



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

vs Zebre

European Rugby Challenge Cup Round 03: 07/12/2014

Inside today's matchday programme we have an exclusive interview with our young back row with a big future Ross Moriarty, action replays from two recent fixtures and features from our regular contributors Bob Fenton, Ian Randall, The Citizen and the Gloucester Rugby Heritage Project.

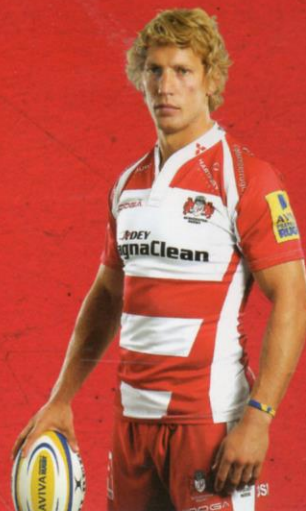
f [gloucesterrugby](#) @gloucesterrugby





CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

GOOD AFTERNOON, AND IT'S GREAT TO WELCOME YOU TO KINGSHOLM FOR THE EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP MEETING WITH ZEBRE.



HEADING into Europe again provides a fresh challenge to us as a squad, off the back of a tough few weeks in the Aviva Premiership.

It's been a period which has tested the squad to the max, with players away with their countries and injuries to the squad. It really gives this team a chance to develop its strength in depth and character.

In the England camp, we were all keeping tabs on what was happening up at Newcastle, a tough place to go and play any time of the year. After a great start we were unlucky not to get anything out of the game, adding pressure on another difficult trip down to London Irish last Sunday.

But, with some key players available again, we showed the watching rugby world how tight we are as a group, especially in

the first set of Aviva Premiership and European Rugby matches earlier this season, and it was great to see the lads put in a professional and clinical show to take a victory.

The challenge now, is to build on that win, starting today against Zebre, a team that are a big threat as was shown last weekend when they toppled Edinburgh.

It's great to be back at Gloucester. We have a good environment and the atmosphere is a positive one. Jonny, Blobby and myself couldn't wait to get back in training with everyone this week, and looking forward to the next challenge.

We are really excited about the next few weeks in the Gloucester squad, two tough tests in Europe, ready for on paper, one of the toughest Christmas periods you could ask for.

But we know that the Kingsholm crowd will be buzzing and I can't begin to imagine what the atmosphere will be like with, hopefully, two full houses over the Christmas period.

Before that, a very tough opponent in Zebre, and the focus is on getting a win and putting ourselves in a good place in the group.

Thank you as always for your support.

Billy



”

WE ARE REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THE NEXT FEW WEEKS IN THE GLOUCESTER SQUAD, TWO TOUGH TESTS IN EUROPE, READY FOR ON PAPER, ONE OF THE TOUGHEST CHRISTMAS PERIODS YOU COULD ASK FOR.

”

DIR. OF
RUGBY

DAVID
HUMPHREYS



DAVID
HUMPHREYS

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM AS WE RETURN TO EUROPEAN ACTION IN THIS AFTERNOON'S EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP FIXTURE AT HOME TO ZEBRE.

I STARTED my last set of programme notes by saying that it was good to be back at home after a number of testing games on the road. And that rings true once again today!

Since we were last here, under the floodlights against Harlequins, we've faced two tough fixtures away from home at Newcastle and London Irish, so it's good to be back in familiar surroundings.

It's also the first game for a number of weeks now where we've been able to prepare with a number of our international players back.

Representing their country is a great honour for all the individuals concerned, and we're delighted to see Gloucester Rugby players on international duty, but it does test the squad to the max, particularly when you have to take into account injuries as well.

By half time in the Newcastle game, for example, we had a backline that had

They've given it everything, in difficult conditions at times, and certainly not let anyone down with their work rate and commitment.

In fact, a number of our younger squad members will ultimately be better for the experience if they take on board what they have learned in those matches and use it to improve their game.

Having lost narrowly at Newcastle the weekend before, I

because it also keeps us in touch with the teams around us in what is an incredibly congested Aviva Premiership table.

Our challenge now is to kick on from that. We've welcomed back our England players this week which is very good news, but also means another week of re-integration.

The back to back fixtures against Zebre will be tough.



”

...WE'VE SHOWN BY OUR PREVIOUS SELECTIONS THAT WE'RE TAKING THE COMPETITION SERIOUSLY. OUR GOAL IS FOR A HOME QUARTER-FINAL AND TWO BIG PERFORMANCES OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS WILL GO A LONG WAY TO ACHIEVING THAT GOAL.

barely 10 Premiership starts between them - that's a challenge for any club.

I have to give a huge amount of credit to the players who have been on duty over the past couple of weeks though.

was delighted to see us bounce back and earn the win at London Irish last Sunday. It was a game that could easily have slipped away from us, but our commitment and defence were superb.

Understandably, given the changes we've made in recent weeks, we lacked a little bit of accuracy at times but our ambition and energy couldn't be faulted.

The win was important, not just in terms of giving us some momentum going into the double header against Zebre, but

They've kept themselves in the reckoning in terms of the group by winning in Brive, and we know ourselves that any win in France is not to be taken lightly.

But we've shown by our previous selections that we're taking the competition seriously. Our goal is for a home quarter-final and two big performances over the next two weeks will go a long way to achieving that goal.

David

THE VIEW FROM The Citizen



**SCAN THE
CODE FOR
MORE NEWS
AND STORIES
FROM OUR
WEBSITE**

**SNOOKER
STAR** Dominic
Dale pots small
fortune

**TEENAGE
SCHOOLBOY**
honoured for
quick-thinking
CPR

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY
CONFIRM
SIGNING** of
Super Rugby star

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY STARS**
raise £1,600 for
Movember

MARKERS LAID DOWN BY GLOUCESTER TRIO

GLOUCESTER welcome back their England trio today and all three will pull on the Cherry and White jersey buoyed by the autumn internationals—albeit to varying degrees.

Jonny May and Ben Morgan will have the biggest smiles, having gone a long way to nailing down their starting spots, while Billy Twelvetrees will be quietly content having worked his way back into the match-day squad.

The November Series began with that sensational solo effort from May, already a contender for try of the season.

It took May just four minutes to silence his critics with his first international try and it is one that will never be forgotten.

After receiving the ball from Brad Barritt, remember this is against world champions New Zealand, May ghosted around Conrad Smith and demonstrated there is no substitute for pace as he scorched past Israel Dagg to send Twickenham into raptures.

It wasn't enough to secure victory but left those in attendance with little doubt over his capabilities.

Both Gloucester backs coach Nick Walshe and May claimed the try was a monkey off the back and could lead to plenty more tries.

They were not wrong as the



(above) Touchdown

Jonny showed the world what a lethal finisher we all know he is this Autumn

(right) Authority

Ben Morgan laid down his marker for the England no.8 position

former Hartpury ace scorched over for two more against Samoa.

When unspectacular, May was solid throughout the autumn and there were no lapses of concentration as we have seen in the past. His game appears well-rounded and is increasingly consistent.

