

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



**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY**

VERSUS

# BENETTON TREVISO

ISSUE 5 || EPCR CHALLENGE CUP ROUND 2  
SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER 2016 || £3



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OFFICIAL SUPPORTER



OFFICIAL SUPPLIER



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## GREIG LAIDLAW



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM AS WE RETURN HOME AFTER A FORTNIGHT AWAY.

Today is a really big game for us as a squad, not only do we take on a Treviso team that will be looking to bounce back from a heavy defeat last week, but we have a chance to pick up an important win at Kingsholm.

Our home form has let us down so far this season, there is no hiding from it. We have been competitive in all of our games but small things have stopped us getting over the line and today is a chance to build on the confidence gained from a good win in France last week.

I wasn't involved in the game last weekend, but it was great to follow the game and keep up with the boys' fortunes in Bayonne. The performance in Exeter the previous week gave us a good boost, but again there were frustrations that we were unable to hold on to the victory.

But, we showed the quality that we have in this squad this season. We have been written off by many already this season, but now we are finding some confidence, we are growing in stature and bringing our game to the table.

Obviously, my future has been confirmed, and I have been given a fantastic opportunity to represent another of Europe's

best and most passionate clubs. I will head to Clermont in the summer, but I can assure every Gloucester fan that my focus is firmly on matters in Cherry and White.

I love every opportunity I have been given to wear this jersey and play at Kingsholm in front of such great supporters and I will be giving every ounce of effort between now and the end of the season. There is still a long way to go in this campaign and I will make the most of every game I have as a Gloucester player, as I still have plenty I want to achieve in Cherry and White.

This weekend, we welcome Treviso, who I know from the Pro 12 are a team capable of a result, and we are determined to get the win in front of our own fans. We owe everyone connected with Gloucester that much!

We want to build a good head of steam now in our performances, before we turn attention back to domestic matters and we have drawn a line under the first weeks of the season.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to Anthony Foley. Everyone in the rugby community was truly rocked to learn of Anthony's passing on Sunday and my thoughts and those of everyone at the clubs are with Anthony's family and friends, and everyone at Munster Rugby.

Thanks for your continued support.

Enjoy the game

*Greig*



Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for our first home European fixture of the season.

After the opening few rounds of the Aviva Premiership season, there's always a slight change of atmosphere when European action comes around. It's the small things like the different advertising boards around the ground, the tournament specific balls, flags and post pads.

But mostly, it's about the different teams coming here to Kingsholm. With all our due respect to our Premiership opponents, we are fortunate to be able to entertain them here almost every season. We know a lot about each other as clubs and the usual rivalries develop from that.

However, European competition allows us to entertain different teams and players. We're not so familiar with them, nor with their styles of play. There's an element of the unexpected and that makes for a slightly different viewing spectacle.

And, of course, let's not lose sight of the fact that we're all in the competition with hopes of lifting



the trophy. None of us will forget the memorable evening at The Stoop 18 months ago when we defeated Edinburgh to win the European Rugby Challenge Cup.

It was a fantastic evening and I know that David and the players are determined to make it through the pool stages and hopefully clinch home advantage in the knockout stages.

On a different note, I referenced the new Fanzone in my last programme column and I was delighted that last week we were able to confirm Gavin Gleave, whose company F3 Group funded that development, as a new shareholder and Director of the Club.

I've known Gavin as a business

associate for a number of years now and I'm delighted that we're able to welcome him on board. His business acumen and rugby knowledge will make him a real asset.

Finally, I'm sure I speak on behalf of everyone at the Club when I say how terribly shocked and saddened I was to hear of the sudden passing of Munster's Anthony Foley last weekend.

The tributes that have been paid to him over the past few days speak volumes of the high esteem in which he was held. His passing is a genuine loss to the game of rugby union.

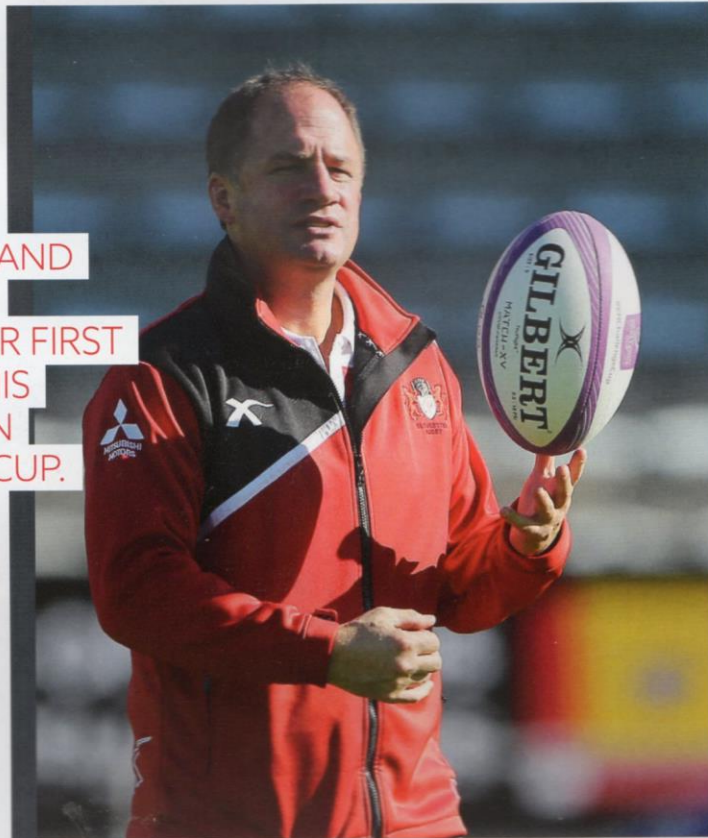
*Martin*

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR OUR FIRST HOME FIXTURE IN THIS SEASON'S EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP.

**F**or those of us who knew him, preparations for today's match have been overshadowed by the tragic death of Anthony Foley last weekend in Paris.

The rollercoaster of emotions that we've all experienced throughout this season were put very much in perspective by the sad news we heard travelling home from Bayonne on Sunday afternoon.

I got to know Anthony very well over the years as our playing careers began and ended at very much the same time. Throughout his distinguished international career, Anthony was an incredibly proud Munsterman and my lasting memory of him as a player will be the sheer joy when he finally lifted the Heineken Cup with Munster in 2006.



