

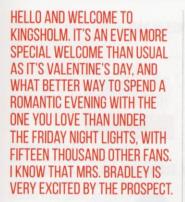


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CEO

LANCE BRADLEY



It's nearly six weeks since our last Gallagher Premiership game here – our bonus point win over Bath back in early January.

Since then we've had a couple of games in the Heineken Champions Cup, and although we didn't manage to qualify for the quarter finals, we did finish second in our group, and we gained a lot of experience which we hope will help us in next season's competition.

We've also had a couple of rounds of the Guinness Six Nations. I always think that's a fantastic competition, and we were delighted to have no fewer than eight players called up to their respective international squads - Willi Heinz and Ollie Thorley for England, Alex Craig and Chris Harris for Scotland, Owen Williams and Louis Rees-Zammit for Wales, and Callum Braley and Jake Polledri for Italy. Having eight players called up (versus just one last season) is a great credit not only to those players, but also to David Humphreys, our Director of Rugby, and Johan and everyone in his coaching team.

Tonight, as we return to Premiership action, we welcome our friends from Exeter, who, coincidentally, were our visitors on this Friday evening last year. We won that game 24-17 and a repeat performance tonight would keep us right in the mix for a top four place, or better.

The Gallagher Premiership is perhaps the most closely contested it's ever been this season, with most teams within one win of teams several places above them.

You don't need me to tell you that the relegation of Saracens as punishment for cheating has rocked the rugby world. There's no question in my mind, however, that it will be good for the game going forward. If you're taking part in a league you need to know that the chances of you winning it are down to your own skill in recruiting and coaching players, the tactics you employ and a bit of sporting luck. Having one team disregard the rules over an extended period of time means that the other teams' chances of winning are severely restricted.

I think the competitiveness of the Premiership this season shows what happens when the playing field is levelled, and next season will be even more competitive.

We're going to have some good news to tell you next week about someone who'll be playing for us next season. I can't tell you who it is yet, but I'm sure you'll be as delighted about it as I am. Keep your eyes peeled for the announcement.

I hope you have a great evening.

Best wishes

Lance





CHAIRMAN

MARTIN ST. Quinton



GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM AS WE RESUME OUR GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP CAMPAIGN AFTER WHAT SEEMS LIKE AN AGE SINCE OUR LAST MATCH.

In reality, it's less than three weeks since the team played away at Bristol. However, the fact that we were on the road in Toulouse before that game at Ashton Gate, means that it's over a month since we last played here at Kingsholm.

Of course, there has been plenty of rugby to watch over the past two weekends as the Six Nations has got underway and it's been very pleasing to see so many Gloucester Rugby players called up by their respective national teams.

I think it's a sign of how far we've come over the past couple of seasons that we've had up to eight senior players training with England, Italy, Scotland and Wales over the past few weeks. Not so very long ago, we had very little involvement in the tournament.

It does, of course, create its own challenges. In the run up to the Bristol game, we didn't have many players available to the coaching staff to prepare for the game. But

that's one of the obstacles that has to be overcome at this level and we're far from being the only team in this situation.

Our opponents this evening, Exeter Chiefs, are a prime example of that. They've produced several England squad members over the past few seasons but managed to develop the strength in depth in their squad to allow them to carry on competing at the top of the table.

That's obviously something that we're keen to emulate as we seek to establish ourselves as one of the best club sides in England and in Europe.

And this evening is a very important fixture in terms of the Gallagher Premiership league table. The competition is shaping up to be as closely fought as ever, and we're still very much in the mix for a play-off spot.

However, Exeter are leading the way and will provide very tough opposition under the Kingsholm lights this evening. We will certainly need to be at our best to prevail, and home support could make a big difference, so let's do our best to cheer the boys on.

Enjoy the game.

Martin

SEEK TO ESTABLISH OURSELVES AS ONE OF THE BEST CLUB SIDES IN ENGLAND AND IN EUROPE 77

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

A POTTED HISTORY

THE EARLY DAYS AT THE SPA

Frank Hartley, a founder member of the RFU in 1871, came to work in Gloucester, and advertised a meeting for anyone interested in forming a rugby club. On 15th September 1873, 45 turned up, and the Club was born.

