

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ISSUE  
**10**

PRICE. £3



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

vs NEWCASTLE FALCONS  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY - ROUND 14



**MITSUBISHI  
MOTORS**

MAIN CLUB PARTNER

**BILL  
MEAKES**

**EXCLUSIVE PROGRAMME  
INTERVIEW ON PAGE 40**

**PLUS...  
THE CITIZEN  
BOB FENTON  
ACTION REPLAY**

**27.02.16**  
**KICK-OFF 3.00PM**  
**KINGSHOLM**  
**AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY**

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## CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

**GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S GAME WITH NEWCASTLE FALCONS.**

LAST weekend was disappointing, there is no hiding from that, but we cannot dwell on that. We have focused on the areas that we went wrong last week, and have had a really strong week in the build up to today's game.

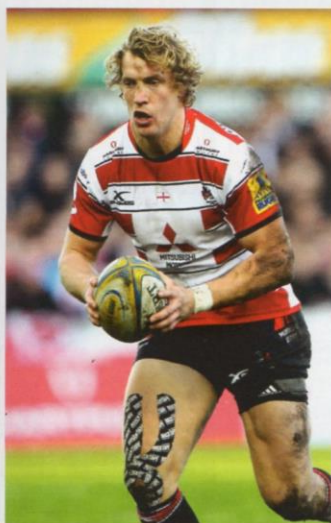
Saracens displayed why they are considered the best team in Europe by many, showing us how to control a game, and the only possession we had was in our own half. In hindsight though we were disappointed that we weren't able to take anything from the game.

But, we have to dust ourselves

(RIGHT) After two great victories last weekend's result was disappointing but we always look forward to playing in front of the Kingsholm crowd



**FROM A PLAYER POINT OF VIEW, THE RECENT NEWS REGARDING THE OWNERSHIP OF THE CLUB HAS BEEN AN EXCITING ONE. FIRSTLY, AS A SQUAD, WE WANT TO THANK THE WALKINSHAW FAMILY FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF US, AND WE REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH MARTIN ST QUINTON.**



down and carry on. We're a really strong squad, we have massive respect for each other, and we're not shy in being honest and frank with each other in a bid to improve.

Last time out against Harlequins at home, we put in a really good showing, built off the back of a strong defence and we left that game with a lot of confidence and plenty to be excited about.

We have to remember that feeling and go all out to replicate it this weekend against an in-form Newcastle Falcons team.

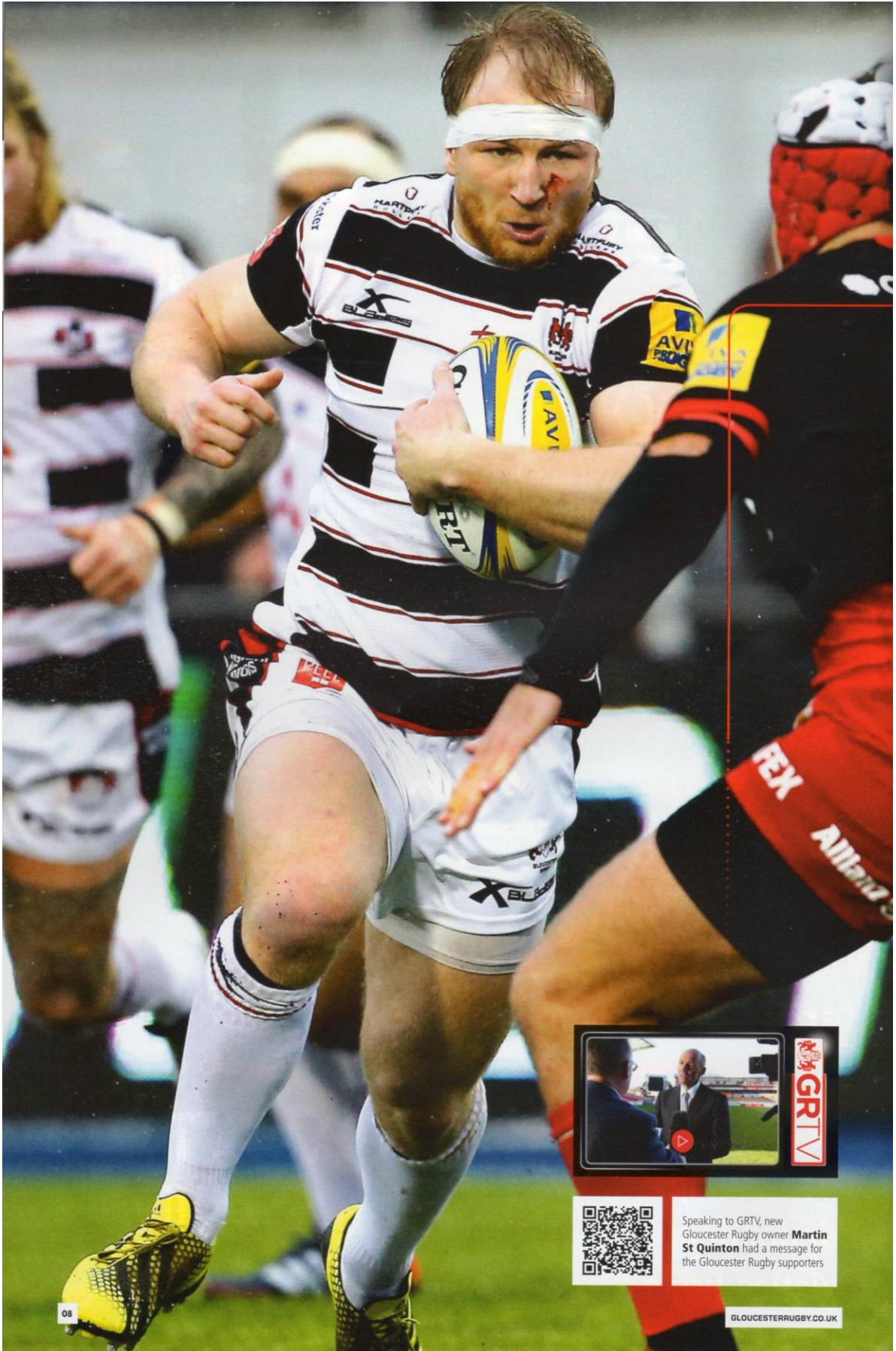
We love playing at Kingsholm, and there is a real determination amongst the squad to bounce back this week, in what is another really tough challenge.

From a player point of view, the recent news regarding the ownership of the club has been an exciting one. Firstly, as a squad, we want to thank the Walkinshaw family for their support of us, and we really look forward to working with Martin St Quinton.

There are plenty of exciting things going on at the club, and as players we are excited by the future. We know it's our duty to deliver the performances on the pitch, and we are committed to doing that.

**Enjoy the game!**

**Billy**



Speaking to GRTV, new Gloucester Rugby owner **Martin St Quinton** had a message for the Gloucester Rugby supporters

COMING UP...

EXCLUSIVE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME INTERVIEW  
**BILL MEAKES**

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## DAVID HUMPHREYS

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

**GOOD AFTERNOON AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO DEAN RICHARDS, MANAGEMENT, PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NEWCASTLE FALCONS FOR ROUND 14 OF THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP.**

**SINCE** we kicked off the season with a great win against today's visitors at Kingston Park last October, our goal every week, both on and off the pitch, has been about continual improvement. In professional sport that doesn't guarantee winning, but what it does guarantee is that, by the end of the season, we will be a much better rugby team than when we started.

While we were all disappointed with last weekend's result against Saracens it should be looked at in the context of a season where we have only lost 6 times in 19 competitive games. In the same way we didn't carried away after winning games, we don't need to change everything on the back of one poor performance.

As always, we had a detailed review of the game over the weekend, and on Monday we set about getting ourselves well prepared for the challenge of playing Newcastle, one of the form teams in the Premiership.

