



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF LONDON IRISH

# THE EXILES



£3

v GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
SUNDAY 20TH MARCH 2016

ST PATRICK'S DAY  
GAME

## LUKE NARRAWAY

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW WITH THE EXILES'  
OUTSTANDING BACK ROWER

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#STRONGERTOGETHER

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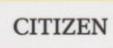


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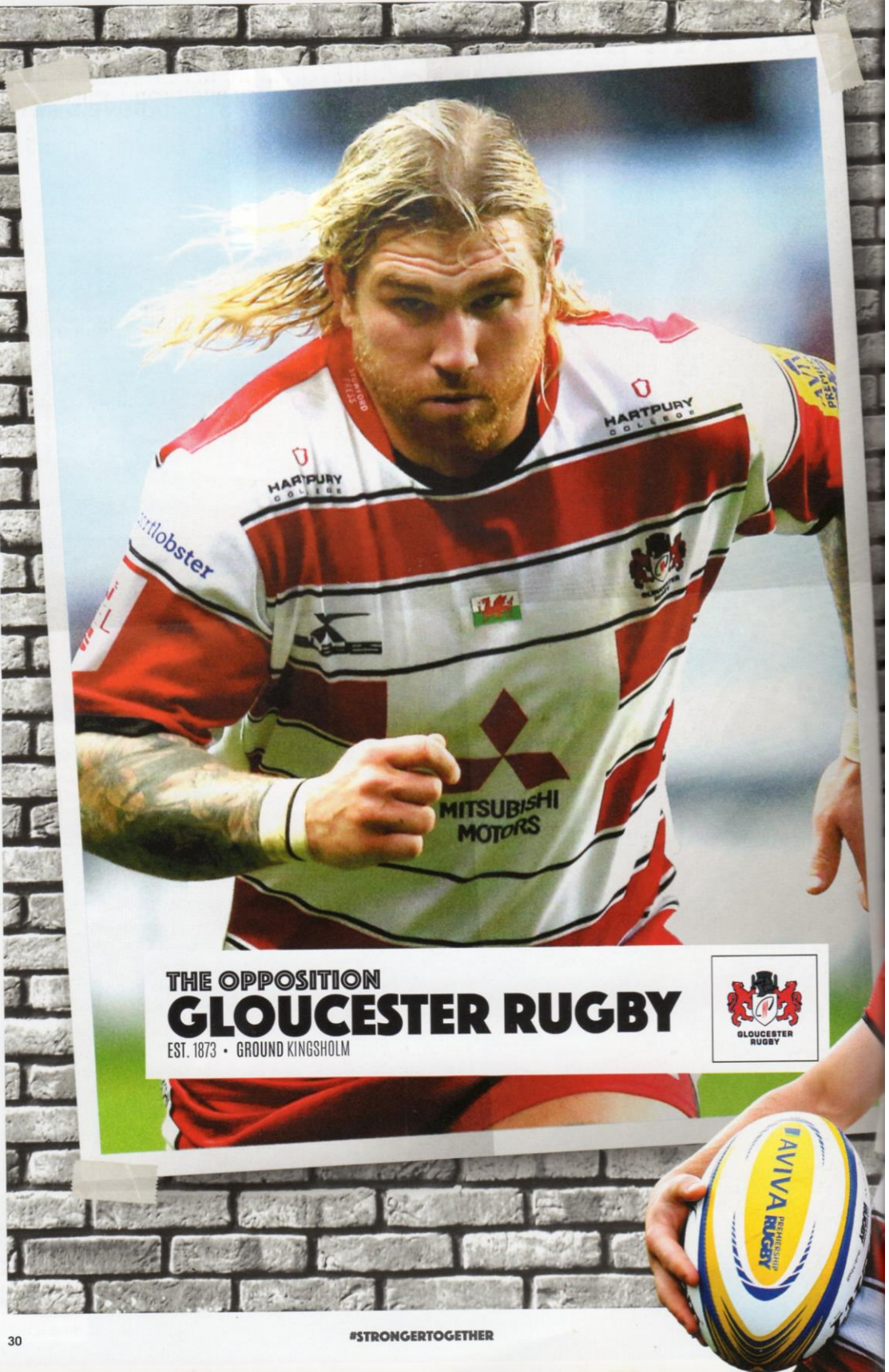
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Additional photography: Gloucester Rugby/Martin Bennett



