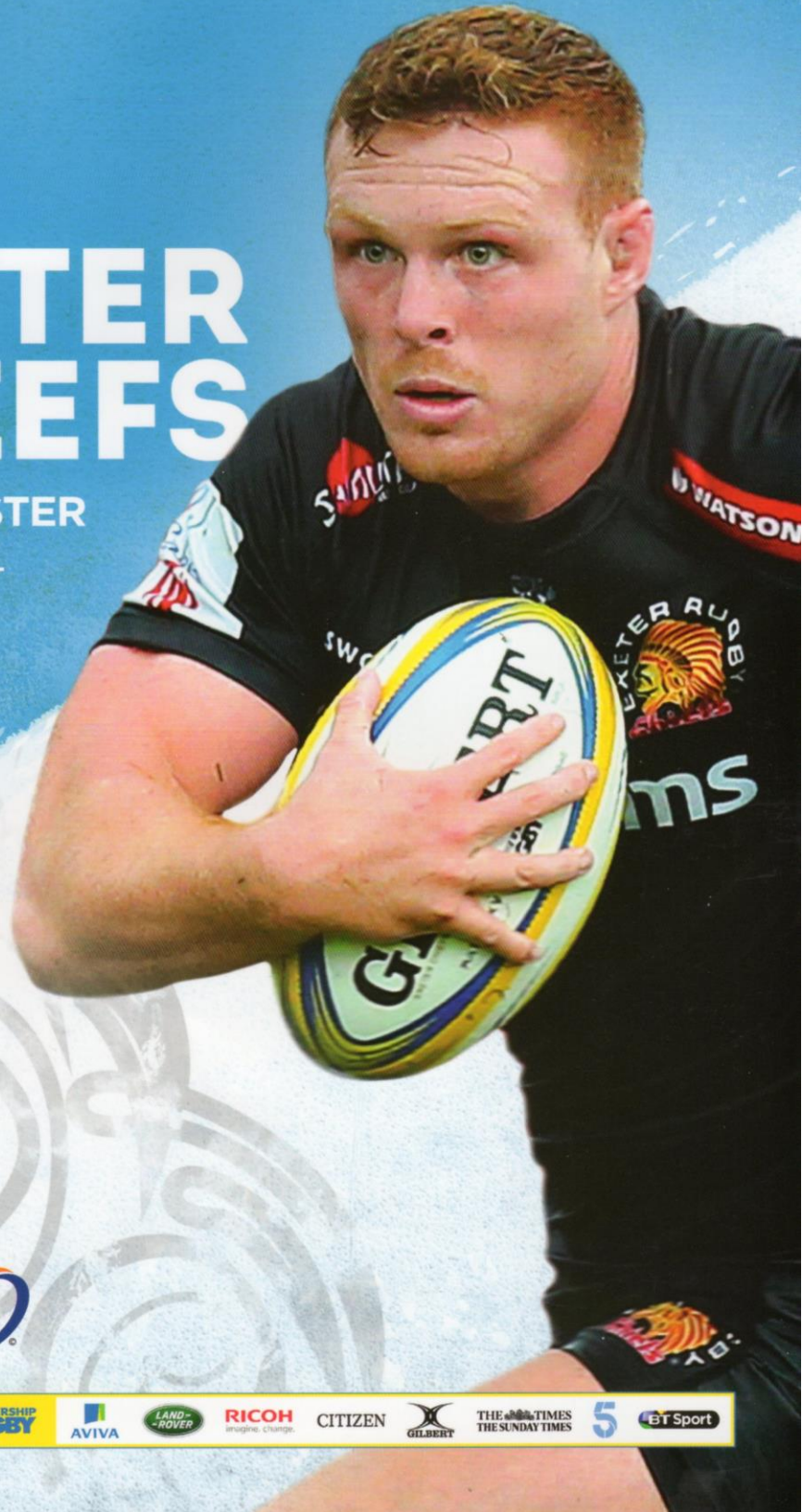




# EXETER CHIEFS

VS GLOUCESTER

SUNDAY 8TH APRIL  
£3.00



**sw comms**  
MAIN CHIEFS SPONSOR



# TODAY'S LINE UP



HONOURS	NAME	POSITION	NAME	HONOURS
	Lachie Turner	15	Jason Woodward	
	Ian Whitten	14	Charlie Sharples	
	Henry Slade	13	Henry Trinder	
	Sam Hill	12	Mark Atkinson	
	Olly Woodburn	11	Tom Marshall	
	Joe Simmonds	10	Owen Williams	
	Nic White	9	Willi Heinz (capt)	
	Alec Hepburn	1	Val Rapava Ruskin	
	Luke Cowan-Dickie	2	James Hanson	
	Tomas Francis	3	John Afoa	
	Sam Skinner	4	Ed Slater	
	Jonny Hill	5	Jeremy Thrush	
	Dave Dennis	6	Ross Moriarty	
	Don Armand (capt)	7	Lewis Ludlow	
	Sam Simmonds	8	Ben Morgan	

