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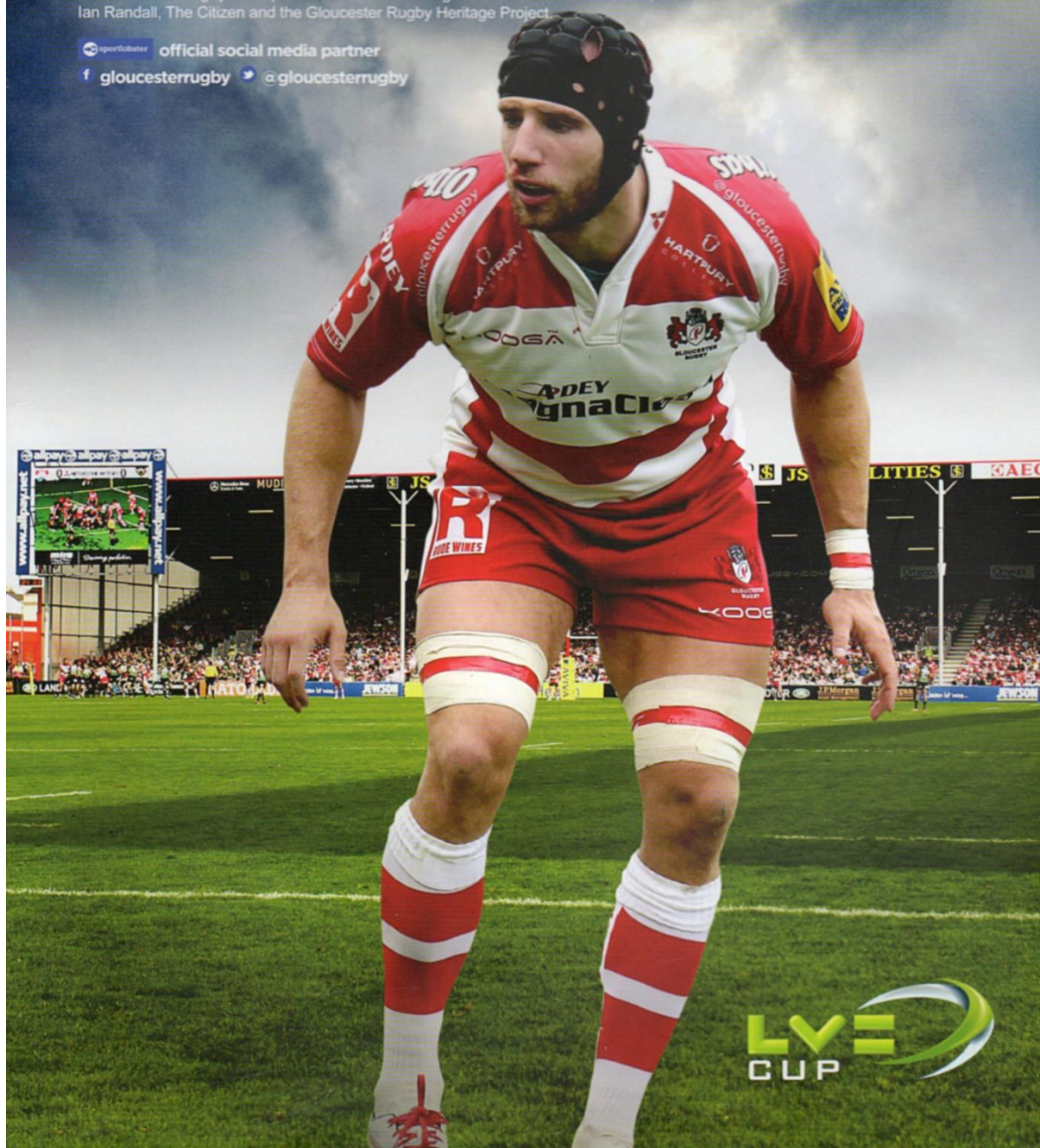
vs Harlequins

LV= Cup Round 4: 07.02.2015

Inside today's matchday programme we have an exclusive interview with returning back-rower Jacob Rowan, an exclusive A to Z from Dan Thomas, world and local rugby news plus features from our regular contributors Bob Fenton, Ian Randall, The Citizen and the Gloucester Rugby Heritage Project.

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LV=
CUP



CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO TODAY'S GAME AGAINST HARLEQUINS, THE SECOND OF BACK TO BACK HOME GAMES WITH EVERYTHING STILL VERY MUCH TO PLAY FOR IN THIS SEASON'S LV= CUP.



LAST weekend, it was great to see the young lads put in a super performance against an experienced Ospreys side. For the team to finish with three eighteen year-olds on the field at the end is something we can be massively proud of, and also something that supporters can get really excited about.

It is testament to the hard work that Bucko is putting in with our Academy, and a fantastic moment for Ollie Thorley to dive over for

his first senior try in a composed overall performance.

It is very important during this period that we build on the good performances that we put in during January, to go unbeaten so far in 2015 is a good achievement. But we still strive to improve on that, I know that Laurie and David will be reminding us of that as we go forward.

Jonny (May) and myself have been in England camp since last weekend, and it's good to be

involved with the squad gearing up for a massively exciting calendar year. However, there is plenty of hard work to focus on both domestically for Gloucester and internationally if we both get the chance to get on the field.

The atmosphere in camp was great as the whole squad prepared for Wales, and as you read this, we hope to have picked up a favourable result in Cardiff yesterday evening!

This time of the season is a very important phase for the Gloucester squad. It is a time where the whole team really have to pull together and stay strong, but I know that there will be a lot of boys hungry to put down a marker when given the chance, and this has definitely been shown in how they have performed, especially last week against Ospreys.

To have over 12,000 tickets sold on a bitterly cold afternoon last week is something very special. The boys have all spoken at what a great turnout that was, and it shows the passion in our fan base to get behind the promising next generation of players. And I have no doubt that today it will be no different.

