




GLOUCESTER RUGBY



ADEY
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vs Wasps

Aviva Premiership Rugby Round 11: 28.12.2014

Inside today's festive matchday programme we have an exclusive interview with All Black prop John Afoa, action replays from the back to back victories against London Irish and Zebre plus 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

LAND ROVER

RICOH
Imagine. change.

GreenFlag

GUINNESS

GILBERT

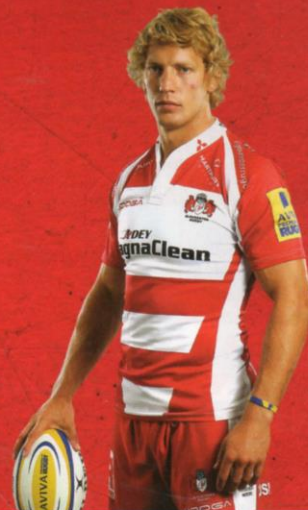
CITIZEN

BT Sport



CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR TODAY'S GAME WITH WASPS. I HOPE THAT ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS HAD AN ENJOYABLE AND RELAXING CHRISTMAS.



THERE'S no hiding from it, last time out against Bath we were well beaten on the scoreboard. But the boys played their hearts out against a well-organised and efficient side.

It was a game of critical points, we attacked for long periods, Bath soaked up all the pressure, kept us at bay and then took points when they were on offer.

George Ford's boot did us real damage last weekend because of poor discipline, and we come up against another class pivot in Andy Goode this afternoon, so we have to be on our game and improve our penalty count.

As I said after the game, losing at home to Bath really hurt. However, we've not been able to dwell on the feeling of loss for too long, as we have had to pick ourselves up from a gut

wrenching defeat and prepare for another massive test today.

Dai Young and his squad are on a big high at the moment, off the back of their opening game at their new home and they are a squad packed with some fine players.

We know that we will have to be on our game today, and want a real response from the game last week, as we're determined to bounce back and finish 2014 on a high.

The support we received in the run-up to and during the game was outstanding. A full house at Kingsholm is a special occasion and as a squad we are doing all we can to ensure that we have more of these occasions as they make a huge difference to us.

We are honoured to play for this great club, and the support we have, I truly believe is the best around. Some new faces have joined the club this season, and it is clear how impressed they are by the backing we receive.

Hopefully, it will be close to a sell out today and every single supporter makes a difference in making Kingsholm the special atmosphere we all know it has.

It's an audience that deserves a top performance, and we hope to provide that today.

Enjoy the game..



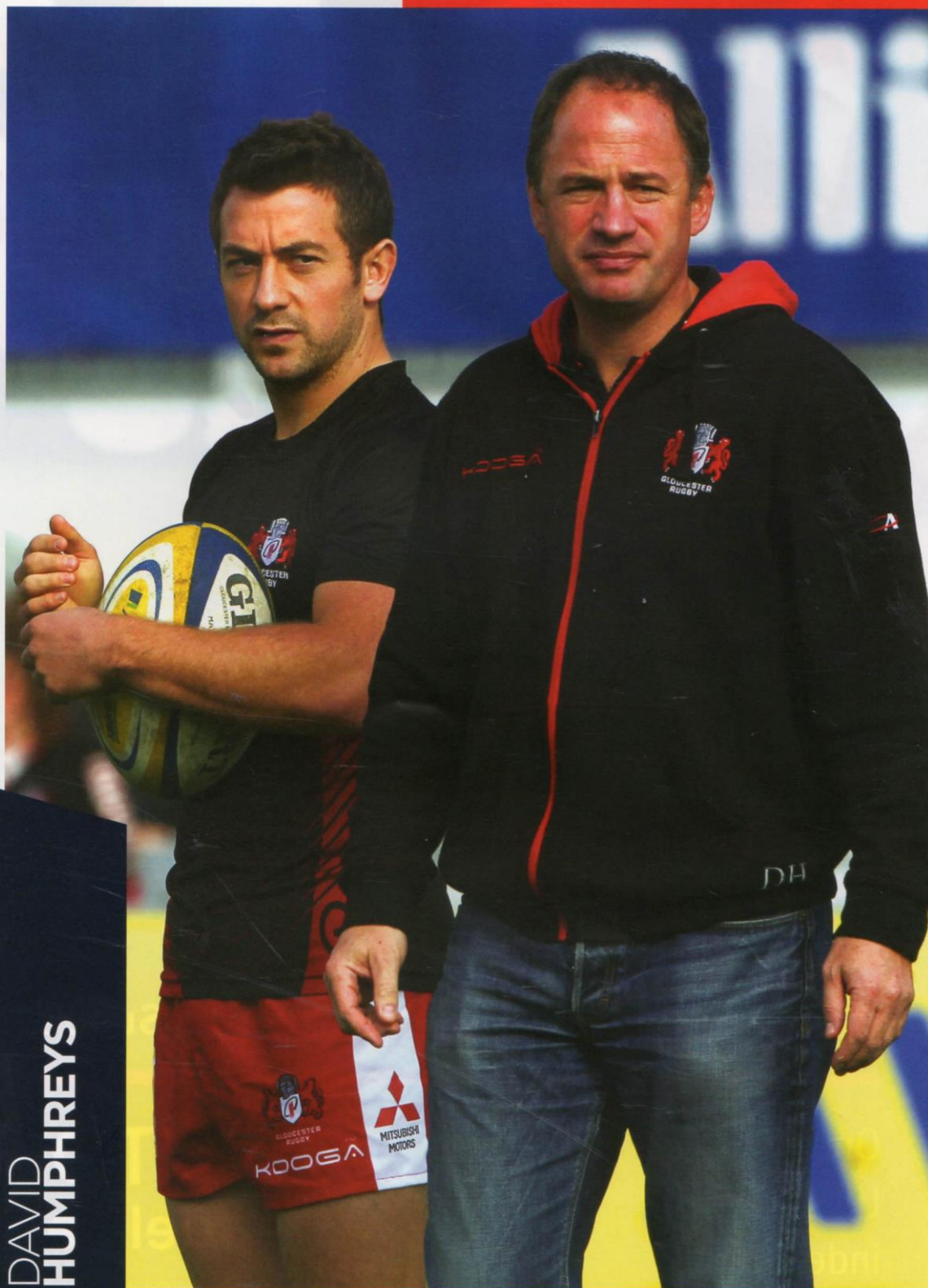
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Billy

DIR. OF
RUGBY

DAVID
HUMPHREYS



DAVID
HUMPHREYS

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at our website: www.glouster...

