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**GLOUCESTER  
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**13 | SINGHA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY 7s SERIES | GROUP B**  
THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2015

A FRUITFUL BREEDING  
GROUND FOR  
**FUTURE  
STARS**

KICKING AND SKILLS COACH

**TIM  
TAYLOR**

JOINS THE GLOUCESTER  
SEVENS COACHING TEAM

RUGBY IS BACK AT THE  
**RIO 2016  
OLYMPICS**



MATCHDAY PROGRAMME EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

**COME AND GET IT**  
WITH SPEEDSTER STEPH REYNOLDS



**PREMIERSHIP  
RUGBY  
7s SERIES**



**GLOUCESTER RUGBY 2013 & 2014 PREMIERSHIP RUGBY 7s CHAMPIONS**



# WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTER RUGBY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STEVE VAUGHAN

**GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR THIS EVENING'S POOL STAGES OF THE SINGHA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY 7S SERIES.**

Tonight will be the fourth season in a row that we've hosted the opening English pool stage of this tournament, and every single event to date has produced some thrilling rugby. Hopefully, it will be no different this evening.

The past two seasons, of course, have seen us go on to lift the overall title which has been a terrific boost to the team's preseason preparations. It has given a number of young players a chance to show what they can do, and in many cases has led to them featuring regularly in the first team squad.

Whether we can make it three in a row remains to be seen, but the squad tonight is full of exciting talent and will be keen to maintain our recent excellent record in this form of the game.

After a couple of months without any rugby after last season's tough campaign, it'll be good to see some rugby played here at Kingsholm

again. And I know that the players are looking forward to some match action after the tough preseason!

Compared to 12 months ago, we've actually enjoyed a reasonably settled close season from a playing perspective. If you think back to this time 12 months ago, David (Humphreys) had only started in post on August 1st and Laurie Fisher had yet to arrive due to his Brumbies commitments.

We also had massive player turnover last summer, but have a great deal of continuity coming into this season. A couple of our new signings are yet to arrive, but the other new arrivals have fitted in

well and we've already agreed new contracts with Tom Savage and Charlie Sharples.

However, there has been a lot of activity on other fronts and we're delighted to have a new Main Partner in Mitsubishi Motors, continuing our long and prosperous relationship.

And we also have a new Kit Provider in XBlades Sports. By now, you'll have seen the new home kit, which we produced following consultation with fans and players, and I hope it's as popular with the masses as it is with the players and staff. We're certainly very pleased with it as we are with the whole range.

The partnership with XBlades has also resulted in the opening of our new Megastore at Gloucester Quays, which has enjoyed a fantastic first month of trading. The club shop at Kingsholm will, I hasten to add, re-open following the conclusion of Rugby World Cup under the management of XBlades, and will also feature our 'Rugby by Superdry' range that has been incredibly popular both at the Megastore and online.

On the subject of Rugby World Cup, you may be able to see for yourselves some of the changes we've made to the stadium ahead of the tournament, notably the booths for the coaching teams and the new additional floodlights along the length of the Mira

Showers Stand. By the start of the World Cup we will have actually carried out over 50 new 'behind the scenes' projects although many will not be seen by the casual observer as they are infrastructure or telecoms pieces of work.

continue to move at a pace and I have been representing the club's views on a number of important matters that will impact us all going forward over the summer. You will have read that discussions are ongoing with regards to a new

delivered against.

The Aviva Premiership had record viewing figures in 2014/15 season and, with the World Cup about to attract more people to the game, it is very important that as a collective we continue to improve the product where we can without losing the important aspects of what makes our league so compelling.

We won't be playing another game here until late October as Kingsholm is hosting four Rugby World Cup fixtures plus a Rugby World Cup warm up game between Georgia and Japan on September 5th. It's a real privilege of course, but does mean that we'll be playing our two 'home' West Country Challenge Cup games at the Memorial Stadium in Bristol.

Whilst it isn't Kingsholm, we feel that this is the best possible solution in the circumstances and we're confident that we'll still enjoy terrific support at the Mem against two of our closest rivals.

So, it just remains for me to say 'Welcome Back' and to thank you for your ongoing support of Gloucester Rugby.

*Let's make it a season to remember!*

**Steve**



And, although it seems quite a while ago now, we hosted two massively successful concerts with Madness and Elton John playing Live at Kingsholm in front of huge crowds.

