

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ISSUE
07

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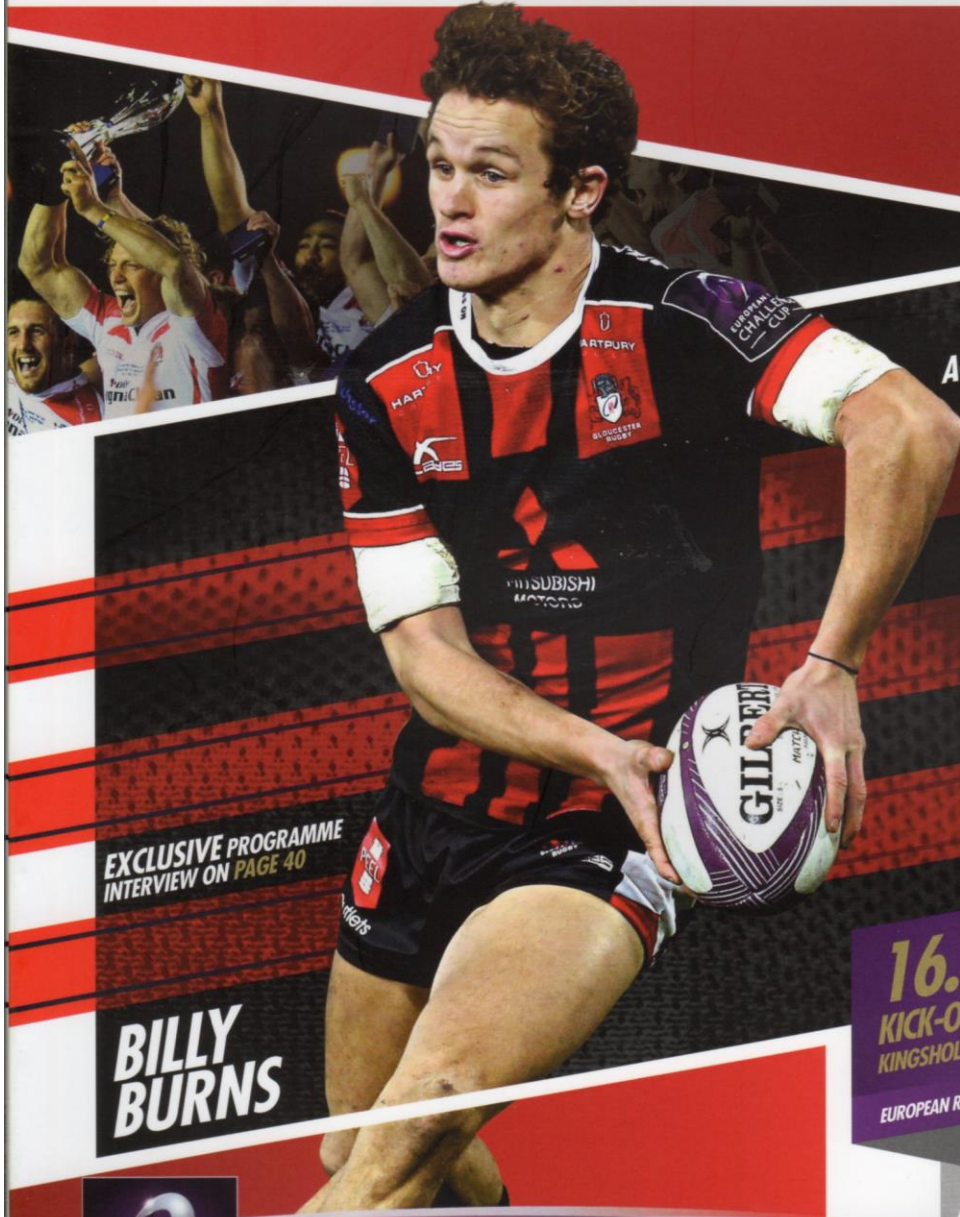


GLOUCESTER RUGBY

vs LA ROCHELLE
EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP - ROUND 5



CHAMPIONS
2014/15



PLUS...
HERITAGE
ACTION REPLAY
RUGBY NEWS

EXCLUSIVE PROGRAMME
INTERVIEW ON PAGE 40

**BILLY
BURNS**

16.01.16
KICK-OFF 3.00PM
KINGSHOLM

EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP



OFFICIAL PARTNERS



OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS



CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR TODAY'S CRUCIAL EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP CLASH WITH LA ROCHELLE.

WE'RE really looking forward to today's game, firstly as it is another chance to test ourselves in front of our home support, and secondly because we can put in the work to put right last weekend's defeat.

Firstly, we took a lot of confidence from the win over London Irish in horrendous conditions. It was tough, but it was a really enjoyable game.

First half, it took us a while to get our systems into play, but when we did, we looked hugely dominant up front. From my point of view, we were rock solid in the set piece, which created the platform for the

(RIGHT) We, as a squad, have some big games ahead of us and we want to ensure we put a string of big performances together



LIKE MOST FRENCH TEAMS, THEY PERFORM BETTER AT HOME, BUT PATRICE COLLAZO IS A MAN WHO KNOWS KINGSHOLM WELL, SO HE WILL HAVE HIS TEAM REVVED UP TODAY.

maul to take control and, for us backs behind it, we were able to attack off the front foot.

On to last week, and very few teams will go to Sandy Park this season and come away with a result. In fact we were the last team to do so just over a year ago.

But that doesn't hide our disappointment about the defeat where, fundamentally, a small number of mistakes led to tries for the Chiefs who were able to simply capitalise on the chances we gave them without having to create that much themselves.

Sandy Park has its own unique 'micro climate', and the home side are experts at using that wind which ultimately proved to be the difference as they were able to open

up a decent lead and then defend it.

That said, we can take positives from our outing, we had our backs against the wall, and I really feel we fronted up to the Chiefs and did stop them getting their game going for most of the encounter.

The importance now, is to bounce back and that is the challenge for the whole squad.

We have good memories of our trip to La Rochelle back in November, and they were a really tough nut to crack. Like most French teams, they perform better at home, but Patrice Collazo is a man who knows Kingsholm well, so he will have his team revved up today – with nothing to lose.

In the squad, we've got a number of boys chomping at the bit for a

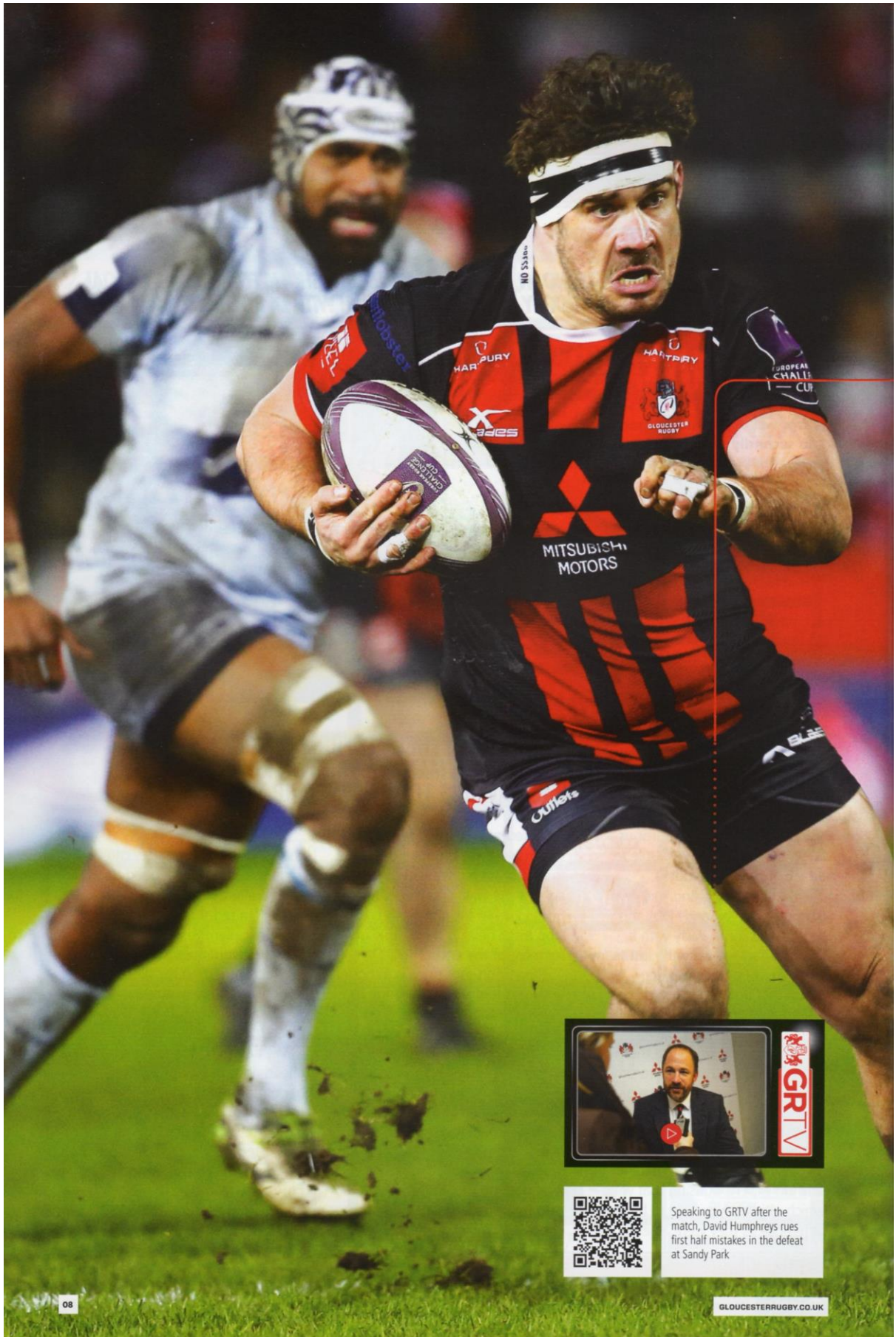
chance to show what they can do, and this can only be a good thing for what we're trying to do as a team.

