



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

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**vs Northampton Saints**

**Aviva Premiership Rugby Round 17: 07.03.2015**

Inside today's matchday programme we have an exclusive interview with England international Matt Kvesic, the latest league action replays, another player answers our A to Z questions 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

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imagine. change.

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**GreenFlag**

**GUINNESS**

**GILBERT**

**CITIZEN**

ME TO K SH LM





# CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

GOOD AFTERNOON, AND IT'S GREAT TO WELCOME YOU TO KINGSHOLM FOR TODAY'S MEETING WITH NORTHAMPTON SAINTS.



**A** WARM welcome to Jim Mallinder and his team and supporters for what should be a really exciting game.

It seems a long time since the opening day of the season against Saints, however, I'm confident in saying that we have developed massively as a team since that night in September, and we are looking forward to testing ourselves against the defending champions.

Defeat last weekend was a tough one to take. We were in no way outplayed, but ultimately we were punished for simple mistakes, and Wasps are a team in top form and with an ability to get over the line.

It was a bitter pill to swallow, especially as we showed some great glimpses in attack and definitely deserved more from the game. We know, however, that we cannot be licking our wounds for too long, especially today.



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CATCHING UP ON THE GAME AFTER PLAYING IN DUBLIN, THERE ARE A LOT OF POSITIVES TO TAKE FROM IT AND I'M SURE LAURIE AND DAVID WILL HAVE BUILT ON THAT THIS WEEK.

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Catching up on the game after playing in Dublin, there are a lot of positives to take from it and I'm sure Laurie and David will have built on that this week.

All England players and supporters are massively disappointed by the result last Sunday, we found Ireland a tough nut to crack. It's a result which has definitely opened up the tournament.

It's always a little odd with feet in two camps at this stage of the season but I am trying to keep up at Kingsholm, and it was great to see such a super crowd last time out against London Welsh.

The game was overshadowed a bit by the injury to Henry. Having got to know Trinny over the last few years, he is a strong character and I know that he will be massively determined to bounce back to fitness as soon as he can.

Whoever is wearing the Gloucester shirt today though, they'll be giving it 100% as always.

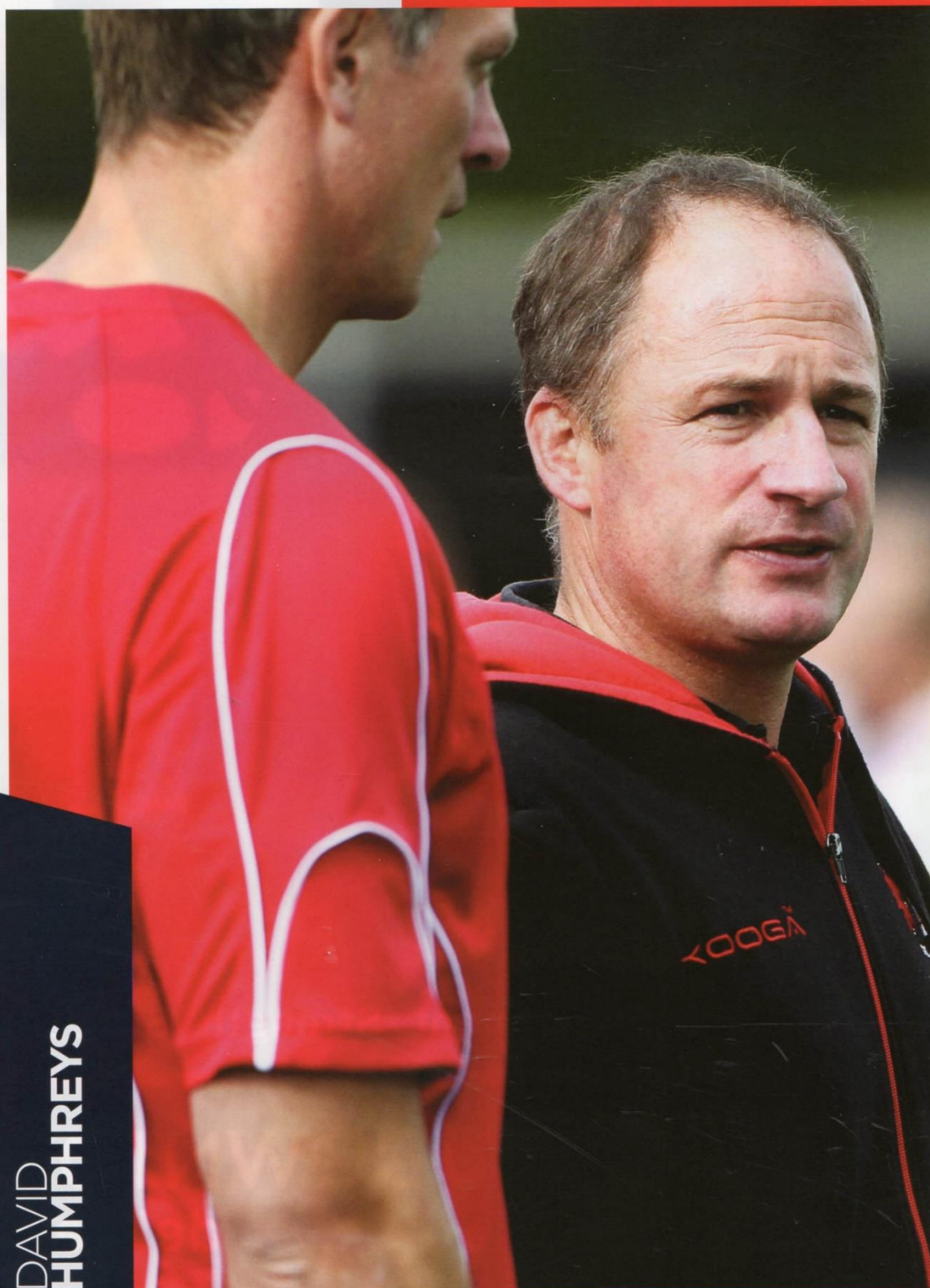
The business end of the season is nearing, every game is hugely important and that just displays the quality of this league now with every side getting better and better.

Enjoy the game

Billy

DIR. OF  
RUGBY

DAVID  
HUMPHREYS



DAVID  
HUMPHREYS

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GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR ROUND 17 OF THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP.

**S** EPTEMBER 5th 2014 and the first game of the Premiership against Northampton seems like a distant memory as we welcome the players, staff and supporters from the Saints to Gloucester.