Whether playing with or against him, on the rugby pitch or on the golf course, Anthony was the ultimate competitor and the driving force behind much of Munster's success from 2000 onwards.

It is impossible to add much to the many tributes paid to him over the past few days but Munster and Irish rugby will be a much poorer place with the untimely loss of such a charismatic, passionate rugby player, coach and leader.

As we prepare to play today all our thoughts are with his wife Olive and their two sons.

From a rugby perspective, winning away in Bayonne was a great way to begin our European campaign this season and the try scoring bonus point could prove crucial at the end of the pool stages.

La Rochelle stated their intent in the competition this year with a strong selection and bonus point win in Italy last weekend, and we need to lift our performance again this afternoon against Treviso.

We've had a very difficult and disappointing start to the season with our results at Kingsholm but we know that we have real quality in the squad and that it's been small errors that have prevented us obtaining the results that we all strive for.

We're working hard to eradicate those and we hope to demonstrate that this afternoon.

As always thank you for your support and enjoy the game.

*David*



VIEW FROM THE

# GLOUCESTER Citizen



**S**ummer signing Motu Matu'u says he has settled in well since his move to Gloucester – and has already made a close friendship group with some of the city's Pacific Islander community.

Every Sunday, he meets up with the people who also hail from his family's homeland. The Samoan international was born and bred in Wellington, New Zealand, but still holds close ties to his heritage.

"When I came to Gloucester, I didn't know if there would be any Pacific Islanders here," Matu'u said.

"I was at Whole Foods one day, doing my supermarket shopping, and one of the locals called me out.



For Matu'u, the move to Kingsholm has been one of adventure – an opportunity to remove himself from everything he has known since he was a child and to experience a different culture inside and outside of rugby.

"I grew up in Wellington – born and bred – and never really thought about leaving Wellington," Matu'u continued.

"They call it Middle Earth because that's where they filmed The Hobbit. I am actually surprised now to be here at Gloucester.

"I was getting a bit too comfortable in Wellington. When you are here, everything is a challenge and is really good at keeping me on my toes.

"On and off the field, it is exactly what I wanted and it is actually going very well."

And the culture on the field is different too. Matu'u, who missed the first month of the Premiership season through injury, has had time to bed into his new surroundings.

After making his debut against Exeter Chiefs at Sandy Park, the 29-year-old front-row is



expecting a completely different experience in the heat of battle on those cold winter nights at Kingsholm.

"The main difference is the speed," Matu'u explained. "The guys in Super Rugby like to chuck the ball around and it's a bit more free-flowing rugby.

"But I feel like Premiership rugby is a lot more physical and it has been felt. And, since the pack is more physical, I have come with a different mind-set to be more dynamic."

"They shouted 'Suli!' and I turned around and it was one of the Pacific Island boys. From there on in, we have just been catching up every weekend and it has been really good.

"It feels like being at home and I am meeting more of the Pacific Islander community in Gloucester and it has made my stay here a lot more comfortable."

Terry Fanolua is another who has welcomed the former Hurricanes hooker to the city where the former Gloucester great is still involved in the game, working for the club's Community department, and coaches schoolchildren.



GREAT PLAYERS FROM THE GLOUCESTER BACK ROW

PART THREE

# Thirties to Seventies



## Gordon Hudson

Gordon was the son of a famous father, Arthur, the Gloucester and England winger who played either side of World War One. Gordon also found his career interrupted, but by the Second World War. This was when he probably played his best rugby appearing in no fewer than nine war-time internationals, and a "Victory" international against New Zealand in 1946.

After the war he captained Gloucester for three seasons from 1947 to 1950. He made 296 appearances from 1935 to 1954, and scored 64 tries.

Gordon was born on 29 November 1915, and made his debut for Gloucester in 1935 playing on the wing, but it was not until he switched to the back row for the 1938-39 season that he became a regular choice. War then intervened, and he became a PT Instructor in the RAF.

In 1946, Gordon made the first of 34 appearances for Gloucestershire in a drawn game against Devon. The county went through to the final against Lancashire. The game was drawn, but Lancashire won the replay at Kingsholm. Gordon played in all the games.

Indeed he would captain Gloucestershire from 1948 to 1950, and another losing final against Lancashire in 1950. He also played for Western Counties against Australia in the 1947-48 season.

He was Club Chairman from 1972 to 1982. He died in December 1993.



## Bob Hodge

Bob was born at Fylde, Lancashire in 1923, and started playing for his home town team after the end of the war. He played three times for Lancashire in the 1947-48 season, but missed the final which the county won.

He joined Gloucester for the 1948-49 season, and appeared in

the second row in the first game against Lydney. He soon moved to number 8, and quickly gained the attention of the Gloucestershire selectors, making his debut against Devon in November. He kept his place right through to the losing final against his home county at Blundellsands, where he actually played in the second row.

Bob went very close to gaining an England cap, appearing in three trials, and in 1953 was a reserve for all four of England's Championship games, but never made the final step to an England cap.

In November 1953 he played for the Western Counties against New Zealand. Bob was club captain in the 1952-53 season. He played 258 times for Gloucester, scoring 22 tries.

He eventually returned to Lancashire where he died in Lytham St. Annes on the last day of 1983.

## Dennis Ibbotson

Dennis was an openside flanker of genuine pace, and a devastating tackler. He took the ball carrier very low, often at ankle height. He was a regular in the Gloucester team from 1949 to 1960, making 337 appearances, scoring 58 tries, and a single dropped goal against Newport in 1952. He was very versatile and at various times played at prop and wing or even centre.

Dennis was born in 1930, and played local rugby for Old



Centralians. His younger brother Ken also played for Gloucester, in the backs from 1955 to 1958.

Dennis made his debut against Universities Athletic Union in December 1949 in the second row, but for the rest of the season he played at prop. It was in the following season that he made his move to the back row, making a formidable unit with Bob Hodge and Gordon Hudson.

Considering his dynamism, it was surprising that he did not make his county debut until October 1952 against Somerset. In the following 1953-54 season he was in the Gloucestershire team which lost to Middlesex, in the semi-final of the Championship. In November 1953 he played for Western Counties against the New Zealand touring team.

