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# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

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### REGULARS

BRYAN REDPATH,  
DAVE KING,  
BOB FENTON,  
PETER ARNOLD,  
RUGBY NEWS,  
ACADEMY...



**DreamTeam**

ON PAGE 56

### MATCH ACTION



VS EXETER CHIEFS  
ON PAGE 72



HEINEKEN CUP  
VS. HARLEQUINS  
19 NOVEMBER 2011, KO 3.40PM

# BRING IT ON

NAZ FOCUSSED ON EUROPE

HEINEKEN CUP ROUND TWO



# Captain's CORNER



"We pushed possibly the best side in Europe all the way and that's the level we're going to need to perform at today if we're going to get the better of Harlequins."

**AFTER a tough couple of weeks on the road, it's good to be back in familiar surroundings at Kingsholm this weekend.**

In fact we're smack bang in the middle of a really tough set of fixtures and every single week sees us preparing for a quality opponent.

This is obviously the first time we've played at home since we took on Saracens here three weeks ago and an awful lot seems to have happened since then!

That was a pretty bruising encounter and, to be honest, we're still pretty cut up at losing the unbeaten Premiership home record. But, we had to lose at some point and the fact that it was the reigning champions who beat us shows how hard we defended it.

That obviously led to two games on the road, first at Exeter and then at Toulouse and we were under no illusions about the task in hand.

The Chiefs have done fantastically

well in such a short space of time to create a real fortress at Sandy Park. It may not be revered in quite the same way as Kingsholm just yet, that'll take some time, but they're pretty strong there all the same.

After such a good first season in the Premiership, they've picked up where they left off and had a good start to this campaign and we knew we'd have to be at our best to get anything out of the game.

We were also well aware of the fact that we didn't quite perform there last season and left with nothing.

Knowing what's to come and doing something about it are two completely different things though so it was really pleasing to do such a good job on the day and come away with the points.

That, of course, set us up nicely for last weekend and our first Heineken Cup fixture – a nice gentle intro to the tournament away at Toulouse.

It's one of the toughest places to play, they haven't won four European Cups by accident! You looked at the team they selected and then at the players they'd left out and every single one of them is an international.

Although we lost, I thought we put in a superb display. People will argue that they weren't quite at their best but I think that was because we rattled them. We scored two good tries and came within a few minutes of an historic win.

It wasn't quite to be and, obviously, the initial reaction is extreme disappointment. But, after a couple of days to think about it, there are so many positives we can draw from it.

We pushed possibly the best side in Europe all the way and that's the level we're going to need to perform at today if we're going to get the better of Harlequins.

**Enjoy the game!**



"We'd come so close to winning the game that, to leave with nothing, would have been the proverbial kick in the teeth. A losing bonus point was the least that we deserved for our efforts and we took it."

# Coach's NOTES

with Head Coach, **BRYAN REDPATH**

**ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT GLOUCESTER RUGBY, I'D LIKE TO WISH THE PLAYERS, SUPPORTERS AND STAFF OF HARLEQUINS A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM THIS AFTERNOON.**

**After two weeks of playing away from home when you feel like you're constantly packing and unpacking your kit bag, it's good to be back playing in front of our own supporters this afternoon.**

The nature of the modern game is that every single week presents a different, similarly tough challenge. However, we really seem to be in the middle of a really challenging part of the season.

Last time here at Kingsholm we took on Saracens, the reigning Premiership champions before two tough games on the road against Exeter and Toulouse.

Today, we've got Harlequins, next week it's Leicester and then a trip to Newcastle where we've not had too much joy in the past couple of seasons.

It's a time when the strength of the squad is really important and, although we're still missing the likes of Alex Brown, Andy Hazell, Tim Molenaar and James Simpson-Daniel, we're lucky that we're in reasonably good shape.

The last three weeks have been incredibly tough, physical encounters and that can take its toll if you don't manage the players properly. We've got some great people in our Medical and Strength and Conditioning teams and they do a fantastic job with the squad to keep them in the best possible shape.

It was disappointing to lose our unbeaten home record in the Premiership last time out but it was going to happen sooner or later.

We weren't going to stay

unbeaten forever, especially given the quality of the teams in the Premiership at the moment. Only a couple of weekends ago, there were more away wins than home victories. Every team is capable of beating another on any given day.

That was especially true last weekend when, with all due respect, no-one outside of Gloucester really gave us a prayer of getting anything at Toulouse.

For the neutral it must have been a great game to watch and I was very proud of the commitment displayed by the team in one of the most hostile environments in Europe.

After half an hour, I thought we were actually good value for our 10-0 lead but it was vital that we didn't give them anything before half time.

Unfortunately, we couldn't do that. We didn't claim the restart which put us under pressure and then conceded a penalty which ultimately led to their try. In the space of a couple of minutes, they were back in it at 10-8 and the momentum was with them.

A tough second half beckoned but, as we did at Exeter the weekend before, we defended with discipline and didn't give them any cheap points.

You could hear the frustration in the crowd as we failed to observe the script and refused to be put away and when Trinds (Henry Trinder) scored, you felt that we could genuinely leave with the win.

Credit to them though, they stayed calm and played the final few minutes with the self belief

that comes from having won the tournament four times.

I was asked after the game why we didn't go all out for the win when we had that final bit of possession right at the very end of the game.

I thought we got it right. We'd come so close to winning the game that, to leave with nothing, would have been the proverbial kick in the teeth. A losing bonus point was the least that we deserved for our efforts and we took it.

This afternoon won't be any easier even if we are at home. Harlequins have been on fire so far this season and are yet to be defeated.

They got off to a good start with their home win against Connacht last weekend and will be looking to keep their run going.

For our part, we want to get back to winning ways to keep our own European aspirations alive.

The two teams have matched up well in the past couple of seasons and there always seems to be a lot of points scored so it could well be a really exciting encounter.

One final thing. I'd just like to say a big thank you to all the Gloucester supporters who travelled down to France last weekend and gave us such amazing support.

Our away following is always good but seeing so many people there in such good vocal form was a real boost to us all.

**Enjoy the game.**

Heineken Cup  
ROUND-UP ON PAGE 38

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View from

# The Citizen



WITH NICK PUREWAL

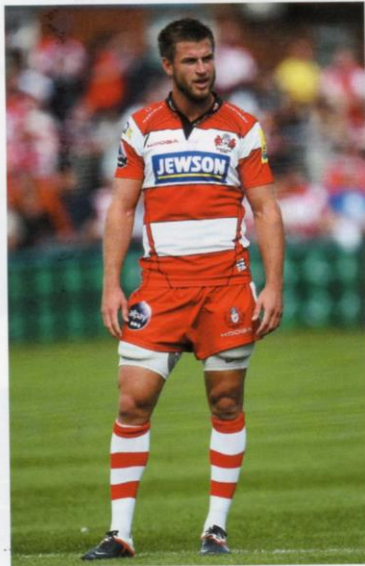
## CONFIDENCE BUILDING

“...WE’RE STARTING TO BELIEVE WE’VE GOT A GREAT SQUAD AND THAT WHEN WE PLAY WELL WE CAN WIN EVERY GAME.”

**F**LAWLESS Harlequins will face a fierce battle to extend their 11-game winning streak, warned a determined Henry Trinder.

The focused centre believes Gloucester have built impressive resolve over the last three weeks, despite just one win in that stint.

The 22-year-old midfielder believes Bryan Redpath’s men will not even



begin to countenance two straight defeats at Kingsholm.

So however impressive and superlative Harlequins’ attacking verve and winning sequence, Trinder pledged the Cherry and Whites will do everything in their power to return to winning ways at home this afternoon.

Trinder believes Gloucester are finding top form just in time for the crux of their season - but he also admits they must start transferring strong performances into victories.

He explained:

“Quins are on a great run as it is and they’ll want to keep flying. But we’ve been on form in the last few weeks and it’s not going to be an easy game for them by any stretch of the imagination.

