

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
ISSUE
05

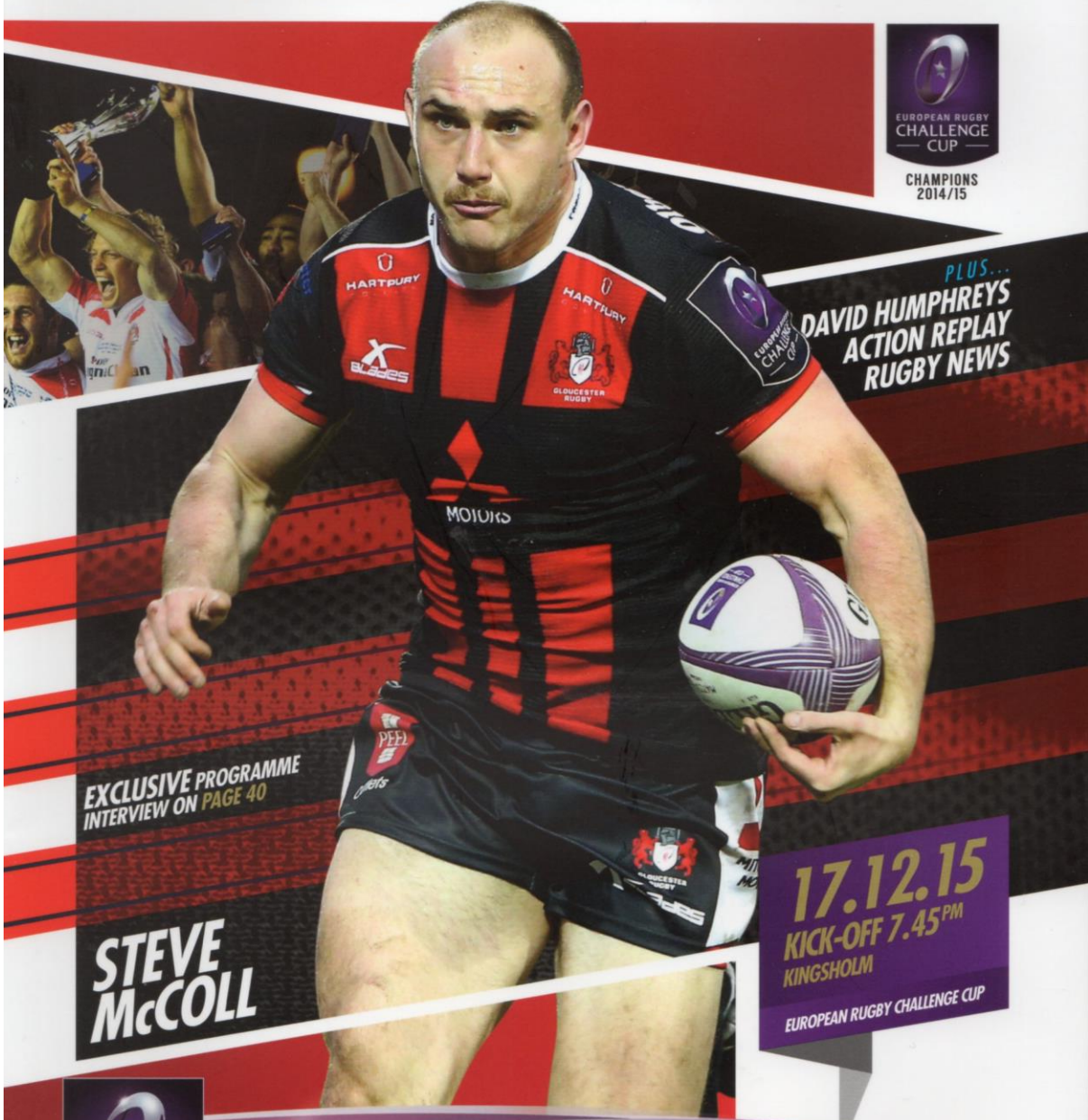


**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY** vs WORCESTER WARRIORS
EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP - ROUND 4

PRICE: £3



CHAMPIONS
2014/15



PLUS...
**DAVID HUMPHREYS
ACTION REPLAY
RUGBY NEWS**

EXCLUSIVE PROGRAMME
INTERVIEW ON PAGE 40

**STEVE
McCOLL**

17.12.15
KICK-OFF 7.45 PM
KINGSHOLM

EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP



OFFICIAL PARTNERS



OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS



C CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO THIS EVENING'S GAME WITH WORCESTER WARRIORS, WITH ANOTHER EXCITING EVENING OF RUGBY AHEAD OF US.

LAST Thursday was a performance we can be very happy with. Going to Sixways is a tough job for any team, and we haven't had the best of records up the road in recent times. So, to head home with a maximum point win that displayed our attacking prowess is a terrific achievement.

It's only half time though in this double header though, and we have to back it up tonight to get to a position we wanted, in a competition where we have done well again this year.

(RIGHT) The squad are in good spirits after last weekend's victory



PERFORMANCES ARE COMING ALONG NICELY WITH COMPETITION FOR PLACES APLENTY AND SOME GOOD MOMENTUM BUILDING, WHICH IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR US AS WE LOOK INTO THE NEW YEAR.

There is no easy game in this group, just like there was last year, so we are targeting another strong second half to our pool campaign between now and January.

A win tonight, and it will be only one home loss in the calendar year of 2015, and this is something we can be very happy with, as we have been quite open in our ambition to restore Kingsholm to a fortress.

The two games with Worcester so far this season have been very tough and physical games, so tonight will no doubt be no different. We need to be on our mettle as Dean and Hoggy will have their team well prepared to

take us on.

But, we have to be focusing on our own game, and the quality we have in the squad at the moment. Plenty of the boys are loving their rugby and playing with a smile on their face, which is a good place to be.

Performances are coming along nicely with competition for places aplenty and some good momentum building, which is vitally important for us as we look into the New Year. The coaches have been very careful to manage our workload over the past few weeks, which is important and much appreciated.

In the New Year we face probably the two toughest away

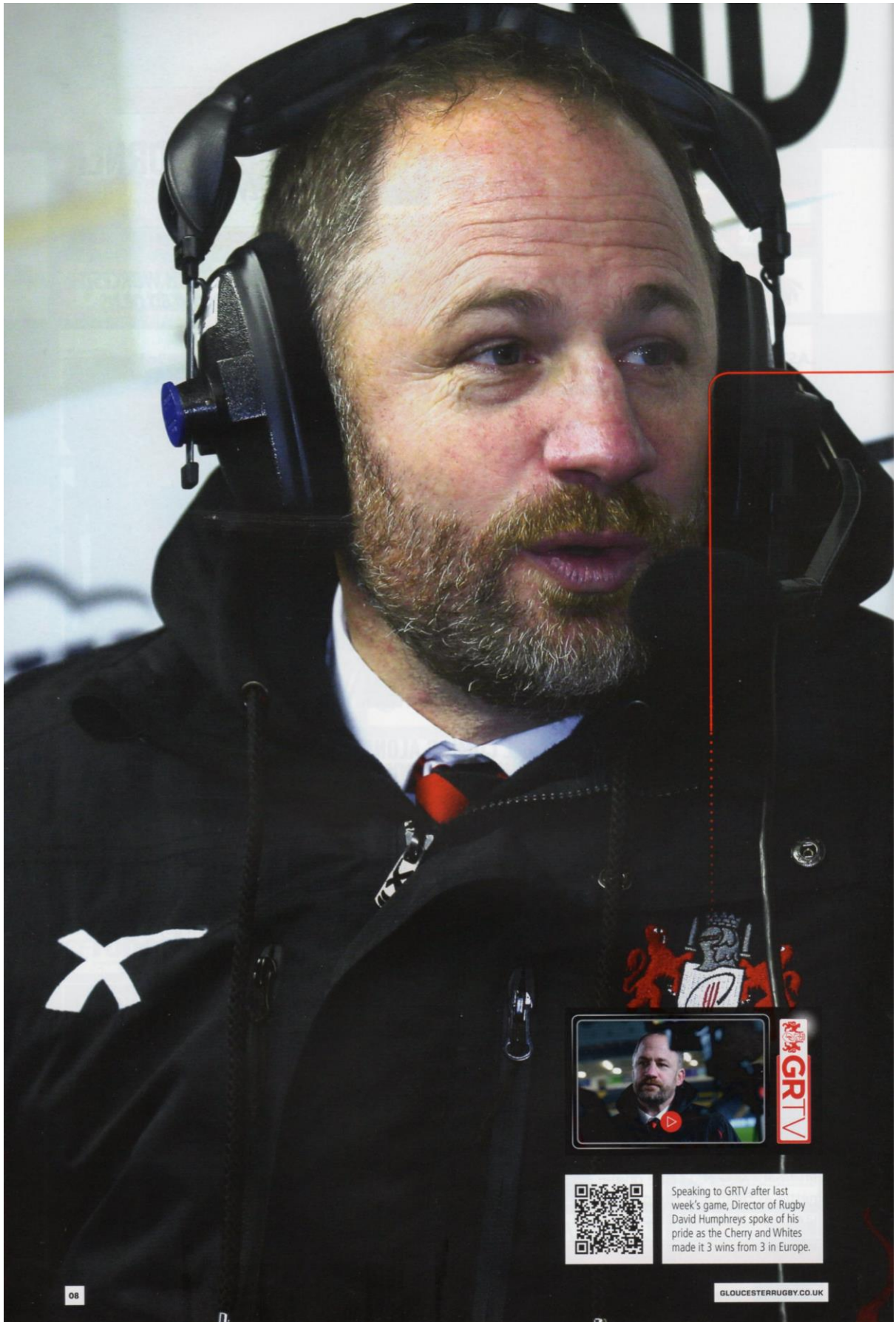
trips at the moment on form, with Harlequins and Exeter to travel to, so we need to continue our good form ready for those challenges.

