

CHERRY & WHITES







WITSUBISHI MOTORS





UCESTER RUGBY

HEINEKEN CHAMPIONS CUP 15 NOVEMBER 2019 7.45PM | £3.50















CHAIRMAN

MARTIN ST. Quinton



Of course, competing in the Heineken Champions Cup is exactly where we want to be, and where we need to be, if we are to achieve our long-term goals of not just competing in these competitions but also winning them.

several seasons. Taking on the likes of Castres, Munster and

Exeter was a big challenge and one we coped with reasonably well, but we will be better for

that experience this time around.

Finally, the sight of Toulouse running out here this evening will of course evoke memories for a lot of us of that amazing evening back in January 2012. We've enjoyed some famous European evenings here at Kingsholm, but that was one of the very best as we overturned a half-time deficit to clinch a thrilling 34-24 victory.

A similar encounter would no doubt be welcomed tonight, but it wouldn't do much for the nerves! Let's hope for a great match this evening.

Martin

GOOD EVENING AND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM AS WE KICK OFF OUR HEINEKEN CHAMPIONS CUP CAMPAIGN THIS EVENING.

In particular, Bienvenue! to the players, staff and supporters of Stade Toulousain who are our quests this evening.

After four tough weeks of Gallagher Premiership action, there is a change of emphasis this evening, but certainly no reduction in intensity as we enter the premier European competition.

Looking back to when we competed in the European Rugby Challenge Cup, there was an opportunity, with all due respect to some of our opponents back then, to rotate the squad slightly. However, the Heineken Champions Cup does not afford that opportunity. Every single game



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FIRST SOLUTION

IT SUPPORT & CYBER SECURITY

CEO

LANCE Bradley



GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM AS WE HAVE THE HONOUR OF STAGING THE FIRST FIXTURE IN THIS SEASON'S HEINEKEN CHAMPIONS CUP. THIS SEASON IS SOMETHING OF A MILESTONE, WITH 2019-20 REPRESENTING THE 25TH SEASON OF EUROPEAN ACTION.

Toulouse, of course, triumphed in that inaugural season, beating Cardiff at the Arms Park, and have gone on to lift the trophy on three further occasions, so it's somewhat appropriate that they provide the opposition here at Kingsholm this evening.

There's no doubt that these European evenings have a slightly different look and feel about them. Our Premiership opponents are by and large familiar foes; we play them most seasons after all.

However, European competition, particularly the Heineken Champions Cup, sees us take on new opponents. We haven't pitted ourselves against Toulouse, for example, since the 2011-12 season.

Toulouse have a squad packed with French internationals, not to mention a fair smattering of talent from around the world. But we too have a squad full of international quality players, and we will be looking to bounce back after a disappointing couple of weeks in the Gallagher Premiership.

There's no doubt that tonight will be a big challenge, but it's a challenge we relish. Every player wants to test himself at the highest level, and I know from spending time at the training ground this week that there's a real determination to show you here at Kingsholm, and the watching world on TV, what we can do.

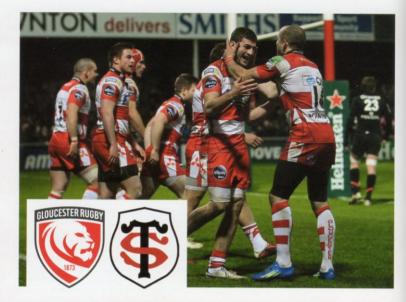
I do hope you know just what your support means to the team this evening. It may be a cliché, but that vociferous backing really is the equivalent of a 16th man on the night.

The stage is set – a top quality European clash under the Friday night nights at Kingsholm. Here's hoping that we can add another triumphant chapter to our illustrious history.

Enjoy the game.

Lance

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GLOUCESTER RUGBY DOWN TOULOUSE IN HEINEKEN CUP THRILLER

There have been some memorable European nights at Kingsholm over the years but this was one of the best as Gloucester Rugby stunned Toulouse with a 34-24 win.

The victory had Toulouse nervously watching the end of the Connacht vs Harlequins game to see if they'd qualified and there were whoops of relief from the French dressing room as the Irish province did them a big favour.