Early in the 1959-60 season Dennis suffered an injury which took time to heal. In his absence a young Dick Smith took his opportunity and established himself at openside. Dennis played only nine times that season, and after playing in the end of season tour, he retired.

### Dick Smith

Dick Smith is one of the all-time Gloucester greats. He is a member of the "500 Club" having made 540 appearances, second only to Alan Brinn. He scored 116 tries.

To many it is a mystery that he never won an England cap, although he appeared in several trial games.

As well as playing openside flanker, he was equally at home playing in the centre, and became famous for what was known as his "Banana run". Mike Burton said of him, "He could have played first class rugby in the centre."

Dick was born at Brockworth on 10 April 1940, educated at Crypt Grammar School, and played for Old Cryptians before making his Gloucester debut in December 1958 in the centre against Neath. He moved to the back row in the following season.

It is perhaps surprising that Dick was not selected for Gloucestershire until 1962, when he made the first of 59 appearances for the county against Somerset at Kingsholm. He appeared in three consecutive Championship finals from 1970 to 1972; the first two being lost, but the 1972 final resulted in a famous 11-6 win at Coventry against Warwickshire. This was the first time Gloucestershire had won the title for 35 years.



Dick played in England trial games in 1964-65 and 1966-67, but the full cap always eluded him. He played for Western Counties against Australia in 1967, and New Zealand in 1972 and for the South of England against New Zealand in 1967.

Dick was Gloucester captain from 1968 to 1970, and was a member of the team which won the inaugural National Knock-out Cup against Moseley in 1972. He was poleaxed by a punch from Moseley's Nigel Horton after just five minutes, who was sent off.

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

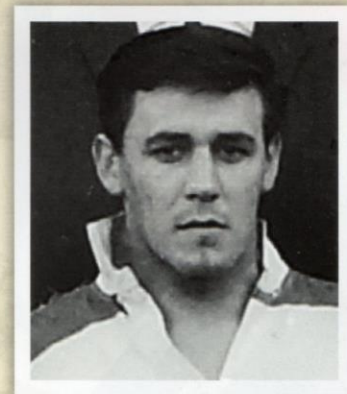
[www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk](http://www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk)

He retired at the end of the 1975-76 season, but did make one more appearance off the bench against Oxford University in 1977. Dick was Gloucester's coach from 1980 to 1984.

### Dave Owen

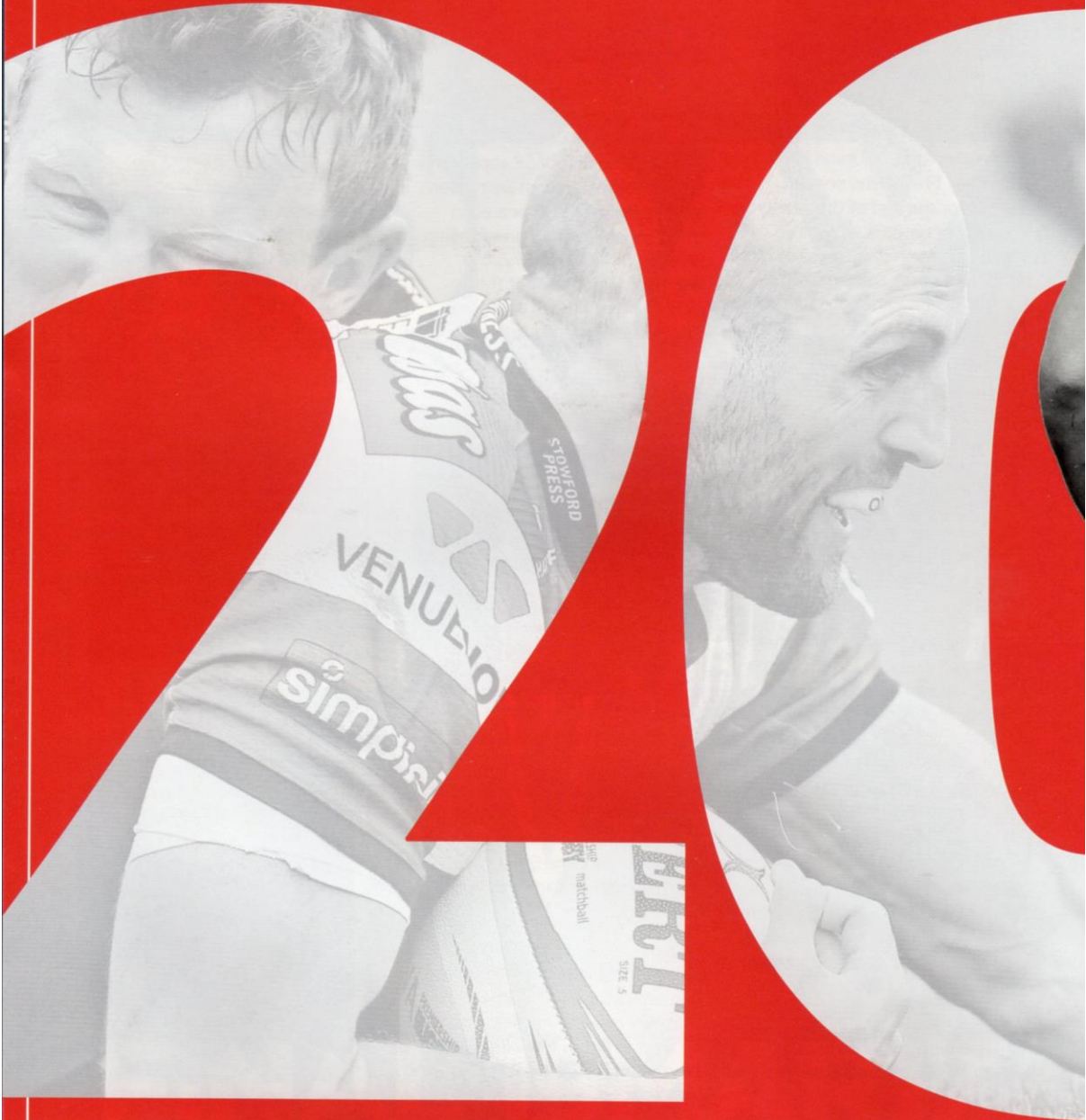
Dave was a durable number eight who first played for Gloucester at the start of the 1960-61 season making his debut in the first game against Waterloo. It took him a couple of seasons to become fully established, but by the 1962-63 season he became a regular, packing down between Peter Ford and Dick Smith.

