



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



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

VERSUS

CARDIFF BLUES

ISSUE 16 || EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP
SATURDAY 1 APRIL 2017 || £3



EUROPEAN RUGBY
CHALLENGE CUP

OFFICIAL PARTNERS



OFFICIAL SUPPORTER



OFFICIAL SUPPLIER



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

GREIG LAIDLAW



GOOD EVENING AND IT'S GREAT TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO KINGSHOLM FOR TONIGHT'S EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER FINAL CLASH WITH CARDIFF BLUES.

We face a really tough game this evening, but the squad are in a good place now after a well deserved win at Bristol last weekend.

The nature of the rugby calendar has thrown up a few challenges recently, with a few weekends with no games. This has been a good thing as far as the boys have been able to get focussed on their roles and their targets not to mention let a few bumps and bruises heal up.

There is no hiding from the fact that we left the Kingsholm field at the start of last month hugely disappointed. A lot of comment was thrown our way and we had to take it on the chin after a thoroughly disappointing loss against Harlequins.

It perhaps epitomised our season. We were banging on the door continually to get the bonus point try, and put the game to bed, but instead lost the initiative and Harlequins needed no second invitation to snatch the win.

But, that said, we faced a challenging trip to Ashton Gate last weekend, and against a team scrapping for every point, we put in an organised and professional display. Although we

were not completely at our best, we were clinical when it mattered, and based a lot of our game on a dominant defensive display.

That boost in confidence has been very timely, this weekend we face a massive test, and one that has been ringed in the diary for a number of weeks now.

I know from my time in the Pro 12 the threats that Cardiff pose as a squad, and they are definitely a team with a lot of weapons in both the pack and the back line.

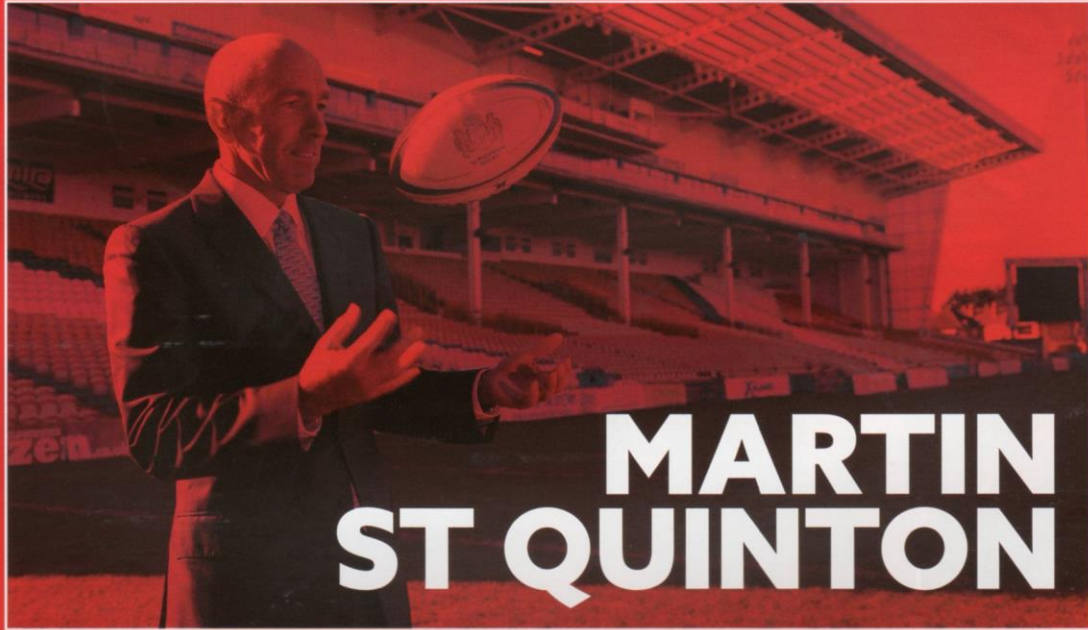
We have home advantage, and that is massive for this Gloucester squad. We have had some big performances on home soil this season already, and I will be calling on another one this week, in a tournament that we are very keen to do well in!

I'm gutted not to be able to run out with my team mates this weekend, but I will be doing all I can to help them prepare and gear up for the test ahead. We're hugely excited and looking forward to getting out at Kingsholm

Enjoy the game

Greig





MARTIN ST QUINTON

Good evening and welcome to Kingsholm for this evening's European Rugby Challenge Cup quarter-final fixture against the Cardiff Blues.

I don't know about you, but I have had this particular game highlighted in the diary for quite some time. Not only is it a huge game for us, but it's a resumption of one of the oldest Anglo-Welsh rivalries in the game.

Many of you, like myself, will remember the days before professionalism when some of the most keenly anticipated games of the season were the meetings between English and Welsh club sides.

If you talk to some of our former players, they have many stories about dark and rainy midweek encounters over the bridge. Tough but fair games and they all look back on them with affection.

Meetings in recent years have obviously been less frequent. However, tonight promises to be a



very memorable occasion. I know that plenty of Cardiff supporters are planning to make the trip over and, of course, our home support is second to none.

A meeting against either Edinburgh or La Rochelle lies ahead for the winners of tonight's game, by the time we kick off here at Kingsholm we will know who won that match, but last season's experience against Newport Gwent Dragons means that David and the squad will be taking nothing for granted.

On that note, I was hugely impressed with the way that the squad went about their business at Bristol last weekend. It had been a difficult couple of weeks

following the departure of Laurie Fisher, but the win at Ashton Gate was achieved in a very professional manner.

A final word on Laurie. Things didn't work out as any of us would have liked, but I would like to say that Laurie was one of the hardest working, most dedicated coaches I have met. His attention to detail was second to none.

His love for the game was apparent and I would personally like to thank him for all his efforts during his time at the club and wish him well for the future.

Enjoy tonight's game.

Martin

Good evening and a warm welcome to Kingsholm and I'm delighted to welcome Danny Wilson, the players, staff and supporters of Cardiff Blues to Gloucester for the first time since I've been here for an important night of Challenge Cup rugby.

Over the last couple of seasons in this competition we've experienced the highs and the lows that knock out rugby can bring. We've only lost two games in Europe during that time and beating Edinburgh in the 2015 Final at the Stoop was a memorable night for everyone associated with the Club.

