



THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ONLY £3



HEINEKEN CUP vs. TOULOUSE

20 JANUARY 2012, KO 8PM

KINGSHOLM NEWS
WITH BOB FENTON

ON PAGE 48

DreamTeam

ON PAGE 56

REGULARS

BRYAN REDPATH,
DAVE KING,
GLOUCESTER CREW,
PETER ARNOLD,
RUGBY NEWS,
ACADEMY...

RUPERT

HARDEN

HEINEKEN CUP ROUND SIX



Captain's CORNER¹



"We want to finish the pool stages on a high, deliver a performance to make our supporters proud and carry some momentum into our forthcoming LV= Cup games..."

IT seems as though it's been quite a long time since I wrote any programme notes and a quick check of the fixture list confirms that it was before Christmas as we were preparing for the visit of London Wasps.

The quirks of the fixture calendar mean that we've kicked off 2012 with three away games in a row which obviously means that it's been a tough start to the year for us.

We did finish off 2011 on a high though. A sell out crowd at Kingsholm on Boxing Day always threatened to be a special occasion and so it proved on the day when we really delivered on the pitch.

We'd dogged out a couple of really tight Heineken Cup victories over Connacht in the weeks leading up to this one but we really hit our straps against Wasps.

We had the benefit of scoring an early try which helped to settle the nerves. I was lucky enough to be the scorer but it was just a case of falling over the line really as the rest of the pack had done the hard work!

After that, we went about playing our usual game and it was one of

those days when the passes went to hand and virtually everything we tried came off.

When we play like that, we can be difficult to live with and it's just frustrating that we've not been able to deliver that sort of performance on a more frequent basis this season.

New Year's Day saw us travel to Vicarage Road to take on Saracens and the weather conditions and the opposition meant that a far different type of performance was required.

Moving the ball around wasn't really an option so it turned out to be a really tough battle up front in what was quite an attritional encounter.

On days like that, you get a feeling as to what it must be like to be an American footballer when you put your body on the line for the whole game but then the outcome can depend on what your goal kicker does.

Fair play to Freddie Burns, he's got nerves of steel at times and it was great to see that final kick fly between the posts to earn us the draw.

Having strung together a number of decent results, it made it all the more frustrating to come unstuck at Worcester the following week,

particularly as we felt in control when we were 10-3 up.

There can be no excuses. We're the ones on the pitch who are responsible for executing the game plan and we didn't deliver in the second half and it was a bitter pill to swallow.

It meant that we were doubly determined to try and put the record straight last weekend at the Stoop and I think we did that but the rugby gods saw to it that Quins edged the win.

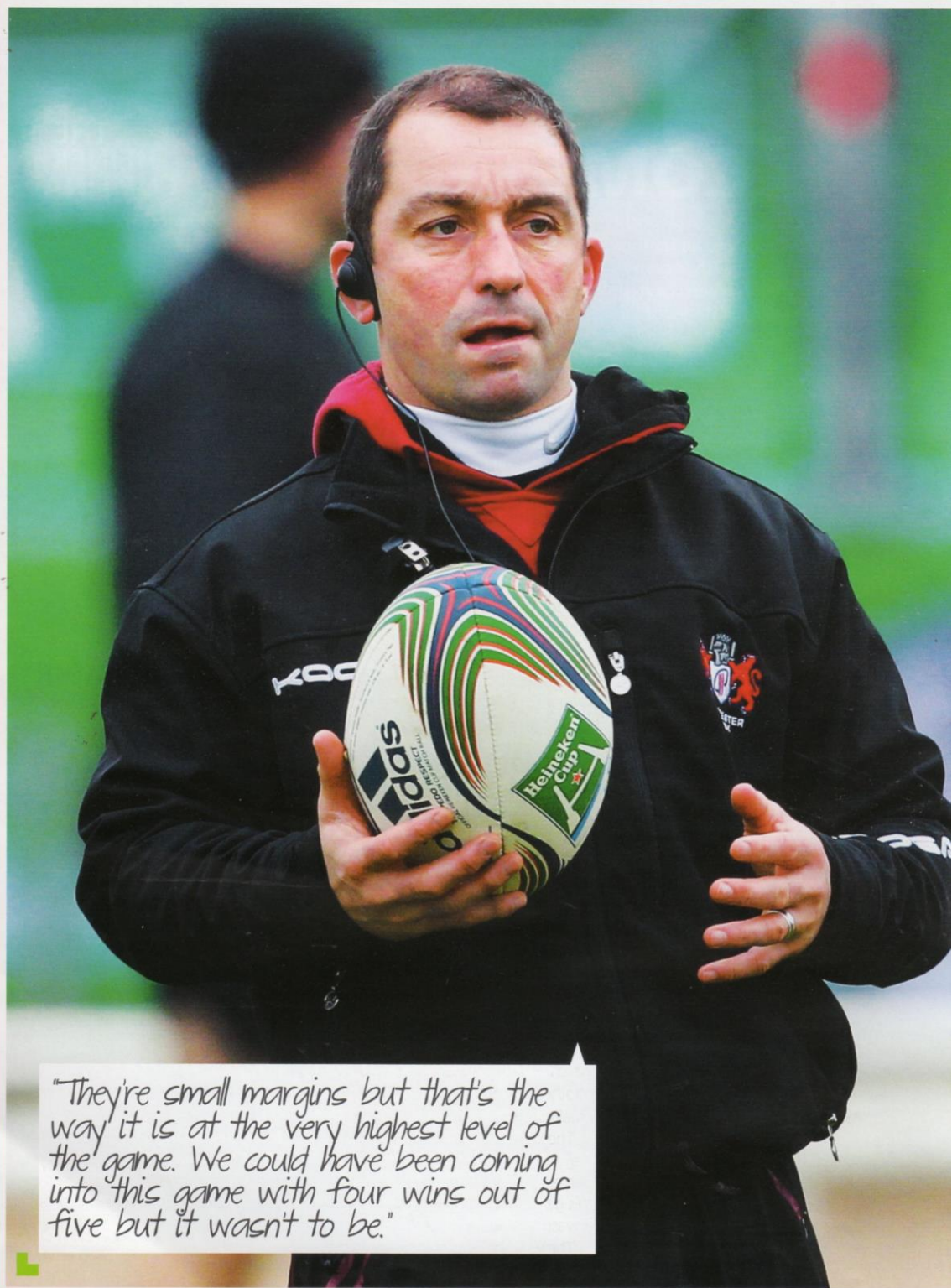
We came so close to taking the points and both of their tries were as a result of our mistakes rather than them doing something in attack to hurt us.