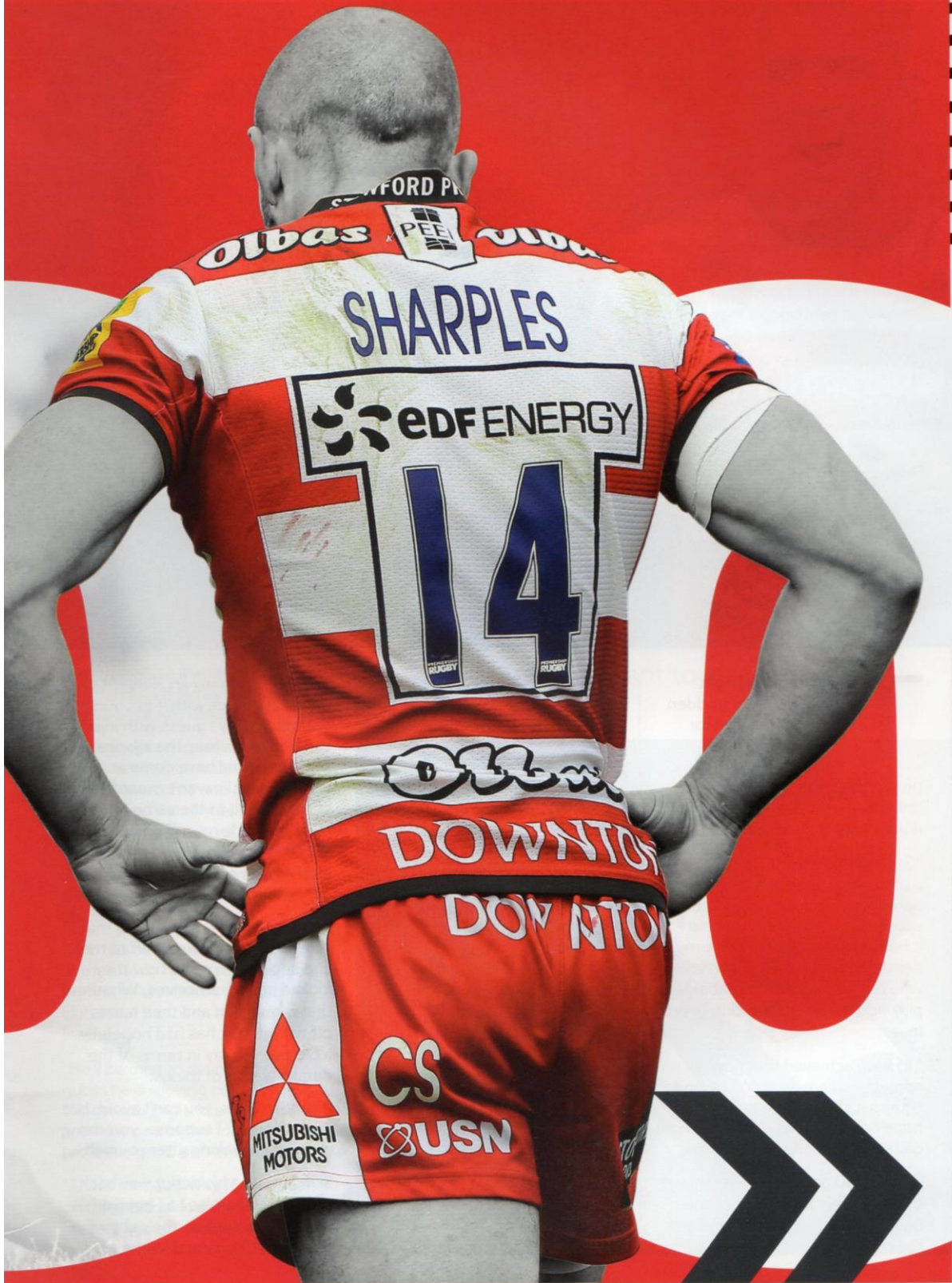
Although Dave played 242 games for Gloucester from 1960 to 1972 he only appeared for Gloucestershire twice. A major reason for this was that he was in competition with Bristol's Dave Rollitt for the number 8 spot. In the absence of Rollitt, he received a call to appear for his first county game against Devon in October 1964. He proceeded to score a hat-trick of tries, but Rollitt was selected for the next game!





ENTRY INTO THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY 200 CLUB IS DEFINITELY RESERVED FOR A VERY SPECIAL FEW. AND ONE JET-HEELED MEMBER HAS SECURED HIS MEMBERSHIP VERY RECENTLY. HE'S ONE OF OUR OWN - CHARLIE SHARPLES.





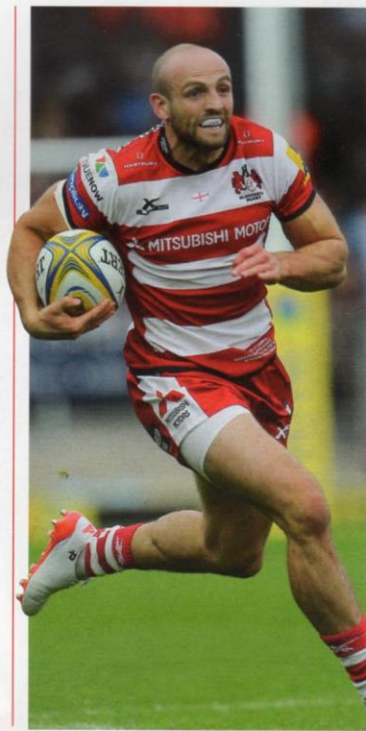


**T**he turf on the right wing has been trodden by the same feet for eight seasons now, and Sharples is hugely proud of achieving his personal milestone. And, of course, marking it with a try at Sandy Park.

"Getting into the 200 club was a massive achievement, and is something I am very proud of, I spoke about it in the week that it has been a long time since my debut, and back then I definitely would not have dreamed about playing 200 times for a club that I love.

"To have achieved that now is something I am so proud of, and I guess it's a privilege and I really hope now that there are a lot more games to come."

To play 200 games, at just the age of 27 is surely testament to the durability of the Hong-Kong born flyer.



