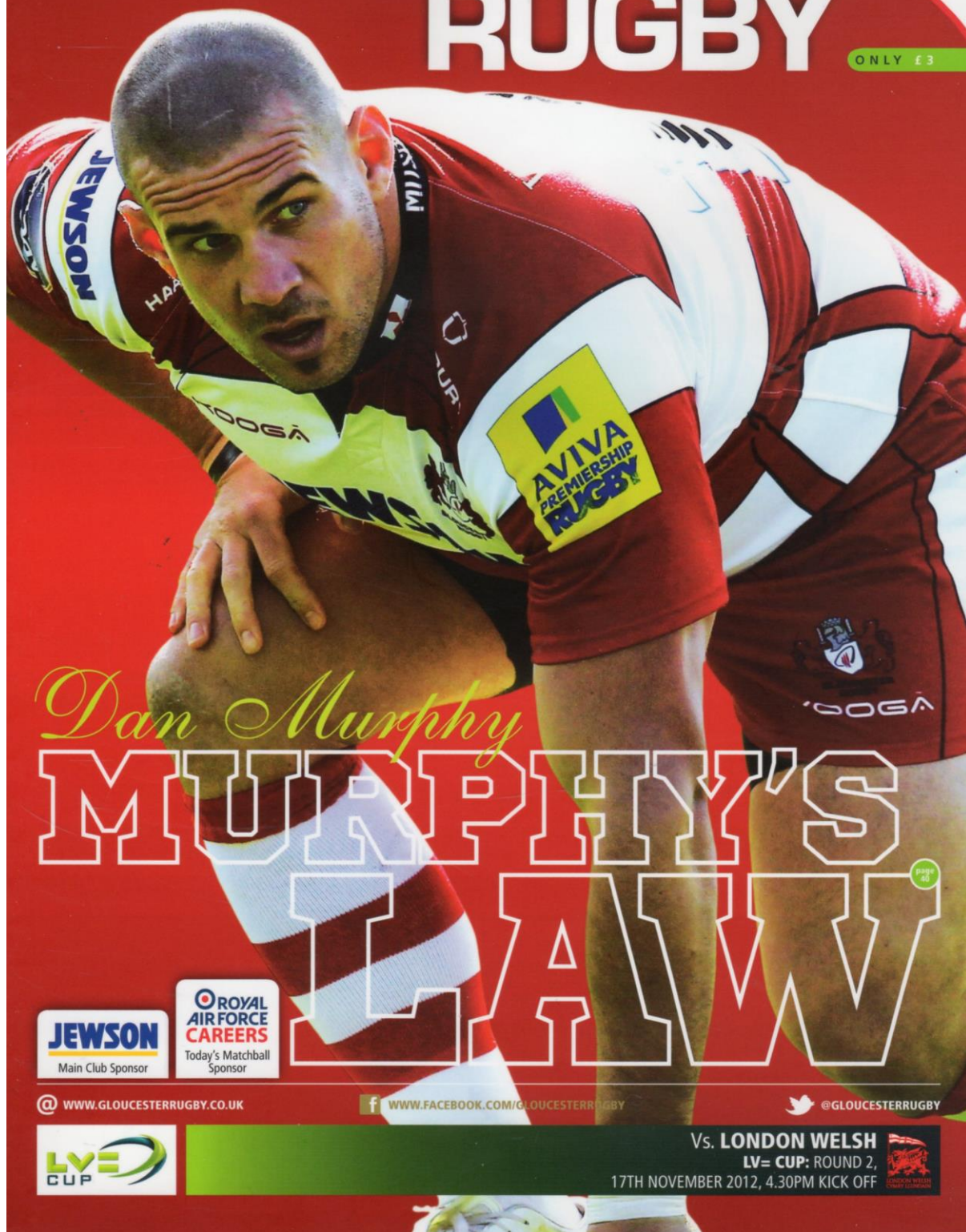


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Vs. **LONDON WELSH**

LV= CUP: ROUND 2,

17TH NOVEMBER 2012, 4.30PM KICK OFF



CAPTAIN'S *Corner*

Jim Hamilton



IT'S been a strange couple of weeks for me, keeping in touch with how the lads are getting on while I'm currently away with Scotland.

To be it's not that difficult in this day and age. Most of our games seem to have been televised in recent weeks and I'm in touch of course with the players and coaches on a daily basis.

We've had a tough few fixtures of late, but one aspect of our game has really shone through, and that's been our commitment, our never say die attitude and our willingness to play for each other.

Players often make the worst spectators, we want to play above all else. And I'm probably one of the worst!

But I've been incredibly proud of the way the squad has pulled together in recent weeks to remain competitive even when

"It was a great game to watch although I felt nearly as drained afterwards as I do when I actually play!"

we've been missing players to international call ups and the inevitable injuries.

Although I was ruled out for the Tigers game, I was lucky enough to be at Kingsholm on the night and I have to admit that it's one of the most incredible atmospheres I've known at club level.

It was a great game to watch although I felt nearly as drained afterwards as I do when I actually play!

That performance was probably the closest to showing exactly what we're striving to achieve each and every week.

We played some great rugby, scored some superb tries but also had the grit and determination to hold the Tigers at bay in the closing stages – no mean feat!

That commitment was in evidence again when we took on Harlequins at the Stoop the following weekend, only this time we couldn't quite snatch the win.

Our performance didn't quite reach the levels of the previous week and it was frustrating to concede a couple of soft scores after we'd defended valiantly for so long.

But the team spirit was there by the bucket load once again and not many teams would have denied Quins a fourth try, let alone hit back in the final few minutes to secure the losing bonus point.

