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GLOUCESTER RUGBY

WEEKDAY PROGRAMME

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REGULARS

THE CITIZEN,
DAVE KING,
BOB FENTON,
COMMUNITY

VS TOULOUSE



ALL THE POST-MATCH REACTIONS INSIDE

AKAPUSI ERA



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LV= CUP: ROUND 3
VS. CARDIFF BLUES
28 JANUARY 2012, KO 3PM

Captain's CORNER



"Getting the odd break is vital as the season progresses. The games come thick and fast and just a couple of extra days off can make a massive difference."

PHEW! I'm betting there are a few of you out there who are still catching their breath after last Friday night's game!

As a squad, we said in the run up to the Toulouse game that it wasn't an occasion to be feared but one to be embraced.

Sure, they're the current French champions, a team who have lifted the Heineken Cup, a set up with a playing budget that dwarfs our own and with a squad that reads like a "Who's who" of international rugby.

But, at the end of the day, it's fifteen against fifteen on the pitch (occasionally fifteen against fourteen, Woody!) and anything can happen on any given matchday.

The game got off to an unreal start with the yellow card and then Jonny charging down a kick with his nose before falling on the loose ball to score the early try. And the pace honestly didn't let up from there!

One of the important things that we can take from the game is that we know that we beat a side who

came over with their best possible side and who genuinely played well.

It wasn't a case of them leaving some of their star players behind in France. They knew that they had to win to guarantee qualification for the quarter finals so they had motivation on their side as well.

And they certainly turned it on at times on the night. We feel we could have done better for their first try but their second was beautifully executed, as was their third. Few teams could have defended those.

But we matched them blow for blow and ultimately bettered them in enough areas to earn the win.

It shows what we're capable of when it all clicks. The challenge now is for us to do it on a more frequent and consistent basis.

Nights like that are special though and I'm sure that the number of people claiming to have been there to watch us beat Toulouse will number about 30,000 in a couple of year's time!

Joking aside, it was a fantastic atmosphere to play in and the sort

of occasion that only Kingsholm, packed with our passionate supporters, can generate.

After the intensity of that game, Brush and the coaching team made the decision to give the squad a few days off before today's game.

It's a gesture that's been much appreciated by most, especially those who have nipped off to the sun for a few days, but a number of us have been keeping busy training with various international squads.

Getting the odd break is vital as the season progresses. The games come thick and fast and just a couple of extra days off can make a massive difference.

At this point in time, I'm not sure what sort of Cardiff team we'll be facing this afternoon as they've had a number of players away with Wales this week.

We've had some pretty full on encounters with them in recent seasons and I'm sure this one will be no different, regardless of who is involved.

Enjoy the game!



"Both teams won their respective Heineken Cup matches last weekend but they'll probably be two very different looking line ups who take the pitch this afternoon due to international training commitments."

Coach's NOTES

with Head Coach, **BRYAN REDPATH**

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

Another week and another competition! From taking on one of the giants of French rugby in the Heineken Cup, we now focus our efforts on one of the big names of Welsh rugby.

Casting my mind back a week or so, last Friday was a fantastic way to round off our Heineken Cup campaign. But a performance that probably led everyone to wonder what might have been in terms of Europe.

The 34-24 win over Toulouse meant that we finished with three wins and three defeats from our pool matches and finished in third place in the table behind Toulouse and Harlequins.

Given that Toulouse are the current French champions and have won the Heineken Cup four times and that Quins have been in great form so far this season, there is an argument that there's no shame in finishing in third place.

That's not the way we work at Gloucester Rugby, however. We knew that we would be in a tough pool, but we also knew that, on our day, we're more than capable of giving these teams a game.

Toulouse won the group with 18 points from Harlequins who scored 17 points while we accumulated 15 points from our six games.

Once the excitement of last Friday evening died down, however, the nagging feeling that we could honestly have qualified from that group grew stronger and stronger.

Of the three games that we lost, two could very easily have been wins. Had we won either of them then we could honestly have been looking at a quarter final place.

Consider the away game in Toulouse. We were defending a narrow lead at the Stade Ernest Wallon when Clement Poitrenaud scored a late try. The final pass still looks forward but it's in the book so it counts!

Similarly at the Stoop a fortnight ago, we had our noses in front with just a few minutes to go when an awkwardly bouncing ball eluded Charlie Sharples and fell kindly for Mike Brown to touch down for the decisive try.

They are small margins and, to a certain extent, that's been the story of our season to date. Close but no cigar.

What we have to take from last week's game is the knowledge and self belief that we are capable of delivering a performance like that. And, of course, that we deliver performances of that quality on a more frequent basis and not just against the very top teams.

That, of course, starts this afternoon when we take on the Cardiff Blues in our latest LV= Cup match.

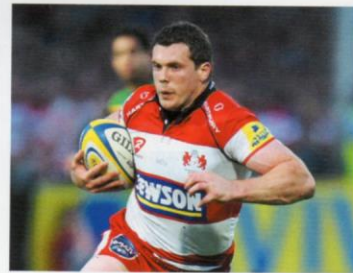
Both teams won their respective Heineken Cup matches last weekend but they'll probably be two very different looking line ups who take the pitch this afternoon due to international training commitments.

