

CHERRY & WHITES




**MITSUBISHI
MOTORS**
MAIN CLUB
PARTNER



V **WASPS**

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
2017/18 SEASON / ISSUE 13
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY
SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2018
KO 14.30 / £3

10 So **Glos**
Est. 2007
TODAY'S MATCHDAY
SPONSOR



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

WILLI HEINZ.

GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS, AND WELCOME TO EVERYONE ASSOCIATED WITH WASPS.

We're in the middle of a crucial period for us, and face a massive test today as Wasps come to Kingsholm. Home advantage has been massive for us this season, and it will be huge today as we take on one of the league's form teams.

We were in a good place when we went to the Ricoh Arena in December, and the game turned on a turnover at the start of the second half. We couldn't quite claw back the momentum after that and at this level, teams will keep punishing you.

We know the challenge that is coming this week, and we have to be on our A game. I know we will be, and we have a point to prove with the performance last week far from our best.

Our away performances haven't been consistently good enough this season and we are working hard to address this. Our ability to start games well and transfer the pressure onto the home team and make it uncomfortable for them is a massive area of growth for us moving forward.

We didn't start well against Worcester, our physicality was lacking, and we ended up chasing the game for long periods, forcing passes which gifted them too much possession. We did however put ourselves into a strong position and got back to within a score.

That said, we created the opportunities, and we are massively frustrated not to have converted when it mattered. This has been a big work on for us this week ahead of a game where we will need to be at our best from the first whistle.

Last time out at home, we played some really good, high intensity rugby



against Leicester Tigers and we deservedly got the points. But again, we were probably a little frustrated not to have picked up the bonus point our performance deserved.

For myself, it's been a frustrating few weeks, I'm wanting to put together a run of games, and, at the time of writing, I hope to be fit for this weekend's game, and be available for selection. But I know that both Benny and Callum will put their best foot forward at scrum-half when the opportunity comes.

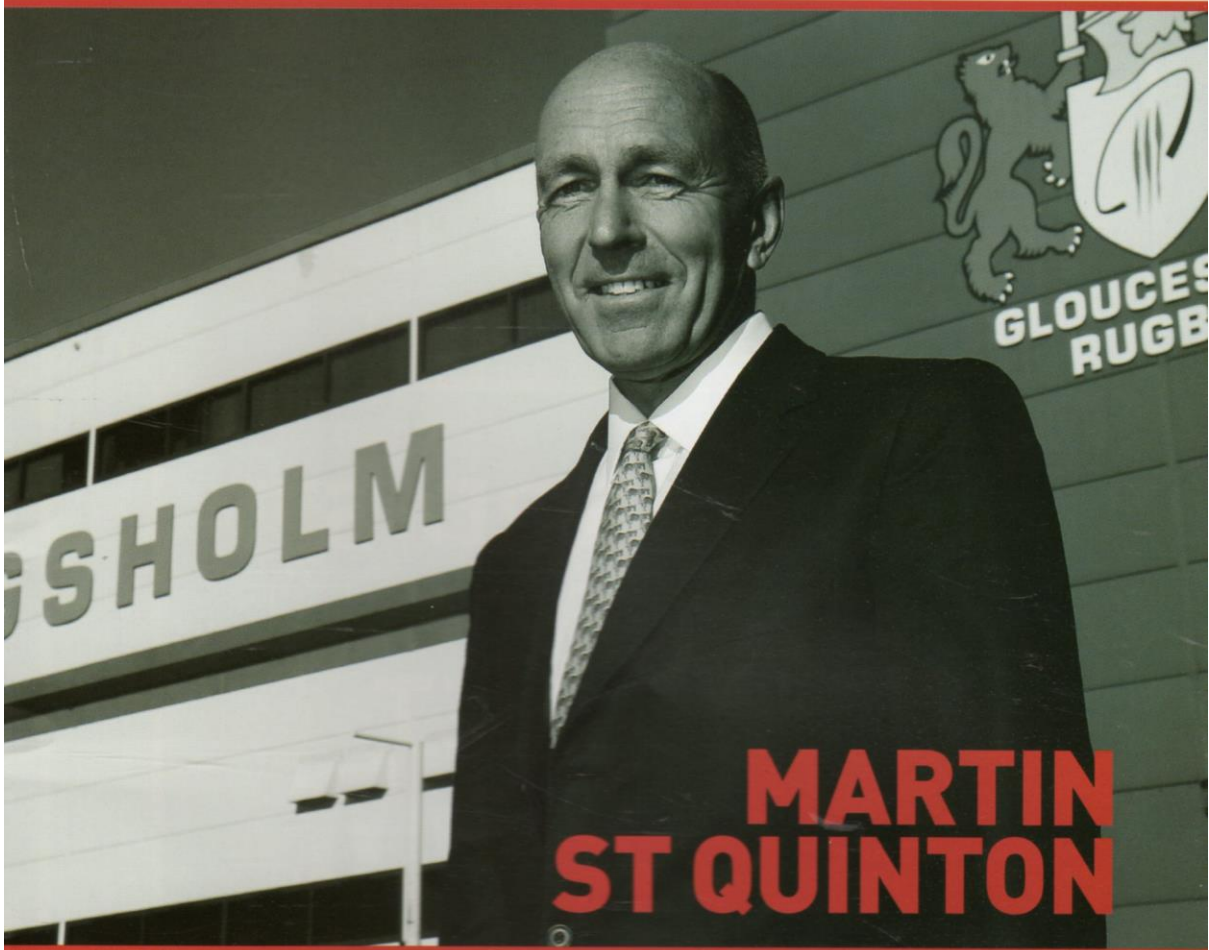
This weekend, as well as next, are massive in terms of our ambitions for the season, and we know we have to rediscover our best form, and dig deep to find some momentum ahead of the final push for the season.

