

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



**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

# VERSUS WASPS

ISSUE 7 || AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY  
SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2016 || £3



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## GREIG LAIDLAW



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR TODAY'S RETURN TO AVIVA PREMIERSHIP ACTION AGAINST WASPS.

It's a massive week for the Cherry and Whites, taking on one of Europe's in-form teams, and a club with massive ambitions. That said, we share such ambitions as a club and there is a lot to be confident about in the team and its recent performances.

I have been able to follow the last two week's games when I could, obviously after the game at Murrayfield against Australia last week, and it has been great to see the young members of our squad get a run out in the shirt.

As I have mentioned a number of times, it is a massive honour to pull on a Gloucester jersey, and only a select few get the privilege. So it was hugely pleasing thing to see the performances, especially against Saracens last time out at Kingsholm.

The drive, the passion and the team spirit shown by the squad that day was great, and having spoken with the boys, the squad as a whole were united to congratulate the matchday 23 on the win.

After an up and down start to the season, we have been able to learn a lot about one another as a squad, and I am excited to see what lies ahead for us. However, we are under no illusions about the challenge of



the next two weeks when we take on the top two teams in the Aviva Premiership.

Wasps are a team that have been going well against most opponents on both domestic and European fronts, and will come to Kingsholm on a real high this week. But, that said, we have shown that when we come up against the top teams, we are able to match them more often than not and have recorded some memorable results in recent seasons.

It will be tough today, no doubt about that, but I have every confidence in the squad and hope they can produce the performance that we all know we are capable of.

One thing I noted from afar from the Saracens game was the noise from the crowd. The ingredients were there - a big crowd, a team playing for each other, the shirt and the team, and a committed comeback.

It all combined for a great atmosphere, and occasion, so the team know full well what is needed today, in order to get the boost of the sixteenth man behind them.

Enjoy the game

*Greig*





Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm as we resume our Aviva Premiership campaign against Wasps this afternoon.

It's fair to say that it's been a hectic week at the club. I mentioned in my previous programme notes that we have been working hard behind the scenes with regard to player recruitment and retention.

And the announcements that we have made this week are certainly evidence of that, and also demonstrate just how determined we are to build a squad capable of competing in the top half of the table.

As I have discovered since I first became involved with the club several years ago, getting the balance right in terms of allocating the right amount of investment in the right areas of the squad and, of course working within the salary cap, is a real challenge. But I firmly believe that we're on the right track.

And a key factor in building a squad is developing your own talent, in our case through the Academy. So, one of the real positives for me of



the past couple of weekends in the Anglo-Welsh Cup has been seeing so many Academy prospects in the Gloucester team.

The line-ups against both Saracens and Northampton both contained a good proportion of players who are either currently part of our Academy, or who are 'graduates' who are now part of the first team squad.

To see them competing so well and with so much spirit against a couple of very good teams, both of whom fielding some very experienced players, augurs well for the future.

The Anglo-Welsh Cup has had some critics in recent times. It's obviously not the same tournament

as the old Cup competition which resulted in so many memorable finals at Twickenham over the years, not to mention upsets along the way!

However, I believe that positioning it as a 'development' tournament is a positive move. One of the issues that all clubs face is providing meaningful game time for up and coming players.

The A League and Anglo-Welsh Cup are two tournaments which provide this opportunity and that has to be encouraged.

Enjoy the game!

*Martin*



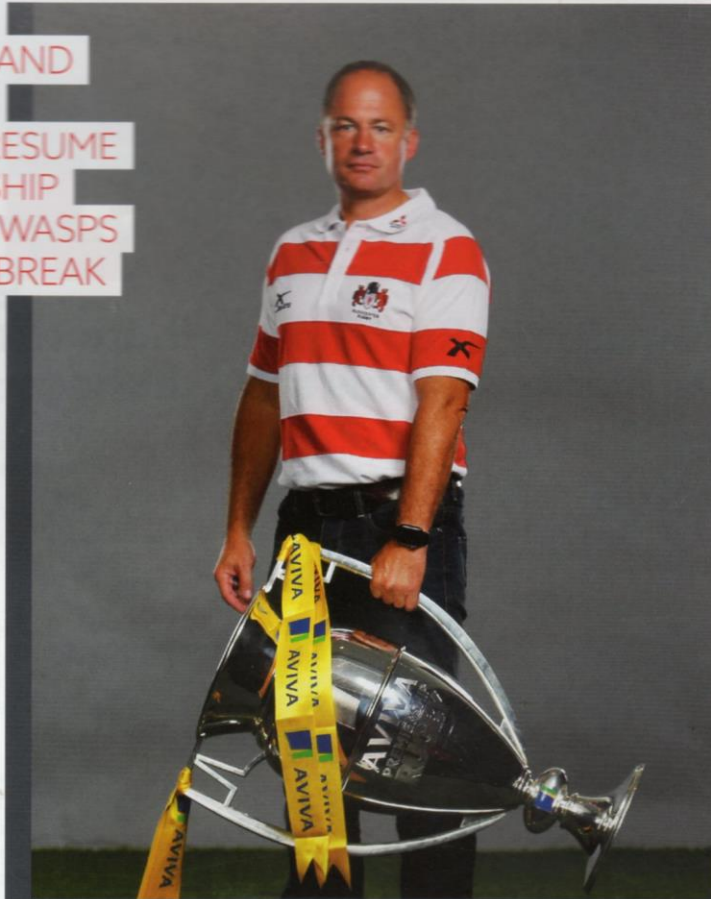
GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM AS WE RESUME OUR AVIVA PREMIERSHIP CAMPAIGN AGAINST WASPS AFTER A TWO WEEK BREAK FOR ANGLO-WELSH COMPETITION.