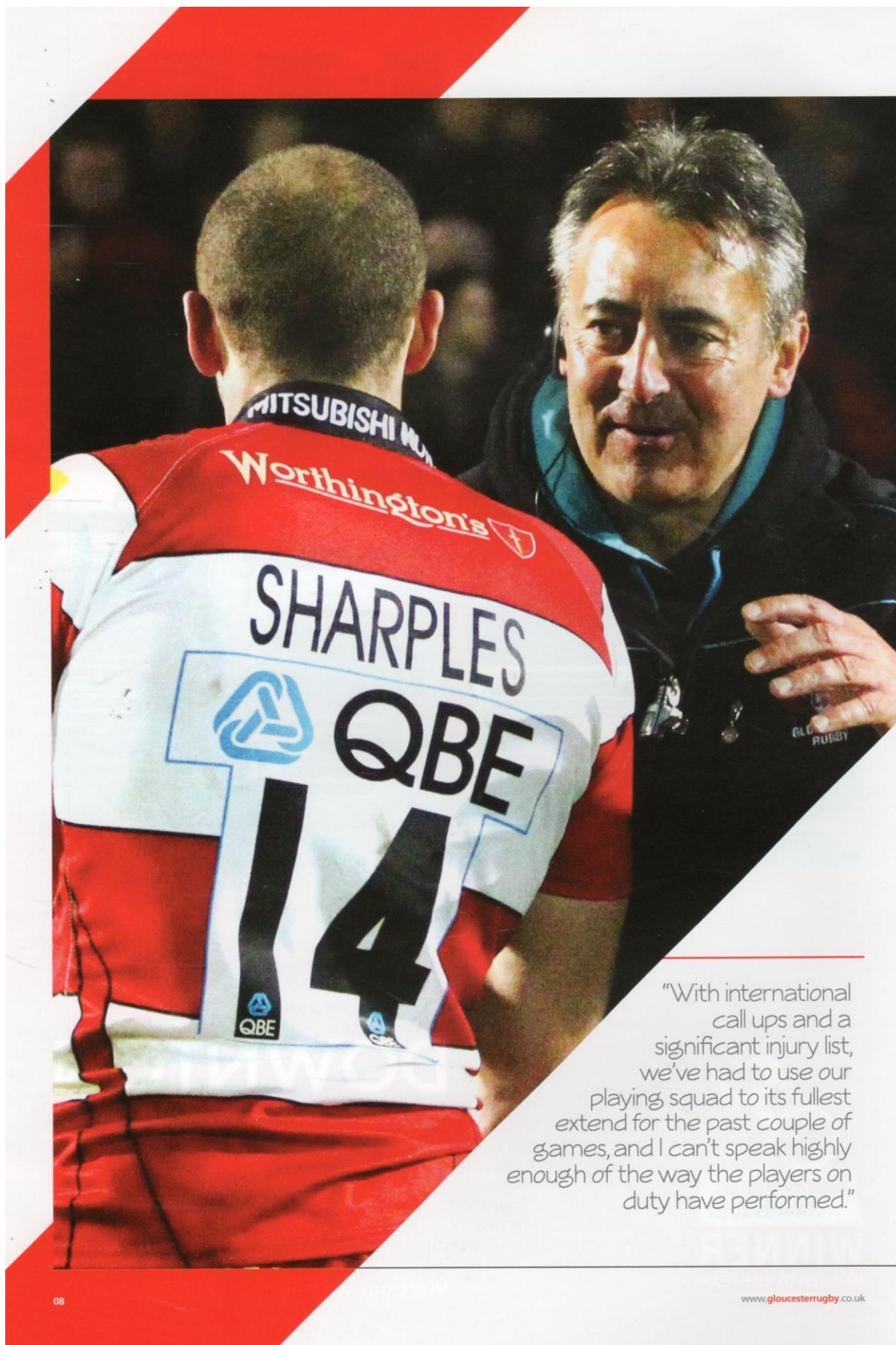
It may have been a different looking side who took to the field last Friday in the LV= Cup opener at the Ospreys, but the work rate and pride in the shirt was there once again.

It was great to see the boys playing on the night working so hard to continue the progress we've made so far this season. And the presence of so many young players in the team shows that the future is in good hands.

The bottom line, though is that we've slipped to two narrow defeats on the road and that is disappointing despite the encouraging performances.

It's something that everyone will be looking to put right this afternoon when we entertain London Welsh.

Enjoy the game!



"With international call ups and a significant injury list, we've had to use our playing squad to its fullest extend for the past couple of games, and I can't speak highly enough of the way the players on duty have performed."

COACH'S *Notes*

Director of Rugby, Nigel Davies

I'D like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors to Kingsholm this afternoon, London Welsh.

It's been quite a week for everyone at Gloucester Rugby – including today's game, we'll have fulfilled three fixtures in eight days including taking on an international side in Fiji!

With international call ups and a significant injury list, we've had to use our playing squad to its fullest extend for the past couple of games, and I can't speak highly enough of the way the players on duty have performed.

striving to create at the club – that winning mentality, that determination, that never say die attitude.

We'd rather not be playing from behind all the time. But, sometimes games don't always go your way. And how you respond when things aren't going your way is crucial.

It's great to see that the guys coming into the team, who are training with us for the first time are buying into our ethos and values. That's the only way we'll be sustainably successful.

Fiji was a great experience for them.

Some of them may never get the chance

to play against an international side again. Some will use it as a stepping stone to further progress their careers.

But we had a team out there on Tuesday evening who were prepared to work and fight for each other and, as Director of Rugby, that's all I can ask.

We'll certainly need more of the same this afternoon against



The Fiji game was a great experience for everyone involved

We obviously used a number of our younger players in the matches against the Ospreys and Fiji, and I was very impressed with how they coped with two very physical teams back to back.

We spoke to those boys before the Ospreys game and explained that this was what we required from them and, full credit to them, they went out and delivered.

They faced adversity in both games. The comeback against the Ospreys was impressive, but we came up just short. However, we went one better against Fiji and the team deserve credit for that.

I'm delighted that the players we've brought in for those games have completely bought into the ethos that we've been

London Welsh.

They may well have taken a lot of people by surprise this season. They were certainly preseason favourites for relegation with many pundits.

But, not me – I've known Lyn Jones for far too long to underestimate him. He's a fine coach with a real ability to get his teams to play for him.

They had a tough outing against Exeter last weekend, and will have been working hard in training this week to right some wrongs.

We're expecting a hard game and I'm sure we'll get one.

Nigel



A STEADYING INFLUENCE

Will Wood's

View from **The Citizen**

"That's the advantage of being young, they've got a lot of belief in themselves and they really believe in what they are doing..."

Swatting aside international flyers Fiji saw some of Gloucester's blossoming cubs come of age according to experienced campaigner Pete Buxton.

The LV= Cup window has allowed Cherry and Whites Director of Rugby, Nigel Davies, to throw some of his charging youngsters into the fray against Ospreys, Fiji and London Welsh.

Buxton has been a steadying influence from the back of the scrum, and has been entrusted with the captain's armband, but he says they are now ready to step up more permanently.

After slipping to a late defeat at a soggy Liberty Stadium last Friday against the Ospreys, the rapidly-improving charges answered perfectly with a 31-29 win over Fiji at Kingsholm on Tuesday.

Falling 18-0 behind in the first half, the youngsters' characters and credentials were given a stern test, but they dug deep with their pack dragging them to victory.

With Welsh the visitors to Kingsholm today in the next cup instalment, Buxton is backing the young guys to show their improvement again with a number of regulars returning.

"After we lost at Harlequins and Ospreys it was really important for us to get back



Bucko led the charge against Fiji on Tuesday night.

to winning ways. We've managed that and we've just got to keep that momentum going," said Buxton.



Bucko in action against London Welsh earlier in the season.

"London Welsh will be very tough but I don't think they can make many changes because they've not got a massive squad, but they gave us a really tough game at Oxford and I'm expecting the same.

"They're very physical and very direct and have a good kicking game so it will be a tough game.

"But, depending on how we decide we are going to go with the game, we should be confident that we can use the young guys, and also be confident we can use the guys that have been rested.

"We've come off a great win and the guys have showed that they can step up. That gives us a bit more depth to the squad and that gives Nigel a bit more of a headache.

"They've been great and they've pushed really hard and shown that they can play at this level.

"They've shown that the difference between some of the more experienced guys and themselves is very small.