THE OPPOSITION  
**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**  
EST. 1873 • GROUND KINGSHOLM





## INS & OUTS 2015/16

### Ins:

Paul Doran-Jones,  
Willi Heinz,  
Tom Lindsay,  
Tom Marshall,  
Paddy McAllister,  
Mat Protheroe,  
Nicky Thomas,  
Jeremy Thrush

### Outs:

Shaun Knight,  
Aleki Lutui,  
Shane Monahan,  
Tom Palmer,  
Sila Puasi,  
Dan Robson,  
Aled Thomas

GLoucester Rugby come into this afternoon's game against London Irish with everything to play for in the last few weeks of the season, as they push for a top six finish while also seeking to defend their European Rugby Challenge Cup title.



A decent run of form in recent weeks has seen the Cherry and Whites edge their way towards the top half of the table and they will be looking to regain that momentum having slipped to a disappointing defeat against Worcester Warriors last weekend.

However, that will be far from easy against an Irish side who are scrapping for every point at the minute, currently finding themselves eight points adrift at the foot of the Aviva Premiership table.

And, having taken their last home game, against Saracens on the road to New York and returning home on the wrong end of a 26-16 scoreline, the Exiles will be desperate to get back to winning ways.

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 that the season got off to a shaky start away at the then defending champions.

Wind the clock forward 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 so far. Gloucester have won eight of their 15

**"MY GOAL WILL BE TO FILL THE STADIUM EVERY WEEK, AND YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO FILL THE STADIUM IF YOU'RE PLAYING ATTRACTIVE RUGBY AND YOU'RE WINNING."**

**MARTIN ST QUINTON**

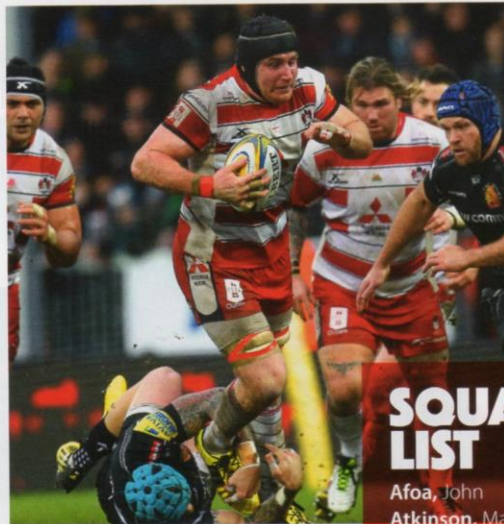
#STRONGERTOGETHER



Aviva Premiership outings to date and could easily have won three more, having conceded late leads to Saracens, Harlequins and Leicester.

On the European front, it's all gone according to plan as the Cherry and Whites topped their pool with six wins from six, including a home and away double against today's opponents, to secure second seeding and a home quarter-final against Newport Gwent Dragons in a few weeks.

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

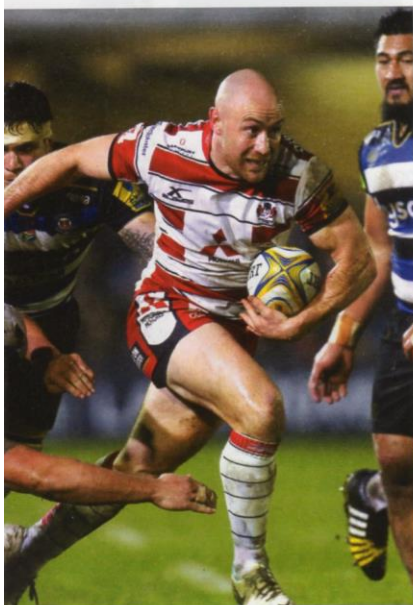


## THE SEQUEL DAN MURPHY

Dan joined Gloucester Rugby in the summer of 2010 from London Irish.

He started his rugby career as a number eight, before a well meaning coach at St Mary's University recommended that he move into the front row!

Murphy has been a regular in the first team squad during his time in the West Country. In his first four seasons with the Club he has popped up with some important tries and signed a new contract in January 2015.



But, it's all about the Aviva Premiership for the next few weeks starting this afternoon at the Madejski Stadium with Gloucester expecting a tough encounter against a side fighting for their Premiership existence.

