



CHERRY & WHITES



GLOUCESTER RUGBY v NEWCASTLE FALCONS

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP
24 APRIL 2021
3.00PM

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

MAIN CLUB PARTNER



Gallagher

**PREMIERSHIP
RUGBY**





GLOUCESTER RUGBY

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INTRODUCTION



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANOTHER DIGITAL EDITION OF OUR MATCHDAY PROGRAMME. GLOUCESTER RUGBY WELCOME NEWCASTLE FALCONS TO KINGSHOLM FOR ROUND 17 OF THE GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP IN WHAT IS SET TO BE A MUST WATCH ENCOUNTER.

We hope that this programme can bring you closer to the action whilst you watch on from home and in this edition you will get all the latest Gloucester Rugby content to keep you up to date with everything Cherry and White.

Newcastle currently sit in 10th place in the Premiership, just four points ahead of Gloucester Rugby who are currently 11th, making the fixture even more intriguing.

The Cherry and Whites come into this game after a couple of close fought defeats, but the team has shown true character in each fixture. There has been a shift in recent performances and as the sun starts to shine and the ground starts to firm up, let's hope that we can enjoy watching some fast-paced rugby.

With just two home games left in the Premiership season after this weekend, everyone at Gloucester Rugby is hopeful and looking forward to welcoming fans into the stadium. It has been a tough season without you all but we look forward to being together as soon as we can.

“ THE CHERRY AND WHITES COME INTO THIS GAME AFTER A COUPLE OF CLOSE FOUGHT DEFEATS, BUT THE TEAM HAS SHOWN TRUE CHARACTER ”



CLUB NEWS

TODD GLEAVE JOINS OSPREYS ON LOAN



GLOUCESTER RUGBY CAN CONFIRM THAT TODD GLEAVE WILL JOIN OSPREYS ON LOAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON.

The Cherry and White hooker will join the Welsh outlet for three months and is set to return to Kingsholm on 15 June, after the completion of the 2020/21 season.

The 25-year-old has made four appearances for Gloucester Rugby this season and will join Ospreys as a valuable member of their front row as they continue their season.

Ospreys finished third in Conference A of the PRO14 and Gleave will be hoping to get some game time under his belt with the newly formed Rainbow Cup set to kick off on the 24 April.

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THE 'PODDING SHED' RETURNS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY'S PODCAST IS BACK IN ACTION.

Presented by Gloucester Rugby players Mark Atkinson and Ed Slater alongside Rugby Commentator Sam Roberts, the three provide a light-hearted insight into life at Gloucester Rugby alongside chatting about a wide range of subjects from both on and off the pitch.

The Official Gloucester Rugby Podcast is available first on the Gloucester Rugby App! Head to the Audio section to check out each episode!

Listen to the podcast now, by heading there or to **iTunes** and **Spotify**

Make sure to subscribe, follow and download each episode, to ensure you never miss out.



**THE OFFICIAL
GLOUCESTER RUGBY
PODCAST**



MEN'S SQUAD

RUAN ACKERMANN BACK ROW 	MATIAS ALEMANNO LOCK 	OLLIE ATKINS LOCK AVAILABLE	MARK ATKINSON CENTRE 	FRASER BALMAIN PROP
MATT BANAHAN WINGER AVAILABLE	SANTIAGO CARRERAS FULLBACK AVAILABLE	CHARLIE CHAPMAN SCRUM HALF 	FREDDIE CLARKE BACK ROW AVAILABLE	ALEX CRAIG LOCK LEXI YOUNG & FAMILY
LLOYD EVANS FLY HALF 	JAMAL FORD-ROBINSON PROP 	CORNE FOURIE PROP AVAILABLE	MATT GARVEY LOCK AVAILABLE	JAMIE GIBSON BACK ROW AVAILABLE
TODD GLEAVE HOOKER 	CHRIS HARRIS CENTRE 	WILLI HEINZ SCRUM HALF AVAILABLE	TOM HUDSON FULLBACK AVAILABLE	CIARAN KNIGHT PROP
GIORGI KVESELADZE CENTRE AVAILABLE	LEWIS LUDLOW BACK ROW 	JONNY MAY WINGER 	BEN MORGAN BACK ROW 	KYLE MOYLE FULLBACK AVAILABLE