It was a baptism of fire for all of us and the six months since then have been, as predicted, an emotional roller coaster in terms of team performance and results!

In the London Welsh programme notes, I wrote about the significance of every game at this stage of the season and while we claimed 5 points in that game, we missed a great opportunity to pick up more points at the Ricoh Arena last Sunday against Wasps. The Ricoh Arena is another outstanding venue for rugby matches and Wasps look as if they have made an inspired decision to move north to Coventry.

The result itself was very disappointing but the final

chasing the game.

Once again, we showed real character and fight to play our way back into the match and, but for a couple of decisions and the bounce of the ball going against



us, we could justifiably have won the game.

It's certainly the most

Premiership by 12 points is testament to both the quality of coaching and the strength and depth they have developed across their playing squad.

We said in September that Northampton's road to success was a good example for us to follow – it didn't happen overnight and has been built on strong foundations that will ensure the club continues to compete at the top of the English game – and we are confident that over the last six months a lot of good work has been done in moving Gloucester Rugby forward both on and off the pitch.

Looking forward to next season we are delighted to welcome Willi Heinz, Canterbury Crusaders scrum half, to Gloucester. He picked up a nasty leg injury in a preseason match with the Crusaders but will have recovered in time for the start of preseason in July and will bring added experience and leadership to our playing group.

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IT WAS A BAPTISM OF FIRE FOR ALL OF US AND THE SIX MONTHS SINCE THEN IT HAS BEEN, AS PREDICTED, AN EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER IN TERMS OF TEAM PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS!

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score didn't reflect the very competitive nature of the match. Having built an early lead we missed a number of opportunities to extend that lead and then gifted Wasps tries just before and after half time which meant we were

disappointed that I have felt after any game this season and we are determined to bounce back today with a big performance. To compete against Northampton, everyone knows that every aspect of our recent performances will have to be better, and the level of our performance this afternoon will show exactly how far we've progressed since that opening day defeat at Franklin's Gardens.

Jim Mallinder's side have continued to build on their success of last season and currently leading a very competitive Aviva

After the disappointment of another injury for Henry Trinder we have added current Leinster player Brendan Macken to the squad for the remainder of the season. Brendan has been part of the very successful Leinster system for the last few years, and I'm looking forward to seeing what impact he can make in Gloucester colours over the next 3 months.

I hope you enjoy the match today and make our visitors very welcome at Kingsholm...

David



# THE VIEW FROM The Citizen



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

**BREWHOUSE  
& KITCHEN**  
to open at  
Gloucester Quays

**CONVICTED  
KILLER** Timothy  
Spencer jailed  
for attempted  
robbery

**RECYCLING  
CHANGES  
AFOOT** as  
council looks at  
overhaul

**MARCUS  
KELLY** should  
be in the Football  
League, says  
Forest Green boss

## "SCRUMMAGING IS NOT ALL I CAN DO..."

**NICKY Thomas** was perhaps the least known of Gloucester's triple signing of props but he could arguably have the biggest long-term impact at Kingsholm.

Thomas, Paul Doran Jones and Paddy McAllister all put pen to paper last month to bolster the Cherry and Whites' front-row resources next season.

With the Premiership and European competitions running consecutively and without a break next season there will be an added emphasis on strength in depth and Thomas certainly has potential.

The Swansea-born tight-head was part of a formidable, all-conquering Wales Under-20s scrum but has found opportunities limited at the Ospreys.

It has been hugely frustrating for the highly-rated scrummager, who has spent the majority of this season playing for Aberavon and made just one appearance for the Ospreys.

But having previously studied, alongside Ross Moriarty and Callum Braley for a BTEC in sport at Hartpury he jumped at the chance to join Gloucester.

He hopes to master his trade alongside Gloucester's wealth of expertise and is relishing



### Hero

Nicky sees Wales and Lions legend Adam Jones as the type of player he would like to aspire to.

the opportunity to kick start his career.

Thomas, 20, said, "I was at Hartpury for two years so I know all about Gloucester and their fans but it's the opportunity within the club that excites me.

"The Premiership is more set-piece orientated than the Pro12 which will suit my game but it will be challenge going up against some of the best scrums.

"It's been very frustrating that the opportunities haven't been

” DAVID HUMPHREYS POINTED OUT THAT THE SHED LOVES A PENALTY TRY THROUGH A SCRUM JUST AS MUCH AS PRETTY ONE IN THE BACKS. THEY WANT A STRONG FRONT ROW THAT’S SET-PIECE ORIENTATED AND THAT WILL SUIT ME. **Nicky Thomas**

there for me at the Ospreys. I had a good couple of years with Wales Under-20s but nothing picked up from there and I had to move on.

“I’m a Swansea boy born and bred and I would have loved to have played for the Ospreys but I guess the style doesn’t suit me.

“When I see my good friend Nicky Smith going on to play for Wales after having opportunities and starting for the Ospreys it’s even more frustrating.

“But that’s what it’s about at this age, taking opportunities. Gloucester are looking to build set-piece dominance and that was the biggest attraction about the club.

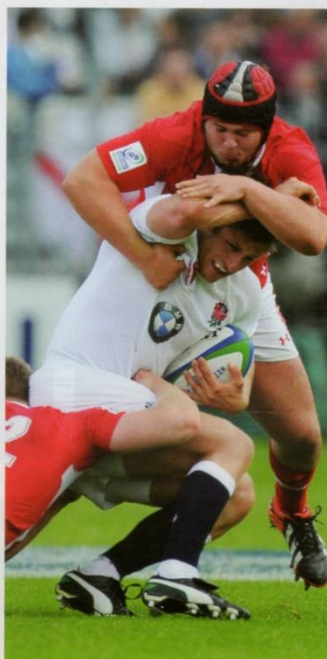
“Laurie Fisher is one of the best forward coaches in the world and Trevor Woodman was both a great scrummager and a World Cup winner so I’m really looking forward to working with them and also players like John Afoa and Richard Hibbard.

“I’m under no illusions that Afoa is one of the best tight heads in the Premiership.

“I’m 20 and there’s no way I will be the star breakthrough but this is my opportunity to learn and develop behind him and some of the other guys.

“David Humphreys pointed out that the Shed loves a penalty try through a scrum just as much as pretty one in the backs. They want a strong front row that’s set-piece orientated and that will suit me.”

There have been concerns around Thomas’ fitness and work-rate at the Swansea-based region and that is understood to be a reason behind his lack of chances at the Liberty Stadium.



