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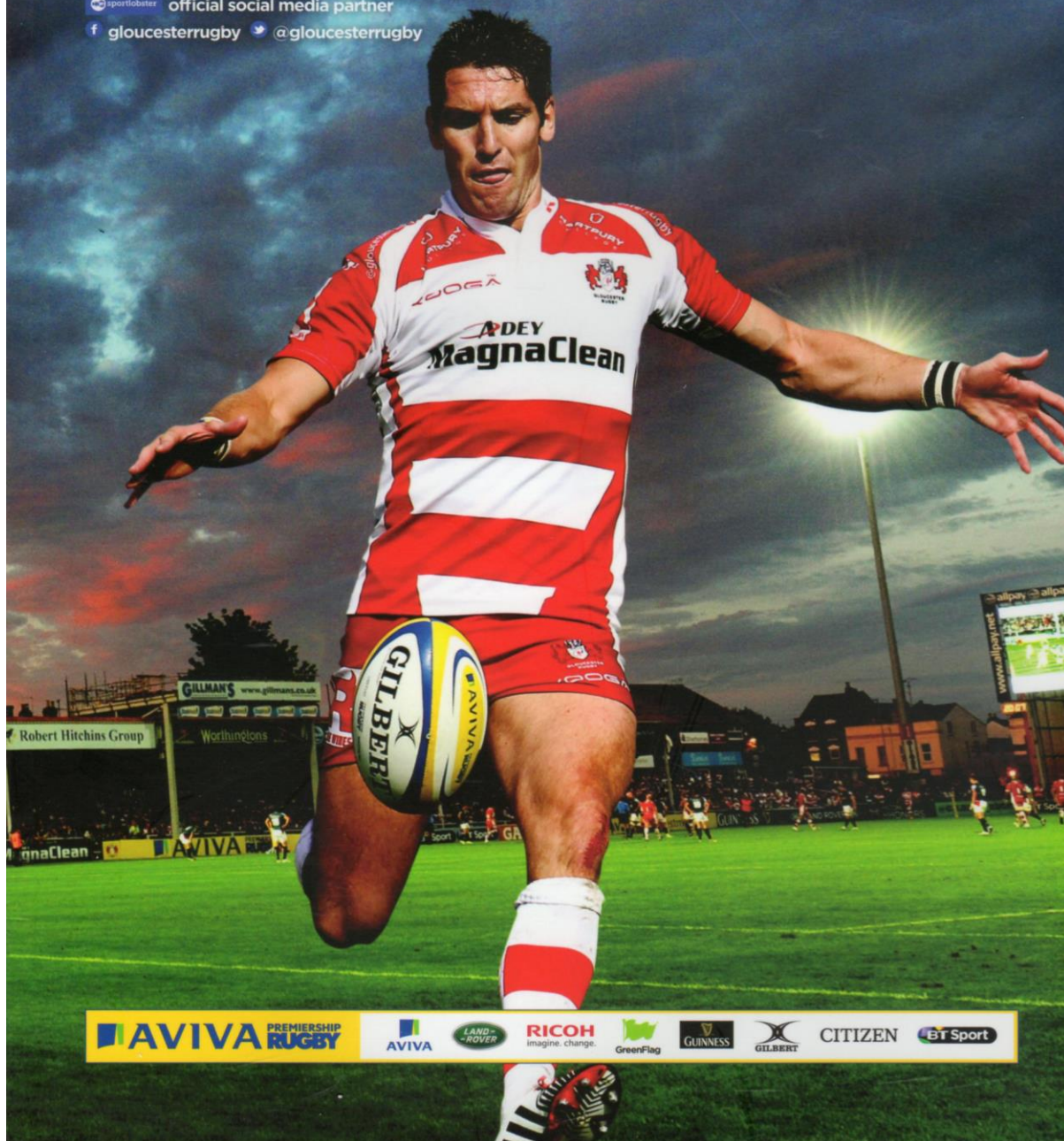
vs Bath Rugby

Aviva Premiership Rugby Round 10: 20.12.2014

Inside this evening's matchday programme we have an exclusive interview with our Welsh wizard James Hook, action replays from the most recent rounds of the Aviva Premiership and features from our regular contributors Bob Fenton, Ian Randall, The Citizen and the Gloucester Rugby Heritage Project.

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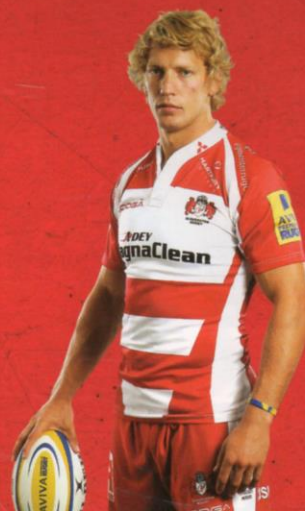
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CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR POSSIBLY THE BIGGEST HOME GAME OF THE SEASON - THE VISIT OF OUR FRIENDS FROM BATH RUGBY.



T HIS is my third season at Gloucester, and I know this game is the most eagerly anticipated fixture of them all by the fans and players alike. The atmosphere is always fantastic and the game always brings its unique challenges.

We come into today's game of

course in pretty good spirits. The last fortnight has seen us come out of the back to back games against Zebre with two bonus point wins to earn top spot in our pool of the European Rugby Challenge Cup.

Neither game was easy, we really had to work hard to dog out the win on both occasions.

But that's a good thing, it has built great momentum going into a tough sequence of Aviva Premiership fixtures.

It's fantastic to have everyone back and raring to go after the Autumn internationals, the squad is building nicely and looking forward to the Christmas fixtures at Kingsholm.

We've also had the bonus of seeing a few of the players who have been out with injury and illness returning to the training pitch, which gives the whole squad a boost.

This brought a real buzz around training this week as you'd expect in the build up to such a meaningful game, which every single player wants to be involved in.

For us a squad to know that the game was sold out several weeks ago is great news. That level of support is something that we never take for granted. To see so many Gloucester fans out in Parma last weekend was amazing, especially given the travel chaos, and is something that we draw on as a team.

We know that the support here at Kingsholm will be fantastic again today and we aim to live up to it.

Enjoy the game..



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IT'S FANTASTIC TO HAVE EVERYONE BACK AND RARING TO GO AFTER THE AUTUMN INTERNATIONALS, THE SQUAD IS BUILDING NICELY AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHRISTMAS FIXTURES AT KINGSHOLM.

