

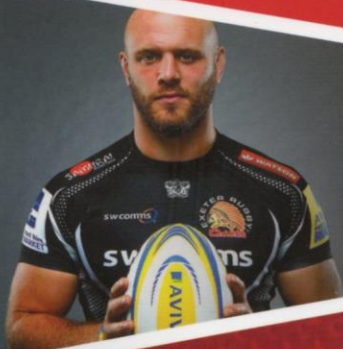
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
ISSUE **14**



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

PRICE. £3

vs EXETER CHIEFS
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY - ROUND 20



MATT KVESIC

EXCLUSIVE PROGRAMME
INTERVIEW ON PAGE 40

PLUS...
THE CITIZEN
BOB FENTON
ACTION REPLAY

15.04.16
KICK-OFF 7.45PM
KINGSHOLM
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY

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CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

GOOD EVENING, AND WELCOME TO EVERYONE FROM EXETER CHIEFS AHEAD OF TONIGHT'S GAME.

THERE'S no hiding away from it, we've had a tough few weeks on the pitch and we have to pick ourselves up quickly, restore some pride and get back to winning ways.

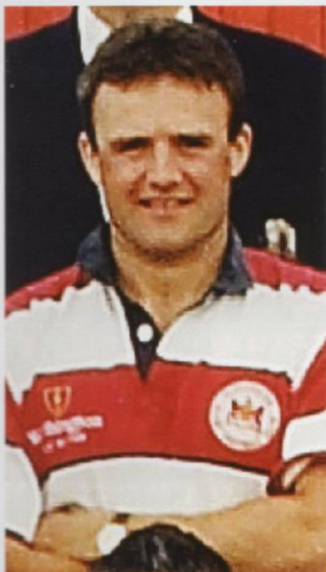
We have to stick together at a time like this, and I guess sometimes it is far more important for the actions to outweigh the words.

The sign of a good team, is how they recover from the toughest of times, and we have to ensure we stay tight as a unit, as well as be

(RIGHT) It has been a difficult few weeks and the whole Club knows exactly how important today's game is.



THERE IS NO HIDING FROM THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CHALLENGE THAT LIES AHEAD. WE HAVE TO REDISCOVER THE FORM AND PERFORMANCE FROM THE VICTORY OVER WASPS.



honest and frank to get back to where we want to be.

I suffered a knock in training in the lead up to the Leicester game, and it's a frustrating time for me to be missing out at the moment, but I know that the boys are putting in the efforts to get there.

As such a family club, we were shocked this week to hear about the sad passing of former player Martin 'Speedy' Roberts.

From the tributes that have come in, it is clear that Martin was a hugely popular figure during his time in Cherry and White, and epitomised the culture that this club is all about.

His sad passing puts everything into perspective, and the thoughts of all of the Gloucester squad are with Martin's family and friends.

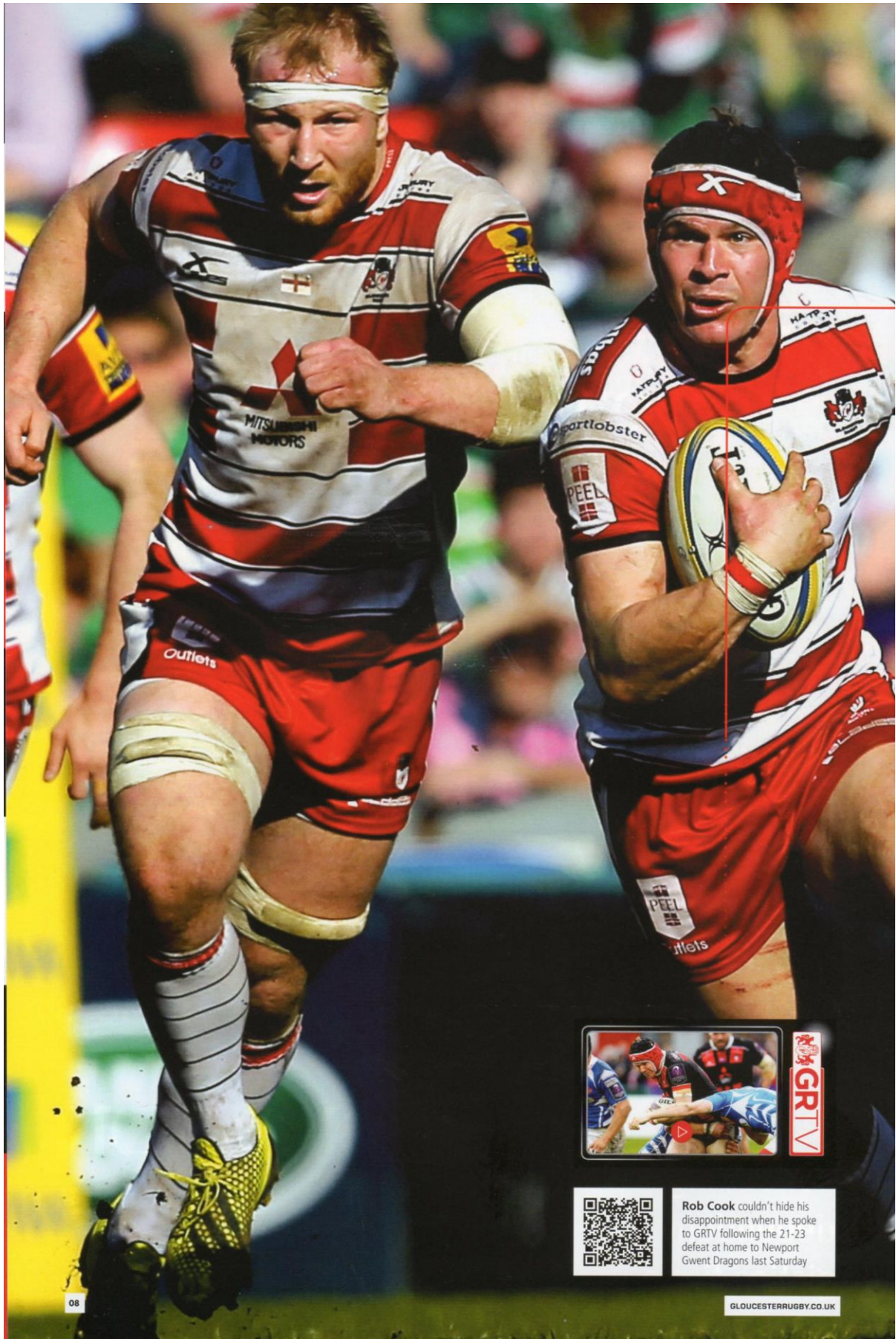
This weekend, we welcome Exeter Chiefs, and there is no hiding from the magnitude of the challenge that lies ahead. We have to rediscover the form and performance from the victory over Wasps.

Chiefs again are setting the bar at the top of the Aviva Premiership, and from recent meetings with them, we know when we are at the top of our game, we are two well-matched teams!

It's a big week for us, and we have to prove to our supporters the quality in our team, and give the home crowd plenty to shout about!

Enjoy the game!

Billy



Rob Cook couldn't hide his disappointment when he spoke to GRTV following the 21-23 defeat at home to Newport Gwent Dragons last Saturday

COMING UP...

EXCLUSIVE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME INTERVIEW
MATT KVESIC



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DAVID HUMPHREYS

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

GOOD EVENING AND I'M DELIGHTED TO WELCOME ROB BAXTER AND HIS EXETER CHIEFS TEAM TO KINGSHOLM FOR THE 20TH GAME OF THIS SEASON'S AVIVA PREMIERSHIP CAMPAIGN.

FOLLOWING the Newport Gwent Dragons performance last Saturday, I spoke of that moment being the lowest point of the last two seasons at Gloucester. Only a month ago, after producing an outstanding team performance to beat Wasps, we put ourselves into a position to challenge for a top six spot and had a home European quarter final to look forward to.

After 5 consecutive defeats, a season that promised so much has not delivered what we all expected and is not the progression that we wanted from last season.

I can fully understand your disappointment and frustration at the performance last Saturday and there are no excuses for the manner of the defeat.

