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View from

The Citizen

ON PAGE 28

MATCH ACTION



VS TOULOUSE
ON PAGE 68

GR MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

FREDDIE

BRYAN REDPATH'S
MATCHDAY NOTES

ON PAGE 8



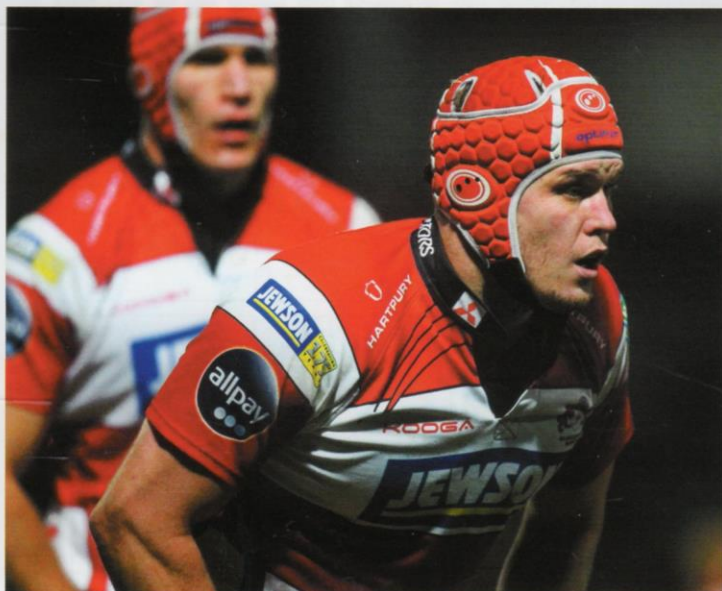
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Captain's CORNER



"Ryan Mills did a fine job steering the ship against the Blues, and he wasn't the only youngster on display as Shaun Knight played virtually the whole game, while Gareth Evans and Ian Clark both made contributions from the bench."

AS much as I love the game, rugby is more than capable of delivering you a real kick in the teeth sometimes!

After the high of beating Toulouse in the Heineken Cup a few weeks ago, I was then given a real boost when I received a call up to the England training squad.

I've got to be honest, it did come as a little bit of a shock. In fact, I'd already booked a short break in the sun as Brush had kindly given the squad a few days off!

That was a small inconvenience and very quickly forgotten because, as a professional player, you react quickly when your country comes calling.

I enjoyed the week training with the England boys. In fact, I probably enjoyed it more because it was so unexpected.

However, the fickle finger of fate had plans for me.....

We were just wrapping up the final few minutes of an open training session for the public on the Friday when I felt my calf go.

I knew immediately that it wasn't going to be something I could walk off and the sickening realization

slowly dawned upon me that this wasn't just something that would affect my England chances, but also keep me out of Gloucester action as well.

Injuries, of course, are all part and parcel of a rugby player's career but I genuinely felt that I was starting to play some decent rugby so, to be reduced to a watching role, is a bitter blow.

That's why a number of you will have seen me on crutches doing my corporate duties when we entertained Cardiff a fortnight ago.

Fair play to the boys, they've done a decent job in recent weeks considering how many people have been unavailable for selection.

We've obviously had to make full use of the squad, including the Academy players, and the youngsters have really stepped up and shown what they're capable of.

Ryan Mills did a fine job steering the ship against the Blues, and he wasn't the only youngster on display as Shaun Knight played virtually the whole game, while Gareth Evans and Ian Clark both made contributions from the bench.

A quick word on Knighter. I'm more comfortable talking about back row play rather than the work that the props put in but he does genuinely look as though he's going to be a fantastic prop.

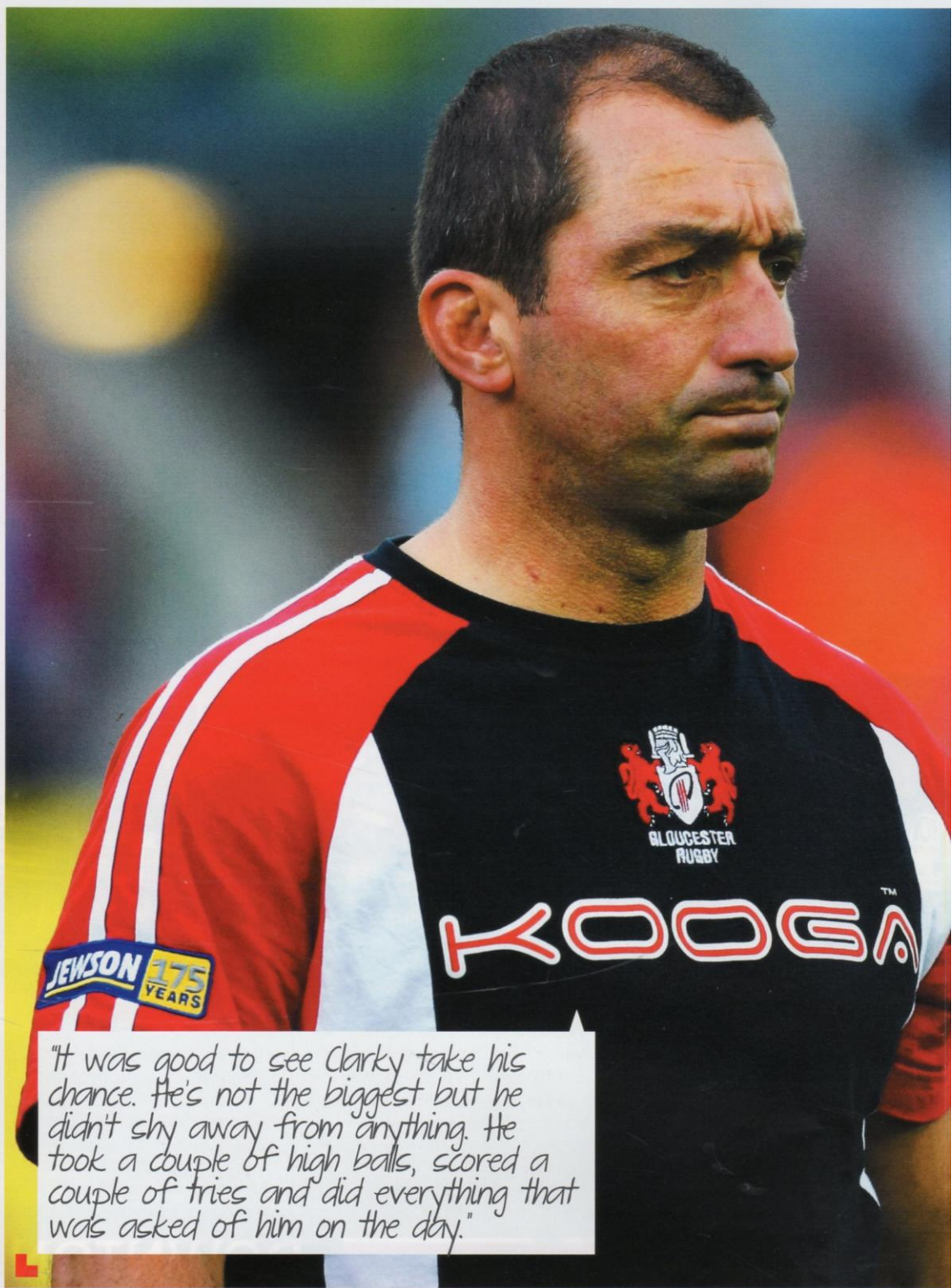
Against the Blues, he was up against a seasoned international in John Yapp but the Welshman looked genuinely taken aback by Shaun's scrummaging.

