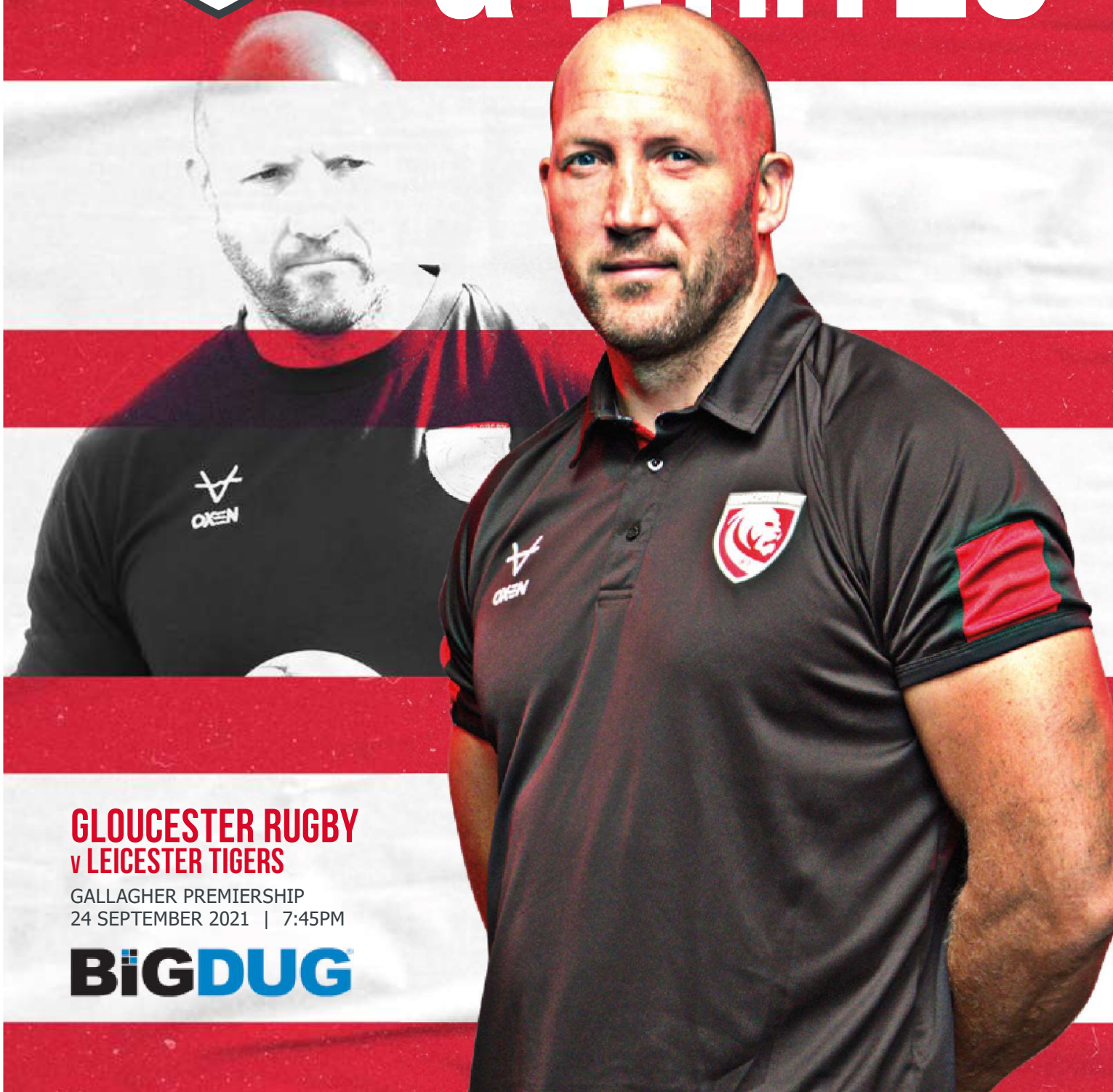




# CHERRY & WHITES



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY v LEICESTER TIGERS

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP  
24 SEPTEMBER 2021 | 7:45PM

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5

BT SPORT



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

KINGSHOLM STADIUM, KINGSHOLM  
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COO: Alex Brown

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# LANCE BRADLEY

CEO

## HELLO AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM, AND HOW GOOD IT FEELS TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT.

This evening we welcome Leicester Tigers, for what should be a great contest.

Tonight is the first time for 18 months that we have been able to welcome unlimited numbers of fans back into the ground, and we hope you have a fantastic evening.

While you have been away we've been doing a lot of work around our stadium.

Firstly, we've moved our training centre to the site next door. The world-class gym is now in place, and the indoor training pitch will be handed over next week. Those of you who were kind enough to donate towards this project will hear next week about how you can be the first to see the new facilities.

We've also installed a new artificial pitch in the stadium, and I'm sure you'll agree it looks fantastic.

Phase two of the training ground development, which is planned to include a 750 seat hospitality area, is scheduled to start later this year. We will be publishing more details, including how you will be able to register your interest in a place in this area, in the next few months.

You may also notice that we have a new PA system in the ground. This runs off our stadium Wi-Fi system, and we hope that this will mean that you can not only hear the announcements more clearly, but also enjoy the music pre- and post-match.

For those of you reading this in our hospitality areas, you will notice that the food offerings are very different from previous seasons. All our catering is now done in-house, using local ingredients wherever possible, and is overseen by Will Carvalho, our Performance Chef.

Around the stands in the stadium I hope you will notice an improvement in the service from our bars. This follows us appointing Freemans Event Partners to run the bars, as well as the stadium food outlets which they've done for a while. You'll see a wider and more varied choice of drinks on offer, and as our new tills system is rolled out you'll continue to see improvements in the service. You may also notice that we have eco-friendly cups, which form part of our new sustainability drive – of which more is to come later.