“They’re playing really well and they’re the team on form, but there were a lot of distractions at the start of the season that have been put to bed now and we’re building very strongly.

“The fans obviously did not like even one defeat at Kingsholm, and most certainly neither did we, so we’re not about to allow two in a row now.



“So the challenge is to make sure we can get back to winning ways at home, and if we get ourselves in order we’ve got every chance.

“This building sequence started from Saracens at home, you can see



how much effort the boys are putting into every week, putting their bodies on the line, and working right to their maximum.

"We're defending strongly, but we're also scoring tries. That's something that we can definitely focus on as a positive, it's coming together for the tough stretch of the season I think."

Trinder said running Toulouse all the way despite the 21-17 defeat at Stade Ernest Wallon on Sunday is just as galling as it is encouraging.

Pleased to cap a fine break by Mike

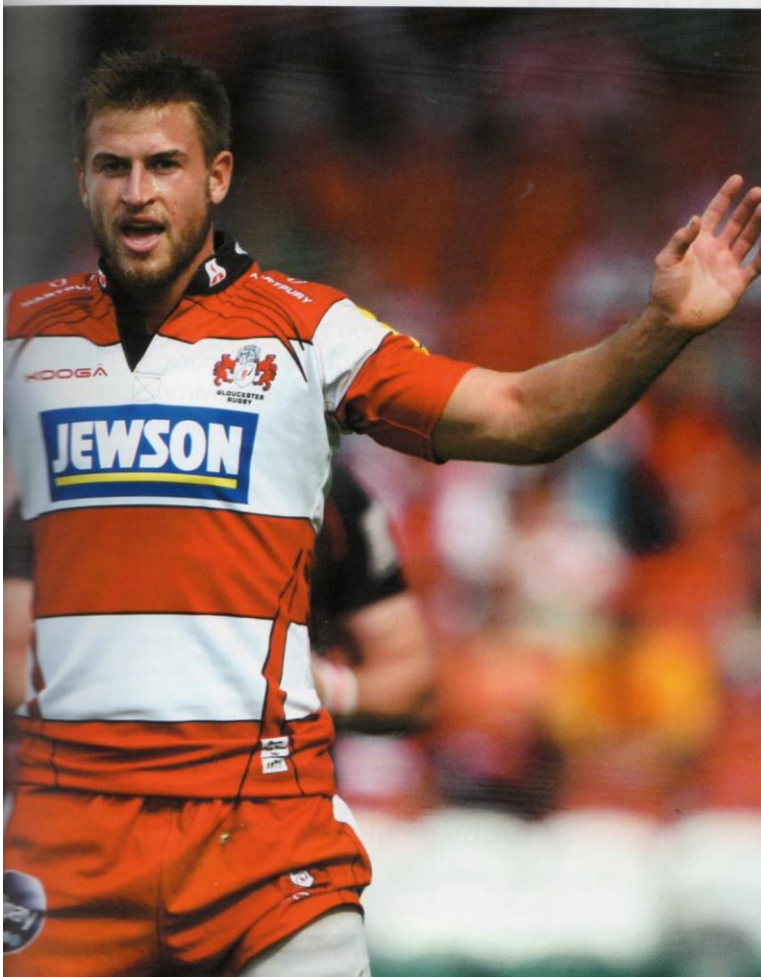
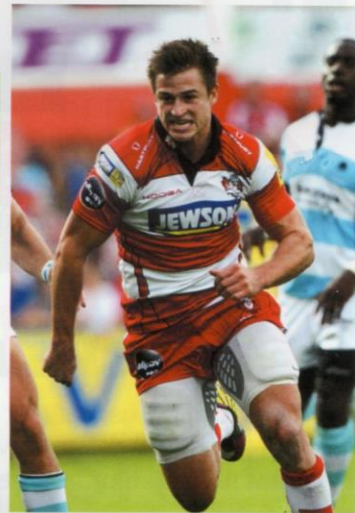
breakdown work, and increase their accuracy to stop conceding untimely penalties.

He continued:

"Toulouse are one of the best in Europe, and we went there to play and see how much we could push them. And for 70 minutes we did all of that.

"We were leading at the break and in the second half, but slipping away at the death was a real frustration if we're honest.

"I saw Tins go on the hard line, and he drew about two defenders, I



Tindall for his second half try, Trinder said Gloucester's youngsters can harness that performance and boost their confidence and belief.

But he also knows the Cherry and Whites must continue to hone their

saw a lot of space on the inside so I checked to exploit that.

"And he had the skills to pop out of the tackle, and from there I saw two defenders coming across but I was never going to let them get me. I

just went for it, and dived about five metres from the line to make sure!

"It's great to score, and the same to see Charlie go across and Fred getting points too. That just makes it even more of a sting when we had the game and they came back right at the end. We almost threw it away really, and we're kicking ourselves for our dull penalties.

"We're trying to be very clinical and when those things happens that causes us real problems, and we know we've got to keep improving on that front.

"We've been tightening that up over the last few weeks, but we realise there's still plenty of work to do on that front.

"We went after them and we had them on the ropes. And I think we can definitely say that we gave that game away. While the loss is hugely frustrating, that can still add massive confidence to the whole team.

"I think we're starting to believe we've got a great squad and that when we play well we can win every game. And when we come away from losses like that it's frustrating.

"The youth's coming through, with guys like Jonny filling in at full-back really well. Then experienced men like Tinds doing a great job too.

"Those penalties are causing problems, but we've been working a lot on two in the tackle, and it's just trying to stay on your feet, that's crucial.

"Anything where it's not clear or it might be borderline, you're going to get penalised, so we've got to be spot-on every time there."



# DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

## EUROPEAN DREAMS

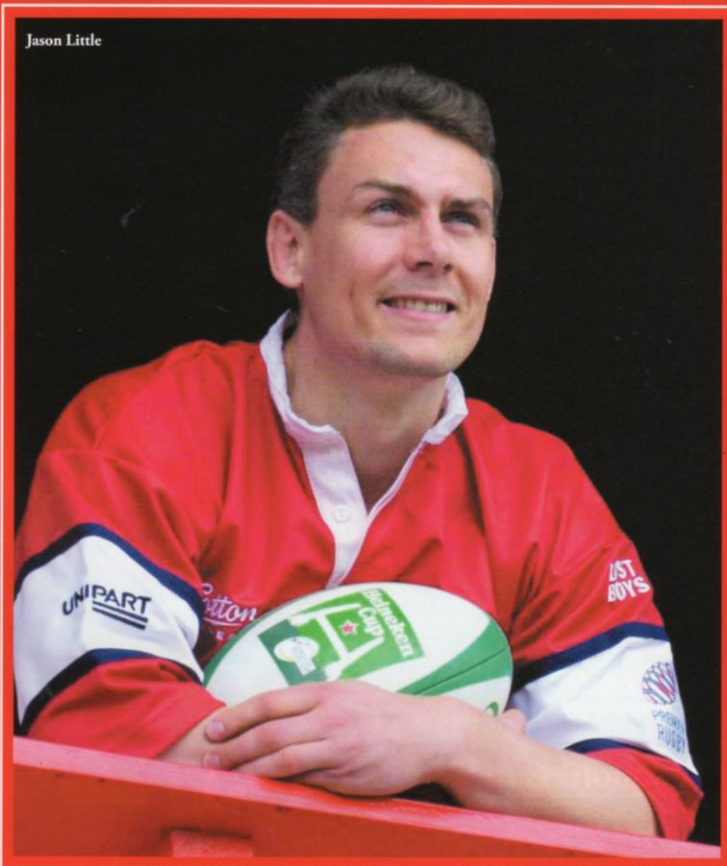
**T**he Heineken Cup is the premier cup competition in Europe for club and regional representation. Today we compete in our 54th match in our ninth season of participation. We have recorded 32 wins, suffered 19 losses and drawn one match.

