

By Barrie Fairall, The Daily Telegraph



# ...TO HERE

FIRST up, a hearty welcome to you all and those accustomed to these Twickenham finals will be looking forward eagerly to the annual feast and another cross-border confrontation. The introduction of this Anglo-Welsh contest, now in its fourth season after superseding an all-English affair that kicked-off back in 1971, has brought a different flavour to the old recipe which over the years had given us some pretty tasty showdowns.

Apart from being a fresh moment in rugby history, not included among those, one has to say, was the very first final in 1972 when Gloucester took on Moseley. Marred by the early sending-off of the Moseley and England lock, Nigel Horton,

who had apparently risen to the bait offered by a member of the Gloucester pack as the teams took to the field, the Cherry and Whites pressed home their numerical advantage and emerged triumphant 17-6.





Still, from the humble beginnings of what was originally billed as the RFU Club Competition and for which no cup was awarded, the tournament grew in stature under a lengthy list of titles – the John Player Cup, Pilkington Cup, Tetley's Bitter Cup, the Powergen Cup, Powergen Anglo-Welsh Cup and, now, the EDF Energy Cup.

What happens next is in the lap of the gods. There is every reason to expect a pretty lively game after what took place at Coventry in the semi-finals, two contrasting and hugely contested matches producing the fourth successive Anglo-Welsh final. So let's hear it for Gloucester and Cardiff after their efforts at the Ricoh Arena.

First up were Gloucester Rugby, who took on holders, Ospreys. It was an extraordinary encounter, with Gloucester on the back foot and having to cope with the first-half loss to injury of their captain, Mike Tindall. With their scrum under pressure, they also had to make some adjustments to the front row before the break, at which point a lead of three points looked like riches indeed.

What frustrated the Ospreys, who had been dominating territory, was the terrific work undertaken by the Gloucester back row. In particular, No 8 Gareth Delve stood up to be counted against his opposite, the Wales captain, Ryan Jones. So while the Ospreys bashed their heads against a good, old-fashioned West Country stone wall, Gloucester sat on Ryan Lamb's third-minute penalty.



And it was Lamb who continued to put the boot in during the second half with penalties either side of a dropped goal, this kick having followed a glorious catch and chase by Olly Morgan that saw Gloucester

edge into enemy territory. All this left the Ospreys chasing the game, which was up when replacement scrum half Mike Phillips had a pass intercepted by Iain Balshaw, who hared away to complete a 17-0 victory.

Lamb, meanwhile, is feeling the heat at Kingsholm. The fly half already has Olly Barkley, Willie Walker and Carlos Spencer pressing claims for his place and things will become even hotter when Nicky Robinson joins Gloucester after eight years with Cardiff. "It was great to have a big club like Gloucester come in for me," Robinson said, before adding; "They're looking for silverware but I hope they're still looking for it next year because I want to finish well with the Blues."

We'll find out over the 80 minutes here.
Anyway, Robinson and his current
employers certainly emerged with credit
from their semi-final in a cracking encounter
against Northampton Saints, who put up a
tremendous free-running fight. It was
Cardiff, missing their injured back-row
pairing of Martyn Williams and Andy Powell,
who struck first with a penalty from Ben
Blair and they went further ahead in the

34th minute when a line-out overthrow from Dylan Hartley led to a try from Jason Spice. Joe Ansbro's try for Saints, two minutes into the second half, kept the pot bubbling nicely and, not surprisingly, Blair was quick to accept the chance to land a second penalty and settle the issue with nine minutes remaining.

There was certain amount of relief, too, when Cardiff began this season's Anglo-Welsh journey against Sale Sharks at Edgeley Park. Thanks to a schedule that required Sale to play three games in nine days, the club's director of rugby, Philippe Saint-André, rested most of his front-line players ahead of a Heineken Cup opener against Clermont Auvergne. For all that,





Cardiff only stole victory thanks to a late try from replacement wing, Richard Mustoe. As Dai Young, Saint-André's Cardiff counterpart, admitted: "We got out of iail."

Things were a little
less fraught at
Kingsholm, where
Gloucester recorded a
24-19 victory over
London Wasps,
inaugural winners of the
Anglo-Welsh side of the

competition but here suffering a fifth defeat in six matches during their dismal start to the season. Things had begun well for Wasps in this one when Tom Voyce cleared a path for Mark Robinson to score. However, a penalty from Walker was followed by a drop from Lamb, who next

sent in Lesley Vainikolo. James Haskell replied with a try but Lamb and Vainikolo combined again, this time to the benefit of Walker.

There was nothing much in it at the Liberty Stadium, where the Ospreys almost came unstuck as they set out in defence of their title. Harlequins were the callers, and largely second-stringers at that, but it took a try in injury



time from the Ireland wing, Tommy Bowe, to see them off by a single point. Four penalties from Stephen Jones helped a fullstrength Scarlets overcome a youthful Saracens side at Watford and there were also wins for the Newport Gwent Dragons, Leicester Tigers and Worcester Warriors.





Cardiff had quite a bit preying on their minds before it came to tackling and beating Leicester 23-9 in the second round of matches. That was fine but the seven Blues players in the Wales squad had been notified that they had to turn out for national squad training the following morning and remain in

camp until the
Wednesday. All of which
made the club's chances
of reaching the semifinals, by beating Bath on
the Friday at the Arms
Park, that much more
difficult.

"It's frustrating to have all this happen when we are so close to achieving something," Young said. "Our preparation for Friday's match will now be pretty much nil." As it was, Cardiff pressed

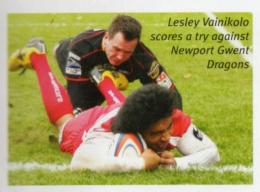
ahead from a 6-3 interval lead against the Tigers by sending over Jamie Robinson in the 45th minute, Spice then having the last word with the second try.

In the meantime, Gloucester were in business at home to the Dragons thanks to some brilliance from Balshaw. Trailing 15-12

> entering the final quarter after the Dragons had cancelled out first-half tries from Vainikolo and Scott Lawson with scores from Russell Fussell and Grant Webb. a free-kick award resulted in Balshaw bursting from a midfield attack to set up a position from which Vainikolo crossed the line for a second time. Balshaw then finished off another attack three







minutes later for a 22-15 lead, Barkley adding a penalty before Jason Tovey scored a consolation try for the Dragons.