Toulouse were simply left gasping in the final quarter of a game that pulsated from start to finish. Until Gloucester's final surge it really could have gone either way.

Every single player did his bit but it was the lightning fast Gloucester backs who created havoc with ball in hand in the final half hour with some illustrious opponents simply grasping at thin air.

Toulouse weren't poor, far from it. In fact, at times they were sublime. But they did have some defensive shortcomings, especially under the high ball, and that cost them on the night.

In a sizzling atmosphere at Kingsholm, Gloucester were looking for a strong start but were reduced to 14 men just a minute into the game when Nick Wood was yellow carded for reckless use of the boot on the advice of the touch judge.

However, the 14 men delivered the best possible response as Matanavou fumbled a high ball and was then pinned back in his own in goal area. He bizarrely tried to clear with three men right on top of him, was charged down and Jonny May fell on the loose ball to score. Burns converted for 7-0.

The lead was short lived though as Matanavou made good ground down the right before Thierry Dusatoir caught Gloucester napping around the fringes by picking up at a ruck and outpacing Rory Lawson to score from 30 metres. Beauxis levelled the scores with the conversion.

Gloucester were far from dismayed and had a chance to regain the lead as Poitrenaud was flattened by Tindall and Sharples as he took a high ball. Toulouse conceded the penalty but Burns' effort hit the post and stayed out.

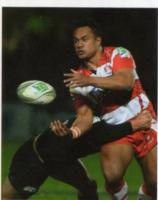
The miss was put into context when Medard's cultured left boot moved Toulouse downfield where Gloucester were penalised and Beauxis nudged the visitors in front.

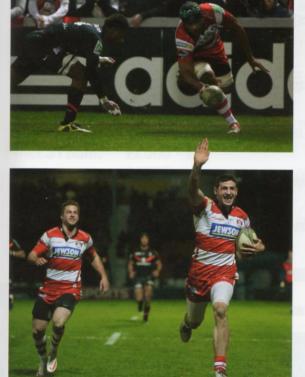
Another Medard kick then pinned Gloucester back before the Toulouse backs clicked into ominously into gear, carving out a chance which was ruthlessly exploited by Matanavou on the right flank. Beauxis converted from the touchline to open up a 17-7 lead after 18 minutes.

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After a bright start, Toulouse had shown their class with ball in hand and Gloucester needed to take the sting out of the visitors' attack.

They did succeed to an extent as they forced Toulouse to turn via a number of probing kicks from Burns but they were getting little out of the visitors defence.

Finally, Gloucester made a telling break as Sharples broke clear down the right. Strokosch took the ball on and, when Gloucester recycled, a huge overlap on the left saw Fuimaono-Sapolu put Qera in for the try. Burns added an excellent conversion to get Gloucester back to 14-17 on the half hour.

Half time approached but Gloucester were still ambitious and not settling for trailing narrowly at the interval. Sharples and Qera almost combined for the try of the season only for the Fijian to knock on just a few metres from the line.

Toulouse almost had the final word as the Gloucester pack were penalised for 'truck and trailer' but Beauxis' penalty hit the left upright and bounced clear.

A cracking half of rugby came to an end and Gloucester could take heart from having gone toe to toe with their illustrious guests.

Toulouse had showed real class at times but, on the other hand, Gloucester had them looking rattled at times.

You got the impression that there was plenty more to come in the second half!

Gloucester began brightly enough, throwing the ball around with almost Sevens like abandon but Beauxis had the first chance of points but his penalty, from fully 5 metres inside his own half, drifted wide left.