May said, "I'm chuffed to bits and the autumn has probably exceeded my expectations. I wanted to start every game and to play the way I have. But, at the

” THERE ARE AT LEAST EIGHT OR NINE ENGLISH WINGS IN THE PREMIERSHIP WHO ARE INTERNATIONAL QUALITY SO YOU HAVE TO BE AT YOUR BEST. SOMETIMES YOU DON'T GET MUCH BALL ON THE WING SO YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT WHEN YOU DO GET IT YOU DO WELL. **Jonny May**

beginning of the season when we (Gloucester) lost by 50 points to Northampton, I thought it wouldn't happen.

"I needed to back myself and go for it a bit more, and then brush up on the fine details, running lines, high balls, defence.

"There are at least eight or nine English wings in the Premiership who are international quality so you have to be at your best. Sometimes you don't get much ball on the wing so you have to make sure that when you do get it you do well."

While Jonny began with a bang, 'Big Ben' had to wait patiently for his opportunity but boy did he take it.

The number eight has been in the form of his life this season for Gloucester. Gone are the claims that he is a lesser player on the club scene, who only rises for the big occasion.

Morgan has been a standout player this campaign, clearly benefitting from the new regime and a solid set-piece. It is imperative that the club tie him to a new contract.

The Dursley product impressed off the bench against the All Blacks and made a huge impact off the bench against South Africa.

It wasn't just his try, it was Morgan's entire work-rate. He was everywhere and provided the catalyst for England's comeback which was ultimately not enough once again.

But Morgan's performance was enough to oust Billy Vunipola from the starting spot and he has never looked back.

Another colossal, man-of-the-match performance against Australia, which included two

tries left Stuart Lancaster singing his praises.

Lancaster said, "Ben has come absolutely storming back and for me has been one of the standout players in the last two games.

"Obviously he had to sit patiently on the bench in the first two games but what's pleased me most is the fact that he's stepped up as a leader.

"He had a difficult season at Gloucester last year but, with a new coaching team, he has been reinvigorated as a player at his club and he thoroughly deserved the Man of the Match award against Australia.



"For guys to come in and play Test match rugby in front of 80,000 people, it takes time to develop, particularly when you're young and Ben's still only 25-years-old.

"His inner belief has grown, he's developed as a leader and he will be a hard person to shift now." Roll on the Six Nations and Wales on February 6.

Twelvetrees is left with the most work to do, but is back in the running after falling out of contention at the beginning of the

Test window.

He was sent back to Gloucester during the first two weeks, but impressed upon his return to camp and, following a cameo against Samoa, he was restored to inside centre as Lancaster returned to the tried and tested.

Australia was the Gloucester captain's chance to lay down a pre-championship and World Cup marker.

"Going into this game he has the opportunity to nail it down for the Six Nations," said Lancaster ahead of the encounter.

"He took on board the feedback we gave him when he first came into camp and he has worked hard both with us and at Gloucester and deserves his chance.

"Consistency in terms of his decision-making and execution were the two things we spoke to him about.

"Being back and forth to Gloucester but, more importantly in camp, we have seen that improvement to the level he was performing at during the Six Nations."

Twelvetrees barely put a foot wrong in a solid performance, but you do question whether it was enough. Lancaster has selected a staggering 10 centre partnerships since taking the helm, but we are yet to see a Twelvetrees-Manu Tuilagi axis which would be my preferred choice.

You get the feeling that the England coaches are merely counting down the days until they can unleash Sam Burgess. How fitting that Bath and Slammin' Sam are the next visitors to Kingsholm – it's a challenge Billy will relish.

Citizen AVAILABLE DAILY

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

ON CENTRE
STAGE
– PART TWO

CENTRES FROM DAYS OF YORE WERE COVERED IN OUR ARTICLE IN THE PROGRAMME FOR THE LAST HOME MATCH AGAINST HARLEQUINS; NOW WE LOOK AT THE BEST OF GLOUCESTER CENTRES IN MORE RECENT TIMES.

RICHARD JARDINE

Richard Jardine was a long striding powerful centre who made 314 appearances for Gloucester between 1967 and 1982, scoring 89 tries. Early on he sometimes played at fly half and it took a while before he became established as a centre, but by 1970 he was a regular partner to John Bayliss. 1971 saw him in the County team and he was on the winning side in three out of four successive Championship finals (1972-75).

In all he played 31 games for Gloucestershire, scoring six tries. Richard played in the early rounds

play in every round of the 1978 campaign when Gloucester beat Leicester in the final, and his form that year earned him a place on the England B tour.

PAUL TAYLOR

Paul Taylor had played several seasons for Stroud before deciding to try his luck with Gloucester. His first game in October 1980 was a baptism of fire, playing in a Wednesday evening game at Pontypool. This was the Pontypool team in its pomp, but Gloucester won 17-15. In his third appearance he scored his first try in a big win over Leicester.

Paul was a durable no-nonsense centre who never seemed to get injured. In successive seasons from 1983 to 1986 he played in 47, 43 and 41 games respectively. He was a member of the team which drew with Moseley in the final of the John Player Cup in 1982.



Richard Jardine alongside John Bayliss for Gloucestershire

of the successful cup campaign of 1972, but missed the final through injury. He did, however,



Terry Fanolua

He also played for Gloucestershire in the Championship Final against Northumberland in 1981. In all Paul made 280 appearances for Gloucester and scored 58 tries.

TERRY FANOLUA

Terry Fanolua was born in Samoa and played his early rugby in New Zealand. His cousin, Junior Paramore, was another Shed favourite. Tom Walkinshaw, and the then Director of Rugby Richard Hill, persuaded Terry to cross the world and come to Kingsholm for the start of the 1997-98 season.

It was not long before he became one of the most popular players ever to play in the Cherry



Paul Taylor

and White colours. He developed a solid centre partnership with Australian Richard Tombs and they were together in the C&G Cup Final win over Bedford in 1998, when Terry scored a try. He was also in the Zurich Championship winning team that beat Bristol in 2002.

Not surprisingly Terry had a long run in the Samoa team winning 29 caps between 1996 and 2005. It was a sad day when his career at Kingsholm ended in 2006, and he moved to Brive and played there for two seasons.

"Terry from Gloucester" as he became popularly known, made 210 appearances for Gloucester, scored 60 tries, and is now back at Kingsholm working in the Community Department.



Henry Paul

HENRY PAUL

Henry Paul had a glittering Rugby League career, winning 23 caps for New Zealand and playing for Wakefield Trinity, Wigan, and most successfully for Bradford Bulls.

Expectations were very high when he switched codes and arrived at Gloucester, and were matched on his debut in 2001 against Caerphilly in a Parker Pen cup game when he scored 28 points. England recognition soon followed with six caps in 2002, but there his international career ended.

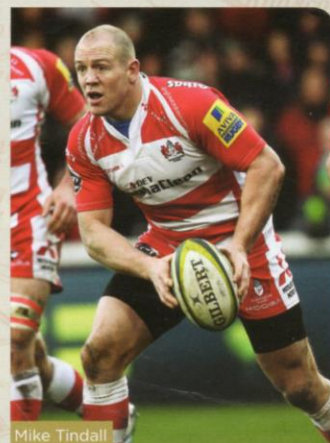
It has to be said that even at

Kingsholm he divided opinion, but the fact remains that he was a clever centre who could pass out of the tackle beautifully. He was a gifted goal kicker and in 2003-04 he scored 354 points, and won Gloucester's player of the year award.

