

GLOUCESTER RUGBY OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2018/19 SEASON

CHERRY & WHITES

GLOUCESTER RUGBY v BATH RUGBY | 13 APRIL 2019 | 3:00PM | GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP | £3.50 | 15



MITSUBISHI MOTORS
MAIN CLUB PARTNER

rra
MATCH SPONSOR



CAPTAIN

WILLI HEINZ



GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR TODAY'S WEST COUNTRY DERBY AND WELCOME TO ALL THE PLAYERS, STAFF AND SUPPORTERS FROM BATH RUGBY.



05

It's probably the one game that the Cherry and White faithful look forward to the most, circle in the calendar, and the game that means the most to so many people.

We're in a good place as a squad, and we have put ourselves in a good position in terms of the end of the season play-offs and progressing further. As a squad there's a determination in every player, member of staff to work that bit harder to make sure we don't let anything slip, and to ensure that the level of performance stays consistent.

After a trio of strong performances in recent weeks, we know that we cannot rest on our laurels, as every weekend in the Gallagher Premiership proves that everyone on their day

can pick up results and we're at the business end of the season where every point counts.

We play teams scrapping for every single point, and fighting for league position, and we're super excited to find ourselves in the position we are in.

Bath are in a good spot themselves, after picking up a big win over Bristol Bears last time out, and they know what it takes to win at Kingsholm Stadium. That's a fact not lost on us, we haven't done well against Bath at Kingsholm in recent seasons, and that needs to change.

We've been proud of our home form this season. A few games we have let slip, but we are building some solid form at Kingsholm and know we have to

finish the season well especially at home.

We've also been stretched as a squad, and that was evident at Saints last week with a rejig across the back line – I'm not sure I've ever run at full back before! But we know our roles as a group, and will be giving every bit of energy to back each other up, and it highlights the importance of the strength in depth we've been building in recent years.

West Country Derby day is massive for this club, massive for this city, and we're hugely excited as a group to be preparing to take on a quality opponent with plenty at stake this weekend.

Enjoy the game.

Willi

OWNER

MARTIN ST. QUINTON



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR THE PENULTIMATE HOME GAME OF THE SEASON, AS WE TAKE ON OUR WEST COUNTRY RIVALS BATH RUGBY.

07

A home fixture against our friends from the Rec is always one to be savoured, and today promises to be no different. We're both still very much in the running for Heineken Champions Cup and play-off qualification, so there's a lot riding on the game, including local bragging rights!

The first meeting between the two sides this season, at the Rec, back in round 2 in September, was an absolute cracker. It had everything – we roared into a 21-0 lead, were pegged back and trailed in the last minute, but then drew level thanks to Matt Banahan's try against his old club. Something similar today would certainly test the nerves!

We obviously find ourselves in a terrific position in third place in the Gallagher Premiership table, thanks to a string of fine performances.

In particular, last Sunday's victory at Northampton really showed what this squad are capable of when they perform to the best of their abilities. The Saints were in good form coming into the game, and are always formidable opponents on their own turf. So, to come away with a bonus point win was the best possible outcome and sets us up nicely for today's game.

As things stand, there are just a few tickets left for today's game, but I am confident that those will be snapped up by kick-off and we will have a packed Kingsholm behind Johan and the players this afternoon.

That level of support will be crucial and such a boost to the team.

Enjoy the game!

Martin

“AS THINGS STAND, THERE ARE JUST A FEW TICKETS LEFT FOR TODAY'S GAME, BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT THOSE WILL BE SNAPPED UP BY KICK-OFF AND WE WILL HAVE A PACKED KINGSHOLM BEHIND JOHAN AND THE PLAYERS THIS AFTERNOON”

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

DAVID HUMPHREYS

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM TODAY FOR ROUND 19 AND OUR PENULTIMATE HOME FIXTURE OF THE 2018/19 SEASON.

With only four rounds of the Gallagher Premiership left to play, this weekend could be one of the defining rounds of the competition, with the result of each match having an impact on positions at the top and bottom of the league table.

Throughout the season, players and coaches talk about the relentless, competitive nature of the Gallagher Premiership and this year has again proved, with the exception of the top two teams, that there are very small margins between teams in the play-offs and teams involved in a relegation battle.

Saracens and Exeter have set the standard over the last couple of seasons, but I believe we are starting to close that gap and high quality performances against other top teams over the past few weeks are reflected by our current league position. Bonus point away wins at Harlequins and Northampton, and a good home win against Wasps, highlight the progress we've made over the past 12 months where our level of performance is now much more consistent on a week to week basis.

Last week in particular, I thought we were very dominant in most areas of the game and scored some outstanding tries. However, the biggest positive was how we dealt with a number of setbacks during the game. We conceded a couple of soft scores, we lost some key players to injury and, even when Northampton had momentum at the end of the game, we showed the leadership and composure required to close out the match.

As we welcome Todd Blackadder and Bath to Kingsholm today, we



know we will have to produce another physical performance against a very good Bath team. Like us, they have suffered from a number of injuries throughout the season but, with international players returning to the squad, we're well aware of the threats they have throughout their team.

Despite the playing squad being fully focused on the next four matches, as a Club we have also been working on our long-term plans, demonstrated by the recent news that Danny Cipriani has extended his contract. Everyone has seen the impact that Danny has made since his arrival in the summer and I'm delighted that

he's staying at Gloucester Rugby for the next few seasons. As we've said many times, the retention of players and coaches, and the stability that brings, is the key to building a successful Club and it's certainly a boost to us as we prepare for the final four rounds of Premiership action.

I know how much all the supporters look forward to today's game. There's always something a little bit special about a game against Bath at Kingsholm and I know the atmosphere will be better than ever for such an important game.