But, after an excellent victory over Wasps a fortnight ago, the Cherry and Whites couldn't follow that up at Sixways last weekend and will be pushing hard for the four points themselves.

The first meeting between the two sides this season ended in a 27-14 victory for Gloucester, but the scoreline doesn't tell the full story, with Irish having led 6-14 at half time.

It took two late tries from Matt Kvesic and Billy Burns to secure the points, and this afternoon could be a similarly close, hard-fought encounter.

## SQUAD LIST

	PLD
Afoa, John	█
Atkinson, Mark	█
Brale, Callum	█
Burns, Billy	█
Cook, Rob	█
Dawidiuk, Darren	█
Doran-Jones, Paul	█
Evans, Gareth	█
Galarza, Mariano	█
Halaifonua, David	█
Hibbard, Richard	█
Hicks, Tom	█
Hook, James	█
Hudson, James	█
Kalamafoni, Sione	█
Kvesic, Matt	█
Heinz, Willi	█
Laidlaw, Greig	█
Latta, Joe	█
Lindsay, Tom	█
Marshall, Tom	█
May, Jonny	█
McAllister, Paddy	█
McCull, Steve	█
Meakes, Billy	█
Morgan, Ben	█
Moriarty, Ross	█
Murphy, Dan	█
Protheroe, Matt	█
Purdy, Henry	█
Reynolds, Steph	█
Rowan, Jacob	█
Savage, Tom	█
Sharples, Charlie	█
Stooke, Elliott	█
Thomas, Dan	█
Thomas, Nicky	█
Thomas, Yann	█
Thrush, Jeremy	█
Trinder, Henry	█
Twelvetrees, Billy	█
Wood, Nick	█





**DIRECTED BY**

## **DAVID HUMPHREYS**

**David Humphreys was announced as the Director of Rugby at Gloucester Rugby in June 2014.**

Belfast-born, he started his playing career at his home province of Ulster, enjoyed a spell in the Premiership with London Irish before returning to Ulster ahead of the 1998-99 season.

That season saw him play a pivotal role in the Irish province lifting the Heineken Cup, defeating Colomiers in the final at Lansdowne Road.

Capped 72 times for his country, scoring 560 points, Humphreys spent the rest of his playing career with Ulster before retiring in 2008 and taking on the role of Director of Rugby at Ravenhill.

A qualified solicitor, his time at Ulster saw him oversee the province establish itself as one of the true giants of the European rugby scene, regularly reaching the knock out stages of the Heineken Cup in the last few years, losing out in the final in 2012.



**STARRING AS 'CLUB CAPTAIN'**

## **BILLY TWELVETREES**

**Billy Twelvetrees joined Gloucester Rugby from Leicester Tigers ahead of the 2012-13 season.**

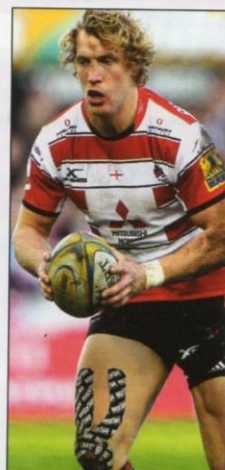
Originally from Sussex, Billy joined the Tigers Academy in 2007 and had a spell at Leicester Lions as well as scoring 18 tries, 16 conversions, and 13 penalties for Bedford in 2008-09.

His form for Bedford saw him quickly recalled by the Tigers and he went on to become a first team regular.

He quickly impressed with Gloucester and earned a call-up to England's Elite Player Squad for the 2013 Six Nations, making his debut against Scotland at Twickenham, scoring a try in the process.

A fine first season was reflected in his selection for the England tour of Argentina. He scored a try in the First Test before being called up to the British & Irish Lions squad.

Billy has now won 22 caps for England and is closing in on 100 first team appearances as well as taking over the captaincy last season.



**...AND INTRODUCING AS 'ONE TO WATCH'**

## **NICK WOOD**

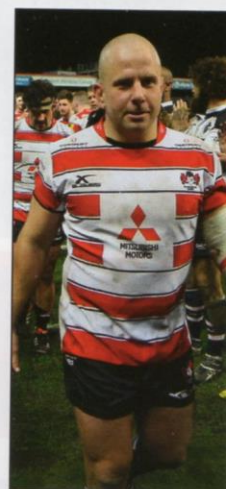
**Nick Wood has prepared this week for today's game with two new records added to his playing CV.**

When he took the field against Worcester last weekend, the 33-year-old prop became the first Gloucester Rugby player to make 200 Premiership appearances and also broke Peter Buxton's record total for competitive appearances for the Club.

