

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

ACTION  
*Replay* PAGE 61

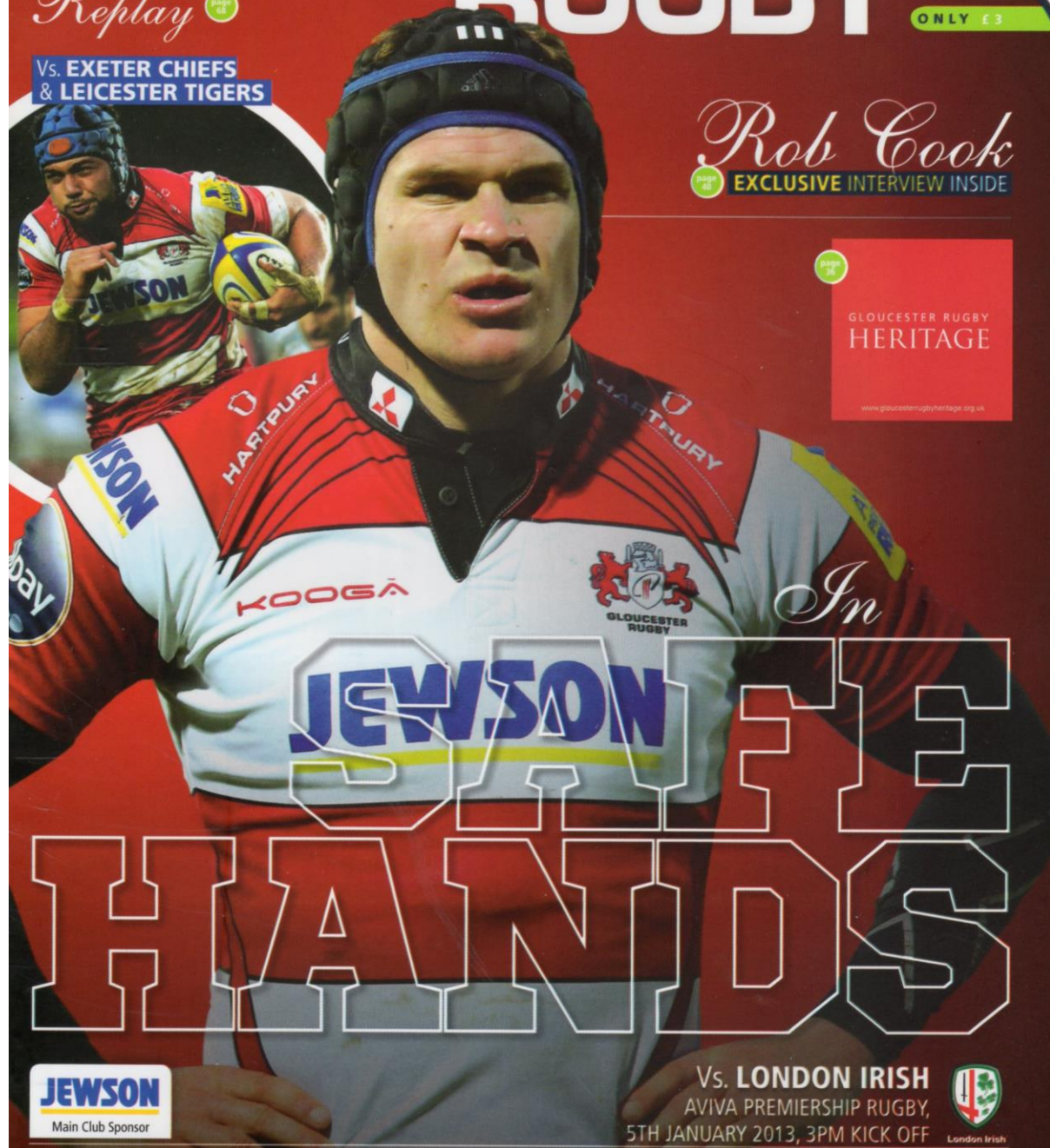
Vs. EXETER CHIEFS  
& LEICESTER TIGERS

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*Rob Cook*  
PAGE 45 EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW INSIDE

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HERITAGE

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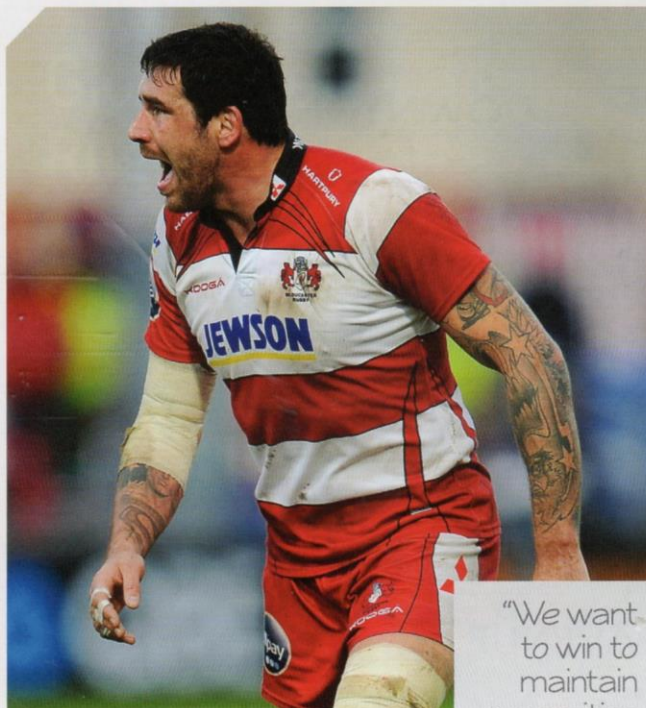
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# CAPTAIN'S *Corner*

Jim Hamilton



**A** very Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back to Kingsholm for the first time this year.

The festive season is always a busy one for the squad, although it was slightly unusual this year, as we didn't have a Boxing Day or a New Year's Day fixture.

