



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

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Gloucester Rugby main club sponsor

vs Newcastle Falcons

Aviva Premiership Rugby Round 20: 25.04.2015

Inside today's matchday programme we have an exclusive interview with hard-hitting forward Tom Savage, Bill Meakes 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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CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO TODAY'S GAME, AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM TO OUR VISITORS FROM NEWCASTLE FALCONS.



T HERE'S understandably been a really positive feeling in training this week, and the boys are delighted with how last weekend went. We approached the game with a positive attitude but the joy and relief at the final whistle was huge.

We executed our game plan very well and I felt that we all carried it out to how Laurie

wanted, and never stopped working for each other. The whole team really stood up and believed in what we are about as a squad. This was epitomised in the way our forwards dug in against a pack that many pundits fancied very highly, and gave us a great platform for the win.

So, now we have a final to look forward to next week at The Stoop, a huge occasion for everyone

connected with the club.

The way our fans backed us on Saturday was incredible, and it genuinely made a massive difference. The response both online, and the way many hundreds of you all queued on Sunday to pick up your tickets, makes it all worth it to us.

We know we have that backing, and that support, roll on next Friday night!

But that is for next week, and today we face an equally tough test against a Falcons' side that will be eager to come down and put in a performance at Kingsholm. But off the back of a good performance against Exeter, our challenge is to back it up again, and that is our focus this week.

We are looking no further than today's game, and another chance to play at Kingsholm, and preserve our unbeaten record in this calendar year against Dean Richards and his side, who will be determined to make the long trip home with a win.

I must end with a massive thank you for your backing this year, it's a cliché to say that it has been a rollercoaster, but we have plenty still to play for and it's a very exciting time.

Enjoy the game

Billy



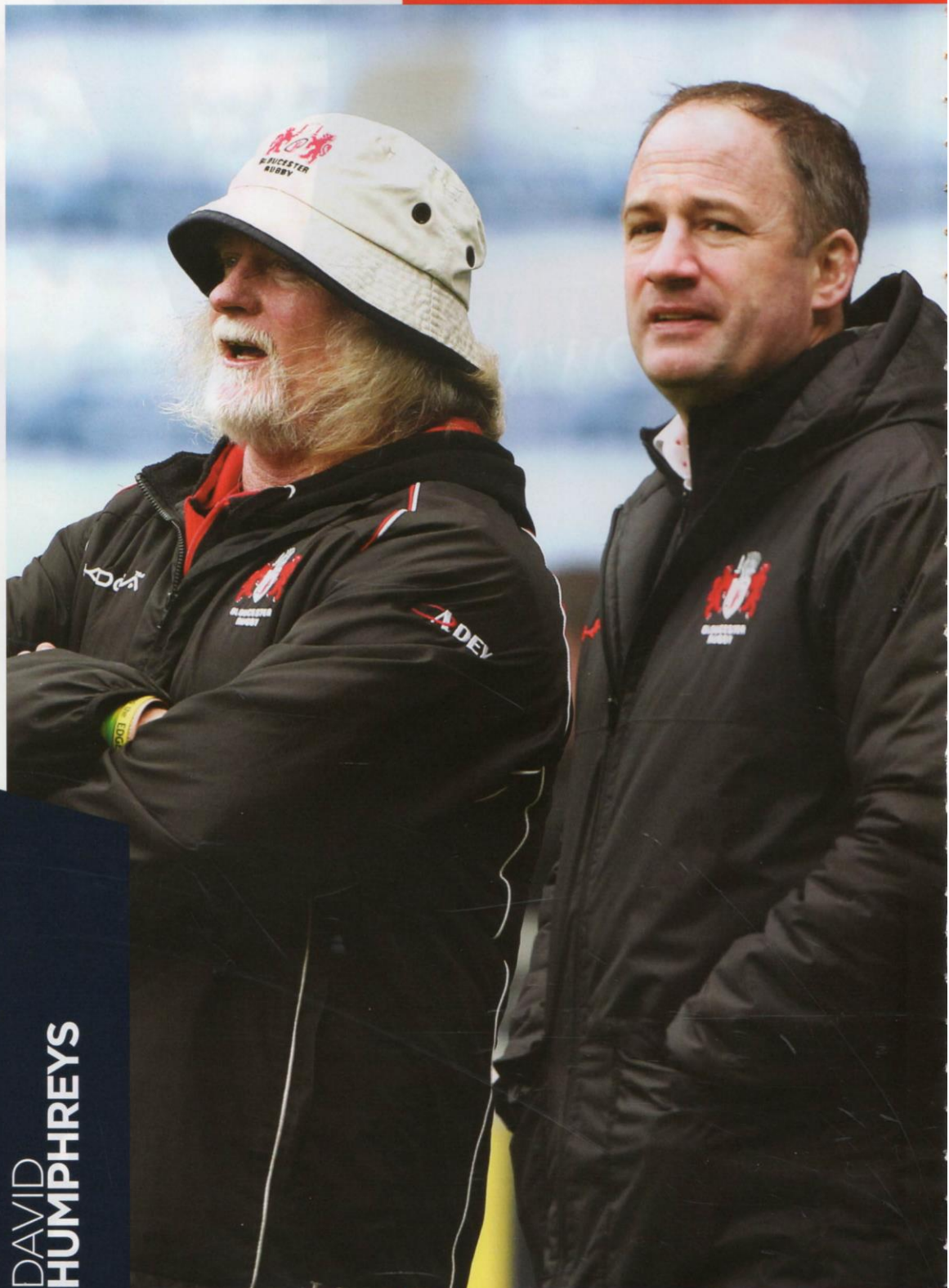
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DIR. OF
RUGBY

DAVID
HUMPHREYS



DAVID
HUMPHREYS

8

programme highlights... THE BIGGER THEY ARE... from page 40

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR OUR PENULTIMATE HOME GAME OF THE SEASON IN THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP AGAINST NEWCASTLE FALCONS.