Every game has a lot riding on it, and we've put ourselves into a position to finish the season well, it's up to us as players now to grasp the opportunity we have in front of us. This means preparing well in training each day, focusing on our performance from week to week and nailing our basics, under pressure, to a high standard.

If we do that, I have no doubt there will be smiles on faces, and for our loyal supporters, we know what it will mean to have a successful season.

Enjoy the game.

Willi



Good afternoon and a warm welcome to Kingsholm. In particular, a very warm welcome to the players, staff and supporters of Wasps.

Well, you certainly could not describe this Premiership season as being dull. Just when you think you might confidently predict a result the form tables are turned upside down.

I think, without fear of contradiction, that this year's Aviva Premiership league is one of the most keenly contested for many years. As things stand, a mere five points separate ourselves in fourth spot from Sale in eighth.

Every week, each game seems to have something riding on it. We did ourselves

the power of good, in terms of our own top four ambitions with the victory here at Kingsholm a fortnight ago, in what was one of the best performances I think I have seen from our team this season.

Bath and Sale, who are breathing down our necks, then lost on the Friday evening. However, we now have Newcastle just a point behind us!

It gave us a real opportunity to open up a bit of a gap when we travelled to Worcester the next day, but unfortunately, we couldn't take advantage.

In a fine example of any team in the Premiership being capable of beating any other on any given day, the Warriors were deserved winners. Credit to them, after a difficult start to the season,

they've certainly turned things around.

All of which makes the next two matches, today against Wasps and next Saturday at home to Newcastle, all the more significant. Things are still very much in our own hands at the moment and we're not having to rely on other results going our way.

One big thing in our favour, of course, is that both these fixtures are at Kingsholm and I think you will know that Gloucester are the only team so far in the Aviva Premiership with an unbeaten home record. Thank you for your fantastic support. This is priceless.

Let us help them all we can today.

Enjoy the game.

Martin

AS ALWAYS, IT'S BEEN AN EVENTFUL COUPLE OF WEEKS AT GLOUCESTER RUGBY AND I'M DELIGHTED TO WELCOME EVERYONE BACK TO KINGSHOLM THIS AFTERNOON FOR ANOTHER IMPORTANT AVIVA PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE.

Our last match here at Kingsholm, a fortnight ago when we defeated Leicester, was one of the best performances of the season. That's the level of performance that this squad is capable of producing and while we didn't manage to get a try bonus point, we showed an intent to play attacking rugby throughout the game.

That result kept us in the top four of the Premiership but, unfortunately, we couldn't back it up against Worcester last weekend. Historically we haven't played well at Sixways but it was more the manner of the loss that frustrated us all. Since the start of this year's Premiership, we've brought physicality and an ambition to play to every game, home or away, but last weekend some of our old habits came back to haunt us. It won't happen again this season.

Despite that result, our good league position hasn't changed and we're very excited to welcome Dai Young and his Wasps team to Kingsholm. As seems the case every season, there are very few points separating a lot of teams in the Premiership and we're fully aware that the next two weeks, against Wasps and Newcastle, are huge games.

Unbeaten at home in the league, we're looking forward to being back in front of the Kingsholm crowd and I know we can count on your usual terrific support to maintain that unbeaten run.

Away from today's game, I'm sure many of you will have read that 12 of our young Academy players were named in the England U17 and U18 squads over the last couple of weeks. In this year's U20 Six Nations competition, Alex Seville, Henry Walker, Ciaran Knight, Aaron Hinkley and Tom Seabrook have all been selected by England, and Charlie Chapman and Carwyn Penny have represented Scotland and Wales respectively.

Over the past three years, strongly supported by Martin St Quinton and the Board, we have significantly increased our financial investment in the Academy and we're already seeing strong returns

DAVID HUMPHREYS



with the number of very talented players starting to come through the system.

Working closely with Hartpury College, Gloucester has produced many international players, but salary cap pressures mean that over the next few seasons more and more of our professional squad will need to be home grown.

To deliver long term success in Gloucester, the Academy pathway must produce a pipeline of young talent who develop into top quality professional players at Gloucester, and Richard Whiffin and his staff in the Academy are doing a terrific job in that respect.

Clearly that is reflected in terms of the international selection mentioned above but as importantly, in the form of our U18s team who are currently unbeaten in the Premiership U18 Academy league and will play Leicester in the final next month.

Enjoy today's game.

David

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE



HEART-BREAKING END TO A SEASON THAT PROMISED SO MUCH

2007-08

Captain Peter Buxton

Played 33
Won 21
Lost 11
Drawn 1
For 820
Against 596
Position 1st

PREMIERSHIP

Played 22
Won 15
Lost 7
For 551
Against 377



Under Director of Rugby, Dean Ryan, Gloucester topped the Premiership table for the second season running. Indeed, they were top for 21 of the 22 rounds.

Players making their debuts included Lesley Vainikolo, Alasdair Dickinson, Alasdair Strokosch, Akapusi Qera, Chris Paterson, Gareth Delve, Charlie Sharples and Henry Trinder.

These newcomers, together with the already established personnel such as Mike Tindall, James Simpson-Daniel (voted Premiership Player of the Season), Anthony Allen, Luke Narryway, Ryan Lamb, Iain Balshaw, Ollie Azam, Alex Brown and the captain, Pete Buxton, suggested that this might be Gloucester's year.

Lesley Vainikolo made an immediate impact in the first game of the season at Leeds

when he scored five tries in a 49-24 win. He would go on to win five England caps that season. In October the Cherry and Whites won 30-17 at Leicester, accompanied by the warming sight of Tigers fans walking out long before the final whistle. The first five Premiership games were all victories, the others being Saracens (away), Worcester and Sale. However, at the end of October, on Chris Paterson's debut, London Irish defeated Gloucester 15-10.

