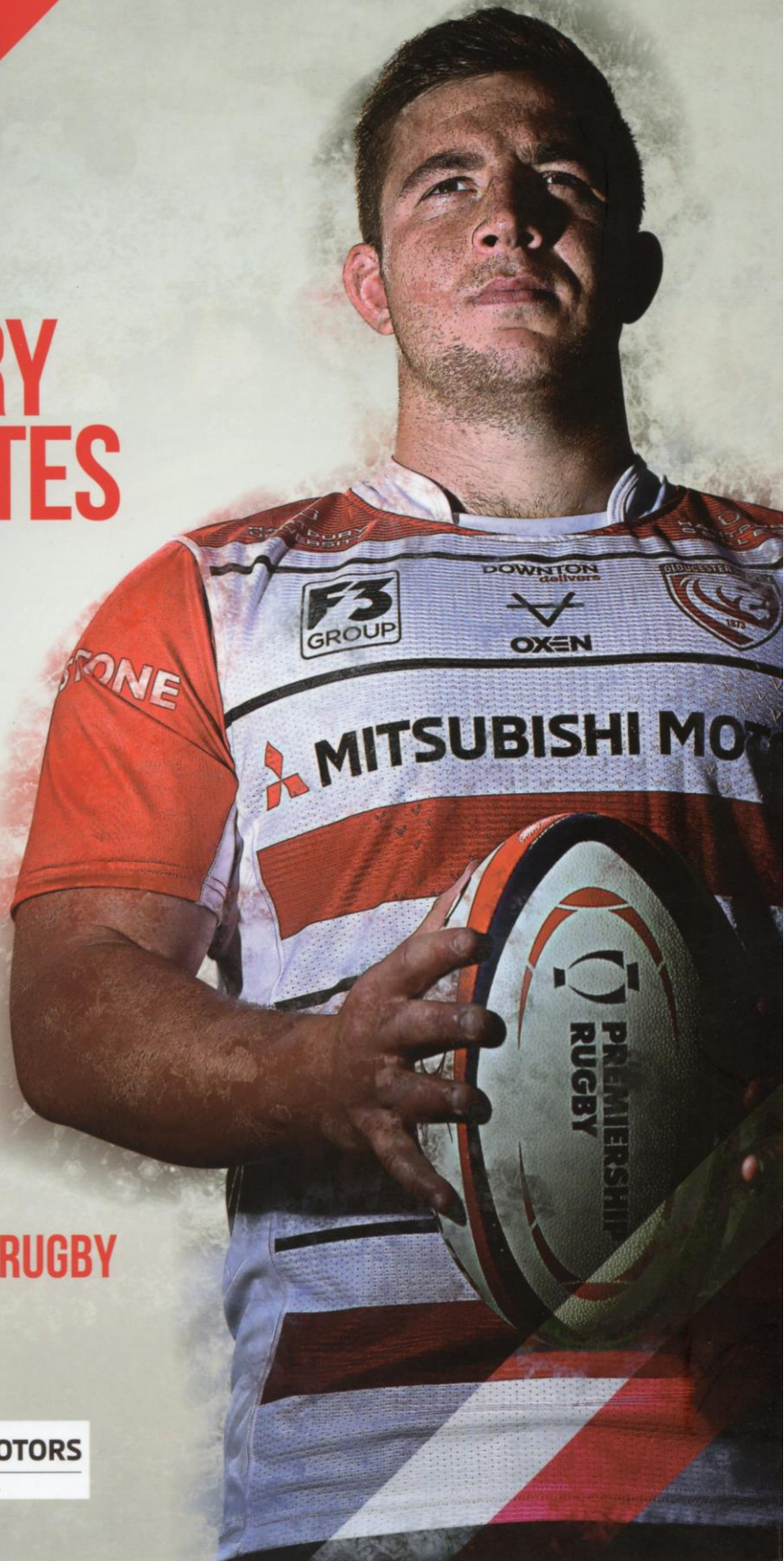




CHERRY & WHITES



GLOUCESTER RUGBY v LONDON IRISH

PREMIERSHIP RUGBY CUP
21 SEPTEMBER 2019
3PM | £3.00

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MAIN CLUB PARTNER



COLUMN SPONSORED BY



CEO

LANCE BRADLEY



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM. AND, IN PARTICULAR, A VERY WARM WELCOME TO THE PLAYERS, STAFF AND SUPPORTERS OF LONDON IRISH.

