

GDUG

GLOUCESTER RUGBY v USA PERPIGNAN

EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP 22 JANUARY 2022 | 5:30PM









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GLOUCESTER RUGB



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ISSUE 09









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WELCOME TO SATURDAY NIGHT UNDER THE LIGHTS, AND OUR SECOND HOME EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP TIE OF THIS SEASON. I'D LIKE TO EXTEND AN ESPECIALLY WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE FROM UNION SPORTIVE DE ARELQUINS PERPIGNAN.

Perpignan are one of three teams – along with us and Benetton – with one win and one defeat in our Pool B, so tonight's result will go a long way towards deciding who qualifies for the next round. Indeed, if results go our way elsewhere we could qualify with a win this evening.

You'll see that George has selected a strong squad for this evening's game, but with a few changes from the one which secured our fantastic win at Saracens last time out. With so many games this season it's important to have a squad that can cope with selection changes while still delivering what we need. We don't feel that we're where we need to be just yet, but we're certainly heading in the right direction.

You will also have seen this week that we've announced a series of signings and re-signings.

The signing of Albert Tuisue from London Irish captured the headlines, understandably. He's a very exciting addition to the squad. With our pack already performing well this season, adding a powerful ball-carrier like Albert will make it even more formidable. It's a testament to the work that George and his coaches are doing that players of Albert's calibre are so keen to join us.

But internally we're equally delighted about the number of players who are re-signing. When you get internationals like Santi Socino and exciting, young, Gloucester born-and-bred players like Charlie Chapman committing their futures to the Club, you know you're in a good place.

We've also announced a raft of Academy players signing new

"IT'S A TESTAMENT TO THE WORK THAT GEORGE AND HIS COACHES ARE DOING THAT PLAYERS OF ALBERT'S CALIBRE ARE SO KEEN TO JOIN US" contracts. This is just as important as the signings and re-signings of established first team players. These are the players we're building the future of our Club upon, and it's great to see the talent that's now coming through the Academy, under the guidance of Carl Hogg, Peter Walton and their team. The future is looking bright.

Finally, Club Memberships went on sale last week, and I'm pleased to report that they're already at their highest level for more than five years. Thank you so much for your support if you're one of the fans who have already bought your 22/23 season ticket.

If you haven't bought your membership yet you can **click on this link** and pay over 11 months, interest-free. It'd be great to have you with us next season.

Together, we are a squad of thousands.

Best wishes Lance



EPCR WELCOME



EPCR WELCOME MESSAGE



A WARM WELCOME TO THIS EPCR CHALLENGE CUP MATCH AS WE ANTICIPATE ANOTHER COMPETITIVE SET OF FIXTURES THIS MONTH WHICH WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS DECIDING WHICH CLUBS BOOK THEIR PLACES IN THE KNOCKOUT STAGE OF THE TOURNAMENT.

Once the pool stage is completed in early April, 10 clubs will qualify for the Round of 16 supplemented by six qualifiers from the Heineken Champions Cup, guaranteeing a further series of compelling fixtures culminating in the 2022 final at the Stade Vélodrome in Marseille on Friday, 27 May.

The Challenge Cup has undergone a dynamic rebrand for this season, and with the support of our innovative digital platforms, we are already engaging with a new generation of fans while at the same time acknowledging the established supporters of the tournament since its inception in 1996.

As in previous seasons, there is the incentive of direct qualification for the Heineken Champions Cup if the tournament winner happens not to have secured a place via its own league.

We are delighted to be joined on the journey to Marseille by our newest official partner, DHL, who are providing customised logistics solutions for both the EPCR Challenge Cup and the Heineken Champions Cup, and we would like to thank our other official partner, Tissot, as well as the Financial Times, Gilbert and Kappa for their continuing support.

We also acknowledge the superb coverage provided by our TV partners BT Sport, beIN SPORTS, France Télévisions, S4C and Sky Italia whose Challenge Cup output is complemented by the wide range of linear and OTT platforms which broadcast our fixtures globally.

We recognise that these are particularly challenging times for players, club staff and supporters, however, rest assured that we are continuing to work with the leagues and unions so that as many fixtures as possible can be played safely.

We remain optimistic that this season's tournament will be completed successfully, and on behalf of all at EPCR, enjoy the match and best wishes for the new year to you, the fans, as well as to your club's players and staff.

Yours in rugby,

Dominic McKay EPCR Chairman (interim)









MARTIN ST QUINTON

MARTIN St. QUINTON

CHAIRMAN

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR OUR EUROPEAN CLASH AGAINST PERPIGNAN. THE CHALLENGE CUP PROVIDES EXCITING OPPOSITION EVERY YEAR AND IT IS GREAT TO BE ABLE TO HOST PERPIGNAN, A CLUB WITH A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED HISTORY.



I hope our visitors have had a safe journey across the Channel and that you are all looking forward to this game as much as I am.

We are in a great position in this tournament having secured a bonus point win against Benetton and a losing bonus point against Lyon. This is therefore a vitally important fixture for us if we want to push on and progress to the knockout stages.

There has been a lot of great news announced this week with Albert Tuisue signing a contract to join us next season and several current players choosing to re-sign to stay at Kingsholm.

George Skivington and his coaching team have built a solid foundation for the future and to have players of Albert's quality join, as well as our current stars choosing to stay, shows that we are in a very strong position.

We have also had a number of international call-ups ahead of the Six Nations and it is always pleasing to see the players that put in so much work each week rewarded in this way for their efforts.

It will be hard to find a game in this international competition without Gloucester Rugby representation.

We are in a really positive place as a Club at the moment and I would like to thank you, as ever, for your fantastic support.

Enjoy the game, Martin



CLUB NEWS

EVSNEWSNEVSNEWS



GLOUCESTER RUGBY RECRUIT FOR NEXT SEASON

It's been a busy week of signings for the Cherry and Whites. The week started with the news that Albert Tuisue will be coming to Kingsholm ahead of the start of the 2022-23 season. The Fijian forward is a powerhouse and will be a welcome addition to the squad.

Charlie Chapman and Santiago Socino have also renewed their deals and will be staying at Gloucester Rugby for the future.

INTERNATIONAL CALL UPS



Gloucester Rugby have five international call ups for the Six nations with Jonny May and Mark Atkinson named in Eddie Jones' England squad, Stephen Varney picked for Italy, Louis Rees-Zammit for Wales and Chris Harris named in the Scotland camp.

TODAY'S MATCHDAY MASCOT

Today's matchday mascot is **Charlie Binning** from St. Hughs School.

Charlie is a big rugby fan and his favourite player is Jonny May.

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

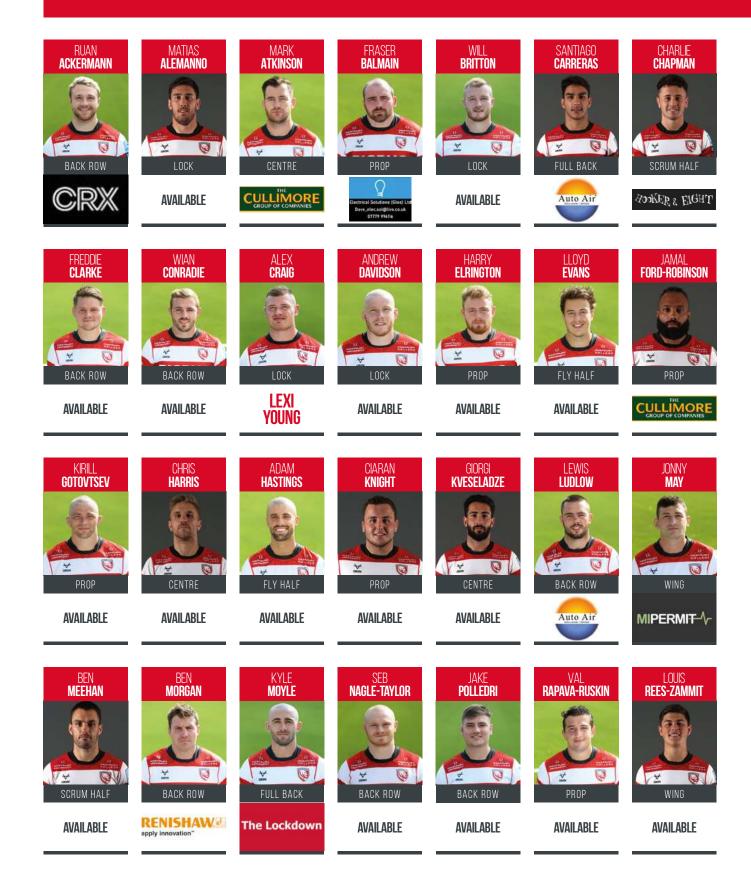






MEN'S SQUAD

MEN'S SQUAD



MEN'S SQUAD





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GLORIOUS GLOUCESTER SECURE SUPERB HEINEKEN CUP WIN IN PERPIGNAN

Gloucester upset the odds at the Stade AimeGiral on Sunday afternoon, securing a bonus point victory over Perpignan that keeps their European aspirations alive.

Gloucester scored five tries in a phenomenal performance, triumphing by 36 points to 18, and securing an away Amlin Challenge Cup quarter final spot.

And it was done in some style. A couple of the scores will go down as contenders for Try of the Season, while the icing on the cake was a powerful pushover try for Ben Morgan with the game in its final moments.

The win delighted the hordes of travelling supporters, who may have been outnumbered, but who were certainly not outdone in terms of volume. They provided great backing throughout.

It wasn't all one way traffic. Perpignan, predictably, played some good stuff in front of their own supporters and were very much in the game with 15 or minutes or so left to play.

However, when nerves could have crept in, Freddie Burns dropped a crucial goal

while Gloucester's tactical kicking was spot on, driving the home side back deep in their own 22. Morgan's late contribution sealed the deal.

Overall, it was a thoroughly deserved win. The forwards took on their counterparts up front, scrummaging powerfully up front. Meanwhile, the backs looked dangerous whenever they had ball in hand.

It's a big win in the context of Gloucester's season, and a huge boost for everyone concerned with the club.

Gloucester came into the game knowing that nothing less than a bonus point





win would keep them in the hunt for an Amlin Challenge Cup quarter final spot – no easy task at the Stade AimeGiral.

The game got underway with Gloucester wearing their change strip, and a brass brand lasting out the tunes in a stadium that could have been little more than half full.

Gloucester's discipline came under scrutiny in the opening exchanges, one penalty at the breakdown conceding territory, the next giving Tom Ecochard a chance to go for the posts, and the scrum half made no mistake.

It was a fast and open first few minutes of the game, Perpignan even having the courage to run the ball from behind their own line through Votu when seemingly under pressure.

Nigel Davies' side looked up for playing a similarly open style of rugby but were coming off second best when it came to refereeing decisions.

However, the 14th minute saw a moment of magic from Jonny May. Piukala spilled the ball in midfield, and May was off, dodging and weaving. Two Perpignan defenders collided as they spun trying to keep up and May crossed for a superb score.

The home side were quickly back in front though, with Piukala making up for his earlier error. The forwards came close, but swift hands across the backline saw Piukala straighten beautifully, slice through and cross untouched. Ecochard converted for 10-5.

Freddie Burns was starting to boss the game nicely, but he turned down a kickable penalty on the half hour and it led to Gloucester's second try.





The catch and drive was repelled, and Matt Cox almost spun out of a tackle to make the line. But Gloucester stayed patient, moved the ball left and Shane Monahan broke a tackle to score. Burns added a magnificent touchline conversion to edge his team into a 10-12 lead.

An incredible phase of play then followed. Ecochard hit the post with a penalty and Gloucester went for it from their own 22.

Gareth Evans did superbly, a dummy sending him clear down the right before the number eight passed inside unselfishly to Charlie Sharples for the third try. Burns converted again.

Echchard was wide with an ambitious penalty attempt from out wide as half time approached, and there was an injury scare for James Hudson but Gloucester went into half time with a decent 19-10 lead.

It had been a pulsating half of rugby, which had flown by. Both teams were moving the ball around with abandon but Gloucester had shown a welcome cutting edge to shade the first half.

There was still a huge amount to play for, and Perpignan were certainly not going to simply roll over in the second half. They'd shown enough danger to make their threat abundantly clear.

But Gloucester were going well. One more try and, of course, securing the win would be enough to keep Europe alive. A long way to go, though.

The second half got off to a bad start. James Hudson took the restart but was penalised for holding on in the tackle. Ecochard's penalty was head on to the posts and he made no mistake.

Gloucester proceeded to spend the next few minutes deep in the Perpignan 22, as they worked the corner looking for the bonus point try.

The forwards went close, softening up the defence round the fringes, before Robson spun the ball out to Shane Monahan who powered over. There was a nervous moment as the TMO looked at a possible knock on, but the try was awarded. Burns converted for 13-26.

As news came through from Ireland that Munster were winning well against Edinburgh, things looked set fair. But Perpignan weren't done just yet.

With Luke Narraway leading the way against his former club, the home side started to get their offloading game going, and replacement scrum half Durand put Karl Chateau over for a 63rd minute try to narrow the gap to 18-26.

It could have been a tense last 15 minutes, but Gloucester played it just right. Astute tactical kicking kept Perpignan pinned back, forcing them to play from deep.

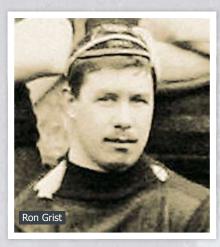
The pressure told as Freddie Burns dropped a goal to extend the lead, before a frustrated Perpignan side finally lost their cool as replacement prop Georgi Jgenti was yellow carded for punching.

Minus a man in the scrum, the home side, who had been creaking up front in any case, were now outgunned and Morgan controlled the ball superbly from a 5 metre to close the game out.



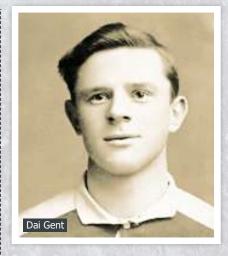
GLOUCESTER RUGBY

The first overseas tourists to the UK were the New Zealand Maoris in 1888-89. This was before Kingsholm had been acquired, so, when they came to Gloucester, they played at the Spa, against a Gloucestershire side with eleven Gloucester players, including Ron Grist who scored the home side's only try, against one goal and two tries for the visitors.



Gloucester faced the might of the All Blacks at Kingsholm on their first tour in 1905. The record crowd was impressed by the size, speed and skill of the visitors, who could be identified from numbers on their jerseys, a practice only adopted later in England. New Zealand scored ten tries, whilst Gloucester were depleted by injuries. The final score was 44-0. Dai Gent who played scrum half for Gloucester, reported that "we were too light - they simply trod on us and went on!" Over the years many other opponents of the All Blacks have echoed his sentiment.

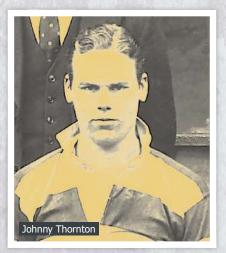
NEW ZEALAND CONNECTIONS



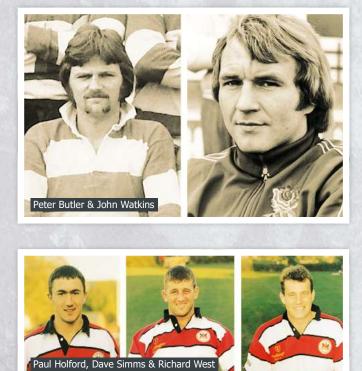
At the end of the tour, three All Blacks – Duncan McGregor, Simon Mynott and Charlie Seeling - turned out for Gloucester and helped them to defeat Leicester 20-0. McGregor stayed on in Gloucester for several years, starting a sportswear business, in which Arthur Hudson became his partner and later sole owner when McGregor returned home. McGregor left his All Blacks jersey, cap and ball in Gloucester, where they were passed down to Allan Townsend, and are now displayed at the Rugby Museum in New Zealand.

On their next tour in 1924, New Zealand played at Kingsholm against Gloucestershire, who selected five Gloucester players – Tom Millington, Sid Brown, Dr Taylor, George Thomas and Stan Bayliss. They matched the All Backs formation with only seven forwards. It was a much closer contest, in part because of atrocious conditions, but it also took heroic defence by the home side to hold the visitors to 6-0. Both World Wars brought many allied servicemen to these shores, which gave rise to New Zealand Army teams keen to play at Kingsholm. In 1919, a strong NZ side, which had previously defeated RAF and Canadian opponents, scored two late tries to overcome Gloucester 15-12. In 1946, a NZ Army XV won 31-0 against a strong Combined Services XV bristling with Welsh internationals and Johnny Thornton, Gloucester's most recent England international, who spent the whole match tackling like a dervish.

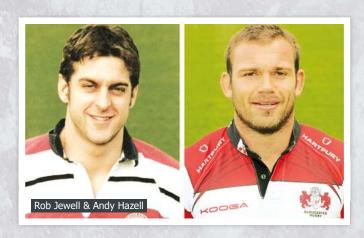
The All Blacks came to Kingsholm for the first match of their 1972 tour, and were confronted by a Western Counties side boasting seven Gloucester players – Peter Butler, John Bayliss, Mike Burton, Robin Cowling, Alan Brinn, Dick Smith and John Watkins. Butler was the busiest at full-back, confronting waves of New Zealand attacks as they romped home 39-12. The



GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE



"THE SHED ROOTED FOR THE UNDERDOGS, AND THE EAGLES ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY HAD NEVER ENJOYED SUCH RAUCOUS SUPPORT, BUT THEY WENT DOWN 6-46, TERRY WRIGHT SCORING A HAT TRICK"



Counties points came from a Burton try, which Butler converted and added two penalties.

Next up were two New Zealand clubs. Gloucester secured a memorable 18-6 victory over Taranaki in 1979. It was Gloucester at their glorious best as they dominated the forward battle. John Watkins scored three tries, Steve Boyle another, and Peter Butler converted one. In 1984, Auckland visited, but it was a case of veni vici (but little vidi). The game was heard rather than seen thanks to a thick fog blanketing Kingsholm. It would have been cancelled, but the Auckland manager insisted on the match being played, reporting that his players had all cheered when told that Kingsholm would be on their tour itinerary. Such was the fame of the ground that they all wanted to be able to say that they had played at Kingsholm, and it is believed that they won 34-3.

One match was played at Kingsholm in the 1991 Rugby World Cup – NZ v USA. The Shed rooted for the underdogs, and the Eagles acknowledged that they had never enjoyed such raucous support, but they went down 6-46, Terry Wright scoring a hat trick.

On the 1993 All Blacks tour, England Emerging Players, captained by Dean Ryan, were the opponents at Kingsholm. The Gloucester representatives were Paul Holford on the wing and Dave Sims and Richard West in the second row. Despite a Sims try, the ABs won 30-19. They have not returned to Kingsholm since – they were invited to play Gloucester in 2009 in a match designed to demonstrate the suitability of Kingsholm to host matches during RWC 2015, but their financial demands were so huge that Australia were engaged instead.

NZ U-21 appeared in 1997, winning 35-6 against a South West U-21 team featuring five Gloucester players – Rob Jewell, Paul Knight, Andy Robinson, Ed Mallett and Andy Hazell.

An oddity in 2000 was a Rugby League international between New Zealand and Lebanon, all of whom were Australians of Lebanese extraction. NZ included Henry Paul and Lesley Vainikolo, both of whom later changed codes and played for Gloucester. The Volcano scored his first try at Kingsholm, and NZ won 64-0.

The Barbarians celebrated their 125th anniversary in 2015, and included several NZ players on their visit to Kingsholm, where a gale forced the closure of the Worcester St stand. Gloucester were blown away 62-14.

During the professional era, Gloucester have signed a number of New Zealanders, most of whom have made a big impression –they will be the subject of a separate article.



MAIN FEATURE

GUUG

ED SLATER'S Long Road To Recovery

Ed Slater hasn't played at Kingsholm since Round 2 of the Gallagher Premiership when Gloucester Rugby hosted Leicester Tigers. Injuring his planting plate in his foot, it has been a long road to recovery but after two appearances off the bench against Worcester Warriors in the Premiership Cup and against Saracens last time out, the second row is back in action this Saturday and will be in the starting 15 against Perpignan.

"I'm really looking forward to it. As always with long injuries, you get a sense of perspective, and you realise that you are lucky to do the job you do.

"You want to get back and you want to be

involved because that's your job and that's what you're paid to do. When you're sat on the side line and you're injured, it's very difficult and it can be very frustrating."

Watching on for four months is hard for a professional sportsman and with Gloucester Rugby's recent results, it made him even more desperate to return.

"The guys have been doing really well and that just adds to your excitement of trying to get back into the team and trying to get involved because you want to add to that. When the team is playing well and you're out injured, you want to be playing and you want to be involved and be part of the team again."

It's difficult watching on but as one of the more experienced members of the squad, Ed has dealt with injury before and knows that it is a process that can't be rushed.

"It's always difficult. I've had experience of being injured for a long time with teams that have been playing well and not playing well. In both situations, you are desperate to contribute. Obviously, it's an added bonus that you are doing well and that's all you want for the team and the club.

"I used to get very frustrated watching because I was young and I wanted to be involved and now I'm older and I've got that experience to know that when you're injured, you're injured. All you can do is focus on getting back as quickly as you can and getting as fit as you can as quickly as you can."

Ed's injury was like none he had dealt with before. After tearing his planting plate, he had rehabbed it and got it to the point where he and the medical team were happy that he could play on it.

It then snapped fully and there was no way he could continue to play at his peak level without taking the time out to get it fixed.

"It's one of the more difficult injuries that I've had to be honest, and it's been a long old road to recovery.

"One of the most difficult things about the injury was that there wasn't a set amount of time that it would take to recover. There were certainly periods in the early stages where I questioned how long it was going to take and wondered if it would recover to where I want it to.

"Thankfully, together with the medics and the S+C, who I'm very grateful for, we got a plan together and we took it week by week. We progressed when we needed to progress when we felt that it was strong enough or in the best state possible. That's how we did it.

"Slowly building the wall really until luckily I got to a point where I was running really well and I could change direction.



"Scrummaging was the last hurdle because of the force that goes through your feet so that was the biggest challenge for me. But with the medics and S+C, we had a plan in place and we took it day by day until I got more confidence and the foot stopped reacting and then I was able to declare myself fit."

Ed is keen to place on record how much the medics and S+C team helped him in his recovery.

"The medical and S+C team have been brilliant. Things don't always go to plan, and I played against Leicester, and it didn't work out, but we worked together and got a plan that got me back fit with an injury that can be complicated."

The injury was a tough challenge for the big second row but the 33-year-old believes that his responsibilities off the field meant he was able to deal with the situation better than he would have done when he was a younger man.

"When you're young, before you have a family, all you think about is yourself and your career and how you're playing. I think that's only heightened these days by the fact that there is so much social media.

"People throwing out clips of tries and moments of rugby games on Instagram and Twitter, they put that out there and as a young guy I can imagine that you're posting that, and you want people to see it. It inflates your ego a little bit.

"When you're young and before you have proper responsibility like having kids and a family, all you have to think about is yourself and how you're playing and preparing.

"When you get to my age and you've played a lot of games, and don't get me wrong, I'm still as hungry as ever, but you understand the bigger picture.

"You understand the important things like the team training well and playing well. You get a lot more of a sense about what is important.

"As a more experienced member of the team, it's really important that I set the right example and for me that means having the right attitude and preparing the team whether that's as a player or as someone who's training in the opposition. You understand the bigger picture whereas when you're a little bit younger, you're a little bit more selfish and you can think a little bit more about yourself."

At last Ed is back fully fit and he can't wait to run out at Kingsholm again.

"It's going to be really special. Sitting and watching in the stands the last few months just allows you to appreciate how special it really is. I said to the team when I was on the bench against Saracens, you realise it's a real privilege, not just to do the job that you do, to be able to play rugby for a living, but to be part of the team and to be a part of Gloucester and the club as a whole.

"It is a special place so that time away from it really allows you to understand the privilege. I'm really excited to be out there."



CHEF FEATURE

EAT LIKE A PRO PROVENÇAL CHICKEN STEW



INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Peel and finely slice the onions. Scrub the carrot and dice it. Halve the pepper and scrape out the seeds and membrane. Slice into 1cm strips. Roughly chop the sun dried tomatoes.
- 2. Pour 1 tbsp oil into a large pan and bring to a high heat. Sprinkle a generous pinch of salt and pepper onto the chicken thighs and drumsticks. When the pan is hot, carefully add the chicken. Fry for 5 mins, turning once or twice, till golden brown. Use tongs to transfer the chicken to a plate, then lower the temperature to medium.
- 3. While the chicken fries, peel and crush or grate the garlic. Pick the rosemary leaves off their stalks and finely chop the leaves. Separate the parsley leaves and stalks (keep the leaves for later), and finely chop the stalks.
- 4. Slide the onions, pepper, carrot, garlic, parsley and rosemary into the pan. Cook for 5 mins, stirring occasionally, till slightly softened.
- 5. While the veg are cooking, halve the cherry tomatoes. Add them to the pan along with the sun dried tomatoes and pearl barley.
- 6. Return the chicken and any juices from the plate to the pan and pour in 750ml boiling water. Crumble in the stock cube and stir to combine. Bring to the boil. Pop a lid on the pan and reduce to a simmer. Cook for 35 mins.
- 7. When the stew has simmered for 35 mins, lift out a piece of chicken and insert a skewer or knife into the thickest part of it. It's cooked when the juices run clear. If it needs longer, return the chicken to the pan and cook for another 5 mins before checking again.
- 8. Finely shred the parsley leaves and grate the lemon zest. Ladle the stew into deep bowls and sprinkle over the parsley and zest. Serve with a crack of black pepper and wedges of the lemon for squeezing.

WILL CARVALHO

TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR DISH AND TAG @PERFORMCHEF ON TWITTER FOR HIM TO JUDGE YOUR EFFORTS!

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 onions
- 1 carrot
- 1 red pepper
- 35g sun dried tomatoes
- 2 chicken thighs & 2 chicken drumsticks
- 2 garlic cloves
- A handful of rosemary, leaves only
- A handful of flat leaf parsley
- 250g cherry tomatoes
- 150g pearl barley
- 1 chicken stock cube
- 1 lemon
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Sea salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 750ml boiling water

GLOUCESTER RUGBY vs USA PERPIGNAN



If exceptional tries are what you like, you can always count on ASM Clermont Auvergne wing, Damian Penaud, to deliver. Fans witnessed some great scores in Round 1 of the Heineken Champions Cup and EPCR Challenge Cup including Penaud's spectacular effort against Ulster Rugby.

"Great break from JJ Hanrahan to expose the opposition front row and beat him one-on-one, followed by a perfectly-timed pass to Penaud, who has the kick accuracy, speed and a worldclass finish to score a superb try," was how BT Sport's Sam Waburton described the score.

Warburton's verdict, combined with the public's votes, determined the winner, and although Penaud fully deserved the accolade, it was a close call between his effort and Anthony Jelonch's memorable try for Stade Toulousain against Cardiff Rugby.

EPCRUGBY.COM/TOTR

For the sixth season in a row, the Try of the Round activation is launched on the Monday after each round, and fans will also be able to vote for the Try of the Season immediately after the Finals Weekend next May.

Cheslin Kolbe won the award for the best try last season, Juan Imhoff topped the poll in 2019/20, then it was Maxime Médard in 2018/19, Tadhg Beirne in 2017/18, and first of all, Nick Abendanon back in 2016/17.

Who will succeed all these great names of European club rugby? You can make the difference by voting for your favourite!







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TOM STANTON UTILITY BACK AVAILABLE	HARRY TAYLOR BACK ROW AVAILABLE	FREDDIE THOMAS BACK ROW BACK ROW	STEPHEN VARNEY SCRUM HALF	TOBY VENNER 1873 SCRUM HALF AVAILABLE	TO SPONSO Please ca Partners Thom	R A PLAYER LL HEAD OF Ships Mike As on 320997



ACADEMY FEATURE

ACADENY WRITTEN BY WILL HARTSHORN - THE RUGBY COLLEC



FREDDIE THOMAS BACK ROW/LOCK

Freddie Thomas is a 20-year-old utility forward who knows his way around the breakdown and a big collision, he has been with the club since the u13s whilst he was playing his schoolboy rugby for Dean Close Secondary School and Bredon Rugby Club.

Freddie's most comfortable position would probably be on either flank as he brings energy around the pitch as he likes to frequently make his way to the top of the tackle stats in a similar way to skipper Lewis Ludlow.

Standing at 193cm (6 foot 4 inches) and weighing approximately 106kg, the young forward brings a level of power

> **GLOUCESTER RUGBY** vs USA PERPIGNAN

through collisions, but this frame serves him best when he picks his opportunity to jackal, proving to be tough to shift once he has a sniff of a turnover.

Set pieces are another area of strength for the ex-Dean Close student, being a competent line out jumper provides a like for like replacement for the highly successful Cherry and White line out.

Despite preferring the back row, Freddie Thomas' best performance arguably came in the number 5 shirt during the 45-19 Premiership Cup victory over Exeter where he managed to top the tackle charts, 17, tied with flanker Harry Taylor.



ACADEMY FEATURE





He also showed his willingness to carry by also topping the charts with ball carries for Gloucester too.

Over the season, the Gloucester faithful have been able to enjoy 133 minutes of watching Freddie Thomas and this will no doubt increase considerably as the season goes on.

WHAT DOES THE COACH THINK?

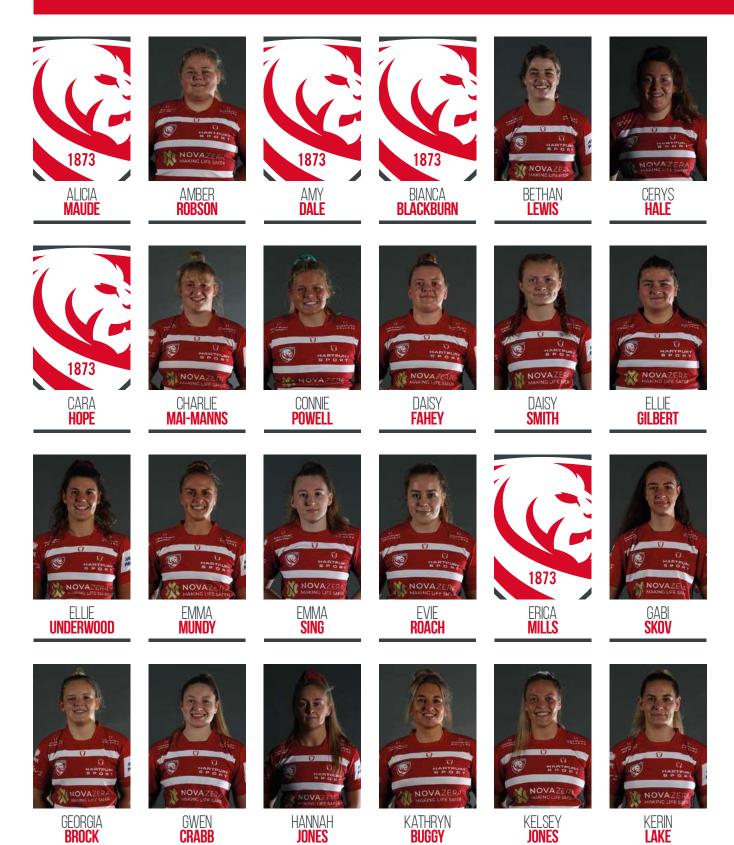
Head Coach George Skivington was impressed with the performance of Thomas in the pre-season bout against Championship side Ealing Trailfinders: "I thought he was great... I thought in the first half he was probably man of the match. I thought he had some really good touches and a couple of runs in including his try." "He is a good young talent and we worked really hard with Freddie last year and he didn't get a huge amount of game time with the first team or anywhere else, but he has got some real talent and I thought he was outstanding in the first half today."

Being involved in 6 out of 10 fixtures and regularly traveling with the squad as injury cover for games, Freddie has a big future at this club and has a massive potential, as well as proving he can make an instant impact to the club whenever he gets the chance to feature.





GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY WOMEN SQUAD



GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY SQUAD







LLUECU **George**





MEGAN **Issac**



MIA BOUCHER-WHITE



MIA Venner



NATASHA HUNT



pip **Hendy**



PIPPA **Robinson**



RACHEL LUND



RANN **Samuda**



ROBYN WILKINS



SHYA **Pinnock**



sisilia **Tuipulotu**

















FEATURE

GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY WOMEN

The Cherry and Whites kicked off their first home game of the New Year against Sale Sharks Women at the Alpas Arena. Following a convincing 36-14 win against Bristol Bears Women last week, the team were looking to keep the momentum going and continue to climb the Allianz Premier 15s table.

What Happened?

The Cherry and Whites began with great intensity on the defensive front with fast line speed and hard-hitting tackling led in particular by flanker Bethan Lewis. Despite an early yellow card to Mo Hunt the team's defensive intensity continued setting the tone for remainder of the game.

Following winning a penalty outside the opposition 22, Lleucu George drove the kick for touch setting up an attacking line out 15 metres out from the Sale line.

> **GLOUCESTER RUGBY** vs USA PERPIGNAN

Following an overwhelming driving maul which was brought down just before the line, Rachel Lund forced her way over from a first phase carry following breaking a tackle in the Sale defensive line, with the missed conversion this left the score at 5-0 following the first 15 minutes of the contest.

A continued defensive effort from Gloucester-Hartpury prevented Sale from forming any attacking momentum keeping the opposition pinned back in their own half, the majority of their time in possession. Sale Sharks Women did manage to find some momentum towards the end of the half finding themselves with a lineout 5 metres from the Gloucester-Hartpury line with the clock almost in the red. But as ever a resolute Cherry and White defence turned the ball over leaving Lleucu George to put the ball out to end the half.

Words: Will Blowers



FEATURE









The second half was the story of strong defensive and attacking creativity from the home side, as they began to challenge Sale defensively as well as keeping the opposition's attack under control. Following a yellow card for Sale, Connie Powell found herself throwing in at the line out 5 metres from the Sale line, as well as finding herself crossing for her team's second score in the corner as a result of the commanding field position, making the score 10-0 following 50 minutes of play.

Sale Sharks Women managed to

find themselves on the scoresheet for their only score of the game coming from a successful penalty which came as a result of Sale's more established second half attack earning a penalty outside the 22.

That was all that would come from a Sale perspective as far as scoring was concerned as the Cherry and White defence did not faulter again as the replacements began to make an impact for the home side. In particular Kerin Lake's attacking creativity began to open up the defence of Sale ultimately leading to Sommer's score further extending the lead, the conversion from Emma Sing made the score 17-3 with 10 minutes to go. That is how the score would stay as Gloucester-Hartpury secured another win to keep their good run of form going.

Following the contest Head Coach Sean Lynn was 'Really happy with 4 points', in his eyes 'building momentum', momentum which the side will look to continue in their next game against Harlequins away on Saturday 29 January.



LAST TIME OUT





<u>GLOUCESTER RUGBY BEAT</u> SARACENS 25-24 TO CLAIM THEIR FIRST VICTORY AT THE STONEX STADIUM

The Cherry and Whites scored three tries with Adam Hastings keeping the scoreboard ticking with two further penalties.

What happened?

It was a tight and physical 80 minutes and it went down to the wire.

Gloucester Rugby were first to get on the scoreboard through a Fraser Balmain try. The prop powered over from the lineout drive as the Cherry and White maul proved powerful again.

The competitive nature of the game continued as Dom Morris and Rotimi Segun got over for the hosts and Saracens built a good lead.

The Cherry and Whites hadn't helped themselves. Both Santiago Carreras and Lewis Ludlow were yellow carded in desperate attempts to stop the Sarries attack and it was with this two man advantage that the home side capitalised.

However, the score was tight at half time thanks to a try from Jack Singleton. Jordy Reid made an electric break and the hooker was there to collect the pass and get over to score making the score 14-12 to the hosts at the break.

In the second half, Hastings kept the scoreboard ticking with a penalty goal but Saracens were quick to get back in the lead from an Andy Christie try from the following restart.

Gloucester Rugby refused to stay behind and used the maul to get over for a further try. The driving push went over and it was Lewis Ludlow who was credited for the try, although the captain informed the media afterwards that it wasn't him who scored! It was in fact Jack Clement who went over for the try.

Nailing the conversion, Hastings put us in front and another penalty kick at goal gave the Cherry and Whites some breathing room.

It looked like Saracens were going to snatch the victory when Alex Lewington went over for a late try but Alex Lozowski's failed conversion left the score 25-24 with just minutes on the clock.

It was a tense final few moments as Saracens fought back up the pitch but getting the turnover, Gloucester Rugby secured the narrow victory over the London club.







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LAST TIME OUT

















GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOUNDATION

EX-GLOUCESTER RUGBY PLAYERS PARTICIPATION · EDUCATION · WELLBEING **FHEIR BIKES** FOR DODDIE WEIR'S MND



Many have been taking it easy over the festive period and the start of the new year, but a bunch of former Gloucester Rugby players have been doing the exact opposite by heading out on their bikes in all weathers to get in shape for a daunting charity challenge.

Mike Teague, Ian Smith, Greg Keyse, Phil Pritchard, Pete Jones and John Gadd will head off from Edinburgh's Murrayfield Stadium on Thursday, February 10, as part of a 150-strong group of cyclists aiming to reach Cardiff's Principality Stadium within 48 hours.

Their mission is twofold – to deliver the match ball in time for the Doddle Weir Cup fixture between Wales and Scotland in this year's Six Nations

tournament and to raise funds for the My Name'5 Doddie Foundation.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

FOUNDATION

Using a relay system, teams of cyclists will aim to cover that 515-mile distance in less than two days, with various rugby clubs en route providing feed stations, medical back-up and shower facilities, with Kingsholm Stadium being a stop off point on Friday 11th February.

The group of former players and their support team are also looking for any financial help towards the various costs of the trip such as support vehicle fuel. If you think you can help please contact them on cherrynwhitecycling@gmail.com.

Click here for more information about the ride.



THE TEAMS



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GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Kyle MOYLE	15 Pato FERNANDEZ				
Louis REES ZAMMIT	14 George TILSLEY				
Chris HARRIS	13 Brayden WILLIAME				
Mark ATKINSON	12 Edward SAWAILEAU				
Ollie THORLEY	11 Nino SEGUELA				
Adam HASTINGS	10 Matteo RODOR				
Stephen VARNEY	9 Martin LANDAJO				
Jamal FORD-ROBINSON	1 Xavier CHIOCCI				
Santiago SOCINO	2 Seilala LAM				
Fraser BALMAIN	3 Arthur JOLY				
Ed SLATER	4 Tristan LABOUTELEY				
Freddie CLARKE	5 Tex CAVUBATI				
Jordy REID	6 Matthieu UGENA				
Lewis LUDLOW (C)	7 Alan BRAZO (C)				
Jack CLEMENT	8 Genesis MAMEA LEMALU				
REPLACEMENTS					
Jack SINGLETON	16 Victor MONTGAILLARD				
Harry ELRINGTON	17 Sacha LOTRIAN				
Kirill GOTOVTSEV	18 Akato FAKATIKA				
Andrew DAVIDSON	19 Nafi MA'AFU				
Harry TAYLOR	20 Ewan BERTHEAU				
Charlie CHAPMAN	21 Sadek DEGMACHE				
Giorgi KVESELADZE	22 Emmanuel VAITULUKINA				

MATCH OFFICIALS

Lloyd EVANS 23 Lucas DUBOIS

Referee: Ben Blain (SCO) Assistant Referees: Keith Allen (SCO) and Ian Kenny (SCO) TMO: Andrew McMenemy (SCO) Citing Officer: Dana Teagarden (GER)