He did the same thing in a more limited role against Toulouse and then didn't take a backward step against Clarke Dermody last weekend. He's certainly got the Gloucester 'dog' in him!

That's a commodity we'll need a lot of today against the Saints. We always seem to be playing them during an international period so we haven't seen the respective first choice XV's slugging it out in recent times.

However, there's a massive amount to play for. We've several tough weeks of Aviva Premiership action lying ahead of us and are desperate for the points to start climbing the table.

Enjoy the game!



"It was good to see Clarky take his chance. He's not the biggest but he didn't shy away from anything. He took a couple of high balls, scored a couple of tries and did everything that was asked of him on the day."

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 NORTHAMPTON SAINTS A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM THIS AFTERNOON.

So, after a couple of weekends of LV= Cup action, it's back to the bread and butter of the Aviva Premiership, and the start of a huge few weeks for us.

Our focus is now 100% on the Premiership and finishing as high up the table as we possibly can as our LV= Cup defence came to an end at the Madejski Stadium last weekend.

Bowing out in the pool stages is obviously a huge disappointment to us. We've made the final for the past three seasons and no-one who was at Franklin's Gardens when we lifted the trophy will forget that day in a hurry.

What's doubly frustrating is that we could very easily have secured a semi final spot when you look at how the other games panned out. We needed Sale to do us a favour by beating the Scarlets and they duly did so.

That obviously left us needing a win over London Irish to have a chance of going through but we couldn't quite pull it off.

We were nowhere near our best in the first half and allowed Irish to move into what proved to be a decisive lead.

We knew that it was going to be tough as we'd been forced to make quite a few changes and there were people playing out of position. There was plenty of endeavour but we lacked execution and clear decision making.

We were much improved after the break. Young Ian Clark took his first try and the second was nicely made by Eliota (Fuimaono-Sapolu) and James (Simpson-Daniel).

It was good to see Clarky take his chance. He's not the biggest but he didn't shy away from anything. He took

a couple of high balls, scored a couple of tries and did everything that was asked of him on the day.

We had a couple of chances in that final quarter to win it but we couldn't convert a couple of scoring opportunities and that ended up costing us which is a shame because I think it was there for us to take.

We now know exactly where we stand though and what we need to do for the rest of the season.

This afternoon is the first of a series of tough Aviva Premiership encounters. A number of these games are against teams who are above us in the table so it's an opportunity to make up some ground in a very tight competition.

Ourselves and Northampton have had some tough old games in the past few seasons, often with very little between the teams.

The first meeting between the two sides, on the opening day of the season, was a case in point when, to be honest, we threw away a chance of a win at Franklin's Gardens through our own ill discipline.

Saints are going well so far this season. They had a tough Heineken Cup pool to deal with but are looking good domestically as they've made the LV= Cup semi finals and are currently third in the Aviva Premiership table.

Like ourselves, they'll be missing quite a few players to international duty this afternoon but Jim (Mallinder) recruited quite cannily for this season and he's got a good squad in place.

Whoever runs out for them this afternoon, they'll be a tough nut to crack.

It's a big game for us, there's no



doubting of that as we only have nine regular season games left, five of which, including today, at home, to make a positive impact upon our position in the standings.

A number of close games, which we could easily have won, have not gone our way this season. We can't afford any more of these if we are to have a chance of making the play offs or qualifying for the Heineken Cup.

It's important that we take care of our own business, control our own destiny and not have to rely on other results going our way.

This afternoon is the first step along that path for us. It won't be easy but we know what we're capable of. It's a question of making sure that we deliver on any given day.

Enjoy the game

DreamTeam

ON PAGE 56

View from
The Citizen



WITH NICK PUREWAL

TAKING YOUR CHANCE

“...TO STEP UP TO THIS LEVEL WITH THE BIG BOYS AND STILL SCORE TRIES, IT'S AMAZING.”

As soon as Ian Clark collected Pete Buxton's pass in his own 22 at the Madejski Stadium, he knew he faced a 'now-or-never' moment.

The 19-year-old had battled manfully throughout his full Gloucester debut – but had been forced to wait patiently for a sniff of a chance.

Typically when that chance came, it was anything but a run-in but the Bristol-born Hartpury RFC arch finisher made it look easy.



He stood up the cover, blasted from one 22 to the other, and held off the despairing cover of London Irish full back Tom Homer to finish a fine, breathless counter-attack.

The unsatisfied speedster later doubled his tally after fine work from Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu and James Simpson-Daniel.

Despite Clark's try brace, Gloucester lost out 23-15, surrendering their LV=Cup title in the process, unable to progress to the semi-finals.

A debut to remember for Clark if not the international call-up ravaged Cherry and Whites, but the Academy youngster is not about to settle on his startling start.

Clark might have racked up 21 tries in 14 matches with Hartpury RFC in National League Two South, but he knows he must add bulk and power to his finishing ability.

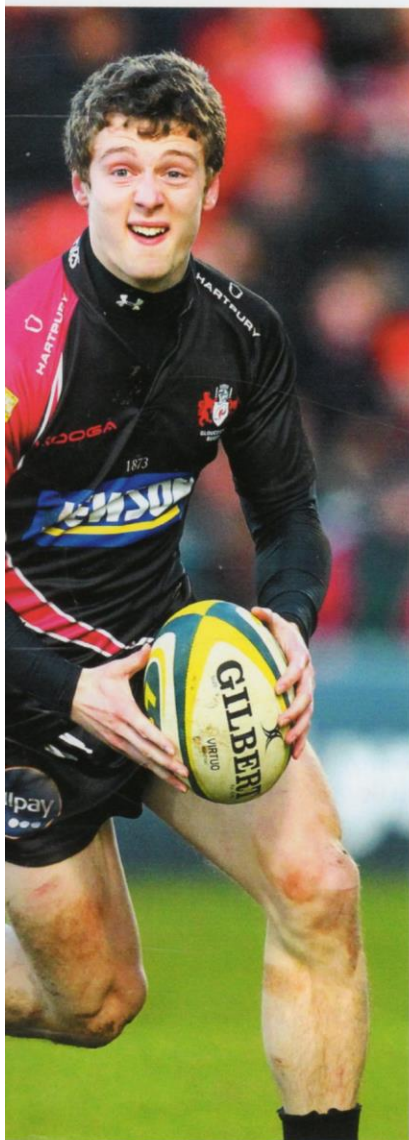
He explained:

“I could see the guy coming across, and I wasn't sure whether I would make it, but I knew it was a 'now or never' situation and that I had to go for it – and it paid off.