David



2018/19 SQUAD

RUAN ACKERMANN



POS
Back Row
HT/WT
1.93m / 110kg
DOB
29.12.95
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



MARK ATKINSON



POS
Centre
HT/WT
1.97m / 107kg
DOB
08.03.90
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



FRASER BALMAIN



POS
Prop
HT/WT
1.85m / 117kg
DOB
16.11.91
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



MATT BANAHAN



POS
Wing
HT/WT
2.01m / 110kg
DOB
30.12.86
HONOURS
England
SPONSOR



CALLUM BRALEY



POS
Scrum Half
HT/WT
1.78m / 83kg
DOB
20.03.94
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



DANNY CIPRIANI



POS
Fly Half
HT/WT
1.85m / 92kg
DOB
02.11.87
HONOURS
England
SPONSOR



FREDDIE CLARKE



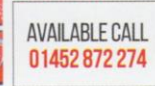
POS
Back Row
HT/WT
1.95m / 114kg
DOB
10.10.92
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



GARETH DENMAN



POS
Prop
HT/WT
1.80m / 114kg
DOB
12.11.90
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



RUAN DREYER



POS
Prop
HT/WT
1.86m / 113kg
DOB
16.09.90
HONOURS
South Africa
SPONSOR



GARETH EVANS



POS
Back Row
HT/WT
1.90m / 111kg
DOB
19.09.91
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



LLOYD EVANS



POS
Fly Half
HT/WT
1.83m / 84kg
DOB
14.12.95
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



TODD GLEAVE



POS
Hooker
HT/WT
1.80m / 94kg
DOB
03.06.95
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



GERBRANDT GROBLER



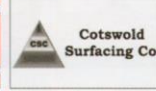
POS
Lock
HT/WT
2.01m / 120kg
DOB
06.02.92
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



JAMES HANSON



POS
Hooker
HT/WT
1.83m / 104kg
DOB
15.09.88
HONOURS
Australia
SPONSOR



WILLI HEINZ



POS
Scrum Half
HT/WT
1.81m / 89kg
DOB
24.11.86
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



JOSH HOHNECK



POS
Prop
HT/WT
1.90m / 123kg
DOB
06.01.86
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



TOM HUDSON



POS
Full Back
HT/WT
1.85m / 95kg
DOB
08.11.94
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



JACO KRIEL



POS
Back Row
HT/WT
1.84m / 97kg
DOB
21.08.89
HONOURS
South Africa
SPONSOR



LEWIS LUDLOW



POS
Back Row
HT/WT
1.90m / 105kg
DOB
11.09.94
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



FRANCO MARAIS



POS
Hooker
HT/WT
1.86m / 108kg
DOB
23.09.92
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



TOM MARSHALL



POS
Full Back
HT/WT
1.83m / 91kg
DOB
05.07.90
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



PADDY MCALLISTER



POS
Prop
HT/WT
1.86m / 119kg
DOB
20.07.89
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



BEN MORGAN



POS
Number Eight
HT/WT
1.91m / 117kg
DOB
18.02.89
HONOURS
England
SPONSOR



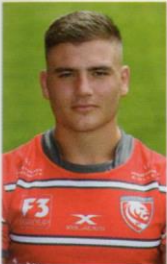
FRANCO MOSTERT



POS
Lock
HT/WT
1.98m / 112kg
DOB
27.11.90
HONOURS
South Africa
SPONSOR



JAKE POLLEDRI



POS
Back Row
HT/WT
1.89m / 106kg
DOB
08.11.95
HONOURS
Italy
SPONSOR



HENRY PURDY



POS
Wing
HT/WT
1.87m / 94kg
DOB
21.05.94
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



VAL RAPAVA RUSKIN



POS
Prop
HT/WT
1.91m / 124kg
DOB
12.10.92
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR





2018/19 SQUAD

WILL SAFE



POS
Back Row
HT/WT
1.90m / 102kg
DOB
11.06.96
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 274

TOM SAVAGE



POS
Lock/Back Row
HT/WT
1.95m / 115kg
DOB
18.04.89
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



CHARLIE SHARPLES



POS
Wing
HT/WT
1.81m / 89kg
DOB
17.08.89
HONOURS
England
SPONSOR



MIKE SHERRY



POS
Hooker
HT/WT
1.83m / 105kg
DOB
18.06.1988
HONOURS
Ireland
SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 274

ED SLATER



POS
Lock
HT/WT
1.96m / 116kg
DOB
01.08.88
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



OLLIE THORLEY



POS
Centre/Wing
HT/WT
1.85m / 97kg
DOB
11.09.96
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



KYLE TRAYNOR



POS
Prop
HT/WT
1.82m / 118kg
DOB
27.02.86
HONOURS
Scotland
SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 274

HENRY TRINDER



POS
Centre
HT/WT
1.84m / 93kg
DOB
14.04.89
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



BILLY TWELVETREES



POS
Centre
HT/WT
1.92m / 103kg
DOB
15.11.88
HONOURS
England
SPONSOR



BEN VELLACOTT



POS
Scrum Half
HT/WT
1.66m / 78kg
DOB
28.03.95
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR

ABBOTT & CO
(WESSEX) LTD

OWEN WILLIAMS



POS
Fly Half
HT/WT
1.83m / 92kg
DOB
27.02.92
HONOURS
Wales
SPONSOR



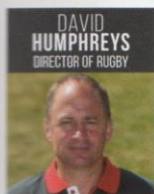
JASON WOODWARD



POS
Full Back
HT/WT
1.88m / 101kg
DOB
17.05.90
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



BACKROOM STAFF



DAVID HUMPHREYS
DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

SPONSOR

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JOHAN ACKERMANN
HEAD COACH

SPONSOR



JONNY BELL
DEFENCE COACH

SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
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TIM TAYLOR
BACKS COACH

SPONSOR

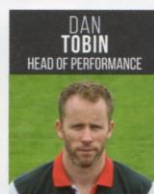
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ALEX BROWN
RUGBY OPERATIONS MANAGER

SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 274



DAN TOBIN
HEAD OF PERFORMANCE

SPONSOR

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EOIN POWER
HEAD OF MEDICAL

SPONSOR

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JULIAN WILSON
TEAM GP

SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
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DARREN LEWIS
HEAD OF PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

