

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



**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

VERSUS

**SARACENS**

ISSUE 6 || ANGLO-WELSH CUP  
SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2016 || £3





## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## GREIG LAIDLAW



GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR TODAY'S GAME AGAINST SARACENS, AS WE KICK OFF THE ANGLO-WELSH CUP FOR THE NEW SEASON.

There may be a number of new faces in Cherry and White this afternoon, but as a squad we train and work together, so there are a lot of exciting young players that I have no doubt will take their chance this weekend and next.

After an elongated and intense Aviva Premiership season last year, the Anglo-Welsh Cup is providing a really good opportunity for our squad to get valuable minutes under their belt, and show the coaches what they can do. And I am sure that this weekend, you will see a really exciting Gloucester team out there.

Last Friday was just a really gutting evening. We gave so much to the cause and every player in Cherry and White emptied the tank to get the result.

I guess, when things go against you, things feel like they are piling up and, despite a lot of good parts of our game, we were on the wrong end of the result. Not that we deserved to be, but the margins are so tight at the top level of the sport, that it ended up being another night that was a difficult one to take in.

The whole team, and coaches are working really well for the



common goal, and nobody is getting down, we are just so determined to get it right and be able to enjoy a victory.

I've got a testing few weeks ahead of me too. I joined up with Scotland at the start of the week and we've got some exciting tests over the next month.

I will be keeping a very close tab on things at Kingsholm, and I wish all of the boys the best of luck over the next few weeks, and I hope to return to a confident training ground when I get back.

Saracens will be a big test for the squad today, but the environment that is being built at Hartpury will mean that every player that pulls on the shirt today will give their all for every one of the fans, and I'm excited to see the results.

Enjoy the game

*Greig*





# MARTIN ST QUINTON

Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for our first Anglo-Welsh fixture of the season.

This tournament offers a slight change of pace from the Premiership and European tournaments. It provides an opportunity for all the clubs to offer game time to some of their up and coming talent and that's an approach that we are likely to take today.

That said, as with any competition we enter, we are in it to win it. I can vividly remember the fantastic afternoon at Franklin's Gardens back in 2011 when we lifted the trophy. It was a great occasion and one we would dearly love to experience again.

Today is also a special occasion as it is the home fixture that we designate as Forces Day. As a club, we have always valued our links with all of the Armed Forces. A plaque outside the main reception here at Kingsholm honours Gloucester players who have died serving their country.

The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire regiments



amalgamated with three other Regiments to form The Rifles in 2007 and have a long association with Gloucester.

The Rifles Cup was presented to the club by the regiment to mark the long standing bond of friendship between the club and the soldiers of Gloucestershire. The Rifles Cup is competed for when Gloucester and Bristol play in league games and will go to the winners of the game here at Kingsholm on December 3rd.

In addition, we are signed up to the Tickets for Troops scheme and today and next week will play in a specially commissioned playing shirt which features a poppy design. I think it's a terrific idea and am proud that £5 from every purchase of the replica version will go to the

Royal British Legion.

One final thought. Like yourselves, I have read plenty of stories online and in the newspapers regarding player movement. Not just involving Gloucester, but all Premiership clubs.

It is our policy not to comment on speculation, it's that time of year when speculation is rife. However, what I will say is that Stephen Vaughan and myself are working hand in hand with David Humphreys to provide him with the squad that he requires now and in the future and that we will make formal announcements when the time is right

*Martin*



## GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR OUR FIRST FIXTURE IN THIS SEASON'S ANGLO-WELSH CUP.

**T**his afternoon will have a slightly different feel to it as we begin our participation in a tournament which took a year off last season due to Rugby World Cup.

It's a competition that has been positioned as a platform for the best up and coming English and Welsh talent to show what they can do, and that will certainly be reflected in our team selection this afternoon.

Due to a large number of injuries within the squad in the early stages of the season, we've been selecting from quite a small pool of players over the first few weeks of the season.

So, this weekend will provide an opportunity for a number of our younger players to show what they can do, and also allow us to rest some of those who have featured heavily to date. This is important, of course, if we're to manage workload and have as many fit players to select from as the season progresses.

Quite a few of those younger players will not be coming into the game unprepared, however. Our last A League game was over a month ago, but we've established relationships with a number of Championship and National League clubs to provide loan opportunities.



So, the last few weeks have seen Gloucester players turning out for London Welsh and Rotherham Titans in the Championship - indeed a number actually played against each other a fortnight ago!

Some have also played for Hartpury in National League One, in a continuation of a mutually beneficial partnership that has been underway for some years now and also for Cinderford in National Two South.

It's an important part of the development of these players, allowing them to improve and progress whilst playing regular first team rugby. Hopefully, we will see some of the benefits this afternoon.

And, even though some of the faces are different this afternoon, the commitment to the shirt will be exactly the same. Everyone on duty today has been part of the first team group and put in their fair share of hard work on the training

ground so far. They will be looking to maintain the progress of recent weeks.

The past two weeks have seen us defeat Benetton Treviso and lose narrowly away at Northampton Saints last weekend. The latter was a particularly frustrating affair as we felt, as a group, that we could and should have left Franklin's Gardens with a victory.

However, some key moments didn't go our way and that ended up being the difference between winning and losing. It was annoying but we won't give up fighting. Sooner or later those key moments will go our way.

Finally, I'd like to wish good luck to those Gloucester players who are off on international duty for the next few weeks. I hope that they do themselves and the club proud and, importantly, come back fit and healthy!

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

*Treaver*



VIEW FROM THE

# GLoucester Citizen

**S**uper Rugby signing Josh Hohnock has opened up on the "stress" of having to postpone his move to Gloucester following his omission from the Maori All Blacks northern hemisphere tour.

