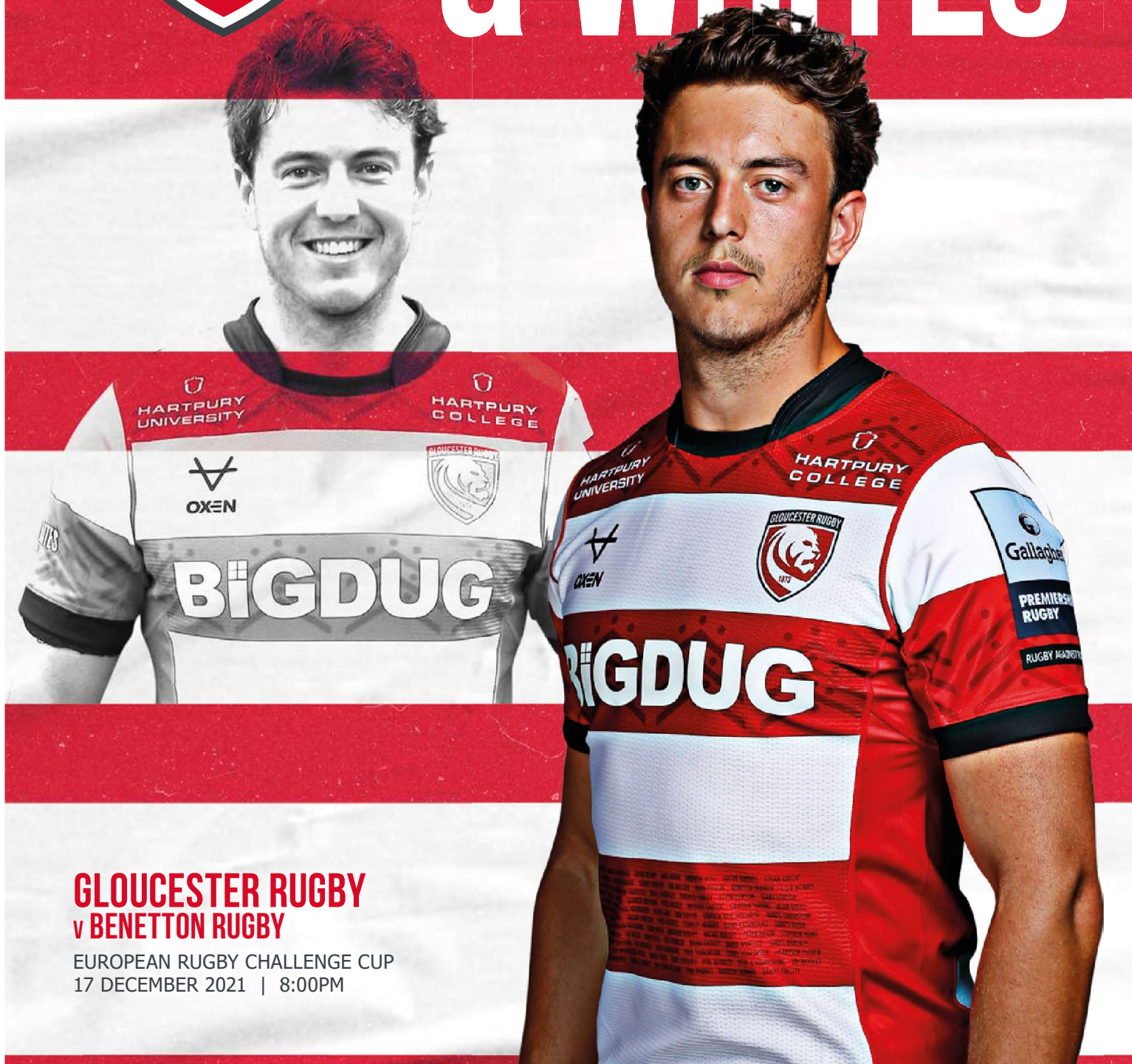




CHERRY & WHITES



GLOUCESTER RUGBY v BENETTON RUGBY

EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP
17 DECEMBER 2021 | 8:00PM





GLOUCESTER RUGBY

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LANCE BRADLEY

CEO

WELCOME BACK TO ANOTHER FRIDAY NIGHT UNDER THE LIGHTS, AND OUR FIRST HOME EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP TIE OF THIS SEASON. I'D LIKE TO EXTEND AN ESPECIALLY WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE FROM BENETTON RUGBY.