The United side have recorded some excellent results on Monday nights, and we have a lot of competition for places, so the coaches have a few tough selection decisions, but it's a good place to be.

We have a massive few weeks ahead now, in Europe and then back into the Aviva Premiership, and that spell of games starts today with a bounce back in front of our own supporters.

Enjoy the game

Billy



Speaking to GRTV after the match, David Humphreys rues first half mistakes in the defeat at Sandy Park

COMING UP...

EXCLUSIVE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME INTERVIEW
BILLY BURNS



PAGE
40



DAVID HUMPHREYS

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

IN WELCOMING EVERYONE BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR ROUND 5 IN THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP, I'M SURE YOU ALL RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

WE have kicked off 2016 with some testing Aviva Premiership fixtures, but our attentions now turn to continuing our defence of the trophy that we lifted last May at the Stoop.

Having won our first four pool games in the competition, including the tricky double-header against our near neighbours and Premiership rivals, Worcester Warriors, we currently top pool four with 17 points.

However, there is absolutely no room for complacency this afternoon and, with a number of changes to our starting XV, we've prepared really well for the challenge of La Rochelle.

Like all French Top 14 teams, La Rochelle have quality throughout their squad and, as we found in Round 2, they will be very physical and come here today with nothing to lose.

We know that a win is essential to ensure that we top Pool 4 and, with a number of other teams going well in the other pools, we need a good points total to then give ourselves the best possible chance of clinching a home quarter-final.

The big rugby news this week has been the announcement of Eddie Jones' England squad for the Six Nations. I was delighted to see Matt Kvesic's recent form for Gloucester recognised in his selection in the squad for the Six Nations, and he has a great opportunity to further impress

Eddie in the build up to the Scotland game.

On the other hand, players will be disappointed by their omission from the squad. But they know that the only way to influence international selection is through their performances week in, week out in club colours and for Gloucester, that starts this afternoon.

We have made a number of changes to today's squad, and will do so again next week, for a variety of reasons. Injury at this stage of the season plays a part and, of course, we all recognise the need to rotate players so that they're fresh for the big challenges that lie ahead.

With our U18's and A team remaining unbeaten so far this season, we are slowly building a real depth to our squad, but many of those players need game time at a high level to continue their development and to be challenged as players.

There are a number of players getting another opportunity this afternoon, and I'm looking forward to watching them perform in front of a loud and passionate Kingsholm.

I'm sure you'll join with me in welcoming the coaching team, players and supporters of La Rochelle to Gloucester and I hope you all have a great afternoon.

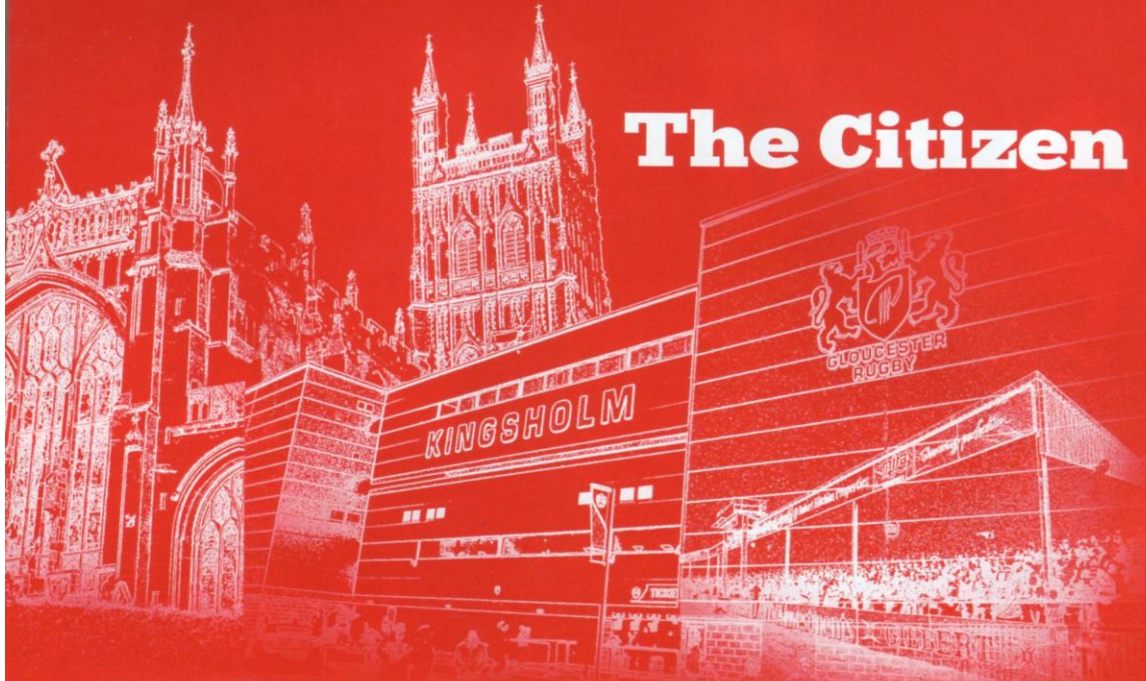
Enjoy the game.

David



(LEFT) The squad has performed admirably in Europe so far this season and we are looking to complete the pool stages unbeaten

The Citizen



HIGH PRAISE INDEED

HOOKER RICHARD HIBBARD HAS BACKED FELLOW WELSHMAN NICKY THOMAS TO HIT THE HEIGHTS IN THE PROFESSIONAL GAME.



THE young tight-head prop came through the Ospreys age-grade ranks where Hibbard was one of the star players and now finds himself in the same Gloucester front-row.

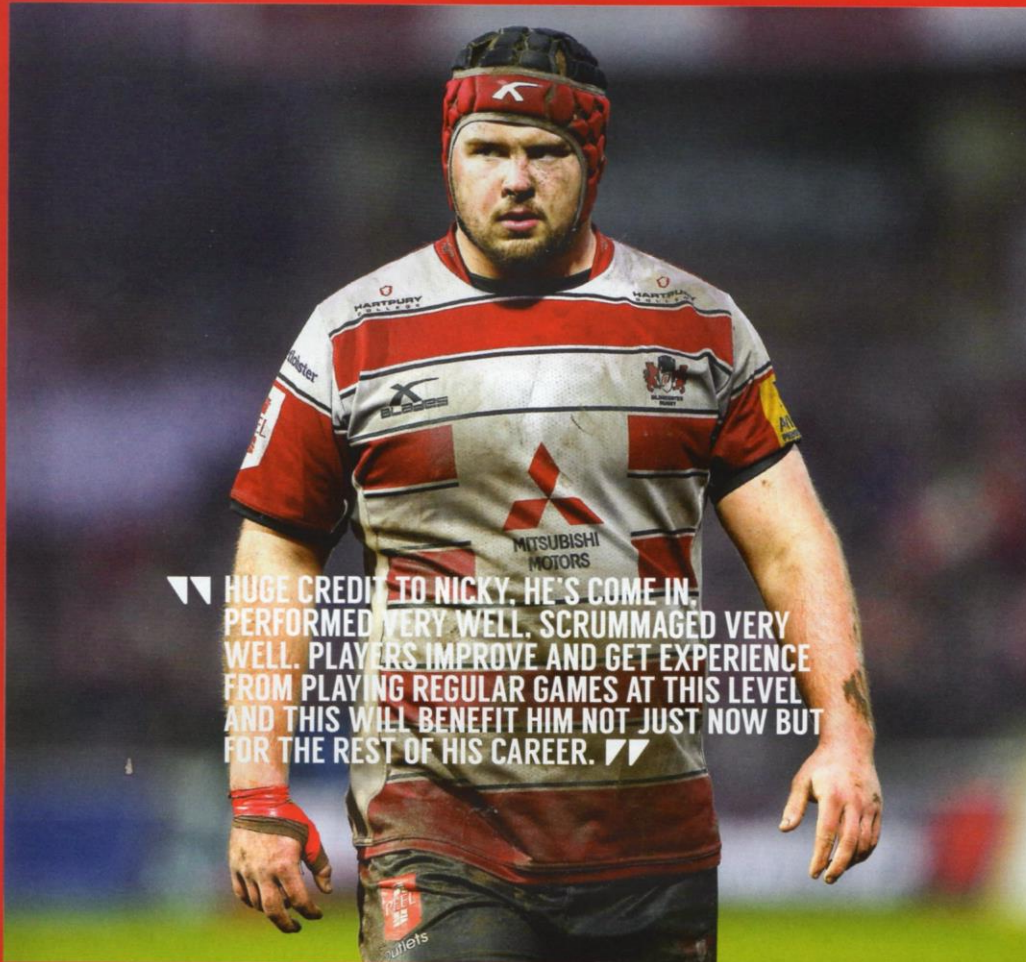
Thomas has been thrust into action in recent weeks, following injuries to John Afoa and Paul Doran-Jones and has exceeded expectations.

He held his own and more against England's starting loose-head Joe Marler and British & Irish Lion Tom Court in the draw with Harlequins and victory over London Irish respectively.

And he was once again effective against another tough and grizzled front row when Gloucester took on Exeter Chiefs at Sandy Park last weekend.

Hibbard, who forged an international career alongside legendary Welsh tight-head Adam Jones, has always known the 21-year-old was a scrummaging gem and he reckons there is no end to his potential.

"He was a young boy at the Ospreys so I didn't speak to him," joked the big hitting hooker.



▼ **HUGE CREDIT TO NICKY. HE'S COME IN, PERFORMED VERY WELL. SCRUMMAGED VERY WELL. PLAYERS IMPROVE AND GET EXPERIENCE FROM PLAYING REGULAR GAMES AT THIS LEVEL AND THIS WILL BENEFIT HIM NOT JUST NOW BUT FOR THE REST OF HIS CAREER.** ▼▼

"But I know him well, he's a good scrummager and you could see that when he was coming through the Under-20s and now he has a chance.