” AS A TIGHT HEAD PROP SCRUMMAGING IS THE BIGGEST PART OF MY GAME BUT AS A 21-YEAR-OLD I KNOW I CANNOT RELY UPON JUST THAT AND HAVE TO BRING OTHER FACTORS TO MY GAME.

Thomas admits it is an area which requires constant work and the degree in sport and exercise science he will transfer from Swansea University to the University of Gloucestershire to complete will be help in hand

And Thomas knows you need to look no further than his rugby hero Adam Jones for the blueprint.

The Wales and British and Irish Lions legend was known as the “30-minute man” when he broke onto the scene during New Zealand head coach Steve Hansen’s tenure at the Millennium Stadium.

He was regularly hooked before half-time but worked relentlessly upon his fitness to become the world’s finest tight-head.

And Thomas is looking forward to what is sure to be a vital love-hate relationship with Gloucester fitness guru Paddy Anson.

He said, “Adam Jones is definitely my rugby hero, he’s an out and out scrummager and achieved so much for Wales. It’s unfortunate what’s happened and it was a sad day for me when he retired.

“I’m very much in that mould as a player. As a tight head prop scrummaging is the biggest part of my game but as a 21-year-old I know I cannot rely upon just that and have to bring other factors to my game.

“Scrummaging is not all I can do, big collisions, counter rucking and defence are other big strengths to my game.

“Fitness has been a focus throughout the last year and it will be throughout my career but it’s my job to hit my targets.

“I’ve come to the acceptance that like Adam Jones and Richard Hibbard, body weight will be an issue but it is my responsibility and while I might struggle I will have levels to reach and that’s exactly what I will do.

“I’ve heard the set-up is very professional and I’m sure I will be working very hard with Paddy.”

Citizen AVAILABLE DAILY



GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

LADIES AT  
KINGSHOLM  
THE VICTORIAN AGE

A cigarette card advertising women's rugby in 1895

**From the earliest days of the Gloucester Club, when matches were played at the Spa, ladies were encouraged to attend. Indeed seating in the pavilion at the Spa was reserved for ladies and members only.**

In 1876, the Flamingoes broke new ground by travelling from London to play in Gloucester, and admission charges were made for the first time. The Gloucester ladies were reported to have "mustered in full force in the pavilion" for this match.

This success was closely followed in March 1876 by a major setback, when the first serious injury occurred at a Gloucester match - Sydney Lane sustained

a fractured thigh playing against Ross-on-Wye. His misfortune was reported to have greatly upset the ladies present, and for some time their attendance at matches fell away as a result.

The first recorded instance of ladies playing football on the Kingsholm turf was on 11th November 1895, only four years after the ground was opened. An exhibition soccer match was played at Kingsholm by two teams of lady players who were touring the country.

It generated a lot of interest, and attracted a large crowd, despite appalling weather. However, the event also attracted a good deal of derision, as the Citizen reported the following day:

"When a lovely woman stoops to folly" there is no telling where she will end. They were announced as the "original" lady footballers. Their football is certainly "original" enough to warrant this title, and it is to be hoped that these aborigines may disappear before an enlightened and advancing civilisation.

If they could play football some sort of excuse for their appearance might be found, but they cannot, their notions of the game being elementary in the extreme and their attempts to play it fatuous. It must be remembered that the climatic conditions were all against a scientific exposition, pelting rain, muddy ground, and slippery, sodden ball being sufficient to test the stamina and skill of players made of much sterner stuff. Their movements

were for the most part leisurely, their pace slow, their ability a negligible quality. They betrayed a natural anxiety to avoid hurting one another by charging, and a disinclination to fall in the mud.

Let it be said that, so far as modesty is concerned, the most fastidious could hardly take exception to their attire. The blouses and "bloomers" left nothing to be desired as regards decency, and would even have been picturesque had it not been for their stained and weather-beaten condition, which accorded well with the dishevelled hair and general appearance of the wearers.

A noticeable exception was the lady rejoicing in the sobriquet of "Tommy". She was really clever with some of her dribbles, and was much more agile and fast – if we may use the term without reproach in this connection – than her comrades, who trotted about in a rather aimless fashion.

The game would, perhaps, have been more exciting if the goalkeepers had not been two mere men-things who most ungallantly kicked the ball away whenever the respective goals were in danger; and no goals were scored by either side. The first portion of the game lasted half an hour; and when the second had been in progress fifteen minutes the rain became so bad that even the lady footballers could not stand it.

It was getting dark too and the spectators dispersed. They had come to scoff, remained to do





so, and did. Football is all very well in its place. The two do not harmonise. They are hopelessly incongruous."

This experiment was not repeated, and the emphasis remained firmly on encouraging support rather than participation by the womenfolk of Gloucester.

Lady spectators were offered special membership rates by the Club, and even when there was a need to increase income substantially after the Great War, they were still charged less. The ladies continued to be accommodated with the members, away from the "popular" side, where behaviour and language were less genteel.



Lady cyclists at Kingsholm in 1918

### VIOLET PEGLER

Just as the Great War changed perceptions and attitudes forever as regards the roles of working men in society, so the parts which women played in the Second World War changed their expectations and ambitions.

This certainly applied to Violet Pegler. She had a good Gloucester Club pedigree, her father, Fred Pegler, having played 239 games for the Club, from 1902 to 1913. He took his daughter to her first match at Kingsholm when she was aged 5. She became a regular spectator along with a small group of women friends, and played touch rugby whilst in the Army during World War Two.

In 1948, she advertised for players to start a ladies' rugby team, sufficient numbers came forward and Sid Dangerfield, a

leading Gloucester player and local policeman, was recruited as trainer.

Violet requested assistance from the Club, and suggested that mixed matches be played at Kingsholm as curtain raisers before big matches. Her proposal came before the Club committee, but did not get far. The President, Dr Arnold Alcock, declared that he "considered it inadvisable from all points of view" – end of discussion.

### THE LADIES' COMMITTEE

Although the Club paid for professional catering after matches from early in its history

replacements were found, and the arrangement continued, but it became increasingly difficult to recruit ladies for these duties during the 1980s, and in the early 1990s the Ladies' Committee was disbanded, and the Club reverted to a commercial contract for all catering requirements.

### THE FIRST SEEDS OF CHANGE

By 1972, Tom Voyce was President of the Club, and he met with a group of ladies who requested permission to stage a match against the Club team at Kingsholm. Tom reported to the committee, and some members expressed disquiet, but the match was eventually agreed on the understanding that it would be touch rugby involving only light contact, and with the proviso that the Club "would not be responsible for injury or accident".