In the Heineken Cup, there was a famous win in Ireland against Ulster. Gloucester, playing flowing rugby, had the try bonus point in the bag after only twenty minutes and went on to win 32-14, tries being scored by Vainikolo, Tindall, Lamb, Simpson-Daniel and Balshaw.

A comfortable win against Ospreys followed and back-to-back wins over Bourgoin 31-7 and 51-27, with Ryan Lamb scoring 42 points over the two games, saw the



team top of their group. The only slip-up came in the away fixture in Wales when Ospreys won 32-15. However, the group was settled when Gloucester beat Ulster at Kingsholm 29-21, with Akapusi Qera scoring two tries.

An eagerly anticipated home quarter-final against Munster was the result. The game was a bitter disappointment, as Munster, never having to get out of second gear, won 16-3. Chris Paterson, who could not miss when playing for Scotland, failed with three kicks, two of them in front of the posts, until Ryan Lamb's penalty secured Gloucester's only points.

The Premiership campaign continued to prosper, until in early spring, the Cherry and Whites lost at home to Leicester, 13-20, in what turned out to be Adam Balding's final game for the club. It was the first Premiership defeat at Kingsholm since May 2006.

Four more defeats, all away to Bristol, Harlequins, Sale and Worcester, out of the next six games, meant that Gloucester's top spot was in danger, but a late season flourish included a 39-15 home win (and the double) over Saracens, with Ryan Lamb scoring 19 points, and a fine 25-17 victory away to Wasps. Top place was clinched in the last regular game of the season with an 8-6 win over Bath at Kingsholm, with Simpson-Daniel scoring a brilliant try.

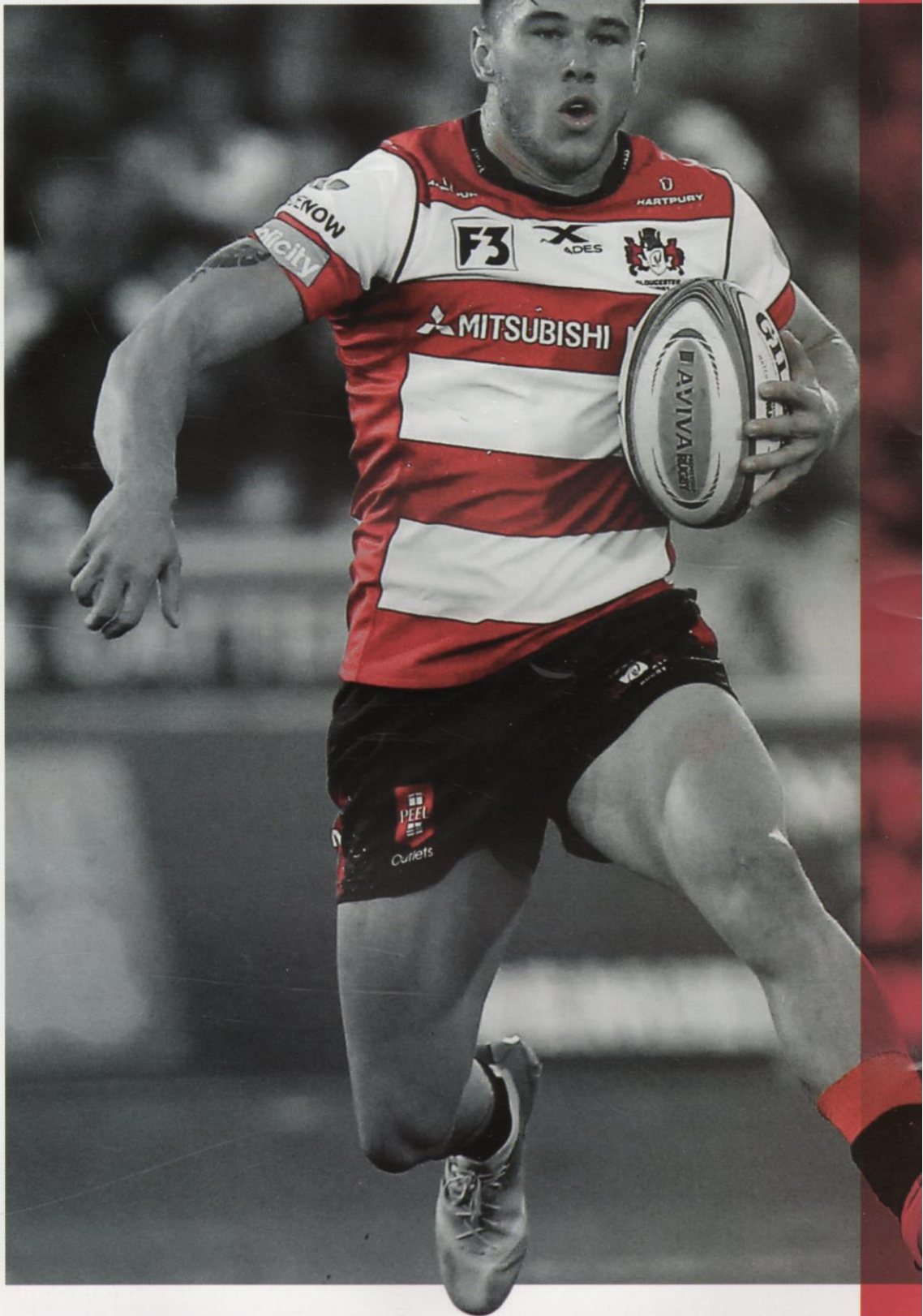
Leicester had finished fourth, and so travelled to Kingsholm for the play-off semi-final. Mike Tindall failed a fitness test, but it did not seem to matter as Gloucester stormed through the first half completely on top.