We have set out to win the Challenge Cup again this year but know that it will take a big performance this evening to beat Cardiff Blues. Anyone who watched their game against Leinster last weekend will have seen the attacking threats they possess, particularly their outside backs, and they'll have been disappointed to leave Dublin without a victory.

We were all delighted with a win and five points from the Bristol game last Friday evening. The nature of the defeat to Harlequins, and Laurie's subsequent departure, could have been really disruptive for all the players and staff and given everyone an excuse not to perform at Ashton Gate.

The performance was by no means perfect but the attitude and commitment of the coaches and players throughout the training week was reflected in a physical, committed and composed 80 minutes of rugby. Of course, we were under pressure during parts of the game, but we were outstanding in defence and deserved a comfortable win at the end. We talked all week about showing ambition and intent to attack and the final try was as good as any we've scored all season.

It's always hard to single out individuals but I'm sure you were all



delighted to see Henry Trinder back starting a Premiership game for Gloucester. It's been a long road back from his injury but Henry has worked incredibly hard to come back fitter and stronger than he was before he got injured at the end of last season. It's exciting to have him back competing with Matt Scott for the no 13 jersey and gives us real strength in depth in that position.

Tonight we will have to be better than we were in Bristol but everyone is looking forward to playing under floodlights at a loud and passionate Kingsholm.

We've worked hard throughout the pool stages to get to this stage of the competition and, with your support this evening, it should be another memorable European night in Gloucester.

David



VIEW FROM THE

Citizen

A challenging period has galvanised Gloucester, according to captain Willi Heinz.

Head Coach Laurie Fisher left in the wake of the disappointing defeat to Harlequins last month, but a two-week break from Premiership action gave the players a period of reflection and the Cherry and Whites bounced back on their return to action with a derby win at Bristol.

Jonny Bell has stepped up as Interim Head Coach until the end of the season, supported by

Forwards Coach Trevor Woodman and Backs Coach Tim Taylor, and Heinz believes they have had a positive impact to ensure that the side have been able to move on quickly.

"It's been a challenging couple of weeks but I guess the events that have unfolded have galvanised the boys," said scrum-half Heinz.

"The coaching staff that have taken the reins have done a magnificent job at just moving on and instilled the confidence in the boys to go out there and play for each other.

"We had that week off after the





Harlequins game which can be a good or a bad thing because you want to get back on the horse but it probably gave us a week to sit back and individually and collectively review how we've been going and the things we haven't been doing well.

"It's never nice to see someone feel like they need to leave like Laurie did and I do feel for him but professional sport's a pretty ruthless place and you've got to get on with it.

"I think the way Jonny Bell and the coaches around him have moved forward and got on with it has been really complimentary."

Gloucester are thought to be close to securing the services of Johan Ackermann, who has had success as Head Coach with the Lions - a side Heinz came up against during his time playing Super Rugby with the Crusaders.

"I don't really know anything about him," said Heinz.

"I know the Lions have had a pretty impressive turnaround in fortunes from where they've come from but

I'm not even worried about what's going on behind the scenes, I'm just worried about making sure this group is confident and excited to play each week and we're just really excited to get out there and play for the coaching staff we've got at the moment."

While Gloucester have had a difficult season on the domestic front and face an uphill struggle to qualify for the Champions Cup, Heinz is determined to finish the season with some silverware as they look ahead to a big European Challenge Cup quarter-final

against Cardiff Blues at Kingsholm on Saturday night.

"I guess every game now for us is like a final and that's the way we've got to prepare," said Heinz.

"Going into this quarter-final playing at home in front of our people, again it's a massive opportunity and a massive challenge for us.

"We'll make sure we'll put our best foot forward for that because we're desperate."



GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk

GLOUCESTER V CARDIFF

OLD OPPONENTS FROM ACROSS THE BRIDGE

Today we welcome the Cardiff Blues and take the opportunity to look back over more than a hundred years of rivalry between the Cherry & Whites and the formidable Cardiff RFC, from the first match in 1882, when the first stands were built at Cardiff Arms Park, to the last, a Heineken Cup quarter-final at Kingsholm in 2001, two years before the Cardiff Blues regional side were formed.

Few English clubs played home and away fixtures against Cardiff and although the Welsh club, seeking to broaden their fixture list, reduced the matches to one per season in 1969, they remained amongst the most prestigious and eagerly-awaited fixtures of the Gloucester season. A win against Cardiff was hugely prized by all English clubs.

As with the other Welsh giants, Newport, the playing record during the amateur era tells the story:

v Cardiff 1882-1996:
Played 162, Won 38, Lost 106,
Drawn 18 (Gloucester Win %age:

23.46)

v Newport 1878-1996:
Played 195, Won 56, Lost 119,
Drawn 20 (Gloucester Win %age:
28.71)

**The first match: Gloucester 1
goal 7 tries Cardiff 0 Spa Ground
Gloucester 28 October 1882**

**(before the introduction of the
points system)**

The first visit of Cardiff was eagerly awaited and drew a crowd of 4,000 to The Spa. Cardiff were expected to win, but Gloucester were much the better team on the day, "passing with remarkable judgment and accuracy, and showing such pluck and smartness in their backs that their opponents found themselves incapable of making any firm and determined stand. Hence the victory was a decisive one." The Gloucester tries were scored by Fream (2), Taylor (2), Brown, Dewey, Boughton and Coates, Boughton converting one.

Gloucester's "Invincibles" led by Frank Brown, in his last season

as captain, remained unbeaten throughout the 1882-83 season, although they could only draw the return match at Cardiff, 1 try each.

**A rare double: Cardiff 4 (1dg)
Gloucester 6 (2t) Cardiff Arms
Park 14 February 1931**

Gloucester pulled off one of the best wins in the club's 58 year history with this victory over Cardiff, in the process completing their first double over the Welshmen since 1890-91. Fred Wadley scored early for Gloucester but Cardiff responded with a dropped goal by Graham Jones (then worth four points) to give the home side a half time lead of four points to three. Despite a heroic forward effort by Gloucester, this seemed likely to be the final score until, in the last minute, Gloucester captain Roy James made a brilliant break. He exchanged passes with John Brookes before going over for a great try to win the game 6-4.