“And then for the second, Eli and James are both really skilful players and playing outside guys like that



“...ELI AND JAMES ARE BOTH REALLY SKILFUL PLAYERS AND PLAYING OUTSIDE GUYS LIKE THAT REALLY OPENS THINGS UP FOR YOU...”



really opens things up for you, so all credit to them because especially with that one, they made my part easy.

“I always hoped there was going to be a chance for me during the international window.

“I thought a fair amount of Gloucester’s young but quality players would get chances with international sides, so I was just trying to keep myself in line and hope that the chance came. And now I’m chuffed

“THINGS ARE GOING WELL, BUT I KNOW I’VE GOT A LOT OF WORK AHEAD OF ME, SO I’LL JUST GET MY HEAD DOWN AND GET ON WITH IT.”

I’ve been able to take it.

“It’s always nice to score tries, but when it was on that stage, and it really helped the team to get a handle on a fightback in the match, it was just amazing.

“I’ve always managed to get on the scoresheet in teams, and playing National Two is a really great standard

in itself – but then to step up to this level with the big boys and still score tries, it’s amazing.

“I knew I was going to be involved straight from the off in the week so I just spent some time getting my head around that, but I didn’t know whether I would start.

“So I was really pleased on Thursday to get the call to start, and in the build-up I was just aiming to make sure I didn’t mess up to be honest. But to score the two tries was massive for me.”

Aware he must build power moving forward, Clark added:

“At the moment my biggest issue is my weight, so I’m just trying to keep working as hard as I can on that, in the gym and however else the conditioners suggest, and hopefully put myself in good stead next year.

Getting into the first team at Hartpury with the Under-18s was a good surprise for me, we had two very successful seasons while I was



there, and we were undefeated in the second one.

“And at the end of that season I managed to win a contract, so last year was an amazing year for me.

“Things are going well, but I know I’ve got a lot of work ahead of me, so I’ll just get my head down and get on with it.”



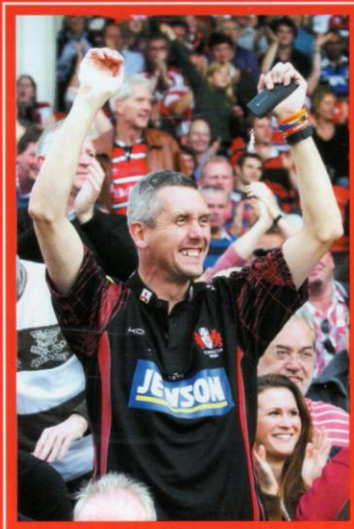
DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

POPULARITY CONTEST

It is surely fair comment to say that attendances reflect a club's popularity in any given sport.

A survey of the numbers following Gloucester Rugby Club since the introduction of the professional game indicates how the crowds at Kingsholm have trebled since that milestone of 1996!

In the season of 1996-97 the aggregate attendance at Kingsholm was 54,639 with an average



attendance of 4,967. The highest attendance was the 6,310 fans who witnessed the thrilling 32-3 win against Leicester on April 8th.

The away aggregate attendance was lower with 47,041 attending at an average of 4,279. Leicester were once again to the forefront with 9,597 attending our 32-14 defeat at Welford Road in an early season encounter on September 28th.

The following season of 1997-98 witnessed a significant increase at Castle Grim when the aggregate attendance reached 88,503 with the average reaching 8,045.

Three five figure attendances were recorded in our final three home matches of the season against Newcastle, Bath and Sale. Meanwhile, the away aggregate also increased to 52,672, giving an average of 4,788.

A season later and there was a dip in aggregate attendance at Kingsholm! The overall figure dipped to 77,659 with an average gate of 5,973.

However, this did not apply to away matches where the aggregate rose to 65,711, an average increase to 5,054. There were no five figure attendances at Kingsholm in that season, unthinkable in this

day and age.

There was a minimal decrease in a season which incorporated the turn of the century when 2,782 fewer spectators made up the aggregate figure of 74,877 attending matches at Kingsholm in the 1999-2000 season, for an average of 6,807.

The away aggregate was also minimally down to 64,748, for an average away attendance of 5,886. There was no five figure attendance at Kingsholm and the only away fixture to register five figures was our visit to Leicester on 18th April when 14,850 were in attendance.

There was a further decline the following season of 2000-2001 with an aggregate of 73,475 at Kingsholm, averaging 6,679.

Away attendances were on the rise with 65,931 attending our league matches for an average of 5,993. It goes without stating that once again Leicester had a five figure attendance for our visit on 2nd December with 11,989 passing through the turnstiles.

The season of 2001-2002 was boom time at Kingsholm with an aggregate of 103,546 in attendance, an average gate of 9,413.

The increase was also applicable to away matches where 82,024 was the highest aggregate figure to date, the average of 7,456 spectators a significant increase.

There were five figure gates at Kingsholm in four matches - London Wasps (10,171), London Irish (10,112) trailed Bath and Newcastle when 11,000 attended.

The upsurge in interest continued in 2002-2003 with top place in the regular season league table a welcome sight.

115,968 spectators attended games at Kingsholm for an average of 10,542 with ten five figure gates out of the eleven played. Only Sale in the opening Kingsholm fixture fell short at 9,515.

—We were attractive opposition in away matches as well with an average of 8,968 from a 98,651 aggregate, the 16,845 at Leicester the highlight.

Could it improve? The answer was yes, when 117,929 flocked through the Kingsholm turnstiles in 2003-2004. A five figure average of 10,720 which was a long way ahead of that first professional season.

There was a decrease away from Castle Grim with a drop to a 90,453 aggregate for an average of 8,223. There was only one gate below five figures at Kingsholm when 9,832 watched visitors Leeds.

Increased capacity allowed the aggregate to soar to 136,700 the following season of 2004-2005, the average of 12,427 a welcome sight to all concerned.

Increased interest in away matches attracted 110,030 averaging 10,002. Every match at Kingsholm was above 11,000 with six matches reaching capacity!

A slight decrease to 131,253 in 2005-2006 was a minor blip with the average attendance at 11,932. The same short deficit in away fixtures saw 109,438 attend, an average of 9,948.

Yet Sale's visit on the opening home fixture attracting 9,374 was the only gate to fall below five figures!

2006-2007 heralded a slight increase with 134,017 coming to Kingsholm in eleven matches, as the average attendance rose to 12,183.

Away attendances rose with an average of 10,571 drawn from an aggregate of 166,281.

Every match at home saw five figure gates. Of course our last regular home match of the season was staged at Ashton Gate where 15,852 attended our 'home' match with Bristol Rugby as the development of the South Stand was already underway.

A bonanza took place in 2007-2008 when the aggregate of 153,998 was a boost to the club's coffers with 13,999 the average attendance.

There were two attendances of over 16,000, the highest at Kingsholm for league encounters in the modern era and a five figure average away as well of 10,551 from an aggregate of 116,064!

Had Kingsholm reached a peak? No, was the answer for 157,280 flocked through the turnstiles the following season, 2008-2009, with the average attendance rising to 14,298.