Like Gloucester, the Falcons have been involved in a lot of very close, one score games over the past few weeks, highlighting again the small margins between teams in this League and the incredibly competitive season we're playing in. Regardless of our current position in the Premiership table, we know a top 6 position is still within our control, starting with a big performance at Kingsholm this afternoon.

With one eye on the Gloucester stars of the future, we had another disappointing

afternoon at Allianz Park in the U18 Academy Finals where we lost to London Irish. That one performance should not take the shine of a very successful U18 Academy season, and huge credit to Neil McCarthy and his staff for the hard work that has been put into the Gloucester Academy over the last 12 months.

I know how important the Academy pathway will be in delivering long term success to Gloucester, and we will continue to invest time and money in that part of the organisation to ensure a production line of Gloucester talent for many years to come.

To finish, and on a personal note as they hand over ownership to Martin St Quinton, I'd like to thank the Walkinshaw family for the opportunity to be part of this wonderful Club. I'm sure they leave with mixed emotions, but I'm also sure that they will take great pride in knowing that they have left Gloucester Rugby in a strong position to again compete at the top of English rugby.

Since all the changes that took place last summer, Martin has been very supportive of everything we are trying to achieve with the team and, as he made clear to the players and staff last week, he is very ambitious and now expects us all to deliver success at Gloucester.

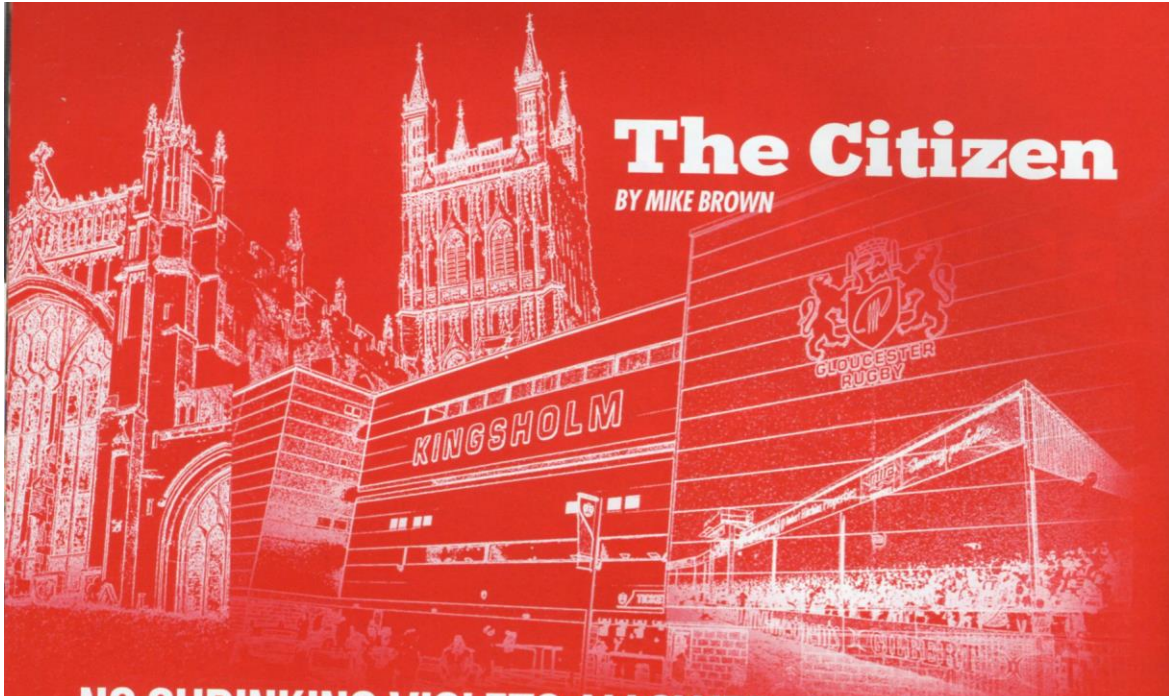
Enjoy the game and I'm looking forward to another wonderfully intimidating atmosphere at Kingsholm.

Regards

**David**



(LEFT) After a detailed review of last weekend's performance we are ready to make a statement of intent today



# The Citizen

BY MIKE BROWN

## NO SHRINKING VIOLETS ALLOWED

*MUCH HAS BEEN MADE OF JEREMY THRUSH'S INTERVIEW FOLLOWING GLOUCESTER'S PITIFUL PERFORMANCE AGAINST SARACENS BUT IT IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE APPLAUDED.*



AFTER posting a short clip of the interview on YouTube, my social media went into overdrive with all sorts of conspiracy theories suggested by supporters.

**Theory 1:** Something more sinister lurking beneath the surface after he was hauled off against Leicester Tigers and not selected for the trip to Bath?

**Theory 2:** An unhappy player, throwing the management under the bus for their lack of proper preparation and poor coaching?

**Theory 3:** Just a passionate player venting his frustrations following an unacceptable performance - that is exactly why Gloucester signed the second-row?

He is a former All Black and there is no room for a shrinking violet within the best set-up in the world.

Thrush is a big personality who is used to high standards and is not afraid to speak his mind and that kind of honesty should, and knowing the management, will be welcomed.

The 30-year-old was recruited not just to raise standards on the

pitch, but also off it. Following a match in which Gloucester shipped 18 penalties, nine of which were at the set-piece, he was understandably cheesed off.

It would be easy to wheel out the same old media sound bites, but what would that achieve? He spoke his mind and offered everyone within the club a dose of reality.

What we saw on the Allianz Park pitch was not good enough, it is not what we have seen from the Cherry and Whites in recent times and there simply has to be an improvement.

No set-up or individual is perfect - every cog in the machine that is a professional rugby club must continually seek improvement.

Everybody in the rugby department must take responsibility for the performance, no individual was at fault and they must now come together collectively to address what went wrong and react against Newcastle Falcons on Saturday.

Here's hoping Thrush has been equally vocal throughout the week and continues to paint the picture exactly how it is.

If there was one positive to hang onto following Saturday's defeat at Saracens it is Gloucester's history and tradition - something new sole owner Martin St Quinton must protect.

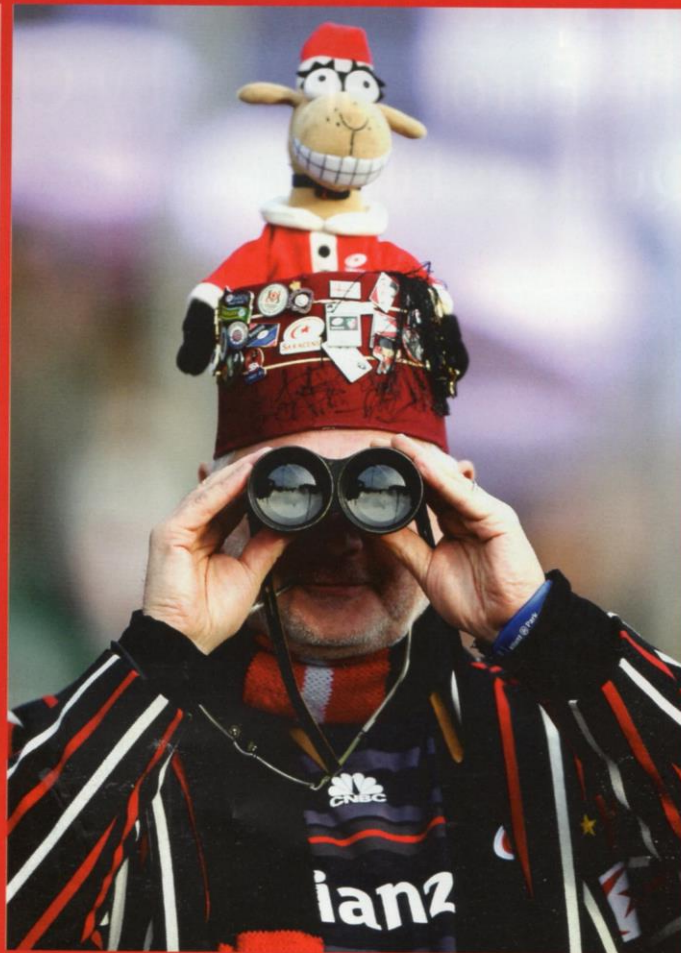
Eighty minutes sat in the stands at Allianz Park was enough to push any rugby purist to the edge. The whole experience left me feeling, well, a little nauseous.

