



# CHERRY & WHITES



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY v SALE SHARKS

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP  
9 OCTOBER 2021 | 3:00PM

# BiGDUG



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## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

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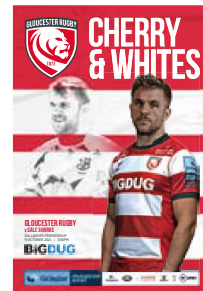
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# LANCE BRADLEY

CEO

## HELLO AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM, FOR OUR FIRST SATURDAY HOME GAME OF THE SEASON.

Following our well-deserved win at Worcester Warriors last weekend, this afternoon we welcome Sale Sharks.

We've designated this game as our first 'Family Day' of the season, so I'd like to offer a special welcome to all the families who have joined us today. It's important to us to welcome families, and youngsters in particular, to Kingsholm. They are the future supporters of Gloucester Rugby, and potentially our future players too.

I always remember the famous quotation from Sir Bobby Robson:

*"What is a club in any case? Not the buildings or the directors or the people who are paid to represent it. It's not the television contracts, get-out clauses, marketing departments or executive boxes. It's the noise, the passion, the feeling of belonging, the pride in your city. It's a small boy clambering up stadium steps for the very first time, gripping his father's hand, gawping at that hallowed stretch of turf beneath him and, without being able to do a thing about it, falling in love."*

Sir Bobby was talking about a different game in a different city, but I think his words apply just as well to Gloucester Rugby. And we passionately believe in the importance of our community, and the responsibilities we have within it.

We've invested heavily in our community programmes to

help encourage youngsters – boys and girls – to love the game of rugby and its values.

We now have four Community Coaches who are each assigned an area within Gloucestershire and West Oxfordshire – the area allocated to us by the RFU – and who visit schools and clubs in that area offering coaching sessions and ticketing packages for our games here at Kingsholm.

**"IF WE CAN TEACH THESE YOUNGSTERS TO LOVE THE GAME AND ITS VALUES, WE'LL NOT ONLY BE ENCOURAGING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FANS, BUT ALSO HELPING TO CREATE A BETTER COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS SUPPORTING THE LOCAL RUGBY CLUBS IN OUR AREA"**

Of course we're looking for the next Louis Rees-Zammit, Lewis Ludlow or Mo Hunt, but we know that the vast majority of the youngsters we see will never have the honour of pulling on the famous Cherry and White shirt. But we also know that if we can teach these youngsters to love the game and its values, we'll not only be encouraging the next generation of fans, but also helping to create a better community, as well as supporting the local rugby clubs in our area. It's a long-term project, but it's something we take very seriously.

You'll be able to read more about our work in the community, and how we're encouraging younger supporters,

by visiting our website over the course of the season. If you have any thoughts or suggestions as to how we can further this work we'd love to hear from you.

Together, we are a squad of thousands.

**Best wishes  
Lance**



# MARTIN ST. QUINTON

CHAIRMAN

## GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM AS WE HOST SALE SHARKS IN ROUND 4 OF THE GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP.

It was so very special to hear the roar from the stadium to welcome our boys back against Leicester Tigers in our first home game of the season a couple of weeks ago. Having played without fans for around 18 months, it was a very moving moment as fans are what make live sport so brilliant.

It was also good to see so many of you brave the rain and make the trip up to Sixways Stadium last weekend as we got our campaign up and running with our first win of the season.

It was a great team performance, and a pleasure to see such a

**“OUR NEW TRAINING FACILITY IS NOW COMPLETE, AND THE PLAYERS HAVE A STATE-OF-THE-ART PERFORMANCE CENTRE”**

display of attacking skills despite the conditions. The way our maul charged forward, and the accurate kicking of Adam Hastings really were a joy to watch.

Away from the playing side of things, it's been an exciting time at Kingsholm as we unveiled our new indoor pitch. This means that our new training facility is now complete, and the players have a state-of-the-art performance centre to train in and hone their skills ahead of match day.

Our opponents this afternoon are Sale Sharks, and after a tough loss to Exeter Chiefs at home last time out, there is no doubt that they'll be travelling down from the north looking to make amends.

So today, let there be a big cheer for Gloucester as we enjoy being back at Kingsholm supporting our team... the Cherry and Whites!

**Enjoy the game, Martin**





# NEWSNEWSNEWSNEWS

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY'S EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP FIXTURES CONFIRMED



### ROUND 1

Lyon (A) Friday 10th December 9pm (French time)

### ROUND 2

Benetton (H) Friday 17th December 8pm

### ROUND 3

Bye

### ROUND 4

USAP (H) Saturday 22nd January 5:30pm

### ROUND 5

Dragons (A) TBC

Gloucester Rugby's European Challenge Cup fixtures have today been confirmed. It had already been determined that the Cherry and Whites would play Lyon, Benetton and USAP but the dates for these games have now been cemented. The final round of the group stage is an away trip to Dragons which is still TBC.

## TODAY'S MATCHDAY MASCOT

Today's matchday mascot is **Charlie Parsons**.

Charlie is 11 years old and goes to the Richard Pate School in Cheltenham. He loves playing rugby and is a quick left winger who plays for the school team. Charlie is a passionate Gloucester Rugby fan and one of his favourite players is Ollie Thorley.





