"He did phenomenally well when he came on against Harlequins, he was really thrown in the deep end but he did wonders.

"Irish was also a tricky surface to scrummage on but he also did well. In training he has been solid - I really think he's a gem.

"Potential-wise he is right up there. In the Under-20s him and Nicky Smith were destroying teams and if he can keep doing that at this level he has a very impressive future ahead of him."

Gloucester now boast enviable strength in depth in the front-row and that is a luxury David Humphreys and Laurie Fisher are

determined to develop across the entire squad.

Humphreys added, "He's the perfect example, and has



benefitted from injuries to Afoa and Doran Jones which would be a loss to any team.

"Huge credit to Nicky, he's come in, performed very well, scrummaged very well. Players improve and get experience from playing regular games at this level and this will benefit him not just now but for the rest of his career."

With Afoa and Doran-Jones both expected to miss a couple more weeks, Thomas looks set to start both of the final two European pool games against La Rochelle and Zebre.

It's his moment to shine and, on the basis of what he's shown so far, he's determined to make the most of it.

Citizen
AVAILABLE DAILY



GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

GLOUCESTER PROPS PART 4

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.

The fourth of five articles on great Gloucester props takes us from the eighties into the professional era.

MALCOLM PREEDY
LOOSE-HEAD prop Malcolm Preedy was a formidable presence both in the scrum and in the loose from an early age. He played for Gloucester in the 1982 and 1990 cup finals and for Gloucestershire in the 1984 County Championship final.

in his first year.

After featuring prominently in Gloucester's record-breaking 1981-82 season, he was promoted from the Under-23 squad to take part in England's summer tour of North America.

He played for Gloucestershire in their County Championship victory over Somerset at Twickenham in 1984 and was then chosen for England's summer tour of South Africa, alongside Steve Mills and Phil Blakeway.

in a second Twickenham Cup Final in 1989-90, his last full season.

RICHARD PASCALL
RICHARD PASCALL, aka "Pasc", was a powerful and mobile tight-head prop who made 257 appearances for Gloucester and propped alongside Malcolm Preedy in the 1990 Cup Final. He played for South West Division against the 1988-89 Australians and won an England B cap against France the same season. He made twelve appearances for the South West in the Inter-Divisional Championship.

Born in Greenford Middlesex in January 1958, Pasc learnt his rugby at Upton Manor Secondary School, Gillingham and joined the Beckenham club from school. He played County Championship rugby for Kent at the age of eighteen before enrolling at St Paul's College Cheltenham to train as a PE teacher.

While there, he played for British Colleges and for English Students against Japan. After two years of teaching in Northamptonshire and playing for Bedford, Richard Pascall moved to Cheltenham and joined Gloucester RFC in winter 1980.

He made his 1st XV debut for Gloucester in September 1982 and, once established, held his place for the next nine seasons, a very successful period in the club's history. At times he was on the verge of greater things, as testified



• PASCALL, DUNN AND PREEDY

He toured North America in 1982 and South Africa in 1984, where he won his only England cap. He made 313 appearances between 1979 and 1992 and captained his club in 1986-87.

Malcolm Preedy, born in September 1960 in Gloucester, learned his rugby at Hucclecote Secondary School and arrived at Kingsholm at the age of 19 from Longlevens RFC, playing 24 games

The trio formed an all-Gloucester front row for the first test and appeared to have held their own against the formidable Springboks in a 33-15 defeat. All were dropped for the second test, however, and it was to be Preedy's only cap.

The durable Preedy played with distinction for Gloucester for another eight seasons, captaining the side in 1986-87. He appeared





by his selection for the South West and England B.

Richard Pascall returned to Bedford to captain the club in Division 2 for the 1991-92 season, before ending his career playing for Cheltenham. He has since coached Stroud and assisted Gloucestershire as forwards coach.

PETE JONES

SCOTTISH born Pete Jones played 184 times for Gloucester from 1983 to 1998. He won a Scottish cap as a replacement and also represented Scotland A. Before playing for Scotland he played for the South West Division and had an England Under 23 trial.

Peter Martin "Pete" Jones (also nicknamed "Jonah") was born in Arbroath in December 1963, but was educated at Hucclecote Secondary School. When he made his debut for Gloucester in 1983, Phil Blakeway and Gordon Sargent were soon to retire but Gloucester still had a succession of formidable props and competition for places was fierce throughout his career.

Playing regularly in 1985-86, he won an England Under 23 trial but during the next few seasons he was in and out of the side. Pete regained a regular first team place in 1990-91 and changed his allegiance to the country of his birth.

He played for Scotland A several times before getting a full cap as a replacement against Wales in 1991-92. He toured Australia with Scotland In Summer 1992 but was not selected for the internationals.

Although his last big game was in 1994-95 Pete Jones played occasional 1st XV games until the end of the 1997-98 season.

ANDY DEACON

IT'S well documented that, when the game turned professional in 1996 and the 31 year old tight-head prop

from Longlevens RFC Andy Deacon was handed his first professional contract by Richard Hill, he said that "...it was just like winning the pools."

A 10-season veteran, "Deacs" had captained Gloucester in 1994-95 in a backs-to-the-wall struggle against relegation and had made 116 1st XV appearances in all as



an amateur. He went on to repay Hill's faith in him tenfold and to play a further 184 games as a professional (starting in 144 of them) in a distinguished career that spanned 18 seasons and made him a Shed hero.

Perhaps the highlights of his long career were first in 1998 when he toured South America with the Barbarians playing twice in a three match series against South American Barbarians, then in 1999 when he played for England A in a 28-21 victory over Ireland A at Donnybrook and finally in 2003 when he was sent up first by his victorious captain to receive the Powergen Cup at Twickenham, an indication of the regard in which he was held by his fellow players. He made 10 Heineken Cup appearances and started in Gloucester's only semi-final against Leicester in 2001.

After retirement Andy went on to become Director of Rugby at Cinderford and Cirencester.

TONY WINDO

YET another durable prop from the Longlevens nursery, Tony Windo had an equally

remarkable career, playing 190 games for Gloucester between 1988 and 1999 and a further 228 games for Worcester between 1999 and 2008. A mobile prop with good hands, he played for England at Under 21 and A level and toured Australasia and South Africa with England in 1998.

Anthony John Windo, or "Reg" to his fellow players, was born in Gloucester in April 1969. He came to Kingsholm in 1988 and although his 1st XV opportunities were limited, gained his first England Under 21 cap against France in 1990. By 1995-1996 he was well established and on 2 December 1995 he made his debut for the South West Division against London Counties. A week later he played for the South West against Samoa at Kingsholm.

During the first years of professionalism Gloucester struggled, but the strength of their front row was never in doubt. As a result, Windo was selected for England A in 1998 and this was followed by a summer tour of Australasia and South Africa with the full England side, alongside Phil Vickery.

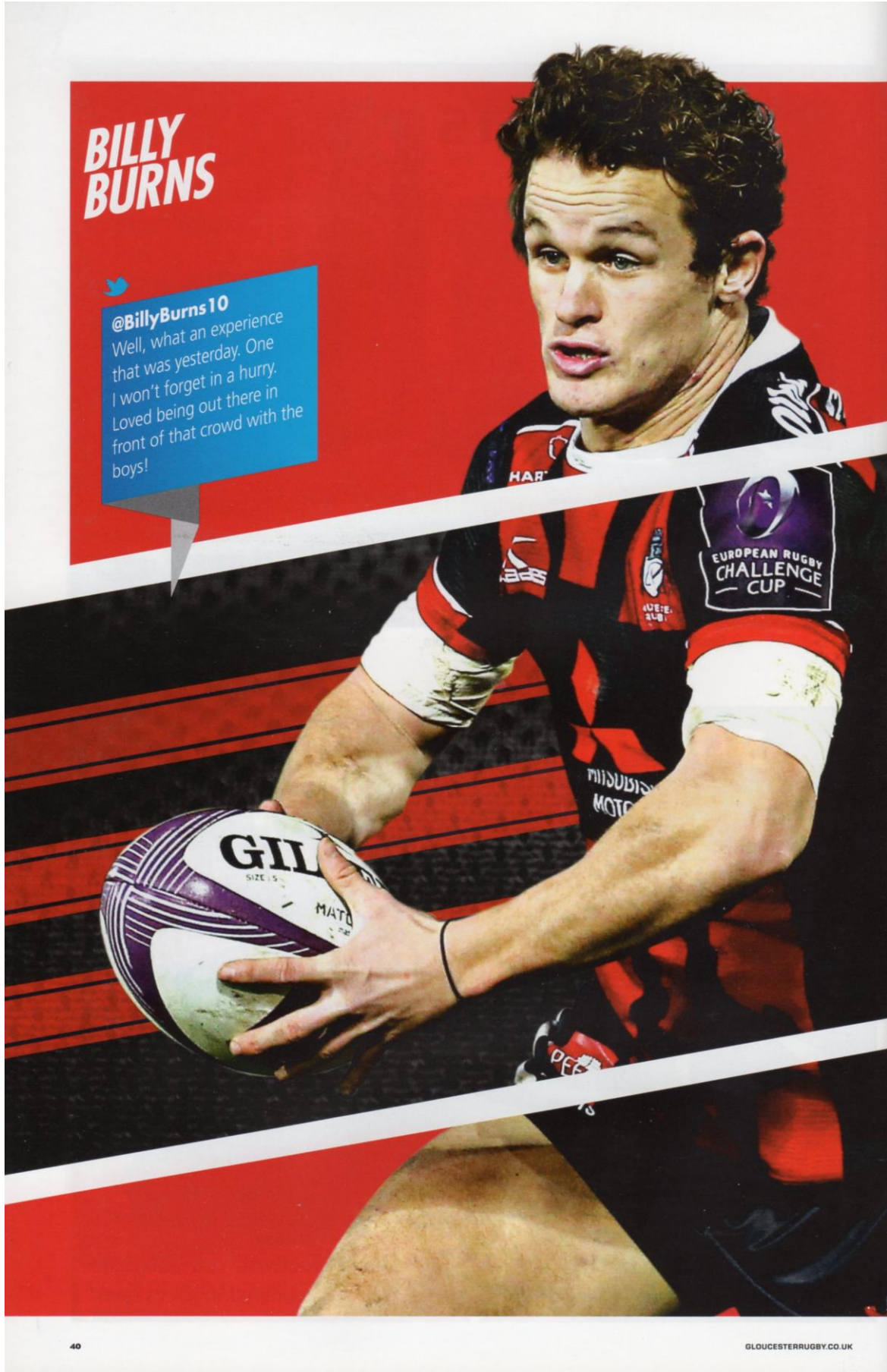
After one more season with Gloucester, he signed for Worcester and played a pivotal role in the club's successful 2003-04 promotion campaign in which they won all 26 games. The ultimate team man, he was named in the 2005-06 Sky Sports Dream Team.

