



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY



vs London Irish

Aviva Premiership Rugby Round 21: 09.05.2015

**ADEY  
MagnaClean**

Gloucester Rugby main club sponsor



official social media partner

[f gloucesterrugby](#) [@gloucesterrugby](#)

**AVIVA** PREMIERSHIP  
RUGBY

**AVIVA**



**RICOH**  
imagine. change.



**CITIZEN**





# CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME TO TODAY'S  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP CLASH WITH LONDON IRISH.



**W**HAT a feeling to be penning this column off the back of lifting the European Rugby Challenge Cup last Friday! It was a huge relief to have been able to get over the line in a tough final and one of the proudest moments of my career so far.

To do that, with your best mates, and to be able to celebrate like we did with so many of our incredible supporters was massively special and it will live long in the memory of all the

squad and staff.

We knew that the Cherry and White army would travel well, you always do, but after the endless queues for tickets, the scenes at The Stoop left some of us lost for words.

Many of us noted after the game that you turned it in to a home game, and some of us said in our post-match media duties that this made a massive difference when we had our backs firmly against the wall to try and withstand Edinburgh's

second half momentum.

We are building as a group, and to have won such major silverware in our first year together as a squad, shows how much we have developed since our first game back in September.

One thing the win did was to give us that possible ticket to the Champions Cup via the play offs, and we are all massively excited about that.

Today though we face London Irish, another squad who are rebuilding and one with an exciting future, again proving that the Aviva Premiership is the most competitive division there is.

Touch wood, the sun is shining and we can continue our 2015 form at Kingsholm. It is another chance to play in front of our own supporters, and give our thanks for your backing this year. It is a chance to celebrate together and look forward.

A few of the squad may well be making their final Kingsholm appearances today, and will experience what an emotional day that is, so we owe it to every one of us to put on a show today and keep the momentum going!



”

TO DO THAT, WITH YOUR BEST MATES, AND TO BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE LIKE WE DID WITH SO MANY OF OUR INCREDIBLE SUPPORTERS WAS MASSIVELY SPECIAL AND IT WILL LIVE LONG IN THE MEMORY OF ALL THE SQUAD AND STAFF.

Thank you for your support

Enjoy the game

Billy

DIR. OF  
RUGBY

DAVID  
HUMPHREYS



DAVID  
HUMPHREYS





GOOD AFTERNOON AND I'M DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU BACK TO KINGSHOLM TODAY FOR OUR FINAL HOME AVIVA PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE OF THE SEASON AND OUR FIRST AS EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS 2014/15!

**A** S we've said so many times since September, it has been a roller coaster of a season and only the most optimistic supporters could have foreseen silverware this year after the first Premiership result against Northampton.

Last Friday was a great night for the players and management, the Club and, most importantly, for all the fans who have supported and encouraged the team throughout the season and across Europe.

The atmosphere at the Stoop was like a mini Kingsholm and the celebrations and noise at the final whistle showed what it meant to everyone both on and off the pitch.

We enjoyed the occasion, we enjoyed winning the Challenge Cup but the message is very clear – this is only the starting point for this group of players and there is still a huge amount

particularly in Europe and at Kingsholm, confirm that we're moving in the right direction.

Friday night's match was a good snapshot of how we've played throughout the season. In the first

season. That starts this afternoon as we welcome the players, management and supporters of London Irish to Kingsholm. A bit like Newcastle a fortnight ago, they will come here with nothing



half, we played with pace and ambition and created a number of try scoring opportunities where had we scored, the game would have been won by half time.

to lose which should make for another exciting game of rugby.

It's great to be back at Kingsholm today in front of you all and the best way to thank

” THE BACKING WE ENJOY AT HOME IS UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED. HOWEVER, LAST WEEKEND WAS SOMETHING ELSE. WE KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BE MEMORABLE WHEN WE SAW THE QUEUES FOR TICKETS IN THE RUN UP TO THE GAME, BUT SEEING THE STOOP TURNED CHERRY AND WHITE AS BILLY LIFTED THE CHALLENGE CUP WILL GO DOWN AS THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY FIRST SEASON IN GLOUCESTER!

of work to be done to reestablish Gloucester at the top end of English rugby.

I do believe we have improved in almost every aspect of our game since the start of the season and that our performances in 2015,

However, credit to Edinburgh, they hung in there and combined with our second half indiscipline, they gave themselves a very good opportunity to win the game.

Down to 14 men for the last 15 minutes, we were under real pressure but once again, the character and spirit within the squad was clear for everyone to see and in the last five minutes, we managed possession and field position brilliantly.

With two Aviva Premiership games and play-offs over the next four weeks, there is still a huge amount to play for this

you all for your support will be to produce another big performance today.

The backing we enjoy at home is universally acknowledged. However, last weekend was something else. We knew it was going to be memorable when we saw the queues for tickets in the run up to the game, but seeing the Stoop turned Cherry and White as Billy lifted the Challenge Cup will go down as the highlight of my first season in Gloucester!

David





# THE VIEW FROM The Citizen



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

**EMILY  
GARDNER:**  
Lifejacket caught  
on speedboat  
when wave hit

**CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE**  
celebrates a  
treble with arrival  
of twins

**FREE PIZZA** if  
you share name  
with new royal  
baby

**CINDERFORD'S**  
National One  
survival still  
undecided

## BOX OFFICE SMASH

**JONNY May's mum may have taught Ed Sheeran to play the guitar but after a Man-of-the-Match performance to help Gloucester clinch the European Challenge Cup the wing proved he is worthy of the 'A-team'.**

The 25-year-old fell out of favour with England during the Six Nations and did not make their match-day squad for their final three matches.

But on the biggest stage since the Championship, the Swindon flyer delivered, creating Billy Twelvetrees' crucial try and almost scoring a sensational solo effort which would have gone down as one of the all-time greats.

As global pop sensation Sheeran who grew up in contact with May, sings he showed he should be in 'the (England) class A team'.

May said, "My mum is in the same group of friends as Ed's mum. Her best friend is Ed's godmother and when we were younger, all the families got together with all the kids.

"I would probably be in the garden playing football and Ed was inside playing the guitar. My mum and dad both played and she taught him his first couple of chords and off he went.