Aside from it being our first competitive run out of the season, it's a very significant day for myself in that it's the first Gloucester Rugby fixture that I will attend in my new role as CEO of the Club.

Those of you who know me, and I hope to make the acquaintance of many more of you by the end of the day, will know that I have a long relationship with Gloucester Rugby – as a supporter, as MD of Main Partner Mitsubishi Motors and, more recently as a non-Executive Director. So, today is a very proud day for me.

I only started in my new role at the start of the month, so it's certainly been a whirlwind few weeks. I have come to know many people at the Club quite well over the past few years, and that's been a big help as I've had to hit the ground running!

I was fortunate enough to spend some time with the squad last week on their preseason training camp, and I can testify to the fact that there has obviously been a lot of hard work put in over the summer months as the squad is looking very sharp.

We're likely to see some of our talented young prospects on display this afternoon, and I couldn't help but be encouraged by the spirit they showed last weekend at the Premiership Rugby 7s, when they won both the Plate semi-final and final with last minute scores.

For us to be successful as a Club, we need our Academy pathway to be producing a regular supply of local talent capable of shining at first team level. And we all love to see a local lad pulling on the Cherry and White shirt!

I'd like to sign off by thanking everyone for their kind words following my appointment – it's been very much appreciated. I'm keen to be as open and approachable as possible – my Twitter timeline has never been busier – so, if you'd like to get in touch on anything to do with the Club, please feel free to do so.

Lance

“ FOR US TO BE SUCCESSFUL AS A CLUB, WE NEED OUR ACADEMY PATHWAY TO BE PRODUCING A REGULAR SUPPLY OF LOCAL TALENT CAPABLE OF SHINING AT FIRST TEAM LEVEL. AND WE ALL LOVE TO SEE A LOCAL LAD PULLING ON THE CHERRY AND WHITE SHIRT! ”



CHAIRMAN

MARTIN ST. QUINTON



GOOD AFTERNOON AND A VERY WARM WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S PREMIERSHIP RUGBY CUP GAME AGAINST LONDON IRISH.

It seems to have been a long summer without rugby, and a very long time since we signed off here at the end of last season.

There's a saying about buses – you wait ages for one and then two turn up at once – and that certainly seems to be the case this weekend as domestic rugby kicks off with the Premiership Rugby Cup, and on the other side of the world, the long-awaited Rugby World Cup gets underway!

The long pre-season has certainly been a challenge for our coaching staff. However, it has been advantageous to have had more time to work with the players, and also a plus for the medical staff, as they have had more time to rehabilitate injured players.

It's been important not to overwork the squad so that they're not jaded, mentally and physically, before the start of the season. I speak regularly to Director of Rugby David Humphreys and we feel that we've got the balance right.

Like yourselves I'm sure, I'm very much looking forward to seeing rugby return to Kingsholm this afternoon. In previous seasons we have used this tournament to provide playing opportunities for some of the younger members of the squad, and I'm sure that will be the case today.

Our Academy has produced some exciting young talent in recent times. Several players have graduated into the first team squad for this season, and the matches like today provide important development opportunities.

Finally, a warm welcome back to the top flight for London Irish after their year in the Championship. They are one of the long-established names in English Club Rugby and it's great to see them back at Kingsholm.

Enjoy the game.

