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EUROPEAN RUGBY
CHALLENGE
CUP

FINAL 2017 EDINBURGH



GLOUCESTER
RUGBY

BT MURRAYFIELD STADIUM,
FRIDAY 12 MAY 2017, KO 20:00



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By Paul Rees

Too tight to call

Stade Francais Paris and Gloucester have this season been like the curate's egg, excellent in parts. They have beaten teams at the top of their leagues, and struggled against those near the bottom, consistent in their inconsistency. It is the hallmark of an effective cup side, able to rise to the one-off occasion rather than every week.

It is fitting in another way that they are meeting in the Challenge Cup final because they have both been the subject of failed takeover bids this season. Racing 92's proposed merger with their Parisian neighbours Stade prompted loud protests from the latter's players and supporters who saw it as not two being moulded into one as their club being subsumed into their richer rivals and losing its identity.

And so the plan came to nothing, like the attempt of the France-based businessman Mohamed Altrad, the owner of Montpellier, to take a 45 per cent stake in Gloucester. He withdrew after Premiership Rugby limited him to 20 per cent with many of Gloucester's

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rival clubs concerned about a potential conflict of interest should Altrad have a controlling interest in two sides involved in the two major European competitions.

The form of Stade, who won the TOP 14 in 2015 but finished one place above the relegation zone the following season, perked up after the Racing rumpus and they won four matches in a row to rise from the bottom four to the play-off positions with a round to go. They may not have the dazzling array of international talent assembled in the years when the flamboyant Max Guazzini was the club's

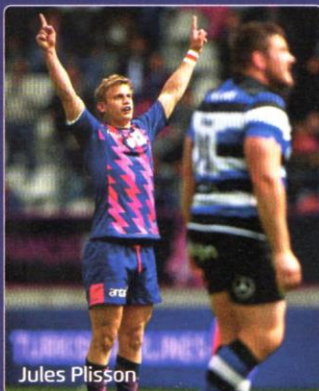
Gloucester celebrate their semi-final victory at La Rochelle



It is Stade's fifth appearance in a European final and they are looking for their first victory

president and helped lift it from the second tier to the French title in 1998 and adorned his players in Andy Warhol inspired kits, but they have a squad that should be challenging at the top rather than, as last season, nervously looking over its collective shoulder.

Stade have a sprinkling of foreign stardust, most notably the



Jules Plisson

Australia scrum-half Will Genia and the Italy No 8 Sergio Parisse, but like other TOP 14 clubs in the last couple of seasons following a change in regulations relating to non-French players, they are more tricoloured than multi-coloured through the likes of Hugo Bonneval, Jonathan Danty, Djibril Camara, Jules Plisson, Rabah Slimani, Pascal Papé and Julien Dupuy.

Parisse, Camara and Danty scored their tries in a recent 27-23 victory over Racing 92, the first time the two clubs had met since the merger was called off. The atmosphere inside Stade's Jean Bouin stadium resonated with the noise associated with the ground across the road, Parc des Princes, in the days when France played their internationals there, and two players, Papé in his final

home appearance before retiring and Racing's back row Wenceslas Lauret, were sent off for throwing punches. It was a meeting between the last two TOP 14 champions, but more pertinently it was evidence that there was room for two major clubs in Paris to flourish.

It is Stade's fifth appearance in a European final and they are looking for their first victory. They lost to Leicester in Paris in the 2001 European Cup final and four years later, in Edinburgh, were beaten by Toulouse. Their two appearances in the Challenge Cup decider saw them go down to Harlequins by a point in Cardiff in 2011 when they were coached by Michael Cheika and in 2013, they



came a distant second to Leinster in Dublin.

In 2001, Gloucester reached the semi-finals of the European Cup for the first and only time, but they have won the Challenge Cup twice: they pipped London Irish in extra-time at the Twickenham Stoop in 2006 and nine years later, at the same ground, overcame Edinburgh. They have a cup tradition, the first winners of the cup competition in England in 1972, a tournament they won a further three times before it turned into the Anglo-Welsh Cup which they won in 2011.

Just as Stade defeated three of the top four in the TOP 14 this

Greig Laidlaw with David Humphreys, Gloucester's Director of Rugby



They are both hammer one week, fickle the next

season and drew with the other but lost to relegated Grenoble, so Gloucester have overcome the champions Saracens and the then leaders Wasps at home but been doubled by Newcastle and drawn at Worcester. Their season was summed up by two matches recently eight days apart.


In the first, they showed resolution, courage and grit to win at La Rochelle in the Challenge Cup semi-final at a ground where they had lost 42-13 during the pool

stage, but in the second, away to their west country rivals Bath who had lost four of their five previous league matches, they disappeared without trace at the start of the second-half. They have won as many matches in Europe this season, seven, as they have in the Premiership and they are where Saracens were a decade ago, as changeable as the British weather.