Throughout the past two seasons we have prided ourselves on delivering committed, physical performances at home to re-establish Kingsholm as a tough, intimidating place to play rugby.

Last weekend we didn't deliver and let down everyone associated with the Club. But, with two home games still to play this season, we can still have a major impact on the final Premiership league positions.

Tonight's game against one of the Premiership's top teams, Exeter, will be another huge test. They look destined for the play offs and were very unfortunate to lose their Champions Cup quarter-final to Wasps with the last kick of the match.

Over the past few years Rob

THERE IS NO HIDING PLACE IN PROFESSIONAL SPORT AND THESE LAST THREE GAMES OF THE SEASON WILL BE A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR ALL OF US.



The management and players are determined to right the wrongs of the past few weeks and finish the season on a high.

has put together a squad with a good blend of youth and experience and, if our recent head to head matches are anything to go by, this evening will be a very close and very exciting game.

There is no hiding place in professional sport and these last three games of the season will be a major challenge for all of us.

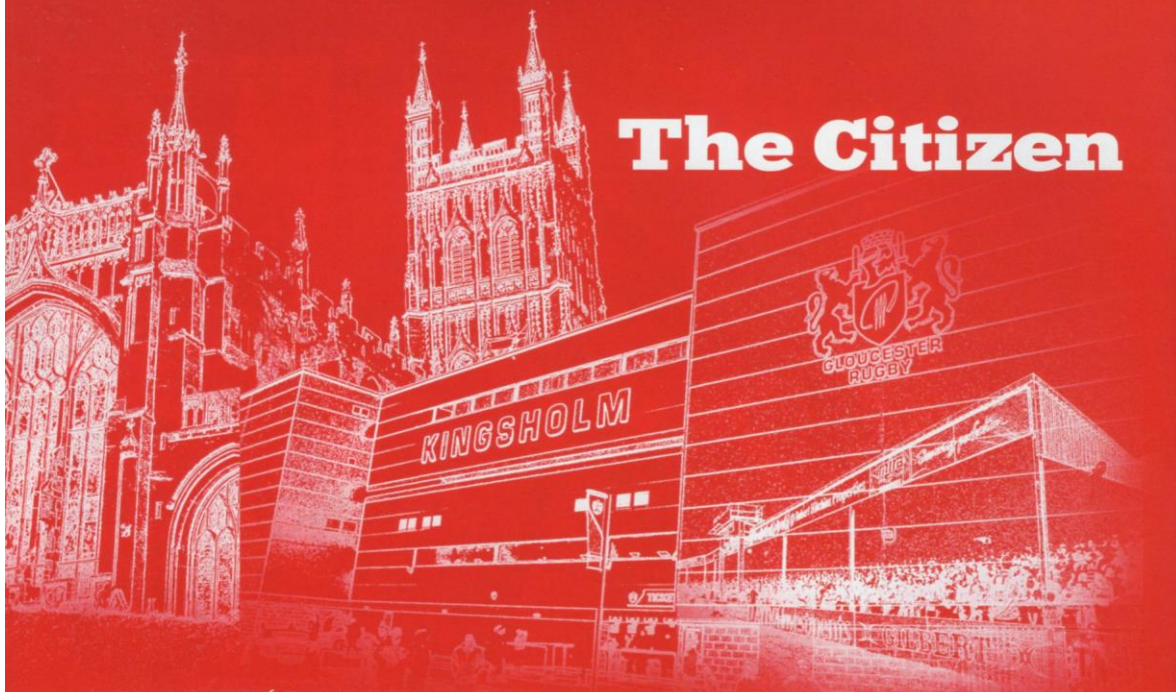
Despite the recent disappointments, we have an experienced management team and a very talented group of players who can, and will with time, develop into a quality Premiership team.

Your support has been unwavering all season and tonight we want to repay that support with a big performance.

Enjoy the game.

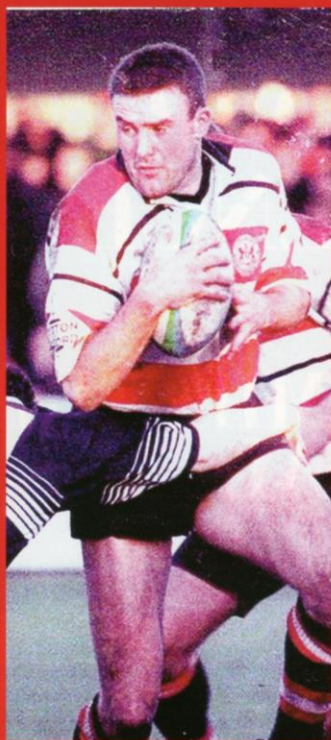
David

The Citizen



MARTIN 'SPEEDY' ROBERTS – A TRIBUTE

ANDY DEACON, THIS WEEK, HAS PAID AN EMOTIONAL AND HEARTFELT TRIBUTE TO HIS CLOSE FRIEND AND FORMER GLOUCESTER TEAMMATE MARTIN 'SPEEDY' ROBERTS, INSISTING THAT THE BEST WAY TO HONOUR HIS LIFE FOLLOWING AN UNTIMELY PASSING WOULD BE ON THE PITCH AT KINGSHOLM – A PLACE THAT WILL FOREVER BE REMEMBERED AS THEIR SECOND HOME.



PLAYERS of Gloucester's bygone eras will undoubtedly savour their time spent playing alongside the former full-back and centre, who electrified the Shed many times during a decade between 1989 and 1998 that saw the 48-year-old pull on the jersey on 121 occasions.

At a moment when the rugby community is still reeling, Deacon has called on David Humphreys and the current team – who are looking to put an end to a dismal run of defeats both on European and domestic fronts – to revive their season under lights against Exeter Chiefs tonight, with the legacy Roberts' generation has laid before them at the forefront of their minds.

"Speedy was my teammate, a close friend, and neighbour," Deacon told the Gloucester Citizen. "He was proud to play for the Cherry and Whites as we all were. We were a tight, close-knit family.

"He was one of the younger players from that team when we began our careers at Gloucester and sometimes, to get the result we wanted, we had to dig deep on hard conditions. Speedy, I believe, didn't always get the plaudits he deserved.

"If it wasn't for people like Speedy – for his dedication and the hard work he put in every week – Gloucester may not be the club it is today.

"We shared many good times together and his passing is a very sad loss for the rugby community. My heart goes out for him, his

▼ **WE SHARED MANY GOOD TIMES TOGETHER AND HIS PASSING IS A VERY SAD LOSS FOR THE RUGBY COMMUNITY. MY HEART GOES OUT FOR HIM, HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT THIS TIME AND WE NOW HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE HONOUR HIM IN THE RIGHT WAY.** ▼



▼▼ IF IT WASN'T FOR PEOPLE LIKE SPEEDY, FOR HIS DEDICATION AND THE HARD WORK HE PUT IN EVERY WEEK, GLOUCESTER MAY NOT BE THE CLUB IT IS TODAY. ▼▼

family and friends at this time and we now have to make sure we honour him in the right way."

The Chiefs, second in the Aviva Premiership, arrive at Kingsholm also following defeat in Europe, losing in a thrilling contest away to Wasps in the Champions Cup quarter-finals last weekend, while Gloucester were evicted from its sister trophy.

Gloucester, meanwhile, are still searching for their first win since defeating Wasps at Kingsholm on Mar 5 – a deserved victory that took guts and courage and it was hoped would spur the team on to a top-six finish this season that seems to have faded away.

It is for that very reason Deacon,

who has claimed all is not lost in the city even if the city itself has lost a hero of its rugby heritage, believes the players know what it means to pull on the cherry and white of Gloucester, at a time when results themselves have not come their way in recent weeks.

"Speedy was a big, abrasive man – a great player I am pleased to say I played alongside," Deacon continued. "And tonight, there will be many ex-players at Kingsholm, who will be reminiscing about the times they shared with him.

"The current team is under pressure to get the victory but I firmly believe this Gloucester side has shown – if not regularly

– that it can press the best in the Premiership and victory tonight would put some demons to rest.

"There will be no better way to honour Speedy than by beating Exeter and, if it were me, I would be using his memory as a catalyst to make sure the players know their responsibility to the shirt and are ready to bounce back."