Finally, and most importantly, is the continued work we're putting in on the playing side.

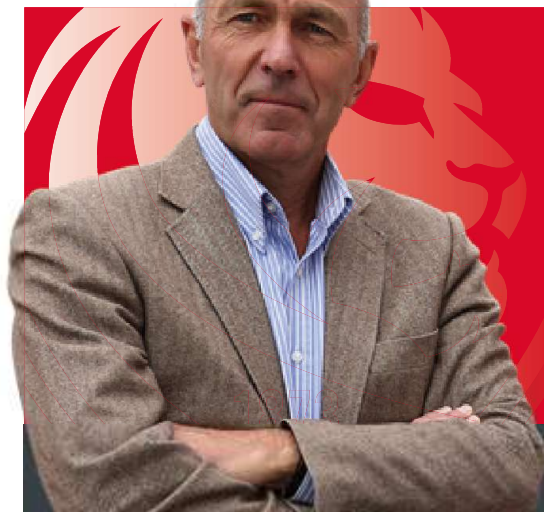
Last season was a real mixed bag for us, and it goes without saying that it was disappointing to finish in 11th place. The first half of the season was frustrating, with too many losses by a single score or less. The second half showed a big improvement with six wins in ten, before Covid reared its ugly head and we had to forfeit our final two games.

It's easy to look back at what might have been, but that second half of the season performance would have been good enough to put us in the top half of the form table, and we will be looking to build on that for this season, hopefully starting this evening.

So many times in the earlier part of the season we came within one score of a victory, only to be denied at the end. We can't help thinking that the Kingsholm roar might have been that 16th man and got us the win. Tonight, with us all finally back together again in Kingsholm, we're hoping you can make the difference.

Together, we are a squad of thousands.

**Best wishes**  
**Lance**



# MARTIN ST. QUINTON

CHAIRMAN

## GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR THE 2021/22 SEASON.

It is a very special Welcome Back after what has been the most difficult and unforeseen 18 months. I cannot tell you how proud I am of our players, George and the coaching team, and Lance with the management team in how they dealt with the situation. Their integrity and professionalism shone through.

Pre-season has meant a lot of work installing the new pitch and creating the impressive new training facilities adjacent to the Club. The warm-up games against Ealing and Coventry went well and were well-attended.

We are missing a number of players due to international commitments – Chris Harris and Louis Rees-Zammit, Matias Alemanno, Santiago Carreras and Santiago Socino, and we look forward to welcoming them back soon. I see another three players, Mark Atkinson, Lewis Ludlow and Jonny May have been called up to the England training camp, and we congratulate them on that.

Our opponents tonight are the improving Leicester Tigers who managed a win against Exeter Chiefs in the opening round last weekend. We are in a very competitive league with no such thing as an easy game. We will have to be at our best and



we need your outstanding support to cheer on the boys.

So tonight let there be a big cheer for Gloucester and let's celebrate being back together at Kingsholm. It's been way too long...

**Enjoy the game,  
Martin**

**“WE WILL HAVE TO  
BE AT OUR BEST  
AND WE NEED YOUR  
OUTSTANDING  
SUPPORT”**

# NEWSNEWSNEWSNEWS



## THREE GLOUCESTER RUGBY PLAYERS CALLED UP TO ENGLAND SQUAD

Eddie Jones has included three Gloucester Rugby players in his 45-man squad for a short training camp on Sunday 26 September to Tuesday 28 September.

Jonny May, Lewis Ludlow and Mark Atkinson have all been included in the squad with Atkinson one of eight uncapped players to be named in the squad.

The camp will form part of England's preparations for the Autumn Internationals in November, when they will host Tonga, Australia and world champions South Africa.

## WESTONS CIDER EXTEND CONTRACT AFTER SUCCESSFUL EIGHT-YEAR PARTNERSHIP
































Westons Cider have extended their contract at Kingsholm after building a successful partnership with Gloucester Rugby that has grown over the past eight years.

As the official cider of Gloucester Rugby, Westons Stowford Press will remain as stand sponsor and their award-winning ciders will be stocked in all of the bars and premium hospitality areas at Kingsholm Stadium.





# MEN'S SQUAD

<p><b>RUAN ACKERMANN</b></p>  <p>BACK ROW</p> <p><b>CRX</b></p>	<p><b>MATIAS ALEMANNO</b></p>  <p>LOCK</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>MARK ATKINSON</b></p>  <p>CENTRE</p> <p><b>THE CULLIMORE GROUP OF COMPANIES</b></p>	<p><b>FRASER BALMAIN</b></p>  <p>PROP</p> 	<p><b>WILL BRITTON</b></p>  <p>LOCK</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>SANTIAGO CARRERAS</b></p>  <p>FULL BACK</p> 	<p><b>CHARLIE CHAPMAN</b></p>  <p>SCRUM HALF</p> <p><b>FOKER &amp; EIGHT</b></p>
<p><b>FREDDIE CLARKE</b></p>  <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>WIAN CONRADIE</b></p>  <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>ALEX CRAIG</b></p>  <p>LOCK</p> <p><b>LEXI YOUNG</b></p>	<p><b>ANDREW DAVIDSON</b></p>  <p>LOCK</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>HARRY ELRINGTON</b></p>  <p>PROP</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>LLOYD EVANS</b></p>  <p>FLY HALF</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>JAMAL FORD-ROBINSON</b></p>  <p>PROP</p> <p><b>THE CULLIMORE GROUP OF COMPANIES</b></p>
<p><b>TODD GLEAVE</b></p>  <p>HOOKER</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>KIRILL GOTOVTSEV</b></p>  <p>PROP</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>CHRIS HARRIS</b></p>  <p>CENTRE</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>ADAM HASTINGS</b></p>  <p>FLY HALF</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>CIARAN KNIGHT</b></p>  <p>PROP</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>GIORGI KVESLADZE</b></p>  <p>CENTRE</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>LEWIS LUDLOW</b></p>  <p>BACK ROW</p> 
<p><b>JONNY MAY</b></p>  <p>WING</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>BEN MEEHAN</b></p>  <p>SCRUM HALF</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>BEN MORGAN</b></p>  <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>KYLE MOYLE</b></p>  <p>FULL BACK</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>SEB NAGLE-TAYLOR</b></p>  <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>VAL RAPAVA-RUSKIN</b></p>  <p>PROP</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>LOUIS REES-ZAMMIT</b></p>  <p>WING</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>