**W**ith no room in the playing calendar for Anglo-Welsh fixtures last season due to the Rugby World Cup, the last couple of weeks have shown the importance of this competition for many reasons. Most importantly, it provides a really good opportunity to develop young players and expose them to high level competition in front of big crowds.

Games at Kingsholm and Franklin's Gardens, against strong opposition, highlighted some of the talented young players coming through the Gloucester system and they were rewarded with a remarkable victory against Saracens. With eight players making their debuts in the starting line up, it was an afternoon to remember with a last minute win and Kingsholm back at its noisiest and most intimidating best.

This afternoon's game will have a very different look and feel about it with many of the senior players returning to action after a short break. Both teams have been affected by international call ups during the November window which along with injuries, emphasises the importance of continuing to develop strength in depth in our playing squad.

It may be very early in the season but we're already looking at the composition of the playing squad for next season and beyond. The Club were delighted this week to be able to announce the first batch of contract extensions for next season and the addition of Carl Fearn.



As always at this time of the year, there is a lot of speculation as to who may stay and who may go, but that's the nature of professional sport and our aim is always to continue to build and strengthen a squad to compete in the Aviva Premiership and Europe.

We appreciate your patience and look forward to adding some more players to that list over the next few weeks.

I'm sure you've all been delighted to see the form of Gloucester's international representatives in the Test matches so far, but a particular mention for Jonny May on his selection for England after a serious knee injury last December. He has worked incredibly hard to get fit ahead of schedule and his reward for all that work was selection against

South Africa last weekend and a great try. He will get better and better as he returns to full fitness and his X factor ability will be vital to both Gloucester and England.

Finally, I'm delighted to welcome Dai Young and his Wasps players and staff to Gloucester this afternoon. After some tough times recently, Dai has been patient and built a team that is playing attractive rugby and competing at the top end of the League.

It will be a huge test for us but one we are looking forward to and everyone is determined to get a win at Kingsholm as we did last season.

Enjoy the game.

*David*



VIEW FROM THE

# **GLOUCESTER** **Citizen**

**G**loucester starlet Lloyd Evans believes there is a special group of youngsters coming through at the club.

The talented playmaker has spent time on loan at both Rotherham and Cinderford in the past few seasons and is continuing to impress in the Cherry and White hoops.

He played the full 80 minutes of Gloucester's 19-13 Anglo-Welsh Cup defeat to Northampton at Franklin's Gardens, and believes the future looks bright with the current crop coming through.





He said:

"I thought our defence again was spot on today, and there is a lot of spirit in the team - that is the thing which we try and work on.

"The kind of 'no talent aspect' of the game with things like physicality and work rate - and I think we have massively shown that in the last couple of weeks.

"For the young boys, I think that is really special - so if we keep going forward, and gain experience as a group, I think we have got something special coming through.

"It is just experience - like today - because it is tough coming to places like Franklin's Gardens with hardly any experience in our team.

"But we have just got to stay tight as a group, learn it together and that is the next step up for us - coming away from home against an experienced team like Northampton and getting a win - that is just what we have got to learn."

The 20-year-old is one in a line of blossoming talents at David Humphreys' disposal in the squad, and Evans says experiences like this one will only make the next batch of players come through stronger.

But after tasting the red-hot atmosphere of the Franklin's Garden cauldron, he says he would much prefer running out in front of The Shed, like he did two weeks ago, in the come-from-behind win over Saracens.

He added:

"I have played a couple of times at Franklin's Gardens when I was a young boy - when I was a 17/18-year-old boy, I came on here in the Anglo-Welsh Cup a few years ago - and I have played Sevens here before at the start of this season.

"It is always a fierce atmosphere here because the supporters



"I HAVE PLAYED A COUPLE OF TIMES AT FRANKLIN'S GARDENS WHEN I WAS A YOUNG BOY - WHEN I WAS A 17/18-YEAR-OLD BOY, I CAME ON HERE IN THE ANGLO-WELSH CUP A FEW YEARS AGO - AND I HAVE PLAYED SEVENS HERE BEFORE AT THE START OF THIS SEASON."

always get behind their boys, and obviously you enjoy the challenge of that as a young player so I really enjoyed it.

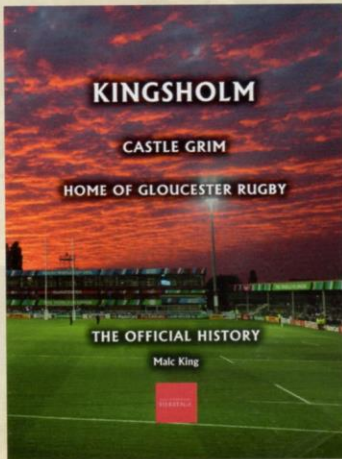
"Obviously I experienced The Shed in full force when we scored in the last minute of the game against Sarries and it is very hard to compare that noise, electricity and atmosphere to anything else.

"But I think The Shed still tops it for me."



GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
**HERITAGE**

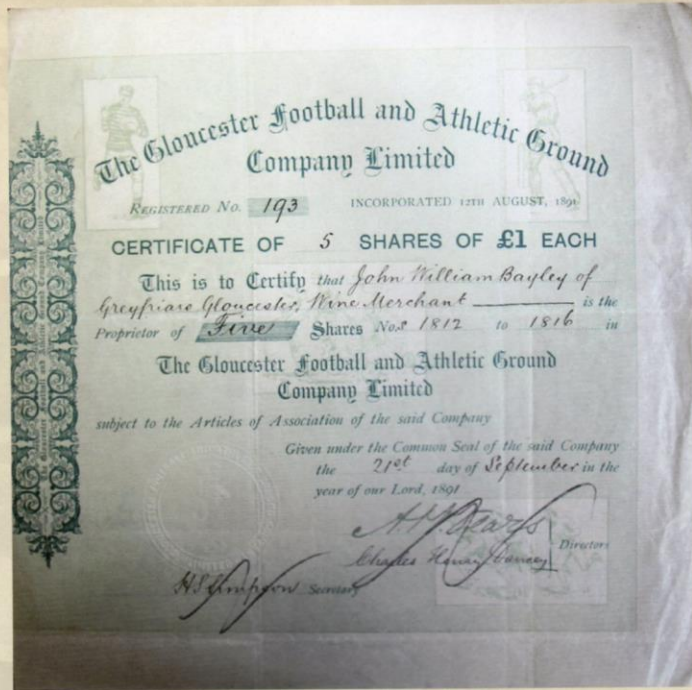
www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk



**TO MARK THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MATCH AT KINGSHOLM, GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE HAVE PRODUCED A BOOK WHICH RECORDS THE OFFICIAL AND AUTHORITATIVE HISTORY OF THE GROUND.**

The scene is set with a short history of the Kingsholm ground before rugby, and the 18 years after the Club was founded when matches were played on the Spa, which included the first visit by a New Zealand team and the Club's first floodlit match.

The book recounts the occasion when a match against Swansea was able to go ahead on a frosty day in January 1891, only because of the



application of a large quantity of salt. The grass died and the Rugby Club was invited to leave.

**THE ACQUISITION OF KINGSHOLM**

A detailed account is given as to how the Club came to move to Kingsholm, even though the committee originally favoured a site on Sheephouse Road, and how the Gloucester Football and Athletic Ground Company was set up to purchase the land then known as the Castle Grim estate.

The players, officials, supporters and investors who bought shares to float the company are listed, and the original documents relating to the purchase and development of the ground are reproduced.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE GROUND**

From the initial levelling and laying of a pitch, to the building of a pavilion, to the addition of a gymnasium in 1905 (now the Lions' Den and the oldest building still standing on the ground), to the history of the Tump, to the new

stand erected amongst the ashes of its predecessor in 1933, to the erection of the Shed in the 1930s, to the addition of floodlights and spun steel posts from Fielding and Platt in the 1960s, and on to the development of the present modern stadium, the many changes to the ground over the years are described and richly illustrated.



**THE OFFICIALS**

Credit is given to the many officials who have cared deeply about Kingsholm and devoted themselves to nurturing its growth. From "Commodore" Vears and Jimmy Boughton who masterminded the purchase of Kingsholm, to Arthur Hudson, "Doc" Alcock, John Brooks and Tom Voyce which carried on their work for several generations,





Left - "Commodore" Vears and Jimmy Boughton

Below - Kingsholm today



to Gordon Hudson, Peter Ford and Doug Wadley, who oversaw many developments post-war, and to Tom Walkinshaw, Ryan Walkinshaw and Martin St Quinton who took over the mantle and ownership of Kingsholm in the professional era.

### THE CHARACTERS

Some of the characters who have inhabited Kingsholm are recalled. Perhaps most notably the first groundsman or "curator" of Kingsholm, Harry Dyke, who was fondly remembered by many of his contemporaries.

Arthur Hudson, Gloucester and England player of the early 1900s, and subsequently Club Secretary wrote:

"I wonder how many can recall Harry Dyke, immaculately dressed and complete with a cheese-cutter hat, who tolled a bell to signalise the start of play and other occasions?"



Likewise, Dai Gent, Gloucester and England player of the same era, reminisced that, "...it would be a funny old Kingsholm to me, without Harry floating about, and his famous horse not far away. They were inseparable, and were often to be seen holding earnest conversations with each other".



### BIG MATCHES

Over the years Kingsholm has been selected to host many big representative games of rugby and the arrangements made to accommodate these matches have been thoroughly researched, including the international between England and Wales, visits by the Barbarians, the wartime internationals, the many County successes and hosting Rugby World Cup matches.

### QUOTES

Many quotes from the great and the good of rugby are included to illustrate what Kingsholm has meant to so many people.

From Bob Hiller who said:

"I've played Rugby in South Africa, New Zealand, Wales and other odd spots where the supporters are a bit fanatical, but I'd rather play at any of those places than at Kingsholm. Brother, that crowd is unique!"

To Keith Richardson who remembered that:

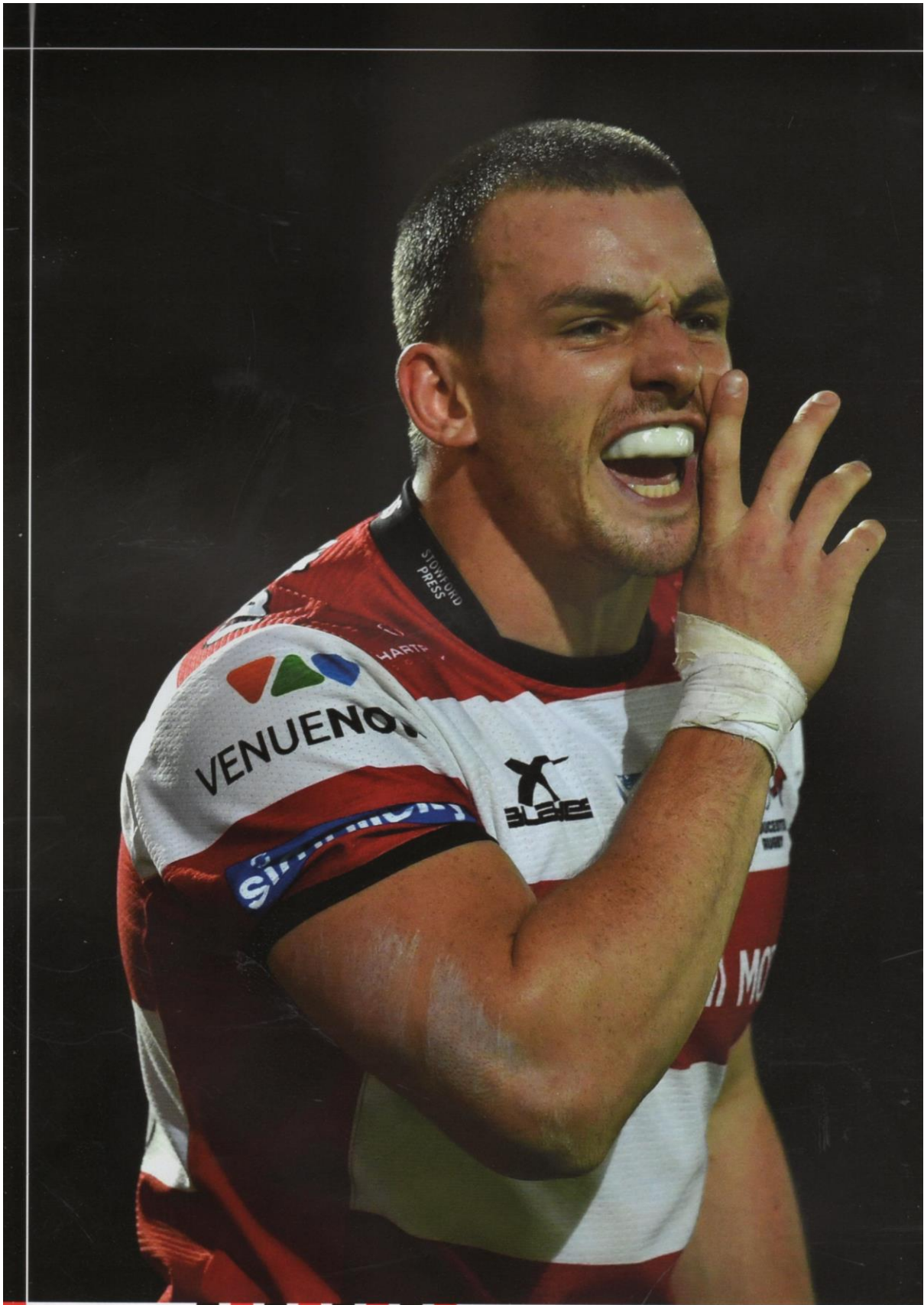
"We ran the Cherry Pickers rugger golf charity day for blind golfers, and the first time, one of the blind golfers, the Chairman I think, is from Gloucester and he's a Cherry and White supporter. And he told this lovely story of how he started supporting rugby and he lost the sight in one eye. But he went in the Shed and he suddenly found that he was with three thousand others just the same."

And Mike Tindall:

"I have always been aware of the heritage at Kingsholm, which runs through Gloucester as a club. It is an old school ground with old school values, as long as you leave 100% of yourself on the pitch it will always look after you."

The book is now on sale at £19.95, but a discount of £4 can be obtained in the Club shops at Kingsholm and the Quays.





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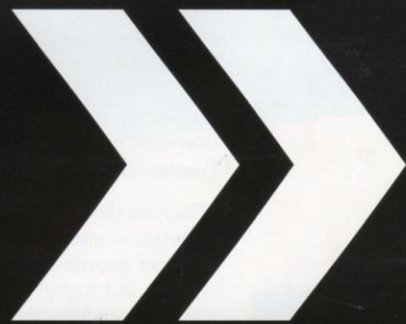
[www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk](http://www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk) || [tickets@gloucesterrugby.co.uk](mailto:tickets@gloucesterrugby.co.uk)



**HOME**

**FROM**

**HOME**





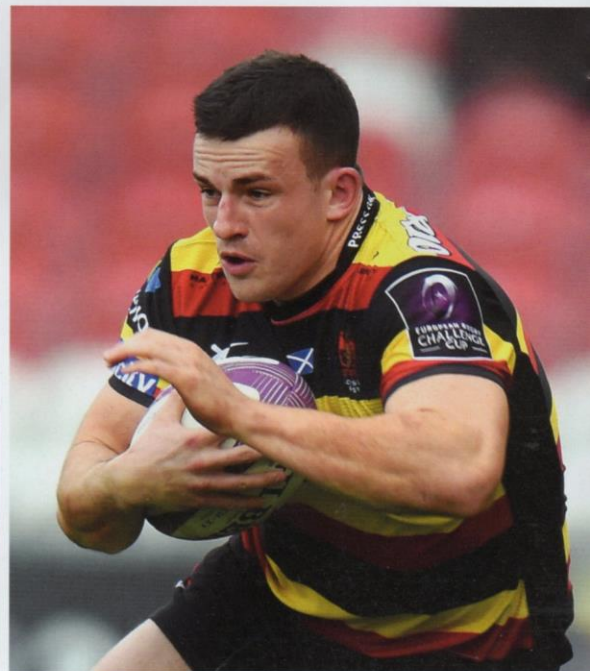


The Road from North of Hadrian's Wall to Kingsholm is one much travelled in recent times, and the latest Scottish import to arrive in Cherry and White has wasted no time in making a big impression.

Matt Scott has been in red-hot form for the Cherry and Whites after a summer move from Edinburgh Rugby, and has quickly established himself as a clinical and powerful presence in the Gloucester midfield.

After several seasons plying his trade at Murrayfield in the Guinness Pro 12, the multi-skilled midfielder is quickly adapting to the weekly domestic examination in the Aviva Premiership.

