


**MITSUBISHI  
MOTORS**  
MAIN CLUB  
PARTNER



**Loxley**  
MATCH SPONSOR

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

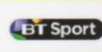


**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY**

VERSUS

**EXETER  
CHIEFS**

ISSUE 18 || AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY  
SATURDAY 6 MAY 2017 || £3



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## GREIG LAIDLAW



GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S AVIVA PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE WITH EXETER CHIEFS.

We've reached the end of a long, and testing domestic campaign, but there have been a lot of positives in our season, and that is reflected in particular with the European Rugby Challenge Cup final next weekend.

We know all about the excitement of a final week, but we have to keep our focus on the next job in hand, and that starts with welcoming the Aviva Premiership's in-form team to Kingsholm today.

It is bound to be a cracking atmosphere this afternoon, and both teams still have a lot to play for, both as a collective, and for several players personally.

Results could mean this would be my final run out at Kingsholm, and that's a tough fact to face. I have loved my time at this club immensely and have enjoyed contributing to what has been a real rollercoaster journey for the club as a whole.

The club is in such a good place, we have a team that is desperate to succeed and with a splash of consistency, I have no doubt that we can reach our potential.

That said, this is not goodbye, forever. I've grown to love the club during my three years here, I will always try to get to Kingsholm when I can, and keep in touch with the players and staff.

I am understandably excited about my next adventure and what lies in store in Clermont, but there is a lot of rugby still to be played in a Gloucester shirt and I desperately want to finish on a high.

The last few weeks have epitomised the season. We've put together a lot of good rugby in the wins over Sale and La Rochelle, but took a frustrating backwards step last Sunday at The Rec.

West Country derbies are huge for this club, and we're bitterly disappointed with how the game panned out. We were well in the game at the break, but couldn't stem a real charge and improvement from Bath and the momentum they created was huge.

We have been quick already this week to park that game, and we can now focus on this weekend. We have two cup finals left this season, and then we will react to whatever comes after that, if anything.

From me, thank you for your fine support during my time at the club, it has been a pleasure, an honour and a privilege to represent this club, these players and you, the fans.

If I could thank you all personally, I would.

Enjoy the game

*Greig*



# MARTIN ST QUINTON

Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for the final time in the Aviva Premiership this afternoon.

Not for the first time this season, as I sit down to write these notes, I can reflect upon an eventful couple of weeks in the life of Gloucester Rugby!

Since our last home game here at Kingsholm, against the Sale Sharks which resulted in a very good home win, we were disappointed to learn that Mohamed Altrad would not be permitted to invest in the club, clinched a tremendous home win in France over La Rochelle and were then defeated away at Bath last weekend.

To focus on the playing matters first, the win over Sale was an entertaining one and, at that point, kept us in the mix for a top six spot in the Premiership. Unfortunately, the defeat at Bath last weekend means that we can now finish seventh at best.

That does open up the possibility of a play-off spot, depending on the result of the Northampton vs Harlequins game today. Ultimately



though, seventh isn't where we want to be. We aspire to be a top half of the table team.

Next weekend of course, sees us travel to Edinburgh to take on Stade Francais in the final of the European Rugby Challenge Cup, and winning that, as well as providing silverware, would offer another route into the play-off for a Champions Cup spot.

The win in La Rochelle to clinch the final spot was a terrific performance, one I was fortunate enough to see in person, and one that showed what this team is capable of on its day.

Winning away in France is never

easy, whatever the venue, and to become the first team to defeat La Rochelle at home this season, is no mean feat.

We were accompanied by a faithful group of supporters over in France, and I know that we will receive tremendous backing up in Edinburgh. We do very much appreciate it, it can make a real difference.

I won't go too much into the decision regarding Mr Altrad's possible investment, only to say that turning down possible investment into a game where only a small number of clubs make a profit seems extremely short-sighted and it's a real shame after all the work that went into the proposal.

That said, we move on and look forward. The club is in good shape financially, we will continue to invest heavily in the playing department next season and have much to be excited about.

Thank you, as ever, for your terrific support.

*Martin*

## GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR OUR FINAL GAME OF THE 2016/17 AVIVA PREMIERSHIP SEASON AGAINST EXETER CHIEFS.

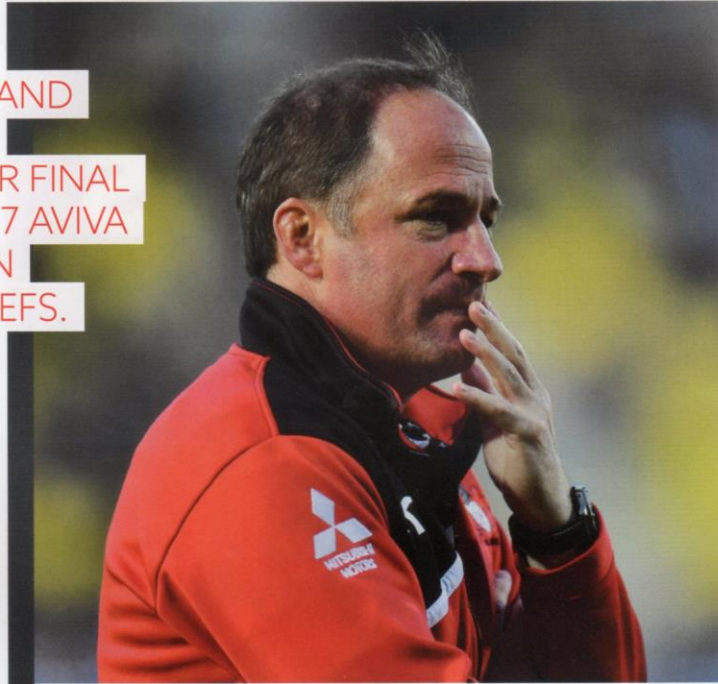
In particular, a warm welcome to Rob Baxter, his coaching team, players and supporters who have made the journey up to Gloucester.

We hope it's not the last time we play at Kingsholm today, but with so many possible permutations to the end of season run in, we're totally focussed on performing against Exeter today.