Jubilee triumph: Gloucester 14 (1g; 1pg; 1t; 1dg) Cardiff 0 Kingsholm 23 February 1952

Gloucester, celebrating 60 years at Kingsholm, brought off the crowning achievement of their record-breaking Diamond Jubilee season by beating a star-studded Cardiff side 14-0 in front of 12,000 spectators. It was their first win over Cardiff for 14 years.

Winger John Taylor and fly half Bill Cartmell scored Gloucester's tries, Bill Hook converted one and kicked a penalty and Michael Baker dropped a goal. The pack held the whip hand in the tight and the marking and tackling were deadly, allowing the Welsh international backs no room for manoeuvre, wing forward Dennis Ibbotson being outstanding. Bill Hook at full back gave one of his best displays of the season and at half back Jenkins and Cartmell controlled the game.

Victory at Cardiff at last: Cardiff 6 (2pg) Gloucester 11 (2t; 1pg) Cardiff Arms Park 1 November 1991

Again, a tremendous performance by the Gloucester pack earned the visitors their first win at the Arms Park since 1935. A sweeping initial attack by the forwards and



carried on by Marcus Hannaford and Don Caskie took Gloucester deep into Cardiff territory, where they stayed for much of the first half, the constant pressure yielding a Sam Masters try from a scrum on the Cardiff line and a Tim Smith penalty. The 7-0 half time lead was increased to 11-0 by a Jerry Perrins try from a surge by the pack and, although David Evans replied with two penalties for the home side, Gloucester ended the match camped on the Cardiff line.

The last match: Gloucester 21 (7pg) Cardiff 15 (1g; 1t; 1pg) Kingsholm 27 January 2001

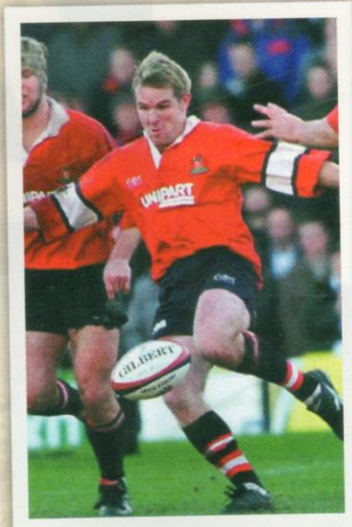
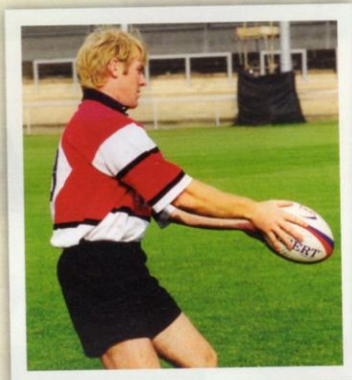
The last game of the series was perhaps the biggest of all. In a season of mixed success, Gloucester, having scraped through their last group game against Llanelli with a disputed dropped goal, were hosts to Cardiff in the quarter finals of the Heineken Cup. Cardiff started as favourites but the Gloucester forwards were superb with Trevor Woodman, Junior Paramore and Ian Jones outstanding in a completely dominant pack. As a result, Gloucester controlled possession and territory throughout and were always ahead on the scoreboard, despite conceding the only two tries of the game. Simon Mannix kicked six of their seven penalties and wings Nick Walne and Gavin Thomas scored the Cardiff tries as Gloucester progressed to their only European Champions Cup semi-final to date.

And so to our visitors today. Welcome the Blues!

When the five Welsh regions were

originally formed from the nine professional clubs in the Welsh Premiership in 2003, Cardiff was the only stand-alone club allowed to form a region of its own. However, with the collapse of the Celtic Warriors in 2004, Pontypridd were brought under the Cardiff regional umbrella.

Since then, Gloucester and the Blues have played eight times in domestic and European cup competition, each winning four games. The Blues beat Gloucester comprehensively by 50 points to 12 in front of 55,000 spectators at Twickenham in the 2009 Anglo-Welsh Cup Final but in the most recent encounter Gloucester beat the Blues 40-3 in an Anglo-Welsh group match at Kingsholm. Otherwise, the matches have been close and keenly fought. We can expect no less this evening.

