

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ISSUE  
**11**



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

PRICE: £3

vs WASPS  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY - ROUND 15



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

**EXCLUSIVE PROGRAMME INTERVIEW ON PAGE 40**

**PADDY McALLISTER**

**05.03.16**  
**KICK-OFF 3.00PM**  
**KINGSHOLM**  
**AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY**

**OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA PARTNER**

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## C CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

**GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR TODAY'S GAME AGAINST WASPS**

**WE'RE** thrilled with how last weekend went, against an inform Newcastle Falcons team. We challenged ourselves to produce a reaction following the previous week's performance at Saracens when we know that we were below par.

Falcons are a team packed with threats and talent, not to mention self-belief after the past few weeks, but we felt we nullified their weapons and from minute one we were able to impose our game and keep the scoreboard ticking over.

The first half was another strong one from us, and the challenge

(RIGHT) We are very pleased with last weekend's performance but we fully understand the challenge Wasps will bring this afternoon



**...WE HAVE TO BE CONFIDENT IN WHAT WE'RE DOING. WE'RE PLAYING SOME GOOD RUGBY, AND IT IS SAID A LOT, BUT WE ARE RELISHING THE CHALLENGE IN FRONT OF US TODAY.**

was to go one better and keep building on the momentum to get a maximum point win. We that we needed to be patient and keep our composure, but it wasn't easy!

There was, of course, a big relief as Tom Savage barged his way over in some style, and that was a fine reward for our application and patience.

The forwards provided a solid platform for the backs to test the Falcons' defence, and we were able to show what we are capable of in attack, a facet of our game that is developing alongside a defensive



system that we are really working hard on.

But the challenge for us now is to back it up. We have a talented squad, and with the Aviva Premiership such a tight competition, every single week matters, with huge stakes on each outing.

Wasps this week, are probably the form team at the moment, and have swatted aside some huge teams this season. They will travel to Kingsholm full of confidence!

A lot of people from the outside have looked at Gloucester and written us off in terms of the final positions at the end of the season. But we are quietly going about our business, with a lot of belief in what we are doing.

We have a number of players fighting for places, with a few boys

coming back to fitness, so we are in a good place and we are really excited with what is ahead.

The Kingsholm factor will be key today, against a hugely tough opponent, but we know the supporters will be right behind us from the first whistle to the last.

But, we have to be confident in what we're doing, we're playing some good rugby, and it is said a lot, but we are relishing the challenge in front of us today.

It is a chance to pit ourselves against a top four team, and make a statement about what we are about as a team.

Enjoy the game!

**Billy**



Speaking to GRTV after the victory over Newcastle Falcons, **David Humphreys** was happy with the team's vital bonus point win at Kingsholm.

COMING UP...

EXCLUSIVE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME INTERVIEW  
**PADDY McALLISTER**



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## DAVID HUMPHREYS

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

**FOLLOWING LAST WEEKEND'S IMPORTANT VICTORY AGAINST NEWCASTLE, WE'RE DELIGHTED TO BE BACK AT KINGSHOLM AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON FOR THE VISIT OF WASPS IN ROUND 15 OF THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP.**

A few weeks ago, we highlighted this current sequence of 10 consecutive Aviva Premiership fixtures as being pivotal to our aspirations of qualifying for next season's Champions Cup. At the halfway point, despite a couple of disappointing defeats, the league table shows how competitive this season's Premiership is with only eight points separating third place from eighth.

Today will be another huge test for us against Dai Young's Wasps team who have scored over 100 points in their last two Premiership games against top four opposition. They are currently the form team in the league and will arrive at Kingsholm this afternoon full of confidence.

However, we have taken a huge amount of confidence from our performance last Saturday against Newcastle. Like Wasps today, they arrived at Kingsholm on the back of a good run of form and, while aspects of our game weren't perfect, the first half performance was as well as we've played in attack this season. More importantly, when we were chasing a fourth try in the second half we kept our composure and came away with a well deserved bonus point victory.

With another five tough fixtures ahead of us before we take a break from Premiership Rugby and play the Dragons in the quarter final of the Challenge Cup, our squad is in good shape and I'm looking forward to seeing Tom Marshall returning from

**AT THE HALFWAY POINT, DESPITE A COUPLE OF DISAPPOINTING DEFEATS, THE LEAGUE TABLE SHOWS HOW COMPETITIVE THIS SEASON'S PREMIERSHIP IS WITH ONLY EIGHT POINTS SEPARATING THIRD PLACE FROM EIGHTH.**

injury at some stage over the next few weeks. Tom's back in full training and his return will give us a real boost for key games at the end of the season.

With much of the current media focus on the Six Nations, there has been a lot of comment and opinion on the quality of rugby being played in this year's Championship.

My own view is that many of the media don't know, or often forget, the tough and uncompromising nature of international rugby! The Six Nations is all about winning Grand Slams, Triple Crowns and Championships and, by the end of this season, the only thing people will remember will be the winners.

Back to today's game and, on the back of his Man of the Match performance for Scotland in their win over Italy, we're delighted to welcome Greig back to captain Gloucester for this crucial game.

You will all appreciate the significance of this match and I'm sure you'll give Dai and everyone associated with Wasps a special Kingsholm welcome.

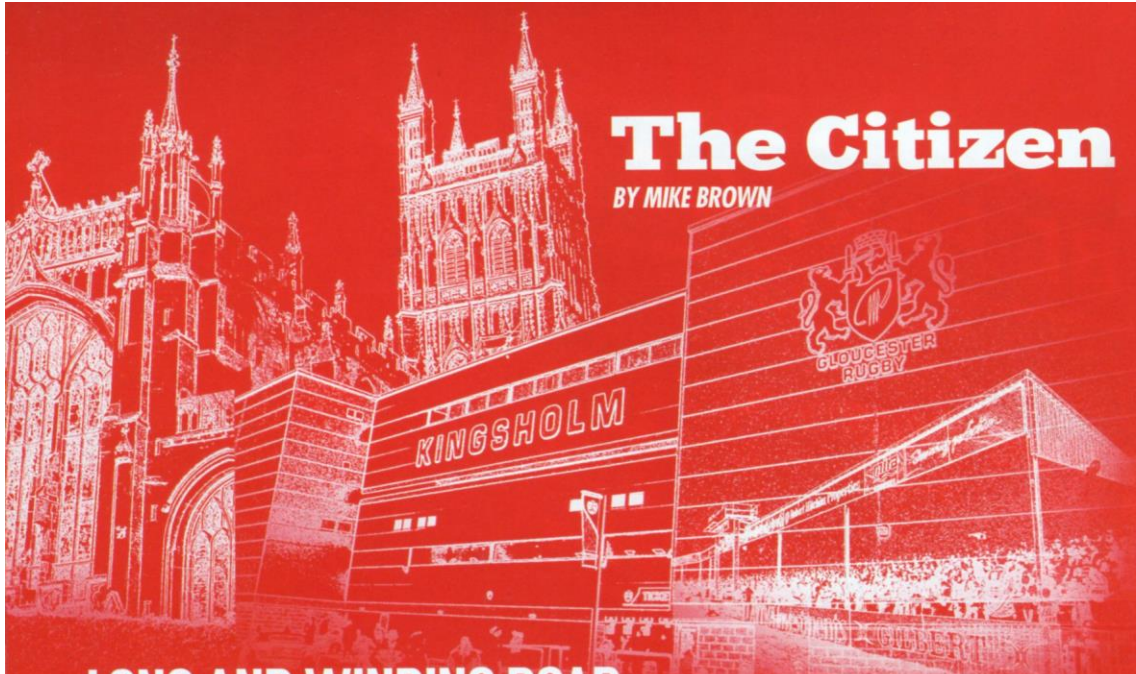
Enjoy the game.

