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# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

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21 APRIL 2012, KO 3PM

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GILLMAN'S  
TICKET  
INSIDE?

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WORLD AND LOCAL  
RUGBY NEWS



KINGSHOLM NEWS  
WITH BOB FENTON  
ON PAGE 48

# CHARLIE SHARPLES READY FOR A BIG FINISH

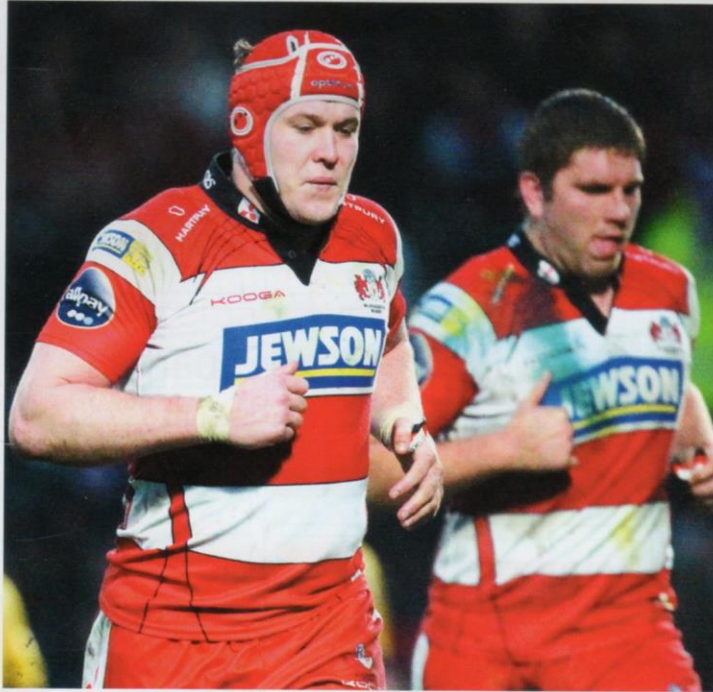
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# Captain's CORNER



"Thank you to everyone who has played a part in helping me to get to where I am today and, of course, thank you to every supporter who has backed me and my team mates."

**WRITING these programme notes is something of an emotional experience this week.**

Initially, I feel anger as I reflect on the performances of the past few weeks culminating in the home defeat against Newcastle last week.

It was a performance that left us all feeling embarrassed and hurt at the way we allowed the Falcons to take the points. But also at the way we let you, our supporters, down.

I'm not going to tiptoe around it. It hurts to hear boos ringing out as you leave the field at half time. It's painful to see supporters leaving the ground before the final whistle. And it's galling to see opponents celebrating a win on our turf.

It's entirely down to us as players. We're the ones making the mistakes, giving away dull penalties and costing us victories.

We've one last opportunity to put things straight today. There are no second chances. If we're to have any chance of finishing ahead of Sale for

sixth place in the Premiership, we need to win today.

Based on the form of recent weeks, it's going to be a tough ask. Sale have been a hugely improved team this season and they know how close they are to a top six finish. It's going to be an arm wrestle today.

One thing I can guarantee is that we'll be busting a gut to win. We see the accusations that those of us who are leaving this summer don't care any more and nothing could be further from the truth.

We're all proud of playing for this club. The recent losses have cut deep and we aim to prove that to everyone this afternoon.

Finally, I've had to face up to the fact that this is my final game at Kingsholm as a Gloucester Rugby player. It will be the last time that I pull on the Cherry and White shirt in the home dressing room and run out at Kingsholm to be greeted by the roar of the Shed.

All my professional rugby career to date has been with Gloucester. I guess

you could say I've grown up here. I started here straight from school and there have been some amazing times here.

It's been an honour to represent this club and the last season has been particularly special as I've had the privilege of captaining the side.

It's a slightly scary prospect to be facing up to leaving and in some ways it'd be nice if today was our final league game so I could say my farewells here today.

I'm sure it's not really going to hit me properly until I leave the field after the game today and return to the dressing room.

It's only appropriate that I now say thank you. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in helping me to get to where I am today and, of course, thank you to every supporter who has backed me and my team mates.

I hope I'll be back one day but, for the time being, Au Revoir!

**Enjoy the game!**



"When Kingsholm is full and we're playing well, it's a magnificent place to play your rugby. The support is tremendous when we're struggling. When we're doing well, it's out of this world."



# Coach's NOTES

with Forwards Coach, CARL HOGG

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

**IT'S obviously been a turbulent week. Bryan wasn't just a colleague of mine here at Gloucester Rugby, he was and still is a close friend.**

I don't want to dwell on it, but I know that the recent defeats hurt him greatly. He's a proud man and he's taken a very tough decision with the best interests of Gloucester Rugby at heart.

When we beat Northampton, Bath and Harlequins just a few weeks ago, we moved ourselves right on to the edge of the play off fight and we were really looking forward to the last few weeks of the season.

However, I don't think anyone would have foreseen us losing the last three games in the way that we have done and, there's no sugar coating it, it's been desperately disappointing.

Anyone who has played sport will know that there's no more sickening feeling than losing a game. And being a competitive person, I hate that feeling. I know I did as a player and I do as a coach.

We did get a certain amount of stick from the crowd last weekend, both at half time and at the final whistle. And, to be perfectly honest, I can't blame people for venting their frustration.

A lot of hard earned money is invested by our fans in supporting Gloucester Rugby. As a squad, we appreciate that and never take it for granted.

You pay your money to watch the team and you have a right to express your opinions and we have to take it

on the chin. On the evidence of the last few weeks, we deserve to hear some boos even if we don't like it.

The best possible way for us to respond to that criticism is for us to come out fighting today and give you something to shout about.

In terms of motivation, it's obvious what's at stake today. Sixth place will be enough to secure Heineken Cup rugby. Sale currently occupy that sixth place in the table, just two points ahead of us.

With just one round of Premiership action remaining after today, a win for us today won't settle matters. However, a win for Sale could.

But motivation has not been the issue for us of late. For all that's been written about us in recent weeks, I could never accuse any of our players of not trying or not caring.

What has hurt us in the recent defeats has been our lack of precision in terms of executing the game plan and the fact that we've made life easy for the opposition by turning over possession too readily and conceding too many penalties which have led to easy points.

This has led to us having to chase the game in every one of the last three games and that's tough to do at this level. We've fought hard, we've come close but we've left ourselves with too much to do.

We've got ourselves into this situation but we can still remedy matters by playing somewhere near our potential today and securing a win.

It may not be pretty. Sale certainly won't come down here to roll over

and make things easy for us.