Tony Windo played his last professional game in May 2008, for Worcester against Bath in the European Challenge Cup Final at Kingsholm, but six months later, now Assistant Forwards Coach at Worcester, he played for Barbarians against Combined Services in his final big game.



BILLY BURNS

 **@BillyBurns10**
Well, what an experience that was yesterday. One I won't forget in a hurry. Loved being out there in front of that crowd with the boys!



BURNS IS ALL FIRED UP

THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP CONTINUES TO BE A COMPETITION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR THE CHERRY AND WHITES AND, WITH A MAN OF THE MATCH PERFORMANCE UNDER HIS BELT IN ROUND 3, BILLY BURNS IS ENJOYING HIS CHANCE TO SHINE.

THE holders welcome La Rochelle to Kingsholm today, a tricky opponent in Round Two in November, and Burns is challenging the Cherry and Whites to build on a solid pool stage campaign so far.

"As far as Europe goes, we have done all we can and performed really well in the games we've had. Going away to La Rochelle, a really tough place to visit, and getting the result there was huge.

"We took massive confidence from that game into the two games against Worcester. They were two really tough games against an opponent giving the competition a really good go as well.

"So, we've taken a lot from the tournament so far, and we're all massively looking forward to playing La Rochelle this Saturday."

With no LV= Cup on offer for the squad this season, the Challenge Cup has thrown up a good chance for the squad to shine and, along with the Gloucester United exploits on a Monday night, Burns knows that there are plenty of members of the wider squad ready to step up.

"This year, we've had a good response in the A League, and the boys are pushing their cases to be involved in the first team. This European Rugby Challenge Cup tournament is another chance to show our stuff too.

"We're still fielding strong sides, but there is also that bit of youth in there as well who aren't necessarily

THIS EUROPEAN BLOCK IS HUGE FOR THE SQUAD. FOR BOYS TO COME IN AND PUT DOWN A MARKER AND GET UP TO SPEED WITH THE PLANS.

playing every week. They're given the chance to show their skills.

"People like myself, we massively look forward to a game like this weekend, and it's our chance to put down a marker and continue the good work of the whole squad."

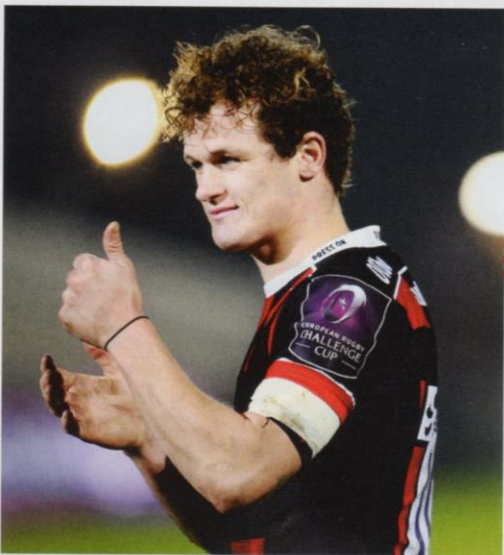
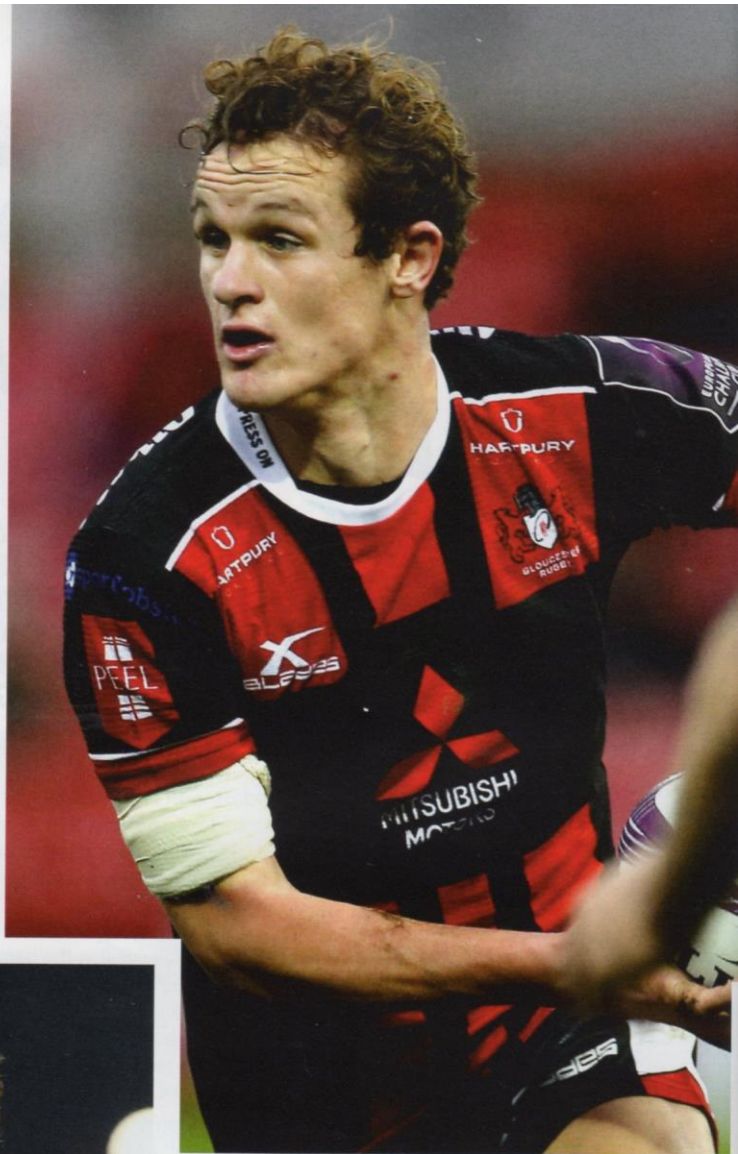
And with Burns' impact on the first team growing, he is enjoying his development in the Gloucester environment, during his second season as a first teamer.

"I've already said that since I've been at Gloucester, there have always been great players ahead of me, and they've been great role models.

"Obviously the presence of James Hook, with 90-odd caps for Wales, he's been massive for me watching his games and learning bits and bobs.

"James is never shy off the pitch to help me out, and sit down and talk through things. He's been great along with Greig Laidlaw too.

"With his experience in his career, he knows what he wants from his fly-half outside him and, to be fair, I've been luckily over the years with Tim Taylor and Freddie



WE WANT TO GO OUT AND WIN THIS TOURNAMENT AGAIN, AND DO SOMETHING NO OTHER TEAM HAS DONE BEFORE. IT'S ANOTHER COG IN THAT WHEEL AND USE TO PROGRESS WITH OUR DOMESTIC BUSINESS AS WELL.

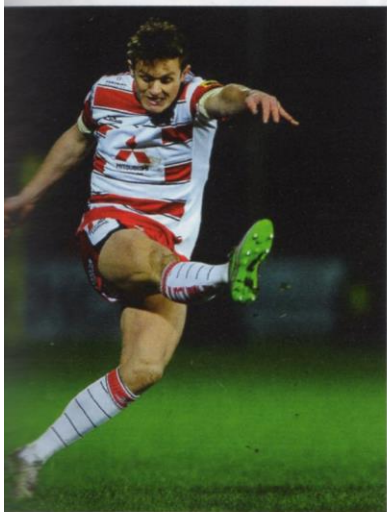
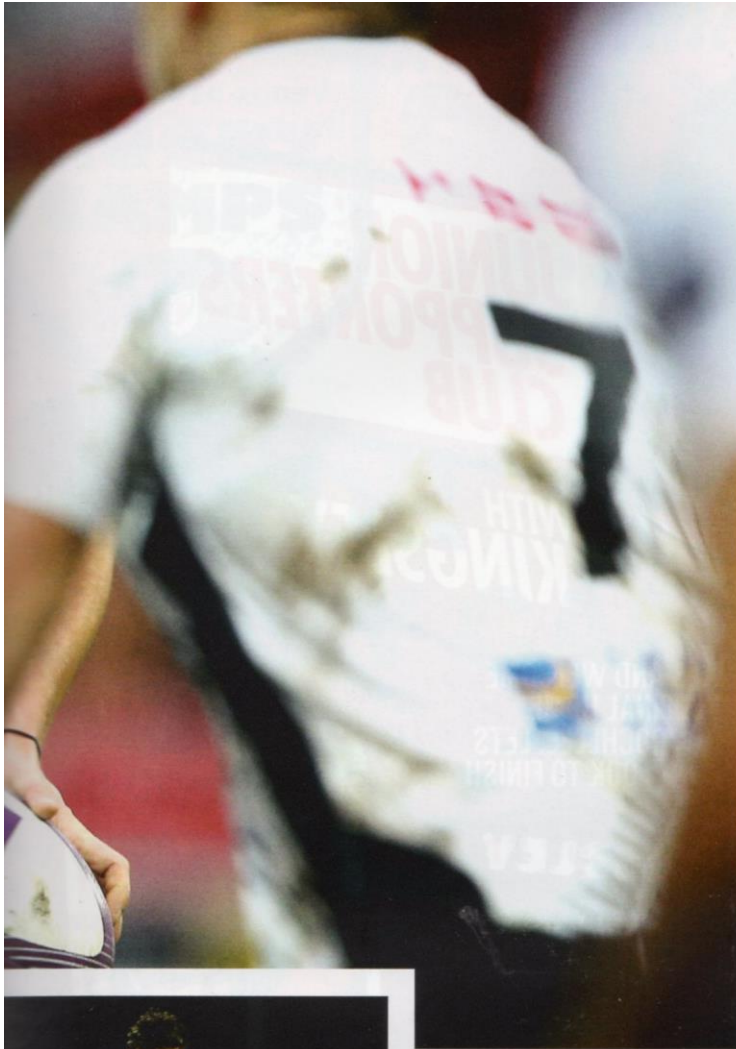
who have been a big part of my career since I started at the club and being involved with the first team.

