

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY



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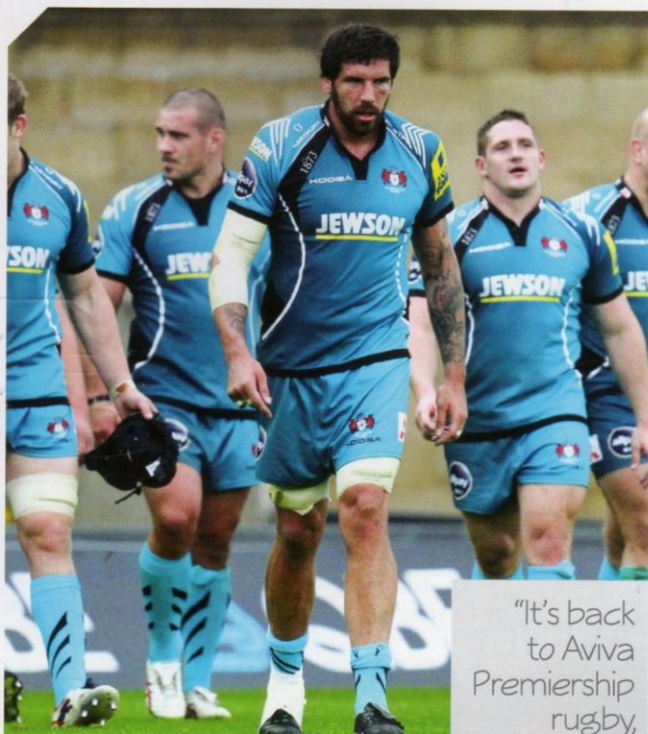
**AVIVA** PREMIERSHIP RUGBY





# CAPTAIN'S *Corner*

Jim Hamilton



**I** paid tribute to the attitude and commitment of the Gloucester Rugby squad in my programme notes last weekend, and the boys showed those qualities again in abundance against Fiji and London Welsh.

In the space of eight days, we've faced three really tough games, which is a big ask of a squad which is already missing players to injury and to international duty.

Nigel has had to make full use of his resources, including calling up a number of Academy players, and the lads who have been on duty have done him proud.

The Fiji game in particular was a very physical encounter. I've obviously only had the benefit of watching video footage of the match, but, even from that, I can see that Fiji had some pretty big players on duty. And they played with an intensity that we've

*"It's back to Aviva Premiership rugby, which is our bread and butter. We've all worked hard to get into the top four and we want to stay there."*

come to expect from them.

When Fiji took an 18-0 lead after about half an hour, things did look ominous for Gloucester. They were playing some great rugby. What followed though was a great fight back, with my old mate Bucko leading from the front!

As a forward, what particularly impressed me was the way the forwards took control in the second half. We had some young lads out there, yet they bossed around some international class players. It bodes well for the future.

We put out a more experienced side against London Welsh last weekend and they continued the recent good work.

There's always a balance to be achieved in your team selection for a game like that.

You're looking ahead to the next game and conscious of the risk of picking up a couple of injuries. But players who have missed a couple of weeks do need a good hit out.

For what it's worth, I think Nigel got it spot on. The lads coming back were quickly up to speed, and the game was pretty much won by half time.

Nigel then made a couple of changes at half time and a few more as the second half progressed. We were well clear, the lads had enjoyed a competitive run out and there was no sense leaving them out there longer than necessary.

It all means that we're in good shape coming into this afternoon's meeting with Sale Sharks.

It's back to Aviva Premiership rugby, which is our bread and butter. We've all worked hard to get into the top four and we want to stay there.

Sale's league position is a bit misleading. They haven't had a great start in terms of results, but they've shown signs of getting things together in recent weeks.

It's all pointing towards a tough, close encounter and hopefully, at the end of the 80 minutes, we'll come out on the right end of the result.

**Enjoy the game!**



"It's been an interesting Autumn international series so far, though not so great if you're Welsh! Overall to date, the southern Hemisphere teams remain dominant, with only France showing signs of real promise."



# COACH'S *Notes*

Director of Rugby, Nigel Davies

**A** warm welcome to you all at Kingsholm today as we resume our league season after a period which has seen us play three highly competitive and enjoyable games against Welsh, Fijian and English/Welsh opposition!

That period has allowed us to continue to build strength in depth within the squad and consequently competition for places.

It has also helped us refresh some of the more senior players, yet still give all players in the squad enough game time to be prepared for today's match!

It will be interesting to see how both Wales and England respond to last week, and I'm sure all of us want to see a response today!

Our opponents today are full of quality players and there is no doubt they will be disappointed with their current position in the Aviva Premiership table, but the names in their squad suggest that they will address this and they will come here desperate for a result!

We will also be desperate to maintain momentum and keep ourselves in a top four position so today's fixture will be hotly contested!

I was amused last week when I pushed Mike Tindall up to outside half in the latter stages against London Welsh.

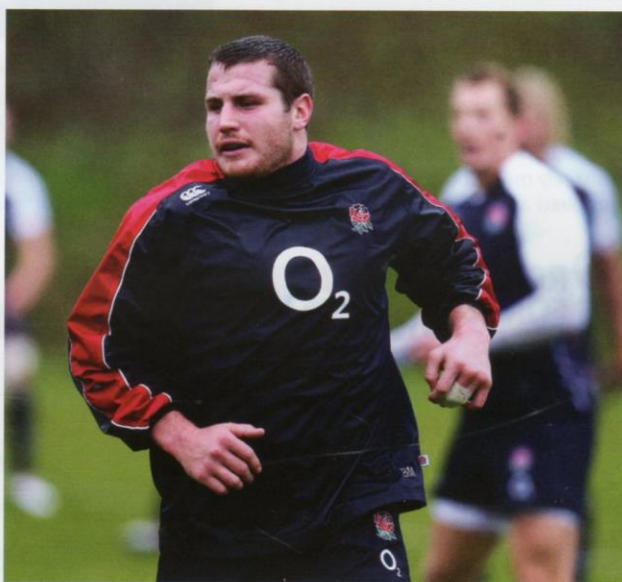
Firstly to see how he adapted, which early on he did very well. But, more so to see and hear the reaction from our supporters when, towards the end of the game, he did less well!