"He vouches for it and my mum



**(right) Celebrate**

Gloucester speedsters Jonny May and Charlie Sharples

loves it."

May chose some more upbeat music as he prepared for Friday's encounter but is a big fan of the ginger-haired popstar and has seen him live in concert.

"I love his music and lots of his songs are on my Spotify, he is everywhere," continued May.

"The level he has got to even his family struggle to get access! We've been to see him backstage but I don't really like to be that guy that pesters him, I'm just grateful

” I JUST FEEL VERY LUCKY AND PRIVILEGED BECAUSE A LOT OF PLAYERS GO THEIR WHOLE CAREER WITHOUT BEING LUCKY ENOUGH TO LIFT A TROPHY – IT’S A GREAT MOMENT. IT MEANS EVEN MORE TO ME BECAUSE I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WITH GLOUCESTER AND I WANT TO BE HERE FOR MY WHOLE CAREER. **Jonny May**



to get to see him in concert."

Sheeran sells out venues across the world now but it is fair to say the electric wing's 'almost try' was equally box office.

After latching onto loose ball inside his own 22 May went on a trademark break, reminding everyone of his devastating pace as he scorched past three defenders.

Unfortunately for May, and the 6,000 travelling Cherry and White supporters, Cornell Du Preez intervened with an equally impressive last-gasp tap-tackle.

But he was just pleased to play his part in the victory which saw the club lift the Challenge Cup for the second time in their history.

May said, "I went for it and it just wasn't meant to be but it's not about me, it's about winning a trophy for Gloucester and that's what we've managed.

"I just feel very lucky and privileged because a lot of players go their whole career without being lucky enough to lift a trophy – it's a great moment.

"It means even more to me because I have always been with

Gloucester and I want to be here for my whole career.

"Finals aren't about the individual they are all about the team and everyone around it – the management, fans and families as well. You go out there for a greater cause and try and do your part for the team."

It was not all plain sailing for Gloucester and they had to navigate through a nervous final quarter after losing Ross Moriarty to the sin-bin and then saw Bill Meakes red carded for a high tackle.

Edinburgh rallied with a Ross Ford try which Sam Hidalgo-Clyne converted but May was delighted the Cherry and Whites refused to surrender their lead.

He added: "It was classic us and I was worried we might blow it, the frustrating thing is if we kept playing with the ambition and pace that we wanted we would have blown them away but we allowed them back with indiscipline.

"With 13 men down, we were giving them easy field position and ways back, momentum swung and it was a case of hanging on for the win.

"What was great about it was we accepted the challenge and grew as a team. It was a great effort, defending for our lives with 13 men to hang on.

"In this last eight weeks we've come on a lot, hopefully we can continue that.

"We look around this group of players and think 'blimey we have some good players' and we just want to build a game that will always give us an avenue. It takes time and we're getting there."

**Citizen** AVAILABLE DAILY



GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
HERITAGE[www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk](http://www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk)A TRIBUTE TO  
HARRY BERRY AND  
HARRY BARNES

One hundred years ago today the only Gloucester international rugby player to die in the Great War, Henry 'Harry' Berry, was killed in action on 9th May 1915, during the Battle of Aubers Ridge. Herbert Henry 'Harry' Barnes, his Gloucester teammate, was also killed this day in the same battle. We salute them both.

## Harry Berry

Harry Berry was born in Gloucester in 1883, the son of a dock labourer. He spent his early years at 42 Columbia Street, before joining the British Army in 1899 at the age of sixteen to fight in the Second Boer War (1899-1902). Initially he served with the 4th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment guarding Boer prisoners on the island of St Helena but in 1902 was transferred to the 2nd Battalion and fought in mainland South Africa. After the war he was sent to India and spent five years there with the 1st Battalion before returning to Gloucester and civilian life in 1907, although he still remained an army reservist. He was an innkeeper, initially at the Red Lion, Northgate Street, and later at the Stag's Head, Alvin Street.

Having experienced army rugby, he joined the Gloucester Club and played his first game for the 1st XV against Leicester on 14th December 1907. After a few games on the wing, he was moved to wing forward, where he proved to be a fast and clever player who particularly shone in the lineout



Harry Berry

and in loose footwork. As a result his career blossomed. Over the next five seasons, 1908-1913, he made 136 appearances and scored 24 tries.

His talent was quickly noticed by the Gloucestershire selectors and he won the first of his 19 County caps against the Australian tourists at Kingsholm on 1st October 1908. With his assistance

Gloucestershire secured its first ever County Championship in 1910 with a 23-0 victory over Yorkshire at Kingsholm.

1910 would prove to be a momentous rugby year for Harry as he won four England International caps, scoring two tries (against France and Scotland) as well as playing in the inaugural game at Twickenham which resulted in victory over Wales, for the first time in twelve years. England won the Five Nations Championship, their first since 1892.

The Citizen's rugby correspondent (W.B.) summed up Harry's season – "H Berry fully sustained his reputation, and the ex-soldier deservedly gained the coveted cap. That the Gloucester man was able to retain his place in the face of so many changes made in the International side was clear evidence of the Committee's appreciation of his abilities."

The other main event in Harry's life in 1910 was that in January he married Beatrice Arnold from Chepstow and the couple would go on to have two children, Henry George (b.1911) and Phyllis Irene

Harry Berry's caps for Gloucestershire, England and Gloucester







(b.1915); sadly Harry would not live to see his daughter.

By the end of the 1912-13 season Harry was forced to retire from the game owing to a recurrence of a bout of malaria, a disease contracted during his spell in India; this affected Harry's health to the extent that he never played for Gloucester again.

### Harry Barnes

Harry Barnes was born in Gloucester in 1888, the son of a blacksmith, and grew up in Millbrook Street. Harry played his first game for Gloucester against Cardiff on 3rd April 1909, and scored two tries on his second appearance against Castleford five days later. Harry played at centre and went on to make 38 appearances for the 1st XV, scoring 13 tries and kicking 2 drop goals. In February 1911 he



Harry Barnes

travelled with Harry Berry on a six-day trip to Toulouse, where they both helped Gloucester to beat Stade Toulousain 18-13. His final game was away at Northampton on 8th April 1911.

