



# CHERRY & WHITES



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY v NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP  
30 JANUARY 2021  
3.00PM

DIGITAL DOWNLOAD –  
FREE FOR THE 2020-21 SEASON



CEO

# LANCE BRADLEY



HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE VERY FIRST DIGITAL EDITION OF OUR MATCHDAY PROGRAMME. WE'RE TRYING OUT THIS FORMAT WHILE WE'RE STILL UNABLE TO WELCOME FANS BACK TO KINGS HOLM, AND IN TIME WE PLAN TO ADD MORE AND MORE FEATURES WHICH IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE IN A PAPER FORMAT. DO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF IT, OR WHAT ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED, BY CLICKING HERE AND COMPLETING OUR PROGRAMME FEEDBACK FORM.

It's a strange feeling writing this, knowing that when you read it you won't be with us at Kingsholm, as would usually be the case. It seems a long time since we were able to have a full house of fans for a game, and it really isn't the same playing in an empty stadium.

We are, however, hopeful that we will be able to welcome you back, albeit in limited numbers, in time to see some games from around Springtime. We really can't wait, and I'm sure you feel the same.

It's fair to say that we haven't achieved the results so far this season that any of us would have wanted. We've had good wins against Wasps and Ulster, but our other results have been largely disappointing. Behind those results, however, we feel there have been some

really encouraging signs. A number of our players, especially our younger players, have stepped up well while more experienced players have been away or injured, and that bodes very well for the future.

But we know there's more to do, and we're confident that we will turn things around. It's still the case that there's a great spirit within the squad, and we're fully expecting to see that today as we welcome Northampton Saints to Kingsholm.

You will have seen that we've been very busy on the recruitment and re-signing front, with Adam Hastings signing to join us from next season, and a number of key players, most recently Ruan Ackermann, signing new contracts to extend their stay with the Club. We also know we still have a couple of positions still to fill, and we have been working on that.

If you want to be sure of being the first to know about new signings, and all other Club news, the best way of doing that is to sign up to our newsletter, '@Holm'. You can sign up by clicking here. It'll only take you a few seconds.

Finally, I do have to say once again how much we appreciate your support during these unprecedented times. Whether it be the coaches and players, or the commercial team working to make sure everything is even better for you when you can come back, we'd all like to say thank you.

Together, we are a squad of thousands.

Best wishes,

**Lance**

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# MEN'S SQUAD

<b>RUAN ACKERMANN</b>  BACK ROW CRX	<b>MATIAS ALEMANN</b>  LOCK THE CULLIMORE GROUP OF COMPANIES	<b>OLLIE ATKINS</b>  LOCK AVAILABLE	<b>MARK ATKINSON</b>  CENTRE THE CULLIMORE GROUP OF COMPANIES	<b>FRASER BALMAIN</b>  PROP Electrical Solutions World Ltd
<b>MATT BANAHAN</b>  WINGER AVAILABLE	<b>SANTIAGO CARRERAS</b>  FULLBACK AVAILABLE	<b>CHARLIE CHAPMAN</b>  SCRUM HALF The Mortgage Brain Your mortgage made simple	<b>FREDDIE CLARKE</b>  BACK ROW AVAILABLE	<b>ALEX CRAIG</b>  LOCK LEXI YOUNG & FAMILY
<b>LLOYD EVANS</b>  FLY HALF WCS Group The H2O experts MAIRLOWE Critical Services	<b>JAMAL FORD-ROBINSON</b>  PROP THE CULLIMORE GROUP OF COMPANIES	<b>CORNE FOURIE</b>  PROP AVAILABLE	<b>MATT GARVEY</b>  LOCK AVAILABLE	<b>JAME GIBSON</b>  BACK ROW AVAILABLE
<b>TODD GLEAVE</b>  HOOKER F3 GROUP	<b>JAMES HANSON</b>  HOOKER THE CULLIMORE GROUP OF COMPANIES	<b>CHRIS HARRIS</b>  CENTRE miworks LIFE, WEST LTD	<b>WILLI HEINZ</b>  SCRUM HALF AVAILABLE	<b>TOM HUDSON</b>  FULLBACK AVAILABLE
<b>CIARAN KNIGHT</b>  PROP Cellar Supplies	<b>GIORGI KVESELADZE</b>  CENTRE AVAILABLE	<b>LEWIS LUDLOW</b>  BACK ROW Auto Air	<b>JONNY MAY</b>  WINGER Auto Air	<b>BEN MORGAN</b>  BACK ROW RENISHAW apply innovation™