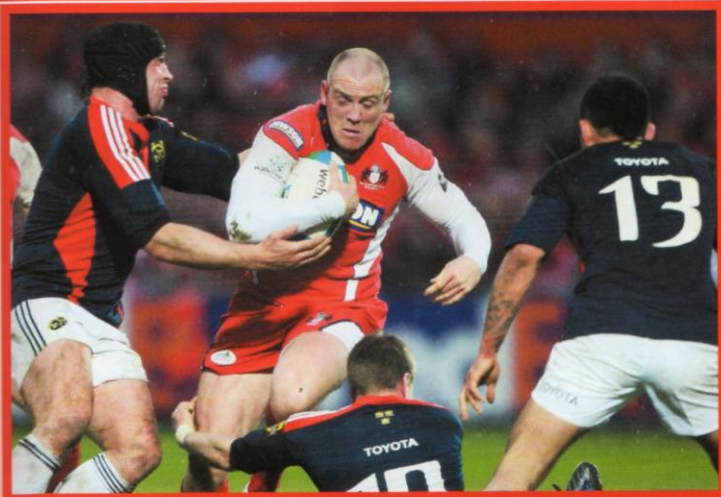
In that total of fixtures we have amassed 1,438 points and conceded 1,117. Our record in matches played at Kingsholm is as follows. We have played 26 matches of which we have recorded 21 wins, a single draw and lost four matches. We have compiled 781 points and conceded 429.

Those who travelled into the heartland of Welsh rugby on the 6th October 2000 will never forget our Heineken Cup debut. Facing Llanelli at the old Stradey Park was a daunting prospect. Undeterred, we left the valleys with a totally magnificent victory by 27 points to 20.

Jason Little and the indefatigable Andy Hazell scored tries while Simon Mannix kicked three penalties. Terry Fanolua added two more and the irrepressible Andy Gomarsall added a conversion. What a night, the Englishmen were leading the singing, the Welsh tenors were speechless

Jason Little





and tone deaf!

Our away record in Heineken Cup competition is commendable, we have played 27 matches, won eleven and lost sixteen accumulating 657 points and conceding 688.

It was a case of unlucky thirteen for Kingsholm fans for it took the thirteenth visiting team to register a win here. Stade Francais triumphed on 16th January 2004 with a resounding 27 points to nil defeat in front of 13,000 spectators. Agen in the 2006-2007 season followed suit with a 32-16 win with 10,134 fans present.

Munster attracted a 16,500 attendance on 5th April 2008 and travelled home with a 16 points to 3 victory. Our other Heineken defeat at Kingsholm came when our Welsh visitors from the principality were Cardiff. A crowd of 14,916 witnessed a Celtic victory by the narrower margin of 16 points to 12.

Those clubs or regions recognised as the benchmark in this esteemed competition have all been the victims of concerted Gloucester Rugby efforts.

Llanelli, Cardiff, Ospreys and Newport from Wales have all left Kingsholm vanquished. Likewise, Munster, Ulster and Leinster from the Emerald Isle.

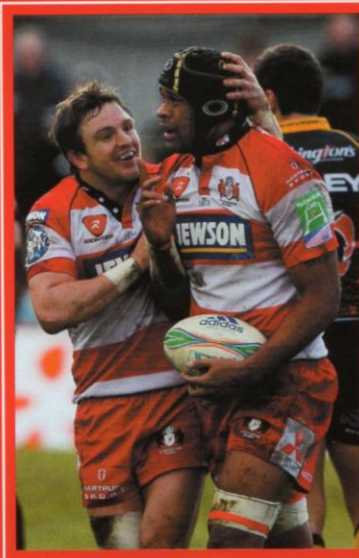
The French have left perplexed with Perpignan, Bourgoin and Biarritz coming up empty handed having crossed the English Channel. The Italians in the shape of Roma,

Viadana and Calvisano have conceded a total of 206 points in just four visits.

Our claim to fame in this premier competition is the fact we have been semi-finalists. It occurred in our first season of entry when in the 2000-2001 season when we faced Leicester at Vicarage Road.

Our ranks were depleted by injury and a heroic display was to no avail due to a controversial refereeing decision which robbed the 'Cherry & Whites' of a possible victory.

A narrow 19 points to 15 victory for the Welford Road charges left a distinctly disappointing apathy towards a certain French official!



The majority of the 14,010 crowd certainly left the ground surmising the fact that Gloucester had not had luck on their side that spring afternoon.

Our twenty six Heineken Cup matches at Kingsholm have attracted an aggregate of 290,058 spectators with an average attendance of 11,156.

The highest attendance at a home match was the 16,500 who attended our match with Munster on 5th April 2008. Any hopes we had of inflicting defeat on the men from Limerick disappeared with the 16 points to 3 reverse.

Our lowest attendance at Kingsholm came in our first season when we entertained Roma on 14th October 2000 when 5,000 witnessed a resounding 52 points to 12 victory.

There have been 50 try scorers for the club since the inception of the Heineken Cup. Penalty tries can also be added.

It is no surprise to learn that James Simpson-Daniel is the top try scorer with 18 to his credit. James is followed by Terry Fanolua and Marcel Garvey who have 9 tries each.

Other players to record more than one try in the competition are Akapusi Qera with seven and Anthony Allen, Iain Balshaw and Tom Beim who have six tries each.

Jake Boer, Mark Foster, Ryan Lamb and Leslie Vainikolo have five each. Luke Narraway, Junior Paramore, Henry Paul, Mike Tindall and Charlie Sharples have four tries each.

Olly Azam, Adam Eustace, James Forrester, Jon Goodridge and Robert Todd have recorded three tries each. Penalty tries also account for three tries. James Bailey, Jason Little, Duncan McRae, Olly Morgan and Mark Watkins have all scored two tries each.

There have been 57 point scorers since we entered the Heineken Cup on 6th October 2000. Four players have registered over a century of points. They are Henry Paul with 176, Ryan Lamb 139, Simon Mannix 104 and Ludovic Mercier with 101 points.

Amazingly James Simpson-Daniel is closing in on a century of points with 90, all scored from tries.



## For now though, the focus is completely on Quins. They're flying but the boys will take great heart from Toulouse last weekend?

**WHEN Luke Narraway was officially named as Gloucester Rugby's club captain for 2011-12, he knew that he would have to rapidly become accustomed to performing duties that were unfamiliar to him.**

However, the 28 year old back row forward freely admits that even he was unprepared for what awaited him at the recent Heineken Cup launch at Twickenham.

Narraway, along with the other club captains, found himself posing with bowler hat and umbrella on the famous green turf to promote the fact that the final will be held there next May.

"There were a few raised eyebrows! Not just from myself but from a lot of the other boys there. Luckily the organisers promised us that it would only take two minutes and that they probably wouldn't get used anyway.

"But, of course, the first photo I saw published was that one and it didn't take long for the Gloucester boys to start putting it about on Twitter! It was a bit of fun, the launch itself was good and the overall experience was a good one."

Although he's skipped Gloucester on numerous occasions over the past few seasons and was the man who lifted the LV= Cup earlier this year, 2011-12 is the first time he's entered the season having been officially named club captain. How did it come about?

"We went for a coffee before the start of the season, along with Hogg (Carl Hogg), and offered me the role which I accepted with no hesitation whatsoever.

"It's a huge honour, one of the highlights of my career. I'm trying and will continue to try to do it to the best of my ability."

Assuming the role has seen a slight shift in where he stands in the dressing room hierarchy. He's still one of the

boys to a certain extent but has to be less inward focussed as he explained.

"Sometimes some of the youngsters might come to you with a bit of advice but there's a balance that you have to get right.

"If people are struggling with something, then you need to be there for them but I think that's the role of a senior player and not just the captain and we've got a good mix of young and experienced pros here at Gloucester."

Talk of being a senior makes him chuckle and roll his eyes as he's promptly reminded of the fact that he's no longer a youngster!

"It's almost an overnight thing. One day you feel like you're one of the youngsters and the next thing you're a senior player!

"With that transition comes different responsibilities and you have to be aware of that and make sure that you step up into that role and start to help the next batch of younger players find their feet in the squad."