IT'S often hard to describe the range of emotions we all experience during the course of an 80 minute rugby match, but the overwhelming sense of relief at the final whistle last Saturday evening summed up the importance of the victory over Exeter.

Everyone understood the significance of the game in what has been a roller coaster of a season, and the electric atmosphere from well before kick-off contributed to another memorable European night under the lights at Kingsholm.

I thought we produced our most complete and most composed performance of the season to date against very good opponents for the entire 80 minutes of the game.

Against good teams, they will always have a period of dominance during the game and, unlike some previous matches, we absorbed the Exeter

supporters. The players have worked incredibly hard all season, not always getting the results their efforts deserved, and the fans have been magnificent all season, unwavering in their

It's very important for us to put in a good performance this afternoon for a number of reasons. We want to build on the momentum created by last week's win and carry that confidence and belief into the



support for the team.

However, as much as we enjoyed last Saturday, the focus in training has been very much on Newcastle and what is required

Final against Edinburgh.

But it's also important for us to finish the season as positively as possible. While we can't now qualify for Europe through the

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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!

pressure very well and made some good decisions which allowed us to win a close game.

It now gives us a European Final against Edinburgh to look forward to and I'm delighted for both the players and the

to retain our unbeaten record at Kingsholm in 2015. We have taken a lot of confidence from the weekend's performance and once again, there has been a real energy and enthusiasm in training all week.

Last November, Newcastle won a close game against a very young Gloucester team and we're well aware of their threats, particularly in the back line. Despite their current League position, they have scored a lot of tries, and in Sinoti Sinoti, they have one of the Aviva Premiership Players of the Season.

league, we will fight right to the end of the season to finish the season as high in the table as possible, and with as many points as we can.

As we welcome Dean Richards, the Newcastle team and their supporters to Kingsholm, thank you once again for your support and encouragement throughout the season. Last weekend was exceptional and I know that this afternoon will be just as passionate.

David

THE VIEW FROM The Citizen



SCAN THE
CODE FOR
MORE NEWS
AND STORIES
FROM OUR
WEBSITE

**WOTTON
LAWN
HOSPITAL**
safety worries

**GERRY
NOTT**
murder trial

**LYDNEY
CAN BEAT
THE DROP**
...but it's looking
so tough

**MADISON TO
HAVE SEVEN
INCHES OF HER
LOCKS** chopped
for charity

IN THE RACE AGAIN

MARIANO Galarza finally feels a worthy member of the Gloucester squad after helping the Cherry and Whites to the European Challenge Cup final.

The Argentina second-row arrived at Kingsholm with a serious shoulder injury that required surgery and spent five frustrating months on the sidelines at his new club.

He was handed his first start in the 30-19 victory over Exeter Chiefs and finally delivered on his well-known potential.

Partnering Tom Savage in the second-row, the duo were relentless with the Puma providing an uncompromising, physical presence coupled with skill and athleticism.

And the 6ft 8ins, 18 stone international was relieved to finally prove himself in front of both his teammates and the home faithful.

He said, "You don't feel part of the team until you are on the field so it's a great feeling. It's been a long five months because when you're at a new club you want to show what you can do but I arrived with an injury and needed surgery.

"Now I am in the race again and I'm enjoying the moment. Matches like that are why I joined the club and now I'm enjoying that.

"It didn't feel real – my first start for Gloucester in a European semi-



Head down

Mariano will be looking to forge ahead and put some big performances in for Gloucester

final at Kingsholm. It was a good challenge for me and now we've done that I'm so happy, we're in the final at the Stoop and this is what we were looking to do. I felt good, I had 79 minutes and was happy but I can still do better."

The Cherry and Whites face Edinburgh at the Stoop on May 1, after they recorded a commanding 45-16 victory over Newport Gwent Dragons.

Galarza reckons it is essential that the club salvage

” NOW I AM IN THE RACE AGAIN AND I'M ENJOYING THE MOMENT. MATCHES LIKE THAT ARE WHY I JOINED THE CLUB AND NOW I'M ENJOYING THAT. **Mariano Galarza**



something from what has been a disappointing season when you focus on the Premiership.

And he is confident that they have what it takes to topple the Scottish capital outfit.

He added, "It hasn't been the best season for us in the Premiership so we needed that and we're looking forward to hopefully lifting the trophy. Edinburgh did really well and it will be a tough game in the final but I think it's a game we can win."

"It's a final and anything can happen, they will bring a lot of energy and will want to win just as much as us so it will be a big game and occasion. But we have a great team and if we do things right we can win."

Saturday was a simply stunning second-row performance from Gloucester who now boast a wealth of riches in the boiler house department.

Savage and Galarza were

” IT DIDN'T FEEL REAL - MY FIRST START FOR GLOUCESTER IN A EUROPEAN SEMI-FINAL AT KINGS HOLM. IT WAS A GOOD CHALLENGE FOR ME AND NOW WE'VE DONE THAT I'M SO HAPPY, WE'RE IN THE FINAL AT THE STOOP AND THIS IS WHAT WE WERE LOOKING TO DO.

simply everywhere, in both attack and defence, and were imperious at the set-piece.

Gloucester did not lose a lineout all evening against Exeter and with their weight in the second-row the pack turned two Chiefs scrums against the head.

Waiting in the wings is Tom Palmer, who has been a very shrewd acquisition but is likely to

be off at the end of the season, James Hudson and young man mountain Elliott Stooke.

Add to that the arrival of All Black Jeremy Thrush at the end of the season and there is huge strength in depth.

When Nigel Davies was at the helm he revealed Savage was the first name on his team sheet and after the injury problems of last season that is quickly becoming the case again.

But with international locks Galarza and Thrush on the books where will Savage, a player who can operate in the second-row or back-row operate?

Does he switch to blindside flanker at the expense of Sione Kalamafoni or the increasingly impressive Ross Moriarty or do the trio battle it out for just two spots?