As this is our final game of 2015, it leaves me to say thank you on behalf of the whole squad, and staff for your unrivalled support over the past twelve months.

There are a number of highlights, which I'm sure you will all be discussing at length in the Shed this evening.

Enjoy the game

Billy



Speaking to GRTV after last week's game, Director of Rugby David Humphreys spoke of his pride as the Cherry and Whites made it 3 wins from 3 in Europe.

COMING UP...

EXCLUSIVE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME INTERVIEW
STEVE McCOLL



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DAVID HUMPHREYS

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

GOOD EVENING AND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR THE FINAL TIME IN 2015, AS WE WELCOME WORCESTER WARRIORS IN THIS ROUND 4 EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP FIXTURE.

THE end of the year gives us all a chance to reflect on what has been an important 12 months for Gloucester Rugby. The undoubted highlight of the year was beating Edinburgh to win the European Rugby Challenge Cup in May, and while it was the Club's first silverware in four years, it is only the starting point for this group of players and staff.

It was disappointing to miss out on qualification for the Champions Cup against Bordeaux but in European terms, our goal is now to become the first team to retain the Challenge Cup. We've had a great start to this season's competition winning all of our pool games to date and with two of those wins being away from home.

The second of those was a week ago against today's opponents, Worcester, and it's very important that we back up last week's performance with a win here this evening.

A win tonight would allow this group of players to create another little piece of history. Having equalled Sale's record of 12 consecutive wins in the Challenge Cup last week, a victory tonight would mean 13 games unbeaten and, more importantly, another step closer to achieving our goal of winning Pool 4.

However, there is no room for complacency in our squad tonight. In our two previous meetings with Worcester this season, we've been pushed hard by a very competitive side and with nothing to lose this evening that will make them even more dangerous. Throw in the local

derby element, and this evening's game will have a bit of an edge to it!

After some outstanding individual performances in the win last Thursday, there is now real competition for places in the starting XV. While it can make selection decisions difficult, the quality and depth of our playing squad is essential to developing a team that can compete in both the Premiership and Europe and every player now knows they have to perform to get selected for the next game.

Our goal throughout the past 12 months has been to be better this week than we were last week. Despite the inevitable ups and downs that come with being involved in professional sport, I have no doubt that we are in a much stronger position that we were this time last year.

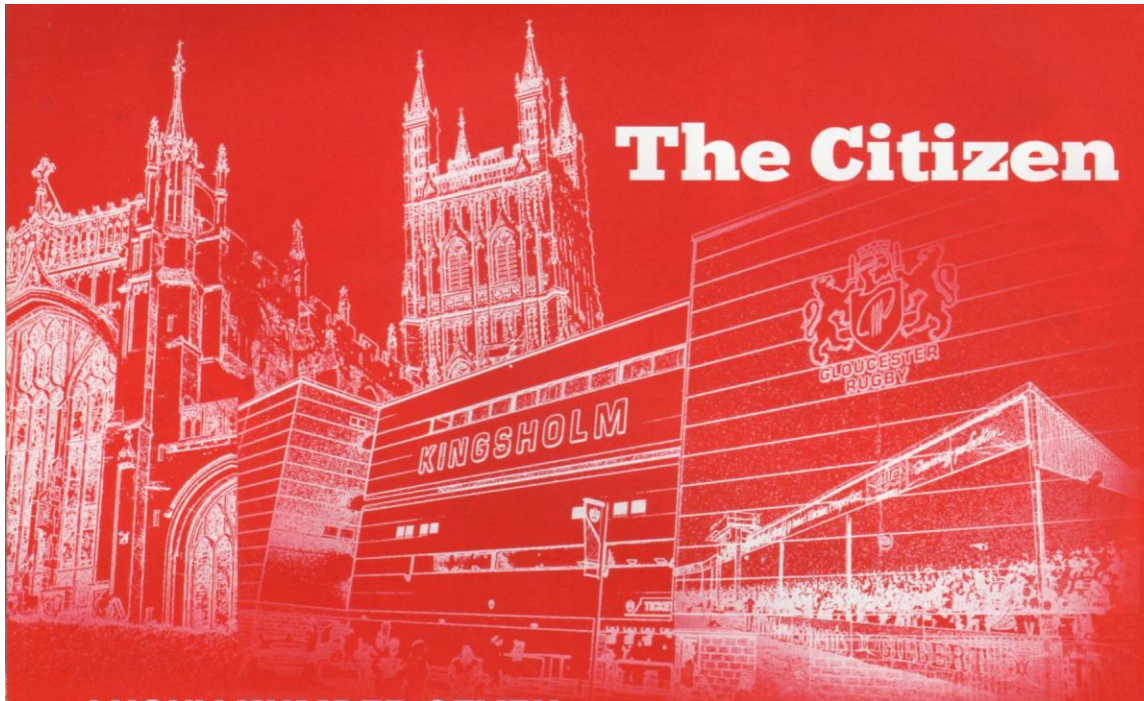
Everyone has been working incredibly hard to ensure that we continue to improve but equally we all know that there is still a long way to go to achieve what this group of players is capable of.

Representing Gloucester Rugby is a privilege that we all enjoy and a large part of that is down to the role you, our supporters, play at Kingsholm and in the support we enjoy throughout Europe. We have had tremendous support throughout the past 12 months and Kingsholm has again become a very intimidating place to play!

I hope you enjoy the game and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



(ABOVE) Henry Purdy was excellent in a tough game against the Warriors in round 3



The Citizen

LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN

EDDIE JONES WAS DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE MATT KVESIC IN ACTION LAST THURSDAY BUT THE FLANKER IS BEING DRIVEN TO NEW HEIGHTS AT GLOUCESTER.

THE England Head Coach is undertaking a tour of the 12 Premiership clubs and was in the stands at Sixways as the Cherry and Whites claimed a bonus-point win over Worcester Warriors.

But it was another young English flanker in the number seven jersey who would have caught the Australian's eye – Jacob Rowan.

The former Yorkshire Carnegie captain is enjoying a breakthrough season, which has further bolstered Gloucester's back-row riches.

Laurie Fisher has pointed to Rowan as one of the stand out performers so far this season and reckons the competition for places can only benefit Kvesic.

And there is little doubt Kvesic would have been a hot topic of discussion when Jones met David Humphreys and his old Brumbies assistant at Hartpury on Friday.

Fisher said, "Matt's played at that level and any English seven in the Premiership will now be trying to put their best foot forward.

"Whether that's Luke Wallace, Matt Kvesic or Brendan O'Connor or anyone else, the selection book





▼ **AS A BACK-ROW WE WORK VERY HARD AT THE BREAKDOWN AND SEEM TO BE GETTING A BIT OF JOY THERE AT THE MOMENT.** ▼▼

is open.

"Guys will be pushing hard, I'm not sure what the process is with how Eddie will pick the squad, I'm just focussing on our players and we would like to provide as many to the international arena as we can.

"Matt is building on his form from last year but Jacob is playing outstanding football and Dan Thomas is a player of the future.

"The game Jacob started against

Zebre, he was excellent and against Sale he claimed two crucial turnovers, he did the same against La Rochelle where his turnover led to Stevie McColl's try.

"He has had some really big interventions off the bench this season and that sort of pressure is good for the team and gets the best out of players like Matt."

Rowan continued his rich vein of form in the first of these back-to-



back encounters with Worcester Warriors and is enjoying every minute of action.

He has already featured in nine matches for the Cherry and Whites this season, including three starts and one as a captain, in comparison to 11 throughout the whole of the 2014-15 campaign.

The former England Under-20s captain admits it has taken him time to adjust to the intensity of the top flight but is thrilled to be up to speed.

He said, "The pace of the game and the time you have to react is very quick as you progress through the levels. It's something that takes time and you have to work hard and put in the training hours so pre-season was a really good opportunity this year.

"As a back-row we work very hard at the breakdown and seem to be getting a bit of joy there at the moment.

"Laurie loves the work-rate aspect and if you can bring that energy and intensity to your performance you will only help the team.



"They seem to have a little bit of confidence in me which is great and I just have to put in performances in when I have an opportunity.

"There is so much competition in the back-row that there are so many combinations they can play which is great for the squad and our competitiveness."