The former Highlanders prop flew in from Auckland via Los Angeles this week to finally team up with the Cherry and Whites, having put pen to paper back in March to join the Premiership club ahead of the 2016/17 season.

David Humphreys, Gloucester's Director of Rugby, had been in negotiations with the New Zealand

"MY FOCUS WILL PREDOMINANTLY BE AROUND THE RUGBY AND GLOUCESTER AND I AM CONFIDENT IN WHAT I AM DOING AND MY MATCH FITNESS. I AM HOPING TO IMPRESS."



Rugby Union (NZRU) to arrange an early release from his contract so that he could feature from the start of the current campaign.

However, on the assurance that Hohnock was a high priority for the Maori touring party set to play in Chicago, Limerick and London in November, Gloucester have had to accept they would not see their new asset in action until the end of the month at the latest.

Hohnock says he would have preferred to have joined Gloucester sooner and, while he has had to honour his commitment to New Zealand, has strived to stay as





fit as he possibly can so he is on top form for a new chapter at Kingsholm.

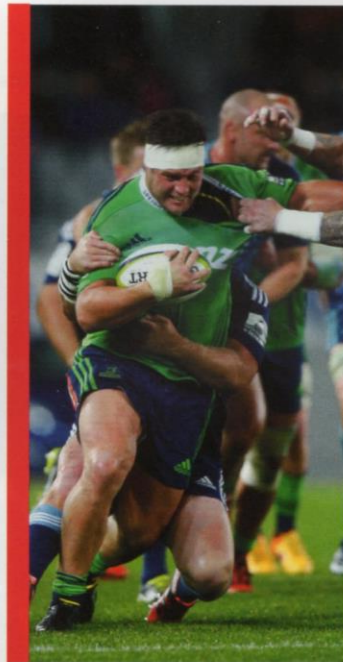
"The delay has been a little bit niggly, if I am honest," Hohnock said.

"I wanted to join Gloucester immediately after the Super Rugby season and that's why we tried to get an early release (from the contract with the NZRU).

"Since I signed, the decision was made not to release me because of the Maori All Blacks tour. I suppose, from a Gloucester point of view, it is good that I now have a date that I can join the club."

An opportunity to play with injury-stricken Otago came about and, following numerous phone calls with Humphreys, the decision was made to give the loosehead some game time before his move to Gloucester.

"I broke my nose and had to have an operation after the Super Rugby



season and needed to get that sorted," Hohnock continued. "I decided not to play in the ITM Cup for the sake of my body and the season going forward with Gloucester.

"The uncertainty was unsettling. I don't think it affected my rugby but, in terms of everyday stress, I have been asked many times when I am actually leaving, which has become a bit repetitive.

"I am very keen to join Gloucester now and, having watched as much of the footy as I can get a hold of, I have seen a decent amount of the Gloucester games.

"I am excited to join a new team and a bunch of new players. In terms of the way they want to play, it looks like they want to play a pretty fast and expansive game which obviously suits the rugby I am used to in New Zealand.

"Obviously the season hasn't been all roses so far but you can see some real intent and there has been no lack of effort."

Despite getting himself match ready, Hohnock - who has won three Super Rugby titles with

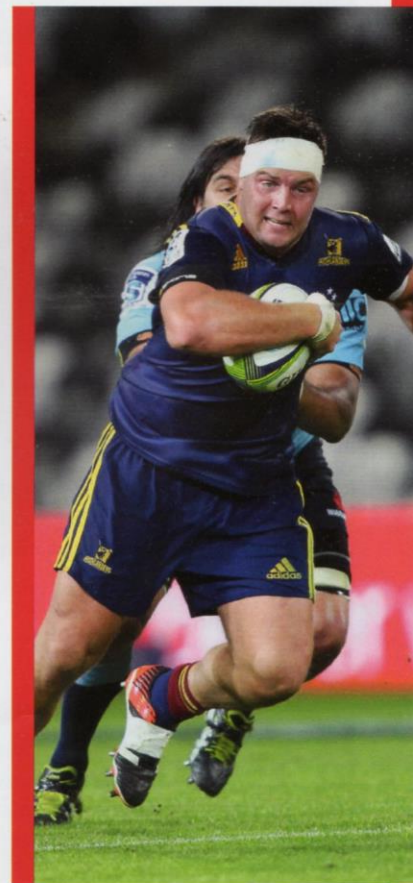
the Waikato Chiefs and the Highlanders - says he must "be patient" during the transition to Premiership rugby.

His partner Sam will be travelling with him and, despite the haziness surrounding Hohnock's move, he says they are both thrilled to finally begin a new adventure.

"It has been good to have a bit of rest but I am pretty keen to hit the ground running, which is why I wanted to get a bit of game time under my belt," he said.

"Sam owns a British passport and she is looking forward to finding a new job and meeting some new people.

"My focus will predominantly be around the rugby and Gloucester and I am confident in what I am doing and my match fitness. I am hoping to impress."





## GREAT PLAYERS FROM THE GLOUCESTER BACK ROW

## PART FOUR

The Sixties and  
Seventies**GARY WHITE**

Gary White had pace and good hands, playing across the back row and occasionally at centre. He played 234 games for Gloucester between 1958 and 1972, scoring 82 tries, a record of which even Peter Ford or Dick Smith would be proud. He was also a useful place kicker, totalling 129 points for his club in 1963-64.