Their win over Bath last weekend wasn't a thing of beauty but it was a very important one given that they'd lost three on the bounce going into that one.

What would help massively of course would be to get off to a decent start. We've not managed that in recent weeks and have had to force things.

Getting off to a good start, taking the game to Sale and giving you all every reason to get behind us would do everyone the world of good.

When Kingsholm is full and we're playing well, it's a magnificent place to play your rugby. The support is tremendous when we're struggling. When we're doing well, it's out of this world.

But we know full well that we have to do our bit to get things going and that's what we aim to do.

It's the final home game of the season and I guess all that remains to do is thank you all for the support you've given us.

There have been some ups and downs, some great wins, some near misses and some real disappointments.

One thing remains consistent however, that's the pride we take in representing the City of Gloucester.

It's a magnificent club to be involved with and we all sincerely hope to do you proud this afternoon.

**Enjoy the game,**

**Carl Hogg**

**DreamTeam**

ON PAGE 56



View from  
**The Citizen**



WITH NICK PUREWAL

# WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

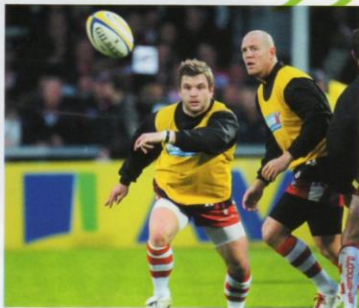
**Please do not desert us when we need you the most – that's the honest message from Gloucester scrum half Dave Lewis to the Cherry and Whites fans.**

Dejected Lewis slammed Gloucester's 29-20 Kingsholm defeat to Newcastle, admitting the supporters were right to boo the players from the field.

The Falcons secured their first Kingsholm win for 14 years thanks to impressively stubborn resistance and regimented play – but also because of a highly lacklustre Gloucester performance.

Now the Cherry and Whites host Sale Sharks this afternoon in their final Premiership home game of a testing season, in what amounts

**“WE’VE GOT TO FORGET EVERYTHING BAR WINNING THE NEXT GAME. WE’VE GOT TO COME AWAY WITH THE LEAGUE POINTS HOWEVER WE CAN, IT DOESN’T MATTER HOW WE MANAGE IT, BUT WE’VE GOT TO GET OVER THE LINE.”**



to a straight fight for sixth place in the Premiership table and the final Heineken Cup qualification place.

And 22 year old Lewis believes there can be one huge ingredient that could help the Cherry and Whites back to victory at the weekend – the fans.

The former Hartpury College man said criticism from the supporters is fully justified in light of a fourth straight loss and second league defeat in a row at home.





Now though, Gloucester's entire season rests on the final home game of the campaign – and Lewis has implored the fans to stick with the team when they need their loyalty and support the most.

In a direct appeal to the supporters, Lewis said:

"Please don't desert us now, please get behind us. We haven't become a bad side overnight.

"We're more disappointed than anyone with the loss and its manner, and we'll do everything we can to make sure it's a different story this

week and give you something to cheer about.

"We're truly sorry about a defeat and performance that shouldn't have happened last weekend. But we really do need your support, and we value it more than we can stress."

Inaccuracy and indiscipline cost Gloucester again in that Newcastle loss in what has fast become the story of a frustrating season.

Lewis said the Cherry and Whites still have the potency to see off both Sale and then London Irish in Reading on May 5, and end the season on a

high – and with that all-important Heineken Cup spot.

But to do all of that, he admitted they must buck their ideas up, and fast.

He continued:

"We only played well in very small parts, and we deserved to lose.

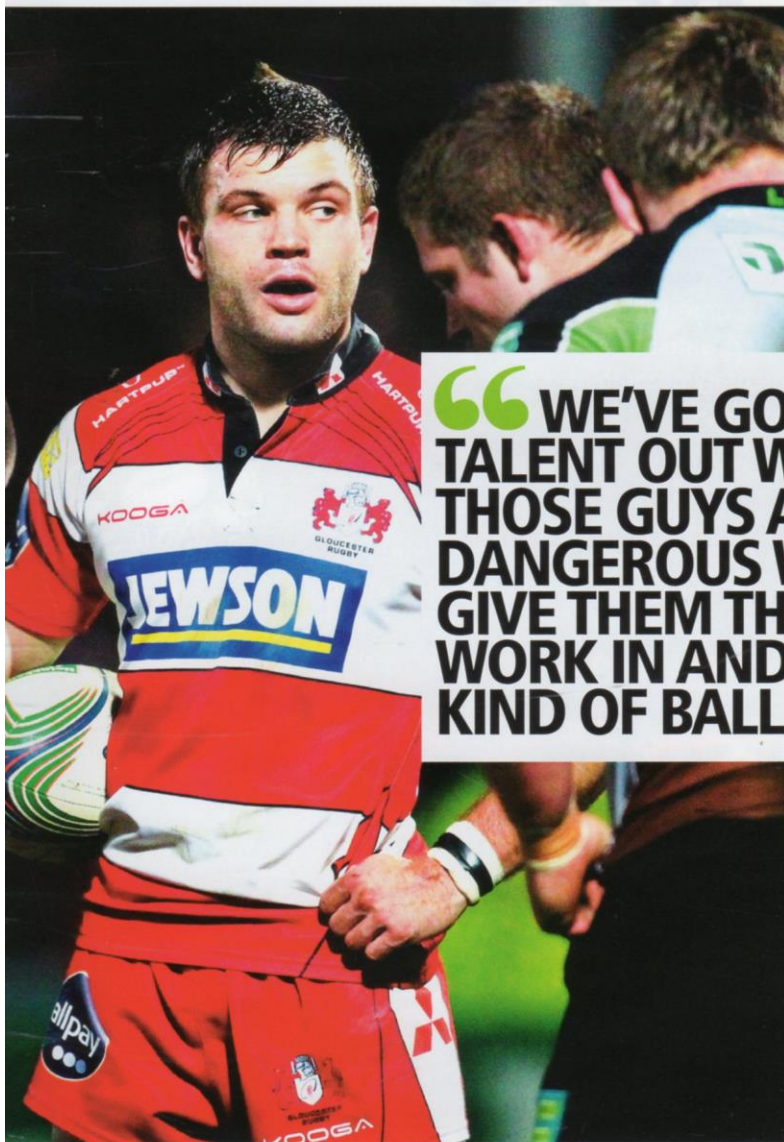
"We're massively frustrated with ourselves for not playing to our potential – but that's been the story too many times this season.

"Too many silly penalties again, and we talk about not giving those away, but then we're not doing it in games.