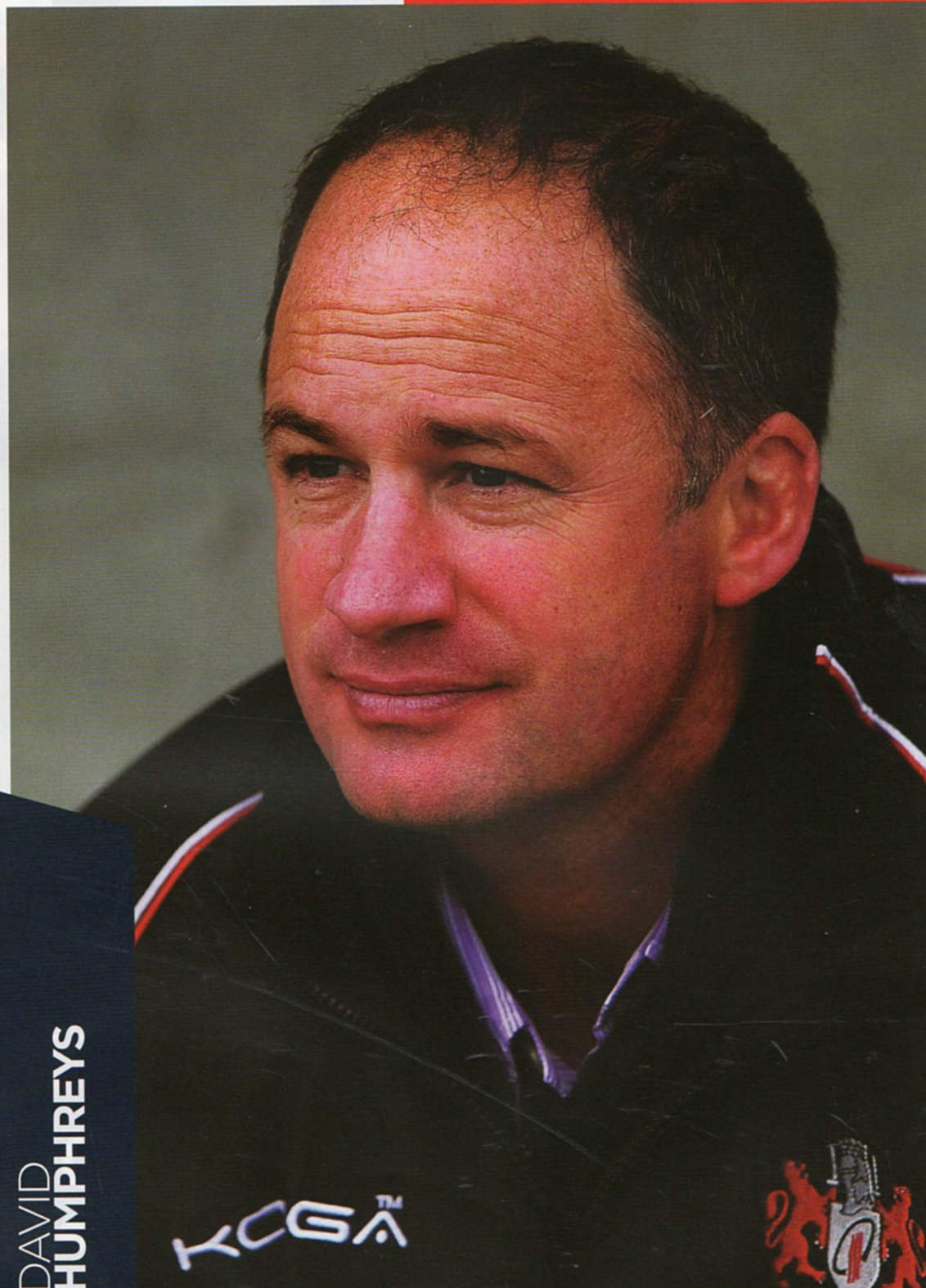
Thank you for your support, and enjoy the game!



” THIS TIME OF THE SEASON IS A VERY IMPORTANT PHASE FOR THE GLOUCESTER SQUAD. IT IS A TIME WHERE THE WHOLE TEAM REALLY HAVE TO PULL TOGETHER AND STAY STRONG, BUT I KNOW THAT THERE WILL BE A LOT OF BOYS HUNGRY TO PUT DOWN A MARKER WHEN GIVEN THE CHANCE...

Billy

DIR. OF
RUGBY | DAVID
HUMPHREYS



DAVID
HUMPHREYS

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GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR OUR FINAL GROUP MATCH IN THIS SEASON'S LV= CUP

AFTER a great win against the Ospreys last weekend, qualification for the semi finals is still a possibility. The format of the competition is not something I've experienced before, but we need another good win today and hope that Exeter can beat Saracens in London tomorrow.

Regardless of whether we qualify or not, the LV= Cup has been invaluable to us this season both from a player development perspective and also as an opportunity for the new coaching team to assess players in a competitive environment.

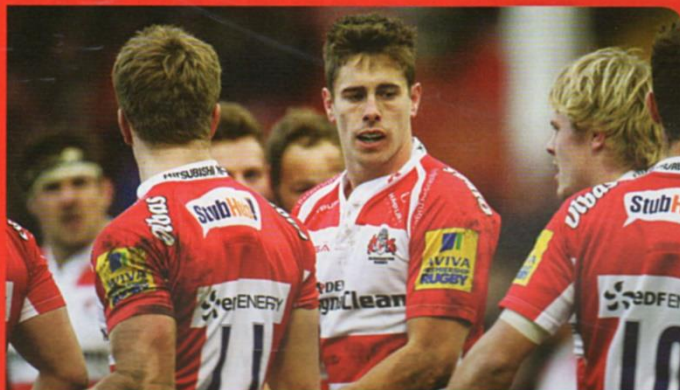
No matter how often you see someone in training, players can really only be judged on how they perform in the starting XV against quality opposition.

Against the Ospreys last Saturday, we had a good blend of youth and experience and the last 15 minutes of the match, with three schoolboys in the backline, gave us a brief snapshot of players who can

aspects of our performance were very good but, as a group, we know we need to keep improving and keep building on the momentum we've created so far in 2015 by finishing January unbeaten!

will have one eye on the results from Cardiff, Rome and Paris and I'm sure you'll join me in wishing success to all the Gloucester players representing their countries.

However, the results over



Harlequins are our guests today and, although they can't progress in the LV= Cup, they will be coming to Kingsholm determined to give themselves something to build on ahead of the return to Aviva Premiership action next weekend.

the next few Aviva Premiership fixtures will have a massive impact on how we finish the season. We didn't play well during the last international window in November but hopefully we have learnt some lessons from then and we can

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represent Gloucester for many years to come.

It was a very good test for us and everyone was delighted to continue our five match winning run against a side that sit at the top of the Pro12. Certain

They have also been affected by international call ups but their depth of squad has been one of the reasons they have been competing at the top of the English game over the past few seasons and is something we aspire to match. Under Conor O'Shea, Harlequins have been very successful in developing quality young talent through their Academy with some of those players on display today.

With the Six Nations kicking off this weekend, most rugby fans

continue to win games and climb the table.

Finally, it was absolutely fantastic to see so many supporters brave the cold last weekend to come out and support us.

Knowing that they have support like that behind them makes a massive difference to the players and staff and makes us even more determined to bring success to this great club.