SPONSOR

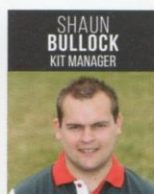
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01452 872 274



WILL CARVALHO
PERFORMANCE CHEF

SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 274



SHAUN BULLOCK
KIT MANAGER

SPONSOR

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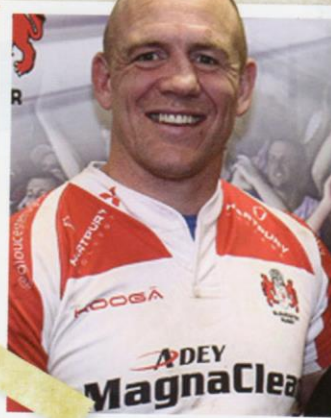
PROUD TO BE MATCH DAY SPONSORS

RIBA 崇

f t @rraarchitects

MIKE TINDALL

MIKE TINDALL HAD ALREADY GIVEN STERLING SERVICE IN THE CAUSE OF BATH RUGBY FOR SEVERAL SEASONS BEFORE MAKING THE SHORT JOURNEY TO KINGSHOLM. HE HAD WON 41 ENGLAND CAPS BY THIS TIME, INCLUDING A WORLD CUP WINNER'S MEDAL. HE WOULD WIN ANOTHER 34 CAPS WHILST AT GLOUCESTER, AS WELL AS CAPTAINING THE CLUB.



36

Michael James Tindall was born 18 October 1978 in Otley, Yorkshire, and was educated at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield. His father Phil, also a rugby player, captained the Otley club.

In 1997 as an 18-year-old, Mike joined Bath, who were obviously impressed by his speed, eye for an angle, as well as his bulk which made him difficult to stop. He was also a deadly tackler.

At that time Bath's centres were

Jeremy Guscott and Philip de Glanville, but by the 2000-01 season, Mike was a regular centre, partnering Kevin Maggs, the Irish International.

Mike won his first England cap in February 2000 against Ireland at Twickenham, partnering Mike Catt in the centre, and he also scored a try, as the Times put it, "Tindall galloped unstopably into the corner". England won 50-18.

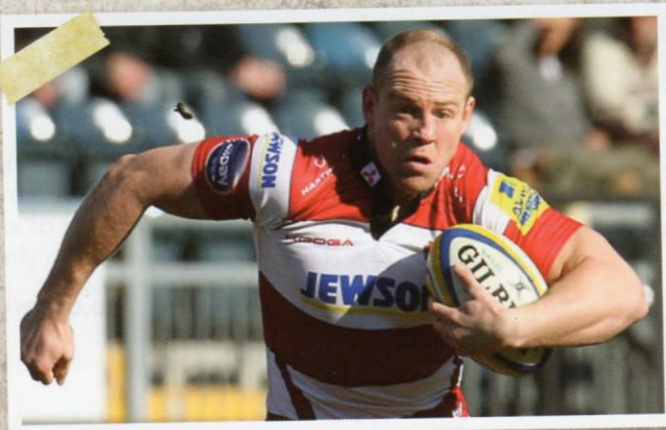
At this point he was playing at

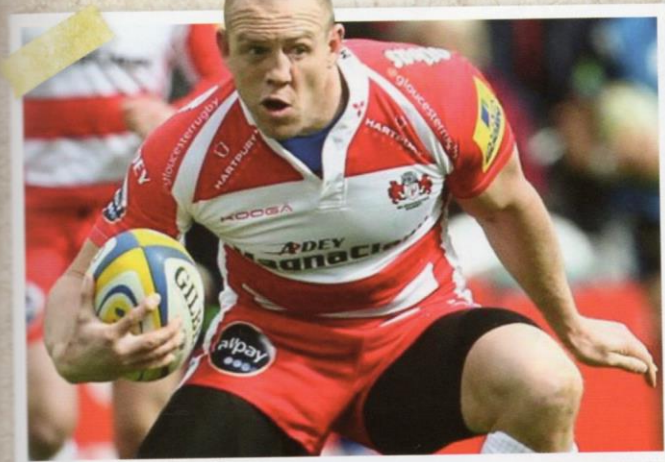
inside centre, but later he would partner Will Greenwood and move to outside.

In 2003 England and Ireland had both won all four of their games in the Six Nations, and met in Dublin to play for the Grand Slam. Into the second half the game was still in the balance with England leading 13-6, when, according to the Times' Rugby Correspondent, "Grayson held up a pass for Mike Tindall to hit the straightest of lines and then curve away from Hickie and drive over the line through Murphy's tackle." Ireland buckled and England went on to win 41-6. Mike was a regular in England's World Cup campaign in 2003. He was dropped for the semi-final in favour of Mike Catt, but was restored to the team which beat Australia 20-17 in the final.

In the 2003-04 season Bath topped the Premiership, but lost in the play-off final to Wasps, and Mike was a member of the Bath team.

After eight years, and 113 appearances at Bath, Mike





signed a three-year contract to join Gloucester for the start of the 2005-06 season, making his debut on 4 September against Worcester. Initially his centre partner was Henry Paul, but following the latter's departure, he quickly formed a formidable centre partnership with Anthony Allen.

Mike's first try came in December, in the crushing European Challenge Cup win over Toulon in France 74-3! This was a good season for the Cherry and Whites, and Mike was in the team which beat London Irish 36-34, after extra time, in the final of the European Challenge Cup at the Stoop.

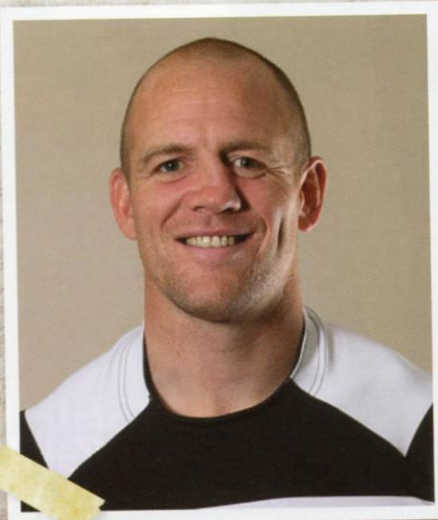
The following season saw the emergence of Ryan Lamb at fly-half, which gave extra bite to the back division. Gloucester topped the Premiership table but lost the play-off final to Leicester. However, Mike missed the last few weeks of the season having broken his leg against Newcastle in April. As a result, he could take no part in the 2007 World Cup.