Whatever the answer is it a pretty decent dilemma to have.

Citizen AVAILABLE DAILY

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGEwww.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.ukDID YOU
KNOW?**Why didn't we think of
this one at Coventry
recently?**

On 21st January 1961, Gloucester visited Wasps and lost 10-6, the referee explaining that, "...the match was played 35 minutes each way at the request of the Gloucester skipper who stated on arrival that they wished to catch an early train home".

**Do You Love Wing
Forwards?**

Tom Voyce, arguably the greatest of Gloucester players, revolutionised the role of the wing forward in the 1920s. He transformed the flanker from being just another member of the pack of forwards to a specialist ball-winner who broke quickly, chased down the backs and added speed to physicality.

He received plaudits aplenty for his exploits, earning titles such as "The Scourge of the Welsh" and "The Father of Wing Forwards". His England captain, Wavell Wakefield said that he always wrote Tom's name first onto the team sheet.

His exploits for the British Isles teams in South Africa in 1924 were legendary, and long remembered. When the Springboks visited Kingsholm in 1960, their Manager, Ferdie Berch, said how pleased he was to have the opportunity to meet Tom, who he described as "...the originator of the more, how shall I say, robust type of play. He laid the foundations of the play today."

Putting aside the fact that Rugby League exterminated



Tom Voyce



Dai Gent

wing forwards as a species, not everyone in the union game was a fan either. Dai Gent, who played scrum half for Gloucester and England, and later became rugby correspondent of the Sunday Times, was quite schizophrenic about his friend, Tom Voyce.

He wrote in 1932: "I hate all 'wing' forwards as a class. I think their type has been a curse to the game. But if the gods will send you a couple of geniuses in that special position at the same time, then you are a fool not to take what they give you! Voyce and Price were great players both, and of different types, though 'wing' forwards, and I could see much reason for playing both these delightful people, and I was only sorry they were 'wing' forwards!"

**Ah! Those were the Days
for Forward Play**

On Christmas Day 1875, the Gloucester Chronicle carried a report of a match between Gloucester and Ross. Although played, as today, as a 15-a-side game, 10 players on each side were forwards, with 2 backs, 1 three-quarter-back and 2 half-backs.

The report reads as follows: "A more equal game or more sharply-contested match could not have taken place than this, which was played at Ross on Friday last, according to Rugby Union rules. The result was a draw, neither side scoring any point. The forwards on both sides played up well and the tackling was very good, so that few runs were made, and long and

fierce scrimmages were the order of the day."

Dodgy Masseur

Before the start of the 1948-49 season, Tom Day, the Player's Representative on the Club Committee, reported that the players would like the Club to appoint a Club Masseur. This was agreed in principle, but the candidate put forward could "not be entertained" by the Committee, for reasons not specified.



Tom Day

The players were asked to propose someone else, but no suitable candidate could be found, so the committee minutes record that, "...it was agreed to let the matter lie on the table".

Gloucester's First International Referee

The first Gloucestershire referee to be appointed for an international match was Mr. G. A. Roberts of Gloucester. He refereed the France v. Wales international in Paris on 27th March 1924. Wales won 10-6.

What do you think the captains say to one another as they run out?

When Gloucestershire played Lancashire in the final of the County Championship at Kingsholm in 1947, Jack Heaton,



Digger

the Lancashire skipper, decided he would like a bet on the result of the game. But there was only half an hour to kick-off so he was unable to leave the dressing-room to find a bookmaker.

Then he remembered that the redoubtable Gloucester captain, "Digger" Morris, was a bookmaker. So, as the teams walked down the tunnel, Jack asked "Digger" if he

would take a £1 bet on Lancashire winning, and Digger immediately agreed, giving him odds of 6-4 on.

Later it was a happy Lancashire skipper who celebrated his team's victory, 14-3, with the winnings he had collected from "Digger".

Can You Name the 1978 Team?

In 1978 Gloucester started the same fifteen players in all five rounds of the John Player Cup on their way to a 6-3 win over Leicester in the final. The team contained eight internationals, two of them British Lions.

The team was: Peter Butler (fullback), Bob Clewes and Richard Mogg (wings), Richard Jardine and Brian Vine (centres), Chris Williams (outside half), Paul Howell (scrum half), Gordon Sargent and Mick Burton (props), Steve Mills (hooker), Steve Boyle and John Fidler (locks) and John Watkins, John Simonett and Viv Wooley (back row). Only Scotsman John Simonett was not a product of Gloucestershire rugby.

THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION CLUB COMPETITION

THE JOHN PLAYER CUP FINAL

Twickenham April 15th 1978 K.O. at 3.30 p.m.
Gloucester v Leicester

Programme 25p.

Secretary, R.F.U.

VITAL ROLE OF GOAL KICKERS

By JOHN BURNETT
After a century of the "Bully" system, the John Player Cup is a unique trophy, unique in that it is the only one in which the goal-kicker is the star of the show. In 1978, Gloucester's Peter Butler, who scored 17 goals in the final, was the man of the match. Butler's success was due to his exceptional kicking, which was the key to Gloucester's victory. Butler's success was due to his exceptional kicking, which was the key to Gloucester's victory.

GLoucester—CRADLE OF RUGBY TALENT

Gloucester R.F.C. was in 1978, more than 100 years after its foundation, still a club of great tradition. It was the first club to be founded in 1873, and it has since produced many of the greatest players in the history of the game. Gloucester's success is due to its long history and the quality of its players.



PLAYER
FEATURE

TOM
SAVAGE

THE BIGGER THEY ARE...



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THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR US AFTER A GOOD PERFORMANCE IS GOING IN AND BACKING IT UP. THERE IS NO POINT PERFORMING WELL ONE WEEK, THEN NOT THE NEXT WEEK.