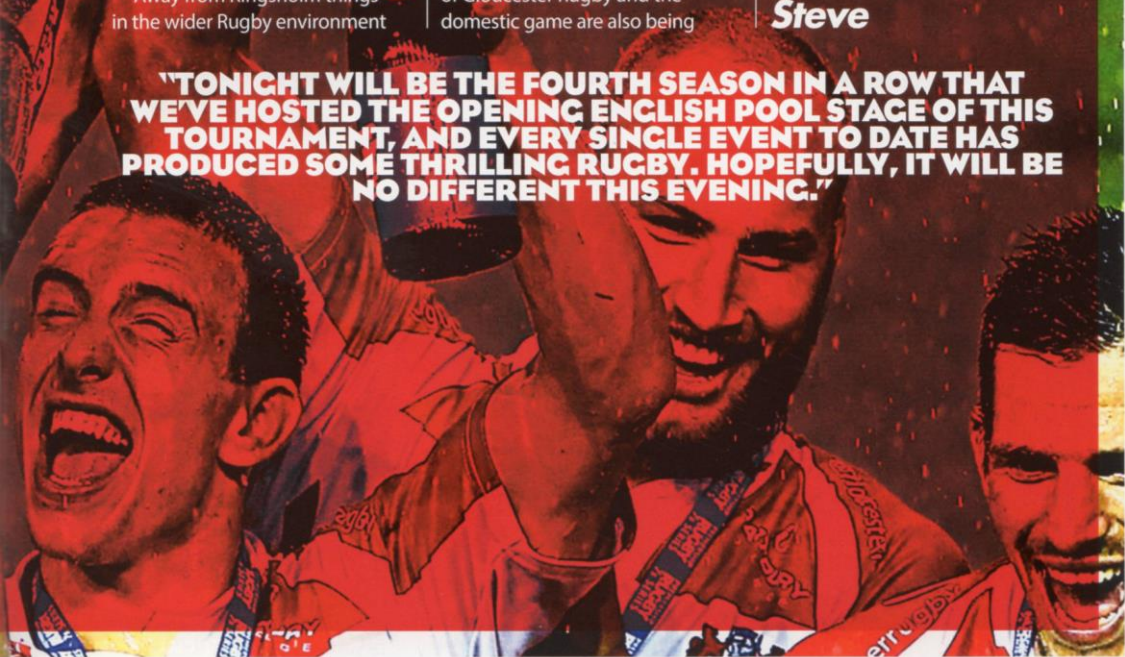
As you can see, it's been a real hive of activity ahead of what promises to be an incredibly exciting season.

Away from Kingsholm things in the wider Rugby environment

RFU Heads of Agreement and the implications of that and other debates that are ongoing are very important to us.

We are committed to continuing a strong relationship with the RFU and ensuring that English Rugby is in a strong position for the foreseeable future, but we also have to ensure that the objectives of Gloucester Rugby and the domestic game are also being

**"TONIGHT WILL BE THE FOURTH SEASON IN A ROW THAT WE'VE HOSTED THE OPENING ENGLISH POOL STAGE OF THIS TOURNAMENT, AND EVERY SINGLE EVENT TO DATE HAS PRODUCED SOME THRILLING RUGBY. HOPEFULLY, IT WILL BE NO DIFFERENT THIS EVENING."**





# WELCOME TO THE 2015 SINGHA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY 7s

PREMIERSHIP RUGBY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MARK McCAFFERTY

**WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR THE SECOND GROUP IN THE 2015 SINGHA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY 7s SERIES.**



**This is the third time that Gloucester has hosted one of the 7s rounds and it is always a fantastic occasion. Last year saw 211 points and 33 tries scored.**

The 2013 and 2014 7s Champions, Gloucester Rugby, will be hoping that Kingsholm remains a 7s fortress as Bath Rugby, Exeter Rugby and London Irish aim to take their crown.

Premiership Rugby has been at the forefront of the worldwide development of 7s in the club game with our 12 clubs showing the vision to create this tournament six years ago. Equally, we're delighted that the partnership between Premiership Rugby and Pro Rugby Wales continues after last year's successful event.

With the skills, fun and excitement

of the 7s game it's no surprise that it's becoming increasingly popular and high profile ahead of it becoming an Olympic Sport in Rio in 2016.

The 2015 Premiership Rugby 7s

on Saturday 22 August at Kingston Park are Leicester Tigers, Sale Sharks and Worcester Warriors who will take on the hosts Newcastle Falcons in Group D.

**'THIS TOURNAMENT IS BRILLIANT AND IT'S A GREAT SHOWCASE FOR A LOT OF YOUNG TALENT COMING IN - NOT JUST AT GLOUCESTER BUT NATIONALLY AS WELL.'**

OLLY MORGAN, GLOUCESTER RUGBY 7s COACH

Series is split into four qualifying group stages contested by all 12 Premiership Rugby clubs and the four Welsh Pro teams, culminating in a Series Final for the best teams.

The Wales leg took place on 15 August and after tonight the 7s Series moves to the Ricoh Arena for Group C featuring Harlequins, Northampton Saints, Saracens and Wasps. Completing the group stages

The two teams who top each group will take part in the Series Final on Friday 28 August at the Twickenham Stoop.

Live television cameras bring another dimension and add to the occasion. All four groups of the Singha Premiership Rugby 7s Series and the Final are televised live on BT Sport, with highlights in what will become our regular Sunday evening slot on ITV4.

Last year's group at Kingsholm was a fantastic day with six thrilling derby clashes and tonight will again give us the chance to see some of Premiership Rugby's brightest rising stars in action demonstrating all their running rugby skills.