At first the Club members mostly played amongst themselves, the first match against King's School was won, and the first against a club was a 0-0 draw against Hereford.

For several years, the Club was based on the Spa, sharing with Gloucester Cricket Club, but quickly grew to be one of the leading clubs in the country. In 1891, a match was saved against Swansea by the application of salt to a frozen pitch, but the grass was ruined for the coming cricket season, and it was agreed that the Rugby Club had to move. The committee recommended purchasing a ground on Sheephouse Road, but the members voted overwhelmingly in favour of the more expensive Castle Grim at Kingsholm.



A NEW HOME AT KINGSHOLM

The Gloucester Football and Athletic Ground Company was launched, and the full share issue of 3,000 £1 shares was taken up by 297 shareholders. Although the Club bought nearly all of the shares over the next 40 years, it was this company which Tom Walkinshaw bought in 1997 to secure ownership of the Club.

The first match at Kingsholm was an 18-0 victory over Burton on 10th October 1891. Within a couple of months an England trial and a county match were played there, and in 1892 a pavilion was



added. The 1900 England v Wales international was played at Kingsholm, seen as an honour for the club, but very damaging financially.

In 1905, the All Blacks were more impressed by the facilities in the new gymnasium (now the Lions Den) than the Gloucester team who were dismissed 44-0. South Africa and Australia soon came to Kingsholm, which became famous around the world.

Gloucester had started to produce international players in the 1890s, most notably Walter Jackson and the Stout brothers, Frank and Percy. In 1910, four won England caps – Harry Berry, Dai Gent, Arthur Hudson and Billy Johns.

THE GREAT WAR

There were no club matches played, with the Gloucester squad joining up en masse, most serving with the 5th Glosters. Thirty Gloucester players died fighting for their country.



BETWEEN THE WARS

The Club flourished in the 1920s, when Tom Voyce was starring for Gloucester, England and the Lions; he revolutionised the role of wing forward by causing mayhem amongst opposition backs, and is the only Gloucester man to be elected President of the RFU.

In the 1930s, the most prominent Gloucester player was "Bumps" Carpenter, a miner from the Forest and the best hooker in the land, but only called up for England when they were confronted by a formidable South African front row.

Also in the Gloucester team were three clergymen — Mervyn Hughes, later canon at Gloucester Cathedral and Chairman of the Club; "Bill" Phillips, who started the war as a pacifist but floated down into Arnhem as chaplain of the Airborne Forces, and Kit Tanner who won the Albert Medal when giving up his life to save countless sailors off Crete.

their inspirational skipper, Mike Nicholls. Gloucester won the cup in 1978, playing the same XV in every round, defeating Leicester in the final, led by John Watkins, victorious with England in both New Zealand and South Africa. And in 1990, they were again drawn away in every round, but fell at the final hurdle against Bath.

Gloucester's most successful season was 1981-82 (played 48 won 41 lost 3 drawn 4), with Steve Mills as captain and Mike Teague as leading try scorer; and played out a draw in the final of the cup, which was shared with Moseley.

PROFESSIONAL ERA

In order to maintain their status as one of the leading clubs in the country, Gloucester was sold to Tom Walkinshaw to fund and run a professional operation, and he sold part of his holding to Martin St. Quinton, who later became the sole owner.

AFTER WW2

Willie Jones kicked so many dropped goals that he was thought to have triggered the reduction from four to three points. Terry Hopson and Mickie Booth followed as a magical halfback pairing, playing in front of an immaculate full-back, Don Rutherford, a great tactician. Peter Ford was the first to join the 500 Club, later joined by Alan Brinn (with a record 573 appearances), Dick Smith, Bob Clewes and Richard Mogg.

CUP SUCCESS

The RFU first introduced a knockout competition in 1971-72, Gloucester were drawn away in every round at Bath, Bristol, London Welsh and Coventry, yet reached the final, where they beat Moseley under





In the amateur era, players had been largely Gloucester born and bred. Suddenly recruitment spread world-wide, and new heroes arrived - Ian Jones, Terry Fanolua, Junior Paramore and Jake Boer from the southern hemisphere, and Philippe Saint-André, Ludovic Mercier and Olivier Azam from France. New facilities were built at Kingsholm, the main stand being replaced in 2007.