That's given the squad a rare opportunity to spend quality time with our families, and we're all incredibly grateful to Nigel and the coaching team for giving us the time off.

However, I must stress that we've been repaying that faith with some really hard work on the training paddock in between, and I think that effort is being reflected on the pitch.

Weather conditions have not been great over the past few weeks, and we've had two really tough games since my last set of programme notes.

In fact, Exeter and Leicester have been

two of the toughest opponents we've faced all season, particularly back to back.

They were both settled by less than a score, and I think it's a sign of how far we've come that we're disappointed that we didn't finish with two wins from the two games.

Although the weather conditions were similar for both matches, we were tested in different ways.

The Exeter game was nip and tuck all the way, but we looked well set at 12-6 until the Chiefs fought back to take the lead. We had to dig deep but remain focused, and it was a job well done to earn the win.

Away at Leicester, we knew that they would throw everything at us from the off, and they didn't let us down! It was a case of hanging on in there and soaking up what they threw at us while taking whatever points we could at the same time.

We could sense the crowd getting frustrated, and we gained strength from that. We knew that, if they were booing us, then we must have been doing something right!

For all that, we came up just short. We could have snatched it in the final few minutes and have to view it as a missed opportunity. But, we will learn from the experience as we have done all season.

Today though is all about London Irish, who are rapidly becoming a very familiar foe as we face them for the third time in three weeks!

They will have been disappointed by their display here in the Amlin Challenge Cup, and we're expecting a completely different challenge here today.

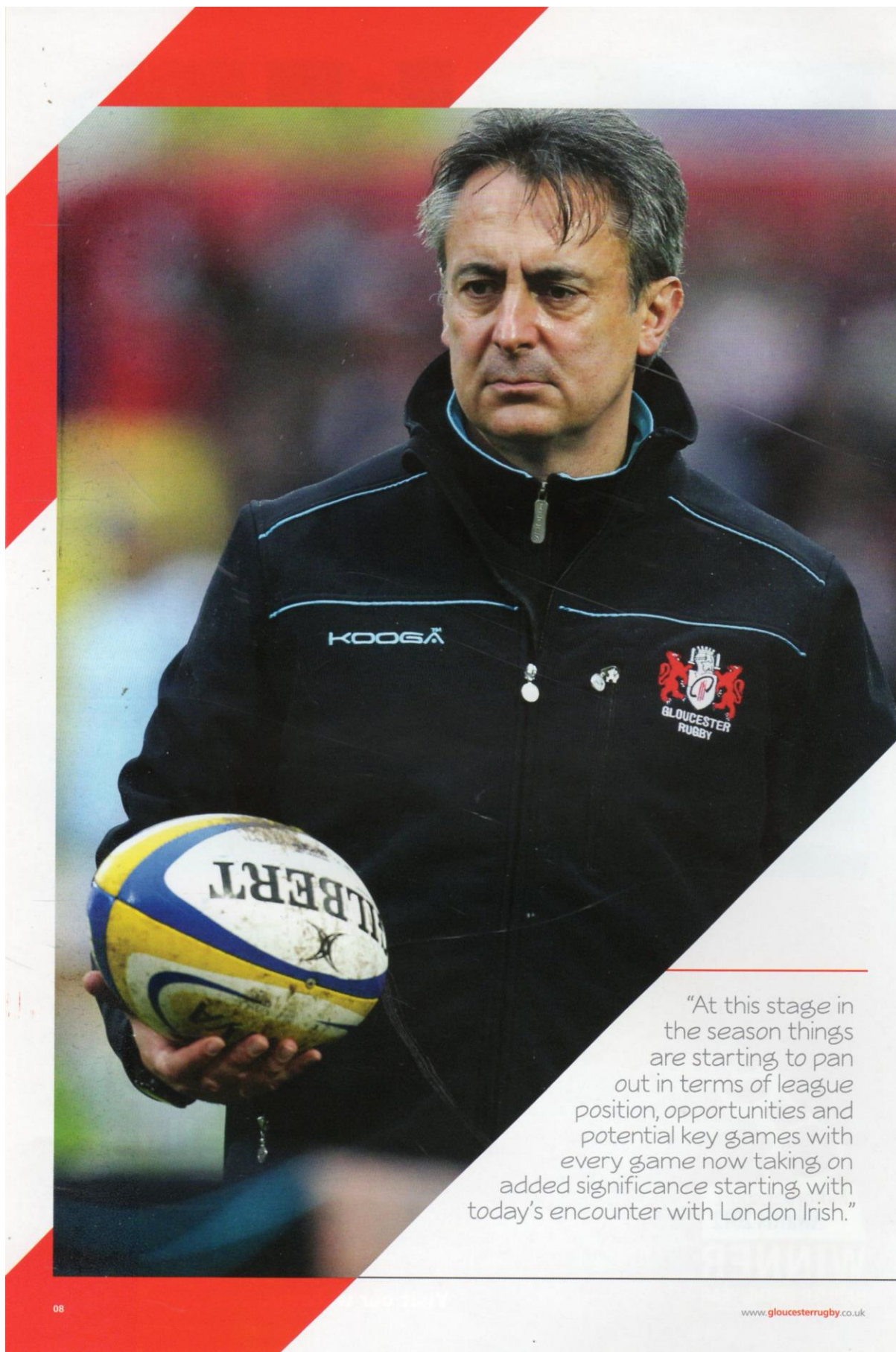
We want to win to maintain our position in the top four, while they're desperate for points to stay ahead of Sale. It's all set for a passionate encounter.

We also want to finish this phase of Premiership games with a good win before the next two rounds of European action. We've got good momentum and would love to clinch the pool and hopefully secure a home quarter final.