### Aubers Ridge

When war was declared in August 1914, Harry Berry and Harry Barnes were reservists and both were recalled to the Colours in the 1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, Berry as a Corporal and Barnes as a Private. They landed together at Boulogne on 2nd February 1915 on their way to the Western Front. This same draft included fellow Gloucester players, Albert 'Car' Cummings (stand off), Charles Rose (front row) and Fred Goulding (second row).

After a spell of front line duty the Battalion was assigned to the reserve line ('second wave') for the attack at Aubers Ridge on 9th May 1915. At 5.30 am the first wave which launched the attack met with stiff resistance and heavy machine gun fire so after a second artillery bombardment the 1st Gloucesters together with the 1st South Wales Borderers were ordered over the top. Harry's friend, Thomas Priday later recalled that in the moments before the whistles blew, "...we shook hands with one another... [and].. we kissed the photos of

our wives and children before we made the charge..."

As well as enemy activity the second wave now had to contend with the dead and the wounded from the first wave which littered no man's land. The assaulting lines of the 1st Gloucesters and the 1st South Wales Borderers advanced eighty yards before the intensity of the fire forced them to lie down and seek whatever cover was available.

The bodies of Harry Berry (age 32) and Harry Barnes (age 27), were never recovered. They are commemorated on Le Touret Memorial in northern France. They are also commemorated on the Gloucester War Memorial and the Gloucester Club's two war memorials – one now situated in the Lions Den, unveiled in 1920, and the other on the Stadium outside reception, unveiled in 2013.

We are delighted to welcome to Kingsholm today Michael Berry and Peter Berry, grandsons of Harry Berry, and Sue Horton and her mother, Doreen, who are descended from Harry's sister Clara.

For more information, see [www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk](http://www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk) for the rugby careers of the two Harrys, and 'They played for Gloucester and fought for their country', available from the Gloucester Rugby shop and Hudsons Sports, for their military records.



PLAYER  
FEATURE

NICK  
WOOD



THAT  
WINNING  
FEELING





IT CAN BE A FUNNY OLD GAME. ASK NICK WOOD. A SEASON WHICH STARTED OUT IN A FRUSTRATING MANNER FOR THE EXPERIENCED LOOSE-HEAD PROP, IS BUILDING UP TO QUITE A MEMORABLE FINISH.

**T**HE 32 year old, who has played more Premiership fixtures than any other Gloucester player in the modern era, came into 2014-15 looking to make a big impression on Gloucester's new look coaching set-up.

However, he experienced back spasms in preseason which ruled him out of the first few weeks of action, then suffered a bout of glandular fever before being sidelined with a nasty neck injury.

But things have picked up in recent weeks, particularly last weekend's European Rugby Challenge Cup triumph, an especially sweet moment as Wood missed out on the 2006 equivalent due to injury.

"It was amazing to be honest. You get caught up in the post-match celebrations and you forget just how tough the game actually was.

"Things haven't gone as well as we would have liked in the Premiership, and Europe has been one of the areas where we've been able to express ourselves. But we've worked hard at it and got a





fantastic result in the end.

"People may say that it's the second-tier European competition but, by the time you get to the knockout stages, you get some insanely tough games. So, to win the trophy is a great achievement, especially for someone like myself who missed out in 2006 after a knee operation. It was pretty special.

"On the other hand, I know exactly how tough it was for the guys who didn't make the matchday 23. They need to take

comfort from the fact that not only will it come around again, and hopefully sooner, but that it's a squad effort with 40 odd players contributing."

The Swindon-born player passed 260 competitive appearances this season, and his season by season appearance totals are testimony to his durability. However, 2014-15 has seen him suffer a run of bad luck.

"It's been quite some season – back spasms, glandular fever and a damaged nerve in my shoulder.





## DID YOU KNOW?

AFTER ATTENDING RADLEY COLLEGE, WOOD READ MODERN LANGUAGES AT BRASENOSE COLLEGE, OXFORD.

”

...I'M PRETTY EXCITED ABOUT WHAT'S TO COME. FOR NOW THOUGH, IT'S ABOUT FINISHING AS WELL AS POSSIBLE. WE'RE PLAYING FOR PRIDE, WE'RE UNBEATEN AT KINGSHOLM IN 2015 WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO US. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT MAKING IT A FORTRESS AGAIN AND DON'T WANT TO SLIP UP NOW.

The fact that I've managed to put 15 games together is a bit of a miracle. At this stage, I'm just happy to get on to the pitch week in, week out and I'm lucky to be involved at the business end of the season."

And Gloucester have had a fair bit of business to take care of in recent weeks. The European adventure has seen the Cherry and Whites battle their way through a quarter-final, semi-final and final to earn a place in the play-off for a Champions Cup spot. There's plenty to play for.

"There's huge incentive for us in what is a pretty unique play-off system. But it is what it is, and our mentality is that the win in the final has opened up a route into the play-offs. But we can only look at one game at a time. The job's only half done."

It's been widely acknowledged that the second half of Gloucester's season has been better than the first – no real surprise given the player and coach turnover last summer. This, combined with the arrivals ahead of next season, mean that Wood's genuinely looking forward to next season.

"Momentum's a massive thing, both from week to week and season to season. Quite often, if you finish on a high, preseason starts on a positive note and that



carries on through to the start of the season.

"Personally, I hope next season starts off on a better note than this one! But, given the way that we're progressing, I'm pretty excited about what's to come.

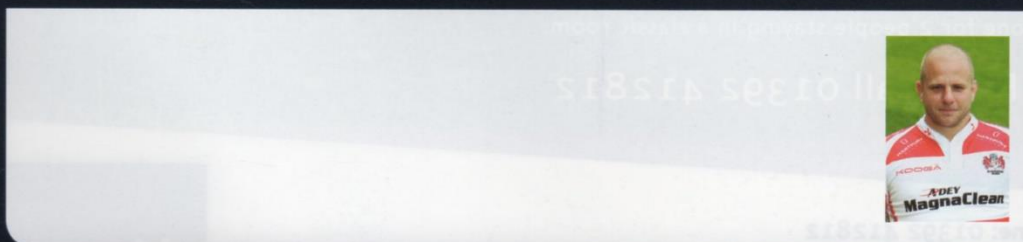
"For now though, it's about finishing as well as possible. We're playing for pride, we're unbeaten at Kingsholm in 2015 which is important to us. We've talked

about making it a fortress again and don't want to slip up now.