**David**



(LEFT) Our game plan was really well executed by the players last weekend and we will be looking to take this confidence into today's game



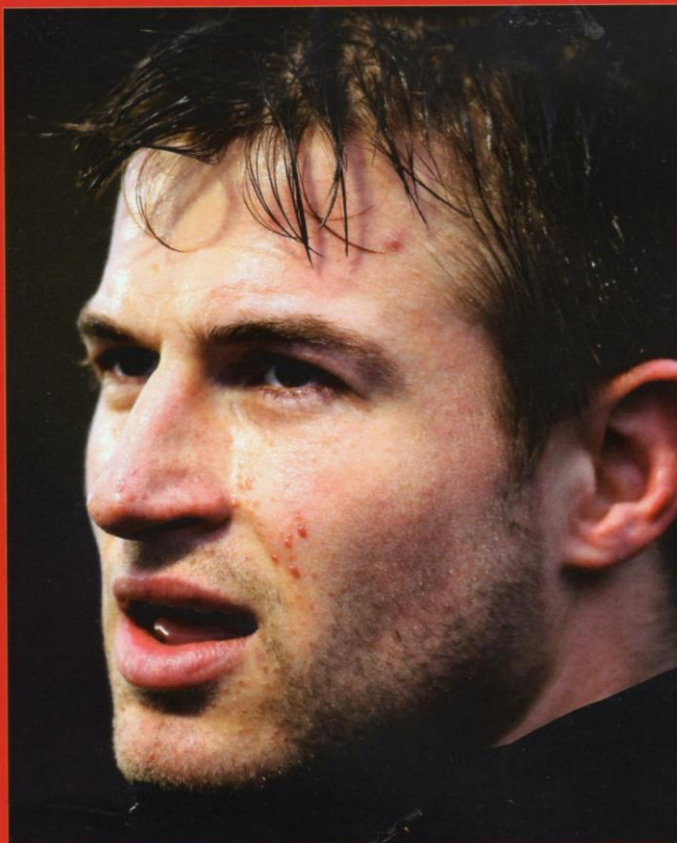


# The Citizen

BY MIKE BROWN

## LONG AND WINDING ROAD

**AFTER TWO YEARS PUNCTUATED BY SERIOUS INJURIES, YOU COULD BE FORGIVEN FOR TRYING TOO HARD. BUT HENRY TRINDER KNOWS HE MUST BE BETTER IN GLOUCESTER COLOURS.**



**THE talented centre came off the bench for the last 30 minutes of the Cherry and Whites' bonus-point victory over Newcastle Falcons as he continues his rehabilitation following a string of devastating blows.**

And, while Trinder was pleased to see his side claim their first bonus-point success of 2016, he cut a frustrated figure.

Undoubtedly his harshest critic, Trinder believes his performance was below what is required and he has vowed to do all he can to avoid a repeat against Wasps today.

He said, "In terms of the score we got exactly what we wanted from it, we wanted to bounce back and four tries was great. We left a lot more out there but the boys played really well and we're taking those opportunities.

"For me it was frustrating. The standard I played at is not where I want to be, there was some rustiness and some nerves and I was maybe getting ahead of myself a little bit.

"It wasn't my best performance but it was great to get half an hour



▼▼ AS FRUSTRATING AS IT IS AND AS MUCH AS I WANT TO PLAY, IT IS IN THE MEDICAL STAFF'S HANDS AND TOUCH WOOD THEY ARE GOING A GREAT JOB SO FAR. ▼▼

under my belt. It's been a long time coming and I'll go away and learn from this personal disappointment while thanking the boys for being 30 points up before I came on.

"There are a few decisions I need to be better at, I threw the ball into touch and I missed a tackle so it's definitely one I will look at.

"There are no alarm bells yet, there's a real desire to try and make a difference but I shot my gun too soon. I was trying too hard and need to be more experienced than that and bringing strength off the bench."

If involved today, Trinder will be making his 100th competitive appearance for the club and he

knows it will be a stern test.

The now Ricoh Arena-based club are one of the form teams in Europe and have emphatically beaten Saracens and Harlequins in their last two fixtures. But Trinder believes the Cherry and Whites can be quietly confident.

He added, "Wasps will be another tough one but I will be trying to right the wrongs of last week. It will come, this is a starting block for me, I wasn't quite where I want to be but there's nothing wrong with anything else and I have to find my way.

"Because how I have gone coming back from these injuries,

they have put me on a very strict return to play protocol.

"As frustrating as it is and as much as I want to play, it is in the medical staff's hands and touch wood they are going a great job so far. Hopefully I will be involved in the match-day 23 again this week.

"Everyone across the board looked a lot more comfortable on the ball and in defence against Newcastle, we're getting points off the back of both which is great."

**Citizen**  
AVAILABLE DAILY



# GLOUCESTER SECOND ROW FORWARDS PART 3

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.



The story of Gloucester's powerhouse forwards continues as professional rugby appears on the horizon.

**JOHN ETHERIDGE**  
JOHN was born on 8 June 1965 and educated at Longlevens School. He was a big mobile forward who made 117 appearances from 1985 to 1990.



His first rugby was played for Gloucester All Blues and Old Richians, before he made his debut for Gloucester playing one game in the 1984-85 season on Easter Saturday against New Brighton.

It took him some time to break through as a regular but, by 1986-87, he was the first choice second row partner of either John Brain or Nigel Scrivens.

He was now attracting the attention of the regional and national selectors. He played for

England 'B' in 1989, and in the following year appeared in all the South-West's inter-regional games.