David

THE VIEW FROM The Citizen



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**CAMPAIGN
LAUNCHED**
to save the
Westgate pub in
Gloucester

**THE BEAST
FROM THE
EAST** will make
temperatures feel
like -5C

**TALKING
POINT:** Was
deadline day
worth all the hype?

**ARMY OF
CYBERCRIME
FIGHTERS**
comes to
Gloucester

COMING OUT OF THE DARKNESS

THE tragic death of Nevin Spence weighed heavy on the shoulders of Gloucester's new signing Paddy McAllister but, after coming out of the darkness, he is determined to do his dear friend proud.

It has been more than two years since the Ulster centre was killed alongside his father Noel and brother Graham in a slurry tank accident on the family farm in Hillsborough, County Down.

McAllister came through the Ulster and Ireland ranks alongside Spence and they shared a house while they were in the province's academy. As two young, devout Christians they naturally became close.

His loss, as David Humphreys can testify, hit everyone involved with the Ravenhill outfit hard and for McAllister it came just a month after he ruptured knee ligaments in a season ending injury.

"I had a tough couple of years at Ulster with injuries and personal stuff with the loss of Nevin," said McAllister.

"I can't go through the rollercoaster of it all but everyone struggles with tough times and I've also been dealing with the injuries for two and a half years.

"It all came in the space of a month, I was young and it really took a toll on me and I struggled



(above) Signed Paddy McAllister will be looking to make an impact next season

(right) Friends Paddy came through the ranks at Ulster with his friend Nevin Spence

to get back.

"We came through everything together, the under-18s, 19s and 20s with both Ulster and Ireland, we even lived together when we first came into the academy.

"It was a great friendship and

” THE SCRUMS ARE VERY TOUGH IN FRANCE AND IT’S A BIG EYE OPENER. IF YOU ARE GOING FORWARD FRENCH REFEREES WILL GIVE YOU THE PENALTY REGARDLESS OF THE LEGALITY OF THE SCRUMMAGING. THERE ARE A LOT ODD DARK ARTS AND A LOT OF BIG POLYNESIAN AND GEORGIAN PROPS. **Paddy McAllister**

initially I found it tough to talk about but now I am just so proud and honoured to have known him.

“When you grow up together and go through different stages you talk about certain things. I want to show what he saw in me as a rugby player. I want to show him that he was right to believe in me, like I was 110 per cent behind him as well.

“I don’t have the mentality that I am doing it for him, if I fail it would feel very sad. The motivation is more about making those people that I care about proud.

“We were two Christians that came through the system together. That belief has been a big help to me because it was a struggle.”

McAllister descended further as his recovery from the lateral and cruciate ligament rupture was stalled by hamstring setbacks due to the grafts he had for the operation.

A contract extension was on the table at Ravenhill but former Ulster and Ireland second-row Jeremy Davidson offered him a clean break in France with Pro D2 side Aurillac – something which has proved invaluable to his recovery.

“Jeremy Davidson was the forwards coach when I first started at Ulster and he gave me the option of going to France. Ulster had already offered me a contract but he got in touch with my agents.

“I was getting married in the summer and my wife Deborah and I thought it would be a good way to get out, enjoy life again and try something new.”

McAllister has plied his trade mainly at tight-head this season but has been signed by Gloucester to pack down



predominantly on the loose.

And after idolising David Humphreys as a child, the 25-year-old is grateful for the opportunity and relishing his return to the top flight of the game.

After two years in south-central France, the former Ireland Under-20 international is not so much re-launching his career but stepping back onto the front-line.

“When I went to France the aim was always to do what I had to do to get back into a top team again. I am mentally and physically ready to show my ability again now,” he said.

“I have had two years out and now I’m raring to go and prove myself. Some might say I’m re-launching my career but

it’s not now or never, I’m only 25 and took a chance in France, I’ve always known my ability and never thought it was over. Hopefully I have 10 years left in me.

“I actually came to France to learn to play tight-head and I’ve been playing there this year until injuries meant I have gone back.

“I have had three months playing tight-head and now with the injuries I have moved back to the loose. I would class myself as a specialist loose-head that is confident at tight-head as well.

“The scrums are very tough in France and it’s a big eye opener. If you are going forward French referees will give you the penalty regardless of the legality of the scrummaging. There are a lot odd dark arts and a lot of big Polynesian and Georgian props.

“David contacted my agents and I talked to him about the possibility of coming back and playing loose-head. That’s worked out well.

“He was a player for Ulster when I was in school and is a massive rugby figure, probably the biggest. When I was in the academy he was always massively supportive and through the injuries he’s always told me how much he is on my side.

“He looked after me very well at Ulster and now I have the chance to work with him again at Gloucester it’s an opportunity I will take with both hands.

“I’m very grateful to David but I have also worked very hard, that’s the only way you can come out of a dark place.”

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BOSSING
THE SCRUM
GREAT SCRUM HALVES
PART ONE**"DAI" GENT**

Born in Llandovery in 1883, David Robert "Dai" Gent, came to Gloucestershire to train as a teacher at St Paul's College, Cheltenham, where he captained the 1st XV. Joining Gloucester, he made 146 appearances for the club between 1903 and 1911, quickly striking up an outstanding half back partnership with Jimmy Stephens.

Described as "the smallest player in first class rugby" but "as big in heart and gifted in skill as he is small in stature", Dai was scrum half reserve for Wales in all three home internationals in 1904-05.

However, after playing well for Gloucestershire in the 1905-06 championship, he caught the eye of the England selectors and in January 1906 made his England debut against the All Blacks at Crystal Palace. He went on to play against Ireland and Wales that season.

Dai was elected club captain for the 1906-07 season, but

injury restricted his appearances. He came back for perhaps his most notable season in 1909-10, culminating in Gloucestershire's first County Championship title. He returned to England colours to play against Wales in the first international played at Twickenham and also against Ireland in England's Championship winning side.

Dai Gent became headmaster of Saltash School and rugby correspondent of the Sunday Times.

"FATHER" DIX

John William Dix, universally known by the nickname "Father" (but nobody could remember why), was born in Gloucester in 1884 and came to the club from St Marks RFC. He made his debut in 1907, and became first choice in his position with the departure of Dai Gent in 1910. He went on to play 235 games for the club.



Renowned for his cleverness and individuality behind the scrum

and his noisy encouragement of the pack, he became the driving force in the Gloucester side. But it was after the 1914-18 war that wider recognition came his way.

After service with the 8th Gloucesters, "Father" Dix returned to partner outside half Tom Millington for club and county. The brilliant pairing was a major part in Gloucestershire winning successive County Championships in 1920-21-22.

In his last county game before retirement Dix scored a try in Gloucestershire's 19-0 victory over North Midlands at Villa Park which brought them their third successive title. He was reserve for all four internationals in 1919-20, and again in 1921-22.