The result means that our chances of qualification are gone but Toulouse come here tonight needing a result whilst the Quins boys will be hoping that we can do them a favour!

We certainly won't be lacking motivation. We want to finish the pool stages on a high, deliver a performance to make our supporters proud and carry some momentum into our forthcoming LV= Cup games as we seek to defend our crown.

It should be a great one tonight and I hope you all enjoy the game.

Enjoy the game!



"They're small margins but that's the way it is at the very highest level of the game. We could have been coming into this game with four wins out of five but it wasn't to be."

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 TOULOUSE A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM THIS EVENING.

Tonight's game obviously sees the pool stages of the Heineken Cup draw to a close and a number of the pools are still wide open, which is exactly what the organisers would have been hoping for.

Pool 6 is no different with both Harlequins and our visitors tonight, Toulouse, vying for top position and automatic qualification.

It goes without saying that we'd love to be playing for that qualification place ourselves but we still have a huge part to play in terms of deciding the destiny of the group.

We knew even before the tournament started that our pool was one of the very toughest in the competition.

Toulouse have won the tournament four times previously and would love nothing more than to achieve win number five, while Quins have been the form team in England all season.

And, of course, there's Connacht who have acquitted themselves magnificently in their first season in the competition and, as we have found out ourselves, have proved to be a tough nut to crack even though they are yet to win a game.

It's been a tough competition for us and the main difference from last year, when we competed in the Amlin Challenge Cup, is that we've had to put out our very best team each and every week whereas last year we could get away with making a few changes.

That's quite tough on the clubs who, like ourselves, have relatively small squads compared to some of the French clubs for example. It's high intensity rugby each and every week and that can take its toll in terms of injuries and fatigue.

For all that, I don't think we've been

a million miles away this season taking into account the calibre of opposition.

We went down to Toulouse and gave a really good account of ourselves when no-one really gave us a prayer. With a little more composure on the day, we could have clinched a fantastic win on the road.

The one game where we didn't do ourselves justice was the round two fixture against Harlequins where we dominated possession and territory but



couldn't convert our chances. Dropping the ball over the line twice was testimony to that.

In contrast, Quins were really clinical and came away with points every time they created a scoring opportunity. Fair play to them, it was a very professional performance.

We battled our way to home and away wins over Connacht which were far from easy and last week at the Stoop put in a display of pride and passion which could very easily have resulted in another win but for the ball bouncing cruelly for us.

They're small margins but that's the way it is at the very highest level of the game. We could have been coming into this game with four wins out of five but it wasn't to be.

The way the pool stands, we know that Toulouse will be bringing a very

strong team over and, to be honest, we wouldn't have it any other way.

As players and coaches, you want to pit yourself against the very best the game has to offer and tonight's game falls into that category.

When you talk of the cream of the crop in European club rugby, Toulouse are right up there.

Like everyone else, they were missing players to the Rugby World Cup when the season kicked off, yet have come through that only losing two games and are heading the Top 14.

And their European pedigree is beyond reproach. Winning the Heineken Cup four times speaks for itself and they're one of the tournament favourites this time around.

We can have a say in that of course. Qualification may now be beyond us but we still have plenty of motivation for the game this evening.

Not least, of course, is the fact that we're back at home playing in front of our own supporters.

Losing a couple at home prior to Christmas really did hurt us and we've no desire to experience that feeling again.

We want to finish our Heineken Cup campaign in style and a win this evening would achieve that.

We owe it to ourselves, we owe it to our supporters and we also owe it to the tournament itself.

We'll be giving it everything this evening and will hopefully give you all something to shout about as your backing could make a massive difference.

Enjoy the game.



ROUND-UP ON PAGE 38

View from

The Citizen



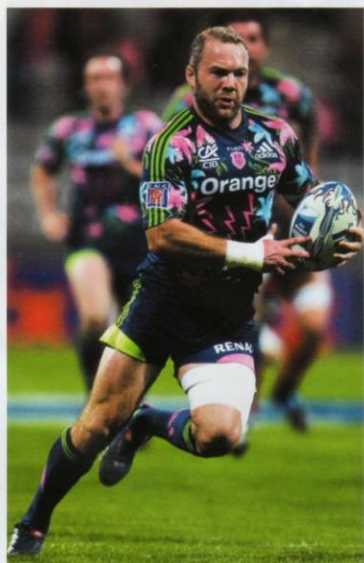
WITH NICK PUREWAL

OLLIE WINGS INTO KINGSHOLM

“GLOUCESTER HAS A GREAT RUGBY FAMILY AND THERE’S A BRILLIANT RUGBY FRATERNITY, AND I CAN’T THINK OF A PLACE I’D RATHER PLAY.”

When Ollie Phillips realised his time at Newcastle Falcons was drawing to a close, the first thing he did was set up a meeting with Dean Ryan.

If the Durham University graduate had to leave Kingston Park, he was intent on securing himself a move to a club he had always dreamed of representing.



Every time the England Sevens captain turned out at Kingsholm in a Falcons shirt, he stood around and marvelled at the famous ground’s passionate fans – and the unbridled roar of the crowd.

As the 2008/9 season petered out, Phillips met then Gloucester boss Ryan at Kingsholm, with a view to securing a move to the Cherry and Whites.

That deal never materialised, and the pacy wing wound up moving to cosmopolitan French outfit Stade Francais.

Two years and half a season later, the former Brighton College pupil has finally realised that aim of a Kingsholm deal.

It might only be until the end of the season as things stand, but the 29 year old admitted he is desperate to make a big enough impression to extend his Cherry and Whites tenure past the summer.

Phillips explained:

“I came down and met Dean before I left Newcastle and signed for Stade. That was my first move when I realised that Newcastle were not going to offer me a new deal.

“I have always loved Gloucester



as a team and a place to play rugby. I was really keen to come then, but obviously it didn’t happen.

“Stade was an amazing experience, but now I’m absolutely delighted to have secured this move.

"The people of Gloucester have the highest standards for their club and their rugby players, and I know I have a duty to uphold those now.

"I really feel I've made the right decision and am excited about what's ahead. Hopefully I can get a chance to show what I can do, that will be a challenge in itself, forcing my way into a place where I can have opportunities to play.

"If you get an opportunity and you don't perform, then you only have yourself to blame.

