

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME || 2016/17 SEASON || GLOUCESTER RUGBY



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

VERSUS

LEICESTER TIGERS

ISSUE 2 || AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY
FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2016 || £3



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

GREIG LAIDLAW



GOOD EVENING, AND IT IS GREAT TO BE PREPARING FOR THE START OF A BRAND NEW AVIVA PREMIERSHIP SEASON, AND BE PENNING MY FIRST COLUMN AS CAPTAIN OF GLOUCESTER RUGBY!

To be leading the boys out this evening will be an honour for me, and one that I'm really excited about. When I spoke with David at the beginning of preseason about taking over the reins of being club captain, it was an opportunity that I jumped at.

Amongst the squad, we have the advantage of having a lot of leaders, and have put focus on developing our leadership skills to take this team to the next level.

At the tail end of last season, we showed the quality we have in the squad despite missing many key components and beat some really good teams. The challenge again this year is building on that, and not leaving anything on the pitch at the end of a game.

It's been a busy summer for me, a successful trip to Japan with Scotland and it was great to see the rugby development that is going on over there, and it really whet the appetite for Rugby World Cup 2019 over there.

As a squad, we have welcomed a few new faces to the squad, and in preseason already we have seen a lot of progress and new energy from the lads. I mentioned in an interview last week that we had put in a lot

of focus behind the scenes on our dynamics as a squad, and everyone has really bought into what we are trying to achieve.

That said, the challenge now is to deliver, and in the two preseason run outs we are relatively pleased with our early progress.

The win over a really strong Glasgow Warriors squad was satisfying to achieve, we had a large defensive workout in that first half and this was really pleasing. In the second half we were able to express ourselves and the boys that came on really impressed and highlighted the depth in our squad.

It was great to see Matt Scott pick up his first score in the Gloucester shirt, and I am excited for Matt to show the Gloucester fans what a world class player he is.

Finally, thanks to everyone that joined us at Gloucester Quays at the weekend, it was genuinely great fun for us to get down and meet our supporters, relax and throw a ball around!

The club did a fantastic job in putting the event on, and for the squad, we really do love getting into the community and meeting the people that give us the backing on a matchday!

Here goes on another season, and hopefully a fruitful one for the club! The hard work has already started and will continue throughout the season.

Enjoy the game, and welcome back!

Greig



GOOD EVENING AND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR THE START OF THE 2016/17 AVIVA PREMIERSHIP SEASON.

At every club, every new season brings a real sense of anticipation and optimism for the year ahead.

Everyone understands the enormous challenge of playing in the most competitive club league in the world, strengthened again by the arrival of more world class players and coaches. But, at the end of a tough pre season programme, our team is in a much stronger position than we were 12 months ago to get the season off to a winning start.

Unlike the previous couple of years, there haven't been many changes to our playing squad for this season. Stability and continuity are the foundations of any successful club and the players we have added this year have already made a big impression on and off the pitch.

This added depth to our squad will be key to competing in both Premiership and European competitions and with recruitment now a 12 month process, we are always looking to add quality to our playing group.

From the final whistle in the Northampton game in May, preseason plans have been built around the team being prepared for the first weekend in September. With the changes to our management team, there's been a very different look and feel to our programme since training started again in mid June.



"Stability and continuity are the foundations of any successful club and the players we have added this year have already made a big impression on and off the pitch."

Dan Tobin, who joined from Leinster to head up our Performance Department, and Tim Taylor, who was appointed Backs Coach, have played key roles throughout preseason and their impact was evident across both preseason friendlies against Leinster and Glasgow.



Both matches were very competitive and gave us the opportunity to have a look at some of the new signings, try out some new combinations and develop our way and style of play this season.

Last Friday against Glasgow saw us defend superbly in the first half and then attack brilliantly in the second half to score some great tries. After the frustration with our attack last season, it was very encouraging to score nine tries in two games against top quality opposition.

Tonight however, will be a completely different test and the ultimate review of preseason.

In welcoming Richard Cockerill, his staff, players and supporters from Leicester Tigers we know we are meeting one of the most consistent sides in Premiership history and we will have to be at our very best to get our year off to a winning start.

Enjoy the game.

David



CLUB NEWS

Gloucester Rugby confirm initial plans to mark anniversary of 125 years at Kingsholm

THE YEAR WILL KICK OFF WITH A WEEKEND OF EVENTS TO MARK THE FIRST GAME AT KINGSHOLM ON 10 OCTOBER 1891.

On Friday 7 October we will host a 125th anniversary dinner in the 1873 Ricoh Lounge at Kingsholm and, on Sunday 9 October, Kingsholm will provide the backdrop for the inaugural Mitsubishi Motors Hybrid Cup.

The Kingsholm black tie dinner will be hosted by Thinus Delpont who will be joined for a Q&A by former Gloucester Rugby and Scotland International, Jim Hamilton and England Rugby Union and League star, Jason Robinson.

Tickets are now available by calling 01452 872269, priced £65 including a 4 course meal.

The Mitsubishi Motors Hybrid Cup is the result of an exciting collaboration between our main Club Partner, Salford Red Devils and Rugby 4 Heroes. The game will see players play across codes, with a unique set of regulations drawn from both formats of the game.

A popular format in the Southern Hemisphere, it is making its



Northern Hemisphere debut here at Kingsholm.

We have assembled an exciting line-up of former Gloucester Rugby Legends, providing a unique opportunity to see favourites from years gone putting on the Cherry and White shirt and running out on the Kingsholm turf; a sight some may never have expected to see.

Explanation of work going on near the Lion's Den

SUPPORTERS ATTENDING LAST FRIDAY'S PRESEASON FRIENDLY AGAINST GLASGOW AND, OF COURSE, THIS EVENING'S GAME WILL HAVE NO DOUBT NOTICED THAT IT'S A BIT OF A BUILDING SITE AT THE MINUTE!



CEO Stephen Vaughan explains what's going on.

"We purchased the former Cooper Cowan site on Kingsholm Road last year when we realised it was available, as space is at a premium around Kingsholm. We are constantly trying to look at ways to improve the supporter experience and have taken the opportunity to do just that.

"All stadia are naturally very busy leading up to the game, at half time and full time so this should ease the stress on a few areas and also give a different flavour to the fan experience.

"There will be a dedicated Community zone where fans can get involved in the activities we have planned, such as kicking and passing games and also meet the first team squad for photos and autographs as usual.

"We will take the opportunity to add some new and different food options and a new real ale offering. We are also going to have our very own 'Pub on Wheels' in the fan zone too, which will prove to be a

We can already confirm that Mike Tindall, James Simpson-Daniel and Olivier Azam are to play in the Gloucester Legends side, coached by former favourite Jim Hamilton. The Salford Red Devils Legends will be captained by Adrian Morley who will be lining up with Jason Robinson and Iestyn Harris. More names will be announced in the coming weeks.

Early Bird tickets priced from £10 for adults, £7 for Club Members and kids for a quid will be available from the Gloucester Rugby ticket office from 9am on Wednesday 24 August and Club Members' seats will be reserved until 5pm on Monday 5 September.

As well as commemorating this key milestone in the history of Gloucester Rugby, the year of events will raise money for the new Gloucester Rugby Community Charity and partner charities including The Pied Piper Appeal, Rugby 4 Heroes and The Royal British Legion.

Events will include international exhibition matches featuring Gloucester Rugby legends, dinners, rugby focused community events and more.

hit I'm sure and we will be asking our fans to help us choose a name for the pub, so keep an eye on our Social media in the next few weeks.

"We are also hoping to get a screen up so other sporting action to be watched whilst in the zone, complete with some seating and tables for those wishing to take the weight off their feet.