He was back playing for Gloucester soon after the start of the 2007-08 season. An example of his courage was demonstrated in February 2008, when playing for England against Wales, in tackling Mark Jones he was badly injured, suffering a lacerated liver. Typically, he

was playing again by April.

In 2008 Mike signed a new three-year contract and was made club captain for the 2008-09 season, but missed a lot of games due to injury, although he did appear in four of the Six Nations Games. He played in the semi-final of the EDF Cup against Ospreys which the Cherry and Whites won 17-0 at the Ricoh Stadium, Coventry, but damage to the medial ligament in his right knee ended his season, and so he missed Gloucester's heavy defeat to Cardiff in the final of the competition at Twickenham.

Tins was back for the start of the following season, and formed a potent centre partnership with Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu, but the injury curse struck again in October against Sale, when a



hamstring injury kept him out until the end of February 2010.

Undaunted, Mike played in both the tests on England's tour of Australia in the summer of 2010. Then in 2011 in the absence of Lewis Moody, Mike was made England captain for the Six Nations games against Wales, Italy, France and Scotland. He retained the captaincy for World Cup warm-up games against Wales and Ireland. He made three appearances in the World Cup, and the game against Scotland in the quarter-finals at Auckland on 1 October 2011, proved to be his final international appearance.

In March 2011 Mike had signed a one-year renewal on his contract with Gloucester, but an ankle injury suffered whilst captaining England against Scotland meant that he missed Gloucester's victory over Newcastle in the final of the LV= Cup.

In June 2012 Mike agreed a new one-year contract to play as player and backs coach. This was renewed for the 2013-14 season. Those last three seasons were relatively injury free. Mike played his final game for Gloucester on 3 May 2014 against London Irish. He announced his retirement from professional rugby in July that year.

Despite the number of injuries he suffered, it was quite an achievement to win 75 England caps. He made 178 appearances for Gloucester, scoring 19 tries, two conversions and three penalties. He also played five times for the Barbarians, scoring a try against England in May 2012.

He was not, however quite finished with rugby, for he went on to play for his local club, Minchinhampton, making his debut against Gloucester All Blues in October 2014.

Mike is married to Zara, daughter of Princess Anne.

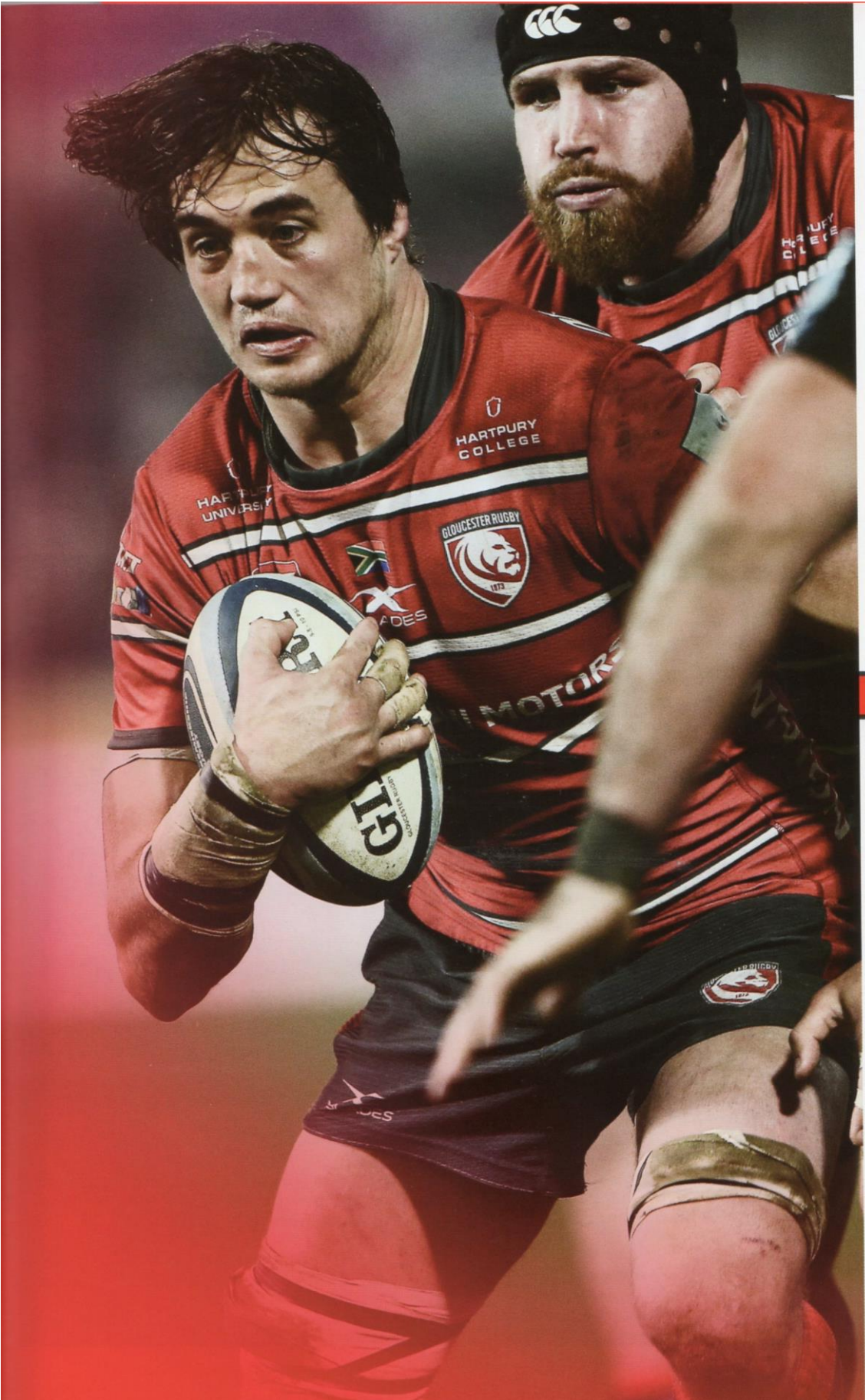
FRANCO MOSTERT



40

The Gloucester Rugby engine room has seen some true stalwarts of the club pull on the number four or five jersey since 1873, and Franco Mostert is already making a fair impression in the Cherry and White jersey.