"We've got to forget everything bar winning the next game. We've got to come away with the league points however we can, it doesn't matter how we manage it, but we've got to get over the line.

"We need greater accuracy, we've got to get the basics right now, and it really isn't good enough when we are making cheap mistakes.

"We've got so much talent out wide and those guys are so



**“ WE’VE GOT SO MUCH TALENT OUT WIDE AND THOSE GUYS ARE SO DANGEROUS WHEN WE GIVE THEM THE ROOM TO WORK IN AND THE RIGHT KIND OF BALL. ”**

dangerous when we give them the room to work in and the right kind of ball.

"But recently we haven't been getting that right, and we haven't been able to give them opportunities.

"So we've got to get back to giving them the right kind of service, the rest of us as a team we've got to take responsibility for that and we've got to solve it.

"If we can do that then we will give ourselves a chance today."



# DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

## BROTHERLY LOVE

**In recent seasons we have seen three pairs of brothers on the Gloucester Rugby playing staff with the Fortey brothers, Chris and Lee, the Saint-Andre brothers, Philippe and Raphael, and more recently the Simpson-Daniels, James and Charlie.**

Unusual maybe, but in years or seasons past there have been two families who have provided greater numbers, the Cook and Hall contingents.

There were six Cook brothers, David, Harry, Charles, Jim, George

Jim was born in Gloucester in 1878. His father was a blacksmith labourer who was also named James.

The first club Jim played for was St Marks R.F.C. The burgeoning Jim moved to the 'City' team, as this club was then widely known in 1897.

Not only did the talented Jim have the same Christian name as his father but he also followed in his footsteps by becoming a blacksmith labourer.

Jim Cook, popularly known as 'Nobby', soon made his mark with

1897 to 1902. In all he made 92 appearances scoring 36 tries! Jim played under the captaincy of Walter Taylor for four seasons and George Romans in his last season with the club.

Eventually the lure of the Northern game of Rugby League attracted Jim Cook and he joined Hull Rugby League Club where he played with three other 'City' players - George Hall, Dick Goddard and Jack Lewis.

Jim was often referred to as a 'box of tricks' by the local press and went on to forge a successful Rugby League career in which he represented Yorkshire. He passed away in Hull in 1933 aged 55 years old.

Jim Cook was the most prominent of the six sons of James Cook, although George, who was also a three quarter, also progressed to the northern game, when he joined Oldham R.L.F.C. Also at Oldham were former 'City' players Alf Wood and Willie Hall.

The Great War of 1914-18 was hard on the Cook family with Charles losing the sight in one eye and Albert a limb.

The playing record of the Cook family with the 'City' team read as follows: -

	Career From	To	Apps	Tries	Cons	Pens	DG	Pts
Jim Cook	1897	1901	92	36	12	0	3	213
Harry Cook	1911	1911	2	0	0	0	0	-
Charles Cook	1908	1920	156	0	97	17	6	263
Albert Cook	1911	1913	55	5	9	6	0	61
George Cook	1907	1907	28	10	7	1	1	70

and Albert. Of the six brothers, Jim was the more prominent with regard to playing matters. He was a centre three quarter of some renown.

the 'City'. The centre three quarter had a deceptive side step which became the hallmark of his talent in a career here at Kingsholm.

That career stretched from



The Hall brothers numbered seven! Charles being the most prominent, gaining two caps for England. He made his debut versus Ireland on 9th February 1901 in a 10-6 loss.

Charles appeared in the last two games of that International season

April 1902.

The team included 'City' colleagues, George Romans, 'Whacker' Smith, L.Smith, S.H.Foster, R.Goddard, F.Westbury, Frank Stout and C.F.Miller.

It was Charles' brother, Albert, who played at half back, joined

Gloucester's Gordon Vears and included his Kingsholm colleagues W.Washbourn, Stanley Cook, Bill Johns, Sidney Smart and N.L.Hayes.

The youngest of the Hall brothers, Billy, went on to play 240 matches for Oldham R.L.F.C. and appeared in the famous 3rd Test match versus Australia in 1914 for Great Britain.

The match was dubbed the 'Rorkes Drift' match when Great Britain defied massive injury problems to record a 14 points to six victory! Billy Hall progressed to Kingsholm via the Old West End R.F.C.

George, Albert, Charles and William played for Gloucestershire. Ernest played against the first touring 'All Blacks' team. George played for Hull R.L.F.C while Jim and Ernest eventually joined Coventry R.F.C.

Albert, who was known as 'Tat' Hall, made 43 appearances for the County and played in an international trial at half back with the celebrated Adrian Stoop in 1911.

**The Hall brothers playing record at Kingsholm reads as follows: -**

	Career From	To	Apps	Tries	Cons	Pens	DG	Pts
Charles Hall	1893	1901	210	26	0	0	0	130
George Hall	1897	1901	133	21	0	0	0	105
Jim Hall	1908	1919	11	1	0	0	0	5
Ernest Hall	1904	1911	94	37	4	1	1	199
Albert Hall	1901	1923	293	19	0	0	1	98
William Hall	1908	1912	138	31	3	0	4	173
Henry Hall	1903	1903	2	0	0	0	0	0

in which England used 28 players in three games, and lost them all!

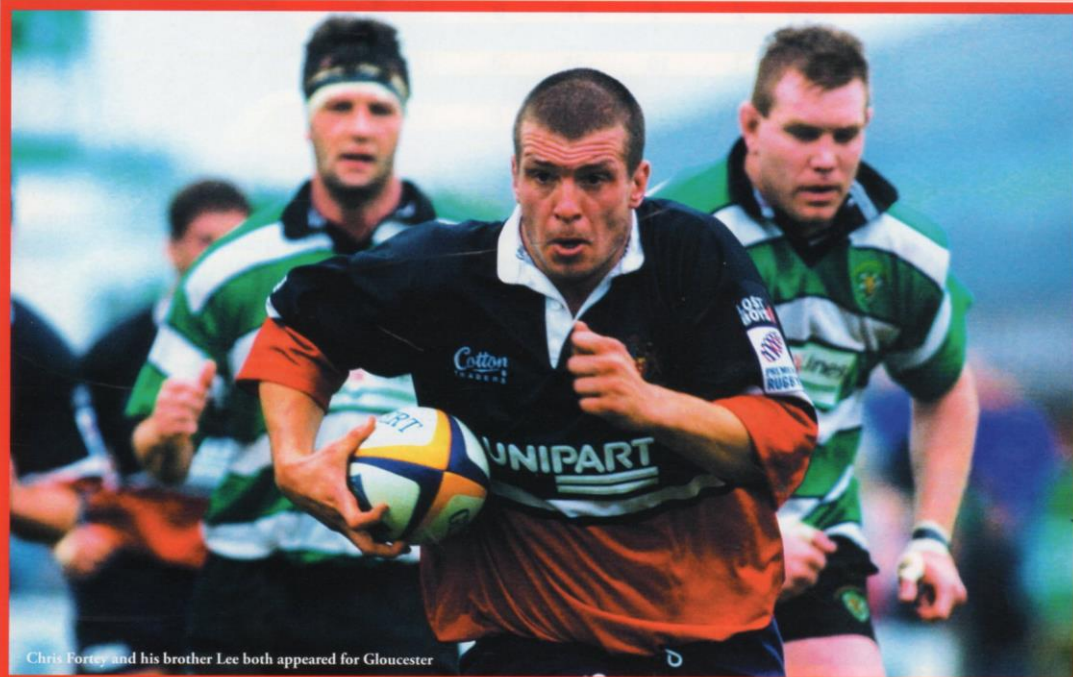
Charles' other international appearance came against Scotland at Rectory Field, Blackheath on 9th March in an 18 points to three defeat.