DICK MILLINER

A miner at Ruspidge Colliery, the veteran Dick Milliner was 35 and captain of Cinderford RFC when he joined Gloucester in November 1924 in response to an emergency call. For the next five seasons and 122 games, he was first choice at scrum half. His tireless defence and work rate behind the scrum brought him a county cap the next month and he went on to play in the County Championship Final against Leicestershire.

After Gloucestershire unexpectedly lost to Hampshire in the semi final the following season, The Times bemoaned the fact that "so much hard and clever work by Milliner had been thrown away." In 1926-27, he played for the county in a 3-0 victory over the touring New Zealand Maoris



Dick Milliner, Cinderford Captain

and a 14-4 victory over the county champions Yorkshire.

DANNY EVANS

Another veteran scrum half who joined Gloucester late in his career was David Dan Evans from Barry, Glamorgan. Capped once by Wales in 1934, the diminutive Evans played 80 games for Gloucester from 1945-1949.



Danny Evans's 1934 trial & international caps

Danny Evans took up a teaching post at Sir Thomas Rich's school and joined Gloucester RFC early in 1945. The following year, outside half Willie Jones joined the club and for the next three seasons the partnership between the two Welshmen was at the heart of everything the Gloucester team achieved. Together they were fondly known as the "little Welsh wizards".

Evans's ability to create an opening and his surprisingly long pass for so small a man gave Jones the time that he needed to work his magic. Despite his size, it was Danny's proud boast that no scrum half had ever scored a try against him.

Aged 38, Danny Evans was

outstanding for club and county in 1947-48, when Gloucester equalled their record number of wins and Gloucestershire reached the semi-final of the County Championship. He continued to shine for Gloucestershire the following season and played his last game for the club one month short of his fortieth birthday.

MICKY BOOTH

Nicknamed "the General", because of his surname, Mickey Booth lived up to that name on the pitch. A local Gloucester hero, born within a stone's throw of the Kingsholm ground, he played 473 games for his home club in a career spanning the sixteen seasons 1956-72.

Add to this 42 appearances for Gloucestershire and a number of England trials and it will be well understood why his failure to win an England cap is a talking point among older Gloucester fans to this day.

A product of Sir Thomas Rich's School and the Spartans and Longlevens clubs, Mickey Booth made his first XV debut while still seventeen. He quickly made his mark and became a county first choice player with an England trial to his name before the age of 20. In 1959 he was joined by outside half Terry Hopson to form a partnership that would last for eleven seasons and 206 games.

His accurate passing, immaculate kicking and little sniping runs kept his side going forward and his dummy runs from the base of the scrum caught many



Booth gets the ball away

an opposition player offside.

National Service with the RAF prevented Mickey from reaching the magic 500 appearances for Gloucester, but he played in the RAF XV which won the Services Tournament at Twickenham in 1962. His career ended on a high with the 17-6 victory over Moseley in Gloucester's first cup final.

JOHN SPALDING

Born in Gloucester in 1944, John Spalding played 235 games for his club. Called up from Spartans to make his 1st XV debut against Plymouth Albion at the age of 16, the Citizen commented that "he took up the scrum half position like an old pro" but, after a season in the United ranks, he moved to join Stroud.

Returning to Gloucester, John played regularly as Mickey Booth's



deputy for three seasons before appearing in no less than 49 games in 1969-70. He was playing well and The Times commented that he had enough ideas to hold his own even against Laidlaw, the great All Blacks scrum half.

The next season, although again playing second fiddle at Gloucester to Mickey Booth, he was chosen to play for Gloucestershire in the semi-final and final of the County Championship and for Western Counties. First choice for two seasons after Mickey's retirement, John played in Gloucester's centenary game victory at Kingsholm in October 1973, when a star-studded international XV were beaten 24-14.



PLAYER
FEATURE

JACOB
ROWAN

THE BIG PUSH

BACK TO FITNESS, AND BACK IN CHERRY AND WHITE, SUMMER SIGNING JACOB ROWAN IS DELIGHTED TO BE LACING UP HIS BOOTS READY FOR A BUSY SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON.

HAVING recovered from an injury suffered in the Round Two win over Sale Sharks, Rowan is looking forward to making his mark after almost four months on the sidelines.

"It's good to be back. Obviously getting injured at the start of the season wasn't great, but now I'm back fit I'm looking forward to building on last week, and playing this weekend."

Cherry and White supporters got their first glimpse of the former Yorkshire Carnegie back rower in the Premiership Rugby Sevens and Rowan was thrilled with the way the tournament kicked off his career at Kingsholm.

"It was great, it was really successful kicking off with a great home leg at Kingsholm with the crowd right behind us. To go unbeaten there and go down to the Stoop and win the tournament, it was a really great feeling.

"It definitely helped me settle in. In pre-season it can just be about hard work, so to get out on the field in a competitive environment and fixtures was really good for both the body and the mind. It was perfect preparation to the season getting going, and my time at Gloucester.

"To lift a trophy as well was great, the momentum in the team



WE'RE AT THAT
STAGE NOW WHERE
EVERYTHING IS STARTING
TO CLICK AND WE'RE
GETTING WINS AND
POINTS ON THE BOARD.



environment gave everyone in that Sevens squad a real boost, and it works in the full team too.

"Hopefully across these two LV= Cup games, we can continue that and build on the good performances from the start of the New Year."

Rowan had a tough debut in the Premiership at Northampton Saints in Round One, but he can clearly see the progress made in the squad since the opening round at Franklin's Gardens.

"We've definitely developed since that night, everyone has come together and things have started to click. Everyone was aware of that game with new players and new coaches, everything takes time to gel."

"We're at that stage now where everything is starting to click and we're getting wins and points on the board."

After endless hours spent in rehab over the



DID YOU
KNOW?

JACOB WAS THE YOUNGEST EVER LEEDS
CAPTAIN AT 23 YEARS OLD

autumn, Rowan made his return to action against Sale Jets in the A League in January, alongside fellow long-term injury casualty Dan Murphy.

"It was a good feeling to get out on the pitch, it was pretty grim conditions, but Murph and I had a long time on the sidelines together, so to get back out there, put the boots on and start playing was great."

Kingsholm again this season has displayed the talent emerging from the Championship, with Rowan no exception, and the Leeds University graduate knows how much talent held in the second tier.

"There is a real plethora of talent in the Championship, it is a really competitive league,

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IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK. OBVIOUSLY GETTING INJURED AT THE START OF THE SEASON WASN'T GREAT, BUT NOW I'M BACK FIT I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO BUILDING ON LAST WEEK...