Gary was born at Holton in Somerset in 1937. After a trial season with Gloucester in 1958-59, he returned to junior rugby with Old Centralians, but re-joined Gloucester to make his breakthrough in 1962-63, scoring 5 tries against Old Blues at Kingsholm and, overall, 15 tries in 17 games. He made his County Championship debut for Somerset the following season.

Established as a regular first choice for Somerset, he moved to Bristol for a season in 1964-65

and played against Gloucester at both Kingsholm and the Memorial Ground before returning to the club the following year.

Gary White captained Gloucester in 1966-67, but the team had limited success in a season blighted by injuries. After retirement in 1972 he coached in Gloucester junior rugby and spent four seasons at Cinderford.

**JIM JARRETT**

Born in Pontypool in 1941, Jim Jarrett was a rugged and mobile lock and no.8. Before joining Gloucester, he had played for St Luke's College, Exeter, for Pontypool, where he had been club captain, and for Monmouthshire.



He moved up to lock from no 8 while with Pontypool, where he skippered a Combined Pontypool-Newbridge-Cross Keys XV to a 12-3 victory against the 1966-67 Wallabies.

On his arrival at Kingsholm in 1967, Jim formed an outstanding second row partnership with Alan Brinn. He played his rugby hard and gave and asked no quarter. His aggressive style sometimes offended the

sensibilities of some referees, but he was a firm favourite of the Shed.

In a game at Bristol in September 1968, Jim scored in a way that would not be possible today. He caught a Bristol drop-out and called for a mark, then pointed to the posts and coolly dropped a goal from fully 45 yards. Inspired by this, Gloucester went on to win the game 9-6. The following December, he played against his old club in Pontypool, where he scored two tries in a 14-9 win.

Jim played 10 times for Gloucestershire and appeared in the losing Championship final against Staffordshire in 1970. After that final loss, he transferred his allegiance to Dorset and Wilts and played for Southern Counties against the 1972-73 All Blacks.

In his later seasons he moved back to number 8, often partnered by John Watkins and John Haines. He made 235 appearances for Gloucester and scored 20 tries, plus that dropped goal from a mark.

**MIKE POTTER**

Coming to Kingsholm from Coney Hill RFC at the age of 25, powerful No 8 Mike Potter made an immediate impact on his debut against Bective Rangers in September 1968, the Times predicting that "always on the ball....he could become a real find." He played a remarkable 88 games in his first two seasons for the 1st XV.

Perhaps one of his greatest performances was in the epic 9-4 Cup quarter-final victory over London Welsh at Old Deer Park



in March 1972 where he scored the winning try and was generally considered to have outplayed the great Mervyn Davies at No 8. He went on to play in the semi-final success at Coventry and in the victory over Moseley at Twickenham in the first Club Knock-out Cup Final.



He made his county debut in 1972-73 in the quarter final of the County Championship, a 39-12 victory over Oxfordshire at Kingsholm, but opportunities were rare with England internationals Watkins, Hannaford, Rafter and Rollitt competing for back row places in the county team.

When Mike Potter retired in 1976 he had made 224 appearances, scoring 20 tries. Loved by the Shed, he represented the hard working loyal club man who on his day could be a match for any opposition.

## JOHN HAINES

John Haines was a hard-working and speedy open side wing forward who played 269 times for Gloucester between 1968 and 1982, scoring 51 tries, and 22 times for



Gloucestershire, appearing in three County Championship Finals. He was also reserve for three England trials.

Born in Gloucester in 1949, he was educated at The Crypt School and played first for Gordon League. While with the League, he skippered an England Boys Clubs international team which completed the double over Wales.

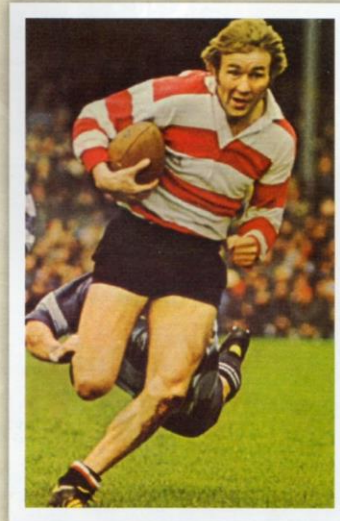
John made his 1st XV debut in the 1968-69 season, aged 19, but competition for back row places was fierce, and it was not until 1970-71 that he became established in the side. He played less for the 1st XV in 1971-72, but did play in the famous victory over London Welsh in the quarter-final of the Club Knock-out Cup.

In the next four seasons, John Haines played 133 games for Gloucester, scoring 36 tries. He finally made his Gloucestershire debut in January 1973, in a quarter-final against Oxford, and was on the winning side in the next two County Championship Finals: Lancashire at Blundellsands in 1974 and Eastern Counties at Kingsholm in 1975.

Back and knee injuries blighted his 1976-77 season, but he returned the following year to play in his third County Championship Final, against North Midlands at Moseley.

## JOHN WATKINS

The dynamic wing forward John Watkins is one of the legends of Gloucester Rugby. Born within sight of the Kingsholm ground in 1945, he made 389 appearances, scoring 109 tries, although waiting until 1969 before joining Gloucester from junior club Gordon League. In June 1972, within three years of his 1st XV debut for Gloucester. John made his England international debut in an historic 18-9 victory over South Africa in Johannesburg, where The Times said "he has improved more than any other forward and made nonsense of his limited experience."



He went on to play against New Zealand and Wales the following winter and then to take part in a 16-10 victory over the All Blacks in Auckland on the 1973 summer tour, thereby gaining the rare distinction of playing on winning England teams in both South Africa and New Zealand.

Back home, further internationals followed against Australia in 1973-74 and France and Wales in 1974-75.