<p>KYLE MOYLE</p>  <p>FULLBACK</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>SEB NAGLE-TAYLOR</p>  <p>1873</p> <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>JAKE POLLEDRI</p>  <p>1873</p> <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>MITSUBISHI MOTORS</p>	<p>VAL RAPAVA-RUSKIN</p>  <p>PROP</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>LOUIS REES-ZAMMIT</p>  <p>WINGER</p> <p>BRUNSDON INSURANCE</p>
<p>JORDY REID</p>  <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>TOM SEABROOK</p>  <p>CENTRE</p> <p>DEAN CLOSE CHELtenham SENIOR SCHOOL</p>	<p>ALEX SEVILLE</p>  <p>PROP</p> <p>UK PROCESS VALVES</p>	<p>CHARLIE SHARPLES</p>  <p>WINGER</p> <p>RSG CONSTRUCTION</p>	<p>JOE SIMPSON</p>  <p>SCRUM HALF</p> <p>WLS SOLICITORS</p>
<p>JACK SINGLETON</p>  <p>HOOVER</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>ED SLATER</p>  <p>LOCK</p> <p>K B Building Services</p>	<p>JACK STANLEY</p>  <p>PROP</p> <p>MITSUBISHI MOTORS</p>	<p>OLLIE THORLEY</p>  <p>WINGER</p> <p>ROCKET RENTALS</p>	<p>HENRY TRINDER</p>  <p>CENTRE</p> <p>THE CULLIMORE GROUP OF COMPANIES</p>
<p>BILLY TWELVETREES</p>  <p>CENTRE</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>STEPHEN VARNEY</p>  <p>SCRUM HALF</p> <p>miworks</p>	<p>HENRY WALKER</p>  <p>HOOVER</p> <p>MITSUBISHI MOTORS</p>	<p>JASON WOODWARD</p>  <p>FULL BACK</p> <p>Davies &amp; Partners SOLICITORS</p>	

# LAST TIME WE MET



THE LAST TIME GLOUCESTER RUGBY PLAYED NORTHAMPTON SAINTS WAS BACK IN DECEMBER OF 2019, MEANING THAT IT'S BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE THE TWO SIDES HAVE PLAYED EACH OTHER. THE CHERRY AND WHITES WERE DUE TO PLAY THE SAINTS IN THE FINAL ROUND OF THE 2019/20 SEASON BUT THE FIXTURE WAS CANCELLED DUE TO A NUMBER OF POSITIVE TESTS FROM THE NORTHAMPTON SIDE.



Last time the two sides faced each other Louis-Rees Zammit scored a brilliant hat-trick but Gloucester Rugby fell just short at Northampton Saints, who edged a 59-point thriller at Franklin's Gardens.



Cobus Reinach scored twice for the Saints, while hooker Mikey Haywood also crossed over the line, as the hosts secured a fifth win of the Gallagher Premiership Rugby 2019/20 season.



Gloucester Rugby made a quick start, with Zammit crossing within seven minutes for the opening try and it took the Saints until the 33rd-minute to move ahead.

Hayward finished off a rolling maul and that changed the course of the game, with Reinach adding two tries in the second half.

Zammit added two more, while Chris Harris grabbed one of his own, but the Cherry & Whites fell just short due to the accurate goal kicking from Saints.

# EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP 2016-17 THREE GAMES AGAINST LA ROCHELLE

## 8 DECEMBER 2016: GLOUCESTER 35 LA ROCHELLE 14

In the first of the group games, La Rochelle drew first blood when Kevin Gourdon scored an early try, which was converted by Zac Holmes. Gloucester swiftly struck back when Henry Purdy set up a try for Mark Atkinson. Greg Laidlaw converted. Laidlaw was starting to dictate proceedings, and he added a penalty. He then broke down the blind-side; Henry Purdy carried the move on for Josh Hohnock to score his first try for the club. Purdy featured again with a break, Billy Burns chipped through for Ollie Thorley to gather and score. Laidlaw converted, so at half-time Gloucester were leading 22-7.

La Rochelle had a huge pack, and early in the second period put the home side under heavy pressure. In the end David Raikuna scored for Holmes to convert. Laidlaw settled any Gloucester nerves with two penalties, and gradually the Cherry and Whites pack turned the tables. Matt Scott powered over with two minutes to go to seal a fine win.