The match went ahead between the players and their wives and girlfriends, and "Ladies v Players" matches were held several times in subsequent years.

During the early 1990s, the number of women playing rugby in England grew very quickly, and many rugby clubs formed women's sections. Several women's teams were formed in the Gloucester area, but none directly associated with the Gloucester Club. Student teams made the breakthrough in terms of playing competitive games of women's rugby on the hallowed turf of Kingsholm.

And the Day Finally Dawns

The first women's team affiliated to the Gloucester Club only appeared on the scene with the formation of Gloucester-Hartpury Ladies this season. They have played most of their matches at Hartpury, but make history today by becoming the first ladies' team to play at Kingsholm as part of the Gloucester Club.

It's been a long time a-coming. Welcome ladies and congratulations - Violet Pegler would be especially proud of you.

until well after the Second World War, the attractions of cutting costs eventually resulted in the formation of a Ladies' Committee to provide meals after the match on a voluntary basis.



Girl Guides swamp Kingsholm in 1964

This arrangement did not always go smoothly – in 1961 the whole Ladies' Committee felt so put upon that they resigned en masse. However,



PLAYER  
FEATURE

MATT  
KVESIC





DID YOU  
KNOW?

MATT WAS BORN IN ISERLOHN, GERMANY. THE MAIN  
SPORT IN ISERLOHN IS ICE HOCKEY!

# THE BEST FORM OF DEFENCE

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...WE'RE A CHANGED TEAM AND IT'S A HOME GAME IN  
FRONT OF OUR OWN FANS, AND WE'LL BE DOING ALL  
WE CAN TO COME OUT ON TOP.

AS THE CHERRY AND WHITES PREPARE FOR  
THE ARRIVAL OF THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP  
CHAMPIONS AND LEAGUE LEADERS AND,  
AS THE SEASON CONTINUES TO THROW UP  
CRUCIAL MOMENTS AND GAMES AS THE  
BUSINESS END DRAWS EVER NEARER, MATT  
KVESIC IS FULLY AWARE OF THE TASK IN HAND.

**I** NTERNATIONAL call-ups have seen the Cherry and Whites  
make full use of their squad in recent weeks. Northampton  
have been similarly affected and a number of players may  
return today on both sides.

But one thing is for sure, the back row battle today will be ferocious,  
regardless of who Jim Mallinder has at his disposal.

"It's going to be tough, and difficult to work out who they are going to  
pick too. We know that they like the big, abrasive, dynamic back rower  
that carries well and a real workhouse.



PLAYER  
FEATURE

MATT  
KVESIC

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LAURIE HAS BEEN REALLY ENJOYABLE TO WORK WITH. ONE THING THAT STICKS OUT FOR ME IS HIS RUGBY DETAIL AND I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'VE EVER MET SOMEONE THAT IS THAT KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE GAME.

# ...IS ATTACK

"We know that it will be a big test, they're a great side so fingers crossed it goes well."

The last meeting with the Saints at Franklin's Gardens saw the season start with a bump, but a lot of rugby has been played since that opening night, and Kvesic reflects that it was quickly forgotten about.

"Fortunately for me, I wasn't involved that night so it isn't etched in the memory. But we have moved on an awful lot since then and, to be, fair we were beaten by the better team on the day, so there are no excuses there. I don't think we played particularly badly, I just think they played exceptionally well.

"That was a long time ago, we're a changed team and it's a home game in front of our own fans, and we'll be doing all we can to come out on top."

The six-try back rower has proved to be one of England's in-form back rowers since his move from Sixways, and Kvesic's





excellent form this season was rewarded with a call up for the Saxons victory over the Irish Wolfhounds in Cork last month.

"I really enjoyed that game, the Saxons game was awesome playing with a few guys that I had played with during age groups, as well as getting to know a few new guys. It was a really relaxed week and it was good that Ireland put out a strong team so we were really tested.

"To go over there and get the win was great, and for a first Saxons experience for me, I really enjoyed it."

With Laurie Fisher's arrival at Kingsholm during the summer, the Head Coach boasts an impressive CV of nurturing some of the world's best back rowers, and Kvesic has benefitted from the Aussies' influence already.

"It's been great, Laurie has been really enjoyable to work with. One thing that sticks out for me is his

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WE KNOW THAT IT WILL BE A BIG TEST, THEY'RE A GREAT SIDE SO FINGERS CROSSED IT GOES WELL.

rugby detail and I don't feel like I've ever met someone that is that knowledgeable in the game.

"It's still early days working with Laurie, and perhaps in pre season we missed out on that chunk with him, but looking forward there is still so much that I can learn from him and focus on breakdown both technical and tactical.

"So far, I hope you can see the improvement in the forwards week on week, and that is credit to Trevor as well. Laurie is driving that and pushing standards, so we're all really enjoying that."

On top of that, Kvesic is still able to pick the brains of Andrew Stanley, a coach and friend that he

has been with since he first laced up his boots.

"It's nice having Stan around, I've known him since I was 13 or 14. It was disappointing that it didn't work out last year, but it is still great that he pops in a few times a week and still coaches me and the boys on the breakdown.

"He's Gloucester Rugby through and through and he was an awesome seven in his day, and there is still loads that I can learn from him.

"He's very inventive with creating new drills and always keeping you on your toes and keeping it enjoyable so he is a super guy to have around."

#### GLoucester RUGBY AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION





# BOB FENTON'S

## KINGSHOLM NEWS

**”** NORTHAMPTON ARE PROBABLY THE SIDE THAT MOST OF THE PREMIERSHIP WOULD ASPIRE TO BE LIKE - WELL NOT SARACENS, OBVIOUSLY: THEY WOULD MUCH RATHER BE THE DURBAN DUMDUMS, CAPE TOWN CRUSADERS OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT - A CONSISTENTLY HIGH PERFORMING SIDE. AND UNLIKE SOME OF OUR NEAREST AND DEAREST RIVALS, THEY'VE NOT GONE TO 'PLAYERS 'R' US' AND BANKROLLED A NEW SIDE.

**I** T'S been a tough couple of weeks, hasn't it? The guilt was taken off the win over London Welsh with injuries to Matt Kvesic and Henry Trinder. Fortunately the former's looked a lot worse that it turned out to

be, and he was back in the side almost as quickly as he came out of it. Henry, though, looks like a different story.

