



THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

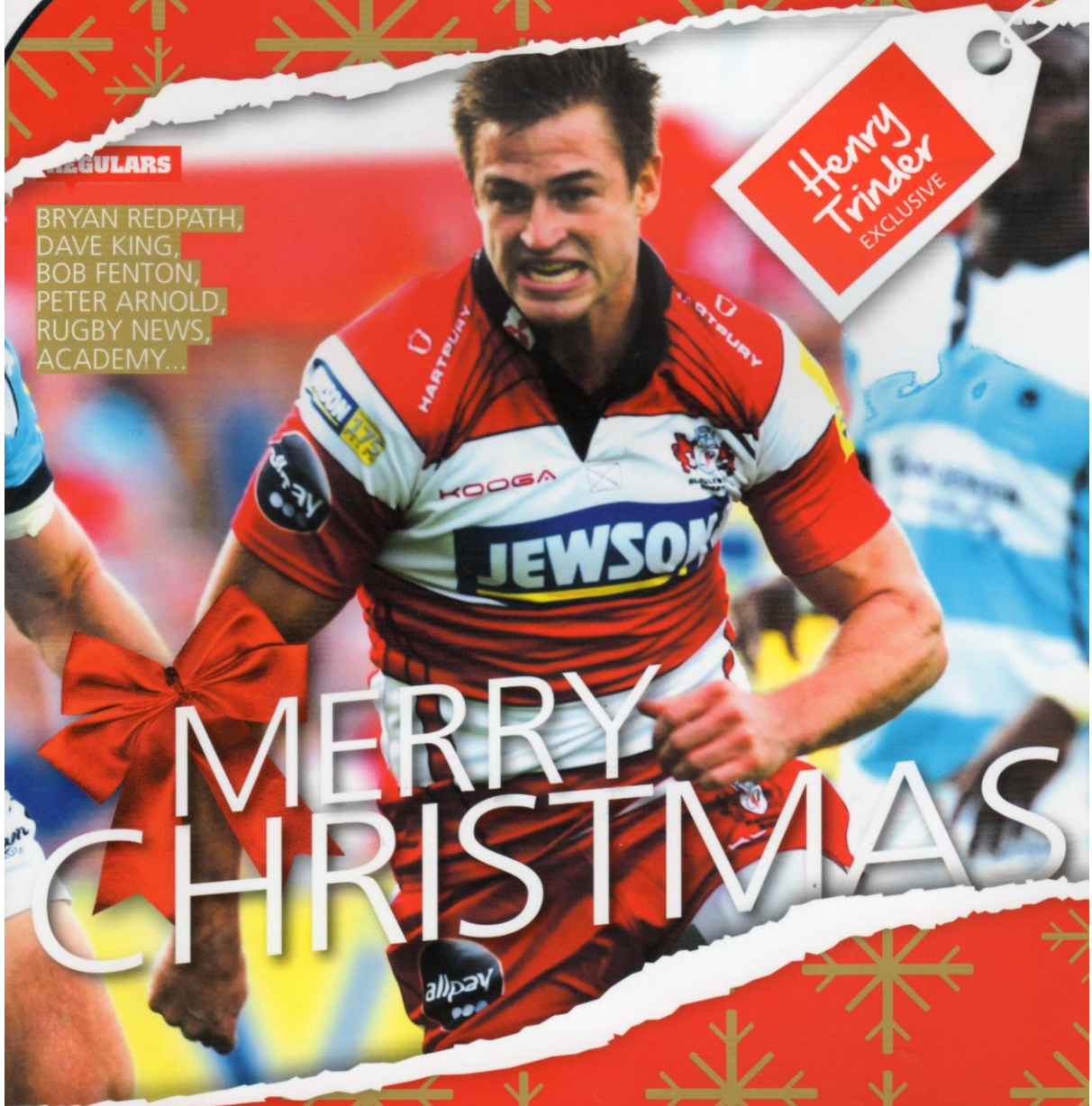
# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ONLY £3

## REGULARS

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



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY  
vs. LONDON WASPS  
26 DECEMBER 2011, KO 3PM



Main Club Sponsor





# Captain's CORNER



*"...we desperately want to deliver the best Christmas present possible to our supporters and that's a decent home win."*

**I'D LIKE to wish everyone a very festive welcome to Kingsholm here on Boxing Day as we return to Aviva Premiership action with the visit of London Wasps.**

We've obviously spent the last couple of weeks competing in the Heineken Cup and have had to work extremely hard to secure back to back wins over Connacht.

I'll be the first to admit that we've not been at our best in those two games and I guess there's a slight feeling of relief that we've come out of it with two wins.

That sentiment, however, is probably doing Connacht a slight disservice. Not so long ago, they were viewed very much as the poor relations of Irish rugby – somewhere veteran players went to see out their playing days or a place where promising young players from the other three regions were sent to gain playing experience. Things have very definitely changed!

To their credit though, they're now going toe to toe with the very best in Europe. We had to dig deep to secure both wins against them and they weren't exactly blown away by either Harlequins or Toulouse!

I read an opinion somewhere that we had taken them lightly and were simply expecting to rock up and win. I can put that one to bed straightaway. We knew just how tough Connacht would be and prepared accordingly.

There's absolutely no room for complacency in the modern game. It's often said about the Premiership that any one team can beat another on any given day. And that's very true.

If you come into a game without having done all the necessary preparation or without your mind on the job then you've as good as lost.

And we've certainly been focussed in training this week. That's not to say we weren't in the weeks leading

up to the Connacht games, it's just that we know we have to keep on working hard to get our game up to the standard where we know it should be.

We haven't been on song in recent weeks, we're the first to admit that. There's a lot of honesty in the Gloucester camp. There's no finger pointing or allocation of blame, just a collective desire to get things right.