Citizen
AVAILABLE DAILY



GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

GLOUCESTER PROPS PART 2

THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE CLUB, GLOUCESTER BUILT AND MAINTAINED A FINE AND DESERVED REPUTATION FOR HARD UNCOMPROMISING PROP FORWARDS - OTHER CLUBS, INCLUDING THE WELSH, ALWAYS KNEW THAT THEY WERE IN FOR A TOUGH ENCOUNTER UP FRONT WHEN THEY FACED THE CHERRY AND WHITES.

This second article on great Gloucester props takes us from the fifties to the seventies.

ROY PARRY

FOR much of his career, which spanned the years 1949 to 1956 and a total of 270 games, Roy Parry formed part of a formidable Gloucester front row alongside hooker Cyril Thomas and England prop George Hastings. Despite being an automatic choice for Gloucester for much of his career, he played only twice for Gloucestershire, making his County Championship debut against Cornwall at Redruth in his last season.



Roy Parry was born in Gloucester in May 1923 and was educated at Linden Secondary School. He played rugby while in the Army in Palestine and then, on demobilisation, for Fielding & Platt's Atlas Works team, before making his debut for Gloucester at the age of 25 in December 1948.

He quickly established his place in the side, playing 69 consecutive games between December 1948 and September 1950 at the start of his career, and 37 games in Gloucester's record-breaking 1953-54 season under John Taylor.

After retirement in 1956 he was immediately elected to the Gloucester committee and served as a selector for a number of years.

ALLAN TOWNSEND

THE durable tight-head prop Allan Townsend had a remarkable rugby career. He not only made 190 appearances for Gloucester between 1959 and 1964 (captaining the club in 1961-62), but also played for Cheltenham from 1951-59 (captain 1957-59), Aldershot Services, Bournemouth (captain 1967-68), Bath United (captain 1969-70) and Frome. His 18 county caps included a semi-final against Lancashire in 1964.

Allan Townsend was born in Cheltenham in 1933 and was educated at Cheltenham Grammar School. On call up for National Service, he joined the RASC and was stationed at Aldershot where he played for Aldershot Services alongside England internationals M J K Smith and John Currie.

He returned to Cheltenham after National Service and in April 1954 played at Kingsholm

in Cheltenham's first win on the ground for 24 years. The following year he made his Gloucestershire debut and played throughout the Championship season. Then, after two seasons as Cheltenham captain, he joined Gloucester in 1959 and was a first choice at Kingsholm for the next five years.

He played throughout Gloucester's record-breaking sequence of 13 wins between October 1959 and January 1960 and became club captain in 1961-62 when he again played for Gloucestershire throughout the season.

The Times, commenting on the performance of the Gloucestershire pack which played against Cornwall at Camborne, said, "The Gloucestershire front row of Townsend, Thorne and New formed about as hard and robust a combination as anyone could want."

Career moves took Allan to Bournemouth where he captained the club in 1967-68, Bath where he captained Bath United in 1969-70 and finally to Frome where he was both player and administrator.

On his return to the area, he joined the Gloucester committee, where he served from 1983-96, was a member of the Gloucestershire Committee for 18 years and a member of the RFU Committee from 1991-97.

Allan Townsend was President of Gloucester RFC from 2008 to 2013.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY & LUK

JACK FOWKE

LOOSE-HEAD prop Jack Fowke was renowned as a difficult opponent. Hard working and fearless, he was not outstanding with ball in hand but a good technical prop, both as an exceptional scrummager and as a guardian of the lineout.



He played 267 games for Gloucester and was perhaps unlucky not to be capped more than ten times by Gloucestershire. Keith Richardson quotes John O'Shea, the Cardiff, Wales and British Lions prop, as rating Fowke the best prop he ever played against.

Jack Fowke was born in Gloucester in 1936. His brother Roy, who was five years older, also played for Gloucester, Stroud and Gloucestershire. The two brothers had played alongside each other at Kingsholm in the Stroud front row in April 1959 before joining Gloucester at the start of the following season.

Roy stayed for two seasons but Jack played on to become the cornerstone of Gloucester's scrum for the next ten years. His best years were 1965-66 and 1966-67 when he was an ever-present in Gloucestershire's County Championship side.

TUG WILSON

"TUG" Wilson played for Gloucester in the 1961-62 and 1962-63 seasons, when

servng as a corporal at RAF Innsworth. While a Gloucester player, he was capped by England against France at Twickenham in February 1963 and won five Gloucestershire caps, including a semi-final appearance against Warwickshire at Kingsholm that March. His last match at Kingsholm was for a County President's XV against Gloucester on 2nd May 1963.

Kenneth "Tug" Wilson was born in Newark in 1938 and learnt his rugby at King's School, Grantham. He was an outstanding amateur boxer who won the RAF heavyweight title and gained a points decision over Billy "Golden Boy" Walker during his boxing career.

He played rugby for the RAF and Combined Services alongside Mickey Booth, touring Rhodesia and Kenya in 1962. On leaving the RAF in 1963, he signed as a professional with Rugby League side Oldham for whom he played 321 games over the next twelve years. Tug's final game for Oldham was his testimonial match against the full England side in 1974.

MIKE BURTON

THE uncompromising Mike Burton is a true Gloucester legend, one of the dominant personalities of English rugby in the seventies. A mobile tight-head prop, both tigerish in the loose and a strong scrummager, his determination and will to win served his beloved Gloucester well, but, on his own admission, his abrasive style of play and his challenging of authority probably cost him England caps and a second Lions tour.

In the second test of the 1975 series in Australia (the infamous "Battle of Brisbane") he became

the first Englishman to be sent off at international level. Nonetheless, his record is an impressive one for that era of 17 England caps, including test wins in both South Africa and New Zealand, and a 1974 Lions tour of South Africa.

Michael Alan "Mike" Burton, was born in 1945 in Maidenhead but, moving to Gloucester, played his early rugby



with the Longlevens club. In his autobiography, 'Never Stay Down', he tells of his single minded determination to succeed and of the profound influence of another uncompromising Gloucester character "Digger" Morris on his early career.

He made his Gloucester debut at the age of 18 and went on to play 365 games between 1964 and 1978, captaining the club in 1975-76, and playing in Gloucester's cup final victories at Twickenham in 1972 and 1978.

He played 49 times for Gloucestershire and was on the winning side in four of his five County Championship finals (1972-74-75-76). His eight Barbarians caps included Easter tours of South Wales in 1972 and 1973.

After retiring from rugby Mike Burton became a successful businessman. He has kept a close relationship with the club and is a Barbarians committee member.



STEVE McCOLL



@Mr_Boggy

Great to get my 1st game of the season with a win and a try! Great to see @HenryTrinder back on the field! Get in bigman! #glawfamily



TAKING HIS CHANCES

WITH ONE HALF OF THE EUROPEAN DOUBLE-HEADER WITH WORCESTER WARRIORS TICKED OFF LAST WEEK, THE CHERRY AND WHITES FACE AN EQUALLY TOUGH TASK AT KINGSHOLM TONIGHT.

BUT, as full back Steve McColl explains, the tougher the challenge, the bigger the reward as the season continues apace with the stakes high on every run out.

McColl, by his own admission, took his time to settle following his move from Yorkshire Carnegie to Kingsholm. However, after arriving in the summer of 2014, the flying Scotsman is benefiting from a lengthy summer of hard work.

"I've had one of the best preseasons I've ever had for a long time, it's been an exciting time. A lot of the boys are fit and ready to go, so although we're only six games into the Aviva Premiership, it's December and there's a lot of rugby to play. We're in a good place at the moment, and personally I feel great as well."

Three tries, in three European Rugby Challenge Cup games for McColl including a crucial try in La Rochelle and one that secured the bonus point last Thursday at Sixways, and the Dunfermline born back is comfortable in his role and ready to crack on as the New Year fast approaches.

"I think it has been a good amount of time to settle, I was warned that it might take a season or two to get acclimatised. Some people can fit in nicely straight away, and others it may take a bit longer.

"It took me a wee while longer than I hoped, but I am really happy with the place that I am in now, and

I'VE HAD ONE OF THE BEST PRESEASONS I'VE EVER HAD FOR A LONG TIME. IT'S BEEN AN EXCITING TIME.

I'm hoping to carry on progressing and kick on more from here."