The away matches followed the same pattern. 123,517 aggregate

with an average of 11,228. Sale was the lowest attendance at Kingsholm with 13,466 present.

Could the halcyon days last? Unfortunately not, for 2009-2010 saw a decrease to 138,513 attending Kingsholm for an average of 12,592.

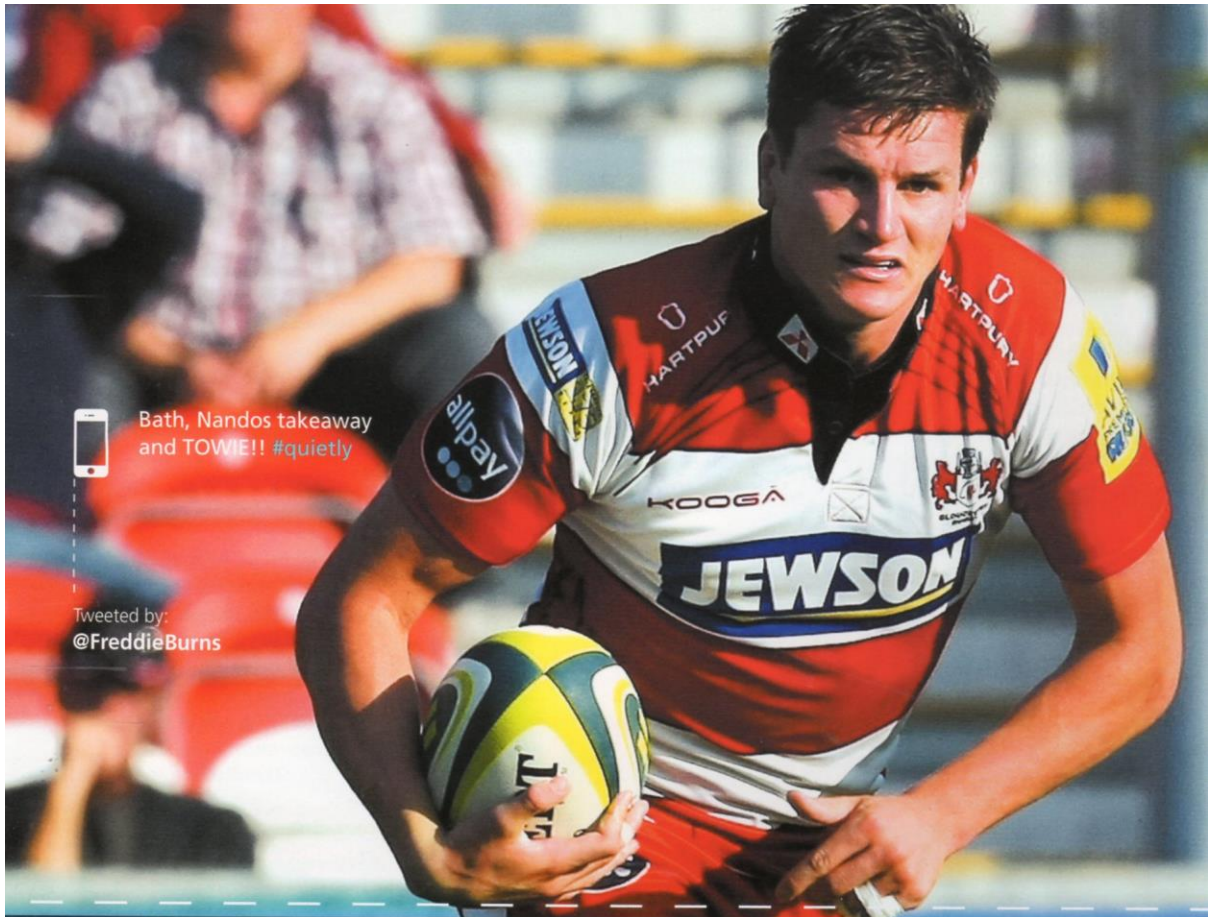
Away gates decreased to 116,833 but still a five figure average of 10,621. There was no gate at Kingsholm below five figures with Sale again the lowest attendance with 10,548.

Last season saw a slight move back to the peak of two seasons distant. 144,509 came to Kingsholm to see the 'Cherry and Whites' averaging 13,137.

The 2010-2011 season also witnessed away figures rising with 121,161 watching our away fixtures. That accounted for an average of 11,014.

Only one match attracted fewer than five figures at Kingsholm. No, not Sale but another northern club - Leeds when 9,994 watched our first home match of the season.





Bath, Nandos takeaway and TOWIE!! #quietly

Tweeted by:
@FreddieBurns

KICKING THINGS OFF

FREDDIE BURNS

MATTER OF FACT
Freddie signed for Gloucester in 2008 from the Bath Rugby Academy.

Life's looking sweet for Freddie Burns at the moment.

THE 21 year old has recently signed a new contract with the club and has spent the last few weeks with the England Saxons squad.

Everything's seemingly heading in the right direction for the Bath born fly half, but even he admits that he's taking the odd glance over his shoulder to see who could be challenging him for his position.

And, in recent weeks, the competition has been a little bit more familiar than usual – little brother Billy made his Gloucester Rugby debut against London Irish last weekend as a potential Burns dynasty starts to take shape.

However, talking this week during a break from training, Freddie stressed that he couldn't be happier for his younger sibling.

"There was a chance of me being on the bench at Irish but, as soon as I appeared for the Saxons on the Friday night, that wasn't an option.

"But, whether I was playing or not, I just wanted to get down to support him and give him any help he needed.

"I didn't want to mother him too much as he has to find certain things out for himself! But, as a family, we're very protective of each other and I just wanted to be by his side.

"And the Burns clan were there in force to support him. Anyone who could come was there to back him on his big day.

"I may be his brother but, when he came on, I was watching as a critic as well and was impressed that he backed himself when he came on. He saw a half gap and went for it. Not many 17 year olds would have gone for it."

The presence of relative youngsters such as his younger brother and also individuals like Ian Clark can make even someone like Freddie reflect upon his time at the club.

"It all happens so quickly. I can remember running out in Andy Hazell's testimonial game a couple of summers back as though it was yesterday.

"I was 19 years old back then and got a few games at full back. I've gone on to play quite a few games since then but it's flown by. Things change all the time in rugby, people are coming and going all the time. It can be a blur at times.

"It's important to take stock



"I may be his brother but, when he came on, I was watching as a critic as well and was impressed that he backed himself when he came on. He saw a half gap and went for it. Not many 17 year olds would have gone for it."

sometimes to appreciate what's happening and not get swept up in it all."

And that can be easier said than done at times in professional sport, especially when you represent a club where expectations are high each

and every season.

"Definitely, what with beating Toulouse, then the Saxons call up and then little Bill making his debut, it's been a big few weeks for the family to be honest.

"There are highs and lows in rugby but the past few weeks have been a massive high for me and I've taken a lot of confidence from that."

Was the Saxons call expected?

"Not really. I do a lot of kicking with JC (England Saxons Head Coach Jon Callard) but he didn't really say much.