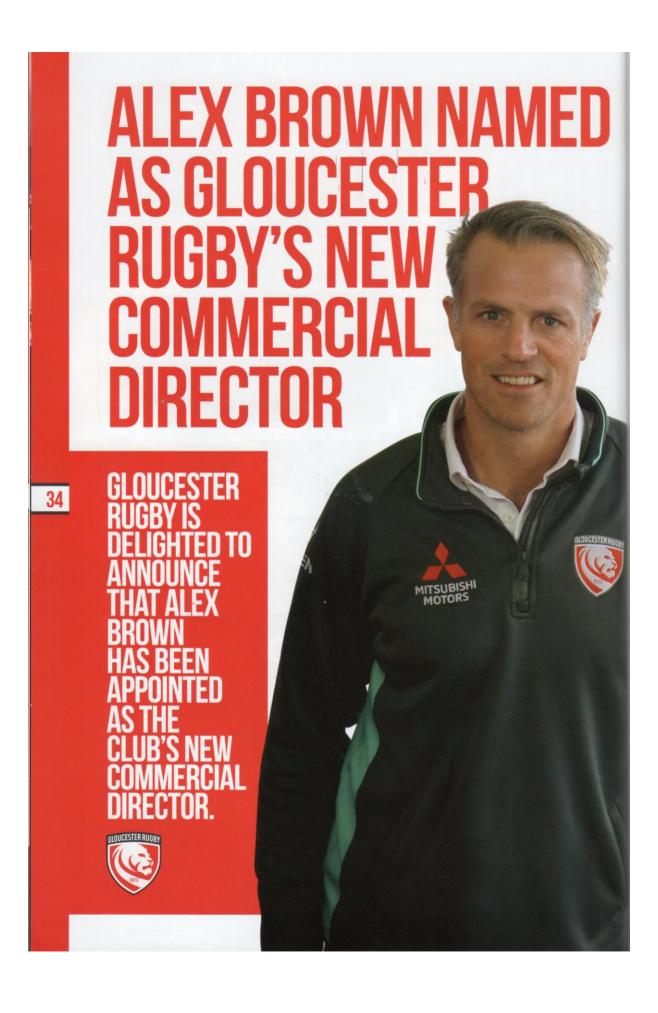
Gloucester then scored a beauty as Toulouse froze with referee Clancy playing an advantage. Tindall's grubber bounced up superbly for May and his inside pass put Sharples in for a stunning score. Burns converted and Gloucester had a 21-17 lead.

This then became 24-17 as Burns stroked home a 59th minute penalty after Matanavou, having an eventful night, dropped a high ball and Dusatoir played it from an offside position but his 63rd minute effort, into the wind, fell well short.

And Gloucester were promptly punished as Beauxis' lightning break opened up the defence. Tindall made a superb cover tackle but quick ball put Matanavou over for his second and Beauxis levelled the scores with the conversion.

It could still have gone either way but a massive forward effort at a set scrum earned a penalty which Burns confidently slotted before Simpson-Daniel showed incredible balance and handling to skin Matanavou on the outside before sending May sprinting joyfully into the corner to end the scoring.

Kingsholm erupted as the Gloucester faithful realised that they'd just witnessed something very special indeed, something that will be spoken about for a long time.





Brown is an established figure in the Gloucester Rugby community. Having joined the Club as a player in 2003, he went on to make in excess of 200 senior appearances over the course of the decade that followed.

His contribution to the team was recognised with a Testimonial Year in 2012, but regrettably an injury forced his retirement in December of that same year. He remained with Gloucester Rugby however, transitioning seamlessly into the role of Rugby Operations Manager, a post he has held successfully for the last six years.

In recent seasons, Brown has been working closely with the Club's Commercial Department. This, together with his innate understanding of the



Playing Department and working alongside David Humphreys, has made him an obvious fit for the role of Commercial Director. Brown is also in his final year of his MBA at Salford University.

He recently stated: "The role of Commercial Director is an incredibly exciting opportunity. I look forward to contributing to the commercial side and feel I can bring a unique insight and understanding of the Club which I have been part of for many years.

"I hope to be a strong addition at Kingsholm and look forward to working with Lance and David to deliver our business strategy to achieve success on and off the pitch over the coming seasons.

"I am very much looking forward to joining the team at Kingsholm whilst continuing to maintain a strong relationship with David and the rest of the management team, strengthening our links between Kingsholm and Hartpury."

Gloucester Rugby's CEO Lance Bradley explained why he thinks that Brown is exactly the right man for the job;

"First and foremost, Alex is a man who commands respect both here at the Club and also in the community. His playing career speaks for itself, he is quite rightly regarded as one of the modern legends to have worn Cherry and White.

"But, in addition, he has more recently developed into a respected manager off the field, with a unique knowledge of the workings of the Club and the game of Rugby Union.