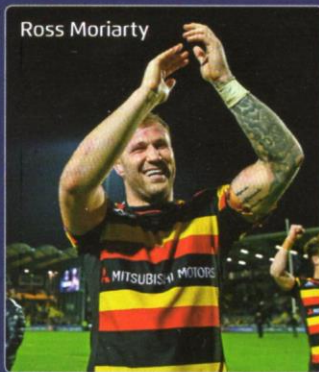
The frustration for Gloucester is that they have so much to draw on: they are based in a rugby city, they have a large and faithful support base, Kingsholm has been upgraded so that it is now an asset the club is able to exploit throughout the year and major signings have been made: they have two All Blacks in their front five, John Afoa and Jeremy Thrush, a third New Zealander in prop Josh Hohnock and a Lions hooker in Richard Hibbard. Their England internationals, with the exception of Jonny May, may be of yesteryear, but their scrum-

half Greig Laidlaw is the Scotland captain and he and Wales back row Ross Moriarty will be Lions this summer.

The sides have similar strengths: ball-winning capacity at forward, presence at the breakdown, controlling scrum-halves and dynamism out wide. Neither is predictable and there is no clear favourite today: Gloucester's record on the road is marginally better than Stade's who lost their first 11 away matches in the TOP 14 and two of their three pool games in the Challenge Cup.

They are both hammer one week, fickle the next, wringing every last drop of emotion out of their supporters who are never sure whether the egg served up will be scrambled or hard boiled. 

Paul Rees writes for The Observer



Ross Moriarty

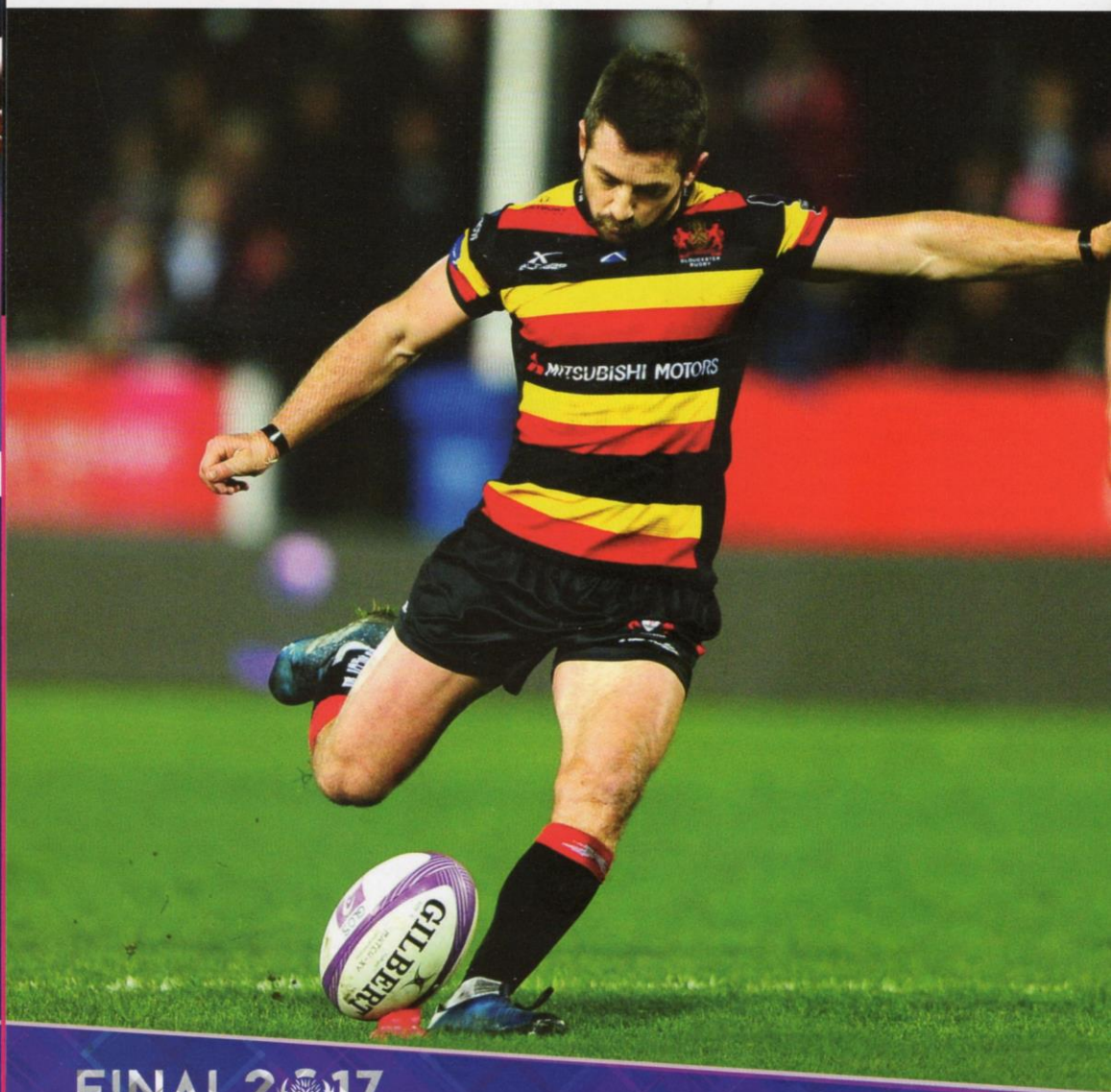


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Laidlaw hoping to have last word