"They are different leagues, and I have found myself playing against different opposition to what I am used to. But rugby is played in a similar way across the British Isles,





and in the Northern Hemisphere, so in terms of style of play there isn't too much difference to be honest.

"I felt like I have settled in pretty well though, and I'm really enjoying the challenges of week in, week out Aviva Premiership rugby."

Notably, after a try-double on his full debut against Leicester Tigers on the opening weekend, the 26-year old sits on a strong tally of six tries so far, but he puts this hot streak down to a few minor tweaks and growths in his game.

"I think that this could be down to a few things. In my opinion I feel I have improved as a player in terms of my support lines, and looking for try-scoring opportunities. I feel as if my game has come on a lot since I've moved to Gloucester.

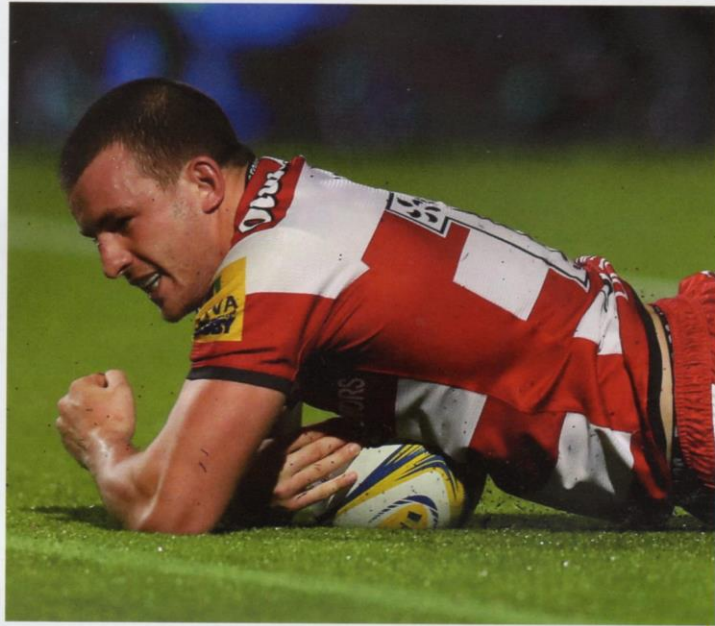
"Sometimes, of course it is a bit of luck and being in the right place at the right time. But other times maybe I have been running better support lines than I have in the past and getting on the end of that scoring pass.

"It may be a mixture of things, but I have enjoyed scoring tries, especially at Kingsholm, it is a great feeling."

The Dunfermline-born Scottish international has settled well in Gloucestershire, and Scott is delighted that with life off the field in a great place, he is able to turn his focus to the performance between the white lines each weekend.

**"It's a great bunch of boys and even though we've not won as many games as would've liked, the atmosphere is still as good off the field which is really important."**

"I've settled well, we've enjoyed some good weather down here as well. My girlfriend and I are enjoying living in Cheltenham, and I've really enjoyed the camaraderie amongst the squad.



"It's a great bunch of boys and even though we've not won as many games as would've liked, the atmosphere is still as good off the field which is really important.

"Nobody is sort of panicking or bickering behind the scenes and we're all on the same page in terms of where we want to go, and I'm enjoying that side of it as well."

With a short foray into the Anglo-Welsh Cup, the Cherry and Whites return their focus to domestic matters in the Aviva Premiership this week, with back-to-back tests against two of English rugby's highest flyers, and Scott is full of belief in what the squad achieve this fortnight - if they can play to their potential.

"This period is definitely key. We've not lost too many players to international call ups, and it is quite nice having that similar sort of squad going into a pivotal block of games.

"We start off with a home game at Kingsholm against a really strong Wasps side, and it's a great way to start this period and really test ourselves and get that winning habit going for the following weeks."





## KINGSHOLM NEWS

with

# Bob Fenton

**H**ere we are then, back to the serious stuff of the Premiership and time to start climbing out of the bargain basement and up the league a bit. It's only Wasps this week and Saracens next week - what could go wrong?

We're back after a bit of a mini-break for the Anglo-Welsh Cup thing. And, if today's game is half as good as the game against Saracens in said Cup, then everyone will be leaving happy - assuming that we get the same result. That game was like one of the Gloucester games of old, seemingly out of it at half time, three scores behind and looking for all the world like we were on the edge of a hammering.



**"Our young guns threw themselves into the fray like nothing we have seen for quite a while."**

Instead the half time break gave the coaches the time to circle the wagons and send the troops out with what must have been a '... just get into them...' kind of message. For that is what they did. Our young guns threw themselves into the fray like nothing we have seen for quite a while.

They mixed the play fantastically between open attacking style to smashing up through the big boys up front. For sure the penalty try was a turning point, the crowd went nuts and you could almost see the players growing in stature





and confidence. From that moment on the result was there for the taking, though to be fair I'd rather we did it slightly before the very last play of the game!

With the majority of that squad coming from our Academy you can only admire the depth of talent that is around the club at the moment. Of course there is a very big gap between the Academy and the Premiership, but the more exposure these guys get through games like these, and through the 'A' league, has to be good for all concerned.

It's a shame that the boys - and in this case the word is used in its literal sense - couldn't repeat the performance against Northampton last week. But, with two games gone, we're tucked in behind Leicester in second place in our group.

I don't know what the crowd figures were for the Saracens game, but I'm sure there will be a

lot more here today. So we need to recreate that buzz and turn this place into the cauldron that it is famous for. When it's like that, it really is a marvellous place to spend a Saturday afternoon - it's true, there's no place like 'Holm.

Wasps roll into town full of confidence, they have had a spectacular season so far and played some mind-bendingly good rugby along the way. And we'll get the chance to say hello to a couple of old boys too.