FRESH FROM A MAN-OF-THE-MATCH PERFORMANCE ON HIS 26TH BIRTHDAY AGAINST EXETER, TOM SAVAGE IS CALLING ON THE CHERRY AND WHITES TO TAKE GREAT CONFIDENCE FROM LAST WEEKEND'S EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL TRIUMPH.

THE second row, along with Mariano Galarza, saw the engine room purring against the Chiefs, right at the heart of a committed forward effort, as Savage revealed to the matchday programme that the mood in the camp is buzzing.

“There has been a real buzz in the camp. We knew that it would be a massively tough test against Chiefs, they are a top, top team who have been in good form all season, and we knew that we would have to put in our best performance to get a result.

“Hopefully we showed in the 80 minutes, what sort of team we are and



THE HARDER THEY FALL

the type of rugby that we can play through the way we attacked and held onto the ball, coupled with our defence to keep them out."

Although there is a showpiece final to look forward to next weekend, Savage is fully aware of where the focus needs to be - today's clash with Newcastle Falcons.

"We haven't looked past this weekend though, we are taking it week by week and cannot focus further than a really tough test against Newcastle this weekend.

DID YOU KNOW?

TOM SKIPPED HARTPURY RFC TO THE NATIONAL THREE SOUTH WEST TITLE IN 2010-11

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HOPEFULLY WE SHOWED IN THE 80 MINUTES, WHAT SORT OF TEAM WE ARE AND THE TYPE OF RUGBY THAT WE CAN PLAY THROUGH THE WAY WE ATTACKED AND HELD ONTO THE BALL, COUPLED WITH OUR DEFENCE TO KEEP THEM OUT.

They are going well and we need to concentrate on that one.

"We then have a week after that to put our focus and minds on the big final against Edinburgh."

Sky Sports Rugby voted the Shrewsbury-born second row as their Man of the Match, but the personal accolade came second to a famous win.

"I was just trying to get through as much work and play my normal game. It was nice to be noticed, but I was focused on doing my job and ensuring that the team goes well in the game and we push forward as a unit.

"It was nice to get the little pat on the back, but it was mainly the team I was focused on and the bigger picture."

Savage played alongside Argentine international Mariano Galarza last Saturday evening, and Savage was not surprised that his Puma partner excelled with an all action display.

"Mariano has been training really well, and he's been here a while so we've got to know him really well and been able to bring him up to speed and he's slotted in seamlessly.

"We've seen from Saturday what a quality player he is, and he came into a semi-final not quite knowing what capacity he was going to be involved and he's come in and

performed like he's been here all his career, let alone making his first start.

"He certainly didn't look like he was making that first start, and was outstanding."

With the walls of the Kingsholm citadel a lot firmer this year, Savage is delighted that the squad is, game by game, returning Kingsholm into a powerful fortress, but with the Falcons in town today, another tough test beckons.

"It's another chance to keep our run going at home in 2015, and

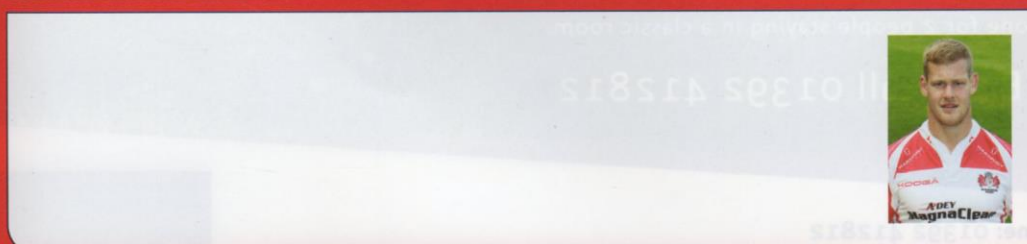
keep improving. Consistency has been huge for us this year, and has been a bit up and down, so we'll be looking to continue on the better form that we have found now.

"The most important thing for us after a good performance is going in and backing it up. There is no point performing well one week, then not the next week.

"That consistency is key for us, especially if we want to have more success this season, and in the future."



GLoucester RUGBY AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION



BOB FENTON'S

KINGSHOLM NEWS

” OF COURSE, THE EVER-RESOURCEFUL SUPPORTERS THAT WE HAVE DIDN'T WAIT FOR OUR ALLOCATION TO BE RELEASED. BY 11PM LAST SATURDAY NIGHT SOMEONE HAD ALREADY DISCOVERED THAT YOU COULD BUY TICKETS ON LINE FROM EDINBURGH RUGBY AND HAD PLUNDERED THEIR STOCK. SHOULD MAKE FOR SOME INTERESTING CONVERSATIONS DURING THE GAME!

F RUSTRATING isn't it... Last Saturday night we got a very good look at what could have been - a fantastic team performance, outstanding discipline, epic defending at times and sharp flowing attacks. Why couldn't

we play like that from the start of the season??

Well, we know the answer to that, don't we? A complete upheaval last summer with players and coaches arriving in what can best be described as a piecemeal way and having no time to bed in

or build understanding.

Then throw in a bunch of injuries and the loss of what would have been starting players, and it's hardly surprising that we stuttered a bit. A bit too much for everyone's liking for sure, but last week we got a glimpse of the future. And what a future that looks to be.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves yet, there are a couple more league games to play and the small matter of a European trophy to go after.

Let's go back to last weekend, about the only disappointment I can think of was the low attendance at the game itself. Yes, it was a rubbish kick off time (thanks TV people) on a Saturday night, but come on people - it was a semi-final!

That said, the people who were there made up for their missing colleagues with a great wall of sound through most of the game. A terrific atmosphere, maybe only bettered by that Saracens' game. It was good to have so many Exeter fans making the journey too - they made themselves heard and spurred on the Gloucester contingent to yet more decibels.