Martin Roberts died at his home in Longlevens last Saturday evening at the age of 48 and lives on in the memory of his family, including his three children.

Citizen
AVAILABLE DAILY



GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

THE HEYDAY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE RUGBY (PART 1)

For the younger rugby fan it must be difficult to appreciate quite how popular the County Championship was, attracting crowds far in excess of any club game.

Gloucestershire were always a major force in the competition, being able to call on the players of Gloucester and Bristol.

Between 1910 and 1922, Gloucestershire won the competition five times, and attained a hat-trick of titles from 1930 to 1932. One more win in 1937 ended that golden age. Although the county played in three finals between 1947 and 1959, they were all lost.

In 1970 Gloucestershire were red-hot favourites to win the title against relative newcomers Staffordshire at Burton-on-Trent. It was not to be, for Staffordshire deservedly won the final 11-9.

The following season the county moved smoothly through the group stage beating Devon, Somerset and Cornwall. Dorset and Wilts were beaten in the quarter-final and Northumberland

in a very tough semi-final, setting up a Kingsholm final against Surrey, watched by a crowd of 18,000. There was bitter disappointment when Surrey won comfortably 14-3.

It seemed that Gloucestershire were doomed to never win another title, but things were about to change.

1971-72

The county started the campaign with a sweeping 36-17 win over Somerset at Bath. Peter Knight the Bristol wing scored a hat-trick of tries and Eric Stephens kicked three conversions and two penalties.

However, the next game was against Cornwall at notorious Redruth, and Cornish fire saw their team home 13-10. Devon were beaten at Bristol 14-4, which meant there had to be a play-off with Somerset to decide the South-West group winners. The game was played at Kingsholm and Gloucestershire won 24-0. Unusually, there were only four Gloucester players in the team: Eric Stephens, Robin Cowling, Nigel Jackson and Dick Smith.

In the quarter-final Berkshire were beaten 38-19 at Bristol and in the semi-final played at Richmond, Middlesex were defeated 19-16.

The final was against Warwickshire who had won the title seven times between 1958 and 1965. A big factor was that Warwickshire consisted almost entirely of Coventry players (there

were 13 in the final), and the club was at that time just about the strongest in the country, with an awesome pack of forwards. In addition the final was played at Coventry, so not surprisingly they were favourites to win.

The Gloucestershire team was captained by Dave Watt of Bristol, a rock hard second rower, who, when he played for his club at Kingsholm, was one of the players the Shed loved to hate.

The team was: Peter Knight (Bristol); Alan Morley (Bristol), Richard Jardine (Gloucester), John Gabitass (Bristol), Eric Stephens (Gloucester); Bob Redwood (Cheltenham), John Cannon (Clifton); Mike Burton (Gloucester), John Pullin (Bristol), Robin Cowling (Gloucester), Dave Watt (Bristol), Alan Brinn (Gloucester), Charlie Hannaford (Bristol), Dave Rollitt (Bristol), Dick Smith (Gloucester).

David Duckham scored an early try for the home county, which was converted, but that proved to be their only score. Alan Morley scored a try before half-time. After the interval, Eric Stephens kicked a penalty, and to wrap up the win Charlie Hannaford scored a try. Gloucestershire won 11-6 and had their first title for 35 years.

1972-73

Hopes were high that Gloucestershire could win back-to-back finals. A draw in the group stage against Devon necessitated a play-off against the same opponents.

This resulted in a 22-19 win at





COMING UP...

PERFORMANCE CHEF WILL CARVALHO PRESENTS ANOTHER TASTE OF GLOUCESTER

PAGE 56

Kingsholm, Peter Butler kicking a conversion and four penalties. Oxfordshire were well beaten 39-12 again at Kingsholm, before a very tight game against Eastern Counties, which was won 7-6, set up a final against Lancashire at Bristol. The surface was treacherous following heavy rain, and Lancashire coped the better and deserved to win 17-12.

1973-74

The county, now captained by John Pullin of Bristol, who also captained England, made no mistake this time round in the group stage, defeating Devon 21-9, Somerset 10-6 and Cornwall 9-7. All the points apart from an Alan Morley try against Somerset were scored by Peter Butler who kicked 12 penalties.

The quarter-final was played at Aylesbury against Buckinghamshire, where Gloucestershire won 10-0, tries being scored by Dave Pointon, then at St.Paul's College, Cheltenham, and Alan Morley, plus a conversion from Peter Butler. It was not a convincing display.

Old enemies Warwickshire now stood in the way of another final. Again played at Coventry, the county ran out winners by 27 points to 15. Not playing their usual tight game, Gloucestershire threw the ball about resulting in five tries, Alan Morley and Bob Clewes each scored two and Richard Jardine the other. Butler made two conversions and kicked a penalty. Much credit for the display must go to Richard Harding the Cambridge University Blue at scrum-half who prompted many attacks.

The final meant a trip to Blundellsands to play Lancashire who were captained by the England player, Tony Neary. In the event Gloucestershire ran out comfortable winners 22-12, Peter Butler again making a big

contribution with four penalties and a conversion. Alan Morley inevitably scored two tries. In all Butler had kicked 59 points out of the 99 scored by the county.

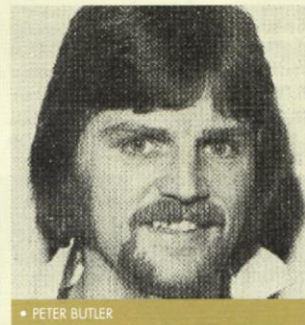
The winning team, containing ten Gloucester players, was: Peter Butler (Gloucester); Bob Clewes (Gloucester), John Bayliss (Gloucester), Richard Jardine (Gloucester), Alan Morley (Bristol); Bob Redwood (Cheltenham), Richard Harding (Bristol); Mike Burton (Gloucester), John Pullin (Bristol), Robin Cowling (Gloucester), John Fidler (Gloucester), Alan Brinn (Gloucester), John Haines (Gloucester), Charlie Hannaford (Bristol), John Watkins (Gloucester)

1974-75

Again Gloucestershire swept the board in the South-West group, defeating Somerset at Kingsholm 14-3, Cornwall 9-6 and Devon 23-6. There were no fewer than 12 Gloucester players in the team which played Cornwall. John Bayliss captained the team this season and the next. Little trouble was expected from Hertfordshire, the county's opponents in the quarter-final at Bristol.

The game was very close in fact, and much thanks had to go to Peter Butler who scored all the points with five penalties in the 15-12 victory. Hertfordshire scored the only try of the game. To add to the county's worries Mike Burton was sent off when they were still 9-12 behind. Thanks to Butler indeed.

Gloucestershire now seemed to be getting the measure of Warwickshire, opponents yet again in the semi-final at Kingsholm, for they won 28-3, Peter Kingston scoring two tries and John Watkins the other. Peter Butler again scored heavily, weighing in with two conversions



PETER BUTLER

and four penalties.

Kingsholm was yet again the venue for the final against Eastern Counties. It was a very wet day and conditions were difficult. It must have affected Butler because he missed six penalties before scoring with his seventh attempt. Alan Brinn and Stewart Dix scored tries. The 13-9 score would suggest a close contest, but Gloucestershire won comfortably enough.