...the Gloucester Rugby...

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE AT KINGSHOLM THIS AFTERNOON
WATCHING OUR FINAL AVIVA PREMIERSHIP GAME OF 2014 AGAINST WASPS.

IT'S been a long eight days since we were last here and I know that the players and management are looking forward to putting the Bath result behind us with a big performance today.

The Bath game was a hugely disappointing afternoon for everyone associated with the Club. For those of us who have only been here for a short period of time, we already appreciate how much the Bath fixture means to Gloucester supporters but, on the day, we were beaten by a very good team.

In derby games, form often counts for nothing but Bath produced a very disciplined performance and showed why they are currently 2nd in the Aviva Premiership table.

For large parts of the match, there was very little between the two teams but we know that to beat the best teams in the Premiership you have to take every try scoring opportunity and we didn't do that against Bath.

From the outset I have said that this season could be an emotional roller coaster, with lots of ups and downs, as we try to fundamentally change our style of play and

There is no doubt that teams like Bath have moved ahead of us in the short term, but everyone involved with Gloucester is working very hard to close the gap and we



manage all the changes both on and off the pitch.

We have had a difficult 6 weeks with injuries, international call ups and some disappointing performances in the Aviva Premiership, but we've also done well in Europe, and a number of our young players have gained

believe that we're heading in the right direction

However, today is all about Wasps. They'll be coming here with something of a spring in their step having kicked off their new era in Coventry in some style last Sunday.

A special mention to Andy Goode and his new individual Aviva

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FROM THE OUTSET I HAVE SAID THAT THIS SEASON COULD BE AN EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER, WITH LOTS OF UPS AND DOWNS, AS WE TRY TO FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE OUR STYLE OF PLAY AND MANAGE ALL THE CHANGES BOTH ON AND OFF THE PITCH.

They deserve credit for an outstanding defensive performance but we also know that we have to be better and more accurate in our attack and ensure we give our backs the opportunity to score tries.

experience in tough circumstances that will hold us in good stead for years to come.

Short term results are critical, and the Bath defeat puts even more importance on today's result. But we're also trying to put in place foundations that will allow the Club to deliver long term, sustainable success. The recent retention of many of our top players is a key part of this and we hope to make further signings over the next few months that will only strengthen the playing squad.

Premiership record of 33 points. Andy has been one of the most influential Premiership players of the last decade and has set the bar at a very high level for all future performances!!

With the electric atmosphere at Kingsholm last weekend, we're delighted to be back at another full house and hoping to reward your loyalty and fantastic support by signing off 2014 on a winning note.

David

THE VIEW FROM The Citizen



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

TEENAGE GIRL
approached
at bus stop in
Gloucester

**JAVELIN PARK
INCINERATOR:**
Government
puts off making
decision

**RECYCLING
CENTRE** already
under strain

FOREST GREEN
won't spend
crazy money
in January

REMAINING POSITIVE

BILLY Twelvetrees admits Gloucester owe their supporters some belated festive cheer after losing the West Country derby.

The Cherry and Whites slumped to their heaviest home defeat in league action against their great rivals last Saturday.

They now face a miserable Christmas, haunted by the loss, their fourth in a row to Bath, which saw them drop to ninth in the league.

But while the England centre admits a loss to Bath hurts more than most, he remains positive about 2015.

Twelvetrees said, "It's always frustrating, losing at home is always bad enough. But to Bath at home is never something you want to be involved in.

"It's hugely disappointing, it was a very quiet dressing room and everyone was frustrated but credit to Bath, they are a very good, well drilled side.

"It doesn't feel a record loss but losing is losing and no matter how you do it it's always pretty gut wrenching.

"We know they have some quality players in their team but so have we and while you can say we're a new team together, we're fully aware of what we're about now.



Leader

Billy admits it was a difficult dressing room after the defeat to Bath

"But the great thing is we can get back on the horse and put a performance in against Wasps. We owe it to ourselves, we owe it to the supporters and we have huge belief in the squad. One defeat against Bath doesn't change anything."

The clash with Wasps, who kicked off life in Coventry with a 48-16 victory over London Irish, is the first of a testing block in the Premiership, with matches against Exeter Chiefs and

“ WE HAVE GREAT PLAYERS AND A GREAT SQUAD AND WE BELIEVE IN OURSELVES WE JUST HAVE TO BE A BIT SMARTER IN PUTTING TEAMS AWAY. **Billy Twelvetrees** ”



Saracens to follow.

Gloucester are now six points adrift of the top six and 10 off the play-off places.

Twelvetrees admits breaking into the top half of the table is a difficult task, but he insists it is not all doom and gloom following the derby defeat.

He said, “We will be as positive as we can, you take rugby week by week and see what you’re about, and you go out there with huge belief and give it your all.

“We prepared to beat Bath, we fully believed it during the game

and it showed with Dan Robson’s try at the end, we will never give up and are proud of playing here.

“The Premiership is made up of quality teams from one to 12 so it’s always difficult to get results especially when you look at the top four and six. You don’t want to say you are going to push them out because it’s rude and they’ve earned the right to be there.

“We aspire to be there, we aspire to be a good team like Bath who have gelled well over a couple of years. You have to play

extremely well on a consistent basis to get up there.”

To have any chance of toppling the top teams Gloucester must fix their scrum woes and make better use of possession.

They were continually penalised at the set-piece against Bath, with George Ford slotting six penalties and they failed to break their rivals’ defence.

That included a period in which the Cherry and Whites went through 28 phases with no reward for their efforts.

“Does anyone know what’s going on?” said Twelvetrees when asked about the scrum.

