

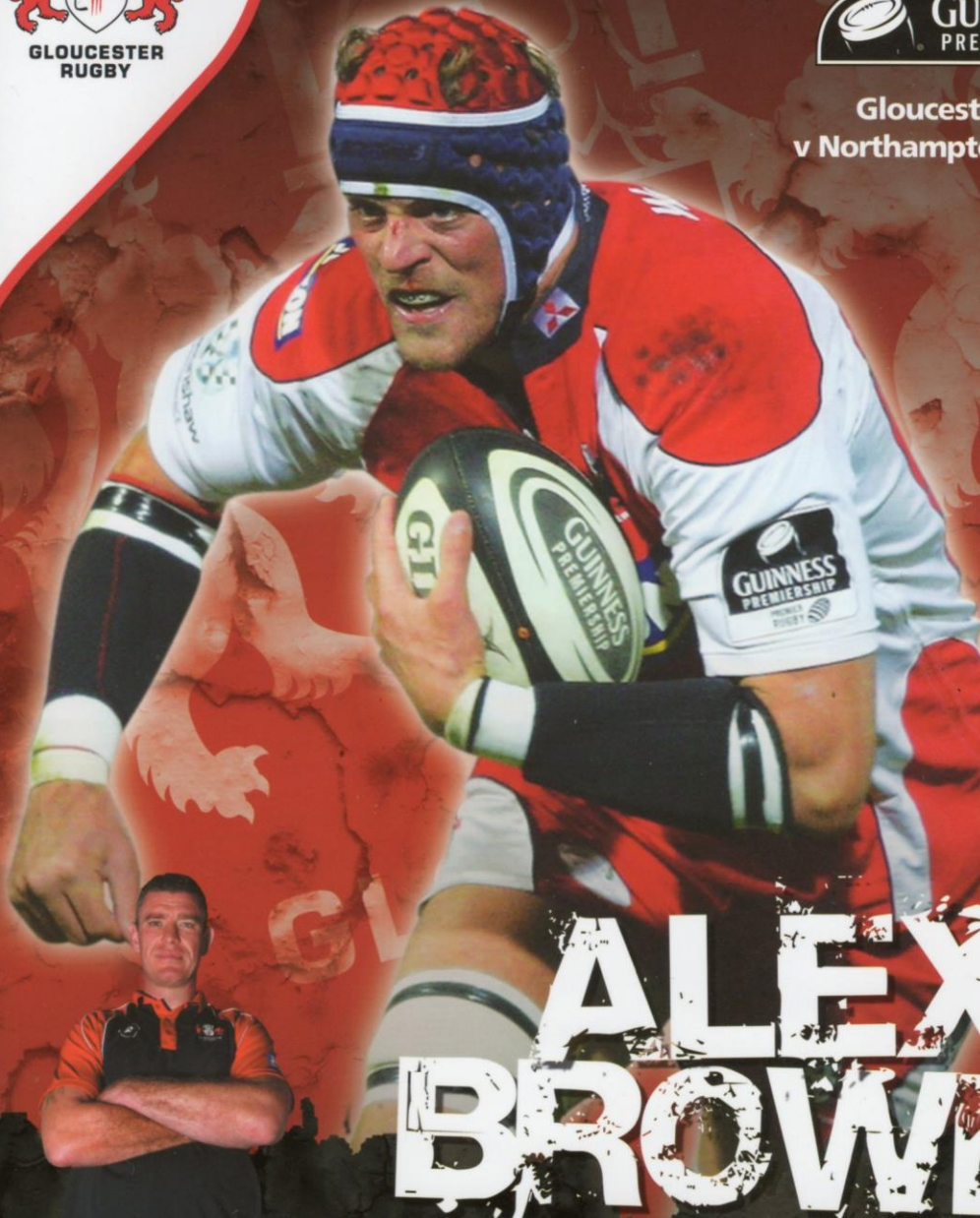


OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF GLOUCESTER RUGBY 2008/2009 ISSUE 08 • £3.00



Gloucester Rugby  
v Northampton Saints

29.11.08 16.30



# ALEX BROWN

**DEAN RYAN**

head coach looks back at Bristol

**MIKE TINDALL**

Hard work is the key

**NORTHAMPTON SAINTS**

All you need to know

**GET TO KNOW**

Jack Forster

**PLUS:** Fans Zone, Dave King, Peter Arnold and much more.

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## CAPTAIN'S CORNER



PEOPLE have asked me what the secret of our turn-around has been in the last couple of weeks.

And while I have agreed that our form has improved recently, we have hardly been in a terminal crisis as nine wins from 12 games would testify.

But there is no secret other than hard work, belief in what we are trying to achieve and the fact we have a group of players who are desperate to succeed.

We took more important steps forward last Friday against Bristol and although we scored five tries, felt we could have won by an even more conclusive margin had we pressed home our advantage in the last quarter.



**Friday's result was important but we have to follow that on this afternoon and then when we move back into the Heineken Cup next week. Northampton are a very decent side and will probably look to play more than Bristol did which means they will pose different problems.**



What the last month has given us is exceptional competition for places during the autumn international period. Scrum-half Dave Lewis has emerged as a genuine Premiership-quality performer and with the likes of Anthony Allen, Will James and MJ returning from injury, our

squad suddenly has a real depth to it at a crucial stage in the season.

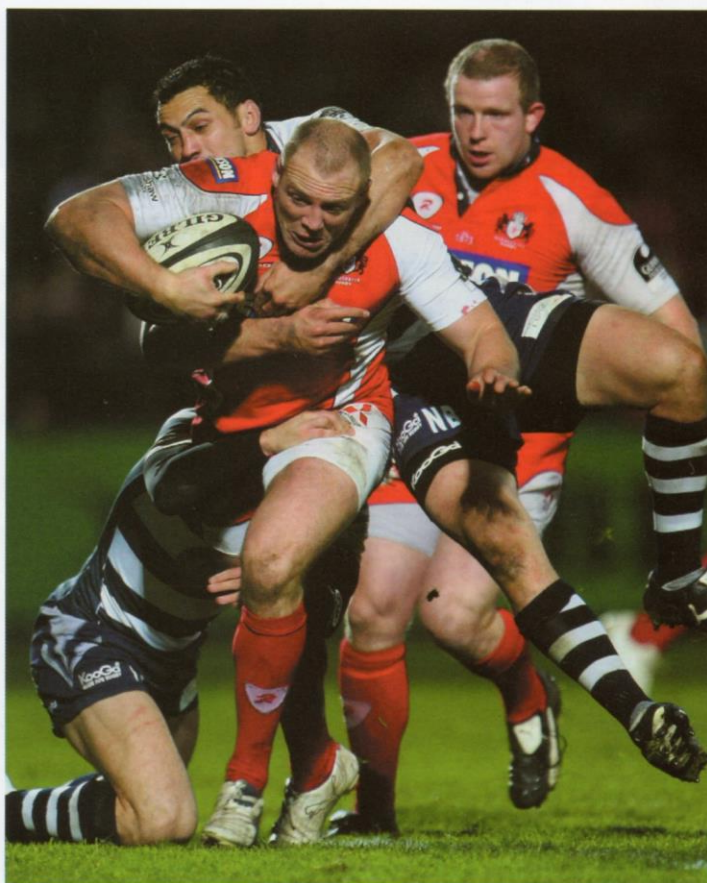
At the same time we have managed to re-discover our movement game, have got Lamby on the ball more frequently with runners off him and have been a genuine and concerted threat for long periods in matches.