Peter Butler's contribution of 69 points to the campaign was again immense

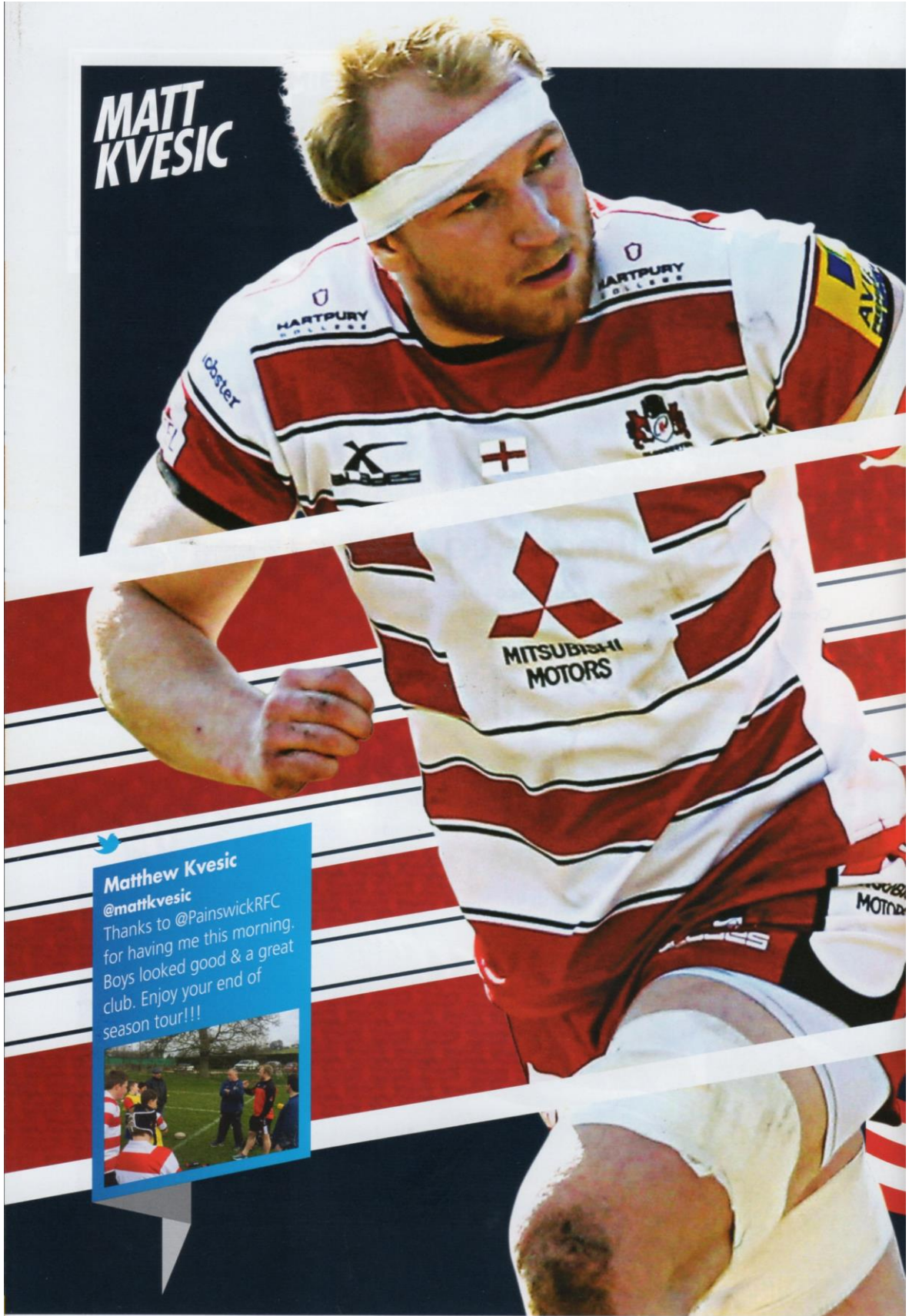
The team for Gloucestershire's twelfth Championship win, again containing ten Gloucester players, was: Peter Butler (Gloucester); Alan Morley (Bristol), John Bayliss (Gloucester), Richard Jardine (Gloucester), Stewart Dix (Gloucester); Dave Pointon (St. Paul's College, Cheltenham), Peter Kingston (Gloucester); Mike Burton (Gloucester), Dave Protherough (Moseley), Barry Nelmes (Bristol), John Fidler (Gloucester), Alan Brinn (Gloucester), John Haines (Gloucester), Dave Rollitt (Bristol), John Watkins (Gloucester).

Alan Brinn had appeared in five consecutive finals and been on the winning side three times. This was his 48th and last appearance for the county.

Gloucestershire had now won two titles on the trot. Could they make it a third? Part 2 will continue the story.



**MATT
KVESIC**



 **Matthew Kvesic**
@mattkvesic
Thanks to @PainswickRFC
for having me this morning.
Boys looked good & a great
club. Enjoy your end of
season tour!!!



BREAKDOWN INSURANCE

MATT KVESIC HAS PROVED HIMSELF TO BE A MAN WHO KNOWS A THING OR TWO ABOUT A TURNOVER, AND THE GLOUCESTER BACK ROWER IS CALLING ON THE CHERRY AND WHITES TO TURN OVER A NEW LEAF THIS WEEKEND WITH WEST COUNTRY RIVALS EXETER CHIEFS ROLLING INTO KINGSHOLM.

DESPITE a sticky patch for the team in the last few weeks, the back rower continues to stand out, and will be looking to lead by example this weekend against Rob Baxter's high flying outfit.

With the European Rugby Challenge Cup defence ending last weekend, the Cherry and Whites are forced to turn their focus firmly back to domestic matters, against a Chiefs side with whom Gloucester have shared several close-fought classics in recent seasons.



"When we're playing our top rugby, and they do too, it tends to be quite a close match. I think last season we won at Sandy Park, and they won at Kingsholm by a point or two, so it is definitely a tight game when the two sides meet.

WHEN WE'RE PLAYING OUR TOP RUGBY, AND THEY DO TOO, IT TENDS TO BE QUITE A CLOSE MATCH. I THINK LAST SEASON WE WON AT SANDY PARK, AND THEY WON AT KINGSHOLM BY A POINT OR TWO, SO IT IS DEFINITELY A TIGHT GAME WHEN THE TWO SIDES MEET.

"The Exeter supporters that travel up are excellent and a credit to the club, and they meet our home fans who are brilliant, and it makes for a really good atmosphere at Kingsholm."

With Rob Baxter's men earning countless plaudits again this season, there is no secret to the effective and confident style of play developed in Devon, and Kvesic knows despite knowing what to expect, the true challenge is stopping it and imposing Gloucester's own game plan.

"Exeter have obviously been going very well this season, and were perhaps unlucky in their European Rugby Champions Cup semi final against Wasps, so we can see that they are playing some decent rugby, and are in great form.

"They will, of course, be a top challenge for us. Obviously we will prepare the best that we can and ensure that we are mentally and physically ready, and fresh enough to go again this weekend."

Assessing the head to head battles this weekend, one that stands out is at number 7, with Kvesic potentially scrapping it out

against Chiefs' Julian Salvi. The Australian has been a formidable opponent in recent years domestically, and Kvesic knows the protégé of Laurie Fisher will again be a man to watch at Kingsholm this week.

"Julian has been one of the leading sevens in the Premiership for the last few years, I've played against him a fair few times whilst he was at Leicester, and obviously now that he's at Exeter.

"It will be a good challenge, so I know what to expect and it's just a case of making sure that my role is done right, and the team go well so then it all clicks."

After a few weeks to forget for the Cherry and Whites, Kvesic knows that the challenge as big as this, is probably a welcome one so there is no option other than to perform at the top of your game.

"I think, this is a tough game ahead but off the back of what has been a pretty tough time for us. Exeter are a great team, and if we don't get it right then they will put us to the sword.

"It is going to be a tough game, we know that, but it is definitely one that we look forward to





WE KNOW THAT WE HAVEN'T PERFORMED TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY. WE ARE FULLY ACCEPTING THAT. BUT NOW WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT IN THE LAST FEW GAMES. WE CAN PLAY WITH THE INTENT TO WIN THE GAME.

playing. Exeter play some open rugby, and when we play our best rugby, that is what we do as well.

"Hopefully we can start well, put them under pressure and create some chances for our backs to play."

Kvesic's name has been on the lips of many observers over the recent months, with the Gloucester back rower in competition for a spot in the England Six Nations squad, but despite the talk, he is able to keep focused on the primary job in hand, performing in a Gloucester shirt.

"It's been a frustrating time for me over the Six Nations, not playing too much and going back

and forth was quite tough.

"That period has been over, and I think now I have been able to adjust to being back with the club for the whole week. It is important not to think about it too much because it can be a bit of a hindrance and niggles away a little bit.

"I'm honest with myself, and I know I am not quite there, so I just need to make sure that I perform to my best for my club, to put myself in the best position possible to be picked."