As each season passes, professional rugby players find themselves under more and more public scrutiny. How important is it to have a life away from the game?

"I think it's very important. Even as the club captain with a few more roles and responsibilities than you may have had before, you do need to get away from rugby from time to time.

"If rugby is all you think of, 24 hours a day, then it can get very stale. It's the same with any job. We all start playing rugby because we enjoy the game and you don't want to lose sight of that.

"Having a bit of perspective makes you realise how lucky we are to be involved in rugby and keeps you fresh and energised."

Working in the family business, his Dad runs a butchers in Worcester, is a possible career option after rugby, the support of his family is obviously

a big deal.

"Massively. I made a decision to move away from Worcester when I was younger and play my rugby at Gloucester which was good for me. It was a change of scenery and I needed some independence.

"But my family are only 30 minutes away. I'm very close to them and they act as a support structure for me.

"In their eyes you can do no wrong so, when you're at a bit of a low ebb, they help to get you through to the other side."

Finally, Harlequins today, a team flying high but the team performance in Toulouse must give the team confidence?

"We'll take a lot from it but we still lost the game. I was thinking about it a lot on the journey back from France. We received a lot of praise from supporters and media but the nuts and bolts of it are that we still lost a game of rugby.

"Whether it's Toulouse or a Championship side, we're always looking to win and we came up just short last weekend and it's especially frustrating that it was there for the taking.

"We've had a couple like that in the past few weeks where the performance has been pretty good but we've not quite got over the line and sometimes it's all about the win. If we hadn't played well in Toulouse but come away with the win then we'd have taken that.

"We can draw some positives, we're fronting up well and playing well as a squad but we've got to start turning those narrow defeats into wins.

"And what a greater motivation than to take on a team who have won eleven out of eleven this year? They're flying high and playing some great rugby but we back ourselves at Kingsholm and will be doing everything to end their run."



An afternoon off watching sky sports news and relaxing on the sofa.....oh no wait,I've locked myself out! #icouldcry

Tweeted by:  
**@lukenarraway**



# NAZ

## LUKE NARRAWAY

# KINGSHOLM NEWS WITH BOB FENTON

IT'S BEEN A BUSY FEW WEEKS IN THE WORLD OF GLOUCESTER RUGBY... SOME GOOD BITS, SOME NOT SO GOOD BITS BUT – FOR ME – THE POSITIVES ARE OUTWEIGHING THE NEGATIVES.

Let's start with the not so clever bits first. Our home record fell by the wayside in somewhat controversial circumstances – when Saracens came to town three weeks ago.

I have to say I am still unconvinced by that last minute try. Much as I think Brad Barrett is a great player and all that, I think he had lost control of the ball and that it was not grounded properly for the score.

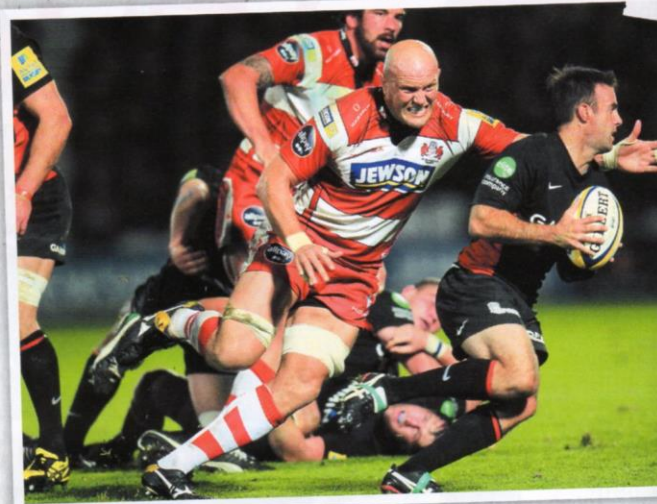
At the end of the day, though, it's not what I think that matters, the video ref gave the decision and that was that. End of record.

To be honest though, I'm not sure that records like that really are all that important. Of course they are nice to have, and it's good for the fans to have that to fall to back on, but it's always the next game that matters, not the previous however many, but maybe that's just me.

After the game we had the unfortunate incident between Owen Farrell and Eli that spilled over into cyber-space.

Twitter is a bit of a new world for me; it's a great way for supporters to stay in touch with players – and owners – and provides a new level of information and involvement. That's a great thing.

The downside is once something is written it is there for the world to see. 140 characters of typing leave no



room for context and plenty of room for misinterpretation. Once it's done it's done and the world knows it.

I think maybe our sports governing (and I use that word in the loosest possible sense) body need to drag themselves out of the 19th century and into the modern world and realise that sometimes 'electronic banter' is exactly that. Otherwise poor Judge Jeff is going to become the busiest lawman on the planet!

The final part of the triumvirate of bad news comes with the shocking way Mike Tindall has been treated by the RFU. Talk about being made a scapegoat for the actions of others.

Dear old Rob Andrew has not been the most popular of visitors to Kingsholm since Azam-Gate all those years ago. I would suggest that unless he wants his ears to be severely burnt he stays well away for a while.

But enough – time for some

positive news. The re-signing of Olly Morgan, coming so soon after Henry Trinder and Charlie Sharples put pen to paper was great news for supporters.

It's an open secret that our gifted crop of young starlets are coveted by many teams and the fact that they have enough belief in what is happening at Gloucester, despite the possibility of higher salaries at more successful clubs, is a huge boost for the club.

As I have said before, watching a player like Olly Morgan grow from a youngster in the 'A' squad into one of the most exciting players in the Premiership is way better than us going to 'Imports 'r' Us' and bringing in someone who is more interested in a future pension than playing for this club.

The next bright spot came the week after losing at home to Saracens – despite the views of most expert pundits we went off down to Exeter and turned over

“...TOULOUSE ARE NOT GOING TO LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR TRIP TO GLOUCESTERSHIRE. IF THEY THINK THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE STADE ERNEST WALLON IS INTENSE THEY AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET”

a pretty decent side. Had it not been for a late interception the score would maybe have had a better reflection of how the game actually went.

Still, the result means that as we enter the second round of Premiership breaks we sit in fourth place in the league. I can't think of a single reason why we cannot finish the season in a similar position.

If you are going to take a break from the bread and butter of the Premiership, is there a better competition to take the space than the Heineken Cup?

It's so good to be back among the top dogs of the competition and in a group that offers us every chance of progression, though I know that

the coaching teams will not be thinking that far ahead yet.

However, given the latest bright spot – the boys' performance in Toulouse last weekend – we should be confident.

That was some performance and bar a few mistakes and silly penalties we could have come away with more than the one point. I thought every one of the squad stood up to the test brilliantly and we showed that this Gloucester side is not one to be taken lightly.

We may not have the big names of a squad like Toulouse, but what we do have is a very real team ethic, and a great team will always have a great chance of turning over brilliant individuals.

As Stuart Barnes said during commentary, Toulouse are not going to look forward to their trip to Gloucestershire. If they think the atmosphere in the Stade Ernest Wallon is intense, they ain't seen nothing yet!

But while I can be a bit overconfident, I'm sure Brush will not be letting anyone get carried away.