Obviously, we all realized that the game was won by the time Mike went to outside half but I still don't think there is a club or support base like we have anywhere!!

The fact that we could all see that Mike was standing in a position he was not designed to play, having a go and making a few mistakes was much appreciated by us all.

And the reaction from you supporters certainly raised a few smiles from us in the squad!!

Nigel



Ben Morgan, on the back of his LV= Cup hat-trick, will be on international duty with England this afternoon

During these games, I believe we have truly seen how adaptable this squad is now becoming, both with regard to changes in personnel and game strategy!

It's been an interesting Autumn international series so far, though not so great if you're Welsh! Overall to date, the southern Hemisphere teams remain dominant, with only France showing signs of real promise.



# REVITALISED & REJUVENATED

Nick Purewal's

*View from*

**The**  **Citizen**

**“We want to make Kingsholm a very difficult place to come and play, and also we want to get back to where we were a few years ago where no one came here and won. And that’s our challenge.”**

**Recriminations have been at their bitterest in the fallout from Gloucester's Bryan Redpath era.**

Last season ended in turmoil for the Cherry and Whites with accusation and rumour flying from all corners.

The last time Sale came to Kingsholm, the Cherry and Whites were flummoxed, floored and disparate.

Gloucester's players were pulling in different directions – the victims of circumstance and events beyond the Cherry and Whites' control.

The deeper issues of Redpath's Gloucester departure bit hard the day Sale skulked out of Kingsholm, 24-19 winners in last term's penultimate Premiership fixture, pilfering the final Heineken Cup spot in the process.

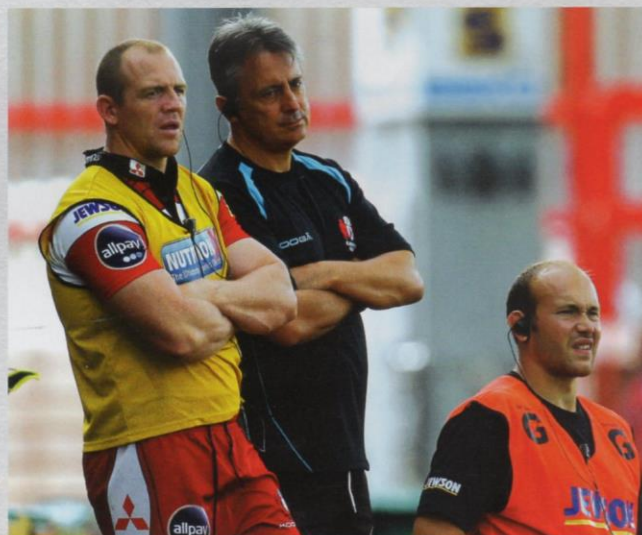
Sale Chief Executive Steve Diamond gave as good as he got to the crowd that day, in typically bullish fashion.

Kingsholm's anger and confusion was understandable.

But this weekend there will be nothing to gain from a repeat.

The Gloucester of seven months ago and the Gloucester of today are poles apart.

Much ire and bile has been directed at Redpath himself, but all of that must be



■ Tins is part of the revamped coaching team.

shelved this afternoon – if for no other reason than the visitors would feed off the attention.

Certainly that is the feeling among Gloucester's current squad, so revitalised and rejuvenated by the Nigel Davies revamp.

Sale's miserable start to the season is unlikely to continue unchecked, and Mike Tindall for one expects a serious examination





Tins knows the importance of this game for the fans and for the players involved

from Redpath and co today.

But the 34-year-old former England centre also believes it would be fruitless to stoke the Redpath-Diamond fires.

Tindall explained: "We know it's going to be a massive game for the fans, and it's also a massive game for us too – but probably for different reasons.

"This game is crucial for us in terms of where we're going and how our season is developing.

"We want to make Kingsholm a very difficult place to come and play, and also we want to get back to where we were a few years ago where no one came here and won. And that's our challenge.

"We're treating this like a normal game – and although the external factors will be there, we've got to focus on what our job is.

"It would be counter-productive to let everything that's happened around the wider situation cloud what we do in any case.

"That maybe was the case with the game here last year, and we won't let that happen again.

"From our point of view we've just got to keep pushing in the same direction we have

## this is

### Gloucestershire

- Guinness the parrot has leg amputated
- Tories elect new leader
- Roadside car sales trader to be investigated
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all year. We've got to keep getting stronger at our game.

"Freddie's been awesome at putting us in the right areas of the field this year. And that's what we've got to keep doing.

"If we can keep control of that we're a tough side to beat, so that's the plan."

Tindall said upholding the gritty resilience that has underpinned Gloucester's season to date is far more important than any points-scoring against their former coach.

He added: "One of the pillars we've built this season on has been staying in the contest, having that dog.

"I was reading in the programme last week people saying that the dog's back, and I hope it is. It's been there every game for us and it needs to stay there.

"It's a difficult season that we came into, but we've made no excuses from the off. We've wanted to be hard to beat, home and away, and we've managed to do that so far.

"The job is far from done though, we've got to keep representing the jersey as we've started, and if we can do that then we'll be in the mix come the end of the year."



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

# HISTORY LESSON

**Sale has a long history as a club - founded in 1861, it pre-dates Gloucester, but the two clubs first played one another in 1933.**

Today will be the 80th encounter. Gloucester have won 44, and Sale 33, with just 2 matches drawn; Gloucester are ahead on points by 1791 to 1299.

The home advantage is marked, Gloucester having recorded 34 wins and 14 losses at Fortress Kingsholm.

