



CHERRY & WHITES



GLOUCESTER RUGBY v LONDON IRISH

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP
28 APRIL 2021
7.45PM

DIGITAL DOWNLOAD –
FREE FOR THE 2020-21 SEASON





GLOUCESTER RUGBY
 KINGSHOLM STADIUM, KINGSHOLM
 ROAD GLOUCESTER GL1 3AX
 www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk
 Facebook gloucesterrugby
 Twitter @gloucesterrugby

Main Switchboard

01452 872250

Customer Email

customerservices@gloucesterrugby.co.uk

Club President: Fred Reed

PLAYING DEPARTMENT

Head Coach: George Skivington

Team Manager: Sam Raven

Rugby Administrator: Karen Harrington

CLUB MANAGEMENT

Chairman: Martin St. Quinton

CEO: Lance Bradley

COO: Alex Brown

Sustainability Director: Richard Weller

Finance and Operations Director:

Richard Smith

Marketing Manager: Lucy Nottage

Media & Digital Communications

Manager: Tim Rogers

Head of Venue Sales: Angela Sanders

Head of Partnerships: Mike Thomas

Commercial Sales Manager: Tom Adams

Operations Manager: Helen Grayer

Finance Manager: Matt Mulcahy

HR Manager: Zofia Karkola-Lubacha

PROGRAMME

Lead Editor: Louis Shaw

Co-editor: Tim Rogers

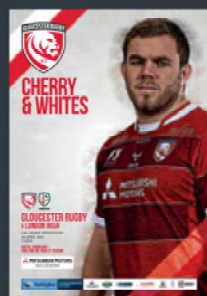
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CEO

LANCE BRADLEY



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANOTHER DIGITAL EDITION OF OUR MATCHDAY PROGRAMME. THIS FORMAT ALLOWS US TO ADD FEATURES THAT 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 ON THIS LINK. SO FAR IT SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL, WITH AROUND THREE TIMES AS MANY DOWNLOADS AS NORMAL SALES OF PHYSICAL PROGRAMMES.

Today we welcome London Irish. But also, finally, we welcome fans back to Kingsholm! So if you're reading this in the stadium, then it's great to see you again. And if you're reading it at home, then we look forward to seeing you either at the Bath game, or at one of the many events we plan over the summer (details will be on our website as events go on sale).

The 20/21 season will undoubtedly go down as one of the strangest ever. Playing without fans in grounds has been really odd, and I think it's fair to say that at Gloucester we have missed our fans more than most.

So many times, especially in the earlier part of the season, we came

within one score of a victory, only to be denied at the end. You can't help thinking that the Kingsholm roar might have been that 16th man and got us the win.

And over recent weeks, with great wins over Exeter and Newcastle Falcons at Kingsholm and over Saints at Franklin's Gardens, it would have been even better had you been there to share those moments with us.

As we've been saying all season, there's a tremendous sense of togetherness in our squad, and across the whole Club, and it's good to see that now been translated into results on the pitch. Hopefully tonight will be more of the same and whether you're watching live or on TV, at home or in a pub, you'll enjoy watching your team and we'll deliver a result we all want.

Thank you so much for your support, especially over this incredibly challenging last year or so. It really has made a huge difference as we've rebuilt the squad and all the activities that go on around it. We do believe we're in great shape for the future, and we can't wait to be able to get fully back to normal with a full Kingsholm.

Together, we are a squad of thousands.

Best wishes,

Lance

**“ WE DO
BELIEVE
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GREAT SHAPE
FOR THE
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WE CAN’T
WAIT TO BE
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TO NORMAL
WITH A FULL
KINGSHOLM**

”



CLUB NEWS



VOTE FOR YOUR PLAYER AND YOUNG PLAYER OF THE SEASON!

VOTING IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2020-21
PLAYER AND YOUNG PLAYER OF THE SEASON IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH STOWFORD PRESS.

George Skivington's first full season as Head Coach of the Cherry and Whites has seen the squad overcome challenges, grow as individuals and become tighter as a team.

Impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, most games have been played behind closed doors and although some results have not gone the way we all would have hoped, there have been plenty of highlights since the season started back in November.

From the number of Academy products playing for the first team to the big wins, like Ulster in the Champions Cup, there are many key moments to celebrate.

Click here to vote for who you think has stood out the most!