Last weekend saw us come back from Lyon with a losing bonus point, and while no-one enjoys losing, if you watched the game you'll know what a fantastic performance the squad put in there. Our pack in particular was, I thought, outstanding. It just shows the strength in depth we now have, when George can make changes to the squad, including introducing so many youngsters, and yet still produce a performance like that.

The future is bright...

For our visitors tonight this is their first game in this year's competition, and they're enjoying a decent season in the United Rugby Championship, sitting just inside the top half. So we're looking forward to a competitive match tonight, but a win would put us in a great position to progress from our group. As always, your support will play a big part.

You will have noticed coming into the ground this evening that we have introduced additional Covid-related checks as part of the Government's 'Plan B' requirements.

I'd like to thank our stewards, security team and our volunteer

games-makers who are carrying out these checks and helping to keep you as safe as possible while you're at the game. Without them our games couldn't take place, so do please show them your appreciation.

I'd also like to thank you for your understanding of these new measures. It's always been our intention to make Kingsholm as safe and welcoming as possible for fans, and you working with us on these measures will help us achieve that.

Masks are not mandatory in the outside areas of the stadium, but if you can wear one please do. You may just make the person near you feel that bit more comfortable, and more inclined to come again.

As a final point on these new measures, I'd ask for your understanding in avoiding contact with the players for the time being. We very much hope that the current restrictions are temporary, and we're anxious to avoid the situation we had at the end of last season, when we were forced to forfeit our final couple of games because of positive tests within the playing group.

Looking forward, our next home game after tonight is against Harlequins on January 2nd, and it's already looking like this is going to be a sell out. So if you are planning to come do get your tickets soon.

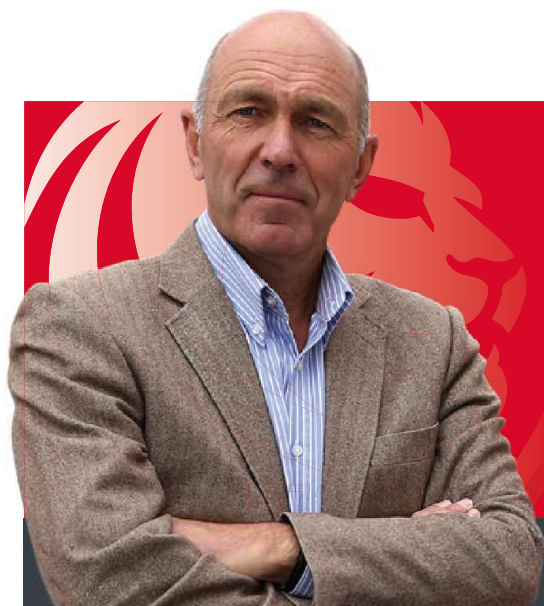
I'll be wandering around the ground this evening before kick off again, so if you see me do come over and say hello, and let me know what you think of how things are going. I'm always interested to hear your thoughts.

Finally, as this is our last game before Christmas, I'd like to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas, and a great New Year.

Your support over the last year has been nothing short of amazing, and we really appreciate it. Hopefully we can play our part in making 2022 a great year by giving you plenty to cheer about.

Together, we are a squad of thousands.

**Best wishes
Lance**



MARTIN ST. QUINTON

CHAIRMAN

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM AS WE TAKE ON BENETTON TREVISO IN THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP. I ALWAYS FIND THESE EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS EXCITING AS IT GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY AGAINST TOTALLY DIFFERENT OPPOSITION.

Last weekend a relatively young Gloucester Rugby side really held their own against Lyon, a Top 14 team. We managed to come away with a losing bonus point, but if truth be told we played so well that we could have easily come away with more.

Our scrum was dominant against a big French pack and I think that performance gives us great momentum as we head into the second round of the competition tonight.