That in itself creates opportunities for players to come in and show what they can do.

Someone like Tim Molenaar, who was injured in preseason but has steadily worked his way back to full fitness.

He's played a few A League games but has been patiently waiting to get a run out in the first team and today provides that kind of opportunity.

The teams may feature a few squad players but the two teams are certainly



no strangers to each other in this competition in recent years.

We lost to the Blues in the final back in 2008-9 and then to a last minute penalty here in the group stages back in November 2009.

We've happier memories of the last meeting though when we beat them 29-18 in the semi final at Cardiff City Stadium to earn a place in the final against the Northampton Saints at Sixways.

It's an important game for us. I said prior to the Toulouse game last week that every game is a cup final for us before the end of the season.

That's the way we have to approach today. Winning last week was one thing but that's history now and it's today that counts.

We're the defending champions in this competition and we thoroughly enjoyed our day in the spotlight at Franklin's Gardens when we lifted the trophy.

It goes without saying that we'd like to do so again but we'll only have a chance of doing so if we produce a professional performance and a win today.

Enjoy the game

DreamTeam

ON PAGE 56

View from

The Citizen



WITH NICK PUREWAL

GLOUCESTER GLADIATOR

“THE FANS SHOUT AND ROAR FOR US EACH WEEK AND IT’S SOMETHING THAT WE’RE REALLY PROUD OF DOING...”

Gloucester’s gladiator knew he would make history even before he received the ball.

Jonny May knew he would score, and knew his try would rubber-stamp a victory to stand out across the Kingsholm ages – as soon as he picked his running line.

James Simpson-Daniel left Timoci Matanavou for dead on the left flank, drew the cover and then set speedster May home for a stunning try to dispatch European titans Toulouse.



May picked up the ball just past halfway and zipped past the despairing and petrified defence quick as a flash.

The 21-year-old knew his pace would carry him home for the try that secured last Friday’s superlative 34-24 Heineken Cup victory.

And he also admitted he knew it was a moment that will leave a lifelong and indelible imprint on his mind.

It was not the haughtiness of youth that pumped him up to believe he could blast aside one of the continent’s most-vaunted defences – instead the Kingsholm factor helps him puff out his chest.

The Cherry and Whites’ Colosseum is an arena in which May has waited all his life to perform, and excel.

Now that time has come, he cannot still quite believe it – but he will never, ever forget it.

Toulouse tried to muscle in on Gloucester’s pre-match warm-up routine of lapping half the pitch. May said the mind games backfired.

The Shed heckled, hustled and hassled Toulouse off their spoiling stride, and the visitors gave up trying to mimic the Gloucester preparation.



Ad captandum vulgus, muttered the Romans: win the mob. Toulouse had no chance of that in the West Country, and that’s one reason why May so loves life with the Cherry and Whites.

Most were slaves, but some gladiators were volunteers who risked social standing as well as their lives to battle in the arena.

By fighting or even dying well, they could inspire admiration and acclaim.

Gloucester put their Heineken Cup reputation on the line last week, only to produce a performance of classic industry and artisanship that could prove inspirational for some time, if harnessed.

For one so young to appreciate so fully the wider significance and importance of the victory and his part

From Bumps Carpenter to Andy Hazell, Kingsholm has always been founded on local boys striving to live this city's collective dream.

That modern-era recruits can still fit that category is remarkable and reassuring.

The Cherry and Whites of the future can still add to the pantheon of passionate, proper Gloucester folk who have made it good in city colours.

"It was a great moment, and when I got that pass, I'll remember that moment for the rest of my life," said

always wanted to play for Gloucester, so it's a real big privilege for me to go out there in front of Kingsholm, we respect it and as a group of players we want to go out and work hard for the city.

"The fans shout and roar for us each week and it's something that we're really proud of doing, and it does mean a lot.

"The Shed does have good banter, it's intimidating for the opposition.

"There was quite a weird moment during the warm-up when we went for our half lap and Toulouse joined



within it is truly admirable.

Gloucester legends from every era would be proud to hear a young man exude such natural civic pride, especially in this ultra-professional age.

May.

"I had all my team-mates around me and The Shed was roaring, so it was a hell of a moment and I'll remember that for the rest of my life.

"I literally love the city and I've

“ I LITERALLY LOVE THE CITY AND I’VE ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY FOR GLOUCESTER, SO IT’S A REAL BIG PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO GO OUT THERE IN FRONT OF KINGSHOLM ”

in with us.

"I think they were trying to get in our heads, but they got booed the hell out of.

"So we just ran off and did our warm-up, and then we got a big cheer on the way back in.

"It's a massive emotional driver for us, so when you run out onto that pitch you feel like a Gladiator and you want to put everything on the line for Gloucester, it's brilliant."



DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

CROSSED PATHS

A winter's day in the year of 1931 played a significant role in the lives of two young rugby union players.