**Enjoy the game!**

*"We want to win to maintain our position in the top four, while they're desperate for points to stay ahead of Sale. It's all set for a passionate encounter."*





"At this stage in the season things are starting to pan out in terms of league position, opportunities and potential key games with every game now taking on added significance starting with today's encounter with London Irish."

# COACH'S

# Notes

Director of Rugby, Nigel Davies

**A** very Happy New Year to you all from the team and back room staff of Gloucester Rugby.

There is no doubting that 2012 has been a rollercoaster ride for Gloucester supporters. Hopefully, now as we start 2013, we are on a more even keel although nothing in this game can be

place. But, it is essential that we now drive home our promising latter part of 2012 to make sure that 2013 continues to see progress!

At this stage in the season things are starting to pan out in terms of league position, opportunities and potential key games with every game now taking on

added significance starting with today's encounter with London Irish.

Both teams will be determined to win today which, for ourselves, will mean that we will remain within the top four.

Having played each other three times already there will certainly be no lack of familiarity between the teams today, but we are very respectful of the quality of the squad that Irish have and their intent to play which always makes them dangerous opposition.

It was sad to hear of the passing of Mike Nicholls last week who was one of those characters who seem to epitomise Gloucester Rugby.

As a Player, Captain, Coach, Team Secretary

and Committee Member he did just about everything there is to do for the club he loved so much, and our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Hopefully we can do his memory proud this season!

Nigel



London Irish will be looking for revenge after the back to back Amlin Challenge Cup defeats in December

taken for granted.

But this squad has stood up so far this season, with players playing for each other and showing a never die attitude which, for me, is fundamental for any type of success!

We have reflected over the Christmas period on where we are and where we go next and, in general terms, we are in a good





# THE GREATEST EVER CAPTAIN

Nick Purewal's

*View from* **The Citizen**



**'Respect the shirt, represent the city – and for god's sake, they're just humans!'**

**They talk about a look so piercing it would make you enlist.**

They talk about a man so committed that despite working cross-country, he never missed a match – not even a wet Wednesday night in Wales.

They talk about probably Gloucester's greatest ever captain.

There's no question they talk about Mike Nicholls. God rest him.



The indomitable Gloucester hooker died just before Christmas. Sincerest condolences to his family: that must always rank above all.

But let's hope it is some comfort to them that Nicholls' passing leaves a chasm in the

■ The 1972 Cup winning Gloucester team, captained by Mike Nicholls

Kingsholm heart.

Those that played with or were coached by the legendary front-rower all say the same – Nicholls was a hard man with an even tougher spirit – but also a Kingsholm absolute, who never let a friend or team-mate down.

Mike Burton rates Nicholls as the greatest captain he played under, Mickey Booth still shudders at the thought of his team-talks and Robin Cowling thinks he shaped Gloucester's history.

Nicholls' Kingsholm legacy is off the scale.

In next to no time he swapped Old Centralians for Gloucester, and there he stayed for 17 years.

When all outside rejected Gloucester's claims, Nicholls told the Cherry and Whites to bite back.

The Kingsholm 'dawg' well and truly ravaged the competition in 1972, as Gloucester pilfered the inaugural RFU Knockout Cup from the envious eyes of the establishment.

Gloucester played every round away from Kingsholm, then saw off Moseley 17-6 at Twickenham.







World famous London Welsh boasted nearly half the British Lions team that won their first – and still only – series victory in New Zealand in 1971.

No one gave Gloucester a chance, except the men themselves, and none more than Nicholls.

'Respect the shirt, represent the city – and for god's sake, they're just humans!' he barked to his troops at Old Deer Park.

He shot out that look that could raise an army, off Gloucester went to the trenches – and they returned triumphant.

To repeat the feat at equally-powerful Coventry in the semi-final set one of Gloucester's finest hours in motion.

In every change of era Gloucester have always boasted men to catch the changing trends, and ensure the Cherry and Whites kept pace.

Tom Walkinshaw clearly took that

■ Mike Nicholls leads Gloucester out under an arch of elver nets

mantle for the professional shift, and Don Rutherford is credited with ushering in the first formal and regimented coaching.

While some were unsure of this new-fangled national cup's credence, Nicholls simply saw a fine opportunity to rubber-stamp Gloucester's power.

Some 40 years on that entire cup run remains imprinted on a Gloucester generation – and imagined in glorious hyperbole by those too young to bear witness.

A draughtsman by trade but a Kingsholm stalwart at heart.

The best of Gloucester's hugely-impressive best all look up to Nicholls.

Maybe that above all, reveals everything.

Such men never act for recognition – thankfully in Nicholls' case justice will be done – Kingsholm and Gloucester will never forget.



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

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# FOR THE STATISTICIANS

**Today is the 62nd occasion on which Gloucester and London Irish have locked horns.**

To date, Gloucester have won 37 and lost 24 – there have been no drawn matches, and only 6 defeats for Gloucester at Kingsholm. Gloucester are ahead on points scored by 1332 to 1126.

Since league rugby was introduced, there have been 18 encounters at Kingsholm, with Gloucester emerging victorious in 16 of them.

## FIRST MATCH

London Irish date back to 1898 as a club, but only came onto the Gloucester fixture list in 1973, when Gloucester beefed up the standard of their opposition for their centenary year.

In the event, for that first match on 24th November 1973, both clubs were shorn of players away playing representative rugby or struck down with the flu'.

In the first half, Gloucester spurned several chances to score, and had a "try" by Keith Richardson disallowed. So, Gloucester found themselves 3-9 behind at half-time.

Eric Stephens kicked a couple of penalties to level the scores, before, in the last 13 minutes of the match, tries from John Dix, Bob White and Dick Smith, all of whom had been dropped from the County side, turned the match on its head.