As I welcome all of our fans back to Kingsholm for this game we move again in strange times. We very much appreciate all of you taking the measures the government has asked to allow us all to come to Kingsholm and be as safe as possible.

It is in times like these that we all really value live sport. I hope that a good win against our Italian rivals sets us up for an enjoyable festive period.

Enjoy the game. Happy Christmas and every good wish for a successful 2022!

Martin





LAST TIME WE MET

GLOUCESTER RUGBY COMPLETE THE ITALIAN JOB WITH BONUS POINT WIN IN TREVISO.

It was a case of triumph over adversity for Gloucester in Italy this weekend, their pre-match preparations ruined by a relocation of the game. However, it was a job well done for the Cherry and Whites who defeated Benetton Treviso 41-0 in freezing conditions to top pool one.

It was a weekend when there were so many excuses ready at hand should things have not gone to plan. The plane was held at the airport before allowing the squad to disembark, the pitch was unfit to play at the Stade Communale di Monigo, the game was played on a 4G pitch at Treviso's training ground.

But, in a demonstration of this team's growing confidence and maturity, the Gloucester Rugby squad shrugged off all of these potential speed bumps and delivered a professional performance, resulting in a 41-0 victory that takes them back to top of pool one in the European Rugby Challenge Cup with one round to play.

It was old school rugby in a way, supporters crowded around the pitch, just a few metres from the field of play. There was no scoreboard and the floodlights weren't great. But Gloucester didn't let this affect them.

They were backed by an amazing travelling support – hats off to those who travelled in the first place – let alone made their way to the secondary location before backing the side in fantastic fashion. They'll talk about this for years to come!

Even with a comfortable 18-0 half time lead and two tries already scored, there was pressure. As time ticked by and with the pitch visibly freezing, the sneaking suspicion grew that the referee might call time after 60 minutes when the result would stand.

So, to stay focused, complete the job in hand and secure a try scoring bonus point was a phenomenal effort and Gloucester know now that a bonus point win at home to Bayonne next weekend will secure the group and possibly a home quarter-final.

The build-up to the game was, to say the least, eventful. Upon arrival at the Stade Communale di Monigo, referee Thomas Charabas ruled that the playing surface was unplayable.

A period of confusion followed as officials determined the best play of action and, eventually, it was decided that the match would go ahead after a two hour delay at Benetton Treviso's training ground on a 4G surface.

The temperature started to drop markedly as game approached, and it was no surprise that there was plenty of kick tennis in the opening exchanges, interrupted only by Greig Laidlaw opening the scoring with an 8th minute penalty when Treviso were caught offside.

A frustrating period of play followed with both teams relying mostly on the boot. However, Ben Morgan lifted the spirits with a powerful run before Gloucester lost an attacking five metre lineout.

The first try wasn't far away though. Charlie Sharples counter attacked from a kick downfield, and made good ground before he linked up with James Hook and the full-back skated over. Laidlaw converted for 0-10.

An overthrown Treviso lineout then almost led to the second try as Jacob Rowan gathered and accelerated brilliantly downfield. Billy Burns tried the cross-kick tactic but Gloucester couldn't quite finish.

However, Gloucester stuck to their game plan and finally got their reward from the catch and drive as half time approached. The maul was well set and Richard Hibbard claimed the try. Laidlaw added another excellent conversion for 0-17.

That was it for the first half and the Cherry and Whites could reflect on a job reasonably well done with two tries already in the bag. It hadn't been spectacular stuff, but Gloucester had gone about their job in a professional manner. Now they needed to finish the job.

Things didn't look promising at the start of the second half. It wasn't good to watch, there were errors galore and Treviso managed to dominate possession without really threatening.

But credit to players and supporters alike, there was no sign of panic. They knew the chances would come and they were prepared to wait for them.

Try-machine Matt Scott duly delivered, cutting a great angle before breaking a tackle to score. One more try would clinch the try scoring bonus point but the clock was ticking and the pitch was freezing.

And, at last, that crucial score game. The catch and drive again proved to be a potent weapon, and Man of the Match Richard Hibbard touched down.