High flying Wasps were defeated at Kingsholm after an impressive performance in March, and the Cherry and Whites will need to call

on the showing from that day this weekend, something Kvesic is fully aware of, against another pace setting team.

"It has been a tough few weeks, and injuries haven't helped us too much. We've been a bit disappointed losing a few key players and X Factor players.

"We know that we haven't performed to the best of our ability, we are fully accepting that. But now we need to make sure that in the last few games, we can play with the intent to win the game.

"We need to play well for the eighty minutes, and start well. Rather than play well for 5 minutes and then drop off for 20. It's getting that consistency, and give something for the fans to enjoy in our last couple of games."



KINGSHOLM NEWS WITH BOB

FENTON



SOMETIMES IT'S REALLY HARD TO WRITE THESE PROGRAMME PIECES. I TEND TO TRY AND DRAW SOME LEVEL OF INSPIRATION FROM THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TEAM FROM THE PREVIOUS FEW GAMES OR WEEKEND, AND EVEN IN THE DARKER TIMES USUALLY MANAGE TO FIND SOMETHING.

TONIGHT, 24 hours on from the Dragons defeat, inspiration is a little hard to find.

While mulling things over during the day I was trying to remember how long ago it was when I started to write a few words for the match day programme. I can't remember to be honest - lost in a mixture of the mists of time and fading memory. I know I was working in Cheltenham at the time, so I reckon it must have been in 2002 or 2003... a few years ago for sure.

In that time I have enjoyed the highs and lows of following Gloucester Rugby, seen players come and players go along with more coaches than you can shake

a stick at. We seem to have been building and rebuilding for longer than I can remember.

We've lost more games that we 'should' have won than an elephant could remember, we've crashed and burned in more tournaments than anyone should have to live through in a lifetime of support.

Through all of that time, and going back a good few years before then too, I have always been very proud to tell people that I was a Gloucester Rugby supporter. In a world dominated by the round ball kind of football it's sometimes seen as a bit of an odd thing - imagine that, living in Gloucester and not



supporting Manchester United, Liverpool or Arsenal - or any of the many other local teams.

But once you talk to people about rugby they all start to say the same thing - that it is a game that has respect and honesty at its centre. It's a hard game but afterwards the attrition is forgotten over a beer or two.

So respect... an interesting word that. The way we lost that game last week was about as low as it could be. No one associated with the club tried to duck that - very forthright comments from Rob Cook to the club's website said it all. We all know it.

Before the game last weekend I had the chance to go behind the scenes with a group from work - that included getting into the home changing room a good few hours ahead of kick off. Everything was laid out, shirts hung and kit neatly prepared. It sounds daft but I was



COMING UP...

BACK TO SCHOOL
WITH BILLY TWELVETREES



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GIVE US BACK OUR PRIDE. WE HAVE THREE GAMES LEFT THIS SEASON. SHOW US WHAT YOU CAN DO. SHOW US WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU TO PULL ON A GLOUCESTER RUGBY SHIRT. SHOW US THE PASSION, COMMITMENT AND PRIDE THAT WE LONG FOR - AND IF YOU DO WE WILL CHEER YOU TO THE RAFTERS. GIVE US BACK OUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR NEXT SEASON.



impossibly excited to be in there, knowing who would be coming in and pulling those shirts on a few hours later.

We walked from the changing room out onto the field, even though the place was empty it was still a special moment. You could imagine walking out to see the thousands of people packed into The Shed opposite.

Gloucester Rugby has amazing supporters who turn up regardless - we had about a thousand more fans in Kingsholm for a 'second tier' European game than Saracens had for their Champions Cup quarter final against Northampton. That, my friends, is amazing commitment to the club.

And - to break a habit of a lifetime and pretend that I speak for all supporters - is all we want

to see reciprocated by the guys on the field. Commitment and pride in the fact that they have been selected to play for our City club. It's not a job, it's an honour.

Alongside the kit that is laid out for the players is a copy of the programme, so maybe one or two of the guys will read this before running out. On the off chance that they do, let me give a simple message on behalf of supporters:

Give us back our pride. We have three games left this season, show us what you can do. Show us what it means to you to pull on a Gloucester Rugby shirt. Show us the passion, commitment and pride that we long for - and if you do we will cheer you to the rafters. Give us back our hopes and dreams for next season.

On Sunday morning all those

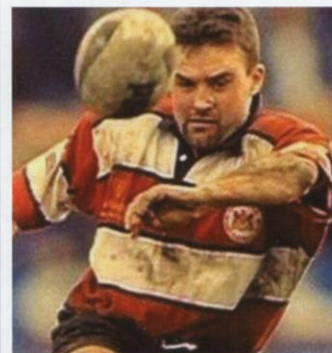
thoughts of Dragons and defeats got blasted away by something that appeared on my Twitter timeline, 'Shocked to hear of the death of Martin 'Speedy' Roberts...'

I couldn't believe it, it only seems like yesterday he was trotting out at Kingsholm. 48 years old, no age at all. Shocking.

I have one memory of Martin saving one of my boys from a fall at The Rec many years ago. We had lost in the last few seconds and while most of our boys had left the field, Martin was still out on the pitch, I think he was stretching his legs against a barrier. The boy went to get an autograph and fell over, he would have planted his face into the ground had a big meaty hand not shot out and grabbed him and pulled him upright.

He was a player whose career at the City club was ended by professionalism, guys from the other side of the world came in and took his place. But it was people like Speedy and all those local guys who pulled the shirt on before him who made Gloucester Rugby the club that it is.

The club that I am proud to support today and the club I will be supporting tomorrow.





RANDALL ON RUGBY

I'M OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE BEEN THROUGH A FEW EXAMS IN MY TIME. OFTEN A QUESTION WOULD BE PHRASED "COMPARE AND CONTRAST....." AND IF ONE WAS TO RELATE TO THE PERFORMANCES OF GLOUCESTER AND EXETER IN EUROPE LAST WEEKEND, YOU WOULDN'T BE SHORT OF MATERIAL. BOTH GAMES WERE CLOSE AND BOTH TEAMS WERE BEATEN, BUT THE SIMILARITY ENDED THERE.



EXETER coach Rob Baxter was acutely disappointed that the Chiefs were knocked out by Jimmy Gopperth's touchline conversion in the last minute of their Champions Cup quarter final against Wasps, but acknowledged they had played their full part in a thrilling clash

which could be repeated in the Premiership play offs, possibly at Sandy Park.

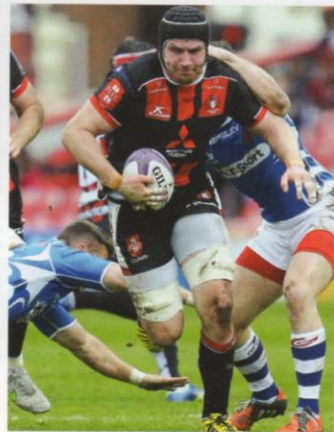
Gloucester Director of Rugby David Humphreys could find no such consolation in the defeat here to the Dragons in the Challenge Cup, who upset the form book in the way Rule the World did to win

the Grand National.

It may be a harsh reality, but what happens over the remaining three matches is less important than the analysis of why the season has unfolded as it has.

The Chiefs arrive here this evening with a profile that is admired by many. I spoke to former Ireland lock Donncha O'Callaghan the other day who referred to them as "the people's club."

There seems to be a warmth towards them for what they stand for and the way they have almost become a benchmark for other



IF YOU HAD TRAINED HARD ALL WEEK I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG IN ENJOYING YOURSELF ON A SATURDAY SO LONG AS YOU WENT FOR A RUN ON A SUNDAY MORNING. DIRECTOR OF RUGBY RICHARD HILL USED TO SAY I WAS THE MOST UNFIT SECOND ROW IN THE WORLD. I WASN'T. IT WAS JUST THAT MARK CORNWELL COULD RUN LIKE AN ANTELOPE. DAVE SIMS

aspiring teams. Their move to Sandy Park in 2006 has obviously helped, but ground moves do not alone create success, only a freshness which cannot be matched by a lush September pitch and a few tins of paint.