## MEN'S SQUAD



<b>JORDY REID</b>  BACK ROW  AVAILABLE	<b>TOM SEABROOK</b>  CENTRE AVAILABLE	<b>ALEX SEVILLE</b>  PROP AVAILABLE	<b>CHARLIE SHARPLES</b>  WING AVAILABLE	<b>JOE SIMPSON</b>  SCRUM HALF AVAILABLE	<b>JACK SINGLETON</b>  HOOKER  AVAILABLE	<b>ED SLATER</b>  LOCK  AVAILABLE
<b>SANTIAGO SOCINO</b>  HOOKER AVAILABLE	<b>JACK STANLEY</b>  PROP AVAILABLE	<b>OLLIE THORLEY</b>  WING AVAILABLE	<b>BILLY TWELVETREES</b>  CENTRE AVAILABLE	<b>HENRY WALKER</b>  HOOKER AVAILABLE	<b>JASON WOODWARD</b>  FULL BACK AVAILABLE	



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HEAD OF PARTNERSHIPS MIKE THOMAS ON 07368 320997**

## COACHING STAFF

<b>GEORGE SKIVINGTON</b>  HEAD COACH	<b>ALEX KING</b>  ATTACK COACH	<b>DOM WALDOUCK</b>  DEFENCE COACH	<b>TREVOR WOODMAN</b>  ASSISTANT & ACADEMY FORWARDS TRANSITION COACH	<b>TIM TAYLOR</b>  ASSISTANT & ACADEMY BACKS TRANSITION COACH
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# LAST TIME WE MET

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY WERE PIPPED 20-14 BY LEICESTER TIGERS AT KINGSHOLM IN ROUND 13 OF THE 2020-21 GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP.**

## What happened?

Gloucester Rugby were first to get over the try line thanks to a score from Santiago Carreras. The Cherry and Whites were playing with the penalty advantage and Willi Heinz went to the blindside, passing the ball to George Barton who executed a perfect pass to put the Argentine international in space to go over the line.

Barton showed composure to slot the conversion in the blowing wind, but Leicester got back in the game and were next to get on the scoreboard.

Tom Youngs and Dan Kelly both scored for Tigers with Zack Henry slotting a conversion and a penalty giving them the 15-7 lead at the break.

In the second half Gloucester Rugby came out firing and got on the scoreboard through Ed Slater who ran a carving line to slice through the defence and go over to score. Barton's conversion was good making it the full seven-point score for the Cherry and Whites.

However, Leicester Tigers extended their lead through a further score from Harry Wells. The conversion was wide meaning that the score remained 20-14 to Leicester.

At the death, Gloucester Rugby looked like they could get back into the game but the Tigers were awarded a late penalty at the scrum and opted to kick the ball out therefore ending the game and with it any chances of the Cherry and Whites stealing the result.





GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
HERITAGEGLOUCESTER  
v LEICESTER

ON 3 AUGUST 1880, AT A MEETING AT THE GEORGE HOTEL IN LEICESTER, THREE LOCAL CLUBS AMALGAMATED TO FORM LEICESTER RUGBY CLUB. THOSE THREE CLUBS WERE LEICESTER SOCIETIES AFC, LEICESTER AMATEUR FC AND LEICESTER ALERT.

Twelve weeks later on 23 October, the first game was played. The opponents were Moseley and the result was a 0-0 draw. The game was played at the Belgrave Cricket and Cycle Ground. Later, some games were played at Victoria Park, before Leicester found their true home at Welford Road. The first game played there was on 10 September 1892 against a Leicestershire XV, and Leicester won 17-0. As early as 1885 the team was being referred to as the "Tigers".



1891/92 Team Photo

Gloucester first played Leicester on 31 October 1891 on the Belgrave ground. Gloucester triumphed 15-0. Tries were scored by Walter Jackson, Trevor Powell and Walter Taylor. Jackson converted all three tries.

In all the two clubs have met on 227 occasions, with Gloucester winning 109, Leicester 110, with eight games drawn. So today Gloucester have the opportunity to draw level on number of wins.

