

# CHERRY & WHITES



  
**MITSUBISHI  
MOTORS**  
MAIN CLUB  
PARTNER



**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY**



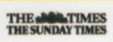
TODAY'S MATCHDAY  
SPONSOR

## V **NEWCASTLE FALCONS**

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME**  
2017/18 SEASON / ISSUE 14  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY  
SATURDAY 3 MARCH 2018  
KO 15.00 / £3

## **GLOUCESTER- HARTPURY WOMEN** V **HARLEQUINS LADIES**

TYRRELLS PREMIER 15s  
KO 17.00



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

# WILLI HEINZ.

GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR TODAY'S CLASH WITH NEWCASTLE FALCONS, AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE SECOND OF AN IMPORTANT DOUBLE-HEADER OF DOMESTIC GAMES AT KINGSHOLM.

**W**e welcome another in-form team this weekend in the Newcastle Falcons, and we face a huge test and throughout the squad there is a massive determination to go out there today and get the points.

The first half last weekend, I thought for the most part we were excellent in most areas of our game. We really fronted up physically, looked sharp with ball in hand, carrying with determination and made good decisions. The boys would have been confident going in at half time after a quality first 40.

In any game of rugby against a quality opponent, you understand that you aren't going to have it all your own way. The momentum shifts at times and it's how you manage that pressure and also relieve it when you get those turnovers.

Wasps are a quality attacking team and I thought for large periods in that second half we scrambled well and, while it was frustrating for them to draw level, I knew we could score again. When Henry Trinder crossed towards the end that should have been enough.

Ultimately though, it was unacceptable for us to let them go the length of the pitch and draw the match. Understandably, there were a lot of disappointed boys in the changing room after the game, as it did feel like a loss.

We have looked at both the positives and 'work ons' from the performance as we know we will have to be at our best to get a result today. We're still well in touch with the top four, and our aspirations are



to be in there come the end of the season.

Newcastle had a fantastic win on the road at Harlequins last weekend, and they will be full of confidence to come down to Kingsholm this weekend and get a result.

Dean Richards has assembled a really strong squad over the past few years, and they have a great team spirit, continuity and they know their game plan very well. The challenge for us this week is to take the game to them, play our own game and take the chances when we make them.

After this game, we face a fortnight off with the Anglo-Welsh Cup window, and it'll be great to see Kingsholm hosting the final. For our part, the squad will be able to refresh and get a few more boys on their feet pushing for places ahead of a crucial few weeks.

We know how important it is not to drop off in any of our preparations or games over the next few weeks, as every game is like a cup final between now and May.

Enjoy the game.

*Willi*



## MARTIN ST QUINTON

**G**ood afternoon and welcome back to Kingsholm once again for this latest Aviva Premiership fixture. In particular, welcome to the Newcastle Falcons players, staff and supporters.

I would like to say 'warm' welcome, but given that temperatures have barely risen above freezing all week, it might be a bit too much to hope for.

However, the fact that this match is able to go ahead today is all down to the hard work of our Operations team throughout the week. So many thanks to everyone who helped with that.

Like so many others, I had mixed feelings about last week's game against Wasps. Our first-half performance was

excellent, as we really took the game to a top-class opponent.

We then defended gallantly, but couldn't quite keep them at bay, only to respond brilliantly by taking the lead once again. But the late try and conversion were deeply frustrating for everyone. On the surface of it, a draw against Wasps isn't a bad result, but we came so close to it being a memorable win.

It's important to focus on the positives, and we will need to deliver a similarly competitive performance today against an in-form Newcastle side. They've strung together a few wins and moved up the table. The game earlier in the season at Kingston Park was one of our better performances, and we will need to match that today.

On a different note, I would urge

as many of you as possible to stick around after the game and watch Susie Appleby's Gloucester-Hartpury Women's side take on Harlequins.

This is the first time that Gloucester-Hartpury will have played a top flight fixture here at Kingsholm. I know they're really looking forward to it and would love your support.

They have been doing incredibly well in this their first season in the Tyrrells Premier 15s, and are currently just outside the play-off places. A win today would do those ambitions the power of good.

Thank you for your ongoing support, I hope you enjoy both games and that we're celebrating a Gloucester double this evening!

*Martin*

AFTER AN EXCITING AND DRAMATIC AFTERNOON OF RUGBY LAST SATURDAY, WE'RE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME DEAN RICHARDS AND ALL THE PLAYERS, STAFF AND SUPPORTERS FROM NEWCASTLE FALCONS TO KINGSHOLM AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON.

**W**hile we maintained our unbeaten run at home in the Premiership last weekend, we were disappointed not to come away with another victory against one of the top teams in the competition.

Huge credit must go to Wasps to score a try from their own goal line to leave Kingsholm with a draw, and two points, but key errors cost us the opportunity to close out the game and secure a bonus point victory.