It is bizarrely flat in Barnet with artificial, canned noise and drummers bringing any semblance of 'atmosphere'.

The insistence to play a rotation of 'The Big Bad Wolf' or a variation of 'Stand up for the Saracens' following any score was acceptable, but in every single break in play... simply infuriating.

Imagine such scenes at Gloucester, I'm sure the powers that be would be strung up in the Shed and rightly so.

History and tradition is something which makes the



Cherry and Whites so special. Growing up on the terraces of Cardiff Arms Park, I used to hate this club I now cover.

They always had such a big, nasty pack, they always knocked us out of Europe and Kingsholm was always a loud and proud, intimidating place.

These are all things I have now grown to respect and cherish, the atmosphere and culture at Gloucester is found at only a handful of clubs and is the envy of the rest.

Too often in major sporting events there is too much of an emphasis on forced entertainment, a half-time show or pre-match build up rammed down your throats.

Of course there is room for this, a bit of fun, engagement with the

next generation through tag rugby or competitions, an interview or analysis can certainly enhance the experience but the right balance has to be struck.

That cannot be said for Saracens but it is something Gloucester pretty much get right.

Sure enough roll out an artificial surface akin to that at Allianz Park, but please Mr St Quinton stop there.

No drummers, no gimmicks, no canned 'music' during the breaks in play.

Let the rugby do the talking. Put the product on the pitch and let the crowd whip themselves into a natural frenzy.

**Citizen**  
AVAILABLE DAILY



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

[www.gloucester rugby heritage.org.uk](http://www.gloucester rugby heritage.org.uk)

# GLOUCESTER SECOND ROW FORWARDS PART 2

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF RUGBY THERE WERE NO SPECIALISTS IN THE FORWARDS. WHEN A SCRUM FORMED, THE FIRST TO ARRIVE MADE UP THE FRONT ROW AND SO ON. IT WAS MANY YEARS BEFORE PLAYERS WOULD BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICULAR POSITIONS.

In part two the story carries on through the sixties to the eighties.

### ALAN BRINN

ALAN had a career of remarkable longevity, playing for Gloucester from 1960 to 1979, and making 574 appearances, a club record which will almost certainly never be beaten. More games were played in those amateur days, and this can be illustrated by the fact that, in five seasons from 1963 to 1968, Alan played no fewer than 200 games.



Alan was born in South Wales on 21 July 1940 and, before coming to Kingsholm, played for Hereford who at that time played Gloucester United. His first game for Gloucester was against Lydney in September 1960, and he was immediately a regular.

He was a powerful scrummager and hard working in the loose. At a time when a lot of rugby could

be called "robust", Alan was always known as a gentleman on the field.

Considering his obvious talent it was surprising that he was not called into the county team until November 1965 when he played against Cornwall. He would, however, go on to play in five successive county finals from 1970 to 1975, three of which were won in 1972, 1974 and 1975. In all he appeared 48 times for Gloucestershire.

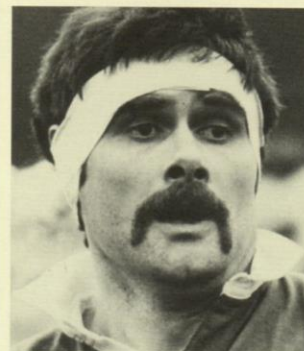
He was now on the England radar and he won three England caps in 1972. That was quite a season for Alan as he was in the Gloucester cup winning team in the same year. He also played for Western Counties against South Africa in 1969, Fiji in 1970, New Zealand 1972 and for the South & South-West against Australia in 1973.

When his playing days were over, Alan became an England Rugby Associate Selector, was Gloucester Club Chairman when the game went professional, and he and David Foyle negotiated the sale of the club to Tom Walkinshaw.

### JOHN FIDLER

JOHN was a big, solid second row who commanded the line-out and was a formidable scrummager.

He was born on 16 September 1948 in Cheltenham and played for his home town against Gloucester in 1970 and 71. He had already caught the eye of



the Gloucestershire selectors, as he played in a friendly for the county against Monmouthshire in 1971.

He moved to Gloucester for the start of the 1972-73 season and was an immediate success. Later in the season he made his competitive debut for the county in the quarter final against Oxfordshire, retained his place and went on to play in the losing final against Lancashire.

His county career was outstanding. He played in no fewer than nine finals and was on the winning side in five - 1974,75,76,83 and 84. In all he played 43 times for Gloucestershire.

In October 1973 John played alongside Alan Brinn in the South & South-West team which beat Australia 15-14. He played for Western Counties against Australia in 1975.

John won four England caps, all obtained abroad, two against Argentina in 1981 and two at the very end of his career in 1984,



[GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE.ORG.UK](http://www.gloucester rugby heritage.org.uk)

when 36, against South Africa.

For Gloucester he was a permanent fixture, whose opponents had long fruitless afternoons trying to wrestle the ball from his limpet-like grasp in the line-out. He played throughout the successful cup campaign of 1978 culminating in the win against Leicester at Twickenham.

From 1972 to 1984 John made 287 appearances for the Cherry and Whites. After hanging up his boots he became Gloucester Team Secretary and then Team Manager during the transition to professional rugby.

**STEVE BOYLE**

**STEVE was a very proficient front jumper, who was devastating with the ball in hand. He scored many tries from tapped penalties close to the opposition line. In his career he played 303 games and scored 78 tries, an outstanding try rate for a second rower. In three seasons, from 1979 to 1982, he scored 43 tries.**



Steve was born on 9 August 1953 and educated at Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester. He played for Old Richians before making his first appearance for Gloucester in the last game of the 1972-73 season against Camborne away.

Gloucester won 70-9!

At that time it was difficult for Steve to play for the first fifteen regularly, because he was up against Alan Brinn and John Fidler. He broke through to earn a regular place in both club and county teams in 1976, making his first county appearance against the touring Japan team.

He went on to play 34 times for Gloucestershire and appeared in two county finals; losing to North Midlands in 1978, but scoring a try in the winning team that defeated Yorkshire at Bristol in 1983. He was present for every game in the Gloucester cup campaign of 1978, when Leicester were beaten in the final, and again in 1982 when the final with Moseley was drawn.

Steve was capped by England three times in 1983, and was selected for the British Lions tour of South Africa later the same year. He made six appearances, but did not play in any of the tests.

**JOHN ORWIN**

**JOHN, who was born on 20 March 1954, was a rugged, hard tackling forward who in his early days played at No.8, but soon moved up a row.**

He played his early first-class rugby for the RAF for whom he gave gallant service over many years, beginning in the 1975-76 season. He played for Combined Services against the All Blacks in November 1978, and in December 1981 against the Australian tourists.

In 1982 he was in the RAF team which won the Triangular Tournament defeating both the Army and Royal Navy.

John had made his debut for Gloucester in September 1976 against Bristol and in the next game against Cheltenham he kicked seven conversions in a 62-7 win. After that season he

never scored any more points from kicks for Gloucester.

At that time Gloucester were well blessed with second row forwards, such as John Fidler and Steve Boyle, so it was not until the 1978-79 season that



he became a regular. He was a member of the record breaking 1981-82 team, which lost only three games in the season and won 41, plus drawing with Moseley in the final of the John Player Cup. He captained the club from 1984 to 1986, and made a total of 203 appearances.

John first played for Gloucestershire in the 1981-82 season, having previously played his county rugby for Oxfordshire. In 1984 he was in the team which defeated Somerset in the County Championship Final.

In January 1985 John won the first of his 14 England caps against Romania, and proceeded to appear in all four of England's championship games that season. He was then selected for England's tour of New Zealand and played in both tests.