That obstacle overcome, Gloucester duly closed out the game. There was a touch of fortune with a wicked bounce as David Halaifonua scored the fifth, but the Tongan finished well and there was still time for Billy Twelvetrees to add a sixth with the final play of the game.

Freezing conditions, but Gloucester kept their cool...

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

SEASON 1971-72

FIFTY YEARS AGO, GLOUCESTER WON THE FIRST
NATIONAL KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION
SEASON RECORD: PLAYED 49 WON 37 LOST 9
DRAWN 3 FOR 821 AGAINST 414
CAPTAIN: MIKE NICHOLLS

The 1971-72 season would prove to be one of the best in Gloucester's history. Under the inspiring leadership of Mike Nicholls, the club won the inaugural RFU National Knock-Out Competition. Much of the success stemmed from a mighty set of forwards. The front row was made up of Robin Cowling, Mike Nicholls and Mike Burton, supported in the second row by Alan Brinn and Jim Jarrett. The back row of John Watkins, Mike Potter and Dick Smith was one of the best, if not the best, in the country. The pressure exerted by the forwards was relentless and when the opposition offended Eric Stephens would kick the penalties, and Bob Clewes score the tries. Before each game Mike Nicholls would give a pep talk which was apparently a frightening experience, even to the Gloucester players! But the fact remains that Nicholls was one of the most inspiring captains in the long history of the club.

In the seventies, the RFU was still very conservative, and only grudgingly conceded that it might be necessary to introduce a competition to spark national interest in rugby union. They could not countenance something called a "cup", and so named it the National Knock-Out Competition. All the same everybody called it "The Cup". 32 clubs were selected to take part, but there were no fixed dates for the games, so the clubs had to make their own arrangements, and the first-round ties were usually played when two clubs would be meeting in the normal course of fixtures.



Mike Nicholls



Richard Jardine and Eric Stephens

30 SEPTEMBER 1971: BATH 3 GLOUCESTER 12

Team: Ron Etheridge; Bob Clewes, John Bayliss, Richard Jardine, Eric Stephens; Tom Palmer, Mickey Booth; Robin Cowling, Mike Nicholls, Mike Burton, Alan Brinn, Nigel Jackson, John Watkins, Jerry Herniman, Dick Smith

The very first tie played was between Gloucester and Bath at the "Rec" in a mid-week evening game. After early Bath pressure, Gloucester got well on top, with Nicholls winning several strikes against the head. At half-time Gloucester led by two Stephens penalties. It was the same story in the second period, and although Bayliss and Jardine came close to tries, it was Stephens who kicked another two penalties to see Gloucester home.

8 DECEMBER 1971: BRISTOL 4 GLOUCESTER 15

Team: Ron Etheridge; Bob Clewes, John Bayliss, Bob White, Eric Stephens; Tom Palmer, Mickey Booth; Robin Cowling, Mike Nicholls, Mike Burton, Alan Brinn, Jim Jarrett, John Watkins, Mike Potter, Dick Smith

Gloucester played the game they knew best. The pack won the ball, and Potter and Booth would kick the ball high and chased. Bristol had little answer. Bayliss was at his best, running straight and very hard. After 30 minutes Stephens opened the scoring with a penalty, and four minutes later Booth put Clewes in for a decisive try in the corner, which Stephens converted



Mickey Booth and Bob Clewes

for a nine point interval lead. Early in the second half, Stephens landed another penalty, but Peter Knight scored a try for Bristol, only for Pearn to miss the conversion from in front of the posts. Gloucester soon gained ascendancy again, and a further Stephens penalty sealed the win.