The Gloucester Rugby Matchday Mascot is kindly sponsored this season by:



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# 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>Electrical Solutions (Gloucester) Ltd Dave_atlec_spl@live.co.uk 07779 994164</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>Auto Air</b></p>	<p><b>CHARLIE CHAPMAN</b></p>  <p>SCRUM HALF</p> <p><b>HOKER &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>Auto Air</b></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>



<b>JORDY REID</b>  BACK ROW THE CULLIMORE GROUP OF COMPANIES	<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 miworks LEAD & GROW	<b>ED SLATER</b>  LOCK KB BUILDING SERVICES
<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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**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 DEFEATED 25-22 AT THE AJ BELL BY SALE SHARKS IN ROUND 16 OF THE 2020-21 GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP.**

## What happened?

The Cherry and Whites scored three tries in a close fought effort against the top four side and came away with the losing bonus point.

Jonny May, Santiago Carreras and Willi Heinz all scored and at one point it looked like Mark Atkinson had gone over for the fourth but the TMO ruled that his intercept had come after an accidental offside earlier on in the attack.

Sale Sharks were the first to score after relentless carrying paid off creating space for Faf de Klerk to slide through to get over. The home side also scored through Arron Reed and Marland Yarde and were physical for the full 80 minutes.

A red card to Robert du Preez for a dangerous tackle on Val Rapava-Ruskin gave the Cherry and Whites a way into the game and created a bit of space for the Gloucester Rugby attack to play with.

Santiago Carreras was able to cut a perfect line to slice through the Sale defence and Billy Twelvetrees' conversion added the extra points.

Louis Rees-Zammit was next to launch an attack and threw an offload over his head to Lewis Ludlow who passed to Willi Heinz who was running on at pace to go over the line.

Twelvetrees' conversion drew the scores level but a late AJ MacGuinty penalty put Sale ahead come the final whistle.



## KEY MOMENT

### Jonny May scores on 150th appearance

On his 150th Gloucester Rugby appearance, Jonny May scored an incredible try in which he showed his pace to beat three defenders to the ball to go over and score. Ruan Ackermann had kicked the ball through and May was fast and managed to dot down for the score.





GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
HERITAGELOTS OF  
PREVIOUS  
WITH SALE

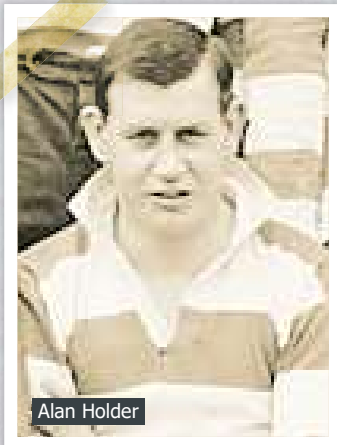
THE SALE CLUB HAS A LONGER HISTORY THAN GLOUCESTER, AND IS THE FIFTH OLDEST SURVIVING CLUB IN ENGLISH RUGBY, HAVING BEEN FOUNDED IN 1861 AS AN OFF-SHOOT OF SALE CRICKET CLUB. SALE FC'S MINUTE BOOK RECORDS IN 1865, TEN RULES TO BE OBSERVED BY ALL PLAYERS, WHICH MAKES IT THE WORLD'S OLDEST EXISTING RUGBY RULE BOOK.

However, the Gloucester and Sale clubs did not meet until 1933, when Sale set off to the south on an Easter tour. At the end of a successful season, they arrived at Kingsholm with high hopes, and Wilf Wooller, their Welsh international, scored the first try, but Vernon Sheppard ran in two for Gloucester, shaking three tacklers off for the first and showing a clean pair of heels for his second. Each side landed a dropped goal before Gloucester won 18-7. Matches came thick and fast for Gloucester during that Easter week, with three club fixtures and two sevens tournaments.



Vernon Sheppard

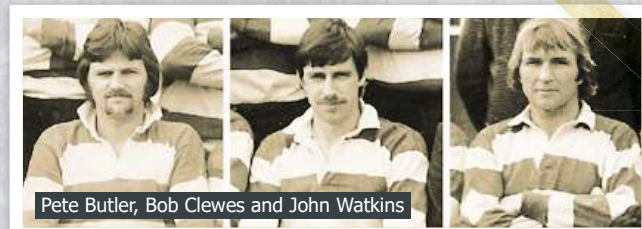
This first visit was clearly judged a success by both clubs, since thereafter, for the best part of 50 years, Sale travelled down to Kingsholm every other Easter. They won for the first time in 1937, 14-13, but, having home advantage, Gloucester won a substantial proportion of the games. It was not until April 1960 that Gloucester first made the trek up to Sale, when on a short tour



Alan Holder

they won 14-8 at New Brighton before going down 3-10 at Sale, Alan Holder scoring Gloucester's only points with a try.

During the 1975-76 season, there were two matches at Sale. The teams met for the first time in a knock-out competition, the John Player Cup, when Sale squeezed home 16-15. Dropped goals featured again for Gloucester, with one each from Dave Pointon and Pete Butler, whose boot also landed a penalty and the conversion of a Bob Clewes try. Gloucester gained their revenge with a 13-3 win in the last match of that season, John Watkins scoring a try and Pete Butler putting over three penalties.



Pete Butler, Bob Clewes and John Watkins

The clubs met again in the John Player Cup in 1981-82, the most successful season in Gloucester's history in terms of win percentage. Gloucester, drawn at home for this quarter-final, played into the wind and were 0-6 down at half-time, but with the wind at their backs they dominated the second half. "Iron" Mike Teague plunged over for a try when captain Steve Mills took a strike against the head, Paul Ford converted it, and scored a try and a penalty to round off a 13-6 win. Gloucester went on to share the title with a 12-12 draw against Moseley after extra time in the final at Twickenham.

The formation of national leagues saw the clubs meet for the first time in a league match in 1988. Gloucester romped home 61-7, scoring eleven tries.

