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

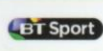
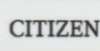


**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

VERSUS
**BRISTOL
RUGBY**

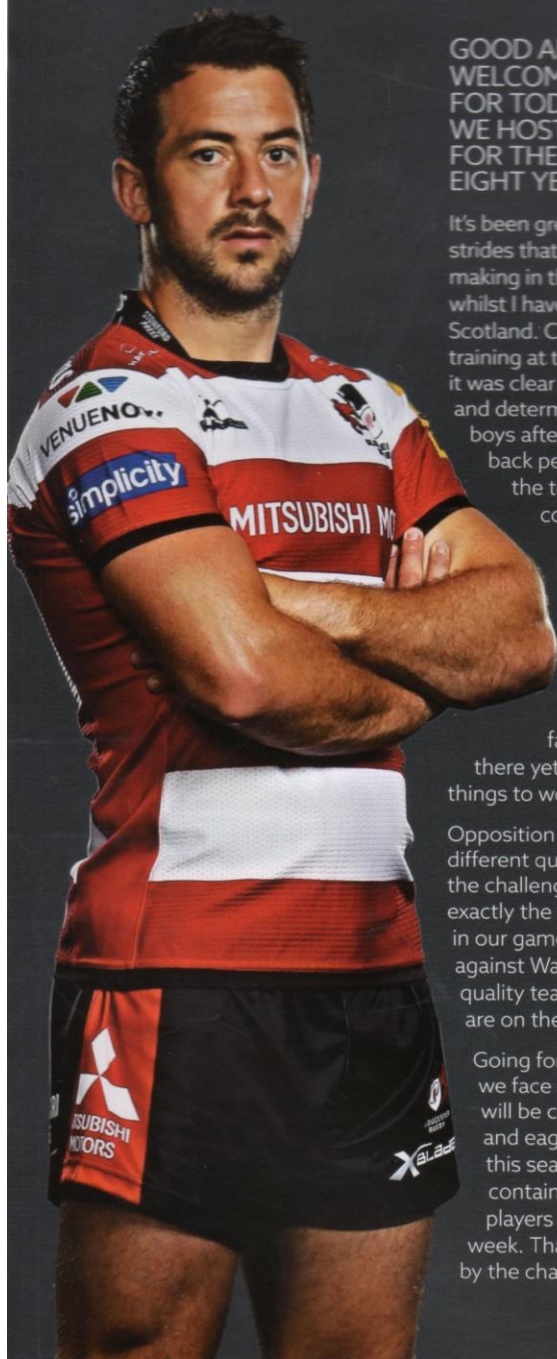
ISSUE 8 || AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY
SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 2016 || £3

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MATCH SPONSOR



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

GREIG LAIDLAW



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR TODAY'S GAME, AS WE HOST BRISTOL RUGBY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EIGHT YEARS.

It's been great to witness the strides that the boys have been making in their performances whilst I have been away with Scotland. Coming back into training at the start of this week, it was clear to feel the confidence and determination amongst the boys after excellent back-to-back performances against the top two teams in the competition.

To come away from Allianz Park with frustration at not winning the game shows where we are as a squad, yet also highlights the fact that we're not quite there yet and that there are still things to work on.

Opposition teams are being asked different questions by us, and the challenge for us this week is exactly the same. We are confident in our game plan and the win against Wasps showed what a quality team we can be when we are on the money.

Going forward, this weekend we face a Bristol team that will be coming to Kingsholm and eager to get off the mark this season. They are a team containing experienced players improving week by week. That said, we are excited by the challenge.



It's a big game for us a squad and I'm excited to be back as part of the group after a good few weeks away with Scotland.

After that sinking feeling we experienced against Australia, I was thrilled with how we bounced back with strong wins over Argentina and Georgia.

It was also great to be able to take the national team away from Murrayfield for one week and I'm sure everyone in Kilmarnock relished the chance to see the national team in town. Bringing the game of rugby to a wider audience is very important and I'm sure quite a few people enjoyed their first experience of international rugby.

Back to matters in hand this weekend, we will be going into the game full of determination and this game will end another key phase of the season before attention turns back to Europe, and then the tricky Christmas period.

So today, local rivalries will be renewed and we will be going all out to ensure that it's our supporters who have the bragging rights come the final whistle.

Enjoy the game

Greig



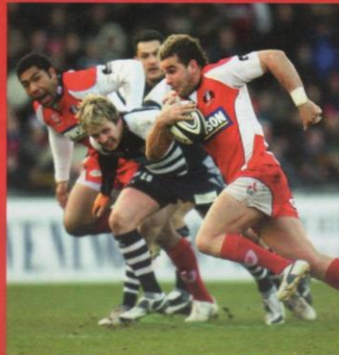
MARTIN ST QUINTON

Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm as we continue our Aviva Premiership campaign against Bristol Rugby this afternoon.

One of our traditional local rivals, it's great to see Bristol back in the Premiership and to be able to stage one of the most eagerly anticipated matches on the fixture calendar after so many years.

I've always thought that Bristol and Gloucester have an awful lot in common - we are both clubs with a rich heritage, who have always prided ourselves as being right at the heart of their respective communities and with a thriving local club scene which has provided so many great players over the years.

And, looking back, we both perhaps didn't quite adapt to professionalism as quickly as some other clubs and there were some tricky times at both Kingsholm and the Memorial Ground as their traditional home at the time was known.



Since then, it's fair to say that Bristol have endured some difficult times and experienced some real heartbreak when it came to getting promoted out of the Championship. But they're back now and a welcome addition to the Premiership.