John played throughout Gloucester's successful 1971-72 and 1977-78 cup campaigns, captaining the club to victory in 1978, and in his three seasons as club captain, from 1976-79, had the proud record of P150 W107 D5 L38.

He played 42 games for Gloucestershire and was a County Championship winner in 1974, 1975 and 1976, captaining the county in 1977. He represented Western Counties against the All Blacks in 1972 and the Wallabies in 1973 and 1975 and represented the South and South West against the All Blacks in 1978.

John made 14 appearances for the Barbarians, including South Wales tours in 1974, 1975 and 1977 and a tour of Canada and the USA in 1976.

After retirement as a player, he returned to local rugby, where he refereed for many years.



IN WHATEVER GUISE IT HAS BEEN KNOWN AS IN RECENT SEASONS, THE NEWLY RE-INTRODUCED ANGLO-WELSH CUP HAS PROVIDED A PLATFORM FOR MANY OF THE ENGLISH GAME'S BRIGHTEST TALENTS TO SHINE.

# BRIGHT YOUNG THING











The Roll of Honour from the tournament is long for the Cherry and Whites, a fact shared by a select number of other Premiership teams and, after waiting patiently in the wings over the recent domestic weeks, the time has arrived for the next generation of Gloucester talent to take centre stage.

Lewis Ludlow is a seasoned professional now, compared to a number of the other young guns in the Cherry and White today, and the dynamic back row is ready to lead from the front as captain.

A winner in all three of his starts so far this season, Ludlow admits he was taken aback when asked to assume the responsibility of skipper this afternoon.

"It is a bit strange to be honest, yeah! When Trevor (Woodman) and Neil (McCarthy) asked me, it was a no brainer.







"To captain a club like this, and on an occasion like this in a competition renowned for showcasing young players. We've got a really young squad, and it is going to be an honour to lead the boys out this weekend."

Despite harbouring a number of fond memories of experiences in the cross-border competition, the Bedford-born back row is able to call upon mixed experiences from a trip to West Wales on 24th January 2014. A day of very mixed emotions!

"I can remember the Scarlets game of course! A great day for me initially, as I passed my driving test that morning, then I was announced in the England U20s squad for the Six Nations, and then starting at eight for Gloucester against Scarlets in the LV= Cup.

"So I had a great day, and then managed to seriously injure my knee and that ended my season there and then.

"It was a massive learning process for me that time, I'm not gonna lie!



**"At the end of the day, you're running out in a Gloucester shirt on your back at Kingsholm, and there are not many competitions that allow you to do that."**

In some ways, it actually helped as I was able to put on a few kilograms and develop my strength which I guess is something that needed to happen.

"In some ways I genuinely do believe it was a blessing in disguise, because I wouldn't be half the player I am now I don't think without that time off."

The competition again looks set to showcase the next raft of talent, and Ludlow is one of many that has benefitted from the game time handed to him in his development.

"It's huge, there are so many of the young boys in the squad making their competitive debut, and pulling on the shirt for the first time in the competition.

"At the end of the day, you're running out in a Gloucester shirt on your back at Kingsholm, and there are not many competitions that allow you to do that.

"It doesn't matter what competition it is, you have to approach it in exactly the same way and seize the opportunity. We've got 23 boys going out there that will be hungrier than you've ever seen, and we've got to have that desire to play for the shirt.

"I truly believe that we have got that in abundance this weekend."

The Cherry and Whites will don a unique poppy shirt for Remembrance Day, and Ludlow is honoured to be one of the first to wear it onto the field of play at Kingsholm.

"Remembrance Day is a huge day in this country. Everyone knows someone that has been around the military environment, and is affected by conflict, and to incorporate the poppy onto our shirt this week is great.

"It is a real simple design, and speaks volumes for our thoughts on Remembrance Day, and I will be very proud to wear the poppy on the Cherry and White shirt this weekend."





## KINGSHOLM NEWS

with

# Bob Fenton

**R**emember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot... So sayeth the old song from around three hundred years ago - not that I was there to sing it, of course. But tonight is Guy Fawkes night, so why not?

And to be fair we could do with a some fireworks today, something to ignite our season - a point made wryly by my other half the other day as we were driving into town.

Spotting what looked like smoke coming up from around the city she said, 'I hope that's not coming from your rugby ground...' Before she quickly added, 'If it is, it'll be the only thing that has been on fire there this season!' Harsh, very harsh. I'm sure it didn't take her too long to walk home after that.

So anyway, here we are, Anglo-Welsh Cup time, and those games where you play the game of (a) wondering who all the young guys are who are playing for your side, and (b) trying to work out how the competition is actually played.

On the latter it's simple - we're in Pool 4 along with Leicester, Newcastle and The Scarlets. But we don't get to play any of those guys, that would be far too simple. Instead we play the teams in Pool 1 - Bath, Newport, Northampton and Saracens. Nope, makes no sense to me either so let's just crack on with it.



With any luck today's game will go the way of the 'A' league fixture in September when we played Saracens Storm - we won that one 22 - 19 in a very exciting game.

It was great to see all those young guys who are on the edge of the first team making their way in the game. I remember being very impressed with one of Saracens' young stars - a bloke named Neil de Kock who came on in the second half. He could have a future in the game...

We could do with a win, not just that, with a solid performance. Ok, we might achieve that without a few of our first team regulars - though given the list of those missing for one reason or another at the moment, the chances are that many of the names on our team sheet will be pretty familiar. But a good win - not to mention a bit of good luck - will help boost the confidence of the group.