In 1986 John moved to Bedford to be a pub landlord and played three seasons for Gloucester's longstanding opponents, captaining the club for the final two. Whilst at Bedford he won more caps and even captained England in 1988.

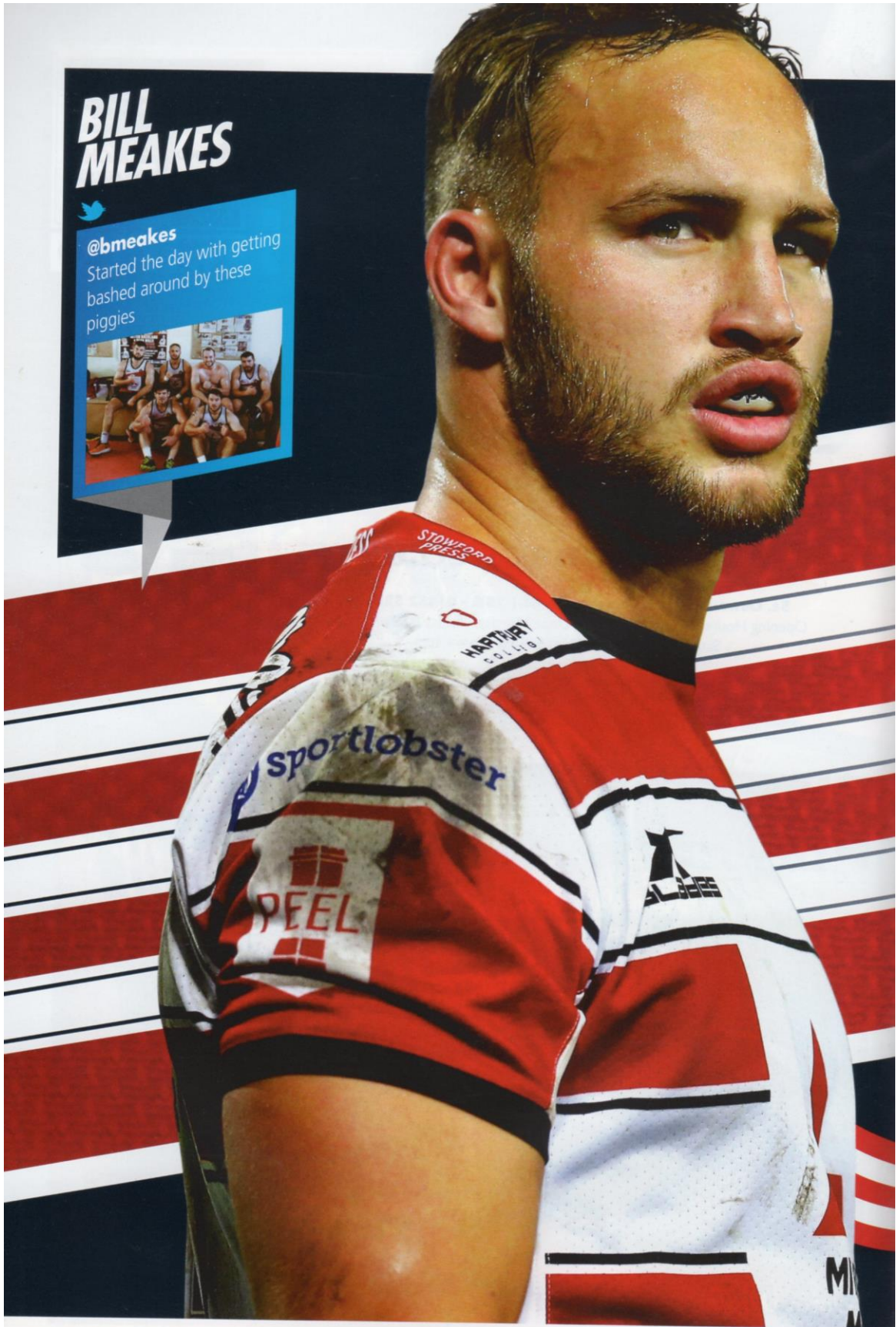




# BILL MEAKES



**@bmeakes**  
Started the day with getting  
bashed around by these  
piggies



# SKILLS TO PAY THE BILLS

**IN THE WEEK THAT BILL MEAKES TURNED 25, THE CHERRY AND WHITES WERE HARD AT WORK AND FULLY FOCUSED ON THE JOB IN HAND TO SECURE THEIR FIRST DOUBLE OF THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP SEASON.**

THE Aussie sat out last weekend's reverse at league leaders Saracens, but he felt the loss just as keenly as the rest of the squad.

With Newcastle Falcons in town this weekend, Meakes knows the Cherry and Whites have a big task in hand today against the in-form team from the North East.

"It definitely is a week to work hard, after a pretty disappointing loss to a fairly vulnerable Saracens team. This is a big week for us, especially after a good few weeks leading up to that game.

"It's a massive week for us, and we know we have to be at our best to get that home win."

Following a loss, Meakes accepts that it is vitally important to review and learn, but quickly look ahead to the next task in hand, such is the relentless nature of the Aviva Premiership.

"I think everyone is going to be accountable for their role in the Saracens game, we've had a fair bit of meeting time on Monday and everyone has hit it on the head now, and got focused on the next job.

"We've figured out where we went wrong, and we've figured out what we need to do to get it right this week.

"Full focus on Newcastle now, and I think we've parked the Saracens game and moved on."

The Manly-born midfielder knows that, despite a disappointing outing last week, the Cherry and Whites have plenty to be pleased about, with the weeks previous delivering a lot to build on.

**WE'VE STATED THAT WE WANT TO GET INTO THE TOP SIX. AND A WIN THIS WEEK WILL STAND US IN GOOD STEAD. WE WANT TO MAKE KINGSHOLM A FORTRESS AND WE'RE EXCITED TO GET BACK OUT THERE.**

"It was Bath and Quins, and even the Leicester game beforehand, those three weeks were good for us.

"We can take a lot of confidence from those performances, and to go to Bath in particular, a team that were in the final last year, and get a win on their patch was huge for us.

"It's cliché that you don't become a bad team overnight, and so the Saracens game was disappointing but you can't dwell on it. Now we're really confident flying into this week."

Meakes' rise in Cherry and White



is an admirable one, after arriving as injury cover from Clifton RFC in February 2014, and 40 appearances later, the Aussie feels well at home at Kingsholm.

"I am feeling more confident in my role. That comes with time and playing time on the field, whether it is a leadership role within the team, there are enough leaders in our team to sort of look after that.

"I feel that I play my role, and contribute the best I can. If the time comes for me to show my

leadership then I can do that. But I am focused on doing my job for the team and being the best thirteen I can be for the squad."

Socially, Meakes is enjoying spending his time with the young members of the squad, and he openly acknowledges the importance of this bond.

"I think we've got a really good bunch of boys in the squad, a good mixture between the younger lads, and the ones that have been here for a few seasons, coupled with a

few additions from abroad.

"We've got a really strong culture here, that I have engrossed myself in over the last few years.

"We've got a good bond off the pitch and spend a lot of time together, and I think that shows on the pitch that we have that togetherness and we can battle it out on the pitch alongside one another.

"When I came I was new to the professional environment, in my first experience of the club. When



"That win showed our team spirit and our never-say-die attitude, especially in front of our home supporters.

"We've stated that we want to

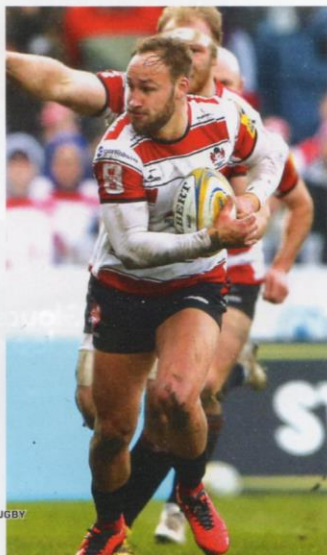


**WHEN I CAME I WAS NEW TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT. IN MY FIRST EXPERIENCE OF THE CLUB. WHEN I ARRIVED I SAT BACK AND SOAKED IT ALL UP, BUT NOW I FEEL I CAN BE PART OF THE TEAM AND INPUT WHEN I CAN.**

I arrived I sat back and soaked it all up, but now I feel I can be part of the team and input when I can."