4 MARCH 1972: LONDON WELSH 4 GLOUCESTER 9

Team: Eric Stephens; Bob Clewes, Richard Jardine, John Bayliss, John Dix; Tom Palmer, Mickey Booth; Robin Cowling, Mike Nicholls, Mike Burton, Nigel Jackson, Jim Jarrett, John Watkins, Mike Potter, John Haines

Gloucester had now reached the quarter-final, but were drawn away to London Welsh, at that time the best club side in the country. Nobody gave Gloucester a chance. The Welsh fielded 11 internationals, four of whom were also British Lions, Gerald Davies on the wing, John Dawes in the centre, John Taylor and Mervyn Davies in the back row. But the game would prove to be one of the greatest in Gloucester's long history. Playing against a strong wind in the first half, Gloucester won the first scrum against the head, and thwarted any attempt by the Welsh to mount sustained attacks. They scored a try through scrum-half Billy Hullin, but in the second half, with the wind at their backs Gloucester turned the screw, and the back row of John Watkins, John Haines (Dick Smith was injured) and in particular Mike Potter made life increasingly difficult for the home team. Eric Stephens kicked a penalty and then, with 18 minutes remaining, Mickey Booth lofted a kick almost to the Welsh try line and Potter was on hand to drive over. Stephens kicked the conversion. London Welsh fought back but Gloucester were not to be denied and hung on for a 9-4 victory, which no-one at the ground would ever forget.

25 MARCH 1972: COVENTRY 6 GLOUCESTER 6

Team: Eric Stephens; Bob Clewes, Richard Jardine, John Bayliss, John Dix; Tom Palmer, Mickey Booth; Robin Cowling, Mike Nicholls, Mike Burton, Alan Brinn, Nigel Jackson, John Watkins, Mike Potter, Dick Smith

The semi-final at Coventry was a hard, bad-tempered game, where according to one reporter "fear stalked the pitch". No tries were scored. In the first half Eric Stephens kicked a penalty, whilst Peter Rossborough replied in kind for Coventry. However, just before half-time Stephens kicked a huge drop goal from near halfway. In a very rough second half the only score was a Rossborough penalty. The game ended 6-6, and Gloucester went through because they were the away team in a game of no tries.

29 APRIL 1972: GLOUCESTER 17 MOSELEY 6 (TWICKENHAM)

Team: Eric Stephens; Bob Clewes, Roy Morris, John Bayliss, John Dix; Tom Palmer, Mickey Booth; Robin Cowling, Mike Nicholls, Mike Burton, Alan Brinn, Jim Jarrett, John Watkins, Mike Potter, Dick Smith

Gloucester had reached the final having played all their games away from home. On a wet day, the Cherry & Whites ran out under a canopy of elver nets. Within a minute Moseley scored a try. A poor clearance kick was run back by Swain who scored in the corner. Sam Doble converted. Four minutes later, the Moseley forward Nigel Horton was sent off for punching Dick Smith. After nine minutes Bayliss worked a scissors move with Alan Brinn. Dix was on hand to burrow over for the try. On a windy day Stephens missed the conversion. Before half-time, injury reduced Moseley to 13, and Gloucester took advantage when Morris crossed for another unconverted try.

In the second half, Moseley lost yet another player to injury, but fought bravely with only 12 men. Even with that advantage Gloucester could not score another try, and had to rely on a penalty from Stephens, and very late on, drop goals from Palmer and Booth.

A measure of how tough Gloucester were that season is shown by the fact that just two days after the exhausting semi-final at Coventry, the team had to travel to play Newport. Gloucester won 9-3. Twelve of that team had played in the semi-final.



The winning team receive their caps

LLOYD EVANS TAKES UP A NEW POSITION



Lloyd Evans has enjoyed some good form so far this season and has been enjoying playing at Kingsholm and helping the Cherry and Whites in their strong start to the campaign.

Developing his assets as a rugby player, Lloyd has recently started playing at fullback and the fly-half feels that this is something that will make him a more rounded and versatile player.

"It's something that me and Skivs (George Skivington) have spoken about before. Being an option there

as well as my role at 10. We kind of agreed that having that versatility was a good thing going forward and it will help develop me as a player as I experience both positions. I'm just seeing it as a really positive thing and something a bit different.

"I've played there a little bit in the past and at the end of the day I'm out there on the pitch and enjoying the game time."



With Scotland international fly-half Adam Hastings joining the club in the summer, there is healthy competition in the squad for the starting 10 shirt and it is a credit to the Gloucester Rugby Academy product that he can still contribute even if out of position.