JOHN PLAYER CUP FINAL: 15 APRIL 1978  
GLOUCESTER 6 LEICESTER 3

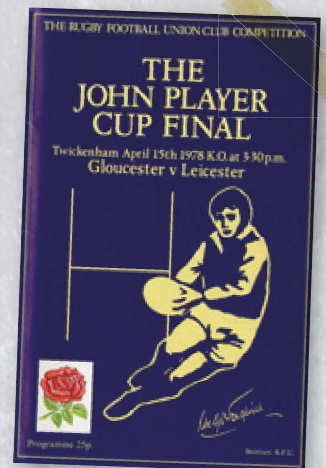
**Team:** Peter Butler; Bob Clewes, Richard Jardine, Brian Vine, Richard Mogg; Chris Williams, Paul Howell; Gordon Sargent, Steve Mills, Mike Burton, Steve Boyle,

John Fidler, John Watkins (captain), John Simonett, Viv Wooley

**Scorers:** Try: Mogg;  
Conversion: Butler

Five special trains took Gloucester supporters to the Twickenham final. Many more travelled by car or coach, and it was estimated that 2,000 Cherry & White supporters were in the crowd. The outstanding Gloucester pack put Tigers under extreme pressure. Both Butler and Leicester's ace kicker Dusty Hare missed with penalties, and the game was pointless, until the 36th minute, when Gloucester scored the only try of the game. Inevitably, the forwards started the drive through Burton and Sargent. A charge to the left by Simonett and Howell, allowed fly-half Williams to gain further ground. Boyle carried the move on before releasing wing Mogg, to break two tackles and score in the corner. Butler kicked the conversion from the touch-line.

In the second half, Leicester endeavoured to turn the game through their backs, and caused Gloucester some concern. Hare missed two more penalties, before succeeding with his fourth effort. Gloucester attacked in turn, and almost scored through Clewes, but he was bundled into touch. In the end Tigers got on top and



Richard Mogg



only a superb tackle from Mogg stopped a try from Bob Barker. The pressure was still intense to the end, but there were no further scores.

The victorious Gloucester team was honoured with a civic reception at Gloucester Guildhall, and Gloucester's MP, Sally Oppenheim, who had been at Twickenham, hosted a celebratory dinner at the House of Commons. "We are the Gloucester boys" was heard ringing around the Palace of Westminster.

## PREMIERSHIP: 8 APRIL 1997 GLOUCESTER 32 LEICESTER 30

**Team:** Audley Lumsden; Eral Anderson, Craig Emmerson, Martin Roberts, Mike Peters; Mark Mapletoft, Scott Benton; Andy Deacon, Phil Greening, Tony Windo, Rob Fidler, Dave Sims, Nathan Carter, Simon Devereux, Andrew Stanley. **Replacement:** Peter Hart

**Scorers:** Tries: Lumsden, Greening; Conversions: Mapletoft (2); Penalties: Mapletoft (6)

Gloucester had a dreadful start to the season losing the first five games, but had recovered to mid table security. Meanwhile Leicester were challenging at the top of the table.

The game was played mid-week under the Kingsholm floodlights, usually a guarantee of a dramatic contest. This one certainly was. Early on Joel Stansky kicked two penalties to Mapletoft's one; then after 14 minutes Stransky broke to send in Craig Joiner for a try, which the former converted. Mapletoft kept Gloucester in the hunt with a penalty, before a John Liley try took the Tigers further ahead. There was an exchange of penalties, so that at half-time Leicester led 18-9.

In the second half, Mapletoft kicked his fourth penalty, before Lumsden picked up and ran in a spectacular try from 50 metres. Mapletoft's conversion put the Cherry and Whites ahead for the first time. He stretched the lead with yet another penalty, but Adel Kardooni scored a short range try, and Stransky's conversion put Tigers 25-22 up. Mapletoft kicked yet another penalty to square the scores. But with time running out Leicester appeared to have won the game with a try from Rory Underwood. Only a couple of minutes remained when from a 15 metre line-out the Gloucester pack hurled Tigers back, and Greening was driven over.



Mark Mapletoft

Mapletoft converted from the touch-line to signal wild celebration, with everybody expecting the final whistle to blow. But no, several minutes more play eventually saw Leicester win a five-metre line-out, but somehow Gloucester kept them out, and the end of the game signalled a pitch invasion.

## PREMIERSHIP: 16 APRIL 2011 LEICESTER 41 GLOUCESTER 41

**Team:** Olly Morgan; Tom Voyce, Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu, Henry Trinder, Jonny May; Freddie Burns, Dave Lewis; Rupert Harden, Scott Lawson, Alasdair Dickinson, Will James, Dave Attwood, Matt Cox, Brett Deacon, Andy Hazell. **Replacements:** Nick Wood, Alex Brown, Tim Taylor, Tim Molenaar, Ollie Azam, Alasdair Strokosch, Rory Lawson, Paul Doran-Jones

**Scorers:** Tries: Fuimaono-Sapolu (2), Morgan, Hazell, T.Molenaar; Conversions: Burns (5); Penalties: Burns (2)

This was an exciting game of ten tries, divided equally between the two teams. Gloucester were first off the mark within three minutes, when Olly Morgan sliced through the backs for a try, but as so often in his career, he suffered a shoulder injury almost immediately after scoring. On seven minutes Leicester were level after Scott Hamilton crossed, and Toby Flood took Tigers in to the lead with a penalty. Gloucester were soon back in front when Fuimaono-Sapolu scored the first of his tries, and by half-time the Cherry & Whites led 17-13.

Soon after the break it looked as if Leicester had wrested the game back when Alesana Tuilagi scored a hat trick of tries in 14 minutes to put the Tigers 14 points up. But back came Gloucester with tries from Hazell and replacement Molenaar to square things. Again, Leicester appeared to have won the game when Billy Twelvetrees crossed, but in the last move of the game Fuimaono-Sapolu intercepted and ran in from his own 22 to score a glorious try. Burns converted, as he had all the tries, to gain a thrilling draw.



Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu



# GEORGE SKIVINGTON

## ON CREATING CULTURE, TEAM SELECTION AND PRE-SEASON



George Skivington and his coaching staff enjoyed their first full pre-season together over the summer and used the time to prepare and tailor the squad ahead of the start of the Gallagher Premiership season.

