

A Guinness Premiership Match ISSUE: 05 £3.00

# the exile



THE OFFICIAL 2006 RUGBY MAGAZINE OF LONDON IRISH



Main Club Sponsor



VS: **GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

Friday 10th November 2006, kick-off 8.00pm

**INSIDE:**

Director of  
Rugby's  
**Welcome**

Brian Smith on  
tonight's challenge

Tonight's  
**Opposition**

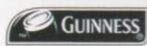
Gloucester Rugby

Match **Action**

Toulouse and Bath

**INTERVIEW:**

**RICHARD Skuse**  
ON THE MAKINGS OF A GOOD SCRUM



GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP FINAL, TWICKENHAM, 12 MAY 2007

TICKETS: [www.guinnesspremiership.com/FINAL](http://www.guinnesspremiership.com/FINAL)



**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY**

# Introducing... **Gloucester Rugby**

A promising start to the **Cherry and Whites'** "journey"

**GLOUCESTER arrive for a re-run of the European Challenge Cup final against London Irish tonight as the only unbeaten side remaining in the Guinness Premiership.**

Considering they had the best part of a dozen players unavailable because of injury and international call-ups, their desperately determined 21-12 victory over Saracens was a vital result as the autumn internationals start.

It followed on from two torturous Heineken Cup defeats at the hands of Leinster's dazzling glitterati and the power and physicality of Agen as Dean Ryan's young and inexperienced side were dealt a number of chastening European lessons. "To me, the expectation on this group of players is

ahead of where they are in reality at the present time," Ryan said after the defeat to Agen.

Before Europe intervened, Gloucester ended their first section of five Guinness Premiership matches with four victories and a draw and sat in third place in the table with 18 points before their win over Saracens.

They opened their season with a West Country derby victory over their nearest and dearest from Bath on the opening weekend – youngsters Jack Adams and Ollie Morgan scoring the tries in their 24-19 success.

They then got the better of Harlequins at the Stoop in a far more disjointed performance that was revved up by a virtuoso performance from scrum-half Peter Richards. It was a solid if unspec-

tacular start for Ryan's side. From the beginning of the campaign they have been tagged as one of the favourites to progress to the final stages of a number of competitions but Ryan is only too well aware that his group of players have only just begun their journey.

"Our ambition is to being at the top end of Europe but our journey has only just begun," he has said. "There will be some pain along the way but we have an exciting and developing group of players who all work tremendously hard to try and be successful.

## 3 CHERRY & WHITES TO WATCH



### Jack ADAMS

Position: Centre  
Height: 1.82m/6ft 0in  
Weight: 97kg/15st 2lb  
Date of Birth: 17.09.86  
Honours:



### Christian CALIFANO

Position: Prop  
Height: 1.80m/5ft 10in  
Weight: 113kg/17st 5lb  
Date of Birth: 16.05.72  
Honours: France



### James SIMPSON-DANIEL

Position: Wing  
Height: 1.82m/5ft 11in  
Weight: 92kg/14st 1lb  
Date of Birth: 30.05.82  
Honours: England



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special offers & much more

"We are on a journey together and there is a long way to go. What has been pleasing is that we have endured a number of injuries but still progressed well. We are capable of making a number of changes and still be very competitive." Gloucester's new-found freedom, partly orchestrated by design and partly by necessity, ended in triumph over Irish last season in the Challenge Cup final. But by then, the wheels were already in motion for this campaign.

Under the stewardship of Ryan and his assistants Bryan Redpath and Denis Betts, Italian duo Marco Bortolami and Carlos Nieto joined from Narbonne and Viadana respectively in two of the highest profile signings of the close season.

Bortolami has already shown what an outstanding athlete he is and is a natural leader of growing reputation in Gloucester's pack and Nieto is regarded as one of the best tighthead props in the Six Nations.