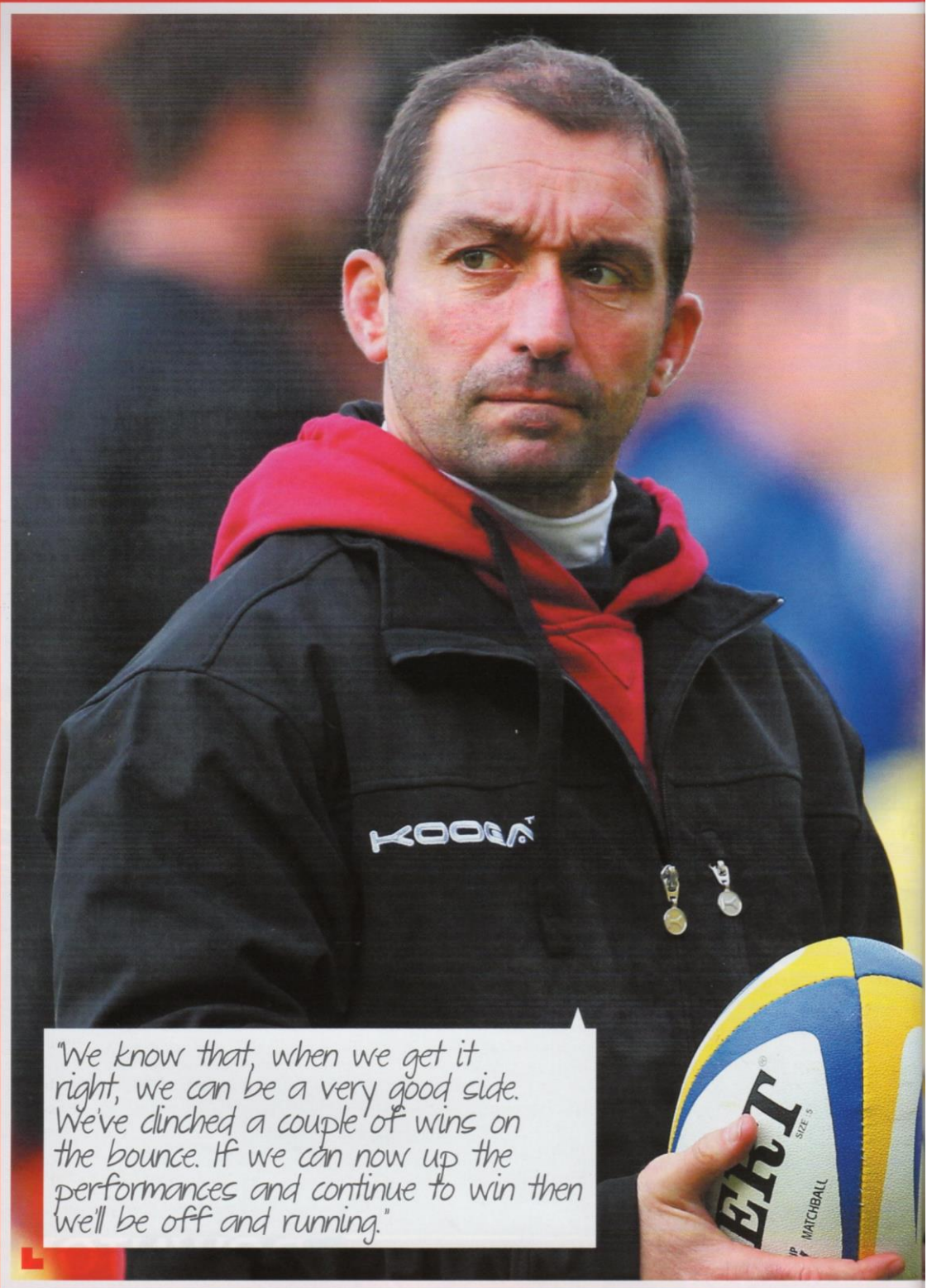
Wasps are going to be a tough nut to crack. They sit just below us in the Premiership League table and have some quality players in their squad. None more so than a certain fly half called Robinson who I'm sure is going to enjoy his return to Kingsholm.

But we desperately want to deliver the best Christmas present possible to our supporters and that's a decent home win.

It promises to be a great atmosphere here today and that will serve as a real inspiration for us.

**Enjoy the game!**





"We know that, when we get it right, we can be a very good side. We've clinched a couple of wins on the bounce. If we can now up the performances and continue to win then we'll be off and running."



GR MATCHDAY PROGRAMME  
EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

# 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 LONDON WASPS A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM THIS AFTERNOON.**

**I hope that everyone has been enjoying a fantastic Christmas break so far and am grateful that you are choosing to spend your Boxing Day watching us take on London Wasps this afternoon.**

No matter how long you're involved in professional sport, people always ask you how it feels to be working at Christmas when most people are off work. After all, we play matches most years on Boxing Day and New Year's Day with at least one of those matches away from home.

Like most people, we'd all probably prefer to be spending time with our families. But, in the grand scheme of things, it's a small price to pay for being involved in professional sport.

After all, all of us who are fortunate to be involved in professional rugby are doing something that we genuinely love doing and we should never take that for granted. There are many privileges involved in working in professional rugby union and the drawbacks are relatively few.

It's important not to lose sight of that fact whether things are going well or whether it seems as though you're fighting an uphill task at times.

When you're in the middle of a winning streak, as we were earlier this year, it feels like everything is right with the world and you can't do anything wrong.

However, there's the flip side of the coin when things can be something of a struggle and that's something we've experienced recently.

There's no denying that it's been a difficult couple of months for us. We went through a phase of being

competitive in matches and then losing them by a very small margin.

We've managed to reverse that in the past couple of weeks with a couple of hard fought victories in the Heineken Cup over Connacht but it's been far from easy.