By Mark Palmer

It was one of the standout images of the last Six Nations. Greig Laidlaw, arms aloft, savouring the acclaim of the BT Murrayfield crowd after kicking the final penalty in Scotland's win over Ireland.



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The Gloucester fans who have travelled north this evening would settle for a similarly happy snapshot by which to remember their little general. This may not be his last match as he prepares to bow out before a summer move to Clermont, but he has the chance this evening to write one part of a possible happy ending in the most fitting of surrounds.

A mere eight days after that memorable victory against the Irish, Laidlaw damaged ankle ligaments at the Stade de France, itself the scene of many a dramatic encounter involving the other finalists here this evening.

The injury put paid to the scrum-half's tournament and the unspoken fear was that it could be curtains for the rest of his season and for the rest of his days in the cherry and white. Drawing on the reserves of diligence and determination – some might say Border bloody-mindedness – that have served him so well down the years, the man who skips club and country resolved to defy the odds.

And here he is, exactly three months later, ready to push, prod, cajole and urge David Humphreys' team around a field where every inch has known his studs in a fine, and still flourishing, career.

Nothing has come easy to a man who has now captained Scotland more often than anyone else. Even to establish himself at Edinburgh, where he spent eight seasons before moving to Kingsholm in 2014, he had to deal with daunting rivals and the scepticism of others. There was always a bigger, slicker or more self-confident nine, Mike Blair and Rory Lawson especially. Laidlaw was too small, too ponderous in his distribution, that's how the



Sale's Bryan Redpath makes a pass during the European Challenge Cup final against Pau in 2005

doubters had it.

The 31-year-old would be the first to admit that he didn't get every gift, but those he did receive he has worked to the absolute maximum, sweating every last drop from his talent and making himself a go-to man wherever he has gone. His leadership, decision-making and goal-kicking form a formidable package, especially when all three parts can withstand the fiercest heat. This and a dedication to the cause, to the people and coaches he goes to war with, are what has made him as big a hero of the Shed as those who watch their rugby in Edinburgh's leafy west end.

Gloucester have a long and proud back catalogue of well-liked Scottish servants. The Lawsons, Rory and Scott, and the Alasdairs, Dickinson and Strokosch, all plied their trade at Kingsholm, as did Jim Hamilton and Chris Paterson, former teammates of Laidlaw with both Edinburgh and Scotland.

Further back, the likes of Ian Smith, Peter Jones and Don

Caskie were Caledonian standard-bearers, and even when Laidlaw departs next month, the link will be maintained by Matt Scott and Ben Vellacott, who played scrum-half for Scotland under 20.

Laidlaw, of course, has already helped bring Challenge Cup success to Gloucester, having been part of the side that held off an Edinburgh comeback to win 19-13 at the Twickenham Stoop two years ago. A repeat performance tonight would see him join another great Border nine, Bryan Redpath, as Scots who have won the trophy twice. Redpath has held this distinction in splendid isolation since 2005, when Sale beat Pau 27-3 in the same Oxford venue where three years before he'd captained them to a much narrower win over Pontypridd.

Had Edinburgh managed to get over the line in 2015, it would have beefed up a Scots roll of honour which is a little on the skimpy side. Since Craig Chalmers picked up a winner's medal as an



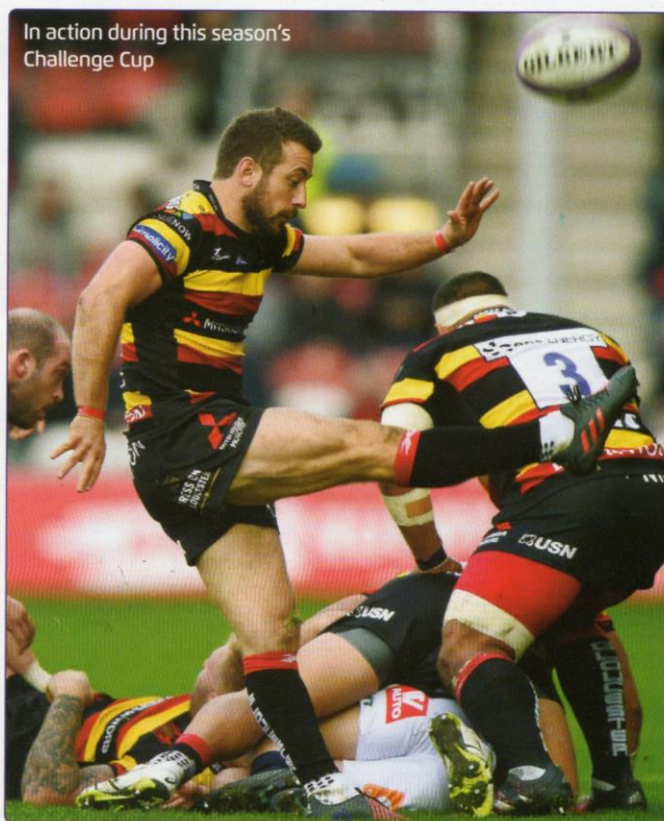
unused substitute for Harlequins in 2001, only seven other players with tartan connections have had real cause to celebrate in the Challenge Cup.