Christian Califano, once voted in the all-time best

French front row, switched from Agen and has been a revelation – offering immediate set-piece quality and a perfect learning base for youngster Jack Forster.

There have been other additions too. With Ryan Lamb initially out of action with an ankle injury, Willie Walker has taken his opportunity in the number 10 shirt, while both scrum-half Rory Lawson and lock Will James have the potential to make serious impacts.

Iain Balshaw completed the summer recruitment drive from Leeds and can be deployed from either wing or full-back and scored the final of Gloucester's three tries in the 33-24 victory over Worcester. It has meant that Ryan's biggest job in pre-season has been managing the vast expectation on his squad.

"There is an awful lot this squad can achieve but we must not get ahead of ourselves – we have a long way to go and a lot of development to go through," Ryan said.

## HEAD 2 HEAD IRISH v GLOUCESTER

Gloucester Rugby went to the top of the Guinness Premiership with their 21-12 win over Saracens at Kingsholm on Saturday evening and now remain as the only undefeated team in the competition after six rounds.

London Irish achieved a league "double" over Gloucester last season, winning 25-10 in Reading and 13-9 at Kingsholm, however the most recent time the teams have clashed was in the final of the European Challenge Cup at the Stoop in May where the west countrymen triumphed 36-34 after extra time.

### PREMIERSHIP HEAD TO HEAD

Played: 18  
Gloucester Won: 11  
London Irish Won: 7  
Drawn: 0

### NEXT 10 PREMIER FIXTURES



Date	Time	Opposition	Venue
Sat 18th Nov 06	15:00	London Wasps	Kingsholm
Fri 24th Nov 06	19:45	Bristol Rugby	Memorial Stadium
Fri 22nd Dec 06	19:30	Newcastle Falcons	Kingsholm
Tue 26th Dec 06	15:00	London Wasps	Adams Park
Mon 1st Jan 07	15:00	London Irish	Kingsholm
Sat 6th Jan 07	15:00	Sale Sharks	Edgeley Park
Sat 27th Jan 07	15:00	Sale Sharks	Kingsholm
Sun 18th Feb 07	15:00	Saracens	Vicarage Road
Sun 24th Feb 07	15:00	Worcester Warriors	Kingsholm
Sat 3rd Mar 07	15:00	Northampton Saints	Franklin's Gardens



Credit: Brian Searbrook/SPA Images

### CLUB INFO:

Ground: Kingsholm  
Stadium Capacity: 12,500  
Website: [www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk](http://www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk)  
Captain: Peter Buxton  
Head Coach: Dean Ryan  
Tel: 01452 300 951

### TEAM RECORDS:

Top Points Scorers:  
Willie Walker 52 13 0  
Ryan Lamb 18 9 49  
Top Points Scorers:  
Jack Adams 3 1 0  
Top Goal Kicker:  
Willie Walker 17 4 65 0  
Top Goal Kicker:  
Peter Buxton 6 19

Missed the game? Don't worry - visit the Photo Gallery at [www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk](http://www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk) to see all the latest match action

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**GLOUCESTER**  
Marco Bortolami



## Marco Bortolami

Italy's captain has already enhanced his reputation since his move to England....

**I**t used to be taken for granted that Gloucester forwards were born within the sound of the city's cathedral bells before serving a brutal baptism of fire at the sharp end of a zillion inter-city rucks that decreed survival of the fittest was determined by who could take the biggest shoeing.

Marco Bortolami on the other hand was born within walking distance of the Cappella Scrovegni in Padova – with not a scrum, line-out or punch-up in sight.

Those who knew nothing about this international forward were soon cheering him from the rafters. He led

his new team to an opening day victory over Bath and has become a totem of excellence ever since thanks to his on-field maturity, leadership qualities and consistency.

So, has the English game been everything he has expected and what does he see for the future?

"The level of organisation and professionalism at the club is something I was not expecting," he said. "We are encouraged to find the solutions to everything, talk as a group and contribute towards our project together and in that way it is run like an international team.