With three hours of fast paced rugby ahead of us, thank you for your support of the Singha Premiership Rugby 7s Series. I hope you enjoy the evening and it whets your appetite to be at the Series Final on Friday 28 August at Twickenham Stoop to see who is crowned 2015 champions.

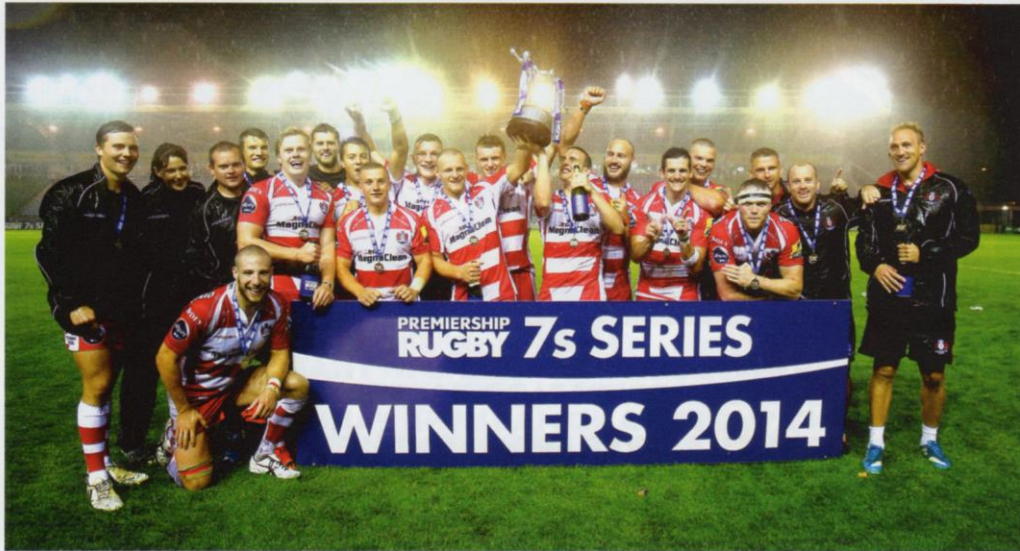


**Mark**

# HOW THE TITLE WAS WON IN 2014

BY CHRIS BAILEY

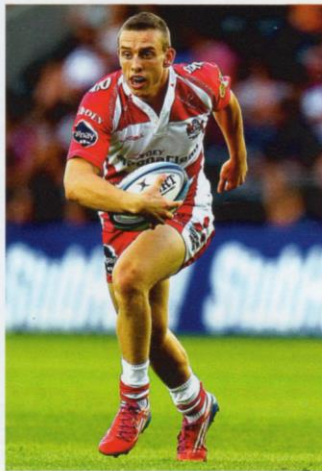
**IF IT'S WORTH PORING OVER ANY PREMIERSHIP SIDE'S TAPE, TACTICS AND TINKERING IN THE SHORTENED CODE AHEAD OF THIS YEAR'S SINGHA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY 7s, IT'S GLOUCESTER RUGBY.**



**THE competition's only been running for five years but the Cherry & Whites are fast developing into the team that all-comers are itching to beat, clinching back-to-back titles in 2014 after they were rarely ruffled on their way to glory.**

Steph Reynolds, who has been one of the stars to emerge from the tournament over the last two years, touched down twice on finals day at the Stoop – while fellow winger Henry Purdy hinted of what was to come.

Purdy, who had just signed from Leicester Tigers, crossed over in the 12-5 final triumph over Newport



Gwent Dragons and the 21-year-old went on to become one of the success stories in Aviva Premiership Rugby last season with seven tries.

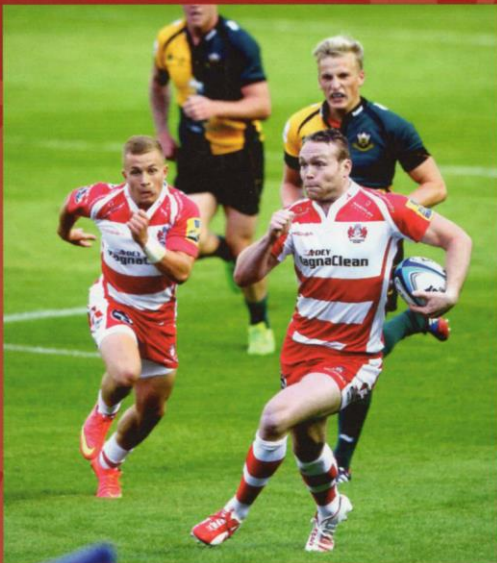
Bill Meakes clearly made a similar impression on the staff at Kingsholm during the tournament, another key member of the Sevens squad who then seized his chance in the first-team.

But, though they were victors once more, Gloucester were not the only entertainers to grace the Sevens stage in 2014.

Starting at BT Sport Cardiff Arms Park, Group A was an all-Welsh affair as the four Welsh regions were invited to participate for the first time.