"Weather permitting, we may even put some live music on after the games so people can kick back and enjoy some food or drink in a fun environment."

All being well, the work will be completed in time for our next home fixture, against Newcastle Falcons on September 24th.

Fred Reed

THIS EVENING'S GAME IS THE FIRST COMPETITIVE FIXTURE FOR NEW CLUB PRESIDENT, FRED REED.



■ Fred Reed (2nd from left)

Reed takes over from former full back Eric Stephens who held the position for the previous three years.

Fred Reed was a mobile hard-tackling hooker who was unlucky to be competing for a 1st XV place with two record breaking captains, Mike Nicholls and Steve Mills. Nonetheless, he played 129 games for Gloucester between 1969 and 1980.

Fred Reed was born in Tredworth and started as a scrum half but soon moved to hooker. He was recruited by "Digger" Morris to play for Gloucester Colts when he was 16 and played for a season with Longlevens, as well as for Gloucester Colts and Gloucester Youth, with the occasional game for Gloucester United, until 1969.

Reed also represented Gloucestershire, earning the honour of captain against Monmouthshire.

Reed's career peaked in the 1975-76 and 1976-77 seasons when he gained a regular first team place with Gloucester and was chosen as reserve for the Final England trial in December 1975.

On retirement as a player, Reed served as Team Secretary and

selector and in the early 90s became the committee's liaison officer with the club's sponsors. On leaving the committee, he acted as agent/manager for Peter Glanville. Before beginning his role as Club President, he was Chairman of the Former Players Association for the past three years.

Speaking to the club website, Mr Reed spoke of the honour of the role;

"When Digger Morris asked me to join Gloucester in 1964 at the age of 16 I never thought that after some 50 years with the Club I would have been given the great honour of becoming Club President.

"After meeting with Martin St Quinton and Stephen Vaughan we agreed that the role should include supporting the Club in bridging the current playing side with the past, communicating with business members and visiting clubs, I will also be holding a number of charity events.

"Also with the club celebrating 125 years at Kingsholm this season I will be helping out with all of the activities planned"

"I am looking forward to the next 3 years and the opportunity that has been given to me"



2016/17 SQUAD



JOHN AFOA

POS Prop
 HT 5' 11"
 WT 120kg
 DOB 16/10/83
 HONOURS
New Zealand
 SPONSOR
 CULLIMORE GRAVELS



MARK ATKINSON

POS Centre
 HT 6' 5"
 WT 107kg
 DOB 08/03/90
 HONOURS
 SPONSOR
 ForgeAbility



CALLUM BRALEY

POS Scrum Half
 HT 5' 10"
 WT 83kg
 DOB 08/03/90
 HONOURS
 SPONSOR
RICOH
 imagine. change.



BILLY BURNS

POS Fly Half
 HT 5' 11"
 WT 85kg
 DOB 13/06/94
 HONOURS
 SPONSOR
RICOH
 imagine. change.



DARREN DAWIDIUK

POS Hooker
 HT 5' 10"
 WT 102kg
 DOB 21/09/87
 HONOURS
 SPONSOR
 Cellar Supplies



TOM DENTON

POS Lock
 HT 6' 6"
 WT 114kg
 DOB 13/02/88
 HONOURS
 SPONSOR
 AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 257



PAUL DORAN-JONES

POS Prop
 HT 6' 0"
 WT 121kg
 DOB 02/05/85
 HONOURS
England
 SPONSOR
 Advanced Resolution



GARETH EVANS

POS Back Row
 HT 6' 3"
 WT 111kg
 DOB 19/09/91
 HONOURS
 SPONSOR
 Davies and Partners Solicitors
www.daviesandpartners.com



MARIANO GALARZA

POS Lock
 HT 6' 8"
 WT 114kg
 DOB 12/11/86
 HONOURS
Argentina
 SPONSOR
 Sherbornes Solicitors LLP



DAVID HALAIFONUUA

POS Wing
 HT 6' 2"
 WT 104kg
 DOB 05/07/87
 HONOURS
Tonga
 SPONSOR
 Chris Baker



WILLI HEINZ

POS Scrum Half
 HT 5' 11"
 WT 89kg
 DOB 24/11/86
 HONOURS
 SPONSOR
ANN & TERRY SHORT




RICHARD HIBBARD

POS Hooker
 HT 6' 0"
 WT 112kg
 DOB 13/12/83
 HONOURS
Wales
 SPONSOR
 MITSUBISHI MOTORS



JOSH HOHNECK

POS Prop
HT 6' 3"
WT 123kg
DOB 06/01/86
HONOURS
SPONSOR
AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 257



JAMES HOOK

POS Fly Half
HT 6' 3"
WT 123kg
DOB 06/01/85
HONOURS Wales
SPONSOR
MITSUBISHI MOTORS



SIONE KALAMAFONI

POS Back Row
HT 6' 3"
WT 121kg
DOB 18/05/88
HONOURS Tonga
SPONSOR
equimedia



MATT KVESIC

POS Back Row
HT 6' 2"
WT 105kg
DOB 14/04/92
HONOURS England
SPONSOR
BURLINGHAM TRAVEL




GREIG LAIDLAW

POS Half Back
HT 5' 8"
WT 80kg
DOB 12/10/85
HONOURS Scotland
SPONSOR
CULLIMORE GRAVELS



JOE LATTA

POS Lock
HT 6' 5"
WT 118kg
DOB 07/04/92
HONOURS
SPONSOR
AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 257



TOM LINDSAY

POS Hooker
HT 6' 2"
WT 108kg
DOB 18/11/87
HONOURS
SPONSOR
AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 257



LEWIS LUDLOW

POS Back Row
HT 6' 3"
WT 105kg
DOB 11/09/94
HONOURS
SPONSOR
AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 257



TOM MARSHALL

POS Centre
HT 6' 0"
WT 91kg
DOB 05/07/90
HONOURS
SPONSOR
LEXI YOUNG



MOTU MATU'U

POS Hooker
HT 6' 0"
WT 108kg
DOB 30/04/87
HONOURS Samoa
SPONSOR
Cotswold Surfacing Co.



JONNY MAY

POS Centre
HT 6' 2"
WT 90kg
DOB 01/04/90
HONOURS England
SPONSOR
Omega




PADDY McALLISTER

POS Prop
HT 6' 1"
WT 119kg
DOB 20/07/89
HONOURS
SPONSOR
AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 257



BEN MORGAN

POS No. 8
HT 6' 3"
WT 117kg
DOB 18/02/89
HONOURS England
SPONSOR
RENISHAW




ROSS MORIARTY

POS Back Row
HT 6' 2"
WT 103kg
DOB 18/04/94
HONOURS Wales
SPONSOR
GLUSTENIN.COM




CAMERON ORR

POS Prop
HT 6' 2"
WT 122kg
DOB 02/04/95
HONOURS
SPONSOR
SEVERNSIDE SECURITY



MAT PROTHEROE

POS Fly Half
HT 5' 11"
WT 74kg
DOB 10/10/96
HONOURS
SPONSOR
AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 257