"I definitely feel like a real part of the squad this year, but I know personally that I'm still a long way off where I need to be. The great

thing with David Humphreys is that he's always keen to give young players a chance to go out and play.

"I hope that I get better and continue to improve but I know I have to be patient, as it is not easy to manage a squad where everyone wants to play.

"All I can do is focus on my own performance and keep making an impression in training, then I can back up my chances of being considered for that starting jersey. But I've got my feet firmly on the ground at the moment, and I am fully aware of what I



have to do to improve and fine tune, and I am looking forward to continuing working on that in the coming weeks."

It's often simple for pundits and commentators alike to compare Billy with elder brother Freddie, a likeness that Billy accepts, but now

he feels like he is forging a real reputation of his own in Cherry and White.

"Certainly I do feel like I am developing my own identity, and definitely when I was growing up and developing as a player, I learned everything from Freddie. So it's no surprise that we're similar players, so I can see where the comparisons can be mentioned.

"Freddie has moved on now, and at Leicester they play a completely different style of play to what we do at Gloucester, and that has changed since Freddie was here.

"Although Freddie was here at Gloucester, he played in a different role to what I'm doing. I'll still take bits from his game when I look at his clips on a Monday morning, and I'm sure he does the same with me.

"I'd like to think I am working on my own identity, but I guess that is for people outside of my circle to

judge on."

And being surrounded by his peers, Burns experienced age-group rugby with the likes of Callum Braley, Henry Purdy and Elliott Stooke to name but a few, now the young generation are showing their worth on the top domestic stage.

"It's awesome to be in that position, we always get on the pitch and it's special to be together. Not only is it rare to be playing together in a Premiership rugby side, you're doing it with your best pals. It's awesome.

"It's not just us young boys with the good bond, it's the older lads



as well – we're all a really close knit group.

"Us young lads genuinely spend as much time off the field together as we do on it. So it makes it ten times better to share the good times, and ride the bad times to help each other out."

With La Rochelle this weekend's opponents, Burns is aware of the importance to take momentum back into a prolonged Aviva Premiership run in the spring.

"We've obviously know it's going to be a long old stint when we get back into the Premiership with some hugely tough games. With guys going away to the Six Nations, it's going to be a stage where we're going to need our wider squad, and we will all get opportunities.

"This European block is huge for the squad, for boys to come in and put down a marker and get up to speed with the plans.

"We want to go out and win this tournament again, and do something no other team has done before. It's another cog in that wheel and use to progress with our domestic business as well."



RANDALL ON RUGBY

THE FUNNEL OF TALENT FROM GLOUCESTER'S ACADEMY INTO THE FIRST TEAM SQUAD STARTS WIDE BUT ENDS UP BEING VERY NARROW, AND THERE IS NO BETTER ILLUSTRATION OF THAT THAN LEWIS LUDLOW'S PATH TO HIS FIRST PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT.

EDUCATED in Bedfordshire at Redborn Upper School, the 21 year old did his A levels at Hartpury College and was spotted in his second year by Billy Clark, at the time Gloucester's Academy Manager.

He was invited to train with the under 18's and ended up captaining the side in the Academy League. At the end of that season nearly 20 boys, including Ludlow, were offered Academy places, yet a year later only four were retained.

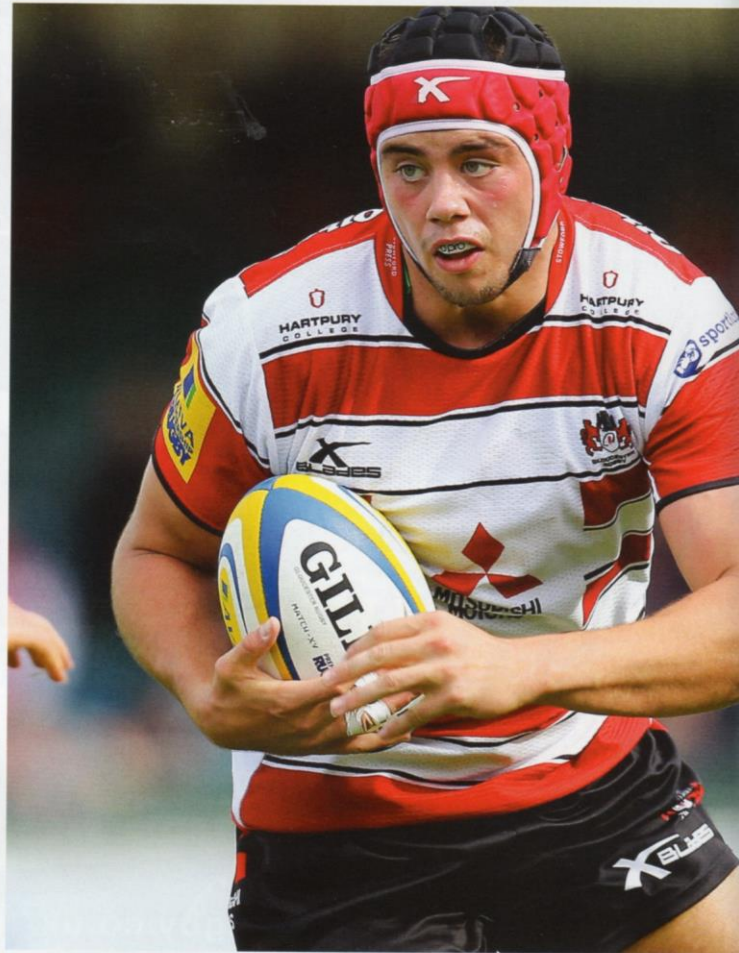
Ludlow has now earned a two year deal as a professional from the start of next season, and he's the only one left.

"I was pretty set on playing rugby at school even though my parents and my teachers always told me to have something to fall back on," Ludlow said.

"I went home at Christmas and saw my best mates, one is a buyer in the fashion industry and one works in computers. They didn't think we did any contact training in the week, but I told them we do on two or three days and most of the time you wake up sore from training or being in the gym.

"The day after a game you struggle to move sometimes but I wouldn't swap it for anything."

Ludlow has learned his back



LAURIE AND DAVID WANT THAT AGGRESSIVE PHYSICALITY WHICH I BRING TO TRAINING OUT THERE ON THE PITCH. AND BEING INVOLVED WITH INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS DAY IN DAY OUT YOU'RE LEARNING ALL THE TIME. LEWIS LUDLOW

row trade on a dual registration deal with Hartpury as well as in the Championship at London Scottish, where former Gloucester scrum half

first year in the Academy, and then National Division 1.

"To go there and get into the play offs and face Worcester, it was

about 7kg, and with the prolonged pre-season where we were training a lot without playing I was able to keep the weight on."

Ludlow started pre-season with the first team squad and after playing in a couple of the warm up matches, David Humphreys took him aside and told him that despite being on an Academy contract, he would be regarded as a first team squad player for the whole season.

He has already played in the Challenge Cup against Worcester and should get more game time both today and against Zebre in the remaining pool games, despite having picking up two yellow cards.

"I'm one of the most competitive people in the squad. It's how I play, and it's my point of difference" Ludlow added.

"Laurie and David want that aggressive physicality which I bring to training out there on the pitch, and being involved with international players day in day out you're learning all the time.

"I'm known for my work rate and they want that energy, an edge if you like. I've enjoyed playing at no 8 where you get your hands on the ball a bit. But at 6 you're defending more and I'm fine with that because a big tackle lifts the team."

This afternoon we may see Ludlow alongside a clutch of players from the year above him at Hartpury - Braley, Burns, Moriarty, Stooke and Nicky Thomas - as Gloucester look to tie up a home quarter final in April.

La Rochelle have lost all their away games in the Top 14 season but Ludlow isn't expecting an easy afternoon.

"Charlie Sharples' try was brilliant when we played them away, and they're likely to be bigger than us so it'll be a physical test."

He pauses, and then grins. "I'll enjoy that."



"THE DAY AFTER A GAME YOU STRUGGLE TO MOVE SOMETIMES BUT I WOULDN'T SWAP IT FOR ANYTHING."

Peter Richards is Director of Rugby.

His father is Welsh so not surprisingly Martyn Williams is among a handful of boyhood heroes that also include Richie McCaw and Lawrence Dallaglio, and Ludlow feels two factors have quickened his development over the last 12 months.

"Firstly, being out on loan at Scottish toughened me up" Ludlow went on.

"Going there was a big step from playing in National Division 2 in my

almost like playing a Premiership game and it prepared me for the opportunities I got at Gloucester in the Challenge Cup and then in the last Premiership game of last season at Bath.

"Without that experience I don't think I would be able to put myself across as well as I did."