A couple of weeks before the game I sat down with him to talk about his time as a junior player at Cirencester, the interview is in

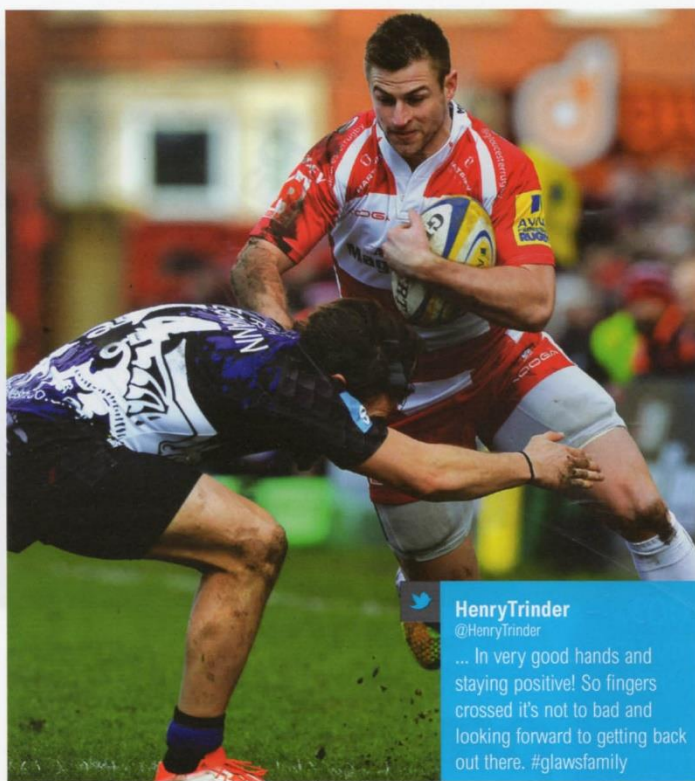
issue 3 of @Holm which comes out today - get a copy from the club shop! He was very upbeat about things and very much looking forward to getting back into the squad.

What we got from him at Kingsholm a couple of weeks ago was a classic cameo: a perfectly timed run onto the ball, a swerve past the first defender, accelerate into space into contact and set the ball back. And a horrible injury...

Really, how unlucky can one player be? We've all known for years what a talent Henry is but he's been blighted by injury. Let's just hope the damage is not as severe as it looked and that he makes a complete recovery. For me our midfield always looks more balanced and potent when Henry Trinder's name is on the team sheet.

Fortunately David Humphreys has been able to tap into his contacts in Ireland and has landed Brendan Macken on loan from Leinster until the end of the season as a bit of cover. So, welcome Brendan.

To be fair, Mark Atkinson has settled into the side well and adds a real physical presence to our midfield. And considering that more than a couple of his colleagues have said that he is somewhat challenged when it



**Henry Trinder**  
@HenryTrinder

... In very good hands and staying positive! So fingers crossed it's not too bad and looking forward to getting back out there. #glawsfamily





comes to speed, he gets up and down the park pretty well.

Last weekend then - a bit of a mixed bag for our boys on international duty. A win for Hibbs, but defeats for Billy and Greig. Jonny fell victim to the media hype that blamed him for pretty much everything from the Great Fire of London and my local supermarket running out of bread, and was sent back to make way for Exeter's Jack Nowell - the man with the daftest haircut in the Premiership. As we all know that particular masterstroke by the England coaching team worked out really well (Ed's note: irony alert) for all concerned.

It wasn't such a good weekend for Gloucester either. Despite taking an early lead, the old defensive lapses that are the stuff of nightmares for Gloucester fans resurfaced and we went down on the wrong end of five tries.

Last weekend threw up an interesting question: With Piri



Weepu's move from London Welsh to Wasps in midweek it meant that he played against us two weeks running. Playing against the same player in back-to-back fixtures in nothing new, happens all the time - but for different clubs? In consecutive weeks?? Has that ever happened before???

No doubt there will be someone with a black belt in statistics who can tell me the answer to that one, but for the life of me, I can't think of it happening before.

Back to the game though, and in the 'well, it can't get much worse' stakes, we have the small matter of the Premiership leaders coming to town today. No challenge there then.

Northampton are probably the side that most of the Premiership would aspire to be like - well not Saracens, obviously: they would much rather be the Durban DumDums, Cape Town Crusaders or something like that - a consistently high performing

side. And unlike some of our nearest and dearest rivals, they've not gone to 'players 'r' us' and bankrolled a new side.

They have built a great structure, based on solid foundations. There is so much in their set up that is to be admired - not just on the pitch but in the way they have such stability around the place. When you think where they have come from, you can't help but hope that we are on the same journey, just a little way back

from where they have got to.

They completely destroyed us earlier in the season at a time when most of our squad were still trying to figure out who was playing and who was a coach. We've come a long, long way since that particular dark day and today is going to be a real test of just how far we still have to go, and we really need to bounce back after last weekend's result.

Finally, I mentioned @Holm, the new(ish) Gloucester Rugby magazine - with a bit of a twist. If you haven't got one see if you can seek one out. This one is packed with loads of stuff ranging from interviews with Trevor Woodman, Ben Morgan and Ross Moriarty, a 'Where are they now?' feature with Pete Glanville and a Great British Bake off special with a few players offering up their best attempt at cake baking. Yes, really!

For about four quid for close to 150 pages it makes for a good read - check it out!



# IAN RANDALL'S RUGBY TALK

IT'S BEEN A LONG HAUL TO GET TO THIS POINT BUT ON THE WEEKEND BEFORE THE NATIONAL HUNT FESTIVAL, LOOK DOWN THE TABLES OF THE TOP FOUR DIVISIONS AND THERE ARE JUST SIX ROUNDS OF GAMES LEFT.

**W**ITH places in the Premiership top six being so valuable, it's going to be a mighty scramble to get in.

You have to drop down to National Division 1 to find Gloucestershire representation again, and while there are two

clubs in the third tier at the moment, one is very much at risk.

Cinderford's precarious position, sitting as they do in the final relegation place, made a recent supporters meeting all the more interesting.

This is their seventh season in the third tier, but shortly after

Christmas Nic Corrigan (below left) was appointed as Director of Rugby after a period working as a coaching consultant. It meant Andy Deacon - such a favourite here in his playing days - stepping aside after ten years in a variety of roles.

Corrigan, it must be said, has a very different approach. Not only is he involved at first team level, he is employed three days a week by the club as he tries to expand the footprint on which it stands.