Prop Barry Stewart, who won three of his four caps against New Zealand, came off the bench in that Sale win in 2005, while Euan Murray, Tom Smith, Joe Ansbro and flanker Scott Gray all featured for Northampton when they beat Bourgoin 15-3 at the Stoop four years later. The match was Smith's final outing in professional rugby after a career that saw him win 61 caps for Scotland and start six Lions Tests on the bounce between South Africa in 1997 and Australia four years later. The loose head went on to spend a couple of seasons as forwards coach with Edinburgh while Laidlaw was the captain.

The other Scots who have won the tournament are Kenny Logan, a try-scorer for Wasps against Bath in the 2003 final, and full-back Steve McColl, once of Scotland under-20, who was an unused substitute with Gloucester two years ago.

For a time much earlier in the season, there seemed a genuine possibility that Edinburgh might force what would have been a home final. Shrugging off domestic form that started indifferently then took a nosedive, Duncan Hodge's temporary charges topped their pool, beating Harlequins home and away and pulling off a remarkable comeback win over Stade here last December.

If any of the French team broke out in a cold sweat arriving at the ground, they were probably having flashbacks. Alas for Edinburgh, La Rochelle were a good deal more clinical in the quarter-final, even if they then



Stade won't be for going quietly, but Laidlaw has made a habit of having the last word

succumbed to Gloucester.

Laidlaw made his return from injury in that gritty semi-final, the first and thus far only time the TOP 14 leaders have been beaten at the Stade Marcel Deflandre this season. Tonight, it is Laidlaw with the home comforts and the opportunity to put himself front and centre on another historic night: the first time the Challenge Cup final has been staged in Scotland.

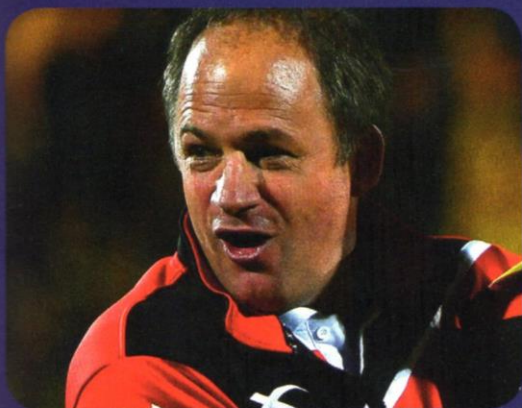
If Gloucester win this evening and replace Northampton Saints in the play-offs for next season's Champions Cup, it would be a particularly sweet victory in the Scottish capital.

Stade won't be for going quietly, but Laidlaw has made a habit of having the last word.

Mark Palmer is Scottish Rugby Correspondent of The Sunday Times



Meet the Coaches



DAVID HUMPHREYS (Gloucester Rugby)

Gloucester's director of rugby has a rich history in Europe having led Ulster Rugby to the European Cup crown in 1999 as their captain and outside half, steered them into a second final in 2012 as their director of rugby and then helped plan his current club's Challenge Cup victory in 2015. He scored 583 points in 62 appearances in European competitions for Ulster and London Irish and also scored 560 points in 72 Tests for Ireland.

He hung up his boots in 2008 and immediately became part of the management team at Ulster. He was there until 2014, when he switched to Kingsholm to become the director of rugby at Gloucester Rugby. He has had to manage some difficult times this season, with head coach Laurie Fisher resigning after a disappointing home defeat to Harlequins in early March. Humphreys installed his former Ulster and Ireland team mate Jonny Bell as Interim Head Coach and they have successfully guided Gloucester past Cardiff Blues and La Rochelle in the knock-out stages and into the club's third Challenge Cup final.