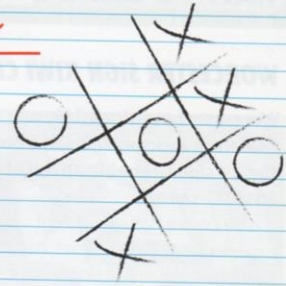
"The other big thing was I had a good summer with my weight, because at the end of last season I wasn't heavy enough. Paddy Anson and Jamie Bain helped me put on



Back To School

by Mat Protheroe, age 19

PRIMARY SCHOOL



I WENT TO Gorseinon Junior School

MY BEST FRIEND WAS Joel Young

MY FAVOURITE TEACHER WAS Mr Millard

MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL DINNER WAS Sausage and Mash

IN MY SNACK BOX I HAD a cheese string

MY PRIMARY SCHOOL LOVE WAS Didn't have one

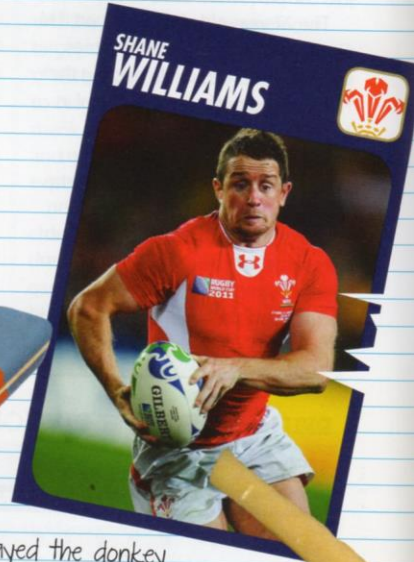
Mat's best friends

1. Joel
2. Duncan
3. Tom
4. David



Dear Mr and Mrs Protheroe

We regret to inform you that Mat has eaten so many sausages that he cannot fit into his donkey costume anymore!



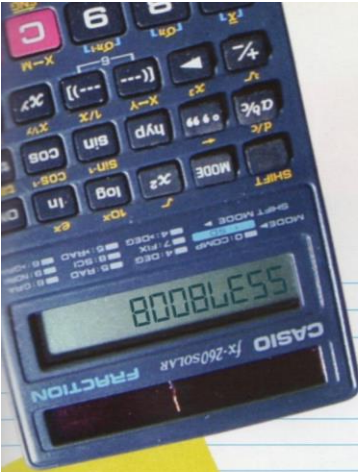
MY FIRST SCHOOL PLAY WAS The Christmas Nativity and I played the donkey

IN THE PLAYGROUND, I was playing football

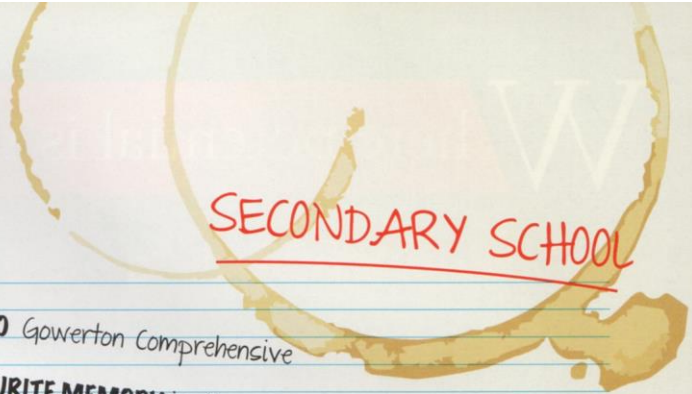
MY EARLIEST RUGBY MEMORY Was watching Shane Williams play against the All Blacks in RWC 2003

WHEN WE PLAYED RUGBY I PRETENDED TO BE Shane Williams

AT SPORTS DAY, I was awful at egg and spoon but decent at the Three legged race

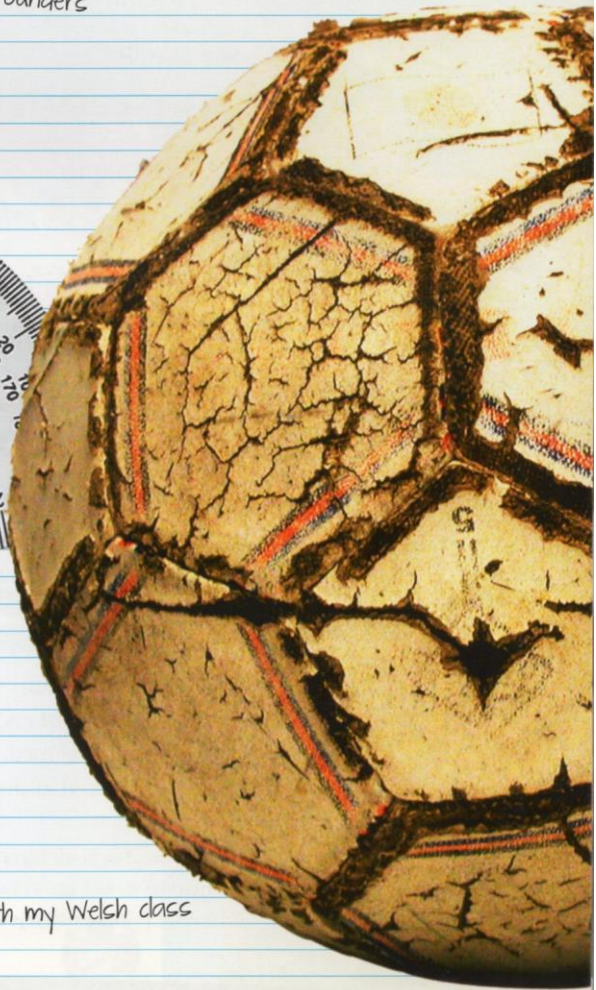


Maths timetable
headers and Volleys
Rugby practice
Homework



SECONDARY SCHOOL

I WENT TO Gowerton Comprehensive
MY FAVOURITE MEMORY is the school rugby tour
I ENJOYED lunchtime headers and volleys
MY GRADES WERE A*, 5A, 5B, 1C
MY HARDEST SUBJECT WAS Maths
MY UNIFORM WAS A maroon jumper with a white polo
IN PE, I USED TO hate rounders



GOT IN TROUBLE FOR nothing...I was an angel
MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL TRIP WAS to France with my Welsh class
AT SCHOOL I WANTED TO BE A rugby player



Chisholm's second try leveled the scores with just minutes remaining.

The Cherry and Whites were first to score in a match of ten tries. Charlie Sharples forcing a spill from Mike Brown, and as John Afoa hacked ahead, Jeremy Thrush showed great footballing skills to beat Jack Clifford to the ball for the touch down.

Quins then wrestled back the lead, an Evans penalty was followed by a simple finish for Marland Yarde, after a strong Clifford break with Welsh international Jamie Roberts sucking in the midfield defence.

Laidlaw responded with a well struck penalty to regain Gloucester's lead as they continued to go toe to toe with the hosts, who knew they were in a game.

The Big Game produced its own

HARLEQUINS 39 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 39



HALF TIME 15-17
ATTENDANCE 70,718
REFEREE Wayne Barnes

THE curtain came down on 2015 with one of the games of the season so far in front of over 70,000 at Twickenham, with the Cherry and Whites running in five tries to earn a 39-39 draw in a festive thriller.

Very few gave Gloucester a chance up against the much-fancied Quins, bang in form and ready to up their game for Big Game 8. But the Cherry and Whites were tenacious, patient and more than deserved the three points that they took away from Rugby HQ.

Twickenham has had its fair deal of drama in recent months

with the Rugby World Cup, and this game was no different, as the lead changed hands throughout with both sides captivating the bumper crowd as play flowed from end to end.

On the whole, however, Director of Rugby David Humphreys was left to rue the result as a five-point haul was snatched away late on, with Gloucester almost leaving with just the single point as Nick Evans strayed just wide with a last gasp drop goal.

The Cherry and Whites were struck a triple blow during the game, coupled with a re-jig of the starting line up in the build up to kick off, with John Afoa, Henry Trinder and Jonny May all limping off as the match progressed.

A Try of the Round effort from Rob Cook gave the visitors a ten-point lead with ten minutes left, but the boot of Evans and Ross

moments of controversy, with the game providing a platform for many a rugby newcomer.

Matt Kvesic's turnover was a case in point, being carried out to a tee and rewarded by referee Wayne Barnes. As James Hook strode away he was met by a chorus of boos as he dived over the line for the visitors' second. It was all entirely legal.

Frustratingly, Quins responded immediately, clinical in attack as captain Danny Care dotted down next to the posts to bring the score to within two, as Laidlaw was off target with the final kick of the first half.

It was the hosts who threatened early in the second, as May left the action injured, but Jack Clifford spilt an errant pass from Dave Ward, and Henry Trinder swooped to pick up and race the length for his first try of the season on his first Premiership start of the campaign.

Nick Easter then bundled over from short range to reduce the

deficit and Ross Chisholm then benefitted from a speedy break from Roberts and Brown to secure the bonus point for the hosts.

It was a quick-fire double that couldn't be denied from the hosts' possession and territory and the home crowd was bouncing with momentum now well and truly behind the home side.

They were quickly deflated, Care's over exuberance saw Trinder again collect a stray pass and stroll over, despite suffering a hamstring pull on his route to the line. Gloucester's bonus point was secured.

As the visitors poured the pressure onto the hosts, Rob Cook



I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT MATT KVESIC IS AN INTERNATIONAL PLAYER. AN INTERNATIONAL NUMBER SEVEN AND THE ENGLAND SEVEN-IN-WAITING.

DAVID HUMPHREYS

collected a poor clearance from Brown and sped his way past two static defenders, stepping past a wrong-footed Marland Yarde and powering his way over for the line for a stunning score. The Cherry and Whites led by 10, coupled with a Laidlaw penalty.