It just goes to show how incredibly competitive the Aviva Premiership has been this season. At kick off today, the only thing that has been resolved is the team who finishes bottom. The top four haven't yet been determined, let alone home advantage in the play offs and the battle for automatic Champions Cup qualification goes on.

Unfortunately, after last weekend's results, we can no longer qualify for the Champions Cup as one of the top 6 Premiership teams but we're still fighting hard to get into the play offs. There are two possible routes into the play off competition. We could win today and, depending on other results, overtake Northampton to claim 7th spot in the league, or we need to win the Challenge Cup next weekend against Stade Francais in Edinburgh.

First and foremost, we need to bounce back from the disappointment of last weekend in Bath with a massive effort at Kingsholm today. Coming off the back of an historic victory in La Rochelle, we knew what was at stake at the Rec but we weren't able to match the physicality, intensity and accuracy we'd shown in France.



There was nothing between the teams at half time, but too many mistakes at the start of the second half performance cost us the opportunity to win the game.

With a short six day turnaround this week, our focus has been completely on Exeter, a team who come into today's game in tremendous form. Our game down at Sandy Park was incredibly hard-fought, but like so many games this season, when we'd done enough to win, we allowed Exeter to snatch a last-gasp draw.

We know that they will come here looking to clinch a home semi-final, but we are equally as determined to sign off in style in front of our own supporters before thoughts turn to Edinburgh next weekend.

Looking back to last Monday, we were in Northampton to watch Gloucester United play in the final of this year's A league. While we were ultimately disappointed to lose the game to Northampton, it has been a successful season at A league level and huge credit

to Richard Whiffin, Neil McCarthy and all the staff and players who put so much effort into the campaign.

It's been a long time since we have been competitive at A league level and with an average age of 20 in Monday's squad, there are very positive signs of a successful playing pathway throughout Gloucestershire with the majority of the squad having come through the EPDG programme. Those players are the future of this Club and are already looking forward to going one step better next season.

Back to today's game and our opportunity to finish the league campaign on a high. I've said it so many times this season, but your continued support can really make a difference and we'll be giving it everything to try and finish this season on a high and reward that backing.

Enjoy the match and I hope to see you back here in two weeks as Challenge Cup Winners.

*David*

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

[www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk](http://www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk)

FOR THE FINAL PREMIERSHIP PROGRAMME OF THE SEASON, WE OFFER YOU A SELECTION OF SNIPPETS FOR THE ARCHIVES WHICH HAVE CAUGHT OUR INTEREST OR CAUSED A LAUGH AS WE HAVE RESEARCHED THE HISTORY OF GLOUCESTER RUGBY.

### 1879

Newport were the first Welsh club to play against Gloucester and a tradition of feisty affairs in which victory meant everything was soon established, perhaps partly because *"On the slippery ground several men fell. Ponsford, a Newport forward, crying out so lustily he was hurt that the Gloucester men all stopped playing and stood on one side. Ponsford, however, getting up, rushed quickly out with the ball, and took it well down the ground... a very shady piece of play which all good footballers will without doubt strongly condemn."*

### 1884

Small wonder that the Newport team were regarded as *"practically invincible, having won 90 successive matches"*. Maybe it was no surprise when Newport won at the Spa in 1884 that *"during the course of the game some of the spectators hooted and hissed the winners, and behaved even worse on their departure. If this is repeated, no club will come here to play."*

### Christmas Day 1875

Gloucester played Ross - it was the usual 15-a-side, but ten on each side were forwards.

### 1892

*"During the game the crowd showed considerable dissatisfaction at the decisions of the referee (the Rev F W Loy, curate of St. Mary de Lode) and loudly hooted him. After the match, the much-sought-after*

*gentleman was secretly let out at a side entrance, where a hansom was waiting, and he was quickly driven away without drawing much attention."*

### 1895

When Gloucester played at Stroud *"Some of the leading lights in the town of Gotham exerted their utmost to get the match put off because of the outbreak of smallpox in Gloucester, but in this they failed. Not content with this, they had the town placarded with large posters urging the inhabitants not to mix with Gloucesterians, and no doubt they were surprised when nearly a thousand persons put in an appearance from Gloucester on Saturday."*

In 1900 a telephone was installed at Kingsholm and the Citizen was charged one guinea per annum to use it.

### The good old days of the early 1900s

*"The Gloucester players changed in the White Hart and the visitors in the Ram in Southgate Street, from where they travelled to Kingsholm by wagonette - Harry Dyke (the first groundsman at Kingsholm) immaculately dressed and complete with a cheese-cutter hat tolled a bell to signalise the start of play - and Fred Rowlands and his band of instrumentalists played in the streets and on the ground before games and fiddled with greater glee to celebrate a triumph". In 1906, "Harry Dyke's "All Black" horse careered over the*

*ground, but he was safely brought to hand, and the game proceeded"*.

### 1906

Keep a close eye on those players behind the posts *"The Bream full-back left the field. He was walking round behind the goal-line with his coat on, but when the ball came up with a rush and Gloucester looked to have a chance of scoring, he threw down his coat, and dashing in dropped on the ball and touched down, much to the amusement of the spectators."*

### 1910

During the Bristol v Gloucester match, all was revealed *"Stoppages occurred through Lismore losing his jersey...and then his knickers"*.

### 1910

When Gloucester A played Cinderford District *"Minahan had the distinction of scoring three tries, but playing in odd boots he was unable to do himself justice, being handicapped when running."*

### 1913

Woollen jerseys had their own particular problems *"This match should have been played at Kingsholm on Monday morning, but the Seconds' jerseys were unfit to wear owing to the drenching received at Bristol on Saturday"*.

### 1911

*"The referee's whistle would only blow faintly, and so a policeman's was pressed into service amidst cheers."*

**1912**

*"Owing to the curtailment of the railway service the Gloucester team had to make the journey to Cinderford today by road, a four horse char-a-banc being chartered to convey the party to the Forest. The City players only arrived back from Paris at midnight last night after travelling some sixteen hours."*

These railway problems caused the Club to hire five cars to take the team to Abertillery, but one got lost and did not arrive until 6:40.