The most successful season of this era was 2002-03, when Gloucester won the Premiership by 15 points, but this was the first season with play-offs, and they lost the final to Wasps. But they won the Powergen Cup 40-22 against Northampton, and later that year, the England team which won the Rugby World Cup was propped by Phil Vickery and Trevor Woodman, with Andy Gomarsall also in the

There were other national and Anglo-Welsh cup successes, but, despite some stirring performances in the European Cup, most notably against Toulouse in 2012, only the Challenge Cup has been won, in 2006 and 2015.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

THE RECORD AGAINST EXETER

Of the 80 games played, Gloucester have won 57 and lost 19, with 4 drawn, scoring 1748 points against 948.

THE EARLY YEARS

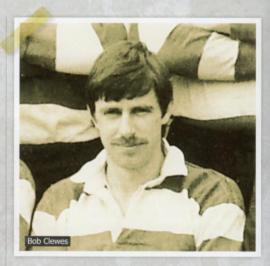
The first fixture between the Clubs was on 4th October 1890 at Exeter, where Gloucester eased home 6-3, with tries scored by Tommy Bagwell and Trevor Powell, both converted by Arthur Hughes (a try earned one point and a conversion two). The return match in Gloucester was played on the Spa – Kingsholm was not acquired until the following year – and resulted in an overwhelming 14-0 victory for Gloucester – ten tries, including four for Walter Taylor and three for Trevor Powell, and three conversions. The teams met occasionally up to the Great War, Gloucester's sequence of wins being disturbed only by one draw.

WITHIN LIVING MEMORY

Thereafter, there were no fixtures between the wars, and indeed a gap of nearly forty years before they met again at Kingsholm in 1946, when Gloucester yet again prevailed, 12-6, with two tries from Douglas Kear his last for Gloucester; one was converted by Willie Jones, who also added one of his trademark dropped goals.

Although the teams then met nearly every season, Exeter had to wait until 1963, after 73 years of trying, and in the 22nd meeting between the clubs, for their first win, 5-3, which came in the final match of Gloucester's end-of-season tour to the West Country, when maybe Gloucester were a bit the worse for wear.

Indeed, Exeter did not enjoy their first victory at Kingsholm until 2012, a wait of 122 years after



their first visit to Gloucester. Many will remember a nail-biter of a game, with Gloucester finally going down 27-28.

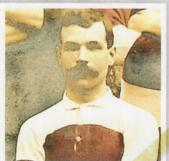
The biggest win in the series came on 8th November 1975 at Kingsholm, Gloucester enjoying a massive victory, 76-6. It should have been more! – Gloucester scored 18 tries, which equalled the Club record, but managed to convert only two of them. The ball went out wide a lot, so the leading try scorers were John Dix with five and Bob Clewes with four.

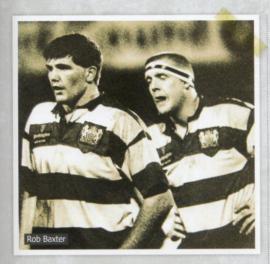
ROB BAXTER

On this Gloucester Rugby Heritage Day, we welcome back to Kingsholm many former Gloucester players, including Rob Baxter, the Chiefs Director









of Rugby. In a brief spell away from Exeter, he was a Gloucester player in 1993-94. A No 8, who turned out mostly for the second team, he made six appearances for the 1st XV, his debut coming against Blackheath and scoring a try against Stroud.

