

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY



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*Shane Monahan*

# OFF & RUNNING

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW INSIDE

Vs. BORDEAUX-BÈGLES  
AMLIN CHALLENGE CUP, 18TH OCTOBER 2012, 7.45PM KICK OFF

**Amlin Challenge Cup** ROUND 2

**Amlin**

**FedEx**

Dove  
MEN  
+ CARE

edf

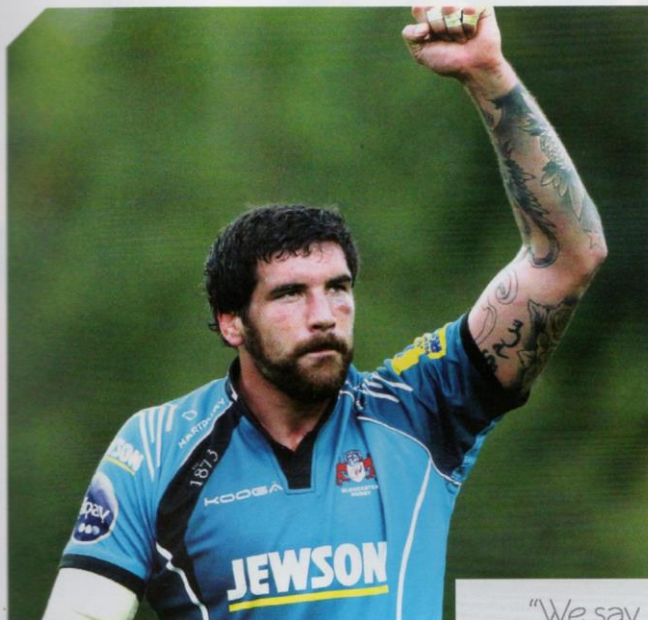
adidas

**Amlin**  
Challenge  
Cup

ERC

# CAPTAIN'S *Corner*

Jim Hamilton



**I**T'S been an eventful couple of weeks since I last penned my programme notes ahead of the Bath game, and I'm delighted to be able to reflect on a couple of victories.

The games are coming thick and fast at the moment and it's difficult to believe that it's already the middle of October. It's also that time of year when we have to adapt from playing in domestic competitions to playing in Europe.

Coming up against opponents that we're not very familiar with is a challenge in itself. But we also have to be flexible in terms of our preparations for these games.

For example, last week's game taking place on the Thursday evening resulted in a weekly schedule that looked vastly different than the one we followed in the lead up to the Bath fixture.

This week will be exactly the same but with the addition of an A League game thrown in for good measure!

But, it keeps us on our toes and I have to give credit to our back room staff, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to allow me and

the other players to focus on our training and the rugby.

That Bath game was an important one for us for a number of reasons and the support we received on the day was nothing short of incredible.

I think it was one of the most electric matchday atmospheres I've experienced here at Kingsholm, right from the moment we took the pitch for our warm up until the final whistle.

We say it time and again, but that support is so important to us, especially when we fell behind early on.

When someone like Jimmy Cowan comments on it, considering all he's experienced in his rugby career, you know it's something special.

That win though really showed the steps that we've made as a team. There was no panic, we knew what we needed to do and we went on to execute it.

It meant that we maintained the progress of recent weeks and signed off the first phase of Premiership rugby with four wins and a draw from six matches.

Backing that up and keeping things moving forward last week in Mont de Marsan was equally important. And I think the boys on duty produced a very professional display in the circumstances.

What (Nigel) has done very well this season is involve as many people as possible. I've packed down alongside Peter Buxton, Will James and Tom Savage in the second row, and there has been similar rotation in the other areas of the team.

So, although the team in France showed a few changes, they'd virtually all featured at some point during the season and that match sharpness was critical in clinching the win.

What we need to do now is keep pushing forward and deliver a similarly efficient performance this evening.

Pay no attention to Bordeaux's result against London Irish last weekend, they'll be coming here to give us a game and we have to be up for that.

**Enjoy the game!**

*"We say it time and again, but that support is so important to us, especially when we fell behind early on..."*



"The Amlin Challenge Cup does not carry the gravity of the Heineken Cup, at least in terms of media coverage, but nonetheless, this is the competition where you measure yourselves against opponents from throughout Europe."

# COACH'S *Notes*

Director of Rugby, Nigel Davies

**A**S we welcome you all here for our first home game in this season's Amlin Challenge Cup, we can reflect on our first block of domestic league competition with some optimism as we're sitting fifth in the League, with only one point separating us from the second placed team.

However, we realize that we have much work to do and, currently in parallel to the preparation and challenge of Europe, we are analyzing our first block of League games to ensure that we learn all the

Challenge Cup and welcome our illustrious opponents Bordeaux-Begles here this evening at Kingsholm.

The Amlin Challenge Cup does not carry the gravity of the Heineken Cup, at least in terms of media coverage, but nonetheless, this is the competition where you measure yourselves against opponents from throughout Europe.

And there is no doubt that, over the last couple of years, the intensity, competition level and profile of the Amlin Challenge Cup has improved greatly, particularly now with the introduction of the best runners up from the Heineken Cup competition being parachuted into the quarter finals of the Amlin.

From our perspective, we are clear on how we want to play and we will not be deviating from our plan which has shown positive signs this season, but we will try to get better at it!

It's also been hugely encouraging to see the progress being made by the United team under the guidance of Andrew Stanley and Rob Thirlby.

The team have now progressed to the semi final stages of the Aviva Premiership A League competition.

They have been playing some good rugby, which has allowed a lot of players to get vital game time and given others development opportunities, with a number of players making a seamless transition to the first team on the back of their United performances!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank both Hartpury and Cinderford for their support in these fixtures in supplying players and also how these relationships are developing for our common good.

I see these relationships as vital to the sustainable success of Gloucester Rugby and hope that every young player playing in Gloucestershire will eventually see a clear pathway to play for Gloucester!

Nigel

The United team have been rewarded for their good performances by qualifying for the final stages of the A League Competition



lessons and continue to move our game forward.

Today though is all about continuing our journey on what is the holy grail of Northern Hemisphere rugby, as we reacquaint ourselves with the Amlin



# THE GREATEST PLAYER?

Nick Purewal's

*View from* **The Citizen**

“He’s the most naturally gifted, down-to-earth guy, and he’s got everything. But, for whatever reason, he’s been overlooked for an awfully long time.”

**No sooner do the eyes widen in awe, than the brow furrows with the rivets of confusion.**

It is a facial contortion routine performed by countless men at Kingsholm over the years – a reaction to one of Gloucester’s greatest modern conundrums.

So many in rugby rate James Simpson-Daniel as the greatest player they have ever lined up alongside or against – none can fathom why England have never seen it the same way.

Mercurial Samoan maverick Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu reckoned Sinbad would boast 50-plus All Blacks caps had he been born a Kiwi.