There were a few misty eyes to be seen at Stradey Park, where the Scarlets bade farewell to the old ground after the completion of 2,578 matches on that famous patch of Welsh soil. They had been in residence since 1879 and Bristol Rugby proved respectful visitors, losing 27-0 before the Scarlets moved on to their new home, the £23million Parcy Stade. Morgan Stoddart sent his team on their way with the first try after three minutes, while there was one apiece from Simon Easterby and the former Bristol centre, Rob Higgitt, in amongst five successful goal kicks from Stephen Jones. Ah well, time moves on.

Sadly, not in the case of the Scarlets so far as the competition was concerned as they went down on an away day to Northampton Saints, where Chris Ashton ran in two tries to help see the Saints to a 33-20 win. So it was up to Cardiff and the Ospreys to keep the Welsh flag flying, the Ospreys progressing to the last four despite a 23-19 loss at the home of London Irish. Cardiff, though, were more upbeat. A rare late try from their Tongan prop, Taufa'ao

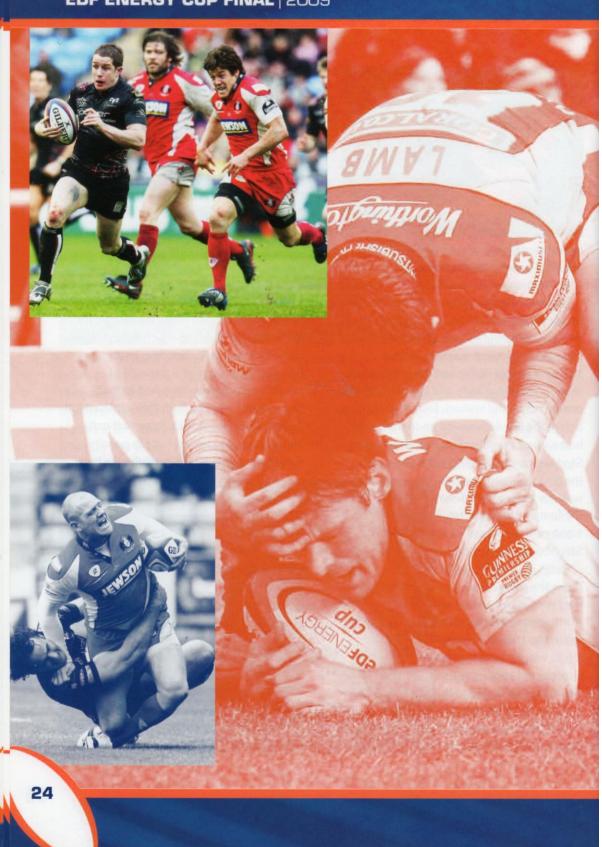
Filise, and a concluding penalty from Blair took them to a 24-18 victory over Bath so that Young's earlier fears were not realised.

Gloucester, meanwhile, hardly waltzed into the semi-finals on their visit to Kingston Park, where Newcastle presented a stern challenge. Indeed, there were only three minutes remaining when replacement Apo Satala, the Fiji and former Leeds No 8, crashed over to produce an 11-10 winning scoreline. "We're not bringing the energy that we need to the game," Dean Ryan, Gloucester's director of rugby, remarked.

Satala certainly did after Newcastle forged into a 7-6 lead at the break following a try from prop, Jon Golding, which Robert Miller converted. It was Barkley who kept Gloucester in touch with a couple of penalties but Newcastle eased further ahead with a penalty from their replacement fly half, Rory Clegg. Then came that nailbiting finish, a rapidly taken tap penalty setting up Satala for his powerhouse burst.

So will Gloucester go down in the record books as champions in our long-running Twickenham show or will they return home suffering from a nasty attack of the Blues? We shall see. Enjoy the day.







### GLORIOUS GLOUCESTER

Ospreys' hopes of retaining Anglo-Welsh silverware were dashed by Gloucester fly half, Ryan Lamb, whose penalties after three and 43 minutes gave his team a critical edge before a 68th-minute drop-goal and third penalty sealed the deal. And, just to confirm Gloucester's dominance, wing, lain Balshaw, ran in a late interception try from deep inside his own half. However much the Ospreys huffed and puffed, they could not smash spirited Gloucester's defensive resistance. Not even Ospreys wing and Ireland Grand Slam hero, Tommy Bowe, could lighten the gloom on a blustery, overcast afternoon in the west midlands, barely receiving a pass following his try-scoring glory at the Millennium Stadium the previous Saturday.

The Ospreys, targeting a third successive Twickenham appearance, welcomed back several of their Wales players from Six Nations duty against Ireland. Mike Tindall at least made Gloucester's XV in a game that saw the starting lineups parade a combined total of 27 internationals.

Lamb booted Gloucester into an early lead following obstruction by Gavin Henson on his opposite number Olly Morgan.

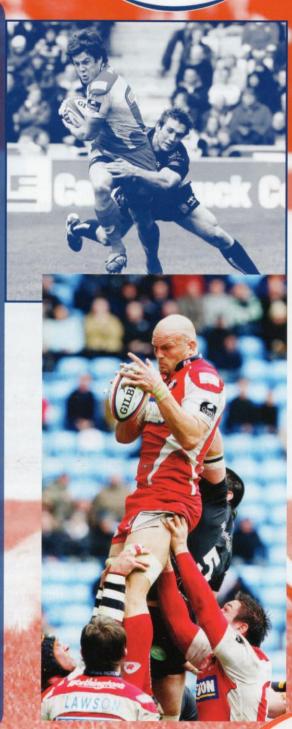
And, while the Ospreys looked more threatening with ball in hand, James Hook hardly helped their cause by missing two penalties that were well within his range.

Errors abounded, yet the Ospreys looked most likely to score a try, with Gloucester pinned on the back foot as Hook looked to orchestrate his fellow backs.

Gloucester suffered a major injury blow 11 minutes before half-time when Tindall limped out of the action with what appeared to be a knee injury. He was replaced by Matthew Watkins and there was an immediate defensive role for the Wales international as the Ospreys continued to press. And there was injury gloom for the Ospreys as half-time approached, with Henson and his Wales team-mate, Ian Gough both failing to last the distance as Gloucester led 3-0. Gloucester made an interval change, sending on Olly Barkley for wing James Simpson-Daniel, and Lamb's second penalty after 43 minutes doubled the west country club's advantage.