“It’s a difficult area, I don’t understand what’s going on in the scrum, I don’t think many people do but we just have to deal with it better on the day. You have to get on the positive side of the referee.

“The frustrating thing is we felt quite comfortable defensively, we nullified them but gave away two soft tries and then the game took care of itself and George Ford kicked well. Their defence was pretty good but we also have to vary our game.

“We know teams are getting very good defensively and that’s throughout the Premiership. We have to use the ball better rather than bash people over the line but that’s up to us as play makers and players to analyse teams.

“We have great players and a great squad and we believe in ourselves we just have to be a bit smarter in putting teams away.”

Citizen AVAILABLE DAILY

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

TAKING
WING
– PART TWO

POST WAR STARS ON THE WING FOR GLOUCESTER

JOHN TAYLOR

Lydney born John Taylor was an established player and already a familiar face at Kingsholm, when he joined Gloucester in September 1951, having played there for Lydney, UAU and Gloucestershire. He had also represented English Universities and captained his own university, Bristol.

Taylor was a talented winger whom many thought was unlucky not to get an England trial. From the beginning he attracted extravagant praise from the local press. He captained Gloucester in 1952-53 on a number of occasions and in 1953-54 was elected Gloucester captain.



John Taylor

1953-54 was a personal triumph for Taylor. He played for Western Counties against the All Blacks and captained Gloucester to a record-breaking tally of 31 wins. After playing 101 games in three seasons, scoring 39 tries, business commitments took him

to Leicester where he played for another five seasons, although continuing to play county rugby for Gloucestershire.

He became President of the Gloucestershire RFU in 1981-82 and represented the county on the RFU Council for a number of years.

BOB CLEWES

Throughout the seventies the deceptive pace and powerful running of Bob Clewes made him one of the game's most dangerous wings. One of Gloucester's famous '500 club', he passed the magic figure in 1981 to put him alongside Alan Brinn, Peter Ford and Dick Smith.

Robert John Clewes, a product of the Archway Secondary School, Stroud, made his Gloucester debut as a teenager in 1968. A prodigious try scorer, his total of 278 tries in 533 games is a club record that will never now be beaten. Twice topping thirty tries in a season, he passed the twenty mark on no less than seven occasions. He was Gloucester's leading try scorer in ten of the fourteen seasons in which he played.

Bob Clewes captained his club in 1978-79 and was a cup winner with Gloucester in both 1972 and 1978. He played for Gloucestershire in three County Championship finals, twice on the winning side.

RICHARD MOGG

The final member of the '500 club', Richard Mogg ('Moggy')



Bob Clewes

to the Kingsholm faithful) was an elusive and strong running wing or centre with a devastating sidestep, who met with his greatest success on the wing. He played 510 games and scored 169 tries for Gloucester between 1974 and 1992.

Moggy was the only player to appear in three of Gloucester's four cup finals of the amateur era and will long be remembered for scoring the winning try against Leicester in the nail-biting finish to the 1978 match.

He represented England at Colts, Under 23 and B level and played in a final England trial, narrowly missing a full England cap. He played in three County Championship finals for Gloucestershire and three times for the South and South West against the All Blacks.

In 1988 his contribution to the game was recognised when he



Richard Mogg

was selected for the Barbarians Easter tour.

DERRICK MORGAN

Derrick Morgan was a specialist winger with real pace who was the regular first choice for Gloucester on the right wing from 1982 to 1993, scoring 158 tries in 248 games.

Derrick joined Gloucester from Longlevens RFC in 1982 and his pace and try-scoring potential were quickly recognized. A buzz would go round the Shed, every time he got the ball.

He consistently featured on the list of leading try scorers; among his many try scoring feats was to score four tries in the second quarter of a match against Coventry at Kingsholm in 1984, to give Gloucester a 28-0 half time lead against their old rivals.

A serious back problem in 1988-89 looked career-threatening, but he came back to play a major part in Gloucester's 1989-90 cup and league campaigns, in which they finished runners-up in both competitions.

PHILIPPE SAINT-ANDRÉ

The legendary wing Philippe Saint-André made his debut at Kingsholm on 23 August 1997.

From that first match (a 35-13 demolition of Bristol in which Saint-André scored two tries) he became a hero in the Shed and the Marseillaise rang out on match days from the red-bereted fans.

Saint-André had been capped 64 times by France (29 as captain) when he began his Gloucester career and he gained 5 further caps as a Gloucester player. He played 41 games for Gloucester in 1997-99 scoring 21 tries but his

influence on both team and fans can't be measured in mere figures.



Philippe Saint-André

In February 1999 he took over as Head Coach from Richard Hill and retired from playing at the end of that season. Saint-André's three years as coach had their fair share of controversy, but he took Gloucester to the semi-final of the Heineken Cup for the only time in their history in 2001 and at the time of his departure in February 2002 they were lying second in the Premiership.

Following his success in coaching Bourgoin, Sale and Toulon, Saint-André is now the Head Coach of the French national team.

JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

James Simpson-Daniel, known universally as "Sinbad", was that rarity in the professional game – a one club man who made 276 appearances for Gloucester and scored 120 tries.

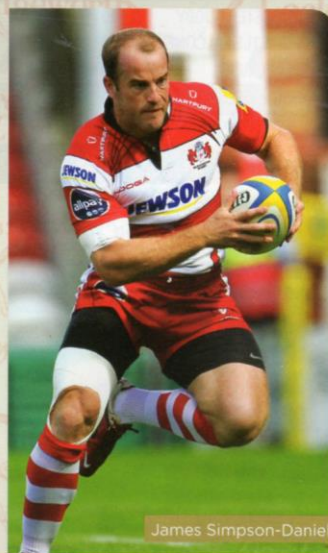
Sinbad joined Gloucester Rugby from Sedburgh School in December 2000. Four days before his twentieth birthday, playing for an England XV against the Barbarians, he rounded the mighty

Jonah Lomu to score a try which will long be remembered. Sinbad had arrived!

That early promise remained unfulfilled at international level due to a cruel series of injuries and he remained on the fringes of England selection, dogged by a reputation for being injury-prone. His ten England caps should have been many more.