Charles captained Gloucestershire in their first County Final appearance against Durham on 5th

the 'City' from Cinderford R.F.C. who enjoyed the longest career at Kingsholm stretching from 1901 to 1924.

Four of the brothers represented Gloucestershire's second County Championship winning XV in 1913 when they defeated Cumberland at Carlisle by 14 points to three.

The team was captained by



Chris Forsey and his brother Lee both appeared for Gloucester





@andyhazell  
 @tt\_pt  
 @paybackmay  
 @rorylawson9  
 asparagus looks over done  
 I'm sticking with this for tea!



Tweeted by:  
 @CharlieSharples

**MATTER OF FACT**  
 Charlie scored a hat trick of tries for St Peter's High School, Gloucester in the 2006 Daily Mail Cup final at Twickenham

# ROCKET MAN

## CHARLE SHARPLES



## We all tend to think of the rugby season running from September to May – after all, that's what it says on the season ticket!

### HOWEVER, spare a thought for Charlie Sharples who has barely had a minute to himself in the past 12 months!

He wrapped up a superb 2010-11 season with Gloucester and celebrated with inclusion in the England Saxons squad which competed in the Churchill Cup.

He then linked up with England's World Cup squad before returning to Gloucester and donning his usual number 14 shirt for more minutes than any other player this season.

However, talking this week at Kingsholm, he wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's weird in a way because it's all just merged into one season! I went from Gloucester to the Saxons and then met up with England the day after I finished with the Saxons.

"Even when I finished with England, which I really enjoyed, I was due to have two weeks off but it was a bit late and my girlfriend was working so I didn't get away.

"To be honest though, I felt that I'd had a preseason having been away with England. I felt ready to hook up with the Gloucester boys and start the season.

"And I had to when I got called up to the squad for Sinbad's benefit game. I was expecting to watch the game but someone pulled out on the day and, to be fair, I wanted to be involved for Sinbad."

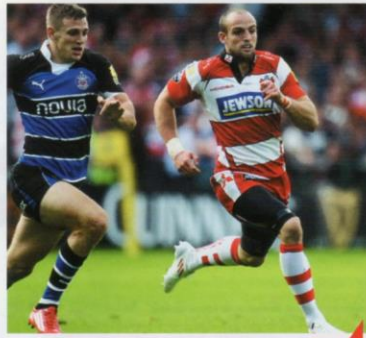
Back in the Gloucester fold and taking up his usual berth on the right wing, the 22 year old quickly picked up where he left off for the Cherry and Whites with a try in the season opener at Northampton.

It was in a losing cause, however, as a late penalty snatched the points for the Saints, an outcome which, in hindsight, set the tone for Gloucester's season.

"Looking back at it, I guess you could say that the result that day

kind of sums up our season. We've been a 'nearly' team, not quite able to close out some important games in the final few minutes.

"It's frustrating because we know



*"The club has looked after me and I've had the odd weekend off which has helped me to freshen up"*

how good we can be when we're on song – Wasps and Toulouse at home, Bath away etc. And it hurts even more when you lose out in the final few minutes.

"You think you're on the point of securing a big win, it's snatched away and you're left wondering what happened.

"Losing is never nice but it's even worse when you're so close especially when you feel you've gifted the win to the other team.

"You look at the Wasps game, for example, when we fought back and seemed to have it in the bag with a minute to go. We've just made things hard for ourselves and that's been the bitterest pill to swallow."

From a personal perspective,

there was a welcome boost in the Spring as Charlie was named in England's Six Nations squad and a first international start against France duly followed – a memorable occasion.

"I wanted to kick on from what I'd done prior to the World Cup and I was grateful that Stuart (Lancaster) called me up and being part of a team that did so well and defied the odds was great.

"The start in Paris was great although the game probably didn't go quite the way I wanted it to! I think in hindsight, I was probably trying a bit too hard to make an impression and should have tried to treat it like just another game.

"It was great to be part of such a great win though and a huge learning experience. My other cap was off the bench in a warm up game but this was the Six Nations, the real deal."

Despite the England involvement, Sharples comes into this weekend having played more minutes for Gloucester than any other player, a fact he's proud of.

"You joke about it sometimes – I've played more than you etc. But it's a good thing. I want to play as much as I can for Gloucester and I've been lucky enough to stay fit and be selected.

"The club has looked after me and I've had the odd weekend off which has helped me to freshen up. I love playing for Gloucester and wouldn't have it any other way."

And, of course, this afternoon is a massive game in the context of the Heineken Cup positions, a fact Sharples readily acknowledges.

"The last three weeks have not been good enough. But we need to pick ourselves up. We all felt terrible last week but we've had to come together and be positive this week and look to bounce back."



# KINGSHOLM NEWS

## WITH BOB FENTON

LAST WEEK I SAID WE WERE MAKING QUALIFICATION FOR THE HEINEKEN CUP DIFFICULT FOR OURSELVES, LAST SATURDAY'S RESULT AGAINST NEWCASTLE MOVED THAT DIFFICULTY UP BY SEVERAL NOTCHES.

We really didn't get into gear last week did we? Sure, Newcastle had everything to play for, but surely we should have cantered home.

That makes today's encounter with Sale almost one of those 'do or die' games when everything is at stake – win and we have a chance, lose and it's all over.

It's not the first time we have been in a position like this with, frankly, much higher stakes – that game against Saracens about 15 years ago for a start. If we had lost that one, we probably would have been relegated and who knows where we would have been now.

