



THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

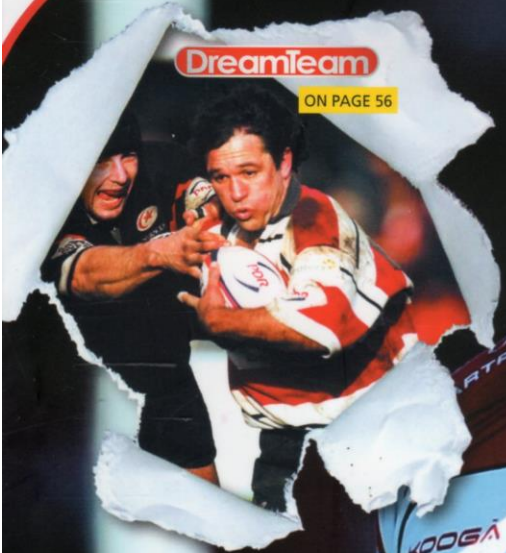
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY
vs. NEWCASTLE FALCONS
14 APRIL 2012, KO 3PM

DreamTeam

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KINGSHOLM NEWS
WITH BOB FENTON

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REGULARS

CAPTAIN'S CORNER,
CLUB NEWS,
CITIZEN,
RUGBY NEWS,
ACADEMY NEWS

GR MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

SAVAGE

WILD TIMES AHEAD FOR GLOUCESTER

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Captain's CORNER



"...we know we're a match for anyone but we have to play to our potential to achieve that."

SO, the perceived success of our 2011-12 season all boils down to how we perform in the last three Aviva Premiership games of the season.

To be honest, we've backed ourselves into a bit of a corner with the results in the past couple of rounds.

It'd be easy to look at the defeats against Exeter and Wasps and feel that we've been unlucky to lose them by one point and two points respectively.

We led both those games going into the final minute yet somehow managed to snatch defeats from the jaws of victory.

The bottom line, however, is that we had winning those games within our grasp, we were in control of our own destiny and we only have ourselves to blame for letting them slip away.

As a result, we only secured losing bonus points from those two games

when we really should have taken a minimum of eight points and I mean no disrespect whatsoever to Exeter and Wasps when I say that.

It means that we're still fighting to qualify for next season's Heineken Cup and those six points would have made things a lot less stressful!

There's no point whatsoever in moping about it or wondering about what might have been. We have to focus on what lies ahead in the next few weeks and take care of business.

And, as we've found out these past few weeks, there are no easy games in the Aviva Premiership. If we thought Wasps were fighting for their lives a fortnight ago, Newcastle could well be even tougher.

The fact of the matter for Newcastle today is that, if they fail to get something from today's game and Wasps win, then the Falcons will be relegated whatever happens in the last two rounds. That's some motivation.

We also know from personal experience just what fighters Newcastle can be. We always seem to struggle to get a result at Kingston Park and that was the case earlier this season when we went down 26-25 on a freezing Friday night in the North East.

However, it's important that we ignore the possible emotion of the occasion and concentrate on doing our own job this afternoon – that's securing a win.

We've started badly in the past two games. We've left ourselves with a mountain to climb, duly scaled it only to be pipped at the post.

It's important that we play this afternoon's game the way we want to. We stick to our structure and execute the game plan.

When we do that, we know we're a match for anyone but we have to play to our potential to achieve that.

Enjoy the game!



"As a group, we've obviously spoken long and hard this week about the events of the past couple of weeks and what we need to do to put things right."

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 NEWCASTLE FALCONS A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM THIS AFTERNOON.

I'LL make no bones about it. This afternoon's match is a very big one for everyone concerned with Gloucester Rugby.

A few weeks ago, we found ourselves in a reasonably strong position in the Aviva Premiership table.

We'd beaten Northampton, Bath and Harlequins to move ourselves into a position where we could realistically think about making a push for the top four.

Now, however, we find ourselves in a situation where we've lost three in a row and our focus has to be on making sure we gain enough points to secure Heineken Cup rugby for next season.

With no possibility of an English team winning either the Heineken or Amlin Challenge Cups this season, that means we have to finish sixth or above.

I don't need to point out to anyone reading these programme notes that, coming into this weekend, we're in sixth place in the table so we can't afford to miss any more opportunities.

Our situation is of our own making, of course. We were definitely second best at Welford Road against Leicester Tigers but we were in a position to win our last two games and we simply didn't close them out.

What was doubly disappointing in the defeat against Wasps a fortnight ago was that we didn't learn the lessons of the week before against Exeter.

We knew that Wasps would play

with real desire, they're fighting for their Premiership lives after all. And we knew that we'd have to match that desire by controlling the game.

But, we didn't do that. We gave away dull penalties and conceded two tries which were very soft from a defensive point of view. Despite scoring some good tries, which we're always capable of, it was a very disappointing afternoon for us.

It'd be naïve to think that we'll encounter anything different this afternoon. If anything, Newcastle will be even more fired up than Wasps were - their position at the foot of the table dictates that.

As a group, we've obviously spoken long and hard this week about the events of the past couple of weeks and what we need to do to put things right.

Talk is cheap though and it's what happens on the pitch during the key 80 minutes that matters. Hopefully, we'll all see a far more controlled performance this afternoon.

In a way, the past couple of weeks have summed up the story of our season so far.

We've lost ten games in the Aviva Premiership so far this season and picked up eight losing bonus points. We only failed to get something from the trips to Harlequins and Leicester.

You could argue that it's been a case of so near but yet so far. What it does show is that we've been competitive without closing out the win.

Even more revealing is in how many of those games we've been in front going into the latter stages

only to lose the lead. They're small margins at this level.

Small margins but crucial ones if we're to compete at the highest level. I can't question our overall work ethic and commitment but we do need to be smarter.

I mentioned above that we can't afford to miss any more opportunities. We can't rely upon the teams around us all losing as they did in the previous round of fixtures.

That was a chance for us to open up some daylight between ourselves and the likes of Sale, Bath and London Irish. We didn't take advantage. Those teams will win games in the next few weeks and we have to do likewise.

For now though, all we can do is focus on the Falcons and ensure that we do everything within our power to get back to winning ways.

That means ignoring what's happening in the other games and just concentrating on our game. It means respecting Newcastle and what this game means to them but also being professional and doing what it takes to secure a win.