The last time Dean Richards' men made the long trip to GL1 saw a dramatic afternoon, Billy Burns' last gasp try sending Kingsholm into raptures to cap a stunning comeback, and this showed the team spirit continuing to develop in the camp.

"We look back at the Newcastle game last season as a huge game for us. This season's meeting is a hugely significant one, and I'm sure that it will come down to those fine margins again as they are in fine form.



get into the top six, and a win this week will stand us in good stead. We want to make Kingsholm a fortress and we're excited to get back out there."

Meakes celebrated his 25th birthday on Tuesday, but the celebrations can wait, a win and four points being the best possible present!

"It's a busy day of training, so hopefully try and get out for a bite to eat with a few of the boys if we can, and then hopefully after the game we can have a little celebration on the back of a win."

KINGSHOLM NEWS WITH BOB

# FENTON



***I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT FEEL LIKE TO BE A YOYO... YOU HIT THE HEIGHTS FOR A FEW MOMENTS, THEN, BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU ARE DOWN AT THE BOTTOM AGAIN.***

THAT'S pretty much what it is like to be a Gloucester fan at the moment. Come to think of it, it's what it has been like for as long as I can remember.

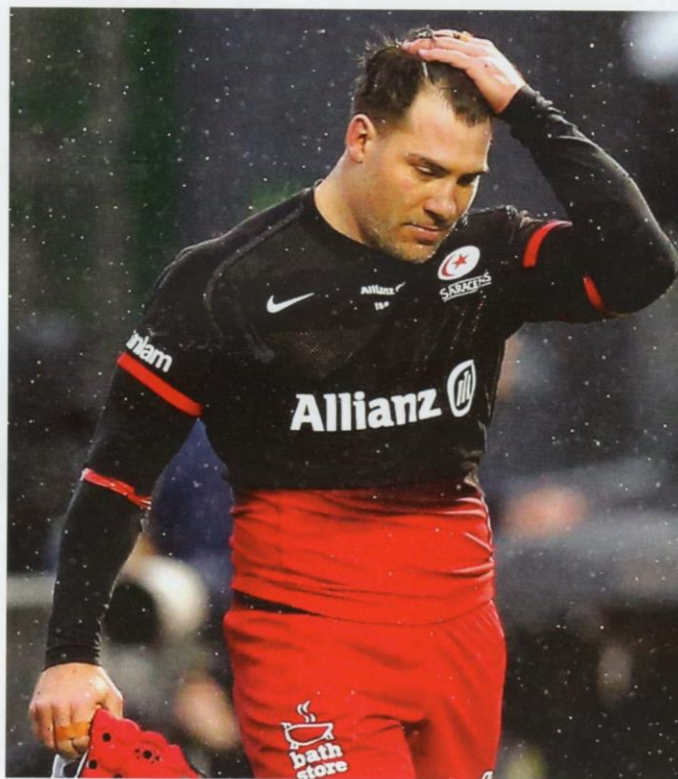
We seem to go through this cycle, a few wins here (La Rochelle and Zebre) so we're feeling good and zipping back up that string, only to fail in the last minutes against Leicester and down we go again. We bounce back away at Bath, stay at the top of the string against Harlequins, only to spin down with a poor result at Saracens.

I guess the really frustrating part of last week was the fact that we played against 14 men for pretty much all of the game and still couldn't get out of the stranglehold they had on the game.

Having seen the replay of the sending off it looked quite harsh, everyone knows that Schalk Brits is not that kind of guy - loves his Mum, kind to kittens etc. But the laws are pretty clear - you can't punch people in the face anymore. In fact I reckon that Brad Barritt's tip tackle on Ross Moriarty was more of a sending off offence.

After the game there seemed to be a lot of excitement over Jeremy Thrush's comments about everyone, coaches included, needing to take a bit of a look at themselves. I'm a firm believer that if you stick a microphone under somebodies nose a few minutes after they come off a sports field, you are going to get some choice comments, and JT didn't hold back.

Like everyone I get a bit bored



with the identikit quotes about lessons learned after a game - we get to learn so many lessons it must be like being back in full time education! So, having a few more straightforward comments was quite refreshing.

But was it as controversial as some would like us to think? I don't think so. To be honest I would be quite disappointed if everyone involved in the squad didn't reflect on their contribution last weekend. I'm not naive

enough to think that when the game was reviewed the only comments would have been about what happened pitch side of the touchline. Rugby's always been a sport based on honesty and integrity and I'm pretty sure that the players, coaches, managers - everyone - would have been just as reflective of their contributions before and during the game.

Hopefully that old adage of what doesn't kill you makes you stronger will apply here - and we

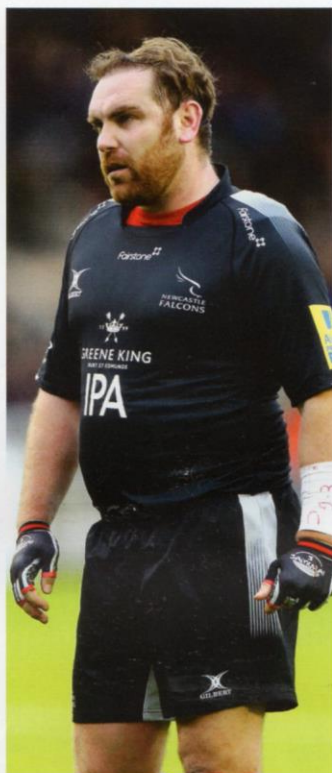


**TO BE FAIR THERE ARE NOT TOO MANY SMALL PARTS TO BE FOUND ON ANDY THESE DAYS, AND HE APPEARS TO HAVE BORROWED ONE OF DONALD TRUMP'S OLD CAST OFF HAIRPIECES. BUT DISRESPECT HIM AT YOUR PERIL. HE MAY BE THE SIZE OF A SMALL HOUSE NOW, BUT HE CAN STILL PLAY.**

will learn, we will improve and we will get stronger. So, yes, we'll have learned the lessons. And we are kind of ignoring the fact that Saracens are a monster of a team. They are not champions for nothing and, having made a playing style out of it for more than a few seasons, if any side could strangle a win while a player short it was going to be them.

Off the field it's been a bit of an interesting time. Ryan Walkinshaw and the Walkinshaw family have decided to move on away from the club and long time Vice Chairman, Martin St Quinton, has taken control.

Speaking personally I think this is about the best outcome we could



funny if they did though.

But I digress. At the time I was unconvinced, my hands stayed in my pockets when it came to the vote. But he proved to be more than up to the task of modernising not just Gloucester, but professional rugby in general.

Ryan was more than a chip of the old block, he was his own man - a 'Marmite' character to some supporters. But I can only speak as I find and, like his father before him, he played a pivotal role in getting us to where we are today - a club with a sound balance sheet, and one that is set fair for the future.

Back to the rugby then, Newcastle today... they had a great result last week with a win over Northampton - steered in no small part by Andy Goode.

To be fair there are not too many small parts to be found on Andy these days, and he appears to have borrowed one of Donald Trump's old cast off hairpieces. But disrespect him at your peril, he may be the size of a small house now, but he can still play. And we know that he has a heck of a boot on him - just ask anyone who was in the Tump end of the shed a few years back!

Newcastle are scrapping for their lives, they'll come here full of confidence and we will have to be at our top of the yoyo best to get the win. I'm confident that we will, but then I always am.

Isn't that what being a supporter is all about - optimism and hope, irrespective of what has happened before?

So lets get the win, and then maybe we can get a slightly happier interview with Jeremy Thrush after the game!



have hoped for. The club needs stability on and off the field - we're getting there with the coaches and it's good to see the same thing happening in the boardroom too. No doubt we'll hear more from Martin soon, I'm looking forward to that.