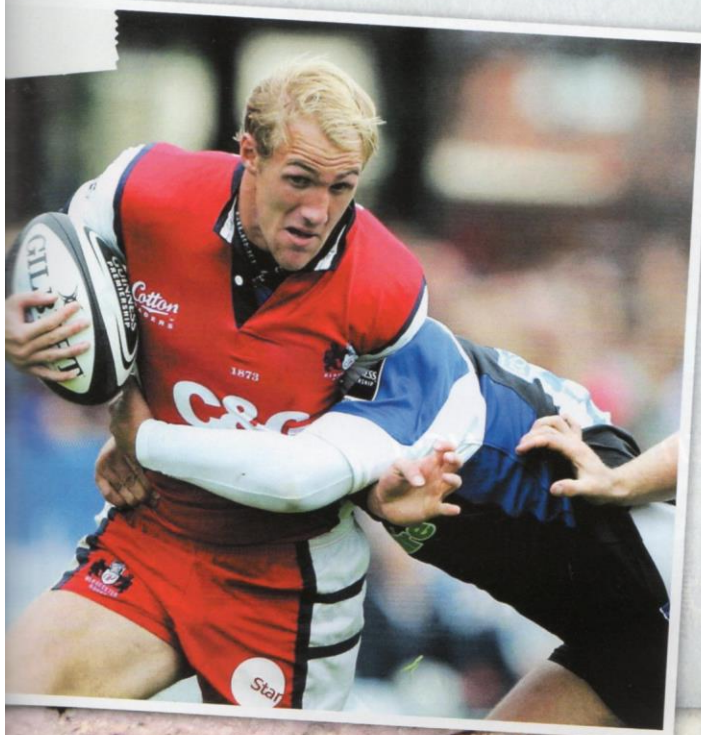
Connacht showed last week that they are not going to be knocked over easily with a great debut performance in the competition at the Stoop.

It was only the boot of Nick Evans that saw Quins home in that match, so the idea of taking eight points – let alone 10 – from our games against them is going to be tough. Doable, but tough...

And today's visitors, Harlequins – have already shown this season that they have progressed enormously as a team. They have been excellent in the Premiership so far and have been playing some excellent Rugby. We won't need reminding that our only heavy defeat in the league so far has been at The Stoop, so payback time today will be very sweet indeed.

Finally today I have been given the privilege of watching the game from the best seats in the house – working for one of the tournament sponsors has its upside!

I'll be thinking of my usual hombres on the other side of the pitch at about 3pm when I am enjoying the corporate largess – I'll see if I can flick a prawn sandwich or two over to you.





# Gloucester

with Peter Arnold

# talk

## SPARE A THOUGHT

I'M FINDING this piece a little difficult to write, because the last thing I would want is for anyone to think I'm getting things out of perspective. I'm thinking about that horribly tragic crash on the M5 a couple of weeks ago.

Obviously, our first thoughts must be for the relatives and friends of the victims on that sad Friday evening, and I'm sure the condolences of everyone here at Kingsholm must go out to all of them at this melancholy time.

I was impressed by the very cogent remarks made by Bryan Redpath following the tragedy when he observed on the sobering effect of having to drive past the carnage on the Saturday morning on the way down to Exeter, and how the experience put the whole thing into perspective.

But we are part of the rugby community after all, and perhaps we can be forgiven if we spare a thought for everyone at Taunton RFC, who have sadly found themselves embroiled in the tragedy.

None of us know how much the smoke from their firework party contributed to the event, least of all, Taunton rugby club, but I'm finding it



hard to imagine what the atmosphere must be like around that fine old institution at the moment.

I've no doubt that there must be feelings of guilt around the club, even if the bonfire night party is found to be completely blameless.

By all accounts the firework event was a great success, well attended and providing a thoroughly good evening out for everyone. Then this had to happen.

I'm told that the club had sought the right permissions from the proper authorities, and that the possible

effects on the near-by motorway had not arisen.

The club had, in all innocence, set out to provide a good night out for the club and the community, and it had probably not occurred to anyone that events could take the tragic turn that they did.

Knowing rugby clubs the way we do, surely we can be allowed to express some sympathy for Taunton RFC, while not for one moment forgetting the tragedy which unfolded just a few hundred yards away from their ground.

## WE WUZ ROBBED



**DIDN'T** they do well! A pair of us settled down in front of the telly on Sunday afternoon, fearing that we were in for a couple of hours of purgatory as the formidable Toulouse outfit dissected Gloucester in their own fortress of a ground. But it didn't turn out like that did it?

With hindsight, I suppose the first indication that an upset might just be on the cards came even before kick-off.

In one section of the stand there was a positive ocean of Cherry and White, giving the impression that the Shed had upped stakes and emigrated to South West France. When that lot are in attendance en

masse anything can happen. And it almost did.

Very early on it became apparent that Messrs Wood, Dawidiuk and Harden were giving one of the most feared front rows in Europe all they could handle and maybe a bit more.

When that happens one can usually be confident that the mood will percolate through the whole pack, and so it proved. Pete Buxton was immense, and Q proved, yet again, that when he hits someone they tend to stay hit.

And so it went on. Twice we could so easily have won the game when delightful little chips from Freddie Burns, whose maturity increases with every game, would

have certainly led to tries had the bounce been kinder.

Gloucester's two tries were both excellent, and the crucified Mike Tindall had a crucial role in both of them, showing the England hierarchy what they will be missing come Six Nations time.

The first French try was a beauty, too, and I wish I could say the same about the second one scored right at the death. Unfortunately, I can't because it contained a palpable forward pass missed by both referee and touch judge.

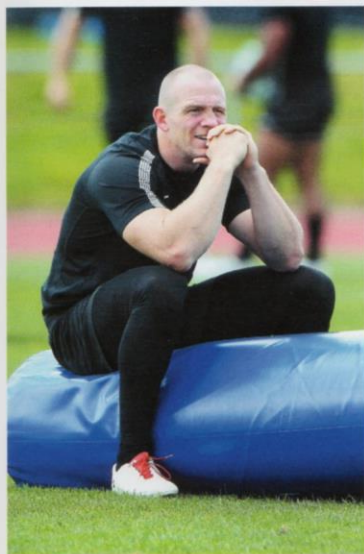
I'm usually very careful about saying things like that when basing my judgement on what I see on the TV screen, because camera angles can be very deceiving.

However, in this case, we were shown the incident from various angles from different cameras. Unless I'm losing my sight, every one indicated that the pass was, indeed, forward, and not by millimetres either.

I suppose it would have been a brave official who would have given it with minutes to go and the most partisan crowd in France in full cry. But that's no consolation for our players who had played their hearts out all afternoon.

I'll say it again. We wuz robbed.

## DISGRACE



**FROM** this humble supporter's point of view, the way Mike Tindall has been treated is a disgrace.

Even if you accept that he overstepped the mark during that infamous pub crawl during the World Cup, and without a lot more evidence than I have, I for one, don't, a fine of £25,000 is manifestly excessive. Perhaps we should have a whip round.

More important is his exclusion from the England squad. Here we have a World Cup winning player who has had a distinguished career and captained his country with distinction, having, in effect, his international career ended with the stroke of a pen for, at the best, dubious reasons.

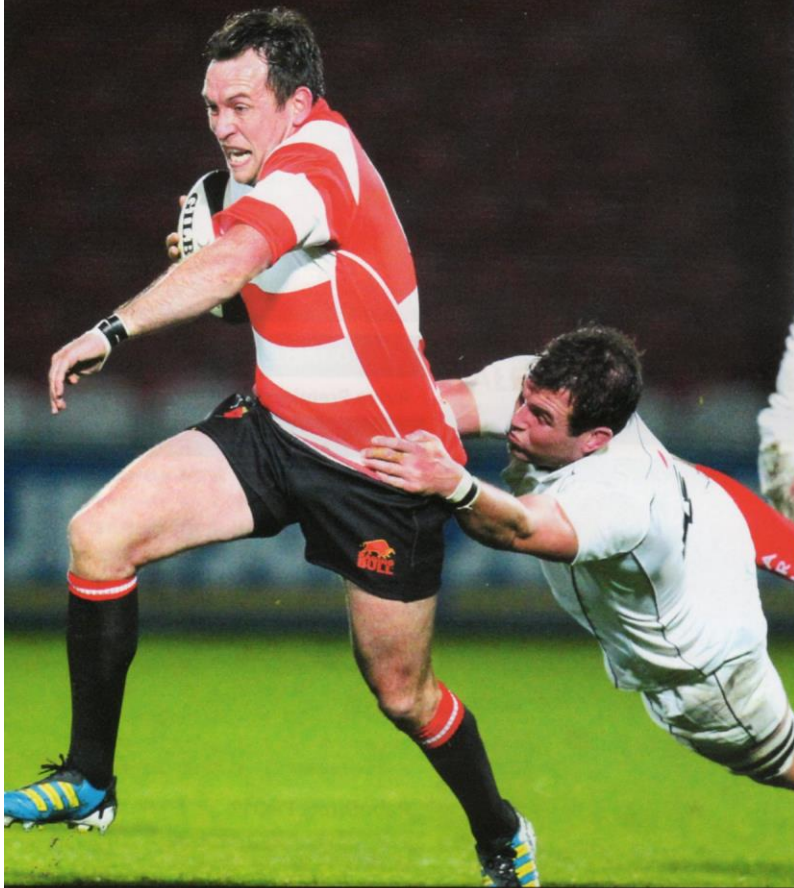
It's just my opinion, of course, and nothing to do with the club, but my antennae are detecting an element of malice in the whole affair.