In the final flourish, "Jardine slashed through the bhoys's defence to put over Smith". Eric Stephens converted all 3 tries and kicked another penalty, as well as

narrowly missing one from well inside his own half, which led to White's try when The Irish knocked on under the posts. With 24 unanswered points in the second half, Gloucester ran out winners 27-9.

However, the Irish generally had the better of the early encounters, winning five out of the first seven games between the clubs.

Teamsheet from 1973 match programme

GLOUCESTER		REFEREE:		LONDON IRISH	
(Start and Wings)		Mr. A. M. LEES (Manchester Society)			
FULL BACK		THE FIRST AID SERVICE ON THIS GROUND IS VOLUNTARILY PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF GLOUCESTER DIVISION ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE		FULL BACK	
15 E. STEPHENS (c)	1973	1974		15 R. BELL	
14 J. DIX (c)	Sept. 1 Brougham Pk. A 24-23	Jan. 3 London Sept. A		THREEQUARTERS	
13 R. WHITE (c)	2 Bristol A 25-9	12 Leicester A		14 P. LAVERY	r.w.
12 R. JARDINE (c)	8 County A 25-9	13 Wigan A		13 R. BELL-SOOTH	r.d.
11 R. ETHERIDGE (c)	15 E. White Pk. H 25-12	20 Bradford A		12 R. DRESNIMAN	l.c.
	22 Bristol A 3-29	21 (Fri. Evening) H		11 M. RANDALL	l.w.
	24 Plymouth A 8-6	9 Bath A		HALF BACKS	
	29 Bedford A 15-37	13 Army A		10 W. REAY	c.b.
		15 Swanspool H		9 R. C. CROFT	c.b.
		20 (Fri. Evening) H		FORWARDS	
		23 Longthorpe College A		1 K. RICHARDSON (c)	
		23 Abercrombie A		2 M. NICHOLLS (c) (Capt.)	
		Mar. 2 Northampton A		3 S. BOYLE (c)	
		9 Richmond A		4 P. WINNELL	
		15 Abercrombie A		5 N. JACKSON (c)	
		16 Gt. Hospital A		6 D. OWEN (c)	
		20 Calverton A		7 J. JARRETT (c)	
		27 Plymouth A		8 J. JARRETT (c)	
		30 London Welsh H		9 R. SMITH (c)	
		30 London Welsh H			
		Apr. 6 Cardiff A			
		10 Newport A			
		11 Llanelli A			
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## BIGGEST WINS

**For Gloucester, this came on 23rd November 1985 at Kingsholm. Eight tries were scored by Simon Long (2), John Gadd (2), Mike Longstaff (2), John Orwin and Mike Hamlin.**

These were the only tries scored by Long in his 4-match career for Gloucester. Tim Smith kicked 6 conversions

John Gadd & Mike Longstaff





for a 44-3 victory.

For London Irish, the game at the end of last season, on 5th May 2012, when Gloucester completely disintegrated, produced their biggest win, 52-18.

## MEMORABLE GAME

**On 20th May 2000, the teams played out a thrilling league encounter, described in the Citizen as "heart-stopping stuff", when "Gloucester's season reached an astonishing crescendo at The Stoop with a white knuckle ride that secured third in the Premiership".**

A pulsating first half saw Irish turn round with a 25-13 advantage, but cracking breaks from Terry Fanolua and a leggy sprint from Ian Jones swung the balance of the game for a while.

The Irish again stormed back to establish a 40-25 lead, before Adey Powles burrowed over for a try on the stroke of time to edge Gloucester ahead 42-40.

Even then the Irish had a last chance with a penalty from the half-way line, but it sailed wide, and Gloucester's celebrations started.

Gloucester's tries came from Adey Powles (2), Chris Catling (2), Rob Jewell, Adam Eustace and Mark Cornwell.

## AN IRISH TAKE ON KINGSHOLM

**After captaining an International XV v Gloucestershire at Kingsholm to mark the County's centenary, Willie John McBride said: "I've always wanted to play at Kingsholm, and it's good to be here at last. Before I came I'd heard a lot about your ground, I'd heard a lot about your rugby, and I'd heard a lot about your crowd.**

*"As soon as I arrived this afternoon, I knew everything they said about your ground was true.*

*"Ten minutes into the game, I knew everything they said about your rugby was true. But as soon as I ran out on the field I knew that everything they said about your crowd was true!"*

## IRELAND AT KINGSHOLM

**In 1991, one hundred years of rugby at Kingsholm was celebrated with the visit of the England and Ireland national sides,**



Phil Vickery, Chris Fortey and try scorer Adey Powles

## who were playing final warm-up games ahead of their World Cup campaigns.

Gloucester first took on an England side captained by Mike Teague, and were soundly beaten 34-4.

Next up were Ireland. It was a great day for Gloucester. They produced a remarkable performance to comprehensively outplay a near full-strength Ireland, captained by Gloucester-born Phil Matthews.

John Hawker took three strikes against the head, Dave Sims dominated the lineouts, Ian Smith was first to the breakdowns, and the defence just insisted "they shall not pass".

This superiority was not adequately reflected in the final 14-13 scoreline, made up of tries by Jerry Perrins and Simon Morris, and 2 penalties from Tim Smith.

## RUGBY AT FOOTBALL GROUNDS

**Gloucester are fortunate in owning the Kingsholm ground, where rugby is all that matters. But there are of course several Premiership teams who play on grounds belonging to football clubs, including our visitors today.**

Can you name the football grounds on which Gloucester have played rugby, and their opponents:

- in the Premiership?
- in a cup game?
- in times long past?

Answers:

Answers are opposite

- in the Premiership:  
a. Ashton Gate (Bristol City) v Bristol  
b. in a cup game:  
c. in times long past:  
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Bonus  
CHERRIES

GLoucester RUGBY  
HERITAGE









# A PERFECT FIT

*Rob Cook*



**DROWN** straight into the deep end of life in the Aviva Premiership, full back Rob Cook has barely had chance to catch breath as he reaches the middle of his first season at Kingsholm.