# CHERRY & WHITES MAKE IT BACK-TO-BACK SEVENS' TITLES AT THE STOOP

AFTER SECURING QUALIFICATION FOR THE SERIES FINAL FOLLOWING THREE WINS OUT OF THREE AT THE KINGSHOLM POOL STAGES, OLLY MORGAN AND JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL'S SEVENS CHARGES TOOK ON THE BEST OF THE COMPETITION AT THE STOOP IN THE SERIES FINAL.



**THE Cup Quarter-Final saw them take on Northampton Saints, and the Cherry and Whites blew their opponents away with a stunning 50-5 victory.**

Bill Meakes opened the scoring as the Cherry and Whites ability to hold onto possession and be feverish in defence saw them overpower the Franklin's Gardens outfit.



Smart running lines and balance from Rhodri McAtee paved the way for Dan Thomas to canter over before McAtee himself bravely slid over

in the corner.

The half wasn't even over before Meakes strolled over for his second from the restart.

Henry Purdy continued to impress, stepping his way over to start the scoring in the second half, before scrum half Ben Vellacott scooted over after good awareness from Sam Showering.

There was still time for the Cherry and Whites to continue the scoring, Oly Thorley and Lloyd Evans combining for the latter to canter over. Vellacott finishing off the scoring and bringing up the half century. A perfect start to the night.

The Cup semi final was a far closer contest as the rain began to fall in South West London, with Cardiff Blues the opponents.

Meakes picked up his third of the night to open the scoring, before the Blues hit back through Dan Fish. Purdy then showed excellent acceleration to swoop on a loose ball and run the length, but again Fish responded for the Welsh club.

Trailing by two points, the Cherry and Whites needed a response, and Steph Reynolds delivered, running the length of the field, and beating the whole Cardiff team to slide over for a memorable score.

The win was secured by Showering, who collected the restart to calmly dot down and secure a place in the final against the Dragons.

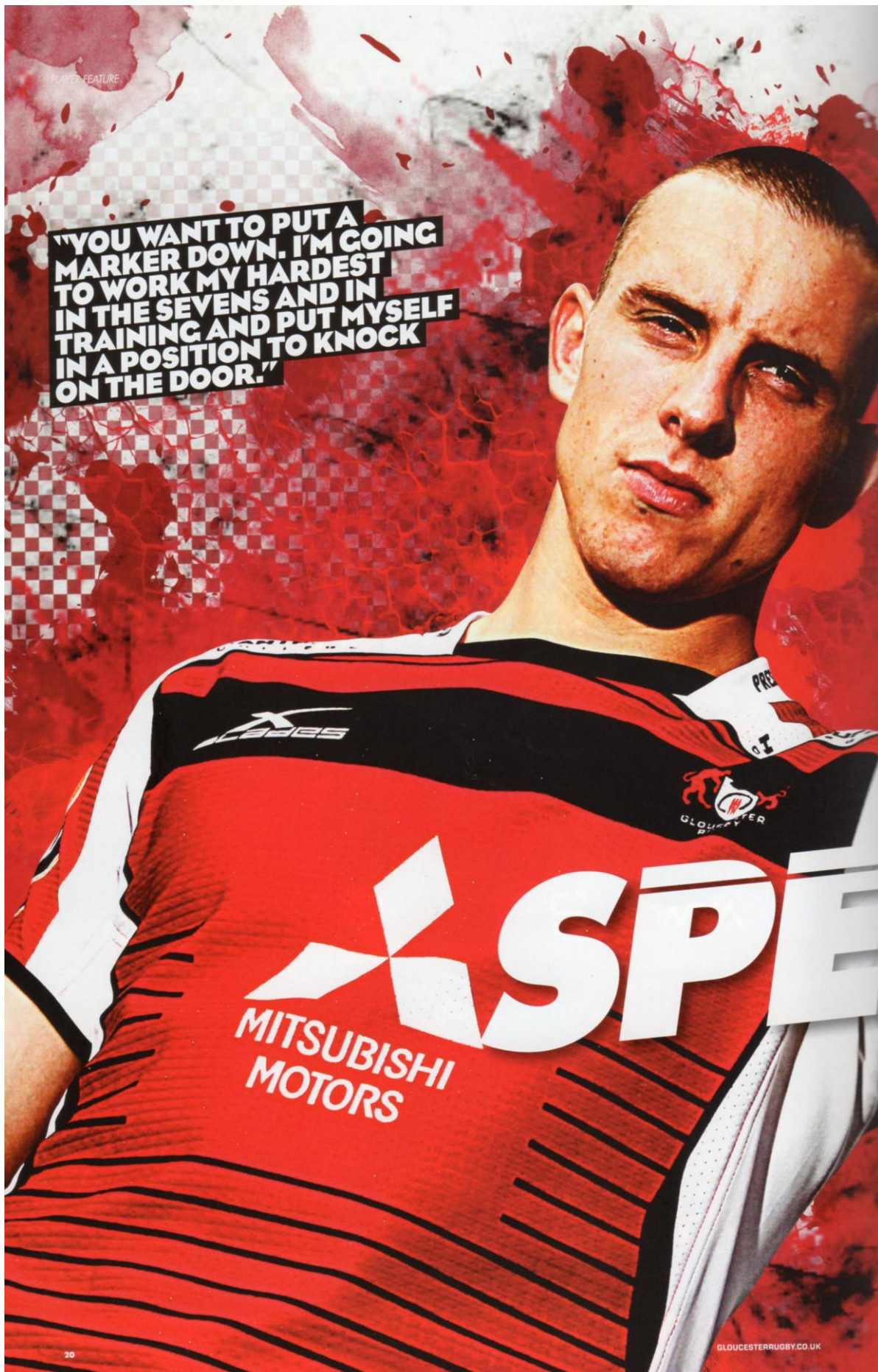
The torrential rain was making the scintillating, high-octane action, and handling was difficult.