HENRY PURDY

POS Wing
HT 6' 2"
WT 94kg
DOB 21/05/94
HONOURS
SPONSOR
forgeAbility



JACOB ROWAN

POS Back Row
HT 6' 1"
WT 104kg
DOB 14/01/90
HONOURS
SPONSOR
forgeAbility



TOM SAVAGE | MOTORSPORT

POS Lock/B Row
HT 6' 5"
WT 115kg
DOB 18/04/98
HONOURS
SPONSOR



MATT SCOTT | MOTORSPORT

POS Centre
HT 6' 1"
WT 101kg
DOB 30/09/90
HONOURS
Scotland
SPONSOR



CHARLIE SHARPLES | ORCA

POS Wing
HT 5' 11"
WT 89kg
DOB 17/08/89
HONOURS
England
SPONSOR



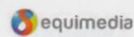
ANDY SYMONS | MOTORSPORT

POS Centre
HT 6' 5"
WT 106kg
DOB 29/06/91
HONOURS
SPONSOR



DAN THOMAS | ORCA

POS Back Row
HT 6' 0"
WT 99kg
DOB 11/10/93
HONOURS
SPONSOR



NICKY THOMAS

POS Prop
HT 6' 2"
WT 129kg
DOB 26/08/94
HONOURS
SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 257



YANN THOMAS | MOTORSPORT

POS Prop
HT 6' 1"
WT 119kg
DOB 16/04/90
HONOURS
SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 257



OLLIE THORLEY | MOTORSPORT

POS Centre/Wing
HT 6' 1"
WT 97kg
DOB 11/09/96
HONOURS
SPONSOR



JEREMY THRUSH | MOTORSPORT

POS Lock
HT 6' 6"
WT 116kg
DOB 19/04/85
HONOURS
New Zealand
SPONSOR



HENRY TRINDER | MOTORSPORT

POS Centre
HT 6' 1"
WT 93kg
DOB 14/04/89
HONOURS
SPONSOR



BILLY TWELVETREES | MOTORSPORT

POS Centre
HT 6' 3"
WT 103kg
DOB 15/11/88
HONOURS
England
SPONSOR



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DEFENCE COACH
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RUGBY OPERATIONS MANAGER
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TO SPONSOR A PLAYER OR MEMBER OF THE COACHING TEAM CALL 01452 872 257

VIEW FROM THE

Citizen



Welcome home, Gloucester. It was worth the wait. After the mire of last winter, it has been an intrigue for many to see how they would adapt over the summer.

On the evidence against Glasgow on Friday night, there is definitely an air of confidence brewing in this squad, which, although has seen changes in personnel, is said to be growing more in tune.

Looking ahead, it is difficult to gauge what will come of the season. An indication will certainly come against Leicester Tigers under Friday lights at Kingsholm again; their visitors arriving off the back of a 12-try thriller at Welford Road, which saw Richard Cockerill's charges edge the Ospreys 42 points to 38.

Five tries for Gloucester were deserved and proves this team is looking to develop a bolder game plan this season. When

"I think patience is hugely important. You need to stay in the fight and, while it is an 80-minute game and we had two or three good try-scoring opportunities in the first half off limited possession, with some more patience we could have had three tries on the board."

squeezed against the best of the Premiership, we will have to see whether they own the same guts, and guile, to keep the type of sustained pressure Glasgow inflicted at bay before mounting a serious assault.

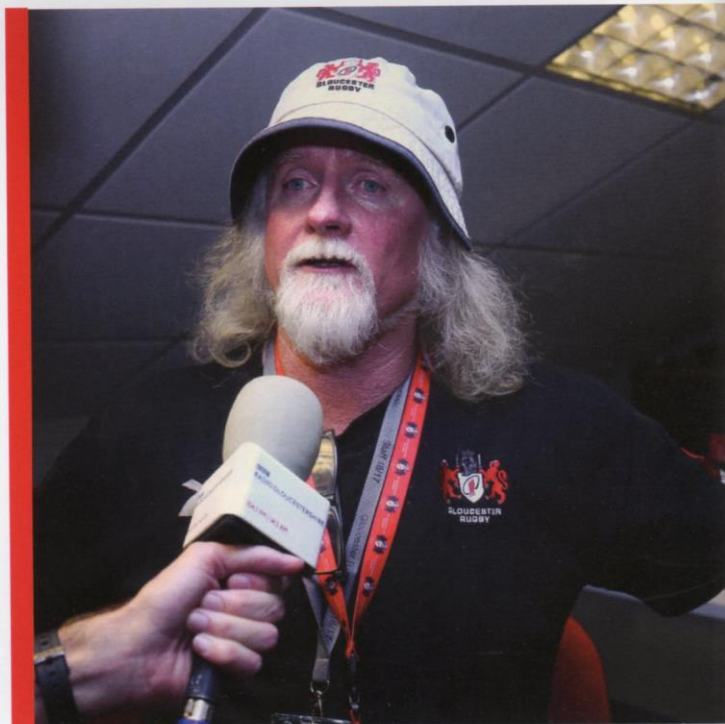
Afterwards, Laurie Fisher spoke about the patience in this group, which rallied after a first-half barrage to run away 33-19 victors.

"We have changed the shape of our game, which the guys are coming to grips with," Fisher, the Gloucester Head Coach, explained. "And, again, we also want to be ambitious if the conditions are good to play from a little bit deeper.

"We made some bad decisions tonight from deep but we made some good decisions too. That's the growth of the team, isn't it? You eventually want to make 100 per cent good decisions.

"I think patience is hugely important. You need to stay in the fight and, while it is an 80-minute game and we had two or three good try-scoring opportunities in the first half off limited possession, with some more patience we could have had three tries on the board."

The plan, if you remember, was initially to play this final pre-season fixture on Saturday afternoon rather than an earlier kick-off on Friday evening.



"You know that Leicester are a very strong team and that they will bring many good things to Kingsholm. But at least we have been able to show we can defend strongly, execute well in attack and show a real fighting spirit."

When it was known that Gloucester would start their season by playing for the BT cameras on three consecutive Fridays, the decision was made to bring the Glasgow clash forward by 19 hours to give the players more time to heal and prepare for their Premiership opener.

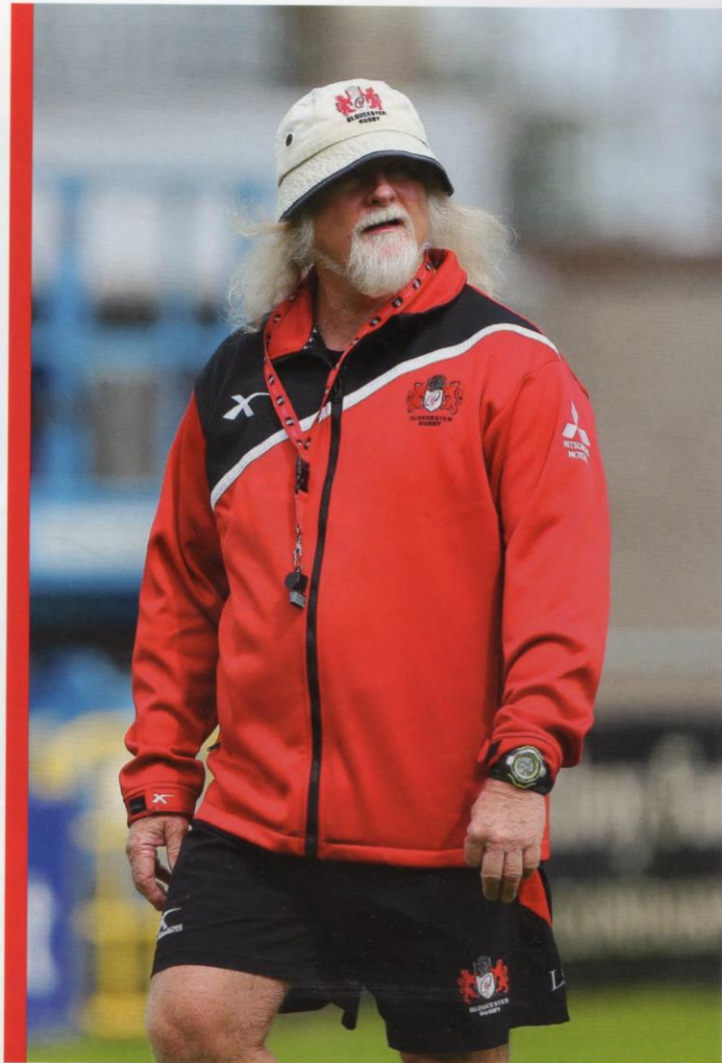
"We had a six-day turnaround before the Glasgow match and, in terms of training and the intensity, we have mirrored exactly what we would be doing in a normal game week," Fisher continued.