Ahead of his first West Country derby this weekend, Mostert is looking to build on a good recent run of form, as he continues to find his feet after his summer move from the Lions.





Summing up his time at the club since arriving in late November, the lock has obviously settled in quickly to his fresh surroundings.

"I think I could sum up the last few months as a good experience. I think the vibe of the squad, and the way they have welcomed my family alongside me, and we have made the best of that.

"It's still an amazing place to come and live, and play. If I drive from my home to work at Hartpury each day, it doesn't feel like work at all. It's just an amazing experience."

Mostert has quickly become a firm favourite amongst the Cherry and White supporters, with his stand-out work rate, work in the line out and all court game attracting many admirers.

The Springbok doesn't necessarily put this down to anything in particular in his preparations, but just down to a constant drive to improve.

"I think the thing for me is quite simple, if I play, I play for my family to make them proud. I play for the guys next to me, because I have a saying that I like to think of.

"It is 'how you play your last game, is how people remember you', so I think that drives me and I push myself to the limit, and I like to think that it is paying off."

Mostert's career has taken him around the world, playing in Super Rugby and a spell in the Top League in Japan, but he has quickly found a love of representing the Cherry and White at Kingsholm Stadium.



"The first time I arrived, and it was exactly as the boys told me, it is such a special place. I first saw it on TV, but then to experience a matchday with the fans signing all of the songs throughout the game too. It's really special.

"The first time for me was great, The Shed is just crazy, and it's an amazing place to play, and in front of fans that are so passionate about rugby. So the least we can do is just give them good shows, week in, week out."

2019 is a big year for rugby, a big year for players across the world, with the showpiece tournament in Japan in September. But Mostert is focussed on the short term in Cherry and White before he attempts to fulfil a dream of representing the Springboks in a Rugby World Cup.

"I have to say, the Rugby World Cup is a long way away in rugby terms. You have your eye on it, but my focus right now is right here in Gloucester and achieving our goals.

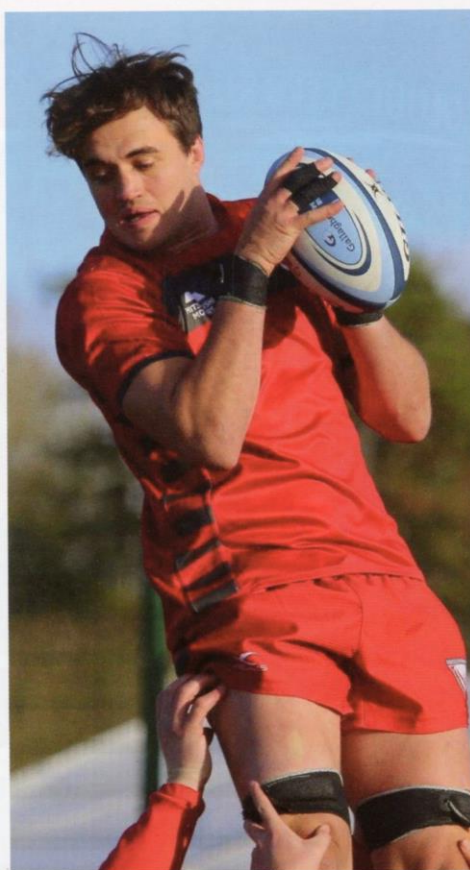
"I want to put Gloucester Rugby first, achieve a spot in the play offs then pull through to get a crack at the trophy. If I get chosen for the Springboks, and play at Rugby World Cup that would be truly awesome, and it will be one of my big dreams in my life coming true."

The contingent of South African stars dotted throughout the Cherry and White squad have settled within the group, and Mostert hails this environment as a hugely enjoyable one to be part of.

"I must say that it's great to have a number of boys in the squad that I know, it made it really easy for me when I arrived.

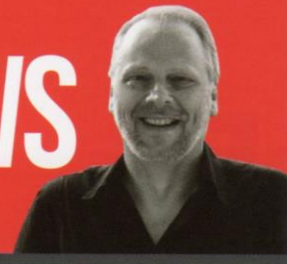
"Ruan [Dreyer] and Jaco [Kriel] were open books when I arrived, and happy to help with everything that I needed, with me and my wife.

"On the field, it helps too, if you get tired, you don't understand English so well, so that definitely doesn't go as well!"



KINGSHOLM NEWS

WITH BOB FENTON



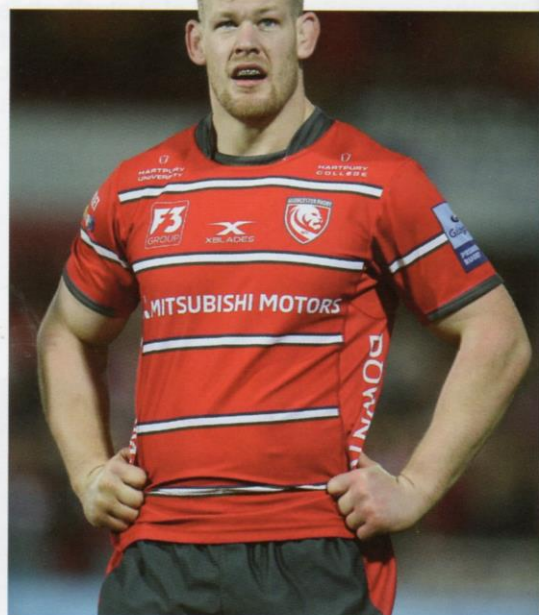
FIRSTLY, I HAVE TO SAY FAREWELL TO TOM SAVAGE WHO ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS OFF TO PLAY IN JAPAN NEXT SEASON, GREAT NEWS FOR HIM AND WHAT AN ADVENTURE IS IN FRONT OF HIM.