Billy

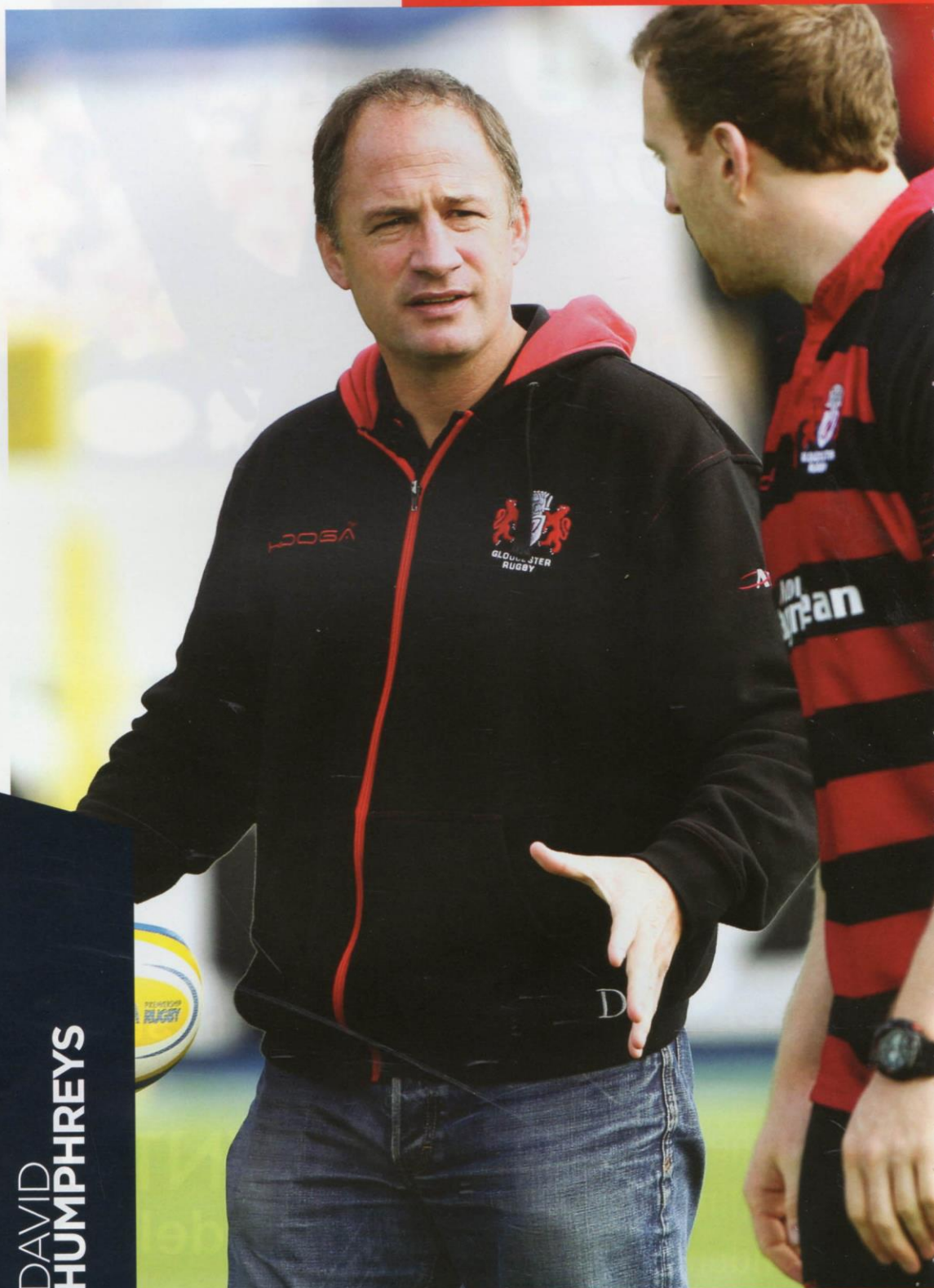


gloucester rugby @gloucester rugby



DIR. OF
RUGBY

DAVID
HUMPHREYS



DAVID
HUMPHREYS

8

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM AS WE RETURN TO AVIVA PREMIERSHIP ACTION FOR TODAY'S CHRISTMAS FIXTURE AGAINST BATH RUGBY.

AFTER two good performances and bonus point victories over Zebre in the European Rugby Challenge Cup, we now face a tough series of fixtures in the Aviva Premiership.

With nine league matches already played, the next month is a crucial period of the season and the outcome of these 4 games over Christmas will go a long way to determining where we can finish in the Aviva Premiership in May.

Kicking off with a massive local derby against Bath will give us all another good measure of how we have developed as a team. Bath have had a great start to the season, are well coached and have developed an impressive playing squad. Much has been written about the recent arrival of Sam Burgess, and I believe it's a huge boost to the Aviva Premiership and the game in England to attract players of Sam's

since I arrived at the Club, every Gloucester supporter has told me that this game is a little bit special...

Our fans have been tremendous all season and again, I'd like to

series. Everyone knows it's a long season and, with the huge physical demands on the players, it's essential that they get some rest periods during the season



pay tribute to the travelling support last weekend in Italy. When you consider the chaos that followed all the flights that were cancelled or delayed on Friday afternoon, it was remarkable to see so many fans in Parma.

On the day, they definitely outnumbered the home support, and no-one can underestimate what a massive boost that backing is to the team when they play away

to ensure they are still fit and performing at a high level in May.

Finally, having won three games in a row we've gained some momentum and confidence after a frustrating couple of games in November. Throughout that period, our defence has been outstanding and if we can be a little more accurate with the ball in hand, this afternoon will be a memorable derby match!

”

OUR FANS HAVE BEEN TREMENDOUS ALL SEASON AND AGAIN, I'D LIKE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE TRAVELLING SUPPORT LAST WEEKEND IN ITALY. WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE CHAOS THAT FOLLOWED ALL THE FLIGHTS THAT WERE CANCELLED OR DELAYED ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, IT WAS REMARKABLE TO SEE SO MANY FANS IN PARMA.

quality from rugby league.

Having been involved in many derbies during my time with Ulster, I'm really looking forward to welcoming Mike Ford and his team to a sold out, passionate Kingsholm –

from home.

The back to back wins over Zebre were important for a number of reasons. We want to do well in the European Rugby Challenge Cup, and four wins from four games means that we're in control of the pool with two games to go. Another win will secure a home quarter-final which was our first goal going into the competition.

We've also been able to rotate our squad over the last fortnight to allow some players time off after a tough Autumn International

Today will be a great occasion. Over the last few months we've worked hard to put ourselves in a position to compete with the top teams in England, and over the last week we've trained and prepared well to meet the challenge of Bath. It's now time to deliver.

Have a great Christmas and we look forward to seeing you back at Kingsholm next weekend.

David

THE VIEW FROM The Citizen



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

**POLICE
REDUNDANCIES**
in Gloucestershire
expected in
'scores'

SANTA
'to be visible
in full flight on
Christmas Eve'

MATSON climb
off bottom after
fine win

PATIENTS
urged to
avoid A&E in
Gloucestershire

A FULL BLOODED DERBY

WHO can forget last season's West Country derby at Kingsholm?

It was one of the most full-blooded, controversial and chaotic encounters seen in a long history of encounters between these old rivals.

In any clash between Gloucester and Bath, whether it is a knockout encounter or a dead rubber the passion stakes are high.

Last season it boiled over with five yellow cards, two red and a penalty try at the death as Bath snatched a 17-16 win.

