



GLOUCESTER RUGBY


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vs Exeter Chiefs

Aviva Premiership Rugby Round 03: 19.09.2014

Inside tonight's matchday programme we have an exclusive interview with Elliott Stooke, summer signing Jacob Rowan answers our A-Z questions and action replays from the recent Aviva Premiership matches against Northampton Saints and Sale Sharks. We also have features from our regular contributors Bob Fenton, Ian Randall, The Citizen and the Gloucester Rugby Heritage Project.

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AVIVA **PREMIERSHIP RUGBY**

AVIVA

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GUINNESS

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CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

GOOD EVENING, AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS, AND TO THE PLAYERS, STAFF AND FOLLOWERS OF EXETER CHIEFS FOR TONIGHT'S GAME.



I T is a great feeling to be penning this column on the back of a very hard-fought win last week against Sale Sharks, but the hard work is only just beginning as we look to build on that performance.

The first half was not what we wanted, but we came together

at half time and spoke well. We then put into motion what we planned.

Alongside David, Laurie and the senior players in the squad, we talk about the desire, the mettle and the pride in making Kingsholm a fortress, and we hope that, as a collective, we showed the supporters in the

second period, that we would fight for every ball.

We became more patient and looked after the ball far better, and credit has to go to the forwards who rolled up their sleeves and turned their scrum dominance into good ball, which Henry and Jonny made good use of!

The challenge ahead of us tonight is massive, Rob Baxter has instilled an impressive team ethic in his Chiefs' side, and their quality definitely showed in the Round One win at London Welsh, our opponents next week.

Last Saturday, as players we couldn't speak highly enough of the effect of the crowd. To turn round a scoreline like that was impressive and with every tackle, break and penalty roared on, it gives the players such a lift and it gave us the edge in a game of small margins.

Back-to-back home games, against two tough teams, it's a challenge, but we wouldn't have it any other way. We've had a good week behind the scenes, worked on where we were poor last week, but ultimately we have had one more week together, and one more week as a squad, and things are beginning to gel.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and enjoy the game

”

...WE HOPE THAT, AS A COLLECTIVE, WE SHOWED THE SUPPORTERS IN THE SECOND PERIOD, THAT WE WOULD FIGHT FOR EVERY BALL.



Billy

DIR. OF
RUGBY

DAVID
HUMPHREYS



DAVID
HUMPHREYS

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR OUR LATEST AVIVA PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE OF THE 2014-15 SEASON. AND, OF COURSE, A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR VISITORS FROM THE EXETER CHIEFS.

IT goes without saying that I'm both delighted and slightly relieved to be writing these programme notes on the back of our first victory of the season.

The season is still very much in its embryonic stages, but it was very important to get off to a winning start at Kingsholm last Saturday against a Danny Cipriani inspired Sale.

It was a disappointing first 40 minutes and, much like in the Northampton match, Sale didn't have to work too hard for their three tries. We made too many unforced errors, giving the ball back to Sale, and we weren't able to put Sale and Danny under pressure in the right areas of the pitch.

By contrast, the second half was much better and we managed to control possession and field position for large parts of the 40 minutes.

At half time we talked about keeping the scoreboard ticking over and ultimately,

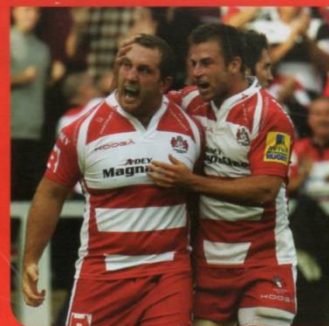
Greig's place kicking allowed us to get back into the game. Having proven international kickers such as Greig and James in the squad will undoubtedly be a major factor across the course of the season.

To come back from 17-3 down, particularly in light of the Northampton result, was a huge test of character and proved more than anything else the spirit and desire that the entire squad has shown throughout the course of pre-season programme.

Partnerships are still developing across the team but, at the risk of repeating myself, it will take time for everyone to gel and start producing the level of performances that we need to compete against the top teams in the Aviva Premiership.

The focus this week has been to build upon last weekend's progress and continue to work hard both on and off the pitch as we prepare for the visit of Rob Baxter and his Exeter Chiefs side.

It's easy to forget that they



were only promoted to the Aviva Premiership back in 2010, such has been the impact that they have made at the highest level ever since, including winning the LV= Cup last season.

They started the season with a very impressive victory over London Welsh and were unfortunate to lose to Leicester last weekend. They will be looking to add to last season's win at Kingsholm and we will need to deliver a much better, more disciplined performance this evening to win the game.



THE FOCUS THIS WEEK HAS BEEN TO BUILD UPON LAST WEEKEND'S PROGRESS AND CONTINUE TO WORK HARD BOTH ON AND OFF THE PITCH AS WE PREPARE FOR THE VISIT OF ROB BAXTER AND HIS EXETER CHIEFS SIDE.



We are delighted to be back at Kingsholm again. After the Sale game, the players and staff acknowledged the massive role the supporters had made during the comeback and I'm reliably informed that the atmosphere under floodlights is even more intimidating!

I'm really looking forward to experiencing that tonight and hearing Kingsholm in full voice again.

David



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

SENIOR SQUAD BIOGS 2014/15

ACHIEVEMENTS

ANGLO-WELSH CUP WINNERS: 1971-72, 1977-78, 1981-82 (SHARED), 2002-03, 2010-11
ENGLISH LEAGUE WINNERS: 2001-02
EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS: 2005-06

ENGLISH CUP WINNERS: 1971-72, 1977-78, 1981-82 (SHARED), 2002-03
MIDDLESEX 75 WINNERS: 2005
MOST APPEARANCES: 274; PETER BUXTON
MOST POINTS: 1,325; LUDOVIC MERCIER
MOST TRIES: 118; JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

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Gloucester Rugby
club and player
statistics



JOHN AFOA

PROP
D.O.B 16.10.1983
BIRTHPLACE
 AUCKLAND, NZ
HEIGHT 6' 0"
WEIGHT 18ST 8LB
HONOURS ALL BLACKS

TWITTER NAME
@John_Afoa

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MARK ATKINSON

CENTRE
D.O.B 08.03.1990
BIRTHPLACE
 KNOWSLEY
HEIGHT 6' 5"
WEIGHT 16ST 8LB

TWITTER NAME
@sausagelegs10

PLAYER SPONSOR

BK Bruton Knowles



BILLY BURNS

FLY-HALF
D.O.B 13.06.1994
BIRTHPLACE
 BATH
HEIGHT 6' 0"
WEIGHT 13ST 3LB

TWITTER NAME
@BillyBurns10

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ROB COOK

FULL-BACK
D.O.B 07.07.1984
BIRTHPLACE
 LINCOLN
HEIGHT 6' 0"
WEIGHT 15ST

TWITTER NAME
@robcook1515

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DARREN DAWIDIUK

HOOKER
D.O.B 21.09.1987
BIRTHPLACE
 TRURO
HEIGHT 5' 11"
WEIGHT 16ST 8LB

TWITTER NAME
@sausagelegs10

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GARETH EVANS

BACK ROW
D.O.B 19.09.1991
BIRTHPLACE
 SWINDON
HEIGHT 6' 3"
WEIGHT 18ST

TWITTER NAME
@Gs_Evans

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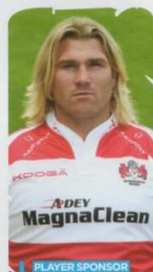
MARIANO GALARZA