However, the 1989-90 season saw John finding competition at Gloucester increasingly tough, and at the end of it moved on to Northampton. He then switched his allegiance to Ireland through the fact that his father was Irish. He played in five Ireland 'A' internationals, but never made it into the senior team.

**JOHN BRAIN**  
JOHN was born on 7 June 1960 and educated at the King's School, Gloucester. He made 261 appearances for Gloucester from his first game against Harlequins in October 1979 to his last against the same opponents in January 1991. He then moved on to Bedford for a couple of seasons before retirement.



Coaching then followed at Gloucester as assistant to Philippe Saint-Andre, then as a sound Director of Rugby at Worcester, guiding them into the Premiership for the first time. A period as forwards' coach at Bristol was next, and then he returned to Kingsholm as talent scout, scrum coach and team manager.

John played local rugby for Gloucester Old Boys before trying his luck at Kingsholm. But after that debut in 1979, he found strong competition for a second row place from Steve Boyle and John Orwin, and it was not until the 1982-83 season that he nailed down a regular starting spot. Not only that, he was selected to tour Italy with the England Under 23's team.

In 1987-88 he played in all three games for the South-West in the regional competition, and in 1990 was in the South-West team that played Leinster at Kingsholm.

John did not often score tries, he excelled in scrums and line-outs, but in the league game at Leicester in January 1990 he received a pass on the Tigers' 22, and showed great drive to score a glorious try. Gloucester won the game 26-16.

**NIGEL SCRIVENS**  
NIGEL was the kind of forward every club needs. He did all the essential work around the scrums and line-outs and contributed manfully around the field. He





COMING UP...

PERFORMANCE CHEF WILL CARVALHO PRESENTS ANOTHER TASTE OF GLOUCESTER

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was unspectacular but was remarkably consistent. Every game you knew what to expect - second row forward play of the highest standard.

He was born on 12 October 1957, and first played for his home town club, Cirencester, before first appearing for Gloucester as a replacement against Coventry in September 1982.

As with many Gloucester players competition for places was fierce and it was not until 1986-87 that Nigel became an automatic choice, forging fruitful partnerships with John Brain and John Etheridge. He was a member of the Pilkington Cup final team that lost to Bath in 1990.

From 1982 to 1992 Nigel made 230 appearances for Gloucester, and then played the 1992-93 season for London Welsh. Stuart Barnes of Bath and England said of him, "He's a tough man and a decent man."

### DAVE SIMS

**BORN on 22 November 1969 in Gloucester, Dave had already played club rugby locally for Longlevens and in Australia for Sunnybank in Brisbane, before making his debut for the Cherry and Whites against Cheltenham in November 1988, scoring a try in the 48-3 win. Tony Windo made his debut in the same game and also scored a try.**

In his early days he played at No.8 but over time played more and more in the second row. By the 1990-91 season Dave was fully established and his rugged no nonsense hard tackling style made him a Shed favourite.

The mid-nineties proved to be a difficult time for Gloucester and they flirted with relegation at times, no more so than in 1995-96, the first season that Dave was made club captain.

The last game of the season

was a straight relegation shoot-out between Gloucester and Saracens. Sims, leading by example, inspired Gloucester to a 17-10 win which apparently consigned Saracens to the drop. However, it was later decided there would be no relegation that season, and Sarries were saved. Is it cynical to wonder if the decision might have been different had Gloucester finished in the relegation place?

Professionalism arrived in 1996 and Dave became Gloucester's first full-time contracted player. He was in the team in 1998 when Gloucester won the C&G Cup against Bedford, and he was again captain the following season when the club again won the trophy against the same opposition.

England recognition came late, but he was capped three times in 1998, twice against New Zealand and once against South Africa. He also appeared for the South-West Divisional team 12 times, and the Barbarians on three occasions.

Dave left Gloucester for Worcester in 1999, and later had spells with Bedford, Launceston, and Taunton. For Gloucester he made 257 appearances, scoring 30 tries.

### IAN JONES

**OVERSEAS players nearing the end of their careers are sometimes perceived to be topping up their pension when playing in the Premiership. Ian Jones could never be accused of that.**

In the two seasons he was at Kingsholm from 1999-2001 he gave his all, and was very popular with the fans. He was one of the biggest signings in Gloucester's history having made 79 appearances for the All Blacks from 1990 to 1999, forging a legendary second row partnership with Robin Brooke.

Scotland seemed to feature strongly in his career. His first test was against them in June 1990 at Dunedin, his fiftieth cap was on the same ground against the same opposition and he scored a try. Not only that, his final All Black cap, off the bench in the 1999 World Cup, was again against Scotland.

Born on 17 April 1967, Ian had started his career with Northland in 1988 and, with the arrival of professional rugby, played for Waikato Chiefs from 1996 to 1999, often as captain.

He was a lithe 6ft 6ins tall, and very mobile for a second rower. He played in three World Cups, 1991, 1995 and 1999, and in two tests against the British Lions in 1993.



At Gloucester he ruled the line-out and made some barnstorming runs ball in hand. He played in six of eight games in Gloucester's Heineken Cup campaign of 2000-01, including the semi-final loss to Leicester, at Vicarage Road, Watford.

Sadly this was to be his swansong, for he left to play one season with Wasps in 2001-02 before retirement.