"Luckily it's not my decision to make but

this is

Gloucestershire

- Villagers protest against Alvington wind turbine
- Come along and roar on the Tigers in vital cup tie
- Park left in poor state after cycling event
- Formerly homeless walk for the armed forces



I think we can go into the game confidently and do a job on Saturday without a doubt."

Having seen a number of different generations flood through the Kingsholm doors during his time at the club, Buxton says the youngsters' enthusiasm and energy is infectious.

It was that belief that helped Gloucester fight back from 18-0 against Fiji, and Buxton says it is rapidly becoming a trademark of the Davies era.

"That's the advantage of being young, they've got a lot of belief in themselves and they really believe in what they are doing," added Buxton.

"It helps as well that we have a real positive feel about the club at the moment.

"Training has been great and it all mixes together and we have a real belief that we can compete at the minute.

"It showed in spades on Tuesday after we got ourselves in a bit of a hole but we managed to work hard and get ourselves out of it."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

UP FOR THE CUP

Today's match is the fourth cup tie between Gloucester and London Welsh. Like today's encounter the three previous meetings have been in the domestic cup competition, in its various forms.

1971-72 RFU KNOCKOUT CUP QUARTER FINAL, 4 March 1972 London Welsh 4 - Gloucester 9

This was the key match in Gloucester's successful 1971-72 cup campaign, captained by Mike Nicholls, and was one of the club's greatest ever victories away from Kingsholm.

Gloucester had reached the quarter final of the first ever RFU knockout cup competition by winning at Bath and Bristol. Now they were drawn away for a third time against London Welsh, arguably the strongest club in England at the time.

The London Welsh team contained four Lions: John Dawes, Gerald Davies, John Taylor and Mervyn Davies, and seven other internationals. They were overwhelming favourites to win the tie.



LONDON WELSH (Colours—Red)		GLOUCESTER (Colours—Green and White)
15 D. Llewellyn	Full Back	E. J. F. Stephens 15
14 T. G. R. Davies †	Threequarters	R. J. Clewes 14
13 S. J. Dawes †		R. Jardine 13
12 K. Hughes †		J. A. Baylis 12
11 J. Shanklin †		J. Dix 11
10 R. H. Phillips	Fly Half	T. Palmer 10
9 W. G. Hullin †	Scrum Half	M. H. Booth 9
1 F. J. Williams or T. G. Davies	Forwards	R. J. Cowling 1
2 A. P. Baker		M. J. Nicholls (Capt.) 2
3 I. C. Jones †		† M. A. Burton 3
4 T. G. Evans †		N. A. Jackson 4
5 M. G. Roberts †		J. S. Jarrett 5
6 J. Taylor †		J. A. Watkins 6
8 T. M. Davies † or A. R. Ponder		M. J. Potter 8
7 A. J. Gray (Capt.) †		R. Smith 7

† International.

Referee: Mr. K. A. Pattinson (North Midlands)

(L-R) Mervyn Davies, Gerald Davies, John Dawes and John Taylor



Gloucester's success stemmed from a tremendous performance from their pack, in which the back row of Mike Potter, John Watkins and John Haines were outstanding.

Nigel Jackson and Jim Jarrett were also dominant in the line-out and, as a result, London Welsh were condemned to run with whatever quality of ball they could muster.

A fierce wind was blowing down the pitch at Old Deer Park and London Welsh, playing with the wind, scored first through an unconverted try by scrum half Hullin.

After Eric Stephens had kicked a penalty for Gloucester early in the second half, the Gloucester half backs Mickey Booth and Tom Palmer used the

wind superbly and London Welsh were pinned back.

A Garryowen from Booth high into the London Welsh half was pursued by the Gloucester forwards and Mike Potter was driven over the line for a try which Eric Stephens converted.

Welsh tried everything they knew in the final phases of the game but Gloucester held out for a famous victory.

The match is best summed up by press comments at the time:

Sunday Telegraph:

From the moment that the Gloucester forwards heeled against the loose head

in the first scrum, an ugly feeling must have touched Welsh hearts that the quarter-final of the RFU Knock-out competition was not going to go quite according to plan. Nor did it.

Daily Telegraph: ...they [the Welsh] were completely outplayed in the loose, where John Watkins led an inspired back row.....The Gloucester forwards played with a ferocity and a sense of purpose that has not been matched by a club pack in England since the great days of Coventry 10 years ago.

Sunday Express: Exiles skipper John Dawes said, "They were iron men and they gave us our hardest game ever."

Gloucester went on to draw the semi-final 6-6 at Coventry in a hard and bitterly fought contest, progressing as the away team.



John Watkins



Rob Jewell, who scored two first half tries

Mike Nicholls leads Gloucester out at Twickenham under an arch of elver nets.

They then beat Moseley 17-6 in the final at Twickenham to end a heroic campaign as the first-ever RFU knockout champions.

**1982-83 JOHN PLAYER CUP
3RD ROUND, 22 January 1983
Gloucester 3 - London Welsh 14**

Gloucester were the joint holders of the John Player Cup, having drawn 12-12 in extra time against Moseley (again) in the 1981-82 final.

1981-82 had been arguably the club's greatest ever season, in which they lost just 3 out of 48 games. The following season was a different matter, however, and Gloucester had been in disappointing form before facing London Welsh in a 3rd round tie.

The Gloucester pack were missing Teague, Orwin and Boyle, but had been holding their own in the first half.

Then with the score at 3-3, thanks to a drop goal by Les Jones, a fumble on the Gloucester line allowed Clive Rees to drop over and score. From that point onwards the London Welsh forwards were lifted and took control of the game, taking the score to 10-3 at half time.

In the second half it was one-way traffic. Gloucester were comprehensively outplayed in every department and at times it seemed that only the siege gun kicking of Jones prevented a landslide.

Yet they held on and it was only in injury time that Rees scored his second to seal the Welsh victory they richly deserved.

**1997-98 TETLEY BITTER CUP
4TH ROUND, 3 January 1998
London Welsh 18 - Gloucester 34**

London Welsh were now two divisions below Gloucester when the two sides met in the fourth round of the Tetley Bitter Cup.