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SUPPORTERS RETURN TO THE STANDS

AFTER MONTHS OF PLAYING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, GLOUCESTER RUGBY IS DELIGHTED TO WELCOME SUPPORTERS BACK INTO KINGS HOLM FOR OUR REMAINING TWO HOME MATCHES OF THIS GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP SEASON.

It hasn't been the same without you and we look forward to the roars and cheers as you show your support for the boys on the field.






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




1873

BACK ROW

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

VAL RAPAVA-RUSKIN



PROP

AVAILABLE


LOUIS REES-ZAMMIT



WINGER

BRUNSDON INSURANCE


JORDY REID



BACK ROW

AVAILABLE


TOM SEABROOK



CENTRE

DC DEAN CLOSE
CHELTENHAM
SENIOR SCHOOL

ALEX SEVILLE



PROP

UK PROCESS VALVES

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 CULLMORE GROUP OF COMPANIES

JACK STANLEY



PROP

MITSUBISHI MOTORS


OLLIE THORLEY



WINGER

ROCKET RENTALS

HENRY TRINDER



CENTRE

THE CULLMORE GROUP OF COMPANIES

BILLY TWELVETREES



CENTRE

AVAILABLE


STEPHEN VARNEY



SCRUM HALF

mi works SOUTH WEST LTD

HENRY WALKER



HOOKER

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

JASON WOODWARD



FULL BACK

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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

EON POWER



HEAD OF MEDICAL

WILL CARVALHO



PERFORMANCE CHEF

SHAUN BULLOCK



KIT MANAGER

PETER WALTON



HEAD OF ACADEMY

TOM REYNOLDS



1873

LEAD ANALYST



LONDON IRISH

IN OPPOSITION

LONDON IRISH

LONDON IRISH CURRENTLY SIT 7TH IN THE TABLE HAVING WON SIX OF THEIR 19 GAMES SO FAR THIS GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP SEASON.

The Exiles come to Kingsholm off the back of a close fought 31-12 loss to Exeter Chiefs at their Brentford Community Stadium. Scoring two tries through Ben Donnell and Ben Loader, London Irish proved to be competitive, but Exeter showed their class and were ultimately too good.

It's been a good season for London Irish who seem to have cemented themselves into the midfield of the Premiership and they will be fighting to keep hold of their top eight position to secure Champions Cup rugby for next season.

Irish are a strong side and have a strong mix of experience and youth in their squad who have proved to be able to beat any side on their day. Although recently results haven't been going their way, they will provide formidable competition and it is set to be a mouth-watering contest against Gloucester Rugby at Kingsholm.

Ben Loader

THREE TO WATCH

BLAIR COWAN

Flanker Blair Cowan joined London Irish ahead of the 2013/14 season and made an immediate impression, winning the Player's Player of the Season Award.

The Scotland international, currently the most capped London Irish player in the Exiles squad, has seen it all during his time with Irish and is a key operator in the team.



CURTIS RONA

Curtis Rona made his name with NRL clubs North Queensland Cowboys and Canterbury Bulldogs before switching codes to join Western Force in 2016, where his performances were rewarded with a call-up into the 2017 Australian national squad.

A debut came against New Zealand and included a try, and in 2018 he crossed the country to sign for New South Wales Waratahs, spurning a number of offers from the NRL and overseas to do so.

The centre, who is also comfortable on the wing, joined London Irish before the 2019/20 season, and went on to make 24 appearances in all competitions in his first campaign as an Exiles, scoring four times.



OLLIE HASSELL-COLLINS

Ollie Hassell-Collins came through the AASE programme to earn himself a senior academy contract with London Irish.

Representing England Under-18s in the summer of 2017, Hassell-Collins played in the 2017 Singha Premiership Rugby 7s.

Hassell-Collins has been proving himself in the senior squad ever since, scoring 13 tries in 32 appearances at the conclusion of the 2019/20 season, including an incredible four tries against Gloucester in February 2020.



DIRECTOR OF RUGBY **DECLAN KIDNEY**



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DECLAN KIDNEY JOINED LONDON IRISH IN MARCH 2018 AS TECHNICAL CONSULTANT BEFORE BECOMING DIRECTOR OF RUGBY IN MAY 2018.