"I always believe that you should focus on your club form and, if that goes well like Charlie (Sharples) showed, then you'll get the call.

"It's just a case of focusing on Gloucester and, if it happens, then it happens. But, when the call came, I was obviously ecstatic."

The Saxons experience was obviously a mixed one – a decent win over the Irish Wolfhounds followed by a sobering setback against Scotland A at a freezing Galashiels.

However, that's now done and dusted and the focus for the rest of the season is on Gloucester and the push for a Heineken Cup place.

With his new contract signed, Burns now knows that his future lies at Kingsholm although he confesses that he was fairly relaxed as negotiations took place.

"I'm not one of those players who worries over much about things like being out of contract.

"I said to Brushy that Gloucester was where I wanted to be and the rest took care of itself. I'm still only 21 and to know that I'll be here for two more seasons after this one provides peace of mind.

"There are key stages in your career when you need a bit of stability and I've got that now.

"So I can really focus on doing my best for Gloucester and hopefully we can finish the season strongly."

KINGSHOLM NEWS

WITH BOB FENTON

SO FAREWELL THEN, LV= CUP, OUR LOVE AFFAIR WAS BRIEF AND-INTENSE, BUT NOW IT'S OVER. NEVER DID LIKE THAT COMPETITION, HORRIBLY OVERCOMPLICATED.

It does now mean that there is a bit of a hole in the trophy cabinet though. Apparently, there are no replicas for the clubs to keep, so you only get to see it for a few weeks.

That of course means, that with all our interest in the cup competitions now ended, it has to be all or nothing in the Premiership matches as we try to push on up the table.

The middle of the league is still impossibly tight, with just a few points separating the teams from about third down to us in eighth place.

Looking at the fixtures, we still have to play quite a few teams who are currently above us in the league here at Kingsholm.

Sale, Exeter and Harlequins have all to show up here – and today's visitors, Northampton, are another side just above us.

If we can get a bit of momentum and play with the intensity that we showed against Toulouse a few weeks back, then we should be leapfrogging them quickly enough into a Heineken Cup spot for next season.

Today could see the return of a couple of our old boys – Paul Doran-Jones has been doing a pretty good job of keeping the Northampton bench warm since he left us at the end of last season, so he'll be itching to get on and show us what we have been missing.

And, running the show for



them, is our old favourite and St Peter's old boy, Ryan Lamb. It's fair to say that Ryan has been in a rich vein of form recently – mind you behind the pack that Northampton can usually field he does have a bit of an armchair ride.

To call Ryan an old hand at the fly half game seems a bit odd when he is only 25, but he seems to have been around for ages.

He made his professional debut at 20, but many of us had seen the talent that he undoubtedly has long before that in the old 'A' games.

Players like Ryan light up the game, I know he gets a bit of bad press here and there, but I love to see guys like him on the field strutting their cocky stuff. They can be infuriatingly

inconsistent but that's part of the package that goes into making a 'mercurial genius' I guess.

The idea of seeing him go head to head with Freddie at Kingsholm is an exciting prospect. There are a lot of similarities between them.

For what it's worth, I think Freddie just about shades it in the head to head. But, then I would say that because he's the guy walking out in the cherry and white shirt.

Talking of geniuses, the signing of Billy Twelvetrees was a stroke of genius and a great coup for the club.

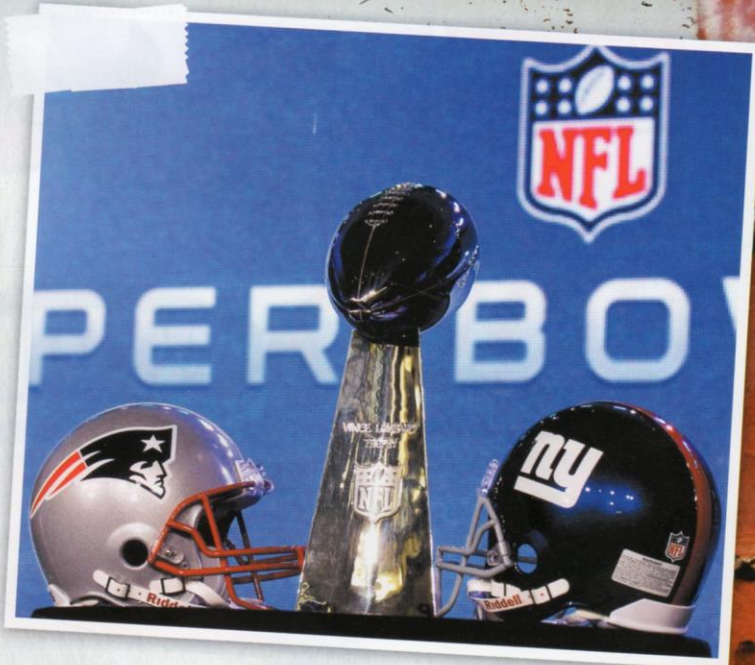
This one was completely out of the blue – or rather tiger stripes – for most of us, unless you were the oracle that is the

“...NO WONDER RICHARD COCKERILL SPAT HIS DUMMY CLEAN OUT OF THE PRAM REMEMBER ANTHONY ALLEN COCKERS WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND...”

infamous Baz, of course. I think he has a hotline to every agent in the country so generally knows what a player is going to do before they have even thought of it themselves.

It is a proper statement of intent by our club though, and one that must cause a ripple of excitement in the most cynical among us.

It's not so many years ago that it would be completely inconceivable that a player of his stature, and one with such a huge future in front of them, would ever contemplate leaving Leicester – no wonder Richard



Cockerill spat his dummy clean out of the pram! Remember Anthony Allen, Cockers? What goes around, comes around...

For a young guy like Billy to recognise the adventure that we are on at Kingsholm, and to want to be part of it, is great news indeed. Hopefully the fact that a player like him is prepared to put pen to paper with us will encourage some others to either stay on, or new talent to come down and join the party.

One who is definitely leaving us is Alasdair Strokosch, apparently he wants to find a bit of sunshine in France or the like. Good luck to him, he's been a great servant to us over the few years that he has been based here.

His aggression is only matched

by his fearsome death stare at the opposition – frankly, if I was on a field and saw a hulk like him on the other side, I'd go down in the warm up and stay well out of the way. I know we all wish him well wherever he heads off to.

Talking of trophies as I was at the start of this piece, has anyone got any idea where the old C&G trophies ended up? Last time I saw them they were on a shelf behind the bar in the old clubhouse – there's no sign of them in the cabinet now?

From what I remember they were hulking great things shaped a bit like an American Superbowl trophy – no doubt making a pretty passable job of being a paper weight' somewhere!