It was Saturday 17th January when the fortunes and career paths of Maurice McCanlis and Brian Pope crossed. At that time Maurice McCanlis was the Gloucester inside centre three quarter while Brian Pope was the Blackheath R.F.C. scrum half. It was a day to remember for



Maurice McCanlis

both players, for it was to be their International debuts for England. They were included among eight debutants to face Wales at Twickenham. The Welsh team travelled to London more in hope than in conviction for they had not defeated the Red Rose country since 1920!

Although Blackheath do not figure among England's elite clubs in this modern era, they were in the early part of the last century one of the country's top clubs. In fact, up to that date, they had provided the half back pairing for England on three separate occasions.

Maurice McCanlis had enjoyed a chequered career playing for Oxford University, Old Cranleighans prior to a move to Kingsholm. His career finally ended when he played for Northampton.

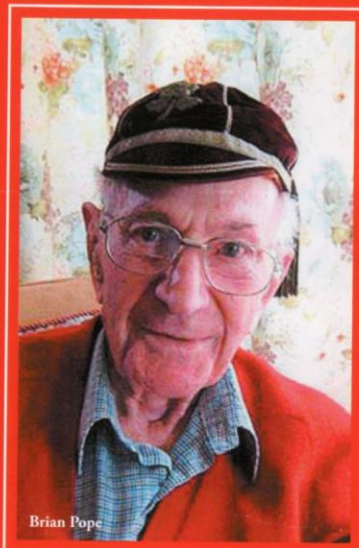
There was no longevity to his international career for after making his debut for England he was only retained for the following match against Ireland at Twickenham when England succumbed to the visiting Irish team by a single point, six points to five. In both matches Maurice McCanlis was Gloucester's sole representative.



Reverting to the debut match with Wales, the outcome was an exciting eleven points apiece stalemate. Wales found the Twickenham jinx still in operation and unable to record a victory.

In twelve attempts it was not until 1933 that the team from the principality found Twickenham to be a happy hunting ground!

Neither Maurice McCanlis



Brian Pope

Brian with a commemorative salver. Brian Pope was a man who could play golf into his 90's, he even shot a hole in one on the famous maiden hole at Royal St George's in Sandwich when he was 92!

Brian Pope was a regular companion of the celebrated cricket pundit E.W.Swanton at Sandwich, who also wrote about Rugby Union. Brian Pope's working career was as an underwriting company director, working on the Lloyds Insurance market.

Brian Pope's final International appearance was marked by controversy when England faced France at Stade Colombes, Paris on 6th April 1931. This was due to the recalcitrance of twelve French clubs which led to the severance of rugby union relations with France.

A meeting of what was then the four home unions on 13th February 1931, duly passed a resolution stating that matches would not be resumed with the French until 'the control and conduct of the game in France had been placed on a satisfactory basis.'

In that season of 1930-31 when Maurice McCanlis and Brian Pope

made their England international debuts, there were no fixtures between Gloucester and Blackheath.

The following season, 1931-1932, Gloucester visited Blackheath and lost by ten points to three. In that season the only away win recorded was an opening day victory at nearby Stroud by 9-3.

Blackheath R.F.C. were one of the original twenty-one original members of the R.F.U. They drafted a set of bye laws in December 1870. Among the committee of thirteen was Francis Hartley, then of Flamingoes, the first captain of this club.

Incidentally, Flamingoes were founded in 1865 and disbanded twelve years later in 1877, most of their players joining Harlequins F.C.

The Flamingoes played at Battersea Park. Their team headquarters were at The Clockhouse, now known as the Dovedale House pub and Dining Room.

It is situated at the junction of Albert Bridge Road and Battersea Park Road. Somewhat amazingly the clock after which it was named originally is still there at the top of the building.

of Gloucester or Brian Pope of Blackheath were on the score sheet. Although another debutant from Bristol, Donald Burland scored a try which he also converted. Brian Pope's team-mate from Blackheath, Brian Black landed two penalties.

Maurice McCanlis was a multi talented individual, he appeared in the Gloucestershire Rugby County Championship winning teams of 1930-1932.

Maurice also gained cricket blues for Oxford University 1926-28 and played county cricket for Surrey and Gloucestershire. He taught at Cheltenham College and became secretary of the North Cotswold Hunt in 1969.

Brian Pope was born on 29th June 1911, educated at Uppingham School and Cambridge University where he gained a Blue in 1932 and was capped three times for England. He served in the Royal Air Force during World War Two. Neither player had the good fortune to appear in a victorious England fifteen.

In June 2011, Brian Pope became England's oldest living international rugby union player celebrating his 100th birthday! Royal St George's golf course honoured his birthday when relatives and friends, which included world number one golfer, Luke Donald, who joined in the party at the club.

The former Rugby Football Union President, Robert Horner, presented



The Dovedale House pub and Dining Room

Few Fijians have had the same impact upon English rugby, quite literally at times, as the man from Suva – Akapusi Qera.

HIS team mates pay testimony to the fact that the affable flanker is often heard chuckling to himself as he prepares to launch himself forward from the Gloucester defensive line, targeting some unsuspecting fly half daring to try and make ground with ball in hand down his channel.

The 27 year old launched himself upon English club rugby in similarly surreptitious style, signing for the Pertemps Bees in National League One as it was then known.