It's quite some achievement for the Swindon-born prop, who joined the Gloucester Rugby Academy from Radley College.

He has been capped for England at U21 and Saxons levels and toured South Africa with the full team in 2007.

In 2011-12, he was named Player of the Year by the club's supporters and shortlisted for Aviva Premiership Player of the Season and celebrated a testimonial season in 2012-13.





A MINUTE WITH...  
**TOM MARSHALL**

KIWI TOM MARSHALL TOOK TIME OUT FROM TRAINING TO ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL?**

TM: Thai food

**FAVOURITE HOBBY?**

TM: Fishing

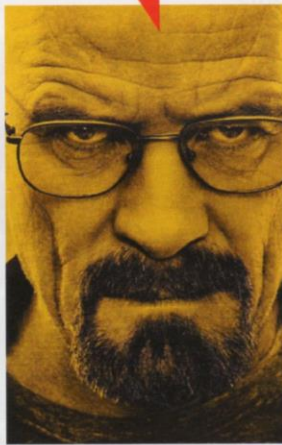
**WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE ABOUT YOUR LIFE?**

TM: Jason Statham



**WHICH FOUR PEOPLE WOULD YOU INVITE TO A DINNER PARTY?**

TM: Heisenberg from Breaking Bad in character, Rick Grimes from The Walking Dead, Jennifer Aniston and Eminem



**WHICH TEAMMATE WOULD YOU LEAST LIKE TO BE STUCK IN A LIFT WITH AND WHY?**

TM: Stinky (name withheld for legal reasons!) – for obvious reasons

**WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?**

TM: Cleaning the local gym at night time – it was haunted too!

**ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE A TEENAGE YOU?**

TM: Enjoy it, they're the best years of your life



**IF YOU COULD ONLY LISTEN TO ONE SONG FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

TM: 'Don't worry, be happy' by Bobby McFerrin



**IPOD OR VINYL?**

TM: iPod

**IF YOU WEREN'T A RUGBY PLAYER, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?**

TM: Coach or PE Teacher





Exiles Through The Ages

# A Rich History

## London Irish vs Gloucester Rugby

A QUICK GLANCE THROUGH THE RECORDS WILL SHOW YOU THAT LONDON IRISH V GLOUCESTER RUGBY HAS USUALLY BEEN A HIGH SCORING AFFAIR. IN FACT, SINCE 2012 ALONE THERE HAVE BEEN NO LESS THAN 419 POINTS SCORED IN TOTAL IN CLASHES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, WHICH WORKS OUT AT 52 POINTS SCORED PER GAME ON AVERAGE. SAFE TO SAY IT HAS ALWAYS PRODUCED SOME EXCITING ENCOUNTERS.

**T**HIS week's *Exiles Through The Ages* takes a look back at some of these encounters as we recall some of the most memorable moments between the two sides in recent history.

As we approach this week's in a chronological order our first stop is **May 2006** and the **European Challenge Cup Final**.

In what can only be described as a rambunctious final, in which 70 points were scored, in line with the trend in fixtures between the two sides and a rarity for a final, seven tries were scored in total.

With Gloucester leading by 12 points with 15 minutes to go, Irish looked down and out. But, with two tries, one a piece for Oliver Magne and another from Robbie Russell in the final ten minutes, the game went to extra time with the scores level at 31-31.

Irish took the lead in the first half of extra time thanks to a Barry Everitt penalty but a last gasp James Forrester try claimed victory from the jaws of defeat for Gloucester and they took the crown.

Despite the loss it is easy to see how this game has forced its way onto this list. 70 points, extra time,







2013

a last minute winner- it has all the hallmarks of a fantastic cup final.

Next up is a game in which London Irish ran in 40 points as the Cherry and Whites could only muster 10 in reply. Two tries for Sailosi Tagickibau, one from Delon Armitage and a penalty try added to an impressive 20-point haul from the boot Ryan Lamb which saw Irish run away with the victory at the Madejski Stadium.

The win was also The Exiles' first win of the Premiership season, and by grabbing a bonus point victory to boot it was quite a way to mark the opening of their Premiership account for the season.