Even though we clocked up a couple of good wins in the European competition, we still seemed to lack a bit of self belief up at Northampton last week. We had a fair bit of the ball and at times looked very



threatening, but at vital moments things didn't go for us. And don't get me started on the (non) try that put Saints ahead.

OK, I have started (rant warning!), I cannot understand why a referee would call for the assistance of his TMO only to then go against his very clear explanation of why the score should not have stood. Instead he over-ruled him and gave a very different interpretation of what had just happened.

Surely - as some of our officials want the TMO to get involved in pretty much anything from the acceptability of a player's haircut to crucial decisions like that - the advice should stand, otherwise why bother?

I know the man in the middle has an incredibly difficult job to do, and no I couldn't do it. But when a system is devised to help him, surely the advice from a man in a truck with the benefit of a thousand different angles is best placed to make sure the correct decision is made?

... And breathe!

Now, unless you have been living



in a cave for the past few months you can't fail to have noticed that this year is the 125th anniversary of Gloucester Rugby Club moving to Kingsholm.

With that in mind Gloucester's own poet laureate - Alfred Lord Tension has penned his own - and if I may say - magnificent words of prose to mark the occasion.

I'm therefore going to spare you, dear reader, any more of my own angst in favour of giving the last word to Alt. I am sure you are going to enjoy this as much as I did when I first read it:

For a century and a quarter  
 Castle Grim has witnessed  
 legendary deeds  
 worthy of celebration,  
 mixed with day's best forgotten.  
 Blood sweat and tears  
 have nurtured this hallowed ground.  
 One hundred and twenty-five years  
 of muscular effort and spontaneity  
 held together by oft changing colours,  
 which are always cherry and white  
 in our minds eye.  
 Local heroes lived among us,  
 worked alongside us.  
 Taught us.  
 Doctored us.  
 They were Builders of our homes.  
 Engineers creating  
 rolling stock and aeroplanes.  
 Honest labourers.  
 Clergymen.  
 Brothers, cousins, friends  
 and a few rogues.  
 Oh yes, there have been rogues.  
 In all that time these few acres  
 have been our village green.  
 Always just outside our front doors.  
 Common land for the common man,  
 yet known throughout the world.  
 Under the gaze of the Cathedral tower  
 it has been Church,  
 Refuge.  
 Theatre  
 and Riotous Assembly.  
 May it last forever.

*Alfred Lord Tension (2016) @ALTension*



# RANDALL on RUGBY



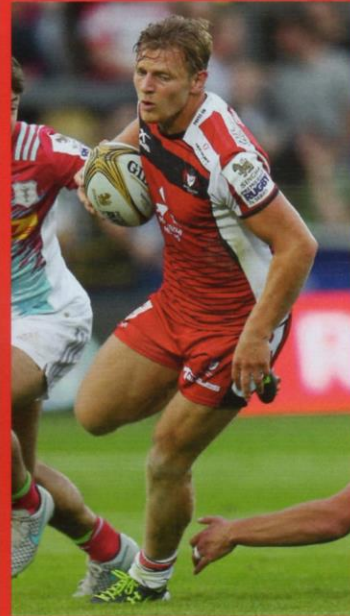
A FORTNIGHT AGO THERE WAS A HUGE SIGH OF RELIEF WHEN CALLUM BRALEY FINALLY SECURED THE BONUS POINT WIN IN THE CHALLENGE CUP AGAINST TREVISO.

The first home victory of the season had been nailed on the scoreboard a good twenty minutes earlier, but La Rochelle's start in Gloucester's Challenge Cup pool meant the bonus point for Braley's try was almost essential, and the young Bristolian should get more first team opportunities over the next month as the start of the autumn internationals heralds a third different competition for Gloucester in three weeks

Braley has skippered Gloucester united several times before. He has worn the armband in the A League this season, and his degree in Leadership and Management, coupled with his position in the team, makes him a prime candidate to do so as some of the Premiership regulars get a weekend off.

"The degree opened up ideas and made me think differently" the 22-year-old told me.

"I'm comfortable leading teams - I've done it since I was at school - and the degree has helped me in terms of how I act and how I present myself in certain situations. Captaincy is leadership in a different form and a scrum half has to control the forwards in front of him.



"MY AIM FOR THIS SEASON HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO PLAY MORE THAN I HAVE DONE AND HOPEFULLY IN THE ANGLO-WELSH CUP I CAN PRESS MY CLAIMS BECAUSE I THINK IT'LL BE A PRETTY YOUNG SIDE."



"A large part of that is confidence and having the respect of your team mates. That's not something you can demand, you earn it over a period of time by training well and backing it up with your match performances. The more consistent you are, the more respect you get, but it can be knocked down in an instant."

Braley confessed it wasn't easy mixing as a teenager at Bristol with seasoned first teamers and a handful of experienced internationals. They were struggling to get out of the Championship, and Braley felt he needed to be at a Premiership club for his career to progress.

As I recall, Gloucester kept the move under wraps for some time before it was announced, and now, in his third season at Kingsholm, Braley has made 30 first team appearances in a position which has come under the spotlight since Greig Laidlaw's departure at the end of the season was confirmed.