Already capped several times by his country, he didn't stay a well kept secret for long as he quickly became the club's top try scorer and the top try scoring forward in the division.

And it was the 2007 Rugby World Cup in France that brought Qera and his Fijian team mates to the attention of a worldwide rugby audience as they created the shock of the tournament with their win over Wales.

It's a memory that Qera still holds dear, even more than four years after the event.

"The World Cup is a huge event for every rugby player, everyone has the dream of playing for their country in a World Cup.

"That game against Wales was a special day for me and for my team mates. We're proud to represent Fiji and we were proud to win for them that day."

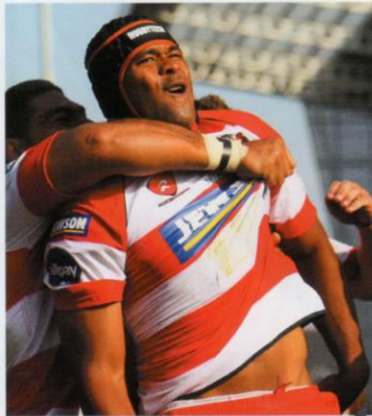
If Q, as he is known to his Gloucester team mates, left that tournament on something of a high, he certainly carried on where he left off when he arrived at Kingsholm.

That first season in the Cherry and White of Gloucester saw him take the Premiership by storm and he was shortlisted for Premiership Player of the Season.

He made it look easy but admits that moving into England's top flight was a real challenge.

"It was a major step up and I was expecting tough opponents. Brilliant players from all over the world play in this competition so I knew I would have to be at my best.

"But I was also really excited. I



"It's just what I do, it's what every player does. I love playing rugby and I think the Gloucester supporters can see that. It makes me happy that they enjoy what I do and every player likes to be cheered by the Shed."

focused on doing what I do well and playing hard for the team and I think it has gone well so far."

So well in fact that he's now in the middle of his fifth season with the club and, although he admits to missing the warmth of Fiji when

he's in the middle of a typical English winter, he now regards Gloucester as his second home.

"Definitely. My wife and my children love it here, we really feel at home. It's very important for me that they are happy. When they are happy, I can really concentrate on my rugby."

He and his family have come to love Gloucester and that feeling is certainly reciprocated by the Kingsholm crowd who light up whether he's delivering a shuddering hit in defence or making yards with ball in hand.

However, he's typically modest when it comes to talking about his contribution on the pitch.

"It's just what I do, it's what every player does. I love playing rugby and I think the Gloucester supporters can see that. It makes me happy that they enjoy what I do and every player likes to be cheered by the Shed."

And the Gloucester faithful should be seeing plenty more of the marauding flanker in action as he recently put pen to paper on a new two year contract with the club and he confessed that he couldn't be happier.

"It makes you feel valued when your club approach you and tell you that they appreciate what you do and that they want you to stay.

"Gloucester have been good to me and my family and, when I sat down to discuss this with them, the family decision was that we all wanted to stay."

And recent weeks have certainly seen Qera hit top form as he's delivered a number of quality performances, obviously enjoying his rugby.

"Since I first arrived at Gloucester, the team has played a style of rugby that I love. I like how we move the ball around, it really suits my game.

"When we all play together as a team like we did against Toulouse last week, we can be a great team."



MATTER OF FACT
 In 2007 Q was nominated for Fiji sportsman of the year, finishing second to golfer Vijay Singh.

You Tube **CLIP**
 Q on the defensive



JOIN THE 'Q'

AKAPUSI QERA

KINGSHOLM NEWS

WITH BOB FENTON

WELL, WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT LAST FRIDAY? WHERE DO YOU START TO DESCRIBE A MATCH LIKE THAT?

Maybe to continue the roller coaster analogy I tried last week, we just rocketed into the stratosphere!

That was a game that will live long in the memory of the people who were there, plus of course the several million others who will – over the course of time – say they were there too. The day when the galacticos of European rugby fell to earth.

Every pundit predicted an away win, with the almost honourable exception of our former leader, Dean Ryan. He pointed out that Kingsholm, under floodlights, is a very difficult place to come to, adding the great line '... form books mean nothing in front of a Kingsholm crowd...'. How right you are, Dean.

Mind you, it didn't look like the form books were going to be all that wrong when Toulouse cruised into a 17 – 7 lead with a brilliantly worked try. At that point, I confess, I turned to my comrades and said 'This could be a very long evening.' I bet I wasn't alone.

Even though they got level at 24 all there was always the thought that, with the stellar line up on the field and bench, Toulouse would go up a gear or two and secure the win. But, to the huge credit of every one of our 23, we never gave them a chance.

The pace of our back three must be the stuff of nightmares for defenders. Even that old boy



James Simpson-Daniel is capable of a fair turn of speed. Not in the May/Sharples category, but not that far off.

Certainly the much-vaunted Toulouse back line couldn't get close to them, as Jonny's last try showed – he just lit the afterburners and was gone. Brilliant.

I think Graham Clutton, writing in the Telegraph, summed up the night really well. He wrote: 'On the evidence of this, the Heineken Cup quarter finals will be a poorer place without the Cherry and Whites.'

