

# TES



HARTPURY





## GLOUCESTER RUGBY V HARLEQUINS

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP 2 JANUARY 2022 | 3:00PM

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PREMIERSHIP RUGBY













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#### **GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

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- 07 Lance Bradley
- 09 Martin St. Quinton
- 15 Club News
- 16 Men's Squad
- 18 In Opposition / Harlequins
- 21 Last Time We Met
- **22** Gloucester Rugby Heritage
- 24 Feature Interview / Louis Rees-Zammitt
- 27 Eat Like A Pro
- 29 Academy Squad
- 30 Academy Feature
- 33 Stats Corner35 Gloucester Rugby Foundation
- **36** Gloucester-Hartpury Women Squad
- 38 Last Time Out / Bath Rugby
- **41** Junior Supporters
- **42** Gloucester-Hartpury Women Feature





### WELCOME TO OUR FIRST GAME OF THE NEW YEAR, AND LET'S HOPE 2022 TURNS OUT TO BE A GOOD ONE — BOTH ON AND OFF THE PITCH. I WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

This afternoon we welcome reigning champions Harlequins, who are currently sitting just one place and one point ahead of us in the Gallagher Premiership table. We're looking forward to a great match.

I'm not sure how many people would have predicted at the end of last season that we'd start 2022 in the top four, having just come off a record win at our old rivals Bath.

But here we are, in exactly that position. No-one is getting complacent, of course, and we all know there's still a lot of work to do to get to where we want to be, but isn't it great to see our team doing so well?

And it's not just in the Premiership that things are going well.

Although we were disappointed to lose this week in the Premiership Cup, we still sit on top of our group with eleven points from three games. Our commitment to build for the future with investment in our Academy has been clear for all to see with the significant number of youngsters playing in these Cup games.

Our next home game after today is against Perpignan in the European Challenge Cup. And this is where we could really do with your support. This is going to be a crucial game for us in this competition, and you all know what a huge difference it makes to the players having a big crowd behind them at Kingsholm.

Tickets start at £10 for juniors and £20 for adults, plus booking fee, so if you're free on Saturday 22nd January do please come along and cheer the boys on. We're currently second in our group, and a win in this game could see us secure a place in the next round. You wouldn't want to miss that, would you? Click here to buy your ticket now.

OUR COMMITMENT TO **BUILD FOR THE FUTURE** WITH INVESTMENT IN OUR ACADEMY **HAS BEEN CLEAR** FOR ALL TO SEE'

Finally, we were all pleased to see that this game has been able to go ahead without any further Covid-related restrictions. We are, however, taking every precaution we can to shield our players from possible infection.

I have to ask for your understanding again in avoiding contact with the players for the time being. That applies in the car park before and after the game, and especially around the pitch as they do their lap of honour. They enjoy chatting and doing selfies as much as you do, but for now we have had to ask them not to do those.

We very much hope that the current restrictions are temporary, and we're very 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.

Together, or even slightly socially distanced, we are a squad of thousands.

**Best wishes** Lance





# GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR OUR FIRST FIXTURE OF 2022. I HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES HAD A GREAT CHRISTMAS AND THAT YOU ENJOYED OUR BOXING DAY VICTORY OVER BATH.

The West Country derby is something special and to beat our local rivals in that fashion shows the progress that George Skivington and his squad are making.

As we head into the New Year, it is a very exciting time for the Club. We are developing depth in each position and there is healthy competition within the squad for a starting place each and every week. This is key to maintaining success and it has created a very positive environment for everyone at the Club to really push on as we look to develop and improve every aspect of Gloucester Rugby.

The festive period allows time for reflection, and what is most pleasing is the progress we have made as a Club over the last 12 months. Fans have returned to Kingsholm and rugby is once again the heartbeat of the community.

There have been big changes with us moving to a brand-new training facility and the improvements on the field are clear to see.

Long may it continue!

Let's all get behind the boys today and be the 16th man against one of the most attacking sides in the league.

Enjoy the game, Martin







#### HARLEQUINS WERE THE VICTORS IN A 59-24 VICTORY OVER GLOUCESTER RUGBY AT THE TWICKENHAM STOOP.

#### What happened?

Gloucester Rugby had plenty of young talent on display against Harlequins but fell short in the end after a resurgence saw them draw level on points, 24-24, at one point in the game.

Harlequins started the game well and built a solid lead through four tries from Luke Northmore, Mike Brown, CadanMurley and Danny Care, securing the try bonus before half time and making the score 24-0.