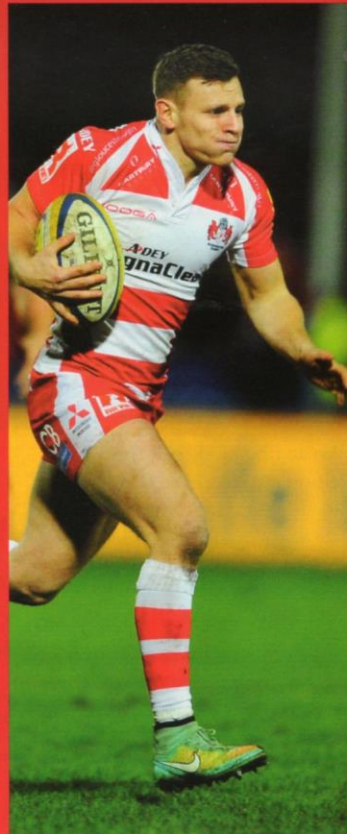
"None of us know what will happen next" Braley said. "I have two good scrum halves in front of me in Greig and Willi Heinz with a vast amount of experience and knowledge they can pass on, but the club might decide to replace one international with another international."

"My aim for this season has always been to play more than I have done and hopefully in the Anglo-Welsh Cup I can press my claims because I think it'll be a pretty young side."

Long term, Braley hopes that his degree might open some doors into a career in sports marketing but for the moment he's concentrating on his playing career and making his circle of skills as wide as possible.

"My dad and I worked on my pass a lot when I was younger, and I try to make that a point of difference" he said.

"Tactically, you're always learning when to kick, pass and play in the



right areas so that you win the territory battle but you mustn't lose the instinct to see what's in front of you and play accordingly, and you have to be brave enough to live with your decisions."

Saracens, of course, are the Anglo-Welsh Cup holders from two seasons ago when they beat Exeter in the final. The competition was left out of the 2015-16 calendar because of the Rugby World Cup, and Braley believes that the Premiership leaders will still be strong despite half a dozen leading lights being away with England.

"In my time with the England Under 20's they had some very handy players apart from Maro Itoje, who is obviously injured" Braley added.

"We might see people like Joel Conlan, Nathan Earle, Henry Taylor and Nick Tompkins, which would show their strength in depth. We beat them in the A League earlier this season, and we've got to be confident we can go out and win again."



ACTION REPLAY || SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER || STADE JEAN DAUGER || ATT 5,005

# Bayonne

# 27

Tries: Labouyrie (2), Oulai. Conversions: Meret (3). Penalties: Meret (2).

# Gloucester Rugby

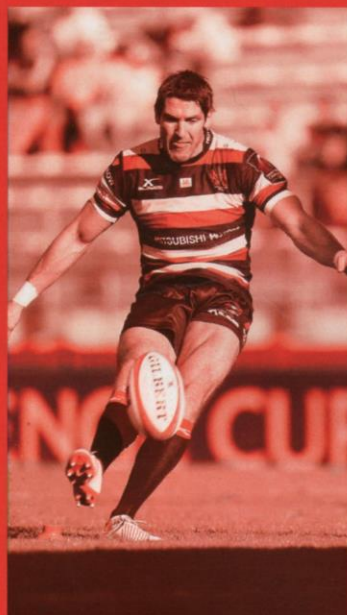
# 47

Tries: Scott, Atkinson (2), May, Twelvetrees, Savage. Conversions: Hook (4). Penalties: Hook (3).

The pool stages of the European Rugby Challenge Cup have been a happy hunting ground for Gloucester Rugby in recent seasons, and the Cherry and Whites hit the ground running in this season's competition with a 47-27 victory in Bayonne.

Taking on a French team on their own turf is never an easy proposition, but Gloucester did exactly the right thing by easing into an early lead, taking the home crowd out of the equation to a certain extent and then proceeding to keep Bayonne at arm's length.

They only just managed the latter on a couple of occasions. Bayonne, boasting the typically huge set of forwards employed by French Top



- 15 Jane ▼
- 14 Laveau ▼
- 13 Whitelock
- 12 Lacroix
- 11 Fuster
- 10 Meret 2P 3C
- 9 Duhalde ▼
- 1 Iguiniz ▼
- 2 Labouyrie 2T ▼
- 3 Choirat ▼
- 4 Ducat
- 5 Jaulhac ▼
- 6 Duputs ▼
- 7 Oulai 1T
- 8 Lespinasse

Replacements used:  
Leitaua,  
Bordenave, Taufa,  
Huete, Saubusse,  
Chouzenoux,  
Maillard, Marnao

- 15 Hook 4C 3P
- 14 Halaifonua ▼
- 13 Scott 1T
- 12 Atkinson 2T ▼
- 11 May 1T ▼
- 10 Twelvetrees 1T
- 9 Heinz ▼
- 1 Thomas ▼
- 2 Hibbard ▼
- 3 Doran-Jones ▼
- 4 Savage 1T
- 5 Latta ▼
- 6 Ludlow ▼
- 7 Rowan
- 8 Morgan ▼

Replacements used:  
Matu'u, Orr, Afoo,  
Galarza, Kvesic,  
Braley, Thorley,  
Sharples

14 sides, battled back to within a score on a couple of occasions only for Gloucester to respond and eventually ease clear in the final quarter.

To react so positively in a close situation having seen a number of leads slip away in the opening few weeks of the Aviva Premiership season will be a huge boost to Gloucester, and hopefully set them up nicely for the next few weeks.

Bayonne were first on the scoreboard through a Lucas Meret penalty, but Gloucester then took control. A flat pass from Billy Twelvetrees saw Mark Atkinson stroll over, before Matt Scott picked off an errant pass and ran it back all the way.

Meret hit back with a penalty,





but Atkinson was soon over for his second of the afternoon after Jonny May latched on to a chip over the top from James Hook.