One of the major changes this season has been our ability to finish games strongly so, while we're frustrated by last weekend's draw, it makes us even more determined to play well again this afternoon. Our first half performance against Wasps was one of the best 40 minutes of the season and, if a couple of big decisions had gone our way, the game could have been over as a contest at half time.

As Johan mentioned in post-match media, we're still improving and learning as a team but to beat the top teams in the Premiership, we need to play for the full 80 minutes. We will be tested again today by another very good team who have built up some momentum over the last few weeks and are playing great rugby.

When we travelled to Kingston Park in November, we produced our best defensive performance of the season to come away with 5 points, but this afternoon will be a very different test. Of course, we'll have to defend well, but we have to bring the same intensity and urgency to our attacking game in Kingsholm as we have done throughout the season.

Away from the Premiership, the Six Nations continues to provide top quality Test match rugby. The games in Dublin and Edinburgh highlighted how competitive this year's Six Nations has been and Scotland's victory in the Calcutta Cup was

# DAVID HUMPHREYS



masterminded by former Gloucester player, Greig Laidlaw. His performance, on his return from injury, showed how much his influence has been missed and there's no coincidence that Finn Russell looked close to being back to his best.

Despite the defeat in Murrayfield, I have no doubt that England will bounce back strongly in Paris to set up a Championship decider at Twickenham against Ireland.

As I mentioned last weekend in my notes, Gloucester U18's have had an outstanding season to date and play Leicester in the U18 final on Sunday 11th at Allianz Park. It would be fantastic to see some Gloucester support there to cheer Richard Whiffin and all the players on to victory.

And, finally, a warm welcome today to Susie Appleby and her Gloucester-Hartpury Womens side. It's the first time they will have played a top flight fixture here at Kingsholm and we all wish them every success today and for the rest of the season.

Enjoy the game.

*David*

GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
HERITAGE



GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY

**CENTENARY  
SEASON OF  
MEMORABLE  
VICTORIES**

**1973-74**

Captain Mike Nicholls

Played 54  
Won 39  
Lost 11  
Drawn 4  
For 1906  
Against 570



**F**or Gloucester's Centenary season it seemed quite appropriate that Mike Nicholls should be club captain. He had after all inspired the team to cup success in 1972, and was arguably the best captain the Cherry and Whites ever had.

He made an incredible 52 appearances, missing only two games. He was closely followed by Bob Clewes and John Spalding on 46, Peter Butler 45, Alan Brinn 43 and John Haines 42. Top scorer was full-back Peter Butler who achieved an amazing 488 points (which was a club record at the time) including 114 penalties which is still the club record. In all games Peter scored 574 points, only seven short of the world record set by Moseley's Sam Doble.

Bob Clewes led the try scoring department with 24, followed by Ron Etheridge with 17, then Bob White and Richard Jardine on 10.

As usual the forwards had plenty of

Gloucester "Dog". In the front row Robin Cowling, Mike Nicholls, Mike Burton and Keith Richardson (later to be reinforced by Phil Blakeway) never took a backward step, and were supported by an outstanding second row of Alan Brinn and John Fidler, whilst there was a dynamic back row including Dave Owen, Jim Jarrett, John Watkins and John Haines.

In the backs Bob Clewes and Ron Etheridge ran in the tries, given openings created by centres John Bayliss, Richard Jardine and chunky no-nonsense Bob White, a recruit from Cheltenham.

At fly-half, Bob Redwood, another ex-Cheltenham player, was partnered by John Spalding, a very talented scrum-half. Redwood, together with Ron Etheridge, scored tries in the first game of the season away to Broughton Park. The game was surprisingly lost despite four penalties and two conversions from Butler. However, the team got back on track with five wins on the trot.



Don Rutherford, the England full-back who captained Gloucester in the sixties, gathered a formidable International XV to play at Kingsholm to celebrate the centenary. The team included French stars Pierre Villepreux and Jo Maso, together with John Dawes, David Duckham, Tony Neary and many more. The game was played on 3 October, in front of a crowd of 9,000. Gloucester played sparkling rugby, and won 24-14, scoring tries through Keith Richardson, John Haines, Richard Jardine, Bob Redwood and Peter Butler, who also kicked two conversions.

In November Leicester were beaten 29-6 at Welford Road, with Butler kicking seven penalties, whilst Etheridge and Haines scored tries.

In the National Knock-Out Competition, there was an easy 49-6 win over Devizes, before Gloucester were drawn to play London Scottish at Kingsholm in the next round. Gloucester had beaten Scottish 21-0 away, in January, so the team was confident of victory. By half-time the Cherry and

Whites were 12-0 down, and despite three penalties from Butler in the second half, the Scottish pulled off a shock win, taking Gloucester's ground record in the process.

That season Gloucestershire won the County Championship, and relied heavily on Gloucester players. Consequently, there were several occasions when Gloucester had to field weakened teams against top-class opposition. It is a compliment to the team's depth in strength that not one of those games were lost.