With our next two games being here at Kingsholm, our destiny is very much in our own hands and we need to deliver in front of our own supporters who were magnificent last time against Exeter as they have been all season long.

We know that you'll all be right behind us and we'll be doing everything to live up to that support.

Enjoy the game

DreamTeam

ON PAGE 56

View from

The Citizen



WITH NICK PUREWAL

ORGANISING THE TROOPS

“...WE CAN BEAT THE TOP TEAMS AND WE CAN PUT WINS TOGETHER...”

A pale shadow of the team Gloucester know and expect has emerged in recent weeks – and Henry Trinder has demanded the Cherry and Whites strike it out.

The frustrated centre admitted disorganisation and uncertainty had riddled the Cherry and Whites for the last few weeks.

And now he has called for all that

to end, so the Kingsholm club can secure their Heineken Cup spot and salvage their season.

The 22-year-old midfielder believes Gloucester must redefine their attacking incision, or face surrendering sixth place in the Premiership.

After taking on Newcastle Falcons this afternoon the Cherry and Whites host Sale Sharks on April 21, before travelling to Reading to take on London Irish in the final game of the season on May 5th.

He admits Gloucester will fall short of their Heineken Cup aim unless they do more than just tidy up rough edges.

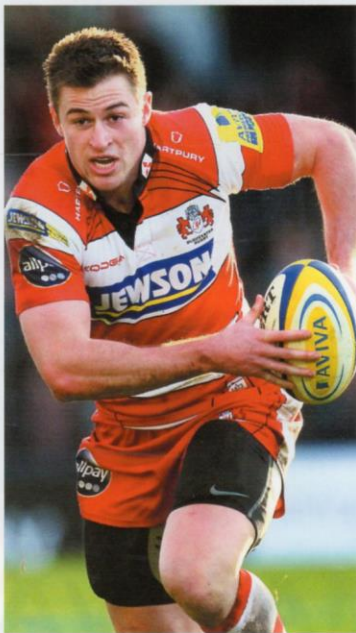
He believes they must rebuild their attacking game through considered training-field graft.

That simply did not work in light of the Exeter Chiefs defeat, as Gloucester crashed again at Wasps 26-24.

But Trinder said there was nothing else for it other than to keep plugging away.

He said: “We’ve proved earlier in the season that we can beat the top teams and we can put wins together.

“But at the moment we don’t look like that same team, we deserved to lose at Wasps and we’ve got to move past that.



"But it's organisation that is really letting us down, and that's a real failing. Two of the three tries we scored were from turnovers.

"There's not a lot coming off our structure that we're trying to play at the moment, and if we don't get into that and make gains from it, it's like a freelance, just running round passing the ball to each other.

"Off the back of that they get turnovers, then we're not organised and they can break and get points. That's where we've got to look at our organisation.

"Everyone knows we can score those great counter-attack tries – we've got great finishers – but we need to be finishing off the back of our structure and not off the back of opposition mistakes.

"That's where we've got to sharpen up if we really want to end in that top six. We just need to sort it out really now.

"We're getting started in the structure but it's just not having the effect it should, and that's down to us as players, we've got to be a bit more organised in getting the ball in

the right areas at the right times.

"Freddie (Burns) had to carry at points when he shouldn't have been, and that's not down to him – we weren't in the positions early enough.

"Then there were some 50-50s where we were not too sure and the wrong option was taken.

"So that lack of organisation is letting us down and we cannot allow that to continue now."

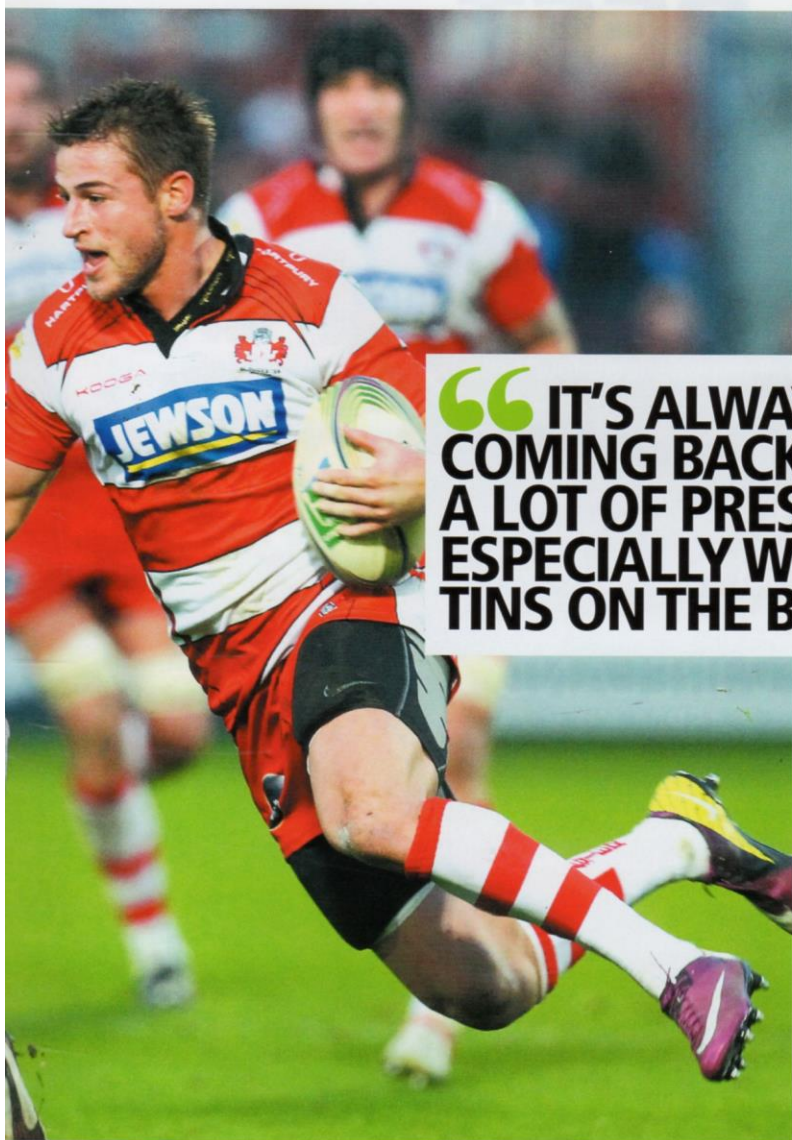
Fit-again after suffering a broken jaw on his return from an ankle problem, Trinder admitted he himself was struggling with the organisation side of things against Wasps.