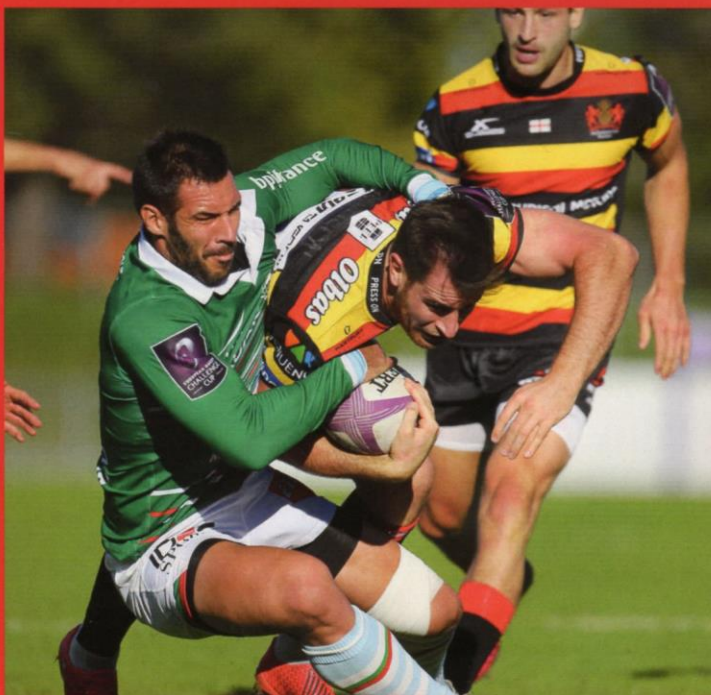
The French pack then started to engage low gear and start to enjoy some success with the catch and drive tactic. Hooker Simon Labouyrie touched down twice, either side of a James Hook penalty before Twelvetrees pounced for the bonus point try to send Gloucester into half time with a 29-20 lead.

Alarm bells started to ring faintly after the resumption when

flanker Dion Oulai crashed over after another rolling maul but, thankfully, it was as close as Bayonne would get.

Hook chipped over a penalty before Jonny May marked his return after injury by sprinting clear after taking a lovely offload from Joe Latta after a quick tap by Willi Heinz.

Motu Matu'u was shown yellow as Gloucester dug deep to thwart any potential comeback and Tom Savage put the game to bed when he crashed over from close range a minute from time.



**APPLYING THE LAW WITH**



Official Legal Partner

For hooker Motu Matu'u, it was certainly a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time!

The Samoan international had just replaced Richard Hibbard to make just his second appearance for the club, when Gloucester were deemed to have collapsed a maul illegally.

Matu'u was the unfortunate individual who had to take one for the team and was promptly yellow-carded. A technically correct decision but tough on Motu!



**DIRECTOR OF RUGBY  
DAVID HUMPHREYS**

"Coming to France, from experience is a tough place, and so any sort of win is great. To get a bonus point is a good return, especially with La Rochelle picking up a bonus point win earlier in the day.

"I thought it was credit to the players too, after a long travel day on Friday. When we had the ball we looked really dangerous, and I thought we scored some really good tries."



ACTION REPLAY || SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER || KINGSHOLM STADIUM || ATT 9,618

# Gloucester Rugby 37

Tries: Scott, May, Ludlow, Braley. Conversions: Hook, Laidlaw (3). Penalties: Laidlaw (3).

# Benetton Treviso 8

Tries: Tagicakibau. Penalties: McKinley.



Two from two for Gloucester following a 37-8 European Rugby Challenge Cup win over Benetton Treviso, setting up a pivotal double-header against La Rochelle in December.

With the Cherry and Whites having run in nearly 50 points in the previous round, the hope was that Gloucester could produce a similar performance. However, the Italians came to Kingsholm in no mood to rollover.

Credit to Treviso, they battled hard throughout. Most of the game was played in and around their 22 and the visitors found themselves under constant pressure. However, their defence remained resolute throughout and Gloucester were only able to clinch the try-scoring



- 15 Hook 1C
- 14 Sharples
- 13 Scott 1T
- 12 Twelvetrees
- 11 May 1T ▼
- 10 Burns ▼
- 9 Laidlaw 3P 3C ▼
- 1 McAllister ▼
- 2 Matu'u ▼
- 3 Afoa ▼
- 4 Savage ▼
- 5 Latta
- 6 Moriarty
- 7 Kvesic
- 8 Ludlow 1T ▼

Replacements used:  
Hibbard, Orr, Ma'afu,  
Clarke, Rowan, Braley  
1T, Atkinson, Thorley



- 15 Hayward 1T
- 14 Tagicakibau
- 13 Benvenuti
- 12 McLean
- 11 Praticchetti
- 10 McKinley 1P ▼
- 9 Bronzini
- 1 De Marchi ▼
- 2 Gega ▼
- 3 Ferrari ▼
- 4 Fuser
- 5 Budd
- 6 Minto
- 7 Lazzaroni ▼
- 8 Steyn ▼

Replacements used:  
Bigi, Quaglio,  
Pasquali, Geroso,  
Santamaria, Iannone

bonus point with the very final play of the game.

In the final reckoning though, it's a five point return and Gloucester returned to domestic action with their European hopes still intact.

The day began with a wonderfully observed tribute to Anthony Foley of Munster and also Gloucester's former Doctor Rob MacKay who both sadly passed away in the week leading up to the game.