"The club has been operating on a small structure and what those people have done you cannot put a value on," he told me.

"The reality is that League rugby is very competitive and any modern day Director of Rugby needs to have a view of both on pitch and off pitch, and it's not just about the first team. We have a vibrant club, and it's really important here that we create something that everyone supports and understands."

Corrigan smiles when I compare his role to that of David Humphreys, but on a smaller scale.

"I've had one meeting with David and he is scaryly





impressive" he joked. "I am involved with our scrum drills on a Thursday night, and that's the equivalent of me being on the tools.

"Cinderford's role is to support Gloucester Rugby in terms of developing players, and the challenge is also to take the club out of the Forest of Dean and connect it with the rest of the county via the RFU, the GRFC and the business community.

"If we don't set our stall out properly people won't shop with us. Build from the top down and the shelf life is 4-5 years, and there are many examples of clubs that have fallen by the wayside. Cinderford is still standing and that's down to the management of it to this point. It's now about refining it."

Corrigan will hope his blueprint - which is to set up four new small groups below the board by the start of next season - doesn't have to cope with relegation, but the bare facts are these.



Jonny May of Hartpury poses with the Man of The Match award following his team's victory during the EDF Energy Intermediate Cup Final between Hartpury College and Clifton at Twickenham on April 18, 2009

Old Albanians, the club above Cinderford, have a six point cushion with five games left after today, when both sides are at home. It should be five points apiece from games against bottom side Macclesfield, so the window of opportunity for Cinderford is small. They will hope for a favour from Hartpury on April 11.

Hartpury's season, in contrast to Cinderford's, has been encouraging following promotion a year ago. They are comfortably in the top half, and could, after winning at promotion hopefuls Coventry a fortnight ago, still finish in the first four.

Their Director of Rugby, Alan Martinovic is a grounded man not prone to hyperbole but even he conceded it's been a good season whatever happens from here.

"We came into National One

not really knowing how we would do, so whether we have over achieved is for other people to judge," he said.

"The players should take the credit. Coaches get too much praise when a team does well and too much criticism when they don't. You end up where you deserve to end up and to finish 4th would be a brilliant season and well above our expectations."

Dan Thomas (10) and Steph Reynolds (9) have been regular try scorers for Hartpury this season, and both scored for Gloucester's first team in the LV=Cup win over Quins.

If they could help engineer a Hartpury win on the Saturday after Easter, it might just keep the door open for two teams from the county to play in the third tier again next season.



A to Z  
JOHN AFOA

ALBERT  
MUNSTER

## PLAYER A to Z JOHN AFOA

RUGBY  
WORLD CUP  
2015



...is for  
**ATMOSPHERE...**

What is the best  
atmosphere you  
have experienced?  
Eden Park

...is for best mate  
...**BEST MATE** in  
rugby?  
Too many

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

If you weren't a  
rugby player what  
would you be?  
Stay at home Dad

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

most embarrassing  
moment on the  
field?  
Tripped over  
(hit by a sniper)

...is for **DRIVE...**  
what car are you  
driving?  
94 Shogun

**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?  
Ulster v Munster  
2012

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

What's yours?  
I don't have one

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

Who is the best  
player you have  
faced up against?  
Tony Woodcock

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

What is your  
proudest moment?  
2007 ITM Cup  
winners –  
Undefeated!

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

Who is the fastest  
player you have  
played with or  
against?  
Rupeni  
Caucaunibuca

...is for **RUN OUT**

**MUSIC...** what's  
your tune to run  
out to?  
No music

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

What teams do  
you support?  
Blues Rugby



**BLUES**







...is for **FASHION...**  
Who is the worst dressed player in the squad?  
Tom Savage's 'jeggings'



...is for **HARDMAN...**  
Who is the toughest player you have come across?  
Jerry Collins



...is for **IDOL...**  
Who is your sporting idol?  
Tana Umaga



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



...is for **KINGSHOLM**  
...describe Kingsholm in three words?  
Good day out

...is for **LIFE after rugby...**  
What are your future plans?  
Involved in sports

**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?  
vs Wales in 2010

...is for **UNBELIEVABLE...**  
Tell us something surprising about yourself  
I hate water melon

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

...is for **WORST...**  
What is the worst thing about being a rugby player?  
That you can't play forever

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

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

...is for **ZZZZ...**  
Which player has the worst banter?  
Shane 'No Craic' Monahan



**John Afoa**  
@John\_Afoa  
Cheers to me mate @shanemdesigns for the hat, but maybe wishing i got the Beanie instead!!!!



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

### LINE-UP

15	FB	BILLY BURNS
14	W	CHARLIE SHARPLES
13	C	HENRY TRINDER
12	C	BILL MEAKES
11	W	HENRY PURDY
10	FH	JAMES HOOK
9	SH	CALLUM BRALEY
1	P	DAN MURPHY
2	H	ALEKI LUTUI
3	P	JOHN AFOA
4	L	TOM SAVAGE (C)
5	L	JAMES HUDSON
6	F	ROSS MORIARTY
7	F	MATT KVESIC
8	N8	SIONE KALAMAFONI

### REPLACEMENTS

16	H	DARREN DAWIDIUK
17	P	YANN THOMAS
18	P	SILA PUAFISI
19	L	ELLIOTT STOOKE
20	N8	GARETH EVANS
21	W	DAN ROBSON
22	C	MARK ATKINSON
23	F	JACOB ROWAN



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

# 48

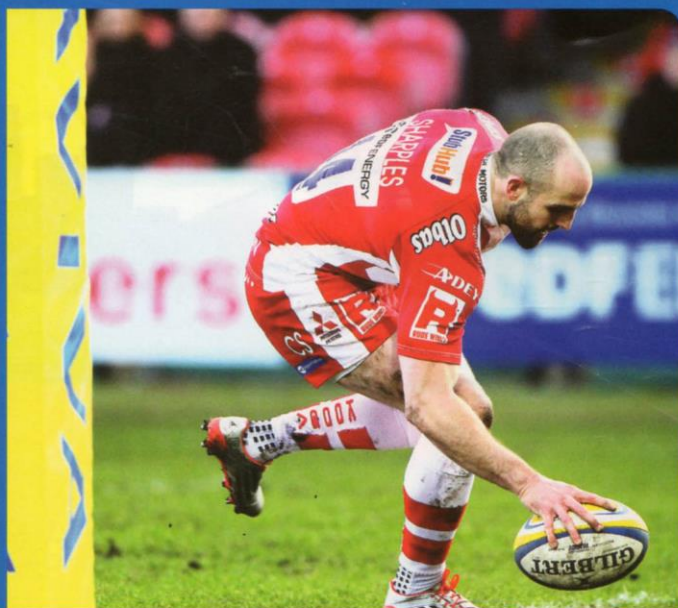
**TRIES:** Moriarty (11), Sharples (16), Kvesic (25), Purdy (52, 75), Puafisi (80) **CONS:** Hook (12, 17, 26, 53, 76, 80) **PENS:** Hook (4, 9)