THE PROFESSIONAL ERA

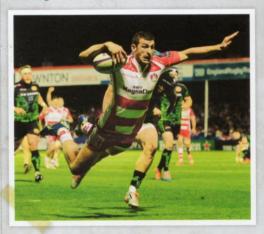
From the start of the professional era in 1996, Gloucester were in the top flight, but Exeter were not, so the teams did not meet for many years, except for one cup encounter. The Powergen Cup came into being in 2002-03, Gloucester came into the competition in the sixth round, and were drawn at home to Exeter, who were captained by a former Kingsholm favourite in Dave Sims. Terry Fanolua led



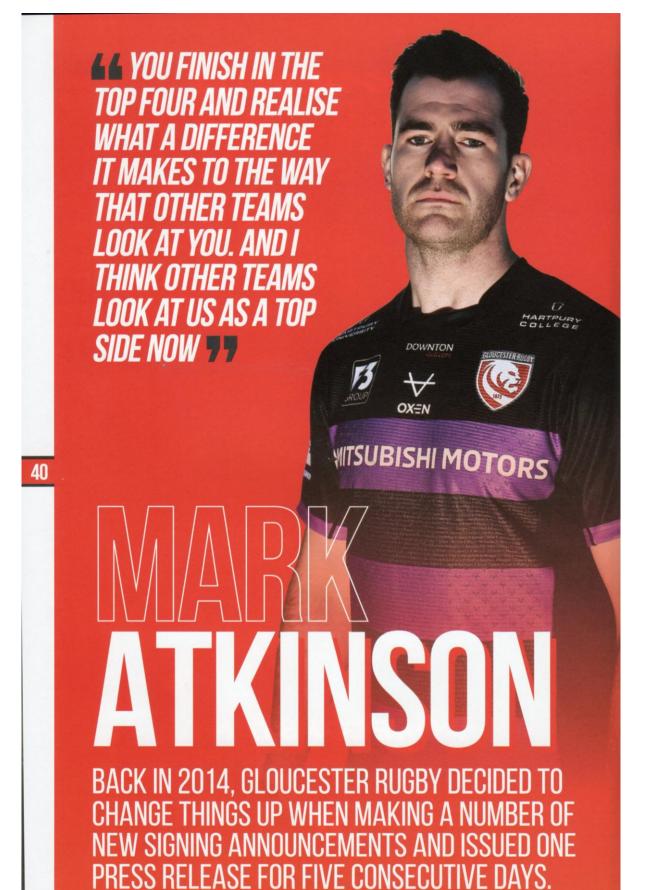
Gloucester to a comfortable 35-6 win, with Chris Catling (2), Jake Boer, Peter Buxton and Darren O'Leary scoring tries, and Henry Paul converting all of them.

Following Exeter's promotion to the Premiership at the expense of Bristol in 2010, their first match was at home to Gloucester. Most pundits predicted a successful jaunt down the M5 for the Cherry and Whites. But Exeter had other ideas and made an early mark at the top level with a convincing 22-10 victory, and they've remained a tough proposition ever since. In the last ten years, league fixtures have seen eight wins for Gloucester and nine for Exeter with one draw. Last season the teams met four times, with two wins apiece.

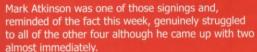
The teams met in a European Rugby Challenge Cup semi-final in 2015. The first half was played at a blistering pace, a try by Bill Meakes being the difference when it was 13-6 at half-time. Exeter got back to within a point thanks to four penalties from Henry Slade, but Tom Savage scored a try on his birthday, and although Taione caused a few jitters with a try for Exeter, Jonny May intercepted and raced away for the clinching score. Greig Laidlaw's boot contributed 13 points to the 30-19 scoreline. Gloucester went on to win the trophy by beating Edinburgh 19-13 in the final.



The teams were drawn in the same European Champions Cup group and played back-to-back games in December 2018. This time Gloucester travelled to Sandy Park as clear underdogs, and soon went behind to a Don Armand try, but Ollie Thorley ran 70 metres at dazzling pace to set up Willi Heinz for a try. Jaco Visagie, on a short-term loan at Gloucester scored, but the teams registered three tries apiece, and it was the boots of Danny Cipriani and Billy Twelvetrees which made the difference with the final score 27-19. A confident Gloucester stepped out at Kingsholm a week later, but this time Exeter overturned the odds. Jason Woodward scored two tries, and Tom Hudson added a magnificent third, but these were flashes in the pan as Exeter scored four and steam-rollered their way to an impressively powerful win, 29-17.







For the record, the other four players, in alphabetical order, were Tom Isaacs, Steve McColl, Tom Palmer and Aled Thomas, meaning that Aki is the only one of the famous five still part of the Gloucester Rugby squad.