"We have now gone into a seven-day segment. We know what we want to train for and what kind of intensity we want to train at and we have had a good opportunity to test that out this week. I think we have put ourselves in a good frame of mind."

It was a relief to see Gloucester still leading as the half-time interval closed in. A Matt Scott breakaway try earlier in the half contradicted the flow of play and didn't do much to change the tide as Glasgow remained relentless.

Scores either side of the half from Alex Dunbar and Peter Horne eventually gave the visitors the lead. However, it was another Scotsman in the shape of Greig Laidlaw who set Gloucester on their way with a try of his own.

Although a late response from Sean Lamont gave Glasgow hope, tries from Tom Marshall, Callum



Braley and, finally, Elliott Creed compounded the victory.

While there will be many times this season when Gloucester will have the decision to make with their backs against the wall - whether to wield or wither with danger at their door - it was encouraging to see them capitalise on their hard graft in the opening half by letting rip in the second.

"We have certainly got an ambition to attack better than we did last year," Fisher continued. "Tim Taylor (backs coach) has done a lot of work on core skills - the basic catch-pass and our alignments - to

be able to hold our feed and to get the ball through our hands.

"You know that Leicester are a very strong team and that they will bring many good things to Kingsholm. But at least we have been able to show we can defend strongly, execute well in attack and show a real fighting spirit.

"Conditioning wise, we look to be ahead of where we were last year and, again, I think we have got a really good understanding of what our prep-week now looks like to give us the best chance to perform on any given weekend."

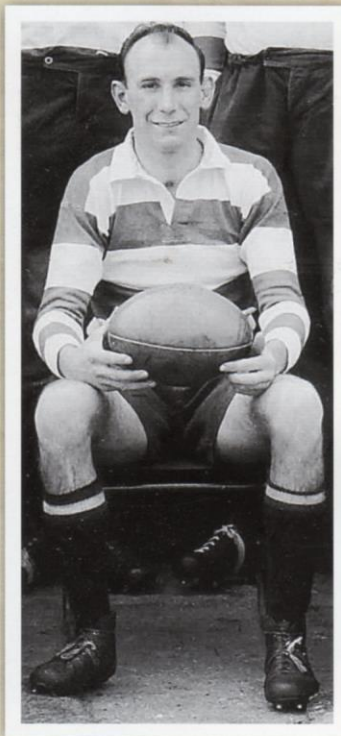
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GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

Peter Ford

This season we will be showcasing the wealth of back row talent that has played for the Gloucester club and where better to start than with Mr Gloucester Rugby himself, Peter Ford?



Peter played for five seasons as captain of Gloucester and many times as captain of Gloucestershire, for Western Counties against the Wallabies, the Springboks (as captain) and the All Blacks, for the Barbarians and finally, when all hope of an international cap seemed gone, for England throughout the 1964 International Championship.

In all, he played a staggering 507 1st XV games for Gloucester (the first of five players to achieve the 500 figure) and 46 for Gloucestershire, scoring 156 tries for the club.

Peter Ford was born in Gloucester on 2nd May 1932 and educated at Central Modern School. He played for the school side but describes himself modestly as "just an ordinary player." After school he played for local club Gordon League RFC before coming to Kingsholm in 1951 as a 19-year-old.

Most young players serve an apprenticeship in the United side, but Peter's potential was recognised immediately and after just one second team game at Bream he made his 1st XV debut at Stroud on 13 September. He went on to make 31 appearances that season, scoring seven tries.

After 21 games, players were awarded their club badge and Peter describes himself on the Saturday night when he received the badge "walking around town, showing my chest, my badge on my blazer - and I was the kiddie!"

In his second season the young Peter Ford played in all of

Gloucester's 42 games and was among the club's leading try scorers with 15 tries. His lack of weight and gangling appearance belied his pace and strength and it was soon obvious that the club had something special in the young blind side flanker.

County honours quickly followed in 1953 and he played throughout a successful season in which Gloucestershire went down narrowly to Middlesex 6-9 in the semi-final at Twickenham, with Peter scored their only try. As a result of his outstanding performances for Gloucestershire, he was named as a reserve for the international against France in Paris.

Peter Ford was elected club captain in 1955 at the age of 23. He went on to lead Gloucester for five seasons, stepping down for a year in 1958-59 when veteran hooker Cyril Thomas took over in his final season with the club. Peter was an uncompromising captain who led by example. The rugby was tight,



based on the pack and half-backs and attacks were from short range.

In December 1957 he played in Western Counties' 9-8 victory over the touring Australians at Bristol – the first-ever victory by a side from the South West against an international touring side. It was a victory for the pack described by the Times as “mud-stained heroes” in which Ford played his part.

A less happy memory was of December 1961 when he captained a Western Counties side in which he was the only Gloucester player, alongside nine players from Bristol, to a 42-0 defeat by the touring Springboks at Kingsholm.

International honours still did not come his way, although in Easter the following year he was called up to play for the Barbarians against Newport on their Easter tour, scoring a try on his Barbarians debut. This paved the way for 1963-64 – his great season.

Peter Ford was chosen to play for Possibles against Probables in the first England trial at Bedford on December 7 and followed this up ten days later with an outstanding game for Western Counties in their 22-14 defeat by the All Blacks at Bristol.

A New Zealand rugby correspondent wrote in The Times that, “Not for many a day will spectators forget the clever little grubber kick by which Ford directed the ball to Lewis to give him the first try within 60 seconds of the kick-off.” Western Counties were still leading 11-8 with only 18 minutes remaining and “Ford, Rollitt and Smith of the Counties’ back row were lightning fast in their tackles.”

He then had another fine game for The Rest against England in the Final Trial at Twickenham on December 21 but, despite press support, missed selection for the international against the All Blacks.

England were outplayed and outmanoeuvred in a 14-0 defeat



and at last the selectors turned to Ford. He greeted the news with disbelief, having convinced himself that his moment had gone.

Peter played for England throughout the 1964 International Championship. Nearly 32 when the call finally came that many felt should have come years before, he was only ever going to be a short term selection. However, few would argue that he acquitted himself well.

The following season Peter played 40 games for Gloucester and captained Gloucestershire in all five championship matches. The following paragraph from a report in The Times of October 1964 on the Devon v Gloucestershire County Championship match says it all:

The patriarchal figure of Ford, the Gloucestershire captain, who won his first England cap at a time when most players are thinking of giving up the game, led Devon a merry dance until he was forcibly led from the field with an unpleasant gash in his pate. But he got his own way with those offering succour on the touchline, and re-entered the fray so heavily bandaged that he looked like a creature from outer space.

Gloucestershire won the game 37-0, a rare event in the closely-fought South West group, and Peter was enjoying himself too much to stay off the field for long.