# LONDON WELSH

# 10

**TRY:** Kirwan (47) **CON:** Robinson (47) **PEN:** Robinson (7)



## LONDON WELSH

### LINE-UP

15	FB	ELLIOTT KEAR
14	W	SEB STEGMANN
13	C	NIC REYNOLDS
12	C	JAMES TINCKNELL
11	W	ALAN AWCOCK
10	FH	WILL ROBINSON
9	SH	PIRI WEEPU
1	P	EDDIE AHOLELEI
2	H	ROB ELLOWAY
3	P	TAIONE VEA
4	L	DEAN SCHOFIELD
5	L	JAMES DOWN
6	F	BEN WEST
7	F	CARL KIRWAN (C)
8	N8	BEN PIENAAR

### REPLACEMENTS

16	H	NATHAN MORRIS
17	P	NATHAN TREVETT
18	P	JACK GILDING
19	L	MATT CORKER
20	F	LACHLAN MCCAFFREY
21	SH	ROB LEWIS
22	W	TOM MAY
23	C	JAMES LEWIS



# JOB DONE BUT INJURIES TAKE GLOSS OFF WIN

THE CHERRY AND WHITES BOUNCED BACK FROM THE ROUND 14 DEFEAT AT LEICESTER TIGERS WITH A REGULATION VICTORY OVER BOTTOM OF THE TABLE LONDON WELSH AT KINGSHOLM.

**T**HE game experienced all sorts of extreme weather throughout the 80 minutes and conditions were rather tricky at time. However, smart play and application saw the hosts run in six well-worked tries against the struggling Exiles.

20-year old back rower Ross Moriarty scored his first senior try in his 31st competitive appearance as he barged over from short range after good initial work from Mark Atkinson and Henry Purdy to start the try scoring, after James Hook and Will Robinson had exchanged

early penalties.

Atkinson was an early replacement for the injured Henry Trinder – stretched off in the opening ten minutes on his first start in five months. It was an incident that overshadowed the afternoon, and a blow to a hugely talented player.

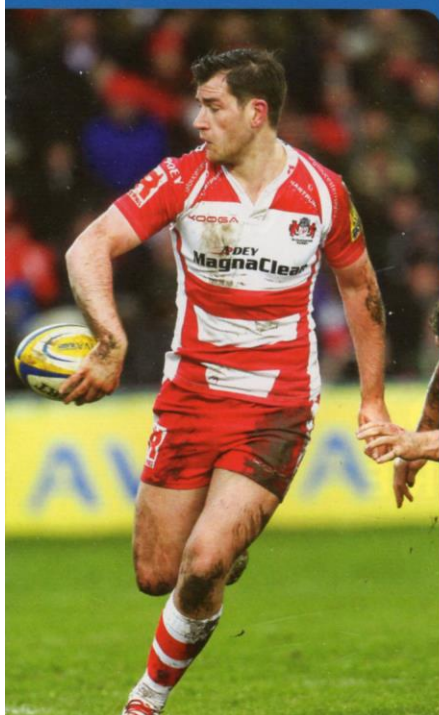
Shortly after, the hosts worked a smart first phase move as Bill Meakes and James Hook combined to send Charlie Sharples through a gaping midfield hole to score the second.

Exiles' wing Alan Awcock saw yellow for a deliberate knock on as the hail began to descend,

”

I'M DELIGHTED WITH OUR FIVE POINTS AS IT MAINTAINS OUR GOOD START TO THE YEAR.

David Humphreys



and Matt Kvesic strolled over for a third as he peeled off the base of a rolling maul to score with the fringe defence strangely absent.

Welsh nearly picked up their first score in reply but experienced second row Dean Schofield spilt the ball over the line under pressure from Kvesic.

The visitors did score just after half time, however, captain Carl Kirwan getting on the end of good support play to dive over under the posts and give his side a glimmer of hope.

The rain and hail were making conditions very difficult as the hosts sought the bonus point score, and it finally came from wing Henry Purdy, who first expertly plucked a Hook cross kick from the gloomy skies,

## CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



Henry Purdy continues to impress and picked up his first try double in the Premiership with two well taken tries. The second owed much to the confidence to try the move as Purdy and Callum Braley combined in limited space and the wing showed a great step to power his way over.

gathered and outpaced the scattered defence to slide over.

The hosts were playing all the rugby but, to their credit, Welsh were battling well with conditions underfoot not conducive to speedy play.

Purdy picked up his second score as the game neared a close, showing great awareness to keep a ball in play, before combining with the impressive Braley to scoot down the Shed touchline and going over with three defenders on his back.

There was still time for the Cherry and Whites to score a sixth against the beleaguered visitors. Seconds after having a try chalked off by the TMO, Sila Puafisi barged through a weak shoulder to dive over for his first try for the club since arriving last November.



# ACTION REPLAY

VS  
WASPS

## WASPS

### LINE-UP

15	FB	ROB MILLER
14	W	CHRISTIAN WADE
13	C	ELLIOT DALY
12	C	JAMES DOWNEY
11	W	TOM VARDELL
10	FH	ANDY GOODE
9	SH	JOE SIMPSON
1	P	MATT MULLAN (C)
2	H	CARLO FESTUCCIA
3	P	JAKE COOPER-WOOLLEY
4	L	JAMES CANNON
5	L	JAMES GASKELL
6	F	ASHLEY JOHNSON
7	F	THOMAS YOUNG
8	N8	NATHAN HUGHES

### REPLACEMENTS

16	H	ED SHERVINGTON
17	P	SIMON MCINTYRE
18	P	PHIL SWAINSTON
19	L	KEARNAN MYALL
20	F	GUY THOMPSON
21	SH	PIRI WEEPU
22		ALEX LOZOWSKI
23	W	SAILOSI TAGICAKIBAU



