



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR TODAY'S GAME WITH LONDON WELSH



UR second home
Premiership game of
the year is upon us,
and everyone in the
squad is buzzing for it and fully
focused on the job in hand.
Take form, league position
and past results out of the
occasion - today will be a really
tough one.

Kingsholm is a great place to play so London Welsh will be relishing the chance to come here today. They are a squad with experience and threats, and are well coached so it will be a good contest this weekend.

Watching the boys on TV last Friday, obviously the result wasn't the one we wanted. But I know first hand how hard it is for teams to win at Welford Road and, on the night, it just wasn't to be despite us looking the more likely team to score a try.

Our defence and set piece were superb, and testament to the work that the whole squad is putting in during the week. The boys coming in were able to slot in seamlessly into the system, and I know this is something Laurie and David are trying to create.

On the night, we came under pressure and failed to gain field position in the second half and a few marginal decisions allowed Freddie to punish us both out of hand and from the kicking tee.

There's no point dwelling on it, though. We've obviously taken some points on board and I'm sure the boys will want to make amends this afternoon in front of a home crowd.

Thank you for all your messages of support that Jonny and myself have received whilst I have been in England camp over the last fortnight. There is a great feeling in that camp, just like there is in the Gloucester squad, after the opening pair of wins.

It was good to get plenty of game time on Saturday, but hopefully it's not at the expense of an injury going forward! But we scored some nice tries against a stubborn Italian side, and the focus is now fully on a massive test in Dublin next weekend.

Enjoy today's game, and thank you for your support!



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KINGSHOLM IS A GREAT PLACE TO PLAY SO LONDON WELSH WILL BE RELISHING THE CHANCE TO COME HERE TODAY. THEY ARE A SQUAD WITH EXPERIENCE AND THREATS, AND ARE WELL COACHED SO IT WILL BE A GOOD CONTEST THIS WEEKEND.

DIR. OF RUGBY



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR THE LATEST ROUND OF AVIVA PREMIERSHIP ACTION. IN PARTICULAR, A VERY WARM WELCOME TO THE PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORTERS FROM LONDON WELSH.



T this stage of the season, every single fixture in the Premiership has great

significance. With only a few points separating the teams in the middle of the table, a couple of wins can turn thing around very quickly and we're hoping for another win today to start to close the gap on the teams above us.

there was a real sense of an

one could fault the effort and and in the end, the outcome was knock out stages, especially when

after they gained promotion.



It was positive for a number



first half and a

be the key words today.

tournaments for some years.







# The Citizen



SCAN THE CODE FOR MORE NEWS AND STORIES FROM OUR WEBSITE MAN, 20, WALKS FREE FROM COURT after glassing former schoolmate

PARENTS
URGED to be on the look out for scarlet fever

GLOUCESTER MAN IN COURT over Coleford house gas explosion

GLOUCESTER CITY EARN A FINE WIN at Chorley

## INTERNATIONAL QUALITY

THERE is no doubt that Billy Twelvetrees has enhanced his claims for a starting spot with two eye-catching cameos in the Six Nations, but is it enough?

The Gloucester captain stood out in the mere five minutes he had at the Millennium Stadium, making a number of thundering hits and winning a key penalty.

He had much longer to showcase his talents against Italy, coming on after Mike Brown was knocked unconscious in a sickening collision on 12 minutes.

Twelvetrees reformed his partnership with Luther Burrell, which started every match in last season's Championship, and it was a seamless transition.

Working in tandem with George Ford, Twelvetrees often popped up as first-receiver and offered an alternative distribution and kicking option.

He combined finesse and subtlety with physicality in midfield and the England backline generally appeared much more balanced with his presence.

But is Twelvetrees, with his ability to cover numerous positions and do so in such a seamless manner, the perfect player to remain on the bench?

Jonathan Joseph, with three tries in two games, has been the find of the Championship. He



### Quality

Billy has shown his quality when coming off the bench in the last two Six Nations games provides spark in the midfield with his electric footwork and swivel of the hips. His outside break devastating.

Luther Burrell has been everpresent in midfield and brings the physicality that is so important at this level and Stuart Lancaster is unlikely to wheel out yet another midfield combination when he is searching for consistency in both selection and performance.

The midfield is the most fiercely competitive position in the



IT WOULD BE MASSIVE TO START THAT MATCH, ANY GAME WHEN YOU PLAY FOR ENGLAND WHETHER ON THE BENCH OR WITH A STARTING NUMBER ON YOUR BACK IS A HUGE OCCASION AND YOU JUST WANT TO DO IT JUSTICE. Billy Twelvetrees

England squad, Kyle Eastmond and Brad Barritt are both back fit and went head to head in the Premiership last weekend.

Manu Tuilagi will come back into the equation later in the Championship and is rightly so a preferred pick of Lancaster, while Sam Burgess has the potential to force himself into the reckoning before the World Cup.

There's no doubt Twelvetrees will be champing at the bit to be involved at the Aviva Stadium on March 1, but he is under no illusions over the talent he is competing with.

Speaking following the 47-17 victory over Italy Twelvetrees said:

"It would be massive to start that match, any game when you play for England whether on the bench or with a starting number on your back is a huge occasion and you just want to do it justice.