It gave Gloucester renewed optimism and Lamb's drop-goal 12 minutes from time left the Ospreys with a mountain to climb. And, when he completed his penalty hat-trick in the 72nd minute, there was no way back for an Ospreys side that never remotely threatened to take off. Phillips' misplaced pass then sounded the death knell for his team, with lain Balshaw intercepting and sprinting 70 metres to the line.



# WELCOME



From GLOUCESTER RUGBY

On behalf of everyone associated with Gloucester Rugby, I'd like to wish you a warm welcome to Twickenham this afternoon for the culmination of the EDF Energy Cup and the continuation of the rivalry between two old rivals.

Gloucester Rugby and Cardiff Blues have already met on two titanic occasions so far this season, both in the Heineken Cup, and today promises to be just as memorable.

Both games were hard fought affairs and the results really could have gone either way. This afternoon's final could be every bit as close.

So, we have a pretty good idea of what we're up against today. As well as the two meetings with Cardiff, we can also draw upon the experience of beating the Ospreys in the semi-final, a game where we had to defend with courage and also show great composure before emerging with the win.



Dean Ryan

A club of this size and stature demands to be competing regularly in the knockout stages of major competitions – that is what we have set out to do and we will be ready for the challenge we will face today.

We also have the memories of great Cup occasions such as winning the Powergen Cup at Twickenham in 2003 and the European Challenge Cup over the road at the Twickenham Stoop in 2006 to draw upon.

The looks on the faces of our supporters on those days and the sea of cherry and white scarves and shirts in the stand tells you everything about how much winning silverware means to our superb supporters.

They will be here today backing us to the very end, as usual, and I hope they will cheer the players on and really help make this day a memorable occasion for Gloucester Rugby.

Dean Ryan, Head Coach of Gloucester Rugby

Chris Hewett, The Independent



# TIME FOR A

According to an old American ice hockey professional who knew a thing or two about the subject, success was never result of spontaneous combustion. "You must set yourself on fire," he said. When will Gloucester Rugby light themselves up and generate

# GOOD THING

sufficient heat to win a major trophy? Heaven knows, their supporters have endured their share of near misses in the Guinness Premiership since the dawning of the playoff era. Three times since 2003, the West Countrymen have finished the regular season on top of the pile; three times, they have made a mess of it in the knock-out stage.

As any Kingsholmite will tell you, it is very easy indeed to have enough of a bad thing.



Back in 2006, there was at least a
European Challenge Cup victory to
celebrate. James Forrester, a freakishly fast
back-row forward, now lost to the sport,
won the title single-handedly with a
remarkable extra-time try that lives in the
memory to this day. But while the scene of
that triumph was Twickenham, it was not
the bit of Twickenham that meant most to
the rugby fraternity. Gloucester's solitary
recent taste of fulfilment came about at the
Stoop Memorial Ground, located on the less
glorious side of the A316.

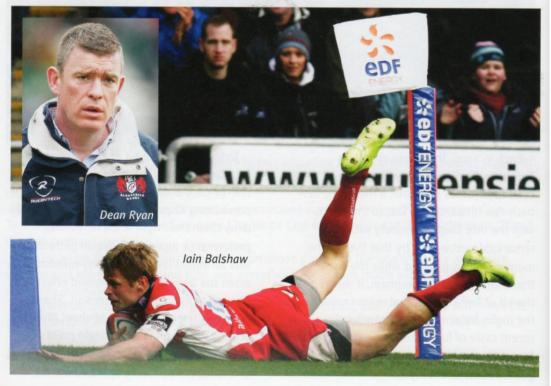
Today, in the right bit of Twickenham, they face Cardiff Blues in the final of the EDF Energy Cup, and no one who saw them prevail over Ospreys in the last round would deny them their right to be here. Their performance against the Welsh glitterati was an object lesson in bloody-mindedness; when the barricades are manned effectively enough to prevent Gavin Henson, Shane Williams, James Hook and Michael Phillips scoring not so much as a single point between them, there can be little debate over a team's collective spirit. And if the

quality of their attacking game was less in evidence, for the very good reason that they saw next to nothing of the ball, the sight of lain Balshaw galloping into the wide blue yonder at the last knockings was a timely reminder of the threat they pose from deep.

Gloucester have good players coming out of their ears: among the tight-forward community alone, they boast three international props, three Test hookers and three capped locks. Back-rowers? Gareth Delve, Luke Narraway, Alasdair Strokosch, Andy Hazell and the phenomenal Fijian athlete, Akapusi Qera, have all played for their countries. Midfielders? There are zillions of them, all blooded at the highest level. Even when people are injured or cuptied, as the big-name No 10 recruit Carlos

Spencer is today, an all-Test XV is comfortably within selectorial range.

And yet, they carry the pungent whiff of under-achievement with them. Right from the start of the season, people said this had to be Gloucester's year, or there would be ructions. In the event, the ructions happened before anyone knew whether it would be Gloucester's year or not. Dean Ryan, the head coach, was so frustrated with some of the rugby played by his team in the first half of the campaign that he decided on a change of tack, signing the former All Black fly half, Spencer, shortly after Christmas. The fact that his side were top of the domestic table, despite being crippled by injury in the open-side flanker department, made no difference. Ryan felt





nothing could be achieved by sticking with what he had.

One of the teams responsible for reinforcing the coach in his opinion just happened to be Cardiff Blues, who beat Gloucester home and away in the Heineken Cup and effectively knocked them out of the competition. The West Countrymen put three tries past their Welsh opponents on the mad, but conceded four and lost. Back at Kingsholm, they led virtually all the way against

They will not fear the Blues today, for all that. Why should the Blues spook them when the Ospreys, with all their top-of-the-bill acts, could not? They are more tikely to spook themselves, especially now that consecutive Premiership defeats in the Midlands have made qualification for

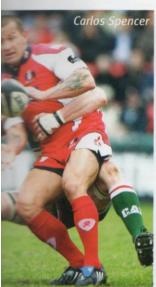
14 men before losing again, at the death.

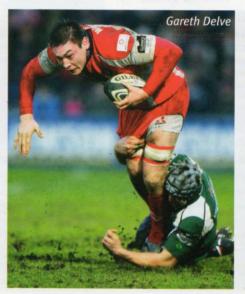


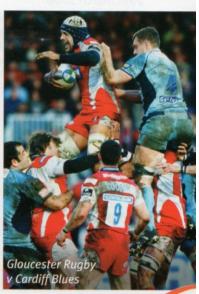
the play-offs significantly less than a formality. The success or otherwise of their season hinges, in the first instance, on the events of the next few days, starting this afternoon.