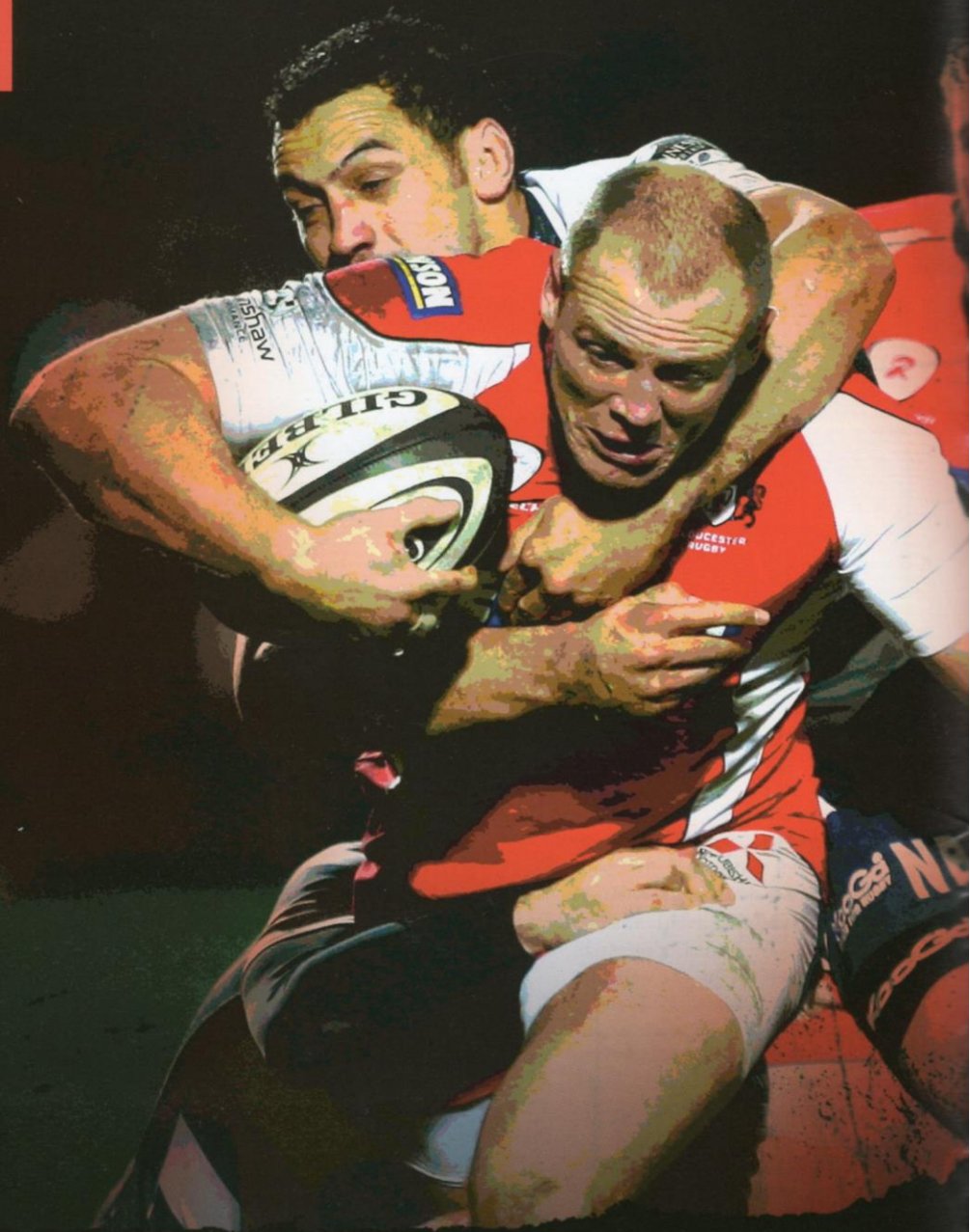
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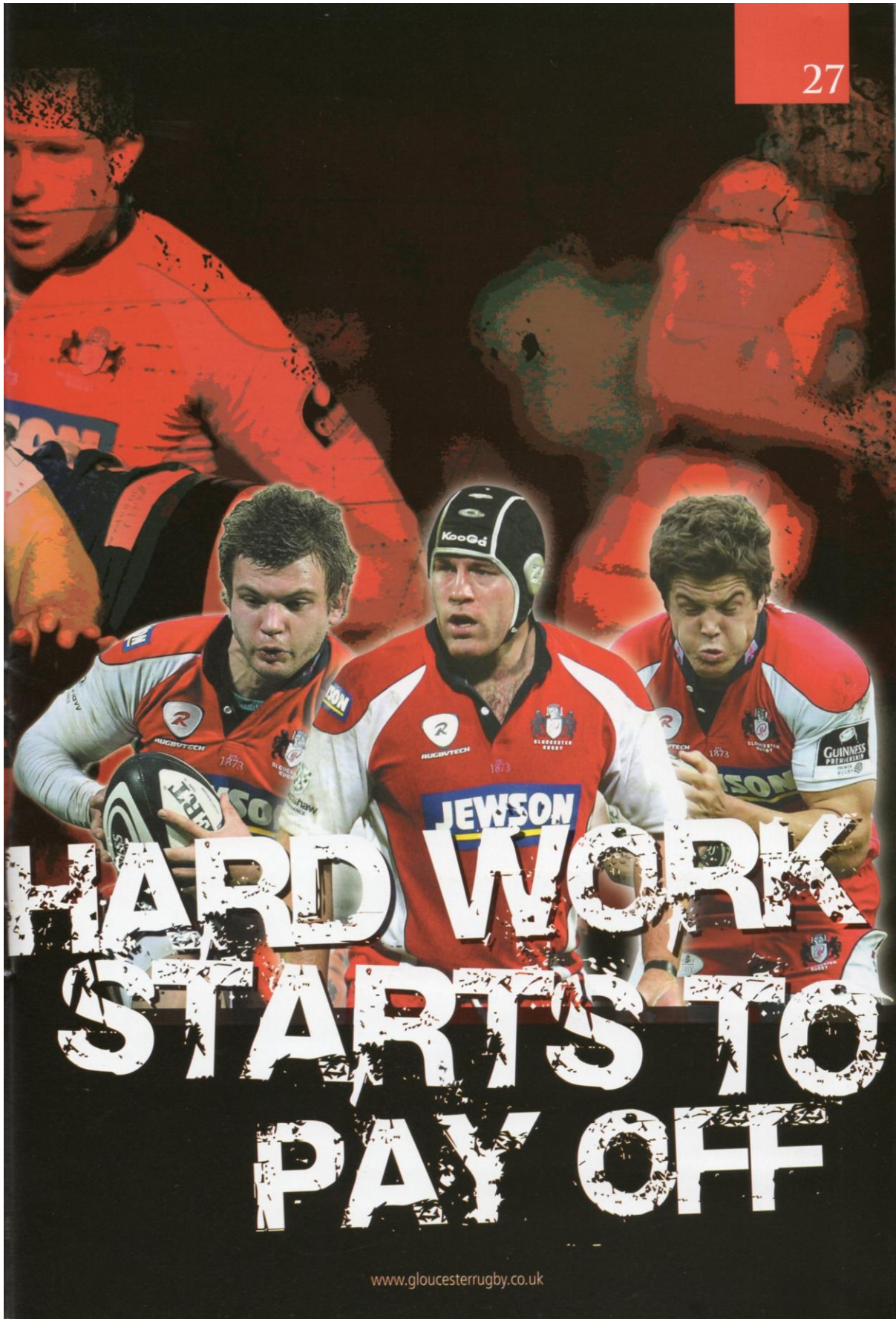
They drew with Bath last weekend which is a considerable result so we must be fully aware of their threat, be totally focused on our game and produce another good performance.