Martin

“ OUR ACADEMY HAS PRODUCED SOME EXCITING YOUNG TALENT IN RECENT TIMES. SEVERAL PLAYERS HAVE GRADUATED INTO THE FIRST TEAM SQUAD FOR THIS SEASON, AND THE MATCHES LIKE TODAY PROVIDE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ”

CUP MATCHES AGAINST LONDON IRISH

Gloucester Rugby have met London Irish eleven times previously in cup competitions, and have come out winners in seven of them. The points difference to date is 323-217 in favour of the Cherry and Whites.

The teams first met in the John Player Cup on 28th February 1981 at Sunbury-on-Thames. Tries from Richard Mogg and Steve Boyle put Gloucester ahead at half-time, and Padraig Conway squeezed over in the corner to secure a 22-13 win.

The only success enjoyed by Irish at Kingsholm came in a Powergen Cup match on 15th November 2003. Gloucester were the cup holders, having defeated Northampton a few months earlier at Twickenham. But in their first match as champions, they spent nine minutes of added time at the end of the match, camped on the Irish line, but unable to get over, so went down 29-35.

The most notable encounter was a rip-roaring finale to the European Challenge Cup campaign of 2005-06. Gloucester came into that game having won all six of their pool games, demolishing Brive in the quarter-final, and slugging it out against Worcester in the semi-final. So, on to a nerve-racking but glorious final under the lights at the Stoop on 21st May 2006:



Mike Tindall with Andy Hazell in support at the Stoop

GLOUCESTER 36 LONDON IRISH 34

London Irish opened the scoring with a brace of penalty goals before Gloucester responded with a try fashioned by Mike Tindall and scored by Mark Foster. Andy Hazell powered over for a second. Delon Armitage grabbed one back for Irish, but two penalties and a conversion by Ryan Lamb saw Gloucester 18-13 ahead at the interval.

Ludo Mercier replaced Lamb and slotted a couple of penalties, but Irish were pressing when Sinbad intercepted, and there was no catching him over 50 metres, to put Gloucester 12 points to the

Gloucester celebrate their win



good. Irish fought back hard, David Paice and Robbie Russell drove over for tries, but the second conversion was missed, which sent the game into extra time.

The Exiles went ahead with a penalty, but Jamie Forrester brought off a sensational winning try, kicking the ball ahead, winning the race for it, and touching the ball down just as it was about to roll over the dead ball line.

The Gloucester team which brought the trophy home to Kingsholm:

R Thirlby; J Simpson-Daniel, M Tindall, A Allen, M Foster; R Lamb, P Richards; P Collazo, M Davies, J Forster, J Pendlebury, A Brown, P Buxton (captain), A Hazell, J Forrester;

Replacements: O Azam, G Powell, A Eustace, L Narraway, L Mercier, J Bailey

The teams next met in the LV= Cup on 5th February 2011 at Kingsholm:

GLOUCESTER 41 LONDON IRISH 8

Gloucester ran riot in the first half, being awarded a penalty try in addition to those run in by Tim Molenaar, Charlie Sharples and big Jim Hamilton. They had secured the bonus point within half an hour, and another from Olly Morgan gave them a handsome half-time lead at 29-3.

Not surprisingly, Gloucester eased off after the restart, but found their mojo again in the last ten minutes, when Akapusi Qera broke tackles to score and Sharples took a reverse pass from Freddie Burns to secure his second.

The teams were drawn in the same European Rugby Challenge Cup pool in 2012-13, and first met on 8th December 2012 at the Madejski:

LONDON IRISH 22 GLOUCESTER 29

Irish scored first with a fine try by Sailosi Tagicakibau, and Gloucester defended for most of the first half, and could count themselves fortunate to be only 6-10 behind at the break, thanks to a couple of penalties from Freddie Burns. He added a third at the start of the second half, but tries

“
**JAMIE FORRESTER
BROUGHT OFF A
SENSATIONAL WINNING
TRY, KICKING THE
BALL AHEAD, WINNING
THE RACE FOR IT, AND
TOUCHING THE BALL
DOWN JUST AS IT WAS
ABOUT TO ROLL OVER
THE DEAD BALL LINE**

by Halani Aulika and Anthony Watson left Irish apparently out of sight at 22-9.