"Recent seasons have seen him work hand in hand with the club's Commercial Team, so much so that I am confident that he will make a seamless switch into his new role and be an outstanding success and a continued asset to the Club."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

GLOUCESTER v TOULOUSE: WE'VE MET BEFORE

If tonight's match comes anywhere close to the quality and excitement of the last visit by Toulouse to Kingsholm, we are in for a real treat. The teams have met three times previously, with two of those matches coming, as tonight, in the European Champions Cup, but the first encounter was way back in history.

THE LONG JOURNEY TO TOULOUSE

In 1911, Gloucester accepted an invitation to travel to Toulouse "in order to give the French experience in what to them was a new sport". Everyone was eager to be involved in what was seen as a great adventure, but it meant a long and arduous journey.

A makeshift team played against Abertillery on Saturday 25th February (and lost 3-13), because nearly all of the first team had already set off from Gloucester by train that afternoon. They stayed in London overnight, before spending Sunday getting to Paris, and finally arrived in Toulouse on Monday evening, where it was reported that their presence "has greatly excited the people, and the whole town has been talking of nothing else for weeks".

28TH FEBRUARY 1911 STADE TOULOUSAIN 13 GLOUCESTER 18

The match was played on Tuesday afternoon, and tries from George "Biddy" Halford, Fred Pegler and Willie Hall, together with a conversion and a penalty kicked by Charles "Ninnie" Cook, secured victory.

The party were royally entertained to dinner that evening, and departed Toulouse at 1pm on Wednesday. After another night in Paris, they eventually arrived back in Gloucester on Thursday evening, after a trip which had covered 1,794 miles and taken six days. A hundred years later, the teams met again.

13TH NOVEMBER 2011 Toulouse 21 Gloucester 17

At the Stade Ernst Wallon, Gloucester came within touching distance of causing a major upset against a team which had established itself as one of the giants of European rugby, having won their fourth Champions Cup title in 2010.







Against the run of play, when Toulouse heeled from a defensive scrum, Gloucester stole the ball and Jonny May put Charlie Sharples over in the corner. Stunned silence greeted this score. Freddie Burns converted and kicked a penalty, but Luke McAlister struck with a penalty and then his grubber put Timoci Matanavou in for a neat try. So, Gloucester turned round into the wind two points to the good at 10-8.

Early Toulouse pressure in the second half led to McAlister and Beauxis kicking penalties, but Glawster Dawg started to show, Sharples latched onto a loose ball, Tindall broke through, and Trinder cantered home for a stunning try. Burns converted, and les Toulousains were worried, but Matanavou offloaded in the tackle to Clement Poitrenaud, whose majestic sidestep created the winning try.

THE MOST MEMORABLE MATCH 20TH JANUARY 2012 GLOUCESTER 34 TOULOUSE 24

Nobody who had the privilege of seeing this match will ever forget a breath-taking, magical night under the Kingsholm floodlights. Gloucester already knew they could not progress in the competition, but no less an authority than Peter Ford described this as the greatest performance he had ever witnessed by a Gloucester team.

In a bizarre start, Nick Wood went into the sin bin in the first minute, and Jonny May charged down a clearance kick with his nose, but still had the wit to pounce on the ball to score. Thierry Dusautoir then scored a classy try, and Matanavou added another. With Beauxis converting both and adding a penalty, the lead was extended to 17-7. But before the break May set Charlie Sharples clear, the ball was fired wide, and Akapusi Qera strolled over. 17-14 at half-time.