Kidney is one of Irish rugby's most successful and celebrated coaches and has legendary status in his native Munster, having guided the province to two European Rugby Champions Cup titles and to a further two Champions Cup finals during his time as head coach at Thomond Park.

In 2002 he joined Ireland's coaching staff and returned to lead the national team in 2008. The Grand Slam he won 2009 was Ireland's first in 61 years and helped earn Kidney the accolade of World Rugby Coach of the Year, which was followed by a quarter-final spot at the 2011 Rugby World Cup.

Kidney was also successful in his earlier international career, coaching Ireland Under-19s to the Under-19 Rugby World Championship in 1998 and Ireland's second team to the 2009 Churchill Cup title.

Since 2013 he has held the position of director of sport and physical activity at University College Cork in Ireland, one of Europe's leading academic institutions.





32-26



What happened?

Gloucester Rugby fell short in a high scoring contest against London Irish. It was a very tight first half and it wasn't an ideal start for Gloucester Rugby who conceded a try within the opening minute after Willi Heinz's box kick was charged down and Blair Cowan went over to score. Paddy Jackson slotted the conversion to give his side a 7-point lead.

However, it wasn't long until the Cherry and Whites were scoring themselves. From the kick-off, Ollie Thorley put serious pressure on the catcher and Jordy Reid collected the ball and tapped it on to Henry Trinder who went over to score. Billy Twelvetrees nailed the conversion to make it level.

Next to strike a blow were London Irish who scored through Ollie Hassell-Collins after a period of good attack from the home side. Jackson missed the conversion meaning that Gloucester Rugby had an opportunity to take the lead with their next score.

Alex Craig got over for the Cherry and Whites and Twelvetrees' conversion gave the side a two-point lead at the break.

After half time, London Irish scored three further tries through Blair Cowan, Agustin Creevy and Tom Parton with Paddy Jackson slotting one conversion and a penalty.

Mark Atkinson got over for Gloucester Rugby, wrestling his way over the line from close range but going into the last three minutes of the game Irish were 32-21 up.

With just a few minutes left on the clock, Alex Craig went over for his second try to give Gloucester Rugby the two losing bonus points meaning the Cherry and Whites reduced the gap to Worcester at the bottom of the league.



GLOUCESTER V LONDON IRISH

THE EXILES HAVE PROVIDED MANY PLAYERS FOR THE IRELAND TEAM OVER THE DECADES, AND ALWAYS PROVIDE GLOUCESTER WITH THE STOUTEST OF CHALLENGES. SEVERAL EXCITING GAMES HAVING RESULTED FROM THIS FIXTURE.

The London Irish rugby club was founded in 1898, as it was felt: "There is a need for a sporting club in London for Irishmen." The newly formed club's first game was played on 1 October 1898 against Hammersmith, and Irish won 8-3. London Irish soon found their feet and fixtures against Blackheath, Rosslyn Park, Saracens and Wasps were soon established. The First World War and the subsequent troubles, impacted negatively on London Irish, and it was not until the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922, that an influx of Irish players began to turn the fortunes of the club around. In the late 20's the commencement of fixtures against Leicester and Cardiff, reflected the club's return to competitiveness.

It was not until 1931 that Irish found a proper home ground at Avenue Road, Sunbury on Thames. It remained the club's ground until 1999, except for World War 2 when it was requisitioned for food production. For one season (1999-2000) Irish shared the Stoop with Harlequins, and from 2000 to 2020, their home games were played at the Madejeski Stadium, Reading. Starting this season London Irish have found a new home at Brentford sharing with the football team.

London Irish were comparative newcomers to Gloucester's fixture list, the first game being played in 1973.

24 NOVEMBER 1973 GLOUCESTER 27 LONDON IRISH 9

Gloucester team: Eric Stephens; John Dix, Bob White, Richard Jardine, Ron Etheridge; Nick Evans, John Spalding; Keith Richardson, Mike Nicholls (captain), Steve Boyle, Phil Winnell, Nigel Jackson, Dave Owen, Jim Jarrett, Dick Smith.

Tries: Dix, White, Smith

Conversions: Stephens (3)

Penalties: Stephens (3)

This was a very good win for Gloucester, as no fewer than nine regulars were missing, playing for Gloucestershire in the County Championship.