Gloucester played with four substitutes provided by the home team and lost. *"The whole party arrived safely back, although one of them did get into a pond up to his waist in trying to read a signpost."*

### During the Great War

*"The Secretary enquired if the Board wished to insure the buildings against aircraft; the Board unanimously decided not to insure"*

**1919**

A number of soldiers were billeted on the ground during the railway strike.

**1920**

*"Shea, the Newport player, who overnight had been engaged in a boxing contest at Hull, which it was understood he had won on points after going the full distance, was able to make the journey to Gloucester and take his place in the team - a fact which put confidence in the Newport team and their supporters"*

**1920**

*Down at Swansea "Jack Bancroft, the Swansea touch-judge, gave a line-out in favour of Gloucester, but which decision the referee overruled. Bancroft declined to move, and the referee took the flag off him, but after a brief delay Bancroft again took up his duties"*

**1931**

The Club agreed to provide jock straps for players.

**1947**

*When Gloucestershire played Lancashire at Kingsholm "Jack Heaton, the Lancashire skipper, decided he would like a bet on the result of the game, but there was only half an hour to kick-off so he was unable to leave the dressing-room to find a bookmaker. Then he remembered that the Gloucester captain "Digger" Morris was a bookmaker. So, as the teams walked down the tunnel Jack asked Digger if he would take a £1 bet on Lancashire winning, and Digger immediately agreed, giving him odds of 6-4 on. And it was a happy Lancashire skipper who collected his winnings later as the Red Rose county won the game 14-3."*

**1947**

A quiz in the match programme for Blackheath v Gloucester included Q: A spectator at a Rugby Match disagrees with the Referee's decision. What should he do? A: Smoke a pipe of soothing Royal Seal tobacco until he feels better.

**1947-48**

The Club committee agreed expenditure on teas for visiting teams, but only those they wished to impress were allowed to have meat.

### Ladies undervalued?

**1948**

Violet Pegler asked the Club for assistance with forming a ladies team, but the President thought it "inadvisable from all points of view", which ended the discussion.

**1952**

The Club Committee decided to economise on costs by doing away with the ladies' lavatory from their building plans.

**1968**

The Club committee voted to buy

a box of chocolates for the ladies committee who provided the teas, but this was rejected by the ladies who negotiated to be given an outing and dinner instead.

**1950**

The Club committee decided to pay for a "super-coach" - neither Australian nor South African, but a better-than-average bus for away games.

### 1950-51 Season

Of the 17 players who played most games, 14 were Gloucester men, born and bred; two had professional and business appointments in the city and were expected to stay for some years; and only one lived outside the city.

**1961**

Gloucester visited Wasps and lost 10-6, the referee explaining that "the match was played 35 minutes each way at the request of the Gloucester skipper who stated on arrival that they wished to catch an early train home".

**1966**

The Club installed floodlighting at Kingsholm at a cost of £4,700, half of which was paid by the Department of Education & Science.

**1967**

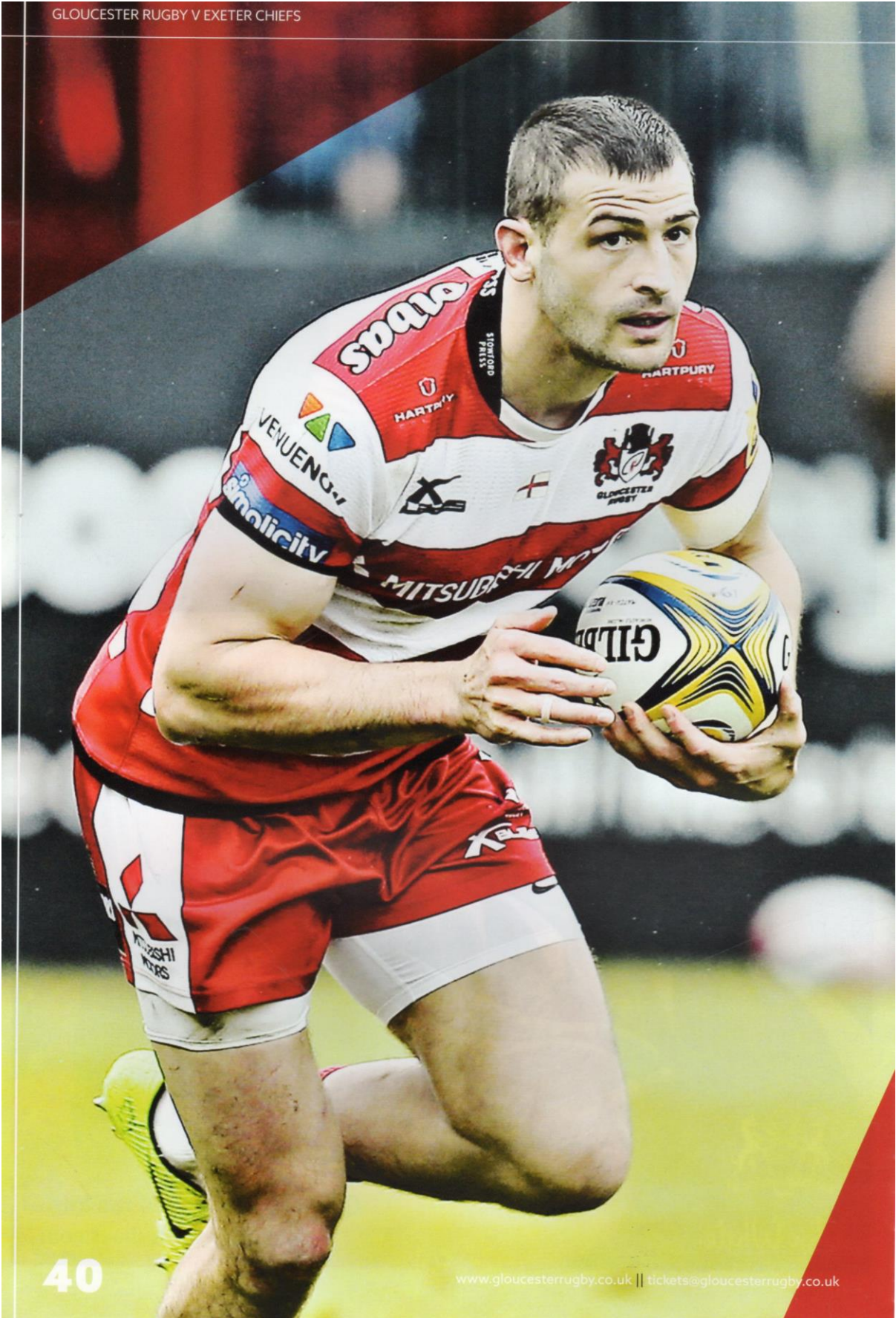
Late withdrawals from the United team against Newport resulted in both the committee man, C Lynch, and the baggage man, T Law, playing.