There have been some terrific matches between the two sides over the years, and both sets of supporters will have their favourite memories. Personally, I'm very much looking forward to this afternoon's game as it's going to be a terrific occasion.

Finally, I'm sure you will all be aware

of the recent media speculation regarding a possible takeover bid for the club - it's certainly attracted a lot of media attention!

For obvious reasons, I'm not going to get drawn into making any comment on the rumours. What I will reiterate, however, is my total commitment to Gloucester Rugby, a club into which I first invested back in 2008 and which has become a huge part of my life.

That said, and I stressed this when I became owner earlier this year, if we were approached by someone who had the best intentions for the club at heart and the finances to make a real difference, then we would be foolish not to talk to them.

What I will promise though is, that should there be any significant developments at any time on this front, then you the supporters will be informed as soon as we are in a position to do so.

In the meantime, thanks for your support and enjoy the game!

Martin

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM AS WE CONTINUE OUR AVIVA PREMIERSHIP CAMPAIGN AGAINST LOCAL RIVALS BRISTOL RUGBY

For many of the Gloucester players and staff it will be our first experience of a long established derby match, but I know it's a fixture a lot of supporters have been looking forward to since Bristol's promotion at the end of last season.

We're delighted that the first fixture back in the Premiership between the two sides is here at Kingsholm. Despite a slow start to the season at home in terms of results, the last two matches at home against Saracens and then Wasps have seen two great wins with Kingsholm back to its intimidating best.

Having beaten Wasps, we were disappointed not to get a win last weekend at Allianz Park, and showed again how competitive we can be. As the scoreboard showed, there was very little between the two teams on the day, but we need to maintain that level of performance as we go into a very important sequence of games, in both the Premiership and Europe, over the Christmas period.

With two short turnarounds between games, starting with La Rochelle next week, we will need to rotate the squad and manage the players very carefully over the next few weeks. With players coming back from international duty and



"As the scoreboard showed, there was very little between the two teams on the day, but we need to maintain that level of performance as we go into a very important sequence of games, in both the Premiership and Europe, over the Christmas period."

some key players returning from injury, we're building real depth within the squad and some players who haven't had an opportunity to date will get their chance to stake a claim for a regular place in the squad.

However, we're still waiting on Jonny May to return from England and Trevor Woodman is looking forward to working with him on his scrummaging technique...

Back to today's game and I'm sure you'll all join with me in welcoming Mark Tainton and the Bristol management, players and supporters to Kingsholm.

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

David

NICK WOOD
274th APPEARANCE
GLOUCESTER RUGBY VS. WORCESTER WARRIORS
SATURDAY 12TH MARCH 2016

thank you



Gloucester Rugby stalwart Nick Wood left the club at the end of last season after 15 years of sterling service and was subsequently forced to retire from playing due to injury.

The 33-year-old loosehead, who joined the Academy from Radley College in 2001, spent his entire playing career with the Cherry and Whites, making his first team debut in the 2003-4 season.

'Woody', as he was dubbed by the club's supporters, was voted Young Player of the Season by them in 2004-05, and their Player of the Season in the 2011-12 season as well as being nominated for Premiership Player of the Season in the same year.

In total he made 278 competitive appearances for Gloucester, a club record, as well as becoming the first Gloucester player to make 200 Premiership appearances.

However, the club was conscious that supporters didn't get the opportunity to bid Nick a fond farewell at the end of the season and vice-versa.

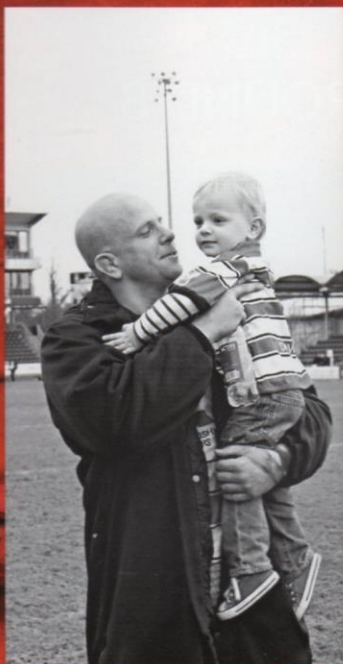
Accordingly, Nick and his family are our special guests at the game today, dining in the 1873 Ricoh Lounge before the game and will be interviewed on the pitch by Graham Spring at half-time.

Nick's playing record speaks for itself. To play so many games in such a physically demanding position speaks volumes of his skill, commitment, bravery and loyalty to the only club he played for.

It's terrific to see him back here today and he's sure to get a terrific reception.

(Nick Wood pictured at Worcester earlier this year when he broke the club's competitive appearance record)



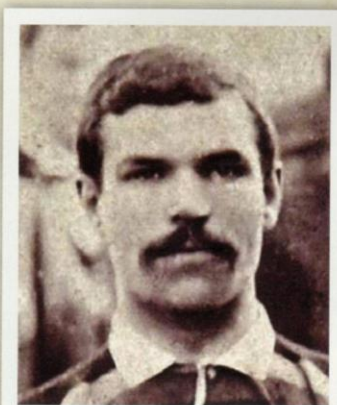


GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk

1892-2009

PLAYED	222
WON	118
LOST	84
DRAWN	19
ABANDONED	1
FOR	2548
AGAINST	1955



Walter Taylor



Bill Hook

GLOUCESTER V BRISTOL
THE GREAT
LOCAL DERBY

Today we welcome back Bristol Rugby to Kingsholm for the first time in eight long years and resume a rivalry that goes back to 1892, four years after the founding of the Bristol club and the year after the opening of Kingsholm.