Last Friday, the atmosphere at Kingsholm was tremendous, please get behind the boys again today and help us keep our run of form going.





 It has not always gone smoothly for Gloucester this season but Mike Tindall is positive confidence is beginning to return



# HARD WORK STARTS TO PAY OFF

## HARD WORK STARTS TO PAY OFF



IT IS NOW more than a month since Gloucester hauled themselves off the Millennium Stadium following a seriously difficult afternoon in the Heineken Cup that prompted any number of questions about the suitability of Kingsholm's sleeping giants to go toe to toe with the best around.

On that October afternoon, not much went right for Mike Tindall and his team, despite their growing superiority in the second quarter, a burgeoning attacking threat and a more than sharp set-piece effort.

It was Gloucester's third defeat in eight games – and although hardly a disaster it was sticky enough to prompt any number of questions winging Tindall's way.

Gloucester have started to answer the majority of them with four successive wins and two back-to-back performances that have hinted their movement game is growing in confidence again.

"People have asked me what the secret has been," Tindall said. "The answer is; there is no secret other than plain, honest hard work. We may not have been playing well; we may have tried to evaluate the new ELV's too much and we may have taken a step back from what made us successful in the past but we never stopped busting a gut to improve.

"The only game we singularly didn't perform in was away at Sale but we are a long way from that now – in some ways we have rediscovered ourselves. We are at a stage now where perhaps the little bit of pain we went through at the start of the season will serve us really well come the end of the season.

"Hopefully, we have a level of protection in place we didn't have before and at the same time have moved the really good areas of our game on a bit. We all want to see people like Lamby running and maintaining the ball but at the same time have the game management to go with it."

Anyone who has seen Gloucester on a regular basis this season will appreciate what Tindall means about the effort levels. They have run into brick walls, tackled themselves to a standstill and tried as hard as ever but they had been scratching around for a performance.



**There is obviously a long way to go but we hopefully we can really establish some momentum over the coming weeks, get some of our international and injured players back and in contention again and then we should be in good shape.**



Gloucester qualified for the knockout stages of the EDF Energy Cup with a one point win away to Newcastle before making the trip to Saracens – a progressive and forward thinking organisation under the stewardship of former Australian coach Eddie Jones.

It was here the first recovery shoots begun to sprout. This was a razor-sharp, rage-fuelled contest – they always are when Gloucester make the trip to Vicarage Road – and they responded with a much more convincing performance.

"We were much more controlled in that game," Tindall said. "We didn't do everything right but we put a phase-game together that is pretty hard to handle for long periods if we do it well enough.

"We know a good Gloucester team will be there or thereabouts come play-off time because we have a movement game that is hard to contain if we keep the ball. In that game we got back to what we are good at –

there was a little bit more freedom and willingness to use the ball.

"It was a great testament to guys like Dave Lewis, Olly Morgan and Anthony Allen who all came back into the side and produced really good performances."

Gloucester's victory and subsequent five-point success over Bristol last Friday was even more significant because they arrived during the autumn international window, and if they could get through this afternoon's tussle with Northampton unscathed, it would represent an outstanding return in a notoriously difficult part of the year.