We knew that Connacht would be a tough opponent last weekend. They'd learned something about us from the meeting the week before in Galway and we'd obviously learned a fair bit about them. That's one of the challenges of playing these European double headers.

But there's no denying that we were far from being at our best last weekend. Even though we ultimately won the game, there was no sense of celebration after the game because we knew we hadn't performed as we know we can.

In fact we made life pretty difficult for ourselves. We all but gifted them their first half try and then squandered a lot of our own possession by kicking it away.

That's not to take anything away from Connacht. They were very well organised, particularly in defence, and their fly half got it spot on by putting them in the right areas of the field to hurt us.

We were better in the second half when we controlled the game better. They proved to be a really tough nut to crack and Jonny's try came as a massive relief for everyone.

It's good that we've turned those narrow defeats into narrow wins but we all know that there's an awful lot more to come from us.

A lot of it is down to confidence. Collectively you take a knock when you lose a few in a row. But it's important

that we remain true to what we're doing.

The temptation can be for individuals to try a little bit too hard to make something happen. They can go a bit off script in a bid to make a difference and we go away from the team structure. The desire to do something good can actually have a negative effect.

We know that, when we get it right, we can be a very good side. We've clinched a couple of wins on the bounce. If we can now up the performances and continue to win then we'll be off and running.

Wasps won't make it easy for us for us. They've also been through some ups and downs this season. They've had plenty of injuries and also lost two England internationals in Steve Thompson and Joe Worsley to retirement. That's a massive blow for any club.

There have also been off the field issues but they've got a couple of quality coaches in Dai Young and Paul Turner and they'll have worked long and hard on a game plan to beat us today.

On that note, as the year comes to an end, it's appropriate for me to thank you all, once again, for your magnificent support.

We never, ever take it for granted. When you're behind us, it's a massive lift and one of the reasons we love playing at Kingsholm.

We aim to give you something to shout about this afternoon.

**Enjoy the game and  
Happy New Year!**

**DreamTeam**  
ON PAGE 56



View from  
**The Citizen**



WITH NICK PUREWAL

# JONNY TO THE RESCUE!

“...WE DON'T EXPECT TO LOSE EVER, SO WE FEEL THE PRESSURE OF THAT...”

**E**nding the Kingsholm rut must lift a nervous weight off Gloucester's shoulders, calls Connacht match-winner Jonny May.

The flying wing raced into the corner for a late, late try that snatched Heineken Cup victory at Kingsholm.

Harlequins' win at Toulouse keeps Pool Six alive, but Gloucester realistically need two bonus point wins to stand any chance of topping

the group to vie for a quarter-final spot.

The Cherry and Whites have the far more pressing concern of facing Wasps in today's festive Premiership return in any case.

And 21-year-old wide man May admits Gloucester had been wracked with nerves, trying to stave off first six defeats in seven games – and then three straight Kingsholm defeats.

Despite two sluggish four point



win margins in both halves of the Connacht double header, Gloucester have still ended both losing sequences.

Now speed king May believes Bryan Redpath's men can shrug off



their shortcomings and strike back to defence-splitting form.

May explained:

"There has been a lot of pressure on us, given we'd lost three games in a row, but that was to Saracens, Leicester and Harlequins, who are some of the best teams.

"But we don't expect to lose ever, so we feel the pressure of that, and of 10,000 people watching, the coaches, family friends.

"We expect to win at Kingsholm, and hopefully that will take the weight off our shoulders getting

more.

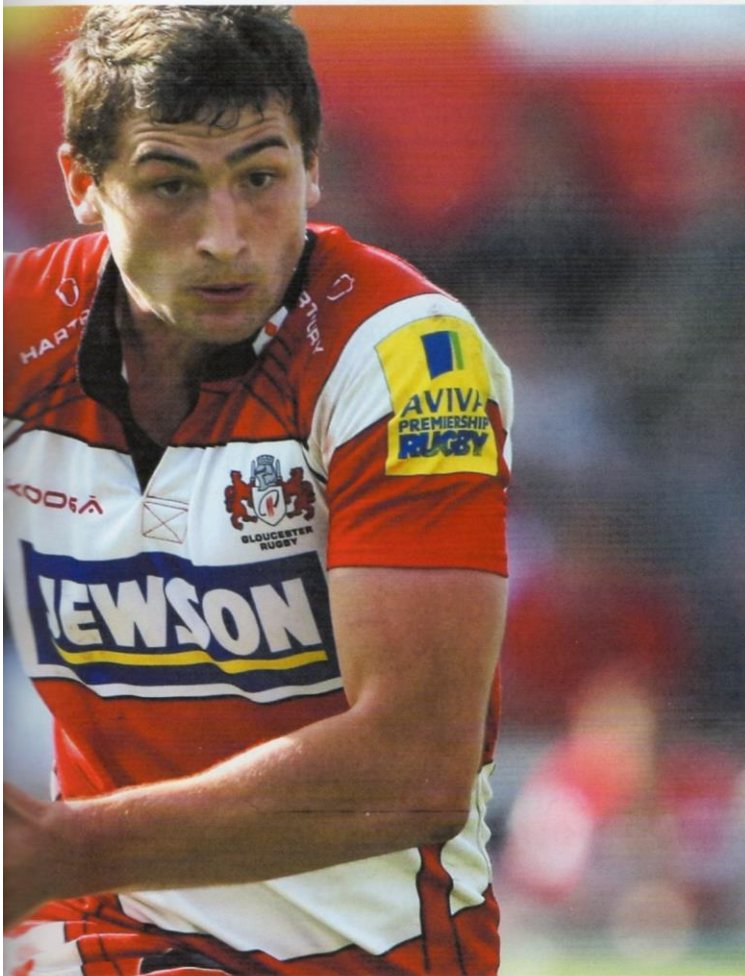
"We'll gain confidence from the Connacht result, we believe in ourselves in terms of our talent and our personnel, we've got a great side, but maybe we were just a bit nervous to get a win again at Kingsholm, hopefully that's what it was, and now we can start playing how we want to play – taking players on, moving the ball around the pitch, exiting clinically, good line speed in defence and just go back to the traits that we all want to be associated with."

boosted his confidence for forcing himself into games after joining the fray as a substitute.