In October Gloucester had to travel to Newport, shorn of nine players on county duty. They returned having fought out a 6-6 draw, Dennis Hargreaves kicking two penalties. In November, eight short, Moseley were beaten 15-13, Eric Stephens, now nearing the end of his career, scored a penalty and two conversions, whilst Jim Jarrett and John Haines scored tries.

Later in November an even more impressive win whilst nine short, was achieved over

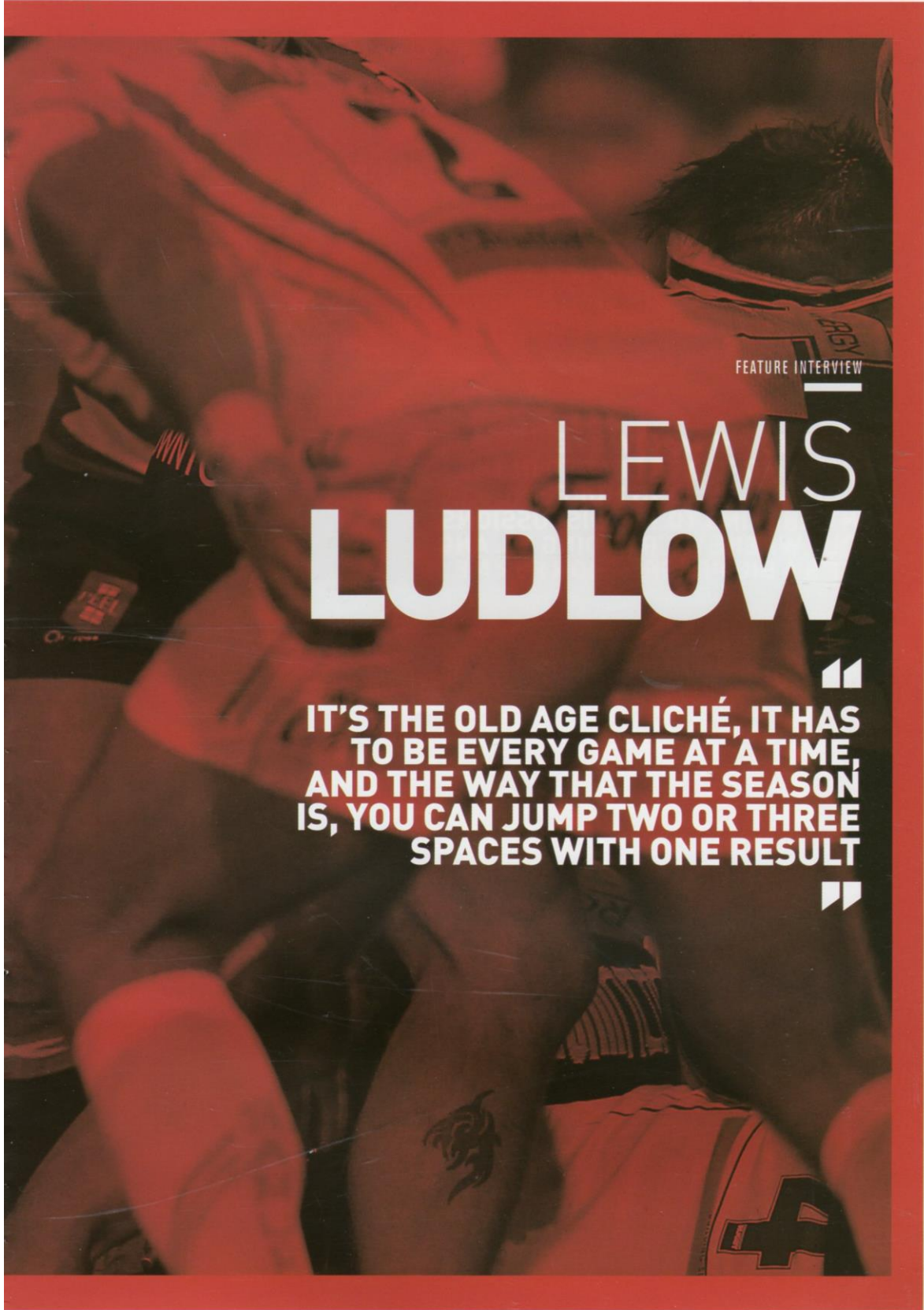
London Irish. Stephens pitched in with 15 points, and tries were scored by John Dix and veterans Gary White and Dick Smith.

But perhaps the most remarkable win was over Leicester 27-10, with six county players missing, to complete a double over the Tigers. Stephens was again present to kick two penalties and a conversion. Bob Redwood scored a drop goal, whilst tries were scored by Bob White (2), Bob Clewes and the other by the emerging meteoric talent that was Stewart Dix.

Finally, in February Gloucester had eleven players on county duty when Aberavon were the opponents at Kingsholm. Gloucester won 18-10. Stephens, playing in his penultimate game for the club he had served so faithfully kicked five penalties. Dennis Hargreaves scored a drop goal.

Despite the disappointing exit from the cup competition this was still a season to savour, and demonstrated the talent the club had in depth.