He'd already played for a few clubs before arriving at Kingsholm but, 120 appearances later, he and Gloucester Rugby have obviously proved to be a good fit. Why does he think that is?

"I needed a bit of time to move around and, at one point, even fell out of love with rugby for a little bit. Injuries played a part, I'd seen mates I'd played age group rugby with starting to make their way in the game and I was playing at the bottom of the Championship.

"I think I lost of bit of motivation and started to think that rugby wasn't for me.

"But Gloucester gave me a chance to play, and I think I'd got to an age where I had a bit more of an appreciation for where I was. I stuck at it and hopefully I've started to repay that faith a bit."

Quickly appreciated by the Kingsholm faithful, he's been a fixture in the matchday squad but 2018-19 saw him start to earn some external recognition when he was named in BT Sport's Dream Team for the Season and also carred a call up to represent the Parkarians.

And he's not been the only Gloucester Rugby player to catch the eye of the international selectors, something he feels reflects well on the group as a whole.

"We were doing the same sort of thing for a few years, and the arrival of Danny (Cipriani) helped in terms of raising our profile as a whole. We'd been finishing sixth or seventh and thinking that we were doing ok.

"Then you finish in the top four and realise what a difference it makes to the way that other teams look at you. And I think other teams look at us as a top side now. That's what we're trying to build on and that creates recognition for individual players as well.

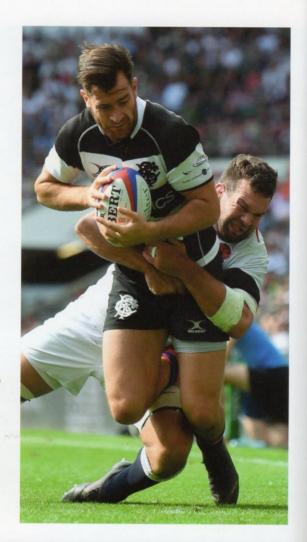
"The number of players we've had involved in the Six Nations squad has been amazing. The announcements have been made and the boys have been going wild in the gym, for example, when Owen got named in the Welsh squad after only being back for a few weeks.

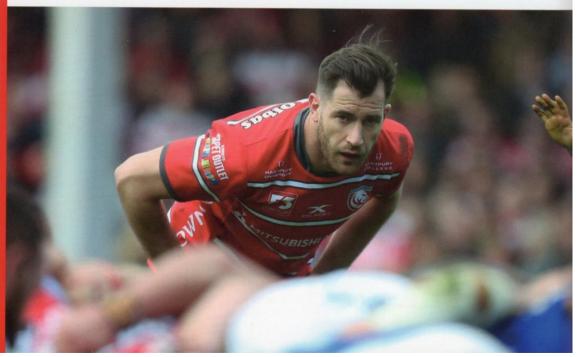
MANUSET NOW THAT WECAN MAKE IT TO THE

KNOCKOUT STAGES,

AND WE'LL GET BETTER

AND BETTER 77





"It shows where the squad's at now and how much your team-mates mean to you. The boys honestly went bananas in the gym when Owen got named, the same for Zam and Craigy."

Since last featured in the match programme, along with Ed Slater, he's been busy co-hosting the club's official podcast – The Podding Shed. Does it give a hint as to what lies ahead once he's hung up his boots?

"Definitely. I've started to do that with Ed and Sam (Roberts), and I've helped Henry (Trinder) out by hosting a few of his Trindermonial events this year.

"I'd love to carry on with that sort of thing, to force people into listening to me using a microphone whilst getting paid for it! There are a few old boys doing presenting gigs around Kingsholm who should perhaps start getting a bit worried and watching their backs when I hang up my boots!

"But I do enjoy it, asking questions and putting people on the spot. But also playing with them and making them feel a bit more comfortable at the same time. But it's the same as anything, it's a skill and I'm trying to broaden my horizons. I'm doing the 7s commentary at Rosslyn Park soon."

But back to playing matters, after a late start to the season, there was a brutal run of fixtures. As someone who has already played 16 games this season, he admits that the recent break was badly needed.