But then, how do we define success? In the winning of trophies, or in the being there with a chance of winning trophies. If the first is the only measure, there are an awful lot of failures around. If we apply the second definition, Ryan and his Gloucester side

already have reason to congratulate themselves. It has been a testing season for them, complicated by injuries and international call-ups, straitjacketed by the pressure of expectation. The Cherry and Whites have an opportunity to free themselves today. All they need to do is light the fuse.









4th October 2008

#### **GLOUCESTER RUGBY 24-19 LONDON WASPS**

GLOUCESTER RUGBY: Willie Walker; Mark Foster, Mike Tindall, Jack Adams, Lesley Vainikolo; Ryan Lamb, Rory Lawson; Alasdair Dickinson, Olivier Azam, David Young, Alex Brown, Marco Bortolami, Apolosi Satala, Alasdair Strokosch, Andy Hazell Replacements used: Scott Lawson, Peter Buxton, Adam Eustace Gloucester Rugby scorers: Tries: Vainikolo, Walker Conversion: Walker Penalty Goals: Walker (3) Dropped Goal: Lamb

25th October 2008

#### **GLOUCESTER RUGBY 25-20 NEWPORT GWENT DRAGONS**

GLOUCESTER RUGBY: Iain Balshaw; Mark Foster, Mike Tindall, Olly Barkley, Lesley Vainikolo; Willie Walker, Rory Lawson; Alasdair Dickinson, Scott Lawson, Carlos Nieto, Marco Bortolami, Adam Eustace, Peter Buxton, Alasdair Strokosch, Andy Hazell Replacements used: Jack Adams, David Lewis, Andy Titterrell, Apolosi Satala, Jack Forster Gloucester Rugby scorers: Tries: Vainikolo (2), S Lawson, Balshaw Conversion: Barkley Penalty Goal: Barkley

2nd November 2008

#### **NEWCASTLE FALCONS 10-11 GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

GLOUCESTER RUGBY: Willie Walker; Iain Balshaw, Mike Tindall, Olly Barkley, Lesley Vainikolo; Ryan Lamb, Gareth Cooper; Nick Wood, Andy Titterrell, Carlos Nieto, Adam Eustace, Alex Brown, Peter Buxton, Alasdair Strokosch, Andy Hazell Replacements used: David Lewis, Apolosi Satala, Olivier Azam, Alasdair Dickinson Gloucester Rugby scorer:s Try: Satala Penalty Goals: Barkley (2)

28th March 2009

#### **GLOUCESTER RUGBY 17-0 OSPREYS**

GLOUCESTER RUGBY: Olly Morgan; Iain Balshaw, Mike Tindall, Anthony Allen, James Simpson-Daniel; Ryan Lamb, Rory Lawson; Alasdair Dickinson, Olivier Azam, Greg Somerville, Will James, Alex Brown, Alasdair Strokosch, Gareth Delve, Andy Hazell *Replacements used*: Carlos Nieto, Matthew J Watkins, Akapusi Qera, Scott Lawson, Olly Barkley, Gareth Cooper, Marco Bortolami

Gloucester Rugby scorers: Try: Balshaw Penalty Goals: Lamb (3) Dropped Goal: Lamb

| GLOUCESTER RUGBY EDF CUP |       |      |          |         |        |
|--------------------------|-------|------|----------|---------|--------|
| SCORERS 2008-09          | TRIES | CONS | P. GOALS | D.GOALS | POINTS |
| WILLIE WALKER            | 1     | 1    | 3        | 0       | 16     |
| LESLEY VAINIKOLO         | 3     | 0    | 0        | 0       | 15     |
| RYAN LAMB                | 0     | 0    | 3        | 2       | 15     |
| OLLY BARKLEY             | 0     | 1    | 3        | 0       | 11     |
| IAIN BALSHAW             | 2     | 0    | 0        | 0       | 10     |
| SCOTT LAWSON             | 1     | 0    | . 0      | 0       | 5      |
| APOLOSI SATALA           | 1     | 0    | 0        | 0       | 5      |
| TOTALS                   | 8     | 2    | 9        | 2       | 77     |



# 8 QUESTIONS FOR GARETH DELVE



What's your favourite sport after rugby?
Football. I'm a Liverpool supporter so this week hasn't been the best with them going out of the European Cup to Chelsea.
I played a lot of football but turned to rugby when I didn't make it through my Cardiff City trials at U11 stage.
I still keep an eye on how Cardiff are doing and it's going pretty well for them, so far, this season.

Where's the best place to go on holiday? I've always been keen on the Maldives and wanted to go there last summer but ended

up missing out because I was re-habbing an injury.

#### Can you cook?

I'm not bad – I'm a bit of a meat and sauce man. Fairly simple stuff but I won't starve! I make a good curry and a good bolognese.

What's the biggest game you've played in? It'd have to be my last game for Wales against South Africa. To play the World Champions in their backyard was pretty

## Who is the toughest player you've played against?

special. A huge honour.

That's a tricky one but I reckon it's probably Filo Tiatia. He's always a tough character and doesn't seem to be slowing down even though he's past 30 now!

What's your favourite film? Goodfellas.

#### What music do you like?

A bit of everything. Literally, all sorts of music. The first gig I went to was the Red Hot Chilli Peppers at Hyde Park and I've been to a few since.

## Who's in charge of the music for dressing room?

That's Hazey's (Andy Hazell's) domain, always has been. So, a bit of hard house goes on before games to get the boys pumped up!

Biographies by Michael Austin



# PLAYER BIOGRAPHIES GLOUCESTER RUGBY





#### THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY MANAGEMENT TEAM

#### **DEAN RYAN**

HEAD COACH

#### **BRYAN REDPATH**

ASSISTANT COACH

#### **DENIS BETTS**

SKILLS & DEVELOPMENT COACH

**CARL HOGG** 

FORWARDS COACH

MARK BITCON

**HEAD OF STRENGTH & CONDITIONING** 

**BARNEY ALLEN** 

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH

**BOB STEWART** 

HEAD OF MEDICAL SERVICES

**ADAM BRETT** 

**PHYSIOTHERAPIST** 

**CHRIS LAMDEN** 

DOCTOR

**ALEX HENNESSY** 

**RUGBY MANAGER** 

ANDY OWEN

ANALYST

TIM MITCHELL

KIT MAN

**DUNCAN WOOD** 

MEDIA MANAGER



#### **JACK ADAMS**

Position: Centre Born: 17.9.86

Birthplace: Gloucester Height: 1.83m (6'o") Weight: 96kg (15st 2lb)

Jack Adams, a former England Under-18s' player, has a dual registration with Gloucester and Moseley and will join Bristol next season. A product of St Peter's School and a Gloucester Academy graduate, he made his England Sevens' debut in Hong Kong and captained Gloucester in the Middlesex tournament last August. He first played for the Cherry & Whites at the age of 18 and is moving to the Memorial Stadium in the quest for regular first team rugby.