Captain Luke Narryaway departed Kingsholm for France in the summer still scratching his head in confusion at England’s chronic underuse of a generation’s finest natural talent.

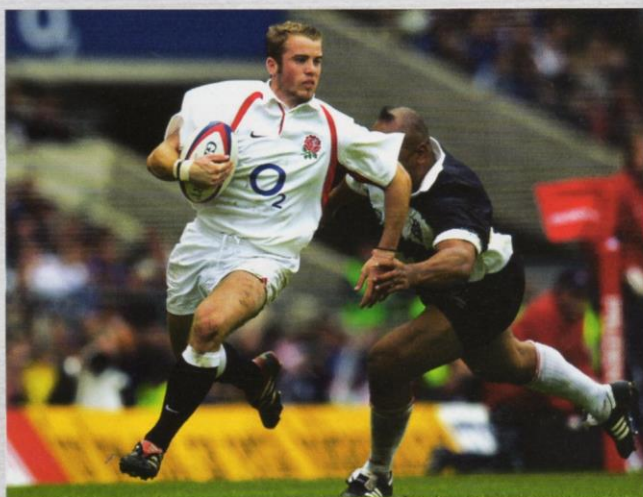
And the cast list of nonplussed admirers is far from limited to Cherry and Whites clad men.

Then Newcastle coach John Fletcher pulled that very same face after one Simpson-Daniel inspired defeat.

Standing in the bowels of Kingsholm, Fletcher questioned England’s sanity in

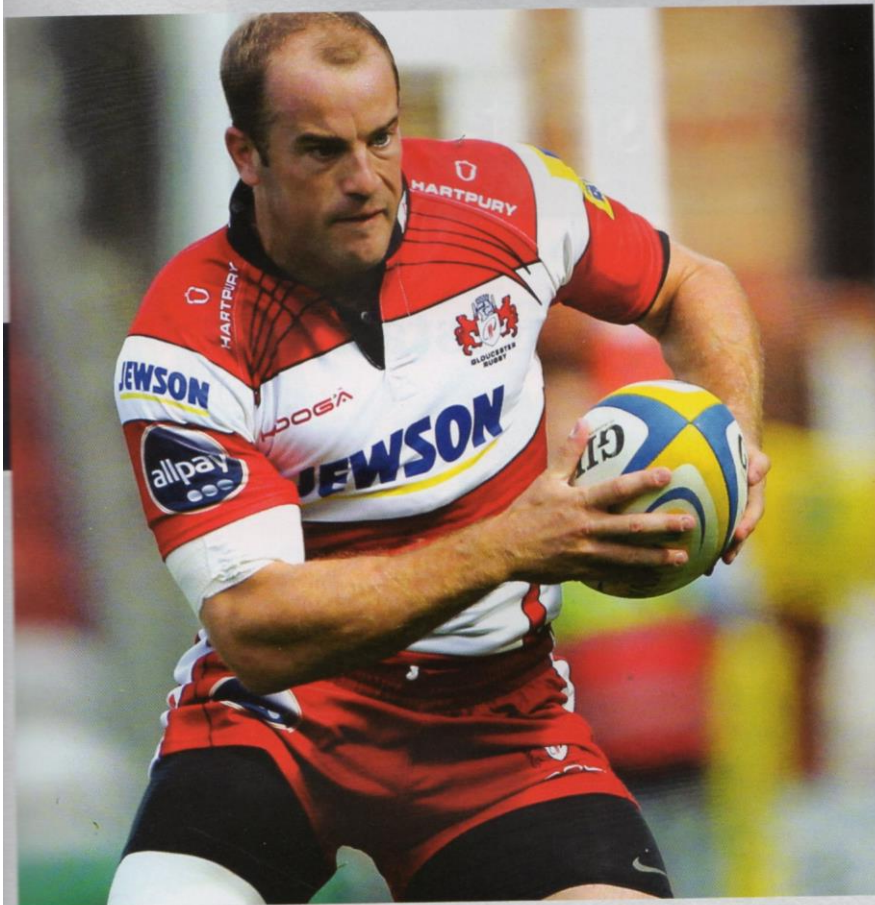
continually overlooking a player he said he would build his side around.

This is the very same John Fletcher who now coaches England’s Under-18s side, and takes a pivotal role in developing the national side’s future stars.



The famous ‘Sinbad vs Lomu’ try from 2002

As Newcastle Academy boss he was responsible for producing stars from Jonny Wilkinson and Toby Flood, through to the



Sinbad in action

likes of Phil Dowson, Geoff Parling and Ben Woods.

There may never be an answer to the simple question of why where England and Sinbad are concerned.

After every fresh first-class performance it can reasonably be asked again.

But the issue has hurtled back into the Kingsholm consciousness once again in the last fortnight, with Simpson-Daniel himself admitting he no longer courts England selection.

To a man, his Cherry and Whites teammates have lamented that call, but all can understand it.

So Simpson-Daniel will probably end his international career with a paltry ten caps.

Years of holding a tackle-bag for two days, only to be discarded from the squad have taken their toll.

And Gloucester skipper Jim Hamilton cannot quite believe it either.

As the quizzical face set in, the 29-year-old lock explained:

## this is

### Gloucestershire

- New Boots store moves one step closer to Quedgeley
- Thieving diners steal 30,000 Jamie Oliver napkins
- Library visitors fall after hours are cut
- Ghosthunters to spend night at museum



"Everyone will tell you, and I could talk about it all day – but Sinbad is the best player I've ever played with.

"He's the most naturally gifted, down-to-earth guy, and he's got everything. But, for whatever reason, he's been overlooked for an awfully long time.

"But sometimes that just happens, as frustrating as it is, and there's only so much that one person can do.

"You do your bit and then forget about the rest, and if that's where Sinbad is now, then good for him.

"Sinbad is Gloucester through and through, he wants success with Gloucester, that's his key focus and fair play.

"He's obviously perfectly good enough to excel at international level, but if the call did come and he did say no, that would be a decision we would all respect of course.

"If he chose to do that, then that would be his call.

"It would be Gloucester's gain ultimately, but I still think it would be a shame."

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugby heritage.org.uk

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

# A NEW CLUB WITH OLD ASSOCIATIONS

**Union Bordeaux-Begles were founded in 2006 as a result of a merger between two Bordeaux clubs, Stade Bordelais ("Bordeaux") and Club Athletique Bordeaux-Begles Gironde ("Begles").**

They play at the Stade Andre Moga in Begles, a suburb of Bordeaux. The two clubs which amalgamated had accumulated nine French championship titles: seven for Stade Bordelais and two for Club Athletique Bordeaux-Begles Gironde.

In the early years, Stade Bordelais, founded in 1889, were the nationally recognised senior club and won seven titles before the First World War, the last in 1911. At the time of the merger they were playing in the French second division.