Managing expectation is nothing new to the 26-year-old. He skipped

*"I think my experiences with Italy helped me manage the expectation*

his country at the age of 21 – an almost improbably young age these days – and has consequently handled the burdens of leadership and the growing awareness of the sport in his own country superbly.

"I think my experiences with Italy helped me manage the expectation when I came to England," he said. "I came respecting the other players and the staff but the coaches had confidence in me and that was very important.

"For me, I am working in the best environment. I am someone who needs to push themselves every

single day. I don't just want to sit in the corner to do my job because then I do not try and become the best.

Bortolami is hot property. He is a developing athlete and is a natural with the captain's armband on. Pound for pound, line-out for line-out, scrum for scrum, he is one of the signings of the season.

### Marco Bortolami

**DOB:** 12th June 1980

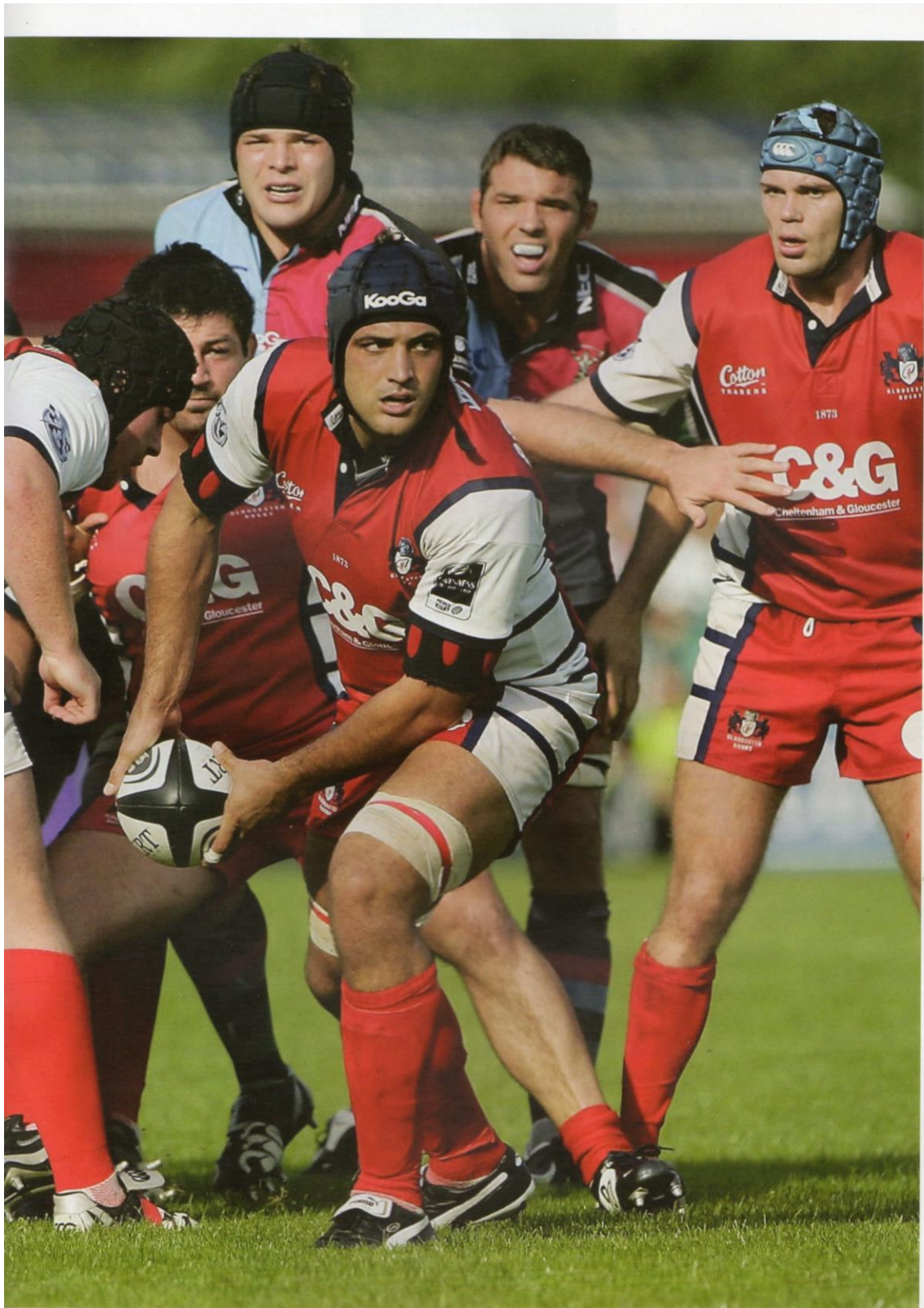
**Birthplace:** Padova, Italy

**Height:** 1.96m

**Weight:** 110kg

**Honours:** 51 caps (Italy)

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# London Irish vs Gloucester Rugby

Guinness Premiership **Round 7**



**IRISH VS GLOUCESTER**

Fri 10.11.06

KO 8.00pm

## London Irish



DoR: Brian Smith

## Gloucester



Head Coach: Dean Ryan