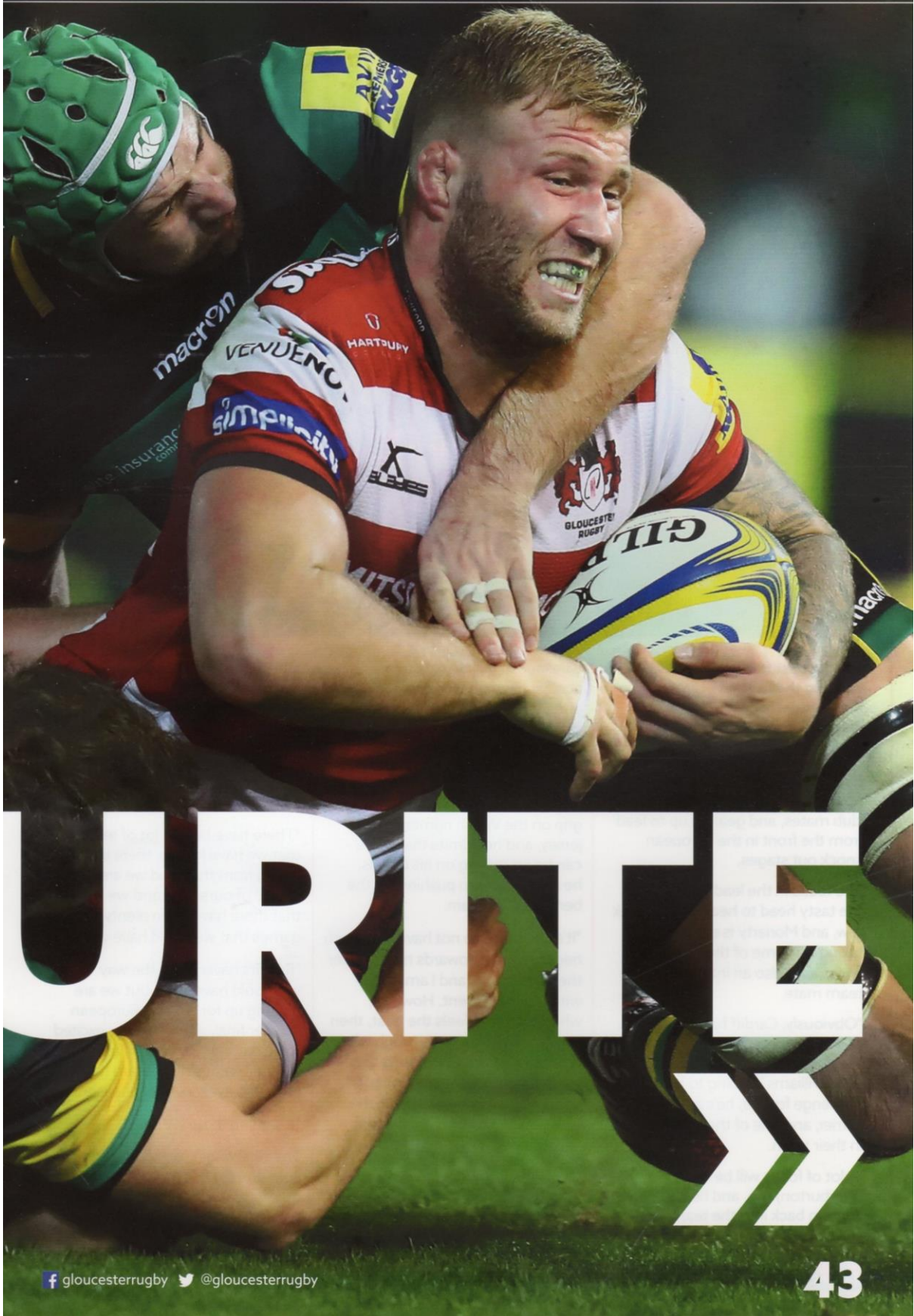


GLOUCESTER RUGBY V CARDIFF BLUES

FANS FAVOUR

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For the past few weeks, while wearing the red shirt of Wales, Ross Moriarty has been a real favourite for fans of tonight's opposition from Cardiff.

But the combative back rower is now back on home soil with his club mates, and gearing up to lead from the front in the European knock out stages.

The focus in the lead up could be the tasty head to heads in the back row, and Moriarty is excited about taking on some of the Pro 12's finest, and also an international team mate.

"Obviously, Cardiff have got a lot of internationals in their squad, in the current set-ups, and past too. Nick Williams is going to be a tough challenge for me, he's a big ball carrier, and one of their man players in their team.

"A lot of focus will be on Sam (Warburton) too, and he could be coming back into the team this

weekend. It will be nice to play against him this week, especially after doing a lot of training with him over the last year, so it will be nice to put that into a game situation."

Moriarty's form over the RBS Six Nations has seen him keep a firm grip on the Welsh number eight jersey, and he admits that there can be no resting on his laurels, he needs to keep pushing for the benefit of his team.

"It's been nice to not have too much negative press towards myself after the Six Nations, and I am happy with how that went. However, when the team feels the heat, then I do too. So, it's always tough when we aren't getting the results that we feel we deserve and not got, but I will be bringing back a richer experience into the Gloucester squad.

"I will now be aiming to carry on from where I left off in a Welsh shirt from my personal performances,

and applying that to my Gloucester performances."

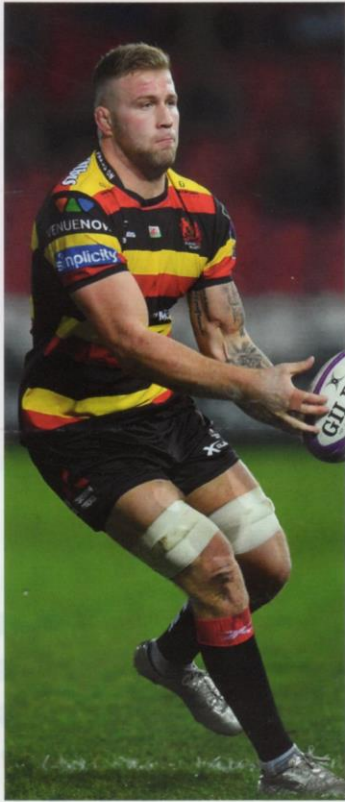
Consistency continues to be the buzzword around the camp, and this week offers a perfect opportunity to build on last weekend's triumph at Ashton Gate.

"There have been a lot of results that we have let slip, there is no hiding from that, and we are very critical of ourselves and we know that there have been plenty of games that we could have won.

"Results haven't got the way we would have liked, but we are gearing up for a home European quarter final, and we're just excited to be back at Kingsholm, and taking on a different sort of team that we haven't played in recent seasons.

"It's going to be exciting."

The Challenge Cup knockout stages contain a lot of quality sides in the quarter-finals, with Top 14 pace setters La Rochelle on the Cherry



and Whites' side of the draw. But Moriarty knows that the most important game is the nearest one.

"Every team in a quarter-final of any cup is going to be wanting to win, and we won't be leaving anything out there.

"We know what is at stake, and we know the route we can take, but we are fully focused on our performance and our result this weekend."

The unique pathway that Moriarty has taken in his career so far, is a path that is not well trodden and, having experienced an Anglo-Welsh rivalry from both sides of the bridge, he knows the importance of the results, as well as the bragging rights.

"I played a bit of LV= Cup growing up, and it is nothing like the European competitions, and it's a different kettle of fish.

"Cardiff are bound to be excited



"EVERY TEAM IN A QUARTER-FINAL OF ANY CUP IS GOING TO BE WANTING TO WIN, AND WE WON'T BE LEAVING ANYTHING OUT THERE.

about coming up to Gloucester to play, and they will be looking forward to playing in front of a good crowd.

"We are looking forward to being together as a squad, and ultimately making each other happy with our performances and obviously that will lead into the changing rooms."

Moriarty says that he owes a lot to the Cherry and Whites in his growth to the top of the test match arena, and who knows what the summer may hold for the flanker.

"Yeah of course, I've got to be to where I am today due to the performances that I have put in for Gloucester, and a big part of my season is putting everything I have into that shirt when I have the chance to, just like when I have the opportunity to represent Wales.

"I'm back at Gloucester for the rest of the season, and this is my main focus. I am excited to contribute to this team and finishing the season on a real high."