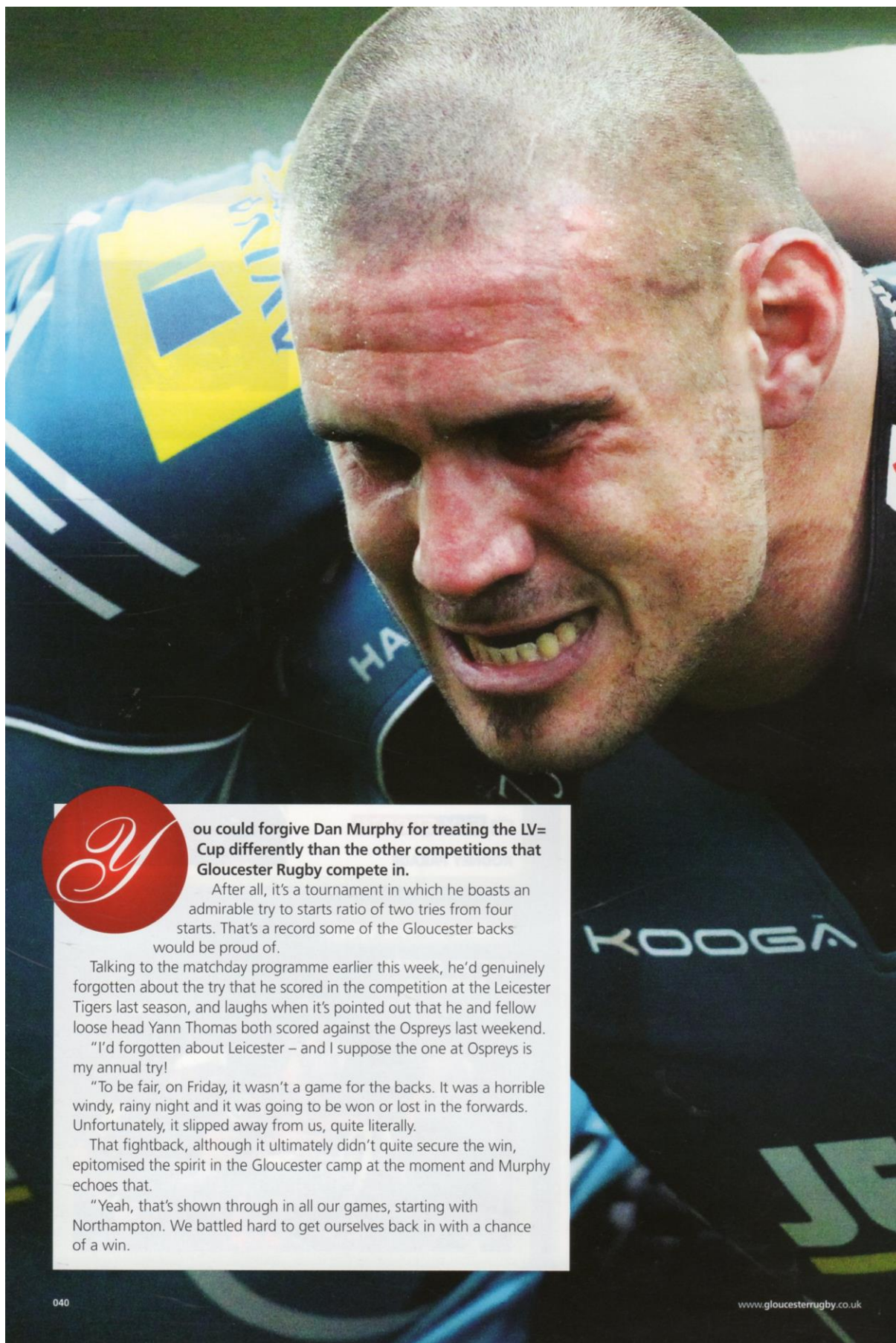
The match was played in dreadful conditions, with a howling gale blowing down the pitch, alternately accompanied by torrential outbursts of rain and brief periods of sunshine.

Gloucester held a slender 17-15 first half lead due to two tries by Rob Jewell and a penalty try but, in the second half with the elements behind them, Gloucester were rampant and tries by Cornwell, Sims and Mapletoft secured the match.

Bonus
CHERRIES

GLoucester RUGBY
HERITAGE





ou could forgive Dan Murphy for treating the LV= Cup differently than the other competitions that Gloucester Rugby compete in.

After all, it's a tournament in which he boasts an admirable try to starts ratio of two tries from four starts. That's a record some of the Gloucester backs would be proud of.

Talking to the matchday programme earlier this week, he'd genuinely forgotten about the try that he scored in the competition at the Leicester Tigers last season, and laughs when it's pointed out that he and fellow loose head Yann Thomas both scored against the Ospreys last weekend.

"I'd forgotten about Leicester – and I suppose the one at Ospreys is my annual try!

"To be fair, on Friday, it wasn't a game for the backs. It was a horrible windy, rainy night and it was going to be won or lost in the forwards. Unfortunately, it slipped away from us, quite literally.

That fightback, although it ultimately didn't quite secure the win, epitomised the spirit in the Gloucester camp at the moment and Murphy echoes that.

"Yeah, that's shown through in all our games, starting with Northampton. We battled hard to get ourselves back in with a chance of a win.