But as he acclimatises again after beating his injury blues, he hopes at least a level of that will alleviate naturally.

Trinder said Gloucester must stop hindering their chances with slow starts.

He said:

"We tried clawing our way back into it after our poor start at Wasps but we made a lot of mistakes,



“IT'S ALWAYS HARD COMING BACK, THERE'S A LOT OF PRESSURE, ESPECIALLY WITH GUYS LIKE TINS ON THE BENCH.”

giving away penalties trying to solve that. That second half lifted it, we had more ball retention and those counter-attacks.

"We always knew it was going to be a hard game but we make it so difficult for ourselves it's a massive frustration.

"It's always hard coming back, there's a lot of pressure, especially with guys like Tins on the bench.

"I felt I was too slow in bringing the organisation and not really bringing the game I want to play.

"But after seven weeks out, hopefully that will come back now and I'll definitely be looking to sharpen that up."



DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

DUNCAN MCGREGOR (1881-1947)

One of the strangest appearances in the colours of this club must surely have been of an international player who recorded four tries against England and made just one appearance for this club. These statistics occurred in the same season!

The player in question was Duncan McGregor, a wing



three quarter who made four appearances in total for the New Zealand 'All Blacks' in which he scored 18 points.

Duncan was born in Kaipoi on 16th July 1881 and appeared for Canterbury and Wellington.

McGregor actually appeared in the 'All Blacks' first International match versus their adversaries Australia at Sydney Cricket Ground on 15th August 1903 and they went on to record a 27 points to three victory.

There had been, prior to this particular game, matches played between the two nations from across the Tasman. But this was different – the very first Test.

The New Zealand team was:
- W.Wallace; A.Ashe, E.McGregor, D.McGregor; J.Duncan, M.E.Wood; H.Kierran, G.Tyler, D.Voy, P.Long, R.Cook, B.Fanning, W.Nicholson, A.McMinn and D.Gallacher.

A year later Duncan McGregor scored his first points for New Zealand with two tries against Great Britain at the Athletic Park in Wellington, a match where the hosts were victorious by 9 points to three. In those days a try was worth three points.

When the original 'All Blacks' toured the British Isles in 1905-06 they played their first test match in England at Crystal Palace in South London.

This venue was chosen due to the fact that it had a greater capacity than any of the other international venues, such as Richmond and Blackheath. Twickenham was not a Test match venue until 1910.

Crystal Palace was certainly no comparison to the forthcoming Twickenham site. Seats were at a premium for the game, it was a complex of buildings almost entirely built of glass - hence 'crystal'.

It had been part of an exposition of Hyde Park in West London, having been initially intended to extol the virtues of industrial England. It was then moved piece by piece to Sydenham in South London and was then re-constructed as the City's playground!

The Crystal Palace that we know today in modern times now stands on the site. In that period of time the buildings seemed immense to onlookers. In one building there was a performing circus, there were hundreds participating in roller



NEW ZEALAND TEAM.

Back Row—J. Corbett W. Johnstone W. Cunningham F. Newton G. Nicholson C. Seeling J. O'Sullivan A. McDonald D. McGregor J. Duncan
Middle Row—E. Harper W. J. Wallace W. J. Stead (*Vice Capt.*) G. H. Dixon (*Manager*) D. Gallaher (*Capt.*) J. Hunter G. Gillett F. Glasgow W. Mackrell
Front Row—F. Casey H. J. Abbott G. W. Smith F. Roberts H. D. Thomson H. J. Mynett E. E. Booth G. Tyler R. G. Deans

skating.

Organ recitals and other sideshows were added attractions, even a military band and arriving freight trains served as distractions to the crowd wishing to watch the match.

Playing for England was Gloucester's Dai Gent who was set to make his International debut against the 'All Blacks'.

Eventually the match attracted an attendance of 45,000 on 2nd December 1905. It was to be a game in which Duncan McGregor excelled.

He scored tries in the 5th, 15th and 35th minute of the first half. Duncan's fourth try came in the dying moments of a 15 points to nil victory for the visitors, the original 'All Blacks'.

Apparently the match was no spectacle as it rained heavily in the week prior to the game. This prevented the ground from drying and the fact that the playing area had formerly been a lake did not help! That final try was to be the last that Duncan McGregor was to register in an 'All Black' shirt.

His connection with Kingsholm

came when the tourists defeated Gloucester by 44 points to nil on that 1905-06 tour.

The club was then referred to as the 'City'. Along with his touring team-mate Harry 'Jonas' Mynett, they intimated that they would appear for the club at the completion of their touring duties.

Harry Mynett was born on the 4th June 1876 and played for Taranaki at first five-eighth. In total he appeared in eight Test matches for New Zealand.

He made his Test debut against Ireland as a wing three-quarter at Lansdowne Road, Dublin on 25th November 1905 in a 15 points to nil victory. Harry Mynett was 34 years and 28 days of age when he appeared in his final International! He later became an 'All Black' selector.

Duncan McGregor and Harry Mynett were in the 1905 'All Blacks' tour of Britain that attained legendary status. They scored 976 points and conceded a mere 59!

Their wish to appear for Gloucester came to fruition on 13th January 1906 here at Kingsholm when, in a team captained by

Bill Johns, the former England international they defeated Leicester by 20 points without reply.

Neither player registered a point. It was the only appearance they made for the 'City' team. However, it was a unique statistic.

Duncan McGregor who had scored 66 tries in a mere 59 matches throughout all of his first class Rugby Union career then decided to turn his back on the game.

He did return to live in Gloucestershire in 1907 when he opened a sports shop. It was a short lived experience and he eventually returned to New Zealand.

On his return to his homeland he became a professional Rugby League player where he merited a solitary Test cap for New Zealand. On retirement he became a national selector and also for a period became a referee.

Duncan McGregor died in poverty on 11th March 1947 aged 65 years. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Timaru, a sad finale for a man who was an 'All Black'. He was the 101st player to be capped for New Zealand.

One of the biggest success stories of Gloucester Rugby's 2011-12 season has been, with all due respect to the player concerned, one of the more unexpected.