Eric Stephens and Steve Boyle

Nevertheless, this was still a very useful combination. Eric Stephens was playing his last season, and would finish up having scored 1559 career points. One very interesting thing a lot of readers will spot, is Steve Boyle playing at prop! This was only his second appearance for the first XV, and he would later, of course, move to the back row where he was very effective and scored a lot of tries. He won three England caps and was a British Lions tourist

20 MAY 2000 LONDON IRISH 40 GLOUCESTER 42

Gloucester team: Chris Catling; Joe Ewens, Terry Fanolua, Chris Yates, Rob Jewell; Simon Mannix, Elton Moncrieff; Adey Powles, Jawad Djoudi, Andy Deacon, Rob Fidler, Ian Jones, Adam Eustace, Kingsley Jones (captain), Ed Pearce.

Replacements: Brian Johnson, Neil McCarthy, Ian Sanders, Mark Cornwell, Byron Hayward, Stefan Sanchez

Tries: Powles (2), Catling (2), Jewell, Eustace, Cornwell

Conversions: Mannix, Hayward

Penalty: Mannix



Adey Powles

This was the last game of the season, and played at the Stoop, which Irish were sharing with Harlequins that season. It was an amazing contest of 13 tries. Gloucester played a quarter of the game with 14 men, having Deacon and Powles yellow carded. From the start it was apparent that both teams were determined to throw the ball about. After 18 minutes a wonderful Gloucester move which involved nearly every player, resulted in a penalty. Adey Powles took a quick one and burrowed over. It was his 74th appearance, and his first try! Although Catling scored before the interval, Irish had also been scoring tries, in fact three of them, and they turned round 25-13 to the good.

In the second half Gloucester produced exhilarating rugby. After 46 minutes Mannix and Yates combined to put Jewell over. Two minutes later Ian Jones stormed up the middle, and eventually Catling crossed. Not to be outdone, Irish responded with three tries of their own, and led 40-25. Yet again the pendulum swung and Eustace scored after selling a dummy, and a length of the field move resulted in a try for Cornwell. Finally, Ian Jones hacked on. Powles gathered and burrowed in for his second try.

Even then Irish could have won, but kicker Jarrod Cunningham missed a penalty from half-way. The final whistle resulted in a pitch invasion from the visiting Cherry & Whites supporters.

21 MAY 2006

EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

GLoucester 36 LONDON IRISH 34 (AET)

Gloucester team: Rob Thirlby; James Simpson-Daniel, Mike Tindall, Anthony Allen, Mark Foster; Ryan Lamb, Peter Richards; Patrice Collazo, Mefin Davies, Jack Forster, Jonathan Pendlebury, Alex Brown, Peter Buxton, Andy Hazell, James Forrester.

Replacements: Ludovic Mercier, Olivier Azam, Adam Eustace, Gary Powell, Luke Narraway, James Bailey.

Tries: Foster, Hazell, Simpson-Daniel, Forrester

Conversions: Lamb, Mercier

Penalties: Lamb (2), Mercier (2)

Another exciting game that went down to the wire. Irish were first on the board with two Barry Everitt penalties, before Foster following up a Tindall kick ahead won the race to the touchdown. Lamb having a good game until injured, converted from the touch-line, and added a penalty before Hazell burst through from a line-out to score. Delon Armitage pulled back a try for Irish, before Lamb and Everitt exchanged penalties before half-time, at which the score was 18-13 to Gloucester.

Soon after the start of the second half, Everitt dropped a goal. Everitt and Mercier with two, exchanged penalties, before Simpson-Daniel intercepted and ran in from 70 yards, with Mercier converting. Gloucester were 12 points ahead, but Irish then set up siege in the Cherry & Whites 22, scoring two close range tries to square the score at 31-31. Everitt only had to kick the conversion and Irish were home, but he missed, and that meant extra-time.

Irish dominated that period but could only score from an Everitt penalty. Then Forrester kicked ahead, but appeared to have overdone it. He followed up with remarkable speed to touch down perilously close to the dead-ball line. Reference was needed to the video to confirm the score. Even then Irish could have won, first by a missed dropped goal from Leguizamon, and then at the very death when Everitt missed with a penalty chance.



James Simpson-Daniel





JACK SINGLETON



"I CAN'T WAIT TO PLAY IN FRONT OF FANS."

It's going to be something special. The return of supporters to the stands of Kingsholm. The roars, the cheers, the memories. The sense of community after so long apart.