SEB NAGLE-TAYLOR  BACK ROW AVAILABLE	JAKE POLLEDRI  BACK ROW MITSUBISHI MOTORS	VAL RAPAVA-RUSKIN  PROP AVAILABLE	LOUIS REES-ZAMMIT  WINGER BRUNSDON INSURANCE	JORDY REID  BACK ROW AVAILABLE
TOM SEABROOK  CENTRE DEAN CLOSE CHELTENHAM SENIOR SCHOOL	ALEX SEVILLE  PROP UK-PROCESSVALVES	CHARLIE SHARPLES  WINGER RSG CONSTRUCTION	JOE SIMPSON  SCRUM HALF WLS SOLICITORS	JACK SINGLETON  HOOKER AVAILABLE
ED SLATER  LOCK K B Building Services	SANTIAGO SOCINO  HOOKER THE CULLIMORE GROUP OF COMPANIES	JACK STANLEY  PROP MITSUBISHI MOTORS	OLLIE THORLEY  WINGER ROCKET RENTALS	HENRY TRINDER  CENTRE THE CULLIMORE GROUP OF COMPANIES
BILLY TWELVETREES  CENTRE AVAILABLE	STEPHEN VARNEY  SCRUM HALF miworks SOUTH WEST LTD	HENRY WALKER  HOOKER MITSUBISHI MOTORS	JASON WOODWARD  FULL BACK Davies & Partners SOLICITORS	

BACKROOM STAFF

GEORGE SKIVINGTON  HEAD COACH	ALEX KING  ATTACK COACH	DOM WALDOUCK  DEFENCE COACH	TREVOR WOODMAN  ASSISTANT COACH	TIM TAYLOR  ASSISTANT COACH	DAN TOBIN  HEAD OF PERFORMANCE
EOIN POWER  HEAD OF MEDICAL	DARREN LEWIS  HEAD OF PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	WILL CARVALHO  PERFORMANCE CHEF	SHAUN BULLOCK  KIT MANAGER	PETER WALTON  HEAD OF ACADEMY	



What happened?

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.



KEY MOMENT



Jonny May's try

The Gloucester Rugby winger scored his first try for the Cherry and Whites since re-joining the club last year. It wasn't the sort of score a winger would usually get as May was in the middle of the maul and dotted down as the team drove it over.

CUP TIES AND NEEDLE MATCHES

GLOUCESTER V NEWCASTLE

A LOOK BACK AT THREE OF THE GREAT MATCHES BETWEEN GLOUCESTER AND NEWCASTLE - BUT FIRST, A BIT OF HISTORY...

The original Gosforth Football Club was founded in 1877 by a group of Old Boys of Durham School, who met in a private house in the Gosforth suburb of Newcastle-upon-Tyne to discuss the formation of a new rugby club in the area. The club played in the Durham School colours of green and white hoops throughout the amateur era.

For many years the premier club of North East England, supplying players to county, regional and international sides, Gosforth enjoyed great success and national recognition in the 1970s with the introduction of a club knockout competition, winning the John Player Cup in 1975-76 and retaining it in 1976-77, their centenary season. On the way to the final that year they played Gloucester for the first time, winning 3-0 in a home quarter-final, the first of four cup ties played between the two clubs in the amateur era, honours being even, two wins apiece.

The club moved to their present home at Kingston Park in 1990 and the name was changed to Newcastle Gosforth. Placed in National League Division II, when the John Courage Leagues were formed in 1987-88, Newcastle Gosforth gained promotion in 1992-93 and played Gloucester home

and away, drawing 12-all at home and losing 15-9 at Kingsholm before being relegated after one season.