Backing Gloucester to find form now, he continued:

"It was a big confidence boost for me, coming off the bench, sometimes that feels quite new to me, and I just try to come on and bring some energy and pace to the game, and I managed to get on the end of a try which is good.

"I didn't see how we won the ball back, but I came off my wing looking to hit a line, I initially



that win.

"We can hopefully get the stress off our shoulders, lose the nerves, get back to our style of rugby which is a movement game, taking people on and come out of our shells a bit

May's lightning strike try plundered victory despite an at best slipshod Gloucester performance in the eventual 23-19 victory.

The Swindon-born flier admitted grabbing a try in his cameo has

**“...WE BELIEVE IN OURSELVES IN TERMS OF OUR TALENT AND OUR PERSONNEL, WE’VE GOT A GREAT SIDE...”**

thought I would run short off Freddie, but then saw that the defence was over chasing on him a little bit, so I thought I would switch, and then I managed to get a hand off and had the pace to get to the corner.

"It's not an effort thing where performance is concerned at the moment, we're trying our hardest, but it doesn't look like it does when we train in the week.

"And it's frustrating because we know we can do better, so obviously it's good to get two wins in a row and out of the losing run.

"Hopefully the momentum will get back on our side now, and we can get back to something more like normal at Kingsholm.

"We've got to address our performance levels though."





# DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

## AWAY FORM IS THE KEY

**I**t is a recognised fact that to win the coveted league title you have to perform with effect in the regular season in away fixtures.

It is with a degree of concern that the Kingsholm faithful expect success at home but view away fixtures in the Premiership with a high degree of trepidation.

Since the introduction of professional rugby union it is interesting to view whether any Director of Rugby at this club has been able to instil a winning mentality into his group of players and who of the five has returned an acceptable return of victories on alien fields.

Those five individuals have been Richard Hill, Philippe Saint-Andre, Nigel Melville, Dean Ryan and the present incumbent Bryan Redpath.

Richard Hill's charges won four away matches in the inaugural season of 1996-1997 - at West Hartlepool (23-14), Orrell (49-3), London Irish (21-20) and Northampton (27-25).

The following season of 1997-1998 saw wins at Bristol (14-13) and Northampton (24-22), a fifty per cent reduction on the previous season.

Prior to being relieved of his duties in February of 1999, a solitary win in

the first away fixture of the 1998-1999 season against Richmond (25-22) was the only victory.

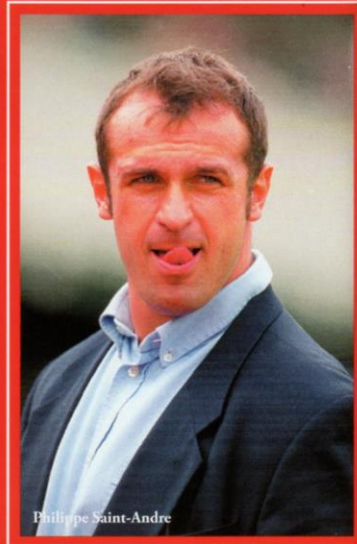
Overall, under the stewardship of the former England scrum half, our record in away fixtures read: - Played 31, of which 7 matches were won.

The effervescent former French International, Philippe Saint-Andre succeeded Richard Hill but, in the remaining four matches of 1998-1999, we suffered reverses in each away match.

The 1999-2000 season witnessed a more than favourable return with victory in six matches - at Northampton (25-6), Bristol (38-25), Bedford (18-6), Sale (31-13), Harlequins (38-24) and London Irish (42-40).

There were a trio of wins in the following season of 2000-2001. Successive victories at Rotherham (29-23) and Newcastle (19-18) were early season triumphs but six successive losses were encountered before a win at Sale in March (24-16) stopped the rot.

The following season of 2001-2002 saw the tearful departure of the Frenchman. He had seen success at Sale (44-21) and Harlequins (18-6) prior to his farewell.



Philippe Saint-Andre

Overall, Philippe had overseen 34 away fixtures in the Premiership with 11 wins.

The former Wasps supremo Nigel Melville then stepped into the breach to replace Saint-Andre.

There were three away fixtures left of the 2001-2002 season when he took charge. Wins were recorded in two of those matches at Bristol (41-40) and Leeds (50-17).



The season of 2002-2003 heralded six away wins - at Harlequins (25-19), Newcastle (22-19), London Irish (40-19), Northampton (16-13), Saracens (29-22) and Bristol (38-21).

Added to those six victories were worthy drawn matches at Bath (21-21) and Sale (30-30). The play-offs vanquished any hopes of Championship success.

The following campaign of 2003-2004 witnessed four away wins at Harlequins (16-0), Leicester (28-18), Rotherham (35-21) and Saracens (16-8).

There was a repeat performance in the 2004-2005 season with four more wins at Leeds (21-16) and Northampton (18-12) which incidentally were the first two away fixtures of the season. Success at Worcester (18-13) and London Irish (13-12) followed.

The culmination of the 2005-2006 season saw the departure of Nigel Melville. Prior to his leaving four more away wins were obtained at Bristol (41-19), Saracens (19-9), Newcastle (13-9) and Leeds (31-7). An opening day of the season stalemate at Worcester (15-15) almost brought another victory.

The former Wasps coach had achieved 20 wins from 47 away matches prior to his end of season departure – a decent return.

Another former Wasps stalwart Dean Ryan took the helm of the club for the 2006-2007 season.