However, early in season 2005-06 he appeared to be out of favour and left Kingsholm to return to Rugby League.

ANTHONY ALLEN

Anthony Allen came to Gloucester directly from Millfield School in 2005, and in only his third appearance scored a try in the overwhelming 106-3 defeat of Steaua Bucharest. That season (2005-06) proved to be a good one for Gloucester, and Anthony



Mike Tindall

only 11 starts that season and signed for Leicester at the end of it.

MIKE TINDALL

Mike Tindall, born in Otley, Yorkshire, was already a seasoned international before he arrived at Kingsholm. He won his first cap in 2000, amassed nearly 50 more as a Bath player, and was a World Cup winner with England in 2003. After eight years at Bath, Mike arrived in Gloucester for the start of the 2005-06 season, and following the departure of Henry Paul quickly formed a formidable centre partnership with Anthony Allen.

He was a hard crash ball centre, deadly tackler and effective leader of the back line. His style of play inevitably led to injuries. Even the Queen has lost track of the number of times his nose was broken. In April 2007 playing against Newcastle he broke his leg, which meant that he could take no part in the 2007 World Cup. His courage was demonstrated in February 2008, when, playing against Wales and tackling Mark Jones, he lacerated his liver. Typically, he was playing again by April.

Mike was made Club captain in 2008-09, and he continued to accumulate England caps, finishing with 75. He made 179 appearances for Gloucester, and announced his retirement from professional rugby in July 2014.

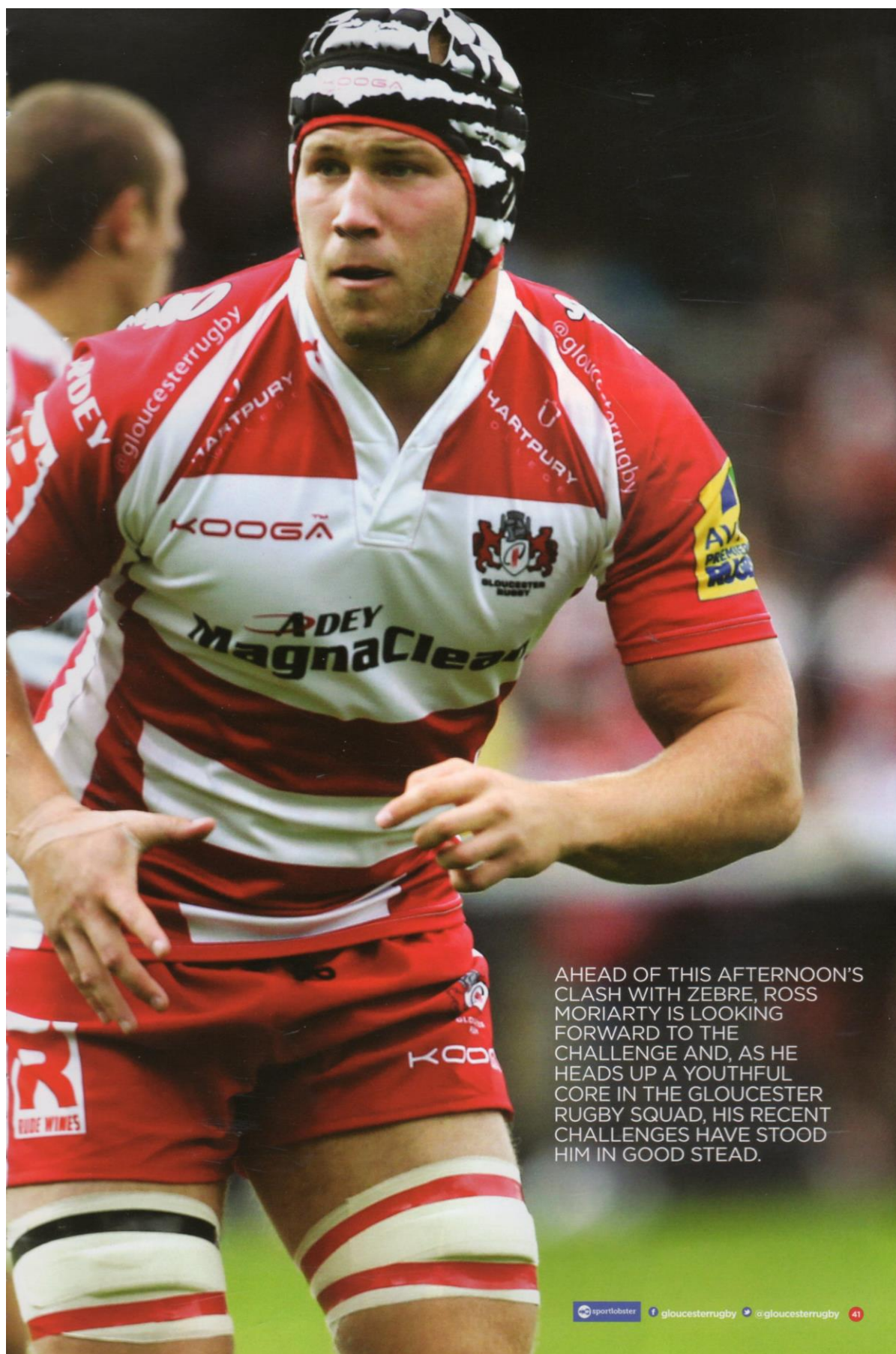
PLAYER
FEATURE

ROSS
MORIARTY

TARGET MAN

”

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO MY BEST IN ALL THE BACK ROW POSITIONS, I'M STILL LEARNING AS A PLAYER SO I'M TARGETING EVERY GAME AS A CHANCE TO LEARN AND GET BETTER.