LOCK
D.O.B 11.12.1986
BIRTHPLACE
 VEINTICINCO DE MAYO, ARGENTINA
HEIGHT 6' 7"
WEIGHT 18ST 8LB
HONOURS ARGENTINA

TWITTER NAME
@MT_galarza

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RICHARD HIBBARD

HOOKER
D.O.B 13.12.1983
BIRTHPLACE
 NEATH, WALES
HEIGHT 6' 0"
WEIGHT 17ST 9LB
HONOURS WALES

TWITTER NAME
@richardhibbard2

PLAYER SPONSOR



JAMES HOOK

FLY HALF
D.O.B 27.06.1985
BIRTHPLACE
 NEATH, WALES
HEIGHT 6' 1"
WEIGHT 15ST 2LB
HONOURS WALES

TWITTER NAME
@hookjameshook

PLAYER SPONSOR





JAMES HUDSON

LOCK
D.O.B 28.10.1981
BIRTHPLACE
SUTTON COLDFIELD
HEIGHT 6' 7"
WEIGHT 17ST 10LB

TWITTER NAME
@JamesHudson5



Sherbornes
Solicitors LLP



TOM ISAACS

CENTRE
D.O.B 18.02.1987
BIRTHPLACE
CARDIFF, WALES
HEIGHT 6' 0"
WEIGHT 14ST 9LB

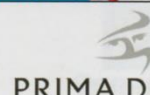
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@Tommy_Isaacs

Ultra
ELECTRONICS



SIONE KALAMAFONI

BACK ROW
D.O.B 18.05.1988
BIRTHPLACE
MATAHAU, TONGA
HEIGHT 6' 3"
WEIGHT 18ST 8LB
HONOURS TONGA



PRIMA DENTAL



SHAUN KNIGHT

PROP
D.O.B 19.02.1990
BIRTHPLACE
GLOUCESTER
HEIGHT 6' 0"
WEIGHT 16ST 6LB

TWITTER NAME
@Shaunknight

The Young Family



MATT KVESIC

BACK ROW
D.O.B 14.04.1992
BIRTHPLACE
ISERLOHN, GERMANY
HEIGHT 6' 2"
WEIGHT 16ST 8LB
HONOURS ENGLAND

TWITTER NAME
@mattkvesic

Ann & Terry Short



GREIG LAIDLAW

SCRUM-HALF / FLY-HALF
D.O.B 12.10.1985
BIRTHPLACE
EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND
HEIGHT 5' 8"
WEIGHT 12ST 8LB
HONOURS SCOTLAND

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ALEKI LUTUI

HOOKER
D.O.B 01.07.1978
BIRTHPLACE
TOFOA, TONGA
HEIGHT 6' 0"
WEIGHT 17ST 5LB
HONOURS TONGA

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JONNY MAY

CENTRE/WING
D.O.B 01.04.1990
BIRTHPLACE
SWINDON
HEIGHT 6' 2"
WEIGHT 14ST 7LB
HONOURS ENGLAND

TWITTER NAME
@paybackmay

Omega
Global Resource Solutions



STEVE MCCOLL

FULL BACK
D.O.B 16.08.1988
BIRTHPLACE
SCOTLAND
HEIGHT 6' 1"
WEIGHT 15ST 6LB

TWITTER NAME
@Mr_Boggy



SHANE MONAHAN

WING
D.O.B 28.04.1987
BIRTHPLACE
DUBLIN, IRELAND
HEIGHT 6' 2"
WEIGHT 16ST 3LB

TWITTER NAME
@theshanmonono



BEN MORGAN

NO. 8
D.O.B 18.02.1989
BIRTHPLACE
BRISTOL
HEIGHT 6' 3"
WEIGHT 18ST 7LB
HONOURS ENGLAND

TWITTER NAME
@Ben_J_Morgan8

RENISHAW



ROSS MORIARTY

BACK ROW
D.O.B 18.04.1994
BIRTHPLACE
ST HELENS
HEIGHT 6' 2"
WEIGHT 16ST 2LB

TWITTER NAME
@RossMoriarty6



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2014/15



DAN MURPHY

PROP
D.O.B 27.10.1985
BIRTHPLACE ROMFORD
HEIGHT 6' 3"
WEIGHT 18ST 1LB

TWITTER NAME
@danmurphy2710



Security



TOM PALMER

LOCK
D.O.B 27.03.1979
BIRTHPLACE HARINGEY
HEIGHT 6' 7"
WEIGHT 18ST 8LB
HONOURS ENGLAND

TWITTER NAME
@TomPalmer79



DATHURST ARMS



SILA PUAFISI

PROP
D.O.B 15.04.1988
BIRTHPLACE TEFISI, TONGA
HEIGHT 6' 1"
WEIGHT 18ST 13LB
HONOURS TONGA

TWITTER NAME
@SPuafisi



Chris Baker



DAN ROBSON

SCRUM-HALF
D.O.B 14.03.1992
BIRTHPLACE STOKE-ON-TRENT
HEIGHT 5' 8"
WEIGHT 12ST 8LB

TWITTER NAME
@d_jrobson

tayabali · tomlin
accounting for entrepreneurs



JACOB ROWAN

BACK ROW
D.O.B 14.01.1990
BIRTHPLACE KEIGHLEY
HEIGHT 6' 1"
WEIGHT 16ST 0LB

TWITTER NAME
@jacobmrowan

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TOM SAVAGE

LOCK / BACK ROW
D.O.B 18.04.1989
BIRTHPLACE HAVERING
HEIGHT 6' 5"
WEIGHT 17ST 12LB

TWITTER NAME
@tc_savage



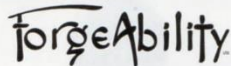
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CHARLIE SHARPLES

WING
D.O.B 17.08.1989
BIRTHPLACE HONG KONG
HEIGHT 6' 0"
WEIGHT 14ST 0LB
HONOURS ENGLAND

TWITTER NAME
@CharlieSharples



BESPOKE METALWORK



JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

WING
D.O.B 30.05.1982
BIRTHPLACE STOCKTON-ON-TEES
HEIGHT 5' 9"
WEIGHT 14ST 8LB
HONOURS ENGLAND

TWITTER NAME
@JSimpsonDaniel



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ELLIOTT STOOKE

LOCK
D.O.B 10.09.1993
BIRTHPLACE WORCESTER
HEIGHT 6' 6"
WEIGHT 20ST 7LB

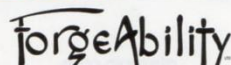
TWITTER NAME
@elliottstooke

RICOH
imagine. change.