But Quins didn't give in and leveled late on. Richard Hibbard was committed throughout and took one for the team in being shown yellow. Chisholm was on hand to dive over out wide. And with Evans' conversion adding to an earlier penalty the scores were level.

Quins were handed a late chance to snatch it, but Evans misfired from the drop goal and a draw was more than a fair result for a fantastic game.

MATCHDAY SQUADS



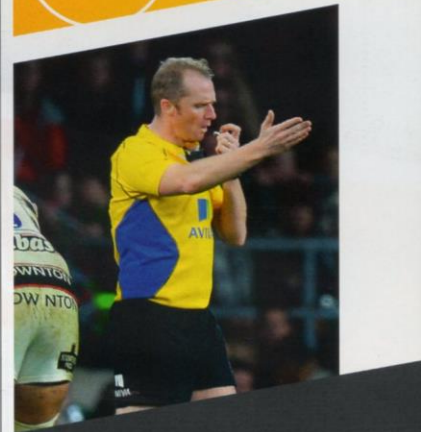
HARLEQUINS

- 15 Mike Brown
- 14 Marland Yarde 1T
- 13 George Lowe
- 12 Jamie Roberts
- 11 Tim Visser
- 10 Nick Evans 4C 2P
- 9 Danny Care 1T
- 1 Joe Marler
- 2 Dave Ward
- 3 Will Collier
- 4 James Horwill
- 5 Charlie Matthews
- 6 Chris Robshaw
- 7 Jack Clifford
- 8 Nick Easter 1T
- 16 Rob Buchanan
- 17 Mark Lambert
- 18 Kyle Sinckler
- 19 George Merrick
- 20 Luke Wallace
- 21 Karl Dickson
- 22 Ben Botica
- 23 Ross Chisholm 2T



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 Rob Cook 1T
- 14 Charlie Sharples
- 13 Henry Trinder 2T
- 12 Billy Twelvetrees
- 11 Jonny May
- 10 James Hook 1T
- 9 Greig Laidlaw 4C 2P
- 1 Dan Murphy
- 2 Richard Hibbard ■
- 3 John Afoa
- 4 Jeremy Thrush 1T
- 5 Mariano Galarza
- 6 Ross Moriarty
- 7 Matt Kvesic
- 8 Sione Kalamafoni
- 16 Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 Yann Thomas
- 18 Nicky Thomas
- 19 Tom Savage
- 20 Jacob Rowan
- 21 Willi Heinz
- 22 Billy Burns
- 23 Henry Purdy



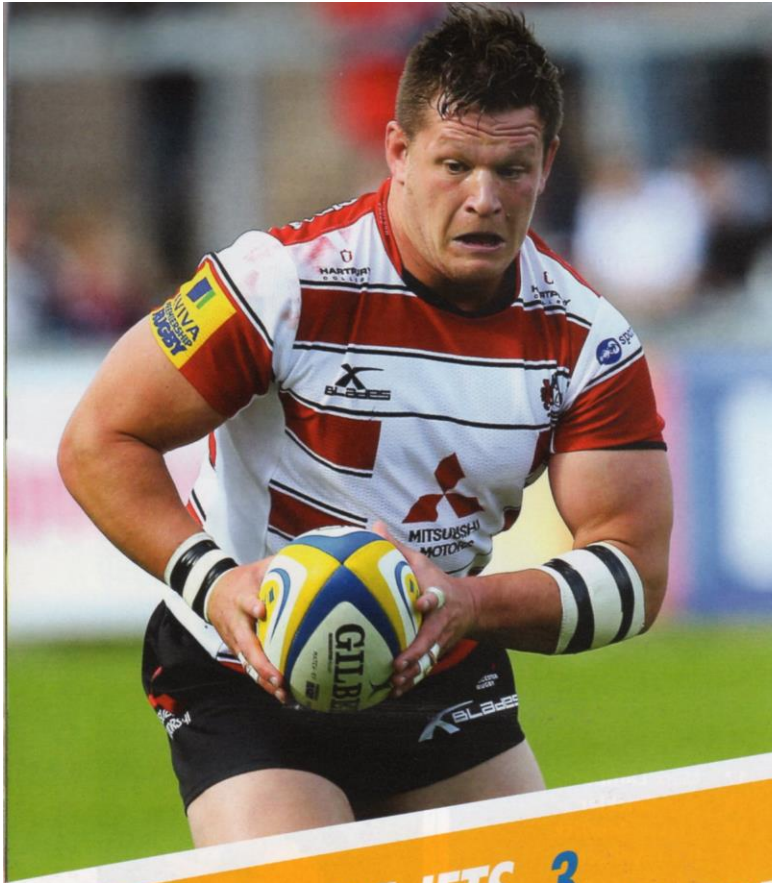
Sherbornes Solicitors Ltd

OFFICIAL LEGAL PARTNER

APPLYING THE LAW

The uneducated in the Twickenham crowd were in uproar as James Hook raced away for his try, thinking that Matt Kvesic was offside at the previous ruck.

However, referee Wayne Barnes got the decision spot on – Kvesic was the tackler and therefore entitled to play the ball. It was a great call and backed up 100% by the BT Sport commentary team.



well-executed work by his fellow forwards. With the outgunned Jets side only able to respond with a solitary penalty from Tom Morton, the outcome was decided well before the end.

It was back to the backs to complete the scoring, a turnover at the tackle saw Dan Thomas suck in defenders and via Thorley, replacement scrum half Ben Vellacott touched down. There was a suspicion of a forward pass but the try was given.

The victory sees Gloucester remain unbeaten in the competition so far this season in the Northern Conference with three wins and a draw from their four matches to date.

The United top the table with 16 points from their four games,



SALE JETS 3 GLOUCESTER UNITED 36

A GOOD DAY AT THE OFFICE FOR DAWIDIUK AS A LEAGUE MOMENTUM IS MAINTAINED

DARREN Dawidiuk had a night to remember in Gloucester's most recent Aviva Premiership A League encounter as he scored four tries in the 36-3 victory away at Sale Jets.

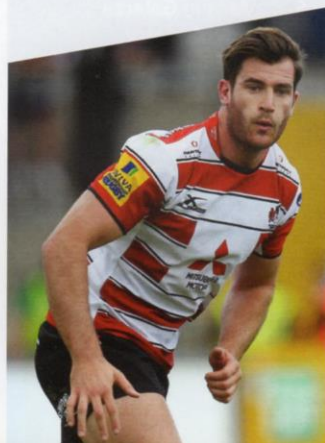
According to statistics compiled by Stuart Farmer Media Services, only 11 other players had scored four tries or more in a single Aviva A League game before.

Dawidiuk profited from Gloucester's well executed catch and drive tactic which had the Jets in trouble virtually every time the United got anywhere near the line.

The first try on the night,

however, came from the backs. Steve McColl carried well in midfield after a quick throw from fly half Lloyd Evans, and the ball was moved smartly by Mark Atkinson and Callum Braley to suck in the defence, and allow Ollie Thorley to score on the right wing.

The scoring was then monopolized by Dawidiuk as he finished off some powerful,



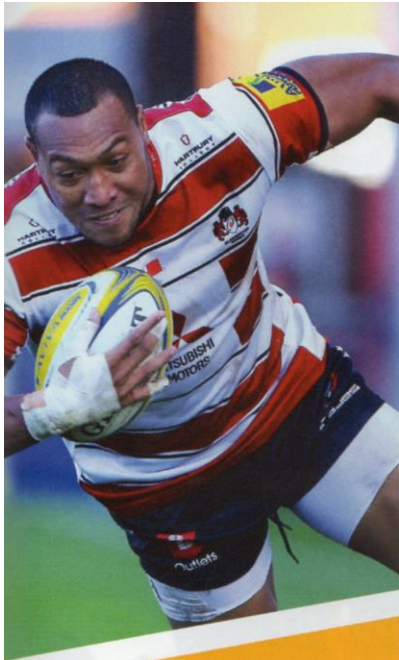
Neil McCarthy praises the application of the United team after the A League victory over Sale

ahead of Newcastle (12 points from four games) and Northampton (10 points from three games).

So, the group isn't quite sewn up just yet with Newcastle the visitors to Kingsholm in late March and able to overtake Gloucester at the top of the table with a decent win.

Likewise, Northampton Wanderers, whose game against Worcester Cavaliers was called off due to the waterlogged Franklin's Gardens pitch, can still overtake the United.

Head of Academy, Neil McCarthy,



IT'S FANTASTIC TO HAVE A LONG BUS TRIP UP HERE AND THEN COME AWAY WITH A BONUS POINT. WE PLAYED REALLY WELL BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY THE APPLICATION ACROSS ALL THE A LEAGUE GAMES BUT THIS ONE IN PARTICULAR HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC. NEIL MCCARTHY



MATCHDAY SQUADS

SALE JETS

- 15 Tim Jeffers
- 14 John O'Donnell
- 13 Johnny Leota
- 12 Nick Macleod
- 11 Tom Brady
- 10 Tom Morton
- 9 James Mitchell
- 1 James Flynn
- 2 Neil Briggs
- 3 Ciaran Parker
- 4 George Nott
- 5 Tom Sanders
- 6 Matt Rogerson
- 7 Andy Hughes (C)
- 8 Viliami Fihaki

- 16 Jake Pope
- 17 Ted Stagg
- 18 Diogo Ferreira
- 19 Liam Parfitt
- 20 Conor Dever
- 21 Sam Bedlow
- 22 Nev Edwards
- 23 Forbes Edwards

GLOUCESTER UNITED

- 15 Mat Protheroe
- 14 Ollie Thorley
- 13 David Halaifonua
- 12 Mark Atkinson
- 11 Steve McColl
- 10 Lloyd Evans
- 9 Callum Braley (C)
- 1 Yann Thomas
- 2 Darren Dawidiuk
- 3 Josh McNulty
- 4 Joe Latta
- 5 Tom Hicks
- 6 Elliott Stooke
- 7 Dan Thomas
- 8 Lewis Ludlow

- 16 Joe Mullis
- 17 James Gibbons
- 18 Ciaran Knight
- 19 Alex Craig
- 20 Will Safe
- 21 Ben Vellacott
- 22 Jack Evans
- 23 Steph Reynolds

who has taken charge of the side this season, was delighted with the squad's efforts at Heywood Road.