"So hopefully I can get a chance,

to Gloucester for the short term. I appreciate I've got to earn anything more than past the end of the season, but this is where I want to play my rugby.

"With Charlie Sharples, James Simpson-Daniel, Tom Voyce and Jonny May all there as established wingers, that's a fantastic line-up.

"So there's a huge challenge right from the off, and I can't wait to get stuck in.

"Hopefully I can get a chance, play well and earn a long-term deal, that would be awesome.

up without a club while he battled to recover from knee surgery.

Now back to full fitness and raring to go, Phillips has thrown himself

“I ALWAYS RELISHED PLAYING IN FRONT OF THE SHED...”

into his first week of training with Bryan Redpath's men.

Phillips was top-scorer at Stade last term, and has set himself the tough aim of trying to reproduce that form for Gloucester, if and when he gets chance.

He continued:

"I know the area well because I have a lot of friends locally, and I have always had great respect for the traditions and history.

"I always relished playing in front of The Shed, but it will be nice to have the chance to do it for the right side.

"I've taken a fair amount of abuse over the years from them, so it will be a privilege to play for them.

"Gloucester has a great rugby family and there's a brilliant rugby fraternity, and I can't think of a place I'd rather play.

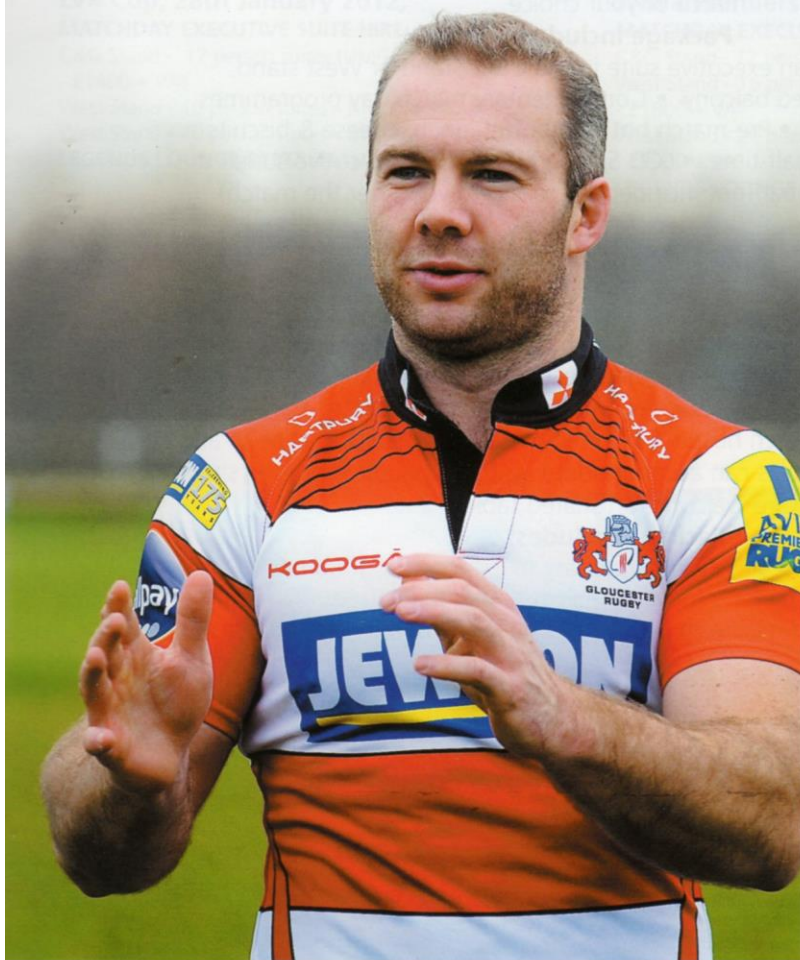
"Now the challenge is to reproduce my form from Stade last season to be honest, I'm desperate to get back to those levels.

"I had what's called a micro-fracture surgery in my knee, which means I chipped the cartilage off the bone.

"So you have to have surgery where they drill into the bone, and blood fills the gap.

"You have to be very strict not to push yourself too hard or fast on the rehab, because you can easily chip that scarring.

"I've been able to go straight past that without too many worries, and now I'm really excited about getting going."



and then the rest is up to me.

"Obviously with Lesley leaving this really benefits both parties, and it's come at a great time for me, just coming back to fitness.

"If possible I don't want to come

"I'd really like to thank Bryan Redpath and John Brain for giving me this opportunity, and hopefully I can repay them for it."

Stade's money woes led to Phillips leaving in the summer, and he ended

As the family start entering their afternoon food coma, that's my time to leave and head back. With only Christmas radio to keep me company, I couldn't help but feel a slight pang of despair as Chris Rea's "Driving home for Christmas" came on - as I was driving in totally the wrong direction!

LIVING RUGBY



<http://www.livingrugby.co.uk/blogs/rupert-harden>



PROP CULTURE

RUPERT HARDEN

MATTER OF FACT
The Australian-born prop represented England Counties in his youth



It's been a long road to regular first team rugby at the highest level for Gloucester Rugby prop Rupert Harden.

AND not just because he had to move from the North East to Kingsholm in order to achieve his dream of testing himself against the best in the business!

It's a fact of life in modern day rugby union that patience is often needed when it comes to watching props develop from promising youngsters into seasoned first team contributors.

Rare indeed are cases such as Jason Leonard who was propping for England at the tender age of 21. More often, it's a case of controlled progression through various key stages and Harden is a prime example of that.

Now in his third season at Kingsholm, he admits that he might not even be wearing the Cherry and White hoops of Gloucester if it weren't for a chance encounter with some Gloucester 'legends'.

"I'd been part of the Newcastle Falcons' Academy and was playing for Tynedale when I came up against Cinderford.

"It's a game I remember vividly. Well, I certainly remember Pasty (Mark Cornwell)! We had a pretty good pack and they also had Rob Fidler and Andy Deacon playing.

"We had a pretty good battle against them up front in both games, home and away, and then I got a phone call from Pasty asking me to come down for a week and have a look around. And then Dean Ryan signed me."

When the 25 year old arrived in Gloucester back in the summer of 2009, there was plenty of strength in depth at the position. Greg Somerville was the man in possession and Pierre Capdevielle and Paul Doran-Jones also signed that summer.

However, it proved to be a good season for the former England Counties cap as he explains:

"I had to work hard. I really

improved my fitness and learned such a lot from Yoda (Somerville) but also guys like Olivier Azam and Pierre.