"There is certainly an element of luck that comes with it of course. I've been lucky I guess with injuries through my career, the injuries that I have had have come at times where I haven't missed a lot of rugby. But, at the same time, I certainly pride myself on being a good professional and I try to look after myself off the field to keep myself in good shape.

"That is certainly something that I have learnt from guys before me, and seeing them and how they looked after themselves. Whether that is nutrition and their habits off the pitch, it has had hopefully a big part to play in terms of the durability side of things.

"Some injuries, you can't avoid, but some injuries, I suppose, you can prevent by looking after yourself."

Since making his debut way back in 2007, Sharples has been a constant on the right wing in Cherry and White, and

despite a number of personnel changes during his 200 games, he is able to look back fondly, and even class himself as an older head.

"There have obviously been a lot of changes of the last four to five years, in terms of the squad and a lot of the old faces have moved on.

"I guess now, guys like myself and Henry (Trinder) are the older guys, and the lads like Yann (Thomas) and Jonny (May) are part of the senior group together. There is still a group of us that have had eight to nine years together.

"I'm very comfortable in this environment, and it is an environment that I want to continue to thrive in and enjoy. It's an environment that gets the best out of me as a player, because obviously if I didn't feel that way, I would get complacent.

"I have a lot of passion for the club, and I think that obviously helps. With my performances at the weekends, it really helps because I genuinely care about playing and playing well for this team in front of my friends and family who come and watch every week."

Throughout Sharples' time in Cherry and White, many team mates have come and gone, and staff behind the scenes too. And the winger pays tribute to the departing Head of Medical Services Bob Stewart whose career at Gloucester has spanned that of Sharples.

"Bob has been part of the furniture at the club in recent seasons, and his first season was mine at the club so he has been a real constant for me.

"He'll be missed definitely, but I guess he is moving onto bigger things with England and the RFU and he is one of the top guys in his profession and is so well respected.

"That's probably why he has been on three Lions' tours and he will probably go on another one next summer.

"He has managed to patch me and a number of us back together throughout our careers, and we owe him a lot!"

With European Rugby Challenge Cup on the agenda this week, Sharples is able to call upon some great European adventures and the importance it can hold on the Cherry and Whites' season in building confidence and momentum from a sticky start to the season.

"We have shown in glimpses throughout the season, the way we want to attack and the way we want to play. But the thing that has perhaps let us down so far this season is the number of unforced errors that we have made in our play.

"The games that we win, are the games that we have made the least unforced errors, and the games that we have lost, our error count has been far higher than we want it to be.

**"We have shown in glimpses throughout the season, the way we want to attack and the way we want to play."**

"That's a relatively easy fix, as we know that our attacking shape is really good, and we have shown that we can score some really good tries.

"It is all about not forcing the game and not making the errors. We look good when we are able to turn the screw on the opposition and show a ruthless edge.

"That is what we have got to develop as team. We showed that ability going over to France and scoring some good tries against Bayonne. We can still take a lot of confidence from going to France and getting a bonus point win.

"We can still take a lot of confidence and then look to get our first home win of the season this week and go from there and kickstart our season.

"We're in touching distance in the Premiership table, we need to get our game going and we will start to climb the table."





## KINGSHOLM NEWS

with

# Bob Fenton

It feels a bit odd to be sat here in mid October thinking that today's game is going to give us a good chance to notch up our first home win of the season.

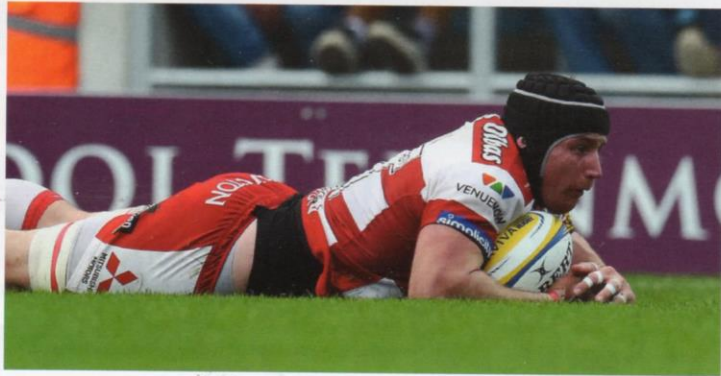
But, unfortunately that's the way it is. It's fair to say that the season has not gone to plan for any of us - supporters, coaches, players... anyone really. But that's the way it is, and it's been far from comfortable to watch.

I'd love to be able to tell you why things haven't gone the way we would hope. If I did, I would be writing columns an awful lot closer to the front of the programme. For me though, it seems to be little things conspiring to become big things.

The game a few weeks back against Bath - possibly one of the worst games in living memory - but going into it Greig could kick his goals through the eye of a hurricane. I don't think that he has missed as many attempts in one game as he did that afternoon.

There is a positive to be had from that - we were getting into the position to get those kicks, giving ourselves a chance to win the games, but seeing it go belly up in the end.

Away against Exeter we put ourselves in a great position to win the game and, even though everyone knew that the home team would come piling back in the last few minutes, it seemed



like we were going to hang on for the second away win of the season. That is until Exeter were awarded the softest of penalties that enabled them to level the scores. I guess your luck goes like that when backs are against the wall.

We have seen ferocious work rates from our forwards recently - the human machine that is Tom Savage cranking up record numbers of tackles week on week - but not get the reward at come the final whistle. It's head scratchingly difficult to work out what's going on. But, while we might be feeling it on the terraces you can be sure that the pressure is a hell of a lot harder inside the camp. Not that I have any inside access or information.

Injuries are not helping - shades of last season again. It's always painful to read the list of 'unavailable' players when the team is announced - Thrush, Burns, Marshall, Kalamafoni, Hohnneck and, until recently, Jonny May and new boy Motu Matu'u among others who have not been available for selection. These are all players who would be in the match day 23 so when they are not available we feel it.

And without wishing to appear to be demeaning the talent and efforts of the boys who have stepped up, we are missing them. And we are not a Saracens - we don't have the luxury of a squad rammed full of internationals and recent ex-internationals.

So we suffer and it's no fun looking up at most of the other teams in the division. But such is the nature of the season so far that only a few points separate fifth to tenth place.

It pains me when people - our own supporters - talk about us being relegated. It's not going to happen. And we've been in worse predicaments than this before - and come through them. My glass is still more full than empty, call me a hopeless optimist if you like - I probably wouldn't argue with you...