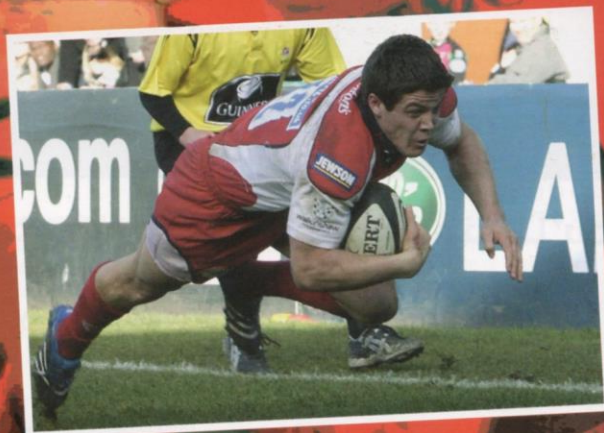
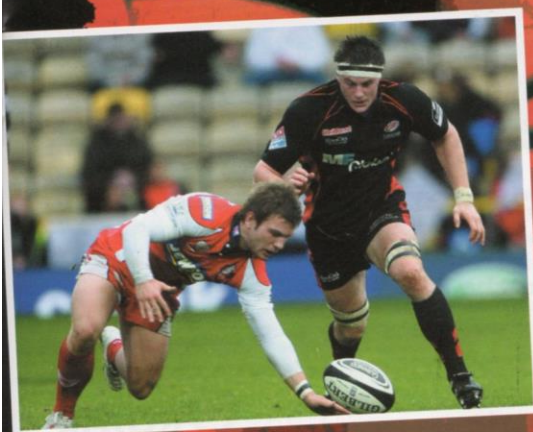
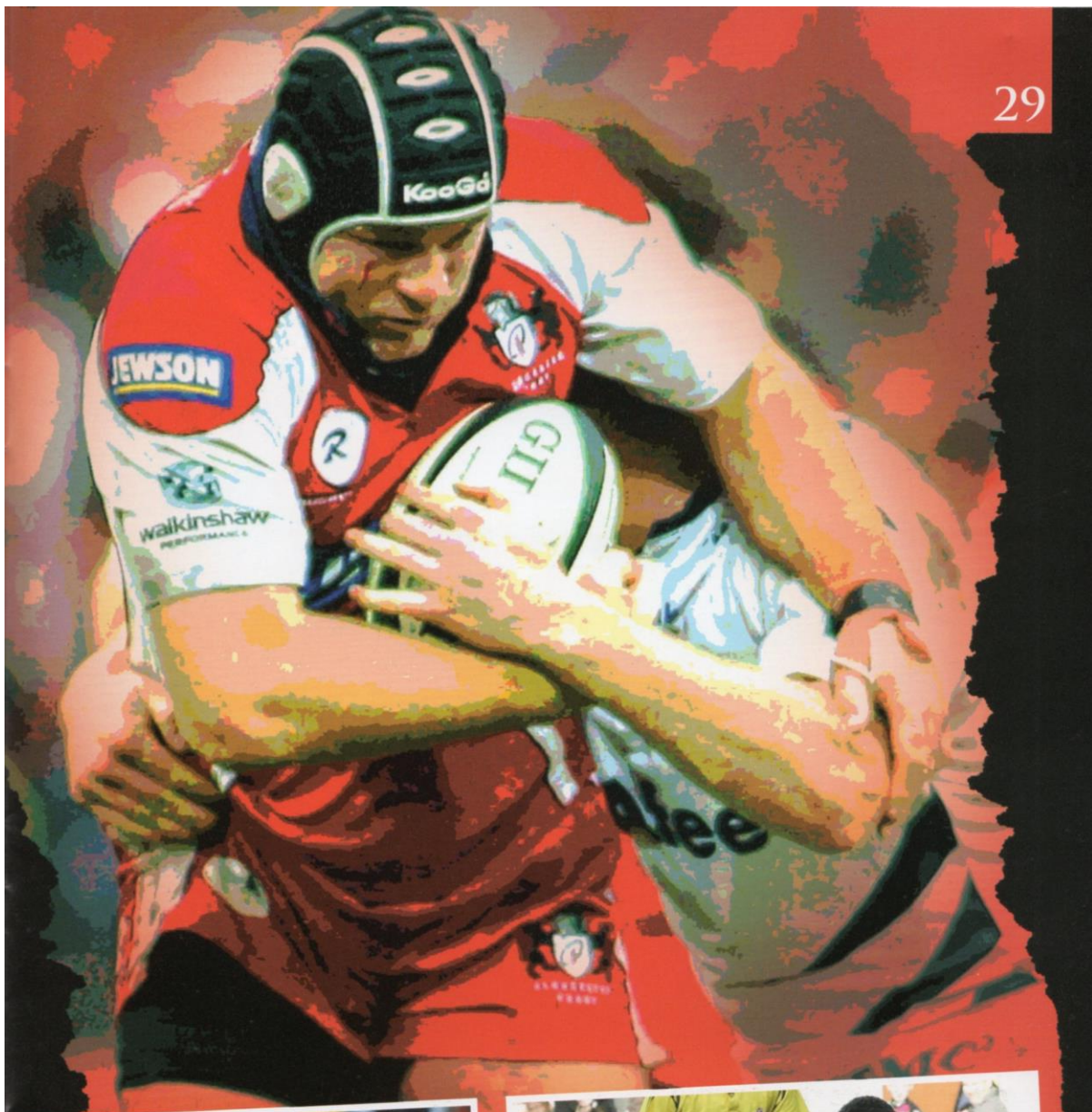
"At this time of the season you know you will operate with reduced numbers because of the internationals but in some respects it hasn't felt like that. Davey Lewis has come in and done brilliantly at scrum-half, has added an extra dimension and energy to our attacking play and has made it really hard for the coaches to leave him out.

"That is the sort of environment we must try and generate if we are to be successful over the long-term. It has been great to see him and others in and around the dressing room.

"The Guinness Premiership is exceptionally tight at the moment – one win or one defeat can really fluctuate the table – but we must be pretty pleased with how we have responded since Newcastle in the EDF Energy Cup.

"There is obviously a long way to go but hopefully we can really establish some momentum over the coming weeks, get some of our international and injured players back and in contention again and then we should be in good shape.

"As Sky asked me last Friday, there is no secret and no alternative other than working hard, getting stuck in and trying to improve. We have done that really well over the last few weeks and we need to continue to do it for as long as we can."





## RYAN'S REVIEW



**Friday's result against Bristol was another significant step forward, confidence must be growing?**

**DR:** FRIDAY was a good example of us doing what we do well and using our movement game and phases to really good effect. At times in the opening 60 or so minutes I thought we looked a really good side, full of ideas and creativity and we picked them off very clinically. There is no substitute for us genuinely working hard when we may not have been in the greatest form.

A lot of credit must go to the squad for that and confidence is returning. We are a side who operate much better when we trust what we are doing and you could see that flow through the likes of Dave Lewis and Ryan Lamb on Friday. We have given ourselves an opportunity to establish some momentum in the coming weeks, not only in the Guinness Premiership but also in the Heineken Cup and that could be very important in the coming weeks.



**We are now in a situation that we are able to talk about guys who have taken their chances. Guys like Apo and Dave Lewis have not made it easy for us when the internationals come back and for that they deserve a huge amount of credit.**



**Bar England, the autumn international period is over. You must be delighted with the way the squad has coped?**

**DR:** WE have had six or seven guys away on international duty and worked around everything that entails for us – reduced numbers and injuries. We were fortunate

we had some long-term injuries like Anthony Allen and Will James clear up just at the right time and then some young guys perform outstandingly well which made our losses easier to mask.

We are now in a situation that we are able to talk about guys who have taken their chances. Guys like Apo and Dave Lewis have not made it easy for us when the internationals come back and for that they deserve a huge amount of credit.

Dave has looked like someone who is very much at home in the Premiership, has been really energised and will really put pressure on the established players when they return. Two weeks ago, not many people would have heard of Apo but he has done tremendous job for us. He is able to sit in a structured game and do everything that involves but then he is also capable of breaking out of that and doing something special – I think everyone can be really pleased with their input.



Action against Bristol



Greg Somerville



Today's visitors Regardt Dreyer (L) and Juandre Kruger of Northampton Saints



**Greg Somerville will be arriving at the club next week, that is another great step forward?**

**DR:** I HAVE said before that we will not rush him into the squad because he has a family and other re-location issues to settle. He has also come off the back of a very long season and will need time to integrate himself into the club and what we want from him.

But it is great to have someone of his experience, know-how and ability around what is a fairly young crop of props. His knowledge will be key in that area because he seen pretty much everything there is and I am sure that will rub off. I think he will be a genuine, old-style sort of Gloucester forward, who will get on with his job for us.



**Lastly, Northampton are the visitors today, have you been impressed with their return to the Guinness Premiership?**

**DR:** I THINK they are a side capable of damage if you give them too much room to play. They have some outstanding strike runners and look to use the ball a bit like us. They have established a pretty formidable home record, not just in the Premiership but also in Europe and the EDF Energy Cup and will soon transfer that away from home.

It is great to see them back because they are a big club with a big support base, a tremendous stadium and in Jim Mallinder they have one of the best coaches in the Premiership. But today is just ensuring we get our specifics right, take what we did last Friday on another few steps and try



His knowledge will be key in that area because he seen pretty much everything there is and I am sure that will rub off. I think he will be a genuine, old-style sort of Gloucester forward, who will get on with his job for us.