"Bath away will be tough. They're playing for a home semi-final, but it's a local derby and we'll be trying to go down there and win."

Just over three years ago, Wood scored the vital try in a 14-11 win at the Rec. It would cap a memorable season if he were able to repeat the dose!

### GLoucester RUGBY AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION





# BOB FENTON'S

## KINGSHOLM NEWS

**”** I KNOW THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE THE CHALLENGE CUP TO SOMEHOW NOT BE WORTH WINNING. I DON'T GET IT, AND I CERTAINLY DON'T AGREE. AT THE START OF THE SEASON THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY TROPHIES THAT CAN BE WON - AND WE'VE GOT TWO OF THEM - THE START OF SEASON SEVENS TROPHY AND THIS ONE. THIS, THEREFORE, MUST MEAN THAT WE ARE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ENGLISH CLUB AT THE MOMENT!

**W**ELL, here we are then, not quite the last game of the season, but probably the last one at Kingsholm.

At the time of writing, the details of the European Cup play-off thing is not known, the man with

the magic coin has not turned up. So I have no clue as to what happens next. Maybe by the time this match kicks off all will have become clear.

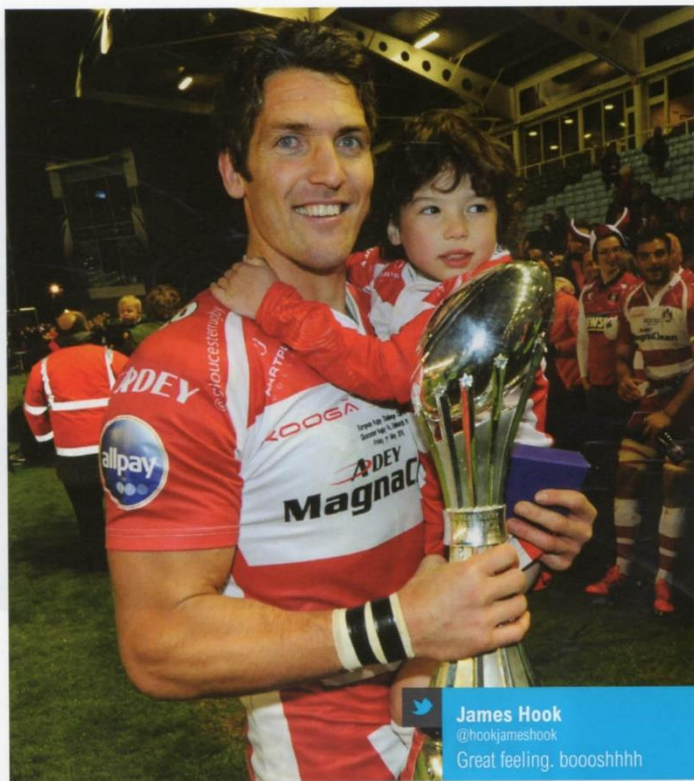
But, to be honest, I don't really care about that at the moment, I'm still buzzing from our exploits

at The Stoop. How good was that last moment when referee Jerome Garces flung his left arm into the air to indicate that Edinburgh had conceded a penalty that would signal the end of the game? That little patch of West London that had been annexed into Gloucestershire erupted into a bellow of triumph and relief.

At that point I had got through my fingernails and was on the way to my knuckles. I hadn't drawn a breath for seven minutes, my pulse rate was in the high thousands and my heart was beating faster than Tommy Ramone ever hit his drum kit (younger readers ask your parents... or grandparents). A coronary was an odds on certainty. And then relief!

That last eight minutes of the game was spectacular, we controlled the ball wonderfully and must have gone through about half a million phases of play without the slightest hint of an error. Watching those moments back when I got home - who needed sleep after that - it was really impressive, I think Charlie Sharples hit more of those rucks in those few minutes than he did all season.

As Edinburgh grew more desperate to get their hands on the ball a penalty was always likely, but to get it with 90-odd seconds left on the clock was a bonus. Just



**James Hook**

@hookjameshook

Great feeling. booshhhh



COMING  
UP...

MARIANO GALARZA ANSWERS OUR A-Z QUESTIONS



as long as the ball went dead from that penalty the game was over. I must confess though, that when Greig moved up to strike the ball, part of me was seeing it rebound of a post into an eager Edinburgh hand. I've never been so glad that my sixth-sense was off beam!

The game itself? Well it really was one of two halves. The pace at which we played the first 40 was outstanding, Jonny May was at his buzzing best, catching the eye as only as he can and that break towards the end of the half gave the world a glimpse of what he is all about. I can only think that the Edinburgh No 8 has Inspector Gadget like arms that telescope out - I can't see how else he could have got a finger on the flying May.

In our section of the East Stand we had a collection of Edinburgh fans and some guys from Ireland who, to a man, said they cannot believe how Stuart Lancaster can

leave Jonny out of his squad. It's not just his pace, look at the way he is scanning the field as he moves - he's identified Du Preez as a target from some way out and figured he would go round him. Should Lancaster decide he is surplus to requirements come the World Cup, then defences from all around the world will heave a hefty sigh of relief.

I know there are some people who believe the Challenge Cup to somehow not be worth winning. I don't get it, and I certainly don't agree. At the start of the season there are only so many trophies that can be won - and we've got two of them - the start of season Sevens trophy and this one. This, therefore, must mean that we are the most successful English club at the moment!

I also really think this is going to be a massive springboard for the club. Let's be honest,

as far as the league goes, it's been a pretty disappointing year. Disappointing because we all saw the great players coming into the club and had high expectations that they would gel together in a few weeks and then we would romp up the league.

Life's not like that, it takes time to build something solid. Who knows what will happen in the latest round of nutty play-offs that we are in now? While Champions Cup qualification would be great, I'm not going to be too disappointed if doesn't happen because I truly believe that success is just around the corner.

Yes, we've all thought that before, but this time it feels like we are building on a solid foundation. They guys who came in last year, the way the coaches have moulded and structured the team, the new guys coming in during the summer - what's not to like, what's not to be excited about?