In modern times, Begles, founded in 1907, had become the dominant force, winning French Championships in 1969 and again in 1991 when they were captained by Bernard Laporte and Serge Simon was among their leading players.

The Begles club, named Club Athletique Begles until 1983, were in the French first division from 1913 until 2003, when they were found to be unable to continue financially and were declared bankrupt the following year.

Since the amalgamation in 2006, Union Bordeaux-Begles competed in the second division until winning the 2011 play-offs. They finished 8th in the Top 14 last season and, as a result, are competing in the Amclin Challenge Cup.

## PREVIOUS MATCHES

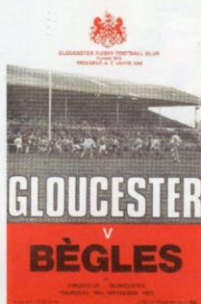
**Today will be the first match between Gloucester and the current Union Bordeaux-Begles club. However, Gloucester and Begles have met before.**

**18th September 1975  
at Kingsholm  
Gloucester 20 Begles 21**

The match was played on a Thursday evening under floodlights. Begles, billed as the "1969 French champions", were on tour, and scored two tries in a dominant first half, Peter Butler replying with two penalties for Gloucester.

The home side countered strongly in the second half, both sides playing sparkling open rugby.

Alan Brinn and John Bayliss, who had an outstanding game, scored tries in reply to two tries from Begles and, when Eddie Pinkney crashed over in the corner, Gloucester needed the conversion to win the game. For once Peter Butler missed and Begles won a thriller 21-20.



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**GLoucester**  
Backs and Forwards

Full Back  
15. P. Butler

Three Quarters  
14. J. Dine  
13. R. Jarman  
12. J. Bayliss  
11. R. Edwards

Half Backs  
10. D. Pinner  
9. R. Kingham

Forwards  
1. K. Richardson  
2. K. Richards  
3. M. Burton (Capt.)  
4. A. Brinn  
5. J. Fisher  
6. J. Wadkins  
7. J. Haines

Referee: M. H. TITCHEMB (Bristol Society)

1st Half Points  
Begles 14 Gloucester 0

2nd Half Points  
Begles 7 Gloucester 10

**BEGLES**  
Full Back  
15. Bordenes  
Three Quarters  
14. Ledwicks  
13. Perrier  
12. Selleney  
11. Dierie  
Half Backs  
10. Pendergast  
9. Lince  
Forwards  
1. Verrijder  
2. Cernsey  
3. Braggins  
4. Vison  
5. Longin  
6. Cernsey  
7. Vison  
8. Jans (Capt.)

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**16th October 1996**  
**at Kingsholm**  
**Gloucester 10 Begles 17**

**In contrast to the first match in 1975, this tie in Pool D of the European Conference was a dismal affair.**

In a match of missed opportunities, Gloucester, who were 10-3 down at half time, dominated the second half but, although enjoying an enormous territorial advantage, could not break the Begles line.

The scores were finally levelled when Gloucester were awarded a penalty try with six minutes to go. But, after Mark Mapletoft missed two difficult penalty chances, Begles centre Luc Lafforgue raced through to score the winning try.

**10th August 1999**  
**at Biscarosse**  
**Begles 11**  
**Gloucester 19**

A pre-season match watched by Clive Woodward, who was assessing the form of the Gloucester front row of Trevor Woodman, Neil McCarthy and Phil Vickery before announcing his World Cup squad later in the month.



In a tight game, Gloucester were leading by four penalties to two in the 75th minute when Begles replacement full back Filali scored a try to leave them one point behind.

However, Brian Johnson chipped ahead to gather and score two minutes into injury time and Gloucester won 19-11, a promising start to a successful 1999-2000 season.

## THEY PLAYED FOR BEGLES AND GLOUCESTER

**Prop Serge Simon only played 18 games for Gloucester between 1999 and 2000, but in that short space of time became a folk hero (especially in the Shed) for his tough uncompromising style and obvious enthusiasm for the game.**

After a stint with Gloucester in 1999-2000, he received a hero's welcome in August 2000 when he returned in answer to



Serge Simon  
 - An unforgettable character

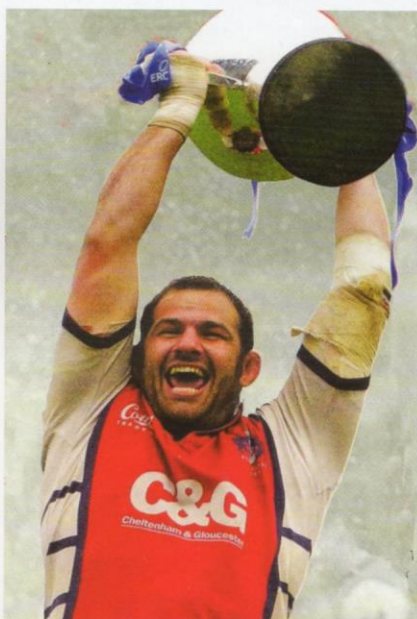
**Prop Patrice Collazo played for Begles against Gloucester at Kingsholm in the 1996 European Conference game, as a promising 22 year old.**

He joined Gloucester from Begles in 2001,


playing 78 games for the club in between 2001-03 and 2005-08, with two seasons at Toulouse in between.

Accomplished in tight and loose, he won an international cap while with Begles and, but for the strength of the French front row at the time, could have won many more.


Collazo played for Gloucester in both the Zurich Championship Final victory against Bristol in 2002 and in the European Challenge Cup Final victory against London Irish in 2006.