Having won the game the thoughts turn to the final and the ticket arrangements. When I went down to collect mine - at around



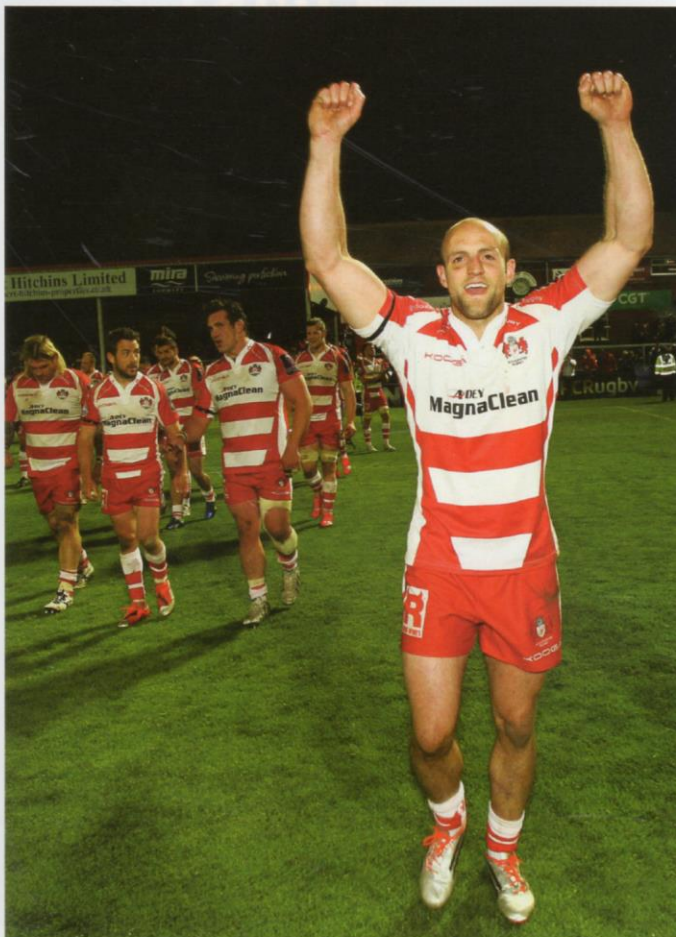
James Hook

@hookjameshook

loved being involved in that semi final with the @gloucester rugby boys last night. Unreal support...

COMING
UP...

BILL MEAKES ANSWERS OUR A-Z QUESTIONS



11:15 - I thought there would be a few people in the queue. There were... a few hundred! It must have come as a surprise to absolutely no one that the club's allocations went in the blink of an eye, and well done to all concerned in getting a few more.

Of course, the ever-resourceful supporters that we have didn't wait for our allocation to be released. By 11pm last Saturday night someone had already discovered that you could buy tickets on line from Edinburgh Rugby and had plundered their stock. Should make for some interesting conversations during the game!

I have a bit - just a bit - of sympathy for the competition organisers, The Stoop has a

capacity of a little over 14,000 these days, and would maybe be sufficient for most clubs. But not when one of them is Gloucester. I suppose it's better to have a stadium that is packed, rather than play in a larger venue that is three-quarters empty.

And we have good memories of playing in the final of the same competition back in 2006 against London Irish. Their game plan seemed to revolve around trying to beat the life out of our fly half - Ryan Lamb. In the end they did manage to force him off, but they didn't stop James Forrester - Django sliding in to score in the corner.

That game's a little way off though - well a week - and we have the small matter of

Newcastle Falcons to attend to first. According to many of our 'expert' pundits, the fact that Newcastle have played some decent rugby this term is entirely down to the fact that London Welsh have been so awful that they have been nailed on for relegation almost from the off. That means the pressure the Falcons have faced in previous seasons has been lifted and they can cut loose a bit.

Maybe there is an element of truth in that, but I think that's doing the men in black a bit of a disservice. I've only seen them on TV a couple of times, but it's pretty obvious they are a team that is coming together. They've got a whole bunch of Scottish internationals in the squad - including one of our old boys, Scott Lawson, and a handful of Samoans including a brace of Tuilagi's and a certain Sinoti Sinoti - a fearsome beast who is so good they named him twice!

He is a bit of a monster, is Mr Sinoti. He's a devastating finisher who has crossed the line in eight Premiership games so far - including once against us up there in November. I'm sure whoever it is gets the lucky job of standing opposite him come kick off will be looking forward to it. Or perhaps not!

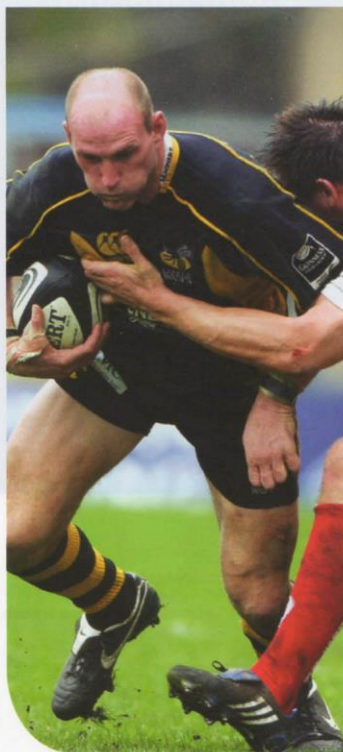
At the time of writing it's hard to tell what kind of side we will put out this weekend. Given the cup final is only a few days away we shouldn't be surprised if a few first team regulars are missing from the line up today - be honest, we'd all do the same thing.

The upside is that some of our younger players will get some game time and good experience under their belts. At the start of this year not many of us would have expected to see the likes of Henry Purdy, Bill Meakes or Ross Moriarty in the first team and they have hardly let us down have they.

Like I said at the start, Look at what we can do when we try... exciting times!

IAN RANDALL'S RUGBY TALK

IN his pomp at Wasps, Lawrence Dallaglio always claimed it didn't matter how you were playing in the early sparring of the season or the depths of winter, it was your form at the end that meant



the most, and the truth is Wasps' almost became strong finishing specialists in Dallaglio's era.