The only real downside of the night was that it was a game of little consequence for us. Our European campaign has had a bit of the 'if only's' about it.

If only Henry had got that ball down in the first Quins game, if only that forward pass in Toulouse was called. If only the bounce of the ball in the last moments at The Stoop had been a bit kinder... But that's life I guess, little things costing us lots.

So from one cup to another, this time the LV= Cup and another 'international fixture' as, this time, Cardiff Blues come

“...I THINK MOST RUGBY SUPPORTERS WOULD LOVE TO SEE HIM BACK AND PLAYING WITH THE SWAGGER THAT HE HAD NOT ALL THAT MANY YEARS AGO. PRODIGIOUS TALENT LIKE THAT IS NOT A GIFT THAT MANY HAVE”

to town. Yet again it's this strange world where we play another team from another group.

After two games in the competition we are sitting not so proudly at the foot of ours with five points. Our opponents are in a similar position after losing both of their opening round fixtures.

We know the worth of this competition though as, not only does its prize money significantly increase the coffers of the winning club, it gives that most precious of prizes, a Heineken Cup spot. And – as we know – the chance to run around with a nice little trophy.

Looking at the Cardiff Blues website I notice that they have that 'TV personality' Gavin Henson posing nicely with a club shirt slung over his shoulder – all part of the advertising for a six-game season ticket that you can buy.

I confess to not bothering to



follow the links any further but do wonder – given recent history - whether these tickets are for the six games that Gav will play for them before he heads off somewhere else!

To be fair, he won't have fond memories of Gloucester, after all it was in that game up at Coventry in his Ospreys days that he got smashed by Ryan Lamb, picking up a horrible injury that set him back for quite some time.

My memory goes back far enough to remember when Gavin was a rugby player and, on his day, he was a fantastic one too. I think most rugby supporters would love to see him back and playing with the swagger that he had not all that many years ago. Prodigious talent like that is not a gift that

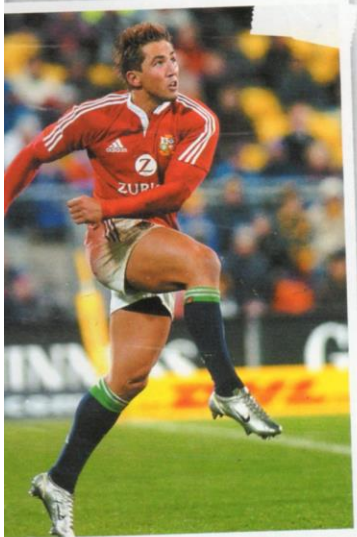
many have. It would be a huge shame if he was never to recover it.

Talking of talent, it's that time of year when the transfer merry-go-round kicks into life and everyone is leaving and everyone is coming.

As ever, we won't really know until a bit later on in the season what the final list of leavers and new arrivals is.

However you can't help but be excited about some of the names that are being bandied around, but the downside is that some of our current favourites will be heading for the Kingsholm door marked 'exit'.

Maybe by the time we come back in February things will be a little clearer, until then let's enjoy the speculation!





Gloucester

with Peter Arnold

talk

LONG HISTORY



FOR those of us who have been ambling around Kingsholm since before the railways came, a visit from Cardiff is always a bit special.

It is a fixture which is redolent of a bygone era, when the boys from

the Arms Park were undoubtedly the finest side in the country. Looking down the team sheet one could read Welsh internationals from top to bottom.

The names are now legendary. Even today you would be hard pressed to

find a better pair of centres than Jack Matthews and Bleddyn Williams.

At various times you could also find Cliff Morgan and Billy Cleaver, a couple of outside-halves who England would commit murder for, just to have in their squad.

Many old stagers will also recall such performers as Cliff Trott at full-back, and a whole raft of other formidable opponents.

Yet we did, just occasionally, beat them here at Kingsholm. Which is more than can be said about our record at the Arms Park.

I haven't actually counted, but it is said that we went 35 years before recording a victory on the other side of Westgate Bridge.

They used to have a saying around their clubhouse that Cardiff could put out fifteen men with wooden legs and still beat Gloucester.

In those days they used to call us the 'Gloucester Pigs'. They weren't really trying to be rude. The sobriquet was a reference to our famous Gloucester Old Spot pigs, which were generally reckoned to provide the best bacon you could get.

So, it's good to see Cardiff back here at Kingsholm. We don't really need a Cup to provide any incentive to do well today.

NOTHING TOULOUSE

I KNOW, it's a terrible pun, but we really didn't have anything to lose last Friday evening, while our much-feared opponents most assuredly did.

We couldn't progress any further in the Heineken Cup, but Toulouse would dearly have liked a home draw in the next round.

Connacht did them a big favour, of course, by unexpectedly putting one over on Quins, but they weren't to know that as they ran out on to the field.

All in all it was one of those great Kingsholm occasions to which we are treated from time to time, and I'm extremely miffed that I couldn't get along to be part of it.

Yet, as happens sometimes, I had a feeling all along that we might beat them.

After all, we came heartbreakingly close down in South West France, only to be denied in the dying minutes by a forward pass which went unnoticed by the officials.