ALED THOMAS

FLY HALF
D.O.B 02.01.1985
BIRTHPLACE CARMARTHEN, WALES
HEIGHT 6' 1"
WEIGHT 14ST 7LB



BESPOKE METALWORK



YANN THOMAS

PROP
D.O.B 16.04.1990
BIRTHPLACE BRISTOL
HEIGHT 6' 2"
WEIGHT 18ST 11LB



MIKE BURTON



HENRY TRINDER

CENTRE
D.O.B 14.04.1989
BIRTHPLACE SWINDON
HEIGHT 6' 1"
WEIGHT 14ST 8LB

TWITTER NAME
@HenryTrinder

worktop express



**BILLY
TWELVETREES**

CENTRE
D.O.B 15.11.1988
BIRTHPLACE
CHICHESTER
HEIGHT 6' 3"
WEIGHT 16ST 3LB
HONOURS ENGLAND

TWITTER NAME
@Billy_12trees

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**NICK
WOOD**

PROP
D.O.B 09.01.1983
BIRTHPLACE
SWINDON
HEIGHT 6' 1"
WEIGHT 17ST 5LB

TWITTER NAME
@nickwood

space
catering equipment



**DAVID
HUMPHREYS**

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY
D.O.B 10.09.71
BIRTHPLACE
BELFAST,
NORTHERN IRELAND
HONOURS IRELAND

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LAURIE FISHER
HEAD COACH



PADDY ANSON
HEAD OF S&C



ALEX BROWN
RUGBY OPERATIONS MANAGER



PETER BUXTON
SENIOR ACADEMY MANAGER



JOHN MUGGLETON
DEFENCE COACH



BOB STEWART
HEAD OF MEDICAL SERVICES



NICK WALSH
BACKS & ATTACK COACH



JAMIE BAIN
S&C COACH



SHAUN BULLOCK
KIT MAN



MATT DAVIES
ACADEMY PHYSIO



ADRIENNE ELEY
TEAM ADMINISTRATOR



ANDY HOWSE
ACADEMY PHYSIO & INJURY
PREVENTION THERAPIST



EAMONN HYLAND
S&C COACH



DAN JONES
SENIOR PHYSIO



DR NIGEL JONES
SEM PHYSICIAN



MARK KEHOE
SOFT TISSUE THERAPIST



SIMON LANE
ASSISTANT ACADEMY MANAGER



JOE LARKIN
VIDEO ANALYST



DARREN LEWIS
SENIOR ANALYST



TOM REYNOLDS
VIDEO ANALYSIS INTERN



ROB SUKER
S&C INTERN



TIM TAYLOR
KICKING & SKILLS COACH



CAROLINE WHITE
SENIOR PHYSIO



JULIAN WILSON
CLUB GP



TREVOR WOODMAN
SCRUM COACH

THE VIEW FROM The Citizen



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GUITARIST
BRIAN MAY**
joins badger
patrols in Newent

**LUKE OLIVER
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furniture

**NICK WOOD
RETURNS** for
Gloucester United

**OUR PICK OF 10
OF THE BEST**
family days out in
Gloucestershire

OPTIMISM RUNNING THROUGH THE VEINS

YOU could sense the collective sigh of relief as Gloucester fought back to claim the first competitive win of the David Humphreys era.

There has been so much change, and indeed positive change, over the summer at Kingsholm that the optimism running through the veins of this rugby mad City were palpable.

But following a Premiership record drubbing at the hands of reigning champions Northampton Saints on the opening day, there was some cause for concern.

That sinking feeling got worse as a Danny Cipriani inspired Sale Sharks surged into an 11-point half-time lead.

The heckling began and there was an uneasiness in the stands after watching Gloucester fail to string anything of note together in the first half.

Fortunately the hosts burst into life during the second half, scoring three tries to kick-start their Premiership season and get that monkey off their backs – the first meaningful victory following a summer of such upheaval.

Jonny May grabbed the first and displayed some electric footwork with some deft handling to create the second.

May was under no illusions



May realises the importance of backing last weekend's victory over Sale Sharks up with a second win tonight

to the magnitude of victory in this encounter which had been branded as "must win" by some of his teammates.

The triumph has reassured the Cherry and Whites are heading in the direction – now May has called on Gloucester to build



WE'VE GOT A RESULT, WE'VE GOT SOME POINTS ON THE BOARD AND WE CAN BUILD ON THAT IN A LONG AND TOUGH SEASON. WE WILL GROW FROM THIS AND LEARN OUR LESSONS. **Jonny May**



upon his new found belief.

He said, "It was big for us with lots of new players and management coming in and after a disappointing season. It was do or die for us especially after a shock result the week before."

"To be 17-6 down at half-time I genuinely couldn't believe it, and it is just relief and happiness to win at Kingsholm again."

"We're just desperate to prove ourselves. We had a disappointing result last week and to turn things around after half-time we were on top of the world and chuffed to bits to give the crowd what they deserve."

With another home encounter

tonight and a trip to face newly promoted London Welsh next Friday, Gloucester have a real opportunity to inject some early momentum into their season.

A return of three wins from their first four matches would be a mightily impressive return but, make no mistake, Exeter Chiefs present a huge challenge.

May said, "Losing the first two of the season would not have been nice but we have another big game this week against Exeter Chiefs. We need to learn our lessons and realise we have to back up a win as well."

"We've got a result, we've got some points on the board and

we can build on that in a long and tough season. We will grow from this and learn our lessons."

"These are games we want to win but there's no such thing as an easy game in this league. Exeter will be disappointed to lose to Leicester at home and they will come here fancying their chances. We know it will be a tough one."

"But I'm glad we've got a win and have a bit more belief than this time last week, hopefully we can build on that and eradicate some of our dumb play. This is another must win game for us."

Citizen AVAILABLE DAILY

MAKING A GOOD IMPRESS

MANY CHERRY AND WHITE SUPPORTERS MAY BE FORGIVEN FOR ALREADY SEEING ELLIOTT STOOKE AS A CORNERSTONE OF THE GLOUCESTER SQUAD SUCH HAS BEEN THE RISE OF THE EX-STOW-ON-THE-WOLD RFC LOCK. BUT HE IS ONLY JUST GETTING STARTED!

AFTER being involved in every Aviva Premiership game last season, Stooke is ready for his new campaign to spark into life with the hard work only just starting.

When handed the chance to impress last season, the Junior World Champion took it with both hands and kicked on to be awarded Young Player of the Season at the end of last season.

"It was a bit of whirlwind last year, I guess that I dived head first straight in, to be fair it has helped me massively.

"Huge thanks must go to the coaches for their faith and trust in me and keeping going with me and I couldn't be more grateful."

"The system is there. It is not

there to break you, it is there to make you. The facilities we have here at Hartpury are outstanding, and the work that Bucko and Tim Taylor put in with the Academy is fantastic and it does definitely go to show that the system works, it can be done.

"Boys like Ross Moriarty, Billy Burns and myself are all testament to that."

In the bigger picture, what would Elliott have said had someone handed him the chances he's been given and taken over the past twelve months?

32 appearances and a run out for the Saxons on top of that, that all sounds pretty good for the young second row.