It's not a trait Gloucester have ever perfected, but perhaps this season the square pegs are dropping into the square holes just in time. The victory over Exeter last Saturday, which I sadly missed, sets up a Challenge Cup final which could be the first of two decisive games against the same opposition.

The first will obviously decide the second tier winners in Europe this season, but if that is Gloucester, then stage one of the Champions Cup play off - where they would be paired with the team 8th in the Pro 12 - would as things stand see them face Edinburgh again. That, though, is in the future.

Today we welcome Newcastle, who've been able to play without fear for much of the season given London Welsh's seemingly inevitable relegation. Such is the geographical distance between the Falcons and Gloucester, only a small group of players have represented both teams in the professional era. It's fair to say some have been more prominent than others in terms of their contribution.



ADAM BALDING

Gloucester 2004-2008

League appearances 40

Newcastle 2008-2012

League appearances 30

Now heaving involved in the build up to the Rugby World Cup through his role at Gloucester City Council, Balding's career was heavily disrupted by injuries and he never quite replicated the form that saw him voted as Player of the Year in his first season at Gloucester. The powerful number eight had a loan spell at Leeds before moving to Kingston Park.

STEVE BROTHERSTONE

Newcastle 2002

League appearances 16

Gloucester 2003

League appearances 6

The Scotland international hooker came to Kingsholm after 15 months with the Falcons. He's previously been at Northampton but with limited opportunities behind England's Steve Thompson, he moved north on loan before making the switch permanent. A knee injury at Kingsholm forced him to retire after only appearing fleetingly in the first team.

JAMES HUDSON

Newcastle 2009-2013

League appearances 63

Gloucester 2013-present

League appearances 27

The experienced lock spent 4 seasons in the north east, staying loyal to the Falcons after their relegation in 2012 and captaining the team to promotion the following year. A sound line out operator throughout his career, Nigel Davies brought Hudson to Kingsholm at the end of his first season. Now 33, he has made more than 40 appearances in his first two seasons with the club.



RORY LAWSON

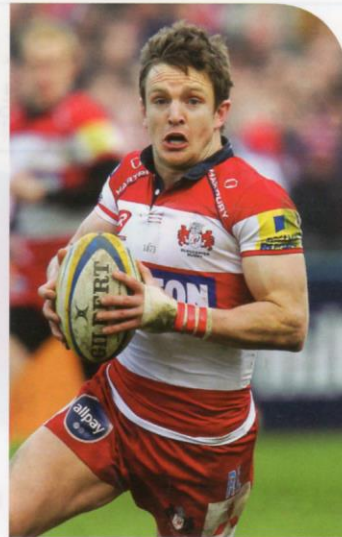
Gloucester 2006-2012

League appearances 99

Newcastle 2012-2013

League appearances 23

Scrum half who became a popular figure during his stint at Kingsholm for his tenacious displays on the field and modest demeanor off it. With Bill McLaren as his grandfather, Lawson's enthusiasm for the game was never a surprise, and 31 Scotland caps showed his ability. Dropped to the Championship with the Falcons in 2012, but along with Hudson helped them win promotion before a wrist injury forced his retirement.



SCOTT LAWSON

Gloucester 2008-2012

League appearances 59

Newcastle 2013-2015

League appearances 30

The Falcons' first choice hooker, Scott is almost certain to be involved today. He spent four years at Gloucester alongside his Scotland team mate and like his namesake was a doughty competitor. After a year at London Irish he moved to Kingston Park and now has 45 international caps. Scott's second season at Newcastle has seen him involved in all but two of their Premiership games.

OLLIE PHILLIPS

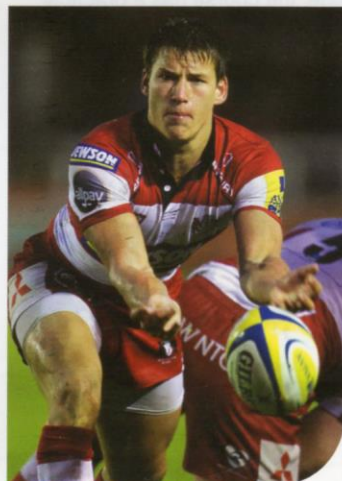
Newcastle 2005-2008

League appearances 33

Gloucester 2012

League appearances 2

Known far more for his exploits on the Sevens circuit with England, Phillips played on the wing for the Falcons alongside his role as Sevens captain, where he was coached by former Gloucester scrum half Simon Amor. Joined Stade Francais when he left Newcastle in 2008, and came to Gloucester on a short term deal in January 2012, but played only twice against Leicester and London Irish.



JORDI PASQUALIN

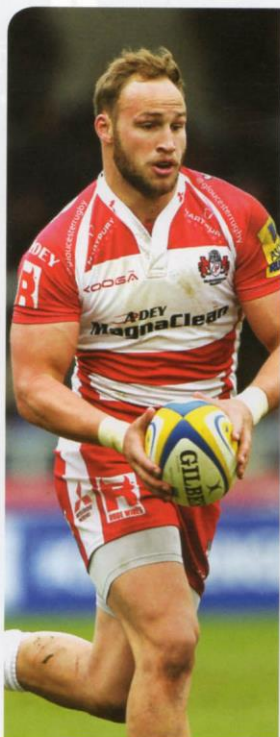
Gloucester 2008-2011

League appearances 16

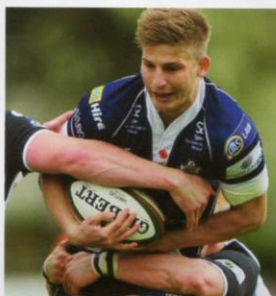
Newcastle 2011-2012

League appearances 11

A pupil at Kings School in Gloucester, Jordi struggled to break into the first team on a regular basis at Kingsholm, and fared only marginally better in his one season at Kingston Park. Still only 25, he dropped into the Championship with London Scottish, and this season has been playing regularly for Old Albanians in National Division One.