"We didn't have a coach who specialized in scrummaging like we



"...the most important thing for me is that I'm getting a chance to test myself against the very best in the game, week in and week out. And that can only be good for me and for Gloucester."

do now with John Brain but the other guys were fantastic at passing on their knowledge.

"I had a good season on loan at Moseley playing in the Championship, putting it all into practice and playing regularly and my

game really came on.

"That time in the Championship was really beneficial for me. You've got to learn your trade and it's a really good league. I enjoyed it and it was good for me."

It was the latter part of 2010-11 though when the first team breakthrough happened as he featured regularly after Christmas, slowly but surely clocking up game time exposure.

"It was really good for me actually. I was just looking for an opportunity and I got one in the LV= Cup in the New Year. I played the two final group games and the semi final and the final.

"That was a fantastic experience for me and I think I was involved in the matchday squad virtually every weekend after that."

At the club's end of season awards dinner, he admits that he was slightly surprised (pleasantly though!) to be named by Carl Hogg as the club's most improved forward of the season. But that it was a welcome boost as he strives to carry on improving his game.

"I was a bit taken aback but it's always nice to get some praise from Hogg! It's good to know that your hard work has been recognized and appreciated but it's important to kick on from there.

"Dario (Chistolini) came in during the summer and he's helped to keep me on my toes this season. You have to keep on delivering otherwise you'll be on the outside looking in.

"But the most important thing for me is that I'm getting a chance to test myself against the very best in the game, week in and week out. And that can only be good for me and for Gloucester."

Wise words indeed and with the best part of his career hopefully lying ahead of him, let's hope that there's still much more to come from Rupert Harden in a Gloucester shirt.

KINGSHOLM NEWS

WITH BOB FENTON

I'M SURE THAT SOMEWHERE IN THE DIM AND DISTANT PAST, SOMEONE WROTE A SONG THAT CONTAINED A LINE ABOUT LIFE BEING A ROLLER COASTER – I.E. YOU HAVE YOUR UPS AND DOWNS.

I can only assume that whoever penned these words was a Gloucester fan because the kind of soaring, plummeting, twisting and turning ride that we've experienced of late, could only be found in the furthest recesses of a roller coaster designer's mind.

Having plummeted our way to several hundred feet below ground with seven losses in a row (a minor surge back up the 'hope' scale with the performance in Toulouse), we spiralled up with a great performance against what has to be the worst Wasps side we have ever seen on Boxing Day.

Yes, Wasps were poor, but for once everything we tried seemed to come off – I think Bryan Redpath was right when he said it was our performance of the season so far.

The following week, a very deep descent back to earth beckoned with a trip to what has to be the worst venue to be found on the professional rugby circuit anywhere in the world – or Vicarage Road, as it is known.

The expected plummet failed to happen though. If anything we pushed on further up to dizzy heights with a well-earned draw at Saracens.

Could we go higher the following week? On paper we



looked to be way stronger than our hosts at Sixways, but we don't play on paper do we? We play on grass – and they covered it far better than us.

Courtesy of a cameo by the 108 year old Andy Goode and a length of the field sprint by one of our old boys, we came away with nothing, and the Cherry and White roller coaster car hurtled earthwards seemingly – if you believe the pundits (and some fans) - destined for another major collapse at the Stoop.

Sure enough the result last weekend ends our Heineken Cup hopes for this year, but the anticipated hammering failed to materialise.

Instead our roller coaster ride continued and – despite the loss – put in one of the best performance by a Gloucester side at the Stoop in some years.

It's obviously disappointing to lose, but that's sport... You win some, you lose some but when you see a performance like we put in – and I love the fact that so many commentators were bemoaning Quins' off day with no recognition of a great defensive effort that stopped them playing – it gives you hope for the future.

Maybe it's time to trot out the Kipling quote from 'If' about facing both triumph and disaster in the same way.

So what does that mean for today's game...? Given that Quins will probably get the win at Connacht, and possibly even a bonus point, Toulouse will have to go for the win here today to secure top spot in the group and certain qualification for the knock out stages.

That means they will

“ INVOKE THE SPIRIT OF KINGSHOLM'S FORE FATHERS AND GET OUT THERE AND CREATE SOME MAGICAL MAYHEM AND LETS UPSET THIS POOL AND SHUT UP SOME OF THE COMMENTATORS...” ”

probably be forced to name a pretty much full strength squad. And that's a pretty scary prospect for anyone lining up on the opposite side of the field.

There is no doubt that Toulouse are a mighty side – almost a rugby equivalent of the Harlem Globe Trotters. Check their team details in the programme – almost more caps among that lot than the rest of pool six put together.

According to the ERC website, they have trotted out 123 times in the competition since it was first played in 1995/6 and they have racked up nearly 3,500 points – an average of around 29 scored (and about 18 conceded) in every match they have played.

They are joint top of the

ERC rankings with Gloucester a bit further down the list in 18th place. And finally with a 64% win rate against English opposition you could be forgiven for thinking that we might as well not bother turning up tonight.

But it's nights like this when local legends are born, and I can imagine one or two of our youngsters borrowing that phrase said to have been uttered by Mike Tindall in the tunnel prior to the World Cup final: “Yeah baby, this is why we play rugby!”

Kingsholm on a cold and wet Friday night (I'm guessing at the weather, I have no divine knowledge) is going to be a heck of a lot more inhospitable than Stade Ernest Wallon.

And we all know that

Kingsholm under floodlights creates its own unique atmosphere, and that has helped claim the scalps of many other teams that were billed as runaway favourites before kick-off.

So come on boys, summon up the courage and commitment of players that no one had heard of before downing Leicester in that monumental match, or against a high flying Bath side the season after.

Invoke the spirit of Kingsholm's fore-fathers and get out there and create some magical mayhem and lets upset this pool and shut up some of the commentators who think we are only here to make up the numbers.

