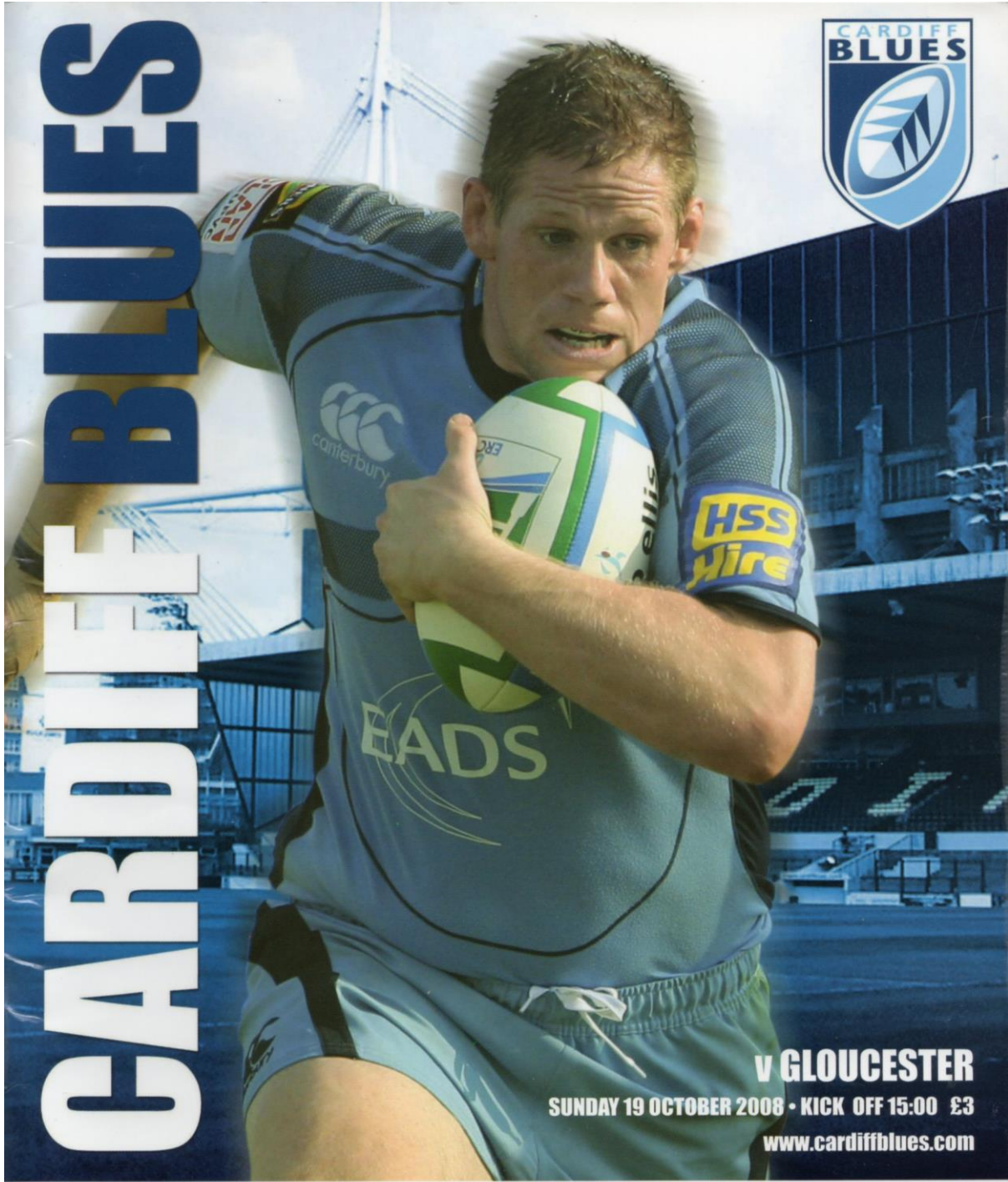


# CARDIFF BLUES



**v GLOUCESTER**

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2008 • KICK OFF 15:00 £3

[www.cardiffblues.com](http://www.cardiffblues.com)

Heineken Cup Round Two



[ercrugby.com](http://ercrugby.com)