Once the game got underway, Gloucester were quickly on the front foot, creating several chances without actually being able to cross the whitewash. Jonny May was bundled into touch twice near the corner and only two penalties from Greig Laidlaw moved the



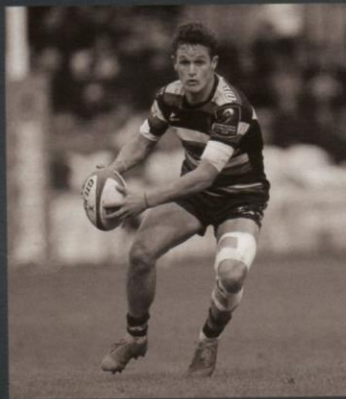
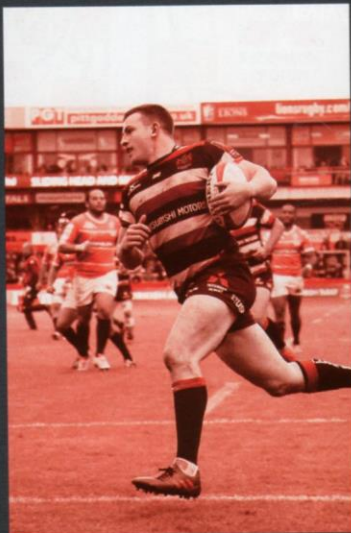


scoreboard in the first quarter.

Magnificent though Treviso's defence had been, something had to give however. And it came courtesy of a strong run and delicious offload from Paddy McAllister, which allowed Lewis Ludlow to power over.

Treviso responded with an Ian McKinley penalty, but the half ended with a well-worked score for Jonny May as he gathered Billy Burns' well-placed chip and sprinted clear to dive over gleefully.

The visitors stunned Kingsholm with a try from Michael Tagicakibau



at the start of the second half, but Gloucester hit back with some slick ball handling to send Matt Scott over for the third try.

The Cherry and Whites had just under half an hour to clinch the try-scoring bonus point, but it proved to be easier said than done. Chances came and went, yet Treviso held firm. Tempers threatened to spill over as the game got distinctly feisty.

When Mark Atkinson was denied a try for what was presumably blocking, it looked as though the Italian side were going to frustrate Gloucester.

However, with no time left on the clock, Callum Braley darted around a ruck and his stretch just made the line to complete the afternoon's work.

## APPLYING THE LAW WITH



Official Legal Partner

"It's fair to say that referee Dudley Phillips has had easier matches to officiate, particularly in the final quarter! A couple of fracas took place, a blatant (and possibly dangerous) trip on Jonny May was missed and a seemingly good try for Mark Atkinson ruled out. He almost blew the final whistle with a sigh of relief!"



BACKS & ATTACK COACH

**TIM TAYLOR**

"It's a big relief and it was massively important for us to put on a performance out there today. The support is fantastic every time we play here and have stuck with us through thick and thin.

"We were very pleased to get the bonus-point in the end and it was nice to see us be nice and patient in attack. We didn't panic with the ball, went through the phases to enable us to score that (fourth) try.

"We are creating a lot but it comes back to the decisions being made when we get into those positions. Treviso fronted up very well and made it very difficult for us."





# TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER  
ANGLO-WELSH CUP  
ROUND ONE



**SARACENS**

GLOUCESTER RUGBY					SARACENS					
T	P	C	D		T	P	C	D		
				MAT PROTHEROE <b>15</b>	FULLBACK	<b>15</b>	ANDREW FENBY			
				DAVID HALAIFONUUA <b>14</b>	RIGHT WING	<b>14</b>	MIKE ELLERY			
				HENRY PURDY <b>13</b>	OUTSIDE CENTRE	<b>13</b>	NICK TOMPKINS			
				ELLIOT CREED <b>12</b>	INSIDE CENTRE	<b>12</b>	TOM GRIFFITHS			
				OLLIE THORLEY <b>11</b>	LEFT WING	<b>11</b>	MATT GALLAGHER			
				LLOYD EVANS <b>10</b>	FLY-HALF	<b>10</b>	TOM WHITELEY			
				CALLUM BRALEY <b>9</b>	SCRUM HALF	<b>9</b>	BEN SPENCER			
				CAMERON ORR <b>1</b>	LOOSEHEAD PROP	<b>1</b>	RICHARD BARRINGTON			
				JOE MULLIS <b>2</b>	HOOKER	<b>2</b>	JARED SAUNDERS			
				SALESI MA'AFU <b>3</b>	TIGHTHEAD PROP	<b>3</b>	PETRUS DU PLESSIS			
				CHARLIE BECKETT <b>4</b>	LOCK	<b>4</b>	MARK FLANAGAN			
				JOE BATLEY <b>5</b>	LOCK	<b>5</b>	JIM HAMILTON			
				FREDDIE CLARKE <b>6</b>	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	<b>6</b>	JACKSON WRAY			
				DAN THOMAS <b>7</b>	OPENSIDE FLANKER	<b>7</b>	JOEL CONLON			
				LEWIS LUDLOW (C) <b>8</b>	NUMBER 8	<b>8</b>	SAMUELA VUNISA			
				<b>REPLACEMENTS</b>						
				HENRY WALKER <b>16</b>		<b>16</b>	SCOTT SPURLING			
				CIARAN KNIGHT <b>17</b>		<b>17</b>	TITI LAMOSITELE			
				PAUL DORAN-JONES <b>18</b>	<b>MATCH OFFICIALS</b>	<b>18</b>	JUAN FIGALLO			
				HARRY WILSON <b>19</b>	REFEREE:	<b>19</b>	NICK ISIEKWE			
				WILL SAFE <b>20</b>	Matthew O'Grady	<b>20</b>	KELLY BROWN			
				BEN VELLACOTT <b>21</b>	ASSISTANT REFEREES:	<b>21</b>	NEIL DE KOCK			
				TOM HUDSON <b>22</b>	Michael Patz & Simon Adams	<b>22</b>	MARCELO BOSCH			
				HARRY ROBINSON <b>23</b>		<b>23</b>	GEORGE PERKINS			