That's for next season though. Before we get there, we've got today's visitors to look forward to. There's been a bit of chatter about London Irish leaving the Madjeski Stadium and moving a little closer their old home in Sunbury - to a smaller venue somewhere.

I hope they do, the soulless empty spaces of the Mad Stad make it hard to generate any real sense of atmosphere, something that was always there in spades at the old place in Sunbury. I hope they forget to take those drummers with them though - they do my head in!

Finally, as this could well be the last programme of the season, let me say thanks to everyone for reading my stuff, thanks and farewell to the players who are leaving us this summer and thanks for the many exciting moments - most of all thanks for winning a real trophy for the first time in a long time!

Have a great summer everyone and see you all back here in October.



# IAN RANDALL'S RUGBY TALK

**S**O, were YOU at the Stoop? The Challenge Cup final was a worthy occasion with Gloucester just doing enough to hold off a determined Edinburgh side, although I'm sure I wasn't the only one who was a little concerned when they were pressing in the last 10 minutes.

In the end, the joy and relief was in equal measure, and as we know it extends the season until the weekend of May 23/24 at the very least.

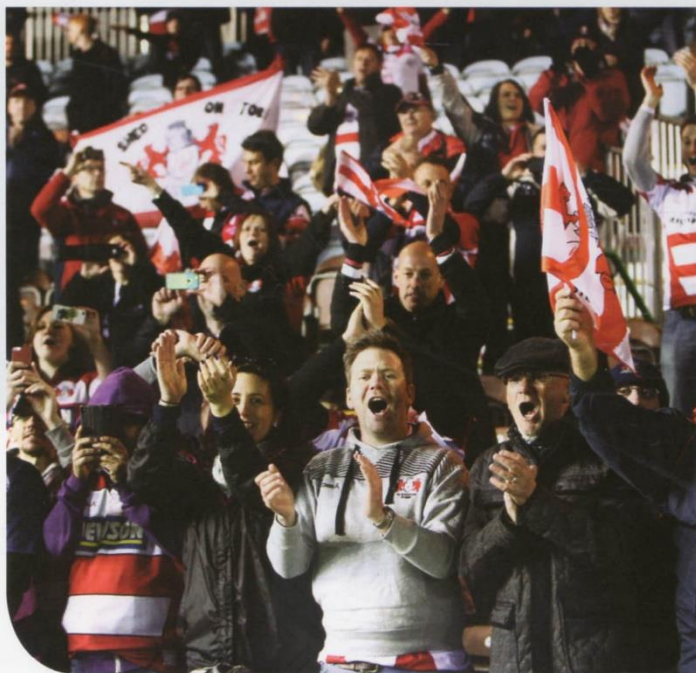
I've not seen all Gloucester's Premiership games to date so, as we complete the home leg with London Irish, I thought it best to consult a man who has.

For the last ten seasons Andrew Pugh has been the voice of Gloucester Rugby on BBC Radio Gloucestershire, so I met him for a beer and to get his thoughts as the finale to the league season approaches.

**Bath Rugby:** A tale of steady progression, they are at their best with George Ford and, to a certain extent, Jonathan Joseph both in the team. Ford has developed and always seems to have time, which is the sign of a good player. They certainly deserve to be in the top four.

**Exeter Chiefs:** The Chiefs continue to defy critics who say there is no star quality in the team, with the possible exception of Jack Nowell. They can sometimes be exposed because their game plan and style is well known, but they would fully merit a top six finish.

**Harlequins:** The fallers, given they were fourth a year ago. They have put a lot of faith in developing English players through their Academy, but there looks to be an acceptance that reinforcements are needed from outside the club. Jamie Roberts





heads that list, but there is quite a big job to do.

**Leicester Tigers:** There hasn't been the usual post Christmas drive from Tigers this season, largely because of a hatful of injuries - Anthony Allen, Tom Croft and Ed Slater to name but three. It is unwise to ignore them though, and with their last game being at home to Northampton, they could easily pinch the last play off place.

**London Irish:** Today's opponents look to have stagnated, finishing tenth last season and likely to end up there again this time. There is a new Head Coach - Tom Coventry - arriving from New Zealand in the closed season, but other teams appear to be developing faster, and it may be a couple of years before there is any real improvement.

**London Welsh:** It's been a mess - if they had a backer they might have done better but I think they would have still struggled. I would expect the Championship play off final to be between Worcester and Bristol, and in either case, they would be better placed to compete next season.

**Newcastle Falcons:** As we saw here two weeks ago the Falcons are, on their day, capable of ruffling a few feathers. Depth of squad remains their key issue. Dean Richards has remained tactically pragmatic - even with the benefit of their new 4G pitch - and you would feel they are likely to be in the bottom three again in a year's time.

**Northampton Saints:** For most of the season Saints have been the best all-round team. They are particularly effective at home and while the team is going to fragment a bit at the end of the season - Manoa and Ma'afu are both leaving - for the moment they are still the side to beat.



**Sale Sharks:** As things stand, the Sharks are the real losers in terms of Champions Cup qualification because of Gloucester winning the Challenge Cup. They have a good effective pack, what they lack is depth (and guile you might argue) in the three-quarters, and that will be accentuated by Mark Cueto's retirement. Seventh for them feels about right.

**Saracens:** The side to avoid in the play-offs, especially as they don't suffer the away traumas that some other teams seem to. The loss of Owen Farrell for a big part of the season would have floored some teams, but the evergreen Charlie Hodgson has been a more than able deputy. Extremely well-organised by Mark McCall.

**Wasps:** Their move to the Ricoh really has worked for them, and their recent launch of a retail bond indicates their ambition. Again, they've managed without

a major England player (Joe Launchbury) for a long spell, yet they are still likely to take the last Champions Cup spot thanks to the astuteness of coach Dai Young and the impact made by number eight Nathan Hughes.

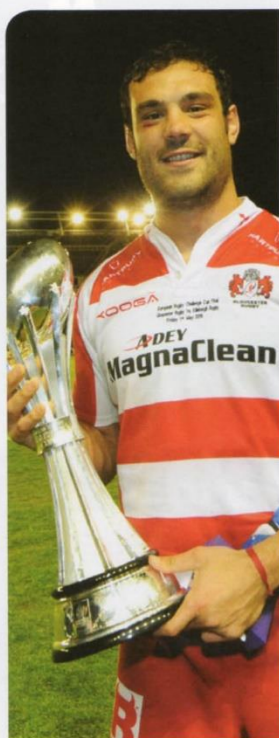
As for Gloucester, it's a tale of re-engineering under two strategic thinkers, David Humphreys and Stephen Vaughan.