Boys getting stuck in @
peppercrescent #bigfeed
@danmurphy2710



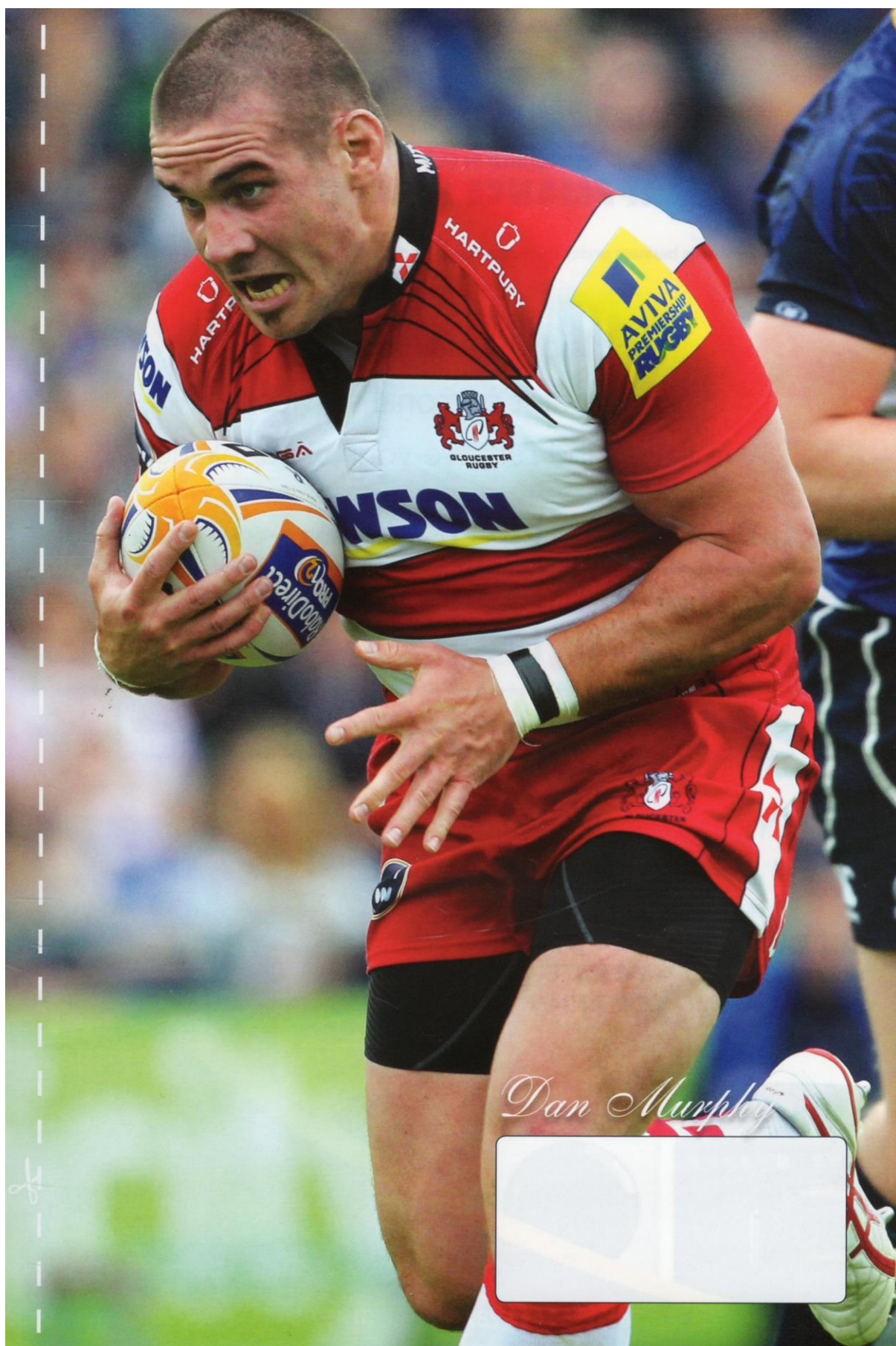
CROUCH TOUCH SEIT

Dan Murphy

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041



Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton

"...the fact that we did it for ten minutes with only 13 players on the field was something very special. I bet there are not many teams that would have stood up to that assault – a proper heroic effort."

Well, it only took about five days for my pulse to return to something like normal after the Leicester game, and my nails have almost grown back...

What an afternoon that was, it had everything a game should have.

We've all been talking about 'the return of the dawg', the last ten minutes of that match showed us that he is back in town and is at his snarling, snapping best.

That took some effort to hold out as we did – and the fact that we did it for ten minutes with only 13 players on the field was something very special. I bet there are not many teams that would have stood up to that assault – a proper heroic effort.

And then we go and do it all again at Harlequins the following week – only this time the dogged defence lasted pretty much through the whole match.

It said something that by the end, just after Billy had scored what has to be a contender for try of the season, it was Quins who were blowing and desperate to get the ball off the field. OK, so we lost – but given recent results up there, a point was not a bad result.

Autumn international time, that means stopping the league and getting into the weird and wonderful world of the LV= Cup and a welcome to London Welsh to the hallowed turf of Kingsholm.

It's odd how this competition has not really managed to capture the imagination of supporters, maybe it's the format with the mini leagues, or the fact that it clashes with the international period and is thus stripped of 'top name' players.

Maybe it's the fact that you don't get a big day out at Twickenham or the Millennium Stadium at the end of it?

I don't know what the reason is, but at the end of the day, it is just one of four competitions that are played for each year. It has a healthy cheque for the winners and a free pass into the Heineken Cup.

It is, though, a great chance to look at some of the up and coming players on the fringes of the squad.

Although we came out on the wrong end of six points last week, it was good to see the depth that we have at the club at the moment, there are some great prospects in the making and competitive fixtures like these – and to a lesser extent the 'A' League – is a great way to help that talent develop.

And we know what it's like to win it, we all had a great day out in the sunshine at Frankenstein's Garden – let's hope we get a chance to enjoy that experience again next year.

Talking of talent, it was great to see Charlie get his two tries for England, hopefully this is just the start of a long series of international

caps and tries.

I really hope that he doesn't suffer the same international frustrations as Sinbad, but as long as England want to pick dreadnaughts rather than rapiers as wingers his chances might be limited.

Maybe Stuart Lancaster will have a different view, and see the threat that ability mixed with out and out pace can bring to a team. It'll be a shame if Chris Ashton simply walks back into the side at Charlie's expense – he deserves better.

Changing the subject completely, I have

Freddie provided one of the magic moments against Tigers recently



positive proof that former referee, Dave Pearson, is a really good bloke.

I know this because Whispering John told me. And he proved it by telling me of an amazing gesture by said Mr P.

Many contributors will know John – or at least heard him – over the past tens of seasons from his vast array of witticisms – not least the invention of the now infamous 'Don't let the last one play on your mind.... Too Much!' aimed at any kicker unfortunate enough to have missed a goal kick. Many people will also know that Mrs WJ has been fighting cancer for ages.

So what's the link here? Well, as you know, Dave's last game as a referee was at Castle Grim on 6th October and, at the end of the game, he was presented with a shirt signed by the Gloucester squad as a memento of the occasion.

After being told that putting it in a frame on the wall in his house was a non-starter, Dave put the word out to offer it up for someone who could make the best use of it for charity.

One of his assistant referees – Paul Dix (a friend of John's) – let him know about Mrs WJ's continuing fight against cancer and the various fund-raising activities that have been undertaken by Gloucester supporters, and, after swapping a few emails with WJ, said shirt arrived in the post.

The shirt is up for auction on Shedweb, with the proceeds going to a cancer charity of Mr + Mrs WJ's choice.

The shirt has about 30 signatures on it – it looks like it's pretty much the whole squad. Dave has signed and dated the shirt too.

Details of how to bid are on the site and the closing date for bids is Friday 21st December. That way the winning bidder can collect the shirt at the Exeter game on the 22nd, Good luck!



IT'S KNOWLEDGE GLOUCESTER GOSPEL TALK OPINIONS FAN VIEW POINT EXPERIENCE PETER ARNOLD

BACK TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS

There is a very long and eventful history between Gloucester and London Welsh.

It's just a pity that the fluctuating tides of the rugby world have pushed us apart for the last decade or three.

There was a time when Gloucester, along with Bristol (whom God preserve), could boast the best series of Anglo-Welsh games on its fixture list of any club in the country, and the London Exiles were always part of that.

Then things seemed to go belly up and many a mighty and valued opponent from over Westgate Bridge disappeared from the fixture list, never it seems to be seen again.

I'm thinking of good old clubs like Bridgend, for whom my old boss, D.H.Gregory used to play, and Pontypool who had one of the most terrifying packs you could ever fear to meet on a dark night. Also, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, and I apologise to any formidable past opponent I've left out.

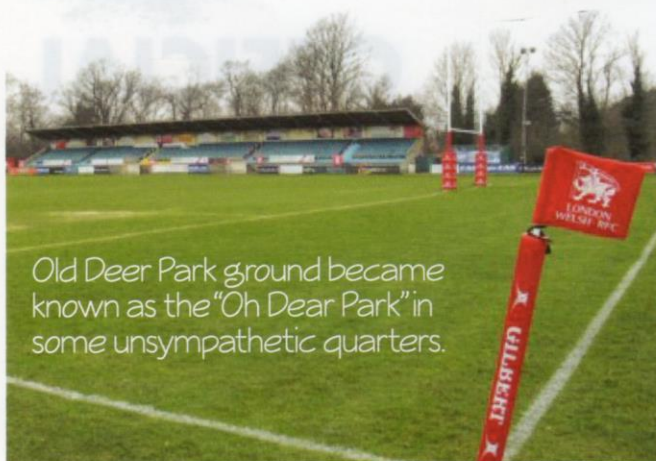


Of course, it was the advent of professionalism and of league rugby which did most of the damage, but not all of it.