TOM SAVAGE played his rugby with Hartpury RFC last season, captaining them to the National Three South West title while also making several appearances in the Aviva Premiership A League for Gloucester.

12 months on, Tom has made 17 first team appearances for the Cherry and Whites and, sitting in one of the offices at the team's training base at Hartpury College this week, looked back on quite a year.

"It was only after Christmas last year that I got myself an agent. He put together a highlights reel and started to talk to a few clubs for me.

"But, I'd been training off and on with Gloucester throughout the year and that's where I wanted to play.

"The close links between Hartpury and Gloucester really helped and I was able to play a bit of A League, get myself seen by the coaches and it all went from there really."

"With so many talented young players spotted at an early age and drafted into Academies, the 22 year old has followed an interesting route into Premiership rugby and he acknowledges he owes a debt to local rugby.

"I only really started to play the game seriously when I was 15 or 16 and there wasn't anything really in place for young players where I lived at the time.

"So, I decided to go to Hartpury where I carry on with my studies while pursuing my goal of playing rugby at the same time.

"I owe a lot to the likes of Allan Lewis and Mark Cornwell who pushed me hard and helped me to accelerate through and leapfrog a few people during my time at Hartpury."

With the likes of Alex Brown, Jim Hamilton and Will James already part of the squad, Savage may have been forgiven for thinking that he would

have to wait for his first outing for the first team.

It wasn't a particularly long wait though. 42 minutes into Gloucester's opening Premiership match of the



"I owe a lot to the likes of Allan Lewis and Mark Cornwell who pushed me hard and helped me to accelerate through and leapfrog a few people during my time at Hartpury."

season, Savage got the call when Alex Brown went down injured.

"It's quite difficult being a replacement because you have to stay alert but you're never quite sure if you're going to get on.

"The day was quite nerve wracking up to that point but, because I got the call quite suddenly, I didn't really have time to get nervous about getting on to the pitch. I was just on and straight into the action."

With Brown out injured the following week and Jim Hamilton away at Rugby World Cup, his first

start came a week later at home to Worcester, a special occasion.

"It was a great way to get your first start. Kingsholm on a sunny afternoon against a local rival in Worcester. It was a memorable full debut and we got the right result as well."

It's not all been plain sailing, however. Tom travelled to Toulouse as part of the matchday 23 only to fail a late fitness test on a knee injury that was to rule him out for three months.

"We found out that I had an underlying knee injury which I aggravated in training.

"We thought I was going to be fit for Toulouse which I was desperate to be involved in but my knee swelled up on the flight down there and a scan highlighted the problem.

"Fortunately though, I was able to get back into the side and the knee has been feeling fine."

If he were able to take a step back and watch the Tom Savage of the season opener compared to the one playing now, what differences would he notice?

"I've just tried to carry on improving each and every week. Defensively, for example, is so much different to what I've experienced before.

"It's faster and more physical and I've just focused on working hard to meet the standards we set."

It's been quite a season for him, one that will live long in his memory. All things considered though, he's probably looking forward to a bit of time off?

"It will be nice just to have a few weeks off and then come back fully refreshed for next year to try and build upon the foundations I've laid this year.

"This year has been great but I have to keep moving forward and improving if I'm to nail down a regular spot in the starting line up."



I'm thinking @NandosGlos
need a man vs food style
challenge for people
to get stuck into!!
#perijunkies

Tweeted by:
@tc_savage

HARDER, BETTER, FASTER... SAVAGE

TOM SAVAGE

BARBARIANS DRAFT IN MORE STARS FOR KINGSHOLM SHOWPIECE



BARBARIANS' TEAM MANAGER ALAN EVANS REVEALS THE LATEST NEWS – AND SALUTES A **GLOUCESTER** LEGEND

NEW Zealand's World Cup final hero Stephen Donald is the latest star name to be added to the Barbarians' squad that takes on Ireland at Kingsholm on May 29th.

The All Black fly-half, now with Bath Rugby, wrote his name into the pantheon of All Blacks' legends when he came off the replacements' bench and slotted the second-half penalty goal that beat France in last October's pulsating final.

Donald's return to Barbarian colours is the best possible omen for the famous touring side. Eighteen months ago he was part of an earlier Baa-Baas' squad that put the Springboks to the sword at Twickenham.

And this time around he joins another array of running backs that promise to test Ireland here, as well

as England at Twickenham and Wales at the Millennium Stadium, to the limit.

Already announced of course are Gloucester Rugby favourites Mike Tindall and Akapusi Qera, together with former Cherry and White, Iain Balshaw.

Throw in the likes of Welsh legends Sharke Williams and Stephen Jones, France's Cedric Heymans and All Black Joe Rokocoko, and the possibilities for a springtime rugby extravaganza sound endless.

Joining them all along with Donald are yet more world-class backs in the shape of England's Mark Cueto, Wales and Lions' scrum-half Dwayne Peel, and French centre Maxime Mermoz.

And, if that sounds like too many backs hungry for the ball and very few forwards to supply it, the

Barbarian committee are shortly to unveil plenty of piano shifters (and gifted ball-carriers in their own right).

As the various play-off permutations affecting clubs the length and breadth of Europe take shape, the real balance of the Baa-Baas' squad will emerge.

There is every likelihood that Qera will be joined in the back-row by Wallaby great George Smith, Scotland's John Beattie and Puma Juan-Manuel Leguizamon. While, in the second-row engine room, Frenchmen Lionel Nallet and Jerome Thion and Springbok Johann Muller have been lined up.

Two of the props already recruited are England's Andrew Sheridan and another All Black and World Cup hero, John Afoa.

By the time they arrive at Kingsholm at the end of next month,

this star-studded squad will have stretched to 30 players drawn from something in the region of a dozen nations.

But, even as they do so, the local rugby fraternity would have every right to reflect on and toast Gloucester's own contribution to the fortunes of the Barbarians over the years.

At the last count, 53 players have turned out for the Baa-Baas whilst club members here. The first, way back in 1893, was Francis Oswald Poole, a graduate of Cheltenham College and man of the cloth who achieved the double whammy two years later of being ordained by the Church and capped by England almost in the same breath. A holy alliance if ever there was one.

Eventually he was a Barbarian seven-times over and so began a regular recruitment of men of Gloucester to the cause of the Barbarians.

In more modern times, names like Blakeway, Burton, Fidler, Gadd and Teague jump off the page of the Barbarians' roll of honour.