But Gloucester then scored 20 unanswered points in the final half an hour. Dan Murphy drove over from short range, as did Burns, who added the conversions and two penalties to complete a remarkable comeback.

The return fixture was played a week later at Kingsholm:

GLOUCESTER 47 LONDON IRISH 3

Gloucester achieved little for the first half an hour, before Sione Kalamafoni powered over the line with three defenders hanging on to him, and Shane Monahan scorched through on a weaving run for a breath-taking try. Kalamafoni then careered downfield to put Monahan in for his second, and Gloucester were ahead 23-3 at the break.

The start of the second half was delayed whilst Monahan threw up in front of the Shed, which raised questions about the half-time refreshment, but then came a golden moment from Rob Cook, who gathered a clearance kick and ran straight through the middle of the defence to score under the posts. Monahan had recovered in time to score his third and fourth tries, but the biggest cheer was for a break by Jim Hamilton, Nick Wood taking it on, and Dan Robson finishing it off.

Gloucester topped the pool, winning all six, Irish came second having lost only their two games with Gloucester. But Gloucester lost to Biarritz in the quarter-final at Kingsholm.

The most recent encounter was in the Anglo-Welsh Cup on 11th November 2017 at Kingsholm:

GLOUCESTER 47 LONDON IRISH 7



Gloucester seemed rusty at the start of each half but settled in, were 19-0 ahead at half-time, and ended the game with a flourish. The seven tries were spread across the team with one each from Heinz, Rapava-Ruskin, Hudson, Thrush, Trinder, Braley and Polledri. The highlights were a touchline dash by Henry Trinder and a 25-metre sprint to the line by Jake Polledri.



2019/20 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



CHARLIE CHAPMAN



POS
Scrum Half
HT/WT
1.75m / 80kg
DOB
01.02.98
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



DANNY CIPRIANI



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



FREDDIE CLARKE



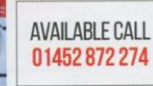
POS
Back Row
HT/WT
1.95m / 114kg
DOB
10.10.92
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



ALEX CRAIG



POS
Second Row
HT/WT
1.97m / 112kg
DOB
26.04.97
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR



RUAN DREYER



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



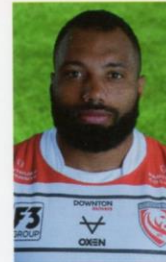
LLOYD EVANS



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

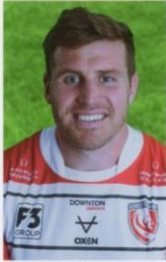


JAMAL FORD-ROBINSON



POS
Prop
HT/WT
1.78m / 115kg
DOB
11.09.93
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR

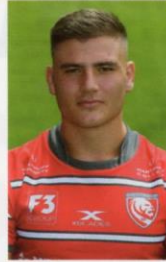


BEN MORGAN

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

RENISHAW**FRANCO MOSTERT**

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

m
miles morgan
travel**JAKE POLLEDRI**

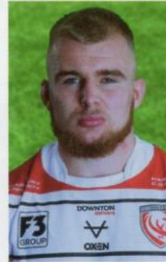
POS
Back Row
HT/WT
1.89m / 106kg
DOB
08.11.95
HONOURS
Italy
SPONSOR

KELOSCAPE
FINE TOURS**VAL RAPAVA RUSKIN**

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

AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 274**TOM SEABROOK**

POS
Wing / Centre
HT/WT
1.83m / 95kg
DOB
15.02.99
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR

DC
DEAN
CLOSE
CHELTENHAM
SENIOR SCHOOL**ALEX SEVILLE**

POS
Prop
HT/WT
1.81m / 105kg
DOB
12.07.98
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR

UK
PROCESSVALVES**CHARLIE SHARPLES**

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

AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 274**JOE SIMPSON**

POS
Scrum Half
HT/WT
1.80m / 86kg
DOB
05.07.88
HONOURS
England
SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 274**ED SLATER**

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

K B Building Services
07979156665
kdbanks@hotmail.co.uk**OLLIE THORLEY**

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

ROCKET
RENTALS**HENRY TRINDER**

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

ABBAY
EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT**BILLY TWELVETREES**

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

AFFINITY**HENRY WALKER**

POS
Hooker
HT/WT
1.77m / 106kg
DOB
10.03.98
HONOURS
-
SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 274**OWEN WILLIAMS**

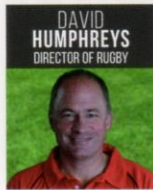
POS
Fly Half
HT/WT
1.83m / 92kg
DOB
27.02.92
HONOURS
Wales
SPONSOR

CULLIMORE
GRAVELS**JASON WOODWARD**

POS
Full Back
HT/WT
1.88m / 101kg
DOB
17.05.90
HONOURS
-
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Davies & Partners
SOLICITORS

BACKROOM STAFF



DAVID HUMPHREYS
DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

SPONSOR

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JOHAN ACKERMANN
HEAD COACH

SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
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JONNY BELL
DEFENCE COACH

SPONSOR

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TIM TAYLOR
BACKS COACH

SPONSOR

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RORY TEAGUE
SKILLS COACH

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ALEX BROWN
RUGBY OPERATIONS MANAGER

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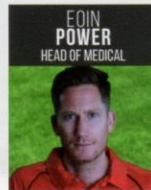
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DAN TOBIN
HEAD OF PERFORMANCE

SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
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EIIN POWER
HEAD OF MEDICAL

SPONSOR

AVAILABLE CALL
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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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WILL CARVALHO
PERFORMANCE CHEF

SPONSOR

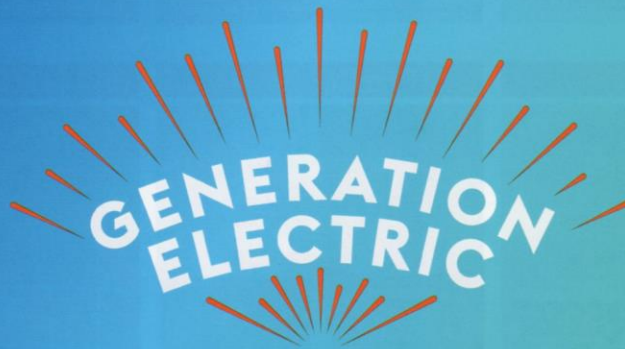
AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 274