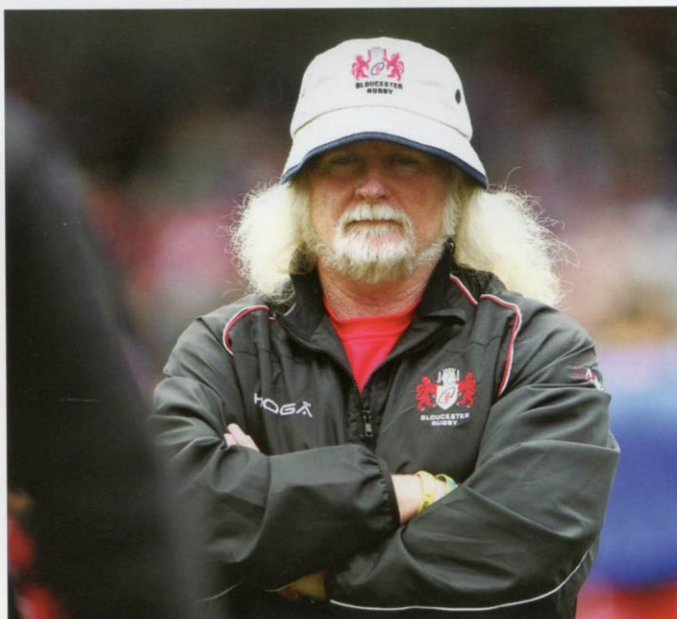
It was a clash that will live long in the memory but perhaps for the wrong reasons but here's hoping we see a derby today to behold for the right ones.

There is no question that the Cherry and Whites that take to the field this afternoon are vastly different to that in April.

Not just in simple terms of personnel but character, leadership and optimism.

Last year the wheels had already come off Gloucester's season but following such mass changes in the summer, David Humphreys and Laurie Fisher are slowly building a hard-nosed, consistent outfit with plenty of cause for optimism.

Both Gloucester and Bath



In control

Laurie will be looking for a more controlled performance from the new-look Gloucester team

warmed up for the Christmas derby with European doubles – Bath over Montpellier in the Champions Cup and a tier below, Gloucester over Zebre.

Bath have won the last three league fixtures between the sides and sit second in the Premiership table with three more wins to their name.

But in derbies such as these, stats and figures go out the window and Ben Morgan is relishing the challenge that lies ahead.

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...IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME, WE'RE AT KINGSHOLM AGAINST OUR RIVALS AND IF WE WON 3-0 THAT WOULD BE THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD. THERE'S NO BIGGER GAME.

Billy Twelvetrees



"It's a massive game - derby day is always a special one. The stadium will be packed to the rafters because everyone wants to be there.

"Previous encounters have always got a bit tasty and those sorts of things happen when emotions are flying high.

"But we're back winning and building momentum, which is crucial because Bath will be high in confidence having beaten Montpellier convincingly both times.

"It was really important that we got that winning momentum against Zebre. It is genuinely a tough place to come and a lot of other teams have struggled here.

"We have to be pleased with how things are going, it's great to be back in the Gloucester set-up, personally I'm really happy to be

back in and everyone is enjoying their rugby again.

"Now we're looking forward to getting stuck into our rivals. One game isn't our season, we're here to compete and want to do well in all competitions.

"But it's something special, emotion, intensity and everyone on the field wants to be there."

As if all eyes were not already trained on West Country derby at Christmas there is the added interest surrounding Bath's mega-money rugby league convert Sam Burgess.

Slammin' Sam has long been earmarked for a place in the England World Cup squad and standing at 6ft 5ins and weighing in at more than 18 stone he presents a formidable challenge.

But Twelvetrees is relishing the prospect of a potential

showdown.

He added, "Next week is the big one, there's no hiding away from that and we let ourselves down the last time we played Bath at home which was disappointing.

"But it's Christmas time, we're at Kingsholm against our rivals and if we won 3-0 that would be the best thing in the world. There's no bigger game.

"If Sam plays or doesn't play it doesn't change anything from our point of view but it would be awesome to come up against a player of his quality and something I would look forward to.

"It's great for English rugby to get this calibre of player over here."

Citizen AVAILABLE DAILY

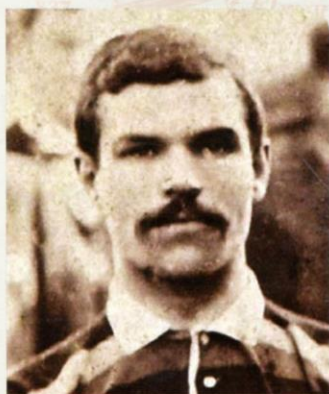
GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGEwww.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.ukTAKING
WING
– PART ONE

PRE WORLD WAR II STARS ON THE WING FOR GLOUCESTER

WALTER TAYLOR

Born at Frampton in 1871, Walter Henry Taylor was one of the first of those Gloucester players who would send a hum of anticipation rippling through the crowd whenever he got the ball. This was due to his breathtaking speed which enabled him to score spectacular tries from deep inside his own half.

He was the club's leading try scorer for seven seasons. In a career which spanned the years 1890 to 1904 he played 250 games, scoring 127 tries. One of the very best wing three-quarters of his generation in England, he never played for his country, although he appeared in two



international trials, scoring a try in each.

In a remarkable first season, he made his debut for Gloucestershire while still only nineteen and kept his place, going all the way to the final against

Lancashire. He also appeared for Western Counties against the Midlands in an England trial that season. Taylor captained Gloucester with great success from 1896 to 1900.

When he died in September 1955, he was the Grand Old Man of Gloucester Rugby, the last survivor of the inaugural match at Kingsholm.

**CHARLES
"WHACKER" SMITH**

Charles Albert "Whacker" Smith was, as his nickname suggests, a robust and sturdily built wing who was a formidable defender and tackled magnificently. However, when near the line, he was difficult to stop and in 270 appearances for Gloucester between 1897 and 1908 he scored 141 tries.

Establishing himself in the 1st XV in the 1899-1900 season, he scored a try in Gloucester's 13-0 defeat of the Barbarians at Kingsholm that April. The following year he played in two trials and was selected for England against Wales at Cardiff in January 1901 specifically "to stop the Welsh backs scoring." Although he put in some good defensive work, Wales won the game 13-0 and he was not selected again.

His record of eight tries against Clifton in the opening match of the 1901-02 season has never been equalled. He went on to score 29 tries in 27 games that season and to play in the County



Championship Final against Durham at Kingsholm.

In his last outstanding season, 1905-06, he played for Gloucester against the first All Blacks at Kingsholm and finished with 27 tries in 33 games. He did play for Gloucestershire against the first Springboks at Kingsholm in November 1906, but by then the injuries sustained as a result of his robust style of play were catching up with him and he retired in March 1908.

ARTHUR HUDSON

Arthur Hudson was the most prolific try scorer in the history of the Gloucester club, with an astonishing career record of 235 tries in only 260 matches played between 1902 and 1920.