And, of course, four years ago in the corresponding fixture against Ireland, Lesley Vainikolo was on the Baa-Baas' wing.

Yet pride of place really goes to a great favourite from half-a-century ago, George Hastings. Born in Dursley, educated at Cheltenham Grammar School, and backbone of the front row, Hastings qualifies for a select breed who have played 20 games for the Barbarians.

Originally an aircraft draughtsman and later a farmer, Hastings cut his scrummaging teeth with Old Patesians and the Cheltenham club sides before giving years of service in front of the Kingsholm faithful and in 13 internationals for England.

With the Barbarians he added an extra dimension to his appearances.

right – six matches in 17 days, immediately in the wake of a four-match Easter tour of south Wales, and with a squad of only 20 players!

There was no shortage of stellar names among them but while Tony O'Reilly, Cliff Morgan and Andy Mulligan were grabbing the headlines behind the scrum, Hastings was

making his own contribution up front and then converting the tries that they scored. And that 28-pointer really did happen.

Hence the 'Vancouver Herald' on 1 May 1957, reporting the Baa-Baas' 52-nil demolition of Ontario the previous day: "Deadly accurate kicker George Hastings scored five penalty boots [sic], five conversions and a try for a high total of 28 points."

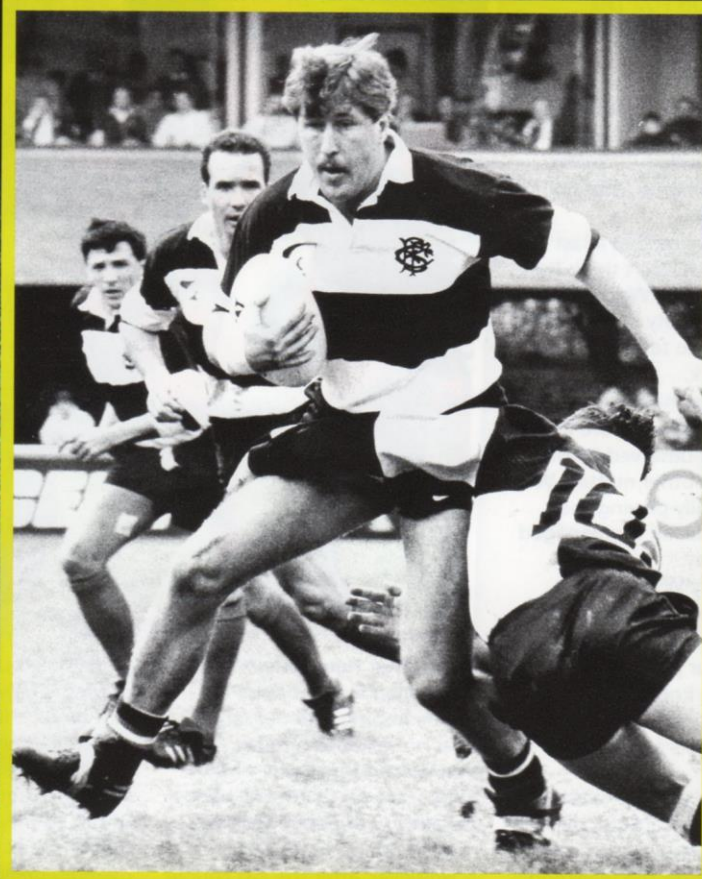
Add to that the fact that Hastings played in all six matches and a year later was invited to tour with the Baa-Baas again on another six-match assignment in South Africa and

you get the picture that he really was a true Barbarian!

As if to prove his goalkicking pedigree in much tougher surroundings, he was at it again with the boot, converting a couple of glorious tries against Transvaal in front of a packed 60,000 crowd at Ellis Park in Johannesburg.

What price Andrew Sheridan rather than Stephen Donald stroking over a touchline conversion at Kingsholm on May 29th?

When the Barbarians are in town anything could happen.



Clearly a prop not satisfied with the grunt and groan of scrums and lineouts, the records show that in his 20 appearances he also amassed no fewer than 67 points in the black-and-white jersey.

And, what's more, in one game he racked up an incredible 28 points! Such statistics almost demand further delving by any self-respecting researcher and, sure enough, young George achieved just that on the Baa-Baas' pioneering tour of Canada in 1957.

The trip was an epic in its own



Gloucester

with Peter Arnold **talk**

CONUNDRUM



IT'S a bit of a conundrum to know how to start my piece this time round. We have lost our last two matches and it's difficult to know why.

Against both Exeter, right here at Kingsholm, and Wasps at Adams Park, after initial hiccups, we appeared to have the game done and dusted, only to come away with nothing more than a losing bonus point.

Great teams don't suffer like that. When was the last time, for example, you saw Leicester get done at the death in the way we have been of late?

The fact is that such syndromes can, all too easily become a habit. We can make excuses, of course.

There is a lack of real, hard, hairy experience among the backs, for example, but when you remember the way our young brigade has played at other times recently, that reasoning doesn't really wash.

There have been one or two injuries in strategically important positions, notably that one to Nick Wood, but surely we should have been able to cover for that.

But we do have to win today whatever happens, so gird your loins chaps and give us a win.

NO REVOLVING DOOR

THAT'S all very well, but today's welcome visitors need a result even more than we do. They appear to be standing on the trap door of relegation, although that's not certain yet.

Did you know, by the way, that they are not the only Newcastle Falcons around?

There's another one in Australia, but there isn't likely to be any confusion, because the Aussie outfit plays basketball.

The situation isn't made any easier by the fact that the exploits of Exeter seem to have put paid to the 'revolving door' theory which states that a Championship side claws its way up into the Premiership only to be knocked straight down at the end of their first season.

But whoever gets relegated, it leads to the question, who will take their place in 2012/13? One rather mouth-watering prospect is that we could just have our old well-loved foe, Bristol back in the top echelon. I'm sure we'd all like to see that.

If it did happen, it would mean that Gloucester, Worcester, Bath,



Exeter and Bristol would all be in the Premiership. In other words, almost half of the top clubs would come from our half of the country.

While, if Newcastle do get the drop, then only Sale would be left to fly the

flag for the North.

And while on the subject of the Arctic Circle, it looks as if we're going to have to start taking Edinburgh seriously. Did you notice that they beat Toulouse last weekend?