I mention that because in 2003 I found former Gloucester captain Dave Sims at Exeter's old County Ground doing some essential maintenance, which included painting the dressing rooms.

three caps. He played 138 League games for Gloucester, transcending the amateur and professional eras although he admitted some of the old habits were hard to shake off.

"I think I should have taken fitness a bit more seriously and not drunk so much," Sims told me. "

Tony Windo and I used to be the first to get changed after a game so we could drink as much of the free beer for the players as possible. In those days the wives

chairman Peter Ford's business on a Saturday morning before playing for Gloucester in the afternoon are part of Kingsholm folklore, as is the day he took the field against Saracens barely an hour after his son Nathaniel was born at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

In 1992, with the game still amateur, Sims had an offer to go to Wasps. He was unemployed at the time, and there was a job offer tied in. He stayed out of loyalty to the people who had brought him through, and it was then that Peter Ford tested the Sims alarm clock with those early morning starts at the fruit merchants.

He went on to spend 11 seasons at Gloucester, and along with many of his peers he will have been saddened by the death of Martin Roberts.

Roberts, or "Speedy" as he was known to players of that era, was a straight running and hard tackling centre who could also play at full back. No frills, no fuss.

In the pre-Walkinshaw era, he played in a couple of unforgettable Kingsholm occasions that ensured Gloucester's survival in the top flight at the end of the 1995-96 season - the win under lights against Bath and the final day victory over Saracens.

In all, he made 48 league appearances, which would put him in the same bracket as the likes of Simon Morris and Paul Holford, whose dad John was the man who enticed Dave Sims to Longlevens for the first time. I'm sure I speak for everyone associated with the club that our thoughts are with Martin's family at this time.

On many levels, Gloucester Rugby needs a lift at the moment. Perhaps this evening's game can provide it.



Mark "antelope" Cornwell

He was half way through a two year contract with Exeter, yet nearly 13 years on he is still playing and promises to have one last big occasion before hanging up his boots with Withycombe, a club in Exmouth who have reached the final of the RFU Senior Vase. They'll play West Leeds at Twickenham on May the 7th.

Sims started playing rugby at Longlevens, and made the short hop to Kingsholm and eventually onto full England honours with

and girl friends came into the club afterwards before we all went into town.

"If you had trained hard all week I couldn't see anything wrong in enjoying yourself on a Saturday so long as you went for a run on a Sunday morning. Director of Rugby Richard Hill used to say I was the most unfit second row in the world. I wasn't, it was just that Mark Cornwell could run like an antelope."

Stories of Sims stacking fruit at



Back To School

by Billy Twelvetrees, age 28

PRIMARY SCHOOL



I WENT TO Wisborough Green Primary

MY BEST FRIEND WAS My Hamster 'Rocky'

Billy's
best friends

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



MY FAVOURITE SUBJECT WAS After school activities

MY FAVOURITE TEACHER WAS Mr Annis

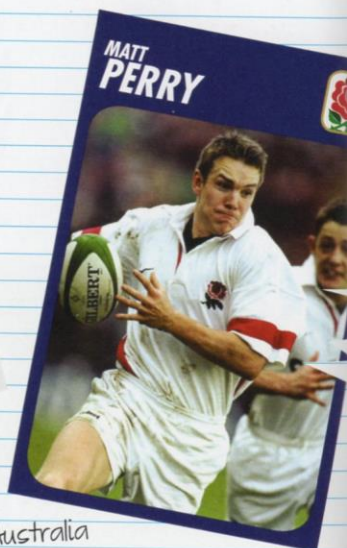
MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL DINNER WAS Packed Lunch

IN MY SNACK BOX I HAD A Babybel



MY FIRST SCHOOL PLAY WAS Spice Girls: The Movie

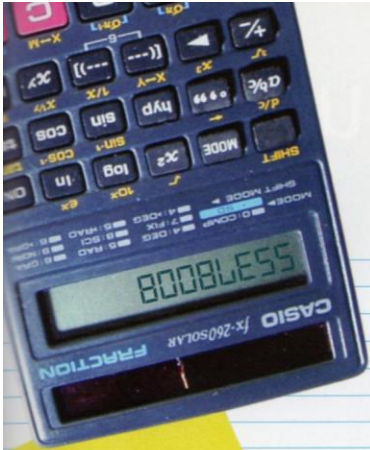
IN THE PLAYGROUND, I WAS King of British Bulldogs



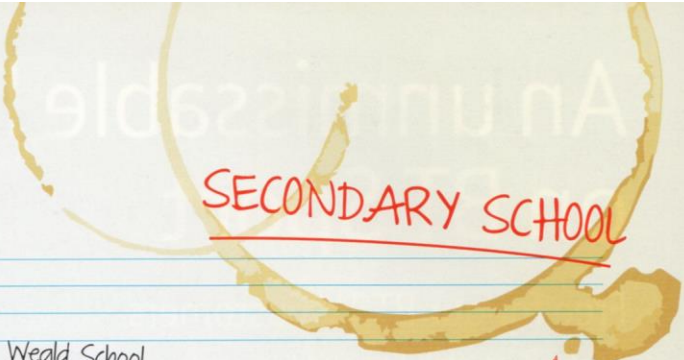
MY EARLIEST RUGBY MEMORY RWC Final 1995 v Australia

WHEN WE PLAYED RUGBY I PRETENDED TO BE Matt Perry

AT SPORTS DAY, I lost heavily in the sack race



Billy's timetable
Hanging about
Lunch
Rugby
Running
Chemistry revision



SECONDARY SCHOOL



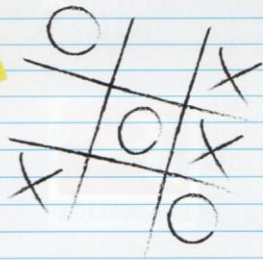
I WENT TO Weald School

MY FAVOURITE MEMORY IS Leaving!

I ENJOYED Break and lunch times

MY GRADES WERE I passed my GCSEs!

MY HARDEST SUBJECT WAS Chemistry



MY UNIFORM WAS Grey and white striped shirt & a green and yellow tie

GOT IN TROUBLE FOR Stealing Apple Crumble

Dear Mr and Mrs Twelvetees
We regret to inform you that Billy has been
caught stealing apple crumble from the kitchens.
his punishment is a ban on Spice Girls music

MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL TRIP WAS Butlins

AT SCHOOL I WANTED TO BE A surgeon

IN PE, I USED TO Forget my kit

ON WORK EXPERIENCE I WENT TO A vintage car restoration workshop



Billy

Spice Girls



LEICESTER TIGERS 35 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 30

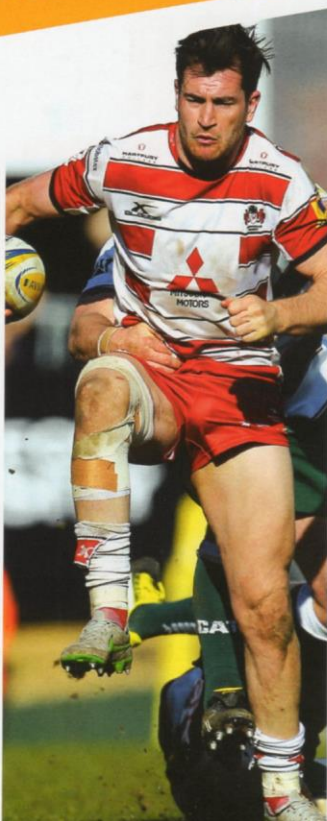


HALF TIME 13-27
ATTENDANCE 22,223
REFEREE JP Doyle

ALL the pundits had written Gloucester off before they'd even set foot on the coach to Leicester, but the Cherry and Whites came within a (big cat's) whisker of triumphing in the Tigers' lair.

Having withstood a ferocious opening from the home side, Gloucester hit back in style and stunned both the Tigers and the home crowd as a period of inspired rugby saw them take a 27-10 lead.

However, inspired by the unique talents of Manu Tuilagi, Leicester chipped away at the lead as the second half progressed and



Captain **Greig Laidlaw** spoke to BBC Radio Gloucestershire shortly after the 35-30 loss to Leicester Tigers

finally took the lead, in slightly controversial circumstances, just a few minutes before the final whistle.