For over 100 years the County Championship dominated the English domestic season, and to play county rugby was the first step towards gaining international recognition. Gloucestershire, the most successful and best supported of all the counties during that period, drew their team almost entirely from the Bristol and Gloucester clubs and rivalry for places was intense. Most of the crowd came to both club and county games and knew the players from both sides. Teammates one week were fierce rivals the next, adding an extra spice to proceedings.

Bristol Football Club (RFU) was founded in 1888 with the merger of the Carlton and Redland Park clubs and the County Cricket Ground in Nevil Road was leased for home games. This arrangement continued until the First World War.

The first season was fairly successful despite a strong fixture list, but the second was not and Bristol, unable to raise a side for their first scheduled fixture against the Gloucester 1st XV in October 1889, lost heavily to the 2nd XV at The Spa in November the following season.

The club recovered, however, and in 1891-92 won 20 of their 24 matches. Home and away fixtures with Gloucester were arranged for 1892-93, and so the great rivalry began.

THE FIRST MATCH

GLOUCESTER 15
BRISTOL 0

Kingsholm, October 1 1892

Described as "Gloucester's first big game of the season", the match was spoilt as a spectacle when Bristol's talented full back, Gibbs, dislocated his shoulder after ten minutes and Bristol were reduced to 14 men. The highlight was a try by Gloucester centre Walter Jackson, who had toured South Africa with the British Lions the previous summer. Receiving the ball on the half way line, he ran through the entire Bristol team to score under the posts. Gloucester's other tries were scored by wing Walter Taylor, who was Gloucester's leading scorer that season with 18 tries, forward H G Brown and half back Albert Collins.

The return fixture at Nevil Road, Bristol was drawn 2 points all, each side scoring a try.

BAPTISMS OF FIRE

The matches became highlights of the season for both clubs. Here, two players describe their first experience of a Bristol v Gloucester derby:

BILL HOOK

Memorial Ground, September 1938

England and Gloucester full back Bill Hook was just 17 and a schoolboy at Sir Thomas Rich's School when

he played his first away game for the 1st XV at the Memorial Ground against Bristol in September 1938. It was the start of Bristol's Golden Jubilee season and, having lost narrowly to Gloucester both home and away the previous season, they were more than usually keen to get their revenge.

Bill told how the legendary Gloucester hooker "Bumps" Carpenter took him under his wing, introducing him to the Bristol changing room with the words, "This is the babby we've brought down. He'll take anything fair and square, but you drop him anything below the line and I'll be looking for you." Then, beckoning to the youngster, "Come on me babby, you'll be alright, now."

Bumps was right, Bill need not have worried. Gloucester won the match by 6 points to 0, Bill's elder brother Bob scoring both their tries, and the Times reported, "The most notable features of the match were the forceful rushes of the Gloucester pack and the back play of W Hook, a seventeen year old schoolboy."



ALASTAIR HIGNELL
Memorial Ground, February 1973

England and Bristol scrum half and full back Alastair Hignell tells of how he joined Bristol as a raw 18 year old, hoping to play Colts rugby. Turning up for his first mid-week training session, he was told by the coach, "There's no Colts game this week, but you're playing on

Saturday. United are a man short." He added, "It's the big one this weekend...Gloucester United." The whole team bristled and looked suitably stern. Somebody said "Who's the scrum half?" "Here he is - it's Alastair," said the coach. "Poor sod!" was the reply.

The match was played in inches of mud - a typical pitch at the "Mem" in the '70s. In the first few minutes, Bristol lost their hooker and Alastair spent the rest of the game being trampled by his seven man pack going backwards - or if he was unlucky and the Gloucester pack stayed bound - by all fifteen! Somehow Bristol held on and there was only the odd point in it at the end. Alastair survived and went on to run out many times at Kingsholm for Cambridge University, Bristol and Gloucestershire. Rejoicing in the Shed's nickname of "Alice" he always got that little bit of extra attention when the fans thought that local hero Peter Butler should have been playing for the county - or for England - in his place.

ALL-CONQUERING GLOUCESTER GO DOWN AT BRISTOL

BRISTOL 12 GLOUCESTER 6

*Memorial Ground, September 26
1981*

1980-81 was Gloucester's greatest season of the amateur era - a season in which they lost only three of the 48 games played. The first of these was at Bristol in a typical "no quarter asked or given" derby game.

Gloucester trailed to a Phil Cue penalty in the second minute, but gradually gained some control, leading to Tony Durkin replying in kind to level the scores at half time. Cue and Les Jones exchanged penalties early in the second half, but after twenty minutes, Bob Hesford and Nigel Pomphrey shattered the Gloucester defence with Pomphrey crashing over in the corner. Cue added a further penalty and when John Fidler was sent

off following a monumental free-for-all, the match was all but won for Bristol. The back-row play of Hesford and Rafter and the pinpoint kicking of outside half Cue had swung the game.