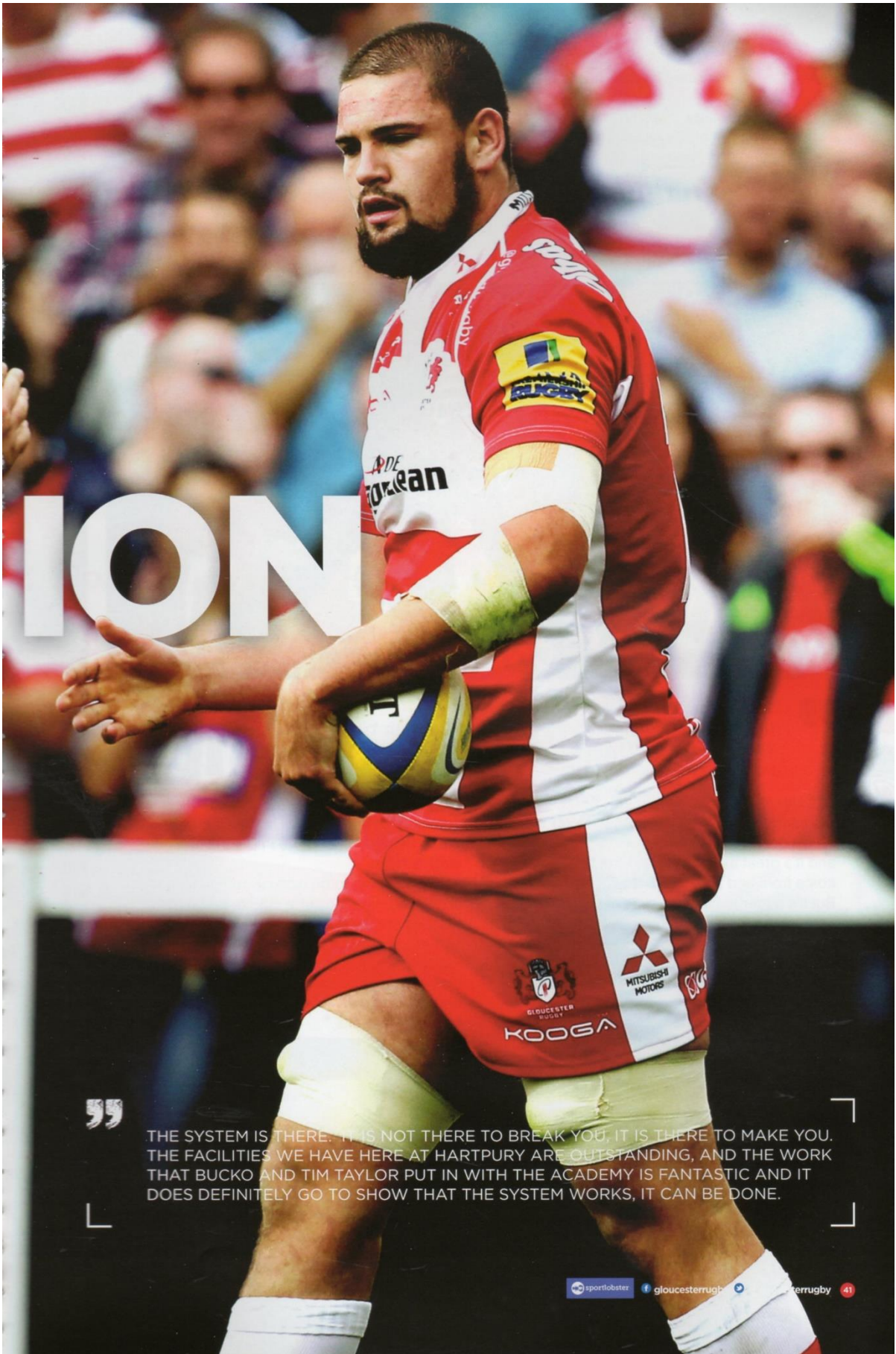
"I'd have definitely taken that,

and I wouldn't have believed them! Sometimes I'm shocked at what I achieved in the last year, but I know that I can do better and work harder. So that is where my focus is now and what I can achieve going forward."

Several new recruits arriving over the summer months, Elliott is definitely excited at the strength in depth of the second row division and is relishing both the competition and the chances to learn.

"We've got myself, James Hudson, Tom Palmer, Tom Savage, and even James Voss and Tom Hicks look great prospects. And that area will get even stronger when Mariano Galarza arrives in the next few weeks.





ION

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THE SYSTEM IS THERE. IT IS NOT THERE TO BREAK YOU, IT IS THERE TO MAKE YOU. THE FACILITIES WE HAVE HERE AT HARTPURY ARE OUTSTANDING, AND THE WORK THAT BUCKO AND TIM TAYLOR PUT IN WITH THE ACADEMY IS FANTASTIC AND IT DOES DEFINITELY GO TO SHOW THAT THE SYSTEM WORKS, IT CAN BE DONE.

”

"That just gives the coaches and us so many options in the second row. Sav is doing a great job in there with Huddo now, and the competition is great. I am going to have to fight for my place back now.

"In the case of Tom Palmer, 'TP', he's a great role model for me, he's done a lot in his career and I can learn so much from him. He's a wise

and John around, it's outstanding. Again, for me it's about feeding information, especially around scrum time and they are always helping me and the younger players out.

"We're all looking forward to having the upcoming season with these lads in our squad and it's only good for us.

But for Elliott, the leadership and guidance



”

HUGE THANKS MUST GO TO THE COACHES FOR THEIR FAITH AND TRUST IN ME AND KEEPING GOING WITH ME AND I COULDN'T BE MORE GRATEFUL.

man and I'm just feeding information off him.

"It's great to see how he works and operates and it's great to see the background that he's come from and sometimes how they do things. But it's super to have the likes of Huddo and TP here, guys who I can learn so much from as a young lad."

And Elliott is also greatly impressed by the improvement in the players packing down in front of him.

"It's great having the likes of Woody, Hibbs

comes from the coaches in the Cherry and White backroom, and the impact of the new staff is huge.

"It's amazing to be working with someone like Laurie, he's less of a coach, and more of a teacher, and he's teaching me what to do.

"Perhaps last year I was too focused on getting ready for the match and not focusing on my skills. It's been good to take a step back sometimes and look at those skills – something that has been really useful."

GLoucester RUGBY AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION



DID YOU
KNOW?

STOOKE WAS CALLED UP TO THE ENGLAND
SAXONS SQUAD IN JANUARY 2014



BOB FENTON'S

KINGSHOLM NEWS

” WE KNOW THAT OUR OLD GROUND UNDER FLOODLIGHTS TAKES ON A WHOLE NEW PERSONA AND FEELS THAT BIT MORE INTIMATE - OR INTIMIDATING IF YOU ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE.

RUGBY matches huh... they are just like buses. You wait all summer for one, then two turn up right behind each other!

I don't know about you, but I have only just about got my breath back after the last one. And if that's the way our season is going to go, then I am booking myself in to the nearest cardiac specialist for a prolonged rest next May.

The first half against Sale was like watching a car crash in slow motion. From about minute two, just about everything that could go wrong did, and it looked like we were going to come completely unstuck. It seemed like we were determined to cough up every bit of possession that we had, and that Sale were going to score immediately afterwards.

Then right at the start of the

second half everything changed. For a start my colleague turned up 45 minutes late having forgotten to re-set his watch from a trip to France the week before, and for some reason had the game as a 4pm start. He arrived just as Henry Trinder put through a delightful chip for Jonny May to run onto and score. He was pretty surprised when he realised that the game was 50 minutes old and that he hadn't just seen the first score!