And I can't let them moment pass without reflecting on the 'Walkinshaw' years. I remember many years ago at the Walls Club when then chairman David Foyle 'unveiled' Tom as the new owner. I've never understood why players and officials are unveiled - it's hardly likely that they will be sat there under a blanket waiting for it to be ripped away, is it? Be mighty



**APRIL 1997. SOCIAL MEDIA WASN'T EVEN THOUGHT OF, THE INTERNET WAS IN AN EMBRYONIC PHASE AND MOBILE PHONES WERE BULKY CONTRACTIONS GENERALLY BEYOND MOST PEOPLE'S FINANCIAL REACH.**

**GLOUCESTER** finished their home league season at Kingsholm with a 20-20 draw against Bristol, in front of a crowd of 4,931. How times have changed.

Martin St Quinton's acquisition of the club takes me back 19 years to the last such momentous event. Tom Walkinshaw's arrival came as the club saw themselves at risk of being left behind with the professional era gathering pace as other clubs such as Bath, Saracens, Newcastle and Richmond all acquired significant investment.

David Foyle, then the Chairman of the Board of Directors, told an EGM that another year of budgetary losses at Gloucester could not be sustained - the previous year's deficit was £140,000 - and that a massive injection of money was needed for the club to retain their best players and attract new ones. It was likely that this would involve selling 75%, possibly more, of the club's shares.

A deal looked to have been done a week before Tom Walkinshaw was unveiled as Gloucester's backer when Phillippe Saint-Andre's signing was announced.

A two year contract for the French international wing meant money was clearly coming, and Tom's aim was simple.



**"ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH THE CLUB, I'D LIKE TO EXTEND MY THANKS TO THE WHOLE WALKINSHAW FAMILY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION."**

"I want to help Gloucester reach their objective of being the top team in the country," he said. Sadly it was something he never saw, and his family now pass on the baton with Tom's target still unachieved.

That is not to say huge strides

have been made. Witness the meltdown on social media when Martin St Quinton's purchase of the Walkinshaw family shares was announced. Fans expressed their gratitude because they recognised what could have happened without their intervention.

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY IS A CLUB THAT IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. WE ARE IN THE PRIVILEGED POSITION OF OWNING OUR OWN GROUND. HAVE MAGNIFICENT TRAINING FACILITIES, OUR COACHING SET UP AND PLAYING SQUAD ARE BOTH FIRST CLASS AND WE HAVE THE BEST SUPPORTERS IN THE COUNTRY.** MARTIN ST QUINTON

MURRAY  
2012



It also shouldn't be forgotten that as Chairman of EFDR and then Premier Rugby, Tom battled hard for the right structure to the professional game as a whole. So his influence was widely felt beyond Gloucester, although it is here where he will be inexorably linked.

Some of you may recall a speech Tom made on the pitch when the old grandstand was still in place. "Take a look at it, because it won't be there much longer," he quipped.

Walkinshaw had promised ground investment if Kingsholm was regularly full and since the summer of 2007, the new South Stand has dominated the skyline.

Martin St Quinton sang from the same hymn sheet last week, so it will be interesting to see if there can be a growth spurt in attendances to make it happen, given average crowds have been almost static, and short of capacity, for the past five seasons. That said, they are still more than double the levels Walkinshaw inherited.

The honours board between 1997 and today shows four Cup successes (six if you include the short lived Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup in 1997-8 and 1998-9) and three seasons where Gloucester have topped the league table, although the title "Champions" has never been theirs.

Taking Richard Hill as the starting point, as he was in charge when Tom Walkinshaw bought the club, David Humphreys is the seventh Director of Rugby to try and harness Gloucester Rugby's attributes into something tangible in the Premiership.

The men and squads of players who preceded him were not without quality, yet the biggest challenge remains the reliance on results at Kingsholm. Home credits are often balanced by away debits, a pattern not mirrored in the club's accounts.

Martin St Quinton takes over after a period of steady if modest profits in recent years, the groundwork laid by Tom

Walkinshaw and Gloucester's long serving Managing Director Ken Nottage being continued by the partnership between Tom's son Ryan and Stephen Vaughan, whose ideas have brought revenue without disruption. Vaughan will remain an important cog in the Gloucester wheel as the new owner adjusts from being a man with an important input to the one where the buck stops.

Today we welcome Newcastle who, under Sir John Hall, pushed club rugby into the fast lane and invited others to catch up. Gloucester's tradition meant they took their time before agreeing outside investment was needed, and accepting Tom Walkinshaw's offer to help.

Good luck to Martin St Quinton, and thank you to the Walkinshaw family. I would certainly support a minute's applause ahead of today's match in recognition of their contribution.

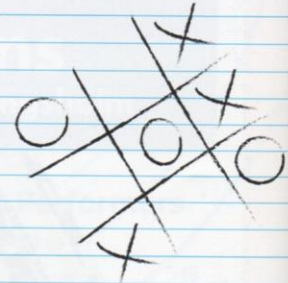




# Back To School

by Rob Cook, age 32

## PRIMARY SCHOOL



### Rob's best friends

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



**I WENT TO** North Clifton

**MY BEST FRIEND WAS** Will Jones

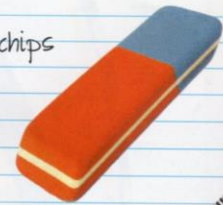
**MY FAVOURITE TEACHER WAS** Mrs Medley

**MY FAVOURITE SUBJECT WAS** Maths

**MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL DINNER WAS** anything with chips

**IN MY SNACK BOX I HAD** an orange club bar

**MY PRIMARY SCHOOL LOVE WAS** Sonja



Dear Mr and Mrs Cook

We regret to inform you that Rob has eaten so many chips and club bars he has made himself sick

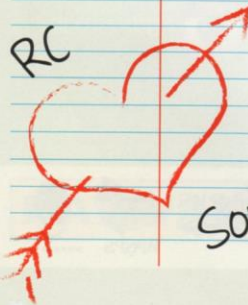
**WHEN WE PLAYED RUGBY I PRETENDED TO BE** Didn't really know the names