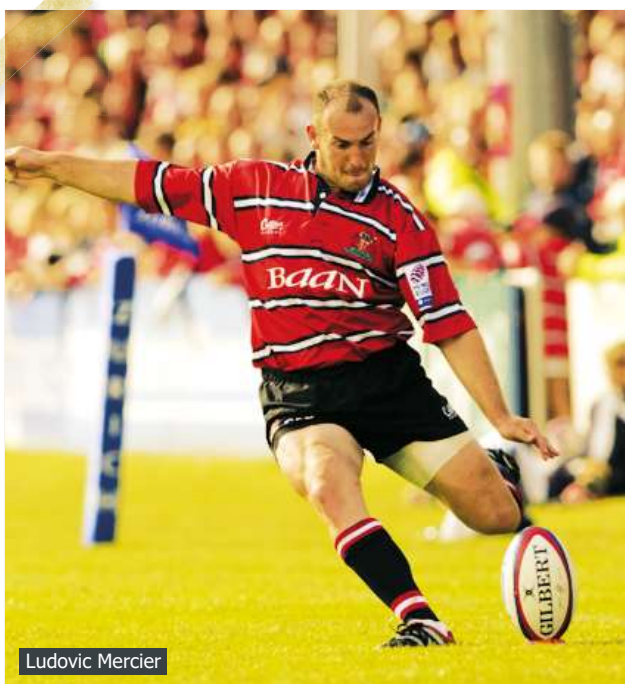




Steve Mills, Mike Teague and Paul Ford

More than half of the Gloucester team scored tries – Marcus Hannaford (2), Paul Ashmead (2), Jim Breeze, Ruari McLean, Richard Mogg, Richard Pascall, Nigel Scrivens, Ian Smith and Paul Mansell, who also kicked six conversions and a penalty, whilst Mike Hamlin contributed one conversion. At the end of the season, Sale were relegated, having lost all of their matches. However, when they climbed back into the top flight in 1994-95, they came back with a vengeance and proceeded to do the double over Gloucester for three successive seasons.

The 2001-02 season is unique in that the sides met on four occasions. Gloucester won both league games – 44-21 at Sale (with 24 points from Ludovic Mercier including three dropped goals) and 42-14 at Kingsholm (17 points from Ludo). It therefore came as a disappointment when the teams met at Northampton in the semi-final of the European Shield and Sale squeezed home 28-27 (Ludo missing a penalty in the last minute). Gloucester did bounce back the following week and put a smile back on the faces of their supporters by demolishing Bath 68-12 in the league. At the end of the season, Gloucester travelled to Sale for the Championship semi-final and won 33-11 (18 points from Ludo), before going on to beat Bristol 28-23 in the final at Twickenham (23 points from Ludo).



Ludovic Mercier

Three years later, Gloucester's season ended with a 44-35 win over Sale, with 24 points from the boot of Henry Paul. This game was a wild card play-off for European qualification, which was quickly rendered irrelevant when England was awarded an additional European slot which was filled by Gloucester. This was the last game in cherry and white for Trevor Woodman and Robert Todd, before they both went off to play for Sale.

Another connection between the clubs is Phillippe Saint-Andre, revered at Kingsholm as player (1997-99) and Director of Rugby (1998-2002), and the cause of much humming of the Marseillaise whenever he reappears at Kingsholm. He was later appointed Director of Rugby at Sale (2004-09). He enjoyed much success with both clubs, including the Premiership with Sale.



Phillippe Saint-Andre

A remarkable LV Cup match in October 2011 saw Gloucester triumph 58-27, with tries from Lesley Vainikolo, Jonny May, Luke Narraway, Rory Lawson, Charlie Sharples, Freddie Burns and Scott Lawson. Freddie Burns kicked three penalties and six conversions, and Tim Taylor one conversion.

Today's match is the 98th between the clubs. So far Gloucester have won 52, Sale 43, and two have been drawn. Points scored have been Gloucester 2166 Sale 1738. Gloucester have won 39 of the 57 matches played at Kingsholm, but only 13 of the 40 fixtures at Sale. The biggest win for Gloucester was 61-7 on 16 April 1988, and that for Sale was 57-10 on 29 September 2017.

All the matches in Gloucester have been played at Kingsholm, whilst those in Sale have been at Heywood Road, Sale, up to 2003, at Edgeley Park, Stockport, up to 2012, and more recently at the A J Bell Stadium at Barton-upon-Irwell, Salford.



# CHRIS HARRIS



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LISTEN TO THE  
INTERVIEW

"I was just in shock and obviously everyone was congratulating me, and I was completely overwhelmed by the whole thing."

Phil Vickery was the last Gloucester Rugby player to start a British and Irish Lions test until Chris Harris was called up to start the second test against South Africa on 31 July, taking the prop's place as the most recent Cherry and White test Lion.

Now back at Kingsholm, the centre has had the chance to reflect on his time on tour.

"It was a pretty awesome experience," said Harris after Tuesday's training session.

"From the rugby side of it, it was great to learn and obviously there were so many different players and different styles of players. It was a really good learning experience and off the pitch there was a lot of good fun.

"It was pretty limited in terms of what we could do with covid being so bad out there. We weren't really allowed out of the hotel but we stayed just out of Cape Town on this golf resort so there was plenty of golf played.

"Post-game there were plenty of beers and stuff afterwards, but we just had to stay within the hotel. One of the boys is a DJ, Josh Navidi, we called him Navicii! So, he was in charge of the music for the most part and Kyle Sinckler enjoyed himself on the microphone and was a sort of MC.

"We had a proper good bunch of boys that all genuinely got along."