On the field, surely Matt Kvesic is the player of the season, but Afoa, Laidlaw and Hook deserve mentions too, as does Palmer. We've seen little of Galarza and Trinder in particular, and the steadiness of Cook has been a loss too.

What we can say is there is visible progress, and there's no question Gloucester can be more competitive from next October when the season starts again if they can sustain what we have seen in bursts over the last nine months.



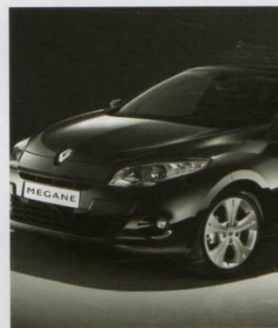
## PLAYER A to Z MARIANO GALARZA



...is for  
**ATMOSPHERE...**  
What is the best  
atmosphere you  
have experienced?  
Argentina fans in  
Buenos Aires



...is for best mate  
...**BEST MATE** in  
rugby?  
Agustin Creevy and  
Leo Senatore



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



...is for  
**EMBARRASSED...**  
most embarrassing  
moment on the  
field?  
Being 'sat down'  
chasing a restart

**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?  
v South Africa  
in 2013

...is for  
**NICKNAME...**  
What's yours?  
Flaco

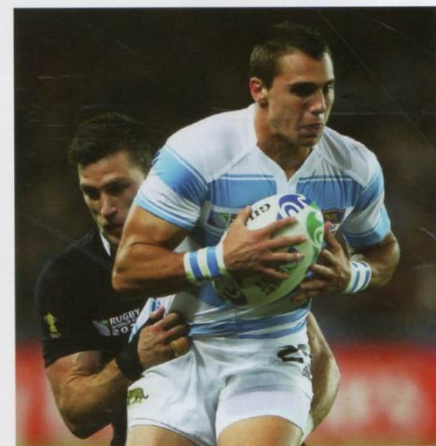
...is for  
**OPPONENT...**  
Who is the best  
player you have  
faced up against?  
Dan Carter

...is for **PRIDE...**  
What is your  
proudest moment?  
Wearing my  
national shirt

...is for  
**QUICKEST...**  
Who is the fastest  
player you have  
played with or  
against?  
Juan Imhoff

...is for **RUN OUT  
MUSIC...** what's  
your tune to run  
out to?  
Anything rock  
n roll

...is for  
**SUPPORT...**  
What teams do you  
support?  
In Europe, it was  
probably Stade  
Francais







e Community  
nths-gloucester.co.uk

2015

...is for  
**FASHION...**  
Who is the worst  
dressed player in  
the squad?  
Stookie, but he is  
getting better

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

...is for  
**HARDMAN...**  
Who is the  
toughest player  
you have come  
across?  
Bakkies Botha

...is for **IDOL...**  
Who is your  
sporting idol?  
John Eales

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

...is for  
**KINGSHOLM**  
...describe  
Kingsholm in three  
words?  
A-ma-zing

...is for **LIFE after  
rugby...**  
What are your  
future plans?  
Doctor or a rugby  
coach

**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?  
In amateur rugby,  
a chip and chase  
which I then  
converted myself

...is for  
**UNBELIEVABLE...**  
Tell us something  
surprising about  
yourself  
I started playing  
rugby when I was  
22, when I was just  
104kg!

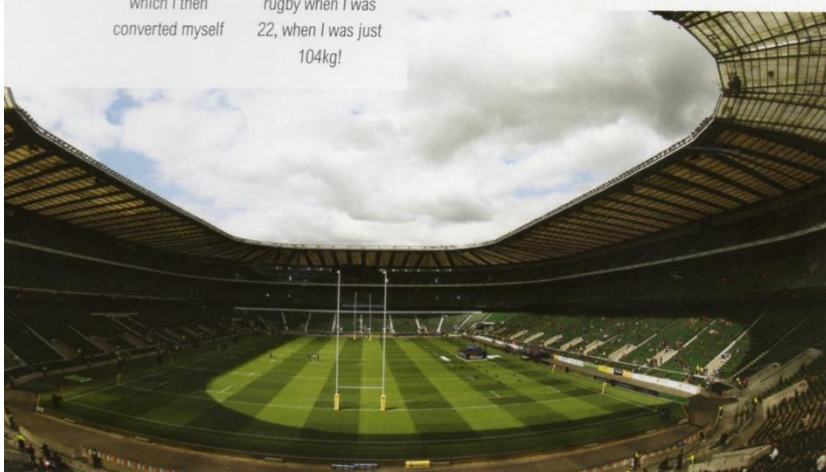
...is for **VISITOR...**  
What is your  
favourite ground to  
play at?  
Twickenham

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

...is for **X-RAY...**  
What is the worst  
injury you have  
suffered?  
Shoulder  
dislocation

...is for **YOUTH...**  
What advice  
would you give  
to aspiring rugby  
players?  
Keep working  
hard and training.  
Always study  
during your  
time off

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





## GLoucester Rugby

### LINE-UP

15	FB	CHARLIE SHARPLES
14	W	JONNY MAY
13	C	BRENDAN MACKEN
12	C	BILLY TWELVETREES (C)
11	W	HENRY PURDY
10	FH	BILLY BURNS
9	SH	DAN ROBSON
1	P	YANN THOMAS
2	H	DARREN DAWIDIUK
3	P	SILA PUAFISI
4	L	ELLIOTT STOOKE
5	L	MARIANO GALARZA
6	F	ROSS MORIARTY
7	F	MATT KVESIC
8	N8	SIONE KALAMAFONI

### REPLACEMENTS

16	H	RICHARD HIBBARD
17	P	DAN MURPHY
18	P	JOHN AFOA
19	L	TOM SAVAGE
20	N8	GARETH EVANS
21	SH	GREIG LAIDLAW
22	W	JAMES HOOK
23	C	BILL MEAKES