**1969**

The Club was in dire straits financially and gave their players the choice of starting to pay match fees or giving up free beer after each match - match fees of 2/6 were introduced.

**1971**

Gloucester reversed their shirt numbers so that the full-back became number 15 rather than number 1, a practice adopted by most clubs some seasons previously.



# LEFT WING VIEWS







It's been a long season for the Cherry and Whites, with plenty of ups and downs along the way, and with at least two games to go, the team are now able to focus on simple tasks with a huge challenge today, and a final shootout next weekend.

After a belated start to the season due to injury, Jonny May has been an integral part of Gloucester's efforts this season, and the flying winger is eager to tackle head on the challenge of the title-chasing Chiefs.

The winger is excited by the test ahead against a team that has driven the standards this campaign, and he hopes recent experiences stand the Cherry and Whites in good stead.

"I'd say that Chiefs are the in-form team at the moment, they're a great side who like to throw the ball around and they look like they enjoy doing it. They're





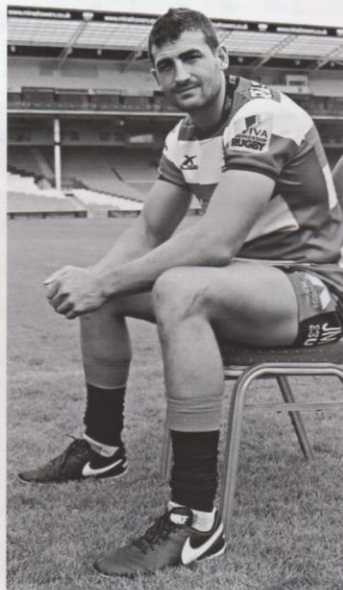
**"LA ROCHELLE WAS A HUGE WIN FOR THIS TEAM, AND GOING INTO THAT GAME WE WERE THE UNDERDOGS, PROBABLY LIKE WE ARE THIS WEEKEND, AND THAT IS WHAT WE LIKE. WE THRIVE ON THAT."**

extremely successful, and it makes it a huge challenge for us after a disappointing week at Bath.

"We need to remember that we've had a positive few weeks previously, and it is important to remember that as well as getting better every week. There is still a lot to play for this season, and that starts this week."

The rollercoaster season has had its peaks and troughs. Just a fortnight ago, the squad recorded a memorable win at the previously unconquered Stade Marcel Deflandre, before coming back down to earth at The Rec last Sunday.

May is eager for the squad to thrive on the underdogs tag again this week facing up against the Devon side.



"It's a great feeling, La Rochelle was a huge win for this team, and going into that game we were the underdogs, probably like we are this weekend, and that is what we like. We thrive on that, and being back at home we want to put in a good performance."

A first Six Nations title in the May trophy cabinet was a welcome reward after a tough 18 months with injury, but May accepts that he is richer for the experience, and thankful to be back playing, whilst determined to make every outing count.

"I had a tough year last year with my knee, and it was a tough time to be out of the game and not playing, but thankfully I put my effort into recovery and now I'm back it's a great place to be.

"I'm just loving being back and playing rugby again.

"It has been a season of ups and downs, and we're in a position now where we have got a lot to play for, and we know how good we can be. It's a case now of focusing on getting better in these last few weeks."

With the European Rugby Challenge Cup final on the horizon in six days time, May knows the importance of keeping the focus on the next job before turning any attention to Edinburgh.

"It's a cliché, but it is definitely one week at a time, and definitely we want a reaction following our performance in the game against Bath and we want to go out at Kingsholm, and show what we can do in front of our own fans."



## KINGSHOLM NEWS

with

# Bob Fenton

**H**ow does that old song go: "We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when..."

Well that's a bit like the end of our season isn't it? For some of us, we know the answer to that one - on the terraces of Murrayfield next Friday evening. What happens after that is anyone's guess.

Given the crazy complicated formulae that are required to work out who qualifies for the European Rugby Champions Cup, we may be back here for a play-off or we may not.

What is it with rugby and its fascinations with play-offs? I hate them... dragging things on and leaving your nervous system looking like a fuse box after I have had a go at wiring it. For me it's simple - if you finish high enough you go in, if you don't you don't. If you win the Challenge Cup you go in etc...

Half the players in the Premiership are probably checking the cancellation clauses of their summer holidays to see what happens if they have to hang around for a few more games. Might as well forget it, boys - report directly to pre-season training!

So, what has happened since we were last here. Well the fantastically watchable end of season try fest took place against Sale, a hugely enjoyable match for everyone to watch - unless you were a defensive



coach I suppose, in which case you would have been scribbling furiously about all the things you had to put right.

I have to say that whatever it was that our blokes scribbled down didn't exactly work out last weekend down at The Rec! Thumped is, I think, the most appropriate description, so let's not dwell on that too much.

And we had an enormously impressive display of guts and dog down in La Rochelle. A lot of people had written us off for that one. Lots of talk of La Rochelle being a team made up of monsters that made Goliath look like the before bloke

on a muscle building advert and us going there to get beaten up.

I don't want to be smug here, but I knew we would win that one (OK, by the time you read this my mates will be completely sick of me being smug about that prediction), Gloucester Dog and a puncher's chance. That and the interception ability of one Billy Burns. A great, great performance.