EXETER CHIEFS VS GLOUCESTER

## REPLACEMENTS

	Jack Yeandle	16	Motu Matu'u	
	Ben Moon	17	Josh Hohneck	
	Greg Holmes	18	Fraser Balmain	
	Mitch Lees	19	Tom Savage	
	Dave Ewers	20	Ruan Ackermann	
	Stuart Townsend	21	Calum Braley	
	Gareth Steenson	22	Billy Burns	
	Jack Nowell	23	Billy Twelvetrees	

Referee: Tom Foley

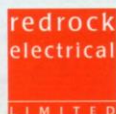
Touch Judges: Greg MacDonald & Paul Dix

4th Official: Luke Pearce

TMO: Claire Hodnett

Timekeeper: Eric Bullion

### MATCH SPONSORS



### MATCH BALL SPONSORS





**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY**

TODAY'S OPPOSITION

# GLOUCESTER

PREMIERSHIP RUGBY RECORD

PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST
467	242	17	208

**CLUB CAPTAIN**

# WILLI HEINZ

- Born on the 24th November, 1986 in Christchurch, New Zealand
- Heinz started his senior career playing for Canterbury in the ITM Cup, before featuring over 50 times for the Crusaders in Super Rugby
- Moved to Gloucester ahead of the 2015/16 season, offering a proven scrum-half option to the Cherry & Whites.
- With 61 appearances to his name and nine tries for Gloucester, Heinz has proved a shrewd acquisition and was made captain ahead of the current campaign, taking over the leadership of the side from Billy Twelvetrees.
- The former New Zealand Under-21s international was last year invited to train with the England squad by head coach Eddie Jones.



**HEAD COACH**

# JOHAN ACKERMANN

- Born in Benoni, South Africa on June 3 in 1970
- During a 12-year playing career, the imposing lock started his senior career with the Blue Bulls and went onto feature for the Golden Lions, Cats, Northampton Saints, Griquas and Sharks.
- He won 13 Test caps for the Springboks, becoming their oldest player to play for the national side at 37 back in 2007.
- Having retired from playing in 2008, Ackermann was appointed as Forwards coach of the Lions in Super Rugby in 2010 where he worked with Head Coach John Mitchell, before taking on the top job himself in 2013.
- Named South African Coach of the Year in 2014, 15 and 16, he departed the Lions last summer for Gloucester, but not before guiding them to the Super Rugby Final where they lost narrowly to the Hurricanes.



EXETER CHIEFS VS GLOUCESTER

**THE GROUND**  
**KINGSHOLM STADIUM**

**FOUNDED:** 1873  
**ADDRESS:** Kingsholm Road, Kingsholm  
 Gloucester GL1 3AX

**CAPACITY:** 16,121  
**WEBSITE:** [www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk](http://www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk)

# STAT ATTACK

## JOHN AFOA

PROP

MINS PLAYED	104
CARRIES	86
METRES	102
PASSES	45
DEFENDERS BEATEN	4
TACKLES	128



## LEWIS LUDLOW

BACK-ROW

MINS PLAYED	1203
CARRIES	936
METRES	340
PASSES	44
DEFENDERS BEATEN	3
TACKLES	270



## BILLY TWELVETREES

CENTRE

MINS PLAYED	1114
CARRIES	139
METRES	358
PASSES	233
DEFENDERS BEATEN	20
TACKLES	104



*An exciting end to the season is on the cards for Gloucester as they try and secure qualification for next season's European Champions Cup.*

Occupying the final top six berth in the Aviva Premiership heading into this weekend's Round 19, the Cherry & Whites are also bracing themselves for a mouth-watering semi-final showdown against league rivals Newcastle Falcons in the European Challenge Cup at Kingsholm on Friday, April 20.