His first love was football and he made his Kingsholm debut playing for the City Albion AFC on what is now the club car park before switching codes in 1902, at the age of 20. His career took off in 1904-05 when he scored 35 tries in only 31 games and his tally of 41 tries for Gloucester in 1905-06

is a record that has never been approached.

Arthur combined his try scoring ability with a sound defence and played eight internationals for England, scoring eight tries, including four tries in one match against France in Paris in 1906. He played for Gloucester against the 1905 All Blacks and for Gloucestershire against the 1906 Springboks, both matches at Kingsholm.

He scored two tries in



Gloucestershire's first County Championship Final victory over Yorkshire at Kingsholm in 1910 and at the age of 37 played throughout their successful 1920 campaign, scoring four tries in the competition.

Arthur Hudson was an outstanding captain of Gloucester for five successive seasons 1908-1913. After his retirement he served as club secretary for 35 years and was revered as Gloucester's "Mr Rugby."

SID BROWN

Salford born Sidney Albert Brown was brought up in Gloucester where he excelled as a schoolboy rugby player and was capped by England at schools level.

He was an attacking wing three-quarter who occasionally played in the centre. After serving with the 7th Gloucesters in World War One he joined Gloucester RFC, scoring two tries in a 13-0 win over Abertillery in his first game in September 1919.

The following season he was



his club's leading scorer with 20 tries from 25 matches and he was again the leading try scorer in 1922-23 and 1923-24. His try scoring feats attracted wider interest and he was capped by his native Lancashire.

Sid Brown switched his county allegiance to Gloucestershire in 1924. He played for Gloucestershire against the Second All Blacks (the "Invincibles") in September in a creditable 6-0 defeat at Kingsholm and then played throughout the County Championship campaign, ending with the final which was lost 14-6 against Leicestershire. He also played in Gloucester's Golden Jubilee game against the RFU President's XV in November.

Elected vice captain in 1925-26, Sid Brown had played 26 games scoring 21 tries, when he was injured playing against Aberavon at Kingsholm on Easter Saturday, 1926. He was taken to Gloucester Royal Infirmary where he died the following day.

The death of such a popular player who had scored 116 tries in his 185 appearances and had frequently captained the club in Tom Voyce's absence, aroused much public sympathy and an appeal on behalf of his widow and son raised over £1600, a substantial sum in those days.

KIT TANNER

Cheltenham born Christopher Champain "Kit" Tanner played just 66 games for Gloucester, spread over eight seasons 1930-38 but in those eight seasons he scored 42 tries and left an indelible impression on all who watched him play.

His running, when in full flow,

was described as "one of the loveliest sights ever seen at Kingsholm" and rather than kick, which he did rather clumsily, he would throw the ball from one wing to the other with deadly accuracy.

Cheltenham College educated Tanner was up at Pembroke College Cambridge, but had failed to get his 1929-30 Blue, when asked to play for the Barbarians against East Midlands at Northampton in March 1930. He scored a hat trick of tries in a 22-6 victory in front of the England selectors and two weeks later played for England against Scotland at Twickenham.

He gained his Blue in December 1930 and played three times for the Barbarians but missed further



England selection. After the Varsity match he made his debut for Gloucester.

He was back in favour with the England selectors and capped four times in 1932, scoring a try in his last international against Scotland.

Ordained in 1935, he became a curate at St Mary de Lode church in 1937 and was one of three clergymen playing in the Gloucester side. On the outbreak of WW2, Kit volunteered as a naval chaplain, and was posted to the cruiser, HMS Fiji.

When the Fiji was attacked by the Luftwaffe off Crete in May 1941, he spent hours in the water and was personally responsible for saving the lives of close to 30 men before succumbing to exhaustion. He was posthumously awarded the Albert Medal for saving life at sea.



PLAYER
FEATURE

JAMES
HOOK

OFF THE HOOK

WEST COUNTRY DERBY DAY IS ALWAYS A TENSE ONE, AND OFTEN DECIDED BY FINE MARGINS. YOU NEED A COOL CUSTOMER PULLING THE STRINGS, A LEVEL HEAD AT THE HELM, AND THE CHERRY AND WHITES WILL BE THRILLED TO HAVE JAMES HOOK IN THEIR RANKS AS THEY TACKLE THE INFORM MEN FROM THE REC TODAY.

A HEAD of the game, Hook has added to his international appearance tally and is now faced with a massive Festive period at Kingsholm in what could be a defining few weeks. And it couldn't be a more eagerly anticipated start.

"We have been talking about this one for a while in the squad, and reflecting on all the derbies we have played in and the feel in training at the start of the week has been really good.



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I AM REALLY LOVING IT
HERE AND IT HAS BEEN
A GREAT MOVE FOR ME.
THE SUPPORT HAS BEEN
AWESOME AND THE
SUPPORTERS DESERVE A
MASSIVE PERFORMANCE
IN THIS GAME!

”



DID YOU KNOW?

HOOK IS WALES' FOURTH HIGHEST ALL-TIME POINTS SCORER BEHIND NEIL JENKINS, STEPHEN JONES AND LEIGH HALFPENNY.

"There has been an extra spring in the step of the boys this week, and personally I am so excited to play in this, with it being my first derby in a Gloucester shirt. I am massively excited."

And, for the man with 77 Welsh caps to date, including plenty of clashes with England, the derby feeling is one tasted many times by the Neath born player, but the excitement never changes.

"I can make a comparison between the two, there is a massive rivalry involved and everyone wants the bragging rights.

"At the end of the day, for us it is a derby. But, first and foremost, it is a hugely important game in terms of our form and our league position. It's a big couple of weeks for us as a team."

Potentially, there is a quartet of home international half backs who could take the field in today's game, with Hook (Wales) and club team-mate Greig Laidlaw (Scotland) taking on current England pivot George Ford and the vastly experienced Peter Stringer of Ireland for the visitors. For Hook, it is testament to the quality of players in line to lock horns.

"They have some quality players across their squad. George in particular is really shining and there are quality players across the board and the head-to-heads that can be made up.

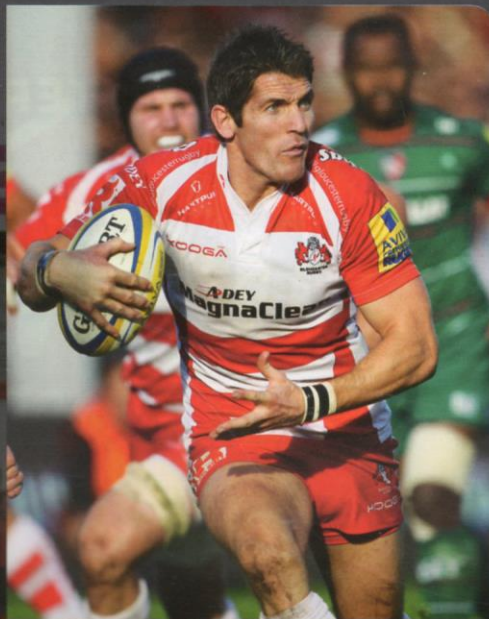
"I can't wait to be tested, and fingers crossed it will be a really great game with the atmosphere and crowd that is expected.