A few years ago the idea of players heading to Japan to play would be unheard of, and it shows how the game has really started to go global.

How will we cope though? I mean he was Player of the Season for Gloucester for at least the last six years - well my player of the season anyway... For me he is the epitome of everything you would want from a Gloucester Rugby player - effort, commitment and then some more effort and commitment. An often unsung workhorse of the pack, putting everything into every performance every time he pulled on the shirt.

For many of our younger players coming through, Sav should have been a role model for what playing for Gloucester is all about, and hopefully they will have learned a lot from him. He leaves us in a good place, and his up and coming understudy - Franco Mostert - looks like he could be a bit of a player!

Enjoy Japan, Sav - we'll miss you.



Going in to last week's game at Frankenstein's Gardens we could have done without a couple of things, firstly the resurgence in form of our hosts and secondly an outbreak of injuries in our back three. To lose one of them at this stage of the season was unfortunate, to lose all three after they had been tearing up trees for the past few weeks was tragic.

Turned out alright though, didn't it – even if it was probably the craziest game of rugby I have ever seen. We've talked before about how supporting Gloucester is like riding a roller coaster – all ups and downs – that game was all of that in a nutshell. With 20 minutes to go, I was hoping for a series of reset scrums to bore everyone to death for the rest of the game. Instead both sides decided that my nerves could be shredded for a bit longer.

No-one would have predicted a game like that, but it showed how far we have come as a team. It's a new world now, and I guess we have to stop thinking '...if we get a bonus point and keep them to four points...' as some kind of result. We can go anywhere and get the win. I really do think a corner has been turned.

Apart from the result, it that must have been the most attritional game of rugby I have ever seen. I've seen fewer casualties in a Clint Eastwood Western! Hopefully our medical teams all have compulsory overtime written in to their contracts, and they have sufficient sticky tape and painkillers to get some of the boys back on the field. While I enjoy watching Jake Polledri hurtle down the wing from time to time, I don't think I'd like to see him out there all day.

Today then, the game that means more to many Gloucester supporters than any other – Bath at home. The reasons why our nearest and dearest



are such deadly rivals stretches back longer than most of the people who regard them as said deadly rivals have been alive, and is shrouded in the stuff of legends.

If you need any kind of validation for such feelings though, all you need to do is recall what Iron Mike Teague said back in the day. Still working full time as a builder alongside his Gloucester and international rugby duties he famously told an interviewer, "I keep a Bath jersey in my van... I use it to clean me boots at the end of the day!" Yeah, if it's good enough for Mike, it'll do for the rest of us.

We've had some great games against them over the years – there was that close one a dozen or more seasons ago, what was it 68–12, I think. A game notable for the complete failure of Gloucester's kickers to land a kick... That was some time ago, last September is not so long ago and that crazy 31 – 31 tie still stands out as one of the games of the season:

Gloucester old boy Elliott Stooke looked to have won it for the home side with a try on 73 minutes. Not to be outdone, former Bath hero and now Gloucester wing Matt Banahan rumbled in four minutes later. What does all that mean for today? Who knows, I'll guess we'll find out in about two hours' time.

There is plenty on it for both teams though, a win for us and you have to think that with Newcastle to come to Kingsholm, top four is just about ours. Meanwhile, Bath will be desperate for a win to not only turn over the old enemy but to keep their chances of holding on to a Champions Cup spot for next term.

It's all bit odd though, I'm very used to looking at the fixtures and thinking if so and so loses and so and so does that then we might get into 6th or 7th spot. Now I'm still having the same thoughts but it's all about us keeping in the play-off places. Same anguish, a very different reason though.

It's good though, I think I could get used to it!

IAN RANDALL

RANDALL ON RUGBY



PROP RUAN DREYER'S FIRST YEAR AT GLOUCESTER HAS BEEN BLIGHTED BY INJURY PROBLEMS, BUT HE'S EXCITED TO BE AVAILABLE NOW FOR THE CLIMAX OF THE SEASON, AS WELL AS BEING THE PENULTIMATE PLAYER THIS SEASON TO PICK HIS SELECTIONS FROM IAN RANDALL'S BANK OF QUESTIONS...

HOW DID YOUR RUGBY CAREER COME ABOUT?

During my last two years at High School in Krugersdorp I played for the first team but I never really thought about playing professionally until I made the U-18 provincial side. I got a place in the Junior Academy at the Lions and from there I felt I could give rugby a chance as a career, and with the help of my parents I was able to do that.

THERE IS A POOL TABLE IN THE TEAM ROOM AT HARTPURY, WHO IS THE HARDEST PLAYER TO BEAT?

I haven't played very much but knowing the guys I would say Franco Mostert. I don't know what he does in his down time but he's good at almost any game - golf, darts, table tennis - and he's very competitive.

WHO IS THE BEST TRAINER AT THE CLUB?

It would be either Tom Savage or Ollie Thorley. Both give everything every day, be it on the field or going through video clips. Tom in particular really puts in the hours on the computer.

WHAT IS THE STRANGEST THING I HAVE EVER SEEN HAPPEN IN A MATCH?

In my time at the Lions - from memory against the Hurricanes - I was watching from the touchline and a player thought he had scored when he dived to reach the five metre line rather than the try line.

It was the last play of the game, the ball got knocked out of his hand and the match was over. I know the player but I won't mention his name! Had the try been scored the Lions would have won.



WHO IS THE MOST UNDER RATED PLAYER YOU HAVE PLAYED WITH OR AGAINST?