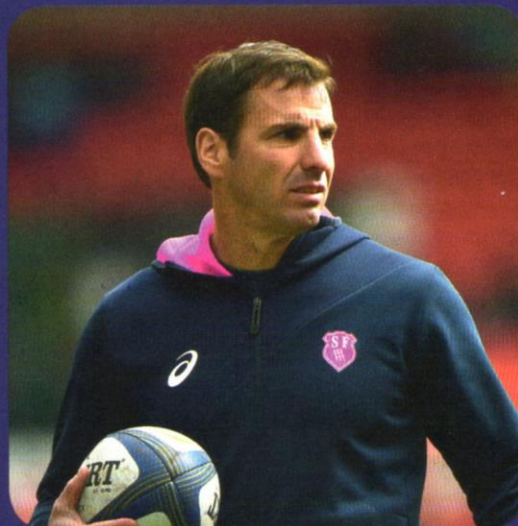
Bell, who won 36 caps for Ireland and played at two World Cups, was in the Ulster side that won the European Cup. He also played for Northampton Saints and became the Elite Player Development Officer at Ulster before taking on an assistant coaching role with an emphasis on defence. He joined Gloucester in the summer of 2015 as defence coach. Former England prop Trevor Woodman is the forwards coach, Tim Taylor looks after the backs and Dan Tobin is head of strength and conditioning.

GONZALO QUESADA (Stade Francais Paris)

The Stade Francais Paris director of rugby played in the 2001 Challenge Cup final for Narbonne in the French club's 42-33 extra-time defeat to Harlequins at the Madejski Stadium. He kicked 15 points in that game. He also played for Beziers, Stade Francais and Pau in European competition, featuring in two games for the Parisians in their march to the 2005 European Cup final. One of the greatest goalkickers of his generation, he scored 486 points in 36 games for Argentina.

He was an assistant coach with France between 2008-11 and then worked at Racing 92 between 2011-13. He switched to Stade Francais in 2013, but is leaving at the end of this season to join Biarritz Olympique. He steered Stade Francais to the TOP14 title in 2015 and this season into their fifth European final.

Joining him in the coaching duties at Stade Jean Bouin are Simon Raiwalui (forwards) and Greg Cooper (backs). Raiwalui made 55 appearances in Europe for Sale Sharks, Newport, Saracens and Racing 92 and won international caps for Fiji and the Pacific Islands. He coached at Racing before moving across the French capital to join Stade Francais. Former All Blacks full back, Cooper, joined Stade Francais in 2016 after coaching spells with the Highlanders in Super Rugby and in Japan.



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GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Road to the Final



Round 1

15/10/16
Stade Jean-Dauger
5,005

Referee
Gary Conway
(Ireland)

Bayonne 27 (20)

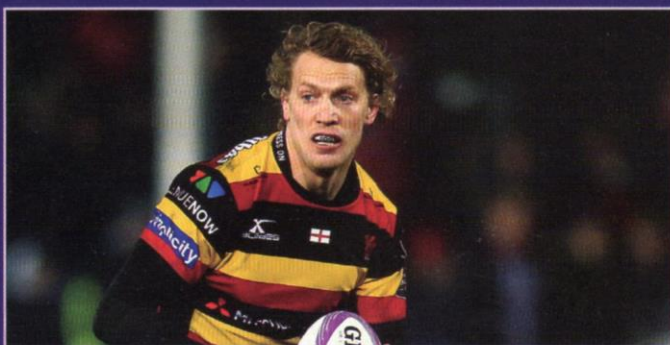
T: S Labouyrie 2, T Lacroix, D Oulai
C: L Meret 3
P: L Meret 2

Gloucester Rugby 47 (29)

T: M Atkinson 2, J May, B Twelvetrees, M Scott,
T Savage
C: J Hook 4
P: J Hook 3

Bayonne: J Jane (M Marnao 59); M Laveau (J Jane 70), A Whitelock, T Lacroix (S Maillard 59), B Fuster; L Meret, B Duhalde (M Saubusse 65); A Iguiniz (captain, A Bordenave 59), S Labouyrie (M Leiatava 41), R Choirat (T Taufa 61), G Ducat, A Jaulhac (P Huete 59), A Duputs (B Chouzenoux 22), D Oulai, J-B Lespinasse

Gloucester Rugby: J Hook; D Halaifonua (O Thorley 76), M Scott, M Atkinson, J May (C Sharples 66); B Twelvetrees, W Heinz (captain, C Braley 64); Y Thomas (C Orr 44), R Hibbard (L Ludlow 67), P Doran-Jones (J Afoa 35), T Savage, J Latta (M Galarza 56), L Ludlow (R Hibbard 59), J Rowan, B Morgan (M Kvesic 48)
Yellow Card: M Matu'u (57)



Match Points
Bayonne Opts
Gloucester Rugby 5pts
Heineken Man of the Match
Willi Heinz (Gloucester Rugby)

Round 2

22/10/16
Kingsholm
9,618

Referee
Dudley Phillips
(Ireland)

Gloucester Rugby 37 (20)

T: J May, M Scott, C Braley, L Ludlow
C: G Laidlaw 3, J Hook
P: G Laidlaw 3

Benetton Treviso 8 (3)