UPS AND DOWNS

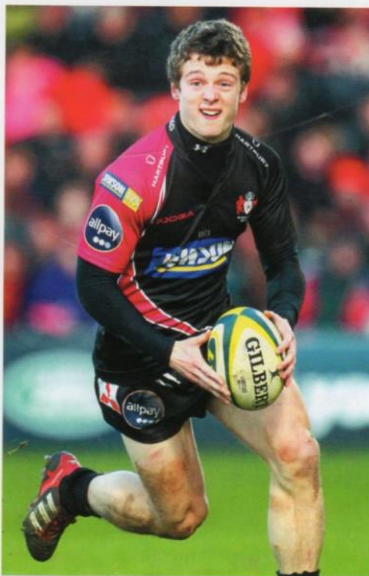
THERE'S only one home game left after this, when Sale come calling. So it's a good time to start looking back on the season.

To start with, for some reason, it seems to have absolutely flashed by. It only seems a few weeks ago that we were studying the results of the pre-season matches.

But I suppose that the stand-out feature of 2011/12 is its topsy-turvy nature.

There have been times when we have marvelled at some of the best rugby we've ever seen the club play. The games against Toulouse and Harlequins spring to mind. On the other hand the side has looked pretty average at times.

Oddly enough, we appear to have been at our best when we were deprived of several players by the Six



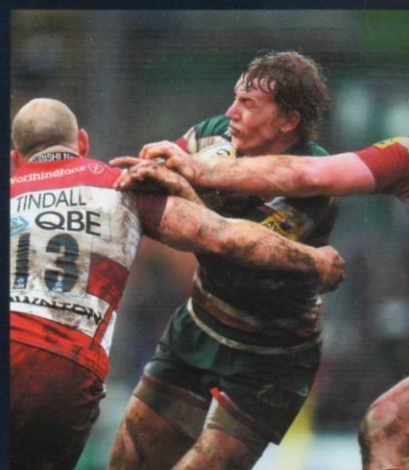
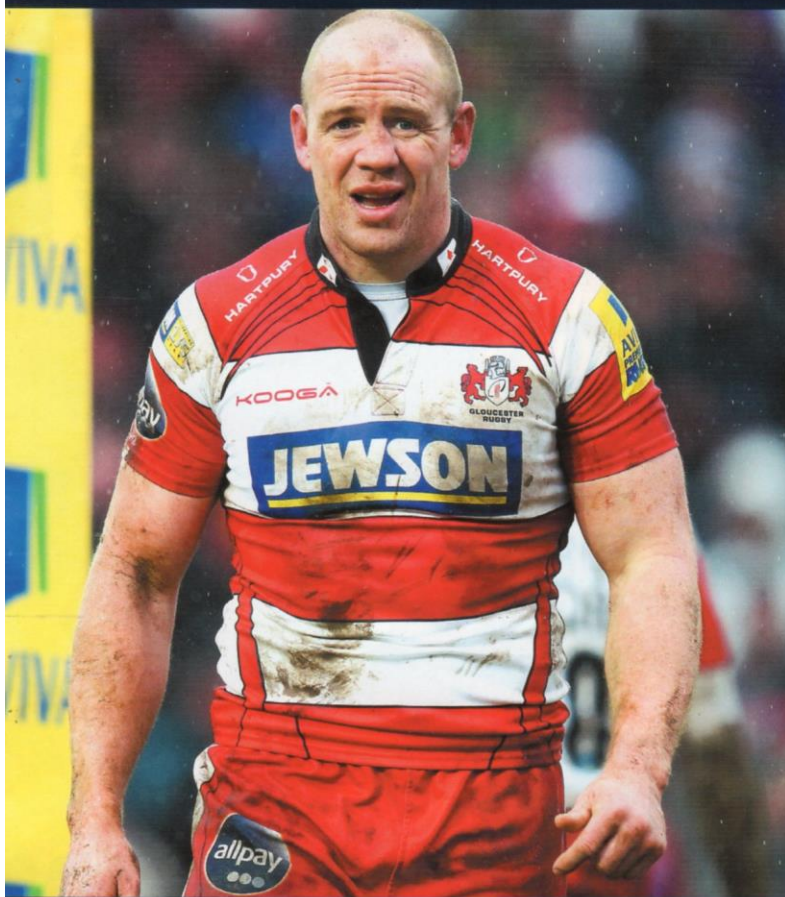
Nations. There must be a moral there, somewhere.

It's tempting to ascribe some of that success to the arrival on the scene of a frightening array of young talent. When you think that Charlie Sharples is almost regarded as one of the old men of the side, then things are getting a bit ridiculous.

But there are names to watch out for next season. Lads like Clark, Robson and several others have shown us enough, in their scanty appearances to show that they have an awful lot about them, and should be nurtured carefully.

In the long run, it doesn't do any good to bung them into the deep end unless injuries or whatever demand it.

But we have a great deal to look forward to next time round.



LEICESTER TIGERS 36
 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 03

Aviva Premiership Rugby, Welford Road, 4 March 2012, 13:00 KO

LEICESTER TIGERS

TRIES Mulipola (12),
 Mafi (22),
 Youngs (38),
 Smith (57),
 Tuilagi (60)

CONS Flood (13, 39, 58, 61)

PENS Flood (28)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

PEN Burns (1)

AFTER a three match winning run moved Gloucester Rugby to the periphery of the Aviva Premiership play off places, a disappointing defeat at Welford Road saw the Cherry and Whites finish their latest phase of matches on a low note.

Leaden skies greeted the Cherry and Whites as they arrived at Welford Road, setting an ominous tone for one of the most difficult away fixtures on the calendar.

And the mood didn't lift throughout the warm ups as rain continued to fall heavily, pools of water clearly visible on the pitch with the temperature struggling to get above zero.

Gloucester made a half decent

start. Freddie Burns kicked an early penalty to give his team a 3-0 lead and had a chance to double the margin just a few minutes later only to push his kick wide.

However, that was as good as it got as Bryan Redpath's side started to pay a heavy price for basic mistakes.

A dropped up and under conceded field position and a scrappy scrummage gave the Tigers a 5 metre attacking platform from which prop Mulipola crashed over.

This was followed by a gift wrapped score for the home side as Steve Mafi secured lineout ball, wasn't touched as he came to ground and simply turned round and galloped home from 20 metres



for the try.