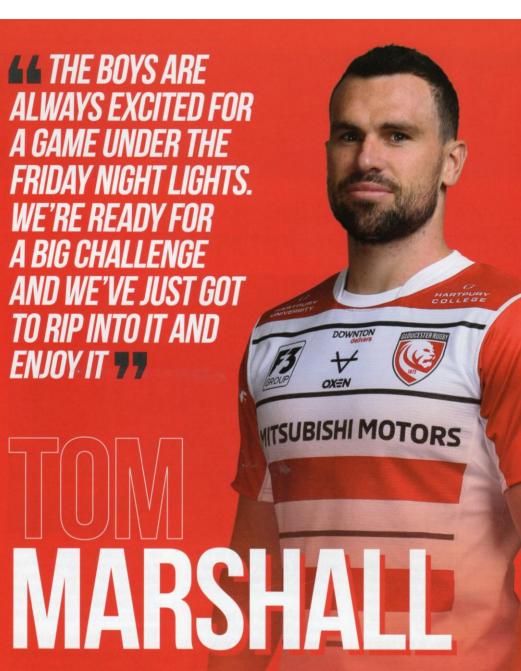
Mike Tindall set up the first attack of the second half with a delightful grubber kick, sending May and Sharples in hot pursuit. May won the race to the ball and sent Sharples over for a mesmerising try. Burns converted and kicked a penalty, but back came Toulouse with a second try for Matanavou to tie it up at 24-24. Burns landed a penalty and then came the move which made history.

James "Sinbad" Simpson-Daniel left Matanavou for dead on the left flank, drew the cover and fed the ball to May just over the halfway line. There seemed to be plenty of cover, but he produced a burst of speed which left despairing defenders clutching at thin air. As he went over the line the roar must have woken up children across half of Gloucestershire. "Can we play you every week" chanted a delirious Shed at the shell-shocked Frenchmen.

The winning team was: J May; C Sharples, M Tindall, E Fuimaono-Sapolu, J Simpson-Daniel; F Burns, R Lawson; N Wood, S Lawson, R Harden, J Hamilton, A Brown, A Strokosch, A Qera, L Narraway (captain); Replacements: D Dawidiuk, D Murphy, S Knight, W James, M Cox, D Lewis, R Mills, H Trinder

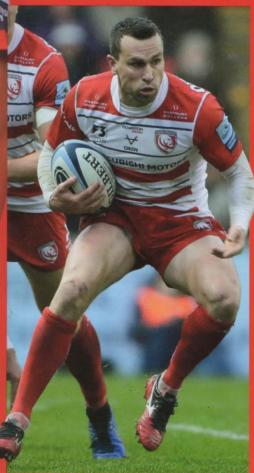






AFTER A BELATED START TO THE SEASON, AND WITH MEMORIES OF THE RUGBY WORLD CUP FADING RAPIDLY IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR, THE 2019-20 SEASON IS NOW WELL AND TRULY UNDERWAY AND IT ALREADY SEEMS RELENTLESS.





The group stages of the Premiership Rugby Cup have taken place. And, following last weekend's home game against Saracens, the first tranche of Gallagher Premiership action has drawn to a close.

As a result, it seemed an obvious question to put to Tom Marshall this week – how do you think it's gone so far?

"It's been a wee bit frustrating to be perfectly honest. I think we haven't performed as well as we would have liked to, so there's a little bit of frustration within the group.

"We know that we can be a lot better than what we've been putting out there. Particularly last weekend against Saracens, that was hugely frustrating to put out a fairly average performance at home in front of a really good crowd.

"It was disappointing for us. It was disappointing for the fans, we understand that. But the beauty of the game is that we get a chance to rectify that this weekend."

For Marshall personally, it's been a great start with four tries from four games. Does the past month or so rank among some of the best rugby he's played?

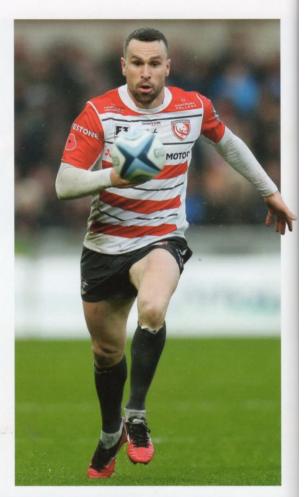
"I'm not sure in terms of my rugby career as a whole. But, certainly in my Gloucester Rugby career. It's been a fairly tough journey for me since coming over here, what with back to back injuries.

"I'm just really grateful now to be stringing a few games together. I'm really enjoying my rugby at the moment and just focusing on that." One contributory factor to his form is no doubt that he's been part of a settled back three – he, Ollie Thorley and Jason Woodward have featured in all the games. That must be key?