Peter Ford announced his retirement in August 1965, but

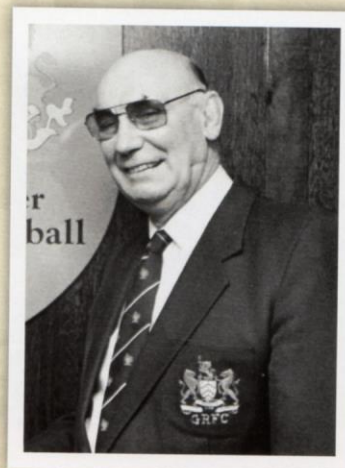
was back within a month to play in a 9-3 victory over Bristol when Gary White was injured. He played in eight 1st XV games that season before returning to retirement.

But, the following season, when Gloucester were beset by injuries, he played in a further fifteen games followed by seven in March and April 1968, playing his last game in the final match of the season at Exeter. It was during this autumn period of his playing career that he passed the magic figure of 500 appearances, the first of five Gloucester players to reach that goal.

By then a committee man, Peter continued to travel to away games with his boots. Ever willing to turn out when needed, he played his final 2nd XV game at the age of 38.

He went on to serve the club in many capacities – team secretary, grounds committee, chairman of selectors, trustee of the club, Chairman and most recently as President from 2003 to 2008. After stepping down as President, he continued to be the welcoming face of Gloucester Rugby by entertaining the committees of visiting teams.

Peter served England, not only as a player, but also as an administrator – he was the Gloucestershire representative on the RFU committee, and an England selector for four seasons.





BURNING DESIRE

READYING FOR A NEW SEASON, BILLY BURNS IS ONE OF MANY IN THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD IMPATIENTLY WAITING FOR THE FIRST WHISTLE AHEAD OF ANOTHER ALL ACTION CAMPAIGN.

A knee injury suffered in March meant that the young playmaker has had an extended preseason, making this evening's return to action feel as though it's been a long time coming.

Handed the number ten shirt for the opening pair of preseason run outs, Burns is determined to snatch his chance with both hands to steer the Cherry and Whites into the new campaign.

"Obviously it has been nice to have been given the reins for the first few preseason games, and of course you never really know what the coaches are thinking in the games, where everyone is getting a run out.

"It's been really good, especially coming back from injury and getting back into things, and every time you get an opportunity to put

the shirt on, it is an opportunity to put your claim down on the shirt and hopefully I've done that."

Burns has had an eventful summer, with house-mate and partner-in-crime Bill Meakes returning to Australia, and the fly half wishes his buddy well, with focus firmly on the future.

"It has been strange to be fair, we were pretty much sewn together and did everything as a pair. It's one of those things, it is what rugby is all about, you're going to lose friends along the way.

"Bill is going well over there already and he's on his off season at the moment, so I'm sure he's put on a bit of weight and stuff.

"We're always in contact which is great! It is part and parcel of the game and I've got plenty of other



friends at the club, and as much as it might sound horrible to say, you've got to move on pretty quickly, but he's a great guy!"

Following injury, Burns has been able to get stuck into his recovery and then into the preseason schedule, and he reveals it's been a hugely beneficial one, with slight changes to the routine proving positive.

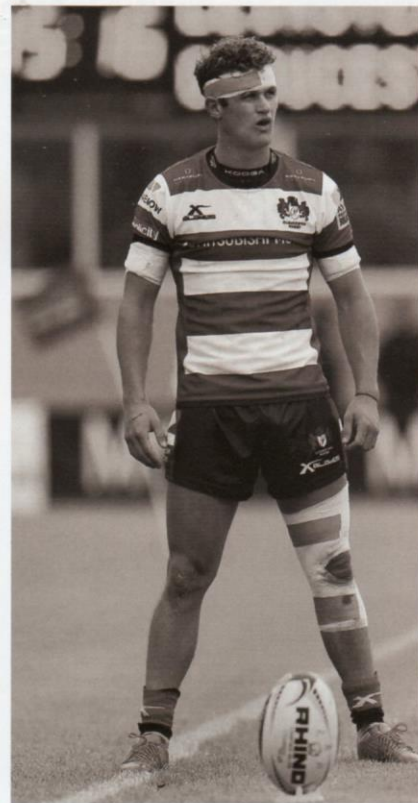
"It's been awesome, I've really enjoyed it. I haven't been around for too many preseasons, but it's probably been the best one I've been involved in. Everything that we're doing in training is relevant to the eighty minutes on the pitch.

"Dan (Tobin) coming in and shortening the sessions, making them a lot sharper and quicker has been great and everyone has put in a massive shift.

"The coaches have been clear with their messaging and players have been able to work on what they want us to do so we can get in and get out and get it done well."

Many Gloucester supporters may still see Burns as a junior member of the squad, but now in his fourth senior season, that role has changed. As such, Burns notes that it is a weird one to see younger players coming into the team, with his changing role being an exciting one.

"It probably only hit me the other day, you see a squad getting announced and the likes of Elliott Creed and



Lloyd Evans are involved, who are a couple of years younger than me, and it only seemed like yesterday that it was me.

"It is great to see, Gloucester has always been a club that has brought guys through the Academy, with the likes of Henry Trinder and Jonny May, those guys have led the way.

"It's especially great to see local young talent coming through. It's a little bit strange, being here for a couple of years, and I'm trying to develop my role and become a leader, just like all good number 10s have to be. It's taken some adjusting but I'm taking my time and settling in pretty well with that."

The influences on a young player can often be hard to find, but for Burns, the fortune of having such a plethora of options has been great, and he admits that he has been lucky with the amount of information and tips that he has been able to absorb during his development.

"I've always said, and it's a question I get asked a lot, but I have been blessed with the amount of people that I have had in front of me or around me to learn off.

"You look at James Hook, I don't really have to say too much about him, he's an outstanding player and he's capped so many times by Wales, as well as Greig who has plenty of experience at fly half.

"Then there is Tim Taylor who is obviously now our backs coach, I was lucky enough to play alongside Tim when I was younger, and he has always influenced me.

"And, of course, there is David (Humphreys) who is a world class international fly-half, and he has been there and done it so it is awesome to learn from him too.



"I just try and take as much information from them as I can, and they're all keen to find out my views on things as well."

And of course, the family element comes into the conversation.

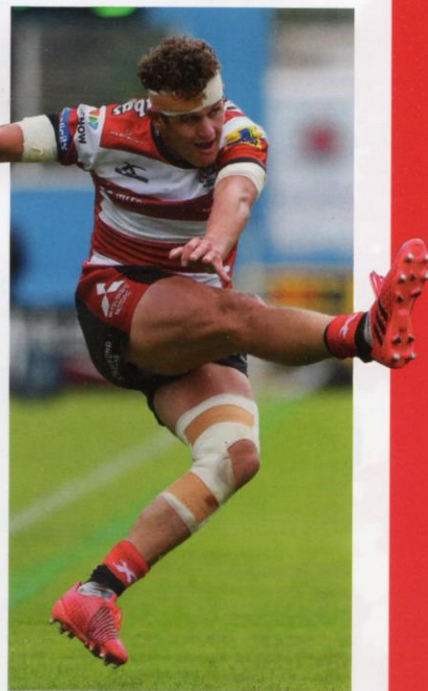
With elder brother Freddie now representing the Tigers, the opportunity to go head to head arises, with Kingsholm the venue now, a far cry from the pitches of Combe Down RFC.

"It is always a weird one! This week leading up to Leicester in the last three seasons has been a strange one as you are trying to analyse them and pick their weaknesses.

"If I get the chance to play against Freddie, it will be great. We got the chance to do it a few seasons ago at Welford Road, but the important thing is to put it at the back of my mind, and get on with the job.

"It's been awesome, I've really enjoyed it. I haven't been around for too many preseasons, but it's probably been the best one I've been involved in."