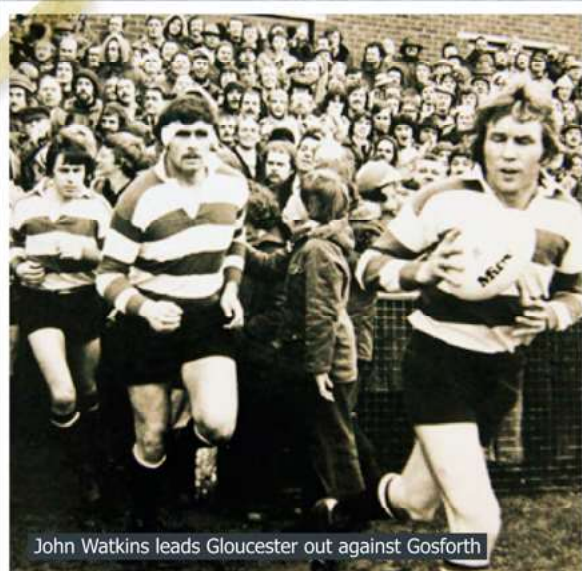
Then, with the onset of professionalism in 1996-97, everything changed. Local businessman Sir John Hall took control of the club with the vision of creating a multi-sports club, comprising football, basketball, ice hockey and rugby union. The club split into professional Newcastle (in their new black and white strip) and amateur Gosforth (who retained the traditional green and white), Newcastle were promoted to the top flight and the following year, with Rob Andrew as Director of Rugby and Dean Ryan as captain, won the inaugural Allied Dunbar Premiership as Newcastle Falcons.

GLOUCESTER 19 GOSFORTH 10 JOHN PLAYER CUP 2ND ROUND 25 FEBRUARY 1978

Gosforth came to Kingsholm for this second round tie, aiming to win the cup for the third successive season. Gloucester, under the captaincy of John Watkins, were enjoying one of their most successful seasons and were eager to avenge their quarter-final defeat at Gosforth the previous year. The stage was set for an epic contest in front of over 10,000 fans.

Gloucester opened the scoring in the tenth minute when scrum half Paul Howell made a blind-side break, feeding the ball to wing Bob Clewes who kicked ahead. The defending full back slipped in attempting to gather the ball, and back row Viv Wooley went over for an opportunist try, full back Peter Butler converting. Butler added a penalty and, with Gosforth missing a series of penalties, Gloucester led 9-0 at half time.

Gosforth started the second half strongly and only a last ditch tackle by wing Richard Mogg prevented a try. Back came Gloucester and a move involving Howell and Watkins saw hooker Steve Mills go over in the corner. The score was 13-0, but Gosforth



John Watkins leads Gloucester out against Gosforth

were still in the game and further penalty kicks were awarded – and missed. The coup de grace was delivered when a dummy run by Howell created a break by his outside half Chris Williams who went all the way to score between the posts, Butler converting. Gosforth, to their credit, kept going to the end and consolation tries were scored by Moor and Robinson, leaving the visitors to rue what might have been.



Mark Mapletoft, who kicked 17 points

GLOUCESTER 27 NEWCASTLE FALCONS 29 ZURICH PREMIERSHIP 11 APRIL 1998

Gloucester, fresh from their victory over Bedford in the final of the C & G cup, welcomed premierships leaders Newcastle Falcons to a packed Kingsholm for a pulsating and controversial encounter.

A Rob Andrew penalty goal opened the scoring but then Gloucester went into a ten point lead through two penalty goals from Mark Mapletoft and a try by Philippe Saint André, following a Mapletoft tapped penalty. Controversy came in the 34th minute when referee John Pearson ran round the scrum to award a premature penalty try against Gloucester, following the entreaties of outside half Rob Andrew, although the lowering scrum appeared to be still up. Andrew, belying his 35 years, then rubbed salt into the wound by beating Mapletoft, and despite tripping, bouncing over the line for a try which he converted.

Gloucester dominated the second half territorially. After Mapletoft converted an early penalty, they regained the lead through a splendid try by Steve Ojomoh, twisting and turning the Falcons' defence, which had tested the offside law throughout the game, before Saint André on the wrong wing sent Ojomoh charging through Tait's tackle to make the score 21-17 after 47 minutes. Andrew regained the lead for the Falcons four minutes later with his second try, following a line-out feed from Dean Ryan, which he converted. A further Mapletoft penalty levelled the scores 24-24 before Walton scored what turned out to be the winning try with the touch judge furiously flagging offside and half the Gloucester defence watching the official rather than the ball. A further Mapletoft penalty brought the score back to 27-29. In the last seconds his 30metre dropped goal attempt to win the match

just sailed past the upright. A vital win for Falcons but a huge morale-boosting performance from the Gloucester pack.