Last term they came along on the back of some great performances and were expected to roll us over simply enough - it didn't quite turn out that way though, and we edged them out by three points in a low scoring game. Same again today would do nicely.

Of course, it being the Autumn RFU cash bonanza - sorry Autumn internationals - both sides are likely to be short of more than a few players. I still can't get my head around the fact that key games - key to the futures of the clubs - are played at this time.

How can they be expected to perform to their best when some of the big names are missing? Yes, of course it's a squad game, but this kind of arrangement wouldn't happen in other professional sports. Have an international break and be done with it!

Our own man of speed, Jonny May, grabbed himself a great try last week even though Mike Brown's pass to him was, frankly, rubbish - causing him to slow down and take the ball over his shoulder. Class act that he is though, Jonny skated in to score.

Yet for some reason certain 'experts' still profess surprise when he does this. I don't get it! Don't they watch any rugby outside the rarified atmosphere of TW2? Quite how some people would prefer to see the likes of Marland Yarde (is it really true that his Dad's name is 'Scotland'?) to him is just nuts. Jonny is one of the few really world class players in that England squad, any international side anywhere in the world would snap him up.

Finally, we're now in that funny time of the season when, like when people write a letter to The Times claiming to have heard the first cuckoo of spring, everyone tries to outdo each other with the first transfer rumour of the year.

This season there seems to be more of them than ever, and if I can surmise them properly it looks a bit like this. Irrespective of contract positions pretty much everyone is about to leave and only two players are coming in which - if true - is going to put us in a bit of a spot come next season.

But that's OK, I have it on very good authority from a man who once cleaned the windows for a former player that the bloke from that club over there is coming and is bringing his mates with him...

As ever we'll see - but it is good fun to speculate!



# RANDALL on RUGBY



**BILLY TWELVETREES WAS 28 LAST TUESDAY, AND I FULLY EXPECT HIM TO START HIS 100TH MATCH FOR GLOUCESTER RUGBY THIS AFTERNOON.**

His curly locks have been a familiar and regular sight since he was signed by Bryan Redpath for the start of the 2012-13 season, and while others have left to try and pursue success and silverware at other clubs - not unusual I might add - Twelvetrees has adopted the stance that if he stayed put, success would come to him.

He had the joy of being club captain for the European Rugby Challenge Cup win 18 months ago,

but spend any time in conversation with Billy and his frustration at that modest return is very clear.

"Winning the Challenge Cup made it a nice weekend, but that's all it was" Twelvetrees said.

"It was a poor game but it doesn't matter in a final as long as you win. From a player's point of view though, how you think about a season is where you finish in the Premiership - that really is the be all and end all, and the trophy put a gloss on a disappointing season.

"Last year was pretty similar, and although I think we have come on massively as players, every other team has improved as well, and for whatever reason their improvement has been greater than ours."

**"THE TOP TEAMS CLOSE GAMES OUT. WE DID IT AT SALE, BUT DIDN'T AGAINST LEICESTER AT HOME AND NORTHAMPTON AWAY WHEN WE WERE IN GOOD POSITIONS, AND THAT SHOWS IN THE LEAGUE TABLE."**

I was reminded the other day of Sir Clive Woodward's "TCUP" acronym, in other words, "thinking clearly under pressure". In his World Cup winning team, he had men who repeatedly made the right calls, and drove straight through the red mist when it enveloped others.

A debate over whether it is easier to do that in a tournament compared to a long club season can wait for another day, but Twelvetrees admits the mental side of the game is now a huge factor.

"Delivering week in, week out is down to the top two inches in our heads" he went on.

"The top teams close games out. We did it at Sale, but didn't against Leicester at home and Northampton away when we were in good positions, and that shows



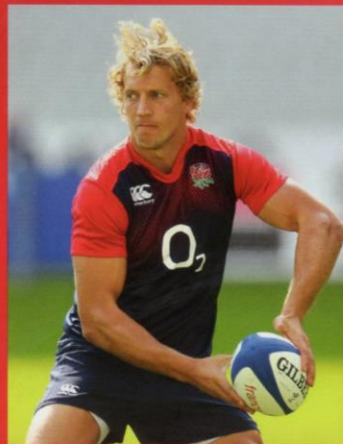


in the league table. There is no shying away from the fact that we haven't performed in terms of results.

"Ahead of the season we were positive and proactive in the way we approached things and from a playing perspective we have been calm with what we need to do. When we've lost we've never been soundly beaten, and if you speak to any of the other players we think we can win every game. That's the way we are. We have huge self-belief, and it's about delivering that for 80 minutes."

Twelvetrees has been out of international rugby for a year - the last of his 22 England caps was before last year's World Cup - and he confesses he doesn't know what the future holds.

Playing in a confident team at club level tends to be reflected internationally, which is what happened in his first season here at Kingsholm. Roll the clock forwards, and that spotlight switched to the likes of Ford, Joseph and Watson at Bath in 2014-15 and then to Saracens last season as they won the Champions Cup.



Twelvetrees remains ambitious but refutes any idea that being at Gloucester has hampered his England chances, reflecting with typical honesty that his personal performances have not been to the standard he would have liked.

Wasps arrive here today in a group of three teams that threaten to break away at the top of the Premiership. They have lost at Saracens but beaten everyone else, and Twelvetrees is in no doubt that Gloucester need a big performance and a watertight defence to secure a first home Premiership win.

"Defence coach Jonny Bell works hard and we all buy into it." Twelvetrees went on.

"We enjoy the physicality of defending, and doing it well can drive the team and breed energy. Wasps have a very clear structure with a set-piece which gets them on the front foot, a good kicking game and dangerous runners, but on a heavy pitch last year we dealt with that and got a good result against them."