"He is obviously going well at Tigers, but I'm trying to create my own path here, so as much as we're both very supportive of each other, we're both on our own paths and I'm sure there will be no love lost and we'll both be battling it out."

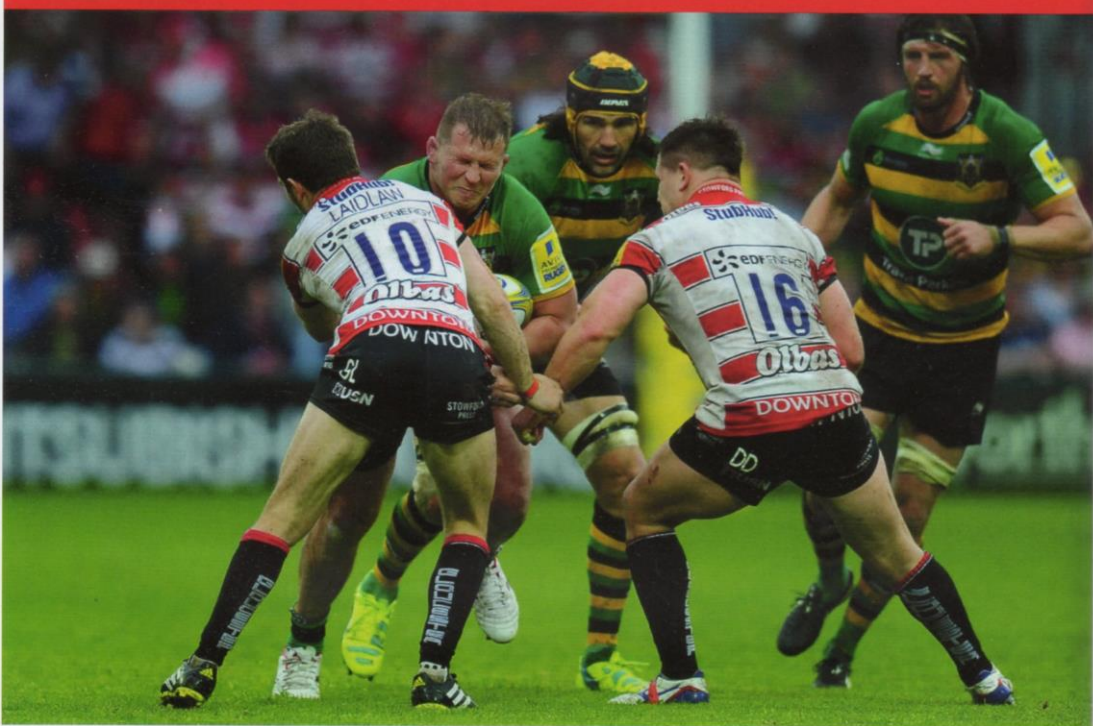




KINGSHOLM NEWS

with

Bob Fenton



Finally... we're back. Maybe it's an age thing, but it seems a mighty long time since the final whistle went in our last game of the season - we limped out of the term after a defeat by Northampton Saints if you remember. Or maybe you would rather forget.

To be honest I tend to switch off a bit from the rugby during the summer - I need a few months to catch up with all the things that I neglect between September and May - so am playing a bit of catch up with who's who.

It seems that a lot has changed since then - a sharp new home kit that is a throwback to the classic Gloucester shirt of old that has gone down well judging by the number of people wearing them around town.

We've got - or will be getting - a swanky new 'Fanzone' that sounds like it will be a lot of fun; had the second beach rugby tournament - even though the nearest beach is miles away - amazing what you can achieve with a few tonnes of sand and a bit of imagination. It's a great event though, and the youngsters clearly love it - and some not so youngsters too.

And we've got a bunch of new players, all sporting the identikit 'I failed the milk test' haircut which makes them a bit hard to distinguish from each other. I'll

catch up soon enough, but in the meantime if those around me can indulge me by pointing out various new faces that would be very helpful.

We've also got the celebrations around the 125th anniversary of our first game at Kingsholm to look forward to. The special shirt - seemingly built on a hybrid of Cinderford and Waikato - modelled on the colours the club were wearing at the time (i.e. pre the 'borrowing' of the colours from Painswick RFC - is also very posh. I'm hearing rumours of what's planned - it all sounds very exciting and definitely something to look forward to.

Having a bit of time away does make the start of the season all that bit more exciting, so walking into the ground for last week's friendly against Glasgow got the blood pumping a bit faster. It wasn't just me either, a terrific turn out for a friendly game - more people than most clubs in the Premiership will get for a first team fixture.

It was an entertaining game too, even though I think we made about 112 substitutions during the course of the 80 minutes. Perhaps it was the fact that it was early in the season and everyone was a bit fresher, but we seemed to play at a tremendous pace. If that's a portent of the season to come it could be a very exciting few months ahead of us.

We don't have a World Cup to play havoc with the season this year, so a bit of normality has returned. Like last year we start our home campaign with match on TV and a Friday evening game against one of the usual fancied teams - Saracens last year (a two point defeat - we were hard done by), Leicester this year.

The big difference is that we don't have to wait until October for our



"Amazing what you can achieve with a few tonnes of sand and a bit of imagination. Its a great event though, and the youngsters clearly love it - and some not so youngsters too."

first home game! It does seem a very long time ago since the World Cup, give it a few more months and I'll have just about finished paying for all the tickets I bought!

Last term Leicester beat us by a single point when they came down to Castle Grim. A converted try with about a minute and a half to go was enough to sneak the win. One of many similar results we had last season - hopefully we've put those behind us.

Without wanting to dwell on last season for too long. we lost out on more than a few games by a just a few points and we watched our season disappear. But the great thing about sport is there is always next time. And this is next time - a whole new season of next times.

I know there are some supporters who are disappointed that we did not bring in some 'big name' signings. I don't necessarily see this as a bad thing, having 'superstar' players is no guarantee of success - just ask Bath supporters about their season. For me it's all about teamwork, so getting the right fit in the right places is the most important thing.

So we go into the season full of hope - yes I know, hope can kill a man - but that's what we have to do, isn't it? That's why we renew our season tickets every year, that's why we get nearly 8,000 people at a pre-season friendly, that's why every other club in the Premiership wishes they had supporters like ours.

Don't let us down... Please

RANDALL on RUGBY



NEW PLAYERS, A NEW KIT AND NEW OPTIMISM FOR THE SEASON. ALL 12 AVIVA PREMIERSHIP TEAMS START THIS WEEKEND WITH THE SAME HOPE, AND WITH THREE OF THEM NOW HAVING 4G PITCHES AS WORCESTER JOIN NEWCASTLE AND SARACENS IN LAYING A SYNTHETIC SURFACE.

Gloucester will be the first visitors to play on it a week today, but for this evening it's the natural grass of Kingsholm as we welcome Leicester Tigers.

Compared to some clubs, Gloucester's changes over the summer have been mere tinkering around the edges. Tim Taylor has been promoted to backs coach in place of the departed Nick Walshe, and there are only six new faces with one of them, Josh Hohnack, not arriving yet.

When he does, as with all new signings, there's a hoop to be jumped through if you want to keep a full head of hair, as I found out when meeting Scotland centre Matt Scott ahead of the new season.

"I was challenged to drink eight pints of milk or the boys would shave my head" said Scott.