The Challenge Cup is seen as a poor relation of the big boys trophy, tell that to anyone next Friday night and see what they say. This is a cup worth winning and I don't - and never will - understand the reaction to it. See what happens when we

bring it back to town next weekend! And if we win it we qualify for the other competition play off thing too.

All of that makes this a difficult game to call today. If we decide to rest a few players today and put all our eggs in one basket next week and go for the cup win - and try to qualify for the play-offs - that's ok, as long as we win. Or do we go for it today against an Exeter side pushing for a home play-off place? I'm glad I don't have to make those decisions!

What else happened... Ah yes... M. Altrad. What can I say... OK, let me rephrase that, what can I say without the club's media guys ringing me and saying '...if we leave that in you pay your own legal costs...' or 'Hello Bob, can we suggest a few changes...!' But here goes, and I must stress that these are my opinions and not those of the club or anyone associated with it...

We know a couple of clubs have stood in the way of further investment in Gloucester. They claim it's because of potential conflict of interest. If you ask my opinion then I'll tell you that I think that's a lot of old rubbish.

We know that's not the real reason, Altrad and Gloucester could not have been more open about the measures that they would have put in place to ensure no conflict of interest, so that argument doesn't stack up.

So, for me it had to be about protectionism and not wanting another club competing at the top end of the competition. The difference between a 45% and 20% investment is only about the money - anyone with that share in a company is still a minority partner.

So, what else can it be? It's mealy mouthed, small mindedness at its worst. Spiteful, disgusting treatment of another potential



investor who wanted to help improve our game. You may have gathered that while I was not surprised at the news, it had me spitting feathers.

Finally today, a shameless plug for Charlie Sharples' testimonial season that starts in the summer. I have to confess that when I was told that he was celebrating his 10th season I thought that the testimonial must date back to his time in the under 14s. But no - he really has been playing at the top level for ten years.

And if anyone deserves a testimonial season it's Charlie. He's one of those players that puts everything he has into the club, both on and off the field. He is the living epitome of 'playing for the shirt' and while he may have come to Gloucester via Hong Kong and a spell in Surrey he's as Gloucester as dripping cakes and an Old Spot. He's a top man too - a favourite with fans, especially younger ones for whom he always has time for a photograph or an autograph.

Charlie is one of those players who

you never hear anyone complaining about - you'll never hear anyone saying '... I thought Charlie had a poor game...' because it just doesn't happen. He is always operating at 100 per cent, giving everything he has for the cause. And as a supporter that's all you can ask for from a player.

Gloucester have been lucky to have him, he's a credit to this club and I hope his testimonial season is an outstanding success. I'm told that the plans for the year are developing but you can keep up to date with them via his website [www.charliesharples.co.uk](http://www.charliesharples.co.uk). And watch out for his testimonial magazine too - out in time for our pre-season game(s). I understand it's an excellent publication!

In case we don't make it back here this season, I'll say thanks for reading my stuff this year, thanks for the feedback - good and bad - and have a great summer. Like Arnie, though, I firmly believe that 'We'll be back' with silverware to show, and a play-off final to win.

# RANDALL on RUGBY



THE DICTIONARY DEFINITION OF INSURANCE IS "TO MAKE SAFE IN THE EVENT OF LOSS" WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY WHAT TODAY'S FINAL PREMIERSHIP GAME IS ABOUT FOR BOTH GLOUCESTER AND THE CHIEFS.

Exeter can finish anywhere in the top three, but to keep a play-off semi-final at Sandy Park they need to win this afternoon in case Saracens should beat Wasps at the Ricoh Arena.

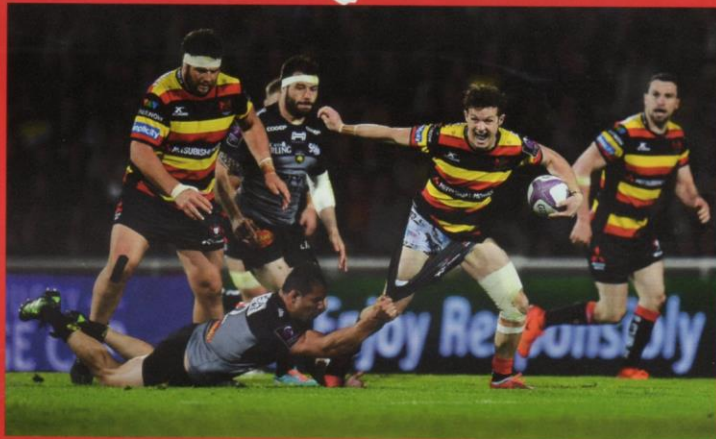
For Gloucester, a spot in the top six is now out of reach, but if they can secure seventh place they know they are guaranteed a Champions Cup play-off whatever happens in the Challenge Cup final next Friday. If not, it's important to remember that a Challenge Cup success will ensure a play-off place whatever the end of season Premiership table shows.

Since the somewhat sketchy home win over Sale, the away trips to La Rochelle and Bath left supporters with very different emotions.

In France, it was a gripping occasion and possibly aside from posing a bit more threat, almost a complete performance to seal a memorable win.

At the Rec, 13 of the same side were within a conversion of parity after 40 minutes but the second half was a different story.

Only the players themselves will



know if the efforts of the previous week caught up with them, but I would expect changes today with next Friday firmly in mind although whether Matt Kvesic is involved must be in doubt.

He hasn't played in the first team since the defeat at Leicester in

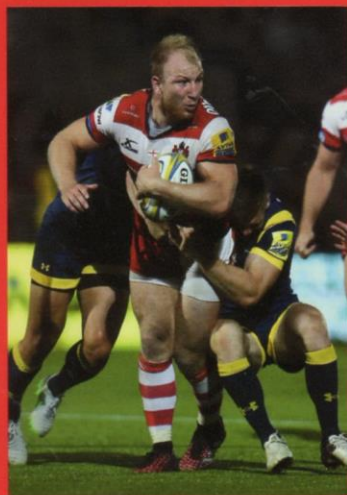
February, and now looks set to finish his Gloucester career shy of the century of appearances which his time at Kingsholm would deserve. He is, of course, to become an Exeter player on July 1st, so today will be one of interesting observation for him if he is watching from the stands.