Jack Singleton can't wait.

"I've only played in front of fans at Kingsholm during the Ulster game which was obviously a great memory winning that game in the last minute. I can't wait to have them back in and even though it's only a few thousand, I'm sure it will be loud and it will just be nice to have some atmosphere in there again.

"We've played without fans for so long. It will be a weird feeling having them back but once you're in the moment, all you're focused on is the game. It's nice to have the fans there but you're always concentrating on what's next and you're in that moment and your own head space."

Last time out at Ashton Gate the noise was unbelievable. Just in the warm up there were chants and cheers reverberating around the stadium and on Friday night it's going to be a home crowd, something the Cherry and White hooker can't wait for.

"Getting yourself emotionally up there for the game, fans definitely bring an element of that. When you're warming up, that's when you really get to feel the crowd because you're not quite in the game yet and you're still just getting yourself ready. It will be nice to have them there when we're warming up and hopefully hearing the roars."

Singleton initially joined Gloucester Rugby on loan from Saracens but it wasn't long until he had penned a deal to stay at the club full time.

Having initially played for Worcester, Jack's journey to top flight rugby has been one involving a serious love for the sport.

"I started at the age of five at Harpenden Rugby Club. My brother was five years older than me and he was already playing down there so my mum and dad took us down. My mum's nephew used to play for Northampton Saints and my dad played rugby so I didn't really have too much of a choice!

"I loved playing at my local club and I still go back there a lot as I have some really fond memories from there."

At around the age of 17 something twigged in his mind. He realised that he was actually pretty good at playing rugby and it was something he might be able to pursue as a job.

"It was after my GCSE year. I was at St George's School which was a pretty good rugby school and I had the option to go to Oaklands College which was one of the ACE academies tied in with Saracens. I remember chatting with my mum about it and she said that you'll regret not knowing if you don't go.

"So I ended up there and I never even thought that I'd have much of a shot until my final year but then it started to go a bit better and luckily off the back of that I got a contract down at Worcester. It wasn't until pretty late that I thought I'd actually have a shot at it."

Chatting about his journey to where he is now, it is clear that growing up Singleton just loved playing rugby and it is this love that has led to his success.

"If you enjoy the game and love the game then you've got a much better chance of making it. I never had in my head when I was playing back at Harpenden that I want to try and make it or anything like that. It was just about going down there on a Sunday and having fun and seeing your friends. That's what makes you fall in love with the game."



So what's the best thing about being a professional rugby player?

"I just enjoy it! I've got a job where I get to go and hang out with a group of mates and run around and gym and do all that!

"Obviously I have aspirations of trying to play for England but I don't find that I need much motivation when I have so much fun doing the job anyway.

"You've got to take it week by week. For me personally, I play better when I'm relaxed and when I'm enjoying the game. So that's how I try to be in training and in games and hopefully that brings the best out of me."

Off the field, Singleton enjoys gaming with his teammates and is quick to say who he thinks is the best in the squad.

"I play PlayStation which is probably my biggest way to relax. If you have a bad day at training or something like that, you forget about it as soon as you start playing PlayStation.

"I play a bit of Call of Duty and FIFA. I'm alright, I'm not as good as Ruan Ackermann. He's the best in the squad at Call of Duty!

"I played Call of Duty with Jamal. I'm on a PC as well but I played with him for the first time the other night. He's much more

experienced than me on PC! I've only recently converted."

With only three games of the Premiership season left, the Cherry and Whites will be hoping to finish the campaign in as positive a way as possible.

"We haven't set ourselves a target in terms of winning games or points or where we want to be in the table. We sat down two weeks ago as a team and what we came up with was that we just wanted to be the best we can be in these last few games.

"It's not been an ideal season for us and it's not been the best season for us but we are going through a transition. In the last couple of games I think we're starting to see the results of that and now the big thing is to drive the consistency and make sure that's our base line and that's the level of performance we put in and that we never drop below that."

For Jack, these last three games provide an opportunity to get back to full fitness after a tough year with a few injuries.

"A lot of the boys have had a really long season but I've had a bit of rough ride with the injury troubles this year so I still feel like I'm trying to get up to full match fitness and get that sharpness of when you're playing week in week out. I'm trying to get back to that so I'm looking forward to the next three games."