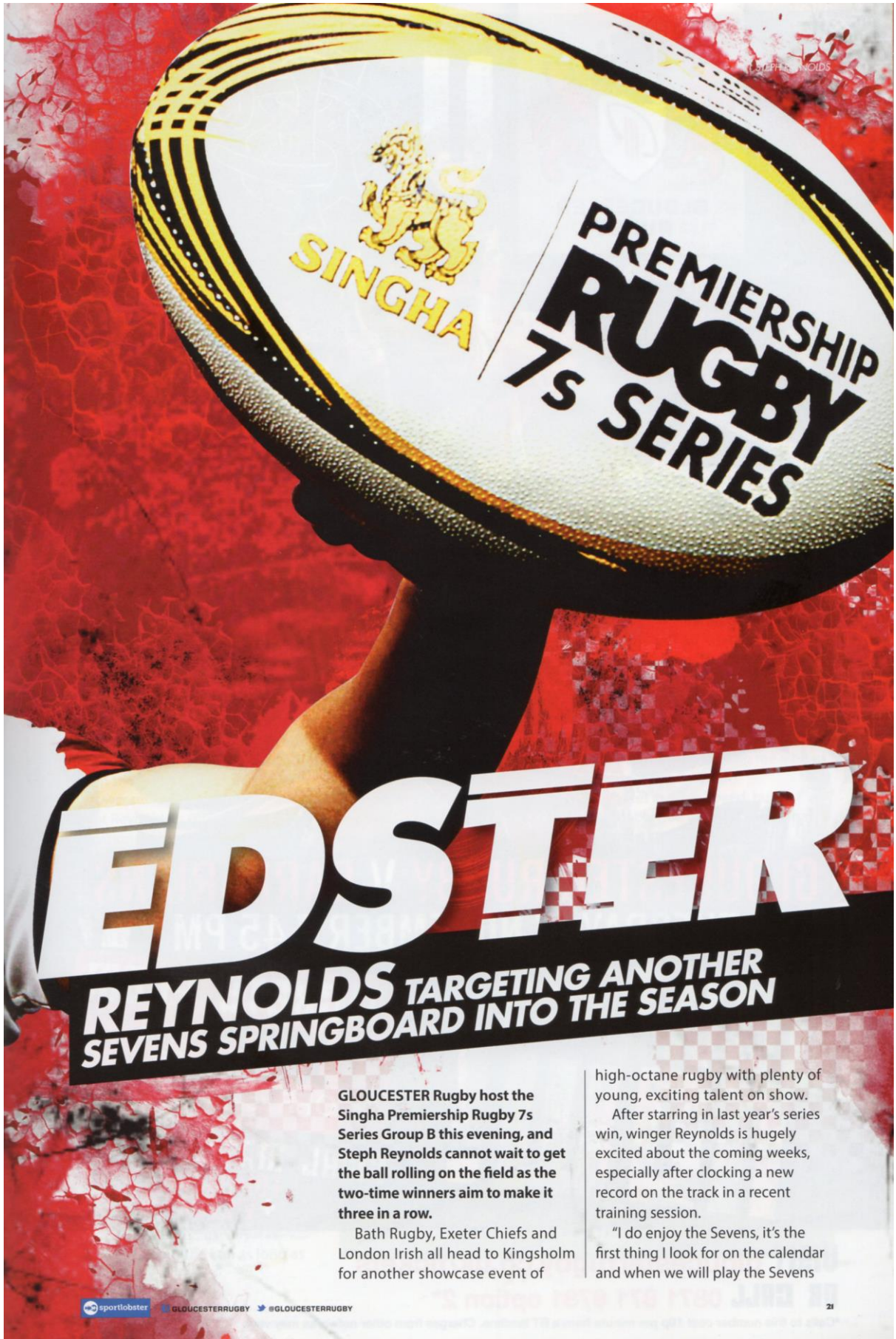
Purdy slid over to open the scoring after bright ball retention, before Reynolds raced over for his seventh of the competition.

Dragons hit back to bring the contest within a score, but the young Cherry and Whites held on, to record back-to-back titles in the Premiership Rugby 7s Series.