"When I left Worcester in 2013 it was a toss up between coming here and going to Exeter" Kvesic told me.

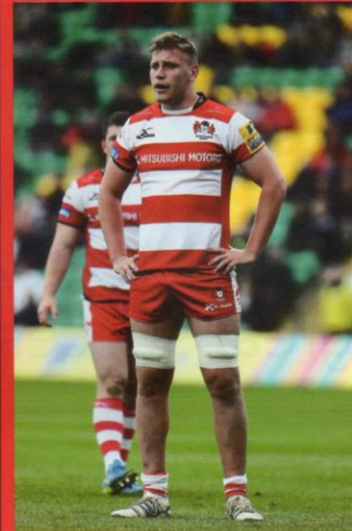
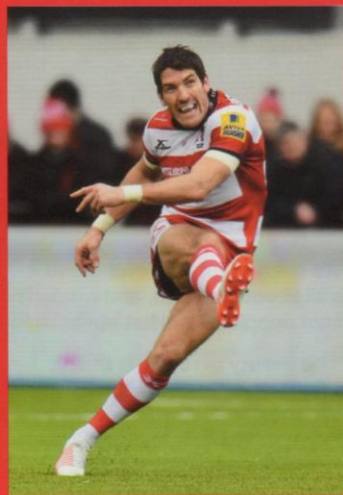
"I liked the way they went about their business and I knew Head Coach Rob Baxter from going on the England tour to Argentina that summer. Some of their boys have come through the England age group teams so their interest intrigued me and I wanted to follow it through as it just seemed like a good fit. Sometimes you need a new challenge to re-invigorate yourself and I hope I can enjoy my rugby again."



Kvesic, of course, is not the only imminent departee. It is also farewell to Hook, Laidlaw and Latta, as well as youngsters Batley, McNulty, Potheroe and Thomas.

Kalamafoni and Doran-Jones have been heavily linked with moves too and it would be no surprise if they were confirmed once the season is over.

But with both the Champions Cup play-off games being staged by the Challenge Cup winners, today may not be "au revoir" for the final time. It's also worth saying that the potential income from two extra



all-pay games would be useful with the potential investment by Mohed Altrad now off the agenda.

Exeter, of course, are already assured of a third consecutive season of Champions Cup rugby. After an agonising quarter-final defeat at Wasps two seasons ago, this year they didn't even get out of their pool, which shows the strength of the competition.

Domestically, they have had another good season but Matt Kvesic says history suggests Gloucester can again cause the Chiefs trouble.

"If you add up all the recent results between us there probably isn't more than a few points in it" added Kvesic.

"Exeter pride themselves on fitness, work rate and basic skills. You have to match them in all those areas and hope things click for you. Since Laurie Fisher left Gloucester the players have taken a lot more ownership upon themselves. The team has been a lot more player led and I think that is what it needed.

"We've turned over Wasps and Saracens at home and this will be just as big a challenge for us."



VIEW FROM THE

# GLOUCESTER Citizen

**F**rom joining Hartpury College as a BTEC Sports Student to becoming a British and Irish Lion seven years on, it has been a meteoric rise for Ross Moriarty.

The Gloucester back row star says it has "just about" sunk in that he will be heading to New Zealand this summer after being named in Warren Gatland's 41-man squad.

The idea of playing for the Lions seemed a long way away for Moriarty when he watched the last tour of Australia from afar four years ago.





At that time the 23-year-old was helping England Under-20s win the Junior World Championship in France for the first time and had only made a handful of appearances for Gloucester – one start in the LV= Cup and three appearances off the bench.

Since then, Moriarty played a key role in helping Hartpury win promotion to National One, established himself in the Gloucester side, won another Junior World Championship with England before switching allegiance at senior level to head to the 2015 World Cup with Wales.

Even before this year's Six Nations Moriarty went under the radar in any discussion of Lions contenders but his strong performances, particularly his ferocious display against England, put him in the frame to become one of the surprise names in Gatland's squad.

"I've been around for a few Lions tours to watch on TV," said Moriarty.

"The South Africa tour was a big one and then the Australia tour was one of the freshest ones in my mind. I think I was still trying to get in the Gloucester team then but it's come around quick.

"I just want to get on that plane first and get the season finished here and perform well for Gloucester and hopefully carry that through to the Lions."



Born in St Helens, Moriarty went to Hartpury in 2010 and was part of their successful AASE side before joining the Gloucester academy on completing his course.

"I owe a lot of credit to the coaches at Hartpury and the players I got to play with," said Moriarty.

"The coaches who coached me through the age groups in the Under-18s and Under-20s with England have had a big part in everything I've done and Wales have given me the opportunity to play with them during the last World Cup and up until now so I'm thankful for everyone who's helped me along the way."

Moriarty comes from a strong rugby dynasty, his dad Paul and uncle Richard both playing for

Wales before him, but he has achieved something they never did by earning a Lions call-up.

"They're just really proud. Neither of them got on a Lions tour unfortunately but they're both over the moon for me and it's another one for the family.

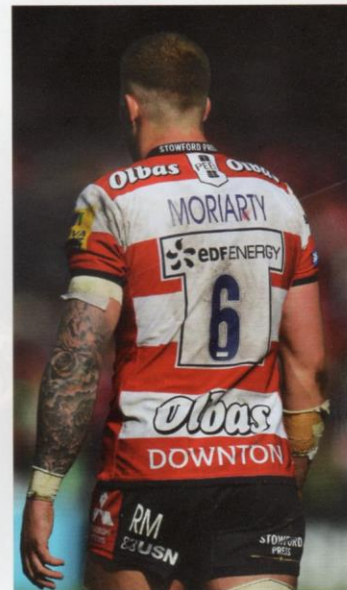
"The first couple of days it was a bit of a shock to me and my family. Everyone's just really excited and we're all looking forward to the summer.

"To play for Wales, even to play professional rugby was a big thing for me, so to be able to become a Lion as well I couldn't ask for any more."