Patrice Collazo  
 - Cup Winner



**GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE**

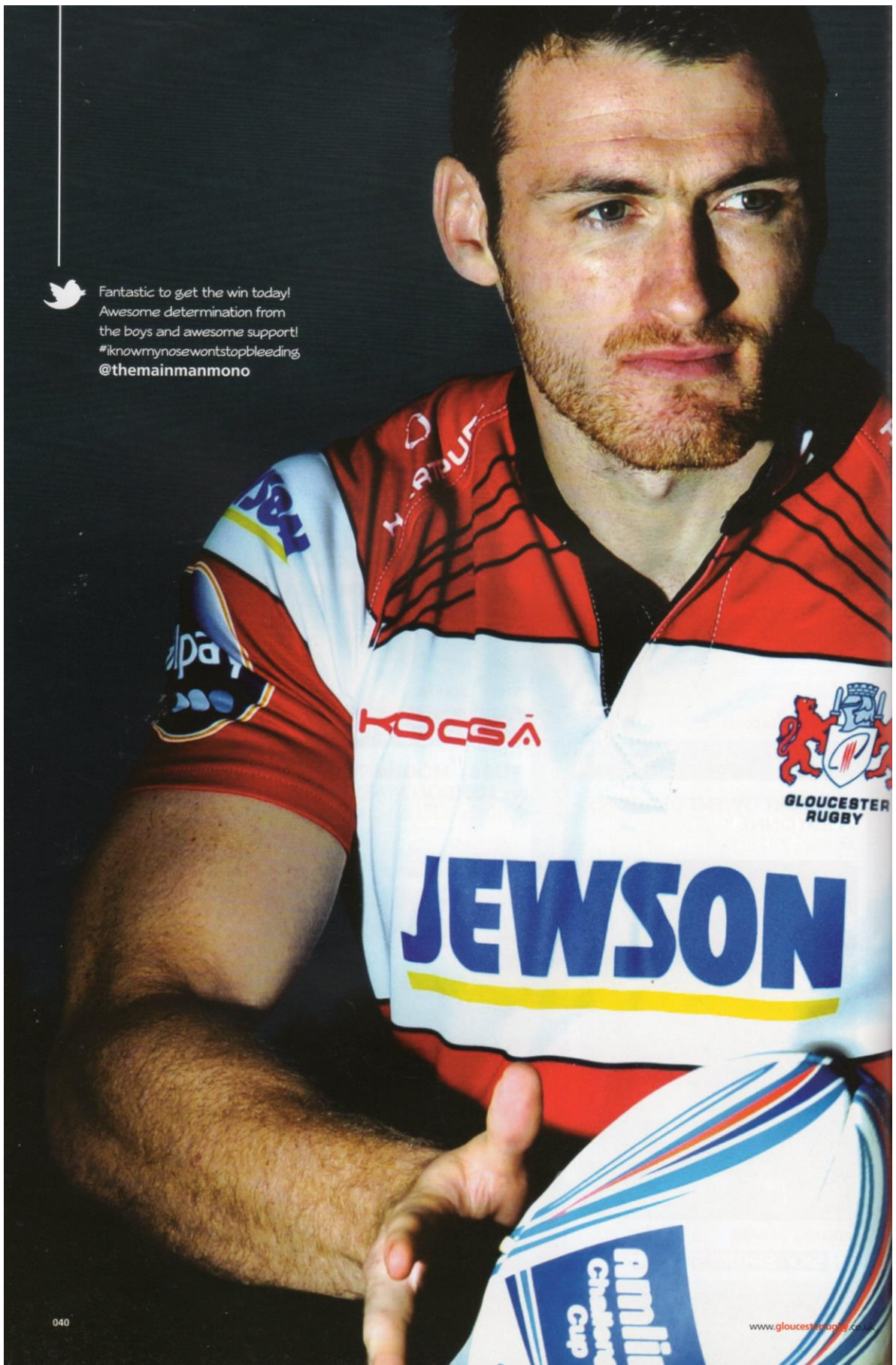




The guilty men – the Gloucester Rugby Heritage team which is bringing you these articles in each match programme this season – Chris Collier, Dick Williams, Malc King, John Theyers, John Cowen.



Fantastic to get the win today!  
Awesome determination from  
the boys and awesome support!  
#iknowmynosewontstopbleeding  
@themainmanmono





*Shane Monahan*

# NATURAL BORN *Winger*



He was one of the final new signings to put pen to paper for Gloucester Rugby ahead of the 2012-13 season. But, it's fair to say that Dubliner Shane Monahan has had one of the biggest impacts to date.

The affable Dubliner arrived over the summer expecting to really have to fight for game time behind the likes of Jonny May, Charlie Sharples and James Simpson-Daniel.

However, as things have turned out, he's seen more than his fair share of action to date and admitted recently that his first few months as a Gloucester Rugby player have passed by in a blur.

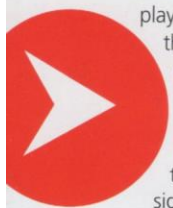
"It's gone by really quickly and I've certainly got a lot more rugby than I thought I would do this early on.

"In rugby, a lot of things can happen very quickly and that's been the case for me this year. I've just been delighted to be involved so much and play my part in helping the team do so well.

The 25 year old arrived at Kingsholm having caught the eye as a Rotherham Titans player in the Championship in 2011-12, a season that saw him score 11 tries.

Once he heard of the interest from Gloucester, however, he confessed that he took no time at all in making up his mind to move south.

"It all happened quite late. There were a couple of games left in the



play offs, around the end of April I think, when my agent told me that Gloucester were interested and it was all done within a week!

"The minute I was aware that Gloucester wanted to talk to me, the club that it is, I couldn't wait to sign on the dotted line.

"I was really flattered by the interest.

They already had some great wingers in Charlie, Jamie and Jonny and they could have signed any winger they wanted really. I look at it as a great honour and privilege and couldn't wait to get down here."

It's been pointed out frequently in recent times that the Championship has proved to be a valuable stepping stone for aspiring players to ascend to the Aviva Premiership and Monahan feels it was a crucial time for him.

"It's a very competitive league and a hard one to play in. I learned a lot in the Championship and I don't think that the level of rugby is that far below the Premiership.

"The Premiership is that little bit quicker but the physicality is right up there. I enjoyed my time with Rotherham but was understandably delighted to be able to move to Gloucester."

He was quickly into action in the Cherry and White of Gloucester as he was selected for the squad that took part in the JP Morgan Asset Management Premiership Rugby Sevens and had an instant impact in front of his new home crowd.

"I loved playing the Sevens. It was my first time playing at Kingsholm and my first touch of the ball resulted in a try which was unbelievable. It was the best possible start."

And he's quickly carried that form into the 15s game. He made his first Aviva Premiership start away at Worcester when his break led to a try for Henry Trinder.

He then went on to score away at London Welsh and caught the eye with his performance in his home debut against Bath when he was only denied a try by a TMO decision that didn't go Gloucester's way.

"As a winger, you can go whole games without getting a pass so I've just been really lucky to get the ball in my hands so many times.

"It's great to play in a team like this who are capable of putting width on the ball which gives you the chance to make an impression on the game."

He's quickly established a reputation as a physical winger, not afraid of the rough and tumble, and he laughs when it's pointed out that he's picked up a facial injury in three separate games.



▲ Shane, despite the 'moody' pose, has been looking forward to his first European fixture

"I loved playing the Sevens. It was my first time playing at Kingsholm and my first touch of the ball resulted in a try which was unbelievable. It was the best possible start."

"It's just been one of those seasons. Before I came here, I never picked up any sort of injury near my head.

"They say these things come in threes so hopefully I've had my share!"

Since his arrival at Gloucester, he's also been joined by brother Simon who is employed as the Community Rugby Development Manager.

He confesses that Simon is both his biggest supporter and also his biggest critic at the same time.

(Laughs) "He's definitely a bit of both. To be honest, because he's a coach, he can actually watch the game as my brother but also analyse what I'm doing from a coaching perspective.

