

LondonWelsh



V GLOUCESTER RUGBY | SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2014 | KICK-OFF 2:30PM | £3 OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE 5



**JUSTIN
BURNELL**
PAGE 11

**FOCUS ON
DIDCOT RFC**
PAGE 41

SEB SAYS
PAGE 65

**RICKY
REEVES**
PAGE 34



easy copiers

solar
communications



Oxford Mail

opro

HENMANS
FREETH

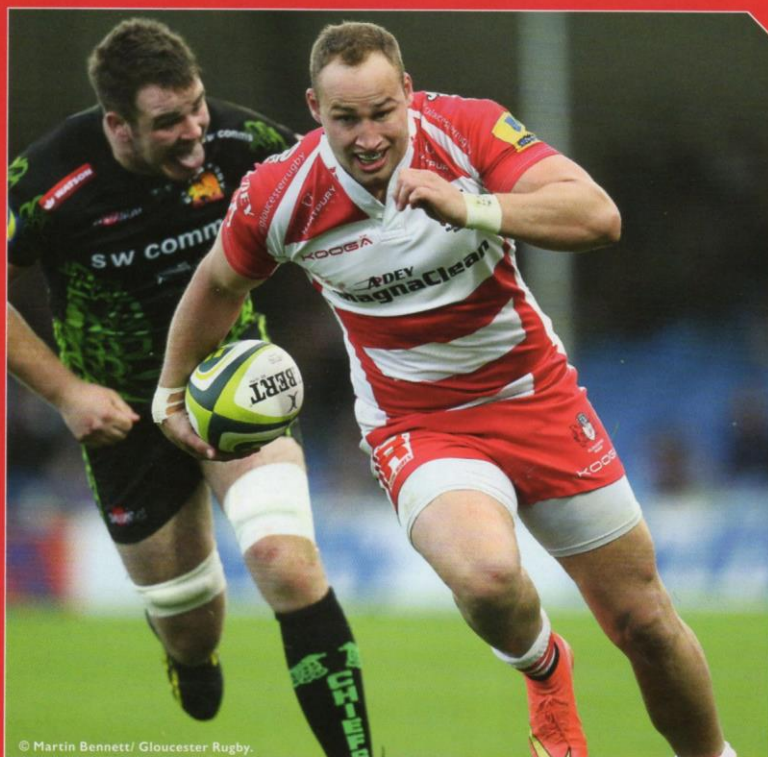


MSC

VenaTOUR

TODAY'S VISITORS...

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



© Martin Bennett/ Gloucester Rugby.



**Gloucester
Rugby Ltd**

ADDRESS:

Kingsholm Stadium
Kingsholm Road,
Kingsholm
Gloucester
GL1 3AX

MAIN CLUB:

01452 872 274

WEBSITE:

gloucesterrugby.co.uk

48

Gloucester Rugby make their second visit of the season to the Kassam Stadium this afternoon, hoping to repeat September's win here in the Aviva Premiership.

They will also be looking to get into the Win Column in the LV= Cup having agonisingly lost last week's opener at Sandy Park against the Exeter Chiefs.

Having dominated for large periods, a late penalty try gave Exeter a narrow 28-27 lead. Aled Thomas had a last gasp chance to win it for Gloucester, but his long range penalty attempt glanced off the post and stayed out.

It was a frustrating end to the afternoon for Gloucester, who had created countless scoring opportunities throughout the game but failed to put away a battling home outfit.

But it's another step forward for a group of players and coaches who have been on a fairly steep learning curve since they came together back in the summer.

After the many changes in personnel during the close season, both on and off the field, the main message from Kingsholm was a plea for patience. Everything will take time to gel was the predominant theme.

After all, incoming Director of Rugby David Humphreys didn't take up his post until August 1st, and new Head Coach Laurie Fisher didn't arrive until after the Brumbies' Super Rugby season came to an end.

In hindsight, perhaps winning the Premiership Rugby 7s season for a second season running didn't help with the tempering of expectations!

Even then, "...judge us after the first phase of the Premiership is over..." was the Gloucester mantra, even after the heavy opening night defeat at reigning champions Northampton Saints.

Indeed, Gloucester have got steadily better. Premiership wins over Sale, London Welsh and Leicester have



© Martin Bennett/ Gloucester Rugby.

49

followed in addition to two narrow defeats against Saracens and the Exeter Chiefs.

And the development has continued through the first two weeks of European action. A 55-0 victory over CA Brive at Kingsholm was followed by a hard fought win in France over Oyonnax – wins on French soil are not to be sniffed at.

That French 'double header' was followed by the return of the LV= Cup, the third competition of the season and last weekend's tough opener against the current holders, Exeter Chiefs.