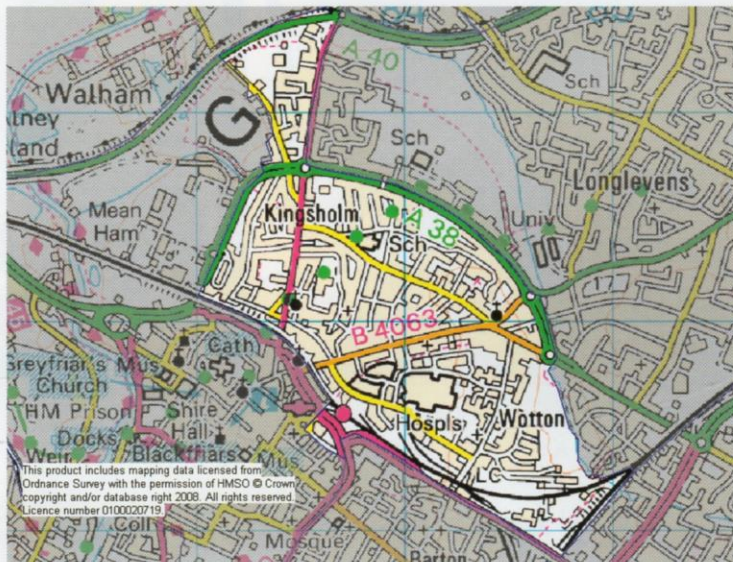


Gloucester

with Peter Arnold

talk

DIGGING IT



I WAS fascinated to learn that the County Archaeology Service is to conduct a major investigation of the whole Kingsholm area through this year and into next.

Makes sense because there is a case for stating that we are playing rugby on the oldest site in the whole of Gloucester.

Certainly the Romans placed their very first military encampment

hereabouts, guarding just about the first practicable crossing of the Severn. However, it was the arrival of the Saxons which really put us on the map.

The very name means exactly what it says on the packet – 'King's Holm': the home of the King.

Somewhere around here, possibly in the Kingsholm Square area, are the remains of the royal palace, and

I have no doubt that our local version of 'Time Team' will be digging one of the numerous test digs right around here.

So, what about the ground? They'll have to watch what they're doing around the sacred turf of course, but there's much work which could be done with the club's co-operation.

I imagine that some of the areas they'd like to explore are now covered by stands and other buildings, but it's worth remembering that the pitch was originally aligned at 90 degrees to the orientation we're all familiar with, and that the first few matches were played right up at the Dean's Walk end.

I once had a sight of some maps and accounts dating from the time the land was first acquired.

They showed quite plainly that, smack dab in the middle of the present playing area, was a grove of trees, a small house, and would you believe, a horse, so there was obviously a lot of work to be done.

Older members may recall that there was always a story that the ground was built on top of an old council tip. Such things are meat and drink to archaeologists, because they can reveal a great deal about the way our forebears lived.

A STAR IS BORN?



I CAN'T say I was surprised when we lost at London Irish.

Even before I saw the side which we were forced to send out, I couldn't really see that the string of players denied us by the demands of the various international squads, plus our injury list, would leave us with very much chance against a proficient side playing on their own Guinness soaked turf.

In the event, we were forced to play with no specialist outside half and no reliable kicker. Recipe for humiliation I feared.

Still, one always hopes, and although we didn't win, there were some good signs for the future out there last Saturday.

First of all, young Shaun Knight is inexorably learning his trade, getting better every week, and if he progresses the way it seems he might, we may well have yet another player lost to us come Six Nations time in a few years.

After all, England don't seem to me to be particularly rich in prop forward resources.

But of course, the star of the

show was young Ian Clark, a player who hadn't crossed the radar of most of us until a couple of weeks ago.

To score a brace of tries against that sort of opposition is an achievement for any player, let alone for a young tyro playing in his first full senior XV game.

His first try was a stunner, covering most of the length of the field, evading a couple of tacklers, and leaving the highly-rated Tom Homer gasping in his wake like a stranded fish.

One acquaintance estimated that he is at least as fast as Charlie Sharples, and, if that's right, then the prospect is mind-boggling.

Sharples, May and Clark, with Sinbad to supply the guile? It's the stuff of legends.

Of course, it won't happen because there simply isn't room on the pitch for all of them at once. But it's splendid to have that sort of pace in abundance, and that sort of mix-and-match must be a coach's dream.

I've no doubt that our coaching staff will be well aware of the fact that our latest young prodigy will need some very careful handling. He's very young and weighs not much more than 12 stone soaking wet.

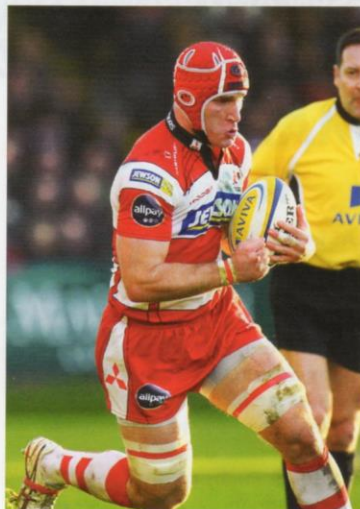
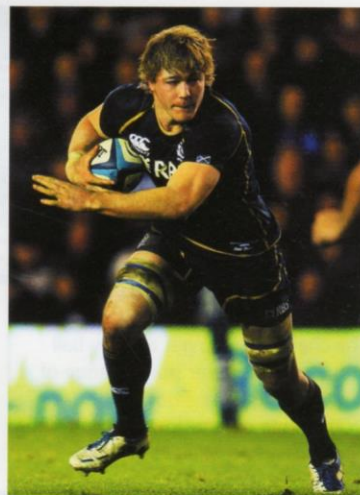
The passage of time and the attention of some of the best trainers around will take care, hopefully, of both those problems, but I hope they don't go overboard with the addition of bulk. We have had experience of the dangers of that.

I never thought that the remarkable James "Django" Forrester was quite the force of nature that he originally was after he was persuaded to add some bulk, and I have sometimes wondered if that additional weight may have contributed to the series of injuries which eventually led to his premature retirement?

Times have moved on since then, of course, and such dangers are better understood. In young Clarky we have a resource to be treasured.