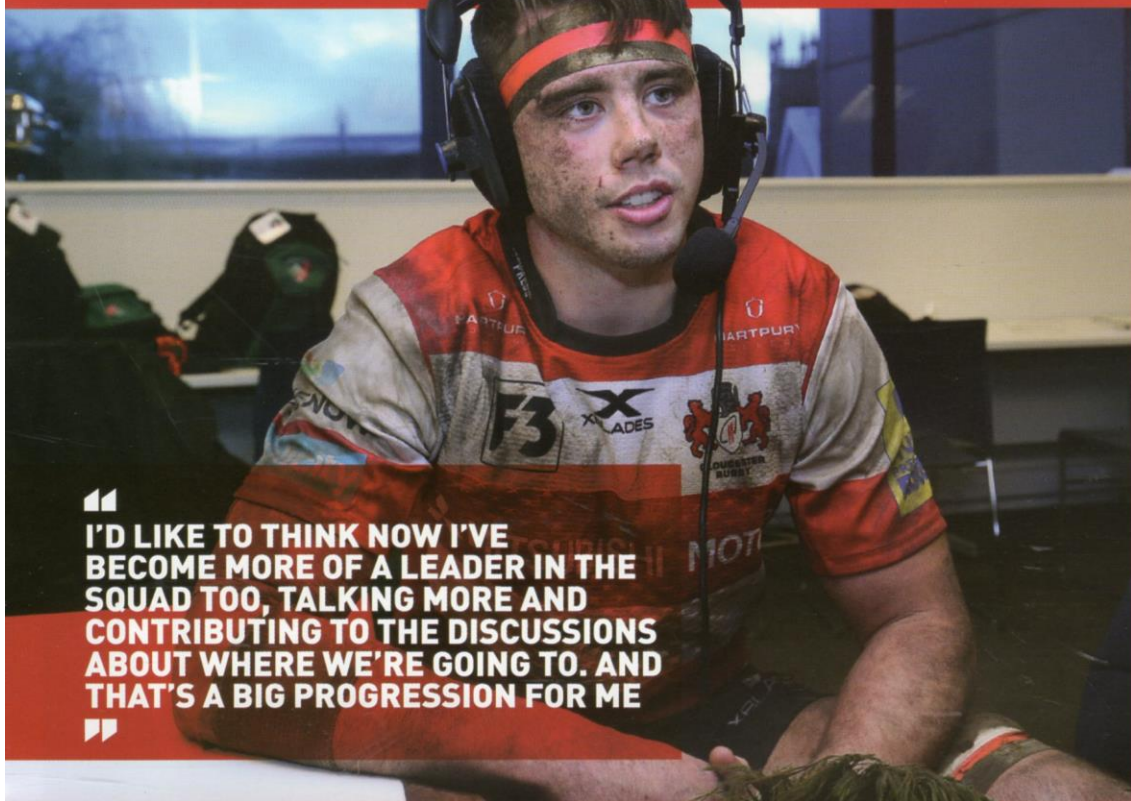


FEATURE INTERVIEW

# LEWIS LUDLOW

“IT’S THE OLD AGE CLICHÉ, IT HAS TO BE EVERY GAME AT A TIME, AND THE WAY THAT THE SEASON IS, YOU CAN JUMP TWO OR THREE SPACES WITH ONE RESULT”





“**I'D LIKE TO THINK NOW I'VE BECOME MORE OF A LEADER IN THE SQUAD TOO, TALKING MORE AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WHERE WE'RE GOING TO. AND THAT'S A BIG PROGRESSION FOR ME**”

**H**e may be close to becoming the first player to hit 250 tackles this season after only 16 rounds, but Lewis Ludlow knows that, with the business end of the season fast approaching, points on the table will mean more than any other number.

The Bedford born back rower has been a regular in the Gloucester back row this season, with a number of standout displays at the coalface, and he accepts that the statistics have been fun to look back on, but his development in the jersey this year has provided more satisfaction.

“I've been working hard, everyone keeps mentioning the old tackle count, but I hope to have contributed a lot more than that.”

“It's an area of the game that I do enjoy, and I really hope to keep doing that.”

Johan Ackermann has been clear with his instructions to his players this season, highlighting key roles in each player's game, all ultimately contributing to the team performance, and this is something that Ludlow has relished taking on.

“I feel that's really good, everyone has their role in the team, and I really do enjoy that part of it.”

“I'd like to think now I've become more of a leader in the squad too, talking more and contributing to the discussions about where we're going to. And that's a big progression for me, especially from the last few years.”



After making his first Aviva Premiership start at the beginning of the 2015/16 season against today's opponents, Ludlow explains how he has benefitted from learning the game and taking his time before really nailing down a starting shirt this season, making 17 starts so far this campaign.

"Last year was a year where I was drip-feeding from the bench, and getting the taste of the action in a few starts. This year I feel that I've really kicked on and developed my game, and I've enjoyed those starts.