"I really appreciate that and Skivs having that faith in me. Hopefully we see the benefits of having another playmaker on the field and getting my hands on the ball and stuff. It's really positive."

There are many similarities with fly-half and fullback and being able to operate in both positions really adds a string to the 26-year-olds bow.

"You get more work under the high ball but these days as a 10 you find yourself in the backfield quite a bit. Especially with this new 50/22 rule. You normally have two guys covering that back field which is usually 15 and 10.

"The difference in attack, as a 10 you're getting your hands on the ball quite a lot more but at 15 you can kind of see the picture quite nicely from there and it's just about, for me personally, still having that playmaker role as a 15.

"We've got some really good playmakers in our backline so it's about trying to get my hands on the ball as much as possible and create space for the wingers and centres. It's quite enjoyable in terms of that."

It makes sense to have another playmaker in the backline and as Lloyd mentions, if our wingers are put in any space then they are lethal finishers so it makes sense to have another distributor in the team.

"Playing a lot at fly-half, I've got a good understanding of what

the 10 wants and in terms of communication. It's different from playing fly-half. You find yourself in different positions which is quite interesting. We've got really good play making centres as well so it's just about getting as many opportunities as we can to our electric wingers."

A few years ago England used both George Ford and Owen Farrell to similar effect and there is an idea that the number on the back of your shirt is becoming less important in modern rugby.

"We saw with England in the Autumn Internationals where there was more rotation in set positions than we've seen in a while. You look at New Zealand and they are quite similar in that it doesn't always matter what number you have on your shirt.

"They've got forwards who are as good as backs. I think it's definitely moving that way. England seem to be forward thinkers at the moment in terms of really testing that. It's really interesting the way that it's going to go and how things are going to develop in terms of that.

"I just want to be a genuine option in different positions. A lot of top players have that versatility. You look at someone like Owen Farrell who plays 10 and 12. Yeah, I'm a fly-half but it's only positive that I can play in different positions and be a genuine option there as well."

Lloyd Evans will have another opportunity to test his skills at fullback against Benetton on Friday night and after a losing bonus point against Lyon last time out, the Cherry and Whites are in a good position going into this game.

"Credit to the squad that went to Lyon. What Skivs is building is a deep squad with players who can come into the system and keep delivering the same job. We saw in the Premiership Cup games some really strong performances from the young players who are coming in and I think it was a seamless transition really.

"It was a brilliant result and we've got a great opportunity this Friday to build on that. It was a really important point out in France against a loaded Lyon team so it's a great opportunity and the whole squad is pretty excited."



CAMERON JORDAN



ON SCORING TRIES AGAINST LYON AND BEING ON LOAN AT HARTPURY



Cameron Jordan made a super sub performance in our Challenge Cup fixture against Lyon last Friday night and scored a great try with his first touch of the ball.

"I'd like to say that all of my first touches are that good but that would be a lie!"

The second row forward has been on loan at Hartpury this season but after impressing George Skivington and the coaching staff, he was recalled for the Lyon trip and put in a performance to remember.

"The whole weekend was quite a strange experience. In terms of how matchdays go, we were in the hotel and we weren't allowed outside

because it was all a bit strict in terms of quarantine stuff.

"We weren't allowed out just to reduce the risk of any players getting taken down by covid so we weren't allowed to leave the hotel. It was a long old day with it being a 9pm kick off. We got there the afternoon of the day before and there was a lot of time to kill!"

"As far as preparing for a match, it was certainly a late one! I got on in the second half so it probably wasn't until about 10pm until I got on which is definitely the latest I've got onto a rugby pitch!"

It was a great try. Santiago Carreras made a darting break into the Lyon

half and Cam then collected the ball 15m out and refused to be held down until he was over the try line.

It's another success story of the loan system we have with Hartpury. Cam has been playing some consistent rugby and earned the opportunity to show what he could do back in the Cherry and White shirt.

"I've been on loan this season at Hartpury along with a lot of other players from Gloucester Rugby. I basically sat down with Hoggy (Carl Hogg) the weekend before and he said that you're going to be back with Gloucester Rugby next week so he said go and enjoy this weekend playing with Hartpury, it will probably be your last one for a month because



we want you in to do a block with Gloucester Rugby. They thought I'd been doing well out on loan so they thought they'd give me a shot.