TODAY'S TEAMS

Saturday 29th November 16.30  
Gloucester Rugby v Northampton Saints



**GLoucester RUGBY**

**Northampton Saints**

**REPLACEMENTS**

- 16 LAWSON
- 17 DICKINSON
- 18 EUSTACE
- 19 SITALA
- 20 LAWSON
- 21 BARKLEY
- 22 WALKER

**REPLACEMENTS**

- 16 SHIELDS
- 17 TOMINGA-LUHA
- 18 DAY
- 19 LEWITT
- 20 DICKSON
- 21 MORDT
- 22 GREENHALGH

**GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP TABLE**

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Bath Rugby	7	5	1	1	187	148	22	14	2	1	25
2	London Irish	7	5	0	2	171	113	20	11	1	2	23
3	Gloucester Rugby	7	5	0	2	163	134	18	16	3	0	21
4	Leicester Tigers	7	5	0	2	159	133	15	12	0	1	21
5	Sale Sharks	7	5	0	2	92	96	4	5	0	0	20
6	Harlequins	7	4	0	3	178	146	21	14	2	2	20
7	Saracens	7	3	0	4	164	136	13	11	1	3	16
8	Worcester Warriors	7	3	0	4	125	137	10	14	0	2	14
9	Northampton Saints	7	2	1	4	139	162	11	14	0	1	11
10	Newcastle Falcons	7	2	0	5	114	172	11	17	0	1	9
11	London Wasps	7	1	0	6	117	152	8	15	0	4	8
12	Bristol Rugby	7	1	0	6	82	165	7	17	0	2	6

**Today's Officials**

**Referee:** Rob Debnay

**Touch Judges:** Bob Mullis & Roger Baileff

**4th:** Mark Tovey

**Replacement Ref:** Martin Fox

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# PERSONAL FILES

with Jack Forster



by Ian Randall

## Jack Forster

Joining from Hartpury College in the 2006-07 season, Forster has combined his Agriculture and Land Management degree with the strains of top-class rugby.

Forster has represented England at Under 16 and Under 18 level and recently made his debut for the England Saxons in the 2008 Churchill Cup in Canada and USA.

After several impressive performances for Moseley and Gloucester 'A' in the 2006-07 season, Forster is being earmarked as a potential first team prop in years to come.



4  
nex  
DIRECTOR





*1. What is the first match you remember watching?*

My first game would have been a Wigan Rugby League match, but Union wise it would have been England v Australia at Twickenham. I can't remember the score. My memory isn't the best - I've been bashed on the head too many times.

*2. Who is your sport's best pundit?*

Like a lot of the other I'll say Bill McLaren, but that's really because of playing Jonah Lomu Rugby on my play station. Some of the comments on there are quite funny. Things like "ramping up there like a mad giraffe" stick with you.

*3. Can you explain cricket?*

No. I've never played it. The only thing I can explain about it is to me that it's pretty boring. Growing up it was farming and rugby. There wasn't much time for anything else.

*4. What's been your worst fashion crime?*

I'm not a particularly fashionable

person, I just go with whatever fits. Fashionable stuff doesn't normally come in XXXXL so it's normally Next or Burton specials for me.

*5. Who has the flashiest motor at the club?*

No contest really, it's big Les and his Escalade. Games consoles in the boot and 22" wheels.

*6. If money was no object, what would be the first thing you would buy?*

At the moment it would have to be a house. I'm renting with a few friends from Hartpury and Ross McMillan from the club.

*7. What's your favourite biscuit?*

Chocolate covered hob nobs. They're the best. I like it when I'm allowed them, but I try not to let it turn into too much of a binge.

*8. Can you play a musical instrument?*

That's quite topical because I've just bought myself a guitar. I'd been thinking about it for a while and a couple of the other lads have started having lessons. Can I play it yet? Actually...no.

*9. If you could be in a band, which one would you choose?*

One of my favourite songs of all time is Wonderwall by Oasis so I'd probably say them. I don't really have any aspirations to be in a band, but it would be good to sit around a barbeque and play a few tunes..

*10. What is your nickname at the club and how did it come about?*

Mackerel Jack at the moment, because I was on a mackerel only diet. That definitely stuck - even though I can't remember when I last had a tin.

*11. Which 2 of your team mates would you want with you on a quiz team?*

Definitely Nick Wood because I think most people know he's a bit of a boffin and appears to know everything about everything, and probably Alex Brown. He sits in Mangoes doing crosswords and seems to know his stuff.

*12. Has your sport ever brought you to tears?*

Almost. It was in one of my games in the first season here, against Wasps I think. We'd played our hearts out and I looked round the dressing room afterwards and everyone was gutted that we'd lost. I was pretty close then.

*13. If there was one sport related rule or law that you could change, what would it be?*

I'm not a fan of the rule at the ruck where you can't go off your feet. For me it's made it more scrappy and harder to seal the ball because there are more bodies coming through onto it.

*14. Where in the world is the best night out?*

I'm quite happy being out in Gloucester with either the lads from the club or friends from University. I don't need anything fancy.

# FLYING MORGAN

➔ Despite turning only 23 recently, the emergence of Dave Lewis as Gloucester's newest Premiership star has made Olly Morgan almost feel old, as he tells Steve Cutton

➔ IT seems like only yesterday Olly Morgan was breaking into the Gloucester side, yet the recent emergence of Dave Lewis has made Kingsholm's first-choice full-back feel rather old.

Morgan, who has made a triumphant return from injury in the last fortnight, only recently celebrated his 23rd birthday – but admits to feeling slightly envious when he sees his new team-mate's date of birth.

Lewis was born on April 29, 1989 – for historical referencing, that was a fortnight after the Hillsborough disaster – yet the

scrum-half has not looked at all out of place in the Guinness Premiership. And for old-stagers like Morgan (born in November 1985) that is a sobering thought.

"Davie has been there or thereabouts for a while – even last year when he didn't get any starts he was on the fringe," said Morgan. "We've got two international scrum-halves, who have been away, and that has provided a great opportunity for him, which he has taken.

"Like all of us who have had opportunities in recent years, you need to take those chances – and he has done that with

both hands. He adds that extra bit of pace and he has that attacking edge. He could probably play on the wing, he's so quick. He's a great player to have in the squad.

"But he's making me feel old! I've just turned 23 and you see someone like Dave come in and start thinking, 'back in the day!'

"It was only a couple of years that people like myself, Ryan Lamb and Anthony Allen burst through, but in rugby terms I think 23 is when you start to think, 'I'm getting a bit old now!'"

Morgan suffered a hamstring problem in the Millennium Stadium defeat against



Cardiff Blues on October 19, but returned with a try in the 25-21 Premiership win at Saracens two weekends back.

He crossed the whitewash again – his fourth try of the season – in last Friday's 39-10 derby win against Bristol and is relishing the style of rugby Gloucester have returned to in recent times.

After a somewhat jittery start to the season, despite winning five of their first seven games, Gloucester have regained their swagger in recent weeks – and Morgan is loving every minute of it.

"The buzz about the place is different at the



**"It was only a couple of years that people like myself, Ryan Lamb and Anthony Allen burst through, but in rugby terms I think 23 is when you start to think, 'I'm getting a bit old now!'"**



moment because of the way we're playing. There's a good feeling around the camp," he said. "We've won the last four games now and everybody is excited and happy.

"When you are not playing well, the mood in camp is always going to be a bit down – but we have been winning and playing well in the last few weeks."

And Morgan has plenty of respect for this afternoon's opponents, Northampton Saints, and their key individuals.