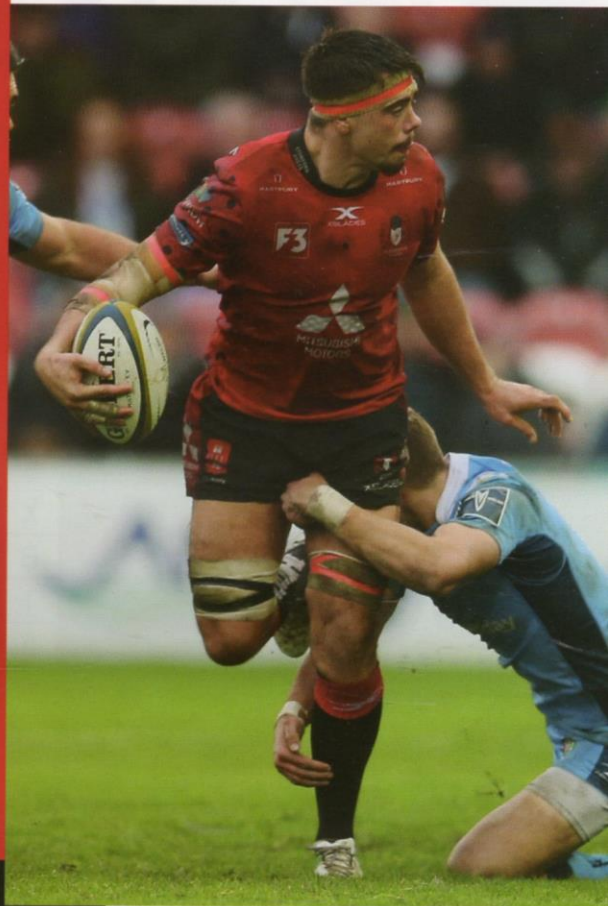
"It's been good to be slowly progressing into starts, and learning my trade, biding my time and then when the time was right, I feel this really helped."

A lot of the headlines on the pitch this season have been around the emergence and excellence of the young back row, and Ludlow is enjoying making waves with his team mates.

"I think we complement each other really well as a unit, and we enjoy playing together. There's a lot of chat between us, and we keep pushing one another to benefit the team.

"The success we've had is because of that balance that we have, and that is so important to any team, and I think we've found it at times this season."

And to have those key players in key roles at such young ages and relative inexperience is a massive positive for the club, a fact not wasted on the back rower.



"The way that the squad wants to progress, and the way that we want to go, is so important, as is getting those young players in key roles at such young ages.

"We're getting used to it, and when you get to the nitty gritty of the season, and tournaments, then we will be used to the big moments, and know how to deal with things."

With the business end of the season nearing, Ludlow knows that the important thing for Gloucester is to not focus on where the team might finish, but to focus on each run out and he knows that the Cherry and Whites will finish where they deserve to.

"It's the old age cliché, it has to be every game at a time, and the way that the season is, you can jump two or three spaces with one result, and vice versa. One weekend you don't even have to have a bad result and you can be overtaken.

"Win our games, whatever happens is whatever happens."



# KINGSHOLM WITH BOB FENTON NEWS

**O**uch... Dontcha just hate those last minute plays... A couple of minutes to go, and we have a penalty on half-way, the game is poised with us holding a seven point lead and with three tries in the bag. One kick for the corner, a couple of scrambled plays, a penalty against us and 60 seconds later the opposition are taking a conversion to tie the game. We know what happened next.

So two points, not four, against the team with the best away record in the Premiership, yet it felt like a real kick in the stomach. Should we have gone for the posts with that penalty? Billy Twelvetrees has a howitzer for a kick and would have probably made the distance and run the clock down a bit. Then again, we were going well and our lineout had functioned pretty much all match so why not go for it. Had it come off we would have been hailing heroes, as it was it finished all square. Such are the margins.

And talking of margins, the centre ground of the Premiership table is ridiculously compressed now, we drop two points and two places in the space of five minutes as Bath, and our visitors today, leapfrog us. Fortunately, there is a bit of a cushion between us and the next group of teams below.

I know we're used to things being congested in mid table – though over recent years we have been gazing up and thinking 'wouldn't it be good to be compressed in those European Cup spots' – but I think this is the tightest it's been for a long, long time. Alex Ferguson's 'squeaky bum' quote (which I always thought was his succinct comment on a former RFU official) doesn't even come close.

It does make me smile to read some of the outpourings of people who were many miles from Kingsholm when the game was played, and in some cases that I personally know – many years since going into the place – who can spot everything that is going wrong. And to read laughable predictions about how we will finish in the bottom four is, well, laughable.



We are a completely different side to the one they watched a few years ago, or the occasional game on TV. Last season if we had gone a man down against a side like Wasps we would have crumbled. Maybe the best testament to the new attitude in our side comes from a Wasps supporting friend who I watched the game with. 'You can't tell that you are down a man,' he said. '... the defensive energy from your boys is immense...'. Enough said. A draw then, a great game of rugby to watch, and all in all, probably a fair result and enough to keep my 'unbeaten in the league at home' bet alive.