HOPEFULLY ACROSS THESE TWO LV= CUP GAMES, WE CAN CONTINUE THAT AND BUILD ON THE GOOD PERFORMANCES FROM THE START OF THE NEW YEAR.

and I think it is only going to get more competitive. I am sure there are plenty of players that are capable of performing well in the Premiership and take that next step up. It's all about taking the chance when it comes."

And, with plenty of rugby ahead this season, Rowan is focused on the short-term.

"I'm only targeting the next few weeks and getting myself back to full fitness, and then I'll try and crack on from there."

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BOB FENTON'S

KINGSHOLM NEWS

” FOR A CLUB LIKE GLOUCESTER, ONE THAT HAS FIRM ROOTS IN THE COMMUNITY, HAVING THIS KIND OF SET UP IS ESSENTIAL. YOU CAN'T RUN YOUR CLUB JUST BY DRAGGING IN PLAYERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES - WELL, NOT UNLESS YOU ARE SARACENS, OF COURSE! IF YOU DO THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CLUB AND COMMUNITY WILL NEVER BE AS STRONG.

WELL, last weekend was a bit of fun wasn't it - a whole bunch of tries and a nail biting last few minutes. Only at Gloucester...

So we now know that, courtesy of London Welsh losing to Saracens (who'd have thought, London Welsh losing a game!) it all comes down to the last round of matches to see who

progresses from the pool. Two points separate us and Saracens now, so a bonus point win today really is a must. Then we need Exeter - who look home and hosed from their group - to do us a favour and sneak a win up at Allianz Park.

They say you are getting old when policemen start to look young, but I can tell you that you really are old - really, really old -

when most of the players turning out for your team are younger than your own kids! Exciting though, it's great that Gloucester are giving their under 15s the chance to play on the big stage.

Joking apart, it was great to see so many of the young guns climbing onto the big stage and looking quite at home. We know the potential of players like Braley, Reynolds and Purdy, but others like Tom Hicks, Dan Thomas and Ollie Thorley looked like they were born to be rugby players. Exciting times with guys like this coming through the system, a huge credit must go to Pete Buxton and the Academy coaches for the work they are doing down there.

These guys coming through the ranks are the lifeblood of the club. While the big signings of the likes of Jeremy Thrush are crucial - an awesome addition to the ranks, by the way - getting your own young players through the Academy and A team set ups through to the first team is, for me, just as important.

For a club like Gloucester, one that has firm roots in the community, having this kind of set up is essential. You can't run your club just by dragging in players from other countries - well, not unless you are Saracens, of course! If you do, the connection



Bucko and the Academy coaches are doing a great job



James Bailey: scorer of THAT try

between club and community will never be as strong.

Talking of nail biting finishes - as I was at the top of this page - I really enjoyed reading Ian Randall's run down of past matches that have gone to the wire. If you missed it, he listed his top 10 tight games.

He got the obvious ones - the recent Sarries game, THAT Leicester game, various cuffling ups in play off matches etc, but he missed a few, that's for sure.

No mention of that game against West Hartlepool back in (I think) 1993 when Tim 'dead eye' Stimpson had a kick from pretty much in front of the posts to win the game for West Hartlepool and condemn us to almost certain relegation - he missed. We breathed and Gloucester Royal cancelled the overtime for everyone in the cardiac unit.

Or what about the do or die battle - spot the theme here - with Saracens which, again, was pretty much a winner take all affair. Again we scrapped home - Reg Windo scoring the most important

try of his life, as I recall. Or ones that have gone the other way - Wasps pinching it at the end of the game where Sinbad and James Bailey combined for that brilliant score.

I wish I hadn't mentioned that one - still rankles not least for the less than sporting reaction of



Dan Robson is looking to leave Gloucester on a high

several Wasps players at the end of the game.

That was a good example of my worst nightmare: games we are leading by a few points. For me any game that has us leading by six points going into the last few minutes comes under the heading of nail biting. I don't know why but we always seem to lose a bit of control in these games and watching becomes almost unbearable.

From our safe position in the stands we cannot understand why we don't just hang on to the ball and see the game out. I guess the fact that the other side still knows that the game is in the balance might have something to do with it, but that is scant consolation for my shredded nerves!

None of that today then, please. Harlequins have nothing to play for in this competition so any Quins' players reading this waffle before the game, do the decent thing and roll over for us. I'm getting on a bit and close games are bad for my health.

So, finally a bit of a plug - we're well into the production of the third issue of @Holm - another great mix of articles and, hopefully, one or two surprises. Feedback from the first two has been great, and more comments - both good and bad - is always welcome. As one of my directors in my day job is very fond of saying '... feedback is the food of giants...' So, keep it coming.

And I have to mention my co-editor: Dan Robson. We all know Dan is leaving at the end of the season, but the way he has conducted himself and his obvious determination to go out on a high by working as hard as he can for the team is brilliant, and a huge testament to him.

A really great attitude and one that is so very different to that which we see in other sports where sulking and petulance are more the norm. Long may it continue.

IAN RANDALL'S RUGBY TALK

TODAY IS THE SEVENTH HOME MATCH OUT OF THE LAST TEN FIXTURES, A SEQUENCE THAT HAS ALSO SEEN AN UPTURN IN RESULTS, PROGRESS IN THE CHALLENGE CUP AND - PENDING WHAT HAPPENS THIS WEEKEND - THE CHANCE OF AN LV= SEMI FINAL AS WELL, ALTHOUGH THAT IS NOT SOLELY IN GLOUCESTER'S HANDS.

THE boys (sic) must win here with a bonus point to eliminate Bath from the equation, and then hope holders Exeter win at Saracens tomorrow.

There has been a lot of discussion on social media about players being signed for next season, but it would be wrong to forget a man who could make an impression before the summer, and who we've yet to see although he's been at the club since October.

Mariano Galarza injured his left shoulder playing for Argentina against Australia in Mendoza the day before he was due to fly to Kingsholm and link up with the squad. 15 weeks later, he told me there is light at the end of a long tunnel.

"It was bad that when I arrived I needed surgery and the improvement was slow" he said.

"The last three weeks have been much better and it has improved a lot and I am hoping that in between four and six weeks I can be playing. My

target is the first week of March and the strength and conditioning coaches are pushing me all the time.

"It is hard but I want to do my best every single day. I'm not doing contact training yet and maybe for the first couple of games I will be a bit tired but the

more minutes you have, the better your form can become."

There is never a good time to be injured, let alone in a World Cup year. The 28 year old has 24 caps for the Pumas and also had a long spell on the sidelines three years ago when his other shoulder was damaged, so



understandably he wants to get some sharpness before the build up to the tournament really kicks in.