T: M Tagicakibau
P: I McKinley

Gloucester Rugby: J Hook; C Sharples, M Scott, B Twelvetrees, J May (O Thorley 70); B Burns (M Atkinson 63), G Laidlaw (captain, C Braley 63); P McAllister (C Orr 47), M Matu'u (R Hibbard 58), J Afoa (S Ma'afu 63), T Savage (F Clarke 71), J Latta, R Moriarty, M Kvesic, L Ludlow (J Rowan 56)

Benetton Treviso: J Hayward; M Tagicakibau, T Benvenuti, L McLean (captain), A Praticetti; I McKinley (T Iannone 53), G Bronzini (T Tebaldi 53); A de Marchi (N Quaglio 50), O Gega (L Bigi 56), S Ferrari (Pasquali 75), M Fuser, D Budd, F Minto, M Lazzaroni (R Santamaria 71), B Steyn (F Gerosa 24)
Yellow Card: N Quaglio (78)



Match Points
Gloucester Rugby 5pts
Benetton Treviso Opts
Heineken Man of the Match
Paddy McAllister (Gloucester Rugby)

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Round 3

08/12/16
Kingsholm
9,278

Referee
Andrew Brace
(Ireland)

Gloucester Rugby 35 (22)

T: M Scott, M Atkinson, O Thorley, J Hohneck
C: G Laidlaw 3
P: G Laidlaw 3

La Rochelle 14 (7)

T: K Gourdon, D Raikuna
C: Z Holmes 2

Gloucester Rugby: D Halaifonua; O Thorley, M Scott, M Atkinson, H Purdy; B Burns (C Braley 68), G Laidlaw (captain); J Hohneck (Y Thomas 60), M Matu'u (R Hibbard 49), S Ma'afu (P Doran-Jones 41), T Savage (F Clarke 75), J Latta (T Denton 65), R Moriarty, M Kvesic, G Evans (L Ludlow 54)

La Rochelle: V Rattez; G Lacroix, S Barry (E Roudil 41), B Veivuke, D Raikuna (B James 60); Z Holmes, R Januarie (A Bales 45); M Corbel (D Priso 50), H Forbes (M Gau 54), U Atonio (M Boughanmi 60), J Eaton (captain), M Tanguy (D Lagrange 58), K Gourdon (R Sazy 45), V Vito, J Nailiko



Match Points
Gloucester Rugby Spts
La Rochelle Opts
Heineken Man of the Match
Billy Burns (Gloucester Rugby)

Round 4

7/12/16
Stade Marcel-Deflandre
14,153

Referee
Ian Davies
(Wales)

La Rochelle 42 (7)

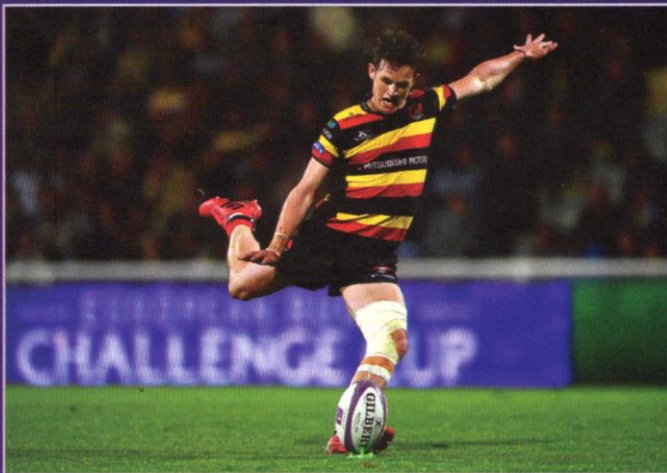
T: G Lacroix 2, K Murimurivalu, H Forbes, B Veivuke, Pen Try
C: B James 2, Z Holmes
P: B James 2

Gloucester Rugby 13 (22)

T: J Afoa
C: B Burns
P: B Burns 2

La Rochelle: K Murimurivalu; G Lacroix (A Retiere 69), P Jordaan, P Aguilon (B Veivuke 44), V Rattez; B James (Z Holmes 69), A Bales; M Corbel (D Priso 61), H Forbes (J Maurouard 44), U Atonio (M Boughanmi 44), J Nailiko, M Tanguy (L Cedaro 58), R Sazy (C Francoz 71), J Eaton (captain), V Vito

Gloucester Rugby: J Hook; C Sharples, M Scott, M Atkinson (J Latta 61), J May; B Burns (H Purdy 53), C Braley (captain), W Heinz 50; J Hohneck (Y Thomas 41), R Hibbard (M Matu'u 50), J Afoa (P Doran-Jones 59), T Savage, J Thrush (M Galarza 41), L Ludlow (M Kvesic 44), J Rowan, B Morgan
Yellow Card: M Scott (53)



Match Points
La Rochelle Spts
Gloucester Rugby Opts
Heineken Man of the Match
Gabriel Lacroix (La Rochelle)



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GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Road to the Final



Round 5 Benetton Treviso 0 (0)