COMMUNITY NEWS

PROJECT RUGBY



AT GLOUCESTER RUGBY, THE CORE OBJECTIVE FOR THE PROJECT RUGBY PROGRAMMES IS TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGE WITH NEW AUDIENCES FROM TRADITIONALLY UNDER REPRESENTED GROUPS. WE HAVE BEEN GOING INTO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO WORK WITH DIFFERENT GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS.

We provide this provision to engage with the community and start creating the opportunities to retain as many participants as we can with the hope of transitioning them into their local clubs and to join the pathway to success and stimulate a lifelong interest in the game. There are opportunities in this programme for all genders, ability, disability and more!

Some of the schools/colleges we have had the opportunity to work with are;

- Crypt Grammar School
- Sir William Romney School
- Katherine Lady Berkeley's School
- Ribston Hall High School
- Malmesbury School
- Gloucestershire Collage

All the participants involved so far have had great spirit in all

sessions and have wanted to learn new skills which has made the programme enjoyable for both the students and coaches. It has been rewarding seeing all participants grow from week to week with some wanting to continue the sport, either looking for the schools to take on a club or identifying local clubs they can join. Gloucester Rugby will help with that process to ensure an easy transition for the individuals wanting to push themselves further.

We have also been working the Mixed Ability Team at Caincross RFC on Monday nights, starting at 6pm – 7/7:30pm. The club is an exciting opportunity for anyone over the age of 16 years to come and join into an inclusive rugby environment, regardless of knowledge, ability or disability. These sessions are a perfect way for participants to get involved in

the sport and give it a go. Family members are welcome to come along and join in too!

The sport provides an adapted set of rules for contact and non-contact players, ensuring every participant can develop new skills, learn about rugby's CORE values and make new friends in a relaxed, sociable environment – this could be for YOU!

Our goal is to Engage, Educate and Inspire the local community giving them a positive social impact and creating new opportunities for all through the sport.

Please, if you would like anymore information around the programme or want to get involved, creating the opportunity for your students, then please email Kelsey Jones: kelseyjones@gloucester rugby.co.uk



ACADEMY SQUAD


OLLIE ADKINS



1873
PROP

AVAILABLE


JACK BARTLETT




PROP

AVAILABLE

GEORGE BARTON



FLY HALF



Electrical Solutions (Bristol) Ltd


SEB BLAKE



1873
HOOKER

AVAILABLE

JENSON BOUGHTON



PROP

AVAILABLE


ARTHUR CLARK




1873
LOCK

AVAILABLE

JACK CLEMENT




BACK ROW




BRUNSDON
INSURANCE

DOM COETZER




FLY HALF




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STOWE

REECE DUNN




FULLBACK



E
H

Electrical & Heating Ltd

JOSH GRAY



BACK ROW

SHEDWEB


LOUIS HILLMAN-COOPER



CENTRE

AVAILABLE


JOE HOWARD




BACK ROW

AVAILABLE

ETHAN HUNT



HOOKER



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Partners
SOLICITORS

MATTY JONES



SCRUM HALF

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CAMERON JORDAN



LOCK

AVAILABLE

ISAAC MARSH



CENTRE

AVAILABLE

ALEX MORGAN



WINGER

AVAILABLE

JACOB MORRIS



WINGER

SHEDWEB

JACK REEVES




CENTRE



Auto Air

TOM STANTON



UTILITY BACK

AVAILABLE

HARRY TAYLOR



1873
BACK ROW

AVAILABLE

FREDDIE THOMAS



BACK ROW

AVAILABLE

TOBY VENNER



SCRUM HALF

AVAILABLE

ACADEMY UPDATE

GLOUCESTER RUGBY U18S UNBEATEN AFTER THREE GAMES



27

AFTER MORE THAN 12 MONTHS AWAY FROM PLAYING RUGBY FOR MANY OF THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY U18S, THE GROUP IS NOW RELISHING THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE BACK GETTING SOME VALUABLE GAME TIME UNDER THEIR BELTS.

Proving that the pathway is looking strong, the U18s have won all three of their games so far this season beating Leicester 18-15, Worcester 31-17 and Wasps 41-17.

There are a few changes to previous years in that the results won't count towards a league this season with the aim instead being to give much needed playing opportunities to the Academy players.

The laws of the game have also been adapted with the fixtures using the law adaptations used within the Allianz Premier 15s competition.