"We have spoken a little bit about the game at Kingsholm last year, it got a bit tasty. But that is what derbies are all about in terms of the passion the players show."

The lure of a derby game at Christmas has captured the imagination yet again, and the Kingsholm crowd will no doubt embrace the derby feeling, Hook definitely does.

"You have that excitement on derby day, and that is the same whether you're starting your career or you're right at the end. When I was playing in Wales, the Xmas games always threw up the Ospreys v Scarlets and they were amazing occasions.

"People around Gloucester have been talking



"WE HAVE SPOKEN A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE GAME AT KINGSHOLM LAST YEAR, IT GOT A BIT TASTY. BUT THAT IS WHAT DERBIES ARE ALL ABOUT IN TERMS OF THE PASSION THE PLAYERS SHOW.

about this one for some time but it doesn't affect your preparation, as you have to do what works for you."

And, speaking about his summer move to the Cherry and Whites, the Welshman is playing with a smile on his face and this is testament to the work on the field and how he has settled in.

"It has been a great move for me so far. It was a slow start and the boys are starting to gel now and the club is so great.

"I am really loving it here and it has been a great move for me. The support has been awesome and the supporters deserve a massive performance in this game!"

GLoucester RUGBY AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION



BOB FENTON'S

KINGSHOLM NEWS

” OUR GOOD FRIENDS IN THE COMMENTARY BOX TODAY WILL NO DOUBT BE ON BURGESS OVERLOAD - IN FACT, IT WOULD BE FUN TO SEE HOW MANY TIMES THEY MENTION HIS NAME DURING COMMENTARY.

WHO KNOWS, IT MIGHT EVEN EQUAL THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CLOSE UPS OF THE VERY SHINY BRUCE CRAIG...

IT MAY be that I have missed something over the past few weeks.

I suppose it could have just slipped passed me, but is it possible - just possible, that our visitors today might have signed someone, a new player from somewhere? After all it's not as if it has been mentioned anywhere, has it.

Given the coverage that the

new player has got over the last few weeks you could be forgiven for thinking that our friends from down the A46 had signed a combination of Superman, Batman and the Incredible Hulk all rolled into one.

The hype has been off the scale, far more than I can recall happening before, certainly not since the last greatest ever rugby league player - i.e. Andy Farrell -

was signed by Saracens. And he didn't exactly set the Union game on fire...

To be fair though, Sam Burgess is a monster. He has had an outstanding career in League, in my limited knowledge I don't think anyone has had half the impact that he has had. But who's to say that he'll have the same impact in the other code?

I heard a really interesting Radio Five interview with him a while back, he came across as a thoroughly normal bloke - the great Philippe Saint-Andre would have described him as 'humble'. And that's a good thing and the chances are that he would rather be allowed to learn his trade and get on with it.

He hasn't asked for the hype, I would guess he's pretty embarrassed by it. I mean, calls for an England Saxons place after one game and about four touches was premature at best, and hardly respectful to the boys who have been playing - and doing pretty well - for seasons. Our good friends in the commentary box today will no doubt be on Burgess overload - in fact, it would be fun to see how many times they mention his name during commentary.

Who knows, it might even equal the average number of close ups of the very shiny Bruce





Craig that seem to dominate the TV coverage whenever Bath are at home.

Don't get me wrong here, if things line up and he's given the time to learn the game, Sam Burgess could end up being phenomenal - that kind of class will always shine through. I just hope that he hasn't been applying the brasso and that he doesn't sparkle too brightly today!

This fixture is the start of a block of Premiership games that you wouldn't wish on anyone. If it were a knockout group it would be immediately labeled as a 'Group of Death' for sure. Bath, Wasps, Exeter and Saracens in the space of 20 days is a crazy set of fixtures, but you have to play these games and you might as well play them one after the other!

This is a proper test of our squad and will show how far we have come, and how far we have to go if we are going to compete with the best. But this isn't last season, we are way ahead of

where we were then, so why not go into it with some confidence? Three of the four games are at Kingsholm, we go into them after some good results in Europe and with a heap of experience on and off the pitch.

None of our opponents will be coming into these games thinking it's going to be a breeze. Far from it, they know it's going to be a battle. If we manage our discipline, cut out the little errors and play at the intensity that we know we are capable of, then there is no reason why we cannot come out of this period in a very strong position.

Talking of off the field, it's great to see players starting to put pen to paper on new contracts already. If ever there was a vote of confidence in the direction of travel of the club this is it. If they believe in what is happening here, then that's good enough for me. Give me my season ticket application for next season, I'll sign up too.

Finally, as it's nearly Christmas there may be a few people who are looking for that last minute present for someone, maybe even yourself. If you are, and you like a book that is truly stunning, then get yourself Richard Parks' book 'Beyond the Horizon'. Parks is, as you are probably aware, a former Welsh international. After retirement he could have put his feet up and made a few quid on the speakers circuit. But no, he became an 'Environmental Athlete'.

If you want to read a proper review of the book, get yourself a copy of the latest edition of @ Holm (unashamed plug: it's out today!) and see what our own Tom Palmer has to say about the book.

And on that note, I'll sign off for now - wish you all a happy Christmas, and see you all back here in a few days time for the second round of the quartet of the fearsome fixture foursome.



IAN RANDALL'S RUGBY TALK

TODAY IS ONE OF THOSE DAYS WHEN YOU CLEAR THE DIARY EARLY AND MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT YOUR TICKET. CROWDS CAN SOMETIMES BE DOWN ON THE FINAL WEEKEND BEFORE CHRISTMAS BUT NOT FOR THIS GAME, WHICH PROBABLY REMAINS THE STAND-OUT OCCASION OF THE SEASON FOR A LOT OF GLOUCESTER SUPPORTERS.

BOTH teams come here off the back of successive wins in Europe. In the Champions Cup, Bath still have it all to do to make the quarter finals, especially as their remaining away game in their pool is at Toulouse.

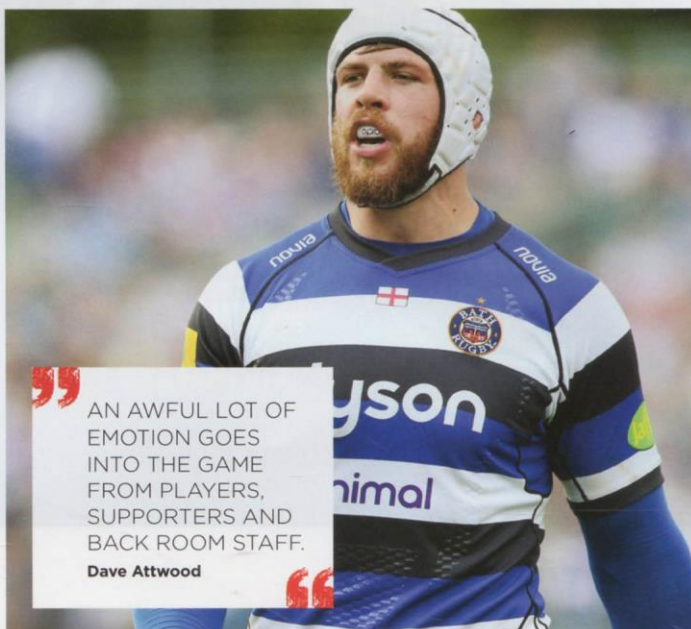
In the Challenge Cup, Gloucester can secure top spot in their group by beating Oyonnax here next month. The tournament will become more testing in the knockout stages.