"100%. We've got really good chemistry as a group, and are enjoying playing together. And the more we play together, the better that will get. At the minute, as a mini-team, we're happy with how we're playing – Rory Teague has come in and offered a new perspective on how we counter-attack. Moving forward, I think it's going to be a real strength of our game."

It's the first round of the Heineken Cup this evening, and people often talk about the step up when it comes to playing in the Heineken Champions Cup. Marshall has played in both tournaments during his time at the club and subscribes to that theory.

44 WE'VE GOT A
GOOD SQUAD AND THE
EXCITEMENT LEVELS
ARE THERE. WE'RE
LOOKING FORWARD TO
BOUNCING BACK 77

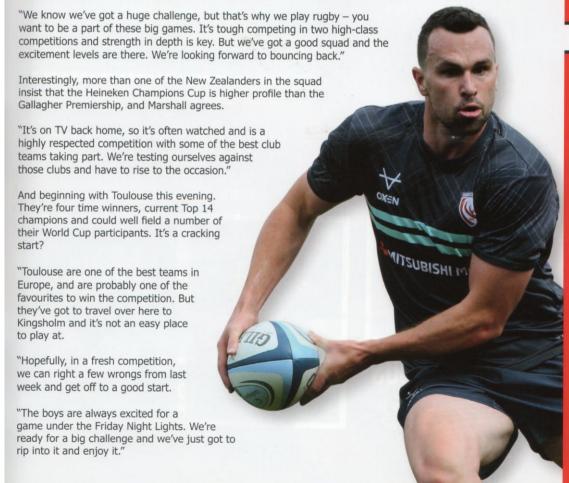








"Without a doubt. This is a serious rugby competition and, as a professional rugby player, these are the type of games you want to be involved in. Personally, I'm extremely excited to test myself against some of the best players in the world.



AGONY FOR GLOUCESTER RUGBY AS LATE PENALTY SNATCHES 16-13 WIN FOR TIGERS

Having battled so hard at Welford Road, Gloucester Rugby were denied at the death as a last-minute Tom Hardwick penalty saw the Leicester Tigers sneak a narrow 16-13 Gallagher Premiership victory.

WHAT HAPPENED

The long wait for a victory at Welford Road goes on as the Cherry and Whites overcame an indifferent start to take a second-half lead courtesy of Joe Simpson's superb try, only for the Tigers to eventually grind their way to victory with two late penalties.

It was a brave effort from Gloucester Rugby, who fought back after skipper Ed Slater was yellow carded in the second minute and then unable to return due to an ankle injury. Noel Reid opened the scoring with a penalty after Slater's sinbinning but Billy Twelvetrees quickly cancelled that out.

After something of an arm wrestle in tricky conditions, with plenty of tactical kicking from both sides, Reid then restored the Leicester lead when he jinked his way over for the game's first try after good work from his pack, Tom Hardwick converting.

Twelvetrees narrowed the gap to 10-6 with a penalty just before half-time, but the Tigers were good value for their halftime lead.





The Cherry and Whites were dealt a further blow as Danny Cipriani failed to emerge for the second half, but his teammates had more energy about them after the resumption and Simpson's try was a peach. Tom Marshall cleverly changed the angle of attack, Ollie Thorley made good ground and Simpson ran a great supporting line to take the scoring pass.

Twelvetrees added a superb conversion and the Cherry and Whites had momentum behind them with a 10-13 lead. However, they couldn't press home their advantage and the

odd mental error crept in which allowed the Tigers back into the game.

A poorly-executed 22 drop out led to Hardwick's second penalty which levelled the scores at 13-13, and the game looked destined to finish as a draw until the Tigers pack forced a penalty which Hardwick just curled inside the right hand upright.

The Cherry and Whites gave it everything with no time left on the clock, but the Tigers defence was committed and held firm as the home clinched their first win of the Premiership season.



16-13



HOW IT HAPPENED

See how the game at Welford Road unfolded in our play by play commentary.



IN PICTURES

View the best of the match action as captured by the club photographer.











WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY





Head Coach Johan Ackermann and Ben Morgan were on media duties after the game.



SARACENS SILENCE THEIR CRITICS BY BATTLING TO VICTORY AT KINGSHOLM

After all their issues during the week, and missing a host of World Cup players, Saracens produced a suffocating display at Kingsholm last weekend, seemingly drawing strength from their perceived notoriety and ground their way to a stifling 12-21 Gallagher Premiership victory.