It was a good block of training and the squad focused a lot on their rugby skills as well as building good relationships on and off the field.

"I think to have an effective preseason now, you've got to be hammering what your game plan is about," George Skivington said during pre-season. "Especially for us. We had a tough year last year but a good year in terms of evolving as a club and a team and it's just really important to me and the coaches that we came back in and carried on talking through the processes that we learnt so much from last year."

The start of a new season always sees some changes made to the squad and new players have joined the Cherry and Whites over the summer and they have settled in well and have brought a fresh energy and perspective into the group.

"We did a lot of homework on the new players," Skivington said. "Everyone that we've signed, we've done our due diligence. We think that if we ring enough people and have enough conversations with the players, on balance you're going to get it right 9 out of 10 times. They're characters, they're all going to bring something different to the table but what they've all been is massively enthusiastic."

Going into his second full season as Head Coach, George Skivington has had time to put his stamp on the club and is pleased with the culture that he has created.

"We're a very honest club. We don't fluff things up," he said. "I don't fluff things up personally, I always get around the players as best I can and tell them why they are in or why they are not in. I have plenty of one on ones with players and I don't think I could ever be accused of not saying it how it is. Some of those conversations I don't enjoy one little bit but as long as your honest with it all, it creates a positive culture."



"That's where the boys fit in. I've been honest with everyone that's come in, I told them that the only promise I can make is that I'll be honest with you. I didn't say you're going to play this much or not, I will just be honest with you and it's up to you whether you get picked or not in the end."

One of the most difficult parts of being Head Coach is having to let down a significant proportion of the squad each game day. Only being able to pick 23 players means that half of the squad are bitterly disappointed not to be involved.

"I don't enjoy having those hard conversations, but they are what they are," Skivington said. "The fact is that we've made a promise to them, and we've said that we'll be honest here. I think that there's a great group of players here who are an honest group of players that work really hard."

"If you're a good character and you want to work hard and you want to win, it's the place for you. It's a fun environment and look, when the games start happening, people's noses will be out of joint. I fully know that I won't be Mr Popular for the lads who aren't playing and that's the nature of the beast."

"As long as you deliver the message to tell them why they aren't playing and that the door is

open, which it always will be here, no one's a given to play for this team. I think the new guys are enjoying that."

As Head Coach, one of the big responsibilities is managing the squad and picking the team each week.

"I don't solely sit in a room and pick the team myself. We do it as a group of coaches. We thrash it out and we ask any member of staff how each player is getting on. All the lads are coaching specific areas because I think they are all brilliant in those areas so they need to feed in why they think someone needs to be playing."

"We bounce it around the room and again, selection isn't an easy thing because as coaches you've got to plan, not too far in advance because the game changes fast and there are injuries, but you've got to have a rough idea about the games coming up and how we're going to rest people and manage the squad."

"The irony is that sometimes you have to make a decision that you don't want to make but you know it's the right decision for the squad that week. You have to pull someone aside and say, 'sorry mate, this isn't your week.'"

"You might think that bloke is the best in the world but if it's not the right decision for the team, I have to make it and I have to justify it and I've got to have an honest conversation."

"That's the tough part and that's where you stay true to yourself and you tell boys how it is. I like to think that's something that I'll always do."

As Head Coach, George Skivington has a deep passion for rugby.

"I've said before, I love the emotion of the game. I'll show it occasionally and I feel the emotions of the game just like everyone else watching. But I think my job is to be quicker than everyone else to assess it, win lose or draw, was the outcome fair? If we lost, did we lose because we got beaten by a better team? Did we lose because we let ourselves down? And you've just got to be quick to do all that."

"With pressure, I think you work really hard to, and this is something I encourage the players to believe, you work really hard to put yourself in a pressure situation. You either go, 'oh my god the pressure' or you go, 'ok it took me a long time to get to this position where I'm under this much pressure and this is why I want to do it.'"

"You have to accept it and I think you have to thrive on it and almost enjoy it. It's not about throwing it all out saying we're all wrong but it's about finding what we're missing and what we aren't pushing hard enough that's just not getting us across the line."

There is a positive energy around Kingsholm. Training back at Kingsholm, there is a real sense that solid foundations are being laid for the future of Gloucester Rugby.

"I think it's an unbelievably exciting time for the club," Skivington said. "We've now got a world class gym, the pitch looks phenomenal, the indoor pitch as well. We've got this whole area and the players have got everything they need. I think it's a massive time for the club and an exciting time where foundations are properly being laid for success."

"We're back in the middle of Gloucester, and this is our home."





# ACADEMY SQUAD



<p>MORGAN ADDERLY-JONES</p> <p>1873</p> <p>FLY HALF</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>OLLIE ADKINS</p> <p>1873</p> <p>PROP</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>JACK BARTLETT</p> <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>GEORGE BARTON</p> <p>FLY HALF</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>SEB BLAKE</p> <p>1873</p> <p>HOOKER</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>JENSON BOUGHTON</p> <p>PROP</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>ARTHUR CLARK</p> <p>LOCK</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>
<p>JACK CLEMENT</p> <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>REECE DUNN</p> <p>1873</p> <p>FULL BACK</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>JOSH GRAY</p> <p>1873</p> <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>LOUIS COOPER-HILLMAN</p> <p>CENTRE</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>JOE HOWARD</p> <p>1873</p> <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>ETHAN HUNT</p> <p>1873</p> <p>HOOKER</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>MATTY JONES</p> <p>1873</p> <p>SCRUM HALF</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>
<p>CAMERON JORDAN</p> <p>1873</p> <p>LOCK</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>ISAAC MARSH</p> <p>CENTRE</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>ALEX MORGAN</p> <p>WING</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>JAKE MORRIS</p> <p>WING</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>ROB NIXON</p> <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>BRYAN O'CONNOR</p> <p>PROP</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>JACK REEVES</p> <p>1873</p> <p>CENTRE</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>
<p>TOM STANTON</p> <p>1873</p> <p>UTILITY BACK</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>HARRY TAYLOR</p> <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>FREDDIE THOMAS</p> <p>BACK ROW</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>STEPHEN VARNEY</p> <p>SCRUM HALF</p> <p>MI works</p>	<p>TOBY VENNER</p> <p>1873</p> <p>SCRUM HALF</p> <p>AVAILABLE</p>	<p>TO SPONSOR A PLAYER PLEASE CALL HEAD OF PARTNERSHIPS MIKE THOMAS ON 07368 320997</p>	