"It's fantastic to have a long bus trip up here and then come away with a bonus-point. We played really well but more importantly the application across all the A League games but this one in particular has been absolutely fantastic.

"The maul is a massive part of playing in the Premiership and across the playing group, the



first team and the Academy, it's important that we're competitive in that area. The boys have worked really hard at it and they had some reward.

"The beauty of the A League is guys who are really experienced can get game time, guys on the periphery of breaking into the first team squad have an opportunity and then young lads coming through like Ciaran Knight, Joe Mullis and Alex Craig who are playing for the Under 18s."



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 27

LONDON IRISH 14



HALF TIME 6-14
ATTENDANCE 16,115
REFEREE Tom Foley

THE Cherry and Whites kicked 2016 off with a hard fought win over a spirited London Irish side as they triumphed in conditions that harked back to days gone by.

With persistent rain turning Kingsholm into a quagmire, the hosts had to overcome a half time deficit before turning in, what David Humphreys declared, '...the best we've played all season, given the conditions...'

It was like classic Kingsholm matches of old. A muddy outlook, and a Gloucester forward pack asserting their dominance, and the sell out home crowd were

lapping it up.

Marshaled by the imperious Jeremy Thrush, the hosts were a different prospect in the second period, and recovered superbly after letting the Exiles in for a pair of soft tries before half time.

With Greig Laidlaw named amongst the replacements, James Hook took over duties from the kicking tee and the fly half opened the scoring after the opening exertions saw a dominant home maul win a penalty.

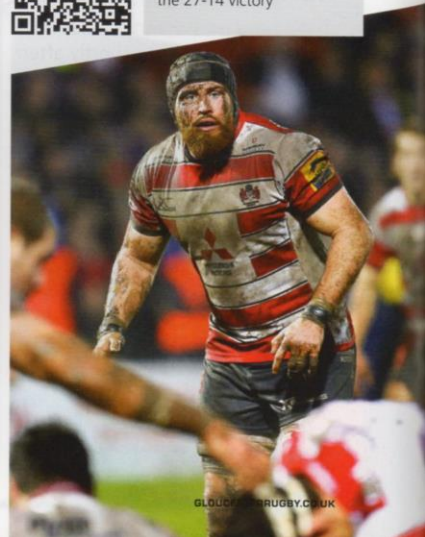
But Irish adapted to the conditions well in the opening quarter, with Canadian international Ciaran Hearn stepping past a tackle to slide under the posts.

Hook responded with a penalty as the kick tennis dominated, but in the conditions, neither side were keen to concede mistakes.

The Exiles kept the game simple with Chris Noakes edging the



Tom Lindsay, a second half replacement against London Irish made a big impact in the 27-14 victory



territory contest, and from an attacking maul, the Kiwi fly half floated a cross kick which was spot on for promising wing Alex Lewington to leap, collect and gleefully dive over.

It was a weird game, Gloucester had a lot of possession, and it seemed a matter of time before they clicked, but on their only two attacking excursions, the Exiles had come away with tries, and Tom Coventry's men led 6-14 at the break. The hosts had it all to do to appease a capacity New Year crowd.

Returning to the field in the second half, it was clear that the half time team talk was working,



OUR SECOND-HALF PERFORMANCE WAS OUTSTANDING AND ONE OF OUR BEST OF THE SEASON AS WE HAD TO ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES TO ENSURE THE WIN. DAVID HUMPHREYS

the hosts were playing smart and, time after time, were making breaks allowing Hook to chip away at the 8-point lead.

Hook's first penalty came after some good pressure in the 22, and he then followed it up shortly after to make the deficit two points, as Alex Lewington illegally halted a try line bound maul.

Hook then kicked the hosts into the lead and then they didn't look back. The Cherry and Whites weathered some pressure from the Exiles, then set about putting the game to bed.

The catch and drive was proving to be a well-oiled machine for the hosts, and Thrush was conducting proceedings as Greig Laidlaw and Ben Morgan entered the fray.

Replacement Tom Lindsay was

MATCHDAY SQUADS



GLoucester RUGBY

- 15 Rob Cook
- 14 Charlie Sharples
- 13 Bill Meakes
- 12 Billy Twelvetrees
- 11 Henry Purdy
- 10 James Hook 1c 5P
- 9 Willi Heinz
- 1 Nick Wood
- 2 Richard Hibbard
- 3 Nicky Thomas
- 4 Tom Savage
- 5 Jeremy Thrush
- 6 Ross Moriarty
- 7 Matt Kvesic 1T
- 8 Sione Kalamafoni

- 16 Tom Lindsay
- 17 Dan Murphy
- 18 Paddy McAllister
- 19 Ben Morgan
- 20 Jacob Rowan
- 21 Greig Laidlaw
- 22 Billy Burns 1T
- 23 Mark Atkinson



LONDON IRISH

- 15 Sean Maitland
- 14 Alex Lewington 1T
- 13 Ciaran Hearn 1T
- 12 Johnny Williams
- 11 Asaeli Tikoirotuma
- 10 Chris Noakes 2c
- 9 Brendan McKibbin
- 1 Tom Court
- 2 David Paice
- 3 Ben Franks
- 4 Matt Symons
- 5 William Lloyd
- 6 Luke Narraway
- 7 Blair Cowan
- 8 Ofisa Treviranus

- 16 Gerard Ellis
- 17 Tom Smallbone
- 18 Halani Aulika
- 19 Jebb Sinclair
- 20 Joe Trayfoot
- 21 Scott Steele
- 22 Shane Geraghty
- 23 Topsy Ojo

spot on with his lineouts, and as the pressure kept ramping up, Matt Kvesic was driven over for a well-deserved score.

It was all Gloucester at this stage, and Billy Burns had barely been on the field for a minute when he finished off a superb break from Billy Twelvetrees and great hands from Rob Cook to slide over.

The two tries had put the game to bed and put the gloss on to a huge effort from the hosts.



OFFICIAL LEGAL PARTNER

APPLYING THE LAW

Referee Tom Foley had a busy couple of minutes in the second half when he had to refer two decisions upstairs in the space of a couple of minutes.

Firstly, Charlie Sharples competed for a cross-kick with Asaeli Tikoirotuma. The ball spilled loose and Sharples gathered to touch down. However, the TMO ruled that Sharples had nudged the ball forward and he seemed to get it right.

The second incident saw the Gloucester pack pile over from a catch and drive and claim the score. However, when asked "Try - yes or no", the TMO couldn't rule for certain and Irish escaped again.

3-0 17-3 20-10
 10-0 20-3
 10-7



TODAY'S TEAMSHEET

GLOUCESTER RUGBY vs LA ROCHELLE

European Rugby Challenge Cup - Round 5
 Saturday 16th January 2016, KO 15:00 Kingsholm



ROB COOK <i>T</i>	FULLBACK 15 FULLBACK <i>T</i>	KINI MURIMURIVALU
CHARLIE SHARPLES	RIGHT WING 14 RIGHT WING	<i>23</i> GABRIEL LACROIX
BILLY TWELVETREES <i>T</i>	OUTSIDE CENTRE 13 OUTSIDE CENTRE	<i>12</i> PIERRE AGUILLON
MARK ATKINSON	INSIDE CENTRE 12 INSIDE CENTRE	MALIETOA HINGANO
DAVID HALAIFONU A	LEFT WING 11 LEFT WING	BENJAMIN LAPEYRE
BILLY BURNS	FLY HALF 10 FLY HALF	CHARLES BOULDOIRE
GREIG LAIDLAW (C) <i>PCC</i>	SCrum HALF 9 SCrum HALF <i>PC</i>	RICKY JANUARIE
YANN THOMAS	LOOSEHEAD PROP 1 LOOSEHEAD PROP	<i>18</i> VINCENT PELO
DARREN DAWIDIUK	HOOKEr 2 HOOKEr	<i>16</i> MAXIME GAU
NICKY THOMAS	TIGHTHEAD PROP 3 TIGHTHEAD PROP	GAGI BAZADZE
TOM SAVAGE	LOCK 4 LOCK	<i>7</i> JASON EATON (C)
MARIANO GALARZA	LOCK 5 LOCK	✓ LEO CEDARO
ROSS MORIARTY	BLINDSIDE FLANKER 6 BLINDSIDE FLANKER	<i>19</i> ROMAIN SAZY
JACOB ROWAN	OPENSIDE FLANKER 7 OPENSIDE FLANKER	<i>6</i> ZENO KIEFT
LEWIS LUDLOW	NUMBER 8 8 NUMBER 8	JONE GOVU NAILIKO

TOM LINDSAY	REPLACEMENT 16 REPLACEMENT	DAVID ROUMIEU
DAN MURPHY	REPLACEMENT 17 REPLACEMENT	THOMAS SYNAEGHEL
JOSH McNULTY	REPLACEMENT 18 REPLACEMENT	LEKSO KAULASHVILI
JOE LATTA	REPLACEMENT 19 REPLACEMENT	<i>4</i> DAMIEN LAGRANGE
GARETH EVANS	REPLACEMENT 20 REPLACEMENT	KEVIN GOURDON
CALLUM BRALEY	REPLACEMENT 21 REPLACEMENT	<i>21</i> JULES LEBAIL
STEVE McCOLL	REPLACEMENT 22 REPLACEMENT	ELLIOT ROUDIL
MATT KVESIC	REPLACEMENT 23 REPLACEMENT	KAMILIENI RAIVONO

Officials

Referee David Wilkinson (IRFU)
Assistant Referees Stuart Gaffikin & Barrie O'Connell (both IRFU)