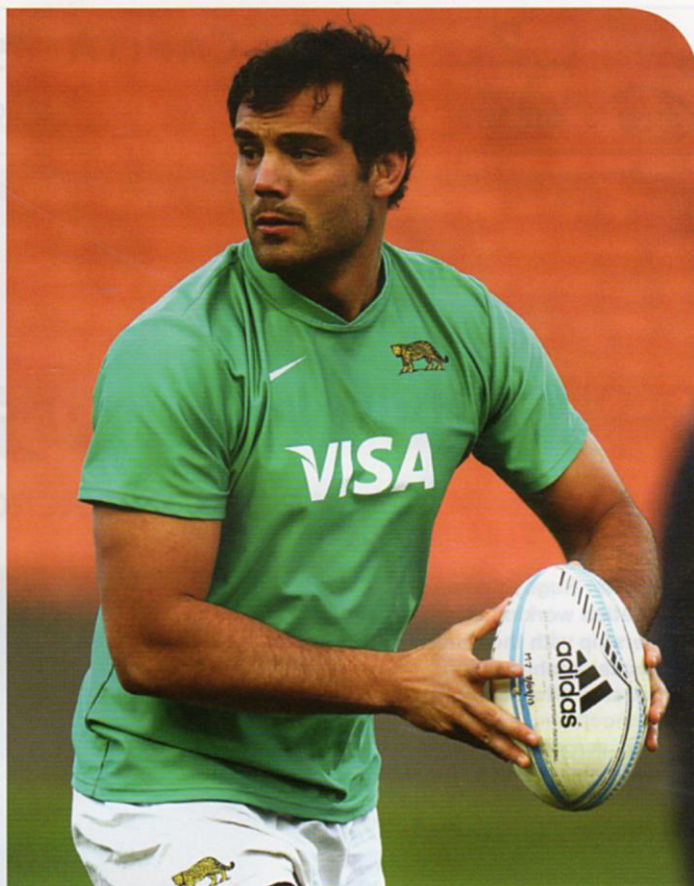
"I'm not really thinking about the World Cup at the moment because my target is getting my shoulder right and trying to gain a place in the Gloucester team," Galarza continues.

"I was at Worcester last season, and the chance to come here I saw as a step forward and a move to a bigger club. When you arrive you have energy and you want to show what you can bring to the team.

"When you cannot do that it is frustrating and I don't want my first game at Kingsholm to be for Argentina in the World Cup. I would prefer it to be for Gloucester."

Galarza is enthused by the signing of Jeremy Thrush, in his words "a fantastic player who brings good skills, strength and leadership," but that's for the future.

He wants to add his own middle jumping expertise to the Gloucester second row mix for the final lap of a season which still



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I'M NOT REALLY THINKING ABOUT THE WORLD CUP AT THE MOMENT BECAUSE MY TARGET IS GETTING MY SHOULDER RIGHT AND TRYING TO GAIN A PLACE IN THE GLOUCESTER TEAM...

I DON'T WANT MY FIRST GAME AT KINGSOLM TO BE FOR ARGENTINA IN THE WORLD CUP. I WOULD PREFER IT TO BE FOR GLOUCESTER. **Mariano Galarza**

has a lot in it.

"The wins over Exeter and Saracens were a turning point" said Galarza, who has already endeared himself to the staff around the club with his genial nature.

"Before that we would have a good game and then a bad game, we were not consistent. In the last month we have had that consistency. You can feel now there is a good energy in the players. They are hungry, and they are doing a great job."

Galarza smiles, "I am joining them for the best part of the year. I hope the coaches put me in the team and maybe I can enjoy the glory with everyone."

Harlequins come here with a sense of freedom, as they are unable to qualify for the semi finals. All their eggs are now in the Premiership basket after their Champions Cup elimination, so in the big scheme of things they will be concentrating on their return to league duties at the Ricoh Arena

against Wasps next weekend.

I would suggest that Gloucester's need for a victory, driven last week by the calmness of Aled Thomas and the energy of namesake Dan, should see them over the line.

Whether it is enough for a semi final place is then in the lap of the gods. If it isn't, Gloucester will get a two week break in mid March. Given they are already challenging on two fronts, they may be the envy of others if that's the way things pan out.



PLAYER A to Z DAN THOMAS



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



...is for best mate
...**BEST MATE** in
rugby?
Ross Moriarty and
Jonny Hill



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



...is for **DRIVE**...
what car are you
driving?
Nissan 350z

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?
Wales U16 v
England U16

...is for
NICKNAME...
What's yours?
Milky Bar Kid

...is for
OPPONENT...
Who is the best
player you have
faced up against?
Doug Howlett

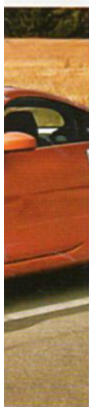
...is for **PRIDE**...
What is your
proudest moment?
First cap for Wales
Under 16s

...is for
QUICKEST...
Who is the fastest
player you have
played with or
against?
Steph Reynolds

...is for **RUN OUT**
MUSIC...what's
your tune to run
out to?
Cher - 'Believe'

...is for
SUPPORT...
What teams do
you support?
Cardiff
Athletic and
Kidwelly





...is for
FASHION...
Who is the worst
dressed player in
the squad?
Luke Cole

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

...is for
HARDMAN...
Who is the
toughest opponent
you have played
against?
Christopher
Tolofua

...is for **IDOL...**
Who is your
sporting idol?
Richie McCaw

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

...is for
KINGSHOLM
...describe
Kingsholm in three
words?
Built for rugby

...is for **LIFE after
rugby...**
What are your
future plans?
Successful Dairy
Farmer

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?
Playing for Llanelli
against Swansea

...is for
UNBELIEVABLE...
Tell us something
surprising about
yourself
I'm an Artificial
Insemination
Technician

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

...is for **WORST...**
What is the worst
thing about being
a rugby player?
Keeping the body
fat down

...is for **X-RAY...**
What is the worst
injury you have
suffered?
Dislocated elbow

...is for **YOUTH...**
What advice
would you give
to aspiring rugby
players?
Remember to
enjoy the game