After all, Rob Andrew who seems to be the leading executioner, has never exactly been a friend of Gloucester. You will recall incidents as well as I do.

I've even heard it said that there may be an element of inverted snobbery here too. Mike has now married into the royal family, which may not have gone down too well in certain quarters.

What right has a rough Yorkshire lad who plays for Gloucester of all clubs to move in such exalted circles when we can't, old boy?

Of course, this can't be true. Can it?



GLOS PRESIDENTS XV 40  
 COMBINED SERVICES 33

Royal British Legion charity game, Kingsholm, 8 November 2011

**A YEAR after taking on Samoa at Kingsholm, the Combined Services returned to GL1 recently, this time facing up to the might of the Gloucester Presidents XV.**

Led by Sergeant Darrell Ball, who recently lifted the Inaugural International Defence Forces Rugby World Cup, the Services team also featured some exciting talent in the form of Josh Drauninui and Ifereimi Bolodua.

However, they were up against a Presidents XV who were able to call upon Gloucester veterans like Chris Fortey and Rob Fidler who, in their time, have covered every blade of grass on the Kingsholm pitch!

What followed was a cracking end to end encounter with both teams

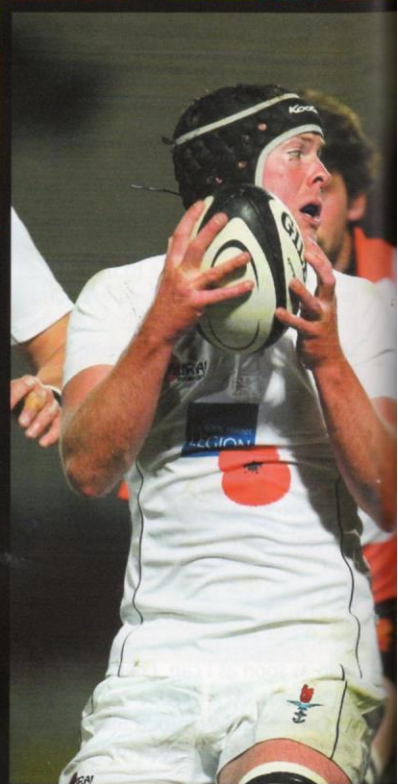
intent on playing open rugby and playing the game in exactly the right spirit.

The Presidents XV dominated the opening exchanges but were rocked by a Dale Sleeman try after a break from deep by Drauninui.

With Fortey and Fidler driving them on, the Presidents XV pack started to impose themselves and Chris McNeil finished off a driving maul only for the Services to again strike from deep with tries from Bolodua and Drauninui.

21-7 up, the Services could have run away with it but another catch and drive from the Presidents XV resulted in a try for Jack Preece and a glimmer of hope at half time.

The first half had been entertaining





but the second half proved to be even more so and early tries from Preece and James Pettigrew edged the Presidents XV in front.

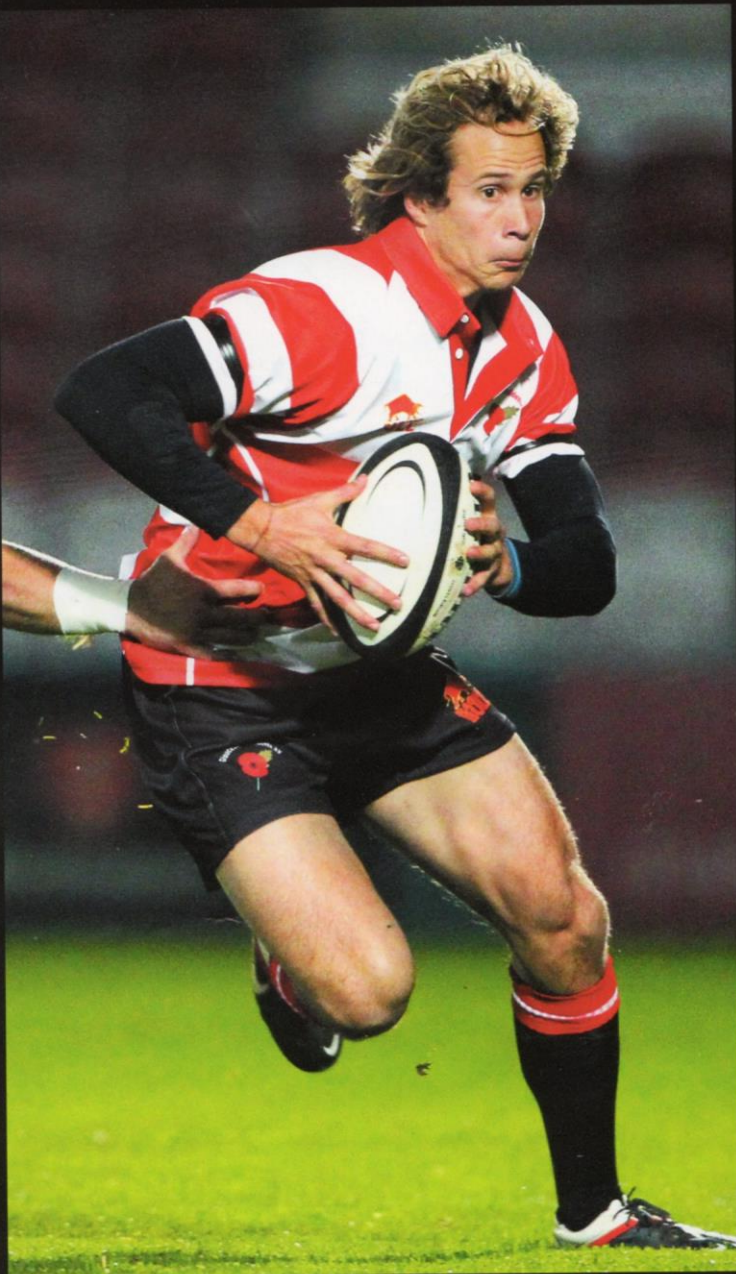
The game then saw as the lead changed hands several times and the game was finely poised at 33 points apiece going into the final few minutes.

It was anyone's game for the taking but, credit to the Presidents XV, their pack rolled up their sleeves and launched one last assault on the Services line.

A pile of bodies forced their way over for the decisive score and, in the finest tradition of forward play, no-one had a clue who had touched down!

A great night's entertainment with the former Gloucester players clearly relishing being back at their spiritual home and the Combined Services players obviously making the most of what is proving to be a regular venue for them.