**MY FIRST SCHOOL PLAY WAS** The Ice Queen

**IN THE PLAYGROUND, I** played Bulldogs

**MY EARLIEST RUGBY MEMORY** Getting clotheslined by the older lads

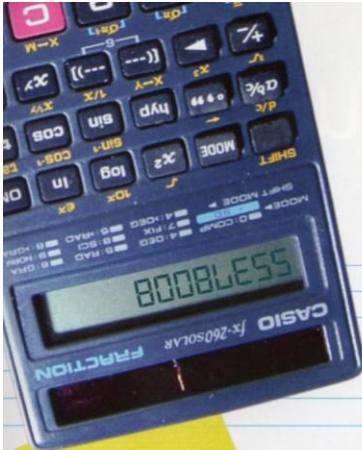
RC



Sonja

**AT SPORTS DAY, I** ran the egg and spoon race

SECONDARY SCHOOL



Rob's timetable  
Playtime  
Dodgeball  
Rugby  
History revision

I WENT TO North Kesteven and Oakham

MY FAVOURITE MEMORY is winning the Daily Mail Cup



I ENJOYED playtime and sport

MY GRADES WERE decent GCSEs, awful A Levels

MY HARDEST SUBJECT WAS History

MY UNIFORM WAS blazer with tie

IN PE, I USED TO enjoy dodgeball



The Cooky Supporters Club

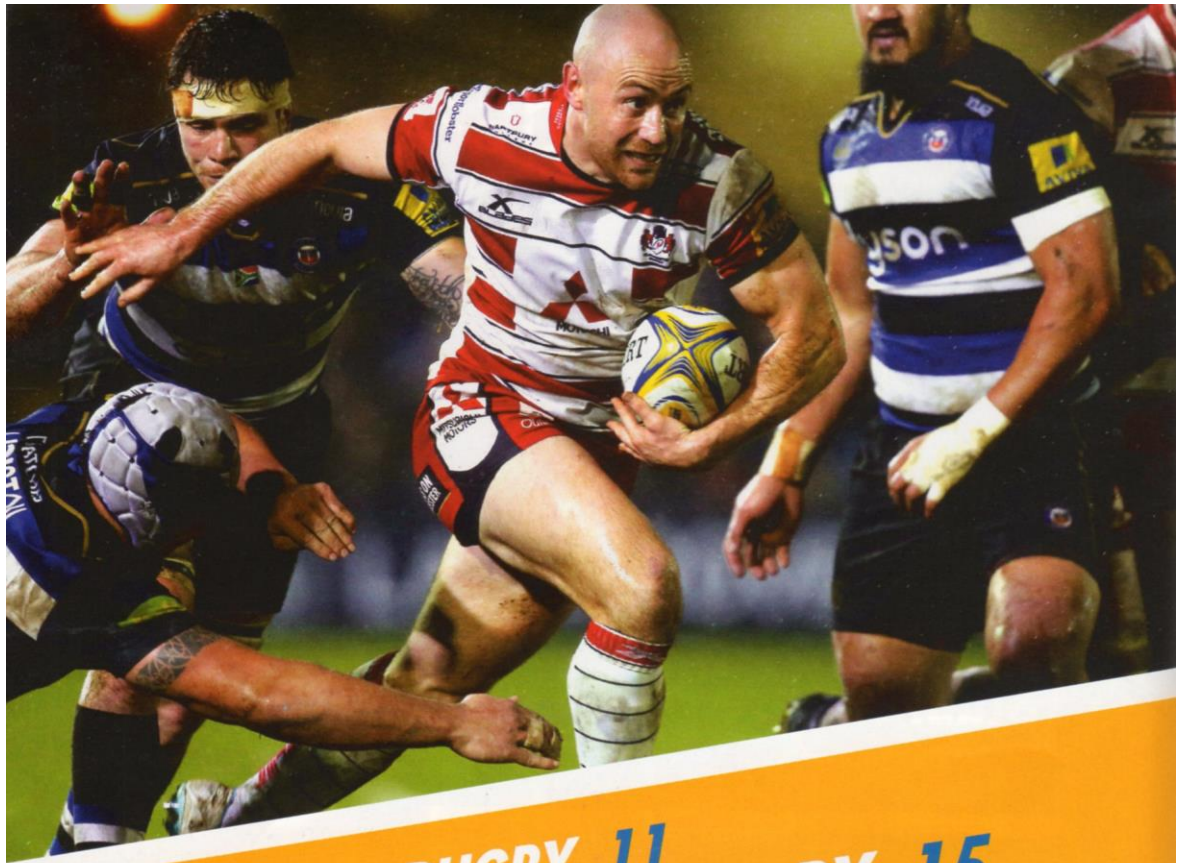
GOT IN TROUBLE FOR talking too much in class

MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL TRIP WAS a world tour for a month!

AT SCHOOL I WANTED TO BE Involved in sport

ON WORK EXPERIENCE I WENT TO Intersport





# BATH RUGBY 11 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 15

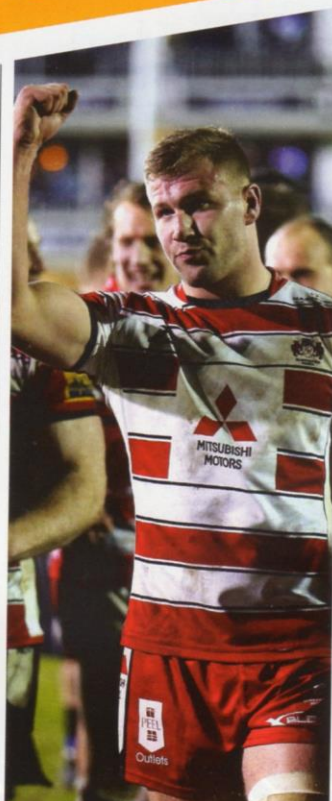


**HALF TIME** 8-3  
**ATTENDANCE** 13,104  
**REFEREE** Matt Carley

**THE recent track record in the West Country derby has been a tough one to stomach for all those associated with the Cherry and Whites.**

But, on a dank and dismal night on the banks of the River Avon, the Cherry and Whites roared with delight at the final whistle as they secured a vital win over their fiercest rivals, recovering from a sticky start to assume control and them dominate proceedings in the rain at the Rec.

With the home side determined to put to an end a tricky run of results, the visitors had to weather



BT Sport Man of the Match, **Willi Heinz** said it was a pretty happy Gloucester dressing room after the victory

several storms, but came through relatively unscathed.

Early on, it was Bath who dominated, with the visitors struggling to keep their discipline. Tom Savage was sent to the sin bin, and Dom Day benefited from a 12-man maul to dot down.

This was backed up as Tom Homer added a penalty from a 5m scrum, with the Cherry and Whites still down to 14 men, and it looked as though it would be a long evening.

Playing into a howling wind,

the game was dictated by territory and control, and the Cherry and Whites were showing they had learned from recent away trips to show a calmness and maturity with halfbacks Willi Heinz and James Hook to the fore.

Hook responded with a penalty as a patient Gloucester worked themselves into range to win a chance to get points on the board. Trailing by five at the break was a satisfactory return after a slow start.

The Cherry and Whites were now showing a real hunger and steel against a Bath side that has swept all comers aside in recent seasons, especially at The



**OUR SET-PIECE WAS GOOD BUT OUR HALF-BACKS MANAGED THE GAME AND DIDN'T PANIC. JUST KEPT BATH IN THEIR HALF.**

DAVID HUMPHREYS

Rec, and the boot of Hook was becoming busier.

The rain was heavier, but the visitors were gaining the ascendancy. Time and time again, the boots of Heinz and Hook were on the money to pin the home side back, and the feverish work in the chase, breakdown and set piece were earning penalty opportunities.

Hook added a second penalty, but Homer responded immediately to take the gap back to five.

But the Welsh fly half struck from long distance and then added a fourth to put the visitors into a lead that they would never relinquish.

Heinz was increasingly effective at the base, and the Kiwi scrum half's break earned yet another penalty chance, with Hook duly

## MATCHDAY SQUADS



**BATH RUGBY**

- 15 Tom Homer 2P
- 14 Semesa Rokoduguni
- 13 Matt Banahan
- 12 Kyle Eastmond
- 11 Horacio Agulla
- 10 Dan Bowden
- 9 Chris Cook
- 1 Max Lahiff
- 2 Rob Webber
- 3 David Wilson
- 4 Stuart Hooper
- 5 Dominic Day 1T
- 6 Matt Garvey
- 7 Francois Louw
- 8 Leroy Houston

- 16 Tom Dunn
- 17 Nathan Catt
- 18 Henry Thomas
- 19 Charlie Ewels
- 20 Tom Ellis
- 21 Alafoti Fa'osiliva
- 22 Nikola Matawalu
- 23 Max Clark



**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

- 15 Billy Burns
- 14 Charlie Sharples
- 13 Bill Meakes
- 12 Billy Twelvetrees
- 11 Steve McColl
- 10 James Hook 5P
- 9 Willi Heinz
- 1 Paddy McAllister
- 2 Richard Hibbard
- 3 John Afoa
- 4 Tom Savage ■
- 5 Mariano Galarza
- 6 Sione Kalamafoni
- 7 Jacob Rowan
- 8 Ben Morgan

- 16 Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 Nick Wood
- 18 Nicky Thomas
- 19 Elliott Stooke
- 20 Matt Kvesic
- 21 Callum Braley
- 22 Mark Atkinson
- 23 Ross Moriarty

obliging with the three points.

It could have been better though, with Hook missing a pair of tricky penalties as the visitors continued to force Bath into a pile of mistakes in their own half.

There was still plenty of work to do for the visitors, with Bath throwing everything at the Cherry and White wall in the final ten minutes in a bid to snatch the result.