A word about our referee last week – Karl Dickson. Not so many years ago he was bossing a pretty successful Harlequins side around from behind their pack, now



he's bossing teams around and doing it very well. I really like this idea of fast tracking former players into the refereeing system, their empathy and understanding of the game really shows – and they know all the tricks too.

Contrast that with some of the other younger officials around at the moment, and they stand head and shoulders above them. I also liked the fact that he made quick decisions on the field, no endless TMO for this, TMO for that. One referral in the game last week, dealt with in a few seconds. Far better than some of the other more recent games we have endured that have been more stop start than a stop starty thing.



Today then... Newcastle Falcons... One of our two away wins this season. Up in the frozen north on their lush plastic carpet they have been playing some pretty outstanding rugby at times. It's taken a while for them to get there (yes, I know they won the league a few years back) but they are now a proper force to be reckoned with.

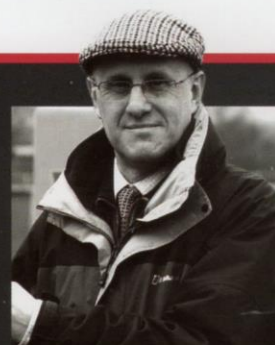
Some of that spark is coming from the guy who has been playing 10 for them recently – Toby Flood. I had to look his profile up to see how old he is (32) as he seems to have been playing at the top level of the game for about 20 years though he actually made his debut in the 2004/5 season.

I've always liked him as a player, something about the way he just goes about his business on the field – he seems to have a quiet composure about him and you don't see some of the arm waving histrionics that we get from some of his colleagues around the league. I guess with so many years' experience under his belt he has seen it all before so can afford to be pretty sanguine about things. Hope he has a nightmare game (if he is selected) today though – admiration for an opposition player can only go so far!

What should we expect today then? Well Newcastle have a birdy thing on their shirts, we have a couple of rampant lions. You know what happens when cats meet birds...

# RANDALL

## on RUGBY



SPEND ANY LENGTH OF TIME TALKING TO OLLIE THORLEY AND YOU REALISE BALANCE IS AN IMPORTANT WORD IN HIS LIFE. IT NEATLY DESCRIBES HIS RUNNING ON THE PITCH AND HIS ROUNDED APPROACH OFF IT - A YOUNG JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL WAS VERY SIMILAR, AND THINGS DIDN'T TURN OUT TOO BADLY FOR HIM.

**O**llie's season may have been cut short by a shoulder operation in the wake of his injury against Leicester, but he's not accepting it's over.

"We had the choice of a slow re-hab or an operation after the dislocation and the specialist thought the latter might be better in the long run," Thorley explained.

"The guideline for recovery is 3-4 months but some people have been back in eight weeks so you never know. I'll be doing as much as I can to make the shoulder as strong as possible and rooting for the boys to be playing well into May."

Until then he'll be a keen watcher, not a role all players enjoy but one the 21-year-old former Cheltenham College pupil soaks up with enthusiasm.

"I think when I can't play I appreciate rugby more because I've got the excitement of playing again ahead of me" he went on.

"If you are fit there is a frustration if you're not involved and you tend to over analyse players in your position, whereas if I'm not ready to play I find can re-connect with the game and remember why I enjoy it."

You could present a strong case for this being a breakthrough season for Thorley, whose 15 appearances in all competitions have brought 10 tries and a new contract. Typically for a player who goes by the nickname 110 (pronounced one-ten) around the club, he gave the decision to sign a lot of thought before doing so.

"I have a very supportive agent and we discussed the different options at length" Thorley added.

**I CRAVE MENTAL STIMULATION AND THAT BALANCE IS A BIG CONSIDERATION FOR ME BECAUSE IT CAN IMPROVE BOTH AREAS OF MY LIFE**

"He knows I get on well with the coaches and other players but he also knew it was a personal ambition to combine a University degree - probably related to history or politics - with my rugby.

"I crave mental stimulation and that balance is a big consideration for me because it can improve both areas of my life. We concluded staying here was the best outcome to get to where I want to educationally and on the field and, if there is a blessing in disguise from the injury, it's that it gives me slightly more time to look at the University options for next September and put the best solution in place."

It's hard to imagine Thorley having a selfish bone in his body, but as a wing he has to have (or learn to have) that ruthless streak that allows him to finish try scoring opportunities. Decisions are often made in split seconds, and he credits S&C coach Dan Tobin with a big part in his progress over the past year.



"Dan has run a really good programme and I think as a whole squad we are much better physiologically this season compared to last."

"I've always been fast but it's knowing how to use that and I think my blend of pace and power has improved. Charlie Sharples is still the quickest - he's got natural speed - but Ben Vellacott and I aren't far behind, and I've enjoyed the style of rugby we've played and been able to capitalise on some of the opportunities we've created in the majority of games."