"All the centres playing in the Premiership this year have been going extremely well. JJ has been the out and out best centre in the league and he's shown that on the international stage, Luther's extremely physical and is getting over the gain-line well and there are players not in the mix that want to be here.

"It's a position that's always hotly contested but personally you want to get things right on the pitch and in training.

"But personally it was nice to get on the field, get my hands on the ball and put boys in space.

"I always enjoy playing with George, even when we were at Leicester together, we do it (switch positions) in training, we talk a lot about what will help the team and use his kicking game, put pressure on the opposition the best way we can and try to split



the field with two kickers.

"It was useful reforming that partnership with Luther, we both trust each other whether in attack or defence. George gives us time on the ball and puts us in space so we have a good link up.

"We just want to give the back three space, look how dangerous Anthony (Watson) and Browny (Mike Brown) are and JJ (Joseph) and Jonny (May) on the wings."

It has been a very different case of affairs for May, who has started both games but had little opportunity to showcase his attacking talents.

The electric wing spoke of his frustration following the 21-16 Millennium Stadium victory and his performance against the Azzurri is unlikely to have done anything to quench his thirst to impress.

May has received some criticism for his under par

performance but in truth he did little wrong. Sure there were a few eye-catching slips but he was England's top ball carrier and made the second largest number of metres.

He was tireless in his search for work but just hasn't had the rub of the green. There have been no clear cut opportunities for the electric wing but let's not forget the one time he had half a sniff he put away Danny Cipriani.

May does appear to be a player lacking confidence but he deserves time, he demonstrated in the autumn how devastating he can be.

Lancaster needs to put an arm around the 24-year-old and restore that confidence, instil that faith and May needs to stick to what he does best.

Citizen AVAILABLE DAILY

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

www.aloucesterruabyheritage.org.uk



## PETER KINGSTON

When Lydney born schoolmaster
Peter Kingston came to
Gloucester from Moseley RFC
in 1974, he was already an
England trialist and had played
county rugby for North Midlands.
The 23 year old made his debut
for Gloucester in September
and for Gloucestershire the
following month.

From 1974 until 1981 and occasionally until 1985 he played 178 games for Gloucester and 38 for Gloucestershire. He won 5 England caps.

Speed around the scrum, an accurate service and sound kicking were strong features of his game, and he was always looking for attacking options. His performances for Gloucestershire, who won the County Championship that year, gained him selection for the 1975 England tour of Australia where he played in both tests.

Outside half Chris Williams joined the club that autumn and the two resumed an outstanding

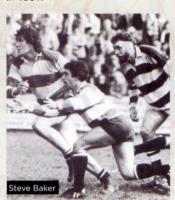
## BOSSING THE SCRUM GREAT SCRUM HALVES

PART ONE

partnership which had begun at Lydney Grammar School. In 1976-77, The Times suggested that the pair should play together for England but the idea didn't get beyond selection as reserves for the first trial.

Illness and injury dogged Kingston in 1977-78 but the following season he was back to his best form and played against Ireland, France and Wales.

Although now appearing less often for Gloucester, he took part in two more County Championship Finals, his last county game being the final against Northumberland in 1981.



## STEVE BAKER

Steve Baker was an outstanding young prospect when he joined Gloucester from Sir Thomas Rich's school in 1976, having played for England Schools at Under 16 level. He scored a try on his debut, aged 17, in a 29-18 Gloucester victory at Nottingham in April 1977 and went on to play 206 games for the club.

Steve toured America and Canada with Gloucester in summer 1977 but was understudy to Peter Kingston until his 1st XV breakthrough in 1979. He played in 41 of Gloucester's 48 games in 1981-82, a season when only three games were lost, having a fine game behind a dominant pack in the John Player Cup semi-final at Coventry and playing in the final against Moseley at Twickenham.

Still only 22, he was chosen to play for England Under 23 against England Students and went on their tour to Italy that summer, playing in the 15-0 victory over Italy Under 23 and the 12-7 loss to the Italian national XV.

Joining Stroud in 1987, Steve played alongside three other members of the 1982 Cup Final team - Steve Parsloe, John Gadd and, briefly, Mike Teague.

## Marcus Hannaford

Marcus Hannaford was a big fiercely competitive scrum half who played 248 games for Gloucester, scoring 76 tries. Born in Gloucester in 1963 he was a product of Widden school and had played for Widden Old Boys and Longlevens before joining Gloucester at the age of 20.

He was always close to England selection early in his career. He toured Italy with England B in 1986 and was one of three scrum halves in the 1986 World Cup training squad until injury put paid to his chances.

Hannaford became club captain in 1987-88, the inaugural year of the Courage Championship, and immediately impressed critics









with his positive attacking attitude. Gloucester started their league season with a 39-3 victory over Coventry and rounded it off with a 61-7 win over Sale, to finish third. Marcus himself scored 15 tries in 34 games.

The following season he captained his club to runnersup position. His last outstanding season was 1990-91 when he was part of Mike Hamlin's team which finished runners-up in both league and cup.