The Cherry and Whites showed great composure to stay in the fight and finished the second half with good momentum after Charlie Chapman got over to score.

George Barton had put Jack Clement through a gap and the flanker came onto the ball at pace, offloading then to Chapman who went over to score. Barton's conversion meant the score was 24-7 going into the break.

In the second half the Gloucester Rugby resurgence continued and Barton kicked a penalty to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Freddie Clarke and Chapman, getting over for his second, both scored for the Cherry and Whites and Barton was accurate from the tee drawing the score level at 24-24.

However, Quins were able to find another gear and, helped by a Matt Banahan red card for a high tackle, scored tries through Tyrone Green, two from Alex Dombrandt and Luke Northmore to take the 59-24 victory.



#### KEY MOMENT

#### Charlie Chapman goes over for two

Gloucester Rugby scrum half Charlie Chapman had an impressive game for the Cherry and Whites with the Gloucester Rugby Academy product scoring two tries against Harlequins.

Chapman was up for it today and was making tackles left, right and centre as well as managing the game from the 9 shirt.



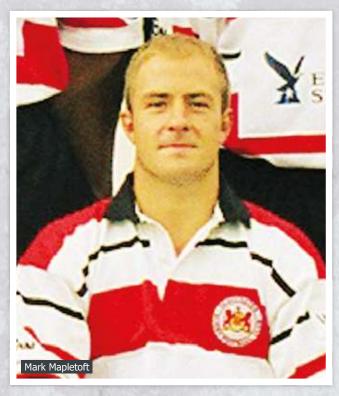
## SEASON 1996-97

THE FIRST SEASON OF PROFESSIONAL RUGBY
PLAYED 42 WON 23 LOST 18
DRAWN 1 FOR 1053 AGAINST 1003
CAPTAIN: DAVE SIMS

For some years it had been common knowledge that even though Rugby Union was supposed to be an amateur sport, many players, especially in the southern hemisphere, were being paid. The practice had become so wide-spread, that there appeared to be no way of stopping it. Consequently, on 27 August 1995, the International Rugby Board declared that Rugby Union would go open. In other words, it was accepted that, at the top level at least, rugby would cease to be an amateur sport. The announcement was too late to have much effect on the 1995-96 season, but by the start of the following campaign, the brave new world of professional rugby was becoming a reality. In May 1996, Gloucester's captain, Dave Sims, became the first player to sign a professional contract with the club.

Richard Hill was director of rugby, and had guided the team through the previous season when relegation was for some time a real prospect. In the first league game of the new season, Hill decided to take a team



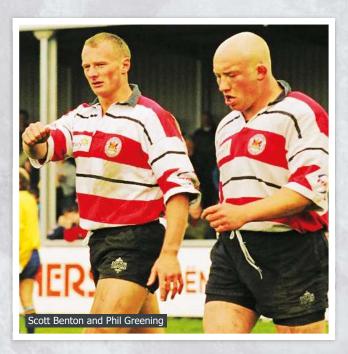


of virtually second fifteen strength to Harlequins, and paid the penalty with a 19-75 defeat. Things did not improve, and the next four league games, against Sale, Saracens, Bath and Leicester, all ended in defeat, and an accumulation of 134 points against. However, fly-half Mark Mapletoft had been kicking consistently, and he scored six penalties against Wasps at Kingsholm. This, coupled with tries from Alistair Saverimutto and Chris Catling, saw Gloucester home 28-23. A win at last!

In fact, the tide had turned, and the Cherry and Whites won seven league games in a row, and safety was assured. By the end of the season Gloucester finished in mid-table at seventh. A significant feature in the reversal of fortune was down to Mark Mapletoft, whose kicking was remarkably consistent. In league games he scored 259 points, and in all contests 458 points, which included 16 tries, the most of any player. He was aided in the backs by sparkling performances from

#### GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

full-back Chris Catling, wing Mike Lloyd and Audley Lumsden, a recruit from Bath. Mapletoft had a sound partnership with his scrum half partner Scott Benton, a firm Shed favourite. The forwards turned in some stirring performances, led superbly by Dave Sims, and supported by an abrasive front row of Andy Deacon, Phil Greening and Tony Windo. Rob Fidler was a power in the second row, whilst Simon Devereux, Pete Glanville and Nathan Carter were never outfought at the back.