#### ANTHONY ALLEN

Position: Centre

Born: 1.9.86

Birthplace: Southampton Height: 1.8om (5'11")

Weight: 92kg (14st 7lb)

Anthony Allen, a former Harlequin who has two England caps, joined Gloucester from Millfield School in the summer of 2005, having been previously educated at Clayesmore. He played a pivotal role for Gloucester's triumphant Middlesex Sevens squad that year, scoring two tries in the final against London Wasps. Ran in another in his second Premiership match against Leicester, represented England Under-16s and 19s and was a member of the Grand Slam-winning Under-21 side.



#### **OLIVIER AZAM**

Position: Hooker

Born: 21.10.74 Birthplace: Tarbes, France

Height: 1.85m (6'1")

Weight: 120kg (18st 12lb)

Olivier Azam, a combative forward, first signed for Gloucester in 2001, having earlier played for both his hometown club Tarbes and for Montferrand, from where he returned to Kingsholm in 2004-05. He made his Test debut for France in 1995 when appearing against Romania and Argentina in the Latin Cup in Buenos Aires. Has won ten caps overall and also played for France A, his first game at that level being against Wales in 1996.



#### IAIN BALSHAW

Position: Full back/Wing

Born: 14.4.79

Under-21s and spent seven years with Bath.

Birthplace: Blackburn

Height: 1.85m (6'1") Weight: 94kg (14st 11lb)

lain Balshaw MBE, a Gloucester newcomer from Leeds Carnegie in 2006o7, has shown an indomitable spirit to triumph over a series of injuries, one forcing him to miss the 2005 Lions' tour. He had played in all three Tests in the 2001 series against Australia, was in the triumphant England squad at the 2003 RWC and has won 35 England caps. Educated at Stonyhurst College, he represented England 16 and 18-Groups, Colts and



#### **MARCO BORTOLAMI**

Position: Lock Born: 12.6.80 Birthplace: Padova, Italy

Height: 1.95m (6'5") Weight: 112kg (17st 9lb)

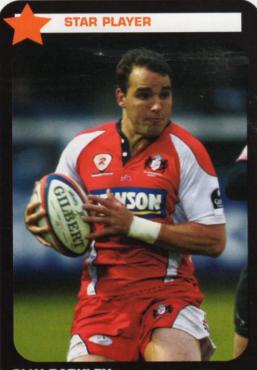
Marco Bortolami, who led Gloucester last season, became Italy's youngest captain at the age of 22, two years after making his Test debut. He guided the Azzurri to their most successful Championship campaign in 2007, was in charge for three matches during the subsequent RWC and has won 72 Test caps. He emerged through Italy's youth system – graduating from the under-195, can figure in the back row as well as at lock and is in his third season at Kingsholm.



#### **ALEX BROWN**

Position: Lock Born: 17.5.79 Birthplace: Bristol Height: 2.01m (6'7") Weight: 116kg (18st 4lb)

Alex Brown has won three England caps since signing for the Cherry & Whites in the summer of 2003 from Bristol and is contracted to Gloucester until 2011. He set a Premiership record of 87 consecutive appearances after overtaking Derek Eves' run of 81 for Bristol and has made more than 153 overall for the club. He first played when five at Clifton and later for Bath and Pontypool. Representative honours include England Under-195, 215 and Saxons and he was educated at Colston's. Bristol.



#### **OLLY BARKLEY**

Position: Centre/Fly half Born: 28.11.81 Birthplace: Hammersmith Height: 1.78m (5'10") Weight: 92kg (14st 7lb)

Olly Barkley, who has won 23 England caps, joined Gloucester last autumn on a two-year contract after seven seasons with Bath during which he became the club's second highest points-scorer behind Jon Callard. Educated at Wadebridge Comprehensive and Colston's, Bristol, he represented England Under-16s, 18s, 21s and was in the Saxons' team that beat New Zealand Maori 17-13 in the 2007 Churchill Cup final. He made his Test debut against the USA in 2001.



#### PETER BUXTON

Position: Back row Born: 21.8.78 Birthplace: Cheltenham Height: 1.93m (6'4") Weight: 115kg (18st 1lb)

Peter Buxton has produced some match-winning performances since signing for Gloucester seven seasons ago and is approaching 200 appearances for the Cherry & Whites. Has a penchant for driving play and represented England Saxons against Scotland, Ireland and France in 2002 while with Newport, the club he joined from Moseley. He played in every Premiership match in 2004-05 and shared Gloucester's captaincy with Marco Bortolami in the season before last.



#### **GARETH COOPER**

Position: Scrum half Born: 7.5.79 Birthplace: Bridgend, South Wales Height: 1.7om (5'7") Weight: 84kg (13st 3lb)

Gareth Cooper, who joined Gloucester two years ago from Newport Gwent Dragons was a try-scorer when winning the first of his 40 caps against Italy eight years ago and was first choice for the 2003 RWC. Played for Wales Schools, Under-21s and A team and won a Lions' cap against Argentina, the year he toured New Zealand. He has also appeared for Bridgend, Bath and Celtic Warriors. First played with Pencoed minis and studied Sport Science at the University of Wales Institute.

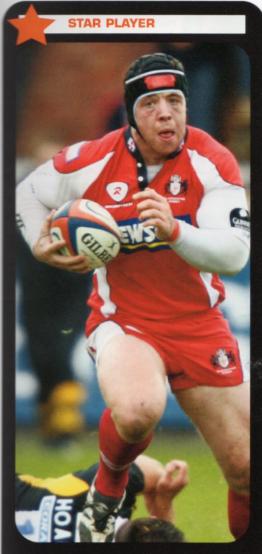


#### **GARETH DELVE**

Position: Back row Born: 30.12.82 Birthplace: Cardiff, South Wales Height: 1.91m (6'3") Weight: 115kg (18st 1lb)

Gareth Delve, who joined Gloucester from Bath last season, has won nine Wales caps, possesses the pace of a wing and has triumphed over assorted injuries, including shoulder and foot that plagued him in the past. He captained Wales in every age group from Under-16s upwards and guided the Under-21s to a Grand Slam. First played for a Wales XV against Barbarians in 2003 and was in the Bath squad that lost to Leeds Carnegie in the 2005 Powergen Cup final at Twickenham.