Full Back	15	ARMITAGE, Delon	
Wing	14	SHABBO, Dominic	
Centre	13	FLUTEY, Riki	
Centre	12	CATT, Mike (C)	+
Wing	11	OJO, Topsy	
Fly Half	10	EVERITT, Barry	
Srm Half	9	HODGSON, Paul	
Prop	1	HATLEY, Neal	
Hooker	2	RUSSELL, Robbie	🇸🇰
Prop	3	LEA'AETOA, Tonga	🇹🇴
Lock	4	HUDSON, James	
Lock	5	CASEY, Bob	🇮🇪
Flanker	6	ROCHE, Kieran	
Flanker	7	DANAHER, Declan	
No. 8	8	MURPHY, Phil	🇨🇦

Full Back	15	WALKER, Willie	
Wing	14	BAILEY, James	
Centre	13	ADAMS, Jack	
Centre	12	KEIL, Rudi	
Wing	11	SIMPSON-DANIEL, James	+
Fly Half	10	LAMB, Ryan	
Srm Half	9	LAWSON, Rory	
Prop	1	WOOD, Nick	
Hooker	2	AZAM, Olivier	🇫🇷
Prop	3	CALIFANO, Christian	🇫🇷
Lock	4	EUSTACE, Adam	
Lock	5	BROWN, Alex	+
Flanker	6	BUXTON, Peter (C)	
Flanker	7	BOER, Jake	
No. 8	8	NARRAWAY, Luke	

### Replacements

R1	16	SKUSE, Richard	
R2	17	COETZEE, Danie	🇿🇦
R3	18	KENNEDY, Nick	
R4	19	MCCULLEN, Aidan	🇮🇪
R5	20	MAGNE, Olivier	🇫🇷
R6	21	REES, Richie	
R7	22	GERAGHTY, Shane	

### Replacements

R1	16	DAVIES, Mefin	🇬🇧
R2	17	COLLAZO, Patrice	🇫🇷
R3	18	PENDLEBURY, Jonathan	
R4	19	JAMES, Will	
R5	20	THOMAS, Hadyn	
R6	21	MERCIER, Ludovic	
R7	22	THIRLBY, Rob	

### MATCH OFFICIALS

**Mr Dave Pearson**  
(RFU)  
Referee

**Mr Steve Savage**  
(RFU)  
Touch Judge 1

**Mr Roger Baileff**  
(RFU)  
Touch Judge 2

**Mr John Dennison**  
(RFU)  
Fourth Official

Next up at Madejski Stadium is London Irish v Northampton Saints on Sunday 26th November kick off 3.00pm.