In the Pilkington Cup, after wins against Leeds, Bristol and Wakefield, Gloucester made it to the semi-final, but were defeated at Kingsholm by Leicester 26-13. Only two weeks later, the clubs met again at Kingsholm for a league game. It was one of those mid-week flood-lit games which always seem to produce drama. But this game was exceptional even by those standards. Early on Joel Stransky kicked two penalties to Mapletoft's one. Then after 14 minutes Stransky broke to send Craig Joiner in for a try, which the former converted. Mapletoft kept home hopes alive with a penalty, before John Liley scored another try to stretch the Tigers' lead. There was then an exchange of penalties, so that half-time Leicester led 18-9.

In the second half Mapletoft kicked his fourth penalty, before Audley Lumsden picked up and ran in a spectacular try from 50 metres. Mapletoft's conversion put Gloucester ahead for the first time, and he stretched it with yet another penalty. Tigers were not finished and Adel Kardooni scored a short range try, and Stransky's conversion put Leicester 25-22 up. Mapletoft's sixth penalty squared things. But with time running out Leicester appeared to have won when Rory Underwood scored a try. Only a couple of

minutes remained, when from a 15 metre line-out the Gloucester pack hurled Tigers back, and Phil Greening was driven over, to a tremendous roar from the crowd. But another even greater roar saluted Mapletoft's conversion from the touch line, to put Gloucester 32-30 ahead. Time was nearly up, but those were the days before the clock would tell exactly how much time was left. The referee seemed to play endless injury time, and Leicester gained a five-metre line-out. Somehow Gloucester held on, and the final whistle signalled wild celebration. It was a game that those present would never forget. It was noticed that an interested visitor at the game was Philippe Saint-André. Perhaps he was impressed by the passion of both the Gloucester team and supporters. Anyway, he signed a contract to come to Kingsholm for the following season.



Gloucester took their first steps into European rugby that season, competing in the Heineken European Conference. They were drawn in a pool consisting of Begles-Bourdeaux, Bourgoin, London Irish, Swansea and Ebbw Vale. There were two wins only, against Ebbw Vale and London Irish. Bourgoin went on to win the competition.

By the end of the season, the club was beginning to find its feet in the new professional era. By the start of the following season, as well as Saint-André, the club could call on Terry Fanolua and Richard Tombs, to produce a formidable back division. In addition a recruit from Cornwall arrived at Kingsholm... Phil Vickery.

# LOUIS REES-ZAMMIT

# ON BATH, QUINS AND GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR



It's early on Friday morning and Louis Rees-Zammit is in his car driving from Cardiff to Gloucester, a trip he makes every day from his home city to the club.

The journey takes over an hour and provides the perfect opportunity for the Welsh winger to reflect on what has been a crazy year.

"2021 has been amazing for me. We obviously had the Six Nations and then I got the call up for the Lions and I went on that tour which was amazing. Now, here at Gloucester we're doing really well. There's no real main highlight for me. I'm just loving my rugby at the minute and I love playing for Gloucester and Wales."

It's easy to forget that Rees-Zammit is just 20 years old as his rise to the top has been as fast as one of his breaks down the wing.

Talk turns to Christmas and how the Boxing

Day derby win over Bath was a just reward for the sacrifice that the squad made over the festive period.

"It's one of the biggest games of the year in terms of fans looking forward to it and it was a sell-out at the Rec. We knew we had to put a big performance in because they were hungry for a win and we knew that if we were off the pace then it would have been a tough game for us. We stuck to the process and came away with the win."

With a game the next day, Christmas was a bit different, and the players had to be strict with their portions of turkey, but it was worth it to be able to put in a performance which led to us sitting in the top four.

"It's part of the job. We know we've got a load of fixtures over Christmas and it's just been about knuckling down and doing anything that you can for the team."



#### MAIN FEATURE

The result was the perfect present for Cherry and White fans but for Rees-Zammit, his favourite present reminds us all that professional sportsman are as normal as the rest of us.

"My favourite present was probably the socks that I got! I was running low on them so I'm very thankful to my parents for the socks! Pants, socks and deodorant!"

Christmas is also a time for giving and it was Zam who set Chris Harris up for his second try against Bath with the perfect chip on from a Mark Atkinson grubber.

"Aki does that quite a lot in training! So we were both on the same wavelength. I knew that as soon as he put the ball through that it was going to be a bouncing ball and I knew that all of the boys were going to flood through on the inside so all I needed to do was just kick it to the inside and let one of them score it."