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



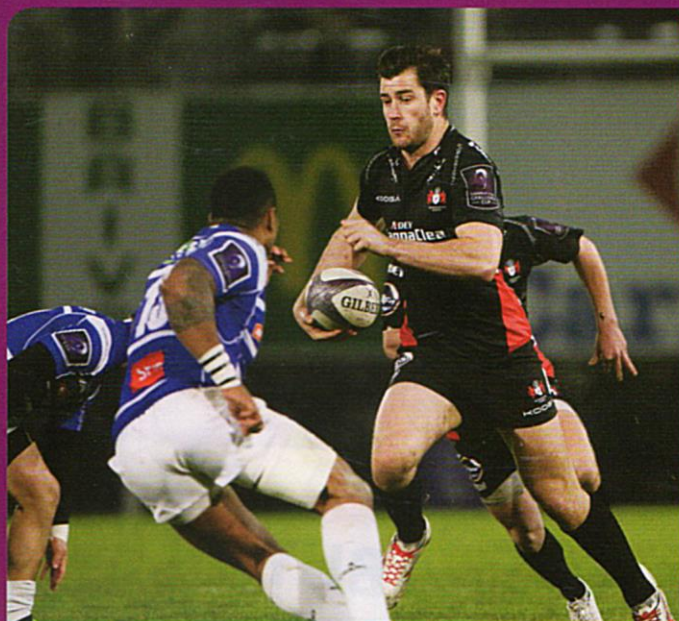
BRIVE

LINE-UP

15	FB	ROMAIN SOLA
14	W	VENIONE VORETAMAYA
13	C	SEVENAIA GALALA
12	C	RIAAN SWANEPOEL
11	W	GUILLAUME NAMY
10	FH	NICOLAS BEZY
9	SH	DAMIEN NEVEU
1	P	JOHAN COETZEE
2	H	LOUIS ACOSTA
3	P	PAT BARNARD
4	L	VICTOR LEBAS
5	L	RUSSLAN BOUKEROU
6	F	TJUEE UANIVI
7	F	SAID HIRECHE
8	NB	FABIEN LAURENT

REPLACEMENTS

16	R	THOMAS ACQUIER
17	R	KARLEN ASIESHVILI
18	R	ANTON PEIKRISHVILI
19	R	SIMON PINET
20	R	FABIEN SANCONNIE
21	R	ANDREW MAILEI
22	R	BAPTISTE DELAGE
23	R	HUGO VEYSSIERE



BRIVE

20

TRIES: Penalty try (55), Acquier (78) CONS: Swanepoel (56), Bezy (79) PENS: Swanepoel (6, 23)



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

33

TRIES: Kvesic (26, 73), Robson (31), Penalty try (48) CONS: Hook (27, 32, 48, 74) PEN: Hook (13)



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

LINE-UP

15	FB	JAMES HOOK
14	W	DAVID HALAIFONUA
13	C	MARK ATKINSON
12	C	BILLY TWELVETREES
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	ELLIOTT STOOKE
5	L	TOM PALMER
6	F	TOM SAVAGE
7	F	MATT KVESIC
8	NB	SIONE KALAMAFONI

REPLACEMENTS

16	R	ALEKI LUTUI
17	R	DAN MURPHY
18	R	SHAUN KNIGHT
19	R	JAMES HUDSON
20	R	ROSS MORIARTY
21	R	CALLUM BRALEY
22	R	BILL MEAKES
23	R	SHANE MONAHAN



ROUND 06

GLOUCESTER MAKE IT SIX FROM SIX IN EUROPE

GLOUCESTER CAME TO LIMOUSIN TO TAKE ON BRIVE KNOWING THAT THEY HAD ALREADY SECURED A HOME QUARTER-FINAL IN THE EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP.

THEY had also defeated the same opponent by 55 points to nil in the opening round of the tournament, but there was still a job to be done.

After all, there is no such thing as an easy win on French soil and Brive would no doubt be looking to defend their home turf with pride and look to make amends for that heavy defeat earlier in the season.

resulted in a first try for in-form flanker Matt Kvesic.

With Brive still coming to terms with going behind, the Cherry and Whites quickly pounced for a second. Stooke and Purdy attacked the blindside, the supporting Mark Atkinson took it on and then intelligently put a kick through for Dan Robson to run on to and score.

Gloucester could have put the

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



Gloucester's second try was beautifully taken. Elliott Stooke and Henry Purdy spotted the opportunity, before Mark Atkinson took it on, outpacing a defender before rolling a kick though for Dan Robson to score.

”

IT'S JOB DONE. WE STARTED THE COMPETITION FIRSTLY AIMING TO QUALIFY FOR THE QUARTER-FINALS, SECONDLY TO GET A HOME QUARTER-FINAL AND TO DO IT SIX OUT OF SIX IS A HUGE ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE GROUP. **David Humphreys**

And, for 25 minutes or so, this was a close, edgy encounter. However, once Gloucester scored their first try, a second quickly followed and the home team never really threatened to get back on terms.

In fact, the Cherry and Whites would probably be a little disappointed that it took them until the final few minutes to clinch the try scoring bonus point, but it would be churlish to look back negatively on a bonus point win.

An opening quarter saw both teams trying to work each other out. Tactical kicking was the order of the day, and Brive took a 6-3 lead as the goal-kickers waged their own personal battle.

However, the Gloucester pack started to slowly but surely gain the upper hand and a catch and drive

game to bed before half time, but couldn't take advantage of being a man up in the scrum when Pat Barnard was yellow carded. A couple of five metre scrums followed but no score resulted.

More niggles crept into the game at the start of the second half, David Halaifonua was sinbinned and was quickly joined there by another Brive prop in Karlen Asieshvili. Gloucester cashed in with a penalty try.

With the game slipping away from them, Brive did hit back with a penalty try of their own and, when James Hook became the fourth man yellow carded as the hour mark approached, Gloucester were looking a little nervous.

However, they weathered the storm, kept Brive at bay and secured the try scoring bonus



point six minutes from time when Matt Kvesic forced his way from close range for his second.

Job done and a home quarter-final to look forward to.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

LINE-UP

15	FB	ALED THOMAS
14	W	STEPH REYNOLDS
13	C	HENRY PURDY
12	C	BILL MEAKES
11	W	OLLIE THORLEY
10	FH	BILLY BURNS
9	SH	CALLUM BRALEY
1	P	DAN MURPHY
2	H	DARREN DAWIDIUK
3	P	SILA PUAFISI
4	L	ELLIOTT STOOKE
5	L	TOM HICKS
6	F	DANIEL THOMAS
7	F	JACOB ROWAN
8	N8	ROSS MORIARTY

REPLACEMENTS

16	R	ALEKI LUTUI
17	R	YANN THOMAS
18	R	SHAUN KNIGHT
19	R	JOE BATLEY
20	R	LEWIS LUDLOW
21	R	DAN ROBSON
22	R	ELLIOTT CREED
23	R	KAI LITTLE



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

32

TRIES: A. Thomas (3), Penalty try (16), Thorley (39), D. Thomas (45) **CONS:** Burns (4, 17, 46) **PENS:** Burns (31), A. Thomas (65)



OSPREYS

25

TRIES: John (26), Fussell (57), Grabham (67) **CONS:** Davies (27, 59) **PENS:** Davies (21, 38)