But, in truth, they never got close enough, allowing Matt



Kvesic the chance to swoop and secure the winning turnover, sparking scenes of jubilation at The Rec, on a memorable night for the Cherry and Whites.



OFFICIAL LEGAL PARTNER

**APPLYING THE LAW**

**Referee Matthew Carley seemed to be treating Gloucester harshly in the early stages, a number of penalties followed by a yellow card for Tom Savage. The Cherry and Whites looked to be up against it.**

However, as Gloucester took control of the game, the pendulum swung and it was Bath who started to get on the wrong side of the referee's whistle.

A host of indiscretions gave James Hook the chance to kick his side to victory, and the fly-half needed no second invitation.



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY 28

## HARLEQUINS 6



**HALF TIME** 23-6  
**ATTENDANCE** 12,782  
**REFEREE** Wayne Barnes

**THE Cherry and Whites followed up the previous week's win over Bath with an emphatic victory over Harlequins.**

The tone was set right from the very first kick-off as Charlie Sharples received the ball, weaved through the chasers and set off downfield to pin Quins back behind their own line.

It established the field position from which James Hook jinked his way to the line for the game's first try. Gloucester were up and running and didn't look back.

In fact the first 40 minutes were



James Hook was delighted with the Cherry and Whites' overall performance against Quins

some of Gloucester's best of the season. They dominated at the set piece, comfortably dealt with anything that Quins could throw at them in attack and also looked dangerous with ball in hand.

The outcome was very much decided by half time. At that point, with James Hook contributing 18 points, Gloucester were up 23-6 and cruising. Quins woes were increased by the loss of Nick Evans with a suspected broken leg.

Perhaps understandably, Gloucester couldn't quite keep up

the breathless pace in the second half, and there was only one score in the second 40 minutes, a try from winger Steve McColl.

It meant that Gloucester didn't secure the try scoring bonus point but, as Director of Rugby David Humphreys said after the game, it's about winning games at the moment and bonus points are literally a bonus.

James Hook continued his recent excellent form, contributing a try, two conversions and three penalties while Ben Morgan also showed signs of being back to his best as he chipped in with his second try

**METRES RUN WITH THE BALL**

**GLOUCESTER 340M  
HARLEQUINS 305M**

**IT WAS A FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE. I THOUGHT WE WERE COMPREHENSIVE WINNERS.**

DAVID HUMPHREYS



## MATCHDAY SQUADS



### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 Billy Burns
- 14 Charlie Sharples
- 13 Bill Meakes
- 12 Billy Twelvetrees
- 11 Steve McColl 1T
- 10 James Hook 1T 2C 3P
- 9 Willi Heinz
- 1 Paddy McAllister
- 2 Richard Hibbard
- 3 John Afoa
- 4 Tom Savage
- 5 Mariano Galarza
- 6 Sione Kalamafoni
- 7 Matt Kvesic
- 8 Ben Morgan 1T

- 16 Tom Lindsay
- 17 Dan Murphy
- 18 Paul Doran-Jones
- 19 Jeremy Thrush
- 20 Jacob Rowan
- 21 Callum Braley
- 22 Mark Atkinson
- 23 Rob Cook



### HARLEQUINS

- 15 Ross Chisholm ■
- 14 Marland Yarde
- 13 Matt Hopper
- 12 Harry Sloan
- 11 Tim Visser
- 10 Nick Evans 2P
- 9 Tito Tebaldi
- 1 Mark Lambert
- 2 Joe Gray
- 3 Kyle Sinckler
- 4 George Merrick
- 5 James Horwill
- 6 Luke Wallace
- 7 Dave Ward
- 8 Mathew Lumanu

- 16 James Chisholm
- 17 Owen Evans
- 18 Will Collier
- 19 Charlie Matthews
- 20 Ben Botica
- 21 Calum Waters
- 22 Winston Stanley
- 23 Tim Swiel

in as many home games.

It was a rough day at the office for the visitors, who were admittedly missing a number of players on international duty. However, they would have expected to be better.

For Gloucester, it was another morale-boosting win and an important four points to keep in touch with the pack jostling for position to try and clinch a top six finish.

**PENALTIES CONCEDED**

**GLOUCESTER 13  
HARLEQUINS 13**



**Sherbornes Solicitors Ltd**

OFFICIAL LEGAL PARTNER

**APPLYING THE LAW**

A fairly straightforward afternoon for referee Wayne Barnes who didn't have to refer anything upstairs to the TMO.

The yellow card given to Quins full-back Ross Chisholm was a no-brainer, while the way he dealt with a petulant Marland Yarde was to be admired, as he took no nonsense from the winger who cut a frustrated figure on the day.



# TODAY'S TEAMSHEET

## GLoucester RUGBY vs NEWCASTLE FALCONS



Aviva Premiership Rugby - Round 14  
Saturday 27th February 2016, KO 15:00 Kingsholm

ROB <b>COOK</b>	FULLBACK <b>15</b> FULLBACK	SIMON <b>HAMMERSLEY</b>
CHARLIE <b>SHARPLES</b>	RIGHT WING <b>14</b> RIGHT WING	ALEX <b>TAIT</b>
BILL <b>MEAKES</b>	OUTSIDE CENTRE <b>13</b> OUTSIDE CENTRE	CHRIS <b>HARRIS</b>
BILLY <b>TWELVETREES (C)</b>	INSIDE CENTRE <b>12</b> INSIDE CENTRE	ADAM <b>POWELL</b>
HENRY <b>PURDY</b>	LEFT WING <b>11</b> LEFT WING	MARCUS <b>WATSON</b>
JAMES <b>HOOK</b>	FLY HALF <b>10</b> FLY HALF	ANDY <b>GOODE</b>
WILLI <b>HEINZ</b>	SCRUM HALF <b>9</b> SCRUM HALF	MICHAEL <b>YOUNG</b>
PADDY <b>McALLISTER</b>	LOOSEHEAD PROP <b>1</b> LOOSEHEAD PROP	ROB <b>VICKERS</b>
RICHARD <b>HIBBARD</b>	HOOVER <b>2</b> HOOVER	SCOTT <b>LAWSON</b>
JOHN <b>AFOA</b>	TIGHTHEAD PROP <b>3</b> TIGHTHEAD PROP	TAI <b>VEA</b>
JEREMY <b>THRUSH</b>	LOCK <b>4</b> LOCK	JOSH <b>FURNO</b>
MARIANO <b>GALARZA</b>	LOCK <b>5</b> LOCK	SEAN <b>ROBINSON</b>
ROSS <b>MORIARTY</b>	BLINDSIDE FLANKER <b>6</b> BLINDSIDE FLANKER	MARK <b>WILSON</b>
JACOB <b>ROWAN</b>	OPENSIDE FLANKER <b>7</b> OPENSIDE FLANKER	WILL <b>WELCH (C)</b>
BEN <b>MORGAN</b>	NUMBER 8 <b>8</b> NUMBER 8	ALLY <b>HOGG</b>

DARREN <b>DAWIDIUK</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>16</b> REPLACEMENT	GEORGE <b>McGUIGAN</b>
YANN <b>THOMAS</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>17</b> REPLACEMENT	ALEX <b>ROGERS</b>
PAUL <b>DORAN-JONES</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>18</b> REPLACEMENT	KENSUKE <b>HATAKEYAMA</b>
TOM <b>SAVAGE</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>19</b> REPLACEMENT	MOURITZ <b>BOTHA</b>
MATT <b>KVESIC</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>20</b> REPLACEMENT	RICHARD <b>MAYHEW</b>
CALLUM <b>BRALEY</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>21</b> REPLACEMENT	SONATANE <b>TAKULUA</b>
BILLY <b>BURNS</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>22</b> REPLACEMENT	CRAIG <b>WILLIS</b>
HENRY <b>TRINDER</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>23</b> REPLACEMENT	JUAN <b>SOCINO</b>

### Officials

Referee Tom Foley Assistant Referees Roger Baileff & Paul Burton MBE