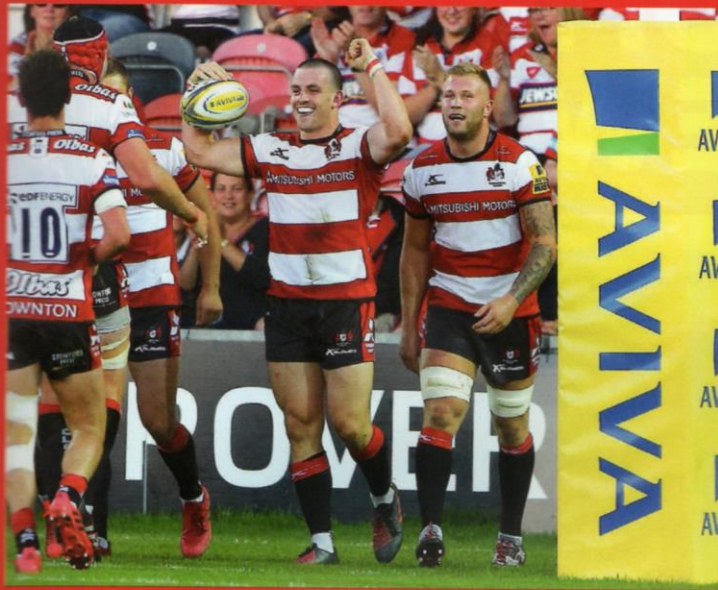
"The thing is I don't drink milk, so they offered me the alternative of eating my age in boiled eggs in 20 minutes. I'm 25.....I got to 14 eggs and the buzzer went. It's tougher than it sounds, so what you see now is the result."



Josh Hohnack

Scott's path to Gloucester from Edinburgh is well worn, following as he does Rory Lawson, Alasdair Dickinson - who has since returned north of the border - Alasdair Strokosch and Greig Laidlaw in recent times. Such a long distance move requires homework before a decision is made, and if he takes as much care with the ball on the field you as supporters will have no complaints.

"I knew of the rich history of Scottish players here and it was useful having Dicko (Alasdair Dickinson) at Edinburgh to chat to about Gloucester" he went on.



"He had a great time here, Jim Hamilton spoke well of the club too and Greig Laidlaw's move here has boosted his form, and that's what I've seen from other players who have moved to the Premiership. Tim Visser had a great year at Harlequins last year and Ruaridh Jackson's game has gone up a level since going to Wasps, so to be the best player I can I thought it would be a good move for me."

"I was also lucky in that Scotland were based at Hartpury before our first game in the World Cup at Kingsholm last year, so not only did I see the training base for a week I also played at the ground, which was a head start when I knew Gloucester were interested."

"The atmosphere was tremendous for that game with Japan, and it's something I'm looking forward to here. It'll be very different from playing at Murrayfield for Edinburgh, which can feel cavernous with only 4,000 fans in it compared to a Scotland international."

If Gloucester are to improve on last season's eighth place finish, the form of the centres will be

"I was challenged to drink eight pints of milk or the boys would shave my head"

important. Scott is one of two new faces (Andy Symons being the other) and there is a new orchestral voice in Tim Taylor in an area of the team Scott sees are more and more fluid.

"The outside centre has more to think about in terms of what's happening in defence and what the wings and full back are doing, but for me the positions are now becoming very similar" explained Scott.

"For Edinburgh in the last couple of seasons I've played a lot at 13, and for Scotland virtually all my starts have been at 12. I'm happy in either role and although the majority of rugby training you have done before and you've heard about before, each individual analyses differently and I have already picked up a couple of new things."

Tonight promises not only to be Scott's Premiership debut but also a first encounter with Leicester, who he has never faced before in European competition whilst at Edinburgh. The Tigers have added the experienced South African JP Pietersen to their squad over the summer and Scott knows Gloucester mustn't get left in the starting blocks.

"It'll be a benchmark game because Leicester will challenge us physically across the pitch and make it hard at the breakdown" he said.

"Watching them over the years they can steamroller you and turn the screw against you, but it'll be exciting to have our first game at home."

"My first impressions have been of a squad that has a desire to get better. The blend of leadership through the likes of Billy Twelvetrees, John Afoa, Jeremy Thrush and Greig Laidlaw seems really good and now we're going to challenge ourselves against one of the top teams straight away."

ACTION REPLAY || SATURDAY 20 AUGUST || TALLAGHT STADIUM || ATT 1,866

Leinster Rugby **26**

Tries: Byrne, McCarthy (2), O'Loughlin. Conversions: Marsh (2), Carbery

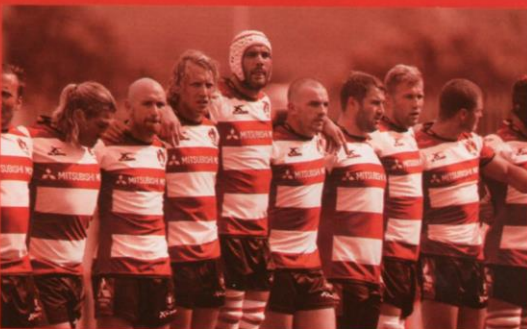
Gloucester Rugby **24**

Tries: Halaifonua (2), Morgan, Purdy. Conversions: Burns, Hook

After a week of warm weather training in Tenerife, it was perhaps typical that Gloucester's first preseason friendly was played in largely rainy conditions in Dublin!

In fact, the squad didn't arrive in Ireland until the early hours of Saturday morning and that was perhaps reflected in a slightly disjointed performance that saw one XV start the first half and 14 new faces begin the second.

Despite it being their first competitive hit out of the season, Gloucester can take many positives from the performance, despite the result ending in a narrow 26-24 victory for the home side.



First Half:
Tom Marshall; David Halaifonua, Matt Scott, Billy Twelvetrees, Henry Purdy; Billy Burns, Willi Heinz (capt); Paddy McAllister, Richard Hibbard, Paul Doran-Jones; Mariano Galarza, Tom Savage; Ross Moriarty, Jacob Rowan, Gareth Evans

Second half:
David Halaifonua; Elliott Creed, Andy Symons, Mark Atkinson, Lloyd Evans; James Hook, Callum Braley; Cameron Orr, Darren Dawidiuk, John Afoa (capt); Alex Craig, Joe Latta, Lewis Ludlow, Dan Thomas, Ben Morgan

It was a day to try out different combinations, blood new signings and generally blow away the cobwebs. And all of those objectives were duly achieved.

Indeed, with one of the new signings, Matt Scott, showing up particularly well in the first half, Gloucester enjoyed a positive opening 25 minutes or so. David Halaifonua crossed for a well worked try and the Cherry and Whites looked poised to increase their lead.

However, an ill-timed turnover in midfield followed by a hack downfield had Gloucester scrambling near their own line. The ball squirmed loose and Adam Byrne swooped to get Leinster off and running.

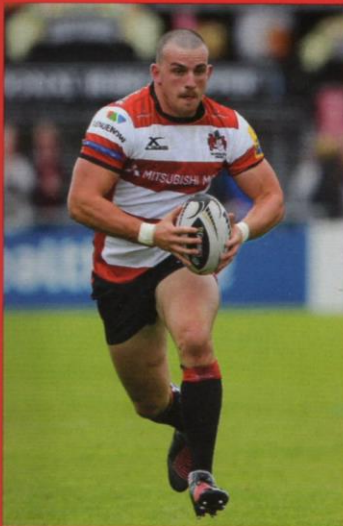
The Cherry and Whites then made the fatal mistake of following one



error with another, as a missed tackle and kick put out on the full gave Leinster a couple of openings and they exploited both with glee to add two further tries.

Crucially, Gloucester regrouped as half time approached, David Halaifonua hit Willi Heinz's flat pass at pace and powered over for his second. At 19-12, they were still very much in the game.

Multiple replacements on both sides, in addition to rapidly worsening weather conditions prevented either side from getting a grip of the game after the resumption.