sportlobster

GLOUCESTERRUGBY

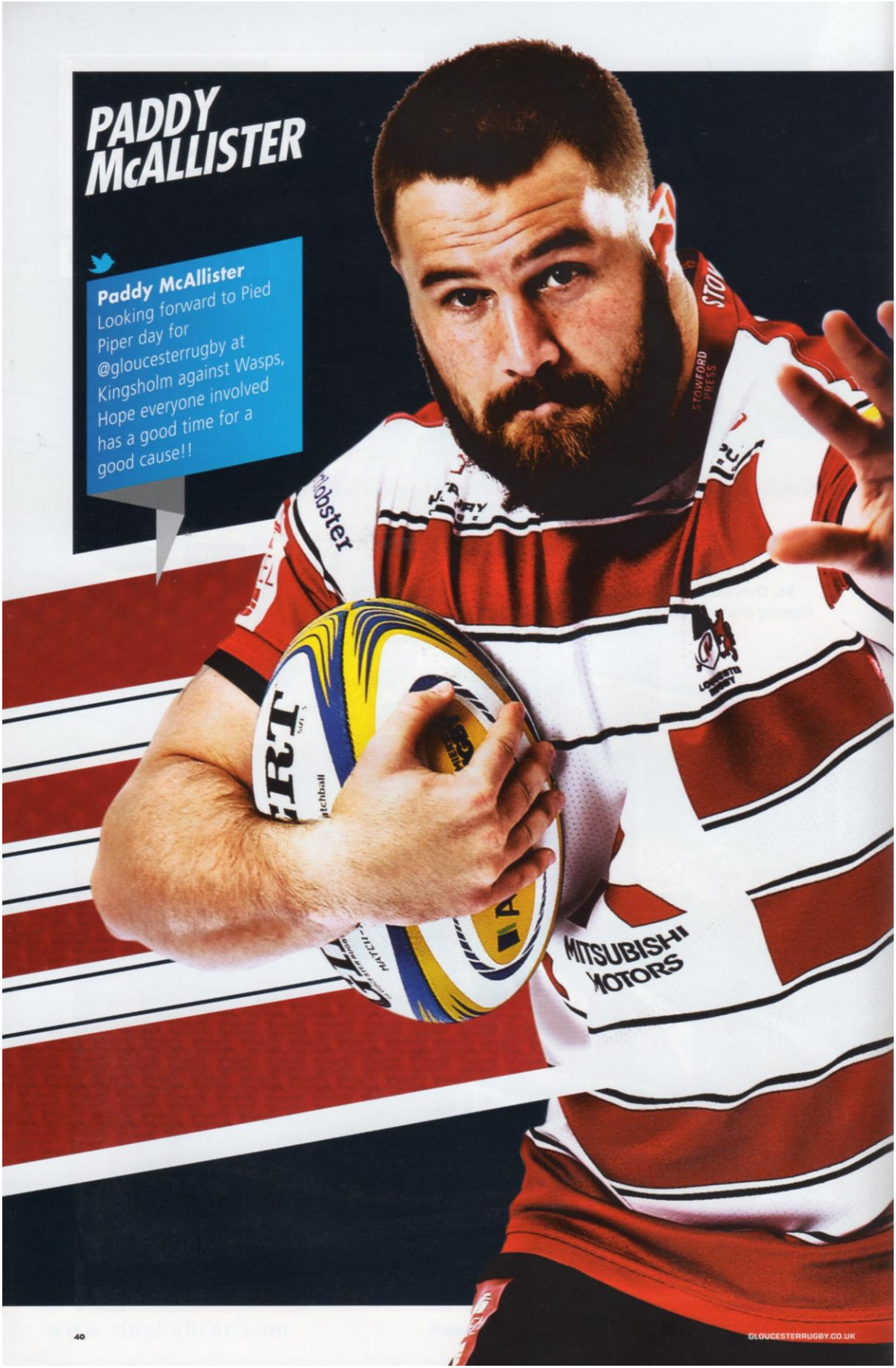


# PADDY McALLISTER



**Paddy McAllister**

Looking forward to Piper day for @gloucesterrugby at Kingsholm against Wasps, Hope everyone involved has a good time for a good cause!!



# A SOLID PLATFORM

**THERE'S PLENTY TO ADMIRE ABOUT THE CHERRY AND WHITES PACK THIS SEASON, WITH THE FRONT ROW HELPING TO PROVIDE AN EVER-IMPROVING PLATFORM SO FAR THIS SEASON.**

PADDY McAllister was a new addition to the squad in the summer, and the 26-year old Ulsterman tells us all about the unusual pathway his career has taken over the past few years, and how he is finding his feet in the Aviva Premiership, and settling down at Kingsholm.

A serious knee injury almost curtailed the talented front rower's burgeoning career, but he now finds himself in Cherry and White looking to make up for lost time.



"In the few years I had before I signed at Gloucester, I was a young guy at Ulster, doing well in the first team at 21/22, when I got that injury and spent the best part of a year on the sidelines.

**I'VE ONLY REALLY PLAYED RUGBY FOR FOUR YEARS. AND I'M 26 NOW. SO I'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME TOUGH GAMES. BUT I'M WORKING VERY HARD. WE'VE GOT A GREAT SET-UP HERE. WITH TREVOR, JOHN AND HIBBS HELPING OUT WHERE THEY CAN. ▼▼**



"I decided to move to France, just to try something new, and get my head out of Ulster which can sometimes be a bit of a bubble. And I think when I signed for Gloucester, I felt that, not as if it was another chance, but I can try and become the player that I want to be.

"Granted, it was a bad injury, but I was just grateful for the chance to be back playing rugby again and so when I signed, I saw it as a chance to work hard in the summer, and achieve something in rugby."

Last season saw McAllister play with Aurillac, in the French Pro D2, and he admits that the move was a huge risk, both professionally and personally, but with the benefit of hindsight, he is pleased he took the plunge.

"It was a big risk, I got married three days before my new wife and I left to start our new life in France. I was taking someone else with me on this journey, and we wouldn't change it for the world.

"It was a different style of rugby completely. It was very physical, very set-piece dominated, and I

needed that in my life.

"It wasn't as professional as how things are at Gloucester now, I just needed to enjoy playing rugby again, and enjoy the buzz again. It was about getting my body hardened for what it should be, and that has stood me in good stead now."

With the French game very much focusing on the set piece, McAllister knew that his scrummaging work would need to be top notch when he pulled on the Aurillac jersey.

"That was something I had to learn very quickly. Going there, I focused on improving my scrums massively, and France is renowned for the set piece.

"I tried to scrummage like a person in the Pro12 would scrummage, and I quickly found out that I couldn't do that! I had to join in with the rest of the boys and work out what worked best, whether it was illegal or not, I just had to do it!

"If it is a scrum in France, one team is going to get a penalty. It's not a method of restarting the