OSPREYS

LINE-UP

15	FB	RICHARD FUSSELL
14	W	TOM GRABHAM
13	C	JONATHAN SPRATT
12	C	BEN JOHN
11	W	DAFYDD HOWELLS
10	FH	SAM DAVIES
9	SH	TOM HABBERFIELD
1	P	GARETH THOMAS
2	H	SCOTT OTTEN
3	P	DAN SUTER
4	L	RYNIER BERNARDO
5	L	TEVITA CAVUBATI
6	F	OLLY CRACKNELL
7	F	IEUAN JONES
8	N8	MORGAN ALLEN

REPLACEMENTS

16	R	MATTHEW DWYER
17	R	THOMAS SLOANE
18	R	CAI GRIFFITHS
19	R	RHODRI HUGHES
20	R	IFEREIMI BOLADAU
21	R	MARTIN ROBERTS
22	R	JOE THOMAS
23	R	AISEA NATOGA

GLOUCESTER HANG ON FOR BONUS POINT VICTORY

A YOUTHFUL GLOUCESTER DID THEMSELVES PROUD AGAINST A USEFUL OSPREYS SIDE, KEEPING THE CLUB'S LV= CUP QUALIFICATION HOPES ALIVE AND MAINTAINING THE UNBEATEN START TO 2015.

THE visitors certainly didn't make life easy. They possessed some real quality in key positions and a number of big ball carriers amongst the forwards – it wasn't a day for the faint hearted in defence!

But the Cherry and Whites led from start to finish, although they were never quite able to shake

this stage - but they battled gamely and will be better for the experience.

It means that today's game is far from being a dead rubber – Gloucester need to win and hope Saracens slip up against Exeter. It's all to play for.

On a bitterly cold afternoon at Kingsholm, Gloucester did their best to warm their enthusiastic

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



Ollie Thorley became Gloucester's youngest try scorer in the modern era when Aled Thomas unselfishly put him in just before half time. The Cheltenham College pupil beat the previous best, set by Rory Teague.

”

IT WAS A GOOD GAME TODAY, A TOUGH GAME. THE OSPREYS CAME HERE TO PLAY, THEY HAD AN EXPERIENCED BACK LINE AND SOME BIG HITTEES UP FRONT.

WE GOT OUT IN FRONT, AND PERHAPS LET THEM BACK INTO IT A LITTLE BIT, BUT I'M DELIGHTED WITH THE PERFORMANCE. **Nick Walshe**

off a dogged opponent, and really had to front up to keep the Ospreys at bay in the final stages.

It would have been an unfamiliar scenario for many of the younger members of the team – Gloucester had three schoolboys in the backline by

supporters from the off. The Ospreys defence was carved open after only three minutes as Aled Thomas dived over and a penalty try quickly followed.

It wasn't to be all plain sailing, however. Sam Davies, son of former Gloucester Director of Rugby Nigel, kicked a 21st minute penalty before Ben John picked off an errant Gloucester pass to get his team right back in the mix at 14-10.

Ill-discipline then rocked the Ospreys as they lost both half backs to yellow cards before half time. Billy Burns punished the first indiscretion with a penalty and Ollie Thorley crossed for the third try on the stroke of half time.

22-13 up at the interval, Gloucester would have wanted to kill the game off quickly, and

Dan Thomas seemed to do that when he charged down Richard Fussell's attempted clearance and gathered to score.

The game then went into something of a scrappy phase as numerous replacements on both sides affected the flow of the match, but Fussell gave his side hope as the hour mark approached, stepping out of a tackle to score.

Aled Thomas steadied the ship with a 65th minute penalty, but still the Ospreys wouldn't be finished off. Davies was the inspiration, hoofing an accurate cross kick for Tom Grabham to catch and score.

Aleki Lutui was sinbinned as Gloucester started to feel the heat, but his team-mates battered down the hatches in his absence and closed out the win.





TODAY'S TEAMS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY vs HARLEQUINS

REFEREE: Tim Wigglesworth ASSISTANTS: Paul Dix & Simon McConnell

TEAMS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT

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STEVE **McCOLL**
FULL-BACK

OLLIE **THORLEY**
RIGHT WING

HENRY **TRINDER**
OUTSIDE CENTRE

BILL **MEAKES**
INSIDE CENTRE

HENRY **PURDY**
LEFT WING

ALED **THOMAS (C)**
FLY-HALF

DAN **ROBSON**
SCRUM-HALF

DAN **MURPHY**
LOOSEHEAD PROP

ALEKI **LUTUI**
HOOKER

SILA **PUAFISI**
TIGHTHEAD PROP

ELLIOTT **STOOKE**
LOCK

TOM **HICKS**
LOCK

DAN **THOMAS**
BLINDSIDE FLANKER

JACOB **ROWAN**
OPENSIDE FLANKER

LEWIS **LUDLOW**
NUMBER EIGHT

LUKE **COLE**
REPLACEMENT 1

YANN **THOMAS**
REPLACEMENT 2

SHAUN **KNIGHT**
REPLACEMENT 3

JAMES **HUDSON**
REPLACEMENT 4

SAM **UNDERHILL**
REPLACEMENT 5

CALLUM **BRALEY**
REPLACEMENT 6

ELLIOTT **CREED**
REPLACEMENT 7

STEPH **REYNOLDS**
REPLACEMENT 8

15 ROSS **CHISHOLM**
FULL-BACK

14 TOM **WILLIAMS**
RIGHT WING

13 TOM **CASSON**
OUTSIDE CENTRE

12 HARRY **SLOAN**
INSIDE CENTRE

11 CHARLIE **WALKER**
LEFT WING

10 NICK **EVANS**
FLY-HALF

9 KARL **DICKSON**
SCRUM-HALF

1 DARRYL **MARFO**
LOOSEHEAD PROP

2 ROB **BUCHANAN**
HOOKER

3 MARK **LAMBERT (C)**
TIGHTHEAD PROP

4 GEORGE **MERRICK**
LOCK

5 SAM **TWOMEY**
LOCK

6 JOE **TRAYFOOT**
BLINDSIDE FLANKER

7 JAMES **CHISHOLM**
OPENSIDE FLANKER

8 JACK **CLIFFORD**
NUMBER EIGHT

16 JOE **GRAY**
REPLACEMENT 1

17 SEB **ADENIRAN-OLULE**
REPLACEMENT 2

18 MATT **SHIELDS**
REPLACEMENT 3

19 KIERAN **TREADWELL**
REPLACEMENT 4

20 HENRY **CHEESEMAN**
REPLACEMENT 5

21 JORDAN **BURNS**
REPLACEMENT 6

22 BEN **BOTICA**
REPLACEMENT 7

23 OLLIE **LINDSAY-HAGUE**
REPLACEMENT 8

TPCD
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