# JACK CLEMENT

## ON ENGLAND'S U20 GRAND SLAM AND THE BIG DECISION

"It was a very tough call to make."

Life as a young athlete is hard. You grow up playing a wide variety of sports until one day you have to pick one to commit to. You have to decide your future with this one decision. A decision harder and more consequential than picking what A-Levels to do or which degree to study.

Jack Clement had to make the challenging choice that every young sportsman has to make in the quest to become a professional. Picking between two sports. In this case it was rugby vs cricket.

Rugby won.

"It was a case of leaving it to the last minute to make sure I had made the best decision," Jack says as he passionately explains how he became a professional rugby player.

"Once I got picked in that England U18 squad for rugby, that was the first time a light switch went off in my head and I thought that this was the way. Not only because of the call up but because I was enjoying it more and I saw a clear pathway to the professional set up.

"That's when I made the call. I do still miss cricket, 100% and I try and play as much

as I can in the summer when I'm not at rugby but I'm definitely glad I chose rugby so far."

As with all big decisions, it's best to consult those closest to you and that is exactly what the young Gloucester Rugby backrower did. Family and friends were brought into the discussions as well as former Cherry and White player Olly Morgan, who coached Jack whilst he was at Cheltenham College.

"His influence was massive," Jack says of his former teacher.

"When I progressed into the senior school, when I started in year 12, I played first team rugby for Cheltenham College and at the time I was actually pursuing a career in cricket and I played a lot of cricket for the county.

"I came to a crossroads and I had to make a decision which was a tough call, but Morgs (Olly Morgan) was very influential on that journey. There was Nick Runciman at school who used to play for Gloucester as well. I'm still in contact with Nick and Olly and they've both been big influences on my career.

"Morgs was our head coach and after the first four games of the rugby season he put me forward for a trial at Gloucester back when Whiff (Richard Whiffin) was head of academy.





"I literally did five weeks of training with the U17s and I enjoyed it and then we had our first game against Saracens in the U18s Academy league. I was on the bench covering the second row I think it was. Our No.8 went down in the first 20 minutes so I came on in the backrow and played the rest of the game and had a good match. I then went on to start the rest of the games that season and really enjoyed it.

"I got picked for the England U18s squad that summer, through Walts (Peter Walton) who was the England coach at the time, that's when I decided to really pursue rugby and drop the cricket."

Earlier on in Jack's sporting career, there was another sport on the table. He was completely and utterly football mad.

"Up until 11 I didn't know what rugby was. I played a lot of football and a lot of handball. It really opened my eyes up when I joined Bournside in year 7 and I picked up different sports like cricket and rugby which I really enjoyed."

He did have a good excuse for not playing rugby though...

"I lived in Spain for 11 years!! I was born in England but when I was four weeks old my parents moved to Spain to start a bar out there as a business for English tourists. It was by the beach in a town called Salou which is quite a touristy town, I lived there for 11 years and grew up as a Spanish kid.

"I went to a Spanish school but spoke English at home. I moved back when I was 11 years old and started in year 7 at my secondary school, Bournside and then I went to Cheltenham College.

"There wasn't much rugby in Spain!"

Being fluent in Spanish became a handy tool when Gloucester Rugby recruited international players from the other side of the world.

Jack became chief translator.

"Luckily I've been able to hold onto my Spanish and I try to speak as much as I can and it's useful having three Argentinians at the club. The two Santi's (Carreras and Socino) and Mati (Alemanno), I speak a lot of Spanish with them when I can.

"Their English has come on a long way but if they ever need a bit of help I try and help them out!"

Jack knows that he's made the right choice by choosing rugby and proof of this is his winners medal from this season's U20 Six Nations. Not only did England win but it was a total domination. A Grand Slam.

With a man of the match performance against Ireland and a try against Wales, Jack played a crucial role as part of the backrow and was a key cog in the England team.

"We knew going into it that we had a really good squad and the thing about us was that we had quite a lot of Premiership experience and I think going back to U20s level, it's invaluable because you take a lot from men's rugby.



"I think that helped us build a good foundation and then the players that hadn't played Premiership rugby came into their own in the tournament as well.

"We never really looked too far ahead in terms of outcomes for the tournament. We always took it one game at a time but there was always a belief within the squad that we had the talent and it was really just about nailing our non-negotiables like our hard work and the team culture. That came quite naturally because we were away for five weeks in a bubble."

It was this time together that then made the winning experience so much more enjoyable and throughout the tournament there was a sense that something special was building throughout the tournament.

"To win the Grand Slam was unbelievable to be honest. One game at a time we could feel it building. Win after win. On that final week when we beat Italy, it was a dream come true. We're such a tight squad and to do what we did was very special. It was really enjoyable."

Jack was just one of a handful of young Gloucester Rugby players called upon to play for England U20. Arthur Clark, Freddie Thomas, Josh Gray, Louis Hillman-Cooper and Ethan Hunt were all involved in the squad.