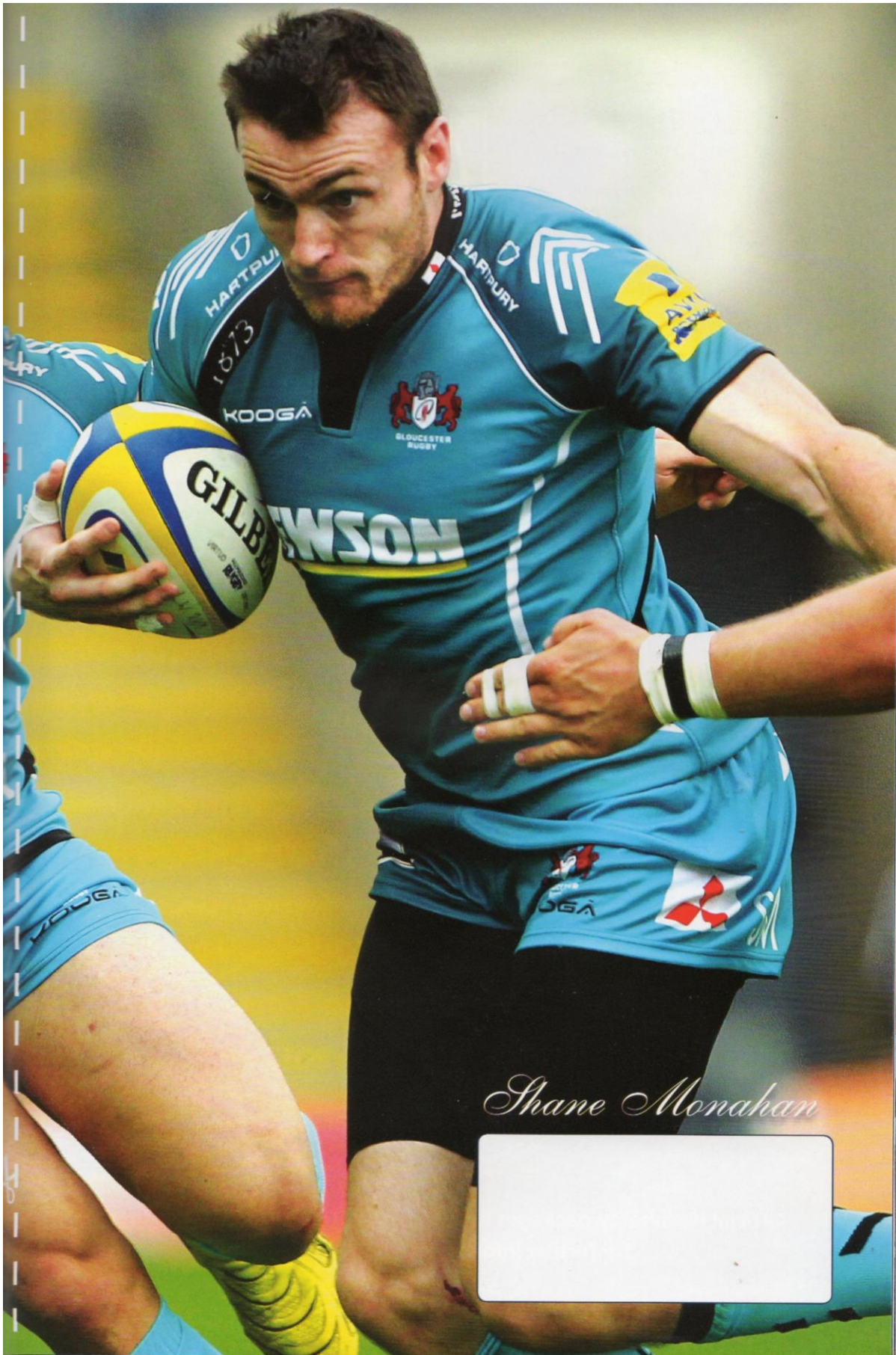
"So, after the game, he's often pointing out the little things I could have done better, and the things I've done well. So I get the best of both worlds with him."

And the Bath game was a proud day for the Monahan family as a whole as Shane's parents had both come across to watch the game in which their son was to play such a prominent role.

"It was great to have them over and it was my Mother's first time seeing a game at Kingsholm and watching me play for Gloucester. And what a game for her to see!

"A packed house against our local rivals with all the history behind it. And to play in the game and play well was just great. The weekend couldn't have been better."

Apart from that TMO decision of course!



*Shane Monahan*



# Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton

**"It's four points in the bag. However, it's one of those games that, for more than one reason, are best quickly forgotten."**

## **Rugby on a Thursday night... it'll never catch on.**

For me, it's probably about the only downside to European competition and results in a last minute dash back from London with fingers crossed that I make it in time for kick off.

I know in some quarters the Amlin competition is somehow seen as not worthy and something we should not be that concerned about. I can't agree with that.

At the end of the day there are only four trophies to be won each season. We can't win the Heineken so that leaves three.

Are we really good enough to win the Premiership this year? Or the confusingly complex LV= Cup? So, for me, this is a tournament that we should be going flat out to win.

After all, how euphoric were we when James Forrester rampaged past the Irish defence in the pouring rain at the Stoop in 2006 to bring that trophy back to Kingsholm?

It was one of the great victories, and I for one would more than welcome the chance to experience that buzz again. And let's not forget that it would give us a free pass into the Big Cup Draw next term.

We got off to a winning start last Thursday, though pretty it wasn't. It was one of those additional events where the result was way

more important than the way it was achieved.

It's four points in the bag. However, it's one of those games that, for more than one reason, are best quickly forgotten.

It was good to seem some of our young guns getting some game time – up and coming guys like Mike Tindall – err... I mean Ian Clark and Elliott Stooke getting some first team game time. It shows the confidence that Nigel has in them that he is prepared to stick them into these games.

It was, though, another tense affair. In fact we seem to be making a bit of a habit of these recently.

Take the week before last for example – heading into the final few minutes with a six point lead – the worst possible lead to have because you know that a converted try is all that is needed to send you crashing to defeat.