## 17 DECEMBER 2016: LA ROCHELLE 42 GLOUCESTER 13

The massive French pack was soon well on top. Somehow Gloucester struck first with a Billy Burns penalty. However, two scrum penalty awards resulted in six points to La Rochelle through Brock

James. The Gloucester defence was then stretched to the limit before Gabriel Lacroix scored a try in the corner. La Rochelle scored two more tries by half-time, to a single Burns penalty.

In the second half Gloucester fought back bravely, and Matt Scott and Richard Hibbard almost scored. Eventually persistence was rewarded when Mark Atkinson broke through and John Afoa scored, for Burns to convert. Unfortunately, any revival was thwarted when Scott was yellow-carded. La Rochelle proceeded to score three further tries, one of which was a penalty try.

The quarter-final saw Gloucester see off Cardiff Blues 46-26, so the stage was set for another meeting with La Rochelle in the semi-final.

## 22 APRIL 2017: LA ROCHELLE 14 GLOUCESTER 16

By this point in the season La Rochelle were top of the French Top 14 League, and unbeaten at home. However, Gloucester had obviously done their home-work. They had to counter the huge French pack. This they achieved by taking quick line-outs, swift scrum heals, and throwing the ball around at every opportunity, to wear out the La Rochelle forwards. The plan worked. La Rochelle became frustrated and Qovu was yellow carded for foul play, Burns kicked the penalty, and added another before half-time. By this time James had also kicked two for La Rochelle.



Billy Burns

After the break La Rochelle threw the kitchen sink at Gloucester, but brave defence kept them out, and Burns even had the luxury of kicking a penalty. Back came La Rochelle, and with a clear overlap, James looped a pass which Burns plucked out of the air, and set sail from his own 22, went all the way for the try, which he converted himself. James kicked another penalty, and it was all La Rochelle; Damien Lagrange managed a try, but Gloucester clung on for one of the best wins in the club's history.





## GLOUCESTER RUGBY WERE LAST IN ACTION AGAINST NEWCASTLE IN ROUND 6 OF THE GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP.

It was a tight first half and initially it looked like Gloucester Rugby would be first to get on the scoreboard. An attacking link up between Matt Garvey, Joe Simpson and Alex Craig got within metres of scoring before Newcastle turned the ball over and Adam Radwan made a break and went over for a try.

Toby Flood missed the conversion but it was Newcastle who were next to score when Matias Orlando caught the defence napping to go through for the hosts' second.

Flood converted the score but it wasn't long until Gloucester Rugby were on the scoreboard themselves.

The Cherry and Whites had a penalty and Lloyd Evans fired the ball to touch. It was a great set piece with the forwards creating a maul at the lineout and then the backs piled in to help it over. It was Jonny May who dotted down, his first score for Gloucester Rugby since re-joining the club.

Just before half time, Gloucester Rugby put in a solid stint in defence to stop a Newcastle try leaving the score 12-7 at the break.

Gloucester Rugby came out with a point to prove and got on the scoreboard through a Evans penalty but in the end, it wasn't enough.

Cannon slotted a penalty and then George McGuigan scored at the death giving the hosts a 22-10 victory.



# JAMIE GIBSON



A VASTLY EXPERIENCED OPERATOR, JAMIE GIBSON HAS BEEN A VALUABLE ASSET TO THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD THIS SEASON.

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Having previously played for Leicester Tigers and Northampton Saints, clocking up over 180 Premiership appearances, the backrower knows the tricks of the trade and has been enjoying putting on the Cherry and White shirt and adding his wisdom to the playing group.

Having joined the club ahead of the 2020/21 campaign, Gibson was delighted to have been welcomed with open arms by the fans, city and playing squad.

"That's one of the biggest things about rugby in general," he said. "Playing in a rugby city, as soon as you join that squad and pull on the shirt you are part of that team and the history. Gloucester Rugby is an old club and a successful club who have a long history from a long way back and it's a great club to play for and I'm excited to play a bit more.

"It's a big rugby club. There's a handful of boys through the club who are Gloucester through and

through, young lads coming up who have really kicked on this season."

Having previously played at a packed-out Kingsholm with a full crowd before joining the Cherry and Whites, it was always a landmark fixture on the calendar but it's an experience he is yet to have in the Cherry and White shirt due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's a funny one because I've played away at a packed-out Kingsholm several times with a big noisy crowd and the games I've played at Kingsholm for Gloucester have at most only had a couple of thousand people in. So that's obviously been different!