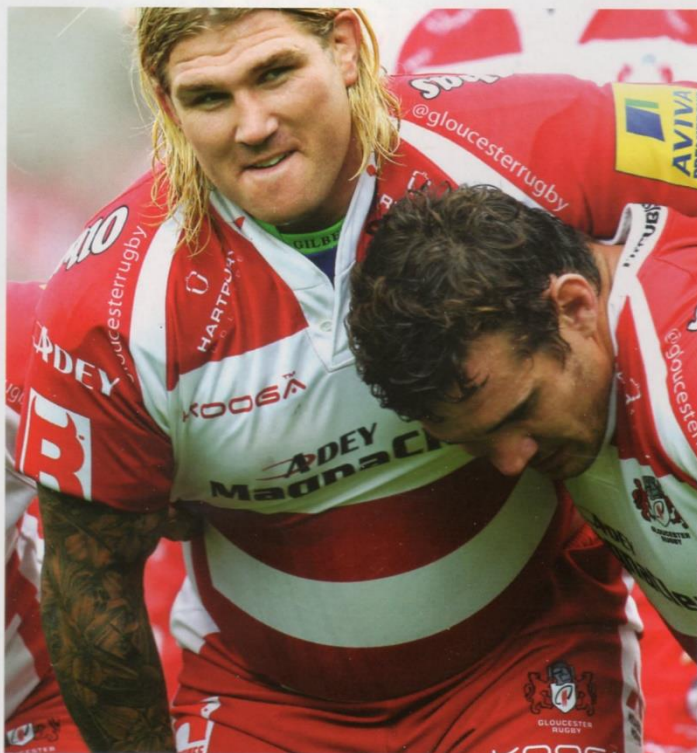
Jonny's celebratory jump - or maybe emergency stop - on the advertising hoarding was quite funny to watch - he didn't expect it to move and neither did the photographer sat right behind it. I think he thought he was about to get the closest of close ups!

That score couldn't have come at a better moment, and while we coughed up too much possession for everyone's liking in the second half, the results were not so tragic. To get that penalty try was a special moment and got, I reckon, the biggest cheer of the afternoon - well second only to Sinbad when he wandered out at half time.

It was like the whole pressure cooker from last season, and the awful battering our front eight took, had been relieved. And the fact that we got that score with - mostly - last season's pack made



COMING UP... | SUMMER SIGNING JACOB ROWAN PROVIDES THE ANSWERS TO OUR PLAYER A-Z



it doubly delicious.

As wins go the purists will tell you that it wasn't the best – in fact in a post-match interview James Hook described it as a '...disappointing win...' – but as far as I was concerned it was a thing of beauty and should, hopefully, go a long way to calming a few nerves.

Yes there's a lot of work to be done for sure, yes there is still a lot of coming together to go but we saw glimpses of some great things – not least the way Greig Laidlaw and James Hook are working together. I suppose we shouldn't be too surprised given the amount of international caps that those two have between them.

One swallow doesn't make a summer, and one win doesn't make a season, but I like the signs of togetherness that are starting to appear. I like the flashes of sheer genius we are seeing from some players – a great example Henry Trinder's

cross field kick in the second half, running one way and hit the ball the other – with pinpoint accuracy – and I like the monster hit that Richard Hibbard put in on the Georgian hooker.

And I love the fact that, after his TV appearance, some of the players are calling him 'Fat Thor'



– though I doubt that they do that to his face!! Most of all I love the prospect that is in front of us, I really feel that we are on the edge of something special.

Talking of Sinbad – as I was a few paragraphs back – it was great to see the reaction of the crowd applauding him at half time, even the Sale fans were on their feet to add to the great reception he got. I also loved the fact that he has clearly crossed the divide between player and fan now – his comment about having to 'play the ref as well' was exactly the conversation that was taking part in my part of the ground a few seconds before. Welcome to the dark side, James!

So tonight then, Exeter... a local-ish derby. Always a good game and always a good atmosphere with their fans bringing their unique brand of support – not to mention the contents of pretty much every kid's toy box or shop in Devon – with them. They'll arrive full of confidence having pushed Leicester so close last weekend and having absolutely hammered London Welsh the week before that.

Hopefully the fact that it is an evening game will not mean that they haven't been able to pack their tepees and trek up the M5 to add to what we know will be an electric atmosphere. We know that our old ground under floodlights takes on a whole new persona and feels that bit more intimate – or intimidating if you are on the other side.

I was surprised to read that some pundits had made Exeter a favourite for relegation this season, gawd knows where they got that idea from! They are as firmly ensconced in the Premiership as us these days. You do wonder if sometimes these pundits just say something to try to get a reaction from the fans.

But surely they wouldn't do that – would they Austin?

IAN RANDALL'S RUGBY TALK

WELCOME TO THE CHIEFS, AND THEIR TRIBE OF FOLLOWERS.

LIKE Kingsholm, Sandy Park will be a World Cup venue next year, with both grounds hosting Tonga. Extensive work has been done there over the summer, with the extension of the main stand and the installation of a hybrid pitch.

In a shorter time scale - just a week - Gloucester's coaching team also look to have made progress. If the first half against Sale was a throwback to what happened at Northampton, the second half was like peering into the future.

”

WE'VE HAD SOME CLOSE BATTLES AGAINST GLOUCESTER SINCE WE CAME UP, INCLUDING OUR FIRST GAME, WHICH WAS AGAINST GLOUCESTER AT SANDY PARK. I OBVIOUSLY KNOW PADDY ANSON, WHO USED TO BE AT THE CHIEFS, AND ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF CHANGE, THE CULTURE OF THE PLACE WILL BE GOOD WHEN YOU HAVE QUALITY PLAYERS LIKE HIBBARD AND HOOK COMING IN. **Haydn Thomas**

Two men in particular won't need a map to find their bearings tonight. Haydn Thomas and Dave Lewis both served Gloucester at scrum half earlier in their careers,

either side of two spells with Exeter.

Dave Lewis is injured, having dislocated an elbow in pre-season, but Haydn Thomas scored a rare try against Leicester last Saturday and is now in his fifth season back with the Chiefs.

"I played for Exeter University while I was studying chemistry there and Rob Baxter was our coach, so I'd known him a long time" recalls Thomas.

"I was at Bristol after leaving Gloucester and they'd been relegated. I hadn't enjoyed my

rugby very much and by that stage Rob was at the club. My girl friend was living in Exeter and I knew the city well.

"He was one of the main

reasons I came back. He's very calm and never over reacts. I would say 98% of the time he sees the right solution to a situation and does the right thing.