### SCOTT BENTON

**Bradford born Scott Benton** arrived at Kingsholm from Morley RFC midway through the 1995-96 season, having played for England at Colts and Under 21 level. He proved himself to be a busy scrum half who excelled around the base of the scrum and whose grit and determination won him many admirers.



Scott Benton was a key signing at a time when Gloucester were finding their feet in the new world of professional rugby.

Thrown in at the deep end at a club that had been in relegation trouble all season, he responded magnificently to the challenge, notably with outstanding performances in crucial wins over double-chasing Bath and fellow relegation candidates Saracens.

He went on to make 80 appearances for Gloucester, during which time he played for both for the Barbarians in 1997 and for England against Australia (on the notorious 1998 "Tour from

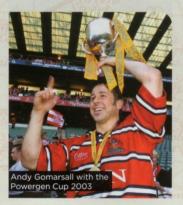
### Andy Gomarsall

Andy Gomarsall was a scrum half noted for his fine service and attacking style of play. He joined Gloucester from relegated Bedford, where he had been captain, at the start of the 2000-01 season and in the next five years and 130 games was a major factor in the club's success.

Gomarsall started against Leicester in Gloucester's only Heineken Cup semi-final in 2000-01 and against Bristol in the Zurich Championship Final victory at Twickenham in 2001-02. His finest season for the club was 2002-03 when he helped Gloucester to top the Premiership table by 15 points and started in the Powergen Cup Final victory over Northampton.

This success brought him back into England contention and he was one of the three Gloucester members of England's successful World Cup squad in Australia that summer, earning him the MBE.

Another good season in 2004-05, in which he retained



his England place and helped Gloucester to fourth in the Premiership was followed by disappointment in 2004-05 and. with the departure of Director of Rugby Nigel Melville, he signed a contract with Worcester.

Moving on after a year to Harlequins, he revived his international career, turning in some world class performances for England which culminated in the 2007 World Cup Final in France against South Africa.