Even then, Gloucester had a chance to win the game as they kicked for the corner in the final minute. A catch and drive was repelled, and countless rucks near the line followed until referee JP Doyle ruled that a Gloucester attacker was holding on to the ball in the tackle and the Tigers were able to breathe easily.

It was desperately disappointing

for Gloucester, but it was a much improved performance compared to the previous few weeks and the whole team can take great heart from having gone toe to toe with the Tigers on their own patch.

The first few minutes though looked grim for Gloucester. In perfect conditions at Welford Road, the home side came out of the traps quickly and Gloucester were on the back foot immediately.

Greig Laidlaw did actually give Gloucester an early lead with a third minute penalty, but the Tigers hit back with tries from Veainu and Tuilagi to delight the home side.

They poured forward in search of



WE CAME TO A TOUGH PLACE AGAINST A TOP-FOUR TEAM AND PRODUCED A PERFORMANCE THAT THE PLAYERS CAN BE PROUD OF.
DAVID HUMPHREYS

a third score and Gloucester looked to be reeling, but then came a key moment which turned the game on its head.

James Hook picked off on errant Tigers pass, set off downfield before passing to Steve McColl to score Gloucester's first try.

There was better to come. Henry Trinder finished off a patient Gloucester attack with a superb step off his right foot, before Paddy McAllister bundled his way over in the corner. With Laidlaw in imperious kicking form, Gloucester had romped into a 27-10 lead.

Crucially, Leicester got the next score. Matt Kvesic penalised, much to his amazement, at the ruck area and Owen Williams' penalty made the half-time score 27-13 to Gloucester.

It was vital that Gloucester held

MATCHDAY SQUADS



LEICESTER TIGERS

- 15 Telusa Veainu 1T
- 14 Adam Thompstone
- 13 Peter Betham 1T
- 12 Manu Tuilagi 2T
- 11 Vereniki Goneva 1T
- 10 Owen Williams 2C 2P
- 9 Ben Youngs
- 1 Logovi'i Mulipola
- 2 Harry Thacker
- 3 Dan Cole
- 4 Dom Barrow
- 5 Graham Kitchener
- 6 Tom Croft
- 7 Will Evans
- 8 Ed Slater

- 16 Greg Bateman
- 17 Marcos Ayerza
- 18 Fraser Balmain
- 19 Sebastian De Chaves
- 20 Brendon O'Connor
- 21 Sam Harrison
- 22 Freddie Burns
- 23 Mathew Tait



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

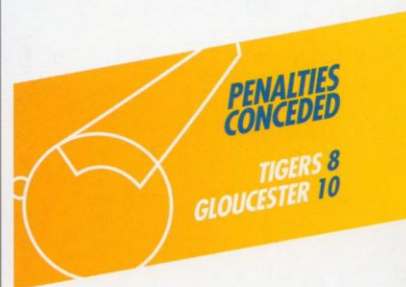
- 15 Tom Marshall
- 14 Rob Cook
- 13 Henry Trinder 1T
- 12 Mark Atkinson
- 11 Steve McColl 1T
- 10 James Hook
- 9 Greig Laidlaw 3C 3P
- 1 Paddy McAllister 1T
- 2 Darren Dawidiuk
- 3 Paul Doran-Jones
- 4 Tom Savage
- 5 Mariano Galarza
- 6 Gareth Evans
- 7 Matt Kvesic
- 8 Ben Morgan

- 16 Luke Cole
- 17 Yann Thomas
- 18 John Afoa
- 19 Elliott Stooke
- 20 Lewis Ludlow
- 21 Callum Braley
- 22 Ollie Thorley
- 23 Jacob Rowan

on against the inevitable Leicester comeback, frustrate the home side and take the Welford Road crowd out of the equation. Sadly, it wasn't to be...

Tuilagi smashed his way over after just six minutes, Williams converted and followed it up with a penalty. Laidlaw steadied the ship with a 65th minute penalty but Peter Betham scored for the Tigers just a minute later.

At 30-28 to Gloucester, the



game was finely poised. And Henry Trinder looked set to seal the win as he got a hand to a Leicester pass and looked set to intercept. However, he was pulled back, no penalty followed and the Tigers pounced by moving downfield and creating the winning score for Goneva.

It was harsh, but indicative of the brutal reality of life in the Aviva Premiership...

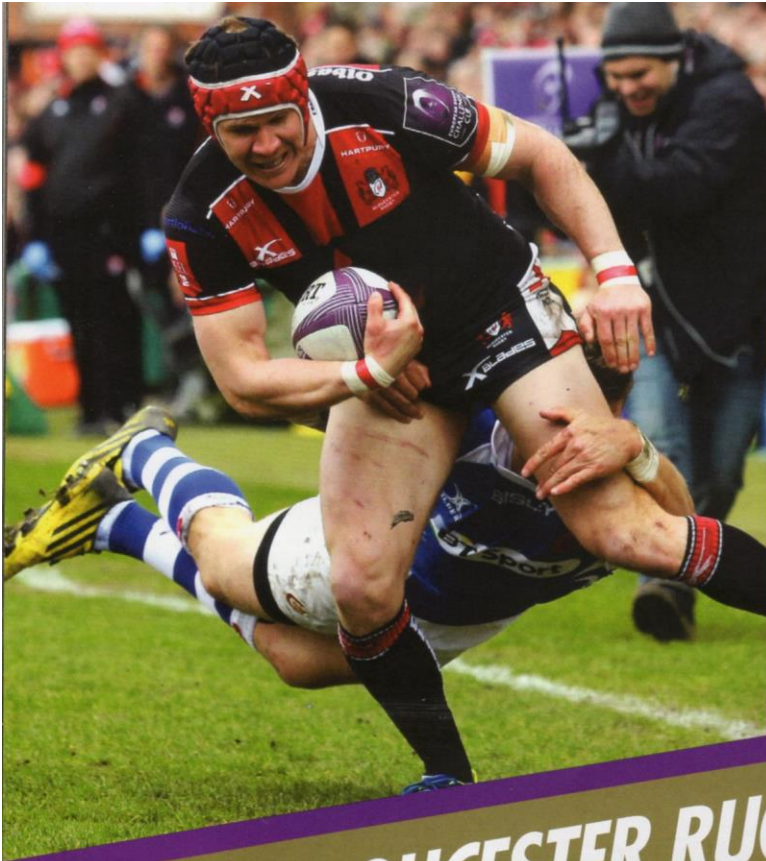


OFFICIAL LEGAL PARTNER

APPLYING THE LAW

Gloucester were left to rue a couple of key decisions which went the way of the home side.

The decision to penalise Matt Kvesic on the stroke of half time, which resulted in three points for the home side, looked 50-50 at best, while a tackle off the ball on Henry Trinder was ignored in the build up to Vereniki Goneva's match-winning try.



goalkickers, Laidlaw adding two penalties but Jones three more to give the visitors a narrow 11-12 lead at half time.

It could have been a bigger deficit, but Jones had missed two more kicks at goal as Gloucester struggled to get on the right side of referee Gauzere.

And that continued at the start of the second half as further penalties from Jones, and a long range one from Carl Meyer extended the lead. There was frustration on the pitch, and that was also reflected in the stands as the Kingsholm faithful sensed the game slipping away.

There was plenty of effort from the Cherry and Whites, but nothing was coming off until a much-needed stroke of luck got



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 21 NEWPORT GWENT DRAGONS 23

HALF TIME 11-12
ATTENDANCE 10,501
REFEREE Pascal Gauzere (France)

HAVING worked so hard to achieve a top seeding and home quarter-final, Gloucester's defence of their European Rugby Challenge Cup title came to a shuddering halt last weekend as the Dragons launched a successful smash and grab raid on Kingsholm.

The defeat, Gloucester's fifth in succession, came as a bitter blow with the club's 2015-16 season having unraveled in the space of a few short weeks.