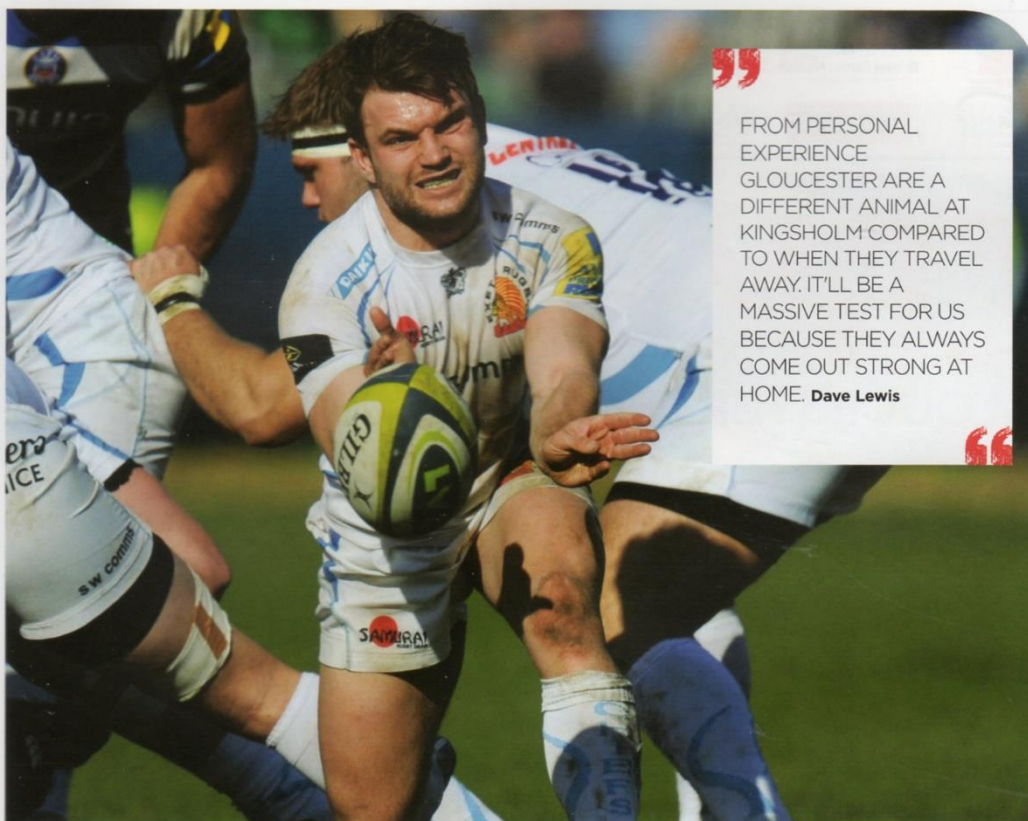
"His emphasis, and that of the coaching team, is always to improve people's skill levels. Just look at Jack Nowell and Sam Hill. They're not just guys out of a gym."

Thomas didn't play a huge amount in two seasons at Gloucester - just 18 Premiership appearances - but he was one of many who tweeted a video of James Simpson-Daniel's famous run that set up a try for James Bailey against Wasps. Thomas it was who started that move off.

"That day summed up what the



Shed can be like" he said. "We had defended for a long spell, broke, and scored. When it's like that, it's one of the top places in England to play.



FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE GLOUCESTER ARE A DIFFERENT ANIMAL AT KINGSHOLM COMPARED TO WHEN THEY TRAVEL AWAY. IT'LL BE A MASSIVE TEST FOR US BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS COME OUT STRONG AT HOME. **Dave Lewis**

"We've had some close battles against Gloucester since we came up, including our first game, which was against Gloucester at Sandy Park. I obviously know Paddy Anson, who used to be at the Chiefs, and although there has been a lot of change, the culture of the place will be good when you have quality players like Hibbard and Hook coming in."

As Thomas left Gloucester in 2007, a fresh faced teenager from Exeter arrived. The Chiefs were still in the Championship, but Dave Lewis had played a handful of "A" team games while he was at Ivybridge College.

Six years and nearly 60 Premiership games later, he went back.

"I felt I needed a fresh challenge" Lewis told me. "I still had friends there and I knew the way the team was set up. Having said that, I have fond memories of Gloucester."

"As a club they gave me a great start in my career, especially in the first couple of seasons. To get as much experience in as I did by the time I was 24 is no mean feat, but I think what happened last year in us winning the LV= Cup showed it was the right decision."

Exeter, of course, won here last year, with a performance which showed what a patient, well drilled side they can be.

"We think if we attack well we can make holes and score tries against anyone" added Lewis.

"In defence we put pressure on teams and that creates turnovers which can be big moments in games. We're playing Gloucester after a major overhaul but I don't think it would have mattered if we'd played them now or later in the season."

From personal experience Gloucester are a different animal at Kingsholm compared to when they travel away. It'll be a massive test for us because they always

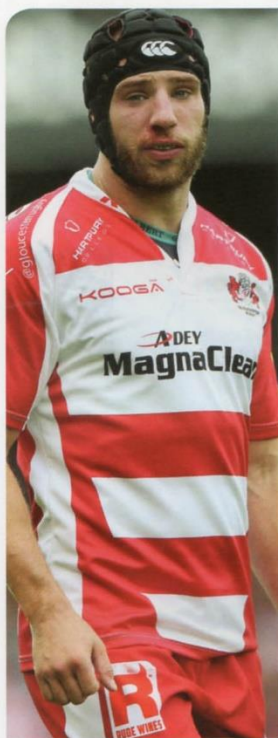
come out strong at home."

Lewis is about a month away from being fit. Until that point Thomas, now 31, and Gareth Steenson are the likely half back partnership, especially if Henry Slade is picked, as he can be, at outside centre.

Ultimately though, Exeter and their fans have rarely enjoyed better times. Thomas says the team never worry mentally about going anywhere to play and compete, including what he describes as an unforgettable experience of playing against Toulon in the Champions Cup last season.

This time round, they're in the Challenge Cup where, away from the glare of Europe's top talent, some of their young stars can develop further. It may also, by keeping their key players for the Premiership, benefit their league position.

The same could be said for Gloucester.



PLAYER A to Z JACOB ROWAN



...is for
ATMOSPHERE...

What is the best atmosphere you have experienced?
Rosario, 16,000 screaming, spitting Argentinians!



...is for best mate
...**BEST MATE** in rugby?

Team North member number 2!

...is for **CAREER...**
If you weren't a rugby player what would you be?

DJ



...is for **DRIVE...**
what car are you driving?

Saving my pennies for a VW campervan

...is for **EMBARRASSED...**
most embarrassing moment on the field?

5 mins into Kingsholm debut, stretchered off...

A

B

C

D

E

M

N

O

P

Q

R

S

...is for **MATCH...**
What is the best match you have played in/watched?
Liverpool v Milan
- 05 Champions League final

...is for **NICKNAME...**
What's yours?
Jake, although for some reason, Jud has been thrown about.

...is for **OPPONENT...**
Who is the best player you have faced up against?
Samu Manoa

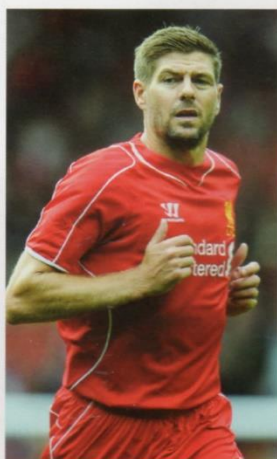
...is for **PRIDE...**
What is your proudest moment?
Gloucester debut

...is for **QUICKEST...**
Who is the fastest player you have played with or against?
Charlie Sharples, hell of a 400m time too

...is for **RUN OUT MUSIC...** what's your tune to run out to?
Leave the World Behind - Swedish House Mafia

...is for **SUPPORT...**
What teams do you support?
Liverpool, Houston Texans





...is for
FASHION...
Who is the worst
dressed player in
the squad?
Still yet to
experience Shane's
fashion

...is for
**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY...**best
thing about
Gloucester Rugby?
Crowd — love the
noise!