KINGSHOLM NEWS

with

Bob Fenton

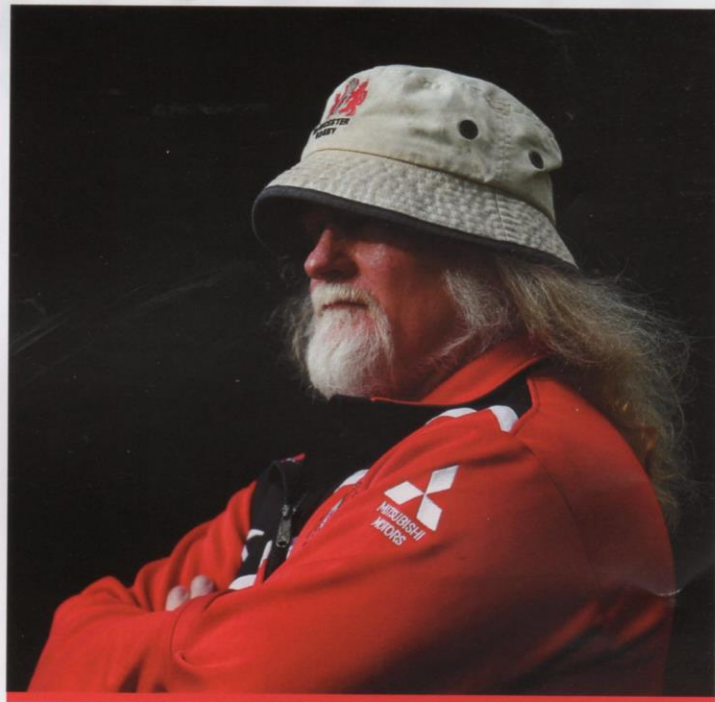
Sometimes writing this column for the programme is hard work - like today...

It's not as if there has been anything much going on since we all last rolled into Kingsholm is there? Apart from a disastrous 10 minutes at the end of the Harlequins game, players coming and going, a coach resigning by Twitter and the continuation of what is becoming a very protracted take-over saga. Did I miss anything?

So, two of those are obviously linked. That Harlequins debacle. For all the world, it looked like we had that one in the bag. Closing in on the last ten minutes we were holding a decent lead and looked to be heading for a win that would have seen us jump up the table.

Then Mr Garner's decision to sinbin Richard Hibbard for a seemingly innocuous penalty started the collapse of a whole line of dominoes, culminating in Laurie Fisher deciding that enough was enough.

I've got a lot of time for Laurie. He's a decent man and a rugby man through and through. I had the pleasure of interviewing him several times for @Holm and always found him to be knowledgeable, passionate and funny - always good for a few quotes. He was unerringly honest too - if you asked him something or suggested something that he didn't agree with, he would let you know - and that's ok, it goes with the job.



It's a shame that things ended like they did. I think when Laurie came into the club a few years back we all had high hopes for success - he brought a wealth of rugby experience and knowledge.

But, for whatever reason, things didn't work out and he decided enough was enough. While the way he announced his decision may have been a bit unusual, you have to respect the fact that he clearly felt he had to take responsibility.

It was great to see him down in

Bristol supporting the boys, and - assuming he is still in the country - I'm sure he will be here today. He won't be hard to spot - it could be several degrees below zero and he'll still be wandering around in shorts! Good luck with wherever the future takes you, Laurie.

Away from the pitch we're being linked with all sorts of coaches now - a veritable league of nations of coaches actually. A couple of Frenchmen, an Argentinian and a South African - sounds like that should be followed by '... walked

into a bar..' - have been linked with us. And all the time the rumblings of a takeover, or partial takeover by M Altrad rumbles on.

You kind of get the feeling that it's all a bit of a rugby soap opera at the moment but, I don't know about you, but I could do with a bit of stability! Fortunately last week we were able to concentrate on the rugby again and all the other stuff could take a back seat.

Bristol on a Friday night was - to use a well-worn cliché - a potential banana skin for us, but fears proved unfounded. Charlie Sharples went for a bit of extreme weight/speed realignment by removing one of his front teeth in the week, and scuttled over for a try just a couple of seconds after coming on for Jonny May. I don't think he got to celebrate much as he was back on the bench immediately afterwards.



That seemed to settle the nerves and really from then on, the result wasn't really in doubt.

Our win down there, and the two bonus points that Worcester picked up last Sunday all but seal Bristol's fate. I can't see how they can escape the drop now. Given how they have re-stocked with players for next term I think we can be pretty sure that we will be contesting the Rifles Cup with them in the 2018/19 season though.

Tonight though, a European quarter-final. In a season of what has mostly been filled with disappointments, this is the last chance for us to get into a position of winning a trophy. I know in some quarters it's fashionable to dismiss the Challenge Cup as almost not worthy of mention, I don't hold with that view.



At the start of the season there are only four trophies that can be won, so what's not to like? And who is going to forget the win over Edinburgh a few seasons ago up at Harlequins - that was a great night.

Cardiff are going to roll into town feeling much the same. This season has not been a good one for their supporters - just like us a season with more losses than wins and having spent the majority of the term looking up at all the other teams. So, this could be a heck of a clash, if we win this we are - I think - odds on for a home semi-final.

We've had some great battles with Cardiff over the years, and I reckon this one is going to be right up there with them. I really hope that some of their fans can make it here though, the kick off time is disastrous for public transport - not just for Cardiff fans. TV revenue is obviously important, but for the paying punter it can be an 'A' grade nightmare.

But that 'paying punter v TV audience' is a whole different soap box - don't get me started on that one!

RANDALL on RUGBY



THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY DIARY HAS READ A BIT LIKE A SOAP OPERA SINCE WE LAST MET. A CENTRAL FIGURE HAS LEFT THE SCENE, OPENING UP ONE STORY LINE WHILE A SUB-PLOT WHICH HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS INCHES FORWARD BUT WITHOUT, AT THE TIME OF WRITING, ANY FIRM CLARITY.

The remaining characters, meanwhile, try to carry on as if nothing has happened. It has certainly given us plenty to think about.

Tonight promises to be an "old-school" occasion, as a Welsh side visit Kingsholm for a floodlit fixture, and a meaningful one at that.

More mature supporters will remember how highly prized the wins were over the likes of Cardiff, Llanelli

and Swansea in the pre-Premiership days, and the Blues come to Kingsholm still in with a chance of Champions Cup qualification through their league position in the Pro 12.