It's doubtful whether the club would have attracted new finance and we know what happened to clubs like Richmond, London Scottish etc.

We scraped home in that game, we have to do the same in this one. Apart from the tension of that Saracens game, the one other thing that sticks in my mind was the noise and level of support that came from all corners of the ground that had about 8,000 people in at the most. Compare that to last week...

For reasons too dull to go into I was in the Grandstand last week, apart from the warm up



and an occasional chant in the second half there was hardly a peep from anyone in the way of support. In fact, pretty much all that could be heard was the few dozen Newcastle supporters in the corner of the Worcester Street end.

As many players will have said, playing in front of the Shed can make you feel two inches taller and a heck of a lot stronger as they feed off the energy. The flip side of that is that our nervousness is just as infectious.

I know it's hard to raise the spirits when things are not going well, but surely that is what we must try to do.

Going back to that Saracens game I remember one of their players saying in an

interview before the game how intimidating it was to play in front of the Shed.

We picked up on that on the cover of 'Shedhead' which had a kind of 'Welcome to your worst nightmare' type of headline (can't remember the exact words).

We've got to recreate that today. We have to remind Sale what it is like to play in front of a noisy crowd that is right behind their team from the off. We have to remind our players that we are at one with them.

Of course the other side of that deal is that the guys on the pitch have got to do their stuff themselves, no mercy and no backward steps.

We have a team full of talent that, for whatever reasons,



# “AT MY AGE MY HEART CAN'T STAND PRESSURE LIKE THIS NEXT SEASON CAN WE DO IT A BIT EASIER PLEASE!”

(and I'm not going to speculate on reasons here) have not delivered in the last few weeks.

After last week's game, Mike Tindall came into the in the 1873 suite (yes I was hob-nobbing with the stars) and gave a very honest view of the game, saying the players had let themselves down, let the management down and let the supporters down (I'm paraphrasing his words a bit).

Jim Hamilton said that there is still all to play for. Well yes there is, boys, so play for it. You do your bit, we'll do ours – deal?

Sale are no mugs though, so we can't take anything for granted. They have a Gopperth-like kicker in the shape of Nick Macleod, so if our discipline does not improve from last week we could be in for a bit of a torrid time.

Their last game is against Quins, so they will be desperate to get the points today to put themselves too far ahead in 6th place for us to overhaul them regardless of that result. And we know from the last two matches what 'desperate' teams are capable of.

Regular readers will know that normally at this point I am full of confidence about the result, at the time of writing though (the Sunday after the Saturday before) I am not so sure. This is a huge game for us, and that brings its tensions.

I guess one of the frustrating things about this season is that we should never have been in this position. I know the table doesn't lie and at the end of the day the points you get are the

points you deserve, but there have been so many close run things.

Look at how many games we have lost by an odd point – we had it in the bag at Northampton until a moment of madness gifted them a penalty, Exeter a few weeks ago should have seen us close the game out – there are many other examples.

Had we done that we would have been cruising into the Heineken Cup, not trying to claw our way in on well bitten finger nails. At my age my heart can't stand pressure like this – next season can we do it a bit easier, please!

It is that time of year when we will be saying farewell to a number of players – too many to list here. We wish them all well at their new clubs and can confidently predict that they will all receive warm welcomes

should they return in new colours to Kingsholm.

We have some very exciting new players coming in too. Once again we have great promise ahead of us – we must make sure we take advantage of it.

Finally don't forget the Shedweb v Cherrypickers game that follows this one, the 4th instalment of this annual charity challenge that has raised thousands of pounds for good causes.

So far it's 3 – 0 to the 'Pickers. Maybe playing at Kingsholm will inspire the supporters side to greater efforts.

Finally finally, thank you to everyone who has read my stuff over the season. Thank you for comments good, bad and, at times downright insulting (!!).

Have a great summer and I'll see you all back here in a few months' time.



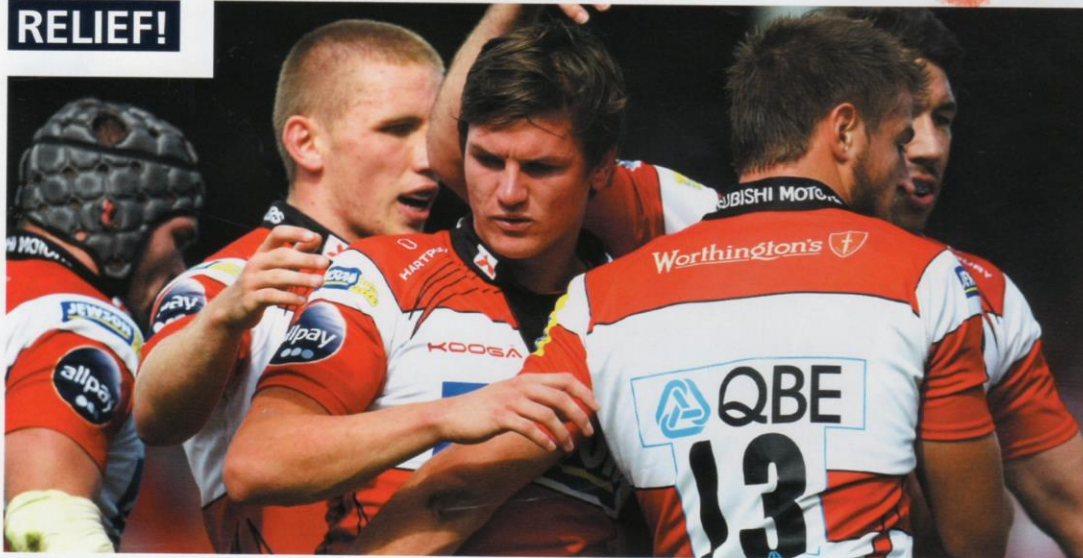




# Gloucester

with Peter Arnold **talk**

**RELIEF!**



I HAD a nasty turn the other morning. There I was, enjoying my usual mug of tea and a roll-up, when, as is my wont, I switched on Teletext to take a gander at the rugby news.

I nearly spilt my tea! There it was on the screen. Something along the lines of 'INJURY FORCES BURNS TO QUIT.' Shock! Horror! Black armbands all round...

With fingers ever so slightly palsied, I scabbled to find the report. Imagine my relief.

It turned out that the unfortunate player wasn't our Freddie, but a Newport Gwent Dragons hooker of the same name.

We have sympathy for the poor chap, of course, but we do have to be thankful that it isn't our mercurial fly half having his career so cruelly cut short.