At club level it was a different matter however. He was a true match winner and provided the Kingsholm crowd with many memorable moments. He played in Gloucester's only Heineken Cup semi-final, as a teenager in 2001, and scored crucial tries in the 2003 Powergen Cup and 2006 European Challenge Cup victories.

Marvellous performances for his club in 2007-08 earned him Guinness Premiership Player of



James Simpson-Daniel

the Season. Sinbad was still in sparkling form when he sustained the ankle injury which ended his career, playing against Newcastle Falcons at Kingsholm. He finally announced his retirement in September 2014.

His low centre of gravity and beautiful balance had made him one of the great wingers of his generation, the scorer or instigator of spectacular tries.

PLAYER
FEATURE

JOHN
AFOA

UP FR

IT ALL BEGINS UP FRONT, AND ANY TEAM REQUIRES A MAN WITH EXPERIENCE AND STRENGTH TO LEAD THEM INTO BATTLE. AND LEADING THE CHERRY AND WHITE CHARGE IS THE REDOUBTABLE FIGURE OF JOHN AFOA.

WORLD Cup winner John Afoa is loving his rugby in Gloucestershire, and the Kiwi front-rower is relishing the challenge of the Aviva Premiership as the Cherry and Whites gear up for the second half of the season.

"It's such a good competition, a really tough one and it is clear that there are a lot of really good teams. I think the whole sort of week in, week out competitiveness of every game has caught me by surprise, but I'm really enjoying my time in the Premiership."

"I think back in New Zealand, the test is very similar, it is like Super Rugby which is a very tough competition and every team is quite stacked with strength and then you throw in the travel too. The league bears a lot of resemblance to the Super Rugby table with some great teams and a few developing teams."

"This is something you adapt to and it is a tough one as you have to play your best footy every week."



PLAYER
FEATURE

JOHN
AFOA



DID YOU KNOW?

JOHN PLAYED COLLEGE RUGBY ALONGSIDE FELLOW ALL BLACKS JOE ROKOCOKO AND JEROME KAINO.

But that can only be a good thing."

A man who appreciates the value of a home fortress, who adores a passionate, traditional fanbase, Afoa has been impressed by Kingsholm, after several seasons in Belfast with Ulster.

"Kingsholm has been great, there are plenty of great players here, great coaches and great fans coming together to get a good brand of rugby going for the club.

"Kingsholm is an awesome place, we've had some great crowds and some great occasions so far this season. Going into this Christmas period we've got a few big games and I am really relishing that."

A busy Christmas period has thrown up a quartet of massive challenges for the Cherry and Whites, but Afoa is enjoying being immersed in all of the top-class action on offer across the board, aside from the key domestic challenge of digesting the Christmas Turkey.

"With it being a busy Christmas period, there is plenty to watch and, to be honest, I do love watching games and relaxing in front of a game, in whatever hemisphere it is played in.

"I've been privileged to have played with a great number of boys across my career and it is always a nice treat to kick back and watch how they are all

getting on. There's nothing like a bit of rugby on a Sunday afternoon."

But on the pitch, Afoa is ready and raring to take on the continuing challenge as Wasps visit Kingsholm this afternoon.

"This is the key part of the season, obviously for us here at Gloucester, but also for a number of teams.

"You have that start period where you play a lot of games and get a feel for the game and then hang out with a couple of European rounds, but then you get to Christmas where, the Autumn internationals are over, and everyone is back on deck.

"You want to make sure that you come through Christmas and New Year at the right end of the table, because it is a long way back trying to fight for points.

"This means there is no struggle for motivation to get up for these games as they count so much. We've got a good run of games, some big crowds and games in front of our own fans and against teams that are above us so they will all be massive tests for us.

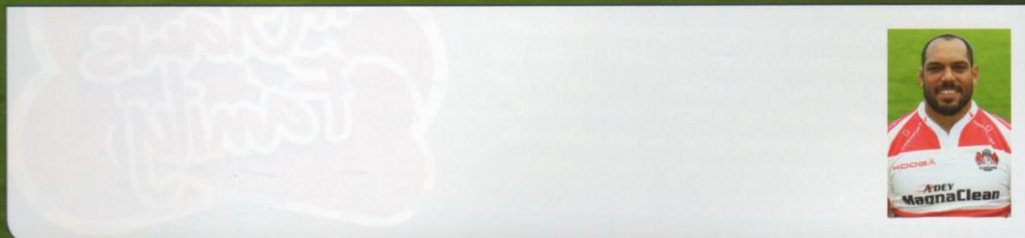
"We need to ensure we play to our potential, play well and get the Ws!"



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KINGSHOLM HAS BEEN GREAT, THERE ARE PLENTY OF GREAT PLAYERS HERE, GREAT COACHES AND GREAT FANS COMING TOGETHER TO GET A GOOD BRAND OF RUGBY GOING FOR THE CLUB.

GLoucester RUGBY AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION



BOB FENTON'S

KINGSHOLM NEWS

“ THE MIDDLE OF THE LEAGUE IS SPLIT BY A HANDFUL OF POINTS - ABOUT EIGHT POINTS SEPARATE US IN 9TH PLACE AND THE TEAMS IN FOURTH AND FIFTH, SO JUST A COUPLE OF GOOD RESULTS WILL SEE US SECURE A SPOT AT THE RIGHT END OF THINGS.

S O, welcome to round two of the fearsome fixture foursome.

Round one last weekend didn't really go to plan, did it? Getting totally stuffed by our oldest of enemies always hurts, but stuffed we were, and to be fair we did pretty well to come second.

There's no doubt that Bath are the real deal this season, a side

that has quality in pretty much every department - well, except for Matt Banahan (did you know auto correct on a Mac changes his name to 'Banana'?) maybe. The bionic man - to Sam Burgess to us mere mortals - came on for a few minutes and was pretty anonymous but by that time the work was done.

Sometimes it's hard to find the positives from a game like

that, especially in the immediate aftermath, but a few hours on and after a reflective ale or two, there are some.

For a start it's not that long ago that we would have caved in totally and been on the end of a massive loss. Instead we carried on scrapping and grabbed a try ourselves. A consolation maybe, but proof that we run to the end.