For them, the Challenge Cup is the equivalent of an insurance policy, while for Gloucester, the Premiership mathematics regarding the Champions Cup are eminently more complex. Europe offers a route that keeps matters in their own hands.

It is more than eight years since Gloucester have met Cardiff in Europe, and only the sixth time in all. The previous matches have all been in the top tier tournament and while tonight is not, it offers an avenue to it next autumn, so expect the same intensity that was shown in the previous five meetings detailed here.

DATE : 27/01/01,
KINGSHOLM

HEINEKEN CUP QUARTER
FINAL

GLOUCESTER 21-15
CARDIFF

Six penalties from Simon Mannix and one from Byron Hayward edged Gloucester into their only Heineken Cup semi final despite Cardiff scoring two tries.

Gloucester captain Kingsley Jones said after the match he sensed an over-confidence in Cardiff's attitude, and Phil Vickery felt the "teeming" atmosphere contributed to one of his best days as a Gloucester player.



DATE : 4/12/04,
KINGSHOLM

HEINEKEN CUP POOL 6

GLOUCESTER 23-19
CARDIFF

Gloucester overcame first half injuries to James Simpson-Daniel and Marcel Garvey to eventually clinch a fluctuating game.

Terry Fanolua was at his rampaging best with a try in each half, the second one proving the critical score with 12 minutes remaining after Gloucester trailed 16-10 at half time.



DATE: 18/1/09,
KINGSHOLM

HEINEKEN CUP POOL 6

GLOUCESTER 12-16
CARDIFF

Cardiff played an hour of the match with 14 men after Tom James was sent off, but were still able to complete the double over Gloucester thanks to a late try from Bradley Davies, converted by Leigh Halfpenny. James is one of three survivors from that match in the current Blues squad. The others are props Taufa'ao Filise and Gethin Jenkins.

It was, of course, at this stage last season that Newport Gwent- Dragons upset the form book to knock Gloucester out.

If the Premiership win at Bristol eight days told us anything, it was that Gloucester are a determined defensive unit and in a knockout fixture that is a huge building block.

Interim head coach Jonny Bell would, I'm sure, settle for another win, no matter how ugly, to maintain interest on two fronts for a little while longer.



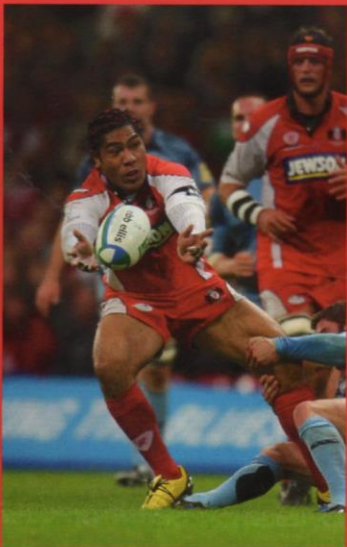
DATE: 11/12/04, CARDIFF
ARMS PARK

HEINEKEN CUP POOL 6

CARDIFF 16-23
GLOUCESTER

I remember this game for a virtuoso performance from fly half Duncan McRae on his return to the team after injury. The Australian was heavily involved in creating tries for Marcel Garvey and Jon Goodridge, and although Gloucester were only 7-6 up at the interval, they never trailed after that.

Tempers frayed late in the game with Gary Powell and Deniol Jones being yellow carded.

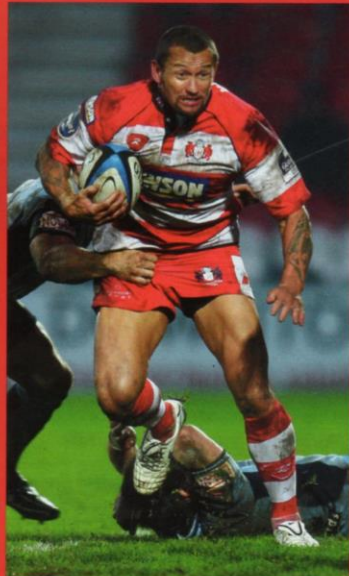


DATE: 19/10/08,
MILLENNIUM STADIUM

HEINEKEN CUP POOL 6

CARDIFF 37-24
GLOUCESTER

More than 27,000 spectators watched this match after it was switched from the Arms Park, and it was a stage which inspired Cardiff number eight Andy Powell. They took a grip on the game with two tries just before half time and despite one either side of the interval for Gloucester by Iain Balshaw, Cardiff secured a bonus point win with a try from Nicky Robinson, who would join the Cherry & Whites the following summer.



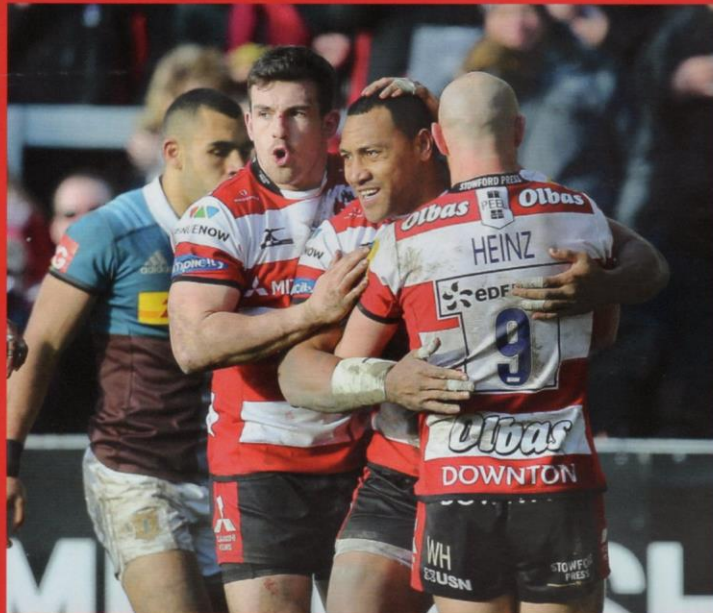
ACTION REPLAY || SATURDAY 4 MARCH || KINGSHOLM || ATT 14,014

Gloucester Rugby 27

Tries: Sharples (2), Halaifonua Cons: Burns (3) Pens: Burns (2)