"Skivs (George Skivington) then told me when I turned up on Monday that I was going to be on the bench for the Lyon game which I was obviously buzzing to hear!"

There is a good group of Gloucester Rugby Academy players at Hartpury and they are all pushing each other to be the best they can be.

"I think there's about eight of us at Hartpury at the minute and it just gives us time and an opportunity to get game time that otherwise we might not get. If you look at some other clubs around the country, there are a lot of young lads who just hold pads whereas here at Gloucester Rugby a lot get sent out on loan to get game time which is ultimately how you get better.

"It's great that they trust us to go out and you end up taking your development into your own hands a lot because you're away from the club. When you're in it's easy because you've got a watchful eye over you at all times, and you almost feel under pressure to do things, whereas when you're away and no one's watching it's then more down to you and how willing you are to do the extras."

Not only was it a superb try but Cam looked comfortable playing at this level and is proof that the loan system is working well.

"It's how I wanted to come back into the set up. I've been away at Hartpury and I feel I've worked on a few things and now I've come back into the environment and hopefully I can show what I'm about."

Cam will now be training with Gloucester Rugby for the next few weeks and will hope to impress in training and earn another opportunity to show what he can do.

"I've got a few weeks left on this blockback with Gloucester Rugby. Because of this new covid variant, there's a lot less moving around between camps so originally, I was still going to play for Hartpury but train with Gloucester Rugby in the week.

"That's not looking like a possibility now but it's a great opportunity to stay at Gloucester Rugby and show the coaches what I can do."




 CLICK HERE TO
WATCH THE
INTERVIEW

ZOE ALDCROFT WINS WORLD RUGBY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

World Rugby have announced Gloucester-Hartpury's Zoe Aldcroft as their Women's Player of the Year. Having been nominated alongside Caroline Boujard (France), Poppy Cleall (England) and Laure Sansus (France), Aldcroft won the vote and was awarded the title in front of her teammates by Maggie Alphonsi at training.

Aldcroft has played a key role in England's 18 game winning streak and captained the side in their most recent fixture where she also scored a try as the Red Roses defeated the USA 89-0.

Aldcroft joins the likes of Emily Scarratt and Sarah Hunter as English players to have won the World Rugby Player of the Year award and she was shocked when she found out she had won it.

"I am absolutely shocked and made up to be named World

Rugby Women's 15s Player of the Year 2021. It was an honour to be nominated in the first instance and I'm absolutely over the moon.

"Having seen the likes of Emily Scarratt and Sarah Hunter, who I have the privilege of playing with, win this award in recent years and to follow in their footsteps is an amazing feeling.

"Any individual awards are a reflection of a team effort and I'd like to dedicate this to all of the teammates, coaching and management staff that I work with for club and country. Their support is invaluable and I can't thank them enough for everything they do.

"From an England perspective, we're looking forward to the Six Nations and then the World Cup in New Zealand later in 2022 – we're heading into a huge year for the women's game."

Winning the award completely took Zoe by surprise but she did think it was a bit strange when Maggie Alphonsi turned up to training.

"World Rugby came into Hartpury and sat all of the girls down whilst we were doing our analysis. Maggie then came up to the front and was talking about England rugby and I was like 'what's going on here?!'

"And then she was like 'Zoe Aldcroft, you've won World Rugby's player of the year' and I was like, 'Oh my God' and all of the girls went wild."

It was really special for Zoe to have shared that moment with her Gloucester-Hartpury teammates.

"I play with these girls week in and week out and they see everything that goes on so it was great to be able to celebrate with them."



GLOUCESTER RUGBY TAKE LOSING BONUS POINT FROM OPENING CHALLENGE CUP FIXTURE

Gloucester Rugby put in a strong performance against Lyon but the French sides' experience and physicality showed as the Cherry and Whites come away with the 19-13 loss to the Top 14 team.

What happened?

Cameron Jordan came on off the bench to score the Cherry and White's try in the second half after what was an arm wrestle of an opening 40 minutes.