My contacts tell me, however, that the lads put in a truly inspiring performance. One chap commented that "May, Sinbad and Qera were



just unplayable".

We left it pretty late though. The game could still have gone either way until Jonny, flying like a Spitfire diving out of the sun, touched down for the second time.

It was a truly memorable performance, one which today's welcome visitors will have noted with considerable interest.

We shall see what we shall see, but the extra day's rest engendered by a Friday game will not have done Gloucester any harm.

About the only blot on the landscape was Nick Wood's first minute yellow card. I could be

wrong but it had the earmarks of that common ref's practice of trying to stamp (no pun intended) his authority on the game from the start.

Nick's going to have to tread carefully though (again, no pun intended). Two yellows in successive matches have disciplinary implications which might come into play if he cops a third one.

Of course, that might be playing for the Saxons rather than Gloucester, if he gets his just deserts.

But let's not bother about that now. As Confucius he say, let's just lay back and enjoy it.

ON THE DOTTED LINE



THIS is a worrying time for most of the players. It's the period when those whose contracts are running out are wondering whether they're going to be offered a new one, or perhaps whether they should consider overtures from some other club.

It can also be worrying for players in the middle of their contracts. They'll be wondering who's coming

and who's going, and what effect the talents of any new arrivals might have on their own prospects.

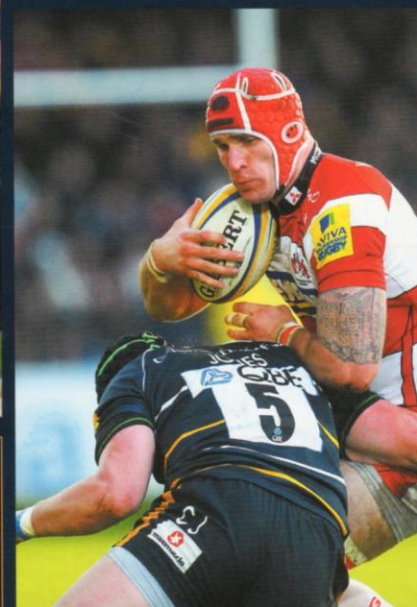
Things do seem to be getting sorted out though. If I'd been asked to name the players I most wanted to keep in the ranks, it's certain that I would have named Burns and Qera as being right up there. So, I was delighted to learn that they've signed on the dotted line.

JUSTICE DONE



DID you notice that Luke Narryway has been drafted into the England squad as cover for Tom Wood who seems to have stubbed his toe?

Excellent news. But of course, he should have been selected in the first place...



WORCESTER WARRIORS 21
GLOUCESTER RUGBY 15

Aviva Premiership Rugby, Sixways, 7 January 2011, 14:45 KO

WORCESTER WARRIORS

TRIES Goode (45), Garvey (64)

CON Goode (45)

PENS Carlisle (13, 40),
Goode (54)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES Sharples (24), May (77)

CON Burns (25)

PEN Burns (10)

SIXWAYS has proved to be a tricky place to visit in recent years.

Granted, Gloucester won there in the final fixture of the 2009-10 season but, that game apart, there have been a series of narrow defeats.

And that proved to be the case again in this Aviva Premiership encounter as the Cherry and Whites saw a 10-3 lead evaporate as the Warriors fought back to clinch a vital win.

Worcester came into the game, nervously looking over their shoulders at Newcastle at the foot of the table although spirits had been lifted at Sixways with the 6-0 win at Wasps the week before.

And the opening stages reflected

that tension as fly halves Joe Carlisle and Freddie Burns swapped penalties with neither side gaining the upper hand or looking as though they wanted to risk doing anything too adventurous.

Gloucester did gradually gain the ascendancy and Charlie Sharples' try was well deserved and well taken to open up a 10-3 lead.

This looked a comfortable situation until the momentum swung seconds before half time as Gloucester conceded a free kick at their own scrum with no time left on the clock.

Worcester opted to scrum, earned a penalty and Carlisle kicked a gift three points.

It was Carlisle's last contribution



as he was replaced at half time by Andy Goode and the veteran fly half quickly made an impact as he stepped the onrushing Freddie Burns to open the second half with a vital try for Worcester.

Having dominated the game for so long, Gloucester now found themselves trailing but there was no need for panic as it was still just a one score game.

However, time ticked by and a number of really good scoring chances were wasted by Gloucester and the tension grew.

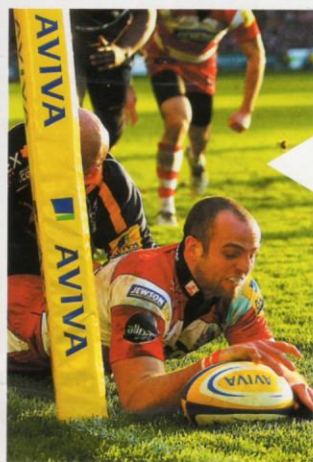
Disaster then struck as Henry Trinder tried to dink a grubber in behind the defensive line but only found Marcel Garvey's midriff and

the former Gloucester speedster ran it back all the way to score.