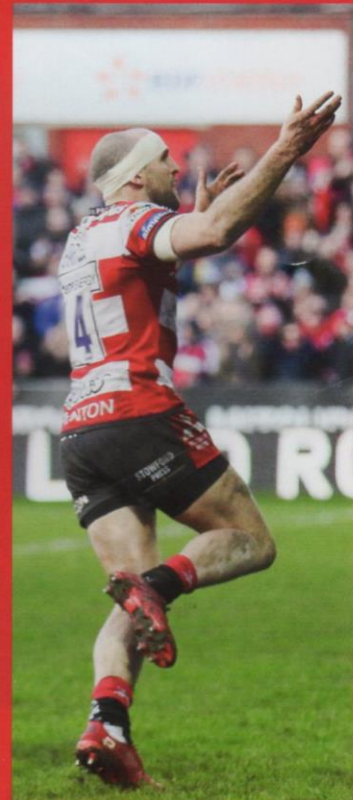
Harlequins 30

Tries: Visser, Mulchrone, J Chisholm, R Chisholm Cons: Swiel, Lang Pens: Swiel, Lang



a win from the jaws of defeat. Players and supporters alike were left shaking their heads in disbelief as James Lang slotted a penalty with the last kick of the half to complete Quins' comeback.

For the neutral, it was undoubtedly an entertaining 80 minutes overall. Despite the wet weather in the week leading up to the game, the Kingsholm pitch was in good nick come game time and both teams looked to be in the mood to play expansive rugby.



Chaos and madness were two words that Director of Rugby David Humphreys used when he spoke to the media after the 27-30 home defeat to Harlequins which severely damaged Gloucester's hopes of achieving a top six Aviva Premiership finish.

Down 10-15 at half-time, a strong second half performance had seen the Cherry and Whites take the game by the scruff of the neck and it seemed to be just a matter of time before they scored the try that would clinch a bonus point victory.

However, a nightmare final ten minutes saw the game swing incredibly the way of the visitors who took full advantage to snatch



- 15 Marshall
- 14 Sharples 2T
- 13 Scott
- 12 Twelvetrees
- 11 Halaifonua 1T▼
- 10 Burns 3C 2P▼
- 9 Heinz (c)▼
- 1 Thomas▼
- 2 Hibbard■
- 3 Afoa▼
- 4 Galarza
- 5 Thrush▼
- 6 Ludlow▼
- 7 Rowan
- 8 Morgan▼

Replacements used:
Matu'u, Hohneck,
Doran-Jones, Savage,
Kalamafoni, Braley,
Hook, Trinder

- 15 R. Chisholm 1T
- 14 Yarde
- 13 Marchant
- 12 Hopper▼
- 11 Visser 1T
- 10 Swiel 1C 1P▼
- 9 Mulchrone 1T▼
- 1 Lambert▼
- 2 Gray▼
- 3 Sinckler
- 4 Merrick▼
- 5 Matthews
- 6 J. Chisholm 1T
- 7 Ward (c)
- 8 Luamanu

Replacements used:
Buchanan, Owens,
South, Jones, Lang 1C
1P, Alofa



And Gloucester got off to a flyer. Attacking from their own line, the ball went through several pairs of hands before Willi Heinz pinned his ears back and set off for the line. He was caught by Ross Chisholm just short of the line but Charlie Sharples was on hand to finish.

The visitors were looking dangerous though and asking real questions of the Gloucester defence. Their game plan is based on keeping the ball alive, offloading out of the tackle and tries from Tim Visser and Charlie Mulchrone saw them edge in front at half time.



Gloucester needed a response and got one courtesy of a Quins error. A high kick was fumbled and Jeremy Thrush hacked downfield. The visitors were at sixes and sevens and David Halaifonua strolled over, the conversion giving Gloucester a 17-15 advantage.

A second try quickly followed for Sharples and it was nearly as good as the first. Hibbard broke away from a maul and offloaded superbly to Rowan who drew the final man and put Sharples away. Burns converted and added a penalty for 27-15.



The next few minutes were all Gloucester and the fourth try looked inevitable. However, Quins' defence bent but didn't break as they dug in to keep their line intact. Gloucester came so close several times but didn't press home their advantage.

And then the game turned. A rare foray into Gloucester territory saw Richard Hibbard yellow carded. James Chisholm smashed his way over shortly afterwards for Quins.

Suddenly full of self-belief, the visitors poured forward keeping the ball alive brilliantly and it came as no surprise when Ross Chisholm crossed to level the scores.

There was still time to rescue the situation but, minus a man, Gloucester's scrum buckled in front of their posts in the final minute and James Lang had the chance to be the Harlequins hero. He made no mistake...

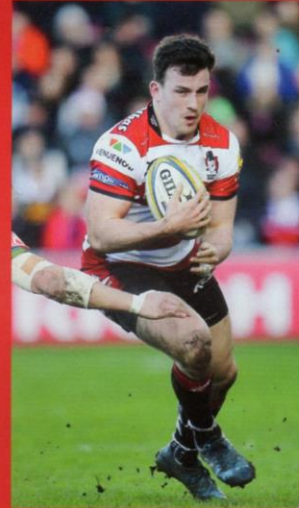
APPLYING THE LAW WITH



Official Legal Partner

Having dominated the second half, a couple of key calls went against Gloucester in the final few minutes. Quins' Tim Visser escaped a possible deliberate knock-on in his own 22 and, shortly afterwards, Richard Hibbard was yellow-carded.

The last minute penalty which allowed Quins to snatch the win had an air of inevitability about it.



**DIRECTOR OF RUGBY
DAVID HUMPHREYS**

"It's a sense of frustration, anger and disappointment after those last six or seven minutes of madness.

"We led by two scores and had to get the basics right but our defence and set-piece went to pieces after we had controlled the second half."

ACTION REPLAY || FRIDAY 24 MARCH || ASHTON GATE || ATT 14,510

Bristol Rugby

Tries: Crumpton. Penalties: Searle (3).

14

Gloucester Rugby

Tries: Sharples, Burns, Ludlow, May. Conversions: Burns (3). Penalties: Burns (2).

32



Gloucester retained the Rifles Cup and achieved their first win double of the 2016-17 Aviva Premiership season with a hard-fought 32-14 victory over Bristol Rugby last weekend.

Despite being marooned at the foot of the table, Gloucester's traditional West Country rivals have certainly not given up hope of survival and, despite missing nearly as many regulars as the Cherry and Whites, gave a good account of themselves.