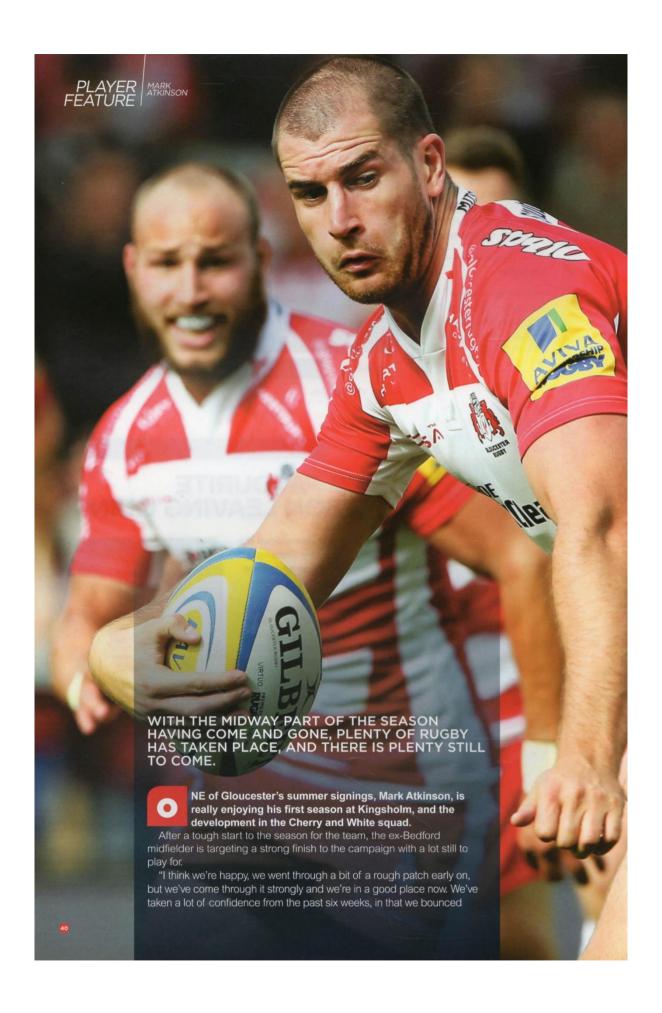
### RORY LAWSON

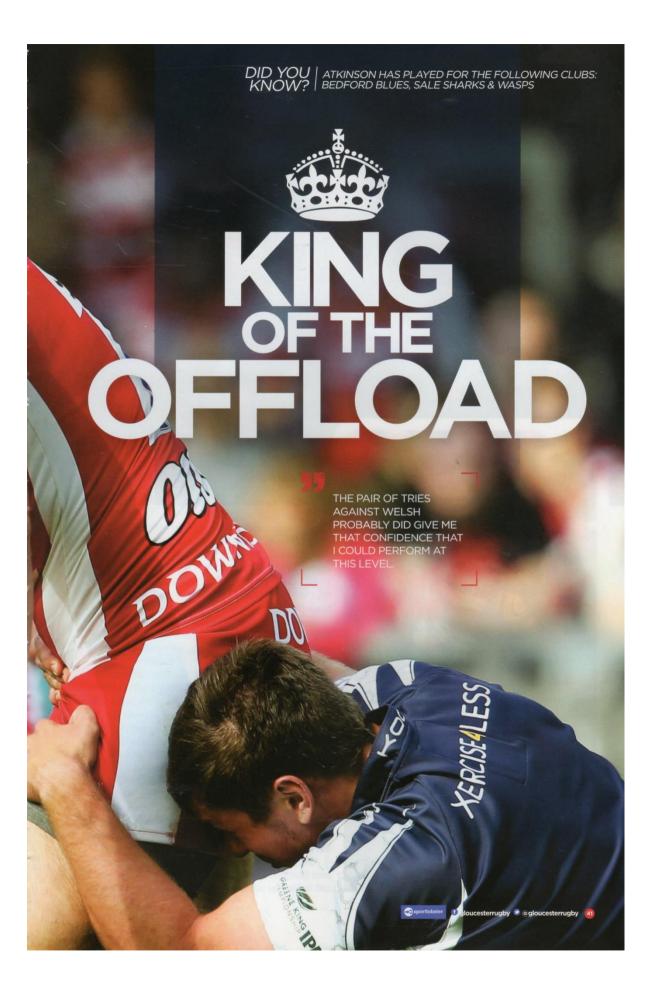
Rory Gordon MacGregor Lawson, the grandson of commentator Bill McLaren and son of Scottish international scrum half Alan Lawson, joined Gloucester from Edinburgh in the summer of 2006.



Although a Scotland A international, the 25 year old Rory Lawson was number two to British Lion Mike Blair at Edinburgh and it was assumed that he would understudy England scrum half Peter Richards at Gloucester, but he immediately impressed with his determination and work rate and played in 29 out of 33 games, winning his first start for Scotland in Paris in the process. Those qualities brought him 31 Scottish caps and the Scottish captaincy during the six seasons he was with Gloucester.

Rory Lawson played 148 games for Gloucester from 2006 to 2012, including three Premiership semifinals, the 2006-07 final and 30 Heineken cup ties. After leaving Gloucester, he played one season for Newcastle Falcons before retiring through injury in 2013.







the boys can fill in and perform when called upon."

Atkinson has spent time at Esher, Sale, Wasps and Bedford in his career so far, but the 24-year old is feeling really settled in Gloucestershire and

at Kingsholm.

"I'd like to think so indeed, I'm really starting to feel at home here. I've had a few years of uncertainty, but now I feel that I have found my feet at a club, at a place that I'm really enjoying and somewhere that I'd like to set up shop for the foreseeable future."

A double try-scorer against today's opponents in September's Round Four clash at the Kassam Stadium, Atkinson sees that game as the game that proved to himself that he could kick on at Premiership level and impress.

"I would like to think so, I've been happy with how things have gone so far, and I've learned an awful lot each week and you are truthfully always learning with every minute. I'd like to think that I've been a competitive back and I



haven't really been overawed after stepping up to the level.

"The pair of tries against Welsh probably did give me that confidence that I could perform at this level. At the time I was really enjoying just being on the pitch, but as the season has gone on, I've managed to get a few starts and that's really where you get judged consecutively and I think that it has gone alright so far!"





## KINGSHOLM NEWS

WE NEED THE RESULT TODAY TO START PUSHING UP THE TABLE. THE MID-TABLE IS STILL SO CONGESTED THAT WE ARE ONLY A WIN OR TWO AWAY FROM CREEPING INTO A EUROPEAN RUGBY CHAMPIONS CUP PLACE, SO EVERY GAME IS VITAL.



O here we are again, international rugby dominating the news again as the Six

Nations takes over the nation's consciousness and a few million people become once a year rugby fans and experts.

That means two things. Firstly, we put up with a lot of waffle from people who don't know a ruck from a drop goal. Secondly, we get stripped of a bunch of players.

It's been an interesting tournament so far though, the Wales - England game was a cracker though - all the hype, the mad stand-off and the crazy attempt to play a rugby match in what was more like a night club than a rugby stadium.

Bragging rights to England and I'm sure the Welsh boys - Richard Hibbard, in particular, probably copped a lot of stick and Hooky's tweet picture of an England shirt on his peg when he arrived for work was a classic.

Last weekend he had another clash with a team-mate with Greig captaining Scotland, and this time he came out on top in a close run affair. I would imagine that in the post match social more than a couple of Welsh guys were wanting to buy the beer for referee Glen Jackson as he seemed to have left his cards behind in the changing rooms at half time!

Poor old Jonny May has copped a load of flack in the wicked world of social media for not scoring a million tries. He seems to be the target for a lot of unfair criticism, not helped by one or two TV 'experts' having a pretty obvious downer on him and taking every opportunity to have a bit of a dig.

We know - and people who have seen him play in club games up and down the country know - that he is a rare talent, a







maverick who can do something not other player can. And he can do it at Usain Bolt speeds. So my message to the once a year fans is simple: sit back and enjoy one of the best players around and keep your ill-founded comments to yourselves!

But even though we are stripped of a few players the league matches go on - see rants in previous programme columns. Friday 13th turned out to be a bad day for us up at Leicester. In a very tight affair, it was a battle of the kickers in pretty terrible conditions - driving rain at times, wind and what has to be the worst playing surface anywhere in the Premiership. The Welford Road surface usually has more sand on it than the beach at Weston, but at the moment it's horrible.

