
- 9 SH Dave Lewis
- 1 P Nick Wood
- 2 H Darren Dawidiuk
- 3 P Dario Chistolini
- 4 L Will James
- 5 L Alex Brown
- 6 F Peter Buxton (C)
- 7 F Andrew Hazell
- 8 N8 Gareth Evans

REPLACEMENTS

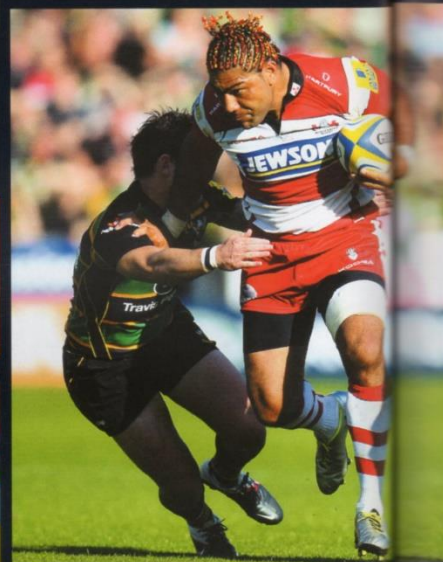
- 16 Koree Britton
- 17 Dan Murphy
- 18 Yann Thomas
- 19 Tom Heard
- 20 David Lyons
- 21 Tom Savage
- 22 Matt Cox
- 23 Dan Robson
- 24 Nick Runciman
- 25 Freddie Burns
- 26 Ryan Mills

RUSSIA

- 15 FB I Klyuchnikov
- 14 W V Artemyev
- 13 C M Babaev
- 12 C A Makovetskiy
- 11 W V Ostroushko
- 10 FH Y Kushnarev
- 9 SH A Yanyushkin
- 1 P S Popov
- 2 H V Korshunov
- 3 P A Travkin
- 4 L D Antonov
- 5 L A Byrnes
- 6 F A Ostrikov
- 7 F A Fatakhov
- 8 N8 V Grachev

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 V Tsnobiladze
- 17 A Khrokin
- 18 V Botvinnikov
- 19 I Prishchepenko
- 20 A Voytov
- 21 M Sidorov
- 22 V Gresev
- 23 A Shakirov
- 24 K Rachkov
- 25 D Simplikevich
- 26 A Garbuzov



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 26
 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 24

Aviva Premiership Rugby, Franklin's Gardens, 4 September 2011, 15:30 KO



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

TRIES Dowson (20),
 Roberts (32)

CONS Myler (21, 33)

PENS Myler (13, 45, 50),
 Lamb (77)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES May (22),
 Sharples (70)

CONS Taylor (23)

PENS Taylor (18, 29),
 Burns (59)

DROP Burns (75)

50 near and yet so far for Gloucester who, for a blissful few moments, thought that they were about to clinch a second Premiership win in succession at Franklin's Gardens.

Freddie Burns dropped a goal on 76 minutes to give his team a slender 24-23 lead and temporarily stun the home crowd.

Gloucester needed to claim the restart and play savvy rugby to run down the clock and close out the win but committed a penalty from the first ruck.

Up stepped former Kingsholm favourite Ryan Lamb who had missed his first penalty attempt but he made no mistake with a slightly easier effort and clinched the win for his

new team.

It had been a performance of great character as, despite being in contention at half time, Gloucester had to overcome a ten point deficit plus the loss of talisman Alex Brown (injury) and Peter Buxton (yellow card).

To have clawed back the deficit and snatch the lead, albeit fleetingly, only to see the win slip away will be a kick in the teeth but Bryan Redpath's side can take great heart from the performance.

Both teams were missing their respective World Cup participants but Franklin's Gardens is always a tough place to visit.

However, Gloucester played a balanced game throughout.



Brown, Buxton and Will James were prominent both carrying the ball and in defence whilst the pace of Gloucester's outside backs was a constant threat.

Frustratingly though, it was small lapses that gave the Saints a foothold in the game. The first home try came after Gloucester failed to exit properly after a restart while the second came after the defence didn't respond quickly enough to a quick tap free kick.

In attack, Gloucester had their chances. Jonny May's persistence was rewarded with a try but, had the ball bounced more kindly for him, he could easily have had a hat trick on

the day.

Other chances were spurned before the half time break and Saints had the edge at the interval by 17 points to 13.

And things looked grim as Stephen Myler slotted two penalties and Gloucester were reduced to 14 men following Buxton's yellow card.

Then the drama started! Freddie Burns got his team back in contention with a long range penalty, the backs clicked to create a try for Charlie Sharples and Burns then showed real poise to drop a goal.

One of the finest comebacks in recent history was on the cards but, sadly, it wasn't to be....



CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

Freddie Burns, putting out of his mind a missed conversion moments before, sitting back in the pocket and landing the drop goal to give Gloucester the lead.

KEY QUOTE

"Last season we won here by two points, this time we lose by two. Both were fine games of rugby between teams who want to play rugby." **Bryan Redpath**

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

- 15 FB Greig Tonks
- 14 W Paul Diggin
- 13 C Tom May
- 12 C James Downey
- 11 W Noah Cato
- 10 FH Stephen Myler
- 9 SH Martin Roberts
- 1 P Paul Doran-Jones
- 2 H Andy Long
- 3 P Brian Mujati
- 4 L Samu Manoa
- 5 L Mark Sorenson
- 6 F Calum Clark
- 7 F Ben Nutley
- 8 N8 Phil Dowson

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 R Mike Haywood
- 17 R Alex Waller
- 18 R Tom Mercey
- 19 R Christian Day
- 20 R James Craig
- 21 Stuart Commins
- 22 R Ryan Lamb
- 23 Scott Armstrong

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

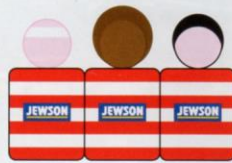
- 15 FB Olly Morgan
- 14 W Charlie Sharples
- 13 C Jonny May
- 12 C Lesley Vainikolo
- 11 W James Simpson-Daniel
- 10 FH Tim Taylor
- 9 SH Dave Lewis
- 1 P Nick Wood
- 2 H Darren Dawidiuk
- 3 P Dario Chistolini
- 4 L Will James
- 5 L Alex Brown
- 6 F Peter Buxton
- 7 F Andrew Hazell
- 8 N8 Matt Cox

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 R Nathan Charles
- 17 R Dan Murphy
- 18 R Rupert Harden
- 19 R Tom Savage
- 20 Gareth Evans
- 21 R Nick Runciman
- 22 R Freddie Burns
- 23 R Tom Voyce

7-0
10-0
13-0
16-0
16-3
19-3
22-3
24-3
29-8

TODAY'S Line-UPS



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

- 15 OLLY MORGAN
- 14 CHARLIE SHARPLES
- 13 JONNY MAY *T*
- 12 LESLEY VAINIKOLO
- 11 JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL *T*
- 10 TIM TAYLOR *c p p p*
- 09 NICK RUNCIMAN
- 01 NICK WOOD
- 02 DARREN DAWIDIUK
- 03 DARIO CHISTOLINI
- 04 WILL JAMES
- 05 ALEX BROWN *Savage*
- 06 PETER BUXTON (C)
- 07 ANDY HAZELL
- 08 MATT COX
- 16 NATHAN CHARLES
- 17 DAN MURPHY
- 18 RUPERT HARDEN
- 19 TOM SAVAGE *Lyons*
- 20 GARETH EVANS
- 21 DAN ROBSON
- 22 FREDDIE BURNS *pc*
- 23 TOM VOYCE *Trinder*



**WORCESTER
WARRIORS**

- 15 ERRIE CLAASSENS
- 14 MARCEL GARVEY
- 13 ALEX GROVE
- 12 DALE RASMUSSEN *T*
- 11 MILES BENJAMIN
- 10 ANDY GOODE *p Carlisle*
- 09 SHAUN PERRY
- 01 MATT MULLAN
- 02 ED SHERVINGTON *Forster*
- 03 TEVITA TAUMOEPEAU
- 04 CRAIG GILLIES
- 05 JAMES PERCIVAL
- 06 NEIL BEST
- 07 JAKE ABBOTT
- 08 KAI HORSTMANN (C)
- 16 GEORGE PORTER
- 17 CHRIS FORTEY *Stephenson*
- 18 BRUCE DOUGLAS
- 19 CHRIS JONES
- 20 MATT KVESIC
- 21 JONNY ARR
- 22 JOE CARLISLE *Goode*
- 23 TOM ARSCOTT

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Luke Pearce
ASST REFS: Peter Huckle and Rhys Davies

TOP SCORERS 2011/12



- 19 Nick Evans
- 17 Sam Vesty
- 15 Ignacio Mieres
- 14 Tom Homer
- 13 Stephen Myler
- 12 Nick MacLeod



WHAT ARE THESE ALL ABOUT?

A **QR code** is a specific barcode that is readable by smartphones and links to a specific webpage. There are a variety of FREE apps online for you to download to your smartphone so that you can start using the QR codes straight away.



FOR **IPHONES:**
<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/scan/id411206394?mt=8>



FOR **Android** PHONES:
<https://market.android.com/details?id=com.threegvision.products.inigma.Android>



FOR **Blackberry:**
<http://appworld.blackberry.com/webstore/content/27049?lang=en>