## EARLY MATCHES

**Sale travelled south for an Easter tour in 1933, with a fine record for the season behind them.**

They played at Kingsholm on 15th April and Gloucester won 18-7, with 2 tries from Vernon Sheppard on the right wing, one of which was converted by full-back Harold Boughton, who also kicked a penalty, while centre Roy James added a dropped goal.

Sale scored first with a try from Wilf Wooller, and almost added a second, but for a saving tackle by Don Meadows, before Boughton relieved the pressure with some long touch kicks, and kicked a penalty to level the scores.

Sheppard then scored a great try, described by WB in the Citizen - "...the right wing was partly tackled by three different men in succession, but he shook himself free on each occasion, and with a brilliant burst at the finish touched down in the corner for a grand try".

He added another in the second half - "At the centre Fifield served Meadows, who slipped an inside pass to Sheppard, who was playing centre now. With a tremendous burst of speed, Sheppard cleared Davey and rounding Hart



Vernon Sheppard, scorer of 2 tries in the first fixture against Sale

The programme for the 1935 match

finished a glorious run by scoring behind the posts".

During that Easter weekend, Gloucester played 3 matches in 4 days, and then took part in two 7-a-side tournaments before the end of the week.

This match started a tradition of an Easter visit by Sale, which continued almost unbroken until the early 1980s. Most of the matches were played on Easter Monday.

Two years later, Sale returned to Kingsholm with similar result - Gloucester won 17-6.

Sale's first win, 14-13, came in the third match on 29th March 1937.

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**THE HIPPODROME, Eastgate (See Below)**  
SALE.  
Right Wing: J. A. Mansfield [1] Full Back: A. P. Pastore [1] Left Wing: J. C. Holden [1]  
Right Centre: M. C. Church [1] Left Centre: J. B. Standish [1]  
Second Half: P. G. Hoyle [1] Second Half: J. Parnham [1]  
Forward: H. U. Reynolds [1] T. P. Hough [1] F. R. Crawford [1] H. D. Horton [1]  
G. B. Shaw [1] W. F. Scott, Capt. [1] R. J. Bowman [1]  
Referee: F. Wadley, (Capt.) [1] \*A. D. Carpenter [1] C. Harris [1] H. G. Nicholls [1]  
J. A. West [1] New Smith [1] A. Walsman [1] Ivar Williams [1]  
Second Half: D. Meadows [1] Second Half: Roy James [1]  
Left Centre: F. G. Edwards [1] Right Wing: H. E. Hook [1]  
Left Wing: J. G. Haines [1] Full Back: T. Stephens [1]  
Colours: Cherry and White  
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## RECORD SCORES

**In the first year of national leagues, Sale were demolished 61-7 at Kingsholm on 16th April 1988.**

On an afternoon when everyone performed well, centre Ruari Maclean, prop Malcolm Preedy and full back Paul Mansell were the pick of Gloucester's line up.

Gloucester ran in 11 tries from Marcus Hannaford (2), Paul Ashmead (2), Jim Breeze, Ruari McLean, Richard Mogg, Richard Pascall, Nigel Scrivens, Ian Smith and Paul Mansell, who also kicked a penalty and 6 conversions, with Mike Hamlin adding a seventh.

Sale lost all 11 league games that season and were relegated. When they returned to the top flight in 1994-95, they did the double over Gloucester for three successive seasons, including their record score of 52-12 on 12th April 1997.



Bob Hook, right wing, and scorer of 2 of Gloucester's tries in 1935; Ivor Williams, Tom Stephens and Ken Smith also scored tries, and Harold Boughton converted one of them

Malcolm Preedy and Ruari Maclean, try scorers against Sale in 1988

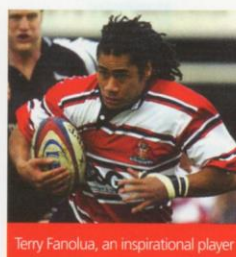
Philippe Saint-André, successful Director of Rugby at Sale, 2004-09, after he had left Gloucester



all converted by Hodgson.

Back came the Gloucester pack, creating tries for Jamie Forrester and Fanolua from short range to take the score to 27-28.

A penalty in the final minute provided a chance for Mercier, but it was missed, and Sale deservedly won the game.



Terry Fanolua, an inspirational player

## GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP

**27th February 2010  
GLOUCESTER 47 - SALE 3**

Gloucester played 30 minutes of superb rugby in appalling conditions at the start of this Premiership game.

The Sale pack was completely outplayed and the Gloucester backs ran the ball at will. Penalties were turned down in front of the posts in the first ten minutes, so complete was the domination. The result was a four try bonus point in the first half hour as the pressure told.



Lesley Vainikolo, not to be tackled lightly

A penalty try in the seventh minute for a collapsed scrum was followed by two tries for Lesley Vainikolo, the first after the ball had passed through six pairs of hands, and one for the equally powerful Akapusi Qera, Nicky Robinson kicking three conversions.

As the conditions worsened, Gloucester lost some of their momentum and Sale scored through a Charlie Hodgson penalty.

But Sale began to tire late on, and the tries started to flow for Gloucester again, first Robinson and then James Simpson-Daniel kicking through and hacking on to touch down.

Robinson's replacement Tim Taylor made the break for the seventh try, which Andy Hazell touched down. All three tries were converted.

## MEMORABLE MATCHES

**PARKER PEN SHIELD  
SEMI-FINAL, 28th April 2002  
SALE 28 - GLOUCESTER 27**

Gloucester started the semi-final of the Parker Pen Shield (since renamed the Amlin Challenge Cup) as strong favourites on a neutral ground at Northampton, and after 17 minutes, were 13-0 up thanks to a storming run by Terry Fanolua and a conversion, penalty and drop goal by Ludovic Mercier.