"Northampton have got very good players – and this is easily a mid-table team, if not higher. They have got exciting players like Carlos Spencer and Ben Foden, who can create something out of nothing. I think they are definitely not to be underestimated – as they showed against Bath last weekend."

## DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

 **Dave King casts his nets far and wide again this week to bring us the latest snippets in his world of rugby**

team will be assembled at a cost of £7 million. The ten-match tour has already generated £11 million in gross revenue from television rights, ticket sales and sponsorship. If Alasdair Strokosch can repeat his international form of last season in the Six Nations he may be a

dark horse for inclusion. It is now 12 years since the Lions enjoyed a winning tour. Replica Lions shirts topped the 800,000 mark three years ago and tour operators are predicting that 50,000 British and Irish fans will follow the Lions to South Africa.



THE New Zealand All Blacks have gone to the extraordinary lengths to block a small Cornish club from using the same nickname. Launceston, have been known as the Cornish All Blacks since their formation in 1948. In actual fact they used black-out curtains from Second World War to make their first kit. However, all attempts to register the Cornish All Blacks as a brand name, met with strong resistance from the New Zealand rugby authorities who informed the patent office they will take legal action to protect their All Blacks name.

Launceston president Tony Randel was not amused "The objections are petty in the extreme as a lot of teams call themselves the All Blacks."

**NEXT year's British Lions tour to South Africa is set for a £4 million record profit. The world's most famous touring**



THE surname of Armitage may become very prominent in the forthcoming seasons. Delon arrived at full-back berth with England via France Under-16's, Racing Club de Nice, Richmond and London Irish. His brother Steffon is also with London Irish. Bevon, an older brother, is at first division Doncaster. The line is not complete, for two teenage brothers – Guy 16, is a Daily Mail Schools Cup winning centre at Wellington College and Joel a 13-year-old prop completes the amazing set. John Armitage their father was classed a "social" type player with Hatfield R.F.C.

WHEN former Gloucester scrum-half, Pete Richards was recently asked to name the best 15 he had played with, he named two former players of this club and two who are still currently based at Kingsholm. Peter's choice and description of their attributes were: Phil Greening – I played with Phil at Wasps, it was a real shame he had to retire when in his prime, a very skilful player who loved playing first receiver. Such a versatile skill yet maybe he was more suited to rugby league.



Jake Boer – Did not get the headlines at Gloucester, but in terms of a team player it is hard to look beyond him. Consistent, you could guarantee every match he would be 95 - 100%.

Andy Hazell – Heart and soul of the team when I was at Gloucester. Used to get a lot of abuse for being small, but his commitment was astonishing and he showed more courage than I have ever seen. James Simpson-Daniel - You are looking for try-scorers in your back three and Sinbad is one. His footwork and speed are breathtaking at times.



OUR former utility player, Chris Paterson, who was first capped by Scotland in 1999, is now the most capped player north of the border with 88 caps prior to the autumn internationals, which is one more than those held by Scott Murray.

RICHARD Hill, the former Saracens and England flanker is now a member of the 57 strong R.F.U. council. He made 288 appearances for "Sarries", appeared in 71 England international matches and earned five British and Irish Lions caps on tours in 1997, 2001 and 2005. He is a direct replacement for Simon Halliday who stood down to concentrate on affairs at Bath Rugby.

A TROPHY honouring Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb Mount Everest will be contested whenever the All Blacks and England play each other, known as the Hillary Shield, and it will be initially played for this weekend.

WAIKATO coach, Tony Hanks has rejoined Wasps for five months to cover for Shaun Edwards who is committed to international duty with Wales. He rejoined the Adams Park Club on the first day of November for his second stint, but will return to New Zealand in March.

WHEN we travel to France to meet Biarritz in January we will be competing in the H. Cup. Due to a ban on alcohol advertising in France what is known as the Heineken cup in the rest of the rugby world is not referred to as such in France itself.

LEICESTER have confirmed they will build the biggest rugby-only club ground in the United Kingdom with a capacity of 23,500. What a transformation, for at the beginning of the 1970's they had gates of 1,000 but by 2008 they were averaging nearly 17,000 with an annual turnover of a staggering £15 million.



## PETER ARNOLD

**The hip-flask would have tasted extra sweet for Peter Arnold last Friday as he saw a Dave Lewis-inspired Gloucester race to victory over Bristol.**

### SAINTS DAY

WE like to think that no town in England has its name so intimately associated with rugby as Gloucester. We may be right in that, but one or two others run us pretty close. There's Leicester, of course, whose pedigree is very similar to our own. I don't really count Bath, because I can remember a time when they were very much a second-class fixture. Bristol have lost some of their eminence in recent years, and are now, according to what I read, in some financial difficulty.

Some fine old clubs, with names associated with their home towns, like Bedford and Coventry, have fallen by the first-class wayside, and that's a pity.

However, Northampton have survived the worst vicissitude the Premiership can throw at them by bouncing straight back from relegation. I wasn't at all surprised by that, because the tradition and sheer spirit of the Saints were always going to ensure that they wouldn't be out of the top flight for long. It's great to see them back.

In past times, before professionalism, the visit of Northampton was always one of Kingsholm's most keenly anticipated occasions. We always knew we were in for a tough game and it was a very rare Saints side which didn't have a clutch of internationals running out. More than that, we always loved the arrival of the Northampton travelling support. They were knowledgeable, friendly, committed and very vocal: in fact I can remember one occasion when they actually outshouted us.

It's very pleasing to be able to welcome Northampton back into the top rank. There aren't many real home-town, slightly insular, clubs left, and to see the Saints back from the living dead is a

consummation devoutly to be wished, as the Bard wrote.

Nice to see you, Northampton. As long as you don't go and actually win.

### SHIP SHAPE AND BRISTOL FASHION

I THINK we must have all breathed a sigh of relief after last Friday's Bristol game. At last we saw Gloucester playing to somewhere near the standards we have come to expect. Things weren't quite perfect, especially towards the end of the game, but a darned sight better than we have been enduring so far this season.

I'll go further. A couple of the tries would rank among my memories of the most memorable efforts of the last few years, if you'll pardon the tautology.

People have been saying that Bristol were poor, but I wouldn't quite go along with that. Certainly, on the face of it, they didn't seem to have a lot to offer apart from sheer effort, but they had their plus points. The front row gave our lads all they could handle, and the introduction of Shaun Perry, on his way back from injury, bucked them up considerably, and seeing him getting close to his old form must have been a considerable relief to Richard Hill.

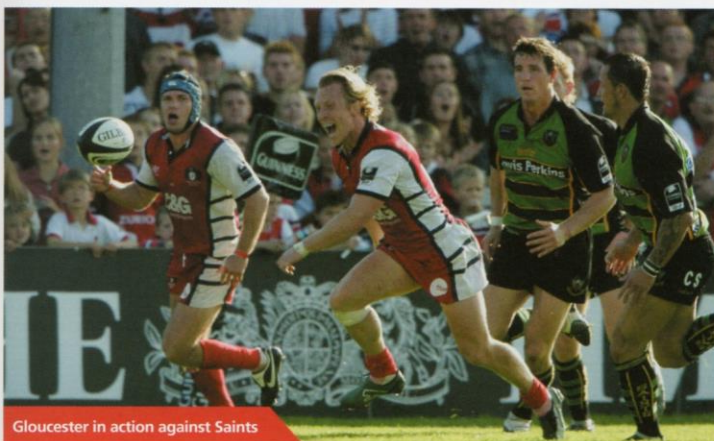
The fact was that they played as well as they were allowed to. On that form, at Kingsholm under lights, Gloucester would have blown away most sides.