GLOUCESTER AT HOME AT ASHTON GATE

GLOUCESTER 35 BRISTOL 13

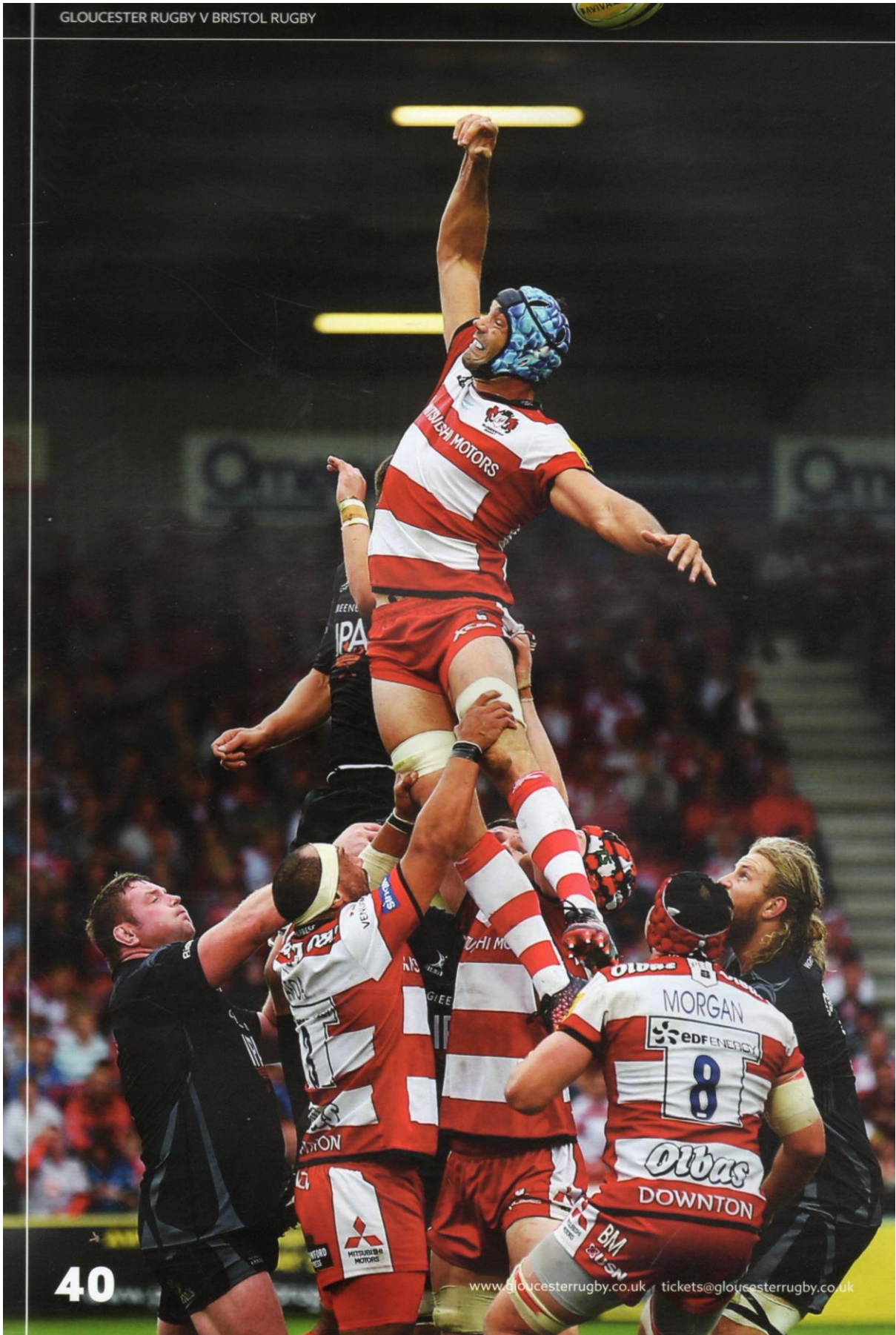
Ashton Gate, April 28 2007

As the demolition of the old South Stand at Kingsholm was already under way, the home match with Bristol was rearranged to be played at Ashton Gate. It was the last match before the play-offs. Gloucester were top and Bristol were in third place, just two points behind, in their best season since the game turned professional. The first match, at the Memorial Ground in November, had been won by Bristol in foul conditions. Now, the weather was perfect.

13,000 travelling Gloucester fans turned Ashton Gate into a sea of red and white and created a "home" atmosphere. Gloucester played with pace and precision. Bristol, having beaten Leicester 30-13 in a rearranged fixture earlier in the week, faded as the game went on. Tries were scored for Gloucester by Willie Walker, Mark Foster, Jake Boer and Andy Hazell and for Bristol by David Lemi and Brian Lima. Walker kicked 3 penalties and 3 conversions to total 20 points for the match. An otherwise perfect day for the travelling fans was marred by a knee ligament injury to James Forrester, which eventually was to end his career.

The following week, Gloucester beat Saracens by 50 points to 9 at a reduced capacity Kingsholm and Bristol lost by 24 points to 16 to Leicester at Welford Road, Leicester going on to beat Gloucester 44-16 in the final at Twickenham.

Just two seasons later, Bristol were relegated.



ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

For much of the season, amidst the action-packed nature of each contest and the unpredictability of every run out, there has been one calming influence in the eye of the storm in the Gloucester pack





Totemic Argentine Mariano Galarza is the gentle giant that has been an ever present in Cherry and White this season and, thankfully, shows no sign of slowing down.

The Puma second row assessed the start of the season this week, and ahead of the busy run into the Festive period, confirms that there is plenty still to come from a Gloucester side desperate to turn piles of promise into points.

"It wasn't the best start to the season for us, after a lot of changes that we had during preseason. We had some really good new staff coming on board for the squad and, coupled with the coaches and the players already here, we were in a really good place.

"However, we probably didn't have the start to the season that we wanted. I think that we showed during each game some really good stuff, and I think now we are looking to put all of this stuff into each game and being more consistent.

"I think the team is showing a real improvement over the last couple

of weeks, and now what we need to do is, despite the poor results, we need to keep believing in what we are doing, and in the long term this is going to come good, because we are not playing badly."

Galarza can often be found in the upper levels of the Opta stats when published most weeks, heavily involved in the tackle charts, carries and line-out takes. But the 30-year old lock is happy to be involved wherever, so long as he does everything to his own high standards.