It was a great try and one that helped set the Cherry and Whites up for a bonus point win over our West Country rivals.

Attention is now on Harlequins who travel to Kingsholm for our first game of 2022.

"They've got so many dangerous players. If you switch off for one moment they can tear you apart. It's all about being in the game for 80 minutes and not switching off at any point and not allowing their players to do what they normally do and show their magic. This season we've been good at staying in the game and trusting the process and going through it all. We back our ability around the park in defence and attack. It's going to be a big game on Sunday.

"We saw last week against Northampton, they were down 21-7 and then Alex Dombrandt and Danny Care put them on the front foot and just allowed them to score tries. We are aware of their threats but we know that if we focus on our own game and trust our process, we back ourselves to win."

The game against Quins gives Louis a chance to play against one of the mates he went away on the Lions tour with, Marcus Smith, who is a key cog in the Quins side. The pair have exchanged messages ahead of the fixture.

"We're both really excited to play against each other. This is the first time since the Lions tour that we've actually played against each other so it's going to be a really big game and I'm sure the fans are really excited for it."

In between the Bath game and the Quins fixture, Gloucester Rugby was in Premiership Rugby Cup action and despite the narrow loss to Worcester, Rees-Zammit enjoyed seeing so many of the players he grew up with getting an opportunity to put on the Cherry and White shirt.

"I've played with Jenson Boughton since I was 17. It's absolutely amazing for those boys to wear the shirt. Especially Jenson who has been out with two ACL injuries. I saw that he's the fourth generation in his family to have played for Gloucester Rugby so that's absolutely amazing for him. And all the other boys, we've all come through together and it's so good to see them doing well now. Hopefully they can kick on and play for the first team."

There is a real sense of unity within the playing squad at the moment and this is why results and performances have improved so much.

"We're such a close-knit group and that's why, over the past year or so we've got so close together, and that's why we're starting to see the performances that we are putting in now.

"In training, there is the starting team with the subs and then you've got the team that we're training against and honestly, they push us so hard. That's definitely why we've been playing so well this year. Without the training





side to play against, you can't really get better."

There is a real sense of unity and as cheesy as it sounds, a family feeling within the club.

"The academy boys that are from Gloucester, it's so good to see them coming through. The likes of Jenson and George Barton who's played a few first team games for Gloucester as well. It's so good to see them doing well and I'm sure they will kick on soon and get a place in the first team."

It's New Years Eve as Rees-Zammit is speaking and with the game on the 2nd, there won't be any late celebrations as the squad ensure they are prepared for one of the biggest games of the season.

"I'll just be with my family. We've got the team run in the morning so as soon as it turns 12 o'clock I'll be straight to bed!"

The new year provides time to reflect and look ahead and that's what Rees-Zammit does as he's cruising up the M5.

"I'm fully focused on Gloucester. We're doing so well and we've just got to keep it up. These games around Christmas and New Year are huge for us in order to allow us to push on to try and secure a top four finish.

"If you slack off over the New Year and Christmas time then it's very hard to get back into it after, so the win against Bath and if we can win against Quins, that will set us up nicely."



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY'S U18 SEASON HAS STARTED WITH THE YOUNG CHERRY AND WHITES GAINING PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE AGAINST FIERCE COMPETITION.

After two rounds, the side have two losses but there was a clear improvement in performance in the second game to the first.

First was a 41-17 loss to London Irish away which saw the Cherry and White side score three tries through Fred Ma'a, Henry Pearson and Will Gilderson with Keillen Cullen adding a conversion.

Then there was a 25-3 loss away to Bristol Bears in which the side really improved elements of their game despite not getting the result.

U18s Head Coach Matt Teague was pleased with the effort the lads put in.

"Luds (Lewis Ludlow) kindly sent the boys a video message prior to the first game about work rate, physicality and pride in the shirt. We didn't quite get that right against London Irish but as a coaching group we were very proud in the boys efforts away against a very well drilled Bristol side who took their chances well.

"We'd like to thank all the parents for their support away in the last two fixtures, it's greatly appreciated.

"The young Gloucester menare now hugely excited about playing at Holm three times in the new year and the opportunity to experience what an amazing theatre Kingsholm is."

The U18 Academy League season continues on Saturday 8 January as we host Harlequins at Kingsholm. Entry to the game will be free.











## **ACADEMY PROFILE:** JAKE MORRIS

Gloucester Rugby has been known for having serious fire power in the wide channel for some years and Jake Morris is looking to carry this flag in both hands. With footwork, speed, power and aerial prowess, Morris ticks all the boxes you could want in a winger.

At approximately 94kg and 185cm (6 foot 1 inch), the ex-Bournside School student can be regarded as a versatile asset; with footwork, speed, power and aerial prowess, he ticks all the boxes.

As a member of the Academy, Morris is on the cusp of breaking in to the first team with some promising performances in both the 20/21 and 21/22 season.

Like many of the academy players, Morris has done his most effective work in this years current Premiership Cup campaign, managing to score two tries in two games against Bath and Exeter.

The 21-year-old winger was a serial scorer over the course of the season when he played in the u18 Academy League where he earnt himself an England u18 call up too.

Morris has more than one string to his bow however, during his first European game against Lyon he even lined the ball up and kicked for the posts from range which only narrowly missed, confidence to put his hand up on a European debut like this is not to be understated.

Jake Morris has impressed so much this season; he has also gained a nomination for the RPA Under 23 MVP of the Month.

#### JAKE'S PASSION FOR THE CLUB

Jake has signed a new contract this year which sees him remain with Gloucester Rugby's Academy. Jake said the following when asked about his contract extension: "It's all I've ever known. From watching in the Shed aged nine to now signing my second contract, it's unbelievable and I'm absolutely buzzing to get stuck into preseason.

"It's all I've ever wanted to do. My dad having played for the club in the 90s, that was a massive influence for me. Gloucester Rugby is my childhood club and I want to do one better than my dad! I want to try and get a couple more caps than he did and then I'll be a happy man!"

Morris has proved he has got the talent, the drive, the work rate as well as a great understanding of what the club means to the fans who gather at Kingsholm in their masses to support the club, like he used to do, to go far in the Cherry and White hoops of Gloucester Rugby.

#### **FACTS & FIGURES**

# STATS CORNER



- Gloucester have gained 309 metres from the maul so far this season, over 100m more than any other team. Scoring 11 tries in the process, no other side has scored more than 8 directly from their maul this season.
- Gloucester Rugby have lost just one of their last seven first team fixtures: 13-19 at Lyon in the European Challenge Cup. The Cherry & Whites' only loss at Kingsholm in any competition since September was 13-16 to Exeter in Round 7 of Premiership Rugby.
- Harlequins beat Northampton 41-27 in "Big Game 13" at Twickenham Stadium on 27 December but have not won successive matches in Gallagher Premiership Rugby since October. The Quins' record away from home in Premiership Rugby this campaign is, won two, lost two.
- Harlequins have won their last four Gallagher Premiership Rugby fixtures against Gloucester since Gloucester's 29-7 triumph at the Twickenham Stoop in March 2019, whilst Harlequins have won on their last three visits to Kingsholm.



## **OXEN RAISE OVER £2,000 FOR GLOUCESTER RUGBY** FOUNDATION'S VETERAN PROJECT



PARTICIPATION · EDUCATION · WELLBEING

## OXEN HAVE SUCCESSFULLY RAISED OVER £2,000 FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF THE VETERANS PROJECT CHARITY DONATION SCHEME.

Having now finished selling the Forces range, the Gloucester Rugby Foundation can confirm that 10% of the funds have been donated to the Gloucester Rugby Foundation's Veteran project, the total sum being £2,214.

The Gloucester Rugby Foundation have a weekly veteran's group that meet and the funds raised will ensure that the support that we provide them will continue.

This support includes helping them with their mental health and encouraging them to get more active, build networks around them and provide help with employment.

Helen Chu, Community and Foundation Manager said: "The Gloucester Rugby Foundation run a wellbeing group for Armed Forces



Veterans, which aims to boost wellbeing, tackle loneliness and isolation, and fundamentally support participants to re-connect with old acquaintances and build new friendships to help improve self-confidence and

self-esteem as well as overall better health and wellbeing.

"We are extremely proud of this group, and it is a true pleasure seeing the confidence of each and every participant grow."





# GLOUCESTER RUGBY SCORED SIX TRIES TO WIN THE WEST COUNTRY DERBY AGAINST BATH 40-20 AT THE REC

#### What happened?

Gloucester Rugby secured the try scoring bonus point before half time and it was the driving maul that proved to be successful for the Cherry and Whites once again.

Bath opened the scoring through an Orlando Bailey penalty but Gloucester Rugby were first to get a try when they were awarded a penalty try as the hosts brought the driving maul down illegally.

Another Bailey penalty kept the Blue, Black and Whites in the game but it wasn't long until Chris Harris got over for his first of two tries after Ben Meehan drew the last defender to put the centre in space.

Jack Singleton then cashed in after the maul drove over again and before half time Harris collected a chip through from Rees-Zammit to score his second and our fourth, bonus point try, just before the break.

Leading 26-6 at half time, Bath were still in the game and put up plenty of resistance in the second half.

Building well, Bath had the scrum just 5m from the Gloucester Rugby line. Winning the penalty, Ben Spencer took the quick tap option and snuck over the line to score Bath's first try.

But there was no stopping that Cherry and White driving maul. Fraser Balmain was the next player to get over, and scoring our 5th try of the afternoon, all but confirmed our victory.

Kyle Moyle put the final nail in the coffin with a late score after Ollie Thorley collected Adam Hasting's cross field kick and then passed to the fullback who dived over to score.

Bath went out on their shield and it was a late try from Ollie Fox, with the clock in the red, that softened the score line for the hosts.







#### LAST TIME OUT





# KEY MOMENT: CHRIS HARRIS

Chris Harris scored two great tries for the Cherry and Whites but it was his second score that really stood out. Mark Atkinson chipped the ball through and Louis Rees-Zammit volleyed it on for Chris Harris to chase down and score.







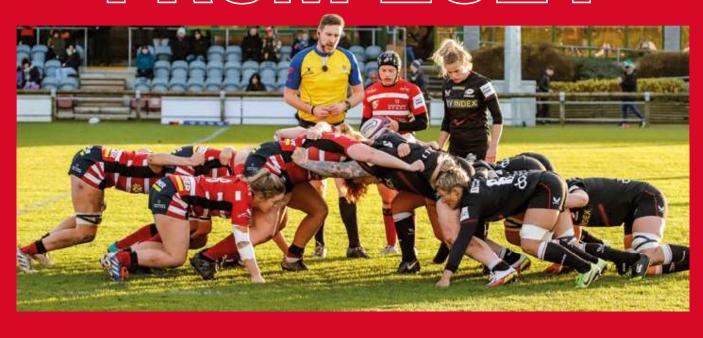








# GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY WOMEN BEST PIGNIS FROM 2021



















#### THE TEAMS





<u>I</u>	P	C	D			Harlequins	1	P	C	D
				Lloyd <b>EVANS</b>	15	Tyrone <b>GREEN</b>				
				Louis REES-ZAMMIT	14	Louis <b>LYNAGH</b>				
				Chris <b>HARRIS</b>	13	Luke NORTHMORE				
				Billy TWELVETREES	12	Andre <b>ESTERHUIZEN</b>				
				Ollie <b>THORLEY</b>	11	Joe MARCHANT				
				Adam <b>HASTINGS</b>	10	Marcus <b>SMITH</b>				
				Ben <b>MEEHAN</b>	9	Danny <b>CARE</b>				
				Val <b>RAPAVA-RUSKIN</b>	1	Joe MARLER				
				Jack <b>SINGLETON</b>	2	Jack <b>WALKER</b>				
				Fraser BALMAIN	3	Will <b>COLLIER</b>				
				Freddie <b>CLARKE</b>	4	Matt SYMONS				
				Matias ALEMANNO	5	Hugh <b>TIZARD</b>				
				Jordy <b>REID</b>	6	Tom LAWDAY				
				Lewis LUDLOW (C)	7	Jack <b>KENNINGHAM</b>				
				Ruan <b>ACKERMANN</b>	8	Alex DOMBRANDT (C)				
REPLACEMENTS										
				Santiago <b>SOCINO</b>	16	Jack MUSK				
				Jamal <b>FORD-ROBINSON</b>	17	Santiago GARCIA BOTTA				
				Kirill <b>GOTOVTSEV</b>	18	Simon <b>KERROD</b>				
				Andrew DAVIDSON	19	Dino <b>LAMB</b>				
				Jack <b>CLEMENT</b>	20	Luke <b>WALLACE</b>				
				Charlie CHAPMAN	21	Lewis <b>GJALTEMA</b>				
				Tom SEABROOK	22	Will <b>Edwards</b>				
				Kyle <b>M0YLE</b>	23	Huw <b>JONES</b>				

#### **MATCH OFFICIALS**

Referee: Tom Foley
Assistant Referees: Christophe Ridley and Jamie Leahy
TMO: Rowan Kitt Citing Officer: Paul Hull