Inevitably, Dave Lewis has been the centre of attention, during and after the game. Last Friday, he seemed to be at the heart of everything that was good about Gloucester. His ability to spot a gap and make a sharp break is something to be treasured, and I'm sure Bryan Redpath

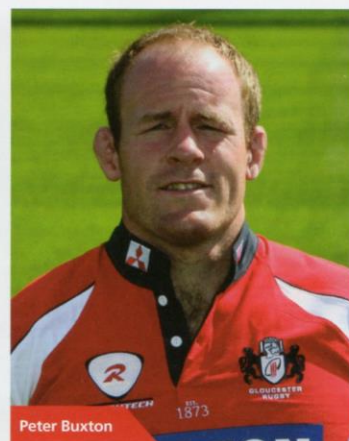


Dave Lewis





Gloucester in action against Saints



Peter Buxton

will be advising him not to overdo it. The main beneficiary is Ryan Lamb: it was plain for all to see that the extra time given to him by the 19 year-olds speed and length of pass enables him to exercise his own precocious talents – remember, he's not all that much older than Lewis himself. Do we have the youngest pair of half-backs in the Premiership?

It's going to be interesting to see what happens now. Here we have, in Cooper and Lawson, two international scrum-halves who will soon be returning to the fold and by no means certain of a place in the starting fifteen. One does have to say that, at the moment, Dave Lewis is our best No.9. Dean Ryan is going to have quite a dilemma to solve, but it's a nice one to have.

And what about Bucko's two tries? They tell me that they doubled his total tally in his Gloucester career. Certainly, something to tell his grandchildren about, but by that time they will have been scored from his own 22, and each will have included two dummies and a sidestep.



**It's going to be interesting to see what happens now. Here we have, in Cooper and Lawson, two international scrum-halves who will soon be returning to the fold and by no means certain of a place in the starting fifteen**



But if ever a bloke deserved his two moments of fame, it's Pete Buxton. He doesn't always get the credit he deserves, and it's good to see him in the limelight for once.

Of course, the imminent return of Alasdair Strokosch, who also scored a try at the weekend, might have been at the back of his mind...

#### **BUT...**

When have you ever heard a Gloucester crowd booing whenever Gloucester scored a try? The answer is last Friday at the Bristol game. They weren't voicing their displeasure at the players of course, but at the loud music which someone deemed appropriate to play every time a cherry-and-white crossed the whitewash.

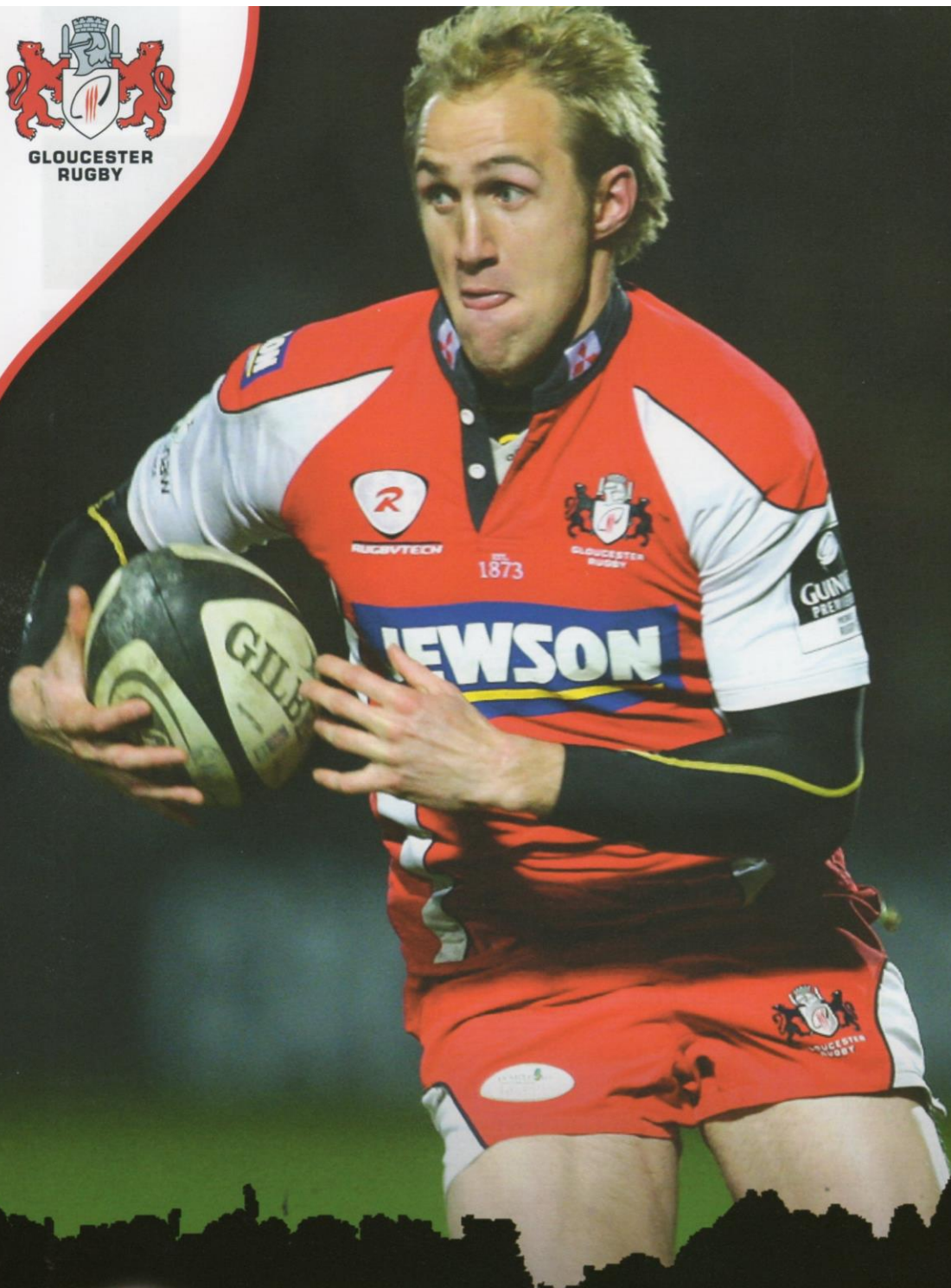
Its worth pointing out that the boos weren't coming from a few old curmudgeons like me, but from the whole crowd, young and old alike.