Warwick Tecklenburg, who was with me at the Lions. He was a hard working flanker who did everything for the team. If you missed a tackle, he would be the one making it for you. He struggled with some injuries but I think he should have had more recognition earlier in his career.

WHO WAS YOUR RUGBY HERO AS A YOUNG PLAYER?

Os du Randt. He was a big strong prop who I saw running with the ball and making tackles, and although he was a Springbok for a long time he was never in the limelight. He was a quiet man who just did his job on the field and as a prop I think he revolutionized play in that position. It wasn't only about scrums and hitting rucks.

HOW LONG DOES THE ELATION OR DISAPPOINTMENT OF A RESULT LAST?

It depends when it is. In the middle of the season you don't have any choice but to pitch up on a Monday and focus on the next game so you might have a night or two sulking if you have lost but you must get over it quickly.

At the end of the season, in a final, you have the summer break after the match so the result sticks with you for a good few weeks.

WHAT IS THE MOST USED APP ON YOUR PHONE?

Google Play Music. My wife and I have an 18 month old son called Anru, and we enjoy listening to music if we are at home making dinner or just relaxing with him. It's mostly from the 80's and early 90's but also some music from today as well.

HAS ANYTHING IN LIFE EVER SCARED YOU?

A couple of weeks ago my son had a convulsion just as I was about to leave for training. He had an ear infection and his fever just suddenly spiked with no warning. It was scary waiting for the ambulance to take him to hospital. Thankfully he's fine now.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUALIFICATIONS?

No.

HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR WIFE?

I met Zonica at school. I was doing rugby after school and she was at hockey. We were waiting for our parents to pick us up after we both finished and we started talking. We've been together for 12 years and married for the last three.

WHAT DOMESTIC TASK DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH?

I wouldn't say struggle but I never remember to put the garbage bag out and put a new bin liner in the dustbin. That gets on my wife's nerves!

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO BACK TO?

Queenstown in New Zealand. I have been there twice playing rugby, and I would like to take my family there because it is one of the most beautiful places I have ever visited.

PICK THREE OTHER PLAYERS TO JOIN YOU IN A QUIZ TEAM...

Mark Atkinson, Franco Marais and Kyle Traynor. He's just got his Masters degree so we should be competitive.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE HISTORICAL RIVALRY BETWEEN GLOUCESTER AND BATH?

I have heard it is a big derby game so I'm sure it will be a sell out and I'm excited at the prospect of playing in it. They will want to finish the season as strongly as possible and an away win would help them do that.

If you see the season as a 400m hurdle race, we now have the last few obstacles to get over in the home straight to make the semi-finals in the play offs and I'm honoured now to be fit and able to contribute.





Harlequins

HARLEQUINS

7



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

29

68

“WE WANTED TO BOUNCE BACK FROM LAST WEEK’S DEFEAT AT BRISTOL AS THERE WE ACTUALLY PLAYED WELL, BUT THEY SCORED THREE VERY GOOD TRIES FROM OUR DEFENSIVE ERRORS.

“TODAY WAS ONE OF OUR BETTER EFFORTS OF THE SEASON AS IN VERY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS, WE MADE NEARLY ALL THE RIGHT DECISIONS.

“THE LEAGUE IS SO COMPETITIVE SO WE MUST STAY FOCUSED ON OURSELVES. THE SIDES BELOW US ARE ONLY ONE WIN AWAY AND THERE IS A LOT OF RUGBY STILL TO BE PLAYED.”

HEAD COACH JOHAN ACKERMANN



A week after the disappointing defeat away at Bristol, Gloucester Rugby bounced back in some style with an emphatic and not entirely expected victory at the Stoop against Harlequins.

Not entirely expected, because the vast majority of rugby pundits and bookmakers had this one down as a home banker with Harlequins coming into the game in a rich vein of form and not being affected as they often are at this time of year by multiple England call-ups.

However, the Cherry and Whites paid little attention to those points of view and delivered probably their most complete performance of the season as, looking powerful, confident and composed, they dominated from start to finish.

So efficient was their dominance on the day, it came as a genuine surprise when Quins actually scored their try of the day as time started to run out.

To be fair, the home side did enjoy some decent possession in

the game's opening exchanges. However, the Gloucester Rugby defence was committed and physical and, once they'd got their noses in front, Johan Ackermann's side were totally in control.

Jason Woodward scored the first try, memorably sitting down Mike Brown on his way to the line, and this was swiftly followed by the second try, Ollie Thorley launching a counter-attack from his own half which ended in Ruan Ackermann strolling over as Danny Cipriani's long pass put him in space.



The home team were visibly rocked. Mark Atkinson almost added a third but was just beaten to a kick through from Cipriani, but Billy Twelvetrees kicked a penalty for a 0-17 lead at half-time.

On many previous occasions, Gloucester Rugby have been undone by a spirited second half comeback from Harlequins. However, on this occasion, the Cherry and Whites kept up the pressure and the home team were forced to hang on in defence.

However, Gloucester Rugby edged further clear on 53 minutes. Joe Marchant had been sinbinned by this stage, and the visitors took full advantage of the numbers advantage in the backs as Tom Marshall went over in the right hand corner.

Gloucester Rugby then started to turn the screw as they went in search of a try scoring bonus point. A couple of really good chances came and went but, finally, from a five metre scrum, Willi Heinz put

Danny Cipriani over much to the fly-half's joy.

Despite the outcome now being resolved, Quins kept going and finally got some reward for their efforts as Nathan Earle touched down a kick ahead for their only try of the game, Marcus Smith converting.

But they had to work awfully hard for it, the Gloucester Rugby defence proving to be a tough nut to crack even in the those final few minutes.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

27



WASPS RUGBY

14

72



"IT WAS A SLOPPY START FROM US. WE GIFT-WRAPPED WASPS THEIR POINTS EARLY ON BUT I'M PLEASED WITH THE COMPOSURE WE SHOWED."

"WE WERE PLEASED WITH THE TURNAROUND GOING INTO HALF-TIME BUT IT WAS STILL REALLY CLOSE AND THE SECOND HALF WAS A BIT OF A DOGFIGHT."

