

tigers

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF LEICESTER TIGERS | £3



V GLOUCESTER RUGBY

AVIVA PREMIERSHIP
ROUND 19
APRIL 2, 2016
SATURDAY 3.15PM



TODAY'S TEAMS

REFEREE:
MR J P
DOYLE

ASSISTANT:
MR NIGEL
CARRICK

ASSISTANT:
MR PAUL
BURTON

TV OFFICIAL:
MR DAVID
GRASHOFF



LEICESTER TIGERS

			T	C	P
15	TELUSA VEAINU	TON			
14	ADAM THOMPSTONE				
13	PETER BETHAM	AUS			
12	MANU TUILAGI	ENG			
11	VERENIKI GONEVA	FIJI			
10	OWEN WILLIAMS				
9	BEN YOUNGS	ENG			
1	LOGOVI'I MULIPOLA	SAM			
2	HARRY THACKER				
3	DAN COLE	ENG			
4	DOM BARROW				
5	GRAHAM KITCHENER				
6	TOM CROFT	ENG			
7	LACHLAN McCAFFREY				
8	ED SLATER (C)				

REPLACEMENTS

16	GREG BATEMAN				
17	MARCOS AYERZA	ARG			
18	FRASER BALMAIN				
19	SEBASTIAN DE CHAVES				
20	BRENDON O'CONNOR				
21	SAM HARRISON				
22	FREDDIE BURNS	ENG			
23	MATHEW TAIT	ENG			



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

			T	C	P
15	TOM MARSHALL				
14	DAVID HALAIFONUA	TON			
13	BILL MEAKES				
12	BILLY TWELVETREES (C)	ENG			
11	STEVE McCOLL				
10	JAMES HOOK	WAL			
9	GREIG LAIDLAW	SCOT			
1	PADDY McALLISTER				
2	DARREN DAWIDIUK				
3	JOHN AFOA	NZL			
4	TOM SAVAGE				
5	JEREMY THRUSH	NZL			
6	SIONE KALAMAFONI	TON			
7	MATT KVESIC	ENG			
8	ROSS MORIARTY	WAL			

REPLACEMENTS

16	RICHARD HIBBARD	ENG			
17	YANN THOMAS				
18	PAUL DORAN-JONES	ENG			
19	MARIANO GALARZA	ARG			
20	GARETH EVANS				
21	CALLUM BRALEY				
22	MARK ATKINSON				
23	HENRY TRINDER				

INTRODUCING GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Welcome to this afternoon's Welford Road visitors.

Gloucester Rugby come into this afternoon's game against Leicester Tigers looking to finish the season on a high as they push for a top-six finish while also seeking to defend their European Rugby Challenge Cup title.

That first target has become a whole lot harder to achieve after three defeats in a row recently. Following a fine victory over Wasps at the beginning of March, Gloucester looked to be in position to time their challenge nicely.

However, trips to Worcester Warriors and London Irish resulted in only a single losing bonus point, while a narrow home defeat to local rivals Bath at Kingsholm last weekend was hard to take for everyone connected with the club.

With an injury list growing by the week, there isn't really any room for further slip-ups, so Gloucester will be giving it everything at Welford Road this afternoon in a bid to take the points.

The Cherry and Whites headed into this season's Aviva Premiership campaign with a greater sense of familiarity than in recent years, with a much quieter and settled summer setting the squad up well ahead of the new season.

As Gloucester kicked off 2014/15 at Northampton, a whole host of new players were finding their feet and the coaching team had literally just arrived. It was little surprise then that the season got off to a shaky start away to the then defending champions.

Wind the clock forward 12 months and director of rugby David Humphreys and head coach Laurie Fisher embarked on their second season at the helm, with the only new face seeing Jonny Bell join as defence coach alongside the senior coaching team of Nick Walshe and Trevor Woodman.

And it's been a largely positive campaign until the past few weeks. Gloucester have won eight Aviva Premiership outings and could easily have won three more, having conceded late leads against Saracens, Harlequins and Leicester.

And, on the European front, it's all gone according to plan as the Cherry and Whites topped their Challenge Cup pool with six wins from six, including a home-and-away double against Worcester, to secure second seeding and a home quarter-final against Newport Gwent Dragons next weekend.

Having lifted the trophy at The Stoop last season with a 19-13 win over Edinburgh Rugby, Gloucester are seeking to become the first team to successfully defend the title.

Also, unlike last season, winning the trophy does guarantee a place in next season's Champions Cup, so the incentive is obvious.

But, it's all about the Aviva Premiership today as Gloucester look to bounce back against the Tigers who won a thriller at Kingsholm back in January, Logovi'i Mulipola's late try snatching a dramatic 19-18 win after trailing throughout.