I've said it before, I don't like the calling for people to be axed, to lose their jobs, when things are not going well. It's too 'football' for me, of course we all crave success but sport is not like that and chopping and changing doesn't cure anything.

Look at the successful sides - all have a stable set up and have built continuity around it. And fortunately we are not all subject to the same scrutiny or criticism in our jobs - I would hate to face that kind of assessment every week in my job!

And so here we are then - a third of the way into the season still looking for the first home win of the season. And without wishing to be disrespectful to our Italian visitors, I don't think we will get a better chance to get the ball over the line and chalk up the first win here at Kingsholm this season.

Last weekend we rattled in half a dozen tries and perhaps there will be some who will say that Bayonne's attention was elsewhere and the competition not that important to them. But that's not our problem is it? We had a job to do and went over and did it. You can't ask for more than that and the win - any win - has to be good for confidence.

It's sad to see both the Italian clubs in the PRO 12 struggling so much and it does open up the questions



**"We have seen ferocious work rates from our forwards recently - the human machine that is Tom Savage cranking up record numbers of tackles week on week - but not get the reward at come the final whistle."**

around their participation in competitions like this. I really hope they continue, it's the only way that the sport there is going to grow and we need them to be successful.

There are many great players coming out of the Italian rugby scene, we can't close the door on their clubs and take them out of the shop window. In my view that would be a massive shame and not in the spirit of trying to grow the game.

Having said that, I don't want them to be successful today! They can enjoy the game, our hospitality and the great city of Gloucester, but on the pitch this afternoon? I'm afraid not...

We need a four try victory to take the maximum points from the first two European games and to build our own confidence going into the next group of Premiership matches.

# Knight, Mullis and Randall named in England U20 squad



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Martin Haag recently named his England U20 elite player squad (EPS) for the 2016/17 season which will see them compete in the Six Nations and look to defend their World Rugby U20 Championship in Georgia. Ciaran Knight, Joe Mullis and Harry Randall represent Gloucester.

Randall, of course, was a part of the U20s squad that lifted the Junior World Championship in Manchester earlier this year.

The 32-man squad features 10 players capped at this level. Sam Aspland-Robinson, Theo Brophy Clews, Zach Mercer, Harry Randall, Max Wright and Max Malins all featured in June's triumphant U20 World Championship campaign in Manchester.

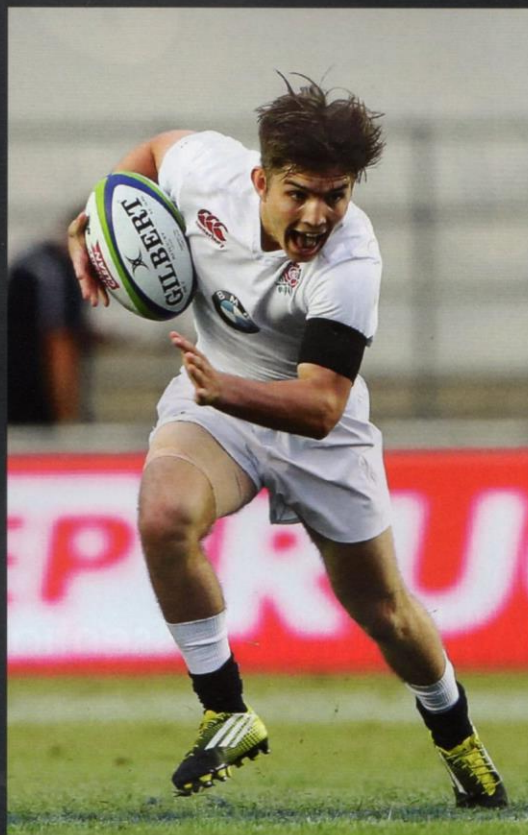
Ralph Adams-Hale, Curtis Langdon, Jamie Shillcock and Paolo Odogwu have all experienced U20 rugby this year while nine players featured in the recent U18 tour to South Africa.

The squad will come together for the first time and train at Loughborough University this October.

"We have picked a strong squad with a lot of experience and it's an exciting time because every year will bring new opportunities for different players to impress at this level," said Head Coach Haag.

"This is the start of the development phase with a real focus on getting to know the players and giving them the opportunity to develop and adapt their skills.

"We have seen a large number of these players grow through the pathway and for us it's about challenging and inspiring these guys to be the best they can individually and as a team."



## 32-MAN ELITE PLAYER SQUAD:

Ralph Adams-Hale (Saracens), Sam Aspland-Robinson (Harlequins), Jamie Blamire (Newcastle Falcons), Theo Brophy Clews (London Irish), Will Butler (Worcester Warriors), Charlie Capps (Yorkshire Carnegie), Josh Caulfield (Exeter Chiefs), Justin Clegg (Worcester Warriors), Joe Cokanasiga (London Irish), Ali Crossdale (Saracens), Ben Curry (Sale Sharks), Tom Curry (Sale Sharks), Ollie Dawe (Bristol Rugby), Ben Earl (Saracens), Ted Hill (Worcester Warriors), Gabriel Ibitoye (Harlequins), Nick Isiekwe (Saracens), Ciaran Knight (Gloucester Rugby), Curtis Langdon (Sale Sharks), Max Malins (Saracens), Jack Maunder (Exeter Chiefs), Zach Mercer (Bath Rugby), Alex Mitchell (Northampton Saints), Joseph Morris (Worcester Warriors), Joe Mullis (Gloucester Rugby), Jack Nay (Saracens), Paolo Odogwu (Sale Sharks), Harry Randall (Gloucester Rugby), Jamie Shillcock (Worcester Warriors), Jacob Umaga (Wasps), Max Wright (Yorkshire Carnegie), Zac Xiourouppa (Worcester Warriors)

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ACTION REPLAY || SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER || KINGSHOLM || ATT 16,115

# Gloucester Rugby

6

Penalties: Hook, Laidlaw.

# Bath Rugby

15

Tries: Banahan, Watson. Conversions: Ford. Drop Goal: Ford



Once again, Gloucester put themselves into a position to win a game only to see it slip through their fingers in the final stages. The fact that this particular game was against bitter local rivals Bath Rugby only makes it the more painful.