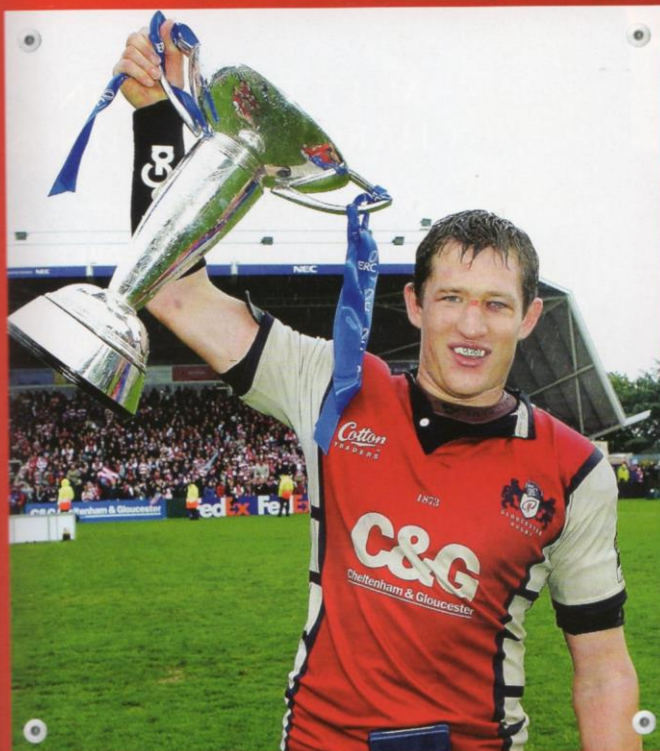
It was the same the week before that against London Welsh, and before that a slightly – but not much better – seven points against Wasps.

Don't they get it? I'm too old for games like this, every one of these tight affairs reduces my life expectancy by a few days, fingernails are things of the past and my rapidly receding hairline shows the pressure if having the same impact there. So please – a 40-odd point lead with 20 minutes to go will suit me fine.

Not everyone will agree though – a mate

I have a feeling that today could be a game that is right up their street. Bordeaux-Bègles may not have set the French divisions on fire of late but they will still be a challenge,

Jango and the 2006 Challenge Cup trophy



especially if they play in the mold of Raphael Ibanez who has joined their coaching set up.

He's also been joined by one Joe Worsley – always a player Gloucester fans loved to hate – who is now defense coach at the club. To be fair Joe was a mean defender but let's hope his boys have a bit of an off-day today.

Let's wind back a bit further and revel in the defeat of Bath for a moment – always an easy thing to do!

Having decided to let them have a bit of a head start we slowly reeled them back in. It was great to see Jimmy Cowan getting onto the field – always great to see a legend of the game in Gloucester colours.

It'll take him time to settle in for sure, I still believe he is going to be a hugely influential player for us over the next couple of years and players like Dan Robson will gain hugely from his experience.

Jimmy must have wished that Stephen Donald had not gone off so early though – I bet he was itching to get the chance to dump him on his backside. Oh well, there's always the away game in February.

It was another tough old game though, and again showed the growing strength of belief that the team is getting. Six months ago that game would have gone away from us and, tense as they may be, a narrow win is still evidence of progress.

There's no doubt that our resolve is going to be severely tested over the next couple of weeks with a trip to the Stoop to take on last season's champions, and a home game against perennial competition favourites, Leicester, will be tough stuff.

But, if you are going to get to the top you have to beat the best so we might as well start now – then have a couple of weeks off for the LV= Cup!

# KNOWLEDGE GLOUCESTER GOSPEL TALK OPINIONS FAN VIEW POINT EXPERIENCE PETER ARNOLD

## THE WORLD COMES TO KINGSHOLM

**It must have come as a bit of a shock to everyone.**

We might have expected, or at least hoped, that Kingsholm would appear on the long list of grounds selected to stage World Cup games in 2015, but surely none of us expected that we would be the only club ground to be so honoured.

It is reported that the Leicester boys are spitting blood over their omission from the list, and I can't say that I blame them. Welford Road is a fine ground with excellent facilities and holds markedly more spectators than Kingsholm does.

One can't help suspecting that the lure of extra money to be made at big soccer grounds carried more weight than considerations about the spirit and ethos of the game.

Surely there must be room on the list for more than one real rugby ground?

Even were that not so, how did Kingsholm get the nod over Welford Road or any other



club ground? Obviously I have no way of knowing, but it could be that a conversation I had around 30 years ago might have some bearing on the matter.

It was quite a memorable occasion when the mighty Auckland, who were the New Zealand Provincial Champions came here to play the County. The result was painfully predictable, but a good time was had by all in the clubhouse afterwards.

In fact, in wet weather, I can sometimes feel the spot on my shoulder where one of the Whetton brothers gave me a playful pat.

Somewhere during the proceedings I had quite a long chat with the President of the Auckland Rugby Football Union.

He was saying how much he was enjoying being here, and then added:

"You, know, I don't think you blokes realise what you have here. Kingsholm is one of the most famous club grounds in the world.

"When we had our pre-tour meeting and announced the proposed itinerary, when we told the gathering that we were to play at Kingsholm, everyone stood up and cheered."

So there you are. Perhaps our heritage and even mythology still has some power and influence.

And quite right too.



## MORE POWER TO THEIR ELBOW

**I simply must congratulate Gloucester City Council on their efforts to make us a host city for the World Cup.**

Economically speaking such a decision couldn't be anything but good, as we've seen in other towns and cities who became hosts for the Olympics.

We also have a bit of evidence of our own, if you remember the floods of Irish fans who almost took Gloucester over for our two epic encounters with Munster.

But there's more to it than that. We have a good case when you throw facilities at Hartpury and Innsworth into the equation.

*"...our guest's team would find themselves billeted in just about the fiercest hotbed of rugby in the country."*

Most important of all, our guest's team would find themselves billeted in just about the fiercest hotbed of rugby in the country.

The welcome they would receive would surpass anything they would find elsewhere, and they would return to their home country telling people what a bloody marvellous place Gloucester is, which can't be bad.

More power to the Council's elbow. It probably isn't a coincidence that the Leader of the Council is Paul James, proud Old Cryptian and lifelong supporter of Gloucester Rugby. He won't give up easily.

## FRENCH LEAVE

**Bearing in mind that I must be a bit careful what I say about the Mont de Marsan match with disciplinary proceedings in the offing, no one can blame me with being satisfied with the result.**

The game itself was ill tempered to say the least, the incident which led to a red card and a yellow one was controversial and the weather was foul. But – hey! – a win's a win, especially in France..

There were some good things to come out of it. I was very impressed by the performance of the pack, especially of the three young players who comprised the front row for most of the game.

It wasn't a day for running rugby, but Charlie Sharples showed that he is approaching his mercurial best after injury. And don't forget that it was our other lightening speedster who scored the game's only try.

It was admittedly laid on for him by our frightening new number 8, who must be giving England's Ben Morgan cause to look over his shoulder as far as Gloucester is concerned.

Above all, the dismissals came in the 56th minute, so we had to face an increasingly desperate French side on their own patch, for ten minutes with 13 men and for the rest of the proceedings with 14.

Yet we kept them out and even added a few points while depleted.