It must be a nightmare to play on if you are out in the backs, it must be like running in glue. No wonder Leicester have always had a game that was based on massive forwards. And probably why they had they great big earth mover digger thing in the corner of the ground.

We ran them close though, perhaps a good mark of how far we have progressed this season. but at the end of the day it wasn't quite enough. And in the battle of the Burns it was big brother Freddie who took the spoils. Billy acquitted himself well though, and one touchline catch complete with a twinkletoes masterclass should see him get an offer from Strictly Come Dancing any day now.

I think it's pretty fair to say that a lot of Gloucester fans think this has been a bit of a disappointing season. What with all the hype last summer we all had hopes that we would be cemented into one of the placed at the upper end of the table, rather than kicking around in lower mid table.

But if you think we've had it tough, put yourself in the position of a London Welsh fan. That's a tough gig at the moment, that's for sure. At the moment they sit fairly fixed at the foot of the table with no wins at all. The season has been one long battle for them, all credit to them for fighting on, it would have been easy just to start going through the motions.

You have to wonder whether their predicament is a result of the play off system in the Championship. I'm not a fan of play-offs, but to have them carrying on so late into the summer leaves the side gaining promotion almost no time to prepare. If you are a Bristol, or a Worcester fan I don't suppose that is much of a problem, but for any other

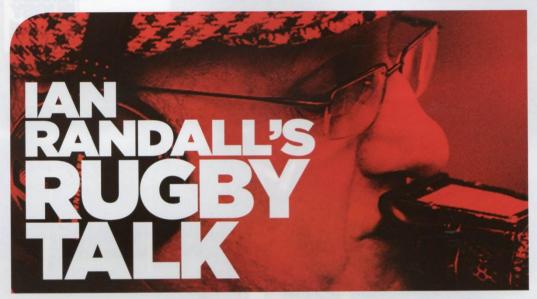
side it certainly is.

London Welsh have tried to cement almost a whole new team into place while at the same time competing in one of the toughest rugby competitions in the world. There has to be a re-structure of the Championship so they can at least stand a chance of getting prepared for life in the top flight.

London Welsh took another pasting last weekend at home to Sale and, in all reality, are playing for nothing more than pride now. One thing's for sure, they will not want to be the only team to get relegated without recording a single win in a season, so they will be fighting for all they are worth and we need to make sure that we are fully switched on.

Laurie and the boys will have worked their magic though, there will be no complacency. We need the result today to start pushing up the table. The mid-table is still so congested that we are only a win or two away from creeping into a European Rugby Champions Cup place, so every game is vital.

So sorry London Welsh fans, today is not for you.



WELCOME LONDON WELSH. IT MAY BE A WHILE BEFORE WE SEE THEM AGAIN, GIVEN THE UNEQUAL STRUGGLE IT HAS BEEN SINCE THEY TOPPLED BRISTOL IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY OFF FINAL LAST YEAR.

HE fact the second leg was played on June the 4th merely compounded the Exiles' need for breakneck speed recruitment ahead of the new season with all the top talent already accounted for.

The net result has been 14

defeats out of 14, and only two games lost by fewer than 20 points. The gap has been a chasm.

This season, the side promoted from the Championship - and I appreciate there is still some way to go - OUGHT to be Bristol or Worcester, with the gap below

second place standing at 21 points. Both clubs would expect to have a decent chance of survival if they come up.

The fact that two such teams are outside the Premiership made me wonder if England could mirror France and actually have a Top 14, although it must be said that the depth in interest in the game appears greater across the channel, with five teams Gloucester have played in Europe (Agen, Biarritz, Bourgoin, Colomiers and Perpignan) all now playing in the second tier.

The case for Worcester AND Bristol to be at the top table is strong. Stephen Lansdown at Ashton Gate and Cecil Duckworth at Sixways have both invested heavily, and their supporter bases are decent. Bristol have been getting over 7,000 at home games and Worcester over 5,000 which compares favourably with the likes of Newcastle and Sale.

You may call it a fanciful idea, but I think there is an argument for adding the Championship's top two to the 11 established Premiership clubs and pulling up the relegation drawbridge for



a period of (say) 5 seasons. The big question would surround who would be the 14th team.

London Welsh would argue they deserve to be in the mix. They do, and they would probably back the traditional solution of deciding it on the field, with the best team winning the place.

A different approach, especially with a lot of talk in cricket at the moment about franchises for a T20 tournament, would be to look at a team in an area currently unrepresented in the Premiership. Wasps' move to the Ricoh Arena is a franchise in all but name given the distance from their original home, which to me leaves two traditional rugby areas that could be considered.

Leeds Carnegie went down in 2011, and now, as Yorkshire Carnegie, they are one of three Yorkshire teams in the Championship alongside Rotherham and Doncaster, and there is already talk of a merger between those two.

Rugby League continues to have greater appeal in the area but at the moment the three teams would draw 5,000 spectators





between them on a Saturday and Headingley's double sided main stand, which backs onto the cricket ground, is to be extensively renovated.