# GLoucester Rugby

# 42

**TRIES:** Twelvetrees (26, 69), Robson (65), Purdy (72), Burns (80) **CONS:** Burns (27, 66, 70, 73) **Pens:** Burns (22, 33, 42)



# NEWCASTLE FALCONS

# 40

**TRIES:** Wilson (12), Sinoti (18), Lawson (36), Furno (67) **CONS:** Clegg (13, 20, 38, 68) **Pens:** Clegg (30, 40, 51, 63)



## NEWCASTLE FALCONS

### LINE-UP

15	FB	SIMON HAMMERSLEY
14	W	ALEX TAIT
13	C	CHRIS HARRIS
12	C	JUAN PABLO SOCINO
11	W	SINOTI SINOTI
10	FH	RORY CLEGG
9	SH	RUKI TIPUNA
1	P	ROB VICKERS
2	H	SCOTT LAWSON
3	P	KIERAN BROOKES
4	L	JOSHUA FURNO
5	L	KANE THOMPSON
6	F	MARK WILSON
7	F	WILL WELCH (C)
8	N8	ALLY HOGG

### REPLACEMENTS

16	H	GEORGE M'GUIGAN
17	P	ERIC FRY
18	P	JUAN PABLO ORLANDI
19	L	WILL WITTY
20	N8	SEAN ROBINSON
21	SH	TANE TAKULUA
22		ANDY TUILAGI
23	C	ADAM POWELL



# SENSATIONAL COMEBACK CLIPS THE FALCONS WINGS

THE CHERRY AND WHITES CONTINUED THEIR FINE FORM AT KINGSHOLM IN 2015 WITH A BONUS-POINT WIN OVER NEWCASTLE FALCONS. BUT THAT TOLD ONLY HALF THE STORY AS THE HOSTS HAD TO RELY UPON AN INCREDIBLE LATE COMEBACK TO SECURE THE POINTS.

**T**HE Cherry and Whites will accept they were second best for most of this Round Twenty clash at a sun-drenched Kingsholm, but a last gasp Billy Burns try capped off a special late burst in the final quarter to recover from a 17 points deficit with just 12 minutes to play.

With the game falling in between the European Rugby

scored next as Scott Lawson was the beneficiary from a rolling maul in front of The Shed.

And before the half was out, Rory Clegg increased the score with a long distance penalty.

Along with a tough team talk, the Cherry and Whites rang the changes during the turnaround, and this had an immediate effect, with the scrum muscling their way to a penalty opportunity which

## CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



Kingsholm held its collective breath as Billy Burns collected a James Hook pass, but the young pivot kept his cool to spot a gap, take it, and dive over the line through a sea of Falcons' defenders.

**”** OVER THE SEASON THERE ARE GAMES WE FELT WE SHOULD HAVE WON THAT WE DIDN'T WIN. TODAY WAS A GAME THAT MAYBE WE DIDN'T DESERVE TO WIN BUT WE WORKED SO HARD AND SHOWED ENORMOUS SPIRIT TO COME BACK AND SEAL THE VICTORY. **David Humphreys**

Challenge Cup semi-final and final, David Humphreys and Laurie Fisher made a number of changes to the starting line-up and, in the opening stanzas, the Falcons looked sharper, crossing for a pair of well-worked scores from Mark Wilson and the influential Sinoti Sinoti.

The hosts hit back quickly. After kicking his first penalty of the afternoon, Burns collected a pilfered ball from Matt Kvesic and stepped his way through the defence before timing his pass to the on-rushing Billy Twelvetrees to collect and stroll over.

Sensing a way back into the game after the early lapse, the Cherry and Whites stepped it up to get back on level terms. Instead it was the Falcons who

Burns chipped over.

But a few chances went begging as it looked increasingly as though it wouldn't be Gloucester's afternoon, and Clegg was able to extend the lead to seventeen points as the game entered the closing stages with another penalty.

Gloucester huffed and puffed but couldn't quite find the scoring pass, until Dan Robson's quick thinking sent him under the posts. The comeback looked to be on.

Or maybe not, Josh Furno finished off a Falcons' break as they collected an errant offload as Gloucester looked to run the ball from deep.

Incredibly, skipper Twelvetrees then stepped his way over the line for his second of the

afternoon, and the comeback was back on.

Henry Purdy then stepped his way through to score impressively as the Cherry and Whites upped the tempo. Kingsholm was alive, as Purdy's score reduced the deficit to three points with eight minutes to go.

With the clock running dead, the hosts were camped on the Falcons' line and, after a number of attempts to cross the line, the Cherry and Whites threw the ball wide, and Burns was brave to break a desperate tackle from Clegg, and dot down and seal a sensational comeback win for the Cherry and Whites.

Plenty to work on, but a perfect tonic to take heading into the final.



## 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	TOM PALMER
6	F	ROSS MORIARTY
7	F	MATT KVESIC
8	N8	GARETH EVANS

### REPLACEMENTS

16	R	DARREN DAWIDIUK
17	R	YANN THOMAS
18		SILA PUAFISI
19	R	MARIANO GALARZA
20	R	JACOB ROWAN
21		DAN ROBSON
22		BILLY BURNS
23		STEVE MCCOLL



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

19

TRY: Twelvetrees (10) CON: Laidlaw (11) PENS: Laidlaw (8, 36, 49, 53)



## EDINBURGH RUGBY

13

TRY: Ford (65) CON: Hidalgo-Clyne (65) PENS: Hidalgo-Clyne (2, 35)



## EDINBURGH RUGBY

### LINE-UP

15	FB	GREIG TONKS
14	W	DOUGIE FIFE
13	C	SAM BEARD
12	C	ANDRIES STRAUSS
11	W	TIM VISSER
10	FH	PHIL BURLEIGH
9	SH	SAM HIDALGO-CLYNE
1	P	ALASDAIR DICKINSON
2	H	ROSS FORD
3	P	WP NEL
4	L	ANTON BRESLER
5	L	BEN TOOLIS
6	F	MIKE COMAN
7	F	RODDY GRANT
8	N8	CORNELL DU PREEZ

### REPLACEMENTS

16	R	STUART MCINALLY
17		RORY SUTHERLAND
18		JOHN ANDRESS
19	R	FRASER MCKENZIE
20	R	HAMISH WATSON
21		NATHAN FOWLES
22	R	TOM HEATHCOTE
23	R	TOM BROWN





FINAL

# EUROPEAN GLORY FOR GLOUCESTER

LAST FRIDAY EVENING SAW A SMALL CORNER OF TWI TRANSFORMED INTO GLI FOR THE EVENING AS GLOUCESTER DELIGHTED THE HORDES OF CHERRY AND WHITE CLAD FOLLOWERS BY LIFTING THE EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP.