"We had a pretty good representation actually. I think we had six of us there in the end so it was pretty cool to be fair. We all knew what to expect from each other and just tried to bond with other lads from different clubs and yeah it was great to have six Gloucester lads there and it just shows the strength of the Academy at the moment.

"You play a different role at U20s compared to your club. Here as a youngster, you're learning your trade and trying to develop, whereas at U20 you try and take the bull by the horns a little bit and sort of bring boys with you and be sort of an influencer and more of a leader. I enjoyed that aspect of it and as a team we ended up winning what we did and it was brilliant."

Jack wants to make one thing clear. As difficult as the decision to drop cricket was, it was vital to his development to play a variety of sports growing up. Without it he might not have ended up with the Six Nations medal around his neck.

"I think it's a lesson for a lot of young people and it's something that I've learnt and that's to play as many sports as you can because you learn a lot. Don't specialise too early because you can never know how you're going to physically develop or how your body might change. A lot of the time that can influence what you do when you're older.

"For anyone out there, just play as many sports as you can when you're a youngster because you can draw a lot of skills from different sports."

At just 20-years of age, Jack Clement speaks like a seasoned professional and has a real presence considering his relative inexperience. Having achieved so much in such a short space of time, there's no doubt that he made the right decision and picked the right sport.

# GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY WOMEN SQUAD



1873

ALICIA  
MAUDE



AMBER  
ROBSON



1873

AMY  
DALE



1873

BIANCA  
BLACKBURN



BETHAN  
LEWIS



CERYS  
HALE



1873

CARA  
HOPE



CHARLIE  
MAI-MANNS



CONNIE  
POWELL



DAISY  
FAHEY



DAISY  
SMITH



ELLIE  
GILBERT



ELLIE  
UNDERWOOD



EMMA  
MUNDY



EMMA  
SING



EVIE  
ROACH



1873

ERICA  
MILLS



GABI  
SKOV



GEORGIA  
BROCK



GWEN  
CRABB



HANNAH  
JONES



KATHRYN  
BUGGY



KELSEY  
JONES



KERIN  
LAKE



# GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY SQUAD



KELLY  
SMITH



LLUECU  
GEORGE



MAISIE  
BURTON



MEGAN  
ISSAC



MIA  
BOUCHER-WHITE



MIA  
VENNER



NATASHA  
HUNT



PIP  
HENDY



PIPPA  
ROBINSON



RACHEL  
LUND



RANNI  
SAMUDA



ROBYN  
WILKINS



SHYA  
PINNOCK



SISILIA  
TUIPULOTU



SOPHIE  
TANDY



SIAN  
WILLIAMS



TABITHA  
COPSON



TATYANA  
HEARD



ZOE  
ALDCROFT



# THE CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER'S FAVOURITE SNAPS!

I have been asked to choose some of my favourite images from over the years as part of this season's programmes and will be sharing a few of my favourite photos throughout the year.

Having been the club photographer for 12 years, I see many of you around the ground and I have shared many great times together with both the players and the fans. During this time, I have really enjoyed recording a period of Gloucester Rugby's history. This club has soul.

So here are a few of my favourites. Some for photographic reasons, others for the sense of occasion.

I hope you enjoy and I look forward to seeing you at Kingsholm.

**Martin Bennett**



**JOE SIMPSON'S TRY VERSUS WASPS,  
OCTOBER 26 2019, KINGSHOLM**

I've always wanted a good, old school, mud pic. You're never sure or guaranteed you will get the conditions but on this day I thought that there was a good chance if someone dived over in the right place. Thanks to Joe, I got this great pic that says it all!





## MATT BANAHAN V NEWCASTLE, MAY 4 2019, KINGSHOLM

I love this pic as it shows the emotion and relief of scoring a try. It had been a few games since Matt had scored so you could see all the tension coming out in his face. I was very happy for him.

Every matchday I look for something a little bit different before the game. On a cold day, a father and son shelter in the bar under the stand. It's just a reflective, quiet, pre-match moment. The calm before the storm so to speak. There's also a sense of passing on a generational tradition.



## FATHER AND SON, KINGSHOLM



## VICTORY IN THE CHANGING ROOMS VS HARLEQUINS, THE STOOP, MARCH 10 2019

This picture could be any victory really. It's all about the camaraderie and the hard work the boys put in to get there.

Being the club's photographer gives you access to the players, and they get to know you and trust you so you get behind the scene images.

I'm looking forward to the day when things get back to normal and I get back in the changing room to record our victories.





# GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY V HARLEQUINS WOMEN

SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER | 4PM KO | ALPAS ARENA

**FREE  
ENTRY!**



**HARTPURY  
SPORT**

**£15 VIP ENTRY INCLUDES A BURGER, 2 BEERS, & A Q&A WITH PRESENT & FORMER  
GLOUCESTER RUGBY PLAYERS | EMAIL [LORRAINE.CORNWELL@HARTPURY.AC.UK](mailto:lorraine.cornwell@hartpury.ac.uk) TO BOOK**

**ALPAS ARENA, HARTPURY UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE, GL19 3BE**



# NATASHA 'MO' HUNT



**NATASHA 'MO' HUNT HAD A BUSY SUMMER. PLAYING A ROLE IN TEAM GB'S OLYMPIC 7S CAMPAIGN, THE GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY SCRUM-HALF WAS OUT IN TOKYO AND PLAYED A KEY PART IN THE SQUAD'S EFFORTS AS THEY JUST MISSED OUT ON A MEDAL.**

Finishing 4th, for the second time in a row, was bitterly disappointing but the experience was one that will be remembered for a lifetime.