#### **ALASDAIR DICKINSON**

Position: Prop Born: 11.9.83 Birthplace: Dundee, Scotland Height: 1.83m (6'o") Weight: 112kg (17st 9lb)

Alasdair Dickinson, who signed for Gloucester from Edinburgh last season, has played in Scotland's past 12 Tests, won 13 caps overall and figured on both sides of the scrum in this year's RB5 6 Nations Championship. He had been an Edinburgh apprentice in 2004 while still with Heriot's Former Pupils. A product of the High School of Dundee, his representative honours span all Scotland age levels and feature the under-19s and 21s. He has also played for Scotland A.



#### **ADAM EUSTACE**

Position: Lock Born: 9.1.79 Birthplace: Gloucester Height: 1.96m (6'5") Weight:107kg (16st 12lb)

Adam Eustace, a strong and mobile forward, returned to Gloucester this season after a year with the Scarlets, where he ran the line-out in the Heineken Cup campaign. Before departing Kingsholm, he had made 180-plus appearances and been converted from the back row to lock but is versatile enough to figure in either role. Made his Gloucester debut in 1998 after switching from Widden Old Boys and has been in the England Under-195, 215 and Saxons' squads.



#### **JACK FORSTER**

Position: Prop Born: 19.3.87 Birthplace: Wigan Height: 1.85m (6'1") Weight: 120kg (18st 12lb)

Jack Forster, an emerging forward, was with Aspull (1996-98) and Sedgley Park (1998-2004) and was also attached to Sale Sharks from 2003-05. A Lancastrian, he was head boy at Bolton School before heading to Hartpury College, from where he joined Gloucester for the 2006-07 season. He made his England Saxons' debut in the Churchill Cup in Canada and the USA last summer, having represented England Under-16s and 18s before appearing for the under-19s.



#### **MARK FOSTER**

Position: Wing Born: 2.9.83 Birthplace: Colchester Height: 1.83m (6'0") Weight: 100kg (15st 10lb)

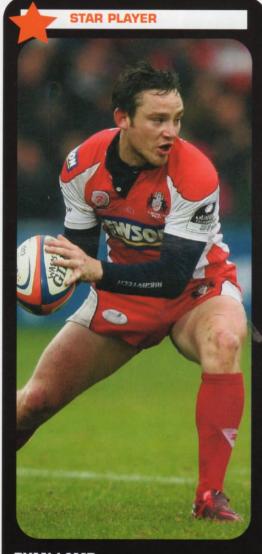
Mark Foster joined the Gloucester Academy at the age of 18 in the summer of 2002. He then produced some excellent performances for Gloucester in the Guinness A League, broke into the first team and scored some important tries. After a struggle to hold down a place in 2007-08, he made appearances for Moseley, Gloucester's affiliate club but was a try-scorer in the 34-14 win over London Irish in the Guinness Premiership at Kingsholm in March last year.



#### **ANDREW HAZELL**

Position: Back row Born: 25.4.78 Birthplace: Gloucester Height: 1.83m (6'0") Weight: 95kg (14st 13lb)

Andy Hazell, Gloucester's beneficiary this season and longest-serving player, has won seven England caps, the most recent against South Africa two years ago and represented the Saxons. He had played in both midweek games on England's tour of North America in 2001, scoring a try in the first against British Columbia. Represented England Under-21s and played for Old Richians and Gloucester Old Boys before joining Gloucester 12 years ago. He is contracted until 2011.



#### **RYAN LAMB**

Position: Fly half Born: 18.5.86 Birthplace: Gloucester Height: 1.75m (5'9") Weight: 85kg (13st 5lb)

Ryan Lamb excelled for the England Under-21 side that achieved the Grand Slam in 2006 and subsequently won England Saxons' honours. An intuitive player with a penchant for making breaks, he was educated at St Peter's and is approaching 90 matches for Gloucester. He represented the England Under-16 A team and Under-18s, played Sevens in the 2004 Commonwealth Youth Games and appeared for England Under-19s in the World Championship in Durban.



#### **WILL JAMES**

Position: Lock Born: 22.12.76 Birthplace: Plymouth Height: 1.98m (6'6") Weight: 120kg (18st 12lb)

Will James, who has won four caps for Wales, switched from Cornish Pirates, a National One club, to Gloucester in 2006 after his progress had been closely monitored by Dean Ryan, the Cherry & Whites' head coach. He had previous spells with Pontypridd, Pontypool, for whom he appeared in the Heineken Cup, and Plymouth Albion. Qualified by Welsh parentage for his adopted country and is known to his teammates as 'Bull' because of his immense strength.



#### **RORY LAWSON**

Position: Scrum half Born: 12.3.81 Birthplace: Dunfermline, Scotland

Height: 1.73m (5'8") Weight: 85kg (13st 5lb)

Rory Lawson won the most recent of his 15 Scotland caps against Canada in Aberdeen last November, having joined Gloucester three years ago from Edinburgh. Educated at Dollar Academy, he initially played for Heriot's FP and made his Test debut against Australia in 2006, following in the footsteps of his father Alan. He had led Scotland A to the final of the Churchill Cup that year and also represented Scotland Sevens in the IRB World Series and Commonwealth Games.



#### SCOTT LAWSON

Position: Hooker Born: 28.9.81 Birthplace: Lanark, Scotland Height 1.73m (5'8") Weight: 96kg (15st 2lb)

Scott Lawson joined Gloucester from Sale Sharks last September after Ross McMillan sustained a serious knee injury during a pre-season match against Bayonne. He had first played for the Sharks against Gloucester two years earlier after switching from Glasgow Warriors and was part of Scotland's 2007 RWC squad. Formerly with Biggar and Melrose, he represented Scotland Under-18s, 19s, 21s and appeared for the A team in the Churchill Cup.



#### **DAVE LEWIS**

Position: Scrum half Born: 29.4.89 Birthplace: Barnstaple Height: 1.70m (5'7") Weight: 80kg (12st 8lb)

Dave Lewis, an England Under-20s' squad member, initially joined Gloucester at the age of 17 on a one-year contract from Exeter Chiefs. He was combining his rugby career with a course in Sports Coaching and Conditioning at Hartpury College. A product of Ivybridge Community School and a member of the South West of England Rugby Academy, he toured Australia with England Under-18s. He made seven first team appearances for Gloucester in the first half of this season.