The challenge now for Moriarty is to earn a place in the Lions Test side for the three-game series against the All Blacks, which would make him the first Gloucester player to do so since Phil Vickery in 2001.

"It's going to be on every player's mind, everyone wants to play, nobody's there to go on holiday.

"We're all going to be training hard and everyone's going to be fighting for positions but the bigger picture is we need to do everything that's right for the squad and that's what everyone will be doing."





ACTION REPLAY || SATURDAY 15 APRIL || KINGSHOLM || ATT 12,928

# Gloucester Rugby 39

Tries: Marshall 2, Hibbard, Trinder, Twelvetrees Cons: Burns 4 Pens: Burns 2

# Sale Sharks 30

Tries: James, Phillips, Longbottom, McGuigan Cons: MacGinty 2 Pens: MacGinty 2



Victory was only assured with the very last kick of the game.

It all started so positively for Gloucester. They had already had one try disallowed for a knock-on before Tom Marshall finished off a slick handling move to open the scoring after only 10 minutes.

However, Gloucester promptly handed the initiative straight back to the visitors. Dropping the restart resulted in a try for Sam James, while a wickedly bouncing ball eluded Tom Marshall and led to a score for Mike Phillips.

Credit to Gloucester, the double salvo had been a body blow. But the team shrugged it off and hit back with a well worked catch and

After the disappointment of the last minute defeat away at Newcastle the week before, Gloucester bounced back with a bonus point win over Sale Sharks last time out at Kingsholm – but they didn't make it easy for themselves!

Despite playing some of their best attacking rugby of the season, the Cherry and Whites were also guilty of some defensive lapses which gave Sale Sharks a foothold in the game and very nearly a path to victory.

It resulted in an entertaining outcome for the neutral, but one which did nothing for the blood pressure of the average Gloucester supporter!



- 15 Marshall 2T
- 14 Sharples ▼
- 13 Trinder 1T ▼
- 12 Atkinson
- 11 May
- 10 Burns 4C 2P
- 9 Braley ▼
- 1 Hohneck ▼
- 2 Hibbard 1T ▼
- 3 Afoa
- 4 Thrush (c)
- 5 Galarza ▼
- 6 Moriarty
- 7 Ludlow
- 8 Clarke ▼

Replacements used:  
Matu'u, McAllister,  
Savage, Morgan,  
Vellacott, Twelvetrees  
1T, Halaifonua.

- 15 Haley
- 14 Solomona
- 13 James 1T
- 12 Jennings
- 11 McGuigan 1T ▼
- 10 MacGinty 2C 2P
- 9 Phillips 1T ▼
- 1 Harrison ■
- 2 Webber
- 3 Aulika ▼
- 4 Evans
- 5 Ostrikov ▼
- 6 Neild
- 7 B Curry ▼
- 8 Beaumont (c) ▼

Replacement used:  
T Curry, Flynn,  
Longbottom 1T, Nott,  
Mitchell, Charnley.

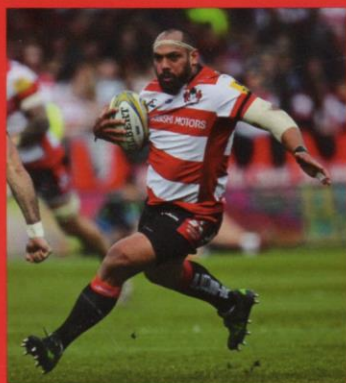
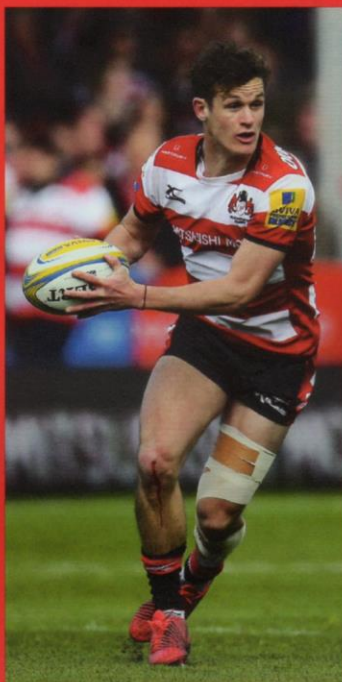


drive try for Richard Hibbard and a penalty from Billy Burns to take a 15-12 lead into half time.

That good work was immediately undone after the resumption though. Sale came out firing on all cylinders, and tries from Longbottom and McGuigan opened up a 15-24 lead.

Gloucester had to regroup quickly, and did so via a try from Henry Trinder, created by a sublime offload from Mark Atkinson. Sale responded with a penalty from MacGinty but the game then swung decisively the way of the Cherry and Whites.

A quick tap from Ben Vellacott saw the scrum-half tackled by Ross Harrison who made no attempt to retreat 10 metres. A yellow card resulted and Gloucester took full advantage as they fashioned a second score for Marshall.



Marshall was then the architect for a fine score from Billy Twelvetrees, Vellacott providing the link, and that looked to be that.

However, MacGinty got the Sharks back within losing bonus point range with a 78th minute penalty and an away win was still technically on the cards at this point, only for Gloucester to get a key turnover and decision in the Sale 22 and Burns finished things off with his second penalty of the day for a 39-30 win.

**APPLYING THE LAW WITH**



Official Legal Partner

An early test for the officials when referee and TMO combined to correctly chalk off a Henry Trinder try, but after that it was a fairly quiet day at the office for Tom Foley and co.

Ross Harrison's yellow card was an easy decision and there were no other contentious decisions to speak of.



**INTERIM HEAD COACH JONNY BELL**

I'm delighted with the five points but we always make life difficult by hurting ourselves. We've probably played better this season and lost. The replacements made a big impact to get over the line today but there is still plenty to work on."

ACTION REPLAY || SATURDAY 22 APRIL || MARCEL DEFLANDRE || ATT 15,000

# Stade Rochelais 14

Tries: Lagrange. Penalties: James (3).

# Gloucester Rugby 16

Tries: Burns. Penalty: Burns. Conversions: Burns(3).



Gloucester produced one of their performances of 2016-17 to do what no team has done before this season to defeat Stade Rochelais on their own patch and clinch a place in the European Rugby Challenge Cup final.