Both sides were evenly matched, and it was a tight first half with the Gloucester Rugby side dominating in certain areas of the game.

Our scrum was on the front foot and considering the relative inexperience of the side, things looked positive as we went into the break 6-3 down.

There were some crucial moments in the game and turnovers from Santigao Socino and Jack Clement really helped knock Lyon's momentum and keep us in the game.

In the second half, Billy Twelvetrees was able to draw us level thanks to a penalty but it was Lyon who went over for the first try of the game when Jordan Taufua got over the line. The conversion was good and Lyon extended their lead.

After missing his first kick at goal, Doussain was accurate from the

tee and slotted another penalty to keep the home side ticking.

Having been forced off the pitch for a HIA, Santiago Carreras returned to the field wanting to make a real impression and sparked a great attacking display from the Cherry and Whites through a silky line break.

The move created the momentum for Cameron Jordan, who was playing for Hartpury last weekend, to collect the ball and the second row refused to be brought down until he was over the try line.

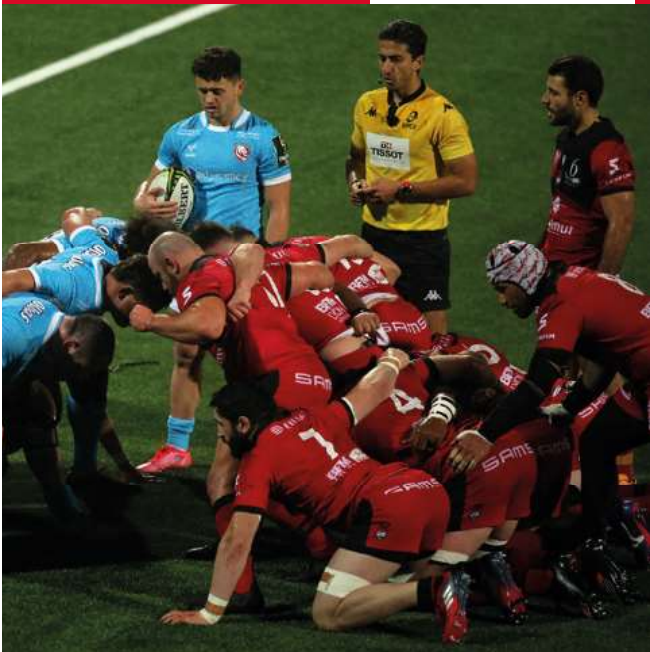
The conversion was good and we were suddenly back in the game with the score 16-13.

However, Lyon were able to capitalise on a Gloucester Rugby error and Pelissie slotted the penalty to extend the Lyon lead.

At the end of the game, Gloucester Rugby refused to give up and Jack Clement kick started a big dash to the line. The attack was good and progress was made but in the end we were held up in the tackle and when the maul was called and the ball didn't come out, Lyon knew they had won the game.

However, Gloucester Rugby's efforts are rewarded with the losing bonus point and each individual will hold their head high having given the best representation of themselves for the full 80 minutes.





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



IRB RUGBY WORLD CUP 2015 JAPAN VERSUS THE USA 11/10/15

It was a special moment when the Japanese team went over to the Compeed Shed and bowed in front of them in acknowledgement of the support they receive during the game. It was quite touching really.



OLLIE THORLEY GOES ON ONE OF HIS WINDING RUNS DOWN THE WING GLOUCESTER V EXETER AT SANDY PARK 8/12/18

I like this image because of the lighting and the fine mist and it was that year that no one could catch him!

LAST MINUTE TRY GLOUCESTER V EXETER 15/02/19 AT KINGSHOLM

The fans went absolutely bananas behind me for a last minute try they were banging on the advertising boards and screaming and it was one of the loudest I've heard the place. You can see the passion and the delight in their faces in this photo.



OLLIE THORLEY EMBRACES FAN GLOUCESTER V EXETER 8/12/18

After a good win away at Exeter, Ollie receives some love from a travelling fan. Our fans really wear their heart on their sleeves and make special efforts to travel all over the country and abroad so it's nice when the players bond with them after a good win.