#### **LUKE NARRAWAY**

Position: Back row Born: 7.9.83 Birthplace: Worcester

Height: 1.91m (6'3") Weight: 108kg (17st olb)

Luke Narraway, the son of a Worcester butcher, won the first five of his seven England caps last year, relishing his role as a link in broken field play. Schooled at King's, Worcester=, he graduated to the Gloucester side against Leeds Carnegie in 2003 from his formative days in the North Midlands Under-13s' team. Also appeared for England Under-18s, was part of the first Under-21 Grand Slam champion side in 2004 and played for the Saxons and England Sevens.



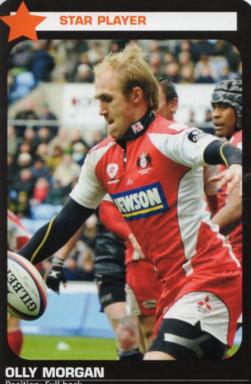
#### **CARLOS NIETO**

Position: Prop Born: 28.4.76

Birthplace: La Plata, Argentina

Height: 1.85m (6'1") Weight: 110kg (17st 4lb)

Carlos Nieto, who has won 34 caps for Italy, signed for Gloucester three years ago on the day after Marco Bortolomi, then his national team captain, had agreed a move to Kingsholm. He made his Test debut against England in 2002, having arrived in Italy from his native Argentina in 2000 and played for Gran Parma before switching to Viadana and now Gloucester. Head coach Dean Ryan recruited him initially as cover for the injured Phil Vickery, who then moved on to London Wasps.



Position: Full back Born: 3.11.85 Birthplace: London Height: 1.88m (6'2") Weight: 94kg (14st 11lb)

Olly Morgan, whose second and most recent cap was against Ireland two years ago, has excelled during Gloucester's success in this season's domestic competitions. Tall and athletic, he became a Cherry & Whites' professional in 2004 after being educated at Millfield. He appeared for England Under-16s, won eight caps for the under-19s in 2002-03, represented Young England Sevens in 2004 and became a member of the Under-21s' Grand Slam winning team.



#### **AKAPUSI QERA**

Position: Back row Born: 24.4.84 Birthplace: Suva, Fiji Height: 1.93m (6'4") Weight: 103kg (16st 3lb)

Akapusi Qera sprang to prominence while playing for Birmingham & Solihull and signed for Gloucester after eye-catching performances in the 2007 RWC when Fiji reached the quarter-finals. In his final season with the Bees, he plundered 16 tries in National One and maintained his scoring exploits for Gloucester. A serious knee injury in the Pacific Nations Cup last year ruled him out for six months and he missed the start of this season. He has won 14 caps for his native country.



#### **APOLOSI SETALA**

Position: Back row Born: 14.8.78 Birthplace: Lautoka, Fiji Height: 1.93m (6'4") Weight: 105kg (16st 8lb)

Apolosi Setala, who was with Leeds Carnegie last season, impressed head coach Dean Ryan while playing for the British Army in the Middlesex Sevens last summer, was invited for a trial at Kingsholm and immediately recruited until the end of this season. He has four caps for Fiji, the most recent being against Australia in Perth two years ago, and also represented his country at Sevens. Scored his maiden try for Gloucester in the EDF Energy Cup against Newcastle Falcons.



#### CHARLIE SHARPLES

Position: Wing/Full back Born: 17.8.89 Birthplace: Hong Kong Height: 1.83m (6'o") Weight: 93kg (14st 9lb)

Charlie Sharples, a Guinness Premiership try-scorer against Bath in February, has a dual registration with Gloucester and Moseley and toured Australia with the England Under-18s' squad in August 2007. He then played his part in the England Under-20s' Grand Slam in the subsequent Six Nations Championship and was chosen for the Under-20 World Cup in Wales. Originally with Dursley for two years, he moved to Gloucester and made his Premiership debut against Sale Sharks last season.



#### JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

Position: Wing Born: 30.5.82

Birthplace: Stockton-on-Tees

Height: 1.83m (6'o") Weight: 92kg (14st 7lb)

James Simpson-Daniel, an elusive runner with blistering pace, was educated at Sedbergh and has won ten England caps, his most recent against South Africa two years ago when he scored his third Test try. He is no stranger to the goal-line, having run in 85 in 178 matches for Gloucester. Has shared in England's Sevens success in Hong Kong and bagged two tries in Gloucester's Powergen Cup final triumph over Northampton Saints



#### **GREG SOMERVILLE**

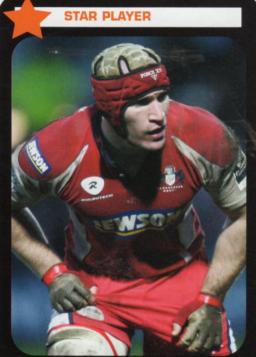
Position: Prop

Born: 28.11.77 Birthplace: Wairoa, New Zealand

Height: 1.85m (6'1")

Weight: 115kg (18st 1lb)

Greg Somerville, with 66, is the second most capped of the Gloucester squad's 26 Test players behind Marco Bortolami and joined the club from Canterbury Crusaders last December on a two-and-a-half year contract. A fierce scrummager, he has more caps than any other New Zealand prop forward, having overtaken Craig Dowd. His experience, high calibre and expertise has since benefited Gloucester, whose head coach Dean Ryan hailed him as 'an outstanding acquisition.'



#### **ALASDAIR STROKOSCH**

Position: Back row

Born: 21.2.83 Birthplace: Paisley, Scotland

Height: 1.91m (6'3")

Weight: 107kg (16st 12lb)

Alasdair Strokosch signed for Gloucester in the summer of 2007 and produced such impressive performances for the Cherry & Whites that he not only earned a Test recall but has since started ten of Scotland's 13 internationals and won 11 caps overall. He was previously with Edinburgh from 2003 onwards and has represented Scotland Under-21s and Sevens. His energy and work-rate have enhanced Gloucester's season in which he has made 22 appearances.



#### **CARLOS SPENCER**

Position: Fly half Born: 14.10.85

Birthplace: Levin, New Zealand Height: 1.85m (6'1")

Weight: 98kg (15st 6lb)

Carlos Spencer signed for Gloucester in February on a 17-month contract after being released by mutual consent from Northampton Saints, whom he had joined in 2005. During his time at Franklin's Gardens, he made more than a century of appearances. He first played for Auckland in 1993 and won 35 caps for the All Blacks from 1997-2004. His Gloucester debut was against Sale Sharks and he has since played in five more consecutive Premiership matches.