"Well my role is mainly on the line-out for the team. I work with Trevor Woodman and a couple of the senior players in the forwards to focus on these areas, so I am always having conversations with Joe Latta and Jeremy Thrush who also look at the line-out, to find out where we can improve, and where we can target our opponents.

"We are all in charge of the line-out, and all together we have been working well on our individual roles too.

"For me on my individual role, I aim to bring work rate, and what I try to do is drive the team forward. Of course, I try to give my best in every game, and to add quality in every bit of work that I do.

"I think I am doing the best that I can do, I've had a good run of games and I hope I can keep giving my best for this team."

After joining the Cherry and Whites two summers ago, Galarza has become a true favourite at the club, his calm and personable nature backed up by his comfort in his environment after swiftly settling into his surroundings.

"My wife and I have settled really well in Cheltenham and we are really happy here. It is a completely different culture of course to what we are used to, but we are getting used to it every day.

"We really like living here in England and in Gloucestershire, and the experience is really nice for us, where you can go to a lot of lovely places, meet a lot of people and also it's exciting and challenging to be learning a new language.

"It is also an education for me to try a different level of rugby, and I am really enjoying my time in a Gloucester shirt. I have of course got a number of years still to play here and I am excited for what is to come. Who knows what the future holds!"

With Bristol in town today, the job in hand is no different from previous weeks where Wasps and Saracens stood on the other side of the white lines. Galarza knows that without getting too focused on the opponents, Gloucester have to get their own game in order first, and believe in the qualities that they possess.

"We have to be confident with all of the things we have been doing, however it is of course going to be a massive game. Bristol have yet to win a game this season, but they are desperate to get a victory so will come and throw everything at us this weekend.



"Well my role is mainly on the line-out for the team. I work with Trevor Woodman and a couple of the senior players in the forwards to focus on these areas, to find out where we can improve, and where we can target our opponents."

"They are a really dangerous team for us, and I think we need to give a really good performance to win the game. We need to work well during the week, and make sure that our preparations are spot on, and then we have to play for the full eighty minutes.

"In this competition, I have learned that you have to play for the full game, as you can win or lose a game against any team. So to win a game, you have to be really focused for all eighty minutes, and we will do just that this weekend."



KINGSHOLM NEWS

with

Bob Fenton

It's been a bit of an interesting couple of weeks since we were here last. If you read the last programme you will have seen a few comments around all the speculation of players coming and going. Well, we trumped that the other day with speculation around a new owner coming in to Kingsholm! I think I know where those stories come from...

It's true, I finally emptied the numerous bottles, tubes and even piggy banks that have been home to all my loose change for the past few years, and yes that was me holding up the entire bank queue in Barclays in town the other day.

But, sadly, while the amount saved was indeed a small fortune, Mrs F immediately took all the loot and went Christmas shopping and thus foiled my plan to buy a majority stake in Gloucester Rugby. Oh well, I've started saving and if we're all still here in about three years time we can try again.

It's definitely the kind of speculation to get supporters excited and, to be fair to Mr St Quinton, he has always said that if someone came in with the money and the right intention then he might be interested in bringing in a new partner. What responsible business wouldn't want to do that?

All the speculation did make me think back to those early days of Shedhead and the first knockings of professionalism though. We were pretty sure that we had nailed

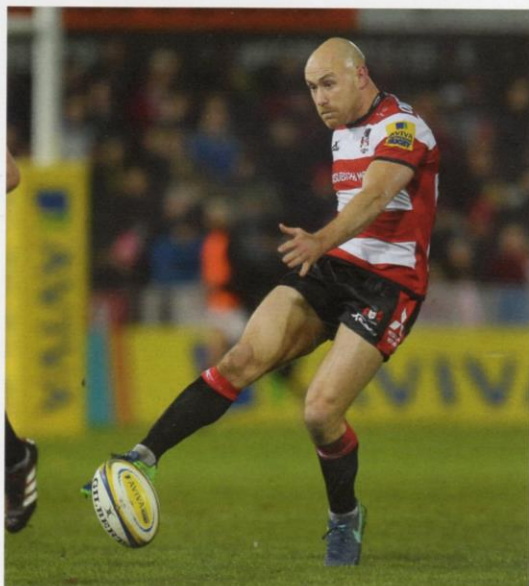


"We were pretty sure that we had nailed down who the likely new owners were, and our in-house bookie (Mr Ed) was offering pretty good odds on either Richard Branson or the Spice Girls taking the reins of the organisation, depending on which day of the week you happened to ask him!"

down who the likely new owners were, and our in-house bookie (Mr Ed) was offering pretty good odds on either Richard Branson or the Spice Girls taking the reins of the organisation, depending on which day of the week you happened to ask him! As ever, we were miles off in the end...

As ever, we'll see and we can dream that one day, just like it is for some other clubs, the salary cap will be a thing of the past and we can sign the entire All Blacks team having arranged quick marriages for them on a cheap night out at KCs (whaddaya mean it's gone?)

Ah well, back to reality...



Away from the off field distractions, the last couple of weeks have not been so bad on the pitch. The game here against Wasps was a sight to see - I think you'll have to go back into the history books for quite some way to find the last time we crossed their line five times in one season, let alone one match.

I think it was the kind of performance we all knew that the side is capable of. Sure Wasps were down a couple of players - as were we - but not many gave us a chance going into that game and for a while it looked like they may have had a point.

For me the match turned on that huge defensive effort when we were stuck on our line for what seemed a lifetime. But we held out and you could almost see the confidence grow. Charlie's lung busting sprint after Willi's clearing kick was a thing of beauty, only topped by Henry Purdy's clever kick off the outside of his boot for the last try.

The absolute best bit was after the game though. Many readers will know Barney from Wasps - he was with me at the game and afterwards he came out with so many excuses for the result it took my breath away!