Wasps had Elliot Daly, Joe Launchbury and Nathan Hughes in the England team that beat South Africa last Saturday, but even without them Director of Rugby Dai Young has a strong squad at his disposal including live wire scrum half Dan Robson, and Twelvetrees revealed the three Premiership games before Christmas must kick Gloucester's season into gear.

"There is no bigger test than Wasps" he said. "Greig Laidlaw and I both said if we had won at Northampton it would have propelled us forward significantly. We were devastated to lose.

"Our only thought from the games against Wasps, Saracens and Bristol is three wins, and all of us will turn up today with our shoulders back and heads up believing this can be the first of them."



ACTION REPLAY || FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER || FRANKLINS GARDENS || ATT 14,274

# Northampton Saints 23

Tries: Picamoles. Conversions: Myler (2). Penalties: Myler (3).

# Gloucester Rugby 20

Tries: Sharples, Rowan. Conversions: Laidlaw (2). Penalties: Laidlaw (2).

Despite a spirited second-half fightback, Gloucester came up just short at Franklin's Gardens as they slipped to a frustrating 23-20 defeat at Northampton Saints.

Victory was tantalisingly within the grasp of Gloucester. They enjoyed large spells of dominance on the evening without quite being able to put the points on the scoreboard to reflect that superiority.

Three penalties were missed on the night, while the Cherry and Whites were also left to rue being on the wrong end of a refereeing decision that cost them seven points and, ultimately, the game.

Referee Tom Foley seemed to be the only person in the ground who thought that Louis Picamoles' try was legal - and even he had his doubts. Foley asked his TMO for input and, despite the reply stating that it was no try, awarded it anyway....

It was a bitterly disappointing outcome for a Gloucester side who went at Northampton from the off, carving out a couple of kicking opportunities for Greig Laidlaw who, uncharacteristically, was off target.

So, it came as a real blow when Louis Picamoles scored the afore-mentioned controversial try giving the home side a 7-0 lead when they could easily have trailed 0-6. Stephen Myler added two penalties, either side of one from Greig Laidlaw, but Gloucester would have been aggrieved to be 13-3 behind at half-time

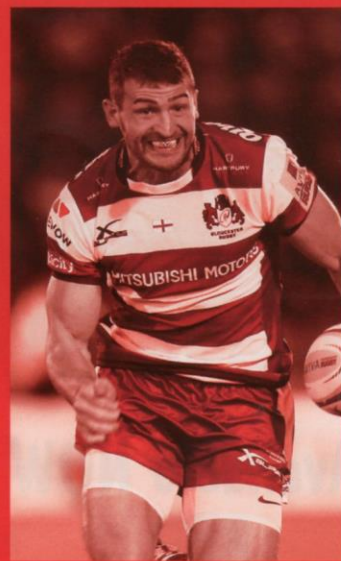


- 15 Foden
- 14 Wilson
- 13 Pisi ▼
- 12 Mallinder ▼
- 11 North
- 10 Myler 3P, 2C
- 9 Dickson ▼
- 1 Waller ▼
- 2 Haywood ▼
- 3 Brookes ▼
- 4 Paterson ▼
- 5 Day
- 6 Wood
- 7 Clark ▼
- 8 Picamoles 1T

Replacements used:  
Hartley, Waller,  
Hill, Ratuniyarawa,  
Gibson, Kessell 1T,  
Hutchinson, Tuala

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

Replacements used:  
Orr, Kvesic, Burns







But Gloucester channeled their frustration the right way, into a second-half comeback that had their hosts rocking. Jacob Rowan crossed first after good work from Mark Atkinson before Myler and Laidlaw swapped penalties.

Then Charlie Sharples fought his way over in the corner following a couple of powerful carries from Matt Scott and Gloucester had battled their way into the lead.

There then followed a period of heroic defence as Northampton fought to regain the lead. It finally took a moment of class, and on

this occasion a legal contribution, from Louis Picamoles to unlock the Cherry and White defence and put Tom Kessell over.

Now facing a three point deficit, Gloucester dusted themselves off once again and went after the win. James Hook's long range penalty fell just short, and a last gasp attack was thwarted for a penalty call for holding on in the tackle.

A relieved Saints outfit hoofed the ball out to clinch the win, while Gloucester were left to reflect on one that had slipped away from them.



## APPLYING THE LAW WITH



Official Legal Partner

There was one key decision on the night that cost Gloucester the game. Saints number eight Louis Picamoles appeared to be halted short of the line before being driven over.

Referee Tom Foley thought there was a double movement, and referred it upstairs to the TMO to confirm his suspicions. The TMO also thought there was a double movement, but Foley suddenly changed his mind and awarded the try.



## DIRECTOR OF RUGBY DAVID HUMPHREYS

"It is a bitter pill to swallow. For large parts of the game we were the better team.

"Our defence was absolutely magnificent and really didn't allow Northampton to play at any stage but, ultimately, too many penalties around the set-piece tonight cost us the opportunity to win a game I thought we deserved to win."



ACTION REPLAY || SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER || KINGSHOLM STADIUM || ATT 11,660

# Gloucester Rugby 36

Tries: Halaifonua (2), Purdy, Mullis, Thomas. Conversions: Evans (3).

# Saracens 32

Tries: Griffiths (2), Whiteley, Spencer. Conversions: Whiteley (2), Spencer. Penalties: Spencer (2).



People often talk about a game of two halves, and this opening Anglo-Welsh Cup fixture against Saracens offered a fine example of the genre!

Fielding an extremely youthful looking side, which contained no fewer than eight players making their full debut, Gloucester were swamped by a ruthlessly efficient Saracens side in the first 40 minutes, trailing 5-25 at half time.

Few would have suspected what was to follow. The odds wouldn't have been in the same ball park as 'Botham's Test' against Australia at Headingley in 1981, but the fightback was unexpected to say the least.