...is for
HARDMAN...
Who is the
toughest opponent
you have played
against?
Robert Baldwin

...is for **IDOL...**
Who is your
sporting idol?
Steven Gerrard

...is for **JOKER...**
Who is the funniest
person you have
shared a dressing
room with?
Jonah Holmes or
Jonny May

...is for
KINGSHOLM
...describe
Kingsholm in three
words?
Cherry. And. White

...is for **LIFE after
rugby...**
What are your
future plans?
Waiting for
entrepreneurial
skills to kick in

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

T

U

V

W

X

Y

Z

...is for **TRY...**
What is the best
try you have ever
scored?
Against Bristol in
2012, for Leeds
Carnegie

...is for
UNBELIEVABLE...
Tell us something
surprising about
yourself
I got to the last 50
on X Factor...

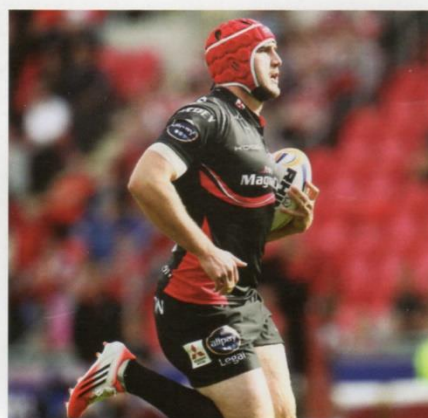
...is for **VISITOR...**
What is your
favourite ground to
play at?
School Pitch —
BGS Fortress
Frizinghall

...is for **WORST...**
What is the worst
thing about being
a rugby player?
Injuries

...is for **X-RAY...**
What is the worst
injury you have
suffered?
Now!

...is for **YOUTH...**
What advice
would you give
to aspiring rugby
players?
Work hard

...is for **ZZZ...**
Which player has
the worst banter?
Stevie McColl,
Boggy! He's
probably really
funny, I just can't
understand him!



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

LINE-UP

15	FB	JAMES WILSON
14	W	KEN PISI
13	C	GEORGE PISI
12	C	LUTHER BURRELL
11	W	GEORGE NORTH
10	FH	STEPHEN MYLER
9	SH	LEE DICKSON
1	P	ALEX CORBISIERO
2	H	DYLAN HARTLEY (C)
3	P	SALESI MAAFU
4	L	COURTNEY LAWES
5	L	CHRISTIAN DAY
6	F	CALUM CLARK
7	F	TOM WOOD
8	N8	SAMU MANOA

REPLACEMENTS

16	H	ROSS McMILLAN
17	P	ALEX WALLER
18	P	GARETH DENMAN
19	L	JAMES CRAIG
20	N8	JON FISHER
21	SH	KAHN FOTUALI'I
22	FH	WILL HOOLEY
23	C	BEN FODEN



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

53

TRIES: North (21, 40, 49), TG Pisi (29), Burrell (43, 74), Fotuali'i (57), Fisher (69) **PEN:** Myler (12) **CONS:** Myler (22, 30, 40, 44), Hooley (75)



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

06

PENS: Hook (18), Laidlaw (35)



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

LINE-UP

15	FB	ROB COOK
14	W	CHARLIE SHARPLES
13	C	HENRY TRINDER
12	C	BILLY TWELVETREES (C)
11	W	JONNY MAY
10	FH	JAMES HOOK
9	SH	GREIG LAIDLAW
1	P	DAN MURPHY
2	H	RICHARD HIBBARD
3	P	JOHN AFOA
4	L	TOM SAVAGE
5	L	JAMES HUDSON
6	F	SIONE KALAMAFONI
7	F	JACOB ROWAN
8	N8	BEN MORGAN

REPLACEMENTS

16	H	DARREN DAWIDIUK
17	P	YANN THOMAS
18	P	SILA PUAFISI
19	L	TOM PALMER
20	F	ROSS MORIARTY
21	SH	DAN ROBSON
22	C	MARK ATKINSON
23	FB	STEVE MCCOLL

NEW LOOK GLOUCESTER SUFFER TOUGH OPENING DAY DEFEAT AT SAINTS

THE BRIGHT DAWN OF A NEW SEASON WAS RUDELY DISRUPTED ON OPENING NIGHT, AS DAVID HUMPHREY AND LAURIE FISHER'S NEW CHARGES WERE HANDED A HARSH LESSON BY THE REIGNING CHAMPIONS.

CONTINUITY, coherence and clinical finishing from Northampton Saints saw them run in eight tries against a Cherry and White side, boasting five Aviva Premiership debutants.

For the first twenty minutes, there was plenty to be pleased about. The back row were disruptive, physical and

Hook exchanged a penalty each, before the hosts struck. George North has been the focus of the rugby world for a number of years now, and the wing dived over for his and the game's first score.

Myler was now finding time and creating chances with regularity, which the visitors were working hard to repel.

”

WE'RE A COUPLE OF WEEKS BEHIND IN TERMS OF PREPARATION AND PLAYING THE CHAMPIONS AWAY FROM HOME ON THE OPENING GAME, JUST SHOWED WHERE WE ARE. **Billy Twelvetrees**

combative, but the visitors were spending an uncomfortable amount of time in defence repelling wave after wave of Saints' launches.

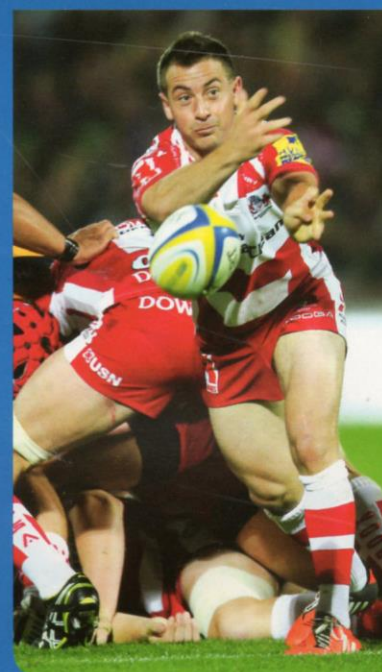
Stephen Myler and James

The next try was out of the top drawer, however, George Pisi's run being found perfectly by the fly half's deft chip and the Samoan had an easy finish under the posts.

Greig Laidlaw then picked up his first points of the season with a well-struck penalty before the break, but it wasn't the final incident of the half.

With time on the clock gone, Saints' scrappy lineout created confusion in the Gloucester defence, and the backs created space out wide that North exploited with a spin and swivel to slide over for his second.

Needing to fly out of the blocks fast to rescue the game, the Cherry and Whites were hit by a one-two from the Champions, seemingly operating

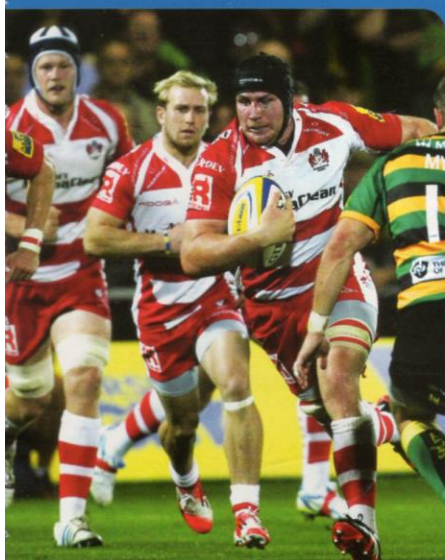


at the top of their game on opening night.