It was a bitter blow as Gloucester had been piling on the pressure and conceding a length of the field try against the run of play was hard to take.

Gloucester did regroup and finally unlocked the miserly Worcester defence as Jonny May scored a few minutes before the final whistle but there was no time left to go in search of the winner.

Sixways celebrated wildly while Gloucester were left to reflect on one that had most definitely got away from them and doubly frustrating was the fact that the two Worcester tries were virtually handed to them.



CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

The second half was largely frustrating and the first half highlight for Gloucester was Charlie Sharples' well taken try as he slipped a tackle out wide and just made the line before the cover defence got to him.

KEY QUOTE

"We got a point away from home and we were close today, but close is not good enough. I'm hugely disappointed, but nobody comes to Worcester and gets an easy game so credit to them for that."

Bryan Redpath

WORCESTER WARRIORS

- 15 FB Chris Pennell (c)
- 14 W Marcel Garvey
- 13 C Alex Grove
- 12 C Dale Rasmussen
- 11 W Miles Benjamin
- 10 FH Joe Carlisle
- 9 SH Jonny Arr
- 1 P Matt Mullan
- 2 H Aleki Lutui
- 3 P Tevita Taumoepeau
- 4 L James Percival
- 5 L Chris Jones
- 6 F Sam Betty
- 7 F Jake Abbott
- 8 N8 Matt Kvesic

Replacements

- 16 Bruce Douglas
- 17 Ed Shervington
- 18 P Oliver Tomaszczyk
- 19 Craig Gillies
- 20 Richard Muagututia
- 21 SH Shaun Perry
- 22 FH Andy Goode
- 23 Ravai Fatiaki

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 Jim Hamilton
- 5 L Alex Brown
- 6 F Alasdair Strokosch
- 7 F Akapusi Qera
- 8 N8 Luke Narryway (c)

Replacements

- 16 H Matias Cortese
- 17 P Dan Murphy
- 18 P Dario Chistolini
- 19 L Peter Buxton
- 20 F Matt Cox
- 21 SH Dave Lewis
- 22 Ryan Mills
- 23 FB Jonny May



HARLEQUINS 20
GLOUCESTER RUGBY 14

Heineken Cup, The Stoop, 14 January 2011, 18:00 KO

HARLEQUINS

TRIES Hopper (18), Brown (73)

CONS Evans (19, 74)

PENS Evans (12, 46)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRY Simpson-Daniel (29)

PENS Burns (10, 25, 53)

UNLIKE the week before at Worcester when Gloucester could reflect on a performance where they clearly hadn't been at their best, the Cherry and Whites could reflect on a terrific effort at Harlequins.

The Stoop based outfit have, of course, been the form team in England this year and, having won at Kingsholm in the first Heineken Cup encounter between these two teams, were hot favourites coming into this one.

And Quins also had motivation on their side. A defeat would almost fatally affect their chances of qualifying for the knockout stages.

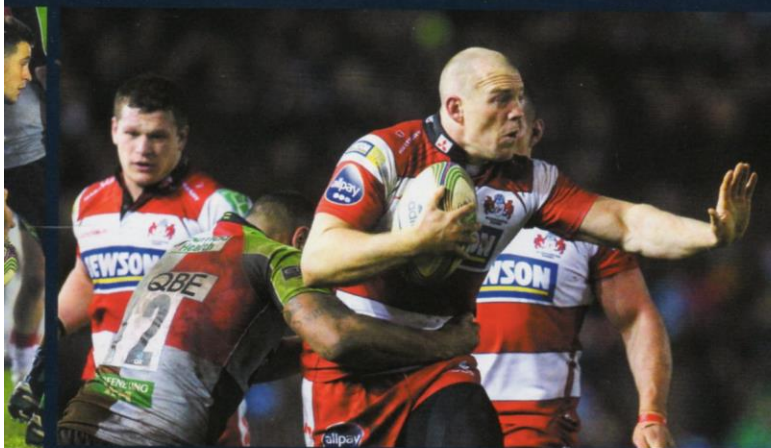
However, Gloucester were a different animal from the team that

had let the game get away from them at Sixways.

Adventurous with ball in hand, they were also aggressive and physical in defence, ruffling the feathers of the home side, with even the normally unflappable Nick Evans off target with a couple of kicks.

Harlequins did get the benefit of a slightly fortunate try when Monye's speculative pass inside eluded the covering Luke Narryway and fell nicely for Mike Brown who set up Matt Hopper to score.

Gloucester hit back with a fine try of their own from James Simpson-Daniel who finished a slick backs move in typical style and Bryan Redpath's side were good value for a narrow lead at the break.



Evans soon nudged Quins in front at the start of the second half but, if the home crowd expected their team to kick on from there, they were sorely disappointed.

Freddie Burns restored Gloucester's lead with a penalty of his own and the defence soaked up anything Quins could throw at them.

If anything, Gloucester looked the more likely to score but couldn't take advantage of a good spell of pressure 15 minutes from time.

Instead, lady luck deserted them as several key events went the way of Harlequins.

Danny Care's blatant push on Jonny May as the latter went back to field a chip through went unnoticed or unpunished and forced a series of five metre scrums which saw Nick Wood sinbinned.