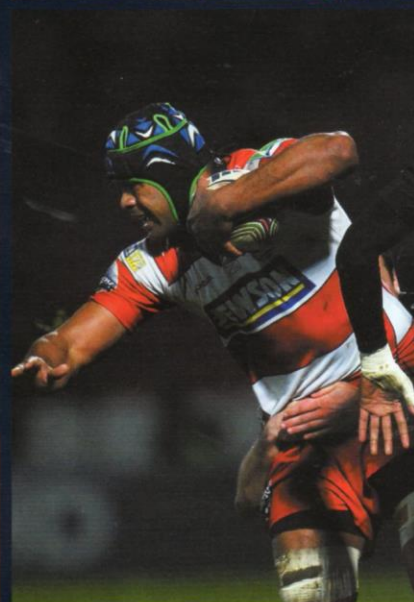
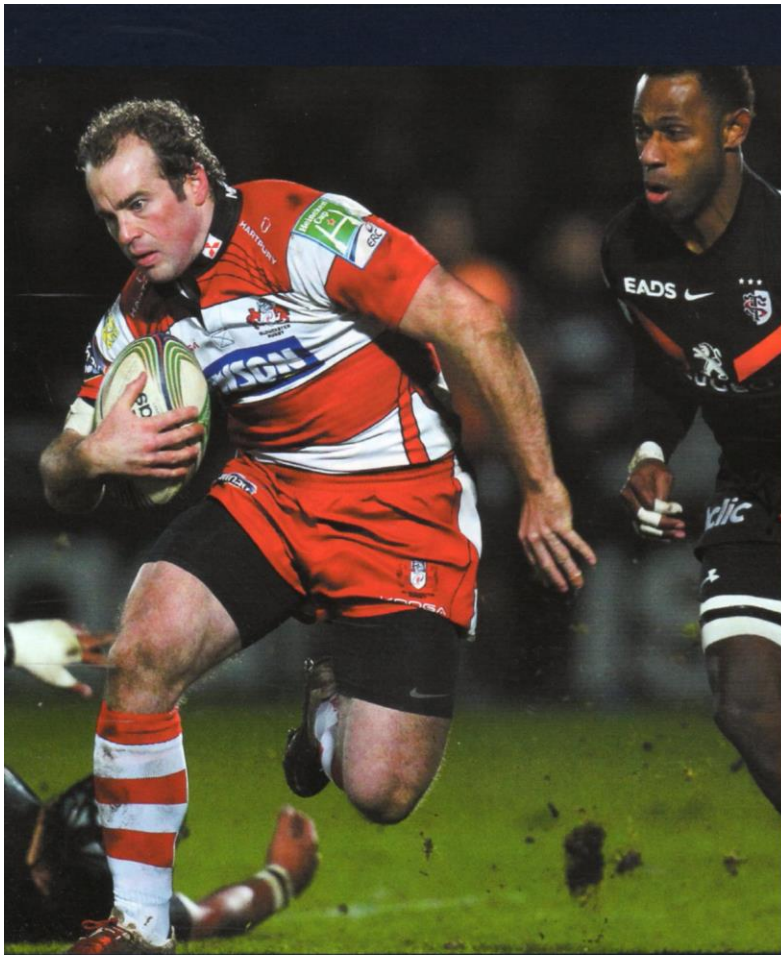
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT SO FAR?

WHAT did you make of the Calcutta Cup match? There was some undoubted new talent on view, but unfortunately, the pick of the bunch was a Scot. Young David Denton at No.8 was very impressive indeed.



Note to Bryan Redpath. Young Denton would make a splendid replacement for the departing Alasdair Strokosch.

Any chance of getting him down here? After all, there's no better place to learn the back-row trade.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 34
TOULOUSE 24

Heineken Cup, Kingsholm, 20 January 2012, 20:00 KO

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES May (3, 74),
Qera (27),
Sharples (46)

CONS Burns (4, 28, 48, 75)

PENS Burns (57, 73)

TOULOUSE

TRIES Dusautoir (7),
Matanavou (16, 64)

CONS Beauxis (8, 17, 65)

PEN Beauxis (14)

GLOUCESTER signed off in Europe for the 2011-12 season with a memorable 34-24 victory over Toulouse.

Kingsholm has witnessed some amazing European occasions but this victory will rank right up there with the very best of them.

This wasn't a second string French side travelling with nothing to play for and treating the game as just another day at the office with a nonchalant gallic shrug of the shoulders.

No, this was Toulouse, the current leaders of the Top14 table and four times winners of the Heineken Cup.

And it was a motivated Toulouse side. Guy Noves' side knew that they had to win as Harlequins were

breathing down their neck and going all out for a win in Connacht.

Their performance was a mixture of the sublime and the ridiculous. At times, their rugby was scintillating with Timoci Matanavou finishing two delicious backs moves and Thierry Dusautoir showing remarkable pace to score his try.

Matanavou, however, was at the heart of some breathtakingly ordinary defensive work. He was uncomfortable under the high ball throughout and only he will know what was going through his mind when his kick was charged down behind his own line to gift Jonny May his first try.

But that's not to take anything away from an inspired Gloucester



FIC performance who matched their illustrious opponents blow for blow.

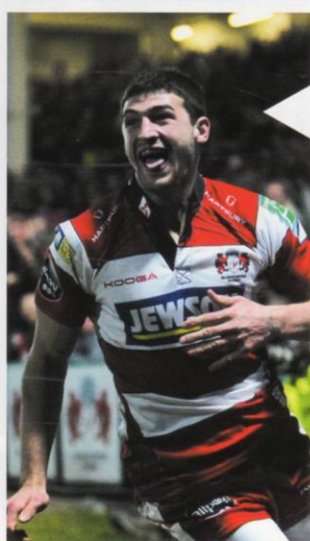
May's opener may have been slightly fortunate but the second, from Akapusi Qera, was a mixture of incisive running, slick hands and patience.

Tindall produced a gem of a grubber kick in the second half which May latched on to before sending Sharples in for the third score with the final try just the icing on the cake.

It wasn't all about the backs though. The pack also, to a man, produced a magnificent effort up front which created the platform for the backs to perform upon.

The enthralled Kingsholm faithful rose to the occasion, producing a level of support that wouldn't have been out of place for a crowd twice the size.

A game to remember, a night that will be talked about for a long time.



CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

James Simpson-Daniel's unique balanced running style and ability to time his pass to perfection saw Jonny May sprint untouched to the corner, clinching the try scoring bonus point and the win to send Kingsholm into raptures.

KEY QUOTE

"We knew they had picked a big, physical side and we showed them a lot of respect. I thought numbers one to 23 - our substitutes that came on made a big difference as well - were great.

"I am delighted for the boys because we finished off the Heineken Cup in style."

Bryan Redpath

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 Rupert Harden
- 4 L Jim Hamilton
- 5 L Alex Brown
- 6 F Alasdair Strokosch
- 7 F Akapusi Qera
- 8 N8 Luke Narraway

Replacements

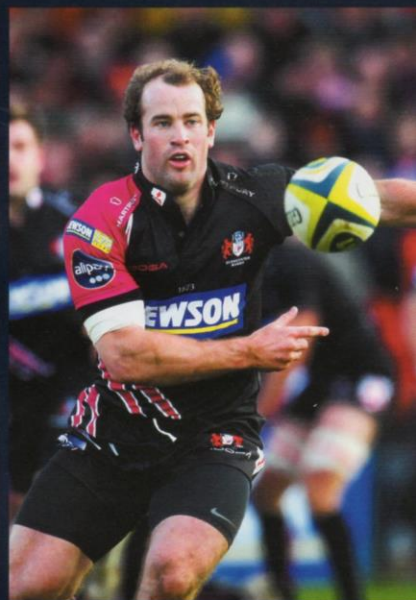
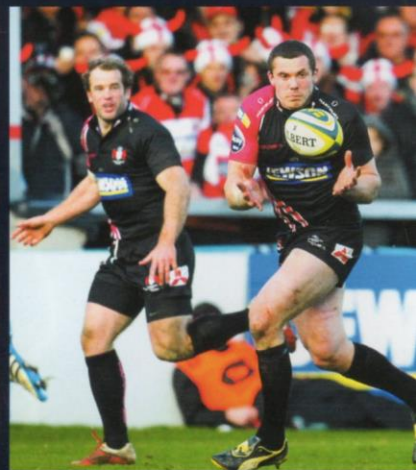
- 16 R Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 R Dan Murphy
- 18 R Shaun Knight
- 19 R Will James
- 20 R Matt Cox
- 21 R Dave Lewis
- 22 R Ryan Mills
- 23 R Henry Trinder