Speaking about the recent win over Wasps, Gloucester Rugby's U18s Head Coach Matt Teague said: "I was very pleased with the performance, the physicality they showed today against a much bigger Wasps side was great and just to see the boys' energy and enthusiasm to want to play was fantastic."



Junior Academy Manager Alex Guest added: "It's obviously pleasing to win but the biggest thing for us is our performances are getting better, so we're scoring more points and defensively we're a lot better than where we started which is testament to the boys asking questions of themselves."

Gloucester Rugby U18s round off their campaign with a trip to Truro College to play Exeter Chiefs on Saturday.



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			
WHITECROSS , 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

MILLIE WOOD: “STICK WITH IT IN THE TOUGH TIMES BECAUSE EVENTUALLY IT WILL BE WORTH IT”

BALANCING LIFE AS A RUGBY PLAYER AND WORKING FULL TIME IS A STRUGGLE THAT MANY OF THE WOMEN WHO PLAY IN THE ALLIANZ PREMIER 15S FACE. GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY'S MILLIE WOOD FACES THE SAME CHALLENGE AND THINGS HAVE BEEN MADE EVEN HARDER FOR HER AS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FORCED HER INTO FINDING A NEW JOB.

“It’s a tough one. For the last year and a half I was a self-employed painter/decorator so being self-employed I was kind of on my own schedule which made it easier to fit in around training but recently with the numerous lockdowns a lot of people are doing their own painting or they don’t want other people in their house so I really struggled to find work.

“As of the beginning of February I actually took a job with an estate agent which is long hours. It’s 8:30 until 18:00 most days and then Tuesday and Thursday I get to leave a little bit earlier to get to training. It’s long hours and coming from being a decorator where I’m out and about and coming into this job where I’m sat behind a desk, I am really enjoying being in an environment where you are working with people.”

Not only is Wood enjoying her life off the pitch, she is also living her childhood dream of playing rugby at the highest level. Having initially grown up watching the sport, she soon become obsessed with it but if it wasn’t for an after school club being set up, there’s a chance that it never would have happened.



"My earliest memories are of coming to Gloucester games with my dad. I used to be much more of a spectator. My brother played down at Old Pats and I used to watch and think 'I'd really like to get involved with this.'

"I played a bit of tag throughout primary school and I'd often play for older age groups just because there weren't many girls so I'd often play in my brother's year, who was two years above me, and that didn't go down well! That almost dried up when I went to secondary school because there was no rugby for girls, and it wasn't until about year 9 when a guy called Ken Cuthbert came in and ran an after-school club for touch rugby for girls and from there we just played local tournaments."

It was this after school club that kept the dream alive.

"There was a big gap after primary school going into secondary school where there just wasn't the opportunity to play, I don't think it was ever going to come until Ken set up that after school club and I'm very grateful to him for doing that because otherwise who knows what I'd be up to now!"

Wood has gone on to have an incredible rugby career so far but the real highlight



is being able to inspire the next generation coming through.

"The other day all the girls who have been involved with England all got a little card in the post. No idea who it was, and I assume it was a young fan and it was really touching that they went out of their way to do that. We're just normal people, we're by no means like the male professionals. It was really touching and that's what's more encouraging for us is the young girls who are coming through and wanting to play and for us to be able to say to them stick with it, it's worth it in the end.

"Stuff like that is becoming more common on Instagram and that might be because as we get older the younger ones start getting social media and things but it's great to see and it only takes one kid for you to feel that it's worth it."

As positive as social media is in these examples, there are also too many examples of negative comments in the women's game and the only thing to do is to try and find a way to use those comments for good.

"It's a bit sad but we're using it in our favour with all of the negative comments that we're getting and that the

controversy of that is kind of causing it's own wave for us. It speaks volumes itself without us even having to take to the pitch just to show people what we get for playing a sport that we love to play it's just... To put that out there and show the negative comments we get is almost more shocking than if they just sat down and watched the game and tweeted that they had a nice time watching it. One day it would be great to have the highlights of the games speak more than the negative comments from the ignorant people. There's a long way to go."

Millie wanted to take the opportunity to give a message to any young women looking to make it.