"IT'S JUST SO TIGHT THERE IS NO POINT GETTING CARRIED AWAY WITH THE TABLE AT THE MOMENT, IT'S JUST ABOUT BACKING UP GOOD PERFORMANCES."

CAPTAIN WILLI HEINZ

Gloucester Rugby kept up their challenge for a place in the end of season play-offs with an impressive 27-14 Gallagher Premiership victory over Wasps at Kingsholm, their fourth win in five games.

The four points gained on the day move the Cherry and Whites up to third place in the table, but the win was far from straightforward on the day as Wasps made life distinctly difficult, particularly in the opening half hour.

In fact, the visitors opened up an

0-11 lead in the opening quarter as they profited from a disjointed start from Gloucester Rugby. An uncharacteristically error strewn period, combined with some ill-discipline, led to a few nerve ends jangling in the Kingsholm crowd.

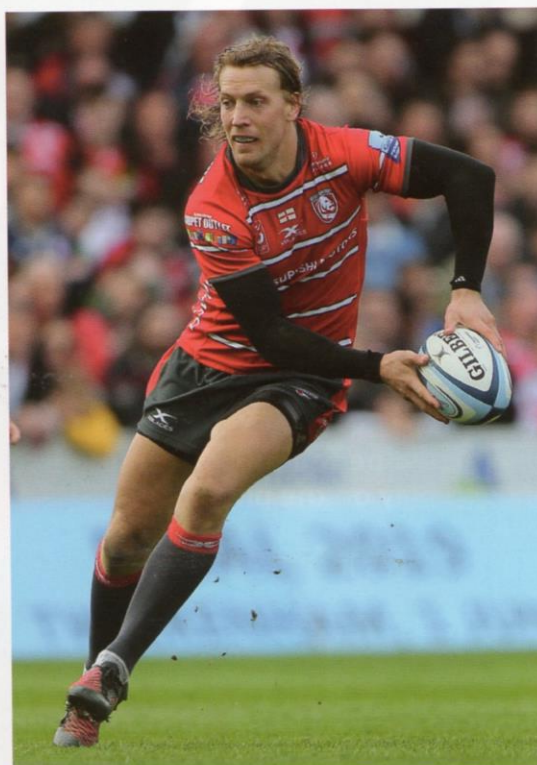
However, the Cherry and Whites stuck to their gameplan and, to their credit, shook off the sluggishness of the opening stages to finally click into action.

The momentum changed dramatically as Gloucester Rugby

pounced for two tries in three minutes. And both were crackers. Slick handling resulted in Tom Marshall breaking through and setting up Willi Heinz, before a sizzling break from Ollie Thorley led to Ruan Ackermann touching down.

The game had turned on its head, and the Cherry and Whites went into half-time with a 14-11 lead and the home crowd buzzing.

Billy Twelvetrees extended the lead with a 45th minute penalty, but despite creating some good scoring



opportunities, the Cherry and Whites couldn't quite get the score that would have put the game to bed and, as a result, Wasps hung in there and stayed interested.

And, when Franco Mostert was yellow carded on the hour, a stressful period of the game stretched ahead of the home team. Rob Miller narrowed the gap with a 63rd minute penalty and more than one spectator started to bite their finger nails.

The match was then settled by the

outcome of a series of scrums on halfway. Down to seven men, the Gloucester Rugby pack scrummaged for their lives and forced two resets. Mostert returned from the sinbin and the Cherry and Whites won a penalty at the next scrum.

Cipriani put the resulting penalty into the Quins 22 and set up a position where Quins offended again. Sensibly, Twelvetrees took the three points on offer to open up a six point lead again.

And the win was finally secured

two minutes from time. Patient build-up play, featuring a powerful run from Val Rapava Ruskin took play to within a few metres of the Wasps line and Cipriani's flat pass allowed Jake Polledri to muscle his way over in the corner.

Twelvetrees converted as time expired to clinch the 27-14 win, and secure four valuable league points for the Cherry and Whites.

Not a perfect performance, but a very valuable win.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY



BATH RUGBY

82

T	P	C	D		POSITION		T	P	C	D	
■	■	■	■	Tom HUDSON 15	FULL BACK	15	Tom HOMER	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Charlie SHARPLES 14	RIGHT WING	14	Joe COKANASIGA	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Billy TWELVETREES 13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	Jonathan JOSEPH	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Mark ATKINSON 12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	Jamie ROBERTS	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Matt BANAHAN 11	LEFT WING	11	Ruaridh McCONNOCHIE	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Danny CIPRIANI 10	FLY-HALF	10	Rhys PRIESTLAND	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Willi HEINZ (C) 9	SCRUM-HALF	9	Kahn FOTUALI'I	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Josh HOHNECK 1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	Nathan CATT	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Franco MARAIS 2	HOOKER	2	Tom DUNN	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Fraser BALMAIN 3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	Max LAHIFF	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Ed SLATER 4	LOCK	4	Dave ATTWOOD	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Franco MOSTERT 5	LOCK	5	Charlie EWELS (C)	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Ruan ACKERMANN 6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	Tom ELLIS	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Jaco KRIEL 7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	Sam UNDERHILL	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Ben MORGAN 8	NUMBER 8	8	Zach MERCER	■	■	■	■
REPLACEMENTS											
■	■	■	■	Mike SHERRY 16		16	Ross BATTY	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Val RAPAVA RUSKIN 17		17	Beno OBANO	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Ruan DREYER 18		18	Anthony PERENISE	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Tom SAVAGE 19		19	Elliott STOOKE	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Freddie CLARKE 20		20	Miles REID	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Jake POLLEDRI 21		21	Chris COOK	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Callum BRALEY 22		22	Freddie BURNS	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Tom SEABROOK 23		23	Max CLARK	■	■	■	■



MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Matthew Carley
Assistant Referees: Hamish Smales & Peter Allan / **TMO:** Geoff Warren