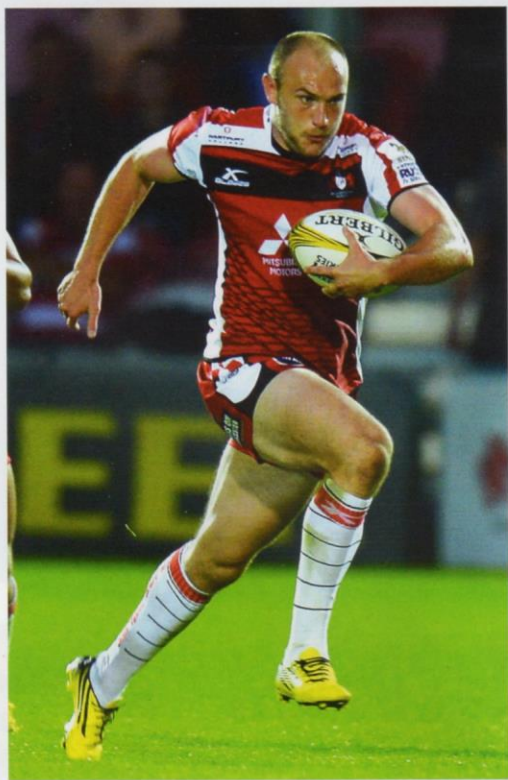
Gloucester sit top of Pool 3 currently, with a chance to take a firmer grip of proceedings, but McColl is fully aware of the challenge that tonight's visitors will pose, with nothing to lose.

"They will be wanting to get the win and come out firing. We've got a number of boys in the squad that have been knocking on the door to get in that first team, and we've been given the nod in the last few weeks to show what we can do, and we're raring to get out and give it a go.

"Worcester are really physical up front, and with a lot of pace in the backline along with a lot of width, so they are quick all over the board.

"We've got to counter that and be quick and sharp when we've got the ball and take our opportunities."

The backs were the beneficiaries of a dominant forward display on Thursday as the Cherry and Whites took the short European tour, up two junctions on the M5, and McColl said they took advantage of



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the old adage of earning the right to go wide.

"We spoke ahead of last Thursday's game about it being a grind of a game, and wearing our opponent down to a point where we were able to let loose.

"If we start throwing the ball around early, then we could be playing into their hands so we've got to be disciplined."

As well as his exploits in a first team shirt so far this season, McColl has taken full advantage of more minutes as part of the Gloucester United side that have picked up a pair of wins on the road in the Aviva A League, and he explains how much he has enjoyed a run out, despite the stormy winter weather!

"I think the A League has been great, with the numbers we have in the squad, and the depth, it is

great that we are able to put out a strong side on a Monday night,

"Although they've not been the best of Monday nights, with the wet and windy weather, we have stuck at it, and got some great results, going to Leicester and Northampton and picking up wins."

And with the more chances to impress, McColl is loving his rugby at the moment, and is looking to make the most of every opportunity handed to him by David Humphreys and Laurie Fisher.

"That's it, they're watching every minute of every game, and you have that confidence that you are being backed up and the coaches have faith in you.

"That's the beauty of the A League this year, we can really go out and put in a good performance as a squad so we've got no excuses to put a bad one in."

KINGSHOLM NEWS WITH BOB

FENTON



SO IT'S THURSDAY NIGHT AND THAT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING. YUP, I'M MISSING MY WORKS CHRISTMAS DINNER TO BE HERE AT KINGSHOLM. I'LL DEAL WITH THE FALL OUT FROM THAT ONE LATER...



IT only seems about a week ago since we last played Worcester, that's pretty much because it is only a week ago that we last played Worcester! And only a few weeks since we played them in the Premiership too. You can have too much of a good thing, you know...

So far it's two out of two in our favour, although neither are what you would have called 'runaway' victories, though last week turned out a bit better. Five tries away from home is always good irrespective of the competition. Good for morale and good for maintaining the winning momentum.

There was some great defensive work that will have pleased Jonny

Bell and his defensive team, while at the same time some swift attacking which should have put a smile on Nick Walshe's face. A good all round performance.

It was a good game to watch and as ever these games provide an opportunity for some players who are not yet regulars among the Premiership matchday squads to strut their stuff.

Billy Burns grabbed the attention of the pundits - I seriously thought that Stuart Barnes would be sending him an early Valentine card - while Henry Purdy showed what he is capable of when he gets within a sniff of the try line.

Seeing Henry Trinder continue his return from injury is a bonus. Just about everyone I know thinks that

he should be one of the first names on the team sheet - he has a bit of 'X-Factor' (not the karaoke show) about him, and it's great to see him on the way back.

Talking of X Factor - and this time I mean the karaoke show - did you know that Jacob Rowan auditioned for it? Well at least he told me he did when I interviewed him for @Holm (next issue out soon, by the way). But maybe he was winding me up...

Back to the real world, last time we were here Sale were the visitors, that was a tough old game and we did well to come away with the points in the end. Any team drilled by that very nice Mr Diamond are always going to be tough nuts to crack, but now they have a good

COMING UP...

BACK TO SCHOOL
WITH BILLY BURNS

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AS THE COMMENTATORS WERE SAYING - OR AT LEAST PAT SANDERSON WAS ANYWAY - THE WORCESTER VS GLOUCESTER GAMES ARE THEIR BIG DERBY DAYS. SO ALTHOUGH THEY ARE PRETTY MUCH OUT OF THE EUROPEAN COMPETITION. WE SHOULDN'T EXPECT THEM TO GO EASY ON US TONIGHT. EVEN IF IT IS THE SEASON OF GOODWILL AND ALL THAT.

bit of rapier finesse to go with their bludgeoning broadsword. Danny Cipriani's swift chip over our defence for their try was a thing of wonder, and you have to stand and applaud a moment like that.

We pulled it round though, Super Kali Goes Ballistic and all that - two more tries for him to go with a great effort early on from Rob Cook. A shame we couldn't have managed the extra one for the extra point, but to be honest I was more than happy with the win.

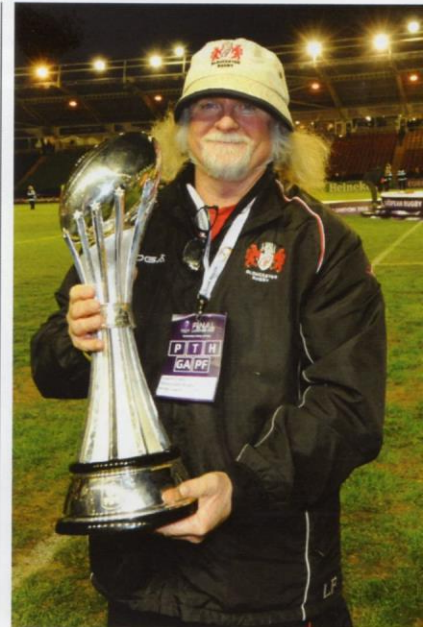
Our pack deserves a quick mention too - for the previous couple of weeks it seemed like open season among the pundits who were condemning them left, right and centre. Against Sale - and again up at Worcester they stood their ground. Against Sale when they brought on three additional forwards in the supersize shape of Eifion Lewis-Roberts

we didn't buckle. And last week when Worcester tried repeatedly to batter our line, the boys up front held them out with some outstanding defence. So caps are well and truly doffed!

Back to tonight then. A win here will put us well and truly in the box seat as far as qualification from the group goes. By the time La Rochelle come here in January their qualification chances will - hopefully - be all but gone and their attention will be elsewhere. So we should be very well placed for a home quarter final.

Defending this trophy again will be excellent, not least because winning trophies is always good but because it gives you a free pass into the big boys competition next season.

But let's not starting counting chickens quite yet. As the commentators were saying - or at



least Pat Sanderson was anyway - the Worcester vs Gloucester games are their big derby days, so although they are pretty much out of the European competition, we shouldn't expect them to go easy on us tonight, even if it is the season of goodwill and all that.

After tonight we are not back here until after New Year, games on 27th December and 2nd January should remind us that the guys on the field don't get that much of a Christmas and New Year holiday.

No doubt the evil coaches will be making them run around while the rest of are sat stuffing ourselves and opening presents. We appreciate it, but we'll appreciate it even more if you can add eight - or more - points to our league tally over the holidays.

With that I'll sign off. Happy Christmas everyone, and have a great New Year.





RANDALL ON RUGBY

THE CONTRACT SEASON IS UPON US. UNTIL JANUARY THE 1ST CLUBS CAN SECURE CURRENT PLAYERS IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT OTHERS, ACCORDING TO THE LETTER OF THE LAW, SHOULD NOT HAVE APPROACHED THEM.

LEICESTER, who impressively beat Munster in the Champions Cup at Thomond Park last Saturday, have already announced a quartet of retainees - former Kingsholm fly half Freddie Burns, captain Ed Slater, long time injury absentee Manu Tuilangi and England scrum half Ben Youngs.

At Kingsholm, this promises to be a quieter year on that front. Unlike the spring of two years ago when Gloucester had more than half the squad with deals running out, now it's a much smaller percentage with lock Mariano Galarza the first cab off the rank in terms of a contract extension being agreed.

As a club, Gloucester has had some very personable second rows in the professional era. All Black Ian Jones and Italian skipper Marco Bortolami are good examples, and Alex Brown is still known as "the posh Bristolian" for good reason.

Galarza is in that group too, with a commendable grasp of English and an appreciation of the club's loyalty towards him after 18 months in which he has made only nine appearances.