The Cherry and Whites were competitive throughout in a game that, thanks to a pre-match monsoon, was played in heavy conditions which made running rugby difficult.

There was very little to choose between the two sides on the day, but Bath pounced ruthlessly on a couple of Gloucester errors in the second half and it proved to be crucial.

It's a game of small margins at



- 15 Hook 1P
- 14 Sharples
- 13 Twelvetrees
- 12 Atkinson ▼
- 11 Purdy ▼
- 10 Burns ▼
- 9 Laidlaw 1P
- 1 McAllister ▼
- 2 Hibbard ▼
- 3 Afoa ▼
- 4 Savage ▼
- 5 Galarza
- 6 Moriarty
- 7 Rowan ▼
- 8 Morgan

Replacements used:  
Dawidiuk, Y Thomas,  
Doran-Jones, Latto,  
Kvesic, Heinz, Scott,  
Halaifonua.



- 15 Homer
- 14 Rokoduguni ▼
- 13 Brew
- 12 Banahan 1T
- 11 Watson 1T
- 10 Ford 1C 1DG
- 9 Fotuali'i
- 1 Catt ▼
- 2 Dunn ▼
- 3 Thomas ▼
- 4 Ewels
- 5 Stooke ▼
- 6 Garvey
- 7 Ellis
- 8 Houston ▼

Replacements used:  
Batty, Auterac,  
Palma-Newport,  
Atwood, Mercer,  
Williams.

the highest level and this was ruthlessly demonstrated in the final quarter when, with just two points between the two sides, not one but two Greig Laidlaw penalties dipped agonizingly under the crossbar.

The final whistle saw players and supporters alike shattered by the outcome, salt rubbed into the wounds by the gleeful celebrations of the men in blue, black and white.

It was passionate, attritional fare from the very first whistle. There were handbags early on and both packs went at it hammer and tongs in the set piece. However, there was very little to report in terms of scoring chances and only a long-range James Hook penalty separated the two teams at half-time.





A drop goal from George Ford levelled matters shortly after the resumption, but Laidlaw restored the three point advantage with his first penalty of the afternoon.

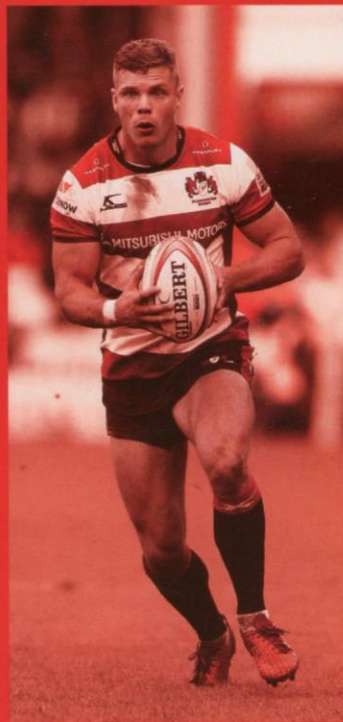
Bath then started to dominate territory and possession, but Gloucester's defence was magnificent and they seemed to have weathered the storm as they won a penalty and cleared to halfway on the hour mark.

However, the lineout was lost, Kahn Fotuali'i pinned Gloucester back with a superbly placed kick and, several phases later, Anthony Watson dived over in the corner for the game's first try.

The Cherry and Whites threw everything at Bath in a bid to get back on terms. However, the penalty opportunities they carved out were just outside Laidlaw's range as the scrum-half took on a stiff breeze and were just short.

The sickening feeling grew that the chance had gone and so it proved to be. As time started to tick away, George Ford forced Willi Heinz to carry over his own line following a well placed kick.

From the ensuing five metre scrum, Matt Banahan went over in the corner and Gloucester were left to reflect on another missed opportunity.

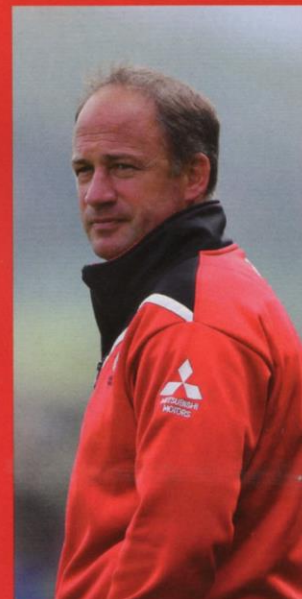


## APPLYING THE LAW WITH



Official Legal Partner

Referee JP Doyle had a challenge ahead of him, officiating one of the most passionate games on the domestic calendar. The scrums were a bit of a minefield but, overall, neither side could really have any complaints as to how the game was officiated.



## DIRECTOR OF RUGBY DAVID HUMPHREYS

"It's always tough to lose at home, tougher for our players and supporters to lose at home to Bath.

"It was a disappointing afternoon. A lot of the parts of our game that were missing last weekend were there today. But, ultimately we made too many mistakes to win the game."

ACTION REPLAY || SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER || SANDY PARK || ATT 11,934

# Exeter Chiefs

# 27

Tries: Whitten (2), Waldrom, Welch. Conversions: Steenson (2). Penalties: Steenson

# Gloucester Rugby

# 27

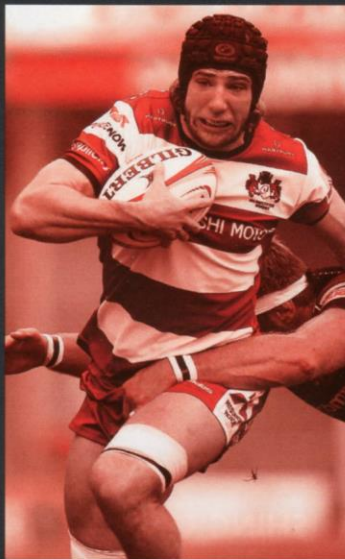
Tries: Sharples, Scott, Morgan. Conversions: Laidlaw (3). Penalties: Twelvetrees, Laidlaw

For the second time this season, Gloucester found themselves on the wrong end of a late comeback in the 27-27 draw at Sandy Park against the Exeter Chiefs.

On the opening night, it was the Leicester Tigers who overturned a 31-7 deficit. On this occasion, the Chiefs scored 13 points in the final ten minutes to snatch a draw from the jaws of defeat.