After finishing last season in the Championship play-offs as a member of the Cornish Pirates, Cook was already preparing for the new Championship season when the call came offering him the chance to join Gloucester.

"The season finished quite late with the Pirates, I was on holiday when I got a phone call from Nigel (Davies) and I was obviously quite happy. I had a week down at Pirates sorting everything out and then I was away, it did happen pretty quickly but I was really happy with it".

Barely had the Lincoln born Cook had a chance to secure a peg in the changing room at the club's training base at Hartpury College, when he was off on pre-season training camp with his new team mates.

"The first month here was weird. I had a day training at Hartpury followed by a few days off, then we were away to Tignes. So, from Cornwall to France in the space of a week. It was good to get to meet with all the boys and basically learn how we were going to play."

After 3 years and over 1000 points at the Mennaye Field with the Pirates, the chance to play for Gloucester in the Aviva Premiership was one Cook relished and he was determined to make the step up from the Championship.

"The main thing is the intensity, not just in the game itself. The training intensity is massive, and everyone is watching you constantly, monitoring you all the time.

"The step up isn't massive, but it's just little bits in each area which allows you to improve your game. And being surrounded by quality



AVIVA PREMIERSHIP

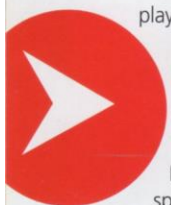
**TRY OF THE WEEK:**

**Rob Cook:**

Gloucester Rugby v Bath Rugby







players all the time definitely helps."

Cook isn't the only player at Kingsholm this season making the step up from the second tier of English club rugby.

Sione Kalamafoni joined from Nottingham and Shane Monahan spent time at Rotherham Titans last season - both of them have excelled in the Aviva Premiership so far this season.

"If you look at a lot of the boys from the Championship, like Matt Hopper from Pirates, who have made that step up from the Championship, it's a great testimony to the quality of rugby at that level.

"Even if you look at London Welsh, how well that they're doing, it shows those lads can step up and is a great advert for the league."

It didn't take Cook long to record his first Gloucester try, and there was no better way to introduce himself to the Kingsholm crowd than to score a try in the West Country derby against Bath

"It's always nice to score a try, especially in the first West Country derby. It was a really nice moment for me - made by Sinbad but it was good to get in for the try, especially in front of The Shed! It's probably the loudest anyone has celebrated one of my tries."

And, after attending school in Leicestershire, the game against Leicester Tigers was always going to be a special one for Cook.

"The game against Leicester was amazing; the atmosphere was like nothing I'd experienced before. The way the crowd got behind us was fantastic. I think that game



really set us up for the season.

"Growing up in Leicestershire, I have followed Tigers for a long time and to play against them and then beat them was amazing. Even getting carded, but we won't mention that! That was an awesome game!"

Most recently Cook got to show off his attacking skills with a try in the 47-3 win over London Irish with a super long range effort

"Getting on the score sheet is always nice, but it didn't really much when Shane scored four! It was really nice to bring more of my attacking game, as I felt I haven't really shown what I can do with ball in hand so it was nice to get a little run"

Looking ahead to 2013 Cook has high hopes for Gloucester and himself.

"For the team, we need to keep going well and really nail down a top four finish as that's our aim and, in the other competitions, just keep doing what we've been doing and qualify in both of those and hopefully we'll be flying.

"Personally I'm just happy to be here at the moment. I've been given my chance and I've taken it, and it's now just a case of going on consistently and keep doing what I've been doing.

"There's things I need to improve on which I'm addressing then we can just go from there."

It's not just rugby that Cook excels in; during his time at the Pirates he also played minor counties cricket for Lincolnshire as well as coaching youngsters.

But what does he think about England's latest series win in India?

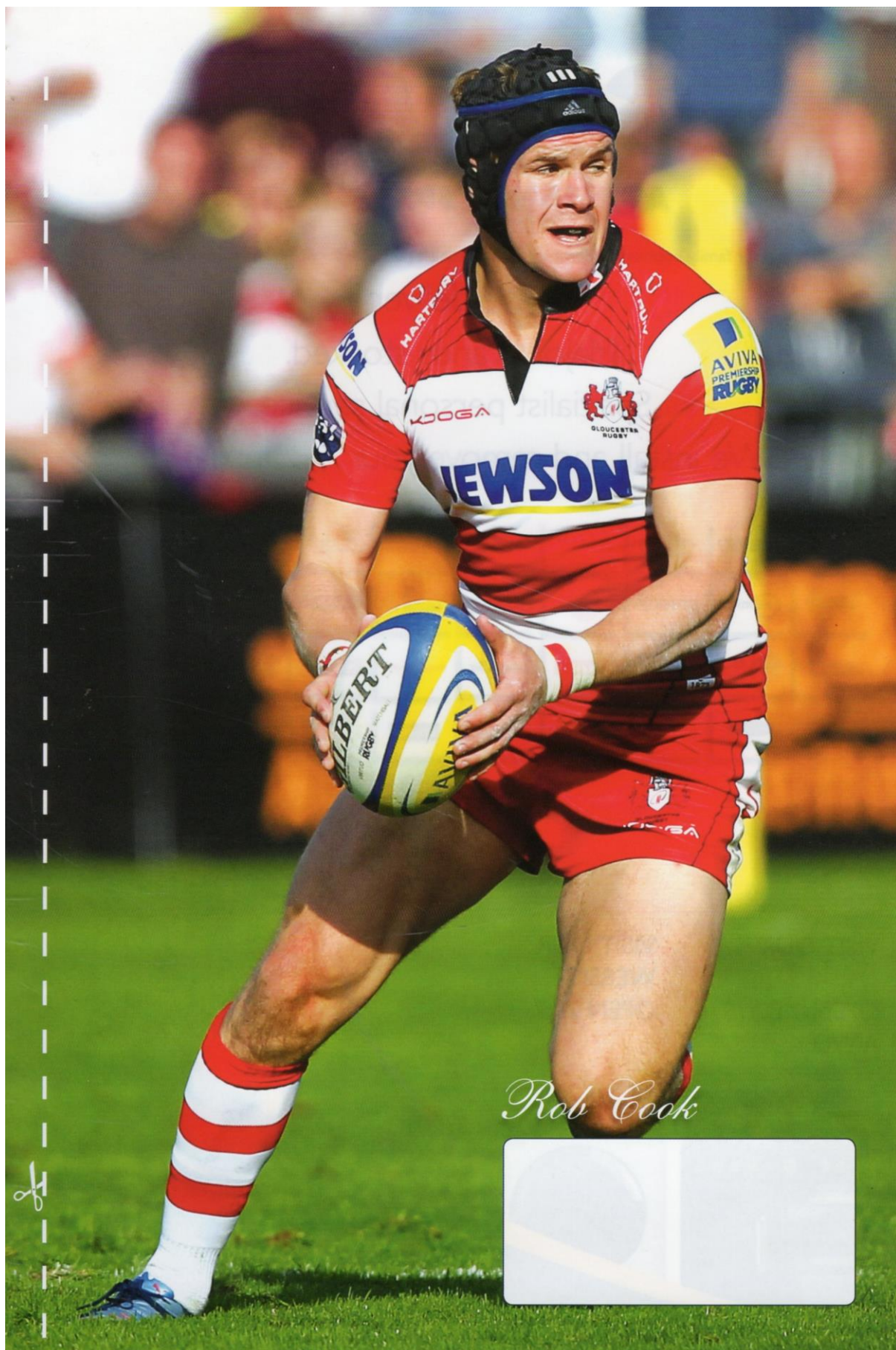
"I think Monty (Panesar) should've been picked in the first test but they did really well to win the series.