"I'm happy to have signed my contract to be here for a couple more years," he said on the

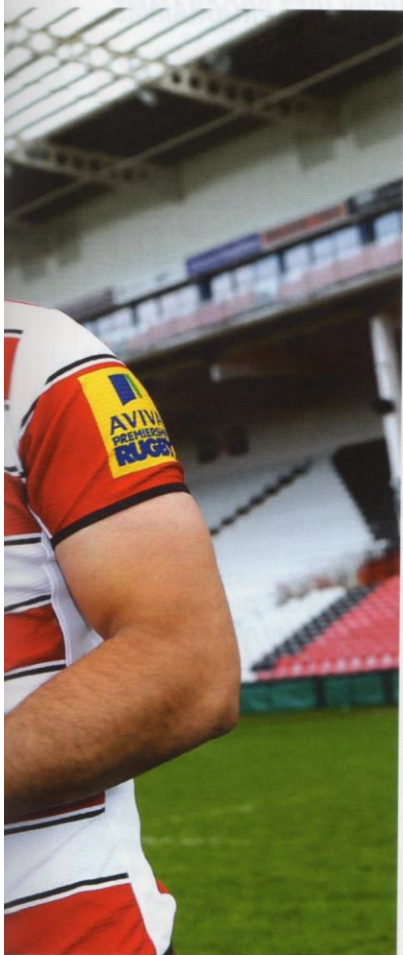


BECAUSE OF THE WORK I HAVE DONE WITH BOB (STEWART, HEAD OF MEDICAL SERVICES) AND THE STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACHES (PADDY ANSON AND JAMIE BAIN) I FEEL WELL AND I HAVE A LOT OF ENERGY. I THINK MY BEST YEARS ARE STILL TO COME AND I HOPE TO HAVE THOSE YEARS HERE. MARIANO GALARZA

announcement of his new deal. "I feel the club has done a lot for me. I have been injured twice, and the rehab has been fantastic both times.

"I was banned in the World Cup and the club has supported me through all these situations so I feel that I owe a lot to the club and it is time to show what I can do."

Galarza is 29 now - in his opinion a good age for a lock - and he believes the shoulder problems which have been a major cause of his absence from first team action



for Gloucester are behind him.

"My recovery is now 100%" Galarza added. "Because of the work I have done with Bob (Stewart, Head of Medical Services) and the Strength and Conditioning coaches (Paddy Anson and Jamie Bain) I feel well and I have a lot of energy. I think my best years are still to come and I hope to have those years here."

Despite his 25 international caps, Galarza knows getting regular rugby from this point on will still be a challenge. He has huge respect for Jeremy Thrush, and knows that in Tom Savage, Elliott Stooke and Tom Hicks he has younger players who will push him for a place.

"I was talking to 'Sav' about that the other day - having good players improves the level of everyone" Mariano said.

"You want to play so you train better. I still want to improve and you can see why players come to the Premiership. It is one of the best leagues in the world."

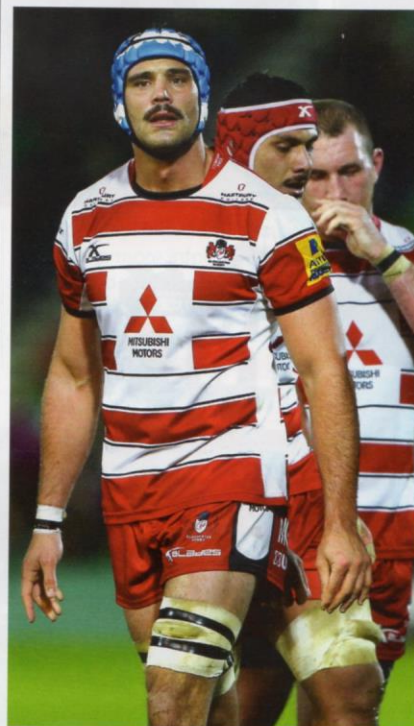
It was tonight's opponents, of course, who first gave Galarza that opportunity. Typically, he is appreciative of their decision but accepts time moves on.

"Their squad has changed quite a bit. I had a great time at Worcester and it is weird playing against them but I am a Gloucester player now and I try my best for this club. Our target is to win the Challenge Cup and be a top six team in the league.

"If we win this game we will have a good advantage in the pool and more control over qualification for the next stage."

Mathematically, it's possible

"YOU WANT TO PLAY SO YOU TRAIN BETTER. I STILL WANT TO IMPROVE AND YOU CAN SEE WHY PLAYERS COME TO THE PREMIERSHIP. IT IS ONE OF THE BEST LEAGUES IN THE WORLD."



Gloucester could indeed be virtually into the quarter finals if results in this round of games are favourable, although Harlequins look favourites to finish the group stages as top seeds.

On the evidence of last Thursday, especially in the second half, Gloucester should be able to back up their Sixways win with another victory.

Once again however, with Dean Ryan and Carl Hogg motivating the Warriors players, patience may be needed before any kind of supremacy is established on the scoreboard.



Back To School

by Billy Burns, age 22

PRIMARY SCHOOL

I WENT TO St Stephen's Primary, Bath

MY BEST FRIEND WAS George Davis

MY FAVOURITE TEACHER WAS Mr Sayer

MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL DINNER WAS Chicken Pie

IN MY SNACK BOX I HAD a Kit-Kat every time

MY FIRST SCHOOL PLAY WAS Christmas Nativity! I was the donkey

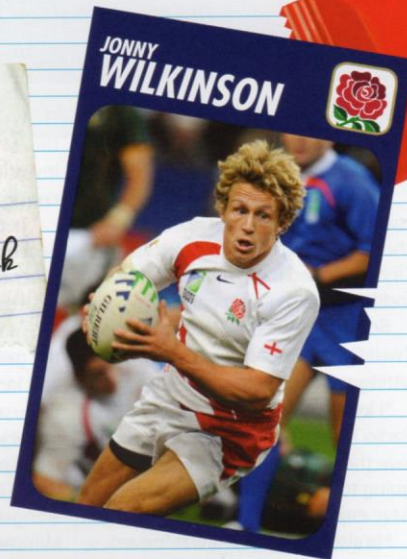
Billy's best friends

1. George
2. Dave
3. Duncan
4. Tom
5. Freddie



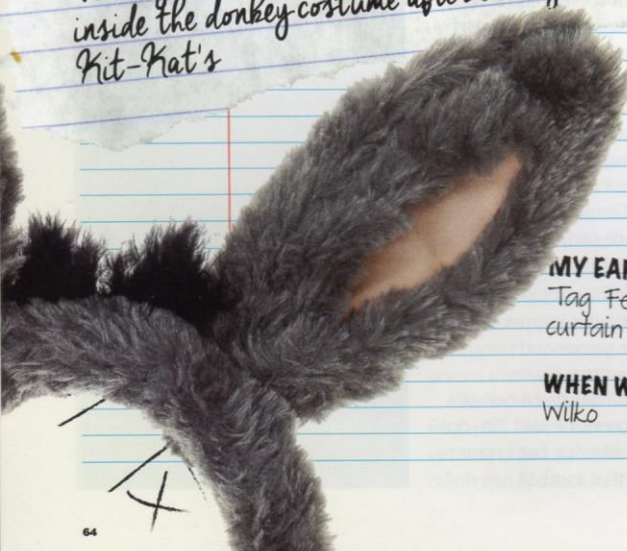
Dear Mr and Mrs Burns

We regret to inform you that Billy has been sick inside the donkey costume after eating too many Kit-Kat's

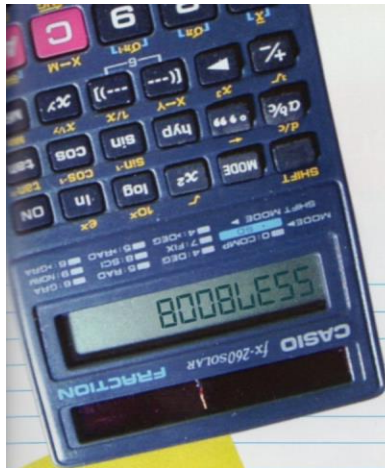


MY EARLIEST RUGBY MEMORY Winning the National Tag Festival and playing at Twickenham as a curtain raiser for the Premiership Rugby final