This evening though, festive bragging rights locally are on the line. Time to seek the opinions of two men who have served both teams, and play opposite each other in the second row.

For all their fierce competitiveness in a physically demanding position on the field, **Dave Attwood** and **James Hudson** are personable, thoughtful men off it.

THE INTENSITY OF THE FIXTURE:

JH: I played for Bath at Kingsholm



“AN AWFUL LOT OF EMOTION GOES INTO THE GAME FROM PLAYERS, SUPPORTERS AND BACK ROOM STAFF.”

Dave Attwood

in 2006 and it was my only experience of it until last season. I was a young player and it was made very apparent how important it was. We warmed up in front of the Shed and you could feel that added bit of enthusiasm

from the fans. Gloucester and Bath are cities with big support bases, and when you bear in mind the success the clubs have had, matches between the two have tended to be important games as well.



I KNOW THEIR FANS WILL EXPECT THEIR PERFORMANCE TO GO UP ANOTHER GEAR FOR THIS GAME.

James Hudson

DA: It's a stand out fixture, and after what happened last season even more so. An awful lot of emotion goes into the game from players, supporters and back room staff. Everyone is desperate for a victory, and that is essentially what a derby day needs. Since Bristol dropped out of the top flight, there isn't that third element to the season which has historically been there, so Gloucester against Bath is always a day to look forward to.

THE OPPOSITION:

JH: I lived in Bath for six years, so I know their fans will expect their performance to go up another gear for this game. Their squad is deeper than last season, and they've still strung together a good sequence of results despite an increasing number of international calls. They have a balance of people coming through like Auterac and Catt in the forwards and other experienced players who are not in the international picture.

DA: I look at Gloucester's results every week. When you've been part of a club, in my experience you take an interest in how they are doing. I've kept an eye on their squad ever since I left. We're quietly aware of what's going on but we'll spend a lot of time focusing on the Bath plan because margins are everything. 1% either way can tip you over the edge one way or the other.

HEAD TO HEAD:

JH: Dave's playing really well, and took his opportunity with England in the autumn internationals. He's done well at club level for a while now and formed a good combination with Stuart Hooper and Dominic Day. Bath have some big guys in the second row.

DA: James is a smart player with a good work ethic. He's proved that around the Premiership at all his clubs and facing him will be a stern test. I know a lot of the boys there. Gloucester have got some great players throughout the team

but obviously facing "Huddo" would be a key match-up.

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF SAM BURGESS:

JH: Anyone who has a reputation as an outstanding athlete - which Sam is - is going to attract attention. Bath are not exactly short on quality in the 10/12/13 are and he'll only add to that. He's physically strong, can carry in a direct manner and his ability to offload the ball is one which all the good centres have.

DA: Sam's an excellent professional. He's got credentials for a reason. He's smart and he works hard. He's spent a lot of extra time getting up to speed. How will the Shed treat him? There's always a pantomime element with the fans there. They can be a bit aggressive but that's part of the enjoyment of playing at Gloucester and it's one of the reasons the game carries so much intensity. I'm sure Sam's been through it before so it won't be anything new to him.



PLAYER A to Z JONNY MAY



...is for
ATMOSPHERE...

What is the best
atmosphere you
have experienced?
Sell out at
Twickenham

...is for best mate

...**BEST MATE** in
rugby?
Wouldn't want to
name names and
upset anyone

...is for **CAREER...**

If you weren't a
rugby player what
would you be?
All eggs have
always been in the
rugby basket

A

B

C

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R

S

...is for **MATCH...**

What is the best
match you have
played in/watched?
Toulouse at
home in the
Heineken Cup

...is for

NICKNAME...
What's yours?
Jonny

...is for

OPPONENT...
Who is the best
player you have
faced up against?
Lots

...is for **PRIDE...**

What is your
proudest moment?
To have
represented my
country

...is for

QUICKEST...
Who is the fastest
player you have
played with or
against?
Charlie Sharples

...is for **RUN OUT**

MUSIC... what's
your tune to run
out to?
No music, just the
atmosphere of the
crowd

...is for

SUPPORT...
What teams do you
support?
Gloucester

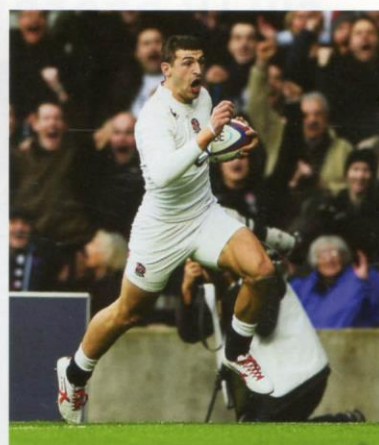


...is for
EMBARRASSED...
most embarrassing
moment on the
field?

...is for **DRIVE...**

what car are you
driving?
My girlfriend's
Corsa

When my pants got
pulled down while
scoring a try in the
Junior World Cup





...is for **FASHION...**
Who is the worst dressed player in the squad?
Stokey



...is for **GLOUCESTER RUGBY...** best thing about Gloucester Rugby?
The Shed



...is for **HARDMAN...**
Who is the toughest opponent you have played against?
Haze



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



...is for **JOKER...**
Who is the funniest person you have shared a dressing room with?
Bobby - Ben Morgan

...is for **KINGSHOLM**
...describe Kingsholm in three words?
Great Rugby Club

...is for **LIFE after rugby...**
What are your future plans?
Floor manager in a sports shop

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?
The one I scored for England against the All Blacks recently

...is for **UNBELIEVABLE...**
Tell us something surprising about yourself
I play the drums

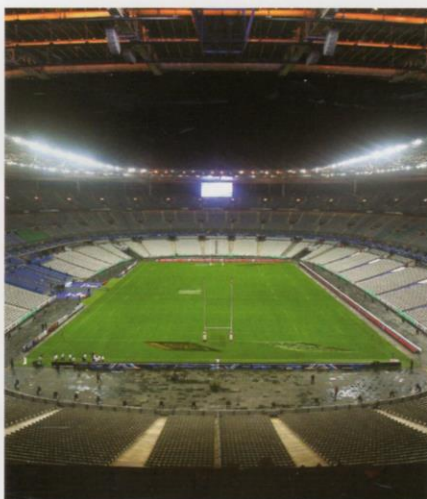
...is for **VISITOR...**
What is your favourite ground to play at?
Stade de France

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

...is for **X-RAY...**
What is the worst injury you have suffered?
PCL knee

...is for **YOUTH...**
What advice would you give to aspiring rugby players?
Enjoy your rugger