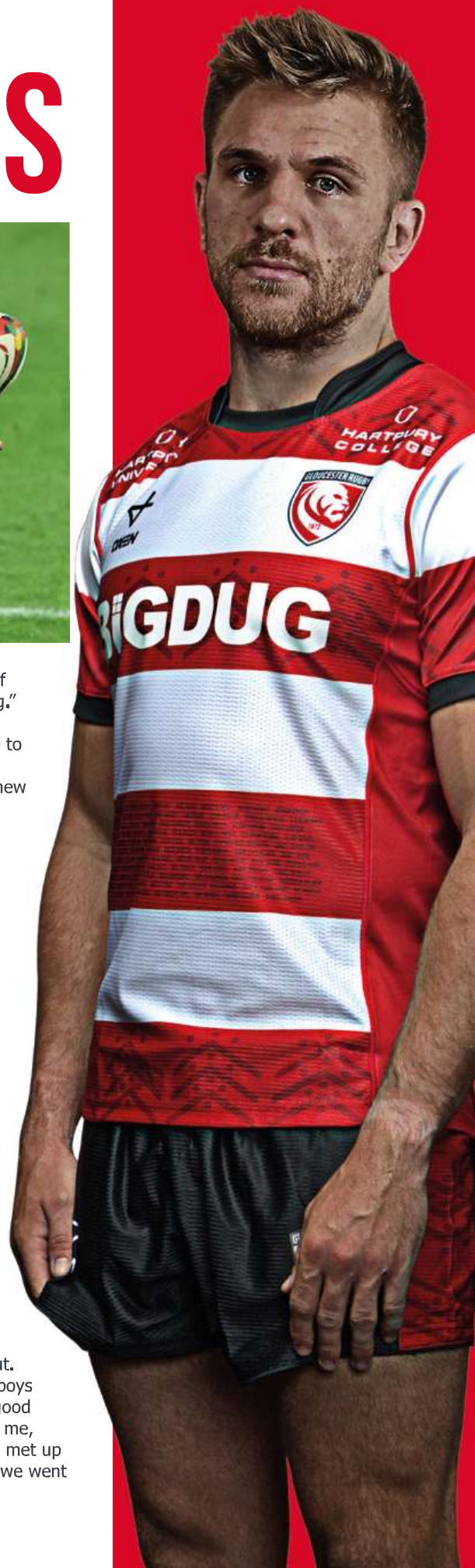
Looking back on being called up to the squad in May, Chris enjoyed the process of getting to know new teammates.

"It's basically a list of names to start with. All these awesome players and there are certain characters that you get along with that you never thought you would, not that you thought that you wouldn't get along, but you never know who you're going to click with.

"I've made some decent pals of the back of it and it just adds to that unique experience."

The beauty of the Lions is that it brings players from four nations together and turns players who are used to playing against each other into teammates.

"Because the group was so sound, it was easy to get along with everyone and just dot about. I got on with a few of the Irish boys really well. Connor Murray is a good lad. I went out to Mykonos with me, Finn and him and our girlfriends met up on one of those evenings when we went to Mykonos after the tour.



"I got on with those boys really well and obviously the Scottish boys I get on with really well anyway. A lot of the Welsh boys, it was all just really sound."

The tour was a bit of a whirlwind of emotions and it's something that the Scot is still processing despite having been back in for Gloucester Rugby training for close to two weeks.

"It was a pretty unique and special experience that I'm probably going to continue to reflect on in years to come because it takes a bit of time to settle.

"When the squad was named, I remember coming here for a training session after and I was mind blown. I couldn't believe I was going on a Lions tour.

"I was like, right, enjoy that moment, and looking back, that was probably one of the moments that was most special in a way. That was the time when a lot of my friends and loved ones were around, I could share the experience with them."

It was a great tour to watch, and Chris certainly threw himself at it, making his British and Irish Lions debut against the Lions, scoring a try against the Sharks, and then making his test debut in the second test against South Africa.

He had no idea that he was set to take Vickery's place as the most recent Gloucester Rugby test Lion.

"The first test we won. We had a few beers on the Saturday, had the Sunday off, and then Monday came around. It was a casual morning, and I didn't have a scooby. We'd won so I thought they might not make any changes. I had messages from people at home asking if I thought I was in for a shot and people saying all this stuff, but I honestly didn't have a clue.

"It might have been named on Monday evening, because I remember training on Monday, and they said, the team from the weekend walk through, and then it was everyone swap in and walk through the plays, that sort of stuff a light training session.

"We had a bit of a run around and then we had a meeting in the evening and Gats (Warren Gatland) just named it.

"It was shock and surprise. I told my misses, and she was over the moon for me and really delighted and she was proud of where I'd got to. I just didn't know what to say. She was obviously buzzing for me and it was just about preparing for that week and obviously the game didn't go to plan unfortunately."

The results didn't go their way and unfortunately, Chris was left out of the squad for the third test. However, this meant that he was added back to a WhatsApp group!

"When you're not involved in one of the teams, you get added to a Lions Bin Juice WhatsApp group! We'd all meet up on the day off and have a couple of quiet beers. We weren't sapping, it was all good hearted and we were still there and there were still two games left at this point.

"On Tuesday night, we'd have a few, nothing stupid, just a couple and we'd have a bit of food together and we'd wake up with a little smirk the next day and that week would come around and we'd be in the stand cheering the lads on, a couple more beers that evening and you go again the next week.

"When the team was named for the second test, I looked at the WhatsApp group and I'd been removed from the Lions' Bin Juice chat. Then obviously the following week when the third test team was named, I was added back to the Lions Bin Juice group!

"It was a good bunch of boys that were and weren't selected and we always had a proper good laugh."

Chris is now back in Gloucester and came on off the bench to score a try in the Cherry and Whites' win over Worcester last weekend.