WHEN WE PLAYED RUGBY I PRETENDED TO BE Wilko



SECONDARY SCHOOL



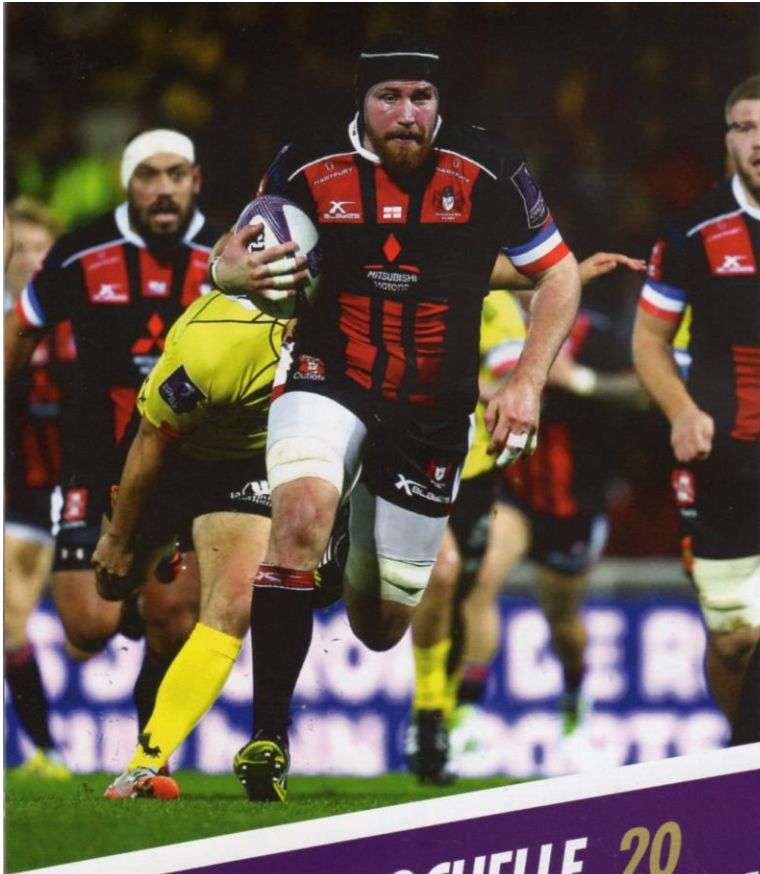
Billys timetable
Science
Disco dancing
Rugby
Sweet business



I WENT TO Beechen Cliff Secondary School
MY FAVOURITE MEMORY The School Discos, loved a good dance!
MY GRADES WERE No comment!
Mum wasn't impressed to say the least
MY HARDEST SUBJECT WAS Science
MY UNIFORM WAS Swaggy blue tie with a blue tracksuit
GOT IN TROUBLE FOR Selling sweets at break and lunchtime



MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL TRIP WAS Montpellier with the rugby team
AT SCHOOL I WANTED TO BE A Premiership footballer
ON WORK EXPERIENCE I WENT TO Sorry to say, and I hope no one reads this,
but I went to Bath Rugby!



it looked as though the home team were going to cling on for a narrow win.

However, late tries for Steve McColl and Charlie Sharples, the latter an absolute beauty, rescued the situation for Gloucester and, combined with Worcester's defeat against Zebre in Parma, sees them top the table after two rounds.

There was little hint of the tension to come in the opening few minutes. Greig Laidlaw and Fabien Fortassin swapped early penalties before Ben Morgan smashed his way over for a fine try. Receiving the ball at first receiver on the home 22, he smashed his way through the home defence, took on the full-back, and just had enough reach to make the line.

The lead was short-lived though



LA ROCHELLE 20 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 33

HALF TIME 13-19
ATTENDANCE 12,763
REFEREE Marius Mitrea (Italy)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY made it two wins from two in the European Rugby Challenge Cup with a hard-fought victory in La Rochelle.

It's a cliché to say that wins in France are never easy, but this one certainly wasn't. Gloucester looked well set when they led 19-10 just a minute or so before half time, but a forgettable few minutes either side of the break saw them trailing 20-19 and with a real fight on their hands.

As vital second half minutes ticked by, the Cherry and Whites struggled to find top gear and



Second row **Jeremy Thrush** was thrilled to pick up the victory on his first trip to France.

as Fortassin, who used his boot intelligently throughout, dinked a kick through the defensive line and Elliott Roudil popped the ball up for Julien Audy to cross.

The partisan home crowd were well and truly back in the game, using the largely metallic stands at the Stade Marcel Deflandre to create an intimidating atmosphere. It was a time for Gloucester to stand up and be counted.

And, to be fair, they did. Taking an iron grip of possession, Gloucester created three penalty

opportunities for Greig Laidlaw and the scrum-half nailed all of them.

However, La Rochelle gave themselves a glimmer of hope on the stroke of half time. Just as Gloucester looked set to enjoy a decent half time lead, they lost possession on halfway and were pinned back by another testing kick from Fortassin. The catch and drive was dangerous and was halted illegally, and the fly half narrowed the gap to 13-19.

It got better for the home side after the resumption. They blew one golden scoring opportunity as they threw everything at Gloucester, but they weren't to be



IN THE END TO COME TO FRANCE AND TO WIN - AS WE PROVED LAST YEAR - IS A TOUGH THING TO DO. ESPECIALLY IN LA ROCHELLE WITH A FANTASTIC ATMOSPHERE FOR A THURSDAY NIGHT - I THOUGHT WE WERE VERY GOOD.

DAVID HUMPHREYS

denied as Fortassin floated a cross kick for Jason Eaton to gather and score.

Trailing 20-19, Gloucester were now well and truly up against it. The next 25 minutes were frustrating and largely forgettable. Gloucester couldn't get back on terms and La Rochelle couldn't extend their lead amidst a flurry of replacements on both sides.

The final ten minutes dawned, and time was running out for Gloucester but a key turnover from Jacob Rowan proved to be decisive. Willi Heinz came away with the ball. Twelvetrees and

MATCHDAY SQUADS



LA ROCHELLE

- 15 Charles **Bouidoire**
- 14 Gabriel **Lacroix**
- 13 Elliot **Roudil**
- 12 Malietoa **Hingano**
- 11 Alexander **Northam**
- 10 Fabien **Fortassin** 2C 2P
- 9 Julien **Audy** 1T
- 1 Mike **Corbel**
- 2 Benjamin **Geledan**
- 3 Gagi **Bazadze**
- 4 Jone **Qovu Nailiko**
- 5 Leo **Cedaro**
- 6 Jason **Eaton** (C) 1T
- 7 Romain **Sazy**
- 8 Kevin **Gourdon**

- 16 Maxime **Gau**
- 17 Thomas **Synaeghel**
- 18 Vincent **Pelo**
- 19 Damien **Lagrange**
- 20 Zeno **Kieft**
- 21 Albain **Meron**
- 22 Jules **Lebail**
- 23 Martin **Carre**



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 James **Hook**
- 14 Charlie **Sharples** 1T
- 13 Bill **Meakes**
- 12 Mark **Atkinson**
- 11 Henry **Purdy**
- 10 Billy **Twelvetrees** (C) 2C
- 9 Greig **Laidlaw** 1C 4P
- 1 Paddy **McAllister**
- 2 Richard **Hibbard**
- 3 John **Afoa**
- 4 Tom **Savage**
- 5 Jeremy **Thrush**
- 6 Ross **Moriarty**
- 7 Matt **Kvesic**
- 8 Ben **Morgan** 1T

- 16 Tom **Lindsay**
- 17 Yann **Thomas**
- 18 Paul **Doran-Jones**
- 19 Sione **Kalafamoni**
- 20 Jacob **Rowan**
- 21 Willi **Heinz**
- 22 Steve **McColl** 1T
- 23 Rob **Cook**

Hook shipped it wide before Rob Cook sent Steve McColl powering over on the left. Twelvetrees converted for 26-20.

The game still wasn't won but Charlie Sharples clinched it on 77 minutes. Fielding a clearance on halfway, Sharples beat the chasers men before embarking upon a weaving run which left several would be tacklers grasping at air before having the strength to ride the final tackle and touch down.



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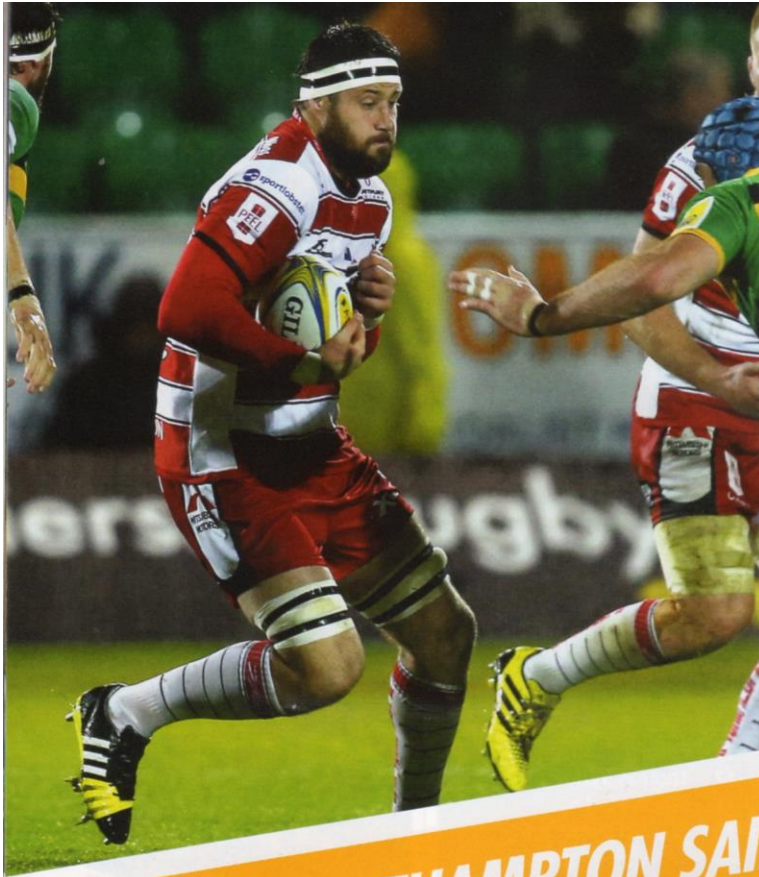
OFFICIAL LEGAL PARTNER

APPLYING THE LAW

Gloucester were battling to get back into the game deep in the second half, when Rob Cook put Steve McColl away for a crucial score.