# WASPS

# 32

**TRIES:** Young (25, 40), Miller (34), Daly (37), Thompson (71) **CONS:** Goode (25, 41) **PENS:** Goode (69)



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

# 21

**TRIES:** Moriarty (18), Purdy (59) **CON:** Hook (18) **PENS:** Hook (8, 31, 46)



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

### LINE-UP

15	FB	CHARLIE SHARPLES
14	W	JONNY MAY
13	C	MARK ATKINSON
12	C	BILL MEAKES
11	W	HENRY PURDY
10	FH	JAMES HOOK
9	SH	DAN ROBSON
1	P	DAN MURPHY
2	H	DARREN DAWIDIUK
3	P	JOHN AFOA
4	L	TOM SAVAGE (C)
5	L	TOM PALMER
6	F	ROSS MORIARTY
7	F	MATT KVESIC
8	N8	SIONE KALAMAFONI

### REPLACEMENTS

16	H	ALEKI LUTUI
17	P	YANN THOMAS
18	P	SILA PUAFISI
19	L	JAMES HUDSON
20	F	JACOB ROWAN
21	SH	CALLUM BRALEY
22	W	BILLY BURNS
23	F	GARETH EVANS



# GLOUCESTER LEFT TO RUE MISSED OPPORTUNITY

GLOUCESTER DID MANY GOOD THINGS ON THEIR FIRST PREMIERSHIP VISIT TO THE RICOH STADIUM BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, WERE MADE TO PAY FOR THEIR ERRORS AS WASPS RUTHLESSLY EXPLOITED ANY SHORTCOMINGS.

**T**HE Cherry and Whites started well and arguably had Wasps on the ropes when they led 10-0 in the first half. However, a purple patch from the home side before half time saw the game swing decisively their way.

It was a frustrating experience overall for the visitors who carved out numerous scoring opportunities only to be taught a lesson in taking them by their hosts.

”

WE JUST HAVE NOT GOT THAT KILLER EDGE YET AND THAT IS SOMETHING WE WANT TO WORK ON. **David Humphreys**

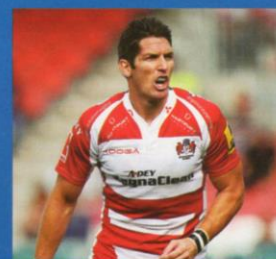


It was a similar tale to the first meeting between these two sides earlier in the season at Kingsholm. On that occasion, Wasps won the game despite making hardly any yards with ball in hand. They simply struck when they had the chance.

Indeed, Gloucester dominated much of the territory and possession for long periods. But they simply couldn't make it count.

Several five metre lineouts were repelled, James Hook almost

## CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



A piece of individual magic from James Hook deserved a better outcome. Taking a flat pass from Darren Dawidiuk, Hook accelerated between two members of the Wasps back row, handed off Joe Simpson and then chipped ahead only for the bouncing ball to elude his grasp as he looked set to ground.

following a key missed tackle, Gloucester's number looked up.

However, Gloucester took control of the third quarter and hammered away at the Wasps line almost incessantly. A deliberate knock-on by James Downey halted one try scoring chance and, when Atkinson's effort was ruled out, it seemed to be one of those days.

However, Henry Purdy finally finished off a neat backs move and Gloucester were right back in the game at 24-21 with 20 minutes to go.

However, having worked so hard to nearly get back on terms, Gloucester faded in the final few minutes, perhaps as a result of the effort expended to close the gap.

Andy Goode kicked a 70th minute penalty before Guy Thompson's try moved Gloucester out of bonus point range. The Cherry and Whites fought desperately to try and get back within seven points as time expired, but it wasn't to be.



# TODAY'S TEAMS

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY vs NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

REFEREE: Greg Garner ASSISTANTS: Kelvin Stewart and Ashley Rowden

TEAMS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT

TPCD  
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STEVE **McCOLL**  
FULL-BACK

CHARLIE **SHARPLES**  
RIGHT WING

MARK **ATKINSON**  
OUTSIDE CENTRE

BILL **MEAKES**  
INSIDE CENTRE

JONNY **MAY**  
LEFT WING

JAMES **HOOKE**  
FLY-HALF

GREIG **LAIDLAW**  
SCRUM-HALF

DAN **MURPHY**  
LOOSEHEAD PROP

RICHARD **HIBBARD**  
HOOKER

JOHN **AFOA**  
TIGHTHEAD PROP

TOM **SAVAGE (C)**  
LOCK

TOM **PALMER**  
LOCK

SIONE **KALAMAFONI**  
BLINDSIDE FLANKER

MATT **KVESIC**  
OPENSIDE FLANKER

GARETH **EVANS**  
NUMBER EIGHT

DARREN **DAWIDIUK**  
REPLACEMENT 1

YANN **THOMAS**  
REPLACEMENT 2

SILA **PUAFISI**  
REPLACEMENT 3

ELLIOTT **STOOKE**  
REPLACEMENT 4

ROSS **MORIARTY**  
REPLACEMENT 5

DAN **ROBSON**  
REPLACEMENT 6

BILLY **BURNS**  
REPLACEMENT 7

HENRY **PURDY**  
REPLACEMENT 8

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

1

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16

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23

JAMES **WILSON**  
FULL-BACK

KEN **PISI**  
RIGHT WING

GEORGE **PISI**  
OUTSIDE CENTRE

TOM **STEPHENSON**  
INSIDE CENTRE

JAMIE **ELLIOTT**  
LEFT WING

STEPHEN **MYLER**  
FLY-HALF

LEE **DICKSON**  
SCRUM-HALF

ALEX **WALLER**  
LOOSEHEAD PROP

MIKE **HAYWOOD**  
HOOKER

GARETH **DENMAN**  
TIGHTHEAD PROP

COURTNEY **LAWES**  
LOCK

CHRISTIAN **DAY**  
LOCK

SAMU **MANOA**  
BLINDSIDE FLANKER

CALUM **CLARK**  
OPENSIDE FLANKER

SAM **DICKINSON**  
NUMBER EIGHT

MATT **WILLIAMS**  
REPLACEMENT 1

ALEX **CORBISIERO**  
REPLACEMENT 2

TOM **MERCEY**  
REPLACEMENT 3

TOM **WOOD**  
REPLACEMENT 4

PHIL **DOWSON**  
REPLACEMENT 5

KAHN **FOTUALI'I**  
REPLACEMENT 6

SAM **OLVER**  
REPLACEMENT 7

AHSEE **TUALA**  
REPLACEMENT 8

TPCD  
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