There's no shame in losing a game like that, disappointment yes, but no shame. The best team won, and that's sport. Much as it smarts to say this, if we can get ourselves to that kind of level, then it will be happy days indeed.

So where are we, half way through the season - what would the Governor of the Kingsholm School For Boys (est 1873) have to say?

I think he start by saying that the new teachers, Messrs Humphries, Fisher, Muggleton and Walshe have stabilised the school after it went into special measures last year. The pupils are showing more application and, while still prone to the odd lapse in concentration and occasional poor discipline, there are definite signs of improvement.

He would say that it's great that so many of the pupils have gone on to represent the school at the highest level, and that we have performed well in Europe.



COMING
UP...

BEN MORGAN ANSWERS OUR A-Z QUESTIONS



The Governors still want to see more, especially when we are performing at our own school where performance has not been to the standard that we would hope for. Too many reverses and not enough ticks in the 'W' column.

So that's the school report, how about the future? For me the most pleasing thing is that not only are we signing up some of our players who are approaching the end of their contracts, we are also sealing deals with new players who will be joining next season. That's very different to how things have been in the past where we have seen a bit of a scramble at the end of term.

So yes, the loss last weekend



was painful, but to slightly misquote someone else's old brand statement - the future's bright.

But, back to the here and now... Another huge test for us with the arrival of Wasps. Hopefully they will have over indulged on their Christmas lunches and be somewhat lethargic - something that they most definitely haven't been so far this season. This time last week they demolished London Irish by the odd 30 points.

But they are there in the mix zone not that far above us in the table. The middle of the league is split by a handful of points - about eight points separate us in 9th place and the teams in fourth and fifth, so just a couple of good results will see us secure a spot at the right end of things.

It's a huge credit to the Wasps players and coaches that they have managed to keep the ship afloat while there has been nothing but turmoil off the field. Finally they leave the industrial park of High Wycombe for the err... industrial park around their new home at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry. No more London Wasps, just plain old Wasps.

It is a great stadium up there and, from an entirely parochial point of view, it's probably easier for us to get to from the wild west. We'll know soon enough, we're up there at the beginning of March. Last weekend they had a really big crowd, but will they keep coming? I guess they will find out soon enough when we go there. For their sake, and for the future of that club, I hope they do ok.

But, not today though. We need to put the pre Christmas woes against Bath behind us and power on through into next year. A good win today - in fact a scrappy win today - will be a good way to end the year and set us up for 2015.

And on that note, I'll say happy New Year to one and all. See you all back here in 2015.

IAN RANDALL'S RUGBY TALK

TODAY WE KICK 2014 INTO TOUCH AT KINGSHOLM - A YEAR OF CHANGE AND NO LITTLE UPHEAVAL.

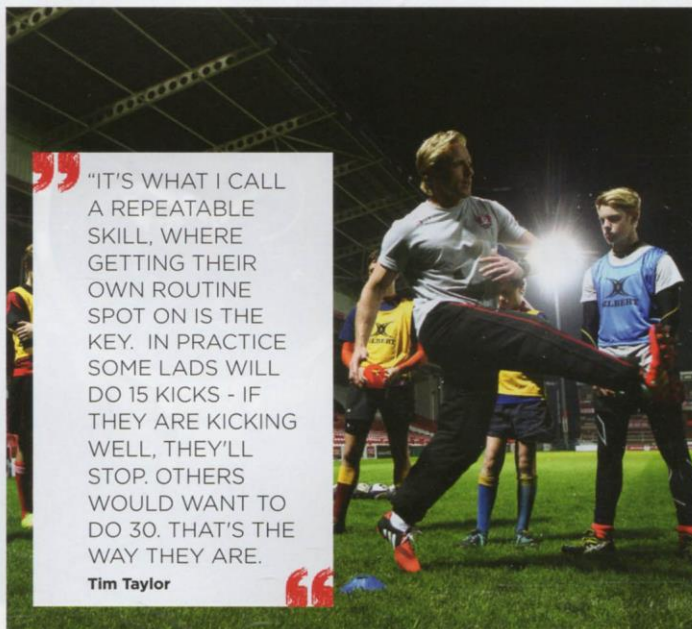
I F you were here last Saturday, you'll have seen more evidence that in the wake of such a seismic shake up of personnel, there will be peaks and troughs until things settle. Bath are further down their developmental road, and it showed. Greig Laidlaw's boot can only do so much.

One of his penalties virtually grazed the crossbar on Saturday night, and it took me back to a conversation I had with Tim Taylor about Gloucester's kickers.

Tim retired as a player in March, and might have wondered about his future when Nigel Davies left. He had helped out in a specialist coaching role until the end of the season, but it was Alex Brown who briefed David Humphreys on Taylor's role, one he retains today despite not having any coaching badges.

"When I was playing, I did a lot of work with two men - in England, Jon Callard over a period of 3-4 years, and in New Zealand with Mick Byrne - known as Mick the Kick.

"I learned a lot from both of them and I've taken that



"IT'S WHAT I CALL A REPEATABLE SKILL, WHERE GETTING THEIR OWN ROUTINE SPOT ON IS THE KEY. IN PRACTICE SOME LADS WILL DO 15 KICKS - IF THEY ARE KICKING WELL, THEY'LL STOP. OTHERS WOULD WANT TO DO 30. THAT'S THE WAY THEY ARE.

Tim Taylor

experience, along with kicking myself in matches, into my coaching now. We have six kickers here (Burns, Cook, Hook, Laidlaw, Thomas and Twelvetrees) and you have to remember that everyone is different with their own technique.

"It's what I call a repeatable skill, where getting their own

routine spot on is the key. In practice some lads will do 15 kicks - if they are kicking well, they'll stop. Others would want to do 30. That's the way they are."

I met Tim in the old changing rooms under the clock after he'd run a coaching clinic. It felt like a physics lesson, a subject I was dreadful at as a student. Each



ROB COOK'S APPROACH UNTIL THIS SEASON STARTED VERY LOW AND HE STAYED LOW THROUGH THE BALL. WE FELT WE HAD TO GET HIM TALLER, AND HE WAS REALLY GOOD ABOUT IT BECAUSE IT ISN'T EASY TO CHANGE YOUR TECHNIQUE IF YOU'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR A LONG TIME.

player sets the ball up differently. There are even different tees to put the ball on.