But perhaps that made it all the more enjoyable for the Kingsholm crowd, who well and truly got behind their team in the second half, with the timing of David Halaifonua's late game-winning try just the icing on the cake!

There were joyous scenes at the final whistle as the enormity of what they had just achieved



suddenly dawned on Gloucester's youngsters - good on them, they deserved a lap of honour after the shift they had just put in.

The first 40 minutes were tough going though. Saracens also fielded some of their young prospects, but they had some international class nous out there as well in the shape of Kelly Brown and Samu Vunisa.

They also had Ben Spencer, a scrum-half with plenty of Premiership experience, to pull the strings. He was incredibly influential and his half-time withdrawal was significant in hindsight.



- 15 Protheroe ▼
- 14 Halaifonua 2T
- 13 Purdy 1T
- 12 Creed ▼
- 11 Thorley
- 10 Evans 3C
- 9 Braley ▼
- 1 Orr ▼
- 2 Mullis 1T ▼
- 3 Ma'afu ▼
- 4 Beckett ▼
- 5 Batley
- 6 Clarke
- 7 Thomas 1T
- 8 Ludlow

Replacements used:  
Walker, Doran-Jones, Knight, Safe, Vellacott, Hudson, Robinson.

- 15 Fenby
- 14 Ellery
- 13 Tompkins
- 12 Griffiths 2T
- 11 Perkins ▼
- 10 Whiteley 1T, 2C
- 9 Spencer 1T, 1C, 2P ▼
- 1 Barrington ▼
- 2 Spurling
- 3 Koch
- 4 Flanagan
- 5 Isiekwe
- 6 Conlon ▼
- 7 Brown ■
- 8 Vunisa ▼

Replacements used:  
Thompson-Stringer, Nay, Earl, Taylor, Earle, Gallagher.





The visitors started well as Tom Griffiths danced his way through a static defence for the opening try and, although Gloucester hit back with a try on debut for Joe Mullis, Saracens started to turn the screw.

Dominating physically and in the kicking game, Griffiths was soon put over for his second before Spencer threw an outrageous dummy to dart clear for the third try. To be fair, the Men in Black were good value for their half-time lead.

But Gloucester came out in inspired form. Dan Thomas, excellent throughout, powered his way over after 46 minutes and was quickly followed over the whitewash by Henry Purdy and David Halaifonua. Three tries in 11 minutes and Sarries were reeling.

However, they regrouped as you'd expect and Tom Whiteley scampered over on the hour to open up an eight point gap and that looked to be that - game over!

But, to the delight of the home crowd, back came Gloucester. The pack forced Saracens to concede a penalty try as the catch and drive reaped rewards again, and Kelly Brown was sent to the sin-bin.

Could Gloucester do it? They certainly could! With just seconds remaining, a smart pass from Ben Vellacott gave David Halaifonua the chance to smash his way over and the celebrations began.

Terrific entertainment and a day to remember for some of the younger players wearing Cherry and White!



## APPLYING THE LAW WITH



Official Legal Partner

Credit to referee Matthew O'Grady who played his part in letting an entertaining game flow. There were no lengthy scrum resets to slow the game up as he officiated with a sympathetic touch. His only tricky decision was to yellow card Kelly Brown and award a penalty try.



## FORWARDS COACH

### TREVOR WOODMAN

"At 25-5 down, and with the changes we made to make us stronger, we said before the game to all of the young kids making their debuts - if you create the passion, energy, physicality and that resilience in front of the Kingsholm crowd, then they will back you all the way.

"The players came out in the second half and really showed that. There were some really good performances, like Dan Thomas who was great in the second half and Lewis Ludlow led the team really well. And Henry Purdy in that centre channel was instrumental in that second half to get us going forward."





# TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP  
RUGBY ROUND EIGHT



T P C D				T P C D								
				JAMES HOOK	15	FULLBACK	15	ROB MILLER				
				CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	RIGHT WING	14	CHRISTIAN WADE				
				MATT SCOTT	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	KYLE EASTMOND				
				MARK ATKINSON	12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	JIMMY GOPPERTH (C)				
				HENRY PURDY	11	LEFT WING	11	JOSH BASSETT				
				BILLY BURNS	10	FLY-HALF	10	DANNY CIPRIANI				
				WILLI HEINZ	9	SCRUM HALF	9	DAN ROBSON				
				PADDY MCALLISTER	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	MATT MULAN				
				RICHARD HIBBARD	2	HOOKER	2	TOM CRUSE				
				JOHN AFOA	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	JAKE COOPER-WOLLEY				
				TOM SAVAGE	4	LOCK	4	MATT SYMONS				
				MARIANO GALARZA	5	LOCK	5	KEARNAN MYALL				
				LEWIS LUDLOW	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	JAMES GASKELL				
				JACOB ROWAN	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	THOMAS YOUNG				
				BEN MORGAN	8	NUMBER 8	8	GUY THOMPSON				
<b>REPLACEMENTS</b>				<b>REPLACEMENTS</b>								
				MOTU MATU'U	16		16	ASHLEY JOHNSON				
				YANN THOMAS	17		17	BEN HARRIS				
				JOSH HOHNECK	18	<b>MATCH OFFICIALS</b>	18	PHIL SWAINSTON				
				JOE LATTA	19	REFEREE:	19	WILL ROWLANDS				
				MATT KVESIC	20	Dean Richards		ALEX RIEDER				
				CALLUM BRALEY	21	ASSISTANT REFEREES:	20	JOE SIMPSON				
				OLLIE THORLEY	22	Roy Maybank &		ALAPATI LEIUA				
				DAVID HALAIFONU	23	Simon McConnell	21	FRANK HALAI				