...is for **ZZZZ...**
Which player has the worst banter?
Shane Monahan



ACTION REPLAY

VS
HARLEQUINS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

LINE-UP

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------|
| 15 | FB | ROB COOK |
| 14 | W | CHARLIE SHARPLES |
| 13 | C | BILL MEAKES |
| 12 | C | MARK ATKINSON |
| 11 | W | HENRY PURDY |
| 10 | FH | BILLY TWELVETREES (C) |
| 9 | SH | DAN ROBSON |
| 1 | P | NICK WOOD |
| 2 | H | DARREN DAWIDIUK |
| 3 | P | JOHN AFOA |
| 4 | L | TOM PALMER |
| 5 | L | JAMES HUDSON |
| 6 | F | TOM SAVAGE |
| 7 | F | MATT KVESIC |
| 8 | N8 | ROSS MORIARTY |

REPLACEMENTS

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------|
| 16 | H | RICHARD HIBBARD |
| 17 | | JAMES GIBBONS |
| 18 | P | YANN THOMAS |
| 19 | L | ELLIOTT STOOKE |
| 20 | N8 | GARETH EVANS |
| 21 | SH | CALLUM BRALEY |
| 22 | FB | ALED THOMAS |
| 23 | F | DANIEL THOMAS |



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15

PENS: Twelvetrees (3, 6, 23, 26), A. Thomas (61)



HARLEQUINS

22

TRIES: Easter (29), Wallace (58), Walker (77) **PEN:** Evans (35) **CONS:** Evans (30, 59)



HARLEQUINS

LINE-UP

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------|
| 15 | FB | ROSS CHISHOLM |
| 14 | W | CHARLIE WALKER |
| 13 | C | MATT HOPPER |
| 12 | C | GEORGE LOWE |
| 11 | W | OLLIE LINDSAY-HAGUE |
| 10 | FH | NICK EVANS |
| 9 | SH | KARL DICKSON |
| 1 | P | MARK LAMBERT |
| 2 | H | DAVE WARD |
| 3 | P | KYLE SINCKLER |
| 4 | L | CHARLIE MATTHEWS |
| 5 | L | GEORGE ROBSON |
| 6 | F | JOE TRAYFOOT |
| 7 | F | LUKE WALLACE |
| 8 | N8 | NICK EASTER (C) |

REPLACEMENTS

| | | |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 16 | | ROB BUCHANAN |
| 17 | | DARRYL MARFO |
| 18 | | SEB ADENIRAN-OLULE |
| 19 | | SAM TWOMEY |
| 20 | F | JACK CLIFFORD |
| 21 | | JORDAN BURNS |
| 22 | | TIM SWIEL |
| 23 | C | TOM CASSON |

GLOUCESTER RUE MISSED CHANCES AS QUINS TAKE THE WIN

WITH RUGBY AT KINGSHOLM HAVING HAD A FEW WEEKS OFF, THE ACTION RETURNED FOR ROUND SEVEN OF THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP WITH HARLEQUINS THE VISITORS.

IT was a topsy-turvy encounter with plenty of good play from the Cherry and Whites, but also plenty of things to work on as the hosts came up just short under the floodlights.

A fantastic crowd packed into Kingsholm, and Gloucester flew out of the blocks. Skipper Billy Twelvetrees, back from England duty, kicked four penalties with Quins constantly on the defensive.

” WE TALKED ABOUT GETTING OFF TO A GOOD START, OF GETTING THE SCOREBOARD MOVING AND WE DID THAT. WE HAD A COUPLE OF GOOD CHANCES THAT WE DIDN'T TAKE, AND THEN WE TURNED AROUND IN THE SECOND HALF AND QUINS STARTED TO SQUEEZE US A BIT. **David Humphreys**

During this opening quarter of dominance, Rob Cook had a possible try chalked off by the TMO, and Gloucester's scrum was edging it up front, but they couldn't cross the whitewash for the crucial opening try.



Instead, Quins struck first through Nick Easter from a rolling maul, and at this moment, the momentum looked to have swung away from the hosts.

Nick Evans added a penalty to make it a two-point game, and somehow it was those pair of points that separated the two teams, after a fascinating half of rugby.

After the interval, Quins took control of the game, and

Gloucester were made to defend for much of the third quarter of proceedings. They did so resolutely with Quins unable to make any clear breaks, but territory and possession was fleeting for the hosts.

When they did attack, they looked threatening and Quins were happy giving away penalties. But the conversion of those chances into points was eluding the Cherry and Whites. Twelvetrees was wide of the mark with two second half penalties, and the hosts were made to regret this as Quins delivered a sucker punch to take the lead.

Luke Wallace dotted down at the back of a strong rolling maul from 25 metres out as Gloucester ran out of numbers to halt the momentum of the well worked

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



Nick Wood led the Cherry and Whites out before the game, as he became the record Premiership appearance maker for the club. A great achievement, just weeks after making his 250th appearance in total.

set piece.

Replacement Aled Thomas was handed the kicking tee, and he made no mistake with his first attempt after he was hit late by replacement Jack Clifford, and Gloucester trailed by two points going into the final quarter.

They were threatening, and the tempo was good in attack but Quins were repelling all the hosts could throw at them, and it was such a frustrating spectacle as Gloucester huffed and puffed to knock the door down.

The game was decided in the final moments, but it went the way of the visitors as Karl Dickson's opportunist kick bounced up perfectly for Charlie Walker to dive over and secure the points for the men from The Stoop.

ACTION REPLAY

VS
NEWCASTLE
FALCONS

NEWCASTLE FALCONS

LINE-UP

| | | |
|----|----|-------------------|
| 15 | FB | ALEX TAIT |
| 14 | W | SINOTI SINOTI |
| 13 | C | GONZALO TIESI |
| 12 | C | JUAN PABLO SOCINO |
| 11 | W | ALESANA TUILAGI |
| 10 | FH | RORY CLEGG |
| 9 | SH | MIKE BLAIR |
| 1 | P | ROB VICKERS |
| 2 | H | SCOTT LAWSON |
| 3 | P | OLIVER TOMASZCZYK |
| 4 | L | CALUM GREEN |
| 5 | L | DOM BARROW |
| 6 | F | MARK WILSON |
| 7 | F | ANDY SAULL |
| 8 | N8 | ALLY HOGG (C) |

REPLACEMENTS

| | | |
|----|---|------------------|
| 16 | | GEORGE MCGUIGAN |
| 17 | | ALEX ROGERS |
| 18 | | SCOTT WILSON |
| 19 | | SEAN ROBINSON |
| 20 | F | CHRIS YORK |
| 21 | | RUKI TIPUNA |
| 22 | C | ADAM POWELL |
| 23 | | SIMON HAMMERSLEY |



NEWCASTLE FALCONS

20

TRY: Sinoti (44) PENS: Clegg (9, 16, 20, 42, 63)



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

10

TRY: Afoa (1) PEN: Burns (55) CON: Burns (1)