**“YOU CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THE HISTORY OF THE CLUB AND HOW BIG RUGBY IS IN GLOUCESTER AND HOW IMPORTANT GLOUCESTER RUGBY IS TO THE CITY”**







"Even so, you still feed off the people around and those boys who are Gloucester through and through, you can't help but feel the history of the club and how big rugby is in Gloucester and how important Gloucester Rugby is to the city."

Results haven't been going the Cherry and Whites' way so far this season but a two-week break from playing has provided the perfect opportunity to make those necessary changes ahead of this next block of games.

"We had a few days off after our last game and then cracked on with training and using the time to tidy up the little things that we need to improve on over the next few weeks and make sure that we get better at the things that we're good at.

"Our set piece has obviously been a plus. We've had good success there and we've kept working on that and in terms of our shape and all the things that Dom (Waldouck) and Kingy (Alex King) have put in place. They've been able to tweak little things that they've felt weren't necessarily working as well as they could be. Attack wise, we've added a few things to our armoury and in defence we're going to keep pushing what we did well against Newcastle."

Despite the results so far this season, there have been plenty of positives from each game that Gloucester Rugby has played. The challenge now is to make sure that these bursts of performance can be sustained for the full 80 minutes.

"The squad is in a very good place. The Newcastle

game was probably the best example of us putting an 80-minute performance together. Ulster as well, those are the only two games really where we've managed to actually do what we wanted to do for a full 80 minutes. In other games, there have been really good elements of our game plan that has gone well but a couple of elements that have dropped off.

"If we can get it all right on game day then we can really build on that. That's what we've got to do and make sure that we don't let things slip as other areas start to get better."







Having worn the green, yellow and black stripes of the Northampton shirt for five seasons, Gibson is in a good position to offer some inside information on Gloucester Rugby's opponents for Round 7 of the Gallagher Premiership this weekend.

"It's an odd one in that we've had two weeks off and they've had five so everyone's going to be a bit rustier than normal so it should be fun! Especially if it snows! I think that's the forecast for Saturday so that could be an added element!

"They're a dangerous side. Analysis wise, it's difficult because they haven't played in a while so that makes things a bit more complicated. They've got some good, dangerous players. If they get front foot ball and momentum at the set piece and the breakdown then they've got some very good players who can expose you out wide. We know we've got to fight fire with fire physically and if we can take control of that then we've got every chance of getting the result."



# ACADEMY SQUAD

<b>OLLIE ADKINS</b>  1873 PROP AVAILABLE	<b>JACK BARTLETT</b>  PROP AVAILABLE	<b>GEORGE BARTON</b>  FLY HALF  Electric Solutions Bristol Ltd	<b>SEB BLAKE</b>  1873 HOOKER AVAILABLE	<b>JENSON BOUGHTON</b>  PROP AVAILABLE
<b>ARTHUR CLARK</b>  1873 LOCK AVAILABLE	<b>JACK CLEMENT</b>  1873 BACK ROW 	<b>DOM COETZER</b>  FLY HALF 	<b>REECE DUNN</b>  FULLBACK  J. & W. Shipping & Forwarding Ltd	<b>JOSH GRAY</b>  BACK ROW <b>SHEDWEB</b>
<b>LOUIS HILLMAN-COOPER</b>  CENTRE AVAILABLE	<b>JOE HOWARD</b>  1873 BACK ROW AVAILABLE	<b>ETHAN HUNT</b>  HOOKER <b>Davies &amp; Partners</b> SOLICITORS	<b>MATTY JONES</b>  1873 SCRUM HALF AVAILABLE	<b>CAMERON JORDAN</b>  LOCK AVAILABLE
<b>ISAAC MARSH</b>  CENTRE AVAILABLE	<b>ALEX MORCAN</b>  WINGER AVAILABLE	<b>JACOB MORRIS</b>  WINGER <b>SHEDWEB</b>	<b>JACK REEVES</b>  CENTRE 	<b>TOM STANTON</b>  UTILITY BACK AVAILABLE
<b>HARRY TAYLOR</b>  1873 BACK ROW AVAILABLE	<b>FREDDIE THOMAS</b>  BACK ROW AVAILABLE	<b>TOBY VENNER</b>  SCRUM HALF AVAILABLE		