James Simpson-Daniel scored a try and, with Ryan Lamb kicking a conversion and five penalties, it meant with 15 minutes to go, Gloucester were two scores ahead at 22-13. But at this point panic in defence undid Gloucester.

With a desperate attempted pass, Iain Balshaw only succeeded in hitting a post, and Aaron Mauger pounced to score a try. Andy Goode duly converted and almost at once, kicked a penalty to put Leicester 23-22 ahead.

Even then Gloucester had a chance to redeem the situation. With three minutes remaining Willie Walker kicked a drop goal via an upright, to restore the lead, 25-23. Unfortunately, a steady drive from Leicester took Andy Goode to within drop goal range and, with time up, he did the deed to win the game 26-25. It was a heart-breaking moment for the Cherry and White supporters, having twice seen their team nine points ahead, but still unable to close out the game.

So, for the second year running, a season that had promised so much ended in bitter disappointment.

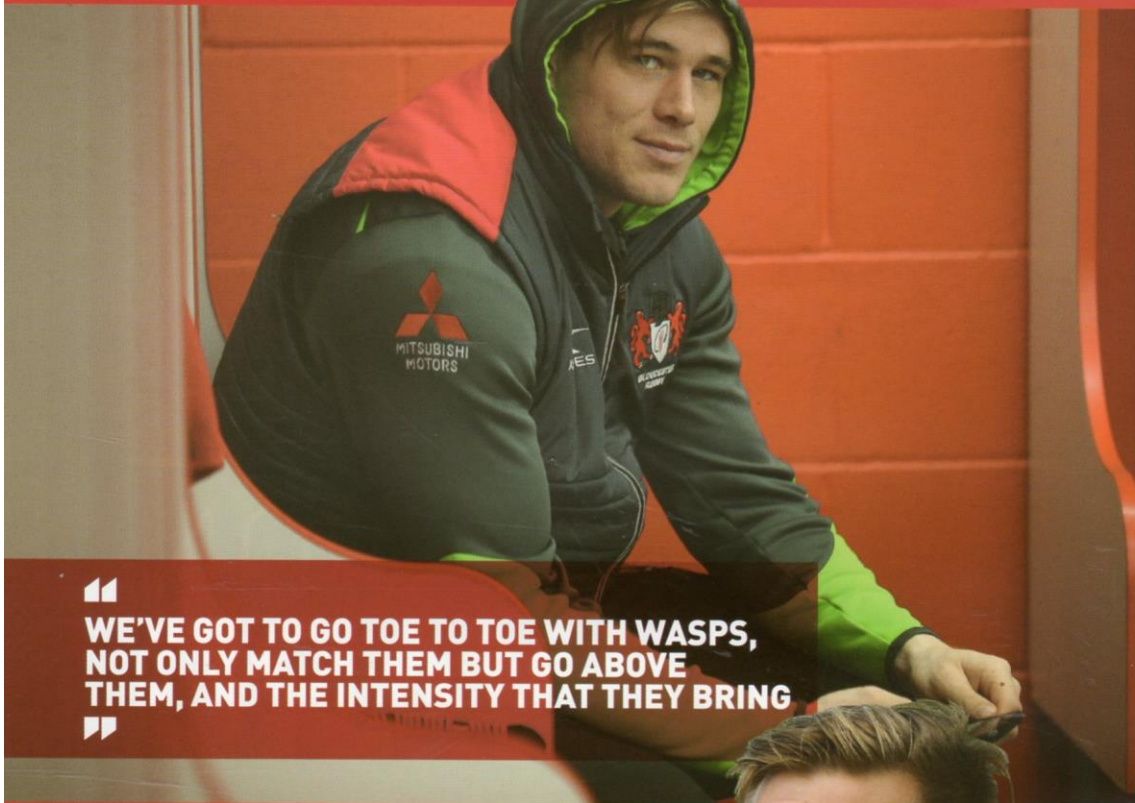


FEATURE INTERVIEW

JASON WOODWARD

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“WE’VE GOT TO GO TOE TO TOE WITH WASPS, NOT ONLY MATCH THEM BUT GO ABOVE THEM, AND THE INTENSITY THAT THEY BRING”

With Wasps arriving at Kingsholm this afternoon, kicking off a vital fortnight for the Cherry and Whites, flying winger Jason Woodward is keen to put his best foot forward and play his part in getting the Cherry and Whites back onto the winning trail.

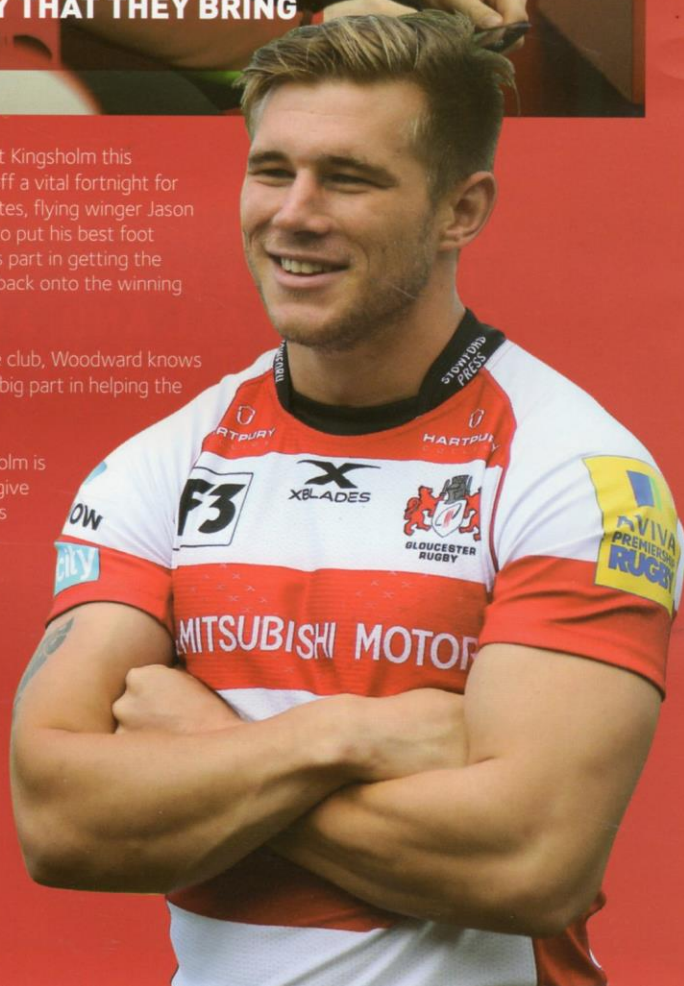
With the play-offs still a realistic ambition for the club, Woodward knows that the home comforts of Kingsholm can play a big part in helping the Cherry and Whites achieve their ambitions.