When Ben Youngs broke a tackle in midfield to scamper home just a couple of minutes before the half time interval, Gloucester's goose looked well and truly cooked. Although they could claim with some justification that the TMO had done them no favours in awarding Young's try.

Disputing the score was clutching at straws, however. The Tigers were well on top with number eight Thomas Waldrom particularly enjoying the muddy conditions.

The England qualified New Zealander possessed the low gears necessary to make the hard yards through the mud and enough top end speed to do real damage once he'd breached the initial defensive line.

Gloucester dug deep in the

second half and did their best to deny the Tigers the try scoring bonus point, but chasing the game in the conditions which negated the speed threat of the likes of Jonny May proved to be a tall order.

And the conditions finally contributed to a breakthrough on the hour as Kingsholm bound Billy Twelvetrees slid a grubber kick through, May slipped as he tried to cover and Matt Smith had an easy task touching down.

Leicester knew that they had the five points in the bag and some of the intensity went out of the game.

However, the Welford Road crowd rose to their feet one last time as an attempted kick through only found Alesana Tuilagi's midriff and the big Samoan ran it back for the final try to rub salt into some pretty raw wounds.



KEY QUOTE

"We were well and truly beaten. You have got to turn up and do the basics, but our basics weren't good enough.

"Mentally, we didn't turn up. It does not mean you are a bad team, but we have lost to a side that has always thrived in conditions like that."

Bryan Redpath

LEICESTER TIGERS

- 15 FB Geordan Murphy (c)
- 14 W Horacio Agulla
- 13 C Matt Smith
- 12 C Billy Twelvetrees
- 11 W Alesana Tuilagi
- 10 FH Toby Flood
- 9 SH Ben Youngs
- 1 P Marcos Ayerza
- 2 H George Chuter
- 3 P Logovi'i Mulipola
- 4 L George Skivington
- 5 L Graham Kitchener
- 6 F Steve Mafi
- 7 F Julian Salvi
- 8 N8 Thomas Waldrom

Replacements

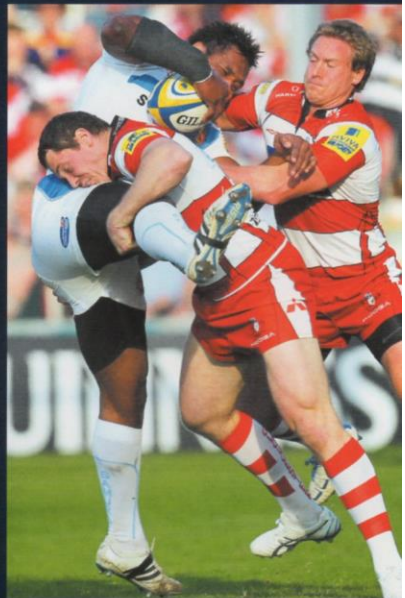
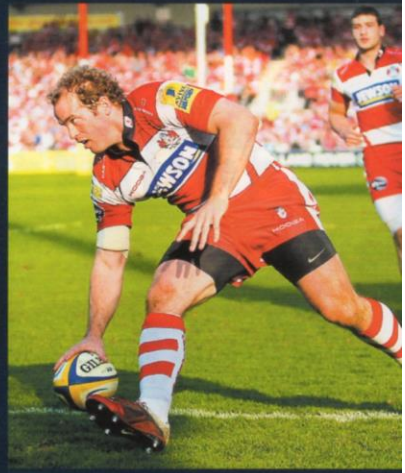
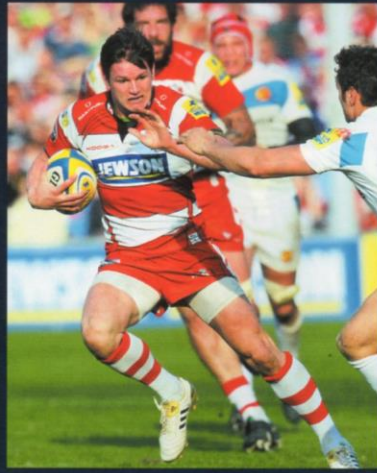
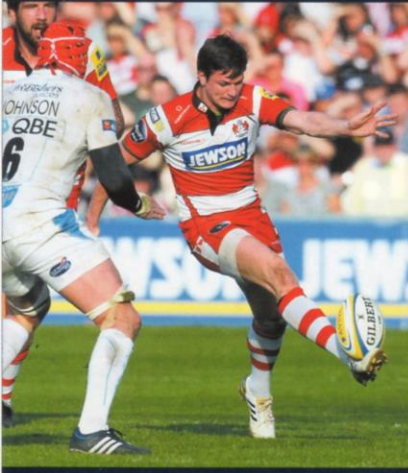
- 16 H Rob Hawkins
- 17 P Boris Stankovich
- 18 P Julian White
- 19 F Ben Pienaar
- 20 N8 Craig Newby
- 21 James Grindal
- 22 FH George Ford
- 23 FB Scott Hamilton

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Jonny May
- 14 W Ollie Phillips
- 13 C Mike Tindall (c)
- 12 C Tim Molenaar
- 11 W Tom Voyce
- 10 FH Freddie Burns
- 9 SH Dave Lewis
- 1 P Nick Wood
- 2 H Darren Dawidiuk
- 3 P Rupert Harden
- 4 L Will James
- 5 L Alex Brown
- 6 F Tom Savage
- 7 F Matt Cox
- 8 N8 Brett Deacon

Replacements

- 16 H Scott Lawson
- 17 P Dan Murphy
- 18 P Shaun Knight
- 19 L Jim Hamilton
- 20 F Akapusi Qera
- 21 SH Nick Runciman
- 22 C Ryan Mills
- 23 N8 Peter Buxton



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 27
EXETER CHIEFS 28

Aviva Premiership Rugby, Kingsholm, 24 March 2012, 15:00 KO

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES Simpson-Daniel (54), Burns (58), Runciman (61)

CONS Burns (56, 59, 62)

PENS Burns (11, 42)

EXETER CHIEFS

TRIES Mitchell (22), Jess (36), Muldowney (79)

CONS Mieres (23), Steenson (80)

PENS Mieres (40, 49), Steenson (73)

CONDITIONS were bright and clear at Kingsholm as fifth (Exeter Chiefs) met sixth (Gloucester Rugby) in the Aviva Premiership, but it was all gloom in the home camp at the final whistle as the visitors took the spoils.