He out Gloucestered any Gloucester supporter when we are scratching for a reason for a defeat. I shouldn't have laughed at his discomfort, he knows I love him really!

As if playing one of the top dogs one week wasn't enough, we had to trek up to the plastic paradise of Allianz Park last week. Another rubbish kick-off time dictated by TV meant that travel was out of the question, so another game watched from the sofa.

I really thought we might steal it and, when Big Ben bounced over the line after a few seconds, the dream looked like it might become a reality. Not to be at the end though, but I think if someone had offered six points from those two games we'd have taken it.

And today then. Bristol back in the big time - and good to see them here too. This is the real rivalry for me, forget the other mob from the wrong end of the A46. To say they have found the step up from the Championship to the Premiership a bit of a stretch would be an understatement, and it seems to be a similar situation for all the teams getting through the play offs.

It does them no favours as they cannot really try to recruit until the play offs are finalised, and by then most other teams are away on pre-season. I hope they can get some results together and stay up - though not today, obviously - as the trip down there is always fun.

And we get to play for the Rifles Cup too - do you think there is a chance that ERC might consider a Champions Cup place for the winners???



RANDALL on RUGBY



WELCOME BRISTOL, WHO COME TO KINGSHOLM IN THE PREMIERSHIP FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE NOVEMBER 2008.

Three of their current squad - which numbers 60 players - started that fixture just over eight years ago, so it will be interesting to see if Luke Arscott, David Lemi and Adrian Jarvis are on the field this afternoon.

It's fair to say Bristol's adaptation to being back in the top flight hasn't gone too well. A paltry four points from a possible 45 leaves them well adrift at the foot of the table, so I sought out one of Gloucester's Championship recruits, flanker

Jacob Rowan, to see if the gap really is the chasm it appears. His first thought was not about the quality of their play either last season or this, but the system by which Bristol were promoted.

"You don't know if you are going to go up until the end of May, which in terms of recruitment is a Director of Rugby's nightmare" Rowan said.

"You have to try and sign players who are available at that time and before you know it you are into preseason. Bristol have found it hard but they have made some signings since then and you don't know how far their improvement will take them."

Rowan's own graduation from the Championship has now progressed

to a point where he's played more minutes this season than Matt Kvesic. He'll be 27 in January, has the security of a Chemistry degree behind him, and still carries the statistic of never being yellow carded in Gloucester colours.

"As a seven, you try and play on the edge and push the boundaries but discipline is a big part of the game" Rowan went on.

"Look at what happened at Exeter in the last few minutes, where we conceded two penalties which gave them field position and an opportunity to score a try.

"Over the last two seasons I've worked a lot on my breakdown skills, especially defensively, and I knew I had to increase my lean body mass too. I was a bit light



when I came here and I was a bit taken aback by how strong the guys were in the gym."

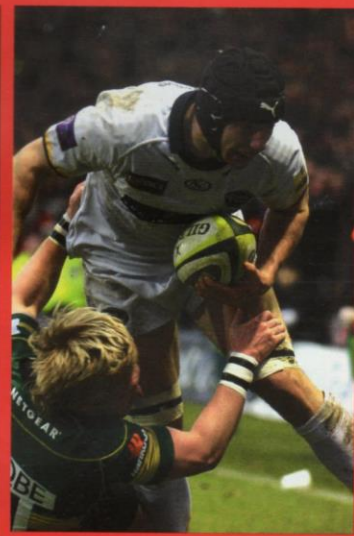
Rowan was brought through at Yorkshire Carnegie by former England coach Stuart Lancaster, who also had Luther Burrell and Calum Clark in the same youth system. He went on to play more than 100 first team games for the club before his move to Gloucester and sees it as a good grounding on a personal level for his career.

"In terms of physicality, the divisions are not too far apart because there are some big and expressive players in the Championship. The big steps are the tempo and the skill level, and being able to execute those skills at high pace for 80 minutes.

"The more you get used to it, the more you can do it, and it applies in training too. We're all trying to put questions into the heads of the coaches on a weekly basis when they come to select the team. We all want to be in the starting XV."

Rowan played the whole game at Allianz Park last Sunday as Gloucester were edged out by the

"THE MORE YOU GET USED TO IT, THE MORE YOU CAN DO IT, AND IT APPLIES IN TRAINING TOO. WE'RE ALL TRYING TO PUT QUESTIONS INTO THE HEADS OF THE COACHES ON A WEEKLY BASIS WHEN THEY COME TO SELECT THE TEAM. WE ALL WANT TO BE IN THE STARTING XV."



Premiership leaders. The league table may not make happy reading at the moment but with three of the next four games at home, starting today, the chance is there to overhaul some of the other teams in the bottom half.

As for Bristol, their key game appears to be the one at home to Worcester on Boxing Day, but Rowan acknowledged they would see today as an opportunity too.

"There is an extra fizz to a derby and we have to use that better than they do" he concluded.

"Bristol's start was a shock to them, but they beat Sale in the Anglo Welsh, ran Bath close and then got a losing bonus point against Leicester last week. Their training will have been better because they'll have seen things starting to work, and they'll see Gloucester in 10th place and think they can come here to have a go at us as well."



ACTION REPLAY || SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER || FRANKLINS GARDENS || ATT 14,011

Northampton Saints 19

Tries: Clare. Conversions: Olver. Penalties: Olver (3). Drop Goals: Olver.

Gloucester Rugby 13

Tries: Thorley, Thomas. Penalties: Burns.

Gloucester visited Franklin's Gardens for the second time in a fortnight and, once again, came away with only a losing bonus point to show for their efforts when they could easily have secured a win.