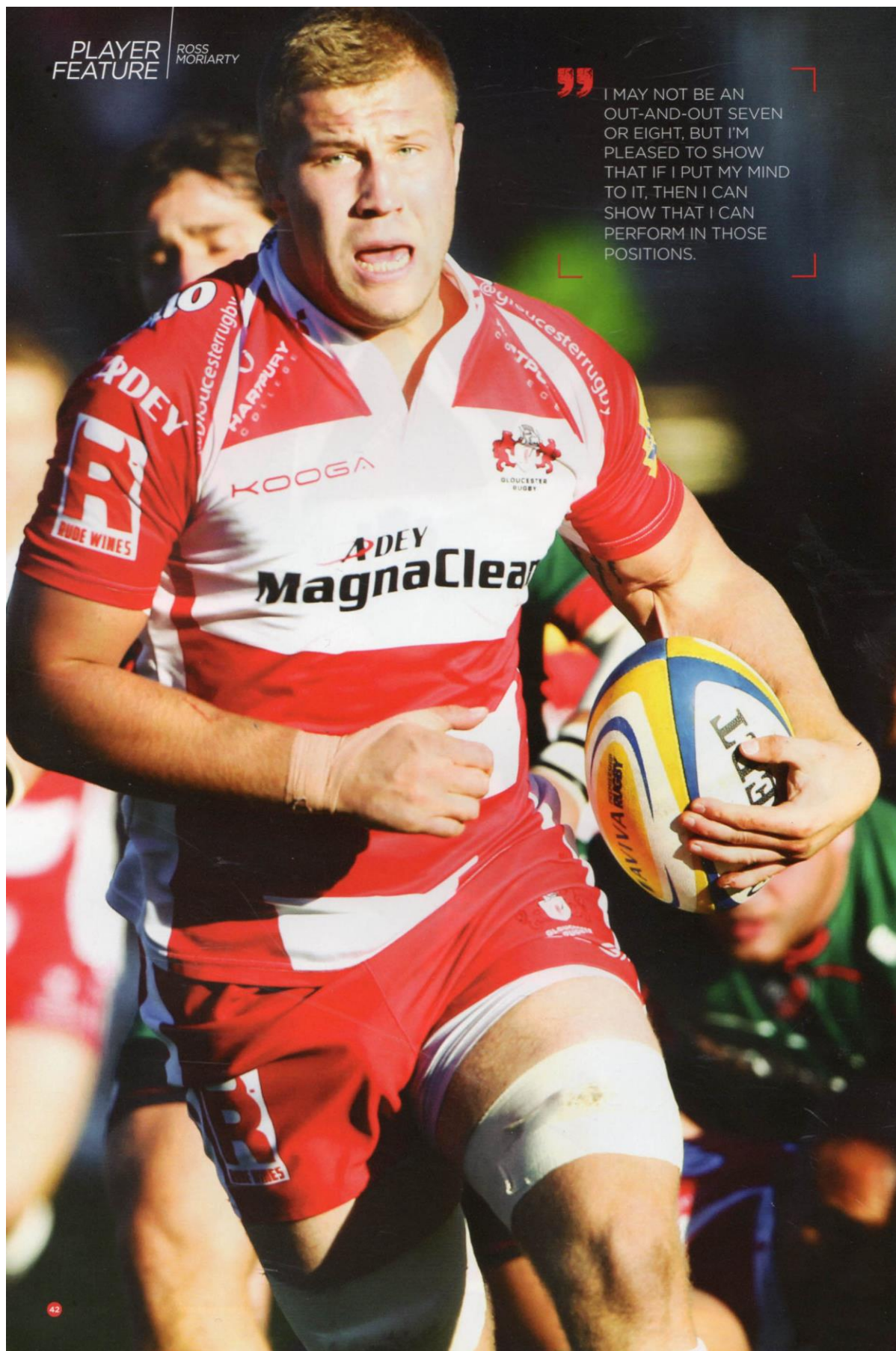
AHEAD OF THIS AFTERNOON'S CLASH WITH ZEBRE, ROSS MORIARTY IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGE AND, AS HE HEADS UP A YOUTHFUL CORE IN THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD, HIS RECENT CHALLENGES HAVE STOOD HIM IN GOOD STEAD.

PLAYER
FEATURE

ROSS
MORIARTY

”

I MAY NOT BE AN
OUT-AND-OUT SEVEN
OR EIGHT, BUT I'M
PLEASED TO SHOW
THAT IF I PUT MY MIND
TO IT, THEN I CAN
SHOW THAT I CAN
PERFORM IN THOSE
POSITIONS.



DID YOU KNOW?

ROSS IS THE SON OF PAUL AND NÉPHEW OF RICHARD, BOTH SWANSEA AND WALES' FORWARDS IN THE 1980S.

A **CORNERSTONE** of the Junior World Cup winning England Under 20s squad, the powerful back rower is first to reflect on what was a great summer and how useful the experience proved to be, yet again.

"The summer was a brilliant time, going out and defending the Junior World Championship with England. We won, and that was a great experience and we were really pleased with the results that we got.



“FOR THE BOYS MOVING FROM THE UNDER 20S, INTO THE FIRST TEAM SQUADS, IT IS GREAT TO GET THAT TASTE OF FIRST-GRADE RUGBY AND BE INVOLVED.

"The tournament shows the progression for players from that tournament into their full national squads with Handre Pollard with the Springboks, and Sean McMahon has just broken into the Wallabies first team.

"To think I was playing these guys in the summer, and they're now in test match rugby, it gives you a lot of confidence. It just shows how short the leap is from age grade to international rugby now."

Returning to preseason with the Cherry and Whites, alongside summer teammates Callum

Brale, Henry Purdy and Billy Burns, further added to by the arrival of coach Nick Walshe, Moriarty reflects on what was a great time.

"It's definitely been great to have Walshe around, as I've been with him for the last two years, and with the lads as well. It is always nice to have your mates around in a nice environment."

Many supporters may not have noticed, but Moriarty has been involved in every first team match day squad bar one up until last weekend at London Irish, and this is an achievement the back rower is proud of.

"I've been trying to do my best in all the back row positions, I'm still learning as a player so I'm targeting every game as a chance to learn and get better.

"Across the Premiership, it is shown that clubs are more inclined to give chances to younger guys and allow us to show our skills. For the boys moving from the Under 20s, into the first team squads, it is great to get that taste of first-grade rugby and be involved."

Recently, Moriarty put pen-to-paper on a new deal at the club, and this is something the 20-year old was delighted with.

"I was really pleased that the coaches offered me a new contract, and it's going well at the club at the moment.

"There have been a lot of new players arriving, but I see this a chance to keep learning and because of that I hope it will be a good couple of years ahead for both myself and the team.

Versatility is a strong quality in a squad, and Moriarty has been utilised across the back-row so far this season, but it is something he doesn't mind.

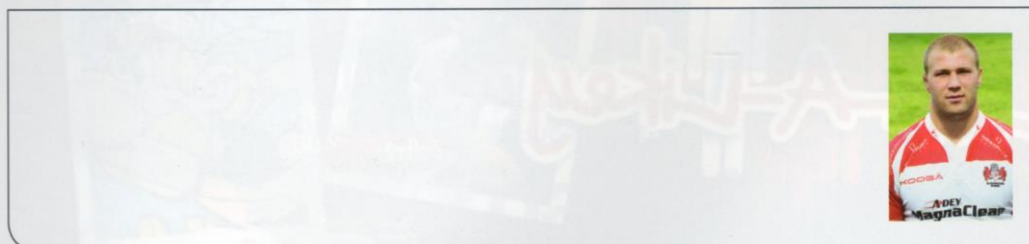
"I may not be an out-and-out seven or eight, but I'm pleased to show that if I put my mind to it, then I can show that I can perform in those positions."

With Zebre in town for today's game, Moriarty focuses on the challenge ahead for the Cherry and Whites.

"I think each team has a different approach to how they look at the European Challenge Cup, and Zebre will try and come hard at us at Kingsholm.