For the next 40 minutes Sale dominated the game with superb handling resulting in tries for Cueto, Hanley, Marais and Harris,



*Bonus*  
CHERRIES

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
HERITAGE**





*Dan Robson*

# SERVICE *With A* SMILE



**Dan Robson has come a long way over the past few months.**

The 20 year old scrum half has gone from representing Hartpury RFC in National League Division Two South, to playing his second Junior World Cup for England U20s, to playing fly half for Gloucester against Fiji!

It's a good job the Stoke on Trent born player is a fairly level headed character. If he weren't, you'd suspect his head might be spinning at everything that's happened to him recently.

As it is, he merely shrugs and smiles when you point out what's happened and that he's now a fully paid up member of the Gloucester Rugby senior squad for the first time.

"It's been exciting. It's been a good start to the season personally, which was important for me. I wanted to make the step up from being seen as a good prospect in the Academy to be viewed as a first team player.

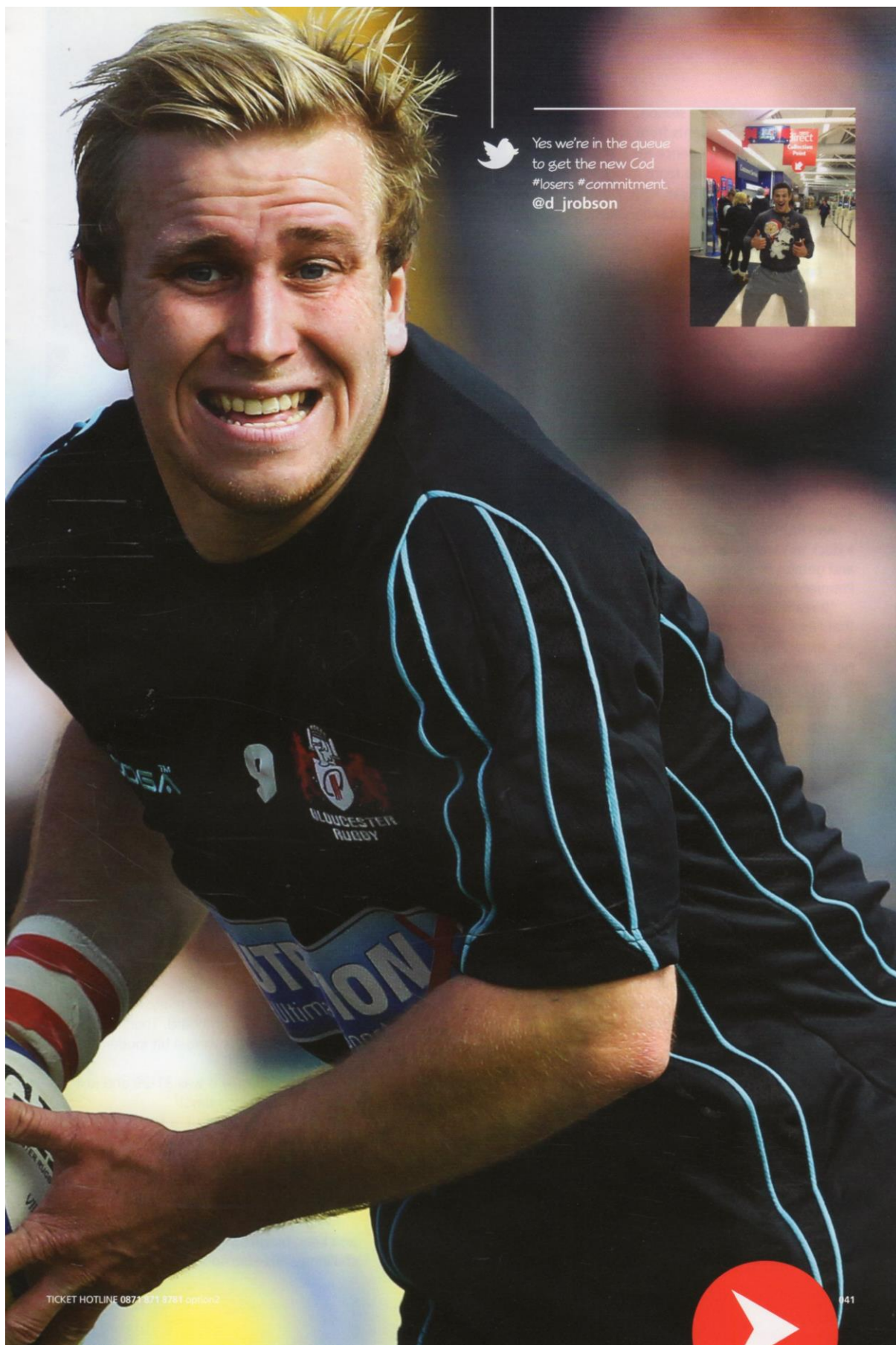
"I wanted the chance to put down a marker and get some game time and I've really enjoyed the season so far."

Being in South Africa in the summer was a double bonus in a way. Not only was he representing his country in the IRB Junior World Championship, but he was spared some of the uncertainty of



[www.gloucester rugby.co.uk](http://www.gloucester rugby.co.uk)





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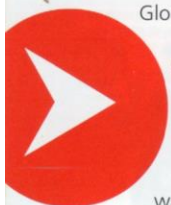


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Gloucester's close season.

Viewing events from afar was a strange experience for Dan and his Gloucester team mates Koree Britton and Ryan Mills, but they soon received positive vibes.

"It was all a bit weird really. I was chatting to some of the boys back here in Gloucester, and they were saying how much things had changed, it was like being at a new club and how they were loving things.

"We were out there playing as hard as we could in South Africa but, at the same time, we were all really excited about getting back and seeing what it was like.

"We got back from the World Cup and were given a couple of extra weeks off but, literally on the first day back, we could see how much things had changed and improved."

And Robson took to the new set up like a duck to water, impressing in preseason and getting the nod to start in the first six Premiership matches.