Last Saturday's draw with Wasps, coupled with other results, raises the stakes this afternoon. Newcastle's win at Harlequins jumped them up to fourth in the table, and Leicester's victory over Saracens cut Gloucester's advantage over the Tigers to only two points.



This is the last home game for five weeks, and after it only Harlequins and Bath remain as visitors to Kingsholm in the Premiership, so Thorley is well aware of how important the result is.

"Newcastle have played some good rugby all season, and were being hailed as dark horses at the start" said Thorley.

"Ideally we want to win all our remaining home games and at least one away to comfortably get in the top six, any more than would put us in a really good position. Falcons were particularly convincing in their win over Bath recently and while being at Kingsholm should give us a little edge it's not an easy game."

Typical of Ollie, his opinion is balanced and considered - not a surprise.



# WORCESTER WARRIORS 25-15 GLOUCESTER RUGBY

**TRIES:**

Jonny Arr, Jamie Shillcock, Josh Adams

**CONVERSIONS:**

Chris Pennell (2)

**PENALTIES:**

Chris Pennell (2)

**DATE:** Sat 17th Feb 18

**KO:** 15:00

**TRIES:**

Matt Scott, Henry Trinder

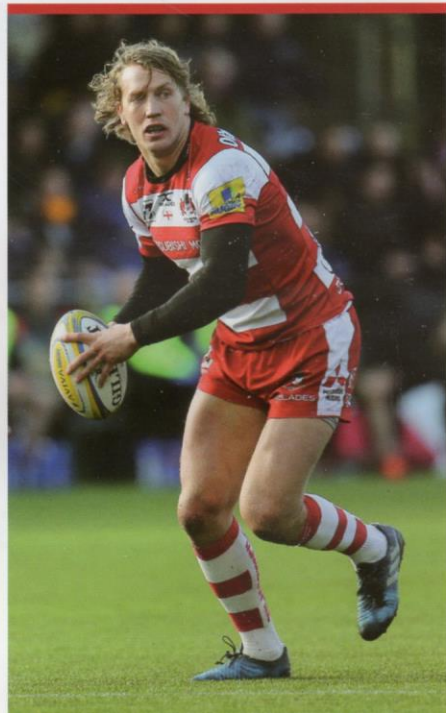
**CONVERSIONS:**

Billy Burns

**PENALTIES:**

Billy Twelvetrees

ACTION REPLAY



**A** week after the highs of defeating Leicester Tigers at Kingsholm, Gloucester were brought back down to earth with defeat to Worcester Warriors, at one of their least favourite Premiership venues, Sixways.

The short trip up the M5 has proved to be a tricky one for the Cherry and Whites, no matter the form of the two teams coming into the game, and this encounter was no different.

The Warriors, buoyed by a hard-fought and memorable win at Exeter the weekend before, came out of the blocks flying and had Gloucester on the back foot for most of the first half.

There was a whiff of controversy about the first try, Jonny Arr seeming to benefit from some obstruction. However, the officials, after some deliberation, ruled that the score should stand and the home team were off and running.

The second followed shortly afterwards, some good handling by the backs aided by some uncharacteristically below par defence from Gloucester.

Matt Scott pounced for an opportunist try, swooping on a Worcester handling error to kick ahead, regather and score to get Gloucester back into the game, but the Warriors promptly struck again as they took advantage of Henry Trinder being in the sinbin.

22-10 was the half time score and Gloucester had it all to do, but they started well as they created a good try for Henry Trinder 10 minutes into the second half.

However, the rest of the game was one of frustration for the Cherry and Whites as they created a host of scoring opportunities without being able to finish any of them off. The stats for points taken from visits to the opposition 22 will make for grim reading.

In fact, the only subsequent score was a long-range penalty from Worcester's Chris Pennell which denied Gloucester even a losing bonus point.

A deeply frustrating day at the office for Gloucester, who would have been looking to consolidate a top four position. However, their play-off fate still remains in their own hands, starting with the home game against Wasps.



**WE WERE JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH. WE PLAYED AS IF WE HAD NO PATIENCE WITH THE BALL, OUR PASSES WERE NOT ACCURATE.**

**ANY SIDE THAT WANTS TO BE IN THE TOP HALF OF THIS COMPETITION, IT NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO BACK UP CERTAIN PERFORMANCES, YOU CAN'T JUST RELY ON PLAYING WELL AT HOME.**



HEAD COACH JOHAN ACKERMANN







# GLOUCESTER RUGBY 25-25 WASPS

**TRIES:**

Richard Hibbard, Charlie Sharples, Henry Trinder

**CONVERSIONS:**

Billy Twelvetrees (2)

**PENALTIES:**

Billy Twelvetrees (2)

**DATE:** Sat 24th Feb 18

**KO:** 14:30

**TRIES:**

Dan Robson, Thomas Young, Christian Wade

**CONVERSIONS:**

Jimmy Gopperth (2)

**PENALTIES:**

Jimmy Gopperth (2)

**ACTION REPLAY**



It was a case of so near but yet so far for Gloucester last time here at Kingsholm, as a last ditch try from Christian Wade, converted by Jimmy Gopperth, snatched a 25-25 draw for the visitors.