In fact, neither of them is the only Burns to hit the headlines last week. I don't know whether you noticed, but England Under 18s have just become European Champions by

beating Ireland in a hard-fought match.

One of the stars of the whole campaign was another No.10, none other than kid brother Billy Burns.

That is going to lead to an interesting case of sibling rivalry in the not too distant future. All those Burns' about. It's almost an arson attack.

I suppose we shouldn't be surprised if, bearing in mind our Scottish connections, we also get a Rabbie Burns at some point.



## LAST ONE

**THIS is the last home game of the season, so obviously, the last set of notes I shall be penning this time round. Usually, I find that a cause for regret, because I love the job.**

This time, however, I have to say that, for the first time in my life, I'm heartily glad that I don't have to comment any further on the fortunes of the best club in the world over the past few weeks.

I can never remember such a perplexing and ultimately disappointing season.

There have been some mesmerising performances and some superb rugby. Then, right at the death, we have lost matches which should have been won, and an apparent collapse in confidence and collective commitment.

Frankly, there is no way that a side of such obvious quality should be lying seventh in the Premiership.

How do you explain an efficient and exciting demolition of Toulouse alongside an abject loss to Newcastle from which we never even got a losing bonus point?



It's easy to speculate and theorise. The welcome addition of All Black scrum half Jimmy Cowan to next season's squad means that we have six new players of undoubted quality coming to Kingsholm next season.

That must mean that players filling their roles at the moment must be looking over their shoulders somewhat nervously.

We're not really sure yet who is

leaving the club and who is staying. But you can bet your boots that the vultures will be circling, looking to snap up any player of quality or promise who might be feeling disaffected or surplus to requirements.

All these things don't make for good performances on the field, which is why I'm saying good riddance to this season, now let's get on with the next.

## BUT WE'RE STILL HERE

**BUT let's not forget who we are. We are the Gloucester Boys, the most loyal and knowledgeable set of supporters in the game.**

I hope the club management and players appreciate just what a dispiriting and depressing experience the past few weeks have been.

This is certainly no time to give up on the side. We are not fair weather friends who only support our side when they're winning.

There are quite enough groups of fans around like that, and we don't want to be tarred with the same brush.

The best thing we can do today is get behind the lads with the highest decibel level we can manage. Win or lose, we can at least give them a rousing send-off.



## SUMMER WELL



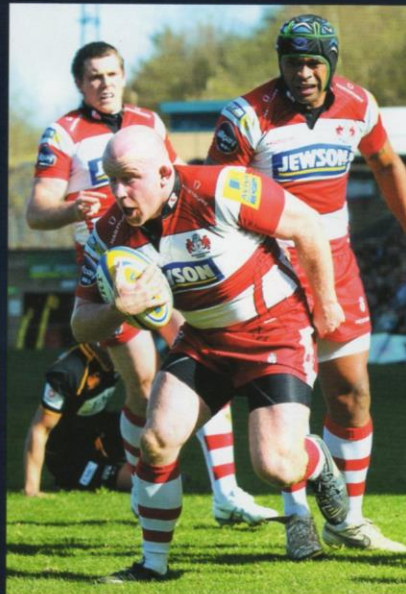
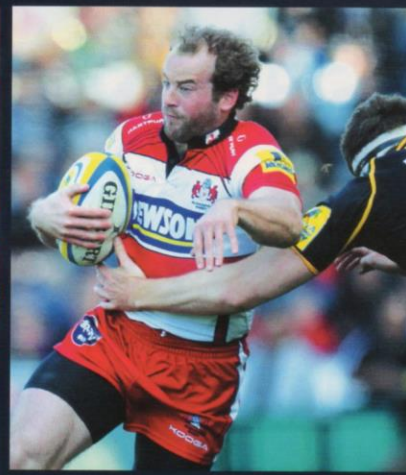
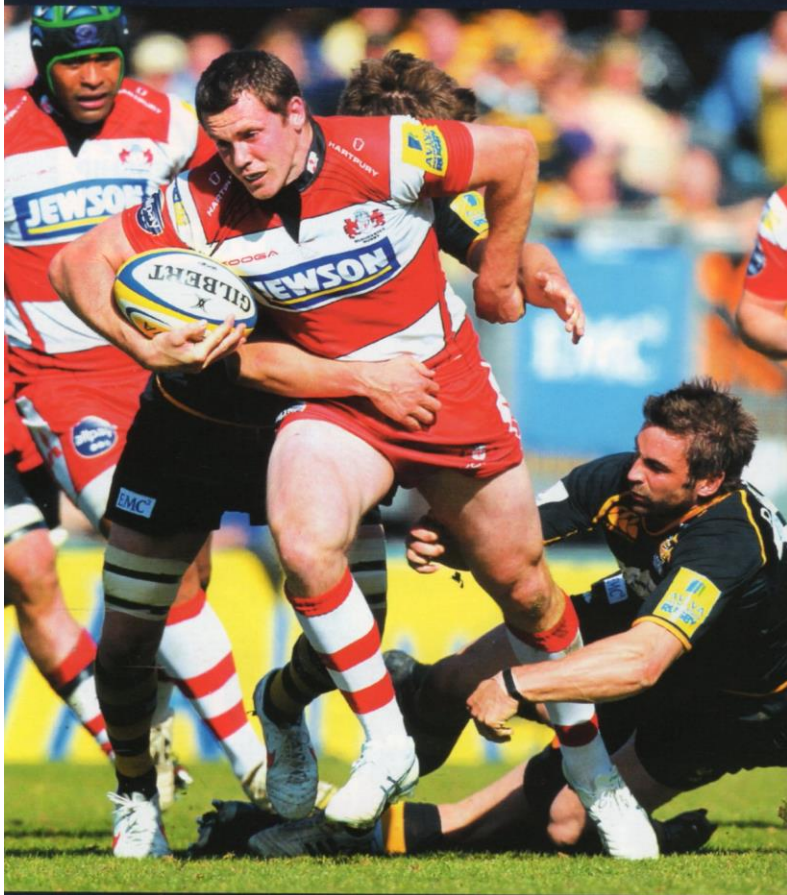
**HOPE you have a great summer. There's much to take our minds off the trials and tribulations of the last few weeks.**

We have the Jubilee celebrations, the Olympics and two good cricket Test series against the West Indies and the mighty South Africans.

We're even expecting a visit from Sir Tom Jones. I wonder what position he plays? And whether we've considered signing him up?

See you after the pre-season.