First Luther Burrell stretched over in the corner from a sharp James Wilson break, and North subsequently picked up his hat trick to leave the result in no doubt.

With just pride to play for, the Cherry and Whites huffed and puffed to make things happen but, with Henry Trinder sinbinned for a soft collision, nothing was going the way of the visitors.

The hosts, roared on by an opening day crowd were in no mood for letting up, running in late tries for Kahn Fotuali'i, Jon Fisher and a second for Burrell to notch up the half century milestone and pile on the misery for the Cherry and Whites with a record league defeat.



ACTION REPLAY

VS
SALE
SHARKS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

LINE-UP

15	FB	ROB COOK
14	W	CHARLIE SHARPLES
13	C	HENRY TRINDER
12	C	BILLY TWELVETREES (C)
11	W	JONNY MAY
10	FH	JAMES HOOK
9	SH	GREIG LAIDLAW
1	P	DAN MURPHY
2	H	RICHARD HIBBARD
3	P	JOHN AFOA
4	L	TOM SAVAGE
5	L	JAMES HUDSON
6	F	SIONE KALAMAFONI
7	F	JACOB ROWAN
8	N8	BEN MORGAN

REPLACEMENTS

16	H	DARREN DAWIDIUK
17	P	YANN THOMAS
18	P	SILA PUAFISI
19	L	TOM PALMER
20	F	ROSS MORIARTY
21		DAN ROBSON
22	C	MARK ATKINSON
23		STEVE MCCOLL



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

34

TRIES: May (48), Cook (61), Penalty try (72) **PENS:** Laidlaw (24, 38, 40, 46, 68) **CONS:** Laidlaw (62, 73)



SALE SHARKS

27

TRIES: Arscott (1), Cusiter (18), McLean (33), Cipriani (75) **PENS:** Cipriani (58) **CONS:** Cipriani (19, 75)



SALE SHARKS

LINE-UP

15	FB	LUKE McLEAN
14	W	TOM BRADY
13	C	WILL ADDISON
12	C	MARK JENNINGS
11	W	TOM ARSCOTT
10	FH	DANNY CIPRIANI
9	SH	CHRIS CUSITER
1	P	ROSS HARRISON
2	H	SHALVA MAMUKASHVILI
3	P	VADIM COBILAS
4	L	NATHAN HINES
5	L	JONATHAN MILLS
6	F	MICHAEL PATERSON
7	F	DAVID SEYMOUR (C)
8	N8	MARK EASTER

REPLACEMENTS

16	H	CAMERON NEILD
17	P	ALBERTO DE MARCHI
18	P	EIFION LEWIS-ROBERTS
19	L	ANDREI OSTRIKOV
20	L	MAGNUS LUND
21	SH	WILL CLIFF
22		JOE FORD
23	C	ANDY FORSYTH

SECOND HALF COMEBACK SECURES POINTS AGAINST SALE

GLOUCESTER RUGBY ARE OFF AND RUNNING IN THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP, HAVING CLINCHED THEIR FIRST VICTORY OF THE SEASON WITH THE 34-27 WIN OVER SALE SHARKS LAST WEEKEND.

HOWEVER, it was far from plain sailing as the Salford based outfit took advantage of a below par first half performance from the Cherry and Whites, easing their way to a 6-17 half time lead.

It may have been that Gloucester were still shrugging off the defeat at Northampton the

Fly half Danny Cipriani had one of those days when everything came off, and the Sale pivot was the inspiration behind three opportunist first half tries.

It was, therefore, a slightly subdued Kingsholm as the half time whistle blew. However, a combination of the half time team talk and an interview on the pitch with recently retired James

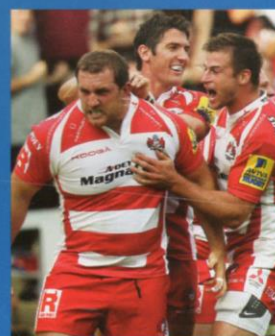
” AFTER GOING 17-3 DOWN, AND FOLLOWING ON FROM THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF LAST FRIDAY NIGHT, WE WERE IN A BIT OF A HOLE AND I THINK IT SHOWED THE CHARACTER OF THE SQUAD TO TURN IT AROUND. **David Humphreys**

week before as, virtually every time they entered the Sale half, possession was turned over.

By contract, the Sharks made the most of absolutely everything that came their way.

ADEY
MagnaClean

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



As Gloucester pushed (quite literally!) to close out the game, the Gloucester eight produced a massive shove from 5 metres out to splinter the Sale scrum and force a penalty try to the delight of the Kingsholm crowd.

ticking over with some accurate goal kicking before the tries finally came.

Jonny May scored one and set up the second for Rob Cook, before the pack delighted the home crowd by forcing a penalty try. From 6-17 down, Gloucester



Simpson-Daniel seemed to blow away the cobwebs.

Gloucester came out for the second half and were a transformed side. They dominated possession and territory and started to crank up the pressure. Greig Laidlaw got the scoreboard

went into the final few minutes with a 34-20 lead.

Even then it wasn't straightforward! Cipriani (that man again!), jinked his way over for a superb solo score to get Sale back within a score but, thankfully, that was as close as they got!



TODAY'S TEAMS

GLoucester RUGBY vs EXETER CHIEFS

REFEREE: Matthew Carley ASSISTANTS: Roger Baileff and Andrew Pearce

TEAMS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT

TPCD		15	CHRY SANDER BOTHA	TPCD
□□□□	ROB COOK		FULL-BACK	□□□□
□□□□	CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	IAN WHITTEN	□□□□
□□□□	HENRY PURDY	13	HENRY SLADE	□□□□
□□□□	BILLY TWELVETREES (C)	12	SAM HILL	□□□□
□□□□	JONNY MAY	11	MATT JESS	□□□□
□□□□	JAMES HOOK	10	GARETH STEENSON	□□□□
□□□□	GREIG LAIDLAW	9	HAYDN THOMAS	□□□□
□□□□	DAN MURPHY	1	CARL RIMMER	□□□□
□□□□	RICHARD HIBBARD	2	JACK YEANDLE (C)	□□□□
□□□□	SILA PUAFISI	3	TOMAS FRANCIS	□□□□
□□□□	TOM SAVAGE	4	MITCH LEES	□□□□
□□□□	TOM PALMER	5	RYAN CALDWELL	□□□□
□□□□	SIONE KALAMAFONI	6	DAVE EWERS	□□□□
□□□□	ROSS MORIARTY	7	BEN WHITE	□□□□
□□□□	BEN MORGAN	8	THOMAS WALDROM	□□□□
	NUMBER EIGHT		NUMBER EIGHT	
□□□□	ALEKI LUTUI	16	ELVIS TAIONE	□□□□
□□□□	YANN THOMAS	17	BEN MOON	□□□□
□□□□	JOHN AFOA	18	MORAY LOW	□□□□
□□□□	ELLIOTT STOOKE	19	DAMIAN WELCH	□□□□
□□□□	MATT KVESIC	20	KAI HORSTMANN	□□□□
□□□□	DAN ROBSON	21	WILL CHUDLEY	□□□□
□□□□	MARK ATKINSON	22	CERI SWEENEY	□□□□
□□□□	BILL MEAKES	23	JACK ARNOTT	□□□□
	REPLACEMENT 8		REPLACEMENT 8	