My personal feeling is that people don't come to Kingsholm to experience fashionable razzmatazz, but for the age-old attractions of a traditional rugby club in a wholeheartedly rugby city. Anything which dilutes that does the club a disservice in the long run. I also find the practice a little disrespectful to the opposition, who have contributed to the entertainment after all.

In my view, the experiment has been tried – and failed



GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY

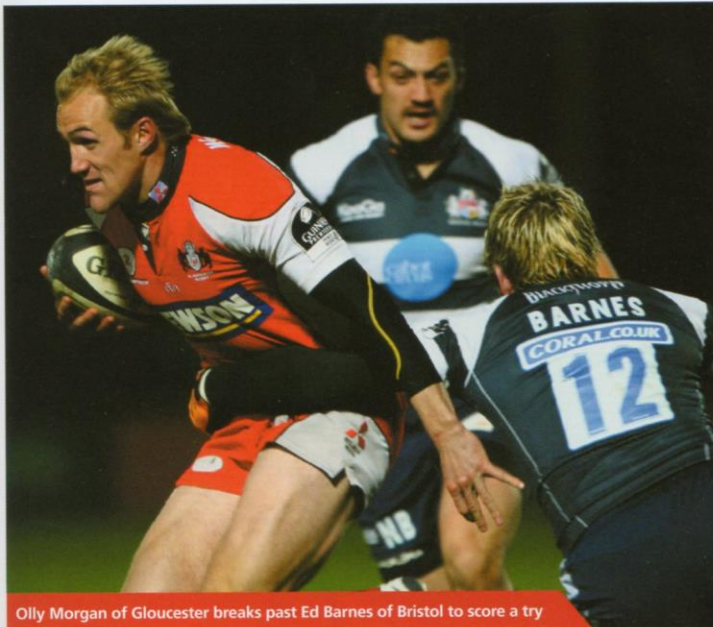


## OLLY MORGAN

**DOB:** 03.11.85    **Weight:** 14st 2lb

**Height:** 6'2"    **Position:** Full Back





Olly Morgan of Gloucester breaks past Ed Barnes of Bristol to score a try



Richard Hill

the great rivalry between our two clubs over the years would want to see them disappear. Sadly, though, that looks like it could be a real possibility.

It's strange how things change so suddenly after a couple of results though - it only seems a week or so ago when all the pundits, and some of our own supporters, were writing off our chances of success this season. On Sunday evening Sky Bet had us favourites to top the league that isn't a league and to win the play off too.

Please let that be so, especially as our record in such things leaves more than a bit to be desired. This point was picked up on in last Sunday's Observer Sport magazine who ran a feature on sports most tormented fans.

We're there in the top 10 – at first I



**It's probably fair to say that they have found the pace of the Premiership a bit different and have not done as well as they might have thought. At the time of writing they are sitting in ninth place with just a couple of wins under their belts.**



thought it was a very early reference to the tinny post-score music we have been blessed with (I'm not a fan...) – but instead it was referring to the play offs. For those that haven't seen it, it reads:

"You win the league at a canter, then

you lose the right to be called champions based on one game. Such is the bizarre logic of rugby union's Premiership play-off system, at least as far as Gloucester are concerned. The cherry and whites have finished top of the league in three of the past six seasons, but the club won no titles in that time. Three cruel defeats in the play-offs, including two heavy losses in the final at Twickenham (to Wasps and Leicester), have been especially difficult for the ardent denizens of 'The Shed' to accept."

"Hard to accept"!!!! The writer is clearly a master of the understatement and has probably never set foot inside Kingsholm. To say we carry a chip on our shoulders doesn't begin to get close mate.

This year, though... It's all going to be different. After all, the bookies are never wrong. Are they?

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY** 39  
**BRISTOL RUGBY** 10



## Bristol Bashed

Friday, November 21

Referee: Andrew Small, Attendance: 15,249



GLOUCESTER ran in five tries to hand Bristol a comprehensive defeat under the lights at Kingsholm last Friday.

Kingsholm last Friday.

Inspired by another memorable contribution from scrum-half Dave Lewis and an equally cutting display from Ryan Lamb, Gloucester's confidence showed signs of returning as they jumped to third in the Guinness Premiership table.

There were equally impressive performances from Alex Brown, Peter Buxton and Apo Satala as Gloucester avoided being dragged into a messy, scrappy contest to win handsomely.

The scores were locked at 3-3 when Lewis hurtled through a line-out and over half-way on a break. Iain Balshaw and Anthony Allen came in to the move on the right and when possession came back, Lamb fed Olly Morgan on an angled attack and he had enough pace and power to beat a thicket of defenders and score.

Six minutes later Lewis was at it again – breaking free from Peter Buxton's short line-out routine and scampering into the 22. As the cover arrived so did Buxton and he picked to crash over and make the score 17-3.



Lamb then dropped a goal and was involved in a third try. First Morgan and then Matthew Watkins slashed up Bristol's defence before Lamb, Mike Tindall, Allen and Brown all came into the line and Luke Narraway rounded off the move by sending Buxton in for his second try.

As a contest, the game was over by the break but Gloucester went on the hunt of more points after the re-start. Satala rolled out of a tackle and replacement Lesley Vainikolo made a brilliant take off his feet to sustain the move. From the ruck, Narraway made a half-break and off-loaded for Alex Brown to score against

his former club and secure a bonus point.

The game was up for Bristol and when Lamb read Ed Barnes' midfield pass, the Gloucester stand-off raced clear to score himself. He converted his own try for a personal haul of 19 points.

Gloucester really could have gone to town now and scored more points in the last quarter but Bristol enjoyed an injection of enthusiasm from scrum-half Shaun Perry and scored a consolation try when the scrum-half got his pass away to David Lemi and the winger scored brilliantly down the left.

### Man of the Match



Not just for his two tries but Peter Buxton's work rate was tremendous.

### Coach's Comment



"We are finding some confidence and rhythm again and that is great for us," head coach Dean Ryan.



## Timeline

4 mins	
Lamb pen	3-0
6 mins	
Jarvis pen	3-3
9 mins	
Morgan try, Lamb con	10-3
15 mins	
Buxton try, Lamb con	17-3
24 mins	
Lamb drop-goal	20-3
32 mins	
Buxton try	25-3
58 mins	
Brown try, Lamb con	32-3
64 mins	
Lamb try and con	39-3
69 mins	
Lemi try, Barnes con	39-10

## Gloucester Line-up

15	Olly Morgan	(1t)
14	Iain Balshaw	
13	Mike Tindall	(Capt)
12	Anthony Allen	
11	Matthew Watkins	
10	Ryan Lamb	(1t, 4c, 1p, 1 dg)
9	Dave Lewis	
1	Nick Wood	
2	Olivier Azam	
3	Jack Forster	
4	Will James	
5	Alex Brown	(1t)
6	Peter Buxton	(2t)
7	Apo Satala	
8	Luke Narraway	
REPS		
16	Scott Lawson	(Azam)
17	Dave Young	(Forster, Forster for Wood)
18	Adam Eustace	(James)
19	Andy Titterrell	(Narraway)
20	Jordi Pasqualin	(Lewis)
21	Olly Barkley	(Allen)
22	Lesley Vainikolo	(Morgan)