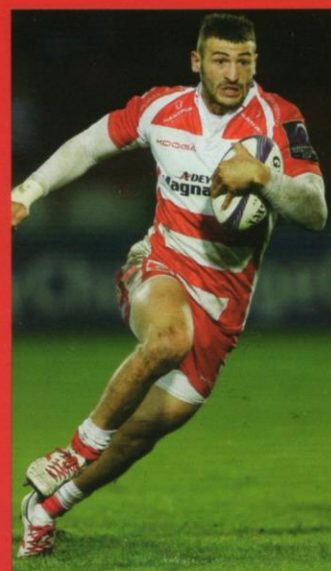
Due to international call-ups, it will be a different looking Gloucester team this afternoon than the one that

started here against London Welsh earlier in the season.

The LV= Cup is all about developing young talent, and today's team will no doubt be similar to the one that took the field at Sandy Park last weekend. It will probably feature a number of the club's young guns, as well as a number of individuals who have been chomping at the bit to show what they can do in the first team.

It's not just about the result today though. Both teams will be looking to put in a performance which will give them positive momentum ahead of next weekend's return to Premiership action.

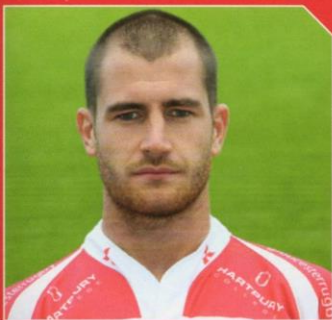
It should make for an entertaining encounter!



© Martin Bennett/ Gloucester Rugby.



THREE TO WATCH



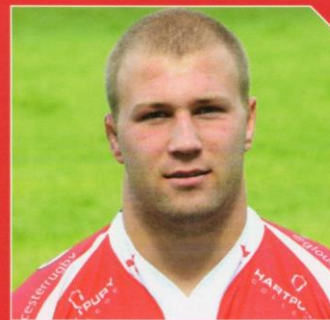
MARK ATKINSON

Mark Atkinson moved to Gloucester Rugby from Championship side Bedford Blues in the close season. Started his career as a fly half during his time with the London Wasps and Sale Sharks Academies, but successfully moved to centre during his time at Goldington Road. The 24 year has quickly established himself in the first team squad since his arrival at Kingsholm, featuring in all eight of the club's competitive fixtures so far in 2014-15. He started last weekend's LV= Cup opener at Sandy Park against Exeter Chiefs last weekend, and came off the bench to score two tries in the Aviva Premiership meeting here back in September.



GARETH EVANS

One of the most positive aspects of last weekend's LV= Cup fixture against Exeter was the return of number eight Gareth Evans to the first team squad. The 23 year old was enjoying arguably his breakthrough season in the Gloucester first team, putting in a series of strong displays when he injured a knee against Bath back in April. Since then, he has patiently worked his way back to fitness and marked his comeback game with a try against the Chiefs. A product of the club's Academy system, the Swindon born player is a real threat with ball in hand and will hopefully feature today.



ROSS MORIARTY

It's been a good week so far for Ross Moriarty who signed a new contract with the club a few days ago. The 20 year old, who came through the Academy at Gloucester, is enjoying his first senior season with the club and has been part of the matchday club in every competitive fixture so far. Capable of playing in every position across the back row, Ross is a powerful ball carrier and destructive tackler. Capped at England U18 and U20 level, he was a member of the England sides that won the Junior World Championship in 2013 and 2014.

51



TODAY'S TEAMS



LONDON WELSH

Chris Elder	Full Back	15
Rhys Crane	Right Wing	14
Nic Reynolds	Centre	13
Tom May ©	Centre	12
Nick Scott	Left Wing	11
Tristan Roberts,	Fly Half	10
Rob Lewis	Scrum Half	9
Pablo Henn	Prop	1
Nathan Morris	Hooker	2
Eddie Aholelei	Prop	3
Ben West	Lock	4
James Down	Lock	5
Daniel Browne	Flanker	6
Nathan Vella	Flanker	7
Ben Pienaar	No.8	8
Koree Britton	Replacement	16
Taione Vea	Replacement	17
Ben Cooper	Replacement	18
Josh McNally	Replacement	19
Peter Browne	Replacement	20
Paul Rowley	Replacement	21
Will Robinson	Replacement	22
Adam Field	Replacement	23

GLOUCESTER

Full Back	Steve McColl
Right Wing	Tom Isaacs
Centre	Billy Meakes
Centre	Mark Atkinson
Left Wing	Shane Monahan
Fly Half	Aled Thomas
Scrum Half	Dan Robson
Prop	Yann Thomas
Hooker	Darren Dawidiuk
Prop	Shaun Knight
Lock	Elliott Stooke
Lock	James Hudson (C)
Flanker	Ross Moriarty
Flanker	Dan Thomas
No.8	Gareth Evans
Replacement	Luke Cole
Replacement	James Gibbons
Replacement	John Afoa
Replacement	Tom Hicks
Replacement	Lewis Ludlow
Replacement	Callum Braley
Replacement	Billy Burns
Replacement	Henry Purdy

The Officials

Referee: Rhys Thomas (WRU) | Touch Judge 1: Nigel Carrick | Touch Judge 2: Mr Gareth Copsey | NO 4: Mr David Procter

Teams correct at time of print