PLAYER FEATURE

**"YOU WANT TO PUT A  
MARKER DOWN. I'M GOING  
TO WORK MY HARDEST  
IN THE SEVENS AND IN  
TRAINING AND PUT MYSELF  
IN A POSITION TO KNOCK  
ON THE DOOR."**





# EDISTER

## REYNOLDS TARGETING ANOTHER SEVENS SPRINGBOARD INTO THE SEASON

**GLOUCESTER Rugby host the Singha Premiership Rugby 7s Series Group B this evening, and Steph Reynolds cannot wait to get the ball rolling on the field as the two-time winners aim to make it three in a row.**

Bath Rugby, Exeter Chiefs and London Irish all head to Kingsholm for another showcase event of

high-octane rugby with plenty of young, exciting talent on show.

After starring in last year's series win, winger Reynolds is hugely excited about the coming weeks, especially after clocking a new record on the track in a recent training session.

"I do enjoy the Sevens, it's the first thing I look for on the calendar and when we will play the Sevens





**"IT'S GUT-BUSTING BUT IT IS A PERFECT ACCOMPANIMENT TO OUR PRESEASON PREPARATIONS SO WE HAVE TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT, BUT IT DOES TAKE AN AWFUL LOT OUT OF YOU!"**

tournament, especially this year again with it being at Kingsholm.

"I've been lucky enough to play two of the pool stages in front of the home crowd, and hopefully I can play in a third.

"It's always a rocking atmosphere, and I'm thoroughly looking forward to it this year."

In the past two summer showcases, it could be suggested that Reynolds is Gloucester's secret weapon in the shortened version of the game, but after five tries in last summer's pool stages alone, he could find himself as a marked man!

"I don't know too much about that! Every team has some great players that have a lot of exciting talents to show, this year I am focusing on hopefully bagging a few more tries and looking to help the team make it three years in a row."

Reynolds has been a stand out star over the past two years of the Premiership Rugby 7s Series, scoring multiple memorable tries from distance as the young Cherry and White charges have excelled in the season curtain-raiser. But what is the secret?

"No real secret, usually it is about keeping the ball as long as

you can, working hard in defence as you do in attack, and usually you will be okay!

"It's gut-busting but it is a perfect accompaniment to our preseason preparations so we have to make the most of it, but it does take an awful lot out of you!"

With the Singha Premiership Rugby 7s Series providing that springboard into the season, Reynolds is fully aware of the impression he can make going into the new campaign.

"Sevens is great fun and everything but you are looking to impress and force yourself into the first team squad and impress the coaches, in what is your first chance to do so.

"You want to put a marker down. I'm going to work my hardest in the Sevens and in training and put myself in a position to knock on the door.

"We still have some quality wingers in the squad, Jonny, Charlie, Purds and David Halaifonua are quality

players and I learn a lot from them, so hopefully I can keep working hard and put myself in the mix."

Speaking following a track session at the Blackbridge Jubilee Athletics Track in Gloucester, Reynolds revealed he had just recorded a club record time on the 100m of 10.4 seconds. Not bad practice with the Sevens just weeks away as he modestly accepts!

"It is a good boost to do that, but more of a boost to know that I beat Charlie as he was giving me a bit of banter before we ran.

"I feel in great speed, but probably due to the tailwind that we had behind us, pushing us forward!"



**TIM TAYLOR**

**PLAYING CAREER**

Position: Fly-half

**Professional Clubs:**

Tasman Makos

Crusaders

Leicester Tigers

Saracens

Nottingham

Gloucester Rugby | 41apps | 171pts



# TAY

TIM TAYLOR

# LOR MADE

**THE CHERRY AND WHITE EFFORT IN THIS SUMMER'S SINGHA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY 7S SERIES WILL BE LED BY TIM TAYLOR AND OLLY MORGAN, AND WITH MORGAN GOING FOR HIS THIRD TITLE IN A ROW, TAYLOR IS EMBARKING ON HIS FIRST SERIES ON THE SIDELINES AT TONIGHT'S EAGERLY ANTICIPATED RETURN TO ACTION.**

**TAYLOR, who operates as the club's kicking and skills coach, as well as honing the future stars in the Academy backs, is hugely excited by the challenge ahead, especially with back-to-back titles to defend.**

**"It's good to be on the other side again this year, I've worked for the**

last three years with the Sevens squad now, alongside Ollly Morgan, who heads the Sevens setup here.

"It is great to be learning each year for how we can adapt things and make things better, focusing on what went well. It is a big learning curve for me, especially being new

**"YOU JUST WANT TO BE OUT THERE PLAYING WITH THEM. WHEN THAT SHED IS FULL, ESPECIALLY AT BIG HOME GAMES"**

to coaching, it's a good experience with managing the players around the games."

Rugby World Cup 2015 means that the preseason has been a unique challenge for all of tonight's teams, with the return to the Aviva Premiership still just over three weeks away.

But Taylor has highlighted the ability, this year, to focus on the key areas and slowly introduce the idea of Sevens to complement the squad's preparations.

"With the elongated preseason we are experiencing this summer, there is a lot of chance for the squad to get to work and focus on their skills, so in our latest block of three weeks, the boys have been returning to their core basics with some Sevens focus thrown in.

"We have been able to get three sessions in with our Sevens squad, as well as the work they have done to accompany their normal sessions.