“Anytime we get the chance to run out at Kingsholm is amazing. It’s an incredible place to play, our fans give their all and, as the Shed gets louder, it really does pump us up.

“On top of that, getting to play a side like Wasps is definitely a week that the boys are looking forward to.”

Woodward targeted success with the Cherry and Whites as soon as he walked through the door, and with the season featuring many memorable moments to date, the flying back is excited by what is to come, and what is at stake taking on play-off and title hunting Wasps.

“It’s going to be a huge one against Wasps.



They've got quality players from 1 to 15, and right through to the 23rd man, to be honest, so it's going to be a huge one for us.

"As a result, this will pump up the crowd, and the good folks in The Shed will be shouting and screaming as they normally do, and they will get the boys up for a hard-fought game."

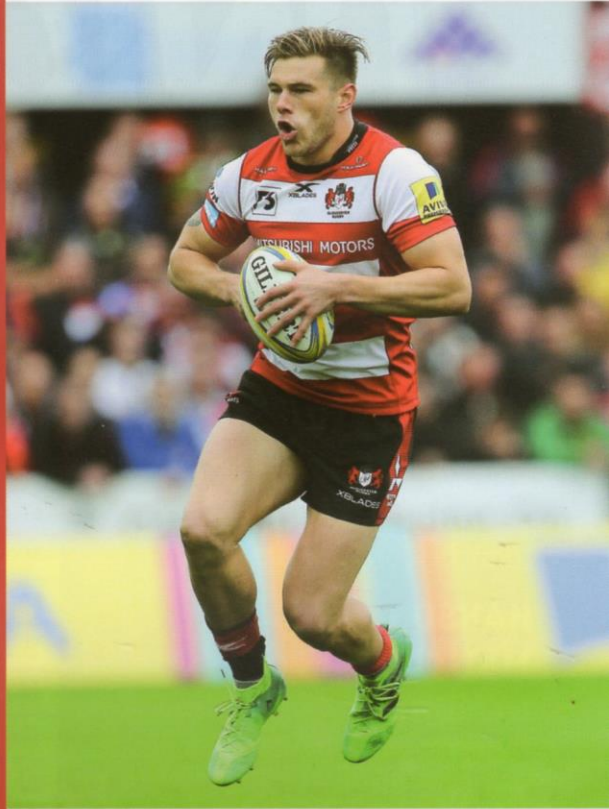
Woodward took no time in announcing himself to the Cherry and White faithful on the opening night of the season, and despite not having much of a preseason, many fans will not forget his dive into the corner against Chiefs in a hurry!

"Unfortunately, I picked up a bit of a niggle in preseason, and missed out on a bit of game time during that period.

"I guess to then end the first game of the season in that corner of The Shed was a pretty special thing for me, and a moment I won't be forgetting. We have to create more moments like that."

The Gloucester backline has been in fine try scoring form, but Woodward puts this down to the platform laid on by the pack, and the hard work and grunt being done up front.

"You've seen guys really starting to shine on the pitch like Jake Polledri, and some of his carries against Leicester were freakish, so to get the boys involved a bit more and running onto the ball.



"When the pack are doing that, and ripping it up, then it really does set us up out wide to have a crack."

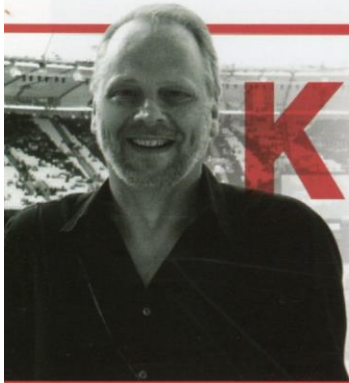
Wasps are the Aviva Premiership's form team, and put the Cherry and Whites to the sword late on back in Round 12 in December, and Woodward is keen for this week's hosts to show their class and find confidence.

"We've got to go toe to toe with Wasps, not only match them but go above them, and the intensity that they bring. We want to keep the skill level high, and it's going to be physical.

"It's going to be a tough game, but the type of game that we want to be involved in as a squad. Hopefully the weather is decent, and we can spin the ball out wide and have a go."

And when the rugby takes a break in the summer, Woodward is ready for his life to change, as he's expecting a first child with partner Rachael.

"I'm really excited! A little wee one on the way, with a little girl arriving in the summer. Really excited for that, and the challenges that will bring!"



KINGSHOLM WITH BOB FENTON NEWS

Just when you thought it was safe, just when you think you have turned a corner... Back to earth with a bump and headlong into the consistently inconsistent world of Gloucester Rugby.

A couple of weeks ago we put Leicester away at home. Even though they were in front for a bit, I always thought we'd turn them over. We gave them a soft interception try (rule number one of Gloucester Rugby – get off to a shaky start at home and then reel it back in) and then, having scored ourselves, gave them another soft one just because we are particularly hospitable people, really.