"It really boosted my confidence knowing that Nigel and the other coaches backed me, especially for that first game against Northampton at home.

"It's helped turn me into a better player in a way because it gave me such a lift. I was in quite a good place mentally after the World Cup and had a good preseason, and getting the nod against the Saints pushed me on some more.

"It was a tough game for me, the whole day was a big experience and a pretty special moment all in all."

Looking back on that game with the benefit of hindsight, Robson feels that he's actually a far better player now than he was then and one of Gloucester's new signings has to take credit.

"I've learned so much since then, especially since Jimmy (Cowan) came in. He's been that leader who you can turn to when you have questions and that's helped me a lot. I feel a much better player.

"Jimmy's a top lad. He's been there and done it all and you can't learn off anyone better than that. He's also still very critical of himself, continually pushing himself to get better.

"It's what you want to see from your senior pros. It's good to see and inspire us to improve as well."

Perhaps what he wasn't expecting though, was to be turning out at fly half. But he's willing to do his bit for the team.



▲ Dan on the charge against Cardiff Blues during pre-season



"We got back from the World Cup and were given a couple of extra weeks off but, literally on the first day back, we could see how much things had changed and improved."

"It's been interesting! I knew in the Ospreys game that I was covering 10, but then Billy (Burns) got injured so I had to take over. It was quite tough, chucking it down with rain etc.

"Then I came in on Monday morning and Tins told me that I'd be playing at 10 against Fiji. I was pretty happy with that actually, to form a 9/10 combination with Dave (Lewis).

"I didn't really think about the whole goal kicking thing until the warm up, when I did a bit of practise and missed the lot!

"That side of things didn't go badly as it turned out. I'm happy to fill in there to help out when we have a few injuries, but I don't see myself as a 10 long term. I feel I'm a scrum half."

He's modest when he states that it didn't go badly. He ended up kicking the winning points – not that he realised it at the time!

"I didn't know! I thought we were about four points down. Stupid really, but I don't really look at the scoreboard. Then, when I kicked it, the cheers were a bit louder than expected!

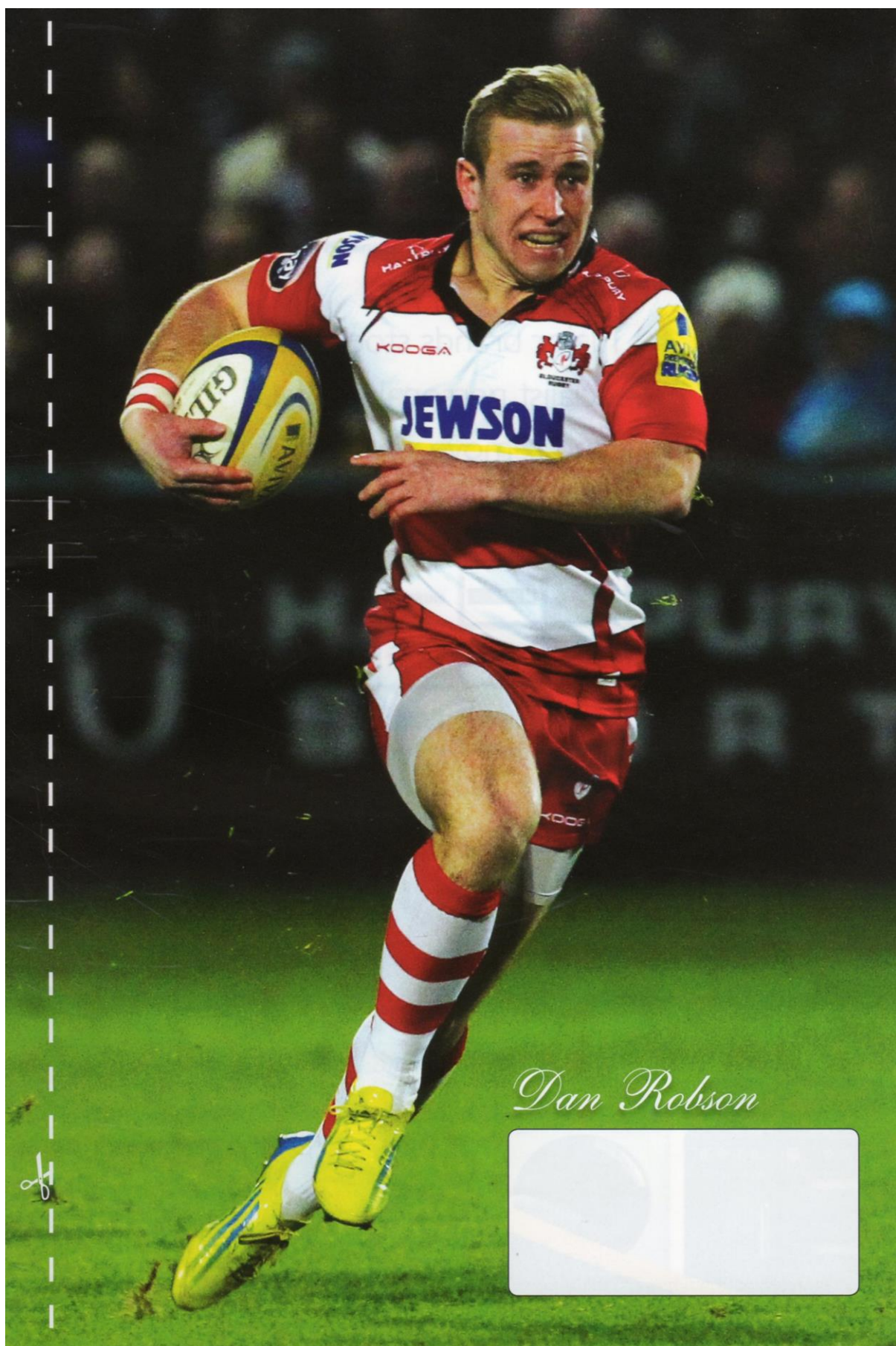
"I looked up, saw it was 31-29 and just thought, 'Oh. Happy days!'"