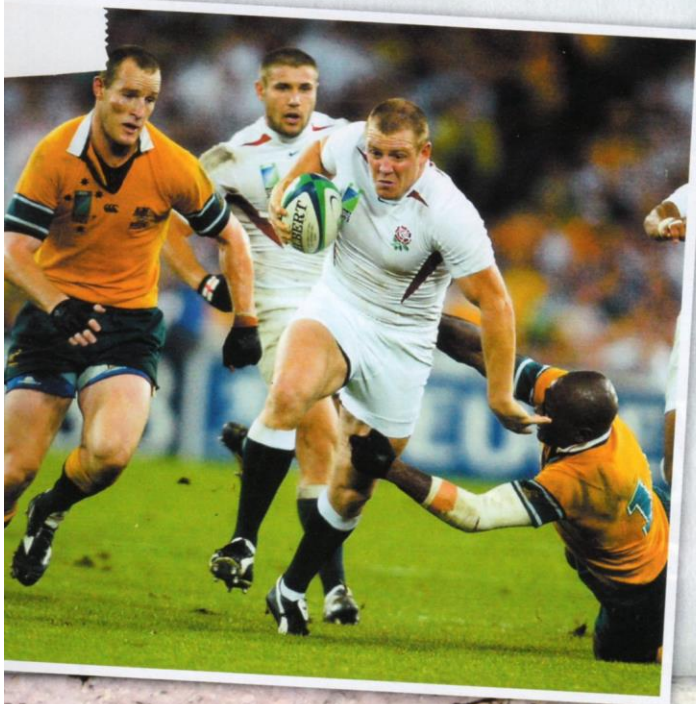
Gawd... What came over me... I need to lie down for a minute!

Finally a date for your diaries: On April 21 the annual Shedweb v Cherrypickers match will take place not at Widden Old Boys as in previous years, but here on the hallowed Kingsholm turf.

The club have kindly agreed for us to run out here, a major honour for us. What's more, they have even arranged a 'warm up act', with Gloucester taking on Sale immediately prior to the main event!

Please make sure you stick around, you won't get a chance to see legends like Russ Brooks, Lawrence 'injured' Landray, Jim 'Durace!' Harley, Andy 'OT' Tee et al at Kingsholm for much longer – well not outside the bar anyways.

More information to follow nearer the time.





Gloucester

with Peter Arnold

talk

WELL DONE CHARLIE!

NICE to see Charlie Sharples gliding his way into the first extended England squad under the new regime. Not entirely unexpected, but welcome all the same and very well deserved.

Of course, it remains to be seen whether he gets a run during the Six Nations, and we could be forgiven when we remember the treatment some other Gloucester players have received once they have been admitted to the squad.

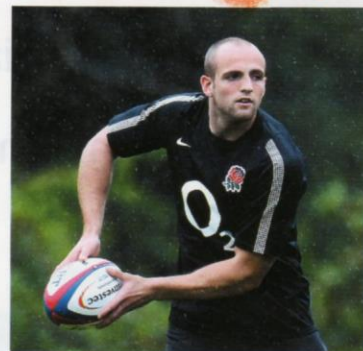
I'm particularly thinking of the cases of Henry Paul and Anthony Allen, who I thought were both spectacularly mishandled by the management at the time. I could also mention Lesley Vainikolo, but more of that later.

However, there is a whole new clutch of faces at the top now, and some of the old ones have disappeared (Did I hear "About time too!").

So I have every hope that the breath of fresh air which, from this distance, seems to be breezing through the England camp, might produce a better atmosphere and more equitable treatment throughout the squad.

So, well done Charlie, but he'll forgive me when I say that I can think of several Cherry and Whites who could well have joined him.

I can't for the life of me think why Nick Wood is so consistently ignored. It cries out aloud that there are no English props as formidable, week in and week out as he is.



Narraway must be disappointed too. He's been playing very well this season, and deserves another look. Perhaps it's fair enough to leave the younger players like Trinder, May and Burns in the Saxons for another season, but I'm sure they'll push themselves into the reckoning before long.

Meanwhile, "Run Charlie, run!"

HARD LUCK LADS!

I WATCHED the Quins match on Sky last Saturday, and was quite impressed by what I saw.

All right, so we lost, but the game could so easily have gone the other way. We were undone by a couple of pieces of ill luck just when the home side seemed about to buckle, having made a few unforced errors while

they were a point down.

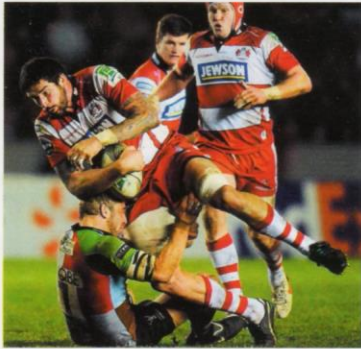
The pivotal moment came when Jonny May was pushed in the back as he was running back to field a shrewd kick through. The officials didn't spot it, but it was very obvious on our TV screens.

The result was that Jonny was forced to carry the ball over the line

before he touched down.

That was followed, as such things often do, by a whole series of five metre scrums, and eventually by Nick Wood receiving a yellow card fifteen minutes or so from the final whistle.

Even then we might have got away with it. Some shrewd substitutions added bulk to the scrum, with Mike



Tindall taking an unaccustomed stint at No.8.

Then came the second piece of ill fortune. Charlie Sharples was defeated by an absolutely evil bounce as he tried to field the ball. There was nothing he could do and the try was duly scored followed by a conversion.

But it could all have been so different, a point which will not have been lost on tonight's welcome visitors.