The Line Up

# TODAY'S TEAMS



SCORER	TIME	POINTS

## OCTOBER FIXTURES

SATURDAY 4 KICK OFF 3.00PM  
SALE SHARKS 17 CARDIFF BLUES 18

SATURDAY 11 KICK OFF 2:35PM  
RUGBY CALVISANO 20 CARDIFF BLUES 56

SUNDAY 18 KICK OFF 3:00PM  
CARDIFF BLUES V GLOUCESTER RUGBY

SATURDAY 25 KICK OFF 2:35  
CARDIFF BLUES V LEICESTER TIGERS

FRIDAY 31 KICK OFF 7.35PM  
CARDIFF BLUES V BATH

## CARDIFF BLUES

15. BEN BLAIR
14. LEIGH HALFPENNY
13. JAMIE ROBINSON
12. TOM SHANKLIN
11. GARETH THOMAS
10. NICKY ROBINSON
9. JASON SPICE
  
8. ANDY POWELL
7. MARTYN WILLIAMS
6. MAAMA MOLITKA
5. PAUL TITO (C)
4. DEINIOL JONES
3. GARY POWELL
2. T RHYS THOMAS
1. GETHIN JENKINS
  
16. TAUPA'AO FILISE
17. GARETH WILLIAMS
18. SCOTT MORGAN
19. ROBIN SOWDEN TAYLOR
20. RICHIE REES
21. CERI SWEENEY
22. JAMIE ROBERTS

Heineken Cup

## GLOUCESTER

- 15. OLLY MORGAN
- 14. IAIN BALSHAW
- 13. MIKE TINDALL (C)
- 12. OLLY BARKLEY
- 11. JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL
- 10. RYAN LAMB
- 9. GARETH COOPER

- 1. ALASDAIR DICKINSON
- 2. OLIVIER AZAM
- 3. CARLOS NIETO
- 4. MARCO BORTOLAMI
- 5. ALEX BROWN
- 6. ANDY HAZELL
- 7. PETER BUXTON
- 8. LUKE NARRAWAY

- 16. SCOTT LAWSON
- 17. JACK FORSTER
- 18. ALASDAIR STROKOSCH
- 19. ADAM EUSTACE
- 20. RORY LAWSON
- 21. WILLIE WALKER
- 22. LESLEY VAINIKOLO



SCORER	TIME	POINTS

### MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE  
ALAIN ROLLAND

TOUCH JUDGES  
COLIN STANLEY  
DUDLEY PHILLIPS

TV MATCH OFFICIAL  
MARSHALL KILGORE



ercrugby.com



Gloucester

## THE OPPOSITION

**It was not so much about what happened at Gloucester over the summer as what didn't happen.**

Despite finishing top of the Guinness Premiership pile again at the end of the regular 2007-8 season, Gloucester again failed to transfer their obvious potential into a dividend during the play-offs – it was a familiar, unfulfilled ending to what threatened to be a triumphant season.

Leicester's magnificent manipulation and street-wise cussedness consigned Gloucester's season to the dustbin of history at the semi-final stage and that tantalising wait for a domestic trophy went on.

By that time, head coach Dean Ryan had done the majority of his recruiting – a policy that included nabbing one of Bath's diamonds in Olly Barkley – Llanelli centre Matthew Watkins and former Gloucester second row Adam Eustace – also from Stradey Park.

When he completed negotiations to bring Canterbury prop Greg Somerville to Kingsholm by Christmas, the general thought was that Gloucester's squad was stronger than last season's and well

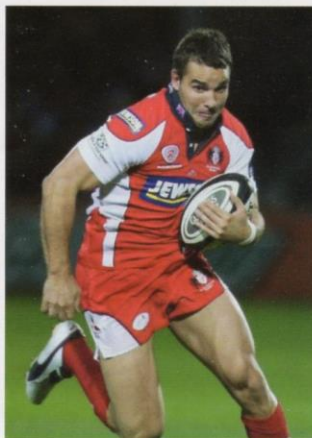
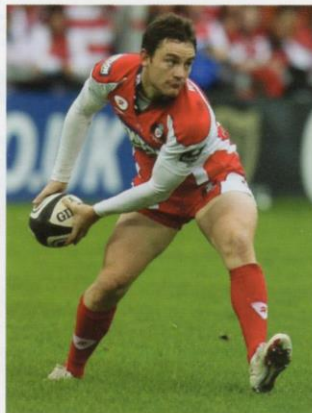
capable of challenging again this season.