The Welsh Divisional system has almost as many problems as the BBC at the moment and, in spite of a couple of Grand Slams, Welsh international rugby doesn't seem to me to be as strong as it was in the days of Gareth Edwards, Barry John and all of their mates.

The London Welsh case is somewhat different. Arguably the best team in Britain, and possibly in Europe, at one time, they sank into obscurity so rapidly that their famous Old Deer Park ground became known as the "Oh Dear Park" in some unsympathetic quarters.

And, as we have reason to know, their fall from grace was first heralded by a loss to Gloucester in the quarter finals of the very first knock-out cup competition which the RFU had deigned to organise.



Old Deer Park ground became known as the "Oh Dear Park" in some unsympathetic quarters.

SO WHAT WENT WRONG?

I suppose it's no business of ours, really, but that never-to-be-forgotten battle enabled us to see for the first time, a seemingly invincible team, largely composed of current British Lions, who had just thrashed New Zealand on their own soil, was revealed to be composed of mere human beings after all.

After that the side began to unravel. Some players went back to their homeland; Old Father Time caught up with others.

When the game became professional, no one seemed to be around to provide the essential finance. We can relate to that, because we came perilously close to suffering the same fate before the fondly remembered Tom Walkinshaw took over.

But whatever the ins and outs of the London Welsh saga, you have to give credit to them for, eventually, clawing their way back into the upper echelons of the game.

They may not be the best side in the land just yet, but they are fighting hard, and are not to be underestimated.



▲ The London Welsh President, John Dawes, in action in 1971

And by the way, if you want a thoroughly entertaining session in a bar somewhere, ask Mickey Booth, who was playing at Number 9 that day in 1971, to give you his blow-by-blow account of that epic struggle. It will keep you amused and informed for days.

GOOD OLD CHARLIE!

Some of us are old enough to remember that phrase being uttered regularly and cheerfully by Richard Murdoch in an iconic radio series from the 40s and 50s called "Much Binding in the Marsh".

But, as far as I know, the great "Stinker" as he was called, never scored two tries in an international at Twickenham, so our very own Mister Sharples has one over on him.

I also note that one Australian this week has referred to our Charlie as 'pretty', which doesn't say much for the Aussie's eyesight.

However, the Sharples brace did remind me vividly of another Twickenham occasion back in 1982 when I had the good fortune to be seated in the President's box, having been invited by John Smith of Stroud who was the holder of that high office at the time.

Another Gloucester star was performing that day, probably the best No.6 never to win a Cap for England. It was our old friend John Gadd, playing in his only match for England which happened to be a non-Cap affair.

A rank injustice if there ever was one. And – you've guessed it – Johnny scored two tries. To compound the coincidence, the opposition



▲ Charlie made a real claim for the England no.14 jersey

that day were representing Fiji,

Charlie had a sterling game last Saturday, and cocked a considerable snook at those who were reckoning that he was just keeping Ashton's place warm for him.

Well done Charlie – we're sure these will only be the first two tries of many.

COTSWOLD LIFE S P E C I A L
F E A T U R E

Bright *young* talent

Words by: Steve Gibbs

COTSWOLD LIFE interviewed Gloucester's Ben Morgan in their October issue.

Ben was a regular in the Shed as a boy, so it's something of a dream come true to be one of the Cherry and Whites himself now.

Even for a 6' 3", 18-stone international rugby player, there's no place like home. Ben Morgan, pupil of Kingswood Primary School and boyhood Cherry and Whites fan, has realised every supporter's dream in stepping off the Kingsholm terraces to become one of English rugby's biggest and brightest young talents.

"Playing for your home club is something special, and I'm very lucky to be part of this Gloucester team," admits the 23-year-old who has forged a reputation as a number 8 of immense potential.

This homecoming, though, is far from sentimental, and the feelings amongst the Gloucester coaching staff are surely mutual.

"We share the same ambitions, as club and individual: we want to be competing at the top, we want to be in the Heineken Cup next year and we want to be top of the league," is Morgan's forthright assessment of a team which has, of late, fallen short of its own exalted standards.

"They are goals that we've got to achieve, and as long as we play the way we want to play, I think we'll achieve them."

Morgan arrived in the summer from the Scarlets, signing a three-year contract just a couple of months before his former Head Coach, Nigel Davies, took the same journey from Wales.

The rejoining of that relationship, between



"...I've spent quite a lot of time stood in the Shed watching Gloucester, and it feels really nice to be on the other side of that."

the experienced master and his dynamic pupil, can only be to Gloucester's benefit over the coming seasons.

"I feel as though I've fitted in seamlessly. Everyone gets on really well and there's a great training ethic. When you see people around you putting in extra work and always trying to improve, that inspires you as well."

Known for encouraging an open, creative style of rugby, Morgan feels that Davies is the perfect mentor for the array of young talent he finds at Kingsholm.

"What's brilliant about Nigel is that he likes to play, and that suits us down to the ground. We've got a lot of great attacking players, and he sets no limits. There are no restrictions to how we want to play."

Alongside Morgan, the arrivals of Billy

Twelvetrees, Jimmy Cowan and Huia Edwards – not to mention the retention, as player-coach, of former England international Mike Tindall – give Gloucester a healthy blend of youth and experience.

"I think it's important to have that sort of balance," he agrees.

"Mike has got a lot to offer Gloucester. I think it was really important that he stayed, as we've got a lot of young players that really need that guidance to develop. There's a lot of raw talent but you've got to work together as a team and not just individuals."

Although something of a late starter in the professional game, Morgan's rise to international regular has been as swift as it soon became inevitable.

Until the age of 20, he was playing part-time rugby with Cinderford and Merthyr Tydfil and working on a building site, but has made up for lost time in fine style.

"It's been a quick turn around," admits Morgan, who made a victorious England debut against Scotland in January.

"I thought it had got to the point where I wasn't going to be involved in rugby and it would always be just a hobby, but ever since I've been old enough to think about it, I've

"...It's everything that I've ever wanted, and I'm so pleased. It was an unorthodox way of getting there, but it's absolutely brilliant."

always wanted to just play rugby as a career.

"I was told that I should never give up, and right at the last minute it paid off. You never know who's watching you or what opportunity is around the corner. It's everything that I've ever wanted, and I'm so pleased. It was an unorthodox way of getting there, but it's absolutely brilliant."

There seems little danger of the former Dursley RFC youngster forgetting his roots, amidst this whirlwind of adulation, but one glance over at the Shed – the legendary 'cauldron of fear' in which Morgan's passion for Gloucester grew – should be all the grounding he needs.

"It definitely lifts you," he relates on his first taste of the Kingsholm atmosphere as a player.

"It's a massive boost and hearing the stadium lift is pretty incredible. I've spent quite a lot of time stood in the Shed watching Gloucester, and it feels really nice to be on the other side of that.

"Sometimes that little extra noise is all you need to push on. It reminds you that you've got to keep giving 100 per cent all the time."