Gloucester defended manfully and looked to have weathered the

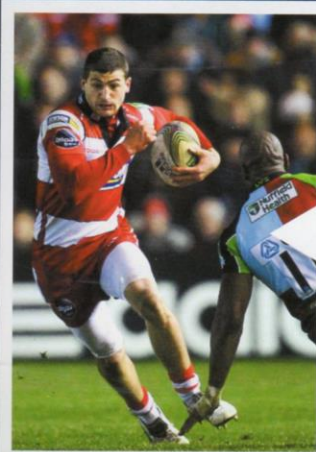
storm. Care had a try disallowed which enraged the Stoop crowd but the neutral may have considered it natural justice...

Just as a memorable away win started to look like a probability rather than a possibility, a cruel bounce cost Gloucester dear.

Charlie Sharples looked to have Danny Care's grubber covered all the way but it took an evil sideways bounce to elude the winger and Mike Brown was able to ground the loose ball after it ricocheted forward off his shins.

Evans' conversion gave Quins a 20-14 lead but they had to defend for their lives as Gloucester hit back in the final seconds.

What looked to be an overlap was patiently set up but James Simpson-Daniel took a fatal glance at the onrushing defender and the ball hit the deck to end the game.



CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

One thing Jonny May can bring to the side is the unexpected and he certainly lit up the Stoop when he fielded a bouncing ball behind his own line before burning off Ugo Monye, sprinting laterally to outstrip a couple of chasers and running the ball out to his own 22.

KEY QUOTE

"We can't let our standards slip. Potentially there's only 12 matches remaining this season and we've got to be in every single one with that mindset."

Bryan Redpath

HARLEQUINS

- 15 FB Mike Brown
- 14 W Tom Williams
- 13 C Matt Hopper
- 12 C Jordan Turner-Hall
- 11 W Ugo Monye
- 10 FH Nick Evans
- 9 SH Danny Care
- 1 P Mark Lambert
- 2 H Joe Gray
- 3 P James Johnston
- 4 L Ollie Kohn
- 5 L Charlie Matthews
- 6 F Maurie Fa'asavalu
- 7 F Chris Robshaw (c)
- 8 N8 Nick Easter

Replacements

- 16 R Chris Brooker
- 17 R Joe Marler
- 18 Tim Fairbrother
- 19 R Tomas Vallejos Cinalli
- 20 Luke Wallace
- 21 Richard Bolt
- 22 Rory Clegg
- 23 Tom Casson

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Jonny May
- 14 W Charlie Sharples
- 13 C Mike Tindall
- 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 Jim Hamilton
- 5 L Alex Brown
- 6 F Alasdair Strokosch
- 7 F Akapusi Qera
- 8 N8 Luke Narryway (c)

Replacements

- 16 R Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 R Dan Murphy
- 18 R Rupert Harden
- 19 R Will James
- 20 R Matt Cox
- 21 R Dave Lewis
- 22 Ryan Mills
- 23 Henry Trinder

TODAY'S Line-UPS



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

- 15 JONNY MAY
- 14 TOM VOYCE
- 13 TIM MOLENAAR
- 12 ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU
- 11 JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL
- 10 RYAN MILLS
- 09 DAVE LEWIS
- 01 DAN MURPHY
- 02 MATIAS CORTESE
- 03 SHAUN KNIGHT
- 04 WILL JAMES
- 05 ALEX BROWN
- 06 PETER BUXTON (C)
- 07 ANDY HAZELL
- 08 BRETT DEACON



**CARDIFF
BLUES**

- 15 BEN BLAIR
- 14 RICHARD MUSTOE
- 13 TOM JAMES
- 12 CORY ALLEN
- 11 CHRIS CZEKAJ
- 10 GARETH DAVIES
- 09 LEWIS JONES
- 01 JOHN YAPP
- 02 MARC BREEZE
- 03 SAM HOBBS
- 04 CORRY HILL
- 05 MACAULEY COOK
- 06 JOSH NAVIDI
- 07 DAN CRIMINGS (C)
- 08 LUKE HAMILTON
- 16 DARREN DAWIDIUK
- 17 YANN THOMAS
- 18 DARIO CHISTOLINI
- 19 MATT COX
- 20 GARETH EVANS
- 21 NICK RUNCIMAN
- 22 MIKE TINDALL
- 23 OLLIE PHILLIPS
- 16 RHYS WILLIAMS
- 17 NATHAN TREVETT
- 18 RYAN HARFORD
- 19 MATTHEW SCREECH
- 20 THOMAS YOUNG
- 21 TOM ROWLANDS
- 22 RHYS PATCHELL
- 23 DAN FISH

Teams were correct at time of print

THE OFFICIALS



REFEREE: Geraint Roberts
ASST REFS: Stuart Terneege and Rhys Davis

TOP SCORERS 2010/11



- 48 Nick Evans 
- 40 Nicky Robinson 
- 40 Charles Sharples 
- 39 Jimmy Gopperth
- 37 Matthew Morgan 
- 35 Matthew Jones 



WHAT ARE THESE ALL ABOUT?

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