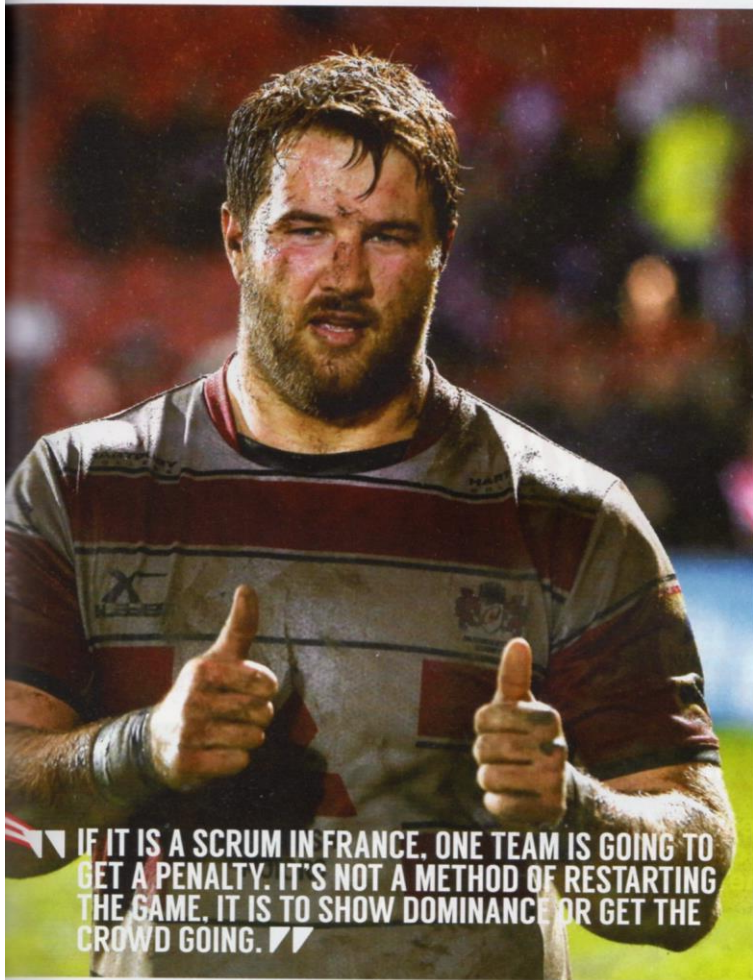


game, it is to show dominance or get the crowd going.

"I had to learn very quickly, but it has made me a better player. There are a lot of big, big boys out there.

McAllister fully immersed himself into life in Aurillac, and was able to call on his skills, inherited from his roots to settle into the French lifestyle.

"The language barrier wasn't a struggle as you may think. I'm half French, and my Mother is



IF IT IS A SCRUM IN FRANCE, ONE TEAM IS GOING TO GET A PENALTY. IT'S NOT A METHOD OF RESTARTING THE GAME. IT IS TO SHOW DOMINANCE OR GET THE CROWD GOING. ▽

French and I've got a lot of family in France. I sort of had a basic understanding of French, so I could get about the country.

"A lot of foreign people immerse themselves in the life and the language, as did Deborah and I, so it was great. The French love people that try anyway!"

Following his summer move though, the front rower is now thrilled with the challenge he's now facing at Gloucester.

"It's massively competitive, especially at loosehead this year. We've got four players in the first team squad that can compete for the starting jersey at the highest level of club rugby.

"It's been good for me personally, it has made me more disciplined to get better conditioned in my body, and



really work hard to try and get some game time. It's been really enjoyable, whilst being tough at the same time."

And when David Humphreys spoke to McAllister last season, the front rower reveals that he knew that it was a challenge that he had to take on.

"We had to think about it. My wife Deborah and I were very much enjoying life in France, I still felt that I was young enough too. I had just turned 25, and two years out in France wouldn't be the worst thing for me.

"We came to the decision together, being a bit closer to home, and being in a standard of professionalism which is rugby in England. I think my body needed that, and we did think it through, but sitting here now we are massively grateful that we took the opportunity."

And, as a proud Ulsterman at heart, the move to Gloucester was a simple one, with McAllister knowing what to expect from such a passionate rugby heartland, with several familiar faces already residing in the county.

"Definitely. I'm familiar with Jonny Bell and his systems and what he wants defensively is what I was used to at Ulster. It was a good thing to walk into during preseason. I didn't have to start and learn it all, it was about refreshing my mind and getting used to the work rate that is needed.

"This is my first year back playing rugby since I was 23, with the last year being about getting my body back to where it was and rediscovering my passion for the game.

"I've only really played rugby for four years, and I'm 26 now, so I've got a lot to learn. There have been some tough games, but I'm working very hard. We've got a great set-up here, with Trevor, John and Hibbs helping out where they can.

"Hopefully next year and beyond will be even better for me, as I will have another year of rugby under my belt."

KINGSHOLM NEWS WITH BOB

# FENTON



**HERE WE GO AGAIN THEN, A QUICK TURN-AROUND FROM LAST WEEK AND WE'RE STRAIGHT BACK INTO IT. THERE CAN'T BE A MORE INTENSE PROFESSIONAL RUGBY TOURNAMENT THAN THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP.**

TO put that into some kind of context, the other day I was talking with John Afoa for the next edition of @Holm and we chatted about his tweet a few weeks back when he commented on the incessant nature of the competition. He said something like this current block of 10 back-to-back matches was almost a whole Super Rugby season compressed into a very short period.

I know we think these guys are invincible but this really tests them, there is almost no recovery time between fixtures so any injuries have little time to repair. Coupled with the disruption caused by the Six Nations tournament it makes it a massive test for the whole squads too.



Without being disrespectful to Newcastle, but last week's game was won by half time, so we were able to rotate a few players maybe earlier than we would have done otherwise.

But then again, that's why we love the Premiership!

Back to the Newcastle game for a moment, it was great to finally get that winning bonus point. Like many I was beginning to believe that this was a thing of mystery, something that we could only

dream of but which was constantly out of reach. But we did it – we left it mighty late though!

Having crashed in three tries before half time everyone knew it was there for the taking, but Gloucester being Gloucester we decided to have a bit of a defensive work out for half an hour before wandering up the pitch to get the final try. The massive roar from the crowd was, in fact, a collective sigh of relief mixed with collective cheers. Can we have some more

COMING UP...

BACK TO SCHOOL  
WITH TOM SAVAGE



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**I THINK IT'LL BE A VERY ODD MOMENT FOR DAN WHO WAS AT GLOUCESTER FOR SO MANY YEARS BEFORE MOVING ON AT THE END OF LAST TERM. HE'LL KNOW THAT ONE MISPLACED KICK OR ONE DROPPED BALL AND THE KINGSHOLM CROWD WILL BE BRAYING LIKE A MILLION DONKEYS AT HIS MISFORTUNE.**

now, please...

Getting a four try bonus point today against Wasps is a very big ask for any team these days. The team are going well and – in my humble opinion – are playing the best 'brand' of rugby in the Premiership. The pace and accuracy that they have developed this season is breathtaking at times, and compared to the somewhat turgid approach of the teams above them, I know which ones I would want to watch.

Today's game is a chance for former players to meet up too. Tom Lindsay will be able to say hello to his former team-mates and Brendan Macken and Dan Robson will both be hoping that they remember to turn the right way when they go into the changing rooms.

I think it'll be a very odd moment for Dan who was at Gloucester for so many years before moving on at the end of last term. He'll know that one misplaced kick or one dropped ball and the Kingsholm crowd will be braying like a million donkeys at his misfortune.

I know, from talking to him for @Holm (second shameless plug – have you got your copy of issue six yet?) he said that he expected '... a few sly digs...' from his former colleagues if they get half a chance. They'll have to catch him first, mind – eel and slippery spring to mind.