When he started mentioning courses in bio-mechanics I needed some plain English.

"A kicker has to get all their momentum going through the ball" Tim said.

"Greig Laidlaw has probably put five metres on the distance he can kick this season by working on that. He is unusual in that he jumps through the kick, but it works for him. If he does miss three times in a row from the same area I'll look at it. We use video a lot. We want the kicker to stay tall through the kick."

"If you come out of the kick early, you'll push the ball - if you finish round the corner you'll probably hook it.

"Rob Cook's approach until this season started very low and he stayed low through the ball. We felt we had to get him taller, and he was really good about it because it isn't easy to change your technique if you've been doing it for a long time. I think it

was the Brive match where he kicked 3/3 which was really good having not taken a kick all season up to that point."

Kicking from the tee is only part of the skill of course. Positional kicking from hand, as George Ford illustrated 8 days ago, is an effective weapon. I compared it to a ball toss in tennis in reverse. Tim, succinctly, called it a ball drop.

"The drop is vital" he said. "Guys struggle because the drop is wrong. The ball might fall forwards or they will pull it towards them. The ball ought to be north to south, nice and straight and in line with your shoulder, and fairly low to the ground. Too high and you won't be able to drive through the ball.

"Kicking is such a massive part of the game we'll work on it on every training day. Sometimes I'll just watch. At other times we'll work on something specific and it's important the whole back line can kick - we don't want to rely on 9, 10 and 15."

Tim's ethos is accuracy first

and range later. It's no good someone kicking a ball a long way but not knowing where it will end up. Consistency is the key, as is getting the ball to travel straight without hook or fade, as you might find in golf because it gives you the same chance wherever you are on the field.

Breaking down one skill into such minute detail made me realise again the standards top players work to.

Today we welcome Wasps, who in Andy Goode have a kicker of long standing Premiership quality. You could argue that in different ways, both teams come here today off the back of emotional games last weekend.

Gloucester against Bath, and Wasps having played - and won convincingly - their first match at the Ricoh Arena, with over 28,000 people turning up to see them play against London Irish.

Who has come out of those experiences the better we are about to find out.

Happy New Year.



PLAYER A to Z BEN MORGAN



...is for
ATMOSPHERE...

What is the best atmosphere you have experienced?
Twickenham

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



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

If you weren't a rugby player what would you be?
Plumber



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

what car are you driving?
BMW x5

...is for **EMBARRASSED...**

most embarrassing moment on the field?
Throwing up

A

B

C

D

E

M

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

What is the best match you have played in/watched?
England v Australia in the QBE Internationals this autumn

N

...is for **NICKNAME...**

What's yours?
Bobby

O

...is for **OPPONENT...**

Who is the best player you have faced up against?
Kieran Read

P

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

What is your proudest moment?
Playing for my country

Q

...is for **QUICKEST...**

Who is the fastest player you have played with or against?
Bryan Habana

R

...is for **RUN OUT MUSIC...**

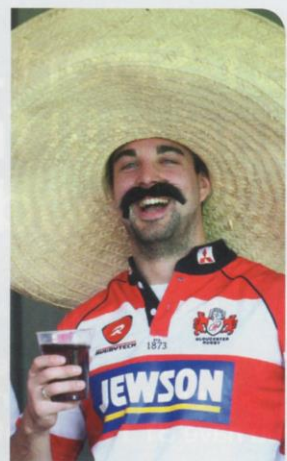
what's your tune to run out to?
No set music

S

...is for **SUPPORT...**

What teams do you support?
Gloucester





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

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

...is for **HARDMAN**...
Who is the toughest opponent you have played against?
Paul O'Connell

...is for **IDOL**...
Who is your sporting idol?
Jonah Lomu

...is for **JOKER**...
Who is the funniest person you have shared a dressing room with?
James Haskell

...is for **KINGSHOLM**...describe Kingsholm in three words?
Passionate, Shed, Special

...is for **LIFE after rugby**...
What are your future plans?
Property Development

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?
Gloucester v Saracens a few years ago, or vs South Africa in November

...is for **UNBELIEVABLE...**
Tell us something surprising about yourself
Pub game specialist

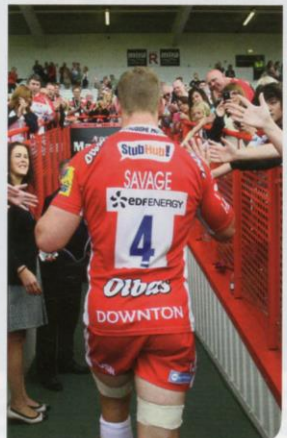
...is for **VISITOR**...
What is your favourite ground to play at?
Kingsholm/
Twickenham

...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?
Ankle ligaments

...is for **YOUTH**...
What advice would you give to aspiring rugby players?
Don't give up, work hard

...is for **ZZZZ**...
Which player has the worst banter?
Tom Savage



ACTION REPLAY

VS
LONDON
IRISH

LONDON IRISH

LINE-UP

15	FB	TOM HOMER
14	W	ALEX LEWINGTON
13	C	FERGUS MULCHRONE
12	C	SHANE GERAGHTY (C)
11	W	JAMES SHORT
10	FH	CHRIS NOAKES
9	SH	SCOTT STEELE
1	P	TOM COURT
2	H	DAVID PAICE
3	P	GEOFF CROSS
4	L	SEAN COX
5	L	KIERAN LOW
6	F	JEBB SINCLAIR
7	F	BLAIR COWAN
8	N8	OFISA TREVIRANUS

REPLACEMENTS

16		TOM WOLSTENCROFT
17	R	LEO HALAVATAU
18	P	HALANI AULIKA
19	L	DAN LEO
20	R	CONOR GILSENAN
21	SH	DARREN ALLINSON
22	FH	EOIN GRIFFIN
23		TOPSY OJO



LONDON IRISH

09

PENS: Geraghty (51, 55, 61)