**I**T brought a successful end to a European odyssey which has seen the squad travel twice to France and once to Italy, before seeing off the best that the British Isles could throw at them in the knock-out stages.

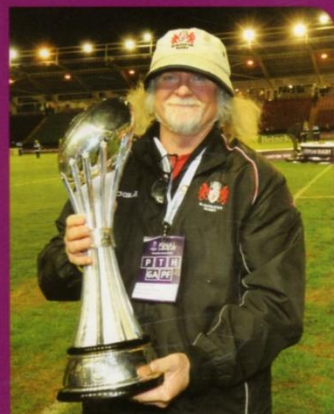
And, on May Day, how fitting was it that Gloucester's appropriately named winger was named as Man of the Match following his superb contribution?

”

WE PLAYED VERY WELL IN THE FIRST HALF. COMING INTO THE GAME WE TALKED ABOUT CREATING PACE IN THE GAME AND NOT LETTING EDINBURGH SETTLE.

THERE'S UNBELIEVABLE CHARACTER AND THERE'S UNBELIEVABLE BELIEF WITHIN THIS SQUAD. **David Humphreys**

Jonny May was the architect of Gloucester's only try on the night as he ripped open Edinburgh's defence to set up Billy Twelvetrees. The Scottish side could barely lay a finger on him, although Cornell du Preez's outstretched digit was just



enough to deny the winger a try of his own at a crucial point.

Gloucester were already leading 10-3 at that point, and another score would surely have given them an unassailable lead. Gareth Evans thought he had touched down shortly afterwards, but the TMO decreed otherwise, and Edinburgh lived to fight again.

With Sam Hidalgo-Clyne putting boot to ball to good effect, both

on and off the tee, Edinburgh refused to be shaken off and were hanging on grimly at half time, trailing by just 13 points to 6 despite Gloucester's domination.

However, Greig Laidlaw was putting on a clinic of scrum-half play in his personal battle with his fellow Scotland scrum-half, and his two second half penalties seemed to put Gloucester well down the path to victory.

But, if Gloucester have struggled in one area this season, it's been closing out games and this proved to be an issue once again when they seemed to be coasting.

Ross Moriarty was yellow carded, and was swiftly followed

## CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



For all the excellent performances on the night, there's really only one winner – the moment when Billy Twelvetrees lifted the trophy and the celebrations could really begin.

to the sidelines by Bill Meakes whose red card seemed to be harsh considering he appeared to be trying to move a runner on a blocking path out of his way.

With Gloucester down to 13 men, Edinburgh sensed a way back into the game and duly took the opportunity. They had barely threatened up to this point, but Ross Ford powered over from close range and it was game on.

It was an uncomfortable few minutes for Gloucester as Edinburgh threw everything into attack, and one key penalty was won at the breakdown by Yann Thomas to stem the tide.

It proved to be pivotal. Gloucester moved downfield to dominate possession in the final few minutes, Laidlaw expertly marshaling his troops to run down the clock.

In desperation, Edinburgh conceded a penalty with a minute to go as they sought to snatch back the ball and, even though Laidlaw was off target, he made sure the ball went dead and Gloucester had their first silverware for four years.



# TODAY'S TEAMS

## GLoucester Rugby vs London Irish

REFEREE: Craig Maxwell-Keys ASSISTANTS: Andrew Pearce and Roger Baileff

TEAMS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT

TPCD		15		TPCD
CHARLIE SHARPLES	FULL-BACK	ANDREW FENBY	FULL-BACK	
JONNY MAY	RIGHT WING	TOPSY OJO	RIGHT WING	
BRENDAN MACKEN	OUTSIDE CENTRE	EOIN GRIFFIN	OUTSIDE CENTRE	
BILLY TWELVETREES (C)	INSIDE CENTRE	FERGUS MULCHRONE	INSIDE CENTRE	
HENRY PURDY	LEFT WING	ALEX LEWINGTON	LEFT WING	
BILLY BURNS	FLY-HALF	CHRIS NOAKES	FLY-HALF	
GREIG LAIDLAW	SCRUM-HALF	DARREN ALLINSON	SCRUM-HALF	
YANN THOMAS	LOOSEHEAD PROP	TOM COURT	LOOSEHEAD PROP	
RICHARD HIBBARD	HOOKE	DAVID PAICE	HOOKE	
SILA PUAFISI	TIGHTHEAD PROP	RICHARD PALFRAMAN	TIGHTHEAD PROP	
TOM SAVAGE	LOCK	GEORGE SKIVINGTON (C)	LOCK	
MARIANO GALARZA	LOCK	JEBB SINCLAIR	LOCK	
DAN THOMAS	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	LUKE NARRAWAY	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	
MATT KVESIC	OPENSIDE FLANKER	BLAIR COWAN	OPENSIDE FLANKER	
GARETH EVANS	NUMBER EIGHT	TOM GUEST	NUMBER EIGHT	
DARREN DAWIDIUK	REPLACEMENT 1	GERARD ELLIS	REPLACEMENT 1	
NICK WOOD	REPLACEMENT 2	JAMIE HAGAN	REPLACEMENT 2	
SHAUN KNIGHT	REPLACEMENT 3	HALANI AULIKA	REPLACEMENT 3	
ELLIOTT STOOKE	REPLACEMENT 4	DAN LEO	REPLACEMENT 4	
JAMES HUDSON	REPLACEMENT 5	SEAN COX	REPLACEMENT 5	
CALLUM BRALEY	REPLACEMENT 6	TOMÁS O'LEARY	REPLACEMENT 6	
JAMES HOOK	REPLACEMENT 7	SHANE GERAGHTY	REPLACEMENT 7	
STEVE MCCOLL	REPLACEMENT 8	EAMONN SHERIDAN	REPLACEMENT 8	