He collected the cross-field kick from Adam Hastings, who apparently owes his international teammate a favour.

"He owes me because he's living with me! I'm looking after him so if he can keep putting them on a plate for me I'll be happy with that!

"It's good to have him involved with the club and it's good to see him playing well. It just makes it better that I'm already good mates with him and hopefully we can build that relationship on the field and hopefully we'll both be up to Scotland camp soon.

"We share a lift in because he's actually given his car back so he is carless and homeless!

"He's tidy and looks after himself. He's not a bother at all. He's a pleasure to live with."

Chris enjoyed a few weeks off before returning to club duty and earned a good break after a long time away.

"It was a long period but I'm not going to sit and whinge about it. I was on a Lions tour! It got to the point where that team was selected for that last test and admittedly, I was a bit gutted, I could have easily sapped but I didn't want to do that.

"I trained hard, got the boys ready for the weekend and enjoyed that last week and had a good couple of days at the end of it and have a good send off.

"We had a good time, I had an awesome holiday and now it's back into it! It's all just gone so quick!"



# ACADEMY SQUAD



AVAILABLE



AVAILABLE



AVAILABLE



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# PETER WALTON



Peter Walton saw rugby change from amateur to professional and has had a colourful rugby career having gone from a player to a coach. He has plenty of stories about the game and having been on the journey with the sport itself, it is hardly surprising that he is the man to go to when it comes to player development.

"I love sport," Gloucester Rugby's head of academy said. "I've curled for Scotland, I loved football. I was the Scottish champion in fives which not a lot of people know. I just love sport but rugby was my biggest passion and it just took to me."

"When I left school, they said that I didn't qualify for Scotland. I was gutted because I'd been at school in Edinburgh playing Scottish Schools and supported Scotland all the time."

So, you felt you were Scottish?

"Oh yes!" he almost bellowed.

"I used to get the children's seats at the old Murrayfield, and we used to get schoolboy tickets and we weren't supporting England, we would support Scotland. I would have been frowned upon!"

"I got a letter from the SRU about why I didn't qualify so then I went back to Alnwick, played England U19s and then I went to Cirencester Agricultural College. That's when I first became involved with Gloucester. Because I'd been with England 19s, England 21s were wanting to get me involved so they suggested that I joined Gloucester so I had a six month spell here."

After not playing due to injury, and as he finished college, Walts moved back up north.

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INTERVIEW



"I moved to Newcastle Gosforth, this was still in the amateur days, and moving to Newcastle Gosforth, I was almost frowned upon. Because I was trying to better myself, going to a club in the first division. Alnwick was in North 1 and it was great and that's where I'm from but I was hated for leaving. There were players, old players and past players who were saying why are you doing this?"

"I took some advice and I wanted to do it. I wasn't quite getting spat at but people didn't want to speak to me for leaving! As it happened, it turned out really well. I was the second top try scorer in the first division that year."

Back then, rugby was still an amateur game but Walts was playing with some of the best players in the world.

"That was still amateur, so the love of the game was there. We'd train twice a week, I worked as an auctioneer. So I was busy but I also enjoyed myself.

"In my head I was playing with superstars. Gary Pearce, who had the record number of caps for England at prop. I remember going to Lansdowne Road and his record number of international caps was being taken by Jeff Probyn and I'm standing in the ground with Gary Pearce, who's full of drink, and I'm thinking 'this guy used to have the record number of caps and we're having a drink together.' That's where rugby is unique.

"We had some fun! We worked hard but we played hard. I was very fortunate. I keep saying that I'm lucky. I'm the luckiest man in the world."

After putting in consistent, impressive performances, it didn't take long for Scotland to pick up the phone.

"I had three seasons at Northampton and managed to get Scotland back on the phone and they asked if I was keen to play for Scotland. I said that I was desperate and that I'd do it tomorrow. Scotland was in my heart."

Walts made his Scotland debut against England in what was a close fought contest which went down to the wire.

"We got beaten in the final kick of the game by Jon Callard. Rob Andrew put his hand in a ruck and England wore blue cuffs on their sleeves. It looked like it was a blue shirt but it wasn't. So we got the penalty against us and they kicked it to win the game. I've still got the ball now and I've kept my shirt.

"I remember Gavin Hastings was seething on the TV afterwards in his interview just because he knew we were robbed. Scotland didn't beat England very often in those days. That was a game that we deserved to win."

It was still a proud day for the Scot, who remembers how he first found out he was in the squad.

"When I got my first cap, I got a telegram through! It was on the table when I walked into the changing room. My wife has kept it all and those things will never go away but you probably lose the text or message you'd get sent now. I never ever expected to be picked. You never presumed that you would be in the team the next week.

"Even at Newcastle, or any club I played for. You always waited to see the team. I'm obviously a W so my name was always at the bottom. And I'm not joking, I'd be waiting for a phone call and we used to get a phone call from the manager and it would be half past 10 before I got a call!"

A lot of Walton's best memories are from those amateur days but when the game went professional, it was an exciting time for the backrower.

"Once it went from amateur into professional, I moved back to Newcastle. I thought that I wouldn't play again because I'd had a serious knee operation. And then I got a phone call from Rob Andrew saying 'you've probably heard but rugby has gone professional.'

"I was the second player that Newcastle signed behind Richard Arnold."

It was a successful time at Newcastle with the club winning the league in the 1997-98 season.

"We won the league because we had superstars. The year we won, I remember scoring a try and smiling at the Shed. And I loved that. I remember Dean Ryan charging down and Doddie Weir picked it up, passed it to me and I went through. It was from the 22 so it was quite a long way out! I remember I was over the try line and someone was coming to tackle me and I never felt that you deserved a try unless you hit somebody, so I went straight at him and luckily I scored!"