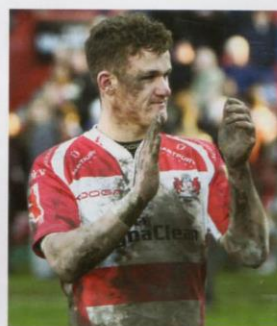


PLAYER A to Z BILL MEAKES



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

...is for best mate
BEST MATE in
rugby?
Auguy Slowik &
Billy Burns



...is for **CAREER...**
If you weren't a
rugby player what
would you be?
Café / Bar owner

...is for **DRIVE...**
what car are you
driving?
Mercedes
C - Class

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

Junior Rugby,
running a try in and
dropping the ball
mid dive with no
defenders in sight.

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?
European semi-
final vs Exeter

...is for
NICKNAME...
What's yours?
Meakesy

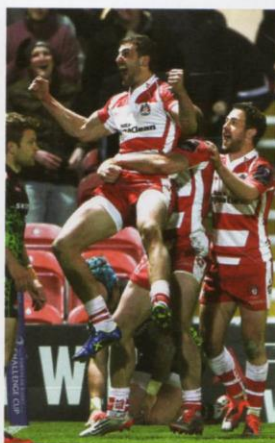
...is for
OPPONENT...
Who is the best
player you have
faced up against?
Kurtley Beale

...is for **PRIDE...**
What is your
proudest moment?
Playing 7s and 20s
for Australia

...is for
QUICKEST...
Who is the fastest
player you have
played with or
against?
Jonny May

...is for **RUN OUT
MUSIC...** what's
your tune to run
out to?
Heads Will Roll

...is for
SUPPORT...
What teams do you
support?
Waratahs





...is for
FASHION...

Who is the worst dressed player in the squad?
Jacob Rowan

...is for
GLOUCESTER RUGBY...

best thing about Gloucester Rugby?
Home games



...is for
HARDMAN...

Who is the toughest player you have come across?
Tatafu Polota-Nau



...is for **IDOL...**

Who is your sporting idol?
Rene Ranger & Adam Ashley-Cooper



...is for **JOKER...**

Who is the funniest person you have shared a dressing room with?
Rory Walton (Western Force)



...is for
KINGSHOLM

...describe Kingsholm in three words?
Shed, Passion, History

...is for **LIFE after rugby...**

What are your future plans?
Owning bars and cafes

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?
School 1st XV game - Joeys vs Riverview, our main rivals!

...is for **UNBELIEVABLE...**
Tell us something surprising about yourself
I'm a clean freak, on the verge of OCD

...is for **VISITOR...**
What is your favourite ground to play at?
AAMI Park, Melbourne (obviously besides Kingsholm)

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

...is for **X-RAY...**
What is the worst injury you have suffered?
Knee reconstruction

...is for **YOUTH...**
What advice would you give to aspiring rugby players?
Have fun and keep smiling!

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



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

LINE-UP

- 15 FB CHARLIE SHARPLES
- 14 W JONNY MAY
- 13 C BILL MEAKES
- 12 C BILLY TWELVETREES
- 11 W HENRY PURDY
- 10 FH JAMES HOOK
- 9 SH GREIG LAIDLAW
- 1 P NICK WOOD
- 2 H RICHARD HIBBARD
- 3 P JOHN AFOA
- 4 L TOM SAVAGE
- 5 L MARIANO GALARZA
- 6 F SIONE KALAMAFONI
- 7 F MATT KVESIC
- 8 N8 GARETH EVANS

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 R DARREN DAWIDIUK
- 17 R DAN MURPHY
- 18 SILA PUAFISI
- 19 R ELLIOTT STOOKE
- 20 R ROSS MORIARTY
- 21 DAN ROBSON
- 22 BILLY BURNS
- 23 BRENDAN MACKEN



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

30

TRIES: Meakes (30), Savage (67), May (77) CONS: Laidlaw (31, 68, 78) PENS: Laidlaw (17, 71), Hook (38)



EXETER CHIEFS

19

TRY: Taione (75) CON: Steenson (76) PENS: Slade (20, 40, 45, 60)



EXETER CHIEFS

LINE-UP

- 15 FB PHIL DOLLMAN
- 14 W IAN WHITTEN
- 13 C JACK NOWELL
- 12 C SAM HILL
- 11 W MATT JESS
- 10 FH HENRY SLADE
- 9 SH WILL CHUDLEY
- 1 P BEN MOON
- 2 H JACK YEANDLE
- 3 P TOMAS FRANCIS
- 4 L DEAN MUMM
- 5 L MITCH LEES
- 6 F DAVE EWERS
- 7 F KAI HORSTMANN
- 8 N8 THOMAS WALDROM

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 R ELVIS TAIONE
- 17 R CARL RIMMER
- 18 R ALEX BROWN
- 19 R SAM SKINNER
- 20 R TOM JOHNSON
- 21 R DAVE LEWIS
- 22 R GARETH STEENSON
- 23 R TOM JAMES

NEVER SAY DIE GLOUCESTER DEFEAT CHIEFS TO REACH FINAL

THE CHERRY AND WHITES MARCHED INTO THE EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP WITH A POWERFUL AND PACEY 30-19 TRIUMPH OVER NEAR RIVALS EXETER CHIEFS UNDER THE KINGSHOLM LIGHTS.

THE scrum was dominant, the backs were electric and the Cherry and Whites booked their place in their first European final since 2006, and will meet Edinburgh Rugby in the inaugural European Rugby Challenge Cup final.

The early intent came from the hosts, working phases patiently, probing for gaps in the visitors' defence. But, eventually the ball

from distance, even with a few yards cheekily stolen behind the referee's back.