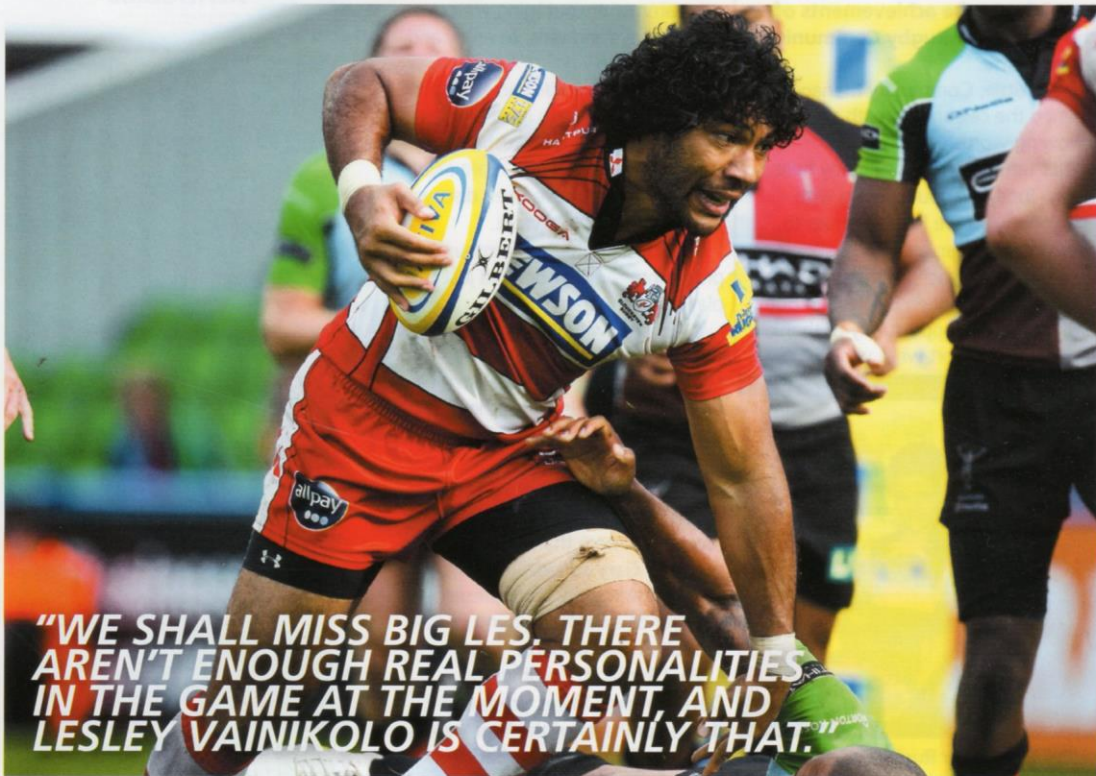
You'll remember that we came very

close to beating them on their own patch, and that Quins did achieve that feat, only to be very nearly undone by Gloucester at the Stoop.

Now Toulouse have to face us in our own bailiwick. Should make for an interesting confrontation.

Whatever happens, we can be proud of our lads. As it turned out we have had to take on the best side in France, and arguably the best side in England in our group, and came very close to beating both of them.

GOODBYE BIG LES



I EXPECT that all of us will have been sorry to see the departure of Lesley Vainikolo for the green pastures of France.

It has to be admitted that he didn't really make the impact we all hoped and thought he would, but there are reasons for that.

It all started so well. Big Les scored no fewer than five tries in his debut game against his old club Leeds.

That was quite remarkable, but I remember writing at the time, in

these very pages, that I hoped that the England authorities wouldn't immediately bung him into the national side after playing only a handful of Union games.

Of course, they did, and the result was a disaster. Not only did he not score a single try in his handful of games, but, if truth be told, he didn't look like doing so. It was a case of too far too fast, as some of us had warned.

Then, soon afterwards, family

bereavements sent him back home, just when he might have buckled down and become a power in the land.

After that, he never realised his undoubted potential. It is to be hoped that his stint over the Channel will help him do that.

We shall miss Big Les. There aren't enough real personalities in the game at the moment, and Lesley Vainikolo is certainly that.

If only for his hairstyles.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 39
LONDON WASPS 10

Aviva Premiership Rugby, Kingsholm, 26 December 2011, 15:00 KO

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES Narraway (5),
May (13, 34),
Trinder (49),
Morgan (55, 57)

CONS Burns (6, 15, 58)

PENS Burns (47)

LONDON WASPS

TRY Daly (22)

CON Robinson (23)

PEN Robinson (40)

AFTER the four battles of the previous two weeks in the Heineken Cup against Connacht, Gloucester threw off the shackles and cut loose against London Wasps on Boxing Day.

The Wycombe based outfit find themselves in a dark place at the moment but, even taking that into account, it was an impressive performance from Bryan Redpath's side.

In front of a capacity Kingsholm crowd, Gloucester ran in six tries and scored their first try scoring bonus point of the season as they romped to a 39-10 victory to sign off 2011 in style.

The platform was laid up front by an impressive effort from the

Gloucester pack who simply swept aside their Wasps counterparts whose ranks have been decimated by retirements and injury so far this season.

Once bludgeoned up front, it was then over to the rapier like Gloucester backs who sliced their way, seemingly at will, through a hapless Wasps defence.

Early scores from Luke Narraway and Jonny May set the Cherry and Whites on their way with the latter, in particular, showcasing some impressive offloading under pressure.

There was a brief flurry of resistance from the visitors who took advantage of Gloucester conceding a rare free kick at scrum time leading



to a try from promising centre Elliot Daly.

May added a second try as Gloucester threatened to clinch the bonus point before half time but only a superb tap tackle from Freddie Burns stopped Wasps flyer Richard Haughton from an instant response.

A penalty from former Kingsholm favourite Nick Robinson made the half time score 19-10 meaning that Wasps weren't entirely out of the hunt but they were simply blown away in the second half.

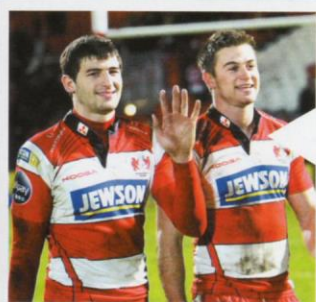
A sublime individual effort from Henry Trinder followed a penalty from Freddie Burns as Gloucester put the outcome beyond doubt before Olly Morgan added a brace of tries as Gloucester, by now full of

confidence and running, started to really enjoy themselves.

It could have been worse for Wasps. Charlie Sharples was only denied a try by the intervention of the Television Match Official as Haughton was nearly caught with his pants down, dallying over a grubber kicked through into the Wasps in goal area.

Sharples was disappointed as the outcome went against him but not as disappointed as the Wasps side who were a visibly beaten side by this point.

But it mattered not a jot to the Gloucester fans who celebrated long and hard at the final whistle as they reflected upon the Christmas feast served up by their side.



KEY QUOTE

"We haven't played like that all season, but there was the right link between backs and forwards with energy and tempo to our game.

"The Gloucester people were outstanding, to come and fill Kingsholm on Boxing Day and sing and shout, we needed that.