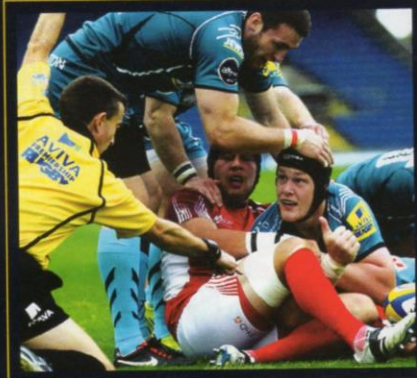
All in all, it was a pretty satisfactory performance, not least by Nigel Davies who played his replacements like a maestro.



# ACTION *Replay*

## LONDON WELSH GLOUCESTER RUGBY

25  
31



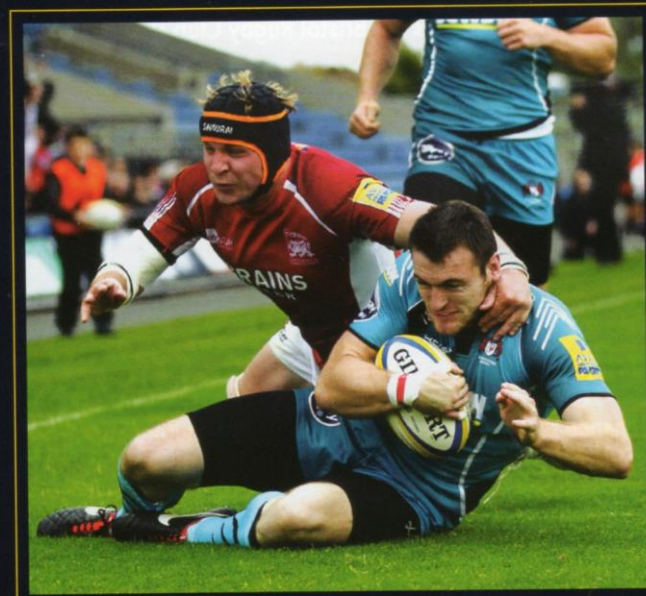
### LONDON WELSH POINTS SCORERS

TRY: Montanella (60)  
CON: Ross (60)  
PENS: Ross (10, 19, 31, 42, 55, 64)



### GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS

TRIES: Monahan (15), Savage (27), Knight (73)  
CONS: Burns (28, 73)  
PENS: Burns (4, 13, 65), Twelvetrees (46)



Gloucester Rugby made their first Aviva Premiership visit to the Kassam Stadium to take on London Welsh, and duly chalked up their third win of the season and extended their unbeaten run to four games.

But it was far from easy. London Welsh have adapted to life in the Aviva Premiership remarkably well since their promotion from the Championship and are proving to be no pushover.

Trailing at half time, the home team pegged back a half time deficit and gave Gloucester a real scare by taking the lead halfway through the second half.

Gloucester, under Nigel Davies, are developing a real resilient streak though and had enough self belief to respond in style and hit back to secure the win, much to the disappointment of the home crowd.

30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012, 15:00 KO  
KASSAM STADIUM, OXFORD  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP: ROUND 5



**Gloucester were up against it, having relinquished the lead, and the home team had their tails up.**

However, a stunning counter attack saw Gloucester advance to within a couple of metres of the home line, and it was prop Shaun Knight who first dummied his way through a gap and then dived over for the crucial try.

It had all looked very promising in the opening quarter when Gloucester, to be brutally honest, bossed the game.

The Cherry and Whites overcame the late loss of three starters to failed fitness tests and took the game to their hosts from the off.

An early try for Shane Monahan, taking full advantage of a quickly taken tap penalty from Freddie Burns got Gloucester off and running. When Tom Savage scored the second after 27 minutes, everything was going to plan.

The only real criticism you could level at Gloucester was that they hadn't finished off more of the chances they had created, and only time would tell if this would prove to be vital.

London Welsh fly half Gordon Ross kept his side in touch with three well struck penalties but Gloucester had a decent 18-9 half time lead.

The second half proved to be a far different affair. London Welsh came out all guns blazing and Gloucester were quickly on the back foot with Freddie Burns sinbinned for a deliberate knock on.

They survived the period with fourteen men but were rocked by Frank Montanella's try on the hour which, combined with Ross' goal kicking, saw the home side edge their way in front.

The key moment came moments before Knight's winning score. A brave goal line stand saw Gloucester just keep the home team at bay when another score could have been a killer.

But a subsequent turnover led to the counter attack which led to Knight's try and Gloucester had a lead that they wouldn't relinquish.

## Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

*"I have worked with a lot of international 10s and he [Burns] is certainly up there that's for sure, and the fact he has been able to mature at this level for a couple of years has certainly helped him."*

*"His goal-kicking is improving all the time and his out of hand game management and kicking is excellent at the moment too, so he is really maturing."*

## LONDON WELSH



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Seb Jewell
14	W	Tom Arscott
13	C	Sonny Parker
12	C	Hudson Tonga'uila
11	W	Nick Scott ■
10	FH	Gordon Ross
9	SH	Tyson Keats
1	P	Franck Montanella
2	H	Neil Briggs
3	P	Paulica Ion
4	L	Jonathan Mills (C)
5	L	Matt Corker
6	F	Daniel Browne
7	F	Mike Hills
8	N8	Ed Jackson

16	H	Dan George
17	P	Tom Bristow
18	P	Arthur Joly
19	F	Kirill Kulemin
20	N8	Alfie To'oala Vaeluaga
21	SH	Nick Runciman
22	FH	Ryan Davis
23	C	Phil MacKenzie

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY



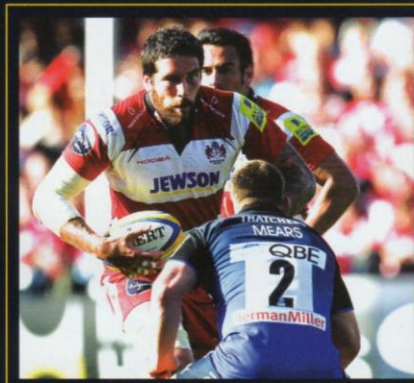
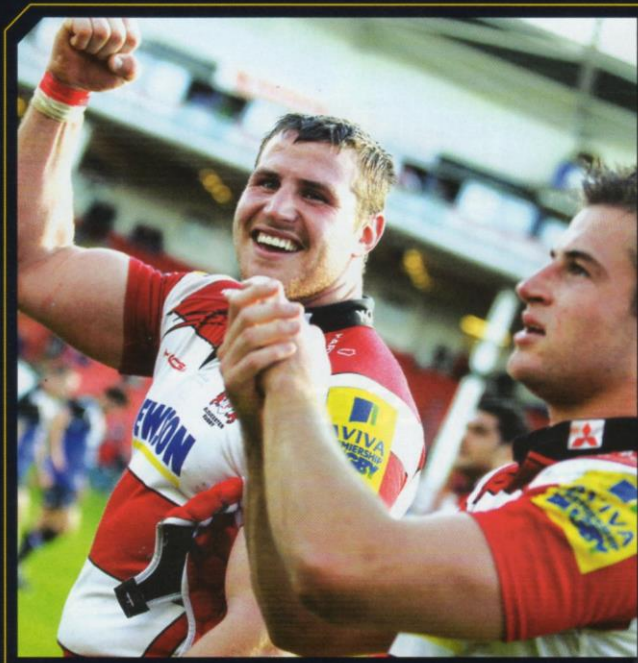
#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Rob Cook
14	W	Shane Monahan
13	C	Mike Tindall
12	C	Billy Twelvetrees
11	W	James Simpson-Daniel
10	FH	Freddie Burns ■
9	SH	Dan Robson
1	P	Nick Wood
2	H	Tommaso d'Apice
3	P	Rupert Harden
4	L	Tom Savage
5	L	Jim Hamilton (C)
6	F	Peter Buxton
7	F	Akapusi Qera
8	N8	Sione Kalamafoni