GLOUCESTER 41 NEWCASTLE FALCONS 32 ZURICH PREMIERSHIP 17 OCTOBER 1998

Six months later and a new season...

"It was" to quote David Hands, The Times rugby correspondent, "a day from which the players of both sides can take pride and pleasure." Steve Lander, the referee, placed the match in "the top three of my career" and Richard Hill, Gloucester's Director of Rugby, was prompted to ponder "Why can't it be like that every week?"

Ian Sanders had been promoted to scrum half ahead of Scott Benton with a brief to move possession to Simon Mannix as quickly as possible and the play worked to perfection. At full back, the 22 year-old Chris Catling had the game of his life in front of England coach Clive Woodward, running smoothly out of defence to score a hat-trick of tries, and displaying his bravery under the high ball. In the pack Steve Ojomoh was equally outstanding.

Gloucester stated their intentions from the beginning and were rewarded by early tries from Saint André and Catling with the rampaging Gloucester pack dominating the first quarter. Back came Newcastle, with centre Va'aiga Tuigamala and backrow Peter Walton outstanding in an onslaught that produced 17 points in a seven minute burst and the home side found themselves 16-25 down at half-time.

Against the wind, however, Newcastle were penned back in their own half and two tries within two minutes, scored on the hour by Audley Lumsden and Chris Catling, shaped the result. Both chances were created by the strength and speed of Saint André. The Falcons were not finished, however, and a try by Jonny Wilkinson, which he converted, brought the score back to 34-32. It was only four minutes from time when Chris Catling made the game safe with his third try, after fine approach work from Steve Ojomoh, bringing the curtain down on a match to remember.



Steve Ojomoh on the charge against the Falcons

150 APPEARANCES FOR JONNY MAY

LAST WEEKEND MARKED A SPECIAL OCCASION FOR JONNY MAY. THE CHERRY AND WHITE WINGER MADE HIS 150TH GLOUCESTER RUGBY APPEARANCE, AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT AS A YOUNG GLOUCESTER RUGBY ACADEMY PLAYER, HE WOULD NEVER HAVE DEEMED POSSIBLE.

"I wouldn't have imagined anything unfolding the way that it has," May said reflecting on his journey through the Academy ranks.

"It's obviously a little bit strange with the nature of leaving for a few years and then coming back. I sort of lost track! I wasn't even aware that I was anywhere near that or how many appearances I was on but I got told in the week that it was going to be my 150th and it's a cool milestone but hopefully I've got many more games for Gloucester Rugby to come."

May initially played 138 times for the club between 2009-2017 and scored 62 tries before a brief spell at Leicester Tigers before he returned to Kingsholm in 2020.

"It's something I'm proud to have achieved because Gloucester Rugby is a special club to me and to play that many games for any club is good going. For the time being I just need to keep my head down and keep plugging away and play some more games. It's the sort of thing that you can appreciate momentarily but really, it's the sort of thing that you look back on when you're done and you can admire your achievements at the end of your career. For now, I just want to get some more games and more importantly get some wins."

Unfortunately, Gloucester Rugby were on the losing end of a physical encounter against Sale Sharks for May's special day but

the 31-year-old was able to get over the try line.

"It's awesome scoring tries as a winger. It's a bonus when that happens but I try and focus more on the fundamentals of my game. My defence, my high balls and build my game around that but when tries come that's always a bonus. It was good play from Ruan Ackermann just to give me a foot race which is something that I'm always up for. I managed to win the race to the ball and get over."

Despite the fact that there were no fans in attendance, the Gloucester Rugby winger was still able to lead the team out, something that May is pleased to have done despite not wanting the focus to be on himself.

"The thought of leading the team out, for me, I don't really like making it about me and I don't really want to do that. I remember for my 50th cap for England I felt the same. It is a cool thing to do and a special thing to do so I'm glad I did it now. It's an honour to do that and although it puts on a bit more pressure, it's something to embrace and try to enjoy because it is a special moment."



May has plenty of highlights from his career but when asked to pick out his favourite memory in the Cherry and White shirt he quickly replied with his answer.

"We won the Challenge Cup in 2015. It seems like a long time ago now. There is always a good traveling support with Gloucester Rugby. It was good to win some silverware for the club and hopefully we can win some more in the next period of time with Skivs (George Skivington) in charge. That's certainly the aim. We want to start winning games but ultimately we want to be a team that wins trophies."