Seriously though, Dan was a great servant to this club, he'll get the warm welcome that he deserves. Until kick off that is, then all bets are off!

The last time we played Wasps it became a bit of a testy affair, Wasps prop Lorenzo Cittadini got sent off a few minutes from the end of the match for a bit of a

tussle at the bottom of a ruck.

As play stopped Billy Twelvetrees, the victim of said tussle, was talking to the referee telling him that the incident was really nothing and that he did not need to take any further action. He didn't listen to the Gloucester captain and brandished a red card. Cittadini seemed to think that Billy was actually encouraging the referee to send the player off.

called a cow's head! I'm told it was all explained afterwards...

So, given Wasps performances this season can we turn them over today? Of course we can. The wafer thin line between third place and ninth place in the Premiership can be transformed by one result.

It's not going to be easy for sure, but our defence has been outstanding recently (ok, I'm ignoring that game at Saracens



My good friend and 'Mr Wasps' Barney Burnham, tells me that Lorenzo called him a 'coward' but because of his heavy Italian accent it came out as 'Cow Head'. No wonder Billy looked a bit confused – he was trying to keep his opponent on the field and got

when we thought we would offer them some kicking practice), so it should be an enthralling encounter.

A packed Kingsholm and boisterous home support should make for a cracking atmosphere.

So can we do it? Of course we can!



# Back To School

by Tom Savage, age 26

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Tom's best friends

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



**I WENT TO** Dilks Primary in South Ockendon

**MY BEST FRIEND WAS** Elliot Preston

**MY FAVOURITE SUBJECT WAS** PE

**MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL DINNER WAS** burger & chips

**IN MY SNACK BOX I HAD** fruit & yoghurts

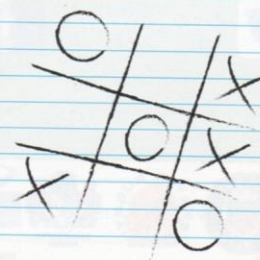
**MY FIRST SCHOOL PLAY WAS** Xmas nativity

**IN THE PLAYGROUND, I** ran round playing sport

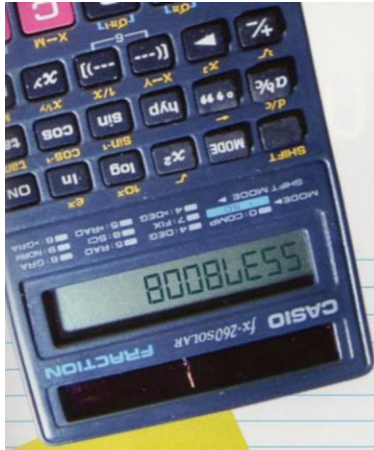


### MY EARLIEST RUGBY MEMORY

I didn't play rugby at this time!

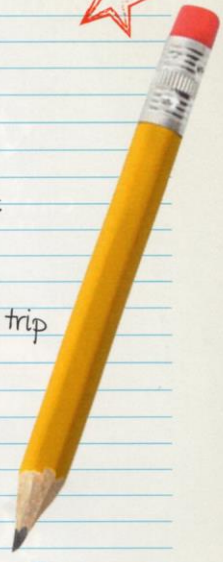


# SECONDARY SCHOOL



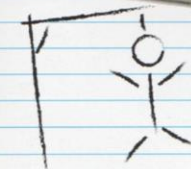
Tom's timetable  
Hanging about  
Lunch  
Rugby  
Dinner  
Maths revision

**I WENT TO** Community College Bishops Castle  
**I ENJOYED** hanging round with friends  
**MY GRADES WERE** just about passes  
**MY HARDEST SUBJECT WAS** Maths  
**MY UNIFORM WAS** polo, trousers and smart shoes  
**GOT IN TROUBLE FOR** chatting  
**MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL TRIP WAS** a Year 9 German trip



Dear Mr and Mrs Savage  
We regret to inform you that due to constant  
chatting in class Tom has been banned from eating  
burgers at lunch

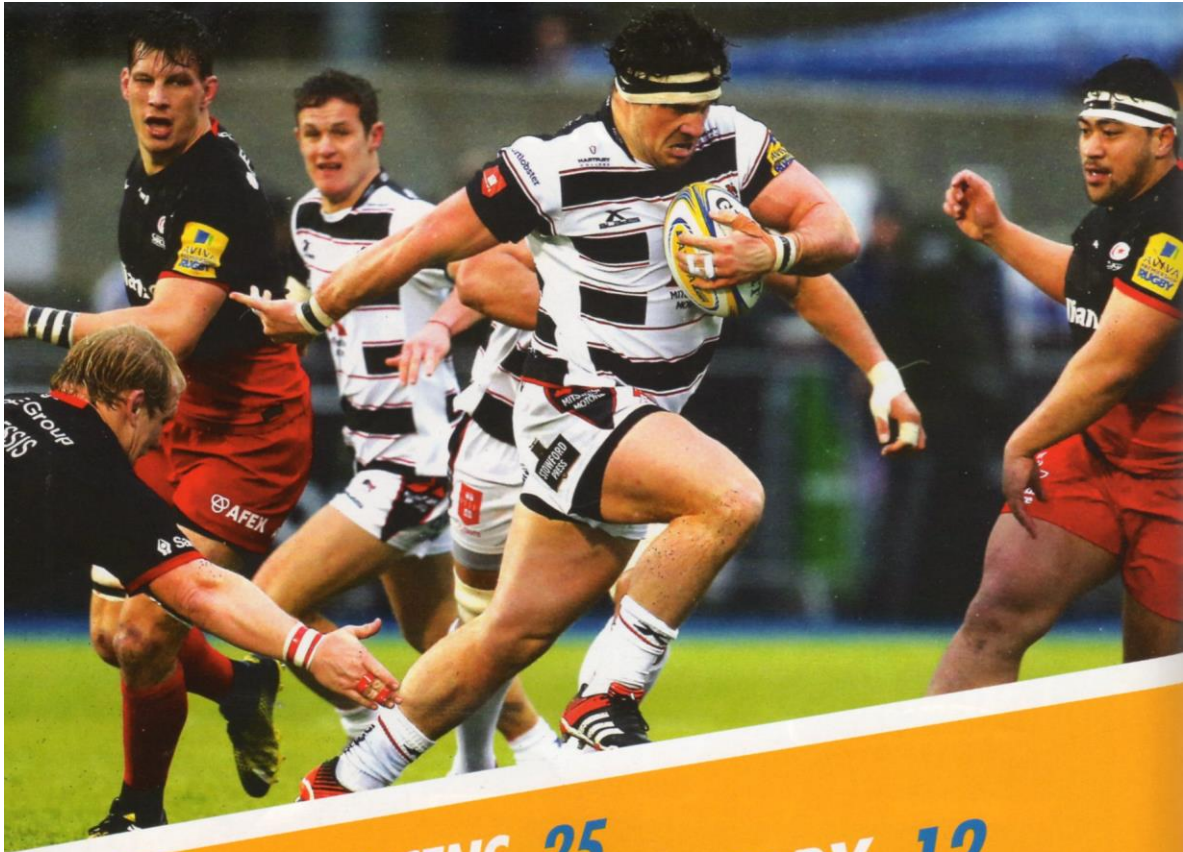


  
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**AT SCHOOL I WANTED TO BE** a rugby player  
**ON WORK EXPERIENCE I WENT TO** a local garage





# SARACENS 25 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 12

**HALF TIME** 13-6  
**ATTENDANCE** 8,432  
**REFEREE** Craig Maxwell-Keys

**AFTER** three really positive performances against Leicester, Bath and Harlequins, Gloucester travelled to take on Saracens in very good spirits.

