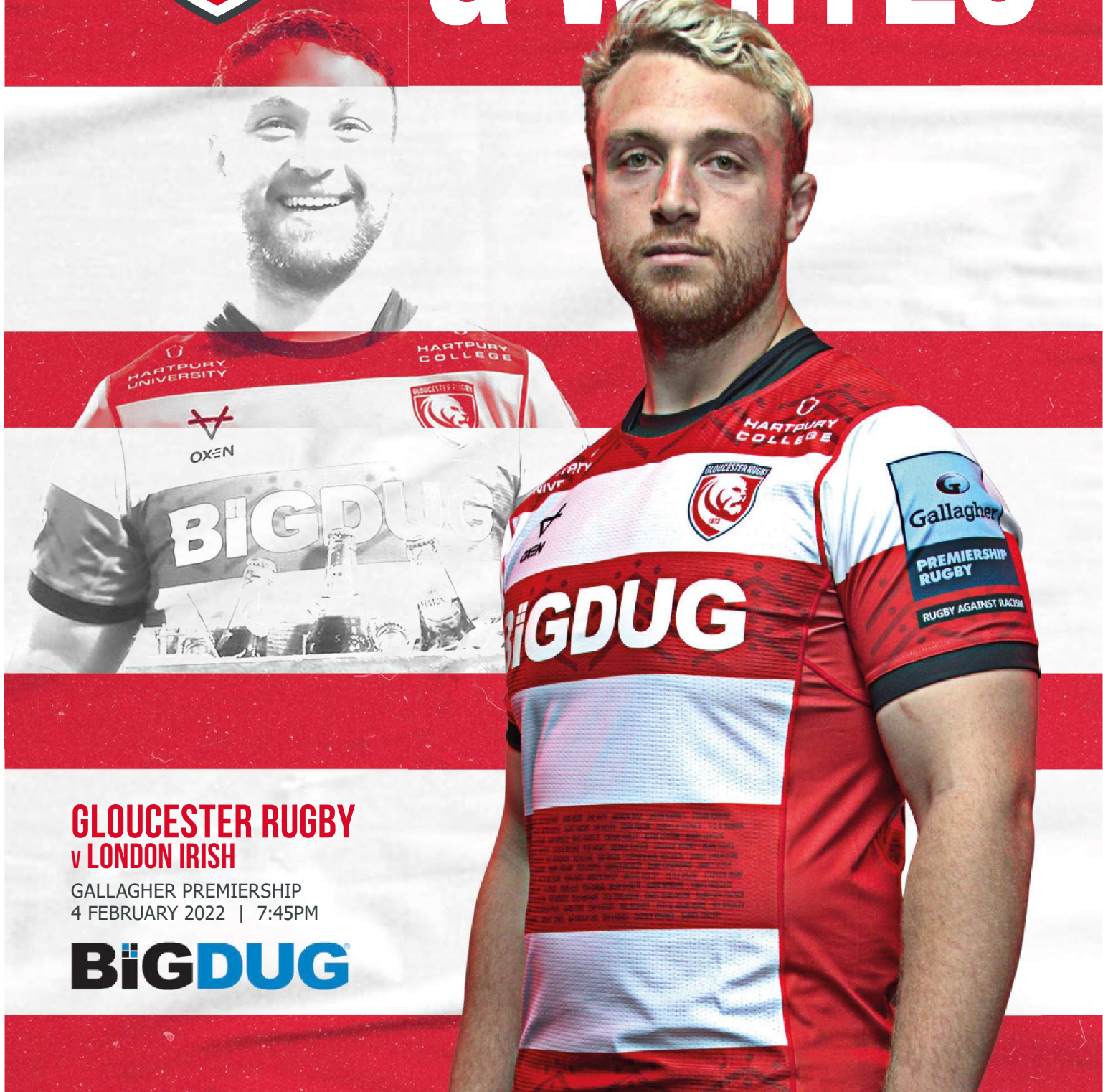




CHERRY & WHITES



GLOUCESTER RUGBY v LONDON IRISH

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP
4 FEBRUARY 2022 | 7:45PM

BIGDUG



Gallagher

PREMIERSHIP
RUGBY



FULLER'S
LONDON PRIDE





GLOUCESTER RUGBY

KINGSHOLM STADIUM, KINGSHOLM
ROAD GLOUCESTER GL1 3AX

www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk

Facebook gloucesterrugby

Twitter @gloucesterrugby

Main Switchboard

01452 872250

Customer Email

customerservices@gloucesterrugby.co.uk

Club President: Fred Reed

PLAYING DEPARTMENT

Head Coach: George Skivington

Team Manager: Sam Raven

Rugby Administrator: Karen Harrington

CLUB MANAGEMENT

Chairman: Martin St. Quinton

CEO: Lance Bradley

COO: Alex Brown

Finance and Operations Director:

Richard Smith

HR Director: Gill Crowther

Media & Digital Content Manager:

Tim Rogers

Venue Sales Manager: Gareth Howells

Head of Partnerships: Mike Thomas

Operations Manager: Andy Lowe

Finance Manager: Matt Mulcahy

General Manager: Nick Cole

PROGRAMME

Lead Editor: Louis Shaw

Co-editor: Tim Rogers

Photography: Martin Bennett, Getty Images

Design: Daniel Parker

Produced by: Amberley Court Associates

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LANCE BRADLEY

CEO

WELCOME TO ANOTHER FRIDAY NIGHT UNDER THE LIGHTS. I'D LIKE TO EXTEND AN ESPECIALLY WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE FROM LONDON IRISH.

This is always an interesting time in the Gallagher Premiership season. We're just over half way through, with every club having played everyone else at least once. So every opponent we now face we know a little bit more about than in the earlier part of the season. But then there's the factor of players being away with their countries for Guinness Six Nations games or World Cup qualifiers, emphasising once again how important it is to have strength in depth across a squad.

We're currently fourth in the table, and the only one of the top four to record a win last weekend.

"ANOTHER WIN TONIGHT WILL SEE US CONSOLIDATE OUR POSITION IN THE TOP FOUR, BUT WE'RE FAR FROM COMPLACENT"

Our result at Newcastle was particularly pleasing given that not only is it always a tricky place to go, but our preparations were disrupted by the 60 mph winds blowing across the North East that afternoon, resulting in our game being delayed until the evening.

It's always a long old trip back from Newcastle, but coming home with five points does make the journey a bit more bearable.

Another win tonight will see us consolidate our position in the top four, but we're far from complacent, and we know that London Irish are always tough opponents.

Tonight's game isn't the only entertainment on at Kingsholm this weekend. Tomorrow we're delighted to host the Gloucester-Hartpury Women as they take on Exeter Chiefs Women in their Allianz Premier 15s clash, followed by Gloucester Rugby vs Saracens in the U-18s Academy League. **Tickets are still available by clicking here**, and seats are priced at just £5 for adults and £1 for juniors. The action kicks off at 12.30, and I know that both our teams would really appreciate your support.

And speaking of our women's team, I'm delighted to welcome Zoe Aldcroft as our guest of honour this evening.

Zoe is the World Rugby Women's 15s Player of the Year – an absolutely tremendous achievement. She's been a fantastic player and leader for both Gloucester-Hartpury and for England's Red Roses. As well as seeing Gloucester-Hartpury here tomorrow, you'll be able to watch the Red Roses in action at Kingsholm on April 9th when they take on Wales in the 6 Nations - **just click here for tickets.**

You'll also have your chance to show your appreciation of Zoe's award at half time this evening.

Finally, we'll shortly be announcing the dates for another online live event and a Fans' Forum event. We're always keen to keep in touch with you, and share our news, so please make sure you keep an eye out for those dates.

Together, we are a squad of thousands.

**Best wishes
Lance**



GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM AS WE HOST LONDON IRISH UNDER THE FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS.

London Irish travel to Gloucester after an 18-14 win against Exeter. They will be coming to Kingsholm with a lot of momentum and will be tough opposition for our team who have also been performing well in recent weeks.

What a great performance from our boys last weekend. Kingston Park is a notoriously difficult place to travel to and it was no different this time. The wind was so strong that kick-off had to be postponed by four hours, completely disrupting the players' preparations.

It is a credit to each individual that they were able to reset and get the bonus point win over Newcastle despite the conditions.

The win over the Falcons continues to keep us in the top four and a good win tonight against our London rivals would maintain our excellent run.

The squad now face a challenging period as five players have gone away on international duty. However, this provides great opportunities for other players to step up. It is an exciting time as we will see what some of the wider squad members can do.

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**





CHERRY AND WHITES DRAW 25-25 WITH LONDON IRISH.

Gloucester Rugby drew 25-25 against London Irish at the Brentford Community Stadium.

The Cherry and Whites scored three tries in a tight battle to take two league points away from the fixture.

What happened?

London Irish were first to get on the scoreboard through Augustin Creevy and before too long they had their second score thanks to Isaac Curtis-Harris who also got over the line.

Paddy Jackson was accurate with the boot so after 20 minutes the Cherry and Whites were 14 points down and were left scratching their heads as they seemed to have spent the entire opening quarter defending.

Gloucester Rugby gathered some composure and secured some good possession and Adam Hastings got the Cherry and Whites on the scoreboard thanks to two penalties.

Just before half time it felt that momentum had swung as Gloucester Rugby were getting some good attack as they inched their way up the field.

However, after the break it was a disaster of a start for the Cherry and Whites as Mark Atkinson was yellow carded for killing the ball, allowing Jackson to add another three points to the Irish board.

Ben Morgan steadied the ship with two great tries scored in similar fashion. The maul powered over from the lineout and it was the big No.8 at the back of it to get over for the two scores.

In between Gloucester Rugby scores, Jackson added another penalty kick to his tally but suddenly it was time to shine for the Cherry and Whites.

Louis Rees-Zammit made an intercept from inside his 22m line and ran the length of the field to score. Hastings added the extras and Gloucester Rugby had a good lead with 20 minutes left to play.

However, Matt Rogerson found a way to the line for the hosts to put the score level with just over 10 minutes to go. The missed conversion and a late missed drop goal attempt from Paddy Jackson meant that the game ended in a draw.

KEY MOMENT

LRZ scores intercept try

Gloucester Rugby were in need of something to get them ahead and it was Louis Rees-Zammit who delivered the goods.

The Welsh winger made an intercept deep inside the 22 and had the pace to go unchallenged to dot down under the sticks.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGEKIWIS AT
KINGSHOLM

The move to professional rugby led to many players in the southern hemisphere making the journey north to further their careers in England. A fair number of them travelled from New Zealand, and quite a few of those turned up at Kingsholm.

HENRY PAUL (2001-05)

Henry Paul was a rugby league legend. He won 23 caps for New Zealand before coming to England and having a second successful career with Wigan and then Bradford. It caused quite a stir when it was revealed that he would change codes and play for Gloucester, in a deal partly funded by the RFU, who wanted to fast track him into the England set-up, as he qualified through his grandfather. He quickly settled at Kingsholm and playing at fly-half formed a solid partnership with Andy Gomersall at No.9. There was success in his first season (2001-02) at Kingsholm, as Gloucester beat Bristol, at Twickenham, in the final of the Zurich Championship. In the same year Henry won his first of six England caps. More success followed in the next campaign as Gloucester beat Northampton to win the Powergen Cup, and also topped the Premiership but lost heavily in the final to Wasps. In the 2003-04 season, Paul, who had taken over kicking duties after the departure of Ludovic Mercier, scored 352 points in 29 games. Gloucester reached the quarter-final of the Heineken Cup, and in the seven games played, Henry scored exactly 100 points. In his final complete season, and by now playing at centre, he scored another 242 points

IAN JONES (1999-2001)

Overseas players nearing the end of their careers are sometimes perceived to be topping up their pensions when playing in the Premiership. Ian Jones could never be accused of that. In the two seasons he was at Kingsholm from 1999-2001, he gave his all, and was very popular with fans. He was one of the biggest signings in Gloucester's history having made 79 test appearances, and scored nine tries for the All Blacks. He also played in three World cups 1991, 1995 and 1999.

Ian scored a try in his first Gloucester appearance against Biarritz, in a Challenge cup game. He was soon



Ian Jones

a firm Shed favourite, due to his total commitment to the club's cause. He was master of the line-out, and when he got the chance, he would produce barnstorming runs. He formed a formidable partnership in the second row with Rob Fidler. Ian was made captain for the 2000-01 season, but a poor start result-wise led to a personal loss of form, and Ian handed over the leadership to the previous season's captain Kingsley Jones. This was the Cherry and Whites' first season in the Heineken Cup, and they made it to the semi-final. Jones played in six of the eight games involved, including the narrow defeat to Leicester in the semi-final. It came as a big surprise that Ian announced his retirement at the end of the season. He subsequently changed his mind and played one more campaign with Wasps.

SIMON MANNIX (1998-2001)

Simon also figured in that Heineken game against Leicester, scoring all Gloucester's points with five penalties. He was a prodigious kicker scoring 703 points in 69 appearances.

Simon arrived at Gloucester in 1998, as a 27-year-old. He had won a single cap for New Zealand in 1994 against France. He played for Sale from 1996 to 1998.

In his first season he scored 150 points, but fell out with the club in his second, and signed a contract to come to Kingsholm. Simon found his first season tough. Mark Mapletoft was holding the fly-half position and Mannix made his earliest appearances partnering Australian Richard Tombs in the centre. He was much better at fly-half, and against Northampton in the last game of the season he scored a try, four conversions and five penalties, in a 43-31 win.

By the start of the following season Mapletoft had left, and Simon was first choice No.10. His form improved to such an extent that in his 25 appearances he scored 315 points. He kicked nine penalties (all of Gloucester's points) in a Premiership game against Harlequins, a club record which still stands. In the Heineken Cup Mannix played in six games, scoring 104 points.

GREG SOMERVILLE (2008-10) & JOHN AFOA (2014-18)

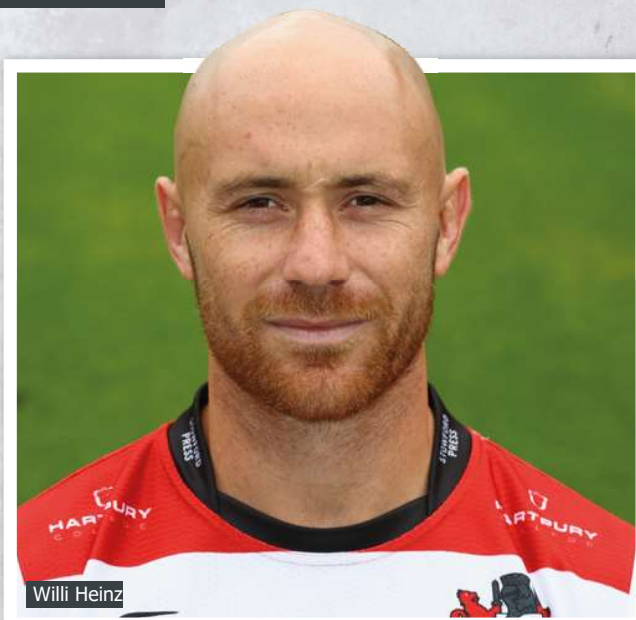
Somerville spent two seasons at Kingsholm from 2008-10, and was an extremely efficient tight-head prop, who won 66 New Zealand caps. A few years later, John Afoa took over in the same position. Afoa won 36 All Black caps, before spending several seasons playing for Ulster, before moving to Gloucester in 2014. In 2015, he was in the team which won the European Challenge Cup, beating Edinburgh in the final. In four seasons he made 104 appearances. He was a tight-head prop who made the scrum secure, and handled extremely well in the loose.

JEREMY THRUSH (2015-18)

Jeremy Thrush was an abrasive second row forward, who never willingly gave an inch. He was totally committed to his work on the field, and disliked being replaced after 70 minutes or so! In 2016-17, Gloucester had a good run in the European Challenge Cup, and Jeremy was in the team which produced an outstanding win in France against La Rochelle, in the semi-final. He was also part of the team which lost to a very good Stade Francais in the final. The following



Jeremy Thrush



Willi Heinz

season the Cherry and Whites again made it to the final, and Jeremy again tasted defeat, this time very narrowly to Cardiff Blues.

WILLI HEINZ (2015-21)

In 2015, scrum half Willi Heinz was signed as a direct replacement for Dan Robson, when the latter left for Wasps. Willi, however, had to compete with Scottish international, Greg Laidlaw, and the emerging Callum Braley for the No.9 shirt. In February 2016, Gloucester played Bath at the "Rec", when conditions were awful, but Heinz and fly-half James Hook kept Bath pinned back with tactical kicks. This worked well, and Gloucester won 15-11. In April 2017, Gloucester travelled to La Rochelle in the semi-final of the European Challenge Cup. Heinz was captain for the game. The French team was unbeaten at home that season, but a superb Gloucester, thriving under Willi's leadership, triumphed 16-14. It was understandable that Willi was made club captain for the 2017-18 season. He would retain that post for three campaigns, though latterly constant injuries seriously limited his appearances.

Although a native of New Zealand, Willi had an English grandmother who made it possible for him to qualify for England. He won his first cap in August 2019, when made vice-captain in a World Cup warm-up game against Wales. In the World Cup he made five appearances, but was injured in the semi-final against New Zealand, and so missed the final. He would win four more caps in the 2020 Six Nations.

Other Kiwis who have played for Gloucester are: **Robert Todd (2001-04)** and 86 appearances; **Nathan Mauger (2004-06)**; **Willi Walker (2006-09)** and 364 points from 64 appearances; **Carlos Spencer (2009-10)**; **Jimmy Cowan (2012-14)**; **Josh Hohnneck (2016-20)** and 101 appearances; **Tom Marshall (2016-20)**; and of course, very much still with us, **Jason Woodward** who joined Gloucester in 2017.

BIG RUAN ACKERMANN

ON HIS BIG PERFORMANCES



Ruan Ackermann has been phenomenal this season. He seems to win man of the match awards every game and nobody carries the ball with the same power and ferociousness as the Cherry and White No.8.

After another MOTM performance against Newcastle, Ruan is playing really well but insists that his individual performances are thanks to the work of his teammates.

"It's coming from the way the team is playing at the moment and also the vibe that is in the team. The way that Kingy (Alex King) speaks with me, about our attack, what they want from me is to play the way that I enjoy which is carrying the ball and being involved.

"Where I'm at now, I'm really fortunate and blessed to be injury free and all the rest of it and it's been a really good period for me. I'm just in a good place mentally."

It's been a tough few years for the big back rower. He saw his mum for the first time in two years on Monday thanks to covid.

"My mum came over and I haven't seen her since covid started so it's been two years and now she's finally arrived so that's an extra little motivation. It's been a good little block for me.

"It's been two years. When covid started they went back to South Africa and since then it's just been video calls and finally they got the visas and she made it over on Monday. It's been good having her around."



Ruan is looking forward to having his mum at the London Irish game and is hoping to put in another solid performance.

He's got used to the taste to Stowford Press thanks to the company sponsoring the man of the match award but is used to splitting the pack of cider with his teammates.

"At the end of the day, it's a team effort. I'm happy to contribute to where we are going at the moment and where we want to go as a team. It's one of those things where you find yourself in the right place at the right time and all I ever think about it doing the basics.

"I love doing the basic stuff and doing the stuff that you can do and control, which is what I'm good at. As the game evolves, you end up finding yourself in good little areas where you can get the odd try and then the fans see it.

"But it's the small things that people don't see that we as a team are really focused on. Any player will see on a Monday or Tuesday, stuff from other boys that people don't necessarily see but we see those small things and that's what's motivating me at the moment, doing those small things for the team."

Ball carrying is one of Ruan's biggest strengths and it's something that he's been working on hard with the coaches.

"Dan Tobin, our conditioning guy, has been talking a lot about being a bit more explosive in the first five metres of carrying. For me, that's a focus point.

"You can carry and carry but you can't always use brute strength! You have to be smart and use your feet before contact before you go into the collision. It's about being a bit more explosive and getting onto their arms rather than their body.

"That's what I'm trying to focus on and I'm also trying to put myself in positions where I am stronger than the defender, running a line that maybe

they don't expect. It's those small things that you need to adapt when you are in and around the carry."

During covid times, Ruan admits that he really struggled. Due to the way he plays, he is used to spending a lot of his free time in the gym and swimming pool doing recovery sessions.

In lockdown, all of the gyms and swimming pools were shut which meant that he was unable to recover properly after putting his body on the line during a game.

"My biggest struggle when covid started was the recovery because gyms and stuff were all closed. Usually on a Sunday and a Monday I'd do some off field recover stuff, in the pool and stuff like that. During covid, all of those places were closed so you couldn't really do it.

"Now it's all getting back open, I have a bit more time to recover the body so I am now more fresh coming into Tuesday and Wednesday in the week and then the days before the game.

"Also, that leads to me being more active in the gym as well because if you are less sore, you can be more active in the gym. That means that your power and everything stays up throughout the season.

"It's all those little things that I kind of lost when covid started, I'm now getting back to doing it and I'm now able to recover and hit the gym week in week out. All those small things lead to me being the best I can be out on the field."

Ruan does put his body on the line. Some of the collisions and hits reverberate around Kingsholm and send a shudders down the spines of those watching.

"I say I'm fortunate enough to be involved a lot but with that comes a lot of big collisions. For me, I like it and I enjoy it. It's how I grew up and it's something I want to do. I want to make those collisions and it feels like I'm involved in the game.

"Your body kind of gets used to it and the recovery afterwards is quite quick.

"There are people in the Premiership that love hitting as hard as I do so when you make that collision and you find yourself versus them, you definitely wake up in the morning and feel that!"



There are plenty of key performers in the Gloucester Rugby team but Ackermann has to be one of the first names on George Skivington's team sheet every week. The fact that he can play across the backrow is a real bonus.

"At the moment, the way we play, No.8 is more involved in the game which I enjoy. There's that link between 8, 9 and 10 from scrums and stuff which you're a little bit involved in as well. So, for me, I don't really mind where I play.

"I'm happy playing both. Just the way the team plays, the one that's more involved is the one that I would always prefer. 6 is just as involved around the field as well but for me, I enjoy playing 8 but I'm just as comfortable at 6."

Gloucester Rugby host London Irish on Friday night and big Ru is looking forward to the buzz of a game under the lights and is looking forward to playing in front of his mum for the first time in two years.

"Every Friday, it doesn't matter what team turns up, a Friday night at Kingsholm is always buzzing. Irish have been playing really well. They had a good win at the weekend as well and they've got quality players.

"We expect another big big game and on a Friday night at Kingsholm, it's going to be buzzing."



JACK CLEMENT

ACADEMY PROFILE

Words: Will Hartshorn



JACK CLEMENT IS NO STRANGER TO THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY FAITHFUL SINCE HIS DEBUT SEASON IN 2019/2020. A POWERFUL BALL CARRIER WHO PLAYS THE GAME WAY ABOVE HIS AGE, THE CHELTENHAM LOCAL IS THE PERFECT ARCHETYPE OF A COMPEED SHED FAVOURITE.

Clement started his rugby journey whilst playing for Bournside school in Cheltenham, this experience led to him becoming the captain of Cheltenham College, where he was coached by ex-Gloucester Rugby star Olly Morgan.

The 191 cm (6 foot 2) 107kg utility forward boasts impressive international experience by representing his national side (England) at both u18 and u20 level. The forward is clearly on Eddie Jones' radar as he was also invited to the senior training squad for the Autumn Internationals of 2020.

With experience across a range of positions, including the second and back row. Jack can cover anywhere across the tight five, whilst maintaining an increasingly high level of performance. Whilst his ball carrying takes centre stage in the young forwards highlight reels; it's his work in and around the breakdown where he adds to his all-around game. He has become a proficient turnover specialist and when he cleans you out of the ruck, you tend to know about it.



Coach George Skivington has definitely marked Jack as a favourite of his, awarding him nine appearances in the current season so far. This will no doubt lead to double figures by the end of the season, if not in the coming weeks.

It is no secret that the Gloucester Rugby maul has seen a fierce resurgence this year with the whole pack, occasionally the backs too, being crucial cogs in the overall machine. Jack is a real asset when driving this over, with a keen eye on the best time to break away and lock the five points in for the team. This method has seen Jack dot down for three tries this season.

With a wealth of experience across a squad rich in depth, especially in the back row, Jack has some great role models to learn from both in training in the state-of-the-art training ground as well as learning on the job with plenty of matchday experience. The likes of Ruan Ackerman, Ben Morgan as well as many others will be key mentors with the development of already fan favourite which is Clement.

It is fair to say Jack Clement has hit the ground running, with most Kingsholm regulars waiting to see more and more of him. He is a special talent that is well on his way to club legend status.



STATS CORNER



Lewis Ludlow has made the second most tackles



Ollie Hassell-Collins will be missing

- Gloucester have won 20 of their 22 home matches against London Irish in the Premiership, including each of their last six; the Cherry and Whites have tallied more home wins against the Exiles than against any other opponent in the competition.
- Gloucester have lost just two of their last 11 games in the Premiership (W8 D1), but both defeats in that span came at home; the Cherry and Whites have won nine of their last 10 league matches in which they were ahead at half-time (L1).
- London Irish have won two of their last four away games in the Premiership (D1 L1), as many wins as in their previous 16 road matches (D1 L13); in the last four seasons, only in 2019/20 did they win more games away from home (W4 D1 L6) than in the current season (W2 D1 L3).
- Gloucester have made 92.3% of their attempted penalty kicks at goal, the highest success rate of any team in the Premiership in 2021/22; they have missed just two of their 26 penalty attempts this season.
- Gloucester have made 155 tackles per game, more than any other team in the Premiership in 2021/22; however, London Irish have the highest tackle success ratio of any team in the league this season (89%).
- Gloucester have an average ruck speed of 4.3 seconds, the slowest of any team in the Premiership this season; London Irish have an average speed of 3.3, the second fastest in the league in 2021/22, behind only Northampton Saints (3.1).
- London Irish have beaten an average of 25.7 defenders per game in the Premiership in 2021/22, the most of any team; they have also completed the second most passes in the league this season (164), behind Exeter Chiefs (174).
- London Irish have conceded 9.5 turnovers per game, fewer than any other team in the Premiership in 2021/22, while Gloucester have recorded the second lowest average in the league this term (9.8).
- Three of the top five players for most tackles made in the Premiership this season play for Gloucester; Lewis Ludlow (184), Freddie Clarke (169) and Ruan Ackermann (135, level with Elliott Stooke) are only surpassed by Saracens' Ben Earl (190) in this ranking.
- London Irish will be without Ollie Hassell-Collins for this match against Gloucester – the winger has made the joint most line breaks of any player in the Premiership this season (13), while he ranks second for carry metres (992) and post-contact metres (415).



**GLOUCESTER RUGBY
FOUNDATION**

PARTICIPATION · EDUCATION · WELLBEING

PREMIERSHIP RUGBY CHAMPIONS

OUR COMMUNITY TEAM HAVE BEEN BUSY WORKING WITH PREMIERSHIP RUGBY TO PROMOTE TAG RUGBY IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WEST OXFORDSHIRE. THESE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS HAVE OFFERED HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN IN THE AREA OPPORTUNITIES TO PLAY TAG RUGBY IN SESSIONS DELIVERED BY OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COACHES!

As part of our mission for sustainability and to ensure the legacy of Gloucester Rugby is felt across our districts, we have been supporting teachers to confidently lead their own Tag Rugby sessions in schools. The Premiership Rugby Champions app – launched in 2019 – has helped our coaches connect with teachers and children in a new way that has helped empower classrooms to lead their own Tag Rugby programs.

Available on iOS and Android, Premiership Rugby Champions provides primary schools teachers with free resources tackling health, numeracy, and character, with digital literacy development the heart of the content. Developed by teachers for teachers, Premiership Rugby Champions provides interactive themed project-based lesson plans and materials for use in the classroom and outside.

Premiership Rugby Champions has enabled our coaching team to develop children's digital literacy skills as well as introduce Tag Rugby to primary schools. This has also meant



that we have been working with local rugby clubs to transition young players into community teams, so that primary school isn't the last they ever play of rugby.

In our mission to promote lifelong fans of the game, local clubs are vital to ensure that rugby continues growing into a sport for all. Our Community team have been visiting clubs across Gloucestershire and West Oxfordshire, supporting coaches, parents and players, to help grow player bases that have been affected by the pandemic. You may have seen our Community Development Coaches at your rugby club this season!

We need your support. Follow us on social media (Instagram - @gloucesterrugby and Twitter - @GR_CommunityDpt) to get all the latest news from our work in the community.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY SECURE FIVE TRY BONUS POINT WIN OVER NEWCASTLE FALCONS

Kingston Park is not an easy place to win but the Cherry and Whites secured the 32-22 bonus point victory over Newcastle Falcons to stay in the top four of the Gallagher Premiership.

It was windy and with kick off being delayed by four hours due to the weather, the victory was sweet.

What happened?

Newcastle were first to get on the scoreboard thanks to an early Brett Connon penalty and initially were the side who seemed to warm up to the game the fastest.

Gloucester Rugby took their time to settle and a try from Val Rapava-Ruskin wasn't enough to get a strong foothold into the game.

The hosts hit back with their own score through the flying winger Adam Radwan who was simply too fast to be stopped.

100% commitment from Chris Harris saw the Scotland centre charge down the conversion attempt and kept his former club to eight points.

It started to click for the Cherry and Whites. The attack worked well and Charlie Chapman put in some beautiful box kicks to ensure we played in the right areas of the field.

Santiago Carreras was put

into some space by a Billy Twelvetrees pass and the Argentine international went over to extend our lead with Hastings nailing the conversion and a penalty a few minutes later.

Lewis Ludlow gave Gloucester Rugby a good lead at the break thanks to a great try from the maul and the skipper led the side into half time with a 20-8 lead.

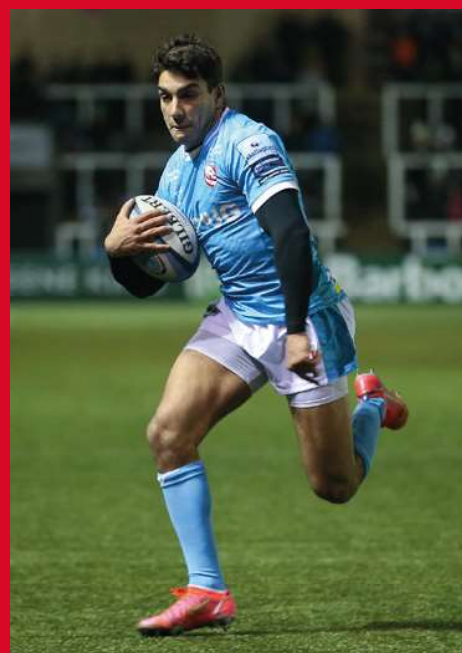
Newcastle were first to score in the second half and it was Mateo Carreras who got over the line. Connon added the conversion and things got close before Ollie Thorley extended the Cherry and White lead.

It was great hands from the backs and Santiago Carreras puts the winger in enough space for him to fly over for our bonus point try.

Louis Rees-Zammit then produced a bit of magic and he scored an incredible individual try. He ran from his 22, through the Newcastle defence, to score in the corner.

Lloyd Evans took over the kicking duties and slotted the conversion to secure the result.

Newcastle had the final say with a try from Charlie Maddison and the conversion from Will Haydon-Wood made the final score 32-22.



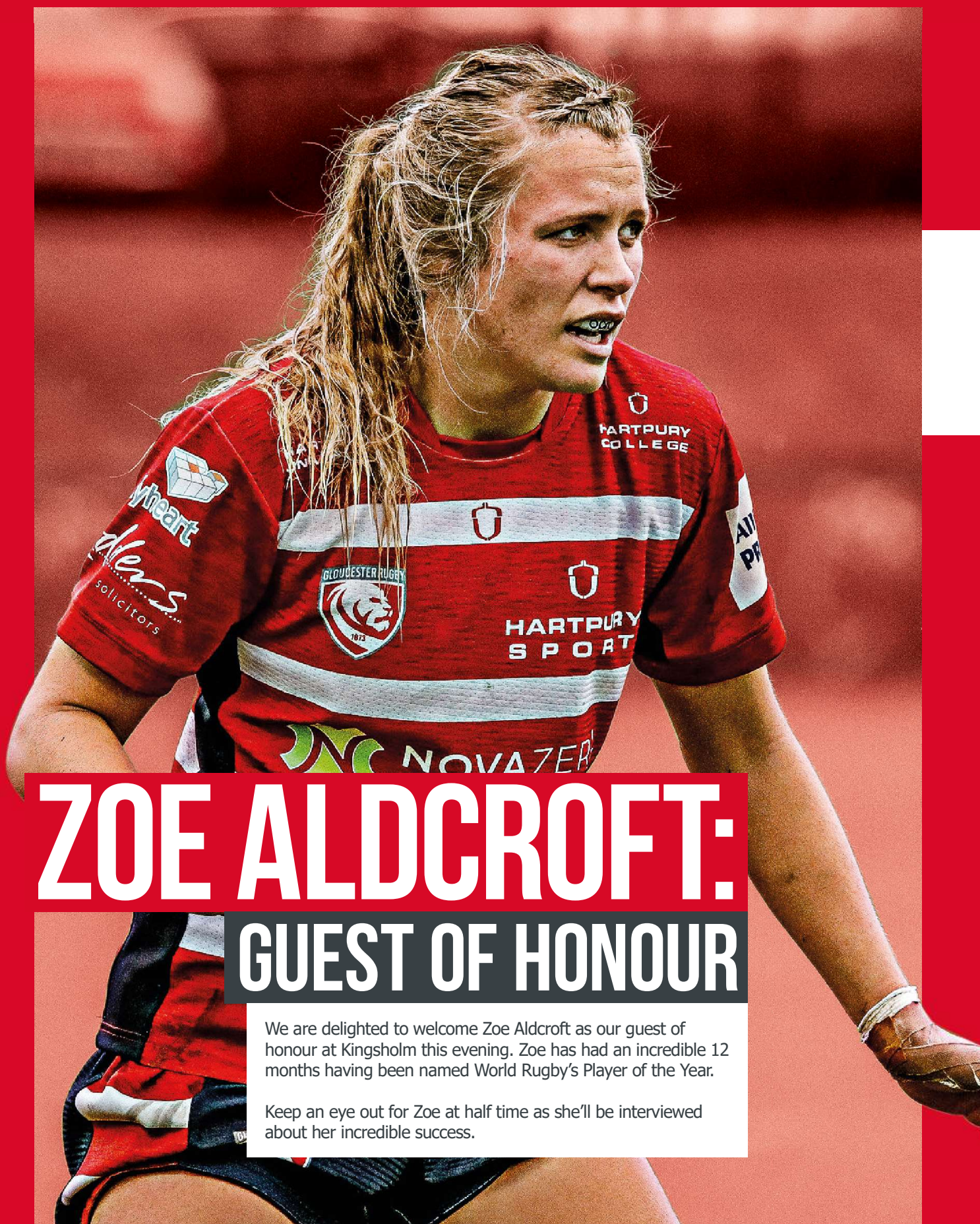


KEY MOMENT: LRZ

Louis Rees-Zammit is rapid. The Welsh winger made it from our 22, weaving and darting through the defence, all the way to the try line.

A great score as he now heads off on Six Nations duty.





ZOE ALDCROFT:

GUEST OF HONOUR

We are delighted to welcome Zoe Aldcroft as our guest of honour at Kingsholm this evening. Zoe has had an incredible 12 months having been named World Rugby's Player of the Year.

Keep an eye out for Zoe at half time as she'll be interviewed about her incredible success.

GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY AT KINGSHOLM

THIS SATURDAY AN IN-FORM GLOUCESTER-HARTPURY SIDE LOOK TO TAKE KINGSHOLM BY STORM AND CONTINUE THEIR PUSH FOR THE TOP FOUR AND A SEMI-FINAL SPOT COME THE END OF THE SEASON.



Despite a loss to Harlequins last weekend the Cherry and Whites take on Exeter Chiefs Women off the back of recent wins against Sale, Bristol, Worcester and Saturday's opponents Exeter in four of their last five Allianz Premier 15s matches. A team led by the likes of England international Mo Hunt and World 15s Player of the Year Zoe Aldcroft, will come into the game with confidence due to their previous 10-8 win against Exeter in December's trip to Sandy Park. They will also be looking to put on a show for the crowd at Kingsholm in a key game in regard to top 4 aspirations, a clash which also makes up the first part of Saturday's back-to-back at Kingsholm, which features the u18s Academy League fixture against Saracens following the full-time whistle.

Gloucester-Hartpury stars Shya Pinnock, Mo Hunt and Ellie Underwood spoke in the week about how much it means to them to be able to play at Kingsholm, which is not a regular occurrence for the side making it even more of a significant game. This game will also carry an extra level of importance, as it's a game against an Exeter Chiefs Women's side coached by former Gloucester-Hartpury coach Susie Appleby, further intensifying an established West-Country fixture, as Sean Lynn's side will look to do the double over Exeter, a side who currently hold one of the top 4 spots that the Cherry and Whites will look to occupy at the end of the season.

The players also spoke about how playing in front of a significant crowd at Kingsholm would provide a valuable boost for the team in such a crucial game, heavily encouraging fans to attend this Saturday's back-to-back at the home of Gloucester Rugby.



THE TEAMS



VS



LONDON IRISH

T P C D

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				Val RAPAVA-RUSKIN	15	James STOKES				
				Jack SINGLETON	14	Kyle ROWE				
				Fraser BALMAIN	13	Lucio CINTI				
				Freddie CLARKE	12	Benhard VAN RENSBURG				
				Matias ALEMANNO	11	Ben LOADER				
				Jack CLEMENT	10	Paddy JACKSON				
				Lewis LUDLOW (C)	9	Nick PHIPPS				
				Ruan ACKERMANN	1	Will GOODRICK-CLARKE				
				Kyle MOYLE	2	Matt CORNISH				
				Santiago CARRERAS	3	Ollie HOSKINS				
				Giorgi KVESELADZE	4	Rob SIMMONS				
				Billy TWELVETREES	5	Adam COLEMAN				
				Ollie THORLEY	6	Matt ROGERSON (C)				
				Lloyd EVANS	7	Juan MARTIN GONZALEZ				
				Charlie CHAPMAN	8	Olly CRACKNELL				

REPLACEMENTS

				Santiago SOCINO	16	Mike WILLEMSE				
				Harry ELRINGTON	17	Facundo GIGENA				
				Jamal FORD-ROBINSON	18	Marcel VAN DER MERWE				
				Andrew DAVIDSON	19	Chunya MUNGA				
				Alex CRAIG	20	Tom PEARSON				
				Ben MEEHAN	21	Hugh O'SULLIVAN				
				Adam HASTINGS	22	Terrence HEPETEMA				
				Tom SEABROOK	23	Cillian REDMOND				

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Karl Dickson (54th Premiership game)

Assistant Referees: Andrew Jackson and Jamie Leahy

TMO: David Rose **Citing Officer:** Budge Pountney