The relative health of the economy to the east of the Pennines may also edge the area's case over Cornwall, where the Pirates also compete in the Championship before a drop of two levels to Launceston and Redruth.

I have heard numerous stories of financial feast and famine in Cornish rugby over the years and it's true there is no great centre of population but talk of a "stadium for Cornwall" in Truro is still prominent, and you wonder if that might be the catalyst for an area I've seen take 20,000 supporters

to Twickenham for a county final.

Whichever way you look at it, any such idea - and there have been mutterings about it in the media - is not likely to be quickly implemented, and above all it WOULD stop a smaller club who found a backer making their way naturally up the pyramid. On the evidence of the last decade however, such individuals are few and far between

As far as today is concerned, only one result is acceptable. Gloucester are more than two regulation wins outside the top six, so with ground to be made up, they must match the efforts of those who have gone before with a bonus point victory by as big a margin as possible.



## AYER A to Z **OM SAVAGE**



..is for ATMOSPHERE.

What is the best atmosphere you have experienced? Any night game at Kingsholm is my favourite



...is for best mate ...BEST MATE in

rugby? Tom Calladine, one of my housemates at Uni who's playing up at Nottingham now



...is for CAREER...

If you weren't a rugby player what would you be? Film, food or coffee critic!



...is for DRIVE...

what car are you driving? Isuzu Dmax



...is for EMBARRASSED..

most embarrassing moment on the field? I had my shorts pulled round my ankles in my first

Prem game

...is for MATCH... What is the best match you have played in/watched? Harlequins at home a couple of years back, awesome win that went down to the wire



...is for NICKNAME... What's yours? Normally a

variation of Sav



...is for OPPONENT...

Who is the best player you have faced up against? Jonny Wilkinson



...is for PRIDE...

What is your proudest moment? Captaining Gloucester



...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? I listen to whatever the boys put on, Yann's currently in charge of the

tunes



...is for SUPPORT...

What teams do you support? Didn't live close to any Prem teams so just used to watch England.

















..is for FASHION. Who is the worst dressed player in the squad? John Afoa

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



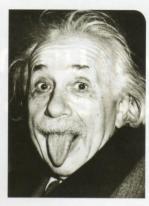
HARDMAN... Who is the toughest player you have come across? Andy Hazell was always prepared to put his body on the line



...is for IDOL ... Who is your sporting idol? I used to like watching Jason White run round bashing blokes



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



...is for LIFE after rugby... What are your future plans? I like to start my own business only problem is I'm still waiting for that eureka moment

...is for TRY... What is the best try you have ever scored? Probably my one against Sarries this season



...is for UNBELIEVABLE... Tell us something surprising about yourself I was Junior British Champion at Bicycle trials



...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? Getting injured



...is for X-RAY... What is the worst injury you have suffered? Ruptured Pectoral



...is for

KINGSHOLM

...describe

Kingsholm in three

words?

Cherry and White

...is for YOUTH... What advice would you give to aspiring rugby players? Just enjoy your rugby as much as possible, don't put

too much pressure



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







### **GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

- C BILL MEAKES
- W STEPH REYNOLDS FH ALED THOMAS
- SH DAN ROBSON

- P DAN MURPHY H ALEKI LUTUI
- SILA PUAFISI ELLIOTT STOOKE
- JACOB ROWAN
- DANIEL THOMAS
- F DANIEL THOMAS
  N8 ROSS MORIARTY

### REPLACEMENTS

- R ELLIOTT CREED
  R KAI LITTLE





## **GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

TRIES: D.Thomas (15), Rowan (50), Reynolds (63) CONS: A.Thomas (16, 51) PENS: A.Thomas (3, 31)



## **HARLEQUINS**

07

TRY: Monye (39) CON: Botica (40)



### **HARLEQUINS**

- FB ROSS CHISHOLM

- C JORDAN TURNER-HALL

- 10 FH BEN BOTICA
  9 SH KARL DICKSON
  1 P DARRYL MARFO
  2 H ROB BUCHANAN
- MATTHEW SHIELDS GEORGE MERRICK SAM TWOMEY
- JOE TRAYFOOT
- N8 NETANI TALEI

- REPLACEMENTS
- MARK LAMBERT
- JOE GRAY
- R HENRY CHEESEN R JORDAN BURNS
- TIM SWIEL
- R ASAELI TIKOIROTUMA



LV= CUP AGAIN PROVED TO BE A PLATFORM FOR THE CHERRY AND WHITES' YOUNG TALENT AS A GLIMPSE INTO THE NEXT GENERATION WAS DELIVERED IN A STRONG SHOWING AGAINST HARLEQUINS.



SARACENS victory the following day made the result academic,

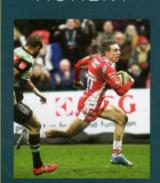
but the hosts were tenacious, brave and confident in beating an experienced outfit from the Stoop.

After a bonus point win the previous week over Ospreys, the hosts led by Defence Coach John Muggleton set about finishing the and exerted some dominance in the scrum.

It was an exciting game in cold conditions, but both sides were ambitious and the game was played in a fine spirit.