In the first half in particular, Bristol kept Gloucester pinned back in their own 22 for long periods. Gloucester's defence wasn't especially stressed as the home team frequently went left and right without making much headway.



- 15 Woodward
- 14 Wallace
- 13 Hurrell
- 12 Pisi ▼
- 11 Lemi ▼
- 10 Searle 3P
- 9 Mathewson ▼
- 1 Bevington ▼
- 2 Jones ▼
- 3 Cortes ▼
- 4 Phillips ▼
- 5 Sorenson ▼
- 6 Jeffries
- 7 Lam
- 8 Eadie

Replacements used:
Crumpton 1T, O'Connell,
Ford-Robinson, Crane,
Fenton-Wells, Williams,
Tovey, Arscott.



- 15 Marshall
- 14 May 1T ▼
- 13 Trinder
- 12 Symons ▼
- 11 Halaifonua ▼
- 10 Burns 1T 3C 2P
- 9 Heinz
- 1 McAllister ▼
- 2 Hibbard ▼
- 3 Hohneck ▼
- 4 Savage
- 5 Thrush ▼
- 6 Kalamafoni ▼
- 7 Rowan
- 8 Morgan

Replacements used:
Matu'u, Thomas,
Doran-Jones, Denton,
Ludlow 1T, Twelvetrees,
Sharples 1T.

But the Cherry and Whites didn't enjoy much possession and spent more time tackling than they would probably have liked. It was bruising stuff and both teams lost players to injury.

However, when they did gain possession, they made it count. The front row duo of Hibbard and McAllister linked up well to put Charlie Sharples in space down the right hand side, and the winger did the rest.

However, Bristol fly-half Billy Searle kept Bristol in touch on the scoreboard with two penalties to one by Billy Burns and the Ashton Gate based outfit were still very much in the game as they trailed on 6-13 at half time.

Gloucester kicked off the second

half minus Tom Marshall who had been sinbinned for a deliberate knock-on just before half time, but coped well in his absence and very nearly extended the lead when Henry Trinder almost put Sione Kalamafoni in.

But the tension went up a notch as Searle kicked his third penalty to narrow the gap to 9-13 on 54 minutes.

Nerves may have been jangling in the Gloucester camp, but it didn't show. Willi Heinz was one of the cool heads to the fore, and his expertly-judged grubber eluded Luke Arscott for Jonny May to pop the ball up to Billy Burns to score.

Self-belief seemed to visibly drain from the home side and Gloucester, like so many teams

before them against Bristol this season, turned the screw. The pressure built and built, until a well-executed catch and drive resulted in a try for Lewis Ludlow.

Game just about over, but Bristol gave themselves a sniff of a valuable losing bonus point when Max Crumpton spun out of a tackle to score with a couple of minutes remaining.

Bristol did pour forward seeking that valuable point, but Willi Heinz gathered Searle's grubber behind his own line and, refusing to touch down to finish the game, launched an audacious counter. Marshall made a key break and Jonny May finished off a memorable move to clinch the try scoring bonus point and win for Gloucester.



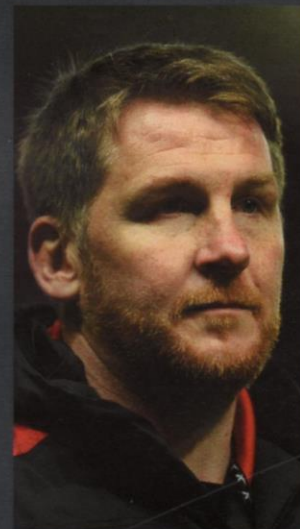
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Gloucester finished on the wrong end of the penalty count, but Jonny Bell admitted after the game that it was probably deserved.

The yellow card for Tom Marshall was up for debate as referee JP Doyle didn't seem inclined to give it, but was persuaded to do so by the TWO, Rowan Kitt. However, both got the call for Billy Burns' try absolutely spot on.



**INTERIM HEAD COACH
JONNY BELL**

"We've had some big games and then we've faltered. I can't fault the guys tonight. They've trained really well for the last two weeks, they've knuckled down, no-one's thought of anything else other than this game and we delivered."



TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY 1 APRIL
EUROPEAN RUGBY
CHALLENGE CUP
QUARTER FINALS



T	P	C	D				T	P	C	D		
				TOM MARSHALL	15	FULLBACK	15	MATTHEW MORGAN				
				CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	RIGHT WING	14	ALEX CUTHBERT				
				HENRY TRINDER	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	REY LEE-LO				
				BILLY TWELVETREES	12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	STEVE SHINGLER				
				JONNY MAY	11	LEFT WING	11	BLAINE SCULLY				
				BILLY BURNS	10	FLY-HALF	10	GARETH ANSCOMBE				
				WILLI HEINZ (C)	9	SCRUM HALF	9	LLOYD WILLIAMS				
				PADDY MCALLISTER	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	GETHIN JENKINS (C)				
				RICHARD HIBBARD	2	HOOKER	2	KRISTIAN DACEY				
				JOSH HOHNECK	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	ANTON PEIKRISHVILI				
				TOM SAVAGE	4	LOCK	4	GEORGE EARLE				
				JEREMY THRUSH	5	LOCK	5	JARRAD HOEATA				
				ROSS MORIARTY	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	JOSH NAVIDI				
				JACOB ROWAN	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	SAM WARBURTON				
				BEN MORGAN	8	NUMBER 8	8	NICK WILLIAMS				
				REPLACEMENTS				REPLACEMENTS				
				MOTO MATU'U	16		16	MATTHEW REES				
				YANN THOMAS	17		17	COREY DOMACHOWSKI				
				JOHN AFOA	18		18	SCOTT ANDREWS				
				MARIANO GALARZA	19		19	MACAULEY COOK				
				LEWIS LUDLOW	20		20	ELLIS JENKINS				
				CALLUM BRALEY	21		21	TOMOS WILLIAMS				
				MARK ATKINSON	22		22	WILLIS HALAHOLO				
				HENRY PURDY	23		23	TOM JAMES				
				MATCH OFFICIALS								
				REFEREE: PASCAL GAUZERE								
				ASSISTANT REFEREES: ALEXANDRE RUIZ AND PIERRE BROUSSET								