"They have a massively experienced squad, both in terms of international and domestic rugby, so I'm sure it will be a massive challenge."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION



BOB FENTON'S KINGSHOLM NEWS

” WE’RE REALLY WELL PLACED TO COME OUT OF OUR GROUP IN TOP SPOT, TWO WINS OUT OF TWO AND NINE POINTS IN THE BAG. A GOOD RESULT TODAY WILL SET US ON THE ROAD FOR SURE.

I T seems an absolute age since we’ve been here at Kingsholm, a very long three weeks.

Until last weekend it’s safe to say that it hadn’t been the best period for team and fans alike. Having built a bit of momentum, the disruption caused by the Autumn Internationals saw us lose a few games that we would perhaps not have done had we

had all our players available.

It’s great that we had so many of our squad representing their countries and doing so well – Ben and Jonny shone for England – I think around 70 per cent of the tries scored by England had ‘Made in Gloucester’ stamped on them. Billy, Greig, Richard, James, Aleki, Sila and Sione all came out of the period with credit.

Here comes the rant, though.

Is it right – how can it be right – for clubs like Gloucester to go into crucial league matches shorn of up to eight players? At one point we lost our entire spine – hooker, No 8, scrum half, fly half and inside centre – to international call ups.

Of course we have other players to come in and fill the gaps – that’s why we have a squad. But with no disrespect to the boys who came in, those players we missed are internationals for a reason. They are at the top of their game and that is why our coaches got them into the squad.

For us – and not just us, other Premiership sides are equally affected – to go into battle shorn of our most potent weapons is just plain wrong. The argument that it’s the same for all the teams doesn’t hold water: remind me, how many first team players did Newcastle offer up to the international cause?

I’m not suggesting that I wouldn’t want international quality players turning out for Gloucester – quite the reverse, I would be very happy for everyone in the squad to be earning international recognition. After all that’s why they play the game. But surely it’s time to get to a system where these international matches – and there seem to be more and more





of them every year – are played when there are no Premiership games?

It cheats the fans as well as the clubs. If I were a Newcastle fan I would have looked forward to seeing a Gloucester side come up with all the big names – we love to see these players playing and they didn't get a chance to do that. Would Newcastle have beaten us if we had a full strength squad up there? Who's to say – maybe, maybe not – but surely they would have wanted to test themselves against some of the best in the country.

The game is professional now, and huge amounts of money are at stake on Premiership table finishing spots and European competition. I really can't see how the vested interests of the RFU – and yes, I know that some of the money raised from internationals filters into grass roots rugby – and the very small minority of people who can afford the ridiculous

ticket prices to go to Twickenham, Murrayfield or wherever, can take precedence over the clubs.

Create an international break, it happens in other sports so why not ours? I'm not going to hold



my breath though – especially as we're going to go through it all again for the Six Nations...

Did you hear that thump? That was me jumping down off my soap box...

I got to see some amazing rugby a little closer to home on the weekend that our first team dragged themselves up the motorway to Newcastle. I went up to the very aptly named 'Fenton Manor Sports Complex' in Stoke on Trent to watch the Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby team take part in their first competitive fixtures.

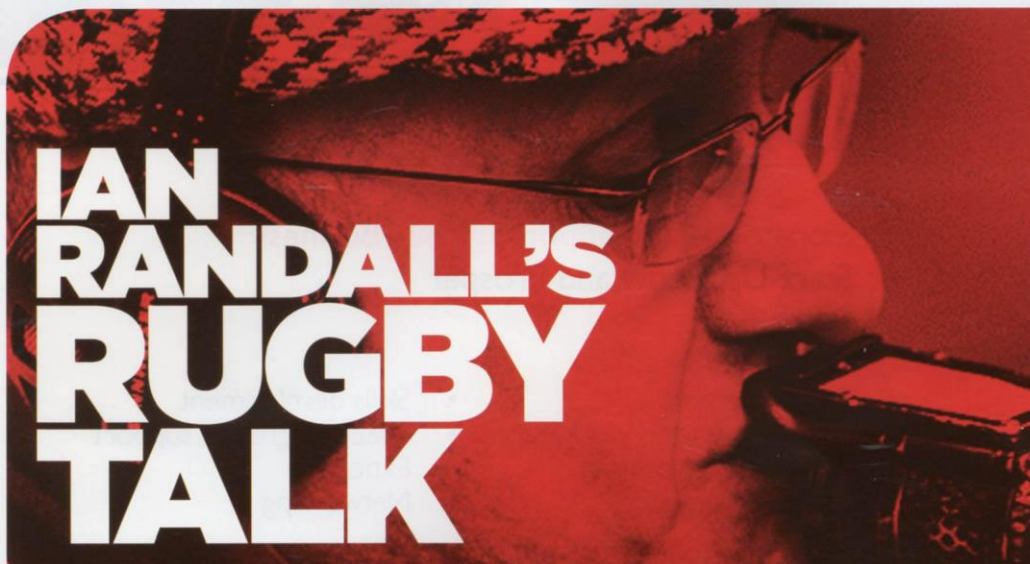
This is one of those happy coincidences when work and pleasure collide – though not nearly as hard as the people in the wheelchairs collided with each other. My company are hugely proud of being the main sponsor of the team so it was great to be able to get along to see them in action.

The competition was awesome, some friends who live up in Stoke came down to watch and couldn't believe the ferocity of some of the collisions. How those guys can hang on to a ball when being rammed at about 20 mph is beyond me! And the Gloucester team came out with a played two, won two record to top their pool! If you get a chance to get to a tournament, and there is another taking place up in Stoke in February, go. I promise you, you'll love every moment of it.

And today then, European action comes to town. We're really well placed to come out of our group in top spot, two wins out of two and nine points in the bag. A good result today will set us on the road for sure.

While we should not take anything for granted I think we can look forward to win. After all we're playing Zebre and there are lions on our club badge – you know who comes out on top when a lion and a zebra go head to head!

Finally, the next issue of @Holm is out soon – make sure you pick up a copy!



THE TIME HAS ARRIVED TO RE-BALANCE THE SEASON. AFTER A CLUTCH OF AWAY GAMES, SEVEN OF THE NEXT TEN FIXTURES IN ALL COMPETITIONS ARE HERE FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT.

THERE'S no doubt the last month has been testing on all fronts, and the win at London Irish last Saturday at least compensated for Harlequins' victory here. Two of the Premiership games on the horizon are against Wasps and Saracens, both of whom are within range in the table, so there's ground to be made up.

Gloucester have played Italian teams in Europe going back as far as 1997-8, when they beat Petrarca Padova 43-10 here and 29-16 away. It started a sequence of 14 consecutive wins against Italian opposition, with several big scores along the way.

Tom Beim scored five tries here in a game against Roma, and James Simpson-Daniel four in a win over Viadana. His overall



record in Europe - 40 tries in 59 appearances - will take some beating.

James is, of course, now adjusting to life after rugby.

"My wife Lucy bought me a

paper diary and I've been putting things in it and gradually meeting people who have reached out to me," said James.