TOULOUSE

- 15 FB Clement Poitrenaud
- 14 W Timoci Matanavou
- 13 C Florian Fritz
- 12 C Yannick Jauzion
- 11 W Maxime Medard
- 10 FH Lionel Beauxis
- 9 SH Luke Burgess
- 1 P Gurthro Steenkamp
- 2 H William Servat
- 3 P Cencus Johnston
- 4 L Yoann Maestri
- 5 L Patricio Albacete
- 6 F Yannick Nyanga
- 7 F Thierry Dusautoir
- 8 N8 Louis Picamoles

Replacements

- 16 Christopher Tolofua
- 17 R Daan Human
- 18 R Jean-Baptiste Poux
- 19 R Gregory Lamboley
- 20 R Jean-Marc Doussain
- 21 R Jean Bouilhou
- 22 R Yves Donguy
- 23 R Shaun Sowerby



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 40
 CARDIFF BLUES 03

LV= Cup, Kingsholm, 28 January 2012, 15:00 KO

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES Buxton (8),
 Molenaar (34),
 Simpson-Daniel (64, 66),
 Hazell (70)

CONS Mills (9, 67, 71)

PENS Mills (14, 24, 30)

CARDIFF BLUES

PEN Blair (3)

A WEEK after the memorable Friday night victory over Toulouse, a much changed Gloucester side maintained the momentum with a comfortable LV= Cup win over the Cardiff Blues.

The changes weren't just confined to the players taking the field at Kingsholm. Instead of the usual Cherry and White hoops, the team sported a predominantly black change strip.

Unfamiliar kit or not, there was no mistaking the typically expansive way Gloucester approached the game. And eventually, the tactics brought their rewards.

The Blues competed gallantly but were massively overpowered up front and, as a result, Gloucester were

continually on the front foot.

Cardiff did take an early lead as the returning Ben Blair slotted a penalty but that was as good as it got for the visitors.

Buxton finished off a stunning counter attack led by Henry Trinder to give Gloucester the lead before Ryan Mills punished Cardiff's indiscipline with three penalties.

Meanwhile, Tim Molenaar was enjoying his first run out for the first team this season having torn a pectoral muscle in pre-season and the Kingsholm crowd welcomed him back loudly as he crossed for a 34th minute try.

The game lost its shape after the break as neither side was able to gain the ascendancy – Cardiff didn't really



have the weapons to hurt Gloucester while Redpath's side were seemingly aware that the game was as good as won.

It took a couple of typical moments of magic from the mercurial James Simpson-Daniel to secure the try scoring bonus point.

The first saw him scoop up loose possession before jinking his way to the line in a way only he can while a trademark burst of speed and show of strength in contact finished off a

blindside break by Nick Runciman.

Another who has missed a lot of playing time through injury, Andy Hazell, powered his way over for a popular try to round off the scoring with the Blues a well beaten side by this point.

The only negative on the day was the sight of Brett Deacon being stretchered off with a rib injury, a sad setback for the back rower who had been waiting patiently for a chance in recent weeks.



CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

Skipper for the day Peter Buxton produced a lung bursting effort to keep up with Henry Trinder as the stand in winger waved his way through the Cardiff defence before taking the inside pass and battling his way to the line.

KEY QUOTE

"We are chuffed with the result as we had 12 changes from last week's starting line-up against Toulouse.

"There was an element of mix and match and we didn't get the balance right in the first half but all credit to the Blues for battling hard with a much under strength side."

Bryan Redpath

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Tom Voyce
- 14 W James Simpson-Daniel
- 13 C Tim Molenaar
- 12 C Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
- 11 W Henry Trinder
- 10 FH Ryan Mills
- 9 SH Dave Lewis
- 1 P Dan Murphy
- 2 H Matias Cortese
- 3 P Shaun Knight
- 4 L Will James
- 5 L Alex Brown
- 6 F Peter Buxton
- 7 F Andrew Hazell
- 8 N8 Brett Deacon

Replacements

- 16 R Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 R Yann Thomas
- 18 R Dario Chistolini
- 19 R Matt Cox
- 20 R Gareth Evans
- 21 R Nick Runciman
- 22 R Mike Tindall
- 23 R Ian Clark

CARDIFF BLUES

- 15 FB Ben Blair
- 14 W Richard Mustoe
- 13 C Tom James
- 12 C Cory Allen
- 11 W Chris Czekaj
- 10 FH Gareth Davies
- 9 SH Lewis Jones
- 1 P John Yapp
- 2 H Marc Breeze
- 3 P Sam Hobbs
- 4 L Cory Hill
- 5 L Macauley Cook
- 6 F Josh Navidi
- 7 F Thomas Young
- 8 N8 Luke Hamilton

Replacements

- 16 R Rhys Williams
- 17 R Nathan Trevett
- 18 R Ryan Harford
- 19 R Matthew Screech
- 20 R Reuben Tucker
- 21 R Tom Rowlands
- 22 R Rhys Patchell
- 23 R Dan Fish

TODAY'S Line-UPS



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**



**NORTHAMPTON
SAINTS**

15 JONNY MAY	15 PAUL DIGGIN
14 CHARLIE SHARPLES	14 JAMIE ELLIOTT
13 MIKE TINDALL	13 GEORGE PISI
12 ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU	12 JAMES DOWNEY
11 JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	11 NOAH CATO
10 FREDDIE BURNS	10 STEPHEN MYLER
09 DAVE LEWIS	09 MARTIN ROBERTS
01 NICK WOOD	01 SOANE TONGA'UIHA
02 DARREN DAWIDIUK	02 ANDY LONG
03 RUPERT HARDEN	03 BRIAN MUJATI
04 WILL JAMES	04 JAMES CRAIG
05 ALEX BROWN	05 CHRISTIAN DAY
06 PETER BUXTON (C)	06 CALUM CLARK (C)
07 AKAPUSI QERA	07 BEN NUTLEY
08 MATT COX	08 ROGER WILSON
16 MATIAS CORTESE	16 MIKE HAYWOOD
17 DAN MURPHY	17 ALEX WALLER
18 SHAUN KNIGHT	18 TOM MERCEY
19 TOM SAVAGE	19 MARK SORENSON
20 GARETH EVANS	20 SAMU MANOA
21 NICK RUNCIMAN	21 RYAN GLYNN
22 RYAN MILLS	22 TOM MAY
23 TOM VOYCE	23 VASILY ARTEMYEV

Teams were correct at time of print

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE: J P Doyle
ASST REFS: Peter Huckle and Paul Dix

TOP SCORERS 2011/12



177 TOM HOMER

148 Nick Macleod

137 Owen Farrell

136 Nick Evans

133 Ignacio Mieres

132 Jimmy Gopperth



WHAT ARE THESE ALL ABOUT?

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