Bryan Redpath

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Olly Morgan
- 14 W Jonny May
- 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 Rupert Harden
- 4 L Peter Buxton
- 5 L Jim Hamilton
- 6 F Alasdair Strokosch
- 7 F Akapusi Qera
- 8 N8 Luke Narraway (c)

REPLACEMENTS

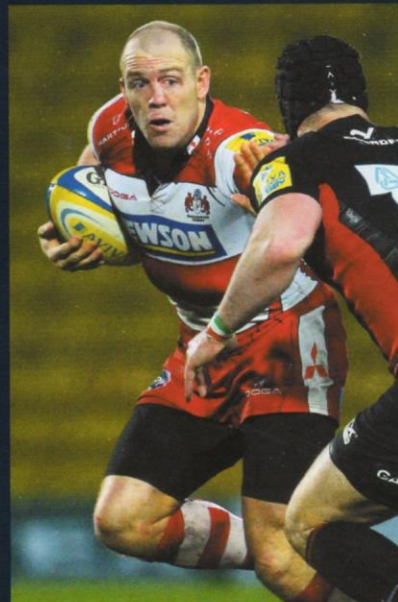
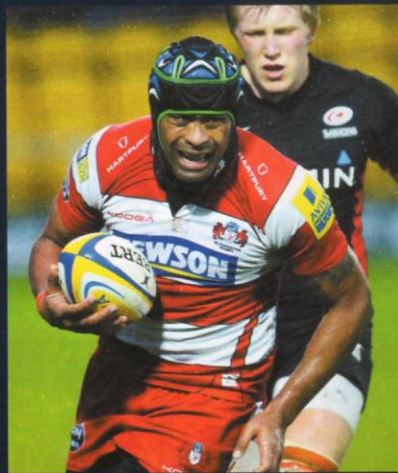
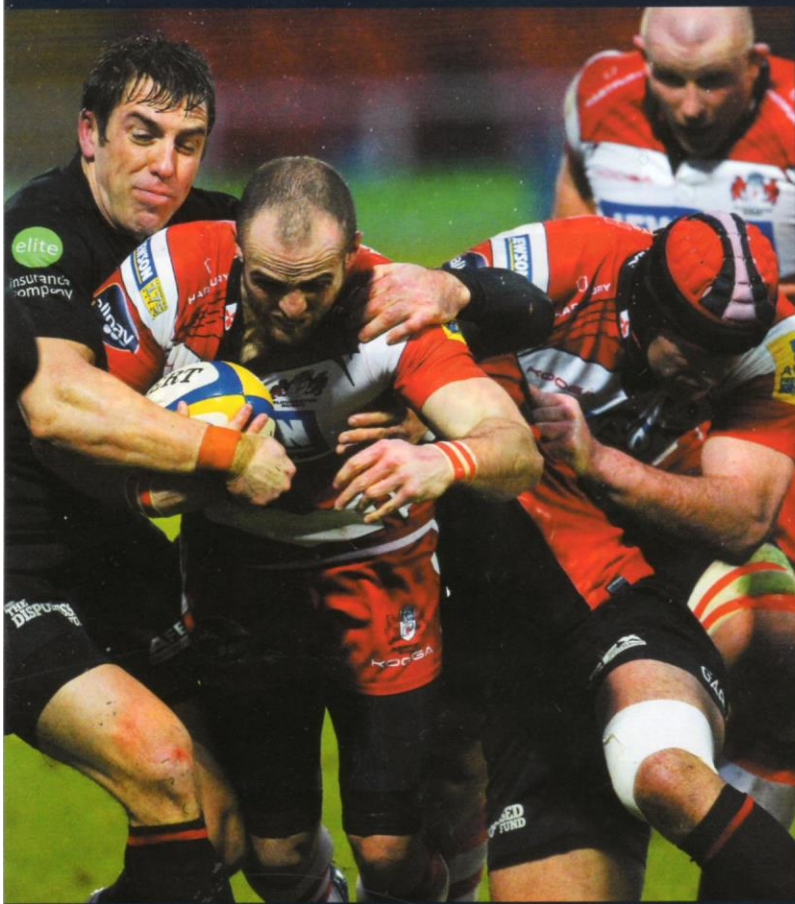
- 16 H Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 P Dan Murphy
- 18 P Dario Chistolini
- 19 F Brett Deacon
- 20 F Matt Cox
- 21 SH Dave Lewis
- 22 FH Ryan Mills
- 23 FB Charlie Sharples

LONDON WASPS

- 15 FB Hugo Southwell
- 14 W Richard Haughton
- 13 C Elliot Daly
- 12 C Riki Flutey
- 11 W Christian Wade
- 10 FH Nicky Robinson
- 9 SH Joe Simpson
- 1 P Tim Payne
- 2 H Rob Webber
- 3 P Ben Broster
- 4 L Ed O'Donoghue
- 5 L Marco Wentzel (c)
- 6 F Richard Birkett
- 7 F Matt Everard
- 8 N8 Joe Burton

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 H Tom Lindsay
- 17 Bob Baker
- 18 P Jeremy Castex
- 19 N8 Sam Jones
- 20 F Jamie Harris
- 21 SH Nic Berry
- 22 Ryan Davis
- 23 FB Tom Vardell



SARACENS 15
 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 15

Aviva Premiership Rugby, Vicarage Road, 1 January 2011, 15:00 KO

SARACENS

PENS Farrell (9, 17, 24, 48, 67)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

PENS Burns (11, 37, 53, 61, 77)

IN contrast to the feast of festive rugby served up the week before in front of their own supporters at Kingsholm, Gloucester had to drastically change their approach as they kicked off 2012 at Vicarage Road against the current Aviva Premiership champions, Saracens.

It was partly down to the weather conditions – New Year’s Day in Watford featured rain teaming down throughout the game – and the quality of the opposition.

Saracens were always going to be a tough nut to crack even on a day lending itself to attacking rugby. But the greasy ball all but ruled out slick handling and meant that the usually adventurous Cherry and Whites had

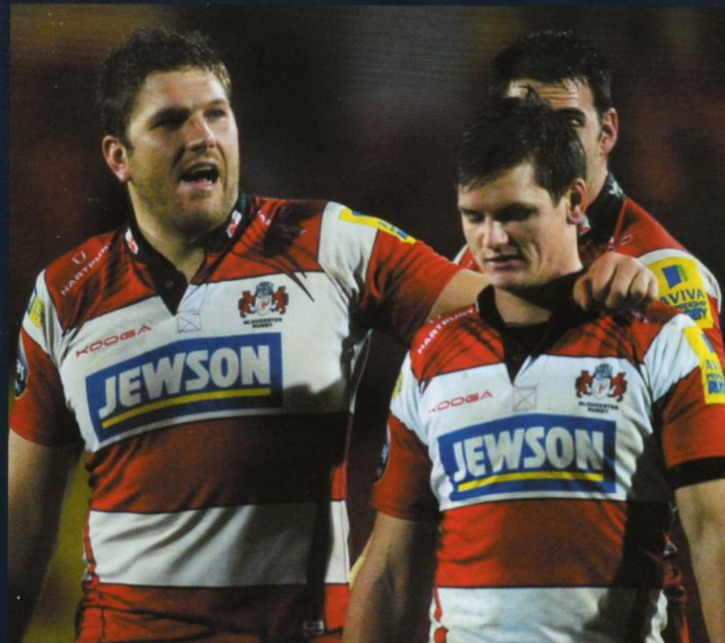
to play more pragmatically than usual.