On the face of it, a draw away from home against last season's runners-up would be considered a fairly decent outcome. However, given the fact that another decent lead had slipped away, the overriding feeling at full-time was one of frustration.

Even more galling was that this was probably Gloucester's most complete performance of the



- 15 Turner
- 14 Woodburn
- 13 Hill
- 12 Slade ▼
- 11 Whitten 2T
- 10 Steenson 1P, 2C
- 9 Chudley ▼
- 1 Moon ▼
- 2 Cowan-Dickie ▼
- 3 Holmes ▼
- 4 Lees ▼
- 5 Parling
- 6 Dennis
- 7 Salvi
- 8 Waldrom 1T

Replacements used:  
Yeandle, Rimmer,  
Williams, Welch 1T,  
Horstmann, Lewis,  
Devoto.

- 15 Hook
- 14 Sharples 1T ▼
- 13 Scott 1T
- 12 Twelvetrees 1P
- 11 Halaifonua
- 10 Atkinson
- 9 Laidlaw 3C, 1P
- 1 McAllister ▼
- 2 Hibbard ▼
- 3 Doran-Jones
- 4 Savage ▼
- 5 Galarza
- 6 Moriarty
- 7 Rowan ▼
- 8 Morgan 1T

Replacements used:  
Matu'u, Y Thomas,  
Latta, Kvesic, Thorley.

season. Even the most ardent Chiefs supporter wouldn't have begrudged Gloucester the four points given the commitment shown by the Cherry and Whites.

In fact, Exeter never led on the day so, had Gareth Steenson slotted the conversion with the last kick of the game, it would have been a massive injustice.

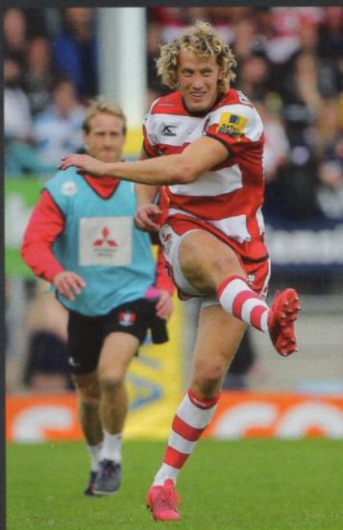
Gloucester were evidently up for the task in hand right from the start. Having withstood some early pressure, a perfectly executed front of the lineout move saw Jacob Rowan almost get to the line. No matter, the ball was shipped out to Matt Scott to score.

The Chiefs hit back as Thomas Waldrom broke a tackle to level

matters before Charlie Sharples marked his 200th competitive appearance with a superb solo effort, climbing high to gather an up and under before sprinting clear of the cover.

An arcing run from Sam Hill then created an opening for Ian Whitten to score on the left before a long-range Billy Twelvetrees penalty sent Gloucester into the dressing room with a 17-14 lead.

Greig Laidlaw extended that advantage with a penalty of his own, before Ben Morgan linked up neatly with David Halaifonua in a blindside break that saw the England international power his way over.



Leading 27-14, Gloucester were well placed but crucially squandered another scoring chance from a five metre scrum. It was a turning point as the Chiefs moved downfield and hit back through Whitten's second try.

Gareth Steenson narrowed the gap yet further with a penalty from just inside the Gloucester half and, following the controversial call against Galarza, the home team completed the comeback as Damian Welch touched down from the catch and drive.

Steenson could have won it with the touchline conversion but, thankfully for Gloucester, it drifted wide.

**APPLYING THE LAW WITH**



Official Legal Partner

Gloucester were bravely defending a five point lead with less than a minute remaining when a harsh penalty awarded against them set up the field position from which Exeter levelled the scores.

Mariano Galarza had made a tackle and was retreating back into the defensive line when Dave Lewis deliberately threw the ball at the Puma, drawing a key decision.



DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

**DAVID HUMPHREYS**

"We allowed Exeter a way back in and you can't do that against a good team.

"For 68 minutes we were outstanding. To get two points here against a team like Exeter is good but we should have won the game."

3-0  
6-0  
13-0  
20-0  
—  
20-5  
27-0  
27-8

30-8



**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

# TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER  
EPCR CHALLENGE CUP  
ROUND TWO



**BENETTON RUGBY**

T P C D					T P C D								
					JAMES HOOK	15	FULLBACK	15	LUKE MCLEAN				
					CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	RIGHT WING	14	MICHAEL TAGICAKIBAU	✓			
✓					MATT SCOTT	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	TOMMASO BENVENUTI				
					MARK ATKINSON	12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	ALBERTO SGARBI (C)				
✓					JONNY MAY	11	LEFT WING	23 11	DAVID ODIETE;				
					BILLY TWELVETREES	10	FLY-HALF	10	IAN MCKINLEY,				
✓	✓				GREIG LAIDLAW (C)	9	SCRUM HALF	21 9	TITO TEBALDI				
					PADDY MCALLISTER	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	ALBERTO DE MARCHI				
					MOTU MATU'U	2	HOOKER	2	ORNEL GEGA				
					JOHN AFOA	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	SIMONE FERRARI				
					TOM SAVAGE	4	LOCK	19 4	FILIPPO GEROSA				
					JOE LATTA	5	LOCK	4 5	MARCO FUSER				
					ROSS MORIARTY	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	FRANCESCO MINTO				
					MATT KVESIC	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	MARCO LAZZARONI				
✓					LEWIS LUDLOW	8	NUMBER 8	8	BRAAM STEYN				
<b>REPLACEMENTS</b>					<b>REPLACEMENTS</b>								
					RICHARD HIBBARD	16		16	DAVIDE GIAZZON				
					CAMERON ORR	17		17	MATTEO ZANUSSO				
					SALESI MA'AFU	18		18	TIZIANO PASQUALI	✓			
					TOM DENTON	19		19	ROBERTO SANTAMARIA	20			
					JACOB ROWAN	20		20	DEAN BUDD	5			
					CALLUM BRALEY	21		21	GIORGIO BRONZINI	9			
					BILLY BURNS	22		22	TOMMY ALLAN				
					OLLIE THORLEY	23		23	ANDREA PRATICETTI	11			

**MATCH OFFICIALS**

REFEREE:  
Dudley Phillips (IRFU)

ASSISTANT REFEREES:  
Paul Haycock (IRFU) & Oisín Quinn (IRFU)