"Andy Hazell thought I was living in the age of a dinosaur

”

I'M SAYING 'YES' TO THINGS I WOULD NEVER HAVE DONE AS A PLAYER BECAUSE IF I WAS IN THE TEAM AT THE WEEKEND THERE WAS NO WAY I'D LET MY BRAIN SPEND HALF A DAY ON MY DAY OFF ON A THURSDAY DOING SOMETHING ELSE. I WAS ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT THE MATCH. **James Simpson-Daniel**



when I told him. He thought I should have had it all in my phone but I'm not sure I trust it.

"I'm still healing medically and mentally. I've given myself a six month window to try and be open to different things before I work out what to do. I didn't want to dive into something too quickly and then feel as if I was stuck.

"I'm saying 'yes' to things I would never have done as a player because if I was in the team at the weekend there was no way I'd let my brain spend half a day on my day off on a Thursday doing something else. I was always thinking about the match."

I don't say this lightly, but James is one of the most grounded sportsmen I have ever met. He says he's humbled when people pick up the phone.

He understands it was (and still is, at times) right to be emotional about his situation, but equally that he was lucky to play as long as he did. Some of his best friends when he started

at Gloucester stopped playing much earlier.

He has tried to take on board as much advice as possible, and acknowledges the support of David Humphreys, Stephen Vaughan and Ryan Walkinshaw. Ultimately though, this is a new chapter, and his health is a key component in it.

"The theory is because I stopped when I was told to, I can walk the dog, play in the garden with the boys, that sort of stuff," Sinbad said.

"The ankle will cope with that. I'm not in pain, but in the morning and at night time, I'll be hobbling. If the walk the dog for too long I'll hobble a bit afterwards but I can do most things. If I go to the gym I can do a bike session and an upper body weight session but that's it. I'm limited to that but I don't want sympathy."

James is, for the moment, a professional networker. During 14 years at Kingsholm, he has met lots of people, and as he says,

Gloucester is small enough that the contact chain can be pretty short.

Opportunities are being put to him, including some media work. A bit like one of his interception tries, he is "freewheeling" before selecting a new gear in his life.

Today we welcome Zebre, complete with former favourite Marco Bortolami. Now 34, he was the only man I can remember to have said he was inspired by Julius Caesar in a radio interview.

His best form here came in his first season, and he has gone on to have an excellent career, winning over 100 caps for Italy. If the Bergamasco brothers and Quintin Geldenhuys also play, Zebre won't be short of experience.

Already in the group they've won at Brive and they defeated Edinburgh at home in the Pro 12 last weekend, but it would still be a huge surprise if Gloucester didn't take another step towards the quarter finals today.



PLAYER A to Z BILLY BURNS



...is for
ATMOSPHERE...
What is the best
atmosphere you
have experienced?
Kingsholm on
debut day

...is for best mate
...**BEST MATE** in
rugby?
Josh Buggea,
plays for Bedford
Blues



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

...is for **DRIVE...**
what car are you
driving?
Audi A3

...is for
EMBARRASSED...
most embarrassing
moment on the
field?
Kicking the ball
off the pitch for
Hartpury with 2
minutes still left to
play thinking we
had won the game



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?
Junior World Cup
final against
South Africa.

...is for
NICKNAME...
What's yours?
Monty, Mr Mont,
Postman Pat, the
list is endless

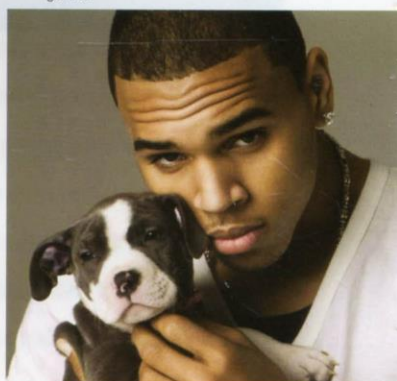
...is for
OPPONENT...
Who is the best
player you have
faced up against?
Probably Handre
Pollard, has
ridiculous skills

...is for **PRIDE...**
What is your
proudest moment?
I have to say
two - the World
Cup winner medal
is very special
along with making
my debut for
Gloucester

...is for
QUICKEST...
Who is the fastest
player you have
played with or
against?
Jonny May,
his wheels are
just silly

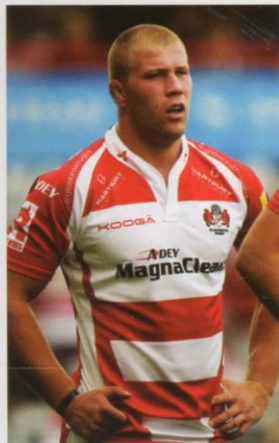
...is for **RUN OUT
MUSIC...** what's
your tune to run
out to?
Chris Brown -
Loyal, it's become
a tradition of mine
and Billy Meakes
to listen to before
games.

...is for
SUPPORT...
What teams do you
support?
As tough as it is
to say this it was
Bath, not any more
that's for sure...





...is for **FASHION...**
Who is the worst dressed player in the squad?
Mark Atkinson
by far



...is for **GLOUCESTER RUGBY...**best thing about Gloucester Rugby?
The support and atmosphere



...is for **IDOL...**
Who is your sporting idol?
Jonny Wilkinson and Matt Perry



...is for **JOKER...**
Who is the funniest person you have shared a dressing room with?
It's a toss up between Elliott Stooke, Steph Reynolds or Jacob Rowan! All very funny



...is for **KINGSHOLM**
...describe Kingsholm in three words?
Shed, atmosphere, energy



...is for **LIFE after rugby...**
What are your future plans?
There's a life after rugby?

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?
My first try for Gloucester against Scarlets away

...is for **UNBELIEVABLE...**
Tell us something surprising about yourself
I'm extremely good at Mathematics and I know Pythagoras

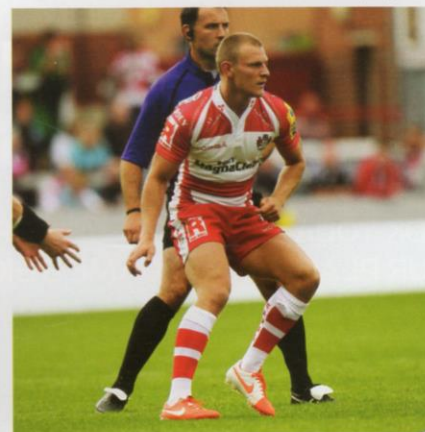
...is for **VISITOR...**
What is your favourite ground to play at?
Welford Road

...is for **WORST...**
What is the worst thing about being a rugby player?
Having to review a game after a loss

...is for **X-RAY...**
What is the worst injury you have suffered?
Broken collarbone

...is for **YOUTH...**
What advice would you give to aspiring rugby players?
Enjoy yourself and the rest will follow

...is for **ZZZzz...**
Which player has the worst banter?
It's a close one between Callum Braley and Shane Monahan, they're both pretty bad



ACTION REPLAY

VS
EXETER
CHIEFS

EXETER CHIEFS

LINE-UP

- 15 FB JACK ARNOTT
- 14 W FETU'U VAINIKOLO
- 13 C MAX BODILLY
- 12 C ADAM HUGHES
- 11 W TOM JAMES
- 10 FH CERI SWEENEY
- 9 SH DAVE LEWIS
- 1 P BRETT STURGESS
- 2 H LUKE COWAN-DICKIE
- 3 P ALEX BROWN
- 4 L DEAN MUMM
- 5 L JERRY SEXTON
- 6 F JAMES SCAYSBROOK
- 7 F SAM SIMMONDS
- 8 NB SAM SKINNER