That defeat was tough to take for Gloucester who will need to draw upon the hurt of that game and channel it into a positive performance this afternoon.

It won't be easy against a Tigers side who are still in the chase for the top four and who are now able to call upon those players who have been away on Six Nations duty.

There are not many opportunities left for either team, ensuring a tense and exciting afternoon for all.



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**



A BIG RUN-IN FOR DAVID HUMPHREYS AND HIS TEAM

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Playing Squad 2015/16



NAME | Age | Position | Honours | Previous Club |

JOHN AFOA | 32 | Prop | New Zealand | Ulster

▶ Spent nine years with Auckland and three at Ulster before joining Gloucester this season. Made more than 100 appearances in Super Rugby with the Blues up to 2011 and has 36 caps for New Zealand.

MARK ATKINSON | 22 | Centre | - | Bedford Blues

▶ Had spells with Sale Sharks, Wasps, Esher and Bedford Blues before joining Gloucester in 2014.

CALLUM BRALEY | 21 | Scrum-half | - | -

▶ Joined Gloucester academy ahead of the 2014/15 season and represented England at Under-16 and 18 levels before captaining the Under-20s.

BILLY BURNS | 21 | Fly-half | - | -

▶ Younger brother of Tigers fly-half Freddie, he came through the Gloucester academy to earn a place in the first-team as well as playing on loan at Hartpury and has represented England Under-18s and 20s.

ROB COOK | 31 | Full-back | - | Cornish Pirates

▶ Captained the rugby, cricket and football teams at Oakham School before joining Cornish Pirates where he scored more than 1,000 points in 104 appearances. Joined Gloucester in 2012.

DARREN DAWIDIUK | 28 | Hooker | - | Cornish Pirates

▶ Joined the Pirates academy in 2006 after playing youth rugby with Truro and moved to Gloucester for the 2009/10 season.

PAUL DORAN-JONES | 30 | Prop | England | Harlequins

▶ Previously played for Leinster, London Welsh, Wasps, Gloucester, Northampton Saints and Harlequins before rejoining Gloucester this season.

GARETH EVANS | 24 | Back row | - | -

▶ Graduated from the Gloucester academy to join the senior squad in 2012/13 and has played at blindside or No8. Also had a loan spell with Hartpury.

MARIANO GALARZA | 29 | Lock | Argentina | Worcester Warriors

▶ Played for Pampas XV, Leinster and Worcester before joining Gloucester in 2014 and won his first Test cap in 2010.

DAVID HALAIFONU | 28 | Wing | Tonga | Candy SC

▶ Signed for Gloucester in November 2014 after a spell in Sri Lanka and played for Tonga against the USA at Kingsholm. Part of Tonga's World Cup squad in 2015.

WILLI HEINZ | 29 | Scrum-half | - | Crusaders

▶ A former New Zealand Under-21 cap, he played with Canterbury and Super Rugby side Crusaders before joining Gloucester this season.

RICHARD HIBBARD | 32 | Hooker | Lions & Wales | Ospreys

▶ Spent time with Swansea and Aberavon before spending 10 years with Ospreys and joined Gloucester in 2014.

TOM HICKS | 24 | Lock | - | -

▶ Originally part of the Northampton Saints academy, he signed for Gloucester in the summer of 2013 and was elevated to the senior squad in 2015.

JAMES HOOK | 30 | Fly-half | Lions & Wales | Perpignan

▶ Starred for Neath and the Ospreys before a spell in France with Perpignan. Joined Gloucester in 2014 and is capped by Wales Sevens, as well as playing Test rugby for Wales and the British & Irish Lions.

JAMES HUDSON | 34 | Lock | - | Newcastle Falcons

▶ The former Bath, London Irish and Newcastle Falcons lock signed for Gloucester in 2013 and has represented England Saxons.

SIONE KALAMAFONI | 27 | Back row | Tonga | Nottingham

▶ Had two seasons at Nottingham before moving to Gloucester in 2012. Famously saved 27 children from a Tongan orphanage fire.

MATT KVESIC | 23 | Back row | England | Worcester Warriors

▶ Joined Worcester aged 14 and made his senior debut in 2009 as the youngest player to represent the club in the professional era, as well as gaining experience with Stourbridge. Signed for Gloucester in 2013 and has represented England at four levels.

GREG LAIDLAW | 30 | Scrum-half | Scotland | Edinburgh

▶ Had seven years with Edinburgh, making 139 appearances, before joining Gloucester in 2014. Captained Scotland at the 2015 Rugby World Cup and in this season's Six Nations.





JEREMY THRUSH

JOE LATTA 23 / Lock / - / Highlanders

▶ Had spells with Wellington, Otago and Super Rugby side Highlanders before joining Gloucester this season. A former New Zealand Under-20s cap.