16	H	Koree Britton
17	P	Dan Murphy
18	P	Shaun Knight
19		Will James
20	F	Gareth Evans
21	SH	Dave Lewis
22	C	Henry Trinder
23		Martyn Thomas

# ACTION Replay

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY BATH RUGBY

16  
10



### GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



TRY: Cook (51)  
CON: Burns (52)  
PENS: Burns (30, 32)  
DROP: Burns (73)

### BATH RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



TRY: Donald (1)  
CON: Donald (1)  
PENS: Donald (19)



**This latest Gloucester vs Bath derby was one of the most eagerly anticipated in recent times.**

With both teams going well in the Aviva Premiership, a near capacity Kingsholm crowd was buzzing with anticipation at the prospect of their nearest and dearest neighbours being put to the sword.

However, the visitors clearly hadn't read the script and stunned the home followers by taking the lead after a mere 32 seconds.

Quick ball saw Michael Claassens spin the ball out to Stephen Donald, and the merest of dummies saw him ghost between two defenders before sprinting to the line.

It sparked an uncomfortable opening quarter for Gloucester as Bath sought to press home their advantage and put the game beyond Gloucester's reach.

6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2012, 14:15 KO  
KINGSHOLM  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP: ROUND 6



The build up to Rob Cook's try was a patient one but it was finished in style. James Simpson-Daniel first of all shrugged off Stephen Donald, who had flown out of the defensive line, before committing Kyle Eastmond and giving Cook the space to squeeze in at the corner.



## Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

"It was certainly a game of two halves and we managed to bring width and continuity in the second period.

"Perhaps we were a bit complacent in the build up this week, but it was pretty easy at half-time because we had been so far off the game. We knew what we had to do.

"We showed the resilience and composure which is a hallmark of this team."

A strong forward effort resulted in a penalty from Donald and the men from the Rec were well placed at 10-0.

However, Gloucester worked their way back into things slowly but surely and a couple of penalties from Freddie Burns meant that Gloucester were in touch at half time, trailing only by 10 points to 6.

And the home team took the game by the scruff of the neck in the second half as they upped their game several notches.

Gloucester's powerful ball carriers started to punch holes through the Bath midfield and, given some front foot ball, the backs started to look dangerous.

Cook's try was the only try that was awarded as Gloucester threw the kitchen sink at Bath, although Shane Monahan had a score disallowed for a double movement, and Henry Trinder would have been given a try had it been referred to the Television Match Official.

To their credit, Gloucester didn't allow themselves to get frustrated at the decisions that weren't going their way and also by the sterling Bath defence.

Burns dropped a goal to give Gloucester a bit of breathing space at 16-10 and, despite coughing up possession in the last minute, were able to keep Bath at bay in reasonable comfort to take the spoils.

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Rob Cook
14	W	Shane Monahan
13	C	Henry Trinder
12	C	Billy Twelvetrees
11	W	James Simpson-Daniel
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Dan Robson
1	P	Nick Wood
2	H	Huia Edmonds
3	P	Rupert Harden
4	L	Tom Savage
5	L	Jim Hamilton (C)
6	F	Sione Kalamafoni
7	F	Akapusi Qera
8	N8	Ben Morgan
16	H	Koree Britton
17	P	Dan Murphy
18	P	Shaun Knight
19	L	Will James
20		Gareth Evans
21	SH	Jimmy Cowan
22		Mike Tindall
23		Martyn Thomas

## BATH RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Nick Abendanon
14	W	Kyle Eastmond
13	C	Dan Hipkiss
12	C	Sam Vesty
11	W	Tom Biggs
10	FH	Stephen Donald
9	SH	Michael Claassens
1	P	Paul James
2	H	Lee Mears (C)
3	P	David Wilson
4	L	Dom Day
5	L	Dave Attwood
6	F	Carl Fearn
7	F	Ben Skirving
8	N8	Simon Taylor
16	H	Ross Batty
17	P	Nathan Catt
18	P	Anthony Perenise
19	L	Will Spencer
20	N8	Will Skuse
21	SH	Mark McMillan
22	FH	Ollie Devoto
23	C	Jack Cuthbert



Teams correct at time of print 16/10/12

# TODAY'S *Line-ups*



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

US

## BORDEAUX- BÈGLES



MARTYN THOMAS	15	DARLY DOMVO
CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	AVENISI VASUINUBU
MIKE TINDALL	13	CHARLES BROUSSE
BILLY TWELVETREES	12	MICHEL DENETRE
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	11	THIERRY BRANA
FREDDIE BURNS	10	LACHIE MUNRO
JIMMY COWAN	09	JULIEN SERON
DAN MURPHY	01	HIKAIRO FORBES
HUIA EDMONDS	02	FABIEN ROFES
SHAUN KNIGHT	03	JEFFERSON POIROT
WILL JAMES	04	KAROLIS NAVICKAS
JIM HAMILTON (C)	05	FRANCOIS TISSEAU
SIONE KALAMAFONI	06	GAUTIER GIBOUIN
AKAPUSI QERA	07	ROHAN KITSHOFF
BEN MORGAN	08	SISA KOYAMAIBOLE
KOREE BRITTON	16	STÉPHANE FORT
NICK WOOD	17	FRANCK LABBE
RUPERT HARDEN	18	YASSINE BOUTEMANE
TOM SAVAGE	19	ANDREW CHAUVEAU
MATT COX	20	METUISELA TALEBULAMAJAINA
DAN ROBSON	21	BAPTISTE SERIN
TIM MOLENAAR	22	DAMIEN LARRIÉU
ROB COOK	23	BRUCE REIHANA

## THE OFFICIALS

**REFEREE:** Marius Mitrea

**ASSISTANT REFEREES:** Carlo Damasco, Claudio Blessano **TMO:** Alan Falzone

**Amlin Challenge Cup**

**Amlin**

**FedEx**