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 R GREG BATEMAN
- 17 R CARL RIMMER
- 18 R JACK STANLEY
- 19 R WILL CARRICK-SMITH
- 20 R JOEL CONLON
- 21 R STU TOWNSEND
- 22 LAURENCE MAY
- 23 R TOM HENDRICKSON



EXETER CHIEFS

28

TRIES: Hughes (40), Vainikolo (55), Penalty try (78) **PENS:** Sweeney (8, 41, 64) **CONS:** Sweeney (40, 79)



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

27

TRIES: Evans (34), Meakes (42), Y. Thomas (61) **PENS:** A. Thomas (7, 47) **CONS:** A. Thomas (35, 43, 62)



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

LINE-UP

- 15 FB STEVE MCCOLL
- 14 W TOM ISAACS
- 13 C BILL MEAKES
- 12 C MARK ATKINSON
- 11 W SHANE MONAHAN
- 10 FH ALED THOMAS
- 9 SH DAN ROBSON
- 1 P YANN THOMAS
- 2 H DARREN DAWIDIUK
- 3 P SHAUN KNIGHT
- 4 L ELLIOT STOOKE
- 5 L JAMES HUDSON
- 6 F ROSS MORIARTY
- 7 F DANIEL THOMAS
- 8 NB GARETH EVANS

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 R ALEKI LUTUI
- 17 JAMES GIBBONS
- 18 R SILA PUAFISI
- 19 R TOM HICKS
- 20 R JOE BATLEY
- 21 CALLUM BRALEY
- 22 BILLY BURNS
- 23 HENRY PURDY

LAST MINUTE PENALTY TRY DENIES GLOUCESTER

THE LV= CUP CONTINUES TO PROVIDE A VITAL STAGE FOR THE CHERRY AND WHITES TO SHOWCASE THE UP AND COMING TALENT WITHIN THE SQUAD, AND IN ROUND ONE THIS SEASON, THE YOUNG PROSPECTS HAD A CHANCE TO SHINE AGAINST HOLDERS EXETER CHIEFS.

I T was a perfect chance for several of the squad to pick up vital game time, and the Cherry and Whites will be reasonably happy with their showing, where they dominated for most of the contest, before a 79th minute penalty try swung the game the way of the hosts.

” IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO STOMACH THAT DEFEAT BECAUSE WE PLAYED ENOUGH FOOTIE AND MADE ENOUGH BREAKS TO WIN THE GAME BUT THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION IS THAT WE DIDN'T. WE HAVE TO LEARN FROM THAT, LEARN TO FINISH THEM OFF.

Defence Coach, John Muggleton

It was a blustery afternoon in Devon, and the wind was a key factor in the game, demonstrated when an early Ceri Sweeney kick travelled 70m and ran dead in the opening phases.

Playing into the wind in the first half, the visitors were smart with the ball and adventurous. Centres Mark Atkinson and Bill Meakes were making good metres but the elusive first score went begging until the returning Gareth Evans barged over after Aled Thomas and Ceri Sweeney had kicked a penalty apiece.

The Chiefs defence was being tested constantly in the first period, with Gloucester taking them round the corner phase after phase, and the visiting pack were enjoying the

control and dominance they held.

As the half time whistle approached, the visiting pack marched at pace into the Chiefs' half. With front foot ball, Dan Robson sought Mark Atkinson on a smart line, but instead home centre Adam Hughes gambled to intercept and run in untouched from deep in his own 22.

A big blow to the Cherry and Whites, in a half where they should have crossed countless times, they turned around at ten points apiece.

Chiefs, spurred on by their undeserved boost in the closing stages of the first forty, came out of the blocks fastest and Sweeney added his second penalty.

But straight away, Gloucester hit back. Dan Thomas was a menace at the breakdown and his presence forced an error from Dave Lewis. Billy Meakes swooped to gather and run in, a score that was superbly improved by fly half Thomas.

Thomas then added a penalty before Chiefs hit back themselves, Lewis atoning for his earlier error

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



Gareth Evans' try on his return was a big relief for the player and all Gloucester supporters. He showed super power to burrow over the line, after strong interplay from Meakes and Robson who set the ball up well.

to feed Fetu'u Vainikolo from a quick tap penalty.

The game looked to be going the way of the hosts, but Gloucester played the game in the right areas and were rewarded as Aled Thomas and Atkinson worked a smart 1-2 pivot and, while Robson couldn't reach the line, a third Thomas, Yann dived over a pile of bodies to touch down.

That should've been it, Gloucester had built a good lead but Chiefs flexed their muscles and wrested back the initiative. Sweeney reduced the deficit to six points, and then a 79th minute penalty try at the scrum was a cruel blow to the visitors.

Aled Thomas had a chance to cap a fine performance with a late penalty, and despite the best efforts of Sweeney to put him off, his penalty skimmed the post and stayed out.

Chiefs had played their 'get-out-of-jail-free' card and snatched a win on their home patch, and Gloucester, despite the loss, could focus on plenty of positives from their performance.

ACTION REPLAY

VS
LONDON
WELSH

LONDON WELSH

LINE-UP

15	FB	ALAN AWCOCK
14	W	SEB STEGMANN
13	C	NIC REYNOLDS
12	C	TOM MAY
11	W	NICK SCOTT
10	FH	WILL ROBINSON
9	SH	PAUL ROWLEY
1	P	SHANE CAHILL
2	H	KOREE BRITTON
3	P	JACK GILDING
4	L	DEAN SCHOFIELD
5	L	JAMES DOWN
6	F	PETE BROWNE
7	F	NATHAN VELLA
8	N8	BEN PIENAAR

REPLACEMENTS

16	R	NATHAN MORRIS
17	R	TAIONE VEA
18	R	BEN COOPER
19	R	MATT CORKER
20	R	JESSE LISTON
21	R	ROB LEWIS
22		GORDON ROSS
23	R	RHYS CRANE



LONDON WELSH

09

PENS: Robinson (2, 33, 40)



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

18

PENS: A. Thomas (22, 28, 39, 42, 68, 77)



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

LINE-UP

15	FB	STEVE MCCOLL
14	W	SHANE MONAHAN
13	C	TOM ISAACS
12	C	BILL MEAKES
11	W	CHARLIE NORMAN
10	FH	ALED THOMAS
9	SH	CALLUM BRALEY
1	P	JAMES GIBBONS
2	H	LUKE COLE
3	P	SHAUN KNIGHT
4	L	ELLIOT STOOKE
5	L	TOM HICKS
6	F	LEWIS LUDLOW
7	F	DANIEL THOMAS
8	N8	GARETH EVANS

REPLACEMENTS

16		WILLIAM GOODRICK-CLARKE
17	R	YANN THOMAS
18		JACK SPENCER
19		ROB FULLER
20		WILL SAFE
21		HARRY BASSETT
22	R	BILLY BURNS
23		LLOYD EVANS

YOUNG SIDE DOG OUT TOUGH LV= CUP WIN AT WELSH

THE CHERRY AND WHITES BOUNCED BACK FROM THE NARROW DEFEAT TO EXETER CHIEFS IN ROUND ONE TO GRIND OUT A VICTORY AT THE KASSAM STADIUM IN A SCRAPPY ENCOUNTER.