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

21

TRIES: Purdy (47), McColl (72) **PEN:** Laidlaw (34, 45, 59) **CON:** Laidlaw (73)



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	JAMES HOOK
9	SH	GREIG LAIDLAW (C)
1	P	YANN THOMAS
2	H	RICHARD HIBBARD
3	P	JOHN AFOA
4	L	TOM SAVAGE
5	L	TOM PALMER
6	F	SIONE KALAMAFONI
7	F	MATT KVESIC
8	N8	GARETH EVANS

REPLACEMENTS

16	H	ALEKI LUTUI
17		SHAUN KNIGHT
18		SILA PUAFISI
19	L	ELLIOTT STOOKE
20	N8	ROSS MORIARTY
21		CALLUM BRALEY
22		BILLY BURNS
23		SHANE MONAHAN

GLOUCESTER BATTLE TO IMPORTANT PREMIERSHIP WIN

AFTER TWO NARROW AVIVA PREMIERSHIP DEFEATS, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT GLOUCESTER GOT BACK TO WINNING WAYS, AND A HARD-FOUGHT TRIUMPH AT LONDON IRISH DULY TICKED THAT PARTICULAR BOX.

IT wasn't a pretty win, in fact it was a day when the result was arguably more important than the performance. But the 21-9 victory, Gloucester's second on the road in the Premiership this season, was a welcome one for the Cherry and Whites.

Conditions were ideal at the

Given what had come before, 11-0 looked a decent lead. However, the hosts came to life and Shane Geraghty slotted two penalties before Laidlaw responded with his third of the day.

Credit to Irish, they threw everything at Gloucester as time started to ebb away, and the Cherry and Whites

”

I THOUGHT THE GAME WAS WON IN TERMS OF OUR DEFENCE. I THOUGHT MATT KVESIC WAS OUTSTANDING AND THAT GREIG LAIDLAW CONTROLLED THE GAME WELL.

THE LEAGUE TABLE IS SO CONGESTED THAT EVERY WIN IS VITAL IF YOU WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE TEAMS ABOVE YOU. TODAY'S WIN WAS VERY IMPORTANT. **David Humphreys**

Madejski, but it was a nervy, error-ridden affair in front of a sparse crowd of fewer than 6,000.

There were very few scoring opportunities. Richard Hibbard was held up over the line after a good catch and drive, but that was as close as we came to a try. Half time came with just a solitary penalty from Greig Laidlaw to show for the efforts of both teams.

However, things came to life after the break. Laidlaw doubled the lead with his second penalty, before smart work at the breakdown by Mark Atkinson created a chance for Henry Purdy to show his pace and the winger did the rest.

were indebted to some terrific defensive work from the likes of Matt Kvesic and Tom Palmer in particular.

And, having weathered the storm, Gloucester clinched the game as they moved downfield and scored. Charlie Sharples secured possession as he chased down a high kick, before James Hook slid a grubber behind the Irish defence for Steve McColl to score.

All that was left to do now was to deny Irish the consolation of even a losing bonus point. That wasn't easy in itself, but Gloucester held firm to keep their line intact and head home with the four points.

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



In a game of few attacking opportunities, the chip that James Hook produced for Steve McColl's try shone like a beacon.

Gloucester were attacking deep in the Irish 22 when Hook, faced with a wall of defenders, rolled through a grubber of his left foot which stood up perfectly for McColl to gather and score.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

LINE-UP

15	FB	STEVE MCCOLL
14	W	CHARLIE SHARPLES
13	C	HENRY PURDY
12	C	BILLY TWELVETREES
11	W	SHANE MONAHAN
10	FH	JAMES HOOK
9	SH	GREIG LAIDLAW
1	P	YANN THOMAS
2	H	ALEKI LUTUI
3	P	JOHN AFOA
4	L	TOM SAVAGE
5	L	TOM PALMER
6	F	SIONE KALAMAFONI
7	F	MATT KVESIC
8	N8	GARETH EVANS

REPLACEMENTS

16	R	DARREN DAWIDIUK
17		SHAUN KNIGHT
18	R	SILA PUAFISI
19	R	ELLIOT STOOKE
20	R	ROSS MORIARTY
21	R	CALLUM BRALEY
22	R	BILLY BURNS
23	R	MARK ATKINSON



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

35

TRIES: McColl (21), Hook (29), Kvesic (71), Atkinson (75) PENS: Laidlaw (6, 16, 26) CONS: Laidlaw (22), Burns (72, 76)



ZEBRE RUGBY

10

TRIES: Daniller (8), Visentin (45)



ZEBRE RUGBY

LINE-UP

15	FB	HENNIE DANILLER
14	W	GIOVANBATTISTA VENDITTI
13	C	MIRCO BERGAMASCO
12	C	MATTEO PRATICETTI
11	W	MICHELE VISENTIN
10	FH	LUCIANO ORQUERA
9	SH	GUGLIELMO PALAZZANI
1	P	ANDREA LOVOTTI
2	H	ANDREA MANICI
3	P	DARIO CHISTOLINI
4	L	GEORGE FABIO BIAGI
5	L	MARCO BORTOLAMI
6	F	JACOPO SARTO
7	F	FILIPPO CRISTIANO
8	N8	DRIES VAN SCHALKWYK

REPLACEMENTS

16	R	OLIVIERO FABIANI
17	R	ANDREA DE MARCHI
18	R	LORENZO ROMANO
19	R	SAMUELA VUNISA
20	R	VALERIO BERNABO
21	R	BRENDON LEONARD
22	R	DAVID ODIETE
23	R	KELLY HAIMONA



ROUND 03

GLOUCESTER SECURE CRUCIAL BONUS POINT VICTORY

HAVING KICKED OFF THEIR EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP CAMPAIGN WITH TWO WINS FROM THEIR OPENING TWO GAMES, GLOUCESTER ENTERTAINED ZEBRE AT KINGSHOLM HOPING TO MAINTAIN THE WINNING HABIT.

HOWEVER, this promised to be far from an easy task against the Italian side who came into the game still very much in touch in Pool 5 having secured a memorable away win in Brive in round 2.