"Slowly and slowly, we have been able to get our focus onto Sevens, the closer we have got to the tournament."

With the Singha Premiership Rugby 7s Series providing another night of high-octane action, the players will be pushing themselves to the limit in the sunshine with fourteen minutes of non-stop action, with a try scored on average, every two minutes!

But how do the two formats of the game differ?

"The basics of fitness and strength are pretty much the same, what you have to do in Fifteens, you can do in Sevens. Obviously the body type changes for that, and we will try to have a lot more speed in the squad throughout positions.

"We also have backs playing in the forwards in Sevens, just to try and get that speed across positions. You need that size in that area too, of course.

"Game play, there is a lot more off the cuff rugby, a lot more heads up and one on ones and loads more space for the boys to do their stuff in really.

"It's a totally different game and you get some boys who play Sevens a lot, they adapt to it a bit quicker, and you get some boys who are new to the game, but it is a great learning curve for them. A lot of the





TIM TAYLOR

**"WE ALWAYS TAKE IT VERY SERIOUSLY, AND EVERY TIME THAT SOMEONE PUTS ON A GLOUCESTER RUGBY SHIRT, WE WANT TO WIN, AND WE WANT TO MAKE IT A TOUGH PLACE FOR TEAMS TO COME."**

skills they use in the full format of the game, will be highly beneficial in the Sevens game."

As kicking coach, Taylor has been the first on and last off the training field in recent seasons, but how does he adapt his knowledge and expertise to helping lead this summer's Sevens squad.

"Only kick if you have to, as a very last resort! If there is a lot of space, you can kick ahead, but it is a lot more ball in hand.

"The skill to look at, is the rule of taking a drop goal for your conversions, and in high scoring games, these can be crucial.

"So as we have got closer to the tournament and finalised our squad, we have identified who will be taking our conversions and adding in a bit of fine tuning to ensure we can give ourselves the best chance in those areas."

With the Singha Premiership Sevens Series again providing a perfect showcase for the Cherry and Whites' young talent to thrive, Taylor is fully aware of the opportunity ahead, and the springboard it can present going forward.

"Looking out over Kingsholm, and throughout the last four years we have had 10-12,000 supporters here, all behind Gloucester, which is amazing for these young boys

coming through.

"For the boys in the Senior Academy working towards the Senior squad, this is a perfect opportunity to experience Kingsholm and to perform in front of that crowd, and get used to what The Shed is like.

"It also provides the coaches with a great insight to how the boys respond on such an exciting stage.

"Over the last year, the club has seen a number of players push themselves forward into the first team, and they used the Premiership Rugby 7s as that springboard and we had three players who performed in the Sevens who consistently were involved in the first team.

"We've got the likes of Billy Meakes, Henry Purdy and Callum Braley to name but three, who got their first taste of action at Kingsholm and then went on to impress.

"Meakesy played close to thirty games last season, and just playing those early games at Kingsholm really does give you that confidence that those young lads need."

The appetite for Sevens amongst the Gloucester Rugby supporters continues to grow, with another bumper crowd expected to pack out Kingsholm Stadium again this

evening, but does that come with any added pressures, especially after back-to-back Series victories?

"We always take it very seriously, and every time that someone puts on a Gloucester Rugby shirt, we want to win, and we want to make it a tough place for teams to come.

"To have the Sevens here, in preseason in front of our own crowd, and to welcome other Aviva Premiership teams, if we can lay a marker down for later in the season then we see that as a big advantage for us.

"It's going to be a great night, and we want to win it, and progress to the Series final at The Stoop."

And how about retirement for Taylor, how is it being back in front of the Kingsholm crowd? It's definitely an experience that stirs the emotions!

"I've had a lot of people ask me this since I announced that I would be retiring. I probably get more nervous on the sideline watching the boys than when I was playing.

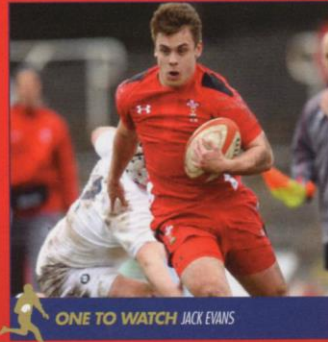
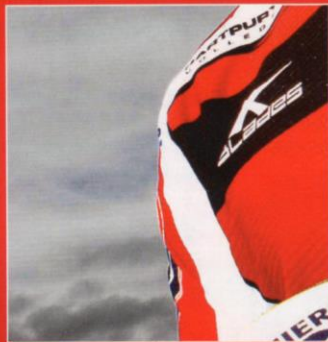
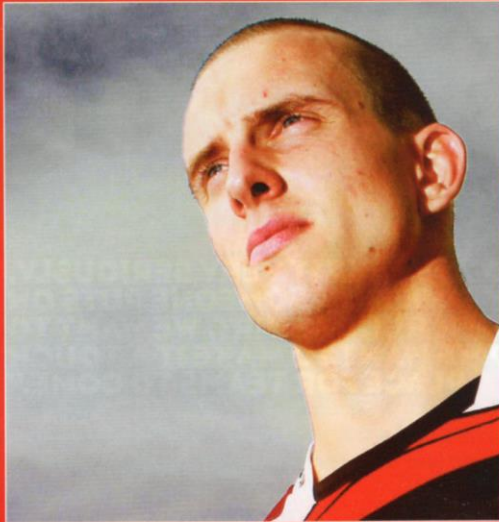
"You just want to be out there playing with them. When that Shed is full, especially at big home games, and when I speak to opponents, they do say what a special atmosphere we have, and I cannot wait to experience that again at the Singha Premiership Rugby 7s!"