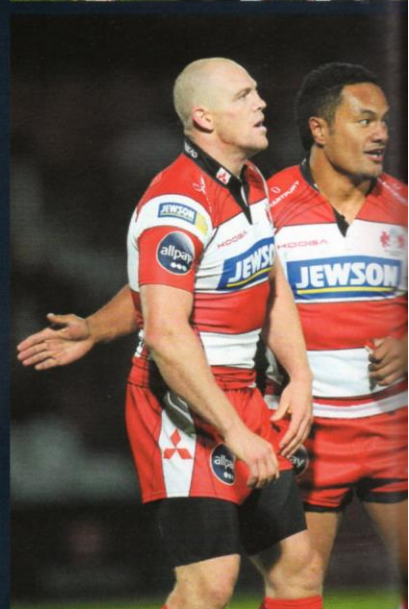
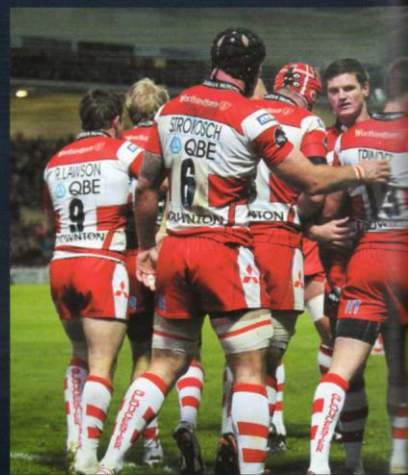
And, of course, funds were raised for the Royal British Legion, a fitting cause on the night.



#### CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

Without a doubt, the reception that Andy Deacon received as he took to the field five minutes from time. It was probably the loudest cheer of the night. Deacs will probably be the first to admit though that five minutes of match action was probably just about enough for him!





GLOUCESTER RUGBY 17  
SARACENS 19

Aviva Premiership Rugby, Kingsholm, 29 October 2011, 17:45 KO

#### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

**TRY** Morgan (22)  
**PENS** Burns (14, 38),  
Taylor (57, 63)

#### SARACENS

**TRY** Barritt (75)  
**CON** Farrell (75)  
**PENS** Hodgson (35),  
Farrell (46, 54, 71)

**THERE** has been very little to choose between Gloucester and Saracens in recent times and so it proved again at Kingsholm in round seven of the Aviva Premiership with the visitors striking late to secure a 17-19 win.

Bryan Redpath and his Gloucester side will be livid at letting the points slip especially when they led 17-9 with less than 15 minutes remaining.

However, discipline let them down at the vital moment as Saracens made a rare foray into the Gloucester 22 and Owen Farrell's neatly weighted grubber was pounced on by Brad Barritt who touched down despite the best efforts of Rory Lawson.

The outcome was a kick in the

guts for Gloucester who had gone toe to toe with the champions for 75 minutes and, in boxing parlance, were ahead on points.

Olly Morgan's superb first try looked as though it would be decisive and the superb Gloucester defence had restricted Saracens to three long range penalties in a fractious encounter which seemed to be about to bubble over at any moment.

Backed by a raucous home crowd, Gloucester flew into every physical challenge and Saracens genuinely looked rattled, a rare experience for them.

However, they're not the champions for nothing. They refused to throw in the towel or stop chasing what many would have perceived to



be a lost cause.

Indeed they clung on tenaciously and made the most of the one good scoring opportunity that was afforded them. That's the mark of a good team.

As disappointing as the defeat was, Gloucester could take a lot from this game. The passion and commitment shown by every single player could not be faulted. If Saracens looked ordinary at times, it

was because they were made to look ordinary.

The Olly Morgan try was a superb piece of opportunistic rugby and other chances were carved out but frustratingly not finished off.

A memorable win was there for the taking but Gloucester were left to rue their own lack of composure at crucial times and duly lost at home in the Premiership for the first time in more than two years.



#### CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

In a game of few scoring opportunities, Olly Morgan's try shone like a beacon. Fielding a high kick in his own half, Morgs sidestepped the first chaser before setting off downfield. He linked with Henry Trinder and, having received the return pass, cut against the grain to make the line for a memorable try.

#### KEY QUOTE

"We had to be physical and impose our game on the opposition and we didn't do that. Today the boys put a big effort in and didn't get rewards."

**Bryan Redpath**

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Olly Morgan
- 14 W Charlie Sharples
- 13 C Henry Trinder
- 12 C Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
- 11 W Jonny May
- 10 FH Freddie Burns
- 9 SH Rory Lawson
- 1 P **Nick Wood**
- 2 H Darren Dawidiuk
- 3 P Rupert Harden
- 4 L Will James
- 5 L Jim Hamilton
- 6 F Alasdair Strokosch
- 7 F Akapusi Qera
- 8 N8 Luke Narraway (c)

#### REPLACEMENTS

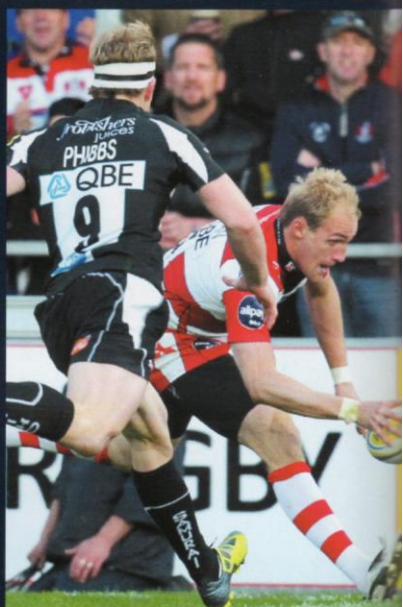
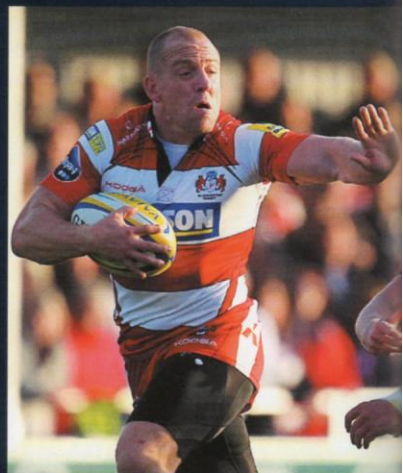
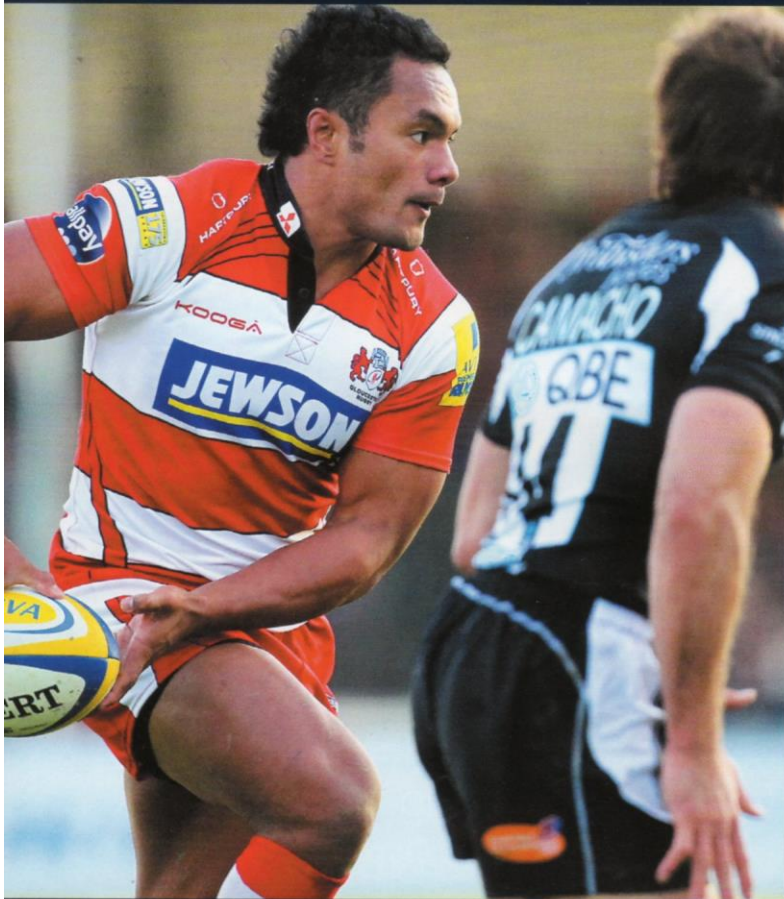
- 16 H Scott Lawson
- 17 F Dan Murphy
- 18 Dario Chistolini
- 19 L Tom Savage
- 20 N8 Peter Buxton
- 21 W Dave Lewis
- 22 FH Tim Taylor
- 23 C Mike Tindall