It wasn't much longer before Walts had to call time on his playing career. With a strong passion for rugby still burning inside, coaching was something that was a natural progression.

"I had more bulged disks in my neck. I coached a bit with the first team for a couple of years and then I went into the academy with John Fletcher for about three years.



"I was fortunate then, that in 2005, the results weren't going our way at Newcastle so they removed the forwards coach. I was at the player's lunch at Alnwick Rugby Club and I was back there having a right skinful! I got this phone call from Rob Andrew asking me to be in the office at 7:30am the next morning because

there were going to be a few changes. I was thinking crikey! So I had to stop drinking! I managed to get there in the morning and Rob Andrew said we want you to take over the forwards.

"I had three good years and it was brilliant and I enjoyed it. And then I lost my job there because of results. I'd given 13 years to Newcastle so I was pretty gutted.

"I moved on and was offered a job with England straight away. I had 10 years with England age group. Five of the British Lions were players who I had spotted working with the academies, and I helped them develop. I keep thinking, I didn't do a bad job!

"Maro Itoje was in touch over lockdown. Whenever Maro texts, you know he wants a chat. He messaged me, how's things? So I rang him. There was Billy Vunipola as well and it's about building relationships. That's what it's all about.

"Ross Moriarty played for Wales and he sent me a text on his way to his first game when he was on the bus. He said, 'I'm a bit nervous' so I gave him some words of advice. I just love it."

Walts then went on to work with Bristol before joining the Cherry and Whites where he has continued his great work developing players and people.

"If I've helped them get better as people, but also as rugby players, then I'm happy."

# GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY WOMEN SQUAD



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MAUDE



AMBER  
ROBSON



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AMY  
DALE



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BIANCA  
BLACKBURN



BETHAN  
LEWIS



CERYS  
HALE



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CARA  
HOPE



CHARLIE  
MAI-MANNS



CONNIE  
POWELL



DAISY  
FAHEY



DAISY  
SMITH



ELLIE  
GILBERT



ELLIE  
UNDERWOOD



EMMA  
MUNDY



EMMA  
SING



EVIE  
ROACH



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MILLS



GABI  
SKOV



GEORGIA  
BROCK



GWEN  
CRABB



HANNAH  
JONES



KATHRYN  
BUGGY



KELSEY  
JONES



KERIN  
LAKE





KELLY  
SMITH



LLUECU  
GEORGE



MAISE  
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



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY BEAT WORCESTER WARRIORS 31-23 TO TAKE THEIR FIRST WIN OF THE SEASON AT A WET SIXWAYS STADIUM ON SATURDAY.

## What happened?

Adam Hastings put in a stunning performance setting up two Cherry and White tries with cross field kicks and slotted all but one kick at goal.

For the first 40 minutes, the Cherry and Whites were in complete control and could have kept Worcester scoreless if it wasn't for a silly penalty which involved a few players winding up former Gloucester Rugby player Willi Heinz.

The fly-half kicked four penalties to give Gloucester Rugby a 12-3 half time lead at Sixways.

It was another ex-Cherry and White, Owen Williams, who slotted the kick for the hosts from the consequential penalty.

It was a great defensive effort for Gloucester Rugby who refused to let Worcester get over the try line despite two really threatening attacks from the hosts.

After the break, Worcester were first to get on the scoreboard thanks to penalty kicks from Owen Williams and Billy Searle.

However, the Cherry and Whites were first to score a try and it was Ben Morgan who powered over from the driving maul.

The maul became a key weapon for Gloucester Rugby who were able to use it to full advantage in attack.

Hastings slotted the conversion and continued his impressive performance with a cross field kick which was judged perfectly to land into Jonny May's arms who then offloaded to Jason Woodward who came flying in to score.

It was a second cross field kick which cemented the Gloucester Rugby win. Lions returnee, Chris Harris, collected to dive over for the Cherry and Whites' third try.

Worcester were able to score through both Kyle Hatherell and Sione Vailanu but their second half efforts weren't helped when Ted Hill was red carded for a dangerous tackle on Lloyd Evans.

Billy Searle converted the Vailanu try and with the clock in red, that ended the game.





# THE NEW ARTIFICIAL SURFACE AT KINGSHOLM



Over the summer, Gloucester Rugby made a serious investment in a new artificial playing surface at Kingsholm.

The new 3G pitch is a state-of-the-art surface and uses the latest technology to make the pitch the best artificial playing surface in the Gallagher Premiership.

Head Groundsman, Stu Lambert, is hugely excited about the new pitch and has enjoyed the challenge of maintaining an artificial surface.

"It's been good to be fair," he said. "It's bedding in well and the players are obviously enjoying playing on it. It's a lot different to maintain than the original pitch and this one should be a lot better when the winter months come in!"

Contrary to what some might think, the surface is called a 3G pitch. 4G pitches don't exist.

"4G does not exist," the groundsman explained. "It does not exist in anything but phone technology! Every synthetic surface you see with an infill like this is all 3G. It's the latest 3G on the market."

There are a few other artificial surfaces in the league with

Worcester, Saracens and Newcastle all using 3G pitches, but the new surface at Kingsholm uses newer technology.

"It's got a thicker yarn within the carpet system. It's got a green PROgraninfill and the reason for that is aesthetically it looks better, you get reduced smell from the rubber, and it reduces the heat and friction from the sun in the summer months.

"Going on to the carpet, it's got a fibrillated yarn in it. It's like a webbed system in there. Over time that starts to open up which will encapsulate the rubber so when you see the ball bounce, you won't get a massive puff of infill. Especially on the third and fourth bounce, you won't see anything.