#### ANDY TITTERRELL

Position: Hooker

Born: 10.1.81

Birthplace: Dartford Height: 1.78m (5'10")

Weight: 94kg (14st 11lb)

Andy Titterrell, a Guinness Premiership title winner with Sale Sharks in 2006, signed for Gloucester the following year and has played mostly off the bench this season. He won five England caps from 2004-07, having made his debut against New Zealand in Auckland. A tearaway runner around the field, he had played for Waterloo Drummers, was a member of the England Under-21 side and played for the Saxons in the Churchill Cup.



#### **HENRY TRINDER**

Position: Centre/Wing

Born: 14.4.89

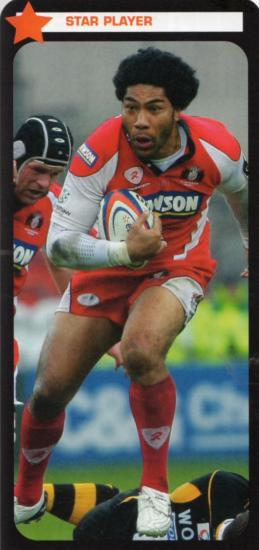
Birthplace: Swindon

Height: 1.83m (6'0")

Weight: 85kg (13st 5lb)

Henry Trinder made the first of three starts so far for Gloucester against London Irish in January. An England Academy and Under-20s' player, he has a dual registration with Gloucester and Moseley and is a former Cirencester Colt. He toured Australia with the England Under-18s' squad last August, having already played in wins over France, Ireland and Scotland. Was a tryscorer in both the opening matches in this year's Under-20s Six Nations' Championship against Italy and Wales.





#### **LESLEY VAINIKOLO**

Position: Wing Born: 14.5.79 Birthplace: Nuku'alofa, Tonga Height: 1.88m (6'2")

Weight: 112kg (17st 9lb)

Lesley Vainikolo, known as 'The Volcano', joined Gloucester last season on a three-year contract from Bradford Bulls RLFC, qualifies for England by residence and has won five caps. His career in the 13-a-side game for the Odsal club produced 149 tries in 152 matches and he ran in five on his Guinness Premiership debut against Leeds Carnegie. He scored 14 tries in 12 rugby league Tests for New Zealand and joined Bradford from Canberra Raiders seven years ago.



#### WILLIE WALKER

Position: Fly half/Full back Born: 19.5.78

Birthplace: Opotiki, New Zealand

Height: 1.83m (6'0") Weight: 88kg (13st 12lb)

Willie Walker, a versatile Maori, signed for Gloucester in 2006 after a spell with North Harbour in the NPC and the Highlanders in Super 14. He made his debut against Saracens in a friendly alongside Rory Lawson, then another half back newcomer but was used more as a full back last season. His 64 appearances have produced 364 points, including 185 in the 2006or Guinness Premiership season. He recently went on loan to Worcester



## MATTHEW WATKINS Position: Centre/Wing

Born: 2.9.78

Birthplace: Newport, South Wales

Height: 1.83m (6'o")

Weight: 92kg (14st 7lb)

Matthew Watkins was a Gloucester recruit from the Scarlets this season on a two-year contract. He had scored 33 tries in 123 appearances for the Llanelli-based club, having previously played for Newport Gwent Dragons. His 18 Test caps include being in the first Wales' side to beat Australia in 18 years and his most recent international was in Argentina three years ago. He had made his debut in the 30-22 defeat by Italy in 2003.



#### **NICK WOOD**

Position: Prop Born: 9.1.83 Birthplace: Swindon

Height: 1.85m (6'1") Weight: 112kg (17st 8lb)

Nick Wood was a member of the England Under-21 Grand Slam winning squad five seasons ago and joined Gloucester, his first club, in 2001 after leaving Radley College. Has played for England Under-18s, appeared off the bench for England Saxons in the 33-18 defeat by Ireland A at Kingsholm in March 2006 and also has representative honours in hockey. An academy product, he has made 112 appearances since stepping into the Gloucester squad in 2003-04.



#### **DAVID YOUNG**

Position: Prop Born: 18.2.85 Birthplace: Belfast Height: 1.85m (6'1")

Weight: 117kg (18st 6lb)

David Young, a former Scotland Under-19s' and 21s' player, signed this season for Gloucester from Leicester Tigers, whom he had joined as an academy player in 2004. He was elevated to the first team squad the following year and attended the Murray Mexted International Rugby Academy in New Zealand. His Tigers' debut was against Northampton Saints in December 2005 and he made 13 senior appearances in all for the Welford Road club.





#### **GLOUCESTER RUGBY 12**

Full back 15 Olly Morgan

Right Wing 14 Matthew Watkins

Centre 13 James Simpson-Daniel

Centre 12 Anthony Allen

Left Wing 11 Mark Foster

Fly half 10 Ryan Lamb

Scrum half 9 Rory Lawson

Prop 1 Nick Wood
Hooker 2 Olivier Azam
Prop 3 Greg Somerville
Lock 4 Alex Brown
Lock 5 Will James
Flanker 6 Luke Narraway
Flanker 7 Akapusi Qera
No 8 8 Gareth Delve (Captain)

Referee: Replacements
Alain Rolland (Ireland) 16 Scott Lawson
Touch Judges: 17 Carlos Nieto
Marco Bortolami
David Keane (Ireland) and
David Keane (Ireland) 20 Gareth Cooper
Television Motch Official: 1 Olly Barkley
John Sheehan (Ireland) 22 Charlie Sharples



#### **CARDIFF BLUES** 50

Ben Blair 15 Full back
Leigh Halfpenny 14 Right Wing
Tom Shanklin 13 Centre
Jamie Roberts 12 Centre
Tom James 11 Left Wing
Nicky Robinson 10 Fly half
Jason Spice 9 Scrum half

Gethin Jenkins 1
Gareth Williams 2
Taufa'ao Filise 3
Bradley Davies 4
(Captain) Paul Tito 5
Ma'ama Molitika 6
Martyn Williams 7
Xavier Rush 8 Prop Hooker Prop Lock Lock Flanker Flanker No 8

These teams were accurate on 15th April 2009

45

EDFENERGYRUGBY.COM