This form continued as Irish progressed all the way to the Premiership final that year, the first



2010

time the Club had done so in its history.

In **September 2010** London Irish notched up another victory against the West Country outfit, moving up to second in the Premiership table.

A 100% kicking display from Ryan Lamb, with five from five, and tries from James Buckland and George Stowers claimed Irish the victory with a final score of 23-16.

In what was a relatively scrappy game, dominated by both sides' ill-discipline, Irish bullied Gloucester out of the game despite the Cherry Whites fielding twelve internationals.

Our penultimate game in this week's Exiles Through The Ages is a game in which Irish put Gloucester to the sword in a 52-12 demolition at the Madejski Stadium in **2012**.

Six tries from London Irish, including two from Marland Yarde, and 15 points from the boot of Tom Homer saw Irish dismantle Gloucester.

Both sides went into the game struggling for form, with Irish having only won one out of their last eight games.

However, in a season in which Tom Homer won the Aviva Premiership Golden Boot award, the full-back's kicking was key to a huge win for Irish, both physically and mentally.

Finally we come to Irish's visit to Kingsholm in **2013** and two tries from skipper George Skivington. In a game in which London Irish prevailed 18-12 away from home it was the lock's brace that proved the difference.

Always a tough place to visit, having to deal with the 15 men on the pitch as well as a rowdy Shed, very few sides come away from Kingsholm with a win.

The fact that this is the first game on this list to have been played there is testament to the challenge Kingsholm poses as an away trip, making victory there all the more memorable.

In a season where The Exiles had previously lost three times to the Cherry and Whites, London Irish ended the host's four month unbeaten streak at home and pulled themselves ever closer to safety from the dreaded drop zone.





# TODAY'S GAME

## STARRING



### LONDON IRISH

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

SEAN MAITLAND

FULLBACK

15

FULLBACK

ROB COOK

ALEX LEWINGTON

RIGHT WING

14

RIGHT WING

CHARLIE SHARPLES

CIARAN HEARN

OUTSIDE CENTRE

13

OUTSIDE CENTRE

BILL MEAKES

JOHNNY WILLIAMS

INSIDE CENTRE

12

INSIDE CENTRE

BILLY TWELVETREES (C)

TOPSY OJO

LEFT WING

11

LEFT WING

DAVID HALAIFONUA

GREIG TONKS

FLY-HALF

10

FLY-HALF

JAMES HOOK

SCOTT STEELE

SCRUM-HALF

9

SCRUM-HALF

WILLI HEINZ

TOM SMALLBONE

LOOSEHEAD PROP

1

LOOSEHEAD PROP

NICK WOOD

DAVID PAICE

HOOKER

2

HOOKER

RICHARD HIBBARD

HALANI AULIKA

TIGHTHEAD PROP

3

TIGHTHEAD PROP

JOHN AFOA

MATT SYMONS

LOCK

4

LOCK

TOM SAVAGE

WILL LLOYD

LOCK

5

LOCK

JEREMY THRUSH

LUKE NARRAWAY (C)

BLINDSIDE FLANKER

6

BLINDSIDE FLANKER

SIONE KALAMAFONI

BLAIR COWAN

OPENSIDE FLANKER

7

OPENSIDE FLANKER

MATT KVESIC

ROB McCUSKER

NUMBER 8

8

NUMBER 8

ROSS MORIARTY

TOM CRUSE

REPLACEMENT

16

REPLACEMENT

DARREN DAWIDIUK

TOM COURT

REPLACEMENT

17

REPLACEMENT

YANN THOMAS

LEO HALAVATAU

REPLACEMENT

18

REPLACEMENT

PAUL DORAN-JONES

JERRY SEXTON

REPLACEMENT

19

REPLACEMENT

MARIANO GALARZA

JOE TRAYFOOT

REPLACEMENT

20

REPLACEMENT

LEWIS LUDLOW

DARREN ALLINSON

REPLACEMENT

21

REPLACEMENT

CALLUM BRALEY

THEO BROPHY CLEWS

REPLACEMENT

22

REPLACEMENT

HENRY TRINDER

FERGUS MULCHRONE

REPLACEMENT

23

REPLACEMENT

STEVE McCOLL

REFEREE: MATTHEW CARLEY TJ1: ROSS CAMPBELL TJ2: PAUL DIX. TMO: TREVOR FISHER