"It was tough. We were missing quite a few down to injuries for the last few matches, and playing that many hard matches on the bounce does take a toll both mentally and physically. When you're competing in the Champions Cup, there are no down weeks whatsoever.





"Don't get me wrong, we've fought to get into that top European competition, and it's a privilege to be there. But it's pretty relentless competing on those two fronts, and I'm sure some of the selections raised a few eyebrows from time to time. But the coaches have to think long term and make some tough calls.

"So, you may see a big name left out occasionally, but that provides an opportunity for the likes of Alex Craig and Louis Rees-Zammit and they've come in and done a great job.

"And we've made genuine progress. Last year, by the time we went to Castres in round six, we were done. This season, we were still right in it when we went to Toulouse. We know we let some points get away from us earlier in the tournament, but we were definitely more competitive.

"We don't feel that we're in it to just make up the numbers. We've got the mindset now that we can make it to the knockout stages, and we'll get better and better if we can compete in the tournament every season."

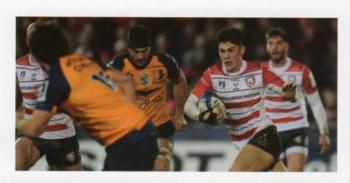
And fully charged batteries will be required this evening against the Chiefs as we look to power into the final furlong of the season and hopefully another play-off spot?

"We've had two weeks to rejuvenate the body and focus the mind, and now we're back into the Premiership and taking on one of the standard setters in Exeter. They've ignored all the stuff about Saracens and just kept on driving forward.

"They're always a good test, but we want to find out where we are and get back to winning ways."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY TURN ON THE STYLE TO EARN BONUS POINT VICTORY OVER MONTPELLIER

Conditions were testing at a rainy Kingsholm, but Gloucester Rugby made light of them as they ran in four tries on their way to a comprehensive 29-6 Heineken Champions Cup win over Montpellier to keep their hopes of qualifying for the quarter-finals alive.



WHAT HAPPENED

It wasn't easy, it was a victory that had to be worked for as Montpellier, in the first half in particular, brought real line speed in defence and genuine physicality. It took the Cherry and Whites a while to find a way to break them down, but persistence paid off.

In fact, the visitors took a 20th minute lead courtesy of a Frans Steyn penalty, but a burst of speed from Louis-Rees Zammit and a well-timed offload to Willi Heinz saw the skipper go under the posts and get Gloucester Rugby off and running.

7-3 at half time, but the Cherry and Whites have been a second-half team in recent weeks and it proved to be the case once again.

Ollie Thorley brought the stadium to its feet with a 90 metre break from the restart, Billy Twelvetrees adding a penalty as Montpellier killed the ball.

Gloucester Rugby now had real self-belief, and no little

skill, Jason Woodward showing incredible hands to palm the ball on to Louis Rees-Zammit who had the pace to slide in at the corner for the second try after a spell of pressure in the Montpellier 22.

Darmon narrowed the gap to 15-6 with a 56th minute penalty, but Gloucester Rugby didn't waste any time extending the lead as Ben Morgan forced his way over the line under a pile of bodies, Twelvetrees adding the conversion.

Montpellier's Paul Willemse was yellow carded for sacking a maul as the visitors' discipline started to slip and, in his absence, Todd Gleave touched down after a well-executed catch and drive, richly deserved after a fine performance from the hooker.

The win kept the Cherry and Whites in the hunt for a place in the quarter-finals as they travelled to Toulouse the following Sunday with their hopes of qualifying very much alive.











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.





WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY



Tim Taylor, Todd Gleave and Willi Heinz were on post-match media duties.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY BATTLE BRAVELY BUT BOW OUT OF EUROPE FOLLOWING DEFEAT IN TOULOUSE

Gloucester Rugby's
Heineken Champions
Cup participation came
to an end at the Stade
Ernest Wallon last
month as, despite a
spirited effort, Toulouse
ran out winners by 35
points to 14.



WHAT HAPPENED

The Cherry and Whites were competitive well into the second half as they kept hopes alive of securing the bonus point win that would have secured a spot in the quarter-finals.

However, Toulouse proved to be just too strong as they took a firm grip on proceedings in the second half despite Gloucester Rugby giving them some scares at times.