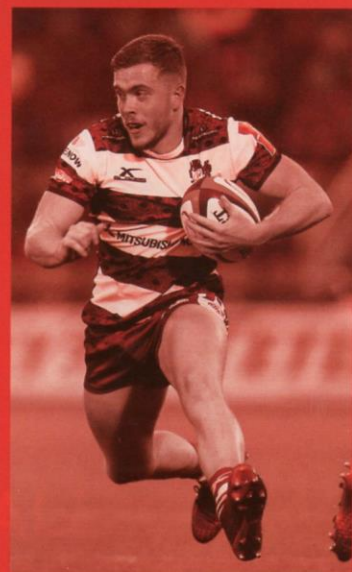
This Anglo-Welsh Cup tie saw a very different looking Gloucester line-up from the team that lost so narrowly in the Premiership. The Gloucester young guns had pulled off a thrilling late comeback against Saracens seven days previously, but couldn't quite do so again on this occasion.

It wasn't for a lack of effort. The starting line-up again featured many of the club's most promising young prospects, current Academy members or recent 'graduates', up against a Saints squad that featured five England internationals, and the effort and commitment couldn't be faulted.

It was tough going at times and Gloucester did struggle to get their hands on a decent amount of possession. But they never let their heads drop, refused to throw in the towel and came very close to snatching the victory in the final few minutes.

Lewis Ludlow came desperately close to scoring an early try, but lost the ball as he stretched for the line but Gloucester did take the lead with a Billy Burns penalty.

However, Northampton hit back with two penalties from Sam Olver as their pack started to gain the upper hand and pounced just



- 15 Wilson ▼
- 14 Elliott
- 13 Burrell ▼
- 12 Hutchinson
- 11 Collins
- 10 Olver 3P, 1C, 1DG
- 9 Kessell ▼
- 1 Waller ▼
- 2 Clare 1T ▼
- 3 Hill ▼
- 4 Onojaife
- 5 Craig
- 6 Gibson ▼
- 7 Ludlam
- 8 Dickinson ▼

Replacements used:
Fish, Beesley,
Paterson, Harrison,
Nutley, Dickson,
Foden

- 15 Evans
- 14 Protheroe ▼
- 13 Purdy
- 12 Creed
- 11 Thorley 1T
- 10 Burns 1P ▼
- 9 Braley
- 1 Y Thomas ▼
- 2 Walker ▼
- 3 Ma'afu ▼
- 4 Batley ▼
- 5 Latta ▼
- 6 Ludlow
- 7 D Thomas 1T ■
- 8 Evans ▼

Replacements used:
Mullis, Hohnack,
Knight, Beckett,
Clarke, Vellacott,
Hudson, Safe



before half-time when hooker Charlie Clare touched down after a catch and drive.

To be fair, the home team were good value for their lead at the break and things got even more difficult for the Cherry and Whites when Dan Thomas was sinbinned as referee Evans lost patience after a series of penalty awards.

Olver turned the screw with his third penalty, and then seemed to very much clinch the game with a 56th minute drop goal that extended the lead to 19-3.

But Gloucester weren't done just yet and Ollie Thorley got his team back into the game with a fine solo score. Fielding a cross-kick, the winger claimed the ball,

accelerated away from the chasers before powering through a number of attempted tackles to score.

It looked like being a mere consolation, but Dan Thomas sent nervous tremors around the stadium when he pounced on a loose tap back by the home side to score Gloucester's second.

Crucially, Lloyd Evans' attempted conversion hit the post and stayed out but the Cherry and Whites were back in the game at 19-13 with just a couple of minutes left.

And they duly gave it a go, driving into the home 22 with seconds left to play only to concede a penalty for holding on much to the relief of the home team.



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Looking back on the game, Gloucester might think that they didn't quite get the rub of the green in terms of the referring decisions.

Difficult weather conditions resulted in multiple handling errors and therefore set-pieces. Gloucester were penalised at many of these and also saw Dan Thomas sinbinned in the second half.



BACKS COACH TIM TAYLOR

"I think the boys that have been involved in this competition over the last two weeks, their attitude and application has been fantastic from Saturday to Saturday," said Taylor.

"They got a great last-minute win last week at home and I thought they were going to sneak one again this week but that shows the spirit of the team which is excellent to keep fighting to the end.

"They've trained well and prepared well and never given up when they've been out there."

ACTION REPLAY || SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER || KINGSHOLM STADIUM || ATT 12,772

Gloucester Rugby 36

Tries: Hibbard, Atkinson, Scott, Sharples, Purdy. Conversions: Hook (3). Penalties: Hook.

Wasps 18

Tries: Young (2). Conversions: Gopperth. Penalties: Gopperth (2).



Sharples and Henry Purdy crossed for late tries, saw scenes of happiness and celebration toasting a big victory.

On a chilly late afternoon, James Hook opened the scoring from the tee, before a strong Wasps rolling maul carried over Thomas Young – an ominous sign perhaps.

But the Cherry and Whites responded in kind, with Richard Hibbard benefiting from a classic forward pack effort to drive over the line.

With just five-points in it after a well fought first forty minutes, the game was well and truly in the balance, with the hosts good value for their lead.

A pair of Jimmy Gopperth penalties after the resumption put Wasps into a one-point lead, but despite a missed Hook penalty, the Cherry and Whites struck with a crucial pair of tries.

First, the hosts were handed a gift, Danny Cipriani dallied in his clearance and thudded his kick against the head of the returning Dan Robson. The loose ball was hacked on by John Afoa and, with Cipriani compounding his first error with a comical spill, Mark Atkinson was on hand to join Afoa in dotting the ball down together.