GROUP B CLUBS



SINGHA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY 7S SERIES

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY



ONE TO WATCH JACK EVANS



## 24

2014 PREMIERSHIP RUGBY 7s GROUP STAGE PTS AGAINST



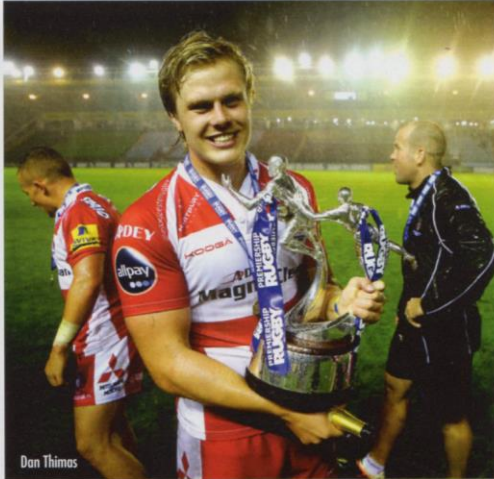
## 12

2014 PREMIERSHIP RUGBY 7s GROUP STAGE TRIES TOTAL

## 70

2014 PREMIERSHIP RUGBY 7s GROUP STAGE PTS TOTAL

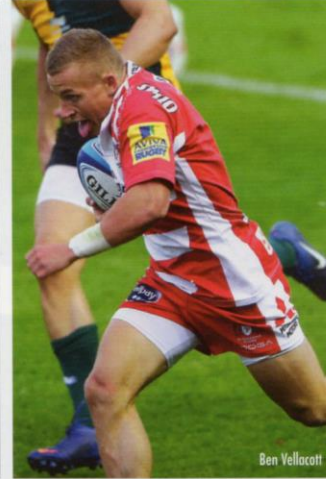
**THE SINGHA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY 7S HAS BEEN TO LAUNCH PAD IN RECENT SEASONS FOR YOUNG CHERRY AND WHITE STARS TO BURST ONTO THE SCENE, AND THIS SUMMER'S SQUAD COULD BE THE FIRST CHANCE TO CAST THE EYE OVER THE NEXT GENERATION AT KINGSHOLM.**



Dan Thomas

will captain the side, with further Sevens' experience being provided by back rows **Gareth Evans** and **Dan Thomas**, centre **Mark Atkinson**, and full back **Steve McColl**.

There will be a first chance to impress in a Cherry and White shirt for senior Academy



Ben Vellacott

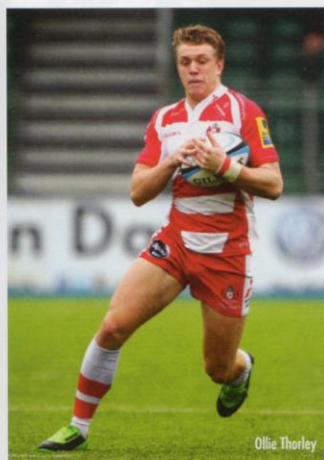
**GLOUCESTER RUGBY** can confirm their squad for this Thursday's Singha Premiership Rugby 7s at Kingsholm Stadium with **Steph Reynolds** captaining the Cherry and Whites.

Bath Rugby, Exeter Chiefs and London Irish head to Kingsholm for one of the highlights of the rugby calendar, with a bumper crowd expected to cheer on Olly Morgan's home side who will be looking to defend their back-to-back titles.

Steph Reynolds, who crossed for seven tries in last summer's series, including five in the pool stage,



Joe Mullis



Ollie Thorley

forwards **Will Safe** and **Joe Mullis**, and backs **Jack Evans**, **Elliott Creed** and **Ollie Thorley**.

The squad is completed by two stars of last summer's competition, with age group international halfbacks **Lloyd Evans** and **Ben Vellacott** looking to continue their impressive form from this summer's World Rugby Under 20 Championships.

Olly Morgan, who leads this summer's Sevens charge expressed his excitement to see the squad on the field, in front of a full house this Thursday evening.

"The Singha Sevens tournament

has shown over the past few years what a useful stepping stone it is for our young players, and this squad has massive scope to make an impact on the first team in the coming months.

"We have complimented our up and coming young players with some experience from the first team, in what is a really important development opportunity for them.

"This summer, after winning the last two, there is a bit of pressure on us, but there is always some pressure when we play in front of our home crowd, and no doubt it will be a massively beneficial experience for the squad."