However, despite a real opportunity presenting itself when the current Aviva Premiership champions were reduced to 14 men on the half hour following a red card for Schalk Brits, the Cherry and Whites left Allianz Park empty handed and frustrated.

Missing out on a rare chance to defeat the Men in Black on their own turf was a big disappointment, especially as Gloucester got



Skipper **Billy Twelvetrees** admitted that Gloucester's second half performance was deeply frustrating

themselves within striking range on a couple of occasions only to be kept at bay by a resolute home side.

Rubbing salt into the wounds was the fact that although there wasn't that much between the two teams throughout, three Charlie Hodgson penalties denied Gloucester even a losing bonus point.

With Saracens having lost heavily to Wasps at home only six days before, a backlash was to be expected and the home team came out of the traps quickly. Only two minutes were

on the clock when full-back Ben Ransom rolled a grubber behind the Gloucester defensive line, re-gathered and scored.

Charlie Hodgson converted for a 7-0 lead, but Gloucester dug deep and battled their way back into the game, assisted by a yellow card for Brad Barritt for a tip tackle on Ross Moriarty. James Hook opened Gloucester's account with a penalty only for Hodgson to respond in kind.

But the big talking point occurred on the half hour. Nick Wood and Richard Hibbard cleared out Brits at a ruck, and the Saracens hooker retaliated by punching the former.



**NO ONE IS PLEASED WITH THAT PERFORMANCE. WE'RE VERY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE SCORELINE.**

**FOR ME, IT FELT LIKE WATCHING GLOUCESTER 15-18 MONTHS AGO. OUR SET-PIECE CREAKED. WE LACKED DISCIPLINE IN AN 18-8 PENALTY COUNT. YOU'LL NEVER WIN AT ALLIANZ PARK WITH THAT MANY PENALTIES.**

DAVID HUMPHREYS

After reviewing the incident, referee Maxwell-Keys brandished a red card.

The two fly-half swapped penalties in the next few minutes to maintain the seven point gap and, although Gloucester finished the half well, they turned around in arrears but with the elements at their backs in the second half.

Hook quickly narrowed the deficit with a 42 minute penalty but

## MATCHDAY SQUADS



### SARACENS

- 15 Ben Ransom 1T
- 14 Mike Ellery
- 13 Duncan Taylor
- 12 Brad Barritt ■
- 11 Chris Wyles
- 10 Charlie Hodgson 1C 6P
- 9 Richard Wigglesworth
- 1 Rhys Gill
- 2 Schalk Brits ■
- 3 Petrus Du Plessis
- 4 Hayden Smith
- 5 Jim Hamilton
- 6 Michael Rhodes
- 7 Will Fraser
- 8 Jackson Wray

- 16 Jared Saunders
- 17 Titi Lamositele
- 18 Juan Figallo
- 19 Jacques Burger
- 20 Kelly Brown
- 21 Ben Spencer
- 22 Nils Mordt
- 23 Marcelo Bosch



### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 Billy Burns
- 14 Charlie Sharples
- 13 Billy Twelvetrees
- 12 Mark Atkinson
- 11 Steve McColl
- 10 James Hook 4P
- 9 Callum Braley
- 1 Nick Wood
- 2 Richard Hibbard
- 3 John Afoa
- 4 Jeremy Thrush
- 5 Mariano Galarza
- 6 Ross Moriarty
- 7 Matt Kvesic
- 8 Sione Kalamafoni

- 16 Tom Lindsay
- 17 Dan Murphy
- 18 Paul Doran-Jones
- 19 Tom Savage
- 20 Jacob Rowan
- 21 Willi Heinz
- 22 Henry Trinder
- 23 Rob Cook

that was as close as Gloucester got. The Saracens pack took a grip of the game, utilising powerful catch and drives and a strong scrummage to eke out penalties and dominate the territorial and possession battle.

Gloucester simply couldn't get their hands on the ball and, as the frustration grew, the penalties started to follow. Hodgson needed no second invitation and did what he's done so often before – kick his team to victory.



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## APPLYING THE LAW

**There were two big calls for Mr Maxwell-Keys to make and both resulted in cards for Saracens players.**

The first, a yellow for Brad Barritt, would probably have been a red last season whereas, the second incident, when Schalk Brits punched Nick Wood, certainly merited a red and the appropriate card was quickly produced.



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY 32

## NEWCASTLE FALCONS 6



**HALF TIME** 25-6  
**ATTENDANCE** 11,095  
**REFEREE** Tom Foley

**AFTER** the disappointment of tasting defeat at Saracens the week before, Gloucester were desperate to get back to winning ways against Newcastle Falcons.

And they duly did so, and in some style as they clinched their first try scoring bonus point in a one sided 32-6 victory over the Falcons.

The visitors may have started the season badly, but 2016 had seen a real resurgence in form, possibly due to the addition of much-travelled fly-half Andy Goode to their squad.

One man obviously doesn't



**Lewis Ludlow** talks to GRTV after last weekend's impressive victory over Newcastle Falcons

make a team, but Goode's late withdrawal seemed to leave the Falcons rudderless on the day as they were swept aside by a rampant Gloucester side.

The Cherry and Whites had to overcome the first minute loss of flanker Jacob Rowan with a head injury but, in Matt Kvesic, there was a pretty good replacement ready to go and the visitors were quickly on the back foot.

James Hook opened the scoring with a third minute penalty, before a superbly weighted grubber from

Willi Heinz put Bill Meakes in for the game's first try.

Hook then used his side step and hand-off to good effect to score his third try in as many home games before adding his second penalty of the afternoon.

Craig Willis finally got Newcastle on to the scoreboard with a 31st minute penalty, but Gloucester were quickly back on the front foot as Ross Moriarty took a great angle off Mariano Galarza to steam in for the third try.