"It was amazing," Hunt said. "It's obviously gutting. Anywhere but 4th! But the whole experience was class and I never expected to be there. I kind of snuck in the back door a bit and just to get selected and to actually do it was mad!"

As disappointing as finishing 4th was, travelling to Japan was incredible and Mo recalls her time across the globe fondly.

"It was amazing," she said. "The whole experience was brilliant and to be part of something so much bigger with Team GB, it was just incredible. Having new teammates was just amazing and the Japanese public and all of the volunteers out there were just fantastic. It was an amazing experience, but it was gutting to finish 4th. Can't quite believe that we've done it twice but the whole thing was brilliant, and I've definitely got fond memories."

Now back in Gloucestershire, Mo has been helping Gloucester-Hartpury in their Allianz Premier 15s campaign and is enjoying playing for her childhood side.

"I absolutely love this team. It's fully in my heart. I love the girls and I fully enjoy playing with them. Every time I drive to training, I'm smiling and singing, it's a great place to be and the energy is



always there with this group. I'm really looking forward to seeing what we can do this season. Fingers crossed this is our year."

Gloucester-Hartpury currently sit 3rd in the Premier 15s table and with two wins from three games, they are in fine form.

"The girls have been flying. They've been training since June, three times a week. Everyone is in great shape and have been putting their bodies on the line with a bit of fun in there as well. We're just looking forward to getting out there and seeing how well it comes through."

Gloucester-Hartpury Head Coach, Sean Lynn, has picked Mo as his captain for the season and knows how valuable she is to his team.

"Mo is something special," he said. "What she's achieved as a local girl from Gloucester and the Forest of Dean, just having her around is great for the club but it's also great to have her as a role model for these younger girls."

"Seeing her commentate on TV and being involved in our university coaching set up now, she's a great asset."





# GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY WOMEN KICK OFF ALLIANZ PREMIER 15S CAMPAIGN

AFTER THREE GAMES OF THE ALLIANZ PREMIER 15S SEASON, GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY CURRENTLY SIT 3RD IN THE TABLE AFTER TWO GOOD WINS OVER DMP SHARKS AND SALE SHARKS WOMEN AND A LOSS TO BRISTOL BEARS WOMEN.

The season started in perfect fashion with an 84-0 win at the ALPAS Arena against DMP Sharks. It was a try fest with the Cherry and Whites getting over the line an incredible 14 times.

Things weren't as easy against Bristol the following week with the Bears taking the 24-17 result to take the West Country bragging rights. It was a close game and a valuable reminder that the Premier 15s competition will be close fought throughout the season.

In Round 3, Gloucester-Hartpury were back to winning ways with an away victory in shark infested waters as the Cherry and Whites beat Sale Sharks Women 45-21. The result puts Sean Lynn's side in the top three and there is no doubt that they will be looking for another victory as they host Harlequins on Saturday 2 October.







## THE TEAMS



VS



T P C D

T P C D

				Kyle <b>MOYLE</b>	<b>15</b>	Freddie <b>STEWARD</b>				
				Jonny <b>MAY</b>	<b>14</b>	Harry <b>POTTER</b>				
				Billy <b>TWELVETREES</b>	<b>13</b>	Matt <b>SCOTT</b>				
				Mark <b>ATKINSON</b>	<b>12</b>	Dan <b>KELLY</b>				
				Ollie <b>THORLEY</b>	<b>11</b>	Nemani <b>NADOLO</b>				
				Lloyd <b>EVANS</b>	<b>10</b>	George <b>FORD</b>				
				Ben <b>MEEHAN</b>	<b>9</b>	Jack <b>VAN POORTVLIET</b>				
				Harry <b>ELRINGTON</b>	<b>1</b>	Ellis <b>GENGE (C)</b>				
				Jack <b>SINGLETON</b>	<b>2</b>	Nic <b>DOLLY</b>				
				Fraser <b>BALMAIN</b>	<b>3</b>	Dan <b>COLE</b>				
				Ed <b>SLATER</b>	<b>4</b>	Harry <b>WELLS</b>				
				Andrew <b>DAVIDSON</b>	<b>5</b>	Eli <b>SNYMAN</b>				
				Ben <b>MORGAN</b>	<b>6</b>	George <b>MARTIN</b>				
				Lewis <b>LUDLOW (C)</b>	<b>7</b>	Tommy <b>REFFELL</b>				
				Ruan <b>ACKERMANN</b>	<b>8</b>	Hanro <b>LIEBENBERG (VC)</b>				

## REPLACEMENTS

				Henry <b>WALKER</b>	<b>16</b>	Tom <b>COWAN-DICKIE</b>				
				Jamal <b>FORD ROBINSON</b>	<b>17</b>	Francois <b>VAN WYK</b>				
				Kirill <b>GOTOVTSEV</b>	<b>18</b>	Joe <b>HEYES</b>				
				Freddie <b>CLARKE</b>	<b>19</b>	Calum <b>GREEN</b>				
				Wian <b>CONRADIE</b>	<b>20</b>	Ollie <b>CHESSUM</b>				
				Jack <b>CLEMENT</b>	<b>21</b>	Ben <b>YOUNGS</b>				
				Stephen <b>VARNEY</b>	<b>22</b>	Freddie <b>BURNS</b>				
				Tom <b>SEABROOK</b>	<b>23</b>	Guy <b>PORTER</b>				

## MATCH OFFICIALS

**Referee:** Tom Foley (99th Premiership game).

**Assistant Referees:** Anthony Woodthorpe and Paul Dix.

**TMO:** Wayne Barnes. **Citing Officer:** Duncan Bell.