

CHERRY & WHITES



**MITSUBISHI
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**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

V **WORCESTER WARRIORS**

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME**
2017/18 SEASON / ISSUE 02
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY
FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2017
KO 19.45 / £3



TODAY'S MATCHDAY
SPONSOR



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

WILLI HEINZ.

01/09/17 Willi Heinz kicks the ball upfield during the Aviva Premiership match between Gloucester Rugby and Exeter Chiefs at Kingsholm Stadium.

WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR THIS EVENING'S GAME WITH WORCESTER WARRIORS.

It's good to be back on home soil after what has been a very tricky fortnight on the road.

It's been a topsy-turvy few weeks, full of great moments, but littered with frustrating errors that we are eager to put right this week.

Going into the first game of the season we were being written off by many as we met Exeter Chiefs, the defending champions. But we were full value for our win. We were tenacious, physical and full of energy, and the scenes at full time will live long in the memory of everyone at Kingsholm that night.

But, you're only as good as your last game, and we backed that up with two defeats on the road. It's always tricky facing a team that are coming to us on the back of a disappointing loss, and both Harlequins and Leicester threw everything they had at us.

In both games, a poor start left us climbing an uphill battle, and we rightly had a stern discussion at half time. But we want to show our resolve as a team, and although we've left the last two weeks with nothing to show for it, we've shown some good signs.

Last week at Leicester, we accept that in the first quarter of the game, we were below par in a number of areas, and the home side punished us. We wanted to put them under pressure and impose our game onto them, but we cannot

give any side a three try lead, and we were left chasing the game.

That said, we created some good opportunities, and could've got ourselves back in the game and set the nerves jangling at Welford Road. But, in order to do that, we need to be more effective with the ball in hand, cherishing possession and respecting the ball. All the basic things any young rugby player is taught.

Worcester are without a win yet, and will be coming at us with everything they've got, and the derby element adds a new element to the match.

It's our job to provide the rugby that brings the excitement, and that is what Johan is trying to instil in this team. We're in a good place in the squad, we're open, honest and driven and we need to produce the catalyst performance to get our season up and running properly.

Thank you for your backing so far this season, we know that the journey is just beginning and we want to be side by side with our supporters to keep on pushing on.

Enjoy the game

Willi



Good evening and a very warm welcome to Gloucester for what promises to be another exciting Friday night under the floodlights at Kingsholm.

It will have to be some game to match the last one played here – that dramatic last gasp victory against the Exeter Chiefs.

That was certainly one of the most memorable matches I've experienced at Kingsholm. We weren't at our best, I think everyone will agree. However we showed real grit and determination to hang in there and claim the win.

And, as for the role that you as supporters played – well, what can I say? The atmosphere was absolutely electric and Jason Woodward seemed to be driven towards the line by a wall of sound! It was fantastic and so important for us.

Away from the field of play, we made a significant announcement when we confirmed that Mitsubishi had

signed a contract to extend their role as Main Partner to the club until 2021!

We are absolutely delighted that negotiations were concluded so quickly and so amicably. It's been a terrific partnership to date, both organisations work so well together, and Mitsubishi's ongoing commitment is a real bonus for us.

On to this evening, and it's sure to be another hard-fought encounter. Fixtures against Worcester always have that local derby factor, which gives the game a bit of extra edge.

No quarter asked and none given – we wouldn't have it any other way!

Enjoy the game.

Martin

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME BACK TO ANOTHER FRIDAY NIGHT AVIVA PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE UNDER THE LIGHTS AT KINGSHOLM.

The Exeter game set the standard for Kingsholm for the rest of the season. A full house, an intimidating atmosphere with loud and passionate support, high quality of rugby and a Gloucester win!

For the opening game of 2017/18, it was a wonderful advert for the Aviva Premiership and, alongside the other results from the opening 3 weekends, highlighted the competitive nature of this League.

For the first time in Premiership history, none of the 12 teams has won each of their first three games and only tonight's opponents, Worcester, have still to get off the mark. Every Club has strengthened their playing squads over the summer and, while that makes for a high quality league, it means that you've got to play well every week to pick up points.

We've found that out to our cost over the last couple of matches away to Harlequins and Leicester. We didn't start either game well but, having fought our way back into both matches, we then made too many mistakes to give ourselves a chance of winning the games.

On a positive note, having worked really hard throughout preseason on the set piece issues that cost us games last season, we have been really competitive at scrum and lineout and a dominant set piece will be a key part of the game tonight. A lot of those improvements have been due to the players that have come into the squad and we were delighted this week to welcome James Hanson to the squad. James has joined us from the Melbourne Rebels until the start of the 2018 Super Rugby season and his quality and international experience adds more depth to the front row.

Over the last few weeks, you will all have heard Johan talk about the changes he wants to make to our playing style. It is different to how the team has prepared over the past couple of seasons and it always takes time to implement those changes and integrate the new players into that system.

Patience is not a word usually associated with professional sport but we're all very confident that with Johan, and his proven success with the Lions, we will develop quickly over the next few weeks and months.

DAVID HUMPHREYS.



I'm sure you will all give Gary Gold, his staff, players and all the Worcester supporters a very warm welcome to Kingsholm this evening, and let's create the same atmosphere on the pitch as it was against Exeter.

Enjoy the game.

David



GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

Nine years after the formation of the Club, Gloucester went through the 1882/3 season without defeat, and this remains the only unbeaten season in the history of the Club. They were dubbed the Invincibles. Fourteen matches were played, with eleven won and three drawn. George Coates was the leading try scorer with eleven, and Jimmy Boughton came next with eight. The only caps known to have survived from this era belonged to J W "Down 'Em" Bayley and are on display at Kingsholm.

Gloucester were undoubtedly a strong side, with an inspirational captain in J F Brown, who was leading the team for a seventh season, and who had trained the team in a very successful style of rugby known as the short passing game. They were also helped by the scoring system in use at the time. A try did not count as a score, it merely allowed the chance to "try" to convert it into a goal, which worked in Gloucester's favour in a couple of games when the opposition scored tries, but the match was drawn. The following year the system was changed so that tries did count.

Welsh clubs provided the stiffest opposition. Newport, playing eight current internationals were defeated by a goal (and a try) to nil away, with Newport disputing every score. Because of the bad feeling engendered, Rowland Hill, Secretary of the Rugby Union, refereed the return fixture, which ended in a no score draw (with Newport scoring the only try, and Gloucester claimed the moral high ground by not disputing it).

The first ever fixtures against Cardiff resulted in Gloucester winning at home by a goal (and 5 tries) to nil, and drawing away (a try apiece). For the first match, Gloucester introduced a new formation behind the scrum, playing one back, three three-quarters and three half-backs, and reducing the forwards from nine to eight. Cardiff learned their lesson all too well as results in subsequent seasons demonstrate, copying the short passing game and reducing their pack, but using the extra back as a three-quarter, a formation which was adopted by all four International Unions in 1893-94.

Clifton were beaten for the first time in six attempts by a goal (and four tries) to nil, and the double was completed



(L-R): A.W.Vears, H.J.Boughton, W.A.Boughton, G.Coates, H.J.Berry, J.F.Brown (Capt), H.E.Taylor, H.V.Jones
 B.Sloman, T.G.Smith, P.B.Cooke, J.W.Bayley, A.C.Seymour, W.Brimmell, W.Brown
 H.Fream G.J.Dewey

over Bath by two goals (and four tries) to nil at the Spa and by a goal (and two tries to one try) to nil away.

The team photo shown here is dated 1882, and shows the team in their blue strip with the City Arms badge in front of the pavilion at the Spa.

In Memoriam Alfred Purton

Alfred Purton was born at Barton St Mary, Gloucestershire, in 1881, but moved to Gloucester as a boy and found employment as a sawyer. He took up rugby and proved to be a very useful back or second row forward, who played



for the Club 1900-08. He made 96 appearances for the Club's First XV, 1901-07, and at least 42 appearances for the Second XV. He was noted for his "splendid work in the open", and appears on several of the Club's honours boards in the Lions Den.

With the outbreak of the Great War, Alfred enlisted as a Private in the 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards, and landed in France in July 1915. The following year he returned to Gloucester to marry Florence Bick, but returned to the front, where he was wounded in October 1916. He duly recovered and returned to France in April 1917. On 31st July he was wounded at the Battle of Pilckem Ridge and transferred to hospital in Boulogne. He succumbed to his wounds on 27th August 1917 and was buried in Boulogne. He is commemorated on the Gloucester war memorial and on the memorial here at Kingsholm.

FEATURE INTERVIEW



#4

Tom **SAVAGE**

TOM SAVAGE HASN'T PERHAPS FOLLOWED ONE OF THE MORE ORTHODOX ROUTES TO THE TOP OF PROFESSIONAL RUGBY.

150 NOT OUT

“
YOU JUST NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THINGS BEHIND THE SCENES, AND THERE WAS A GOOD CORE OF YOUNGSTERS IN OUR GROUP, AND THE COACHES WERE HAPPY TO GIVE YOUNGSTERS A GO.
”



Tom Savage hasn't perhaps followed one of the more orthodox routes to the top of professional rugby.

But as the hard-hitting, energetic lock explained this week, 152 first team games into his Gloucester career, it's a story of making the most of every opportunity.

One fateful day, Savage was spending the afternoon painting the Hartpury RFC clubhouse, when an opportune chat with then Head Coach Bryan Redpath saw him drop the tools and cross the fence to train with the Cherry and Whites, and he's not looked back since.

And as Savage explains, it's been quite a journey.

"It was obviously going back many moons, and it really has flown by. I was in my final year at Hartpury, and Mark Cornwell was the Academy Coach here at the time. I'd actually been in for a few sessions for Gloucester and got myself an A League game.

"He managed to wiggle me in to get a run around in preseason and then I managed to sneak onto the tour to Portugal. It was a massive eye opener for me of what professional rugby was at the time, and what it was going to take to make it at the next level.

"I was lucky enough to be involved for the rest of that year



alongside my studies in the final year of Uni, and it all built from there. There was a contract for me for the next year waiting for me, and it all fell together quite nicely."

2011 was the breakthrough year for the Shrewsbury-born lock, and after swapping the paint roller for the foam roller in the professional club environment, Savage wasted no time in getting stuck in with the squad that boasted plenty of know-how in the stocks of locks.

"The year I was training with the squad, Jim [Hamilton] was in his first year, Dave Attwood was here and breaking through, Will James and Alex Brown were fixtures in the squad too.

"It worked out quite well for me in my first year that Dave



JUST BEFORE MY 150TH GAME OBVIOUSLY, BUT WINNING SOME SILVERWARE WAS MASSIVE FOR US AS A GROUP WITH THE CHALLENGE CUP WIN IN 2015, AND THEN SOME MEMORABLE NIGHTS IN EUROPE.



[Attwood] moved on, Jim was away at the Rugby World Cup in 2011, and there was an opportunity for me to play some rugby from the off. I had time in the saddle and time on the pitch was exactly what you need at that level to gain experience."

And it is the feeling of being thrown in at the deep end that Savage holds highly as an integral part of his exciting development, at a time where the Gloucester squad had a core of young, home grown talent throughout the squad.

"I think that it is sink or swim at those times. You know you can get an opportunity when you are young, and it comes down to how you react and how you prepare yourself to play.

"You just need to make sure that you're doing the right things behind the scenes, and there was a good core of youngsters in our group, and the coaches were happy to give youngsters a go.

"Allied to that, there was that experienced group that really had your back with any issues you had.

Surrounded by that brains trust of experience at the time, Savage looked at the tips and tricks of the trade he could absorb from the likes of Hamilton, James, Brown et al.

"You sort of do develop in your own way, and I feel I was lucky to have those guys around me like Jim and Grills who

helped me out. It's not just on the pitch that you can learn from them, it's how to take care of yourself off the pitch and how to handle yourself in the public eye.

"It's those things that you need to make you a more rounded player, you can be excellent one week, and terrible the next if you're not prepared. Those are the lessons that those guys really helped me with from the off."

Savage's 150 games have encapsulated many highs and, on the other hand, quite a few lows during a rollercoaster few years at Kingsholm, and he is able to pick off some stand out moments in his mind.

"Just before my 150th game obviously, but winning some silverware was massive for us as a group with the Challenge Cup win in 2015, and then some memorable nights in Europe.

"There were some big ones, and being the only group to go out and win in La Rochelle twice in a calendar year was huge. Games like that show the potential that this club has got, and the players that are in it.

"Sort of, week to week and building that consistency and momentum, and if we can find the formula to replicate that then we're going to come out on top more often than not."

Savage was a leading light on opening night, bringing the physicality as Gloucester toppled the Champions, and it was the start of a really memorable night.

"I actually remember my 100th game, I didn't lead the team out, and I got a little bit of stick from the family and a few friends back at home. So this time the boys tricked me and they shoved me out in front at the last minute so I didn't have too much time to think about it.

"To lead the boys out, to then turn over the Champions on opening night, it doesn't get much better than that.

"It meant so much to the squad that night, and it was a great team performance from us."





KINGSHOLM

WITH
BOB
FENTON

NEWS



If Johan Ackermann wanted to experience what it has been like to spend a lifetime watching Gloucester Rugby, then he got a monster clue over the past few weeks.

The highest of highs at Kingsholm against Exeter followed by an error-strewn display against Harlequins with a large dollop of the ridiculous and the sometimes sublime against Leicester. Welcome to our world, Mr A!

It really did sum it all up in the space of three weeks and, if he was a bit unsure about the size of the task he has taken on, the last three games should have taught him all he needs to know.

Having said that, when the fixtures were announced earlier in the year most Gloucester fans – when considering historic form – would not have given very good odds on coming out with more than one or two points, let alone five. So, disappointing as it was to lose the two away games, it's a bit early for too much doom and gloom.

The Exeter game was phenomenal though. Having shot ourselves in the foot, we reloaded and did it again! Fortunately, we fought back in style and those last 90 seconds are burned into the memory along with many other last-minute wins. It really was right up there with

the great games of the past, one that fans will talk about for many years to come.

I had a party of workmates up from Exeter for that one, traffic meant they arrived right on kick-off so I didn't get to see them until afterwards. Although they were obviously gutted at the result, they were in awe of the Kingsholm crowd – no drums, no silly wild west chanting – just full-throttle support. A thing of beauty and a reminder of what a great place Kingsholm can be.

No wonder the TV guys always want to be here – if you saw the paucity of the crowd at the other games recently you realise how lucky we are to be in the middle of a proper rugby heartland. Billy Twelvetrees' dart towards the Shed to set up that final score was the smartest move of all – the crowd were always going to get us over the line.

Last weekend gave me all sorts of headaches about where I would be able to watch the Leicester match. All the signs leading up to the end of that week pointed to the fact that I would become a Grandad for the second time that weekend, with the baby expected to arrive on Friday.

This would have been perfect as my son lives near Leicester – so a quick sprint to the hospital on Friday night, and back again on Saturday morning leaving the afternoon free to run down to Welford Road. So, bags are packed, hugely expensive presents are purchased and packed into the car, fuel is done and freebie ticket for the match arranged. Happy days.

Until 6:30 on Friday when No 1 son calls to say that nothing is going to happen before next Friday... i.e. tonight, when you are reading this! 'That's fine,' says Mrs F, 'We'll come up next Friday.' She then turns to me to confirm





that this will be OK, queue internal panic! What to say... I think I mumbled something about heading up first thing on Saturday... busy work day Friday... long drive etc. etc.... Just about got away with it.

That is until idiot No 3 son says 'You'll miss the Rugby next Friday – can I use your tickets?'. The laser beams from Mrs F made it pretty clear that my cover was blown and that if #2 grandson arrives on Thursday or Friday then we are on the road straight away, rugby or no rugby.

That'll mean finding somewhere to watch the match on TV again, just as I did on Saturday. I think I have probably said before that I find watching Gloucester games on TV very stressful. It must be because you feel a bit detached from it and powerless to do anything about what you are watching – not that I can do all that much from the Kingsholm Grandstand, but being there makes you feel more involved.

Whatever the reason, watching on TV brings out the worst in me for sure. At Kingsholm I try to be calm (failing spectacularly on occasions) and reasonable sanguine about what is happening. Watching it on TV... a whole different story. It takes about 3 minutes (or less than that on Saturday) before the tourette's kicks in, the air turns blue and the swear box starts to fill up. Fortunately the house tends to be empty and I can get away with it. That won't

be the case if I don't get to Kingsholm for this one – I'll have my Grandson with me!

It's going to be some game too – local neighbours from up the M5 bringing a few fans with them will hopefully mean another great atmosphere. They have had a horrible start to the season and seem to have all sorts of difficulties away from the pitch too now. Hopefully they will sort themselves out and get back on track.

Not tonight though, nothing down for them tonight, nada... nil points... not a sausage. Tonight is all about Gloucester, and the start of the climb on the next part of our roller coaster journey.

Hopefully I will be in my usual position tonight. If I'm not I don't know what'll be the most stressful... waiting for the new arrival or wondering what is going on at Kingsholm!

Please don't tell my wife I said that!!!

RANDALL on RUGBY



TONIGHT IS MY FIRST CHANCE TO SEE GLOUCESTER LIVE THIS SEASON. FROM EVERYTHING I HAVE HEARD AND READ, AND THE LIMITED HIGHLIGHTS I'VE SEEN, THE START HAS NOT BEEN UNEXPECTED.

There was always likely to be a huge amount of emotion and adrenalin surrounding the Exeter fixture, and the team fed off it. Against Quins and Leicester, despite the set piece being solid points were conceded through individual errors and systems (sic) breaking down. Such tactical awareness with a new Head Coach will only get stronger as the season unfolds.

Worcester's arrival obviously pits Johan Ackermann against fellow South African Gary Gold, and the debut made by Ackermann's son Ruan in the victory against the

Chiefs made him the eighth South African to play for Gloucester in the professional era.

My impression had been that Gloucester was not a club (compared to Saracens, for example) where South Africans had previously had a huge impact, but in fact only France and New Zealand have greater representation in terms of numbers of signings.

A quick glance at the length of service, however, shows that only two men, to date, will probably stick in the memory for many supporters.



RUAN ACKERMANN

Position : Back Row

Prem debut: 1/9/17 v Exeter

Apps : 3

Ruan followed his father to Kingsholm and at 21 his career is ahead of him. He arrived with a healthy reputation and if he can consistently perform at the same level as Boer, he'll be an excellent signing.

JAKE BOER

Position : Back Row

Prem debut : 20/08/2000 v Saracens

Apps : 130

By some distance, the biggest South African success at Gloucester so far. Boer actually joined Gloucester from London Irish, but soon became a regular in the side and

was captaining the team from his second season onwards. Tenacious in the tackle, a fine ball carrier and distinctively wore a scrum cap when many others didn't. Famously, although captain in the 2003 Powergen Cup final, told long serving prop Andy Deacon to collect the cup.



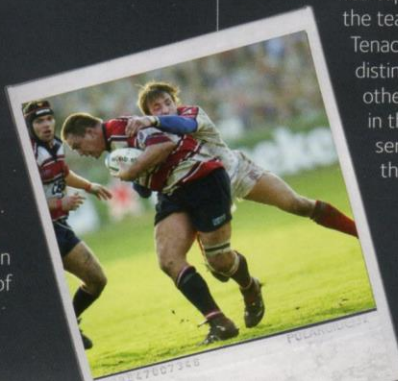
CHRISTO BEZUIDENHOUT

Position : Prop

Prem debut : 2/10/04 v Bath

Apps : 11

A knarled, old school tight head, Bezuidenhout arrived at Gloucester after playing in the 2003 World Cup. He loved to scrummage, but his size meant his effectiveness in more open play was limited. Retired at the end of the 2004-05 season.





QUINTON DAVIDS

Position : Lock

Prem debut : 5/11/05 v Newcastle

Apps : 3

A huge second row who had a fleeting Gloucester career. Initially signed on a one year deal by Dean Ryan with an option to extend it, his lack of game time made it no surprise when he was released.

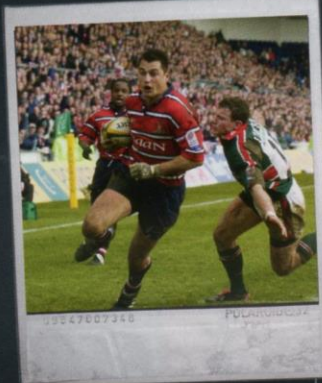
THINUS DELPORT

Position : Full back

Prem debut : 31/08/02 v Harlequins

Apps : 25

A classy full back, Thinus is still involved at Kingsholm on a match day as a corporate host. May have had a longer Gloucester career had his second season not been ruined by a knee injury sustained in a win over Harlequins. With his contract up, Delpport opted to move to tonight's opponents, where he went on to make more than 100 appearances. His finest Kingsholm moment was arguably an injury time try to clinch victory over Newcastle.



DELAREY DU PREEZ

Position : Hooker

Prem debut : 26/03/04 v Sale

Apps : 4

One of two Springboks signed as short term cover in the spring of 2004, all his game time was as a replacement. Scored on his debut at Sale and in his final appearance against Bath at the Rec.



RUDI KEIL

Position : Centre

Prem debut : 28/01/06 v London Irish

Apps : 14

Dean Ryan recruited Keil from the Natal

Sharks midway through the 2005-06 campaign on an 18 month contract. He wasn't involved in the latter stages of the Challenge Cup success, but Gloucester did win nine of the 14 Premiership games in which he played, including the match against Saracens in November 2006 in which he scored his only two tries.

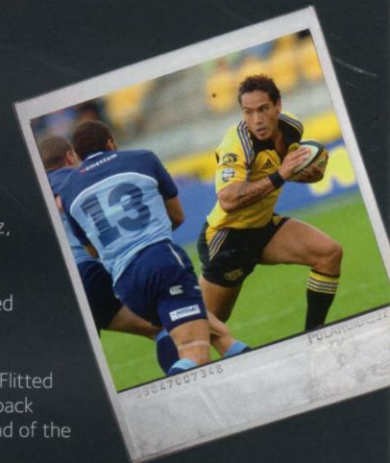
RIAAN VAN DER BERG

Position : Full Back

Prem debut : 22/02/04 v Rotherham

Apps : 5

The second 2004 signing with du Preez, I recall his debut - a murky day at Millmoor where Gloucester turned around a healthy home lead at half time into a comfortable away win. Flitted between wing and full back before leaving at the end of the season.



Affairs at Sixways over the last month have given Worcester supporters plenty to ponder. After a summer where the squad was thinned out - 18 players left and only seven were signed - three successive defeats without their talisman scrum half Francois Hougaard would have been bad enough without stories about the club's owners revealing they wish to sell, having accrued significant debts in the past three seasons.

The Warriors still have Saracens and Bath to play in this opening block of games so they may see tonight, in a fixture Gloucester have awkward in the past, as their best chance of getting their season off the start line.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 28-21 EXETER CHIEFS

TRIES:

Jason Woodward, Jeremy Thrush (2), Ben Morgan

CONVERSIONS:

Billy Burns (3), Billy Twelvetrees

DATE: Fri 1st Sep 17

KO: 19:45

TRIES:

Olly Woodburn, Sam Simmonds

CONVERSIONS:

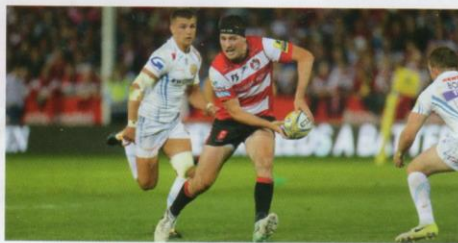
Henry Slade, Gareth Steenson (2)

ACTION REPLAY



I AM SO PLEASED WITH THE CHARACTER THE GUYS SHOWED AND THE EFFORT THAT WENT INTO THE GAME. SOME INDIVIDUALS HAD GREAT PERFORMANCES, AND OUR SET-PHASE WAS ALSO GOOD. BUT IT IS WEEK ONE AND TEAMS WILL CHALLENGE YOU EVERY WEEK. YOU CANNOT TAKE ANYTHING FOR GRANTED.

Johan Ackermann





The curtain raiser for a new season can often be a nervy, eventful and fascinating evening, and round one of the 2017-18 Aviva Premiership season had talking points, dramatic moments, and a climax that will no doubt be remembered for years to come.

Jason Woodward bided his time to make a big introduction to the Gloucester faithful but, in the 82nd minute he did so in some style. The scores were locked at 21-21 as Gloucester relinquished their lead, and nearly fell behind, but for a wayward Henry Slade penalty attempt.

The brave effort from the hosts was rewarded in the last play, with the Cherry and Whites stretching the Exeter defence, and Billy Twelvetrees capped a bright impact off the bench by slipping Woodward into the corner. Cue eruption in all corners of Kingsholm.

The Cherry and Whites welcomed the Champions to

Kingsholm and, with the stadium packed, the two teams went head to head in a ding dong battle in front of the BT Sport cameras.

With several new faces in both squads, the Cherry and Whites handed a first start to full back Jason Woodward and Fraser Balmain up front, with former home favourite Matt Kvesic lining up for the visitors.

Exeter were first to flex their muscles as stand out number eight Sam Simmonds bundled his way over in the corner following turnover ball, but the Cherry and Whites were composed and organised in their response.

Mark Atkinson and Andy Symons, impressive throughout, provided the midfield ballast and field position, and the pack were patient before Jeremy Thrush shoved his way over from the closest of ranges.

The side-stepping Simmonds responded immediately for the Chiefs. However, crucially, the hosts hit back with Thrush getting his second following consultation with the TMO Sean Davey.

The second half began with influential Exeter fly half Gareth Steenson sinbinned for upending Woodward in the air and, despite not being able to capitalise in the ten minute period, the Cherry and Whites wasted no time in taking the lead for the first time as Ben Morgan reacted fastest to a loose ball which ricocheted around the defence.

Under Johan Ackermann, the Cherry and Whites were showing control and resolve as several replacements entered the fray but, as the game entered the closing stages, the Chiefs gained the momentum, and scored through an opportune Olly Woodburn finish.

Henry Slade then had the chance to put the visitors into the lead and complete the comeback, but his 78th minute penalty was pulled wide of the upright.

With the game looking as if it was heading for a draw, the Cherry and Whites rallied after turning the ball over and set the platform for the dramatic finish from full back Woodward. It sparked the wildest of celebrations throughout the stands and on the pitch.





HARLEQUINS 28-17 GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES:
Dave Ward, Marland Yarde, Charlie Walker
CONVERSIONS:
Marcus Smith (2)
PEN:
Demetri Catrakilis, Marcus Smith (3)

DATE: Sat 9th Sep 17
KO: 15:00

TRIES:
Jacob Rowan, Freddie Clarke
CONVERSIONS:
Billy Twelvetrees, Billy Burns
PEN:
Billy Burns

ACTION REPLAY



Following up one big performance with another one the following week has proved to be a challenge for Gloucester in recent seasons.

And it proved to be the case once again at the Stoop against Quins as the home team inflicted a 28-17 defeat on Gloucester, just as the Cherry and Whites hoped to build upon an opening day victory over the Premiership Champions, the Exeter Chiefs.

It was a day when little went right for Gloucester as they *ran into a side smarting from a defeat against newly-promoted London Irish the week before.*

Gloucester were far from at their best as errors and indiscipline prevented them from gaining a real foothold in the game.

Quins, to be fair, also struggled to get going and there was very little to choose between the two sides as neither was able to gain the initiative.

But, as the weather conditions took a turn for the worse – thunder and lightning taking centre stage – Quins hit

Gloucester with a key double blow in the final ten minutes of the half which broke the 3-3 deadlock.

A spell of intense pressure resulted in the first try of the game for openside flanker Dave Ward, but Gloucester would have been disappointed by the second which saw Quins field a kick deep within their own half all the way for a try by Charlie Walker.

It left Gloucester chasing a 14 point deficit as they kicked off the second half, and there was a moment of hope as back-row forward Freddie Clarke crossed with the conversion making the score 17-10 to Quins.

However, the penalties started to mount against Gloucester and 18-year-old fly-half Marcus Smith eased the home team clear with three successful kicks as the minutes ticked by, before Marland Yarde effectively clinched the game as Gloucester failed to deal with a high cross-kick.

A last minute try for Jacob Rowan proved to be little more than a consolation for Gloucester who went down 28-17, frustrated at having lost a game where they didn't really show what they are capable of.



IT WAS VERY DISAPPOINTING, NOT THE RESULT BUT THE WAY WE PLAYED. I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANYTHING AWAY FROM HARLEQUINS BUT THE MISTAKES WE MADE JUST MADE IT EASY FOR THEM.

Johan Ackermann





TEAM LINE-UPS



FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER // AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY // ROUND 2

T	P	C	D	POSITION			T	P	C	D
				JASON WOODWARD	15	FULLBACK	15	JOSH ADAMS		
				CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	RIGHT WING	14	PERRY HUMPHREYS		
				BILLY TWELVETREES	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	JACKSON WILLISON		
				MARK ATKINSON	12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	BEN TE'O		
				OLLIE THORLEY	11	LEFT WING	11	BRYCE HEEM		
				BILLY BURNS	10	FLY-HALF	10	SAM OLVER		
				WILLI HEINZ (C)	9	SCRUM-HALF	9	JONNY ARR		
				VAL RAPAVA RUSKIN	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	RYAN BOWER		
				MOTU MATU'U	2	HOOKER	2	JACK SINGLETON		
				JOHN AFOA	3	TIGHTENED PROP	3	BIYI ALO		
				ED SLATER	4	LOCK	4	DONNCHA O'CALLAGHAN (C)		
				JEREMY THRUSH	5	LOCK	5	PIERCE PHILLIPS		
				FREDDIE CLARKE	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	MATT COX		
				JACOB ROWAN	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	SAM LEWIS		
				RUAN ACKERMANN	8	NUMBER 8	8	GJ VAN VELZE		
REPLACEMENTS				MATCH OFFICIALS			REPLACEMENTS			
				RICHARD HIBBARD	16		16	JOE TAUFETE'E		
				JOSH HOHNECK	17		17	ETHAN WALLER		
				GARETH DENMAN	18		18	GARETH MILASINOVICH		
				TOM SAVAGE	19		19	CHRISTIAN SCOTLAND-WILLIAMSON		
				LEWIS LUDLOW	20		20	ALAFOTI FAOSILIVA		
				BEN VELLACOTT	21		21	PETER STRINGER		
				HENRY TRINDER	22		22	JAMIE SHILLCOCK		
				DAVID HALAIFONU	23		23	DEAN HAMMOND		
				REFEREE Wayne Barnes — ASSISTANT REFEREES Adam Leal & Peter Allan — TMO Rowan Kitt — CITING COMMISSIONER Dave Guyan						