Quins were to have the last say of the first half, working a smart set play in the back division, and veteran wing Ugo Monye skated into the corner untouched to keep

## CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



First phase strike play is a rarity in the modern game with defences on top, but the deft of hand and angle from Aled Thomas and Bill Meakes created the break, and the third try was laid on for Steph Reynolds' jet heels to speed away.



WE KNEW THAT HARLEQUINS ARE A TEAM THAT LOOK TO PLAY THROUGH THE FORWARDS, HAVE LOTS OF OFFLOADS, SO DEFENSIVELY WE KNEW WE HAD TO KNOCK THEM OFF THERE AND MAKE A CONTEST OF IT, WHICH I THINK WE DID FOR PRETTY MUCH THE WHOLE GAME. John Muggleton

pool stages on a high.

Aled Thomas, starting at fly half and captaining the side, opened the scoring with a well-struck penalty, before the home pack muscled over the line from a rolling maul, giving the ever-impressive Dan Thomas his second score in a matter of weeks.

Thomas, the former, then added a second penalty as the home pack flexed their collective muscle

his side in the hunt.

With the Cherry and Whites holding a 13-7 lead at the turnaround, the next score would be typically crucial, and the visitors set about it in the early stages of the second period. However, the impressive Gloucester defence remained firm and organised to repel any attacks.

Instead, the hosts were patient and accurate as they picked up their second score. Aled Thomas burst through the middle, and Bill Meakes took it on. The forwards worked their way into the red zone and Jacob Rowan powered over through a weak fringe defence for his first try in a Gloucester shirt.

The young Cherry and Whites were impressing greatly, 18-year old Ollie Thorley again was belying his age with some intelligent work,

and schoolboys Kai Little and Elliott Creed got their second run outs in a Gloucester shirt, doing themselves proud in the process.

At the time, qualification was still a possibility, and hunting the bonus point the hosts struck with electric speed.

Aled Thomas was again instrumental and pulled the strings to send Bill Meakes marauding through on a smart line, the Aussie centre then fed a perfect pass to Steph Reynolds who flew over for his first try in a first team shirt.

The bonus point eluded the hosts in the end, but a Saracens win quashed any semi-final hopes at Kingsholm. But, more importantly it was a sixth win out of six in 2015 and a strong showing in attack, defence and set piece from the Cherry and Whites.



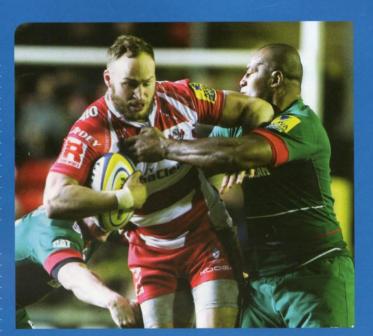


### **LEICESTER TIGERS**

- 14 W ADAM THOMPSTONE
  13 C GEORGE CATCHPOLE
  12 C SEREMAIA BAIKEINUKU
- 11 W VERENIKI GONEVA
  10 FH FREDDIE BURNS
  9 SH SAM HARRISON
  1 P MARCOS AYERZA
  2 H NEW POSS

- P MARCOS AYENZA
  H NEIL BRIGGS
  P LOGOVI'I MULIPOLA
  L SEBASTIAN DE CHAVES
  L GRAHAM KITCHENER
  F JAMIE GIBSON
  F JULIAN SALVI

- 16 H HARRY THACKER
- 17 P MICHELE RIZZO 18 P FRASER BALMAIN





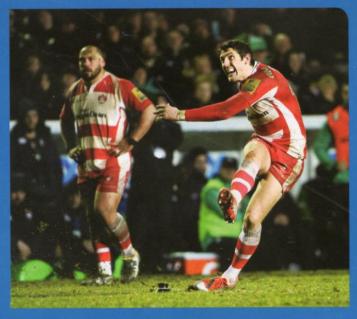
## LEICESTER TIGERS

18

PENS: Burns (6, 11, 34, 45, 47, 69)



## **GLOUCESTER RUGBY**



### **GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

- FB BILLY BURNS
  W CHARLIE SHARPLES
  C MARK ATKINSON
  C BILL MEAKES
  W HENRY PURDY
  FH JAMES HOOK

- SH DAN ROBSON P DAN MURPHY

- JOHN AFOA

  TOM SAVAGE (C)

  TOM PALMER

  SIONE KALAMAFONI

  MATT KVESIC

- C HENRY TRINDER

THE CHERRY AND WHITES RETURNED TO AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY ACTION LAST FRIDAY EVENING WITH A TRIP TO A DAMP WELFORD ROAD IN ROUND 14.



NFORTUNATELY. despite brave defence and great commitment, it was one of those

nights where little things went against the visitors, as they tasted defeat for the first time in the calendar year.

got their wish, as Tigers' fly-half Freddie Burns kicked all the

A late withdrawal from wing David Halaifonua saw Billy Burns come into the starting line-up. and face his elder brother for the

first time. But it was Freddie who opened the scoring from the tee

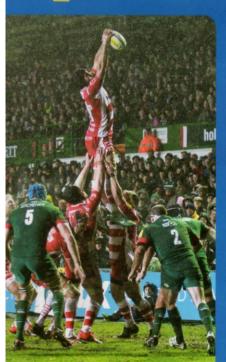
The Cherry and Whites pack were working hard, and at times outmuscling their Tigers counterparts as the two sides slogged it out up front with kicks at goal the main avenue for points.

the visitors who created the one meaningful try-scoring opportunity of the half.