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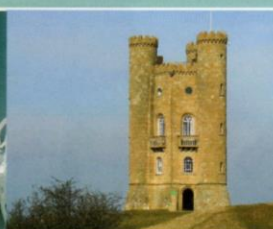
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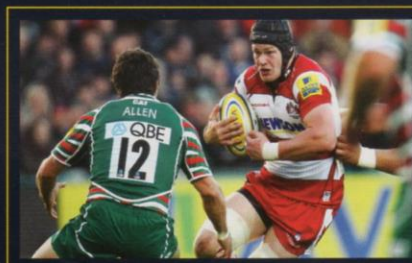
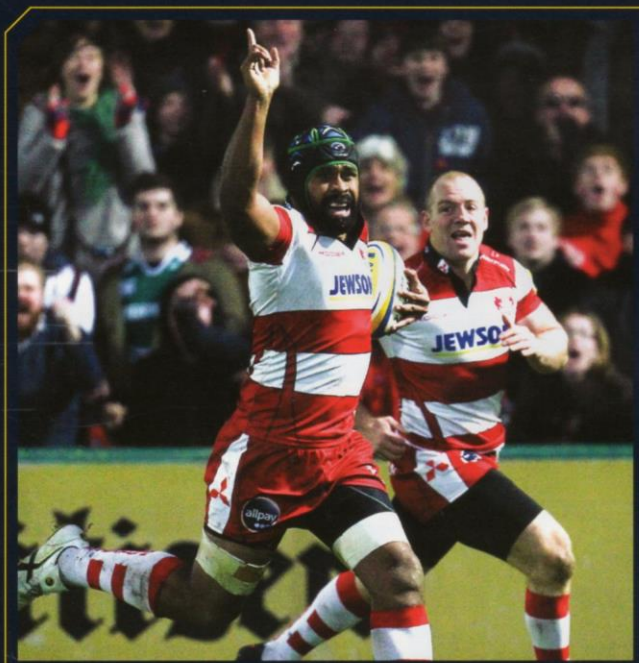
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ACTION *Replay*

GLOUCESTER RUGBY LEICESTER TIGERS

27
21



GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



TRIES: Sharples (1), Burns (19), Qera (53)
CONS: Burns (1, 20, 54)
PENS: Burns (8, 47)

LEICESTER TIGERS POINTS SCORERS



TRIES: Hamilton (12), Penalty (60)
CON: Flood (61)
PENS: Flood (4, 38, 49)

For the first few weeks of the season, as Gloucester looked to banish the memories of how 2011-12 finished, they've evolved into a team that is difficult to beat, one capable of winning close matches.

The one criticism that had been levelled at Nigel Davies' side coming into this game, was that Gloucester had not taken on and defeated one of the really big guns of the Aviva Premiership.

They don't come much bigger than the Leicester Tigers, and this win sent out a huge statement of intent to everyone, either present at Kingsholm, or watching live on Sky Sports.

In all honesty, you had to be there in person to really appreciate this one, and more than 15,000 faithful Gloucester supporters created a matchday environment that left Davies shaking his head in disbelief and admiration as he left the field at the final whistle.

It was a cracker of a game which saw the



27TH OCTOBER 2012, 16:45 KO
KINGSHOLM
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP: ROUND 7



Freddie Burns' try on 19 minutes was a thing of beauty. Spotting the Tigers' defence coming up flat with no cover behind, Burns chipped over the top, regathered with one hand and touched down for Gloucester's second try of the game.

Cherry and Whites take the game to the Tigers from the very first minute, playing some sublime rugby yet never quite being able to shake off a worthy opponent.

Every man played his part, but providing key individual contributions were two men seemingly surplus to requirements by their country – Freddie Burns and James Simpson-Daniel.

Burns scored 17 of Gloucester's 27 points in total. His sublime grubber kick created the first try for Charlie Sharples while a superb chip fashioned another for himself.

Meanwhile, Simpson-Daniel continued to showcase the talents that have made him such a favourite at Kingsholm over the years, bewildering the Tigers defence on the counter attack before putting Akapusi Qera in for the third try.

For all the brilliance and skill on display, the win was secured by good fashioned Gloucester 'dawg'.

Gloucester spent pretty much the whole of the final quarter on the back foot as the Tigers sought to overturn the deficit and snatch the points.

Gloucester were reduced to thirteen men as Jimmy Cowan and Rob Cook were sinbinned and conceded a penalty try in their absence.

However, 27-21 was as close as the Tigers would get as the men in Cherry and White tackled themselves almost to a standstill.

It was a truly superb defensive stand, one that spoke volume of Gloucester's grit and determination this season.

The result took Gloucester, temporarily, into second place in the Aviva Premiership table.

However, more importantly, it showed what they are capable of.

Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

"I'm delighted with the way the players have evolved over the last six or seven weeks. To put a performance in like that, in many ways showed what we're capable of. "When you're down to 13 men for 10 minutes against one of the most consistently good teams in this league and can still come away with a win, that says something special about these players."

GLoucester Rugby



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Rob Cook ■
14	W	Charlie Sharples
13	C	Mike Tindall (c)
12	C	Billy Twelvetrees
11	W	James Simpson-Daniel
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Jimmy Cowan ■
1	P	Nick Wood
2	H	Huia Edmonds
3	P	Rupert Harden
4	L	Tom Savage
5	L	Will James
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	Peter Buxton
20	F	Matt Cox
21		Dan Robson
22		Martyn Thomas
23		Shane Monahan

LEICESTER TIGERS

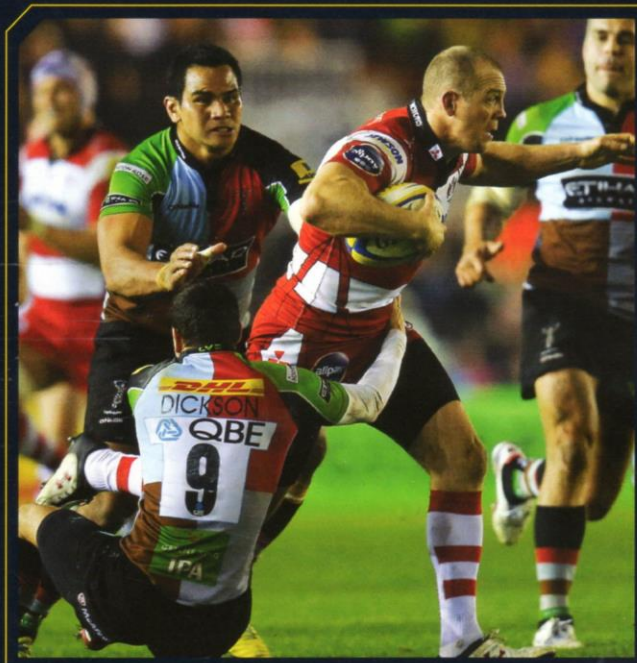


#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Geordan Murphy (c)
14	W	Scott Hamilton
13	C	Manusamoa Tuilagi
12	C	Anthony Allen
11	W	Niki Goneva
10	FH	Toby Flood
9	SH	Sam Harrison
1	P	Logovi'i Mulipola
2	H	Tom Youngs
3	P	Dan Cole
4	L	Louis Deacon
5	L	Geoff Parling
6	F	Steve Mafi
7	F	Thomas Waldrom
8	N8	Jordan Crane
16		George Chuter
17	P	Marcos Ayerza
18		Martin Castrogiovanni
19	N8	Ed Slater
20		Graham Kitchener
21		Patrick Phibbs
22		George Ford
23		Matt Smith

ACTION Replay

HARLEQUINS GLOUCESTER RUGBY

28 25



HARLEQUINS POINTS SCORERS

TRIES: Brown (13), Hopper (35), Smith (39)
CONS: Evans (14, 40)
PENS: Evans (6, 59, 72)



GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS

TRY: Twelvetrees (79)
CON: Burns (79)
PENS: Burns (9, 17, 25, 33, 45, 61)



It was billed as a top of the table clash, Quins in first place and Gloucester in third, and the two teams duly slugged it out at the Stoop.