WHAT HAPPENED

Saracens almost gave a masterclass in how to win away from home. They soaked up early pressure from Gloucester Rugby, before moving downfield and coming away with points from almost every visit to the home 22.

The Cherry and Whites were below par, of that there is no doubt, and having to try and win from behind against a side like Saracens is never a good place to be. There was plenty of effort as the team tried to get back into the game, but the visitors stood firm.

Early chances came and went, two five metre lineouts couldn't yield a positive outcome in terms



of points and the visitors slowly but surely took control. A Manu Vunipola penalty opened the scoring, before Nick Tompkins went over from close range, Vunipola converting for 0-10.

Gloucester Rugby did hit back with a stunner of a try from Tom Marshall, the winger breaking down the right, chipping ahead and then controlling the bouncing ball to score.

But the home team finished the half the stronger, errors and indiscipline from the home team leading to two late Vunipola penalties and a 5-16 lead at the break.

The Cherry and Whites badly needed the next score, but it was the visitors who showed their clinical edge as Ben Earl went over from a catch and drive

Saracens then showed their strength without ball in hand, as they absorbed everything Gloucester Rugby could throw at them. Home pressure was finally rewarded when Lewis Ludlow crashed over after a series of penalties but it was scant consolation.

Plenty for Gloucester Rugby to work upon, they were far from at their fluent best, but credit to Saracens who seemed to revel in their role of pantomime villains and draw strength from any vitriol directed in their direction by the crowd.



12-21





HOW IT HAPPENED

See how the game at Kingsholm unfolded in our play by play commentary.



IN PICTURES

View the best of the match action as captured by the club photographer.











24' Nick Tompkins

十**25′** Manu Vunipola

37' Manu Vunipola

40' Manu Vunipola

⊘ 47′ Ben Earl

72' Lewis Ludlow

28' Tom Marshall

> ∜ **73′** Billy Twelvetrees

WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY



Head Coach Johan Ackermann and Lewis Ludlow were on post-match media duties.





T	P	C	D			POSITION	医乳性医乳性	T	P	C	D
				Jason WOODWARD	15	FULL BACK	15 Thomas RAMOS				
				Tom MARSHALL	14	RIGHT WING	14 Yoann HUGET				
				Chris HARRIS	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13 Sofiane GUITOUNE				
				Mark ATKINSON	12	INSIDE CENTRE	12 Romain NTAMACK				
2				Ollie THORLEY	11	LEFT WING	11 Maxime MÉDARD				
				Danny CIPRIANI	10	FLY-HALF	10 Zack HOLMES				
				Joe SIMPSON	9	SCRUM-HALF	9 Sébastien BÉZY				
				Val RAPAVA RUSKIN	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1 Clément CASTETS				
				Franco MARAIS	2	HOOKER	2 Julien MARCHAND				
9				Jamal FORD-ROBINSON	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3 Charlie FAUMUINA				
				Freddie CLARKE	4	LOCK	4 Rory ARNOLD				
				Gerbrandt GROBLER	5	LOCK	5 Joe TEKORI				
				Ruan ACKERMANN	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6 Francois CROS				
		1,000		Lewis LUDLOW	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7 Rynhardt ELSTADT				
				Ben MORGAN (C)	8	NUMBER 8	8 Selevasio TOLOFUA				
REPLACEMENTS							REPLACEMENTS				
				Corné FOURIE	16		16 Guillaume MARCHAND				
				Josh HOHNECK	17		17 Cyril BAILLE				
				Fraser BALMAIN	18	MATCH OFFICIALS	18 Gillian GALAN				
				Alex CRAIG	19	Referee: Ben Whitehouse	19 Jerome KAINO				
				Jake POLLEDRI	20	Assistant	20 Florian VERHAEGHE				
				Callum BRALEY	21	Referees: Gwyn Morris	21 Pierre PAGES				
				Billy TWELVETREES	22	Wayne Davies	22 Lucas TAUZIN				
				Matt BANAHAN	23		23 Dorian ALDEGHERI				-