This wasn’t such an issue for the home side! Saracens aren’t renowned for their expansive rugby at the best of times and the weather lent itself to their preferred style of play.

As a result the Gloucester back three were treated to a steady diet of up and unders descending from the leaden Watford skies, punctuated only by the occasional low kick drilled through.

Gloucester hardly played Barbarians rugby themselves, any attempt to do so would have been naïve at best and foolhardy at worst.

The ball was shipped to the outside backs on a couple of occasions but the narrow Vicarage Road pitch



negated any attempt to put width on the game.

No, this game was won or lost (or drawn!) up front. The respective packs went at it hammer and tong throughout and scoring opportunities were limited to penalty attempts.

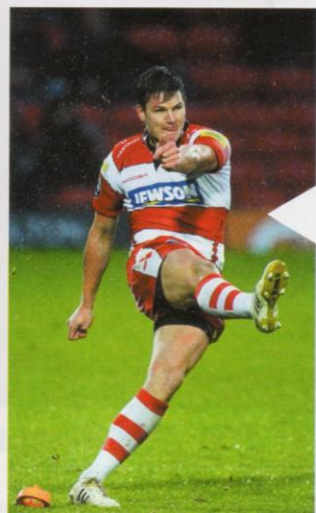
The two young English fly half halves, Freddie Burns and Owen Farrell, were therefore thrust into the spotlight and both did their teams proud on the day.

Farrell looked as though he'd given his team a decisive edge when they

led 9-3 and 12-6 and the penalty which gave Saracens a 15-12 lead late on looked to be a mortal blow for Gloucester.

However, a sterling effort from the Gloucester forwards saw them eke out enough opportunities for Burns to respond in kind and the 21 year old did himself, and his team, proud.

A draw was probably the fairest result on the day although, given Saracens formidable home form, Gloucester would probably have been the happier of the two teams.



CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

Conditions decreed that moments of individual brilliance were going to few and far between at Vicarage Road. But credit to Freddie Burns for keeping his cool under immense pressure and landing the late penalty which earned Gloucester a draw.

KEY QUOTE

"I think we can take a lot away from the game, in terms of how astute you need to be around the contact area.

"It wasn't pretty but we played under difficult conditions. We've got the result and we'll move on."

Bryan Redpath

SARACENS

- 15 FB Alex Goode
- 14 W Chris Wyles
- 13 C Adam Powell
- 12 C Brad Barritt
- 11 W James Short
- 10 FH Owen Farrell
- 9 SH Peter Stringer
- 1 P Rhys Gill
- 2 H Jamie George
- 3 P Matt Stevens
- 4 L Steve Borthwick (c)
- 5 L Mouritz Botha
- 6 F Kelly Brown
- 7 F Andy Saull
- 8 N8 Jackson Wray

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 H Schalk Brits
- 17 P John Smit
- 18 P Carlos Nieto
- 19 L George Kruijs
- 20 F Justin Melck
- 21 SH Ben Spencer
- 22 Nils Mordt
- 23 Duncan Taylor

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Olly Morgan
- 14 W Charlie Sharples
- 13 C Henry Trinder
- 12 C Mike Tindall
- 11 W James Simpson-Daniel
- 10 FH Freddie Burns
- 9 SH Rory Lawson
- 1 P Nick Wood
- 2 H Scott Lawson
- 3 P Rupert Harden
- 4 L Peter Buxton
- 5 L Jim Hamilton
- 6 F Alasdair Strokosch
- 7 F Akapusi Qera
- 8 N8 Luke Narryaway (c)

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 H Matias Cortese
- 17 Dan Murphy
- 18 P Dario Chistolini
- 19 Brett Deacon
- 20 F Matt Cox
- 21 Dave Lewis
- 22 Ryan Mills
- 23 Tom Voyce

TODAY'S Line-UPS



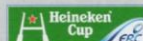
- 15 JONNY MAY
- 14 CHARLIE SHARPLES
- 13 MIKE TINDALL
- 12 ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU
- 11 JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL
- 10 FREDDIE BURNS
- 09 RORY LAWSON
- 01 NICK WOOD
- 02 SCOTT LAWSON
- 03 RUPERT HARDEN
- 04 JIM HAMILTON
- 05 ALEX BROWN
- 06 ALASDAIR STROKOSCH
- 07 AKAPUSI QERA
- 08 LUKE NARRAWAY (C)
- 16 DARREN DAWIDIUK
- 17 DAN MURPHY
- 18 SHAUN KNIGHT
- 19 WILL JAMES
- 20 MATT COX
- 21 DAVE LEWIS
- 22 RYAN MILLS
- 23 HENRY TRINDER

- 15 MAXIME MEDARD
- 14 VINCENT CLERC
- 13 YANN DAVID
- 12 FLORIAN FRITZ
- 11 TIMOCI MATANAVOU
- 10 LUKE MCALISTER
- 09 LUKE BURGESS
- 01 GURTHRO STEENKAMP
- 02 WILLIAM SERVAT
- 03 CENSUS JOHNSTON
- 04 YOANN MAESTRI
- 05 PATRICIO ALBACETE
- 06 JEAN BOUILHOU
- 07 THIERRY DUSATOIR
- 08 LOUIS PICAMOLES
- 16 CHRISTOPHER TOLOFUA
- 17 DAAN HUMAN
- 18 JEAN-BAPTISTE POUX
- 19 GREGORY LAMBOLEY
- 20 JEAN-MARC DOUSSAIN
- 21 LIONEL BEAUXIS
- 22 CLEMENT POITRENAUD
- 23 SHAUN SOWERBY

Teams were correct at time of print

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE: George Clancy
ASST REFS: Michael Black and Ollie Hodges



Pool 6 Table

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
Toulouse	5	4	0	1	126	71	2	18
Harlequins	5	4	0	1	114	85	0	16
Gloucester	5	2	0	3	77	98	2	10
Connacht	5	0	0	5	59	122	2	2



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HEINEKEN CUP



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