Freddie Burns who lost the ball in contact with Tom Savage, and Bill Meakes fed Henry Purdy on



DRAW BUT I'M DISAPPOINTED TO COME AWAY WITH A LOSS. David Humphreys



forward as he did well to step his way over.

At 9 points apiece, it was the the lion's share of possession, and as most of the Welford Road crowd bayed for the go ahead score, the visiting defence was ball over to keep the hosts out.

Conditions were grim, the ball was changing possession with regularity with the visitors struggling to work phases with referee JP Doyle quick to

adding a pair of penalties, both of

## CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



Tigers played their first bit of rugby as the first half drew to a close, and hunted the first try. But the Cherry and Whites defence was fierce and committed, typified by a huge hit from Henry Purdy on Logovi'l Mulipola and several phases later, the visitors produced a turnover to take a great boost into the break.

which bounced in off the upright to seemingly typify Gloucester's luck on the night, which Hook quickly eradicated with two wellworked and well struck kicks.

The turning point came with ten minutes remaining on the clock, Mr Doyle showing a yellow card to Charlie Sharples after a host winger slowing the ball down

Burns knocked over the ensuing penalty and the Tigers held a three-point lead as time

The Cherry and Whites finally earned a penalty as the Tigers lingered on the wrong side, and from several metres inside his own half, but his effort in the mud dropped short.

Much of the closing stages saw but the defence led by Matt Kvesic stood up to the task. However, time was against the visitors who ended up on the wrong end of the result for the first time in 2015.





# TODAY'S TEAMS GLOUCESTER RUGBY VS LONDON WELSH

REFEREE: Ian Tempest ASSISTANTS: Nigel Carrick and Andrew Pearce

TEAMS CORRECT AT TIME OF BRINT

| TPCD |                                 |           | CED IEWELL                          | TPCD   |
|------|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------|
|      | BILLY BURNS<br>FULL-BACK        | <u>15</u> | SEB JEWELL<br>FULL-BACK             |        |
| 0000 | CHARLIE SHARPLES                | 14        | SEB STEGMANN<br>RIGHT WING          |        |
| 0000 | HENRY TRINDER                   | <u>13</u> | NIC REYNOLDS                        | 0000   |
| 0000 | BILL MEAKES                     | 12        | JAMES TINCKNELL                     |        |
|      | HENRY PURDY                     | 11        | NICK SCOTT                          | 0000   |
|      | JAMES HOOK                      | <u>10</u> | OLLY BARKLEY                        | 0000   |
|      | CALLUM BRALEY                   | 9         | ROB <b>LEWIS</b>                    | 0000   |
|      | DAN MURPHY<br>LOOSEHEAD PROP    | 1         | NATHAN TREVETT                      | • 0000 |
| 0000 | ALEKI LUTUI<br>HOOKER           | 2         | KOREE BRITTON                       | 0000   |
|      | JOHN AFOA                       | 3         | TAIONE VEA                          | 0000   |
| 0000 | TOM SAVAGE (C)                  | 4         | BEN WEST                            | 0000   |
| 0000 | JAMES HUDSON                    | 5         | JAMES DOWN                          | 0000   |
| 0000 | ROSS MORIARTY BLINDSIDE FLANKER | 6         | RICHARD THORPE<br>BLINDSIDE FLANKER | 0000   |
| 0000 | MATT KVESIC<br>OPENSIDE FLANKER | 7         | CARL KIRWAN (C) OPENSIDE FLANKER    |        |
| 0000 | SIONE KALAMAFONI                | 8         | OPETI FONUA<br>NUMBER EIGHT         |        |
|      |                                 |           |                                     |        |
| 0000 | DARREN DAWIDIUK                 | 16        | NATHAN MORRIS                       | 0000   |
| 0000 | YANN THOMAS REPLACEMENT 2       | <u>17</u> | EDDIE AHOLELEI                      | 0000   |
| 0000 | SILA PUAFISI                    | 18        | JACK GILDING                        |        |
| 0000 | ELLIOTT STOOKE REPLACEMENT 4    | <u>19</u> | MATT CORKER<br>REPLACEMENT 4        | 0000   |
| 0000 | GARETH EVANS REPLACEMENT 5      | 20        | BEN PIENAAR<br>REPLACEMENT 5        |        |
| 0000 | DAN ROBSON<br>REPLACEMENT 6     | 21        | PIRI WEEPU<br>REPLACEMENT 6         |        |
| 0000 | MARK ATKINSON REPLACEMENT 7     | 22        | WILL ROBINSON REPLACEMENT 7         |        |
|      | JACOB ROWAN<br>REPLACEMENT 8    | 23        | JAMES LEWIS<br>REPLACEMENT 8        | 0000   |