"I didn't get a chance to watch too much as it was a bit early in the morning. So, I caught the highlights, but I definitely would have picked Monty!"

▼ Rob has taken his chance in the first team and fitted into the backline perfectly.









# Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton

**" You can't help feeling that their position just above the dreaded 12th position in the table is a bit false, and that it's only a matter of time before they put things right. "**

**Let's start off the field. In the last programme I wrote about Jim Hamilton's decision to leave Kingsholm, a move he has himself said is down to the need to secure his future with a big pay day in France.**

The words I used were '... Sporting careers are short, so it's right that he does what he has to do to secure the future for his family ...'. The recent news of Alex Brown's enforced retirement brings that need for players to secure their futures sharply into focus.

Alex was a great player and was surely deserving of higher honours than he achieved. He was one of those guys who just went out and did what the instructions said on the inside of his jersey. He wasn't one for galloping around in the loose, he knew what his job was and did it to great effect.

But he was also a phenomenal tackler. More than once, one of his huge man and ball tackles would snuff out an opposition attack while, at the same time, raising the volume as the crowd rose to applaud his efforts.

While it's great to see him on the touchline and to hear that he is still going to be involved in coaching for a bit, I know I speak for all supporters when I say that we would rather he was out on the paddock, hurling himself skyward to take a ball at a restart or line out.

Whatever the future holds for Alex, if he goes at it with the same determination that he

showed on the pitch, then he will be successful.

Now back to matters on it... Those were a couple of tough games to get out of the way!

Exeter at home was always going to be an arm wrestle of a game and it didn't disappoint. When you saw the conditions on the day you knew it was a set up for the visitors who like nothing more than dogged forward battle.

Even though the Kingsholm turf was remarkably good (nice job, Mr Balmer!), the wind and rain always meant that our more expansive game would be difficult to execute.







Then, last week up at Leicester on that terrible pitch of theirs (more sand on that than you'll find on the average beach!), we faced another battle of the big men. On their tiny pitch there is no room for an expansive game at any time, but when faced with the conditions it was a case of sticking it up the jumper.

Using both eyes for once it was pretty obvious that we were second best for much of the game. Reg Windo will have some thinking to do after seeing the scrum get given such a working over for most of the game, but we came away with a point and almost nicked at least a draw at the end with some amazing last ditch attacking.

Both games showed the huge spirit that exists within the squad now. That new sense of self belief coupled with an absolute will to play for the shirt is powering us to results that last year would have been unthinkable.

More of the same throughout the second half of the season will see us in with a real shout

Monahan 'sticking it up the jumper' at Leicester last weekend.

of a top four finish, something that not many pundits – and probably supporters – would have thought possible last August.

But there's a job to do today first... For the fourth time this season we'll cross swords with the men in green from Reading, but surely this match is a foregone conclusion.

After all, the head-to-head record for the season so far reads played three, won three, tries for = 11, points for = 107 against = 50. Surely Irish might as well stay on the coach?

Except sport isn't like that and those stats don't tell the whole story... Apart from the one sided romp just before Christmas, the points difference has been a whole lot closer.

And last weekend Irish gave table topping Harlequins a close run for their money. You can't help feeling that their position just above the dreaded 12th position in the table is a bit false, and that it's only a matter of time before they put things right.

A look back over their fixtures through the first half of the season shows that an awful lot of their games – particularly at home – have been close run things. Away from the Mad Stad though, they have not fared so well.

I've always had a bit of a soft spot for London Irish, maybe because when I was exiled in London I lived very close to their spiritual home at Sunbury, and a good friend's son was on their books as a junior, so I spent quite a bit of time down there.