Pulling on the famous jersey 150 times is a proud achievement but May is not letting it impact his preparation and is focused on trying to be better and help the team improve.

"My mindset has always just been one week at a time and one game at a time and it still is. There are some quite cool things that I've achieved now and I am proud of them but I'm not allowing myself to give myself a pat on the back just yet because I'm doing everything I can to get ready for the game at the weekend.

"That's always been how I am. I'm always critical of myself and am trying to get better. I give myself a hard time and that's where my head



is every week. That would have been the same back when I was 18. I would have been taking it a week at a time and of course I'm aware that I have achieved some cool things but for the time being I just want to achieve more and keep getting better."

It is clear to see why May is a world class rugby player. His mindset is geared towards improvement and he is so focused on performing well that even in victory he is thinking about the next challenge.

"It's not necessarily enjoyment," May says trying to describe how he feels after a good game. "I would like to get to that but at the moment it's more of a relief. When we play well and we get a win it's a big relief because of that release of pressure and expectation that

we've hit our target. Then I can relax a little bit.

"Pretty quickly I get back onto thinking about what I or we as a team could have done better and what the challenge will be next week. It's a quick turnaround. These little victories and milestones are nice moments but they are short lived. It's always onto the next thing."

The next challenge this week is Newcastle Falcons and it's a game that May is feeling ready for.

"The squad is looking good. I'm certainly confident in the process and how hard we are working each week. We're learning and improving every week. Of course it's frustrating that the results aren't there yet but I'm sure if we keep chipping away that they are going to come and this weekend is another opportunity to see if we can bring it all together and get the result that we want.

"To be honest, I am confident that it's coming and I feel like if we do our stuff right then there's no reason why we can't win this weekend. That's my mindset every week. We prepare to win every game and we know we're capable of it but at the moment we need to improve our own stuff. It's not because of how good the opposition are that we're losing, we're sort of beating ourselves at the moment so the focus is very much on improving what we do and each week is an opportunity to put that into practice."





COMMUNITY NEWS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY EASTER CAMPS



THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY COMMUNITY TEAM WERE IN ACTION OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS, PUTTING ON RUGBY CAMPS AT CONEY HILL RFC AND STOW-ON-THE-WOLD RFC.

The camps were a great success and an excellent way for the next generation of players to get back playing rugby as Covid restrictions eased.

Not only were players' skills, decision making and game time all put to the test, everyone involved in the camps demonstrated the core values of rugby and it shows that the community game is in safe hands.

Led by our experienced Community Rugby Coaches, our junior camps provide a fun and friendly environment to allow kids to learn or improve their game.

For questions on future camps email cdp@gloucesterrugby.co.uk or just [click here](#) to see our website!





ACADEMY SQUAD

OLLIE ADKINS

1873
PROP

AVAILABLE

JACK BARTLETT

PROP

AVAILABLE

GEORGE BARTON

FLY HALF

AVAILABLE

SEB BLAKE

1873
HOOKER

AVAILABLE

JENSON BOUGHTON

PROP

AVAILABLE

ARTHUR CLARK

1873
LOCK

AVAILABLE

JACK CLEMENT

BACK ROW

AVAILABLE

DOM COETZER

FLY HALF

AVAILABLE

REECE DUNN

FULLBACK

AVAILABLE

JOSH GRAY

BACK ROW

SHEDWEB

LOUIS HILLMAN-COOPER

CENTRE

AVAILABLE

JOE HOWARD

BACK ROW

AVAILABLE

ETHAN HUNT

HOOKER

AVAILABLE

MATTY JONES

SCRUM HALF

AVAILABLE

CAMERON JORDAN

LOCK

AVAILABLE

ISAAC MARSH

CENTRE

AVAILABLE

ALEX MORGAN

WINGER

AVAILABLE

JACOB MORRIS

WINGER

SHEDWEB

JACK REEVES

CENTRE

AVAILABLE

TOM STANTON

UTILITY BACK

AVAILABLE

HARRY TAYLOR

1873
BACK ROW

AVAILABLE

FREDDIE THOMAS

BACK ROW

AVAILABLE

TOBY VENNER

SCRUM HALF

AVAILABLE

ACADEMY UPDATE

CARL HOGG



26

CARL HOGG HAS RECENTLY RETURNED TO KINGSHOLM AS DIRECTOR OF ACADEMY AND DEVELOPMENT HAVING PREVIOUSLY SPENT SEVEN YEARS AT THE CLUB BETWEEN 2006 AND 2013.