Just to make things a bit more difficult for ourselves, we broke the only 'natural' winger we had on the field and shoved Henry Trinder out there and watched him run in two first half tries. The first of which was an excellent effort and brought about another Try of the Round award for Gloucester.

Then off we go to Worcester – who while we were entertaining Leicester were busy helping themselves to the spoils down in Exeter. Although the Chiefs were minus a few of their Indians, they still had a pretty good side out. Worcester showed that, while they may be at the foot of the table, but they could still scrap out a win. So, we would have known that a solid start, and calming things down nicely from the off and then building into the game would be the order of the day.

Naturally, it being an away game, we did the complete opposite. Three tries down in the first quarter and we were chasing the game from that point on. While we rallied a bit, I think people would be unsurprised that we came up short. We've seen it too many times, we know the script too well. Such is the sometimes one step forward and two steps back routine that we are far too used to!

That said, other results went our way and we are still sat pretty in fourth place in the league – let me repeat that, fourth place. This time last year we were scrapping around in ninth or tenth with black clouds hanging over



us. So, rumours of our demise are perhaps a shade premature.

The centre ground of where we sit is now a very crowded place though. A wrong result here, combined with others getting more favourable outcomes will tip the table very quickly. We have some monster games coming up against a few teams who are scrapping in our mini-league for the Champions Cup places, put those away and we'll be in a very good spot – of this I am confident.

But we're getting ahead of ourselves a bit, we've got today to take care of first. For me Wasps are playing the best brand of rugby in the division at the moment, a fantastic blend of power and pace.



While Exeter and Saracens will grind out results, Wasps have the ability to cut loose and run over you from pretty much anywhere on the park. You only have to look at what happened up in Coventry in Round 11 just before Christmas. We looked set for a reasonable result before the floodgates opened and we were chasing shadows.

For me much of their spark is coming from one of our old boys, and my former partner in crime on the first issues of the now defunct @Holm - Dan Robson.

By rights he shouldn't be on the park today - in pretty much any other country someone playing the way he is at the moment would make him an obvious pick for his national squad, especially when they have just lost one of their two first choice players in that position.

How he's being overlooked is beyond me - and beyond most other rugby fans around the country. He sparks that open game that people are wanting to see, yet England have opted for the ultra-conservative Richard Wigglesworth. Heaven knows what Dan has done or said to Eddie Jones to deserve being overlooked in this way, whatever it was it must have been massive!

I mentioned that game before Christmas, my first trip to the Ricoh to sample that 'atmosphere'. Hmm... How can I be polite...? It left a lot to be desired. The bonkers drummers wandering around without the slightest



respect for the game going on behind them, or the people they were getting in the way of, the screeching announcer, the age taken to get out of the industrial estate where I had parked my car.

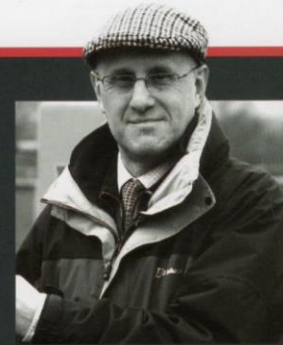
I appreciate that they are having to start from scratch and build an audience, but believe me boys - those marketing gimmicks are not going to do it. The rugby that the team is playing warrants a good crowd and will no doubt get it - the screeching histrionics will drive them away.

Talking of announcers, our own Mr Dependable, Graham Spring, tells me that he is hanging up his microphone at the end of the season. I fervently hope that we replace like with like - not that Graham can be replaced - and we don't end up with another cringingly embarrassing wannabe DJ from local radio.

We tried that once before and that ended well, didn't it...

RANDALL

on RUGBY



A STEP FORWARD AGAINST LEICESTER, ARGUABLY A STEP BACK AT SIXWAYS. JOHAN ACKERMANN'S POINT ABOUT THE PREMIERSHIP BEING COMPETITIVE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM WAS BORNE OUT A WEEK AGO, AS A RESURGENT WORCESTER FED OFF THEIR WIN OVER EXETER FOR THE FIRST HALF AND BUILT A LEAD GLOUCESTER COULDN'T CLAW BACK.

T rue, the injuries to Hanson and Marshall didn't help, but a losing bonus point could have been secured had any one of three possible kicks at goal been chosen rather than opt to go for an attacking line out instead. You only hope that single point doesn't matter come the end of the season.

Today we welcome Wasps, and it was whilst watching hooker Tom Lindsay play for Bedford a fortnight ago that I wondered how many other players had played for Gloucester and today's visitors.

If you exclude Kevin Dunn as he pre-dates the Premiership, you can still pull together a team from players who have worn the colours of both clubs.

I accept Mark Atkinson and Peter Richards are not in their first choice positions and neither is Phil Greening, but all three have played there in first team matches.

You will notice that five players have made more than 100 appearances between the two teams.

DAN ROBSON

The only one of the quintet involved today and, according to CEO Stephen Vaughan the player in recent seasons, Gloucester were most disappointed to lose when his contract expired in 2015 and he moved to the Ricoh. Still only 25, Robson displayed the livewire characteristics we now see in Ben Vellacott and, whilst he remains uncapped, that honour may not be far away.