Both teams were missing key participants - Nick Easter's post match assertion that Gloucester were at 'full strength' presumably hinted at a blow to the head during the game!

But, both teams were boosted by the release of players from England training camp and Harlequins were able to welcome back their fly half maestro, Nick Evans.

It's no secret that Harlequins like to play with pace and Gloucester did a terrific job of depriving them of the opportunity to do so.

In fact, on the half hour, Gloucester had battled their way into a 12-10 lead with Freddie Burns kicking superbly off the tee.

Gloucester's defences had only been breached in slightly fortuitous manner, as an overthrown Quins lineout created an opportunity from which Mike Brown scored the first try.

The final ten minutes of the half, however, saw Lady Luck turn her back on Gloucester.

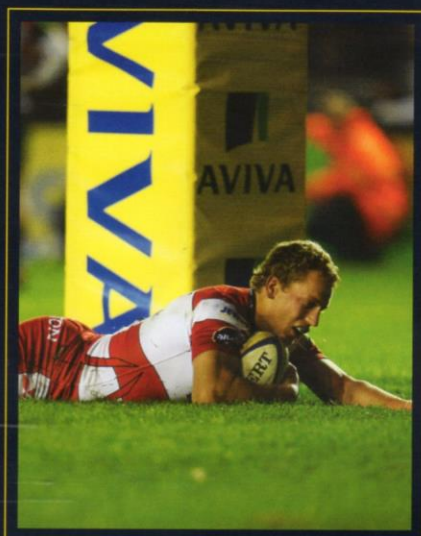
A block on Huia Edmonds was either not seen or ignored by the officials and Quins pounced in ruthless style.

Gloucester, for once, were back on their heels and a quick tap gave Tom Williams the space to show great pace and hands and put Matt Hopper over in the corner.

Worse was to follow. As Gloucester tried to hit back, Sam Smith intercepted Martyn Thomas' attempted pass to Shane Monahan



3RD NOVEMBER 2012, 17:15 KO
TWICKENHAM STOOP
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP: ROUND 8



Gloucester's resilience and ambition to tap and go in the final minute, going the length of the field to create a try for Billy Twelvetrees and secure a losing bonus point.

Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

"That wasn't our best performance by a long way. But to get a losing bonus point away at Harlequins, the league leaders and current champions is no mean feat. "Again, what this team is showing in spades is their commitment and determination, and never say die attitude."

and ran it back all the way.

12-10 had become 12-22 in the blink of an eye.

It was a blow, as was the loss of James Simpson-Daniel to injury at half time and the sinbining of Monahan.

Burns and Evans swapped penalties and Gloucester were forced to dig deep as Quins went in search of the fourth try and the bonus point that went with it.

Ben Morgan also saw yellow, and Gloucester looked dead and buried as they trailed 28-18 with just a couple of minutes to go and defending a 5m scrum.

However, the pack produced an incredible scrum to win an unlikely penalty and Dan Robson took the tap penalty in an instant.

Slick hands followed and Martyn Thomas screamed down the left wing only to be just hauled down by the cover defence.

The ball was switched right and Shane Monahan and Peter Buxton took play on, before Billy Twelvetrees came on a superb angle to break the line and score under the posts. Burns converted to reduce the deficit to 28-25.

With just enough time for the restart, incredibly it was now Quins hanging on and Ben Botica hoofed the ball into touch with a certain amount of relief.

Nigel Davies' side tasted defeat for the first time since the opening day of the season but, once again, showed how much progress they've made in a few short months.

HARLEQUINS

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Mike Brown
14	W	Tom Williams
13	C	Matt Hopper
12	C	Tom Casson
11	W	Sam Smith
10	FH	Nick Evans
9	SH	Karl Dickson
1	P	Mark Lambert
2	H	Joe Gray
3	P	James Johnston
4	L	Olly Kohn
5	L	George Robson
6	F	Maurie Fa'asavalu
7	F	Luke Wallace
8	N8	Nick Easter
16		Dave Ward
17		Darryl Marfo
18		Will Collier
19		Charlie Matthews
20		Tom Guest
21		Jordan Burns
22	R	Ben Botica
23		Seb Stegmann

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Martyn Thomas
14	W	Shane Monahan ■
13	C	Mike Tindall
12	C	Billy Twelvetrees
11	W	James Simpson-Daniel
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Jimmy Cowan
1	P	Dan Murphy
2	H	Huia Edmonds
3	P	Rupert Harden
4	L	Tom Savage
5	L	Will James
6	F	Matt Cox
7	F	Akapusi Qera
8	N8	Ben Morgan ■
16	R	Tommaso d'Apice
17	R	Nick Wood
18	R	Dario Chistolini
19	R	Peter Buxton
20	R	Gareth Evans
21	R	Dan Robson
22		Tim Molenaar
23	R	Rob Cook



Teams correct at time of print 14/11/12

TODAY'S *Line-ups*



GLoucester RUGBY

US

LONDON WELSH



ROB COOK	15	TOM VOYCE
SHANE MONAHAN	14	DAN CAPRICE
MIKE TINDALL (C)	13	SONNY PARKER
BILLY TWELVETREES	12	SEB JEWELL
IAN CLARK	11	NICK SCOTT
FREDDIE BURNS	10	GORDON ROSS
JIMMY COWAN	09	JAMIE STEPHENSON
NICK WOOD	01	TOM BRISTOW
HUIA EDMONDS	02	DAN GEORGE
RUPERT HARDEN	03	ARTHUR JOLY
TOM SAVAGE	04	ADAM BROWN
WILL JAMES	05	MATT CORKER
PETER BUXTON	06	LEE BEACH
AKAPUSI QERA	07	MICHAEL HILLS
BEN MORGAN	08	ADAM BALDING
KOREE BRITTON	16	GREG BATEMAN
DAN MURPHY	17	PAULICA ION
DARIO CHISTOLINI	18	JAMES TIDESWELL
WILL GRAULICH	19	PAUL SPIVEY
MATT COX	20	DAN BROWNE
DAN ROBSON	21	NICK RUNCIMAN
TIM MOLENAAR	22	ALEX DAVIES
MARTYN THOMAS	23	JAMES LEWIS

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Tim Wigglesworth

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Paul Burton, Peter Huckle

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