Four wins recorded at Harlequins (31-21), Worcester (33-24), London Irish (22-11) and Northampton (7-5). Not to be sniffed at draws at Leicester (27-27) and Bath (21-21) added value to the away return.

The following season of 2007-2008 saw a further improvement with five wins at Saracens (38-31), Leeds (49-24) and Leicester (30-17). A trio of wins in our first three away fixtures! Newcastle (20-13) and Wasps (25-17) were the other two victories.

There were three victories in the 2008-2009 season, wins at Bath (21-17), Saracens (25-21) and Bristol (29-10).

At the end of the season Dean Ryan departed from Kingsholm to eventually become one of Sky's more



Dean Ryan

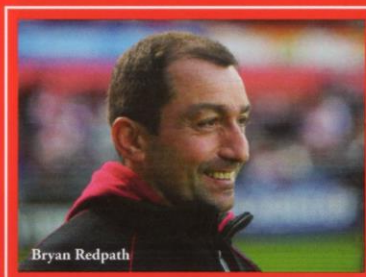
enlightened tacticians and pundits. In 33 away matches, Dean Ryan had presided over 12 wins.

We are now in the Bryan Redpath tenure, during his first season in control in 2009-2010, two wins were recorded at Leeds (26-10) and Worcester (23-22).

Last season of 2010-2011 witnessed a trio of wins at Leeds (22-21), Wasps (10-9) and Northampton (18-16) along with an amazing (41-41) draw at Leicester.

Overall our away form under the five Directors of Rugby that the club has employed reads as follows: -

Head Coach	Pld	W	D	L	Pts For	Pts Against
Richard Hill	31	7	1	23	553	965
Philippe Saint-Andre	34	11	0	23	735	909
Nigel Melville	47	20	4	23	992	1053
Dean Ryan	33	12	2	19	633	693
Bryan Redpath	27	6	1	20	440	640
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>3353</b>	<b>4260</b>



Bryan Redpath

With regard to a recent question as to when we last lost three consecutive home matches in the professional era?

We did so in the 2004-2005 season when we lost the three final home matches of that campaign to Northampton 18-26 on 12th March, Leeds 15-33 on 9th April and Saracens 13-14 on 30th April.

Ironically Saracens have featured in both of our triple setbacks!



**There comes a time in every young aspiring sportsperson's life where they have to graduate from promising 'starlet' to fully fledged contributor.**

**THERE'S no hard and fast rule as to when this happens in rugby union. Prop forwards tend to take a little bit longer to mature and establish themselves in the senior game than fleet footed wingers.**

Even then, there are those who buck the trend – Joe Marler at Harlequins for example.

And rugby union is littered with examples of young men who looked as though they were destined to be the next big thing only to never quite make the grade.

In 1997, James Lofthouse skippered Mike Tindall and Jonny Wilkinson on an historic England U18s tour of Australia. By the age of 20, he'd given up the game.

2011 was that coming of age year for Henry Trinder. At the turn of the year, he'd made 8 Premiership starts for the club. Now, there's talk of him making England's EPS squad when it's announced in the New Year.

It's fair to say that a fair amount has happened to him in the past 12 months as the 22 year old centre happily admits.

"Yeah. It's all gone really well. The season really didn't start off on the brightest note for me but I started to be involved a bit more in the Autumn and it all kicked off after Christmas really.

"We had that LV= Cup win back in the spring which was really good for the club. It was good to be part of that but we're looking to build upon that type of success.

The season ultimately finished in disappointment for Gloucester as they bowed out to Saracens in the Aviva Premiership playoff semi final but there was precious little time for the Swindon born midfielder to dwell on things.

He was immediately added to the England squad to take on the Barbarians and found himself running out at Twickenham.

"Not going the whole way with the team was disappointing and, as a team, we were pretty gutted. But, from a personal point of view, it was great to be involved with England.

"It was fantastic to play at



*"I'm happy at Gloucester, always have been, and obviously knew that people like Charlie and Jim had re-signed so it wasn't a difficult decision. Getting it out of the way means that you just focus on the rugby which is important."*

Twickenham and great to get a try. Even though we lost late on, it was a superb experience and a real highlight for me."

He barely had time to catch breath and reflect upon that experience as he was immediately called into the Saxons squad for the defence of the Churchill Cup.

"That was fun. It was a really young squad and a bit of pressure on

us as we knew it was going to be the last Churchill Cup and we wanted to retain the trophy."

Following the successful defence of the title, after 12 months of solid rugby, there was finally time for some much needed rest!

"It had been a pretty tough 12 months and it was nice to put my feet up for a bit and switch off mentally for a while.

"Even so, I was glad to get back into preseason although I was a little bit behind the others as I'd had some time off and they'd been hard at work.

"But that's not such a bad thing sometimes. When you've got boys ahead of you in the fitness and conditioning stakes, it drives you on to close the gap."

Another significant development on a personal basis was agreeing a new contract with the club in November keeping him at Kingsholm for a further two years.

"When you come into a season and you know you're out of contract, it's great when you learn that the club want to sit down with you early and sort things out.

"I'm happy at Gloucester, always have been, and obviously knew that people like Charlie and Jim had re-signed so it wasn't a difficult decision. Getting it out of the way means that you just focus on the rugby which is important."

So, as 2011 draws to an close, signing off at Kingsholm with a win would be a fine end to a memorable year?

"It would but we know that Wasps will push us all the way this afternoon. We've let a few get away from us at Kingsholm which is unlike us and we desperately want to re-establish it as a real fortress.

"Hopefully we can finish 2011 on a high which will set us up nicely for 2012.





I'm now a qualified level 2 coach, if there are any jobs out there that dont involve any cabbos or forwards! (Basically backs only) I'm keen

Tweeted by:  
@Henry\_Trinder13

You Tube CLIP Interview with Henry



# BIG IMPACT

## HENRY TRINDER



# KINGSHOLM NEWS

## WITH BOB FENTON

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY...  
THUS GOES THE SONG.