TOM LINDSAY 28 / Hooker / - / Wasps

▶ A former member of the Saracens academy, he spent 11 years at Wasps before joining Gloucester this season. Played for England Saxons in the 2010 Churchill Cup.

TOM MARSHALL 25 / Full-back / - / Chiefs

▶ Previously with Tasman Makos, Crusaders and Chiefs in New Zealand before moving to England with Gloucester in 2015 and has represented New Zealand Under-20s.

JONNY MAY 25 / Centre / England / -

▶ With Gloucester since 2009, he won his first senior caps on the tour to Argentina in 2013 and was part of the 2015 World Cup squad but missed this year's Six Nations due to injury.

PADDY McALLISTER 26 / Prop / - / Aurillac

▶ Played with Ulster for four years and then had a year with Aurillac in France before joining Gloucester in 2015. Capped at Under-20s level by Ireland.

STEVE McCOLL 27 / Full-back / - / Yorkshire Carnegie

▶ Spent five years at Doncaster Knights and three with Yorkshire Carnegie before joining Gloucester in 2014 and represented Scotland Under-20s.

BILL MEAKES 25 / Centre / - / -

▶ Played amateur rugby at Randwick and Clifton before joining Gloucester in 2014 and has represented Australia Under-20s and Australia Sevens.

BEN MORGAN 27 / Back row / England / Scarlets

▶ Spent three years with the Scarlets in Llanelli before signing for Gloucester in 2012. He was eligible to play for Wales before declaring for England and joined the squad for the first time in the 2012 Six Nations.

ROSS MORIATY 21 / Back row / Wales / -

▶ Son of former Wales international Paul Moriarty and nephew of former international captain Richard Moriarty, he joined Gloucester in 2012 and represented England Under-18s and 20s before making his Test debut for Wales against Ireland in August 2015.

DAN MURPHY 30 / Prop / - / London Irish

▶ Spent four seasons with London Irish, making nearly 50 appearances, before joining Gloucester ahead of the 2011/12 season.

MAT PROTHEROE 19 / Fly-half / - / Hartpury College

▶ Joined Gloucester in 2015, making his 'A' League debut against Sale Jets in January last year. Represented England Under-18s this year.

HENRY PURDY 21 / Centre / - / Leicester Tigers

▶ Spent two years in the Tigers academy after starting out with Wasps and then joined Gloucester in 2014. Previously capped by England Under-20s.

STEPH REYNOLDS 22 / Wing / - / -

▶ A product of the Gloucester/Hartpury College partnership, he made an impression in the Premiership Sevens wins in 2013 and 2014 before captaining the side in the 2015 campaign.

JACOB ROWAN 26 / Back row / - / Leeds Carnegie

▶ Spent six years at Carnegie, where in 2012 he was named as the youngest-ever Leeds captain, and signed for Gloucester in 2014. Served the England Under-18s and 20s.

TOM SAVAGE 26 / Lock / - / -

▶ Captained Hartpury RFC to the National Three South West title in 2011 while training with Gloucester and also made frequent appearances in the 'A' League side before establishing himself in the senior squad. He captained Gloucester in 2013.

CHARLIE SHARPLES 26 / Wing / England / -

▶ Born in Hong Kong, the former Gloucestershire county athlete ran a time of 11.30 seconds over 100metres at 17 and 40metres in 4.82 seconds at England's World Cup training camp in 2011, the fastest recorded in the squad. He made his debut for Gloucester during the 2007/08 season.

NICKY THOMAS 21 / Prop / - / Ospreys

▶ Previously played with Swansea, Ospreys and Aberavon before joining Gloucester this season and has represented Wales Under-20s.

YANN THOMAS 25 / Prop / - / -

▶ Joined Gloucester academy from Bristol before the 2008/09 season and impressed enough to earn a senior deal, making his first-team debut in 2009.

JEREMY THRUSH 30 / Lock / New Zealand / Hurricanes

▶ Spent nine years at Wellington and with the Hurricanes in Super Rugby before joining Gloucester this season.

HENRY TRINDER 26 / Centre / - / -

▶ Joined the senior squad in 2007/08, also being dual-registered with Moseley, and made his senior debut as cover for Mike Tindall during the international periods before becoming first choice.

BILLY TWELVETREES 27 / Centre / Lions & England / Leicester Tigers

▶ Nicknamed '36' at Tigers, based on Geordan Murphy's pronunciation of his surname, he came through the Leicester academy then played senior rugby with Leicester Lions and Bedford before returning to Welford Road. Joined Gloucester in 2012, joined the British & Irish Lions tour in 2013 and is now club captain.

NICK WOOD 33 / Prop / - / -

▶ Joined Gloucester in 2003 and has made more than 250 appearances, as well as representing England Under-21s and Saxons. Also played for England against the Barbarians.