"We've got a unique shock pad under here which is called a Brock Pad. The difference is that it's used a lot in the NFL. It's a firmer shock pad than the in-situ ones which they glue on.

"It's firmer and the idea behind that is to make the game quicker and it helps recovery. It's passed all the testing and it's out tested any of the other shock pads out on the market.





**"WE'VE GOT A  
UNIQUE SHOCK  
PAD UNDER HERE  
WHICH IS CALLED  
A BROCK PAD. THE  
DIFFERENCE IS  
THAT IT'S USED A  
LOT IN THE NFL"**



"And it's recyclable. It's the first one of its kind in the UK."

Maintaining an artificial pitch requires a serious amount of effort and Stu and his team will spend just as much time looking after this pitch as they did looking after the original one.

"We've got a whole new set of machines," he said. "The lawn mowers obviously aren't needed anymore! We've got a brush system that we use every morning before every training sessions for the players.

"We've got a sweeper system coming in that will sweep all the debris up. What that will do is sweep and vacuum the debris up and then drop the rubber back down through a sieve so it will keep it clean.

"We've also got a technology called intelligent play which monitors the pitch 24 hours a day. We work with that and it tells us as and when we need to maintain it. It will also tell us where the players have used areas more and where we need to maintain more."

One of the easiest ways to maintain the pitch is to ensure that it doesn't get damaged in the first place and one of the quickest ways to destroy an artificial surface is by wearing the wrong footwear.

"Flat sole shoes literally knacker the system. The longer that we can keep the fibres stood up right, the longer it will last and the better it will be for the players to play on.

"If we let everyone on the pitch at the end of the game then it would be ruined in 12 months and it would then be a fairly heavy cost to then repair the carpet.

"We've got to look after it in the best way we can."

It is easy to see if a pitch has been looked after or not. When the wrong footwear is worn, there is an instant tell.

"You can see on the telly that when you look at some artificial pitches, they look shiny. The flat soled footwear flattens the fibres and makes them shine. Whereas ours will look a lot different. Once it starts to go sideways, players are more prone to getting burns as opposed to when it is upright."

Another key was of ensuring that the players don't burn themselves is by watering the pitch.

"We're doing a few experiments with it at the moment. It's obviously not ideal to be throwing a wet ball around but we're trying to gage when the best time to water it is. And the best time for the players to feel the benefit of the water coming on.

"With the water as well, in the summer, it helps cool it down. We're doing a bit of research into it now and we think it drops the temperature by about 5 degrees, just by putting a shot of water on it.

"It helps with the burns and reduces the friction as well."

There is a new indoor pitch in the new training facility which uses exactly the same technology, and it has been great for the club to have the players all training at a Kingsholm base under one roof.





# SEAN LYNN LOOKS FORWARD TO “TASTY ENCOUNTER” AGAINST WASPS LADIES FC

GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY WOMEN CURRENTLY SIT 5TH IN THE ALLIANZ PREMIER 15S TABLE AFTER FOUR ROUNDS AND HAVE A “TASTY ENCOUNTER” AGAINST 6TH PLACED WASPS ON THE ROAD THIS SUNDAY.

Head Coach, Sean Lynn, is pleased with how the season is going as his side have taken two wins from the four fixtures.

“It’s going well,” Lynn said. “The target that we set was to score a point in every game. Obviously, we want to be winning as many games as we can and if you take Saturday for example, when we played Harlequins at home, it was 18-14 with three minutes to go and they scored at the death to win 21-18.”

It was a frustrating game for Gloucester-Hartpury who looked like they were going to defeat the reigning champions before a late try turned the result.

“It’s a shame really because we had opportunities where we could have taken the game away from Quins but we didn’t take those and they did. It’s a learning curve for us.



"It was frustrating and a lot of teams in the league would have been pleased with a losing bonus point from Harlequins, but it just goes to show where we want to be this year. We were really disappointed to come away without the win from the game."

The beautiful thing about the Allianz Premier 15s is that it doesn't take long for the next game to come around and provide an opportunity to right some wrongs.

"We've got a big game on Sunday vs Wasps who are in sixth position. That's a big game for us because we're playing at the Coventry Building Society Arena. And it's a great showcase for the girls to go there and put a marker down before the Autumn Internationals.

"We are seeing this weekend as a big game for us and we're looking forward to building on this loss from Saturday."

Wasps Ladies FC have had a mixed season so far with two wins against Worcester Warriors Women and Loughborough Lightning as well as losses to Saracens Women and Exeter Chiefs Women. Being coached by Giselle Mather they will be a tough challenge for Lynn's side.

"Wasps are very physical and well drilled. They've got a very physical set of forwards and they've got match winning backs. Especially one

individual, Abi Dow who's been going really well this season.

"The history between Gloucester-Hartpury and Wasps means it's always going to be a tasty encounter. The two clubs are always on the lookout for each other, and we always look forward to playing each other."

It's an exciting time at Gloucester-Hartpury with four international signings recently being announced.