But it's fair to say that all has not been so jolly down Kingsholm way over the last few weeks.

Last weekend we just about crept over the line against a determined Connacht side that were eager to make up for their reverse in the Heineken Cup. It wasn't a pretty match and we struggled to make much headway for a lot of the game.

At the end of the day though, the records will show that, in our two games against Connacht in the 2011/12 Heineken Cup, we won both.

I firmly believe that some people view these games with too much expectation – talk of four tries, bonus points etc in the last few days leading up to the game was way too previous.

It was slightly arrogant and very disrespectful to our opponents who – like us – had earned the right to be in the competition.

While respecting everyone's right to hold an opinion, and to voice that opinion, I have to clamber up onto my soap box to voice mine. I really can't see the point in pouring abuse on our own players or booing the side off at half time.

For me personally, I found the atmosphere uncomfortable and it is certainly not what Kingsholm and The Shed are renowned for. I might be being a bit old fashioned here, but I thought the job of a supporter was to support, especially when times are not so good.

I do realise that sometimes it's hard to summon up the



excitement and the passion when things are sticky, but isn't that when it is most needed?

The only time everyone really found their voice was in the final few minutes after Jonny May had crossed the line for what turned out to be the winning try.

We are constantly told that the players can feed off the energy and enthusiasm of the crowd, but the flip side of that coin is that the tension, nervousness and in some cases negativity must have the same effect.

Let's hope that from here on in performances on the pitch inspire the right kind of support off it.

Did you hear that thud? That was me jumping down from my soap box...

I guess the amazing game that took place in Toulouse last weekend closed off the faint glimmer of hope that we may have had of progressing into the either the next stages of the Heineken Cup. While grabbing one of the three places in the Challenge Cup remains a possibility, realistically I would



# “ONE OF THE GREAT THINGS THAT SETS RUGBY APART FROM OTHER GAMES IS THE RESPECT PLAYERS ARE HELD IN SO THERE WILL I HOPE BE NONE OF THAT ILL MANNERED BARRACKING FOR MR ROBINSON”

think that the European jaunt is over for another year.

I still absolutely believe that we have the players and coaches to ensure that we get a Heineken Cup spot for next season through finishing in the top half of the league. In fact I will not be too surprised, and be very happy to pay out on my bet with a friend if he is proved right, if our finish is in the top four.

Let's play our part though, let's get behind the boys in the

way we are really renowned for. After all it could be so much worse – we could be Bath supporters wondering when they are going to see some return on their big player investments!

So back to today then. What a nice change it is not to be going up to Wasps over the Christmas and New Year period.

For the past few seasons, the fixture fairly seemed to take great delight in sending us up to Wycombe as a festive offering

for the men in black and yellow. This year the fixture is the other way around, let's hope the result is too!

Wasps currently sit one place and one point behind us in the Premiership with the same four from ten win ratio. Such is the compact nature of the table that we are just four (or five) points behind Exeter who currently hold down third position, so a win today could quickly push us back up towards the right end of the pack.

It's bound to be a game that Nicky Robinson has been looking forward too – a chance to come down and strut his stuff on his old patch. He seems to be having a bit of a mixed time of it at Wasps so far this season with fans a bit divided on his performance so far.

We know what a quality player he is and how dangerous he can be, couple that with an obvious desire to put one over on his old mates and you can see he will be a man to watch.

At the time of writing there is a football match on the TV and a former Aston Villa player now plying his trade for Liverpool is getting all manner of stick from his former supporters.

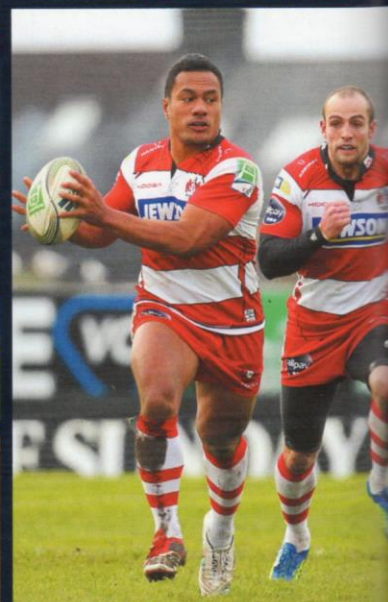
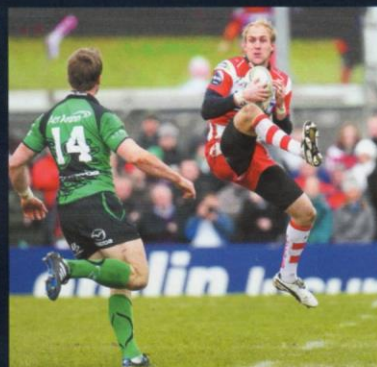
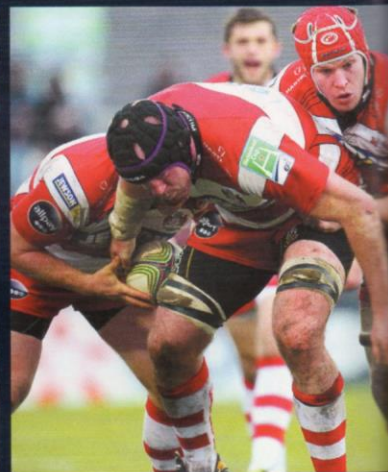
One of the great things that sets rugby apart from other games is the respect players are held in, so there will (I hope) be none of that ill-mannered barracking for Mr Robinson.

So welcome back, Nicky – I hope you have a 'mare'.

Finally, a chance to wish everyone at Kingsholm – players, management, supporters and bar staff – a happy and prosperous 2012.