Happy days indeed but, a few days after that highlight, he's playing a straight bat in terms of the rest of the season.

"We've had a really good start. But we're not going to make any wild predictions.

"We'll just go steadily about our business and keep progressing, starting with a big challenge this afternoon."





*Dan Robson*



# Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton

**"It's not going to be easy for them though, and of course we are going to add to their problems with another defeat today!"**

Last week the LV= (what does LV = by the way – I was always useless at maths?) cup gave us a bit of fun – a fairly straightforward canter over a London Welsh side who probably have their attention on other matters – like staying in the top flight.

What an afternoon that was, we had the game pretty much done and dusted before half time, it was only a question of how many more points would we rack up.

It did present us with a first though – Mike Tindall playing at 10 for the only time I can recall – and thank gawd that the game was as good as over when he did take over that role. I think it is fair to say that he is not a natural in that position, but he did give us a laugh or two on the night.

But after the fun and frolics of the last couple of weeks, it's back to the real world of the Aviva Premiership, and probably one of the fixtures that most Gloucester fans have been looking forward to since the fixtures were published in July.

Gloucester against Sale... not so long ago this would have been a bit of a routine fixture. In 34 Premiership fixtures we just about hold the edge with 18 wins to 14 – the other two, for all you mathematicians out there, were draws. We've scored about 30 more tries over the games, but that's about it.

But all that changed last spring, when Brush went to Sale a week or so after resigning from his position here at Kingsholm.

The nature of that change has led to more conspiracy theories than surround the assassination of President Kennedy. Was he tapped up? Had he signed before resigning? Was it all to do with the impending home fixture? It's enough to make your head spin.

The simple truth is that we don't know. Bryan and Sale have said that was not the case, and you have to accept it as so and move on.

The one thing that you can be sure of, though, is that Sale will get a pretty frosty reception here today. That's fair enough, given the circumstances of last spring, but we shouldn't lose sight of the service that Brush gave to this club.

Speaking from a purely personal opinion, I always found Bryan to be a thoroughly decent bloke. My mind goes back to one of the many charity walks that have been organised to coincide with various games – this one, a few years ago, went from Gloucester to Wasps in almost biblical rainfall.

We started with a charity auction at Kingsholm. Because of the weather only a few dozen people turned up but Mr Redpath was one of them.

He stayed for as long as people wanted him to, chatted about anything and everything,



and fulfilled the role of auctioneer with good grace and humour. He was also able to offer words of congratulation on the pitch at High Wycombe a few days later.

I'm not alone in finding him to be a thoroughly affable bloke, I'm willing to bet that pretty much everyone who has come across him will say the same thing.

So, let's let the past be exactly that, and move on. One of the great things about rugby as a sport is the respect that runs throughout the game, from players, to coaches, to referees (well most of the time) and supporters.

Sale will expect a hostile welcome – that goes with the turf – but hopefully it'll stay within sensible bounds.

Stating the obvious, we've not done too

The thoroughly affable Mr Redpath will undoubtedly get a hostile welcome back to Kingsholm today



badly since Brush left us have we... A growing team spirit, a newfound doggedness and some forward power to go with the lightning quality of our backline sees us at the right end of the table. Sale, on the other hand, have had a nightmare start.

However, when you look at their squad you can see the quality running through it. For whatever reason they haven't fired this season, and I can't help feeling that it is only a matter of time before they do click and start to clock up the wins.

I think they have the strength in depth in the squad to pull out of the position they are now in, and reckon they will survive – just – in the Premiership.

It's not going to be easy for them though, and of course we are going to add to their problems with another defeat today!

Enough about Sale though, let's talk about Fiji. It's great to see international teams coming to town like this – well except I didn't get to see it... The day job intervened and I was left to follow the match through the web and Twitter.

To get the win was the icing on the cake – games like this must produce life time memories for players. It's also great for the club to be able to host them.

It does great things to our credibility to be able to stage international matches, as – at the time of writing- the only club rugby ground in the running to host 2015 World Cup games.

Of course there is a long way to go until the final decisions are announced, but what a coup that would be to get a fixture or two here.

You just know the Gloucester public would pack the place out and make it a very special occasion.

Fingers crossed!

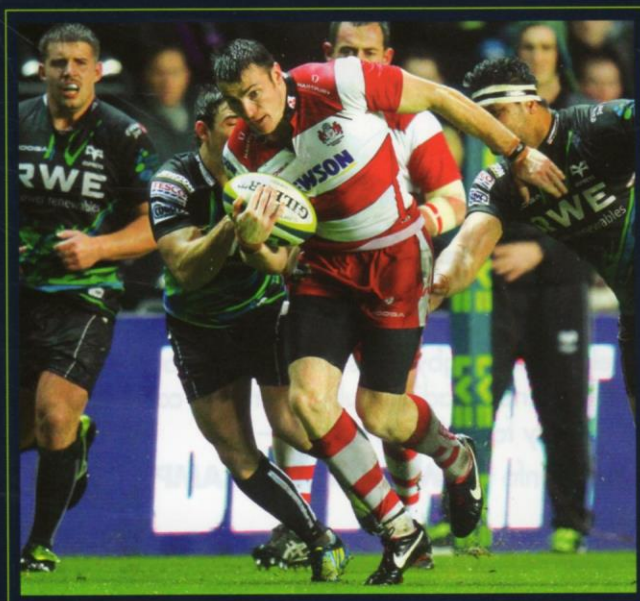




# ACTION Replay

## OSPREYS GLOUCESTER RUGBY

# 33 27



### OSPREYS POINTS SCORERS



**TRIES:** Grabham (64), Allen (78)  
**CONS:** Davies (79)  
**PENS:** Morgan (10, 34, 40, 56), Davies (60)  
**DROPS:** Morgan (20, 29)

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



**TRIES:** Y. Thomas (26), Murphy (71),  
 Penalty (75)  
**CON:** B. Burns (27), Robson (71, 76)  
**PENS:** B. Burns (8, 16)

Gloucester Rugby's 2012-13 LV= Cup campaign got off to a frustrating start at the Liberty Stadium as the Ospreys snatched a 33-27 victory with the very last play of the game.