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

LINE-UP

| | | |
|----|----|------------------|
| 15 | FB | STEVE MCCOLL |
| 14 | W | CHARLIE SHARPLES |
| 13 | C | BILL MEAKES |
| 12 | C | MARK ATKINSON |
| 11 | W | HENRY PURDY |
| 10 | FH | BILLY BURNS |
| 9 | SH | DAN ROBSON |
| 1 | P | YANN THOMAS |
| 2 | H | DARREN DAWIDIUK |
| 3 | P | JOHN AFOA |
| 4 | L | TOM PALMER |
| 5 | L | JAMES HUDSON |
| 6 | F | TOM SAVAGE |
| 7 | F | MATT KVESIC (C) |
| 8 | N8 | ROSS MORIARTY |

REPLACEMENTS

| | | |
|----|----|----------------|
| 16 | | LUKE COLE |
| 17 | P | JAMES GIBBONS |
| 18 | P | SHAUN KNIGHT |
| 19 | L | ELLIOTT STOOKE |
| 20 | N8 | GARETH EVANS |
| 21 | SH | CALLUM BRALEY |
| 22 | W | ALED THOMAS |
| 23 | W | TOM ISAACS |

FALCONS TAKE THE SPOILS IN ARM WRESTLE AT KINGSTON PARK

THE CHERRY AND WHITES MADE THE LONG TRIP TO THE NORTH EAST IN ROUND EIGHT OF THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP TO TAKE ON THE IN-FORM NEWCASTLE FALCONS.

WITH seventeen first team players unavailable, this was a chance for the Cherry and White squad to be tested in what was a tough assignment in horrible conditions.

Billy Burns made his first Premiership start of the season and, with just a minute gone, the young fly half was lining up

of the back line in terms of appearances, and the Cherry and Whites had to set about rebuilding.

But the situation got progressively worse either side of the half time break as Henry Purdy became the third person to leave the action with concussion, and then Falcons' wing Sinoti Sinoti slid over after a Juan Pablo Socino break.

”

TONIGHT IS WAS DOWN TO OUR MISTAKES, THAT'S WHAT CAUSED US THE PROBLEMS.

THERE WAS PROBABLY A LITTLE BIT OF NAIVETY ON OUR PART, WITH A MINUTE OR SO TO GO, NOT TO TAKE A KICK AT GOAL TO GET THE BONUS POINT.

David Humphreys

a conversion. John Afoa dotted down after just 26 seconds from captain Matt Kvesic's charge down.

With ball retention tough for both sides at Kingston Park, the Falcons dug in and worked their way back into the game after the early setback with Rory Clegg kicking three penalties.

It was an odd night, Kingston Park was asked to 'Bring the Noise' and the home crowd's occasional encouragement was drowned out by a pumped up PA announcer and his super-sized speakers, creating an interesting atmosphere.

Despite the perfect start, Gloucester then lost Charlie Sharples and Dan Robson to concussion in the first quarter, taking away the two most experienced members

Despite spirited endeavour, the visitors found continuity hard to muster with referee Tim Wigglesworth a strict boss of the breakdown.

Essentially, this period saw Falcons open up a ten point lead in their only spell of control and it left the Cherry and Whites with just the final quarter to reel them in.

Burns added a penalty as Falcons killed the ball with a score looking on, but the Falcons then created a chance of their own, Clegg kicked the penalty and James Hudson was yellow carded.

Burns then hit the post with a long-range effort, and Gloucester threw the kitchen sink at the home line, but it was defended resolutely.

Gloucester had a chance to

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



Leading from the front, Matt Kvesic's first minute charge down created a first try for John Afoa, but that was seemingly as good as it got on a tough night in the North East.

kick the penalty that would get them back into losing bonus point range, but turned down the opportunity in favour of kicking for the corner.

One driving maul looked dead set to rumble over, but was pulled down as the home side employed tactics both legitimate and illegal to keep their line intact.

The final whistle came with Gloucester camped on the Newcastle line, but the home side held out leaving the Cherry and Whites to head south with nothing to show for their considerable efforts.

TODAY'S TEAMS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY vs BATH RUGBY

REFEREE: Greg Garner ASSISTANTS: Paul Dix and Roy Maybank

TEAMS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT

| | | | | |
|--------------|---|----|--|--------------|
| TPCD □□□□ | STEVE McCOLL FULL-BACK | 15 | ANTHONY WATSON FULL-BACK | TPCD □□□□ |
| □□□□ | CHARLIE SHARPLES RIGHT WING | 14 | SEMESA ROKODUGUNI RIGHT WING | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | HENRY PURDY OUTSIDE CENTRE | 13 | JONATHAN JOSEPH OUTSIDE CENTRE | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | BILLY TWELVETREES (C) INSIDE CENTRE | 12 | SAM BURGESS INSIDE CENTRE | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | JONNY MAY LEFT WING | 11 | MATT BANAHAN LEFT WING | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | JAMES HOOK FLY-HALF | 10 | GEORGE FORD FLY-HALF | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | GREIG LAIDLAW SCRUM-HALF | 9 | CHRIS COOK SCRUM-HALF | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | YANN THOMAS LOOSEHEAD PROP | 1 | PAUL JAMES (C) LOOSEHEAD PROP | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | RICHARD HIBBARD HOOKER | 2 | ROSS BATTY HOOKER | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | JOHN AFOA TIGHTHEAD PROP | 3 | DAVID WILSON TIGHTHEAD PROP | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | TOM SAVAGE LOCK | 4 | DOMINIC DAY LOCK | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | TOM PALMER LOCK | 5 | DAVE ATTWOOD LOCK | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | SIONE KALAMAFONI BLINDSIDE FLANKER | 6 | ALAFOTI FA'OSILIVA BLINDSIDE FLANKER | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | MATT KVESIC OPENSIDE FLANKER | 7 | FRANCOIS LOUW OPENSIDE FLANKER | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | GARETH EVANS NUMBER EIGHT | 8 | LEROY HOUSTON NUMBER EIGHT | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | DARREN DAWIDIUK REPLACEMENT 1 | 16 | ROB WEBBER REPLACEMENT 1 | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | NICK WOOD REPLACEMENT 2 | 17 | NICK AUTERAC REPLACEMENT 2 | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | SILA PUAFISI REPLACEMENT 3 | 18 | HENRY THOMAS REPLACEMENT 3 | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | JAMES HUDSON REPLACEMENT 4 | 19 | STUART HOOPER REPLACEMENT 4 | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | ROSS MORIARTY REPLACEMENT 5 | 20 | DAVID SISI REPLACEMENT 5 | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | DAN ROBSON REPLACEMENT 6 | 21 | MICKY YOUNG REPLACEMENT 6 | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | MARK ATKINSON REPLACEMENT 7 | 22 | OLLIE DEVOTO REPLACEMENT 7 | □□□□ |
| □□□□ | DAVID HALAIFONU REPLACEMENT 8 | 23 | HORACIO AGULLA REPLACEMENT 8 | □□□□ |