With vast experience as a player and coach, Hogg has joined the senior management group and is responsible for the overall management and strategy of the Gloucester Rugby Academy and of player development, whilst also having input on other strategic issues.

Working with the Head of Academy, Peter Walton, Hogg is developing a clear and ambitious plan to ensure there is an effective pathway for home-grown players to progress through to the first team and perform at the highest level.

"This is a pathway and a system for players to reach the very top and it's an aspirational pathway where youngsters should dream

about playing for Gloucester Rugby, playing for England and with this year in mind, going on and playing for the British and Irish Lions," Hogg said describing his vision for the pathway.

"But it is also about inclusion and engagement. Not all players will go on to elite level but we want them to continue to enjoy the game, remain involved and be part of the rugby community. We want to produce people and players who are still in love with the game and embrace its values, giving back to the local community which sits at the heart of our sport."

"They might find an alternative pathway, and while our focus is still on producing another Charlie Chapman or the

next George Barton it is also important to give opportunities to young players who will continue to give something back to the community game and enjoy the values, the camaraderie and the feeling of togetherness that rugby gives you," Hogg said.

"Yes, we are after the next superstar but it's also about creating a pathway so that the young players still want to be in the game for the right reasons."

Playing rugby as a youngster should be about enjoying the process of development and the new pathway is aiming to achieve this so that the young players who progress through the Academy want to continue with rugby after they graduate.

"We're looking at leadership programmes and work experience programmes and the key factor is that we recognise that the majority of people on that pathway will find rugby in their local communities and not necessarily play in the Premiership.

"That's one of our objectives, to make sure that each young player reaches their potential. Whatever that potential may be. They may become an elite player and go on to play internationally but they may go on and play local rugby and we believe that we can develop both within the system."

Gloucester Rugby has recently given plenty of game time to youngsters in the Premiership and many have also gone out on loan in the Championship. This game time is a real bonus, especially in Covid times as they haven't been playing any other games.

"That's credit to George Skivington," Hogg said. "He's been bold and brave enough to blood a number of young players giving them the exposure and experience of the unique pressure of Premiership rugby. George and his coaching staff have afforded these young players opportunities which bodes well for the seasons ahead.

"Giving these Academy players game time helps the future of the squad as it creates competition for places which naturally drives up the standards of each individual.

"Any club is built on healthy competition," he said. "You want healthy competition within your senior squad so

that your senior players have got to work really hard to stay in front of the young hungry players while also giving youngsters a chance to gain vital experience."

This can be achieved through Premiership game time but also exposure at different levels. If a player can go out on loan, then it's not only an opportunity for the player to show their potential but it also provides a chance for them to share their learnings from the Academy pathway and give back to the rugby community.

"Our relationship with the likes of Hartpury is vital. It's rarely for an U18s player to be able to jump straight into first team rugby – there has to be a

challenging pathway for young players to develop and be ready to take this step up.

"We are going to produce quality players and quality people and we believe that the relationship is twofold. It's about the very best playing out at Kingsholm but also being mindful that the majority of players will go into the Championship or National One and the community game - and hopefully go back and enjoy club rugby and contribute at that level."





GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY WOMEN SQUAD

	POSITION	HEIGHT (CM)	WEIGHT (KG)	DOB
ALDCROFT , Zoe	Lock	181	86	19/11/1996
BELCHER , Becky	Winger			
BLACKBURN , Bianca	Scrum Half	156	64	15/03/1994
BONAR , Sarah	Lock			
BREBNER-HOLDER , Leia	Scrum Half	163	63	26/05/2002
BRIDGER , Sophie	Fly Half	169	75	26/06/2000
BRIGGS , Taylor	Lock			
BROCK , Georgia	Back row	163	78	09/04/2001
BUGGY , Kathryn	Prop	160	87	01/09/1987
BURTON , Maisie	Centre			
COPSON , Tabitha	Back row	166	67	12/05/2000
CRABB , Gwen	Lock			
DICKIE , Elise	Back row	152	73	11/11/2001
FAUX , Charlotte	Back row	165	72	11/11/1998
GABRIEL , Tatum	Lock			
GEORGE , Lleucu	Fly Half	163	91	08/01/2000
GILBERT , Ellie	Hooker	166	82	29/03/1999
HALE , Cerys	Prop	175	98	04/04/1993
HEARD , Tatyana	Centre	164	75	14/01/1995
HOPE , Cara	Prop			
HUNT , Natasha	Scrum Half	165	63	21/03/1989
JONES , Hannah	Centre			
JONES , Kelsey	Hooker			
LAKE , Kerin	Fullback			
LARGE , Ceri	Fly Half	173	73	11/11/1990
LEWIS , Tyler	Lock	184	89	18/05/1998
LEWIS , Bethan	Back row	168	76	19/02/1999
LOCKE , Robyn	Backrow			
LUND , Rachel	Centre	170	73	12/09/1994
MANNS , Charlie-Mai	Fly Half	158	66	04/12/2001
MAUDE , Alicia	Scrum Half			
MILLS , Erica	Back row			
MUNDY , Emma	Fullback			
PERRY , Ellena	Prop	168	88	12/04/1997
PINNOCK , Shya	Back row	171	75	17/12/1998
POWELL , Connie	Hooker	165	88	13/07/2000
POWELL-HUGHES , Shona	Back row			08/07/1991
PROTHERO , Nikita	Fullback	165	66	24/04/2002
RANDALL , Bethany	Winger	168	67	28/12/1999
RILEY , Daisy	Backrow			
ROBSON , Amber	Prop	164	98	27/11/2001
SAMUDA , Ranni	Prop	160	76	15/04/1995
SING , Emma	Fullback	178	73	11/03/2001
SMITH , Kelly	Winger	172	68	21/12/1995
SWAN , Laura	Hooker	165	80	16/03/1995
TANDY , Sophie	Winger	173	75	25/01/1998
TEAGUE , Leah	Winger	173	67	22/06/2001
THICKER , Katie	Winger			
UNDERWOOD , Ellie	Winger	180	69	14/06/1993
VENNER , Mia	Fullback			
WHITCROSS , Anabelle	Hooker	157	73	21/05/1995
WILLIAMS , Jodie	Prop			
WILLIAMS , Sian	Backrow	162	74	26/02/1990
WOOD , Millie	Centre	176	76	10/09/1995

GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY WOMEN

ELLIE UNDERWOOD: “I HATED RUGBY AND HAD NO INTEREST IN IT WHATSOEVER”

GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY'S TRY SCORING SENSATION, ELLIE UNDERWOOD, NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD RUGBY WHEN SHE WAS YOUNGER AND PREFERRED PLAYING FOOTBALL AS SHE WAS GROWING UP. HOWEVER, A TASTER SESSION AT THE LOCAL RUGBY CLUB GOT HER HOOKED ON THE SPORT AND THE REST IS HISTORY.

“I live on a farm that's literally a mile from Drybrook Rugby Club but I'd always played football,” Underwood said. “They had a Nat West day down there that was basically to do the club up and paint the posts and stuff like that. My fiancé, Jim, plays a massive part down there and so we were down there with all of our farm equipment and some of

the girls just said that they were starting up a team. I didn't think anything of it because I hated rugby and had no interest in it whatsoever.

“I went home and told my fiancé that they were starting up a team and told him that I was thinking of giving it a go. He was like ‘no you won't!’ or whatever, so I did!”

Proving Jim wrong turned out to be a great decision and apart from an early stint at lock, Underwood quickly got an appetite for the try line and settled into her position on the wing.

“I had a few training sessions and they told me I was a forward when I first went

down there and said I'd be a second row because I'm tall. I went home and told Jim and he was like ‘what the hell is going on!’

“I trained as a second row and they were lifting me and then Jim kicked off. I didn't have a clue! I thought it was a good thing and that being a forward I would do all of the running. Honestly, I didn't have a clue. I didn't stay there very long and I never played there but actually I quite fancy a game at backrow, I reckon I'd quite like it!”