Immediately, the hosts worked an attacking opportunity in the Wasps' 22, as Hibbard provided the ballast to power from a maul, the ball was worked to Atkinson who ghosted past Kyle Eastmond before being scragged just short.

After an admittedly tricky start to the season on home soil, the Cherry and Whites become the second team this season to defeat high-flying Wasps, in a dominant, powerful and ultimately winning display at Kingsholm.

When things click for the Cherry and Whites, they are a joy to watch, and Wasps were swatted away on a chilly Saturday afternoon as the home side mixed a strong defensive effort with a clinical finishing edge to pick up their first home win of the Aviva Premiership season.

Not many will have expected the hosts to run in five tries against the much-fancied opponents from the Ricoh Arena, but the jubilation around Kingsholm as Charlie



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

Replacements used:
Matu'u, Hohneck,
Latta, Kvesic.

- 15 Miller
- 14 Wade
- 13 Eastmond
- 12 Gopperth 1C, 2P
- 11 Bassett ▼
- 10 Cipriani
- 9 Robson ▼
- 1 Mullan ▼
- 2 Taylor ▼
- 3 Swainston ▼
- 4 Symons ▼
- 5 Myall
- 6 Gaskell ▼
- 7 Young 2T
- 8 Thompson ▼

Replacements used:
Cruse, Bristow, Moore,
Rowlands, Johnson,
Simpson, Halai, Leiua.



But quick thinking from Matt Scott saw him pick up and reach for the line through a host of bodies for his seventh try of an impressive first season in Cherry and White.

Kingsholm was alive with noise, as the hosts were flying forward at will, and in defence were driving back their opponents. The commitment of the Gloucester defence was typified by captain Willi Heinz - who held up the powerful run of Guy Thompson when a try looked certain.

Heinz was almost the hero again minutes later, but Thomas Young was able to collect a Ashley Johnson break and scramble over, and Wasps had a glimmer of hope.

But, to dispel any nerves that may have been at Kingsholm, the hosts struck again and the noise in the stadium hit new heights.

It began with a Cipriani break, but as his pass went loose, good

composure from Lewis Ludlow set the ball up for Heinz to swoop and thump the ball into open field where Charlie Sharples had a free-run to chase and collect with the Shed roaring him on for his third try in three Premiership clashes.

Wasps were a beaten team; their swagger and confidence was gone and the home side were pressuring every mistake. With time up, the final mistake came.

Eastmond and the quiet Christian Wade lost the ball and Matt Scott hacked it on. Henry Purdy raced after the loose ball before showing good footballing skills to kick on and dot it down for Gloucester's fifth to inspire sheer delight all around the stadium.

It left many wondering where this Gloucester display had been in the home defeats to Newcastle and Bath, but all of sudden, there was a renewed optimism around Castle Grim.



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There were some tricky calls for referee Dean Richards on the day and, with the help of his TMO, he got them spot on.

Matt Scott's try needed to be confirmed upstairs as did the fact that Willi Heinz had pulled off a try saving tackle on Guy Thompson. Thomas Young's second try was also double checked and the right call was made.



DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

DAVID HUMPHREYS

"We knew how we wanted to play as we've had three weeks to prepare for it. The half-backs executed the plan magnificently with our defence outstanding and we competed very well throughout.

"Fifteen of our last 16 games have been decided by less than 10 points so we've been close in the past with our only poor performance against Newcastle, so to win today was very important.

"Our Anglo-Welsh Cup win over Saracens a fortnight ago was a huge result for us as it gave the youngsters confidence and Kingsholm was buzzing more than on any occasion this season."

0-3
0-6
7-6
14-6
21-6



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

26-6
26-11
26-18

TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP
RUGBY ROUND 10



BRISTOL RUGBY

T P C D				T P C D								
		✓		JAMES HOOK	15	FULLBACK	15	JORDAN WILLIAMS				
				CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	RIGHT WING	14	RYAN EDWARDS				
	✓			MATT SCOTT	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	JASON WOODWARD		✓	✓	
				MARK ATKINSON	12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	WILL HURRELL				
	✓			HENRY PURDY	11	LEFT WING	11	JACK TOVEY		✓		
		✓		BILLY BURNS	10	FLY-HALF	10	BILLY SEARLE				
	✓			WILLI HEINZ (C)	9	SCRUM HALF	9	RHODRI WILLIAMS				
				PADDY MCALLISTER	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	KYLE TRAYNOR				
				RICHARD HIBBARD	2	HOOKER	2	MARC JONES				
				JOHN AFOA	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	GASTON CORTES				
				TOM SAVAGE	4	LOCK	4	IAN EVANS				
				MARIANO GALARZA	5	LOCK	5	MARK SORENSON				
				LEWIS LUDLOW	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	MITCH EADIE				
				JACOB ROWAN	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	OLLY ROBINSON				
				BEN MORGAN	8	NUMBER 8	8	JORDAN CRANE (C)				
REPLACEMENTS				REPLACEMENTS								
				TOM LINDSAY	16		16	ROB HAWKINS				
				JOSH HOHNECK	17		17	RYAN BEVINGTON				
				PAUL DORAN-JONES	18	MATCH OFFICIALS	18	JAMAL FORD-ROBINSON				
				JOE LATTA	19	REFEREE:	19	JAMES PHILLIPS				
				ROSS MORIARTY	20	Matthew Carley		JON FISHER				
				GREIG LAIDLAW	21	ASSISTANT REFEREES:	20	WILL CLIFF				
				BILLY TWELVETREES	22	Ross Campbell & Paul Burton		ADRIAN JARVIS				
				OLLIE THORLEY	23			JACK WALLACE		✓		