G LOUCESTER handed first starts to four players, with a further five set to make starts should they be called upon on the replacements bench, with the hosts naming plenty of Premiership experience as the two sides met on Remembrance weekend.

It wasn't the greatest of

Will Robinson opened the scoring with an early penalty and the first quarter ended as Shaun Knight and Shane Cahill were shown yellow cards with the scrum completion rate non-existent.

Aled Thomas, captain for the day, converted a pair of penalties following that as Gloucester began to impose their quick tempo on the hosts, but silly

” I'M DELIGHTED WITH THE YOUNG BOYS OUT THERE, THE FOUR BOYS MAKING THEIR DEBUT FROM THE ACADEMY. WE HAD A REALLY YOUNG PACK OUT THERE, AND THEY FRONTED UP BRILLIANTLY. IT WAS A GREAT PERFORMANCE.

Backs & Attack Coach, Nick Walshe

spectacles, in front of a sparse crowd, the Cherry and Whites played all the rugby but the ambition wasn't rewarded in a stop-start first period.

Welsh threatened early, and

errors handed Robinson a shot to level the scores.

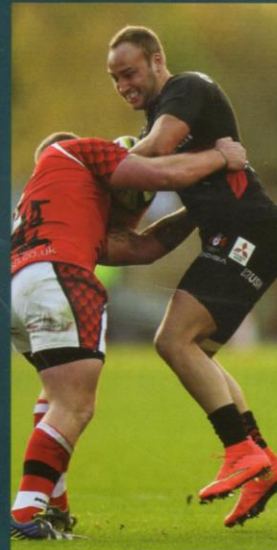
Gareth Evans, Dan Thomas and Lewis Ludlow were standing out with plenty of busy work in the back row and Thomas especially was a real thorn in the host's attacks with several brave turnovers.

The half ended as Thomas and Robinson added a penalty apiece. The latter's being the final points of the afternoon for the hosts.

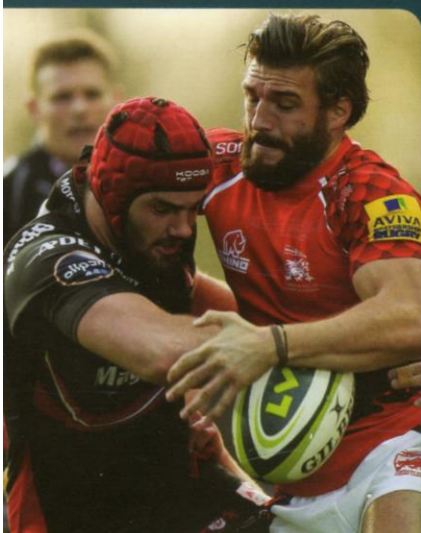
It was important for the Cherry and Whites to start fast in the second period. Knight and Evans doing superbly from the restart to win a turnover, and then a scrum penalty from the restart, allowing Thomas to strike from the tee.

The Welshman's kicking was a stand out feature for the visitors

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



The commitment on their own try line to keep Welsh was admirable from the young Gloucester side, the concentration and organisation was impressive up against a Welsh side desperate to record a win of any sorts.



and allowed Nick Walshe's charges to play for territory and force errors, Thomas adding a fifth penalty.

Billy Burns entered the play for debutant Charlie Norman, and he was quickly influential in forcing Nick Scott over his own line to force a 5 metre scrum, but the visitors couldn't capitalise.

Welsh then sensed an opportunity with, despite plenty of possession, Gloucester having failed to put the game to bed.

Turning down penalties to go for the corner, Welsh hammered on the line, but committed and brave defence forced the hosts backwards and eventually allowed the visitors to clear their lines.

Thomas then added his sixth penalty with Welsh caught offside and that's how it finished.

TODAY'S TEAMS

GLoucester RUGBY vs ZEBRE

REFEREE: Neil Hennessy (Wales) ASSISTANTS: Greg Morgan (Wales) and Jon Hardy (Wales)

TEAMS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT

T P C D

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

STEVE **MCCOLL**
FULL-BACK
CHARLIE **SHARPLES**
RIGHT WING
HENRY **PURDY**
OUTSIDE CENTRE
BILLY **TWELVETREES**
INSIDE CENTRE
SHANE **MONAHAN**
LEFT WING
JAMES **HOOK**
FLY-HALF
GREIG **LAIDLAW** (C)
SCRUM-HALF
YANN **THOMAS**
LOOSEHEAD PROP
ALEKI **LUTUI**
HOOKER
JOHN **AFOA**
TIGHTHEAD PROP
TOM **SAVAGE**
LOCK
TOM **PALMER**
LOCK
SIONE **KALAMAFONI**
BLINDSIDE FLANKER
MATT **KVESIC**
OPENSIDE FLANKER
GARETH **EVANS**
NUMBER EIGHT

DARREN **DAWIDIUK**
REPLACEMENT 1
JAMES **GIBBONS**
REPLACEMENT 2
SILA **PUAFISI**
REPLACEMENT 3
ELLIOTT **STOOKE**
REPLACEMENT 4
ROSS **MORIARTY**
REPLACEMENT 5
CALLUM **BRALEY**
REPLACEMENT 6
BILLY **BURNS**
REPLACEMENT 7
MARK **ATKINSON**
REPLACEMENT 8

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

HENNIE **DANILLER**
FULL-BACK
LEONARDO **SARTO**
RIGHT WING
GIULIO **BISEGNI**
OUTSIDE CENTRE
MATTEO **PRATICETTI**
INSIDE CENTRE
GIULIO **TONIOLATTI**
LEFT WING
KELLY **HAIMONA**
FLY-HALF
BRENDON **LEONARD**
SCRUM-HALF
ANDREA **LOVOTTI**
LOOSEHEAD PROP
ANDREA **MANICI**
HOOKER
DARIO **CHISTOLINI**
TIGHTHEAD PROP
GEORGE **BIAGI**
LOCK
MARCO **BORTOLAMI** (C)
LOCK
VALERIO **BERNABO**
BLINDSIDE FLANKER
FILIPPO **CRISTIANO**
OPENSIDE FLANKER
SAMU **VUNISA**
NUMBER EIGHT

OLIVIERO **FABIANI**
REPLACEMENT 1
ANDREA **DE MARCHI**
REPLACEMENT 2
LORENZO **ROMANO**
REPLACEMENT 3
QUENTIN **GELDENHUYS**
REPLACEMENT 4
DRIES **VAN SCHALKWYK**
REPLACEMENT 5
GULLO **PALAZZANI**
REPLACEMENT 6
LUCIANO **ORQUERA**
REPLACEMENT 7
MICHELE **VISENTIN**
REPLACEMENT 8

T P C D

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □