

# CHERRY & WHITES



  
**MITSUBISHI  
MOTORS**  
MAIN CLUB  
PARTNER



## V LEICESTER TIGERS

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**  
**OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME**  
2017/18 SEASON / ISSUE 12  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY  
SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2018  
KO 14.30 / £3



TODAY'S MATCHDAY  
SPONSOR



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

# WILLI HEINZ

GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S AVIVA PREMIERSHIP CLASH AGAINST THE LEICESTER TIGERS. AFTER A FEW WEEKS OF TOUGH CUP ENCOUNTERS, IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK FOCUSING ON DOMESTIC MATTERS AND LOOKING AHEAD TO A HUGE FEW WEEKS FOR THIS SQUAD.

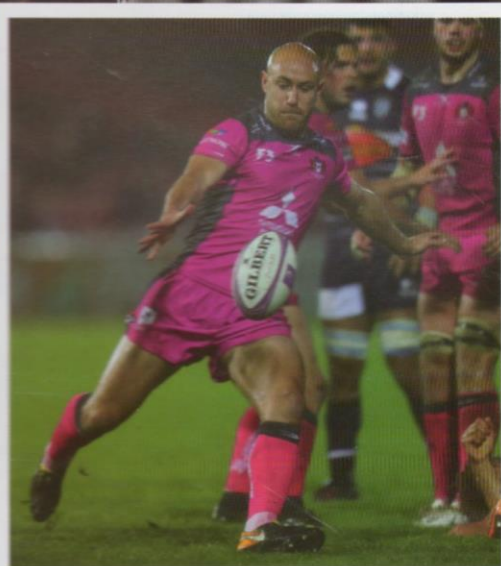
**O**ver the past few weeks, all of the boys have had the chance to compete for places, and there have been plenty of great performances, which no doubt will be giving the coaching staff a welcome headache every week when they come to select the next starting XV.

From where we were a few months ago with over 20 injuries in the first team squad, to be down to just a couple is testament to the hard work of the Medical and S&C teams behind the scenes, and also to the players who are determined to come in and play their part.

This weekend, we face a Leicester Tigers team who have proved to be tough opponents in recent seasons, and they will come to Kingsholm keen to kick start the second half of their season.

Home advantage is key over the next few weeks, and we're keen to put in some big performances in what is a massively important period. We face some tough games, taking on teams around us in the table, and we will be looking to keep building on our recent performances.

What is promising this season is that we have secured some great results against some very good sides. However, we've not been entirely satisfied with our performances, and this gives us a big drive to keep on improving and focusing on what we are putting out on the pitch.



The last two weeks of Anglo-Welsh Cup competition may have not gone our way in terms of qualification, and we're disappointed we don't get a shot at the home final, but we have seen lots of things to be happy with over the past fortnight.

Against Ospreys, we had to adapt on our feet to a stubborn opposition, who were intent on slowing our ball down, and we came through a tough examination.

Last week, the long trip to Newcastle saw us come out on the wrong side of the result against a near full strength Falcons' team, but we played some good rugby at times and with a touch more composure with ball in hand we could have got the result.

It's nice now to have a run of Aviva Premiership games over the next few weeks to focus on, and, with three at home, we have a lot of rugby to come in front of our own fans, and we will be going out to give you plenty to shout about!

Enjoy the game

*Willi*

AVIVA PREMIERSHIP  
GLoucester RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB





**G**ood afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm as we return to Aviva Premiership action against Leicester. In particular, a very warm welcome to the players, staff and supporters of the Tigers.

The Leicester game is one of the most eagerly anticipated fixtures in the calendar. Two stalwarts of the English Club game taking on each other in what is always an exciting contest.

Due to the quirks of the fixture calendar at this time of year, it's actually our first home Premiership game of 2018 despite the fact that we're almost halfway through February. It's a key

moment in the season with several clubs separated by only a handful of points.

The last few weeks have been dominated by the two cup competitions of course and, while our participation in the Anglo-Welsh Cup has unfortunately come to an end, we have qualified for the quarter-finals of the European Rugby Challenge Cup.

It's a shame that we didn't make it through to the semi-finals of the Anglo-Welsh Cup as Kingsholm is staging the final. However, as befits the aims of the tournament, we gave time to a number of our most promising young players and they will have learnt a lot from that experience.

In terms of Europe, I think we have to give due credit to Pau who came here

to Kingsholm and produced one of the most clinical performances by a visiting team for quite some time.

A home quarter-final would have been ideal, but we are still alive and kicking in the tournament. Connacht will be a tough venue, but we are used to that.

One thing is for sure, the next few weeks will go a long way towards shaping the overall destiny of our season. There is a lot to play for and I know that our players are looking forward to these big matches.

Thank you once again for your superb ongoing support.

Enjoy the game

*Martin*

IT HAS FELT LIKE A VERY LONG FOUR WEEKS SINCE OUR LAST PREMIERSHIP GAME AT NORTHAMPTON AND I'M DELIGHTED TO WELCOME EVERYONE BACK TO KINGSHOLM THIS AFTERNOON AT THE START OF A VERY IMPORTANT PHASE OF THE SEASON.

**W**e were hugely disappointed with the result, and the manner of the defeat, at Franklins Gardens but to be sitting in 4th position in the Premiership table

after 13 games is real progress from previous seasons. The players are becoming more and more comfortable with our systems and style of play, and they will only get better as Johan and the coaching team get more time with the squad in training.

The last month has given us an opportunity to rotate the squad in both the European Rugby Challenge Cup and Anglo-Welsh Cup competitions. We achieved our first goal of qualifying for the quarter-final of the Challenge Cup and are looking forward to a trip to the west of Ireland to play Connacht. We would have preferred a home quarter-final but huge credit to Pau who produced an outstanding performance to beat us here in round six.

Squad rotation has been important for a number of reasons. There have been players returning from injury, players in need of a rest but also with an almost fully fit squad, it was an opportunity to look at different combinations that might be selected in hugely important games over the next few months.

We had a real injury crisis at the start of the year but huge credit to our performance and medical team who have helped us to get to this stage of the season with only a couple of senior players unavailable for selection due to injury.

Another factor at this time of year is the Six Nations and I was delighted to see Owen and Ross selected in the Welsh squad and, in particular, Jake Polledri in the Italian squad. It's hard to believe that he was playing National 1 rugby for Hartpury this time last year, but he has made a huge impact in the short time he's been in the professional game and we all know that if he continues to work hard at his game, he has a long international career ahead.

# DAVID HUMPHREYS



It was another exciting first weekend of Six Nations rugby and I'm already excited about Ireland winning the Championship in Twickenham on St Patrick's Day!

I'm delighted to welcome Matt O'Connor and all the players, staff and supporters of Leicester Tigers to Gloucester this afternoon. Like ourselves, they've had some ups and downs this season, but we will need to be back to our best to maintain our unbeaten Premiership form at Kingsholm.

The next four weeks will define our season. With three of those games here at Kingsholm, you have a big part to play as your support is a massive factor, and I know all the players are looking forward to playing in front of a loud and passionate home crowd.

Enjoy the game.

*David*



GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
HERITAGE



**TWO MATCHES  
TOO MANY**  
**1989-90**

**Captain** Mike Hamlin

**Played** 47

**Won** 34

**Lost** 11

**Drawn** 2

**For** 1112

**Against** 622

Runners-up in both  
the Courage League  
Championship and  
Pilkington Cup

**T**his was a season of great achievement and crushing disappointment – frustrating for both players and supporters alike.

It all started at Swansea on September 2 in a game which ebbed and flowed, with Gloucester hanging on for a narrow but notable victory 32–29. This set the tone for a month in which the club won their first eight games, including Courage League victories over Moseley and the defending champions Bath.

Gloucester came down to earth with a bump in their third league game against Wasps at Sudbury, where Rob Andrew was outstanding at outside half in a 29–4 victory for the home side.

However, two handsome league victories at Kingsholm against Bedford by 37 points to 6 and Rosslyn Park by 41 points to 12, in which winger Derrick Morgan contributed a total of five tries, set them back on track.

The 13–6 win at Bristol on November 18 was less satisfactory. Victory in a bruising encounter against old rivals on their patch is always sweet, but although the Gloucester forwards had torn the Bristol pack apart, the visitors' indiscipline had kept the home side in the game. A week later, Gloucester were back at Kingsholm taking part in a very different sort of match where they shared seven tries with Saracens in a 21–all draw.

Christmas arrived with Gloucester tucked in behind Bath in second place with a P7 W5 D1 L1 record. In all matches the playing record was P24 W19 D2 L3.

Away from the league, scalps included Leicester, Coventry, Swansea, Newport, Newbridge and Pontypridd. Success was based on a rampant pack, in which the back row were outstanding, despite the absence of Mike Teague, who was out with a shoulder injury for the first three months of the season. Add to this the skill and experience of Mike Hamlin and Marcus Hannaford at half back and an often under-





**BACK ROW (L-R):** T Pritchard, M Elway, B Howells, E Stephens, J Beaman, R Jardine, J Fidler, A Brinn, A Townsend, P Hawker, T Day (Vice-President)  
**MIDDLE ROW (L-R):** F Reed (Hon. Team Secretary), A Mitchell, K' Dunn, R Phillips, P Ashmead, M Preedy, B Clark, R Pascall, M Teague, N Marmont, J Breeze, J Hawker, D Cummins, T.R. Tandy (Hon. General Secretary), K Richardson (Coach)  
**FRONT ROW (L-R):** J Holder, I Smith, R Mogg, P Ford (Chairman), M Hamlin (Captain), H.M. Hughes (President), D Morgan, M Hannaford, T Smith  
**FRONT (L-R):** L Gardiner, D Caskie

ated back line and you have a side to take on all opposition.

Next up in the league on January 13 was a trip to Leicester, whose unbeaten ground record had stood for 13 months. With the Gloucester forwards dominating line-out and maul, the visitors scored four tries and only a late consolation try added a little respectability to the 26-16 scoreline.

Now attention turned to the Pilkington Cup. As a first division club, Gloucester entered the Cup at the round 3 stage. Supporters' spirits dropped when they were drawn at Sudbury against Wasps, with memories of the 29-4 drubbing at Sudbury in October still fresh in the mind. However, the team had other ideas and (to quote *The Times*) "charged into this game with the kind of rumbustious enthusiasm that can knock any side out of their stride," clinching a thrilling game 23-19 when Richard Mogg surged over for the winning try.

A fourth round win at Gosforth two weeks

later by 26 points to 15 led to a quarter final draw against Nottingham at Beeston. In 1990, Nottingham with four current internationals were formidable opposition, but Gloucester, using the wind well and dominating possession, won a comfortable victory.

And so to a packed Franklins Gardens, Northampton for the semi-final, which was the fourth successive away tie, raising memories of the famous victories of 1972. To be honest, it was a stuttering performance against the second division champions-elect, who played with great determination, leaving Gloucester 12-8 down at half time and reliant on three Tim Smith penalties in the second half to carry them home.

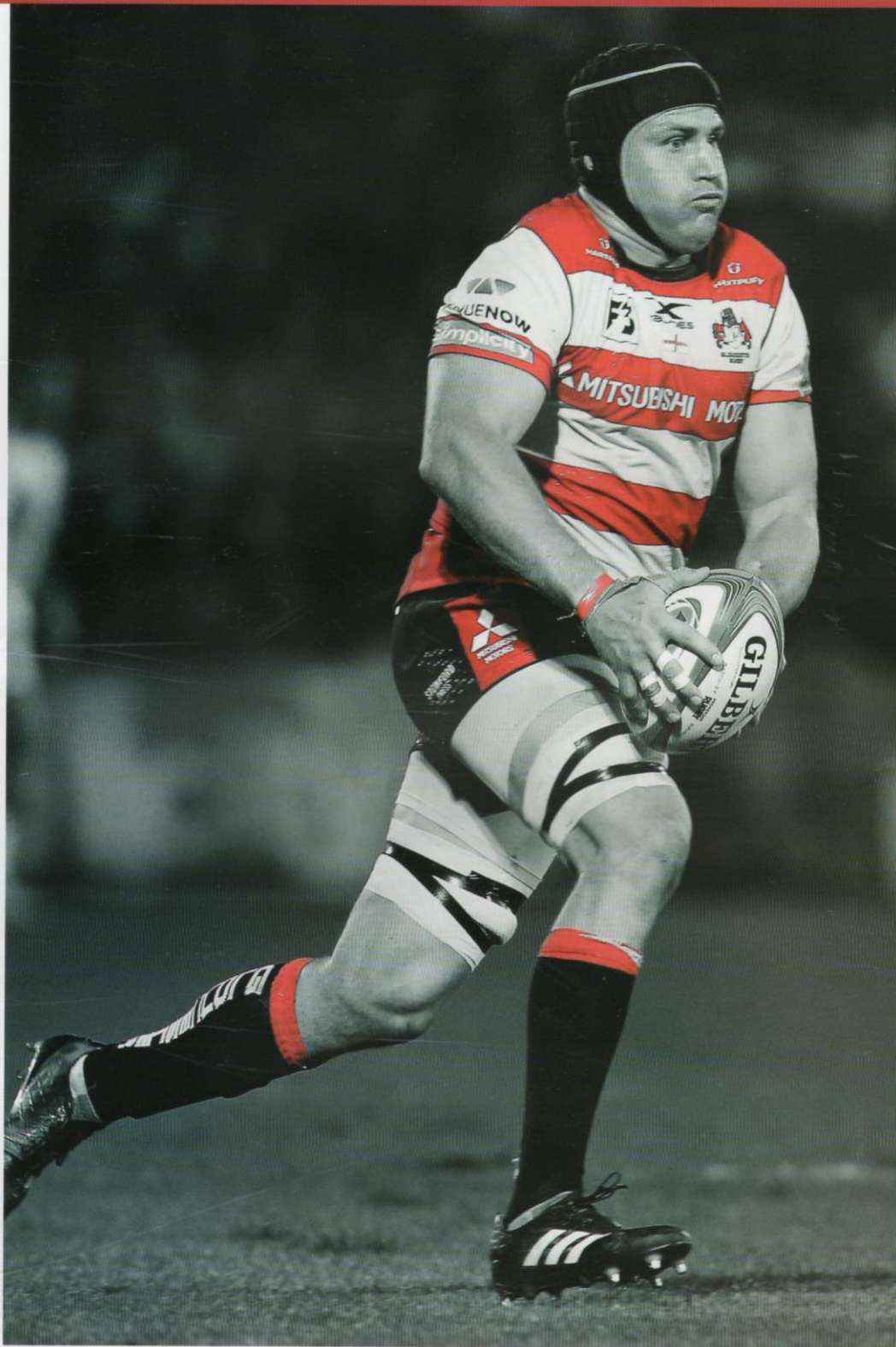
Meanwhile, back in the league, home wins against Harlequins and Orrell saw Gloucester topping the table, with a record of P10 W8 D1 L1 and just the Nottingham fixture to be played. However, this visit to Beeston on April 28 was very different from the match

two months earlier as Gloucester, failing to take their limited chances on a drab and disappointing day, sank to a 12-3 defeat. Wasps took the title, heading the table for the first time that season. Some things never change!

A week later, the Pilkington Cup Final was played on a firm pitch under a blazing sun at a speed almost as intense as the heat. Gloucester started well and battled on to the end, winning more than their share of maul and lineout, but ultimately had no answer to the counter-attacking of a superb Bath side whose forwards and backs combined seamlessly, running in eight tries in a 48-6 victory.

Disappointing? Yes, but still a great season. Perhaps the most appropriate tribute to this Gloucester team was made by Nottingham and England full back Simon Hodgkinson after the quarter-final at Beeston - "Gloucester haven't got many internationals, but in every position they have a player respected by everyone else".







FEATURE INTERVIEW

# BEN MORGAN

“  
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”





“  
**WE LOOK AT THE BRAND THAT WE WANT TO PLAY AS A TEAM, AND IT'S VERY MUCH TAKING IT AS IF WE GET IT RIGHT THEN RESULTS WILL TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES**  
”



**B**en Morgan became Gloucester's latest centurion recently, making his 100th competitive appearance against Pau in the European Rugby Challenge Cup, a notable achievement.

The big number eight has been a key part of a powerful Gloucester forward pack this season, and is relishing a big few weeks ahead for the Cherry and Whites.

With domestic action taking centre stage after a mixed few weeks of results in Europe and Anglo-Welsh Cup competition, the number eight is excited for Gloucester to face up against the Tigers, and the edge the fixture brings.

“Absolutely, Leicester coming down is a huge one for us. We've been going well in the league, and also going well on our home patch.

“This is a chance to make a statement and put down a marker to other teams coming to Kingsholm. It's a big test this week.”

A lot of Gloucester's season has seen some promising displays, containing a lot of memorable moments, but the squad are still determined to erase any inconsistencies in their performances.

“I think in fairness we've not really been happy with the last few performances, so this month block has been a good opportunity to really dial down and focus on what we want to do as a team.

“I think if we can get this right, we can take the form into some big Aviva Premiership games.”

Morgan states that the mood in the camp has been good in recent





weeks, with the European Rugby Challenge Cup and Anglo Welsh Cup fortnights providing the opportunities to impress for a large number of the squad.

"Johan put a statement down that all players had the opportunity to play for places, and there's been a bit of rotation over the course of the last four weeks, and it's really good to give people opportunities.

"I think a lot of people are putting their hands up, which can only be a good thing."

With a crucial block of Premiership fixtures now on the agenda for the Cherry and Whites, with three home games with Tigers today, followed by Wasps and Falcons at the turn of the month, the next few weeks reveal a lot to play for, but Morgan is focusing on the performances and the intention of allowing the results to follow.

"There's a lot of rugby still to play, and we're not really results focused, as bizarre as that may sound. It's more about performance, how we're playing and the style we are creating.

"We look at the brand that we want to play as a team, and it's very much taking it as if we get it right then results will take care of themselves. We are trying to create



and develop the Gloucester brand and that's the most important thing for us."

The rivalry between the Cherry and Whites and the Tigers has perhaps ignited in recent seasons, with some players switching allegiances, and it adds an extra edge to this weekend's game.

"Of course, it adds an edge now, but it's a natural occurrence now that players move around. Obviously the lads that have moved across from Leicester will be keen to make a point against their old teammates.

"Regardless of players moving around, it's always an exciting prospect to welcome Leicester Tigers to Kingsholm, the fans love it, and the players definitely relish this fixture."





# KINGSHOLM WITH BOB FENTON NEWS

**H**ere we are then, back to normal sized-programmes and back to me remembering at the last minute to send some words over!

It seems to have been a very long time since we were last in Aviva Premiership action. The last home game was actually last year, a tough old battle against Sale when our 'D' won the game for us, followed by an away trip to – Northampton...

You remember the game when, if we followed the script written by the TV pundits, we were supposed to turn up and let Northampton run all over us as they had been going through a bit of a bad time. Ah the poor loves, I don't remember the same crocodile tears when we were going through a bit of a rough patch over any of the last half a dozen seasons or so.

It was, probably, the most one-sided build up and commentary to any game I can ever remember and, had we come away with the points, it would have been deemed a national tragedy. As it was we were robbed, not once but twice – both times in the build-up to Saints' last score. Horrible decisions – Jason Woodward's 'knock on' and Henry Trinder's 'off-side' were both umm... how to put this... WRONG!

That was a game we gave away though, I still have nightmares about us going for a line out when we had a penalty a few minutes from the end which – if we had converted it – would have given us a 15–22 lead. Still, it's history now so no point dwelling on it.

Since then it's been Anglo-Welsh Cup and European action with mixed success in both. Despite winning our last two games in the AW Cup, it wasn't enough to get us into the quarter finals and the chance of getting to the final on our home patch. By the time we kicked off at Newcastle last Saturday it was all over, courtesy of Bath winning their game. I don't know what impact that had on things, but that game got away from us quite quickly.

Europe then. We welcomed Pau to Kingsholm knowing



that a win would give us a home quarter-final. Pau turned up with a side overloaded with Southern Hemisphere talent, including former All Blacks Colin Slade and Conrad Smith who showed that, while they may have slowed down a bit, class is permanent.

I reckon that the starting XV from Pau only had a handful of Frenchmen in the side such is the nature of imports in the Top 14 now but, wherever they came from, they were hugely professional and stopped us at every turn. All masterminded by Simon Mannix, a man we enjoyed watching strut his stuff at Kingsholm not so many years ago.

The upshot is that we go away at Easter to Connacht for the quarter-final, not the worst trip in the world and,





if we play to our potential, there is a great chance that we will be looking forward to a home semi-final.

The Pau result meant that our undefeated home record went, and as regular readers probably remember I have a standing bet with my mate Chris that we will not lose a home game during the season. Naturally I have decided that European games don't count, so the bet is still on.



Last year it didn't work out too well for me, and I was paying out after just one game... Against Leicester. Who are here today... Have no fear, lightning will not be striking twice.

Leicester are sat a few places below us at the moment having had what for them must be a stuttering first half of the season. They are too good a side to stay in their current eighth place for too long and, if we can end the season a few places above them in the table, we would be looking back on a very successful year.

We play them at a time when everyone becomes a rugby expert – i.e. Six Nations time – everywhere you look at weekends there are people talking about rugby, with rugby shirts on.

Want to know how to tell they are not 'full time' rugby fans? Easy – those rugby shirts are immaculately clean, have ironing creases and not one of them has a beer or curry stain on them, that's how! Good luck to them,

though – if they want to be fans a few times a year that's fine. Maybe a few will be converted to the real excitement of the club game and we'll see a few coming along to Kingsholm in the future.

I'll ease off the usual rant about players being shorn of their best talent during vital matches – we're not included (at the time of writing) in any of the squads, though Leicester will be missing a few so it could be to our advantage as our guys have been overlooked.

Maybe for not much longer, though as both Jake Polledri and Ben Vellacott have been involved with Italy and – somewhat surprisingly – England respectively. Maybe a year too early for the pair of them but we'll see. And it's great to see the emerging talent that we have in our squad being talked about in the international circles.

Who knows, maybe my super clean shirted friends doing their Saturday morning shopping will get to hear about them one day soon!



# RANDALL

## on RUGBY



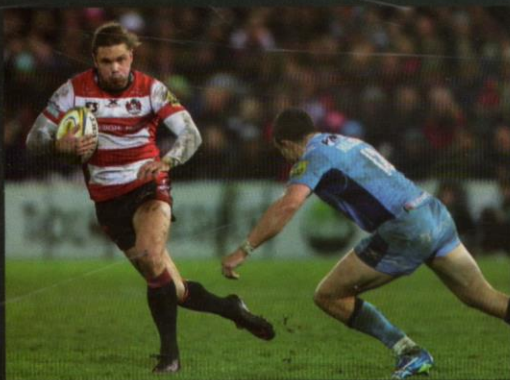
KINGSHOLM WILL HOST THE ANGLO-WELSH CUP FINAL NEXT MONTH BUT WE NOW KNOW THAT NEITHER GLOUCESTER OR LEICESTER WILL BE IN IT.

**B**ath ended Gloucester's chances with their win at the Ospreys last Friday, and then Newcastle's victory over the Cherry and Whites the day after gave Leicester a seemingly impossible equation heading into their last pool game with Wasps, who beat them anyway. With the Tigers also finishing bottom of their Champions Cup pool, the Premiership is their sole interest for the remainder of the season.

A case could be made that Gloucester's starting XV today will be completely different from the one that lost at Kingston Park seven days ago, with that team protecting (sic) the side Johan Ackermann saw as his preferred group for the return to the Premiership.

It starts an important block of games too, with three of the next four at home and other sides more widely depleted by international calls. Gloucester are also, of course, well stocked with former Leicester players, among them Henry Purdy who left Welford Road at the age of 20 seeking greater first team opportunities.

"I had seen some other boys move on from Leicester and do really well," Purdy said.



**“ WE REALISE WE ARE IN A GOOD POSITION AND THE REST OF THE SEASON IS A MASSIVE OPPORTUNITY ”**

"I had been spotted through an England Under 18's team and been invited to spend a year in their Academy. I signed for another year after that but I got the impression that they would rather play someone older and with more experience than take a risk with a younger player.

"The squad was a big one and, where I was in the pecking order, I wouldn't have got a lot of game time. Gloucester were renowned for giving young boys a shot and I came here and played 26 matches in my first season so the move definitely paid off."

The squad Purdy left behind includes some former team mates he still keeps in regular contact with, including centre George Catchpole and hooker Harry Thacker, who will himself be leaving Leicester in the summer to join Bristol.

To see them down in eighth place is a rare sight, and Purdy is disappointed on a personal level that Jonny May won't be playing here today.

"Jonny would be a handful because he is a great player, but ultimately you enjoy playing both with and against your mates," Purdy went on.





"Sione Kalamafoni also went to Leicester in the summer and the move seems to have done wonders for him, although I know that some of the guys were surprised by the decision to release Aaron Mauger from the Head Coach role last year because they were big fans of his.

"What won't change though is that deep rooted culture in a Leicester team of making it tough for the opposition and never giving up. It's in their DNA."

Now nearing the end of his fourth season at Kingsholm, Purdy recognises the importance of athleticism in a wing at the top level. Heavier but quicker than when he arrived, Purdy revealed that he has enjoyed working with Strength and Conditioning specialists Paddy Anson and Dan Tobin to develop extra power in his game alongside the skills which have brought him 25 tries in all competitions, six of them this season.

The 23-year-old watched much of the defeat at Welford Road last September from the replacements bench, a game in which Leicester flew out of the blocks and capitalised on Gloucester's errors. It's a start Purdy knows mustn't be repeated.



"We've been on the wrong side of a couple of results lately so we've tried to strip things back, not overcomplicate things and do the simple skills better," Purdy went on.

"Our accuracy has been down and we've not been holding onto the ball as well as we can. The conditions aren't as good as earlier in the season when we were enjoying playing our attacking rugby but we are professional players so that shouldn't be an excuse.

"It's exciting to be back in the Premiership, we realise we are in a good position and the rest of the season is a massive opportunity when Johan paints the picture of how it could pan out."





# GLOUCESTER RUGBY 24-34 SECTION PALOISE

**TRIES:**

Jeremy Thrush, Callum Braley, Jake Polledri

**CONVERSIONS:**

Billy Twelvetrees (3)

**PENALTIES:**

Billy Twelvetrees

**DATE:** Fri 19th Jan 18

**KO:** 19:45

**TRIES:**

Steffon Armitage, Frank Halai, Lourens Adriaanse, Daniel Ramsay

**CONVERSIONS:**

Colin Slade (4)

**PENALTIES:**

Colin Slade (2)

REPLAY  
ACTION





**G**loucester's chances of securing a home European Rugby Challenge Cup quarter-final for the fourth season in a row were scuppered by a slick, professional performance on the night from Pau, whose victory at Kingsholm clinched the group and the home quarter-final.

It was the first time this season that Gloucester had tasted defeat at home and, on the night, they could have few complaints. Pau had shown their intention by naming their big guns, and the likes of Steffon Armitage, Ben Mowen, Colin Slade and Conrad Smith all had big games.

Gloucester will look back on the game and rue some key mistakes at key times. As well as Pau performed on the night, Gloucester were more than competitive and better execution on a couple of occasions could well have seen them nick this one.

On the European front though, all focus will be on the west coast of Ireland and a tough quarter-final against Connacht. Win that and a home semi-final could be the reward.

Gloucester did get the best possible start as Jeremy Thrush wriggled over from a metre out, Billy Twelvetrees converting. But the visitors, slowly but surely, started to gain a foothold in the game.

Fly-half Slade started to pull the strings for Pau and possession started to dry up for the Cherry and Whites. Slade slotted two penalties from three attempts and it seemed as though Gloucester would take a narrow lead into half-time, especially when Twelvetrees made a try-saving tackle in the corner.

However, Gloucester miscued at the lineout and the ball sailed straight into the arms of Armitage and he had only to flop over



**WE LOST OUR ATTACKING ABILITY. THERE WERE SOFT MOMENTS IN DEFENCE AS WELL. WE'RE DISAPPOINTED AND MUST LOOK AT OURSELVES. TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH AND IT'S DISAPPOINTING FOR OUR SUPPORTERS.**



HEAD COACH JOHAN ACKERMANN

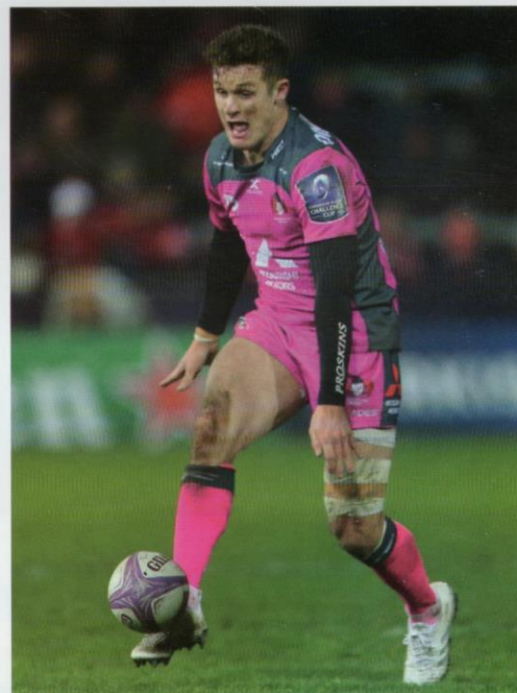
the line to score. From nowhere Pau had a 7-13 lead at the interval.

Twelvetrees swiftly narrowed the gap with his first penalty of the night but Pau eased further ahead when Frank Halaj, scorer of a vital try in the first meeting between the two clubs, caught the defence napping and burst clear from a ruck to score.

And a missed touch seemed to seal the deal four minutes later. Charly Malie rang it back with interest and a couple of swift offloads saw Lourens Adriaanse dive over. Slade added the extras for 10-27

Callum Braley gave Gloucester hope as he sneaked his way over, but Slade sealed the win as his break led to a try for Daniel Ramsay.

Jake Polledri went over for Gloucester late on to restore some pride, but the game and the possible home quarter-final were long gone by that point.







# GLOUCESTER RUGBY **43-20** OSPREYS

**TRIES:**

Richard Hibbard, Mark Atkinson, Callum Braley, Ollie Thorley, Henry Trinder, Ben Morgan, Matt Scott

**CONVERSIONS:**

Billy Burns (4)

**DATE:** Fri 26th Jan 18  
**KO:** 19:45

**TRIES:**

Alex Jeffries, Reuben Morgan-Williams, Ifan Phillips

**CONVERSIONS:**

Luke Price

**PENALTIES:**

Luke Price

**ACTION REPLAY**





**G**loucester came into this Anglo-Welsh encounter looking for a bonus point win to keep their hopes alive of qualifying for the knockout stages, but were made to work very hard for victory on the night.

The Ospreys named a youthful looking side, although former Gloucester star James Hook was a notable exception, while the Cherry and Whites side, led for the first time by Freddie Clarke, boasted plenty of first team experience.

And the visitors certainly played as though they had nothing to lose, flying into every physical confrontation with real enthusiasm, defending bravely and making a nuisance of themselves around the breakdown.

However, when Gloucester pounced for two tries in the space of two minutes midway through the first half, it looked as though the floodgates were about to open.

Not so. The Ospreys regrouped and, after squandering a couple of gilt-edged chances, finally got their reward on the stroke of half-time as Alex Jeffries muscled his way over from close range.

The visitors then proceeded to draw level at the beginning of the second half courtesy of an opportunist try from scrum-half Reuben Morgan-Williams before fly-half Luke Price kicked a penalty to give the Ospreys a 12-15 lead.

Thoughts of a shock win were short-lived. Gloucester hit back immediately as Callum Braley burrowed his way over and Ollie Thorley went over in the corner ten minutes later.

Further tries from Henry Trinder and Ben Morgan put the game to bed as the visitors tired, but they did get some consolation from a late Ifan Phillips try before Matt Scott ensured Gloucester had the final word and he burst clear to score with time up on the clock.



**YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE CREDIT TO OSPREYS, THEY MADE IT TOUGH FOR US, ESPECIALLY IN AND AROUND THE BREAKDOWN, WITH THEIR LINE SPEED AND DEFENCE WHICH REALLY SLOWED UP OUR BALL. WE PROBABLY DIDN'T GET THE REWARDS WE WANTED IN THAT FIRST HALF AND, FAIR PLAY TO THEM, THEY WERE A THREAT.**

**JOHAN SPOKE ABOUT HOW HE WANTED TO USE THESE TWO WEEKS TO GIVE EVERYONE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT THEIR HAND UP FOR THE BLOCK OF PREMIERSHIP GAMES. TO A MAN, 1 TO 23, EVERYONE PLAYED WELL AND HAS GIVEN THEMSELVES AN OPPORTUNITY.**



HEAD OF ACADEMY RICHARD WHIFFIN





# TEAM LINE-UPS



SATURDAY 10 JANUARY // AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY // ROUND 14

T P C D				POSITION	T P C D						
				JASON WOODWARD 15	FULL BACK	15	MATHEW TAIT				
				TOM MARSHALL 14	RIGHT WING	14	ADAM THOMPSTONE				
				HENRY TRINDER 13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	MATT SMITH				
				BILLY TWELVETREES 12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	MATT TOOMUA				
				OLLIE THORLEY 11	LEFT WING	11	TELUSA VEAINU				
				BILLY BURNS 10	FLY-HALF	10	JOE FORD				
				WILLI HEINZ (C) 9	SCRUM-HALF	9	SAM HARRISON				
				JOSH HOHNECK 1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	GREG BATEMAN				
				JAMES HANSON 2	HOOKER	2	TOM YOUNGS (C)				
				JOHN AFOA 3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	PAT CILLIERS				
				TOM SAVAGE 4	LOCK	4	HARRY WELLS				
				MARIANO GALARZA 5	LOCK	5	DOM BARROW				
				JAKE POLLEDRI 6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	LUKE HAMILTON				
				LEWIS LUDLOW 7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	BRENDAN O'CONNOR				
				RUAN ACKERMANN 8	NUMBER 8	8	SIONE KALAMAFONI				
REPLACEMENTS				REPLACEMENTS:							
				MOTU MATU'U 16		16	TATAFU POLOTA-NAU				
				CAMERON ORR 17		17	KYLE TRAYNOR				
				FRASER BALMAIN 18		18	LOGOVI'I MULIPOLA				
				ED SLATER 19		19	GRAHAM KITCHENER				
				FREDDIE CLARKE 20		20	VALENTINO MAPAPALANGI				
				BEN VELLACOTT 21		21	HARRY SIMMONS				
				MARK ATKINSON 22		22	NICK MALOUF				
				MATT SCOTT 23		23	JONAH HOLMES				

#### MATCH OFFICIALS

**REFEREE**  
JP Doyle

#### ASSISTANT REFEREES

Anthony Woodthorpe  
& Paul Dix

#### TMO

Claire Hodnett

#### CITING COMMISSIONER

Paul Hull