Getting themselves back dining at Europe's top table has been a key objective for Gloucester, who boosted by the arrival of head coach Johan Ackermann at the start of the campaign have started to show the fighting spirit of days gone by.

With an expectant fan-base craving success year on year, the South African has clearly added some life to the club, working impressively alongside Director of Rugby David Humphreys.

A last-gasp win against defending Premiership champions Exeter Chiefs in their seasonal opener back in September set the tone and in the weeks and months that have followed, numerous other scalps have been claimed in a campaign which could deliver rich rewards.

This is, however, the business end of the season and it's now where the good teams start to crank through the gears. Ackermann is acutely aware



of what is needed and he will have taken great heart from last weekend's 33-28 victory away to Connacht in the Challenge Cup.

Post-match, the former Lions coach described his side's win in Galway as "special" and he was left feeling mightily satisfied as his side ran in four tries, overcoming some difficult periods with Ben Morgan and Lewis Ludlow spending time in the sin bin.

"It was special," said Ackermann. "There were some special games this season and I know there's still a lot of tough games as well but it's a special weekend for us. We showed a lot of character too. Yellow cards, not the perfect start again, but the guys showed a lot of fight."

Ackermann raised some eyebrows as he made six changes to Gloucester's side with internationals Morgan, Jeremy Thrush, Ross Moriarty and Owen Williams all recalled after long spells out. However, their big-game experience proved invaluable in a famous away-day win.

"If I can call it a bit of a risk, the fact that Thrushy and Ben and Ross and Owen haven't played a lot of rugby, we were always scared their legs were going to run out," said Ackermann. "But the guys - everyone - showed their experience and showed that fight."

Now, Gloucester will need to show more of the same against a Chiefs outfit, who have certainly hit form in recent weeks. Successive league wins over

Northampton Saints, Saracens and Bath have seen Rob Baxter's side create a seven-point lead at the top of the table.

Alongside those triumphs, Devon's finest have also pocketed the Anglo-Welsh Cup for the second time, winning 28-11 against Bath at Gloucester's Kingsholm Stadium a week ago.

One man relishing the clash, however, is Gloucester's England international Ben Morgan, who added after the Connacht clash: "This was very much Cup rugby and we knew this was a knock-out game. Our next Premiership games are going to be very much the same. We're sitting sixth in the table, we have everything to play for, so we have to treat every game as a knock-out game going forward."

EXETER CHIEFS VS GLOUCESTER



**THERE WERE SOME SPECIAL GAMES THIS SEASON AND I KNOW THERE'S STILL A LOT OF TOUGH GAMES AS WELL BUT IT'S A SPECIAL WEEKEND FOR US.**

# THE NUMBERS



TOTAL POINTS FOR:

**10,813**



TOTAL POINTS AGAINST:

**10,119**



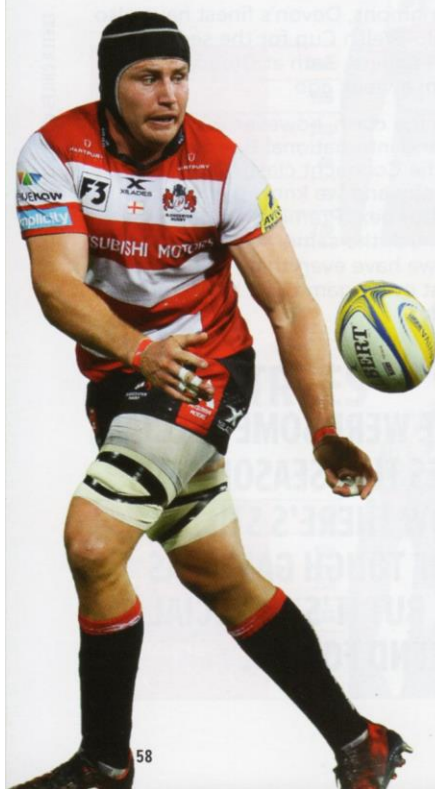
TOTAL TRIES SCORED:

**1,097**



TOTAL TRIES AGAINST:

**1,007**



HEAVIEST DEFEAT:

**6 - 53**  
**v Northampton**  
**Saints (2014)**



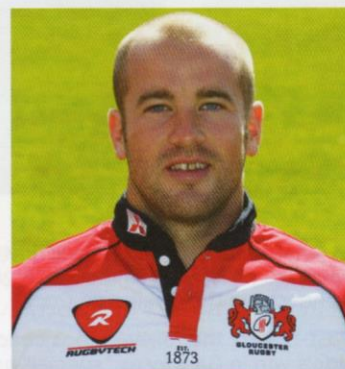
BIGGEST WIN:

**68 - 12**  
**v Bath (2002)**



## TOP POINTS SCORER

**Ludovic Mercier**  
855 Points



## TOP TRY SCORER

**James Simpson-Daniel**  
63 Tries



## MOST APPEARANCES

**Nick Wood**  
204 Appearances

# LAST FIVE MEETINGS

**1/9/2017**  
(Aviva Premiership, Kingsholm)

**GLOUCESTER 28**  
**EXETER CHIEFS 21**

**6/5/17**  
(Aviva Premiership, Kingsholm)

**GLOUCESTER 20**  
**EXETER CHIEFS 24**

**8/10/16**  
(Aviva Premiership, Sandy Park)

**EXETER CHIEFS 27**  
**GLOUCESTER 27**

**15/4//2016**  
(Aviva Premiership, Kingsholm)

**GLOUCESTER 16**  
**EXETER CHIEFS 9**

**9/1/2016**  
(Aviva Premiership, Sandy Park)

**EXETER CHIEFS 19**  
**GLOUCESTER 10**

## THE OPPOSITION SQUAD

PROP	SECOND ROW	CENTRE	WING
JOHN AFOA	TOM DENTON	MARK ATKINSON	JONNY MAY
FRASER BALMAIN	MARIANO GALARZA	MATT SCOTT	HENRY PURDY
GARETH DENMAN	TOM SAVAGE	ANDY SYMONS	CHARLIE SHARPLES
JOSH HOHNECK	ED SLATER	HENRY TRINDER	DAVID HALAIFONUUA
CIARAN KNIGHT	JEREMY THRUSH	BILLY TWELVETREES	OLLIE THORLEY
PADDY MCALLISTER			
CAMERON ORR			
VAL RAPAVA-RUSKIN			

HOOKER	BACK-ROW	SCRUM-HALF	FLY-HALF
JAMES HANSON	RUAN ACKERMANN	CALLUM BRALEY	BILLY BURNS
RICHARD HIBBARD	CHARLIE BECKETT	WILLI HEINZ	LLOYD EVANS
MOTU MATU'U	FREDDIE CLARKE	BEN VELLACOTT	OWEN WILLIAMS
JOE MULLIS	GARETH EVANS		
	LEWIS LUDLOW		
	BEN MORGAN		
	ROSS MORIARTY		
	JAKE POLLEDRI		
	JACOB ROWAN		

FULL-BACK
TOM HUDSON
TOM MARSHALL
JASON WOODWARD

### THE FORM GUIDE



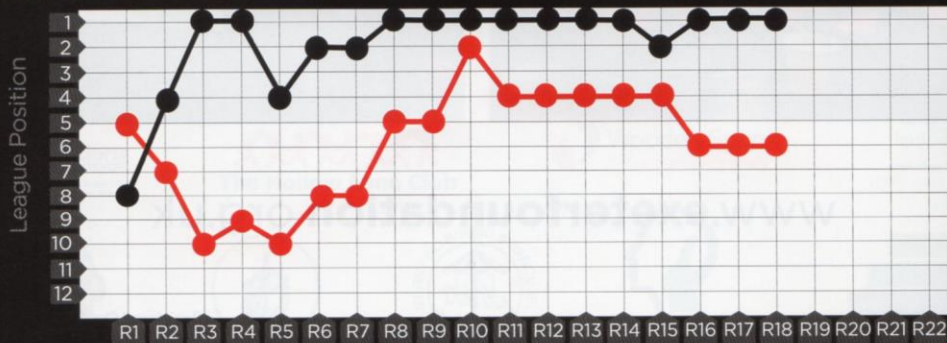
W	BATH (N)	11-28
W	BATH (A)	18-20
W	NEWCASTLE FALCONS (H)	20-17
W	SARACENS (H)	24-12



W	LONDON IRISH (A)	29-33
L	NEWCASTLE FALCONS (H)	20-21
D	WASPS (H)	21-21
W	WORCESTER WARRIORS (A)	15-25

EXETER CHIEFS VS GLOUCESTER

## LEAGUE PERFORMANCE



Aviva Premiership Rounds - 2017/2018 Season