CONNACHT RUGBY 10  
GLOUCESTER RUGBY 14

Heineken Cup, Galway Sportsground, 10 December 2011, 13:30 KO

#### CONNACHT RUGBY

TRY Duffy (33)  
CON O'Connor (33)  
PEN O'Connor (43)

#### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRY Simpson-Daniel (30)  
PENS Burns (6, 16, 71)

**GLOUCESTER travelled to the west coast of Ireland expecting a battle and the home side, Connacht Rugby, certainly didn't disappoint.**

Bryan Redpath's side had to strain every sinew to leave Galway with four points earned the hard way from a 14-10 win which went right down to the wire.

Connacht are relative newcomers to Heineken Cup action. 2011-12 is the first season they've participated in the tournament and they are still seeking their first win.

And they had obviously targeted this game as a great opportunity to break their duck against a Gloucester side who had lost a number of close games in recent

weeks.

The pre match activities whipped the 5,000 plus crowd into a real patriotic fervour which left Gloucester in no doubt as to the size of the task in front of them.

That passion was reflected by the determination of the Connacht side on the pitch as they threw themselves into every physical encounter with a seeming disregard for personal well being!

However, Gloucester fought fire with fire and weren't intimidated by the atmosphere. In fact, on the day, they produced a disciplined performance which featured far fewer errors than in recent weeks.

They had to settle for two penalties from Freddie Burns in



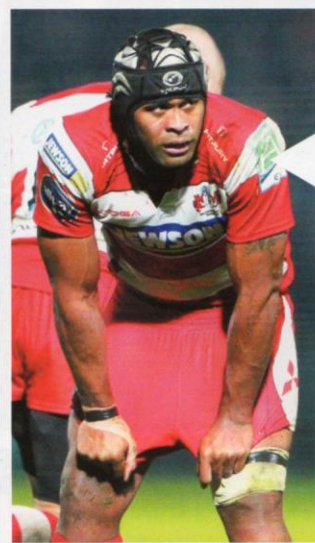


the opening quarter but a superb offload from Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu put James Simpson-Daniel in for a try on the half hour which seemed to open up a bit of daylight.

However, the home team were right back in the game, perhaps slightly fortunately, as a high ball wasn't dealt with cleanly and the ball bounced nicely for skipper Gavin Duffy to score.

A tough second half beckoned and it took incredible discipline from Gloucester to deny Connacht any kicks at goal especially as the wind was now at the backs of the home side.

The defence was solid and the Gloucester pack slowly took control to ensure much of the final quarter was played in the Connacht 22 and Burns late penalty sealed the win.



#### CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

It may not have been the most spectacular moment of the game but it was a significant one. Gloucester had been hanging on to a narrow second half lead when flanker Akapusi Qera produced a turnover at a ruck on his own 22 which fellow openside Andy Hazell would have been proud of. Gloucester cleared and never looked back.

#### KEY QUOTE

"There were some big performances from a lot of people but not necessarily flash - just honest hard-working performances, and we needed that."

**Bryan Redpath**

### CONNACHT RUGBY

- 15 FB Gavin Duffy
- 14 W Mark McCrea
- 13 C Kyle Tonetti
- 12 C David McSharry
- 11 W Tiernan O'Halloran
- 10 FH Niall O'Connor
- 9 SH Frank Murphy
- 1 P Brett Wilkinson
- 2 H Ethienne Reynecke
- 3 P Ronan Loughney
- 4 L Dave Gannon
- 5 L Mike McCarthy
- 6 F John Muldoon
- 7 F Ray Ofisa Treviranus
- 8 N8 George Naoupu

#### Replacements

- 16 R Adrian Flavin
- 17 Dennis Buckley
- 18 R Rodney Ah You
- 19 R Michael Kearney
- 20 R Eoin McKeon
- 21 R Paul O'Donohoe
- 22 Matthew Jarvis
- 23 R Fetu'u Vainikolo

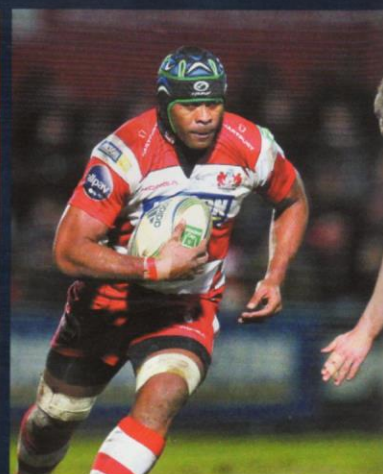
### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Olly Morgan
- 14 W Charlie Sharples
- 13 C Henry Trinder
- 12 C Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
- 11 W James Simpson-Daniel
- 10 FH Freddie Burns
- 9 SH Rory Lawson
- 1 P Nick Wood
- 2 H Scott Lawson
- 3 P Dario Chistolini
- 4 L Peter Buxton
- 5 L Jim Hamilton
- 6 F Brett Deacon
- 7 F Andrew Hazell
- 8 N8 Luke Narryaw

#### Replacements

- 16 R Matias Cortese
- 17 Dan Murphy
- 18 R Rupert Harden
- 19 R Will James
- 20 R Akapusi Qera
- 21 R Nick Runciman
- 22 Tim Taylor
- 23 R Jonny May





**GLOUCESTER RUGBY** 23  
**CONNACHT RUGBY** 19

Heineken Cup, Kingsholm, 17 December 2011, 15:40 KO

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

**TRIES** Taylor (20),  
 May (75)

**CONS** Taylor (21),  
 Burns (76)

**PENS** Taylor (7),  
 Burns (57, 68)

**CONNACHT RUGBY**

**TRY** O'Halloran (11)

**CON** N O'Connor (12)

**PENS** N O'Connor (30, 37, 45, 72)

**ONE missed tackle just a few minutes from time was all it took for Connacht's hopes of a first ever Heineken Cup win to be cruelly shattered.**

With less than four minutes to play, Jonny May fended off flanker Jonny O'Connor before unleashing the pace that has made him the scourge of defences up and down the land.