It was a significant win for Rob Baxter's side. Gloucester could have edged above them in the league table but the Chiefs' win is a decisive step towards Heineken Cup qualification for the Devon side.

The Cherry and Whites will be kicking themselves for letting this one slip through their fingers. They overcame a below par first half to take a late lead but couldn't hold on as a last minute Exeter try clinched the win.

In the cold light of day, the

Chiefs were well worthy of the win. They took the game to Gloucester, knocking their hosts out of their stride and, if anything, a 15-3 half time lead didn't flatter them.

The Chiefs looked to have everything well under control as Gloucester threw everything at them in the opening stages of the second half. However, nothing came off as the players were guilty perhaps of simply trying too hard.

However, as the hour mark approached, Gloucester suddenly clicked into gear and started playing as only they can.

A concerted forward effort softened up the visitors defence before Fuimaono-Sapolu's long cut out pass put James Simpson-Daniel in for the

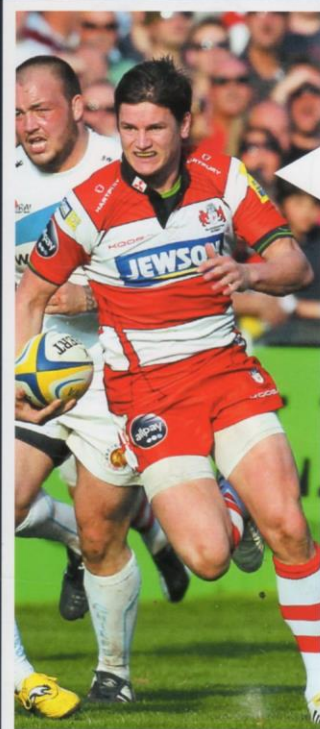


first score, before Burns contributed his own piece of individual brilliance for the second.

Simpson-Daniel and Fuimaono-Sapolu were then both involved, along with Luke Narraway, in the build up to a memorable try for Nick Runciman and Gloucester had turned the match on its head with three tries in seven minutes and opened up a 27-18 lead. Credit to the Chiefs, they could

have crumbled. However, they stayed calm and, aided by some untimely ill discipline from Gloucester, camped in the home 22.

Firstly Gareth Steenson made it a six point deficit with a penalty before the Chiefs laid siege to the Gloucester line in the final minute with Aly Muldowney finally barging his way over, the try awarded after consultation with the TMO.



CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

Freddie Burns had a white wall of Chiefs shirts in front of him as he received the ball in his own half.

However, a chip over the top was deftly regathered and two quick sidesteps took him clear of the defensive cover and under the posts for a sensational score.

KEY QUOTE

"We had no ball and no territory. We looked flat, and we have to accept that. I'm bitterly disappointed.

"We need to understand that we need to be better to compete, and we're not giving ourselves the best opportunity. Exeter came here and we should be humble enough to accept we didn't match them.

"We have to get our chins up. We have four games left and we've got to fight for the top six now. We've got four teams below us to play. It's not the time to feel sorry for yourself." **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 Dave Lewis
- 1 P Dan Murphy
- 2 H Scott Lawson
- 3 P Rupert Harden
- 4 L **Jim Hamilton**
- 5 L Alex Brown
- 6 F Matt Cox
- 7 F Akapusi Qera
- 8 N8 Luke Narraway (c)

Replacements

- 16 H Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 Yann Thomas
- 18 P Dario Chistolini
- 19 L Tom Savage
- 20 N8 Peter Buxton
- 21 SH Nick Runciman
- 22 FH Tim Taylor
- 23 C Tim Molenaar

EXETER CHIEFS

- 15 FB Phil Dollman
- 14 W Gonzalo Camacho
- 13 C Bryan Rennie
- 12 C Jason Shoemark
- 11 W Matt Jess
- 10 FH Ignacio Mieres
- 9 SH Haydn Thomas
- 1 P Hoani Tui
- 2 H Chris Whitehead
- 3 P Craig Mitchell
- 4 L Tom Hayes (c)
- 5 L James Hanks
- 6 F Tom Johnson
- 7 F James Scaysbrook
- 8 N8 Richard Baxter

Replacements

- 16 H Neil Clark
- 17 P Ben Moon
- 18 Chris Budgen
- 19 L Aly Muldowney
- 20 F Ben White
- 21 SH Kevin Barrett
- 22 FH Gareth Steenson
- 23 W Sireli Naquelevuki

TODAY'S Line-UPS



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**



**NEWCASTLE
FALCONS**

15 JONNY MAY	15 GREG GOOSEN
14 CHARLIE SHARPLES	14 CORNE UYS
13 HENRY TRINDER	13 JAMIE HELLEUR
12 ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU	12 JAMES FITZPATRICK
11 JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	11 RYAN SHORTLAND
10 FREDDIE BURNS	10 JIMMY GOPPERTH
09 NICK RUNCIMAN	09 PETER STRINGER
01 DAN MURPHY	01 JONNY GOLDING
02 SCOTT LAWSON	02 ROB VICKERS
03 RUPERT HARDEN	03 EUAN MURRAY
04 JIM HAMILTON	04 JAMES HUDSON (C)
05 ALEX BROWN	05 TIM SWINSON
06 PETER BUXTON	06 ALLY HOGG
07 AKAPUSI QERA	07 WILL WELCH
08 LUKE NARRAWAY (C)	08 MARK WILSON
16 DARREN DAWIDIUK	16 MATT THOMPSON
17 YANN THOMAS	17 GRANT SHIELLS
18 SHAUN KNIGHT	18 JAMES HALL
19 WILL JAMES	19 JAMES GOODE
20 ALASDAIR STROKOSCH	20 TAIASINA TUIFUA
21 DAVE LEWIS	21 ADAM BALDING
22 TIM TAYLOR	22 WILL CHUDLEY
23 MIKE TINDALL	23 TOM CATTERICK

THE OFFICIALS



REFEREE: Tim Wigglesworth
ASST REFS: Stuart Terheege and Paul Burton

TOP SCORERS 2011/12



232 **TOM HOMER**



206 Nick Macleod



197 Ignacio Mieres



195 Jimmy Gopperth

194 Nick Evans



156 Freddie Burns



WHAT ARE THESE ALL ABOUT?

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