In fact, Gloucester Rugby stunned the home crowd by taking the lead within three minutes. A wellworked lineout move took play into the home 22 before Jason Woodward floated a cross-kick for Louis Rees-Zammit to gather and score. Billy Twelvetrees converted for a 0-7 lead.

Toulouse hit back with a catch and drive try from Joe Tekori, and then took the lead with an excellent try as Antoine Dupont made a clinical break and Romain Ntamack was on his shoulder to take the offload and score.

Gloucester Rugby had seen some good scoring chances come and go, and were punished harshly as the half hour approached.

The same lineout move created a great attacking opportunity, and there looked to be an overlap on the left. However, the ball went

loose and Tomas Ramos pounced on it and pinned his ears back. Rees-Zammit got back to haul him down but Lloyd Evans was yellow carded for a high tackle, and Rees-Zammit hobbled off with an ankle injury.

The home team immediately took full advantage as Ntamack went under the posts and there was now daylight at 21-7.

Credit to the Cherry and Whites, they hit back before half time. Evans returned from the sinbin and his beautifully delayed pass put Jason Woodward through a gap and over the line.

Twelvetrees converted and Gloucester Rugby were still very much in it at 21-14 with 40 minutes left to play.

However, despite a few fleeting chances for the Cherry and Whites, Toulouse monopolised possession after the resumption and started to turn the screw. Gloucester Rugby lost Alex Craig and Alex Seville to the sin bin and tries from Marchand and Baille closed out a 35-14 victory.





35-14



HOW IT HAPPENED

See how the game at the Stade Ernest Wallon unfolded in our play by play commentary.



IN PICTURES

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







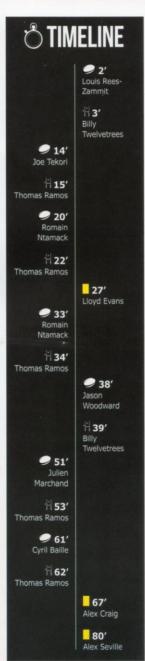








Head Coach Johan Ackermann and captain Willi Heinz were on postmatch media duties.



73



VS



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I	P	C	D			POSITION			T	P	C	D		
				Matt BANAHAN	15	FULL BACK	15	Stuart HOGG						
				Louis REES-ZAMMIT	14	RIGHT WING	14	Tom O'FLAHERTY	77					
				Chris HARRIS	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	Ian WHITTEN						
				Billy TWELVETREES	12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	Sam HILL						
				Tom MARSHALL	11	LEFT WING	11	Olly WOODBURN						
				Danny CIPRIANI	10	FLY-HALF	10	Gareth STEENSON			1			
				Joe SIMPSON	9	SCRUM-HALF	9	Jack MAUNDER						
				Val RAPAVA-RUSKIN	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	Ben MOON						
				Franco MARAIS	2	HOOKER	2	Elvis TAIONE						
				Fraser BALMAIN	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	Enrique PIERETTO						
				Gerbrandt GROBLER	4	LOCK	4	Dave DENNIS (C)						
				Franco MOSTERT (C)	5	LOCK	5	Jonny HILL						
				Ruan ACKERMANN	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	Dave EWERS						
				Lewis LUDLOW	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	Jacques VERMEULEN						
				Ben MORGAN	8	NUMBER 8	8	Sam SIMMONDS						
REPLACEMENTS						REPLACEMENT	S							
				Todd GLEAVE	16		16	Jordon POOLE						
				Josh HOHNECK	17	MATCH OFFICIALS	17	Billy KEAST	\					
				Ciaran KNIGHT	18	Referee:	18	Marcus STREET						
				Ed SLATER	19	Craig Maxwell-Keys	19	Jannes KIRSTEN						
				Freddie CLARKE	20	Assistant Referees:	20	Don ARMAND	- 7					
				Jake POLLEDRI	21	Adam Leal & Phil Watters	21	Stu TOWNSEND						
				Callum BRALEY	22	тмо:	22	Harvey SKINNER						
				Mark ATKINSON	23	Claire Hodnett	23	Phil DOLLMAN				1		
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