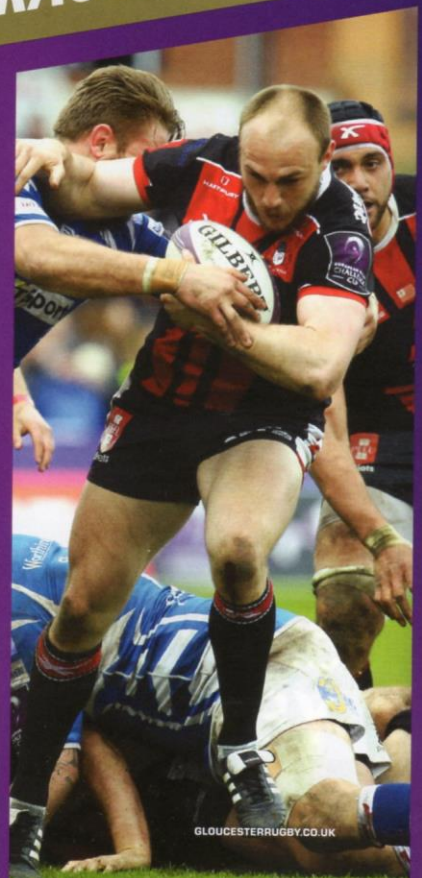
Despite the recent indifferent form in the Aviva Premiership, Gloucester came into the game

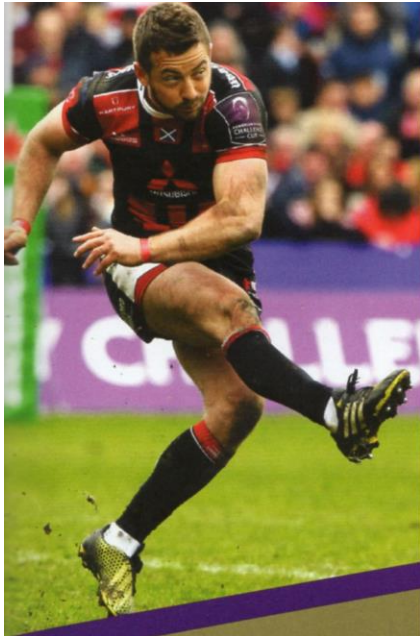
trying to draw inspiration from memories of last May's Final triumph over Edinburgh at the Stoop.

However, the hopes of the team, and those of the home supporters, were shattered as a combative Dragons outfit prevented Gloucester from ever really getting into their stride before swooping late to take the spoils.

There was little hint of any disappointment in the opening stages as the Cherry and Whites started positively. Despite Dragons fly-half Dorian Jones opening the scoring with a 9th minute penalty, the first try went to Gloucester's Ben Morgan after good hands from Matt Kvesic.

However, Gloucester couldn't build on that, and the rest of the half became almost a personal battle between the two





METRES RUN WITH THE BALL
GLOUCESTER 413M
DRAGONS 276M

FOR A LOT OF US THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME WE'RE ON THE BACK OF FIVE CONSECUTIVE DEFEATS. SO THIS IS WHERE YOU FIND OUT THE CHARACTER OF PEOPLE IN THE SQUAD.

DAVID HUMPHREYS

them back into the game.

James Hook's grubber behind the Dragons defensive line looked to be well covered by Sarel Pretorius, but the ball bounced wickedly over his head and Steve McColl gathered to score.

Laidlaw's conversion made the score 18-18 and his 72nd minute penalty gave Gloucester the lead once again.

Momentum seemed to be with the home side, but Gloucester failed to deal with the restart and gifted the Dragons fantastic field position and possession. The visitors turned down the chance

MATCHDAY SQUADS



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 Tom Marshall
- 14 Rob Cook
- 13 Henry Trinder
- 12 Mark Atkinson
- 11 Steve McColl 1T
- 10 James Hook
- 9 Greig Laidlaw 1C 3P ■
- 1 Paddy McAllister
- 2 Richard Hibbard
- 3 John Afoa
- 4 Tom Savage
- 5 Mariano Galarza
- 6 Sione Kalafamoni
- 7 Matt Kvesic
- 8 Ben Morgan 1T

- 16 Darren Dawiduk
- 17 Yann Thomas
- 18 Paul Doran-Jones
- 19 Elliot Stooke
- 20 Gareth Evans
- 21 Callum Braley
- 22 Ollie Thorley
- 23 Jacob Rowan



NEWPORT GWENT DRAGONS

- 15 Carl Meyer 1P
- 14 Adam Hughes
- 13 Tyler Morgan
- 12 Adam Warren
- 11 Hallam Amos
- 10 Dorian Jones 5P
- 9 Sarel Pretorius ■
- 1 Phil Price
- 2 Elliot Dee
- 3 Brok Harris
- 4 Rynard Landman
- 5 Nick Crosswell
- 6 Lewis Evans
- 7 Nic Cudd
- 8 Toby Faletau

- 16 Rhys Buckley
- 17 Boris Stankovich
- 18 Shaun Knight
- 19 Matthew Screech
- 20 Ed Jackson
- 21 Charlie Davies 1T
- 22 Angus O'Brien
- 23 Rhys Jones

to kick at goal on two occasions and, finally, replacement scrum-half Charlie Davies forced his way over from close range.

Kingsholm was silenced. Hope flickered briefly as there was one last chance to attack but, unsurprisingly, the game ended with referee Gauzere penalizing the home side and leave everyone connected with Gloucester reflecting on what might have been.

PENALTIES CONCEDED

GLOUCESTER 15
DRAGONS 11



Sherbornes Solicitors Ltd

OFFICIAL LEGAL PARTNER

APPLYING THE LAW

Maybe something was lost in translation, but Gloucester certainly couldn't seem to get on the same page as referee Pascal Gauzere.

Infringement after infringement allowed Dragons fly-half Dorian Jones plenty of goal-kicking opportunities and, although he didn't take them all, he was successful often enough...

0-3 7-6 10-9
7-3 10-6 13-9
16-9



TODAY'S TEAMSHEET

GLoucester RUGBY vs EXETER CHIEFS



Aviva Premiership Rugby - Round 20
Friday 15th April 2016, KO 19:45, Kingsholm

Teams correct at time of print

TOM MARSHALL	FULLBACK	15	FULLBACK	LACHLAN TURNER
ROB COOK	RIGHT WING	14	RIGHT WING	JACK NOWELL
BILLY TWELVETREES	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	HENRY SLADE
MARK ATKINSON	INSIDE CENTRE	12	INSIDE CENTRE	IAN WHITTEN
HENRY TRINDER	LEFT WING	11	LEFT WING	OLLY WOODBURN
JAMES HOOK	FLY HALF	10	FLY HALF	GARETH STEENSON (C)
GREIG LAIDLAW (C)	SCRUM HALF	9	SCRUM HALF	WILL CHUDLEY
YANN THOMAS	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	BEN MOON
RICHARD HIBBARD	HOKER	2	HOKER	LUKE COWAN-DICKIE
JOHN AFOA	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	MORAY LOW
TOM SAVAGE	LOCK	4	LOCK	MITCH LEES
JEREMY THRUSH	LOCK	5	LOCK	GEOFF PARLING
ROSS MORIARTY	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	DON ARMAND
MATT KVESIC	OPPOSITE FLANKER	7	OPPOSITE FLANKER	JULIAN SALVI
BEN MORGAN	NUMBER 8	8	NUMBER 8	THOMAS WALDROM

DARREN DAWIDIUK	REPLACEMENT	16	REPLACEMENT	JACK YEANDLE
NICK WOOD	REPLACEMENT	17	REPLACEMENT	ALEC HEPBURN
PAUL DORAN-JONES	REPLACEMENT	18	REPLACEMENT	HARRY WILLIAMS
ELLIOTT STOOKE	REPLACEMENT	19	REPLACEMENT	DAMIAN WELCH
GARETH EVANS	REPLACEMENT	20	REPLACEMENT	DAVE EWERS
WILLI HEINZ	REPLACEMENT	21	REPLACEMENT	DAVE LEWIS
OLLIE THORLEY	REPLACEMENT	22	REPLACEMENT	MICHELE CAMPAGNARO
JACOB ROWAN	REPLACEMENT	23	REPLACEMENT	JAMES SHORT

Officials

Referee Craig Maxwell-Keys Assistant Referees Robin Goodlife & Roger Baileff