LONDON WASPS 26  
 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 24

Aviva Premiership Rugby, Adams Park, 1 April 2012, 15:00 KO

**LONDON WASPS**

- TRIES** Berry (4), Southwell (49)
- CONS** Robinson (5, 50)
- PENS** Robinson (1, 35, 43), Daly (79)

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

- TRIES** Lawson (28), Sharples (51), Qera (65)
- CONS** Burns (29, 51, 66)
- PEN** Burns (11)

**FOR the second week in a row, Gloucester Rugby thought they'd snatched a win having found themselves in dire straits only to see the victory slip away within the final sixty seconds.**

As was the case against Exeter the week before, the Cherry and Whites found themselves in a hole of their own making. Ten points were conceded in the first ten minutes of the first half and it was the same story at the start of the second.

Despite a dogged second half comeback which saw Gloucester score two tries to add to the one scored by Scott Lawson in the first half, there was last minute heartbreak lying in wait.

A week after a TMO decision saw

Exeter snatch a last minute win at Kingsholm, Wasps centre Elliot Daly smashed over a long range penalty with just seconds left on the clock to earn a 26-24 win.

It was another head scratching performance with moments of attacking brilliance countered by frustrating examples of defensive slackness.

Wasps scrum half Nic Berry was the thorn in Gloucester's side. He darted around a ruck to score his team's first try and, a similar break in the second half, led to Hugo Southwell scoring.

Bryan Redpath's side rallied after their poor first half opening and Lawson's try helped them to go in at half time only facing a 13-10 deficit.





This rapidly became 23-10 following Southwell's score.

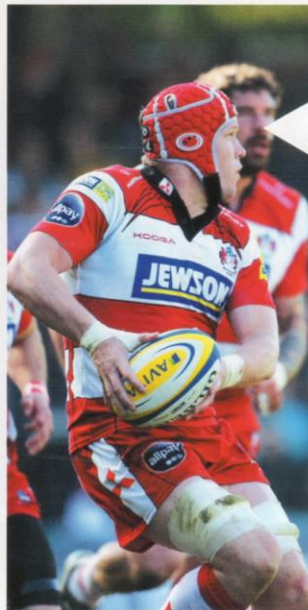
Gloucester suddenly clicked into gear. Narraway's break and Runciman's hands sent Sharples clear before a great catch of a high ball and counter attack by Jonny May resulted in a try for Akapusi Qera.

A significant deficit had been turned into a narrow lead but Gloucester lived dangerously as time ticked away.

Twice former Kingsholm favourite Nicky Robinson had penalty attempts to edge Wasps in front but twice he was narrowly off target.

The home crowd feared the worst particularly when Gloucester had a scrum in Wasps territory with just a minute to go.

However, Gloucester were caught in possession, penalised and up stepped Daly to seize the moment and earn his team the win.



#### CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

Gloucester's second try was a thing of beauty. Luke Narraway's sublime dummy created a hole to run into and the skipper needed no second invitation.

Nick Runciman was in support and his immediate offload to Charlie Sharples, coming at pace and on the angle, saw the winger scorch his way to the line.

#### KEY QUOTE

"I'm very frustrated. We don't seem to have the composure and understanding to close out a game, we try to play too much in our 22.

"We didn't play massively well but should have won the game and it's another one that has slipped away from us."

**Bryan Redpath**

#### LONDON WASPS

- 15 FB Hugo Southwell (c)
- 14 W Tom Prydie
- 13 C Elliot Daly
- 12 C Paul Emerick
- 11 W Richard Haughton
- 10 FH Nicky Robinson
- 9 SH Nic Berry
- 1 P Tim Payne
- 2 H Tom Lindsay
- 3 P Ben Broster
- 4 L James Cannon
- 5 L Richard Birkett
- 6 F Joe Launchbury
- 7 F Sam Jones
- 8 N8 Billy Vunipola

#### Replacements

- 16 H Vladislav Korshunov
- 17 P Zak Taulafo
- 18 Simon McIntyre
- 19 L Ross Filipo
- 20 Tinus du Plessis
- 21 SH Charlie Davies
- 22 Ryan Davis
- 23 Alex Cheesman

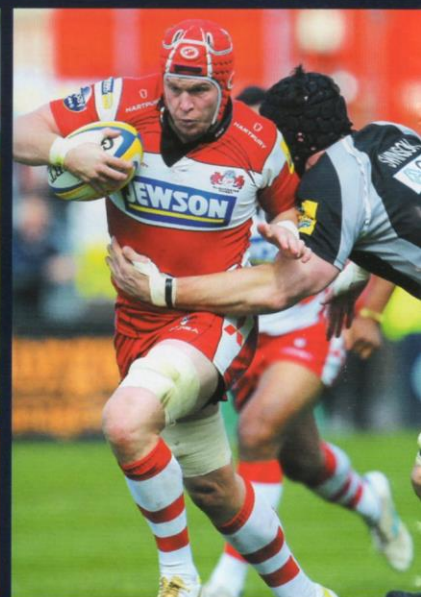
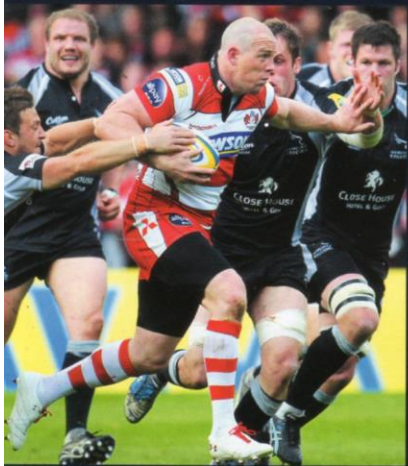
#### GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Jonny May
- 14 W Charlie Sharples
- 13 C Henry Trinder
- 12 C Tim Molenaar
- 11 W James Simpson-Daniel
- 10 FH Freddie Burns
- 9 SH Nick Runciman
- 1 P Dan Murphy
- 2 H Scott Lawson
- 3 P Rupert Harden
- 4 L Tom Savage
- 5 L Jim Hamilton
- 6 F Peter Buxton
- 7 F Akapusi Qera
- 8 N8 Luke Narraway (c)

#### Replacements

- 16 H Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 P Yann Thomas
- 18 P Shaun Knight
- 19 L Alex Brown
- 20 F Alasdair Strokosch
- 21 SH Dan Robson
- 22 C Tim Taylor
- 23 C Mike Tindall





GLOUCESTER RUGBY 20  
 NEWCASTLE FALCONS 29

Aviva Premiership Rugby, Kingsholm, 14 April 2012, 15:00 KO

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**

**TRY** Qera (64)  
**PENS** Burns (20, 25, 45, 60, 70)

**NEWCASTLE FALCONS**

**TRIES** Hogg (38),  
 Wilson (75)  
**CONS** Gopperth (39, 76)  
**PENS** Gopperth (7, 18, 29, 36, 72)

**GLOUCESTER'S** recent frustrations on the field continued while frustration in the stands turned into jeers and boos as Newcastle clinched their first league double over the Cherry and Whites since the inaugural Premiership season – 1997/98.