GLOUCESTER AND WASPS XV

(FIGURES IN BRACKETS ARE PREMIERSHIP APPEARANCES FOR EACH CLUB)

- 15 Mark Atkinson (Glos 49, Wasps 1)
- 14 James Bailey (Glos 49, Wasps 1)
- 13 Brendan Macken (Glos 4, Wasps 13)
- 12 Peter Richards (Glos 37, Wasps 31)
- 11 Tom Voyce (Glos 38, Wasps 124)
- 10 Nicky Robinson (Glos 39, Wasps 36)
- 9 Andy Gomarsall (Glos 83, Wasps 26)
- *Rep Dan Robson (Glos 63, Wasps 55)

- 1 Paul Doran-Jones (Glos 60, Wasps 3)
- 2 Tom Lindsay (Glos 6, Wasps 86)
- 3 Phil Vickery (Glos 88, Wasps 31)
- *Rep Darren Molloy (Glos 2, Wasps 103)
- 4 Tom Palmer (Glos 16, Wasps 70)
- 5 Ian Jones (Glos 32, Wasps 18)
- 6 Phil Greening (Glos 11, Wasps 8)
- 7 Thomas Young (Glos 2, Wasps 57)
- 8 Will Matthews (Glos 1, Wasps 11)

ANDY GOMARSALL

One of three World Cup winners in the Gloucester squad, Gomarsall spent four seasons at Kingsholm behind a decent pack which enabled him to show his skills to the full. An excellent passer, I particularly remember an outrageous dropped goal to seal





a win over Northampton at a muddy Kingsholm in 2002 which said much for his confidence, something that never appeared to wane under any circumstances.

PHIL VICKERY

Another World Cup winner, one wonders how many accolades Vickery would have collected without a catalogue of injuries. If ever the wear and tear of playing at tight head needed a case study Vickery was your number one example, with neck, back and shoulder problems impacting heavily on his career. In the end after 11 years at Kingsholm, Gloucester let Wasps take the risk on Vickery's fitness, and he ended up playing more than many of us might have thought until he retired in 2010.



TOM VOYCE

It was fitting that after his great uncle's prominent career in Gloucester colours 80 years earlier, Tom Voyce should spend part of his career at Kingsholm.

Frequently a thorn in Gloucester's side when Wasps were at Adams Park, Voyce was in the team in 2006 that



deprived Gloucester of a place in the Premiership play-offs on the final day despite James Bailey's try (if you don't know it, look for it on YouTube - Ed). A classy wing with more emphasis on pace than power, he won three Premiership titles and two Heineken Cups with Wasps and the 2011 Anglo Welsh Cup with the Cherry and Whites, scoring in the final against Newcastle.

DARREN MOLLOY

Never played in a league game at Kingsholm for Gloucester, and only appeared twice in 2002-03, when he came off the bench in the win at Northampton and then started the late season game at Leeds. Much better known for a decade's durable service in the front row at Wasps, with success at home and in Europe. Retired after he left Gloucester and is now at the Duke of York Military School in Dover.



Wasps' victory over Exeter at the Ricoh last Sunday pulled them at least one result clear of Gloucester and closer to the Chiefs and Saracens, but where Gloucester may end up is still balanced on a knife edge.

A win today would close the door significantly on those capable of a late season burst and cut the odds on joining Wasps in the top four in May.



NEWCASTLE FALCONS **31-19** GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES:

Kyle Cooper (2), Mark Wilson, Alex Tait

CONVERSIONS:

Toby Flood, Joel Hodgson (3)

PENALTIES:

Joel Hodgson

DATE: Sat 3rd Feb 18
KO: 15:00

TRIES:

Ben Vellacott, Gareth Evans, Matt Scott

CONVERSIONS:

Owen Williams (2)

REPLAY
ACTION



Gloucester made the long trip north to Newcastle with hopes still alive of qualifying for the semi-finals of the Anglo-Welsh Cup.

However, once safely installed in their hotel on the Friday evening, news filtered through that Bath had won at Ospreys and the Cherry and Whites could no longer progress.

The Falcons' fate was still very much in their own hands and that was reflected in them naming a strong side.

However, it was Gloucester who made the better start. Attacking the short side, Ben Morgan brushed aside Alex Tait before passing inside for Ben Vellacott to scamper home. Owen Williams converted.

The home team duly hit back with hooker Kyle Cooper burrowing his way over for two close range tries to take a 14-7 lead. When Mark Wilson ran a good angle off a Micky Young pass for the Falcons third try on the half hour, things looked grim for Gloucester.

The Cherry and Whites are made of stern stuff nowadays though, and a well-executed catch and drive from five metres out saw Gareth Evans power over, Williams' conversion getting Gloucester back to within a score.

Indeed, had Jeremy Thrush been able to hang on to a cross-kick from Williams, the ball just eluding the second row's grasp, Gloucester could have been on level terms at half time.

As it was, Newcastle struck first in the second half, Matavesi and Goneva linking well on the left wing before putting Alex Tait



WE CHALLENGED OURSELVES ALL WEEK TO PUT A PERFORMANCE TOGETHER AND BUILD SOME TRACTION GOING INTO THE NEXT PREMIERSHIP BLOCK.

THERE WAS AN ELEMENT OF THAT BUT YOU COULD SEE THE PERFORMANCE WE WENT FOR IN THE 80 MINUTES. WE WERE THE AGGRESSORS BUT OUR INACCURACIES LET THE PRESSURE VALVE OFF REALLY.

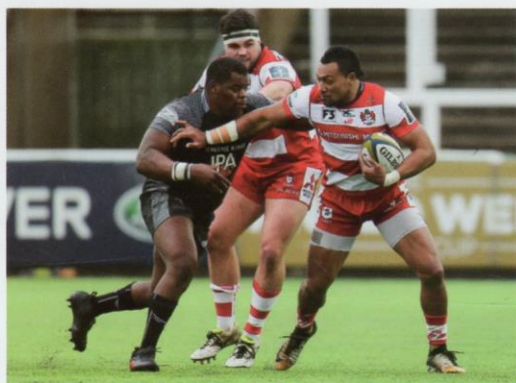


HEAD OF ACADEMY, RICHARD WHIFFIN

over. Joel Hodgson then added a penalty to extend the lead.