14/01/17

Stadio Monigo

700

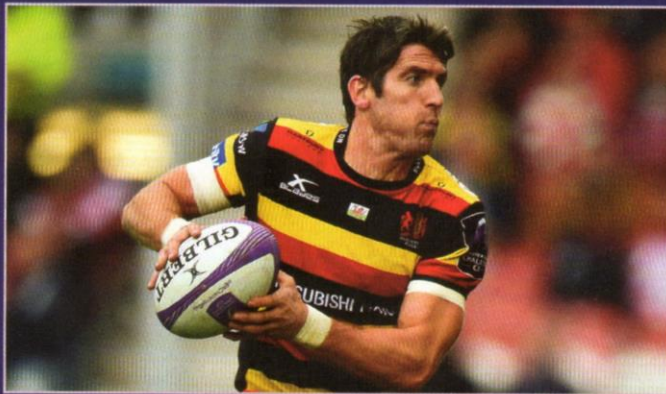
Referee

Thomas Charabas
(France)

Gloucester Rugby 41 (17)

T: R Hibbard 2, J Hook, B Twelvetrees,
M Scott, D Halaifonua
C: G Laidlaw 2, B Burns 2
P: G Laidlaw

Benetton Treviso: L McLean (T Iannone 67); A Buondonno, T Benvenuti, A Sgarbi (captain), L Sperandio; T Allan (I McKinley 56), G Bronzini (E Gori 49); F Zani (A de Marchi 56), O Gega (R Santamaria 56), T Pasquali (M Zanusso 56), M Fuser, F Paulo, M Lazzaroni, R Barbieri (F Gerosa 67), M Barbini (B Steyn 49)



Gloucester Rugby: J Hook; C Sharples, M Scott (A Symons 60), B Twelvetrees, J May (D Halaifonua 64); B Burns, G Laidlaw (captain, W Heinz 56); J Hohneck (Y Thomas 56), R Hibbard (D Dawidui 64), J Afoa (P Doran-Jones 64), T Savage (J Latta 60), J Thrush, R Moriarty (L Ludlow 56), J Rowan, B Morgan

Match Points

Benetton Treviso Opts

Gloucester Rugby 5pts

Heineken Man of the Match

Richard Hibbard (Gloucester Rugby)

Round 6 Gloucester Rugby 64 (33)

21/01/17

Kingsholm

9,265

Referee

Lloyd Linton
(Scotland)

T: W Heinz 3, D Dawidui 3, J May, A Symons, H Purdy,
C Braley, L Ludlow, J Hohneck
C: B Burns 6, B Twelvetrees

Bayonne 19 (12)

T: M Laveau 3
C: L Meret 2

Gloucester Rugby: T Marshall; C Sharples (H Purdy 14), A Symons, B Twelvetrees (M Scott 65), J May; B Burns, W Heinz (captain, C Braley 49); Y Thomas (J Hohneck 50), D Dawidui (H Walker 65), J Afoa (P Doran-Jones 50), T Savage (J Latta 57), Thrush, Ludlow, J Rowan (M Kvesic 59), G Evans



Bayonne: J Tisseron; M Laveau

(M Marnau 59), B Fuster (P Muscarditz 64), T Lacroix, R Tongia; L Meret, B Duhalde (M Saubusse 64); A Bordenave (A Iguiniz 65), S Labouyrie (J Ayarza 48), T Taufa (D Khinchagishvili 71), G Ducat, A Jaulhac (D Oulai 48), J-B Lespinasse, J Marmouyet (captain, A Duputs 45), M Polutele
Yellow Card: J Ayarza (55)

Match Points

Gloucester Rugby 5pts

Bayonne Opts

Heineken Man of the Match

Willi Heinz (Gloucester Rugby)

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Quarter-Final Gloucester Rugby 46 (20)

01/04/17
Kingsholm
11,206

Referee
Pascal Gauzere
(France)

T: T Marshall 2, J May, Atkinson, R Moriarty, H Purdy
C: B Twelvetrees 4, B Burns
P: B Twelvetrees, B Burns

Cardiff Blues 26 (23)

T: A Cuthbert 2
C: S Shingler 2
P: S Shingler 3
DG: G Anscombe

Gloucester Rugby: T Marshall; C Sharples (H Purdy 76), H Trinder, B Twelvetrees, J May; B Burns (M Atkinson 19), W Heinz (captain, C Braley 76); P McAllister (Y Thomas 74), R Hibbard (M Matu'u 74), J Hohneck (J Rowan 43), T Savage (M Galarza 43), J Thrush, R Moriarty, J Rowan (L Ludlow 76), B Morgan
Yellow Card: J Hohneck (33)

Cardiff Blues: M Morgan (W Halaholo 57); A Cuthbert, R Lee-Lo, S Shingler, B Scully (A Summerhill 77); G Anscombe, L Williams (T Williams 55); G Jenkins (captain, C Domachowski 62), K Dacey (M Rees 62), T Filise (K Assiratti 57), G Earle, J Hoeata (M Cook 70), J Navidi, S Warburton, N Williams (S Bennett 72)