With both sides going toe to toe in the second quarter, the Cherry and Whites scored the first try of the evening, a touch of genius from James Hook with a perfectly weighted grubber to the line, and Bill Meakes was more committed than the cover defence, the gather and roll over the line resulting in his third try in three games.

”

WE'VE TALKED ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON BEHIND THE SCENES NOT ALWAYS BEING REFLECTED IN TEAM RESULTS, BUT I THOUGHT TONIGHT WAS THE FIRST TIME ALL YEAR WE PRODUCED A REALLY REALLY GOOD PERFORMANCE, FROM THE FIRST MINUTE TO THE LAST. THAT WAS REFLECTED IN THE SCORELINE. **David Humphreys**

came loose and almost resulted in Thomas Waldrom trundling over from long range, before Billy Twelvetrees saved the day.

Up front, power at the scrum saw the much-praised Chiefs' front row shoved off a pair of set pieces as the home grunt clicked into action, taking away the Chiefs' much desired platform. Nick Wood, in particular, was giving Tomas Francis a torrid time.

Referee John Lacey, to his credit, let the game flow, and although the home crowd naturally objected to a few decisions (!), the officials let both teams play some free-flowing rugby.

Greig Laidlaw opened the scoring from the tee as Exeter strayed offside in midfield, a score that Henry Slade equalised

Laidlaw converted for a 10-3 lead, and Chiefs almost leveled it up again immediately, but Phil Dollman's pass to Kai Horstmann was called forward and Kingsholm sighed relief.

James Hook then landed a huge kick from halfway to extend the lead to ten points, before Slade added his second penalty at the half time whistle.

Exeter had much of the ball in the third quarter, Slade adding a pair of penalties to bring the gap down to a single point, but Gloucester were able to call on their pack, who were earning penalties on both put-ins at the scrum. It was a sight that the Kingsholm crowd massively enjoyed!

Another scrum penalty presented a kickable penalty, but



SEMI-FINAL

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



With a kickable penalty awarded, Billy Twelvetrees showed considerable faith in his forward pack, and kicked to the corner, where Tom Savage, along with Dan Murphy powered over for a crucial score. A bold call, backed up by the forwards.

skipper Twelvetrees opted to go for the corner, and at the second attempt, Tom Savage rumbled over from the base. A deserved score for a stellar performance alongside Mariano Galarza in the engine room.

Laidlaw then added a further penalty to his conversion to take the score to 23-12, before Chiefs sent the nerves jangling with time running out as Elvis Taione muscled his way to the line from short range.

Rather than sit back, the Cherry and Whites continued their pressure in defence, and struck again, as Jonny May swooped on a loose ball to accelerate away and dive over for the clinching try, sparking celebration around Kingsholm.

The win, a truly famous Kingsholm night, clinched a final spot for the Cherry and Whites, with all eyes now on the Twickenham Stoop, next Friday evening.

TODAY'S TEAMS

GLoucester RUGBY vs NEWCASTLE FALCONS

REFEREE: Ian Tempest ASSISTANTS: Andy Watson and Wayne Falla

TEAMS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT

TPCD □□□□	CHARLIE SHARPLES FULL-BACK	15	SIMON HAMMERSLEY FULL-BACK	TPCD □□□□
□□□□	JONNY MAY RIGHT WING	14	CHRIS HARRIS RIGHT WING	□□□□
□□□□	BRENDAN MACKEN OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	ADAM POWELL (C) OUTSIDE CENTRE	□□□□
□□□□	BILLY TWELVETREES (C) INSIDE CENTRE	12	JUAN PABLO SOCINO INSIDE CENTRE	□□□□
□□□□	HENRY PURDY LEFT WING	11	SINOTI SINOTI LEFT WING	□□□□
□□□□	BILLY BURNS FLY-HALF	10	RORY CLEGG FLY-HALF	□□□□
□□□□	DAN ROBSON SCRUM-HALF	9	RUKI TIPUNA SCRUM-HALF	□□□□
□□□□	YANN THOMAS LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	ROB VICKERS LOOSEHEAD PROP	□□□□
□□□□	DARREN DAWIDIUK HOOKER	2	SCOTT LAWSON HOOKER	□□□□
□□□□	SILA PUAFISI TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	KIERAN BROOKES TIGHTHEAD PROP	□□□□
□□□□	ELLIOTT STOOKE LOCK	4	CALUM GREEN LOCK	□□□□
□□□□	MARIANO GALARZA LOCK	5	KANE THOMPSON LOCK	□□□□
□□□□	SIONE KALAMAFONI BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	RICHARD MAYHEW BLINDSIDE FLANKER	□□□□
□□□□	MATT KVESIC OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	MARK WILSON OPENSIDE FLANKER	□□□□
□□□□	ROSS MORIARTY NUMBER EIGHT	8	CHRIS YORK NUMBER EIGHT	□□□□
□□□□	RICHARD HIBBARD REPLACEMENT 1	16	GEORGE MCGUIGAN REPLACEMENT 1	□□□□
□□□□	DAN MURPHY REPLACEMENT 2	17	ERIC FRY REPLACEMENT 2	□□□□
□□□□	JOHN AFOA REPLACEMENT 3	18	JUAN PABLO ORLANDI REPLACEMENT 3	□□□□
□□□□	TOM SAVAGE REPLACEMENT 4	19	JOSH FURNO REPLACEMENT 4	□□□□
□□□□	GARETH EVANS REPLACEMENT 5	20	SEAN ROBINSON REPLACEMENT 5	□□□□
□□□□	GREIG LAIDLAW REPLACEMENT 6	21	SONATANE TAKULUA REPLACEMENT 6	□□□□
□□□□	JAMES HOOK REPLACEMENT 7	22	TOM CATTERICK REPLACEMENT 7	□□□□
□□□□	STEVE MCCOLL REPLACEMENT 8	23	GONZALO TIESI REPLACEMENT 8	□□□□