"When you feel like the outlier or the outcast within a situation where you're in a world that is typically male and you're kind of the odd one out being a girl in that situation, it's only going to show you as a strong person for sticking at it. You will get to the point where you are the person who isn't an outlier and you're a leader in that group and you find other people who are the same as you and you get to the point where you will look back and you'll be glad you stuck with it even in the tough times because eventually it will be worth it."



BRISTOL BEARS GLOUCESTER RUGBY

39
7



34

GLOUCESTER RUGBY STAYED IN THE FIGHT IN THE FIRST HALF AND SHOWED TRUE GRIT NOT TO LET BRISTOL DOMINATE.

The home side were first to get the scoreboard through a Callum Sheedy penalty and it was the Welsh fly-half who slotted another penalty to extend the home side's lead to 6-0 not long after.

Bristol struggled to execute and were unable to finish plenty of try scoring opportunities and seemed to be unable to make the final pass stick.

A length of the field effort was chalked off after the TMO ruled that Kyle Sinckler had dropped the ball on his way over the line.

Just as Gloucester Rugby were looking to start hitting back with some attack of their own, Matias Alemanno was red carded for a dangerous tackle.

Going down to 14 men seemed to gel the Cherry and Whites together and Bristol were held up over the line and stopped from scoring on a few occasions. However, stopping tries came at a cost and Val Rapava-Ruskin was yellow carded for a penalty at the scrum.

Down to 13 men for 10 minutes, the Cherry and Whites couldn't stop the inevitable and Max Malins got over for the Bears with Sheedy's conversion putting the home side 13-0 up.

Santiago Carreras put the Cherry and Whites on the scoreboard just before the break after collecting a perfect pass from Billy Twelvetrees to go over to score. Twelvetrees' conversion made it 13-7 at the break and the two sides were both still very much in the game after 40 minutes.

In the second half, Gloucester Rugby continued to smother Bristol and force knock ons and errors in the Bear's game with the TMO ruling out seven Bristol attempts due to small errors but the flood could only be held back for so long.

Charles Piutau, Ben Earl, Nathan Hughes and Semi Radradra all got over in the second half, securing the bonus point and continuing Bristol's reign at the top of the Gallagher Premiership.





VS



LONDON IRISH

T P C D

				Kyle MOYLE 15
				Louis REES-ZAMMIT 14
				Chris HARRIS 13
				Mark ATKINSON 12
				Santiago CARRERAS 11
				Billy TWELVETREES 10
				Willi HEINZ 9
				Val RAPAVA RUSKIN 1
				Jack SINGLETON 2
				Fraser BALMAIN 3
				Ed SLATER 4
				Alex CRAIG 5
				Ruan ACKERMANN 6
				Lewis LUDLOW (C) 7
				Ben MORGAN 8

REPLACEMENTS

				Santiago SOCINO 16
				Jamal FORD ROBINSON 17
				Jack STANLEY 18
				Freddie CLARKE 19
				Jack CLEMENT 20
				Stephen VARNEY 21
				Lloyd EVANS 22
				Ollie THORLEY 23

POSITION

FULL BACK
RIGHT WING
OUTSIDE CENTRE
INSIDE CENTRE
LEFT WING
FLY-HALF
SCRUM-HALF
LOOSEHEAD PROP
HOOVER
TIGHTHEAD PROP
LOCK
LOCK
BLINDSIDE FLANKER
OPENSIDE FLANKER
NUMBER 8



MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:
Matthew Carley

Assistant
Referees:
Luke Pearce &
Simon McConnell

TMO:
Karl Dickson

Citing Officer:
Grant Seely

T P C D

15 Tom PARTON				
14 James STOKES				
13 Curtis RONA				
12 Phil COKANASIGA				
11 Ollie HASSELL-COLLINS				
10 Paddy JACKSON				
9 Nic GROOM				
1 Will GOODRICK-CLARKE				
2 Agustin CREEVY				
3 Lovejoy CHAWATAMA				
4 George NOTT				
5 Rob SIMMONS				
6 Matt ROGERSON (C)				
7 Ben DONNELL				
8 Albert TUISUE				

REPLACEMENTS

16 Motu MATU'U				
17 Facundo GIGENA				
18 Ollie HOSKINS				
19 Adam COLEMAN				
20 Sean O'BRIEN				
21 Caolan ENGLEFIELD				
22 Jacob ATKINS				
23 Terrence HEPETEMA				