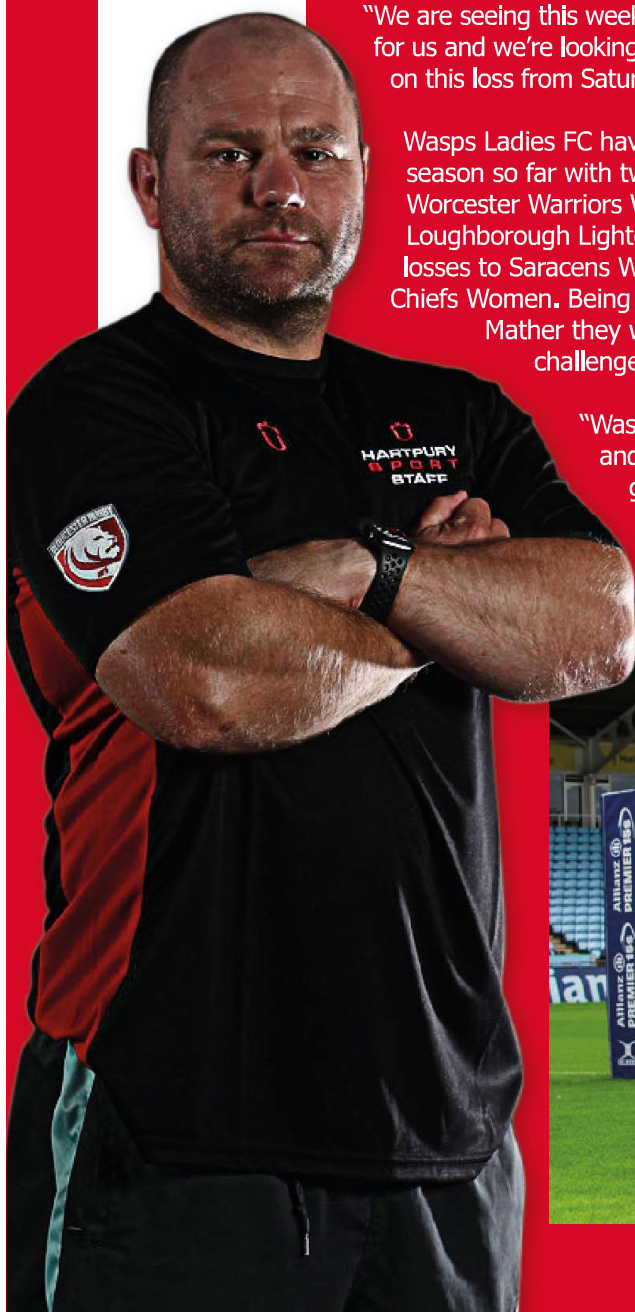
"Anna Caplice joined us last Monday and she came on for 25 minutes on Saturday and made a massive impact. She made two turnovers and was a really good asset. It's just about making sure that we're strengthening our squad.

"We've got Katie Dougan from Scotland joining us at the end of the month and then Maya Learned and Kristine Sommer who are coming from America. They're all internationals and should be a great addition to the squad."

The Allianz Premier 15s is a tough, competitive league and having a strong squad is key to putting in performances across the season.

"To be competitive in this league, we've got to have strength and depth in our squad. I think it's always healthy for the squad to be competing for places and making sure that the 23 man squad that we put out on Saturday is a competitive 23. We're excited for them to come over."

Gloucester-Hartpury play Wasps Ladies FC on Sunday at 5:15pm at the Coventry Building Society Arena.





## THE TEAMS



VS



T P C D

T P C D

				Jason <b>WOODWARD</b>	<b>15</b>	Simon <b>HAMMERSLEY</b>				
				Louis <b>REES-ZAMMIT</b>	<b>14</b>	Denny <b>SOLOMONA</b>				
				Chris <b>HARRIS</b>	<b>13</b>	Sam <b>JAMES</b>				
				Mark <b>ATKINSON</b>	<b>12</b>	Luke <b>JAMES</b>				
				Jonny <b>MAY</b>	<b>11</b>	Arron <b>REED</b>				
				Adam <b>HASTINGS</b>	<b>10</b>	Kieran <b>WILKINSON</b>				
				Ben <b>MEEHAN</b>	<b>9</b>	Raffi <b>QUIRKE</b>				
				Harry <b>ELRINGTON</b>	<b>1</b>	Ross <b>HARRISON (C)</b>				
				Jack <b>SINGLETON</b>	<b>2</b>	Curtis <b>LANGDON</b>				
				Kirill <b>GOTOVTSEV</b>	<b>3</b>	Coenie <b>OOTHUIZEN</b>				
				Freddie <b>CLARKE</b>	<b>4</b>	JL. <b>DU PREEZ</b>				
				Andrew <b>DAVIDSON</b>	<b>5</b>	JP. <b>DU PREEZ</b>				
				Ruan <b>ACKERMANN</b>	<b>6</b>	Cameron <b>NEILD</b>				
				Lewis <b>LUDLOW (C)</b>	<b>7</b>	Sam <b>DUGDALE</b>				
				Ben <b>MORGAN</b>	<b>8</b>	D. <b>DU PREEZ</b>				

## REPLACEMENTS

				Matt <b>MOULDS</b>	<b>16</b>	Tommy <b>TAYLOR</b>				
				Val <b>RAPAVA-RUSKIN</b>	<b>17</b>	Simon <b>MCINTYRE</b>				
				Jamal <b>FORD-ROBINSON</b>	<b>18</b>	Nick <b>SCHONERT</b>				
				Matias <b>ALEMANNO</b>	<b>19</b>	Cobus <b>WIESE</b>				
				Jack <b>CLEMENT</b>	<b>20</b>	Jono <b>ROSS</b>				
				Charlie <b>CHAPMAN</b>	<b>21</b>	Gus <b>WARR</b>				
				Billy <b>TWELVETREES</b>	<b>22</b>	Tom <b>CURTIS</b>				
				Kyle <b>MOYLE</b>	<b>23</b>	Tom <b>ROEBUCK</b>				

## MATCH OFFICIALS

**Referee:** Christophe Ridley (45th Premiership game).  
**Assistant Referees:** George Selwood and Anthony Woodthorpe.  
**TMO:** Sara Cox. **Citing Officer:** John Byett.