Two minutes earlier, Wasps looked to be on the ropes. Gloucester were camped on their line, pushing hard for the try scoring bonus point. However, Gloucester were penalised for holding on, Wasps cleared to halfway and then created the score for Wade.

It was a kick in the teeth for the Cherry and Whites, and a couple of vital Premiership points dropped. Especially as they'd withstood a ferocious second-half comeback from the visitors to retake the lead with less than ten minutes to play.

It had certainly been a game of two halves as the cliché goes. Gloucester, who'd started slowly at Worcester the weekend before, were by far the better team in the first 40 minutes and deservedly led 18-6 at half-time.

However, Wasps, as you'd expect from a team of their calibre, hit back after the resumption and slowly but surely turned the screw, despite some valiant defence from Gloucester, to haul themselves level.

Henry Trinder's excellent try looked to have secured the win for Gloucester but there was one last twist in the tale, and Wasps' late surge stunned the home faithful. For the neutral, it was a cracker of a game, for Gloucester it was bitterly disappointing.

It had all started so well for Gloucester. Billy Twelvetrees' early penalty was backed up by a catch and drive try for the returning Richard Hibbard. Twelvetrees added another penalty, Jimmy Gopperth responded with two of his own before Charlie Sharples added a second try.

Wasps then took an iron grip on proceedings and



kept Gloucester pinned back. The defence verged on the heroic, but the game swung as the hour mark approached.

Gloucester looked to have weathered the storm as they survived a number of attacking five metre scrums, but failed to find touch and Wade scythed his way through to set up a score for Dan Robson.

Gopperth converted and, with the momentum now well and truly behind them, Wasps then drew level as Thomas Young became the second former Gloucester player to come back and haunt his former club with a 67th minute try.

Gloucester showed real mettle to seize the initiative and create a fine score for Trinder, but it wasn't quite enough as the bold decision to go for the fourth try backfired and Wasps took full advantage.



**AT THE MOMENT THE MOOD IS NOT GREAT AS WE WERE REALLY STRIVING TO GET A WIN AND GET THE BUZZ BACK.**

**THE FACT WE HAD THEM DOWN ON THEIR GOAL-LINE AND HAD OPPORTUNITIES TO CLOSE THE GAME SHOWS WE ARE NOT THERE YET, BUT CREDIT TO WASPS.**

**THE GUYS HAVE PUT A LOT OF HARD WORK IN AND WERE SO CLOSE TO GETTING A RESULT. WE ARE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP AS THERE IS STILL A LOT TO PLAY FOR.**



HEAD COACH JOHAN ACKERMANN



**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY**

# TEAM LINE-UPS



**NEWCASTLE  
FALCONS**

SATURDAY 3 MARCH // AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY // ROUND 17

T P C D				POSITION				T P C D			
				JASON WOODWARD	15	FULL BACK	15	SIMON HAMMERSLEY			
				CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	RIGHT WING	14	VERENIKI GONEVA			
				MATT SCOTT	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	CHRIS HARRIS			
				MARK ATKINSON	12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	JOSH MATAVESI			
				DAVID HALAIFONU	11	LEFT WING	11	SINOTI SINOTI			
				BILLY BURNS	10	FLY-HALF	10	TOBY FLOOD			
				WILLI HEINZ (C)	9	SCRUM-HALF	9	MICHAEL YOUNG			
				VAL RAPAVA RUSKIN	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	ROB VICKERS			
				RICHARD HIBBARD	2	HOOKER	2	KYLE COOPER			
				FRASER BALMAIN	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	JON WELSH			
				TOM SAVAGE	4	LOCK	4	CALUM GREEN			
				MARIANO GALARZA	5	LOCK	5	WILL WITTY			
				FREDDIE CLARKE	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	CALLUM CHICK			
				JAKE POLLEDRI	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	WILL WELCH (C)			
				RUAN ACKERMANN	8	NUMBER 8	8	NILI LATU			
REPLACEMENTS:				REPLACEMENTS							
				MOTU MATU'U	16			16	SCOTT LAWSON		
				JOSH HOHNECK	17			17	SAM LOCKWOOD		
				JOHN AFOA	18			18	TREVOR DAVISON		
				ED SLATER	19			19	SEAN ROBINSON		
				LEWIS LUDLOW	20			20	EVAN OLMSTEAD		
				BILLY TWELVETREES	21			21	SONATANE TAKULUA		
				OWEN WILLIAMS	22			22	JOEL HODGSON		
				HENRY TRINDER	23			23	MAXIME MERMOZ		

**MATCH OFFICIALS**

**REFEREE**

Craig Maxwell-Keys

**ASSISTANT REFEREES**

Jack Makepeace & Steve Lee

**TMO**

Trevor Fisher

**CITING COMMISSIONER**

John Byett