However, hearts were in mouths for what seemed to be an agonizing period of time as referee Marius Mitrea referred the matter to the TMO for a possible forward pass.

It was marginal, but the decision went Gloucester's way and they didn't look back.



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 15 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 3



HALF TIME 9-3
ATTENDANCE 14,893
REFEREE Greg Garner

LAST season's trip to Franklin's Gardens was a forgettable one and, over a year on, the Cherry and Whites returned to take on the Saints on a wet, windy and miserable evening in the East Midlands, with Stephen Myler's boot ultimately proving to be the difference.

With the wind howling and rain hammering down throughout, the game wasn't one for the purists as both sides looked for a vital victory to kick-start a stuttering campaign.

The opening exchanges were dominated by the set piece, and referee Garner decided Gloucester

were at fault. Last season's table-toppers were benefitting from the decisions, allowing Myler to kick them into a nine-point lead.

Paddy McAllister was withdrawn to escape Greg Garner's whistle, who by this time had issued a final warning, as the visitors tried their best to come to terms with what the officials were looking for.

Although Saints were on top in



the scrum, the Gloucester maul was impressive, but they were unable to convert momentum into points and were always chasing the game that was error-strewn and lacked a real tempo throughout.

Billy Twelvetrees kicked a penalty from distance to keep Gloucester in it, and then Tom Wood was shown yellow. The visitors tried their best but were unable to capitalise on a numerical advantage as they trailed by six at the break.

It was a bizarre game, Saints very rarely threatened the try line as the Gloucester defence stood firm, but the hosts were reliant on being able to eke out penalties from the set piece.

Mariano Galarza was introduced on the 50 minute mark for the first time this season, and this sparked a

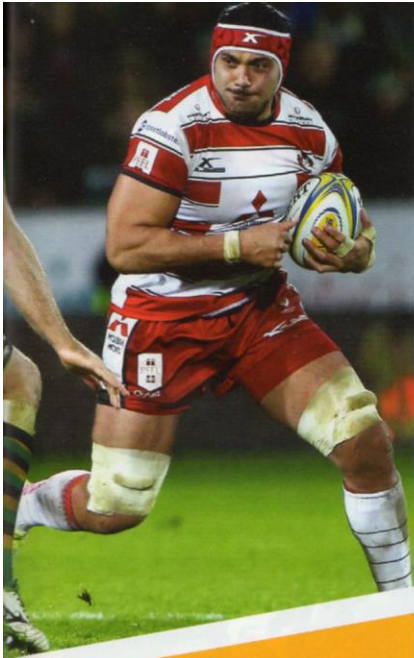


Nick Walshe admits that the defeat at Northampton was deeply frustrating

golden opportunity for the visitors.

Saints failed to look after the ball at a maul inside the Gloucester 22, and it fell loose for Jonny May to race away with the whole length of the pitch to cover. The England man scorched past Lee Dickson but chose to put boot to ball as Ben Foden came across to cover and the chance was gone.

They were left to rue this opportunity as Myler added a pair of quick penalties, one harshly against Matt Kvesic and then another at scrum time to extend



METRES RUN WITH THE BALL
SAINTS 347M
GLOUCESTER 310M

I THOUGHT FOR LONG PERIODS OF THE GAME WE DID CONTROL FIELD POSITION. BUT WE MADE TOO MANY MISTAKES AND OBVIOUSLY GAVE AWAY TOO MANY PENALTIES WITH A KICKER OF THE QUALITY OF STEPHEN MYLER ON THE PITCH.
DAVID HUMPHREYS



MATCHDAY SQUADS



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

- 15 Ben Foden
- 14 Ahsee Tuala
- 13 George Pisi
- 12 Luther Burrell
- 11 George North
- 10 Stephen Myler *sp*
- 9 Kahn Fotuali'i
- 1 Alex Waller
- 2 Mike Haywood
- 3 Kieran Brookes
- 4 Michael Paterson
- 5 Christian Day
- 6 Jamie Gibson
- 7 Tom Wood ■
- 8 Sam Dickinson

- 16 Matt Williams
- 17 Ethan Waller
- 18 Paul Hill
- 19 Victor Matfield
- 20 Teimana Harrison
- 21 Lee Dickson
- 22 JJ Hanrahan
- 23 Ken Pisi



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 Rob Cook
- 14 Charlie Sharples
- 13 Bill Meakes
- 12 James Hook
- 11 Jonny May
- 10 Billy Twelvetrees *1P*
- 9 Willi Heinz
- 1 Paddy McAllister
- 2 Richard Hibbard
- 3 John Afoa
- 4 Tom Savage
- 5 Jeremy Thrush
- 6 Ross Moriarty
- 7 Matt Kvesic
- 8 Ben Morgan

- 16 Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 Yann Thomas ■
- 18 Paul Doran-Jones
- 19 Mariano Galarza
- 20 Sione Kalamafoni
- 21 Greig Laidlaw
- 22 Henry Purdy
- 23 Jacob Rowan

the lead.

To their credit, the Cherry and Whites pushed their way back into attack and would've added the only try of the game had the ball not hit the upright as Henry Purdy readied himself to pounce on a Twelvetrees grubber and score. It just wasn't to be.

With the game gone, the hosts hunted for more points but they found the committed Gloucester defence up to the challenge.



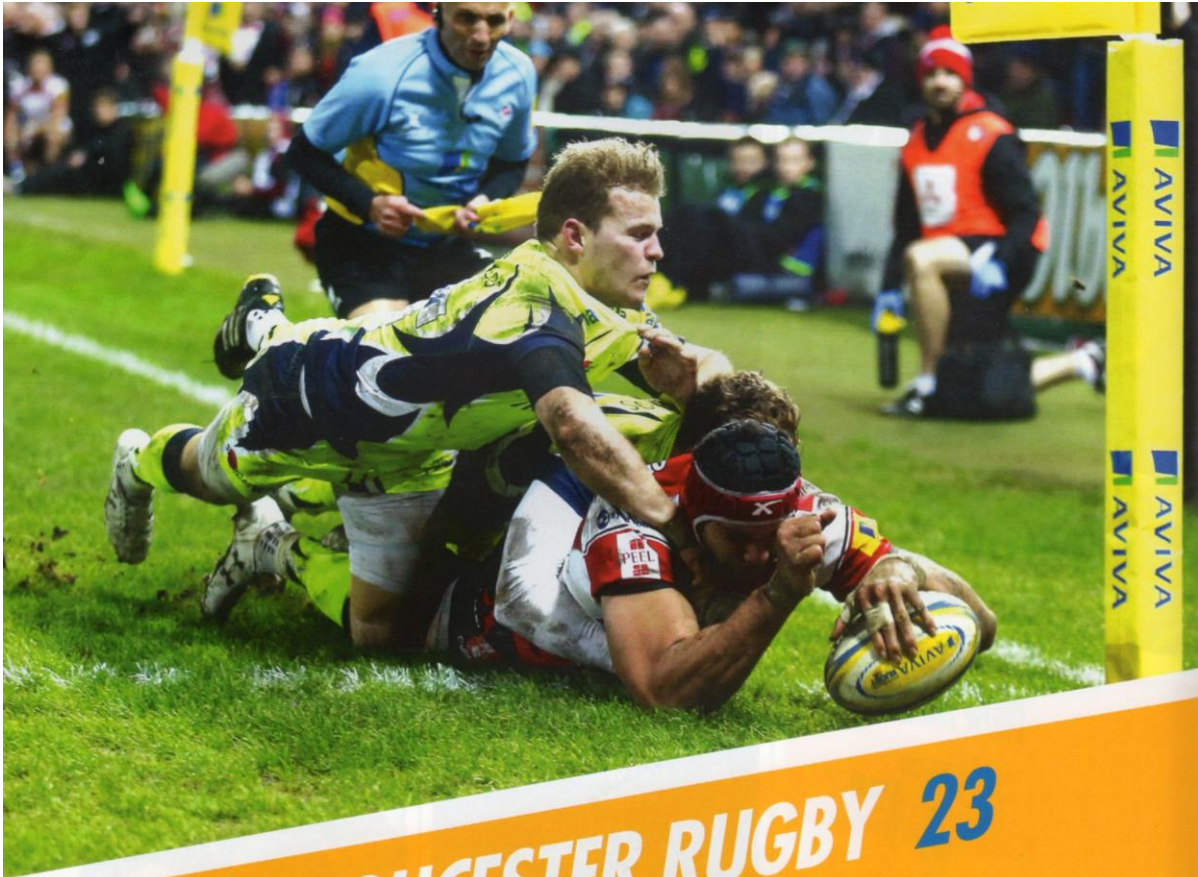
OFFICIAL LEGAL PARTNER

APPLYING THE LAW

From the very first set-piece, referee Greg Garner had his eye on the Gloucester pack and not in a positive way.