In all fairness, Gloucester had very nearly carried out the ultimate smash and grab raid.

Trailing 26-13, with just over ten minutes to play, Gloucester looked dead and buried with the Ospreys having dominated the second half.

However, the Cherry and Whites dug deep to battle their way back into the game and stun the home crowd with a try from Dan Murphy and a penalty try.

It looked as though Gloucester had snatched victory from the jaws of defeat only for Ospreys number eight Morgan Allen to power over and rescue the win for his team.

Director of Rugby Nigel Davies admitted that the Ospreys had been the better team on the night and deserving of the win.

From a Gloucester perspective, finding themselves having to chase the game late on seemed unlikely given the way they started the game.

Both clubs fielded young sides, but it was Gloucester who settled the better of the two teams.

The respective fly halves, Billy Burns



9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012, 17:45 KO  
LIBERTY STADIUM  
LV= CUP: ROUND 1



## Champagne Moment

On an evening where driving rain made running rugby nigh on impossible, it was a game for the forwards.

Prop Yann Thomas scrummaged well on the evening but the highlight was probably the 22 year old scoring his first try for the club.



and Matthew Morgan, kicked six points apiece before loosehead prop Yann Thomas powered over from close range for the game's first try after good work from the pack.

Gloucester were good value for the lead at this point with the Ospreys seemingly content to play for position and penalty opportunities.

Not the most exciting tactics in the world but they turned out to be effective, as indiscipline betrayed Gloucester and Morgan's boot earned his team a 15-13 half time lead.

There was certainly no need for panic but Gloucester lost their way somewhat when fly half Burns was forced to leave the field of play with a shoulder injury.

As the weather worsened, the Ospreys played the territorial game better than Gloucester and Nigel Davies' side struggled to get out of their own 22.

Morgan and Sam Davies, Nigel's son, kicked penalties to make it 21-13, before Tom Grabham slid over in the corner for the Ospreys' first try after a prolonged period of pressure.

Staring a frustrating defeat in the face, Gloucester hit back and thought they'd done enough. That was until Allen's late, and key, intervention.

## Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

"We just didn't manage the conditions and the game well enough. It was a very difficult night to play and the Ospreys coped better than us. They kicked better than us and played the game in the right areas of the pitch.

"The spirit we showed was fantastic although it was frustrating to let it slip after we'd worked so hard to get back into the game."

## OSPREYS

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Ross Jones
14	W	Tom Grabham
13	C	Ben John
12	C	Jonathan Spratt
11	W	Will Price
10	FH	Matthew Morgan
9	SH	Rhys Webb
1	P	Marc Thomas
2	H	Matthew Dwyer
3	P	Joe Rees
4	L	Lloyd Peers
5	L	James King ■
6	F	George Stowers
7	F	Sam Lewis
8	N8	Morgan Allen
16		Scott Otten
17		Nicky Smith
18	R	Nicky Thomas
19	R	Rhodri Hughes
20		Arthur Ellis
21	R	Tom Habberfield
22	R	Sam Davies
23	R	Nathan Edwards



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Martyn Thomas
14	W	Shane Monahan
13	C	Drew Locke
12	C	Tim Molenaar
11	W	Ian Clark
10	FH	Billy Burns
9	SH	Dan Robson
1	P	Yann Thomas
2	H	Tommaso d'Apice
3	P	Dario Chistolini
4	L	Will Graulich
5	L	Elliot Stooke
6	F	Ross Moriarty
7	F	Matt Cox
8	N8	Peter Buxton ■
16	R	Koree Britton
17	R	Dan Murphy
18	R	Tom Heard
19		Ed King
20		Ben Sparks
21	R	Dave Lewis
22		George Boulton
23		Steph Reynolds

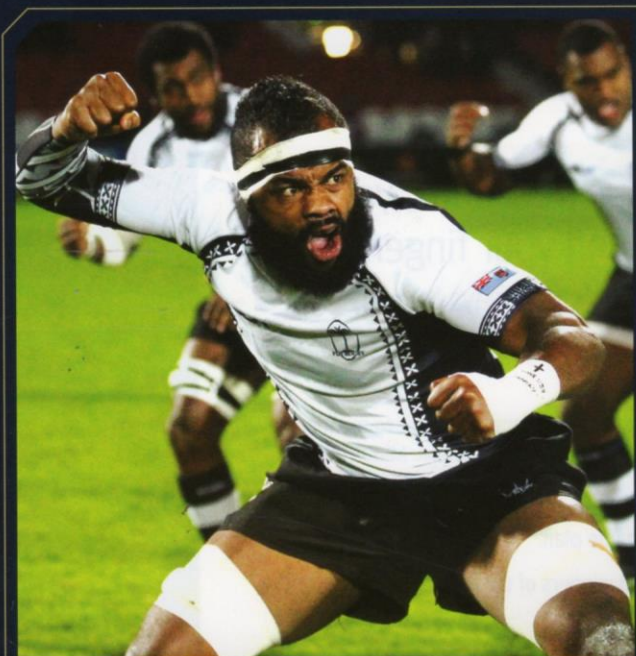




# ACTION Replay

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY FIJI RUGBY

31  
29



### GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



**TRIES:** Cox, Britton, Penalty x2  
**CONS:** Robson (4)  
**PEN:** Robson

### FIJI RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



**TRIES:** Tuapati, Matanavou, Votu  
**CON:** Ralulu  
**PENS:** Ralulu (4)



**Kingsholm welcomed Fiji for the first time in 42 years – the Islanders took on the Western Counties in 1972 – and a crowd of 8,147 enjoyed a cracker of a game.**

Commentators often talk of a 'game of two halves'. And this one certainly was! In a contrast of styles, Fiji's backs dominated the first half as the visitors threatened to run riot, while the Gloucester pack seized control after the break.