Gloucester knew that a win would put them in a strong position at the top of the table but,

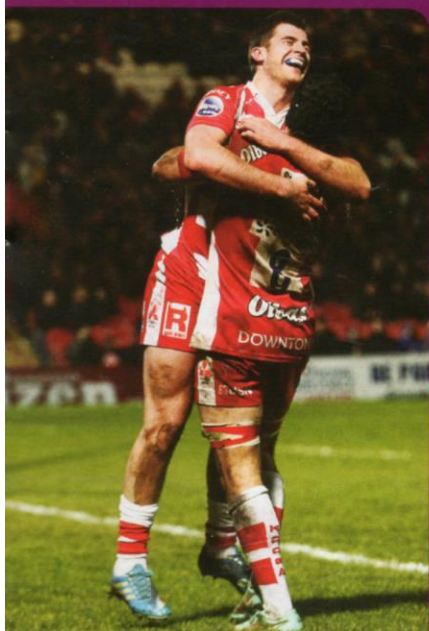
Things started brightly enough with a Greig Laidlaw penalty opening up an early 3-0 lead, but the visitors stunned the home crowd with a try from Hennie Daniller after Gloucester couldn't deal with a high kick from Luciano Orquera.

It wasn't quite what the home crowd expected, but Gloucester nudged their way

”

IT'S JOB DONE WITH A GOOD SCORELINE AND I'M DELIGHTED WITH THE WAY WE GOT THE EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN STARTED. **David Humphreys**

on a sunny but chilly afternoon, found the going tough from very early on.



back in front with a second Laidlaw penalty before striking twice in quick succession to open up a decent lead.

Steve McColl scored the first, coming into the line from his full-back position to run on to a beautifully delayed pass from Billy Twelvetrees while James Hook added a second after patient build up play and good handling from the forwards.

The two tries bookended a third penalty from Greig Laidlaw and saw Gloucester go into half time with a 21-5 advantage.

It had been a slightly disjointed first 40 minutes from Gloucester, but everything looked set fair for them to complete the job in the second half.

Things didn't quite go according to plan. Zebre scored

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



This once again goes to Matt Kvesic. The flanker had to power through several tackles to make the line for the third try, giving Gloucester the momentum and self-belief to push on for the bonus point score.

early on in the second half through winger Michele Visentin and then proceeded to frustrate Gloucester with some dogged defence as the second half ticked by.

Indeed, there were murmurings of frustration around Kingsholm as the game went into the final ten minutes without Gloucester having added to their first half tally.

However, Matt Kvesic repeated his contribution in round two in Oyonnax as he smashed through several tackles to score the third. Crucially, Gloucester had just enough time to regroup and clinch the bonus point through Mark Atkinson.

So, mission accomplished in part one of the Zebre double-header, but Gloucester knew they would face a stern challenge in Parma the following Saturday if they were to complete the Italian Job.

TODAY'S TEAMS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY vs WASPS

REFEREE: Dean Richards ASSISTANTS: Gareth Copsey and Andy Watson

TEAMS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT

TPCD
□□□□

STEVE **McCOLL**
FULL-BACK

□□□□

CHARLIE **SHARPLES**
RIGHT WING

□□□□

HENRY **PURDY**
OUTSIDE CENTRE

□□□□

BILLY **TWELVETREES** (C)
INSIDE CENTRE

□□□□

JONNY **MAY**
LEFT WING

□□□□

JAMES **HOOK**
FLY-HALF

□□□□

GREIG **LAIDLAW**
SCRUM-HALF

□□□□

YANN **THOMAS**
LOOSEHEAD PROP

□□□□

RICHARD **HIBBARD**
HOOKER

□□□□

JOHN **AFOA**
TIGHTHEAD PROP

□□□□

TOM **SAVAGE**
LOCK

□□□□

TOM **PALMER**
LOCK

□□□□

SIONE **KALAMAFONI**
BLINDSIDE FLANKER

□□□□

MATT **KVESIC**
OPENSIDE FLANKER

□□□□

ROSS **MORIARTY**
NUMBER EIGHT

□□□□

DARREN **DAWIDIUK**
REPLACEMENT 1

□□□□

NICK **WOOD**
REPLACEMENT 2

□□□□

SILA **PUAFISI**
REPLACEMENT 3

□□□□

JAMES **HUDSON**
REPLACEMENT 4

□□□□

ELLIOTT **STOOKE**
REPLACEMENT 5

□□□□

DAN **ROBSON**
REPLACEMENT 6

□□□□

MARK **ATKINSON**
REPLACEMENT 7

□□□□

DAVID **HALAIFONU**
REPLACEMENT 8

15

ANDREA **MASI**
FULL-BACK

14

CHRISTIAN **WADE**
RIGHT WING

13

ELLIOT **DALY**
OUTSIDE CENTRE

12

CHRIS **BELL**
INSIDE CENTRE

11

SAILOSI **TAGICAKIBAU**
LEFT WING

10

ANDY **GOODE**
FLY-HALF

9

JOE **SIMPSON**
SCRUM-HALF

1

MATT **MULLAN**
LOOSEHEAD PROP

2

EDD **SHERVINGTON**
HOOKER

3

JAKE **COOPER-WOOLLEY**
TIGHTHEAD PROP

4

BRADLEY **DAVIES**
LOCK

5

JAMES **GASKELL**
LOCK

6

ASHLEY **JOHNSON**
BLINDSIDE FLANKER

7

JAMES **HASKELL** (C)
OPENSIDE FLANKER

8

NATHAN **HUGHES**
NUMBER EIGHT

16

TOM **LINDSAY**
REPLACEMENT 1

17

SIMON **McINTYRE**
REPLACEMENT 2

18

LORENZO **CITTADINI**
REPLACEMENT 3

19

KEARNAN **MYALL**
REPLACEMENT 4

20

SAM **JONES**
REPLACEMENT 5

21

CHARLIE **DAVIES**
REPLACEMENT 6

22

ALEX **LOZOWSKI**
REPLACEMENT 7

23

ROB **MILLER**
REPLACEMENT 8

TPCD
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