However, Leinster looked to have put the game to bed when nice hands in the tricky conditions saw Joey Carbery free Barry Daly down the left wing and his floated inside pass saw Rory O'Loughlin sprint home. Carbery added the conversion to extend the lead to 26-12.

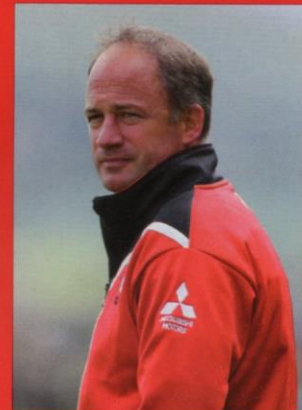
Gloucester weren't done just yet. Good work by the forwards was rewarded when Ben Morgan muscled his way over from close range before James Hook kicked downfield, Dan Thomas hacked it on and Henry Purdy won the race to touch down.

Into the wind, Hook could only convert one of the tries, so Gloucester couldn't quite draw level and the home team took the spoils.

APPLYING THE LAW

The final pass for Leinster's fourth and ultimately match-winning try looked slightly forward on the day. Analysis of the post-match video revealed it was at least five yards forward!

Not the officials' finest hour but it's only preseason!



DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

DAVID HUMPHREYS

"The result today wasn't really the main objective. We've had a good week training in Tenerife, getting back into it and arriving back in conditions that were very different to the past two weeks.

"I thought we adapted very well particularly in the second half when it closed in with rain, I thought we played very well and gave ourselves a chance to get back into it.

"Very pleased in the first hit out of the season to get some of the rustiness out of the way and just start to build ourselves into the start of the Premiership."

ACTION REPLAY || FRIDAY 26 AUGUST || KINGSHOLM STADIUM || ATT 8,231

Gloucester Rugby 33

Tries: Scott, Laidlaw, Marshall, Braley, Creed. Conversions: Laidlaw (2), Hook (2)

Glasgow Warriors 19

Tries: Dunbar, Horne, Lamont. Conversions: Pyrgos, Clegg

Gloucester rounded off their preseason preparations with a hard-fought 33-19 victory over Glasgow Warriors at Kingsholm last Friday evening, a match which was the proverbial game of two halves.

The Cherry and Whites ended up running in five tries in total, but barely touched the ball in the first 40 minutes as they were restricted to defensive duties as the visitors virtually monopolized possession and territory.

They were helped by Gloucester's tendency to give the ball away almost as soon as they had gained it, but one thing you couldn't fault was their tenacity in defence - the tackling was ferocious.



Tom Marshall, Charlie Sharples, Matt Scott, Billy Twelvetrees, Henry Purdy, Billy Burns, Greig Laidlaw; Yann Thomas, Richard Hibbard, John Afoa; Joe Latta, Mariano Galarza; Ross Moriarty, Matt Kvesic, Ben Morgan

Replacements
Darren Dawidiuk, Paddy McAllister, Paul Doran-Jones; Tom Denton; Lewis Ludlow, Callum Braley, James Hook; Mark Atkinson, Alex Craig, Dan Thomas, Andy Symons, Gareth Evans, Elliott Creed, Lloyd Evans, David Halaifonua, Charlie Beckett

Such was their domination that Glasgow were stunned when Gloucester took the lead against the run of play. It was a Scot who scored the try, Matt Scott, as the summer signing gleefully picked off a loose Glasgow pass and crossed under the posts.

The rest of the half was a story of dogged Gloucester defence, soaking up everything that Glasgow could throw at them. Something had to give and it came in the form of Charlie Sharples being yellow carded.

In his absence, the breakthrough came on the stroke of half time and, frustratingly for Gloucester, it was a soft one. An attempted clearance was charged down and Alex Dunbar pounced on the loose ball.



Honours even on the scoreboard at least at half time, but Glasgow made the most of the man advantage again straight from the restart. Pyrgos made a sniping break, Uanivi was up in support and tackled just short by Marshall, but the ball was quickly worked out to Peter Horne to glide over.

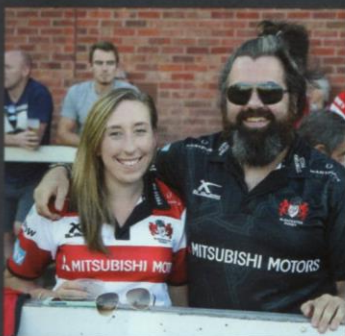
Gloucester responded by taking their game up a gear. Laidlaw dotted down in the corner after good driving work by the pack, before a lovely delayed pass from Atkinson put Marshall through for the third try and a 21-12 lead.



The Cherry and Whites were looking increasingly dangerous when attacking from deep, and Callum Braley was next to score after a breakout from their own half.

The game looked dead at 26-12, but Glasgow dusted themselves off and carved out a neat try for Sean Lamont, a neat inside pass creating an opening that the winger wasn't going to turn down.

However, it was to be Gloucester's night and they had the last word when Elliott Creed scampered over.



APPLYING THE LAW

Tom Foley, a man with a lot of Premiership experience behind him, took control of this one and kept things moving as best he could although Gloucester were penalised a lot in the first half and Glasgow likewise in the second.

The only moment of real interest was Charlie Sharples seeing yellow for fielding the ball in an offside position.



HEAD COACH LAURIE FISHER

"We have been fortunate to do a lot of 15 on 15 in training and try to simulate the live speed opposition bring at us.

"On the end of live speed, you get hit and it brings a whole new level to it and we found against Leinster last week and again this week (against Glasgow) that they were very hard at the breakdown.

"It definitely gives you a different feeling but I felt we were able to adapt in the second half, so again I think it will stand us in good stead."



TEAM LINE-UPS

FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP
RUGBY ROUND ONE



GLOUCESTER RUGBY				LEICESTER TIGERS								
T	P	C	D									
				TOM MARSHALL	15	FULLBACK	15	MATHEW TAIT				
				CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	RIGHT WING	14	TELUSA VEAINU				
				MATT SCOTT	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	PETER BETHAM				
				BILLY TWELVETREES	12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	JACK ROBERTS				
				HENRY PURDY	11	LEFT WING	11	ADAM THOMPSTONE				
				BILLY BURNS	10	FLY-HALF	10	FREDDIE BURNS				
				GREIG LAIDLAW (C)	9	SCRUM HALF	9	BEN YOUNGS				
				YANN THOMAS	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	MARCOS AYERZA				
				RICHARD HIBBARD	2	HOOKER	2	TOM YOUNGS (C)				
				JOHN AFOA	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	DAN COLE				
				TOM SAVAGE	4	LOCK	4	ED SLATER				
				MARIANO GALARZA	5	LOCK	5	DOM BARROW				
				ROSS MORIARTY	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	BRENDON O'CONNOR				
				MATT KVESIC	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	WILL EVANS				
				BEN MORGAN	8	NUMBER 8	8	LUKE HAMILTON				
REPLACEMENTS				REPLACEMENTS								
				DARREN DAWIDIUK	16		16	HARRY THACKER				
				PADDY MCALLISTER	17		17	ELLIS GENGE				
				PAUL DORAN-JONES	18	MATCH OFFICIALS	18	FRASER BALMAIN				
				JOE LATTA	19	REFEREE:	19	GRAHAM KITCHENER				
				JACOB ROWAN	20	ASSISTANT REFEREES:	20	HARRY WELLS				
				WILLI HEINZ	21	Wayne Barnes	21	SAM HARRISON				
				JAMES HOOK	22	Ian Tempest	22	MATT SMITH				
				GARETH EVANS	23	and Peter Allan	23	JP PIETERSEN				