It left the game completely in the balance as the game went into the final quarter, but it was Gloucester's young guns who held their nerve to secure a memorable win.

The crowd loved every minute of the occasion. They warmly applauded Fiji performing the I Bole before kick off, they admired the skill of the Islanders in the first half and they roared their approval of Gloucester's fightback.

The Fijians, loudly backed by some enthusiastic supporters, made a lot of friends on the evening and it's to be hoped that it won't be another 42 years before they visit again.

Both teams opened the game by playing



13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012, 19:45 KO  
KINGSHOLM  
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY



## Champagne Moment

He confessed after the game that he didn't realise that he was set to give his team the lead!

All the same, Dan Robson showed nerves of steel to convert Koree Britton's try and give his team the lead for the first time – an advantage they wouldn't relinquish.



in an expansive fashion. However, whereas Fiji's big, powerful runners looked dangerous whenever they touched the ball, Gloucester's smaller, nipper equivalents were frequently outmuscled.

On the scoreboard at least it was one way traffic. Jonetani Ralulu opened the scoring with a penalty before hooker Talemaitoga Tuapati scored a fine try.

Ralulu added a second penalty before Timoci Matanavou, who scored two tries for Toulouse here back in January, finished off a midfield break in style.

Gloucester may have been rocked but they hit back. Matt Cox bullied his way over from close range to give his team hope. Dan Robson converted and added a penalty for an 18-10 half time scoreline.

After the break, Fiji scored another cracker as Watisoni Votu latched onto a superb cross kick from Ralulu to score his team's third try.

But then, the Gloucester pack took control.

Twice the Gloucester pack muscled their way to a penalty try. Twice Ralulu responded with a penalty.

The crowd were loving this encounter by now and erupted as Koree Britton peeled off a driving maul to touch down. Dan Robson held his nerve to convert and give his team the lead at 31-29.

Ralulu had a late penalty opportunity from inside his own half but was short and wide with his attempt, before Gloucester needlessly conceded a 5m scrum to set the nerves jangling.

The defence held out, however, and the crowd celebrated a home win whilst generously acknowledging the contribution of the Fijians.

## Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

"It was great because we're bleeding a new crop of players and the thing about rugby is you have to learn how to win games.

"It's all very well having the skills and the ability, which is something that we want to see more and more of.

"But you've got to learn to win games and that was a great learning experience for a lot of our younger players.

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Martyn Thomas
14	W	Steph Reynolds
13	C	Drew Locke
12	C	Tim Molenaar
11	W	Ian Clark
10	FH	Dan Robson
9	SH	Dave Lewis
1	P	Yann Thomas
2	H	Koree Britton
3	P	Dario Chistolini
4	L	Will Graulich
5	L	Harry Casson
6	F	Ross Moriarty
7	F	Matt Cox
8	N8	Peter Buxton
16	R	Tommaso d'Apice
17	R	Dan Murphy
18	R	Tom Heard
19		Ed King
20	R	Benjamin Sparks
21	R	Bradley Field
22	R	George Boulton
23		Steffan Hawley

## FIJI RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Metuisela Talebulamajaina
14	W	Timoci Matanavou
13	C	Samu Wara
12	C	Josh Matavesi
11	W	Watisoni Votu
10	FH	Jonetani Ralulu
9	SH	Kele Bolatagane
1	P	Setefano Somoca
2	H	Talemaitoga Tuapati
3	P	Manasa Saulo Ramumu
4	L	Api Ratuniyarawa
5	L	Seko Kalou Qaraniqio
6	F	Jovili Domolailai
7	F	Malakai Bolatagane Volau
8	N8	Nemani Nagusa ■
16	R	Seremaia Naureuere
17	R	Deacon Manu
18	R	Pen Makutu ■
19	R	Apisai Naikatini
20	R	Iliesa Ratuva
21	R	Nikola Matawalu
22	R	Ravai Fatiaki
23		Aisea Natoga





Teams correct at time of print 21/11/12

# TODAY'S *Line-ups*



## GLoucester RUGBY

US

## SALE SHARKS



ROB COOK	15	CAMERON SHEPHERD
CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	CHARLIE AMESBURY
MIKE TINDALL	13	WILL ADDISON
BILLY TWELVETREES	12	SAM TUITUPOU
SHANE MONAHAN	11	MARK CUETO
FREDDIE BURNS	10	DANNY CIPRIANI
JIMMY COWAN	09	DWAYNE PEEL
DAN MURPHY	01	ROSS HARRISON
HUIA EDMONDS	02	TOMMY TAYLOR
RUPERT HARDEN	03	TONY BUCKLEY
WILL JAMES	04	FRASER MCKENZIE
JIM HAMILTON (C)	05	KEARNAN MYALL
TOM SAVAGE	06	JAMES GASKELL
AKAPUSI QERA	07	DAVID SEYMOUR (C)
SIONE KALAMAFONI	08	RICHIE VERNON
NICK WOOD	16	JOE WARD
KOREE BRITTON	17	EIFION LEWIS-ROBERTS
SHAUN KNIGHT	18	VADIM COBILAS
PETER BUXTON	19	TOM HOLMES
MATT COX	20	JAMES DOYLE
DAN ROBSON	21	WILL CLIFF
TIM MOLENAAR	22	ROB MILLER
MARTYN THOMAS	23	JORDAN DAVIES

## THE OFFICIALS

**REFEREE:** Luke Pearce

**ASSISTANT REFEREES:** Stuart Terheege, Ashley Rowden **TMO:** Trevor Fisher

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