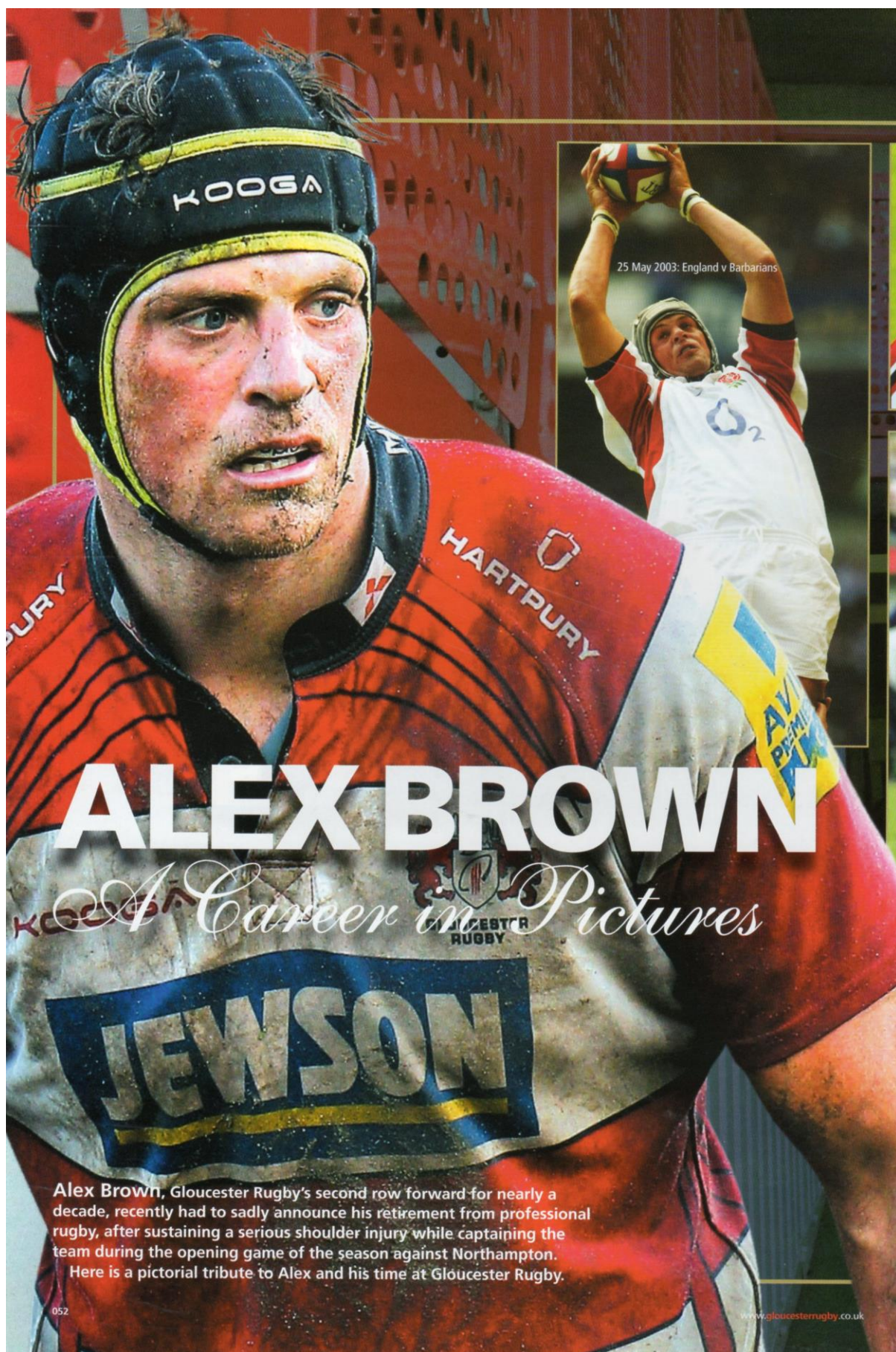
No place for sentimentality though, and I'm hoping that our own exiled Irishman – Shane Monahan – can repeat his four try heroics and become a one man bonus point again.

Finally, I'll take this chance to wish everyone here today a happy and prosperous New Year.

May 2013 bring you all you dream of – so that'll be a top four finish and a great win over Saracens at Twickenham in May then!







# ALEX BROWN

*A Career in Pictures*

Alex Brown, Gloucester Rugby's second row forward for nearly a decade, recently had to sadly announce his retirement from professional rugby, after sustaining a serious shoulder injury while captaining the team during the opening game of the season against Northampton.

Here is a pictorial tribute to Alex and his time at Gloucester Rugby.





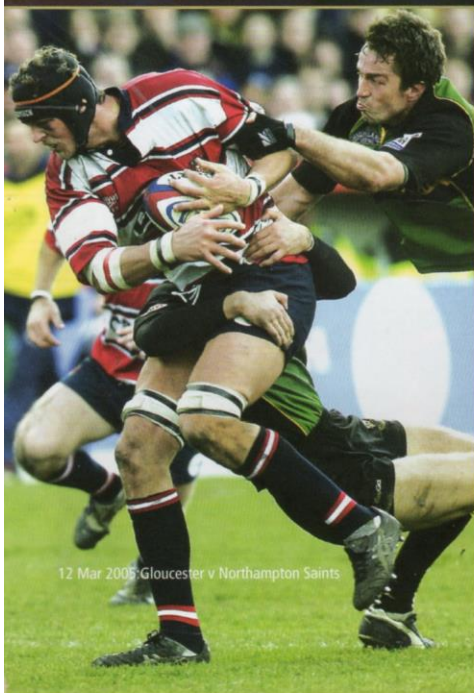
13 Aug 2003:  
A fresh-faced Brown  
arrives at Kingsholm