Very few people outside of Gloucester gave the Cherry and Whites a sniff – La Rochelle were simply too big, too powerful and had too much momentum. The bookmakers had Gloucester down as 5-1 outsiders in a two horse race.

However, you can't put a value on Gloucester's courage on the night, the dogged determination to keep their line intact even when faced by what seemed to be an unrelenting wave of attacks by the home side.



- 15 Murimurivalu
- 14 Lacroix
- 13 Jordaan ▼
- 12 Aguilon
- 11 Rattez
- 10 James 2C
- 9 Januarie ▼
- 1 Pelo ▼
- 2 Maurouard
- 3 Atonio (C) ▼
- 4 Nailiko ■ ▼
- 5 Tanguy ▼
- 6 Sazy
- 7 Veivuke ▼
- 8 Gourdon

Replacements used:  
Corbel, Boughanmi,  
Cedaro, Lagrange  
1T, Retiere, Bales,  
Rawaca.



- 15 Marshall
- 14 May
- 13 Trinder ▼
- 12 Atkinson ▼
- 11 Halaifonua
- 10 Burns 1T 1P 3C ▼
- 9 Heinz (C) ▼
- 1 Hohnneck ▼
- 2 Hibbard ▼
- 3 Afoa
- 4 Savage ■
- 5 Thrush ▼
- 6 Moriarty
- 7 Rowan ▼
- 8 Morgan

Replacements used:  
Matu'u, Thomas,  
Galarza, Ludlow,  
Laidlaw, Twelvetrees,  
Sharples.

But it wasn't just about the physical effort. The game plan devised in the run up to the fixture was critical as was the execution. The tactic of keeping the ball alive, away from the big La Rochelle pack in a bid to tire them out, worked a treat.

The Stade Marcel Deflandre was packed as the game kicked off, a sea of yellow and black courtesy of the 10,000 free flags given away to the home fans who created an incredible din as they interspersed chanting and songs.

Gloucester struck first though, Jone Qovu penalised and yellow carded for elbowing Willi Heinz as he lay on the deck. Billy Burns kept his nerve to kick the penalty.

And, as La Rochelle strived in

vain to go through the gears, Gloucester took great delight in forcing errors and forcing the crowd to change their cheers to jeers and whistles. Burns extended the lead to 0-6 with his second penalty and the atmosphere started to turn ugly.

There had been glimpses of La Rochelle's potency in attack and, although they made a couple of line breaks, Gloucester were always able to scramble back and rescue the situation. But two Brock James penalties levelled the scores at half-time.

A 6-6 scoreline at half time was a little harsh on Gloucester perhaps who had played some good rugby, but the tide seemed to have turned after the break as the Cherry and Whites were forced to defend incessantly and couldn't get out of their own half.

That was until a good kick chase downfield resulted in a penalty chance for Burns and the fly-half



made no mistake. Even better followed, with La Rochelle looking set to score, Burns picked off an errant pass by James and went the distance. The conversion opened up a 6-16 lead.

Though stunned by recent events, back came the home side. More pressure, more heroic defence but Gloucester were eventually breached as Damien Lagrange muscled his way over.

Nervous times followed as James missed with a drop attempt and then a long range penalty, but Gloucester held firm and successfully ran the clock out to clinch a famous win.



## APPLYING THE LAW WITH



Official Legal Partner

A game at the Stade Marcel Deflandre is a really tough gig for any referee but Andrew Brace coped well.

He showed real common sense and presence of mind when dealing with the Jone Qovu yellow card and didn't allow the crowd to influence his decisions.

The yellow card for Tom Savage seemed harsh though, while Richard Hibbard seemed baffled to be told off for rolling around on the floor when he'd just taken a punch!



DIRECTOR OF RUGBY:

### DAVID HUMPHREYS

"The effort the players put in out there was unbelievable. We showed character and spirit against an unbelievably good team.

"I'm delighted for everyone at the club. So much of what we planned to do came off, particularly in the first 30 minutes, and we hung in there as the game went on.

"To defend the way we did against an unbelievably physical team was really pleasing and I'm thrilled to get back to another European final."



# TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY 6 MAY  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP  
RUGBY | ROUND 22



T P C D				T P C D									
				JAMES HOOK	15	FULLBACK	15	LACHIE TURNER					
				CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	RIGHT WING	14	JACK NOWELL					
				MATT SCOTT	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	IAN WHITTEN					
				MARK ATKINSON	12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	OLLIE DEVOTO					
				JONNY MAY	11	LEFT WING	11	OLLY WOODBURN					
				BILLY TWELVETREES	10	FLY-HALF	10	GARETH STEENSON					
				GREIG LAIDLAW (C)	9	SCRUM HALF	9	STUART TOWNSEND					
				PADDY MCALLISTER	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	CARL RIMMER					
				RICHARD HIBBARD	2	HOOKER	2	JACK YEANDLE (C)					
				JOHN AFOA	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	HARRY WILLIAMS					
				TOM SAVAGE	4	LOCK	4	DAVE DENNIS					
				MARIANO GALARZA	5	LOCK	5	GEOFF PARLING					
				FREDDIE CLARKE	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	DON ARMAND					
				LEWIS LUDLOW	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	JULIAN SALVI					
				BEN MORGAN	8	NUMBER 8	8	KAI HORSTMANN					
				REPLACEMENTS				REPLACEMENTS					
				DARREN DAWIDIUK	16		16	LUKE COWAN-DICKIE					
				YANN THOMAS	17		17	BEN MOON					
				JOSH HOHNECK	18	<b>MATCH OFFICIALS</b>		18	TOMAS FRANCIS				
				JEREMY THRUSH	19	REFEREE: Ian Tempest		19	OLLIE ATKINS				
				JACOB ROWAN	20	ASSISTANT REFEREES: Jack Makepeace & Phil Watters		20	SAM SIMMONDS				
				WILLI HEINZ	21		21	WILL CHUDLEY					
				OLLIE THORLEY	22		22	JOE SIMMONDS					
				HENRY TRINDER	23		23	SAM HILL					