The Falcons came to Kingsholm knowing that nothing less than a win would suffice as they tried to reduce an eight point gap between themselves and London Wasps at the foot of the table.

Meanwhile, Gloucester were after a win that would mean that qualifying for the Heineken Cup remained probable rather than possible.

Predictably, both sides looked on edge and the home crowd was

unusually subdued as they waited for a spark on the pitch to inspire them into vocal action.

The ever reliable Jimmy Gopperth nudged Newcastle ahead with two penalties as Gloucester fell foul of referee Tim Wigglesworth only for Freddie Burns to respond in kind.

Gloucester's nerves looked to have settled down but ill discipline returned to haunt them as Gopperth was able to stroke home two more penalties to restore the six point gap.

And disaster struck on the verge of half time as a loose lineout tap gave Nick Runciman no chance to gather possession.

The Falcons swooped, Gopperth made a half break and his offload gave Ally Hogg the chance to maraud





his way to the line.

Kingsholm was stunned and the side left the pitch to regroup at half time with boos ringing in their ears.

The second half was better but far from perfect. The home team started to dominate possession and territory but weren't clinical enough to crack the Newcastle defence.

Freddie Burns made the most of Newcastle's ill discipline to give Gloucester hope and finally, Gloucester launched a concerted phase of attacks which saw Akapusi Qera cross in the corner.

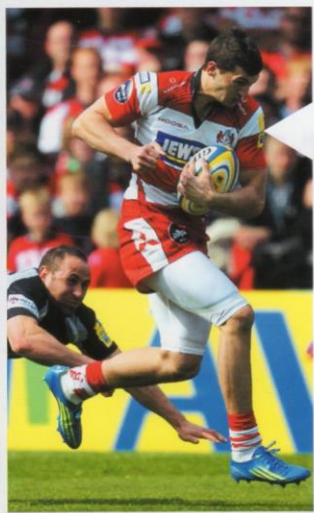
When Burns slotted a penalty on 70 minutes, Gloucester had doggedly fought their way back into a narrow

20-19 lead and momentum seemed to be on their side.

However, followers of the Cherry and Whites have learned to take nothing for granted in recent weeks and their worst fears were quickly realised.

An unnecessary penalty gave Gopperth the chance to put his side back in front before a Falcons error ironically sealed the win.

Aiming for the hitherto excellent James Hudson at a lineout in the Gloucester 22, the ball sailed long, straight to replacement flanker Mark Wilson who gleefully sprinted home to give his side a real Premiership lifeline.



#### CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

There was little to cheer about in attack from Gloucester but Jonny May deserves credit for dusting himself off having been clattered when trying to take a high ball.

Having received lengthy treatment, May was quickly tested again by Jimmy Gopperth but rose to defuse the bomb magnificently.

#### KEY QUOTE

"It's a bitterly disappointing defeat for us and there's no-one more disappointed than me.

"It's hard for players but it's also hard for a group of passionate fans to see us lose in the manner we've lost this year." *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 Nick Runciman
- 1 P Dan Murphy
- 2 H Scott Lawson
- 3 P Rupert Harden
- 4 L Jim Hamilton
- 5 L Alex Brown
- 6 F Peter Buxton
- 7 F Akapusi Qera
- 8 N8 Luke Narraway (c)

#### Replacements

- 16 Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 Yann Thomas
- 18 Shaun Knight
- 19 Will James
- 20 F Alasdair Strokosch
- 21 SH Dave Lewis
- 22 Tim Taylor
- 23 C Tim Molenaar

### NEWCASTLE FALCONS

- 15 FB Greg Goosen
- 14 W Corne Uys
- 13 C Jamie Helleur
- 12 C James Fitzpatrick
- 11 W Ryan Shortland
- 10 FH Jimmy Gopperth (c)
- 9 SH Peter Stringer
- 1 P Jonny Golding
- 2 H Rob Vickers
- 3 P Euan Murray
- 4 L James Hudson
- 5 L Tim Swinson
- 6 F Ally Hogg
- 7 F Will Welch
- 8 N8 Adam Balding

#### Replacements

- 16 Matt Thompson
- 17 P Grant Shiells
- 18 James Hall
- 19 James Goode
- 20 F Mark Wilson
- 21 N8 Tai Tu'ifua
- 22 Will Chudley
- 23 C Tom Catterick



# TODAY'S Line-UPS



**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY**



**SALE  
SHARKS**

15 JONNY MAY	15 ROB MILLER
14 CHARLIE SHARPLES	14 TOM BRADY
13 MIKE TINDALL	13 JOHNNY LEOTA
12 TIM MOLENAAR	12 SAM TUITUPOU (C)
11 JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	11 MARK CUETO
10 FREDDIE BURNS	10 NICK MACLEOD
09 DAVE LEWIS	09 CILLIAN WILLIS
01 DAN MURPHY	01 ANDREW SHERIDAN
02 SCOTT LAWSON	02 JOE WARD
03 RUPERT HARDEN	03 TONY BUCKLEY
04 JIM HAMILTON	04 ANDREI OSTRIKOV
05 PETER BROWN	05 KEARNAN MYALL
06 PETER BUXTON	06 RICHIE VERNON
07 AKAPUSI QERA	07 DAVID SEYMOUR
08 LUKE NARRAWAY (C)	08 ANDY POWELL
16 DARREN DAWIDIUK	16 MARC JONES
17 YANN THOMAS	17 VADIM COBILAS
18 SHAUN KNIGHT	18 HENRY THOMAS
19 WILL JAMES	19 TOM HOLMES
20 ALASDAIR STROKOSCH	20 MARK EASTER
21 DAN ROBSON	21 SCOTT MATHIE
22 TIM TAYLOR	22 WILL ADDISON
23 TOM VOYCE	23 CHARLIE AMESBURY

Teams were correct at time of print

## THE OFFICIALS

**REFEREE:** David Rose  
**ASST REFS:** Peter Huckle and Andrew Pearce

## TOP SCORERS 2011/12



241 TOM HOMER



217 Nick Macleod



214 Jimmy Gopperth

206 Ignacio Mieres



194 Nick Evans



173 Toby Flood



## WHAT ARE THESE ALL ABOUT?

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