Barkley has been brought in to provide a tactical nous and big-game understanding that so often seemed to evaporate and as a left-footed kicking option, will vvy with Ryan Lamb and Anthony Allen for the 10 and 12 positions respectively – but it is the inside centre position he covets and kicked Gloucester to an opening round Heineken Cup win over Biarritz last weekend.

Somerville is the most capped prop in All Black history and alongside Dave Young – the young and aggressive tight forward from Leicester – Gloucester kept their summer additions to a minimum.

With the likes of the emerging and increasingly gifted Luke Narraway, the robust Anthony Allen and the safe as houses Ollly Morgan a year older and a year wiser, Gloucester's squad is up there with anything in the Premiership.

Their pre-season preparations centred on a training camp in Canada and a victory over their A side, before a strong Bayonne team won comfortably in France after Cardiff pulled out of a fixture scheduled at Kingsholm.



They completed their preparations with a 30-8 victory over Glasgow under the new ELV's but their Premiership campaign got off to the worst possible start with a home defeat to those Tigers – their third successive victory at Kingsholm in eight months.

Tries from Geordan Murphy and Toby Flood sealed a 20-8 victory – Gloucester's only try coming from the outstanding Morgan in the first-half.

But they responded by winning for the first time ever at the Rec in league rugby in a spot of west country tribalism unique to the



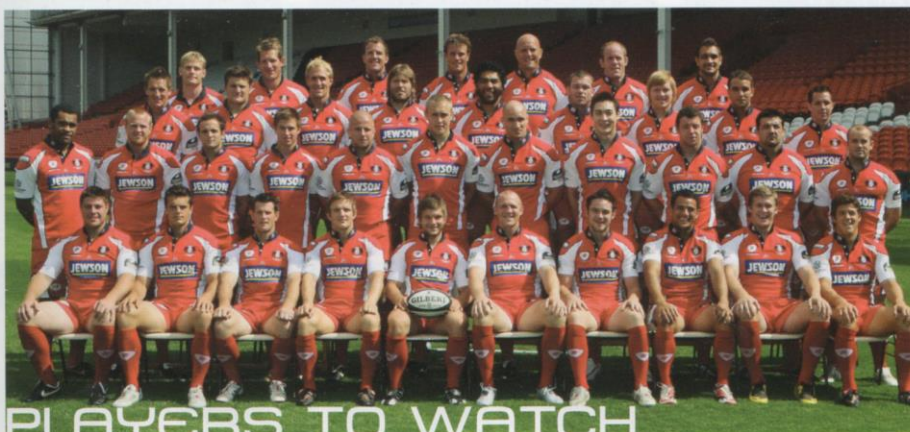


people involved. They backed that up with a tense victory over Harlequins, the Premiership pace-setters, with tries from Morgan and Alasdair Strokosch before Charlie Hodgson subjected them to a withering kicking assault at Edgeley Park as they struggled to come to terms with the ELV's.

That defeat, at the end of September, has been their last in any competition since then. They re-grouped with a 39-23 win over

Newcastle at Kingsholm that included a bonus point and then built on that success with a 24-19 victory over Wasps in the EDF Energy Cup with tries from Willie Walker and Lesley Vainikolo.

And last week, James Simpson-Daniel's 18th Heineken Cup try established the platform for their opening European win of the season – 22-10 over Biarritz - and sets them on course for a cracking encounter with Cardiff this afternoon.



PLAYERS TO WATCH

**Olly Morgan:**

The England full-back opened his try account for the season against Leicester last weekend. Brilliant under the high ball, a brave and committed defender and willing to lend his support in attack, Morgan's recent form has made it a mockery that he was left out of England's elite player squad. With time on his side, Morgan has every chance to take the next step on the international stage.

**James Simpson-Daniel:**

The Guinness Premiership player of the season last year, Simpson-Daniel's brilliance – whether finding his way to the line himself or creating chances for team-mates – means he is one of the most dangerous game-breakers in the country. Able to change direction without losing pace, Simpson-Daniel scored nine tries last season, the majority coming in key matches. Once again, he will be one of Gloucester's main men this season.



**Alasdair Strokosch:** Powerfully built and remorselessly strong, Strokosch announced himself on the scene last season following his move from Edinburgh with a series of bullet-hard performances. Quiet and unassuming, Strokosch's work ethic, ability to contest at the breakdown and carrying potential marked him down as one of Gloucester's most consistent players last season.