## SARACENS

- 15 FB Alex Goode
- 14 W David Strettle
- 13 C Owen Farrell
- 12 C Brad Barritt
- 11 W James Short
- 10 FH Charlie Hodgson
- 9 SH Neil de Kock
- 1 P **Rhys Gill**
- 2 H Schalk Brits
- 3 P Carlos Nieto
- 4 L Steve Borthwick (c)
- 5 L Mouritz Botha
- 6 F Kelly Brown
- 7 F Jacques Burger
- 8 N8 Ernst Joubert

#### REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Jamie George
- 17 F Deon Carstens
- 18 P Matt Stevens
- 19 L Hayden Smith
- 20 F Andy Saull
- 21 Ben Spencer
- 22 W Chris Wyles
- 23 FH Joe Maddock



EXETER CHIEFS 19  
 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 24

Aviva Premiership Rugby, Sandy Park, 5 November 2011, 15:00 KO

**EXETER CHIEFS**

- TRIES** Tui (17),  
 Jess (80)  
**PENS** Steenson (1, 30),  
 Mieres (66)

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

- TRIES** Burns (5),  
 Qera (36),  
 Morgan (47)  
**CONS** Burns (6, 37, 48)  
**PEN** Burns (70)

**A WEEK after the disappointment of losing at home to Saracens, Gloucester responded in the best possible way by defeating Exeter and clinching their first away win of the season.**

It wasn't just the result of course but the nature of the performance that was important and Gloucester delivered on both counts.

In a remarkably short space of time, the Chiefs have built a fortress at Sandy Park that is incredibly difficult to scale. Gloucester found that out the hard way in September 2010.

And, having lost their three previous Aviva Premiership outings, Exeter were in no mood to make life easy for the Cherry and Whites.

Indeed, Gareth Steenson's early

penalty got them off to an ideal start and the Irish fly half showed every sign of making the most of the strong wind at his back.

Step forward the Gloucester pack who quickly created murmurs of discontent around Sandy Park as they started to dismantle the home set piece.

This set up the position from which Freddie Burns stepped off his left foot, slipped a tackle and just made the line with a stretch that needed every inch of his 6 ft 1" frame.

The Chiefs dominated the next phase of play and were rewarded with a close range try from Hoani Tui although Gloucester's sheer cussedness in defence made them work awfully hard for it.



Stenson's second penalty made it 11-7 but Pat Phibbs crucially chose to take a quick tap when another kick at goal looked likely.

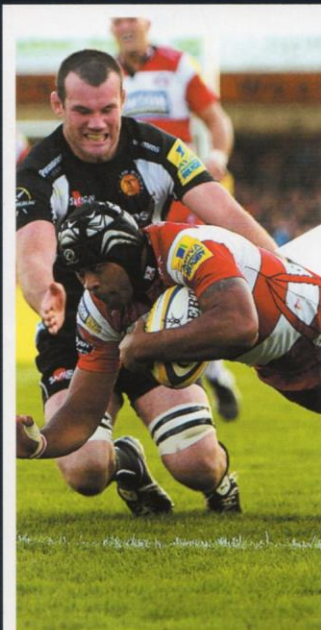
His adventure wasn't rewarded and Gloucester struck either side of half time through Akapusi Qera and Olly Morgan to take an iron grip of proceedings.

The home team threw everything at Gloucester in a bid to get back in the game but the defence was superbly

marshalled and never really looked like being breached.

As time ran out, Gloucester were actually looking for a bonus point try when Kevin Barrett snaffled Rory Lawson's attempted pass to Luke Narraway and sent Matt Jess springing into the corner despite Charlie Sharples despairing tackle.

It earned the Chiefs a losing bonus point but the win was Gloucester's and richly deserved.



#### CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

Leading, Exeter had just turned down a kick at goal in favour of an ill advised tap penalty when Gloucester pounced. Carrying the ball dangerously aloft in just one hand, Akapusi Qera swatted aside Gareth Steenson and darted through a gap to give Gloucester a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

#### KEY QUOTE

"Defensively we were really strong and if we had controlled some higher field position we would have scored more.

"Exeter are a strong scrum-and-drive, confrontational side so it was important that we did defend. I thought from one to 15, and also the subs that came on, we put in a big shift defensively."

**Bryan Redpath**

#### EXETER CHIEFS

- 15 FB Luke Arcscott
- 14 W Gonzalo Camacho
- 13 C Sireli Naqelevuki
- 12 C Jason Shoemark
- 11 W Matt Jess
- 10 FH Gareth Steenson
- 9 SH Patrick Phibbs
- 1 P Brett Sturgess
- 2 H Neil Clark
- 3 P Hoani Tui
- 4 L Tom Hayes (c)
- 5 L James Hanks
- 6 F Tom Johnson
- 7 F James Scaysbrook
- 8 N8 Richard Baxter

#### REPLACEMENTS

- 16 H Simon Alcott
- 17 P Ben Moon
- 18 P Craig Mitchell
- 19 L Chris Bentley
- 20 F Ben White
- 21 SH Kevin Barrett
- 22 FH Ignacio Mieres
- 23 C Josh Tatupu

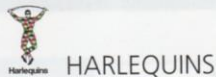
#### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Olly Morgan
- 14 W Charlie Sharples
- 13 C Mike Tindall
- 12 C Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
- 11 W Tom Voyce
- 10 FH Freddie Burns
- 9 SH Rory Lawson
- 1 P Nick Wood
- 2 H Darren Dawidiuk
- 3 P Rupert Harden
- 4 L Will James
- 5 L Jim Hamilton
- 6 F Alasdair Strokosch
- 7 F Akapusi Qera
- 8 N8 Luke Narraway (c)

#### REPLACEMENTS

- 16 H Scott Lawson
- 17 Dan Murphy
- 18 P Dario Chistolini
- 19 Tom Savage
- 20 F Peter Buxton
- 21 Dave Lewis
- 22 Tim Taylor
- 23 C Henry Trinder

# TODAY'S Line-UPS



15	JONNY MAY
14	CHARLIE SHARPLES
13	HENRY TRINDER
12	MIKE TINDALL
11	LESLEY VAINIKOLO
10	FREDDIE BURNS
09	RORY LAWSON
01	NICK WOOD
02	SCOTT LAWSON
03	RUPERT HARDEN
04	WILL JAMES
05	JIM HAMILTON
06	PETER BUXTON (C)
07	AKAPUSI QERA
08	ALASDAIR STROKOSCH
16	DARREN DAWIDIUK
17	DAN MURPHY
18	DARIO CHISTOLINI
19	BRETT DEACON
20	LUKE NARRAWAY
21	DAVE LEWIS
22	TIM TAYLOR
23	TOM VOYCE

15	MIKE BROWN
14	SEB STEGMANN
13	MATT HOPPER
12	JORDAN TURNER HALL
11	SAM SMITH
10	NICK EVANS
09	KARL DICKSON
01	JOE MARLER
02	JOE GRAY
03	JAMES JOHNSTON
04	TOMAS VALLEJOS
05	GEORGE ROBSON
06	MAURIE FA'ASAVALU
07	CHRIS ROBSHAW (C)
08	NICK EASTER
16	CHRIS BROOKER
17	NIC MAYHEW
18	TIM FAIRBROTHER
19	CHARLIE MATTHEWS
20	LUKE WALLACE
21	DANNY CARE
22	RORY CLEGG
23	TOM WILLIAMS

Teams were correct at time of print

## THE OFFICIALS



**REFEREE:** Christophe Berdos  
**ASST REFS:** Stephan Pomaredre and Cedric Marchat



### Pool 6 Table

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
Harlequins	1	1	0	0	25	17	0	4
Toulouse	1	1	0	0	21	17	0	4
Gloucester	1	0	0	1	17	21	1	1
Connacht	1	0	0	1	17	25	0	0



## WHAT ARE THESE ALL ABOUT?

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HEINEKEN CUP