Heineken Man of the Match
Billy Twelvetrees (Gloucester Rugby)

Semi-Final La Rochelle 14 (6)

22/04/17
Stade Marcel-Deflandre
15,000

Referee
Andrew Brace
(Ireland)

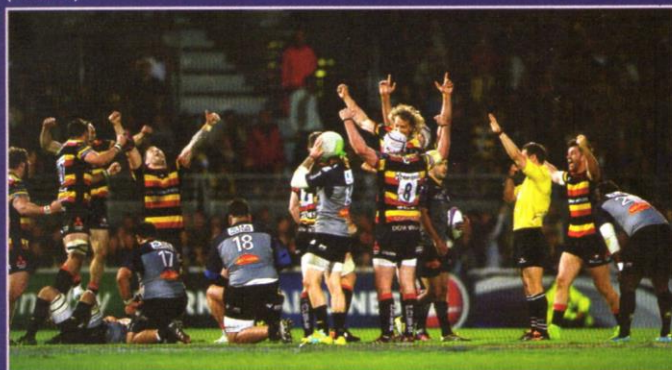
T: D Lagrange
P: B James (3)

Gloucester Rugby 16 (6)

T: B Burns
C: B Burns
P: B Burns 3

La Rochelle: K Murimurivalu; G Lacroix, P Jordaan (A Retiere 17), P Aguilon, V Rattez; B James, R Januarie (A Bales 55); V Pelo (M Corbel 44), J Maurouard, U Atonio (captain, M Boughanmi 55), J Nailiko (L Cedaro 49), M Tanguy (D Lagrange 55), R Sazy, B Veivuke (S Rawaca 69), K Gourdon
Not Used: J Seneca
Yellow Card: J Nailiko (7)

Gloucester Rugby: T Marshall; J May, H Trinder (B Twelvetrees 62), M Atkinson (B Twelvetrees 31-36), Halaifonua; B Burns (C Sharples 75), W Heinz (captain, G Laidlaw 39-41, 62); J Hohneck (Y Thomas 55), R Hibbard (M Matu'u 62), J Afoa, T Savage, J Thrush (M Galarza 68), R Moriarty, J Rowan (L Ludlow 59), B Morgan
Yellow Card: T Savage (33)



Heineken Man of the Match
Botia Veivuke (La Rochelle)





Gloucester Rugby

Probable team

- 15 Tom Marshall / Full Back
- 14 Charlie Sharples / Wing
- 13 Matt Scott / Centre
- 12 Mark Atkinson / Centre
- 11 Jonny May / Wing
- 10 Billy Burns / Outside Half
- 9 Willi Heinz (capt) / Scrum Half
- 1 Josh Hohnneck / Prop
- 2 Richard Hibbard / Hooker
- 3 John Afoa / Prop
- 4 Tom Savage / Second Row
- 5 Jeremy Thrush / Second Row
- 6 Ross Moriarty / Flanker
- 7 Jacob Rowan / Flanker
- 8 Ben Morgan / No.8

- 16 Darren Dawidiuk / Replacement
- 17 Yann Thomas / Replacement
- 18 Paddy McAllister / Replacement
- 19 Mariano Galarza / Replacement
- 20 Lewis Ludlow / Replacement
- 21 Greig Laidlaw / Replacement
- 22 Billy Twelvetrees / Replacement
- 23 Henry Trinder / Replacement

Friday
12 May

Referee
John Lacey (Ire)

Assistant Referees
Andrew Brace (Ire),
Ben Whitehouse (Wal)

Stade Français Paris

Probable team



- Full Back / Hugo Bonneval 15
- Wing / Waisea Vuidravuwalu 14
- Centre / Geoffrey Doumayrou 13
- Centre / Jonathan Danty 12
- Wing / Djibril Camara 11
- Outside Half / Jules Plisson 10
- Scrum Half / Will Genia 9
- Prop / Heinke van der Merwe 1
- Hooker / Remi Bonfils 2
- Prop / Rabah Slimani 3
- Second Row / Hugh Pyle 4
- Second Row / Paul Gabrillagues 5
- Flanker / Antoine Burban 6
- Flanker / Jonathan Ross 7
- No.8 / Sergio Parisse (capt) 8

- Replacement / Laurent Panis 16
- Replacement / Zurab Zhvania 17
- Replacement / Paul Alo Emile 18
- Replacement / Willem Alberts 19
- Replacement / Raphael Lakafia 20
- Replacement / Julien Dupuy 21
- Replacement / Morné Steyn 22
- Replacement / Jeremy Sinzelle 23

BT Murrayfield,
20:00

TMO
Simon McDowell (Ire)

Citing Commissioner
John Montgomery (Sco)

For confirmation of this evening's teams and replacements,
check epcrugby.com on your smartphone

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