Underwood quickly impressed and her raw talent was spotted quickly which saw her move up the ranks.

“It just went from there really and I played in a few friendlies down at Drybrook and then we got into the league which was good. We had to play nine games to get into the league which we did and we just grew from there. I was then scoring around 30 tries per season and I was literally loving it and trying to be the top try scorer every season.



"I then became captain down there which was good and ever since I've just wanted to better myself so as soon as Gloucester-Hartpury started up, I was umming and ahing as to whether I should join or not because it was a big step for me. I was 21 at the time and I'm 27 now and actually it isn't that long to get into it really.

"I went to Gloucester to give it a go and I did their inner warrior day and that was a step up, everyone was really good but they invited me up to play a couple of friendlies, so I joined their A team and we played against Bristol and I scored two tries and I just worked my way through and then got into the Premier team."

Underwood has excelled at this level and has gone from "hating" the sport to wanting to know everything about it.

"When me and Jim were first together, my fiancé, I think it was the World Cup and I can remember him watching it screaming at the TV and I was like 'what the hell!?' and I always loved football, I was a massive Leicester City fan so I loved sport but I just didn't get rugby. Even though I was originally from Leicestershire when I was younger, football is big there as well as rugby so I just had no interest and my family wasn't really interested, my brother plays football.

"For me as a sports person, as soon as I do a new sport, I then want to know everything about it and I want to be the best that I can be within that sport so I would then watch games trying to learn the rules because there's nothing worse than a girl who doesn't know the rules."



Underwood has become an inspiration for many youngsters who are wanting to get into the sport and has had autograph requests on multiple occasions.

"We have some girls that follow us at Gloucester-Hartpury and they used to come on and get signatures and stuff and I think that's so cute because for me I don't think that I'm a role model but I guess I am. They're growing up and they want to play rugby and I think they do look up to us and even when I've been to England training camps and we've had crowds people afterwards try to get my autograph and I'm like 'are you joking?! It's only me!'"

It's this accessibility that many believe is key to growing the women's game and there is still more to be done but the live-streaming of the games has been a successful way to get eyes on the sport.

"At the start of this season they said that we were going

to be able to stream more games which is really good. We've had most games streamed now which is really, really good and for people like my mum, who's obsessed, she loves it! And so many people that I know that don't necessarily like rugby, just because they know someone playing means that they want to watch it and they can't believe it. It just helps grow the rugby community and I think it's really important.

"My mum is my biggest supporter and my stepdad as well they travel everywhere so normally they'd travel up, I'd go up with the team on the bus but then go back home with them in the car. So they hate it at the moment because that used to be their day where they could be out watching me play rugby. They miss it but actually because they can watch the livestream, they're pretty happy, they even bought a new TV especially!"

GLOUCESTER RUGBY WERE DEFEATED 25-22 AT THE AJ BELL BY SALE SHARKS IN ROUND 16 OF THE GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP



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What happened?

The Cherry and Whites scored three tries in a close fought effort against the top four side and come away with the losing bonus point.

Jonny May, Santiago Carreras and Willi Heinz all scored and at one point it looked like Mark Atkinson had gone over for the fourth but the TMO ruled that his intercept had come after an accidental offside earlier on in the attack.

Sale Sharks were the first to score after relentless carrying paid off creating space for Faf de Klerk to slide through to get over. The home side also scored through Arron Reed and Marland Yarde and were physical for the full 80 minutes.

A red card to Robert du Preez for a dangerous tackle on Val Rapava-Ruskin gave the Cherry and Whites a way into the game and created a bit of space for the Gloucester Rugby attack to play with.

Santiago Carreras was able to cut a perfect line to slice through the Sale defence and Billy Twelvetrees' conversion added the extra points.

Louis Rees-Zammit was next to launch an attack and threw an offload over his head to Lewis Ludlow who passed to Willi Heinz who was running on at pace to go over the line. Twelvetrees' conversion drew the scores level but a late AJ MacGuinty penalty put Sale ahead come the final whistle.

KEY MOMENT



Jonny May scores on 150th appearance

On his 150th Gloucester Rugby appearance, Jonny May scored an incredible try in which he showed his pace to beat three defenders to the ball to go over and score. Ruan Ackermann had kicked the ball through and May was too fast and managed to be the first man back to get over.