SHAUN BULLOCK
KIT MANAGER

SPONSOR

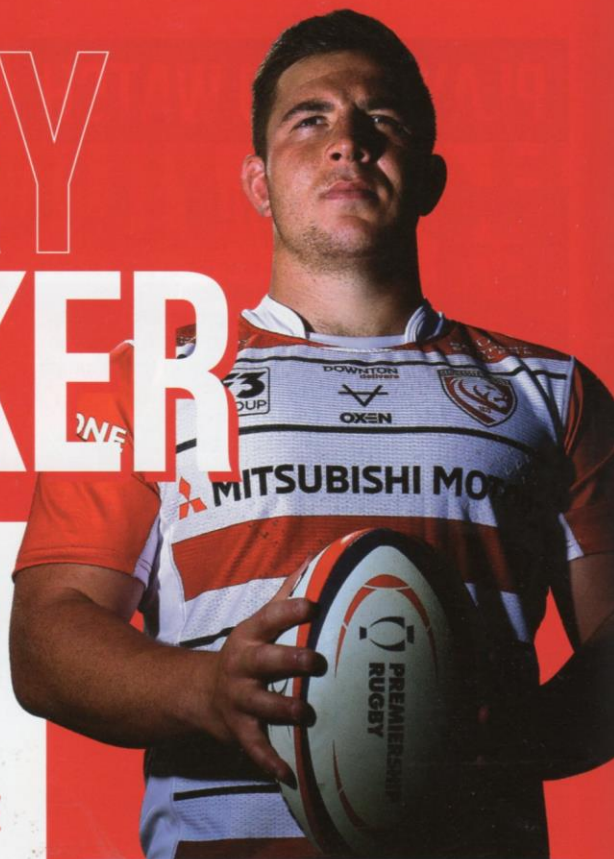
AVAILABLE CALL
01452 872 274



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Gloucester wheelchair rugby team

everyone's welcome

HENRY WALKER



NOT TOO LONG AGO, HENRY WALKER WOULD HAVE BEEN GETTING A RUN OUT IN THE PREMIERSHIP RUGBY CUP AS ONE OF THE UP AND COMING YOUNGSTERS IN THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD.

22

The competition has long been positioned as being one where the most promising English (and until recently Welsh) talent could gain valuable game time. And Walker, like several other former Academy players, benefitted from that.

However, it's a sign of the progress that Walker has made over the last 18 months that he comes into today's game having made 14 appearances last season, including featuring in all six Heineken Champions Cup fixtures. It was arguably his breakthrough campaign.

But, as keen as he's been to build on last season, he's had to patiently bide his time following an unusually long preseason.

(Laughs) "Yeah, it's been long! And nice to finally get down to some rugby. We've got several boys away on World Cup duty, which is great for them and also great for the club. So, that means that it's a massive opportunity for quite a few other squad members over the next few weeks.

"The World Cup has also meant that we've had a longer preseason than usual, and Dan (Tobin) and the other S&C staff have

done a great job splitting the preseason into different blocks – one block focusing on speed, followed by a week off then a strength block. They've kept it interesting which has been key."

The other key difference in the fixture calendar this season means that the Premiership Rugby Cup takes centre stage first up, rather than after several weeks of Premiership and European action.

"We're straight into it, and it's the start of something like 16 straight weeks of rugby. So, it's going to be tough and everyone will need to play their part.

"But everyone is ready and eager at the moment. And that's vital – Johan has emphasized that everyone needs to know their detail as anyone is only ever one injury away from being involved. You have to be ready to go."

Followers of Gloucester Rugby have been watching Walker, along with Ciaran Knight and Alex Seville, making their way through the ranks over the past few seasons. They've all now made several appearances at first team level, so it's no longer about potential but about delivering?



"Very much so. We're keen as a front row trio to step up and show what we can do. And to do that on a regular basis. And it's not just us front-rowers. A few others have stepped up from the Academy – Charlie Chapman, Alex Craig, Tom Seabrook – and we're all keen to show that we belong there.

"Playing European games last season against the likes of Castres and Munster was a massive challenge and step up for all of us. But we've come through that and we should be better for those experiences this season."

But today is all about London Irish, back in the big time following a year's exile in the Championship and they will be coming to Kingsholm today, determined to show they're back where they belong.

"Definitely. They've recruited well and will be trying desperately to avoid relegation again. It'll be a big challenge today as we don't really know what they'll be like. But we're an unknown quantity to them as well so it could be an entertaining game."

“IT’LL BE A BIG CHALLENGE TODAY AS WE DON’T REALLY KNOW WHAT THEY’LL BE LIKE. BUT WE’RE AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY TO THEM AS WELL SO IT COULD BE AN ENTERTAINING GAME”



SEVENS



34



After a difficult first evening at the Premiership Rugby 7s, Gloucester Rugby's young squad bounced back on day two and lifted the Plate to reward some never-say-die efforts.

The Cherry and Whites lost their two fixtures on the Friday evening. But they were never outclassed. Indeed, their ability with ball in hand and defensive commitment couldn't be faulted.