A few penalties later, and Garner was warning Billy Twelvetrees that the next one would result in a yellow card.

The tone was set and Gloucester couldn't get back in his good books at scrum time for the rest of the game.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 23

SALE SHARKS 19



HALF TIME 11-8
ATTENDANCE 11,583
REFEREE JP Doyle

AFTER the disappointment of the previous week's defeat at Northampton Saints, Gloucester Rugby rolled up their sleeves and bounced back with a dogged 23-19 win over a resolute Sale Sharks opponent.

The four points move Gloucester above the Sharks in the Premiership table and into seventh place. However, it had to be done the hard way, Gloucester coming from behind to triumph in a game where there was never more than seven points between the two teams.

It took all of Gloucester's resolve to overturn a five point deficit in

the second half just as it looked as though the game was slipping away from them, two tries from number eight Sione Kalamafoni proving to be the difference.

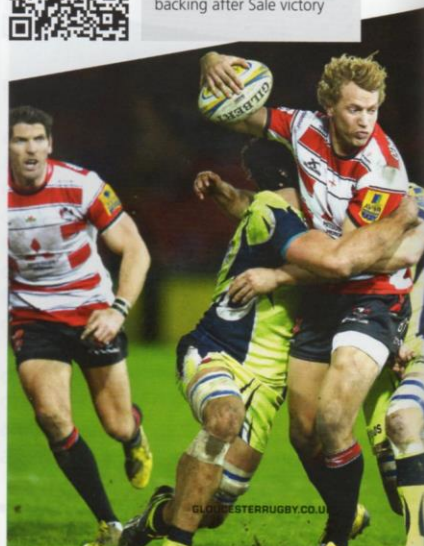
But it was the defence that won the day in the final quarter as the Cherry and Whites defended a fragile seven point lead. At times the defensive line bent, but crucially didn't break, a penalty from Danny Cipriani the only reward for the Sharks despite a huge amount of possession and pressure.

And it had all started so well for Gloucester on the night. Sale winger Nev Edwards misjudged the kick-off to put his side under real pressure, and Gloucester made the most of it, staying patient to carve out a try for Rob Cook.

In the corresponding game last year, Cipriani had created three tries almost single-handed, and



Skipper **Billy Twelvetrees** was eager to thank the Gloucester faithful for their backing after Sale victory



it was his creative spark that got the Sharks back on level terms. His chip over the advancing defensive line was gathered by Edwards and the winger dived over without a finger laid on him.

Cipriani then nudged his team in front with a 16th minute penalty, but Billy Twelvetrees responded with two of his own to earn his side an 11-8 half time lead.

However, Gloucester endured a rough start to the second half. Cipriani levelled matters with a penalty, before Richard Hibbard was yellow carded for pulling down a maul and the Sharks took full advantage with a second try



“WE ARE ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED WITH THE WIN. THE LEAGUE TABLE ALREADY SHOWS THAT ONE OR TWO WINS TAKE YOU UP, AND ONE OR TWO LOSSES TAKE YOU DOWN.

DAVID HUMPHREYS

for Edwards.

Gloucester were up against it, and it seemed as though a minor dust up between Jonny May and Peter Stringer suddenly fired them up. Holding out crucially in defence, the Cherry and Whites moved downfield and pounced.

The pack started to get the upper hand, Henry Trinder's introduction added a new dimension in the back line, but it was Rob Cook's long cut out pass that sent Kalamafoni powering over in the corner.

Kingsholm was suddenly buzzing. The Gloucester pack muscled up again, driving a maul

MATCHDAY SQUADS



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 Rob Cook 1T
- 14 Charlie Sharples
- 13 Bill Meakes
- 12 Billy Twelvetrees 2P
- 11 Jonny May
- 10 James Hook
- 9 Willi Heinz
- 1 Paddy McAllister
- 2 Richard Hibbard ■
- 3 John Afoa
- 4 Tom Savage
- 5 Jeremy Thrush
- 6 Ross Moriarty
- 7 Matt Kvesic
- 8 Sione Kalamafoni 2T

- 16 Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 Nick Wood
- 18 Nicky Thomas
- 19 Mariano Galarza
- 20 Jacob Rowan
- 21 Greig Laidlaw 1C
- 22 Henry Trinder
- 23 Henry Purdy



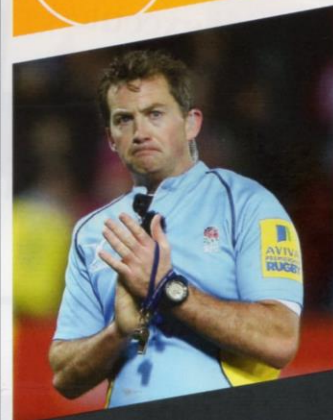
SALE SHARKS

- 15 Mike Haley
- 14 Neville Edwards 2T
- 13 Sam James
- 12 Sam Tuitupou
- 11 Will Addison
- 10 Danny Cipriani 3P
- 9 Peter Stringer
- 1 Ross Harrison
- 2 Tommy Taylor
- 3 Vadim Cobilas
- 4 Jonathan Mills
- 5 Bryn Evans
- 6 Dan Braid
- 7 TJ Ioane
- 8 Josh Beaumont

- 16 Neil Briggs
- 17 Eifion Lewis-Roberts
- 18 Brian Mujati
- 19 Andrei Ostrikov
- 20 David Seymour
- 21 Chris Cusiter
- 22 Joe Ford
- 23 Mark Jennings

downfield, quick recycling took play into the Sale 22 after multiple phases before Trinder's offload gave Kalamafoni the opening to touch down. Laidlaw converted.

The Sharks were rocked but came back strongly. Gloucester's defence was tested to the max but was up to the job. Cipriani did narrow the gap to 23-19 but, despite a few nervy moments, Gloucester held out to clinch a vital win.



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APPLYING THE LAW

Referees come under a huge amount of scrutiny in this day and age but, on this particular evening, JP Doyle seemed to get virtually every tough call spot on.

He let the game flow, the packs were allowed to get on with it at scrummage time and he generally communicated well with both sides, explaining his decisions where necessary.

3-0 3-10 13-10 15-10 22-13
 3-3 6-10 16-10 19-13 27-13



TODAY'S TEAMSHEET

GLOUCESTER RUGBY vs WORCESTER WARRIORS



European Rugby Challenge Cup - Round 4
 Thursday 17th December 2015, KO 19:45 Kingsholm

ROB COOK	FULLBACK 15	FULLBACK	T	BEN HOWARD
HENRY PURDY	RIGHT WING 14	RIGHT WING		DEAN HAMMOND
HENRY TRINDER	OUTSIDE CENTRE 13	OUTSIDE CENTRE		ALEX GROVE
BILLY TWELVETREES (C)	INSIDE CENTRE 12	INSIDE CENTRE		ANDY SYMONS
JONNY MAY	LEFT WING 11	LEFT WING		TOM BIGGS
JAMES HOOK	FLY HALF 10	FLY HALF	PCP	RYAN LAMB
GREIG LAIDLAW PTC PPP	SCRUM HALF 9	SCRUM HALF		CHARLIE MULCHRONE (C)
YANN THOMAS	LOOSEHEAD PROP 1	LOOSEHEAD PROP		RYAN BOWER
DARREN DAWIDIUK	HOKKER 2	HOKKER		JABA BREGVADZE
NICKY THOMAS	TIGHTHEAD PROP 3	TIGHTHEAD PROP		GARETH MILASINOVICH
TOM SAVAGE	LOCK 4	LOCK		DAN SANDERSON
MARIANO GALARZA	LOCK 5	LOCK		DARREN O'SHEA
JACOB ROWAN	BLINDSIDE FLANKER 6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER		MATT COX
MATT KVESIC T	OPENSIDE FLANKER 7	OPENSIDE FLANKER		CARL KIRAN
LEWIS LUDLOW	NUMBER 8 8	NUMBER 8		MARCO MAMA

TOM LINDSAY	REPLACEMENT 16	REPLACEMENT		BEN SOWREY
DAN MURPHY	REPLACEMENT 17	REPLACEMENT		VAL RAPAVA RUSKIN
JOSH McNULTY	REPLACEMENT 18	REPLACEMENT		MIKE DANIELS
ELLIOTT STOOKE	REPLACEMENT 19	REPLACEMENT		DARREN BARRY
TOM HICKS	REPLACEMENT 20	REPLACEMENT		SAM BETTY
WILLI HEINZ	REPLACEMENT 21	REPLACEMENT		JONNY ARR
BILLY BURNS	REPLACEMENT 22	REPLACEMENT		TIFF EDEN
CHARLIE SHARPLES	REPLACEMENT 23	REPLACEMENT		MAX STELLING

Officials

Referee Ian Davies Assistant Referees Simon Rees and Martyn Lewis