Freddie Burns added an important touchline conversion and Gloucester took the points with a 23-19 victory.

However, there were precious few celebrations as referee Leighton Hodges blew the final whistle and the agony etched across the faces of the distraught Connacht player spoke volumes.

May's try, without doubt, got

Gloucester out of jail on a day when Connacht did precious little wrong and came so close to an historic win.

Granted, there were times where the home side made it difficult for themselves. Connacht's try was courtesy of an interception when Gloucester got over elaborate in the backs when simplicity was called for.

But Christmas is a time for giving and the men from Galway had no hesitation in accepting the gift of the seven points.

They also gleefully received any number of loose Gloucester clearances which didn't find touch or any great distance downfield and simply afforded them the opportunity to attack the home defence.

Connacht also tackled like demons,





continually bringing down the Gloucester runners in full flight or refusing to let a ball carrier cross the gain line.

And in fly half Niall O'Connor they had a young fly half on top of his game, whether kicking downfield to put his team in the right areas of the pitch or slotting penalties off the tee.

Gloucester did seem to have overcome the early setback of conceding a try against the run of play as Tim Taylor darted over from close range to establish a 10-7 lead but they simply didn't kick on from

there.

In fact, O'Connor's three subsequent penalties took Connacht into a deserved 16-10 lead which they appeared to be defending comfortably enough.

Freddie Burns got Gloucester on level terms with two penalties of his own but O'Connor's 72nd minute penalty looked to be a mortal blow.

That was until May popped up to take an inside pass from Burns to ease Gloucester's jitters and leave Connacht to reflect on what might have been.



#### CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

Without a shadow of a doubt, Jonny May shrugging off the attempted tackle of Jonny O'Connor before exploding clear of the cover to score the game's crucial try with a turn of pace that broke Connacht hearts.

#### KEY QUOTE

"A win's a win, and we need to try and generate some confidence within the group while moving on and trying to be better."

**Bryan Redpath**

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Olly Morgan
- 14 W Charlie Sharples
- 13 C Mike Tindall
- 12 C Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
- 11 W James Simpson-Daniel
- 10 FH Tim Taylor
- 9 SH Nick Runciman
- 1 P Dan Murphy
- 2 H Scott Lawson
- 3 P Rupert Harden
- 4 L Peter Buxton
- 5 L Jim Hamilton
- 6 F Brett Deacon
- 7 F Andrew Hazell
- 8 N8 Luke Narraway

#### Replacements

- 16 R Matias Cortese
- 17 R Nick Wood
- 18 R Shaun Knight
- 19 R Will James
- 20 R Akapusi Qera
- 21 R Rory Lawson
- 22 R Freddie Burns
- 23 R Jonny May

### CONNACHT RUGBY

- 15 FB Gavin Duffy
- 14 W Mark McCrea
- 13 C Eoin Griffin
- 12 C David McSharry
- 11 W Tiernan O'Halloran
- 10 FH Niall O'Connor
- 9 SH Frank Murphy
- 1 P Brett Wilkinson
- 2 H Ethienne Reynecke
- 3 P Ronan Loughney
- 4 L George Naoupu
- 5 L Mike McCarthy
- 6 F Dave Gannon
- 7 F Johnny O'Connor
- 8 N8 John Muldoon

#### Replacements

- 16 R Adrian Flavin
- 17 R Dylan Rogers
- 18 R Rodney Ah You
- 19 R Michael Kearney
- 20 R Eoin McKeon
- 21 R Paul O'Donohoe
- 22 Matthew Jarvis
- 23 R Kyle Tonetti



Teams were correct at time of print

# TODAY'S Line-UPS



**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY**

- 15 OLLY MORGAN
- 14 CHARLIE SHARPLES
- 13 MIKE TINDALL
- 12 ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU
- 11 JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL
- 10 FREDDIE BURNS
- 09 RORY LAWSON
- 01 NICK WOOD
- 02 SCOTT LAWSON
- 03 RUPERT HARDEN
- 04 PETER BUXTON
- 05 JIM HAMILTON
- 06 BRETT DEACON
- 07 ANDY HAZELL
- 08 LUKE NARRAWAY (C)
- 16 MATIAS CORTESE
- 17 SCOTT LAWSON
- 18 DARIO CHISTOLINI
- 19 WILL JAMES
- 20 AKAPUSI QERA
- 21 DAVE LEWIS
- 22 RYAN MILLS
- 23 JONNY MAY



**LONDON  
WASPS**

- 15 HUGO SOUTHWELL
- 14 RICHARD HAUGHTON
- 13 ELLIOT DALY
- 12 RIKI FLUTEY
- 11 CHRISTIAN WADE
- 10 NICKY ROBINSON
- 09 JOE SIMPSON
- 01 TIM PAYNE
- 02 ROB WEBBER
- 03 BEN BROSTER
- 04 MARCO WENTZEL
- 05 ED O'DONOGHUE
- 06 RICHARD BIRKETT
- 07 MATT EVERARD
- 08 JOE BURTON
- 16 TOM LINDSAY
- 17 BOB BAKER
- 18 JEREMY CASTEX
- 19 SAM JONES
- 20 JAMES HARRIS
- 21 NIC BERRY
- 22 RYAN DAVIS
- 23 DOMINIC WALDOUCK

## THE OFFICIALS

**REFEREE:** Greg Garner  
**ASST REFS:** Ashley Rowden and Peter Huckle

## TOP SCORERS 2011/12



150 TOM HOMER

130 Nick Evans

104 Jimmy Gopperth

104 Nick Macleod

99 Ignacio Mieres

92 Owen Farrell



## WHAT ARE THESE ALL ABOUT?

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