However, it was securing possession that was the main issue on the night. The game against Exeter Chiefs, the

second of the evening, was a case in point. Gloucester Rugby defended for a good four and a half minutes to keep the Chiefs at bay before finally conceding the game's first try. That effort inevitably took its toll in the second half as Exeter ran out 0-31 winners.

Gloucester Rugby's first game, the tournament's opening fixture, saw the Cherry and Whites battle it out against London Irish. Gloucester Rugby struck twice to lead 7-0 and 14-7, but the Exiles ruled the roost at the restart and the resulting possession allowed them to

dominate proceedings and run out winners by 27 points to 19.

They may have been disappointed by Friday night's results, but the young guns showed no signs of letting it affect them and showed real guts to launch two late comebacks and win the Plate.

Taking on the hosts, Northampton Saints, in the Plate semi-final, Gloucester Rugby led at half-time but a dogged fightback by the home team saw them lead by nine points with just over a minute remaining.

REVIEW



35

“ GLOUCESTER DUG DEEP AND CAPTAIN ALEX MORGAN LED THE TEAM BY EXAMPLE. SCORING A SENSATIONAL SOLO RUN DOWN THE NEARSIDE TOUCHLINE TO SCORE ”

However, Gloucester dug deep and captain Alex Morgan led the team by example. Scoring a sensational solo run down the nearside touchline to score with just 13 seconds of the game left. He then did the same again to win it for the Cherry and Whites.

And the final proved to be similarly dramatic! The Cherry and Whites started well, but Sale hit back and looked to have put the game to bed when Tom Curtis went over for two quickfire second-half tries.

But a yellow card for Tom Roebuck as he took out Reece

Dunn as the Gloucester Rugby back chased his own kick ahead turned the game on its head.

The Cherry and Whites took a quick tap and Reece Dunn forced his way over. Tom Stanton then went over from close range but, crucially, both conversions were missed and the gap was 27-29 with just the restart to come.

Sale looked to have it covered, but flapped at the restart and Varney needed no second invitation to pin his ears back and make the line to snatch the win.



VS



LONDON IRISH

T P C D				POSITION	T P C D							
				Reece DUNN 15	FULL BACK	15	Tom	PARTON				
				Jacob MORRIS 14	RIGHT WING	14	Tom	FOWLIE				
				Tom STANTON 13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	Curtis	RONA				
				Tom SEABROOK 12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	Terrence	HEPETEMA				
				Louis REES-ZAMMIT 11	LEFT WING	11	Ollie	HASSELL-COLLINS				
				Lloyd EVANS 10	FLY-HALF	10	Stephen	MYLER				
				Charlie CHAPMAN 9	SCRUM-HALF	9	Rory	BRAND				
				Alex SEVILLE 1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	Harry	ELRINGTON				
				Henry WALKER 2	HOOKER	2	Dave	PORECKI				
				Ruan DREYER 3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	Lovejoy	CHAWATAMA				
				Alex CRAIG 4	LOCK	4	Chunya	MUNGA				
				Simon LINSELL (C) 5	LOCK	5	Franco	VAN DER MERWE				
				Josh GRAY 6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	George	NOTT				
				Aaron HINKLEY 7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	Conor	GILSENAN				
				Jack CLEMENT 8	NUMBER 8	8	Matt	ROGERSON				
REPLACEMENTS					REPLACEMENTS							
				Ethan HUNT 16	 MATCH OFFICIALS Referee: Anthony Woodthorpe Assistant Referees: JP Doyle Peter Allan	16	Ross	MCMILLIAN				
				Ciaran KNIGHT 17		17	Will	GOODRICK-CLARKE				
				Ruan DREYER 18		18	Patric	CILLIERS				
				Harry BUTLER 19		19	Barney	MADDISON				
				Joe HOWARD 20		20	Blair	COWAN				
				Stephen VARNEY 21		21	Scott	STEELE				
				George BARTON 22		22	Jacob	ATKINS				
				Alex MORGAN 23	23	Ben	LOADER					