In a bid to get back into the game, the Falcons threw everything at Gloucester in the final few minutes of the half but, despite the



**IN THE SAME WAY THAT WE REACTED VERY POSITIVELY IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LEICESTER DEFEAT, WE GOT THE SAME REACTION TODAY - I THOUGHT THE PLAYERS WERE OUTSTANDING.**

**THERE'S A SENSE OF RELIEF MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE I THINK AFTER THAT GAME BECAUSE WE PLAYED SO WELL THAT WE FELT WE JUST DESERVED THE BONUS POINT.**

**DAVID HUMPHREYS**

defence creaking at times, a second Willis penalty was their only reward.

After the pulsating rugby of the first half, the second half was a bit of an anti-climax. Gloucester were anxious to get the fourth try, probably over-anxious, while the Falcons didn't threaten at all despite having the wind at their backs.

## MATCHDAY SQUADS



### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 Rob Cook
- 14 Charlie Sharples
- 13 Bill Meakes 1T
- 12 Billy Twelvetrees 1C
- 11 Henry Purdy
- 10 James Hook 1T 2C 2P
- 9 Willi Heinz
- 1 Paddy McAllister
- 2 Richard Hibbard
- 3 John Afoa
- 4 Jeremy Thrush
- 5 Mariano Galarza
- 6 Ross Moriarty 1T
- 7 Jacob Rowan
- 8 Lewis Ludlow

- 16 Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 Yann Thomas
- 18 Paul Doran-Jones
- 19 Tom Savage 1T
- 20 Matt Kvesic
- 21 Callum Braley
- 22 Billy Burns
- 23 Henry Trinder



### NEWCASTLE FALCONS

- 15 Simon Hammersley
- 14 Giovanbattista Venditti
- 13 Chris Harris
- 12 Adam Powell
- 11 Marcus Watson
- 10 Craig Willis 2P
- 9 Sonatane Takulua
- 1 Rob Vickers
- 2 Scott Lawson
- 3 Taione Ve'a
- 4 Calum Green
- 5 Mark Wilson
- 6 Richard Mayhew
- 7 Will Welch
- 8 Ally Hogg

- 16 George McGuigan
- 17 Alex Rogers
- 18 Kensuke Hatakeyama
- 19 Mouritz Botha
- 20 Todd Clever
- 21 Micky Young
- 22 Sinoti Sinoti
- 23 Juan Pablo Socino

And, as the minutes ticked by, Gloucester simply seemed to be trying to be trying too hard to secure the bonus point in the face of some spirited defensive work.

However, with just five minutes left to play, they finally got their reward as Tom Savage took a pass from Matt Kvesic at full tilt, ran over the top of Michael Young and stretched to make the line to send the Kingsholm crowd home delighted.



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**APPLYING THE LAW**

Referee Tom Foley, a late call-up for Dean Richards, seemed to have a pretty solid game with no real moments of controversy.

However, Newcastle DoR, Dean Richards (not the referee, obviously) wasn't impressed.

"I didn't understand how we couldn't get on the right side of the referee. We just couldn't get on the right side of the ref, and when the calls aren't going your way it makes a big difference."



# TODAY'S TEAMSHEET

## GLoucester RUGBY vs WASPS



Aviva Premiership Rugby - Round 15  
Saturday 5th March 2016, KO 15:00 Kingsholm

ROB <b>COOK</b>	FULLBACK <b>15</b>	FULLBACK	ROB <b>MILLER</b>
CHARLIE <b>SHARPLES</b>	RIGHT WING <b>14</b>	RIGHT WING	CHRISTIAN <b>WADE</b>
BILL <b>MEAKES</b>	OUTSIDE CENTRE <b>13</b>	OUTSIDE CENTRE	CHARLES <b>PIUTAU</b>
BILLY <b>TWELVETREES</b>	INSIDE CENTRE <b>12</b>	INSIDE CENTRE	SIALE <b>PIUTAU</b>
HENRY <b>PURDY</b>	LEFT WING <b>11</b>	LEFT WING	FRANK <b>HALAI</b>
JAMES <b>HOOK</b>	FLY HALF <b>10</b>	FLY HALF	JIMMY <b>GOPPERTH</b>
GREIG <b>LAIDLAW (C)</b>	SCRUM HALF <b>9</b>	SCRUM HALF	DAN <b>ROBSON</b>
PADDY <b>McALLISTER</b>	LOOSEHEAD PROP <b>1</b>	LOOSEHEAD PROP	MATT <b>MULLAN (C)</b>
RICHARD <b>HIBBARD</b>	HOKKER <b>2</b>	HOKKER	CARLO <b>FESTUCCIA</b>
JOHN <b>AFOA</b>	TIGHTHEAD PROP <b>3</b>	TIGHTHEAD PROP	JAKE <b>COOPER-WOOLLEY</b>
TOM <b>SAVAGE</b>	LOCK <b>4</b>	LOCK	JAMES <b>CANNON</b>
JEREMY <b>THRUSH</b>	LOCK <b>5</b>	LOCK	KEARNAN <b>MYALL</b>
SIONE <b>KALAMAFONI</b>	BLINDSIDE FLANKER <b>6</b>	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	THOMAS <b>YOUNG</b>
MATT <b>KVESIC</b>	OPENSIDE FLANKER <b>7</b>	OPENSIDE FLANKER	GEORGE <b>SMITH</b>
ROSS <b>MORIARTY</b>	NUMBER 8 <b>8</b>	NUMBER 8	NATHAN <b>HUGHES</b>

DARREN <b>DAWIDIUK</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>16</b>	REPLACEMENT	ASHLEY <b>JOHNSON</b>
YANN <b>THOMAS</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>17</b>	REPLACEMENT	TOM <b>BRISTOW</b>
PAUL <b>DORAN-JONES</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>18</b>	REPLACEMENT	PHIL <b>SWAINSTON</b>
MARIANO <b>GALARZA</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>19</b>	REPLACEMENT	WILL <b>ROWLANDS</b>
LEWIS <b>LUDLOW</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>20</b>	REPLACEMENT	ALEX <b>RIEDER</b>
CALLUM <b>BRALEY</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>21</b>	REPLACEMENT	JAMIE <b>STEVENSON</b>
BILLY <b>BURNS</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>22</b>	REPLACEMENT	RUARIDH <b>JACKSON</b>
HENRY <b>TRINDER</b>	REPLACEMENT <b>23</b>	REPLACEMENT	BRENDAN <b>MACKEN</b>

### Officials

**Referee** Luke Pearce **Assistant Referees** Nigel Carrick & Paul Burton MBE