Perhaps the Falcons switched off mentally a touch at this stage, but Gloucester went on to dominate possession and territory for the rest of the game. Matt Scott cut back against the grain to score a well-taken third and Aaron Hinkley was harshly denied a try on debut, apparently for a foot in touch.

However, Gloucester had too much of a mountain to climb and it was the home team who closed out a 31-19 victory, and proceeded to the semi-finals when Leicester failed to get the result they needed against Wasps the next day.





GLOUCESTER RUGBY **24-17** LEICESTER TIGERS

TRIES:
Henry Trinder (2), Matt Scott
CONVERSIONS:
Billy Twelvetrees (3)
PENALTIES:
Billy Twelvetrees

DATE: Sat 10th Feb 18
KO: 14:30

TRIES:
Nick Malouf, Joe Ford
CONVERSIONS:
Joe Ford (2)
PENALTIES:
Matt Toomua

ACTION REPLAY



Gloucester changed their entire starting XV to take on the Tigers at Kingsholm, and it paid dividends as the Cherry and Whites secured an important win over one of their oldest rivals.

It was one of Gloucester's most impressive performances of the season against a Tigers team that, despite missing some internationals, was still packed with class and experience.

And the final outcome was all the more impressive, given that Gloucester trailed twice in the first half, including giving up an interception try against the run of play.

But, backed by a raucous home crowd, Gloucester shrugged off the setbacks and got back on terms by half-time before taking a firm grip on proceedings as the second half progressed.

Such was Gloucester's dominance in the second 40 minutes, that the only real disappointment was that they couldn't secure the try scoring bonus point and that Leicester snatched a losing bonus point with the final kick of the game.

But, any win over Leicester should be cherished, especially as this one keeps Gloucester in the hunt for a top four finish.

Gloucester threw everything at Leicester from the off, but were dealt a real blow on 12 minutes when, with the Tigers defence stretched, Nick Malouf picked off a pass and ran it back all the way from his own 22.

Leicester then defended resolutely

until the half hour mark, when Billy Twelvetrees switched play and good hands from Polledri and Ludlow put Henry Trinder clear for Gloucester's first try.

The Tigers struck back almost at once. Gloucester missed touch with a clearance, Brendan O'Connor made a key break and Joe Ford darted over after a nice exchange of passes.

The see-saw nature of the game continued, Jason Woodward taking a high-kick and returning it with interest. The Tigers got back to quash the immediate threat, but Gloucester kept the ball alive and Tom Marshall offloaded superbly for Trinder to go over for his second. Twelvetrees added the extras.

Ford missed a tricky penalty kick on the stroke of half-time and that was the last time the Tigers threatened for quite some time as Gloucester went on to dominate after the resumption.

Virtually all the play took place in the Leicester 22, and Gloucester eased clear as Twelvetrees slotted a penalty before converting Matt Scott's try.

However, try as they might, Gloucester couldn't quite get the fourth try and some credit must go to the Leicester defence who soaked up everything Gloucester could throw at them.

And, in true Leicester style, the visitors hung in long enough to sneak a bonus point right at the end of the game to ensure they took something from the game.



CREDIT TO THE PLAYERS, IT WAS A GREAT PERFORMANCE OUT THERE AND WE PLAYED SOME GREAT RUGBY, THERE COULD HAVE BEEN ONE OR TWO MORE TRIES BUT WE'LL TAKE IT.

IT'S OBVIOUSLY DIFFICULT TO PLAY THE RUGBY WE WANT TO IN THOSE CONDITIONS BUT IT'S THE SAME FOR BOTH SIDES AND OUR SET PLAY WAS GOOD AND THAT WAS IMPORTANT.



DIRECTOR OF RUGBY, JOHAN ACKERMANN



TEAM LINE-UPS



SATURDAY 24 JANUARY // AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY // ROUND 16

T P C D		POSITION		T P C D	
		JASON WOODWARD 15	FULL BACK	15	WILLIE LE ROUX
		DAVID HALAIFONUA 14	RIGHT WING	14	CHRISTIAN WADE
		BILLY TWELVETREES 13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	JUAN DE JONGH
		MARK ATKINSON 12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	JIMMY GOPPERTH
		HENRY TRINDER 11	LEFT WING	11	JOSH BASSETT
		BILLY BURNS 10	FLY-HALF	10	DANNY CIPRIANI
		WILLI HEINZ (C) 9	SCRUM-HALF	9	DAN ROBSON
		JOSH HOHNECK 1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	MATT MULLAN
		JAMES HANSON 2	HOOKER	2	TOM CRUSE
		JOHN AFOA 3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	JAKE COOPER-WOOLLEY
		TOM SAVAGE 4	LOCK	4	JAMES GASKELL
		MARIANO GALARZA 5	LOCK	5	KEARNAN MYALL
		JAKE POLLEDRI 6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	JACK WILLIS
		LEWIS LUDLOW 7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	THOMAS YOUNG
		FREDDIE CLARKE 8	NUMBER 8	8	GUY THOMPSON
REPLACEMENTS:		REPLACEMENTS			
		RICHARD HIBBARD 16		16	ASHLEY JOHNSON
		CAMERON ORR 17		17	SIMON MCINTYRE
		FRASER BALMAIN 18		18	MARTY MOORE
		ED SLATER 19		19	WILL ROWLANDS
		BEN MORGAN 20		20	MARCUS GARRATT
		BEN VELLACOTT 21		21	JOE SIMPSON
		OWEN WILLIAMS 22		22	ROB MILLER
		MATT SCOTT 23		23	BRENDAN MACKEN

MATCH OFFICIALS
REFEREE
 Karl Dickson
 —
ASSISTANT REFEREES
 Tim Wigglesworth & Wayne Falla
 —
TMO
 David Rose
 —
CITING COMMISSIONER
 Shaun Gallagher