24 May 2004:  
Winning try of the Season Award  
at the Zurich Premiership Awards



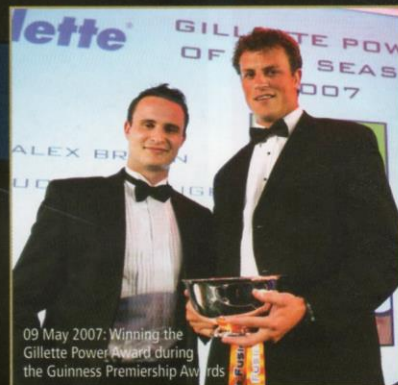
18 Feb 2007: Scoring against Saracens



12 Mar 2005: Gloucester v Northampton Saints



11 Oct 2005



09 May 2007: Winning the  
Gillette Power Award during  
the Guinness Premiership Awards



07 Mar 2010:  
London Wasps v Gloucester



18 Feb 2012: Bath v Gloucester



02 Jun 2007: South Africa v England

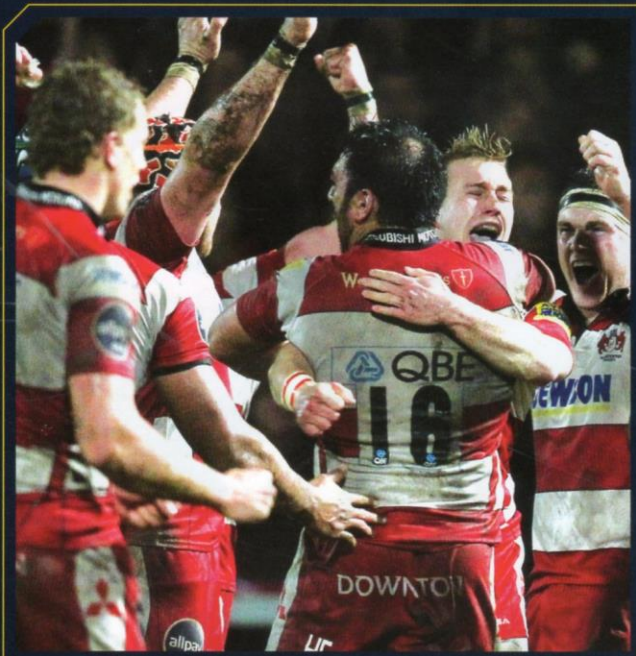




# ACTION Replay

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY EXETER CHIEFS

18  
16



### GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



PENS: Burns (9, 31, 41, 47, 64, 73)

### EXETER CHIEFS POINTS SCORERS



TRY: Alcott (57)

CON: Steenson (57)

PENS: Steenson (18, 26, 50)

Two of the Aviva Premiership's in form teams went head to head at Kingsholm three days before Christmas, both looking to secure a morale boosting win.

Gloucester were in fifth place in the table before the game, and Exeter sixth. Precious little separated the teams, and it remained that way at the final whistle with Gloucester clinching a narrow 18-16 victory.

Either team could have won on the day to be honest. There was very little in it. But Gloucester found themselves in the ascendant at the final whistle and, as a result, took the spoils.

Weather conditions played a huge part in the way proceedings unfolded. Heavy rain leading up to the game made the pitch heavy, and the rain continuing throughout the 80 minutes, rendered ambitious ball handling inappropriate.

A strong wind also blew towards the Lion's Den, and the Chiefs opted to play with this advantage at their backs in the first half.

They did so adroitly, not hesitating to pin Gloucester back whenever the Cherry and Whites coughed up possession.

For all that, it was all square at half time, two penalties from Freddie Burns cancelled out





22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2012, 15:00 KO  
KINGSHOLM  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP: ROUND 11



## Champagne Moment

The move ended with Jimmy Cowan being held up over the line. However, Rob Cook's contribution deserved a better outcome.

The full back produced a sublime chip and catch over the Chiefs defensive line, which set up the position from which Cowan so very nearly scored the first try for Gloucester.



by two from Gareth Steenson.

Gloucester had created the best try scoring opportunity when Jimmy Cowan was held up over the line, and could feel positive about their second half prospects.

They reckoned without a resilient second half performance from the visitors. They certainly wouldn't have underestimated Rob Baxter's side. However, they probably didn't expect the Chiefs to dominate possession quite so much.

Playing into the wind, the Chiefs kept it tight and kept the ball away from Nigel Davies' side. Trailing 12-6 as Burns added two more penalties, Exeter took control of their own destiny.

Steenson kicked his third penalty to narrow the gap to 12-9, before a patient build up, maintaining possession for nearly 30 phases, ended with hooker Simon Alcott scoring the game's only try.

The scene was now set for Exeter to squeeze the life out of the game. However, a dogged and resolute Gloucester weren't quite done yet.

They kept their heads and got their hands on just enough possession to manoeuvre themselves into position for Burns to keep his cool, kick two penalties and ease his team into a nervy 18-16 lead.

Cool heads were now called for, and Gloucester shoved the ball up their collective jumper to take time off the clock.

The Chiefs had one last scrap of possession, deep in their own 22, but a knock on killed their hopes and ensured a Merry Christmas for Gloucester.

## Carl Hogg

Forwards Coach

"I thought the resilience and spirit we showed throughout the 88 minutes, especially the last 20, was fantastic and that's been a characteristic of the team all season.

"With 20 minutes to go I thought the character of the side was outstanding, and, with the support of the Shed behind us, we showed huge endeavour to beat Exeter."

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Rob Cook
14	W	Charlie Sharples
13	C	Mike Tindall
12	C	Billy Twelvetrees
11	W	Shane Monahan
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Jimmy Cowan
1	P	Nick Wood
2	H	Darren Dawidiuk
3	P	Shaun Knight
4	L	Tom Savage
5	L	Jim Hamilton (c)
6	F	Sione Kalamafoni
7	F	Akapusi Qera
8	N8	Ben Morgan
16	H	Huia Edmonds
17	P	Dan Murphy
18		Dario Chistolini
19	L	Will James
20		Matt Cox
21	SH	Dan Robson
22		Tim Molenaar
23		Marty Thomas

## EXETER CHIEFS



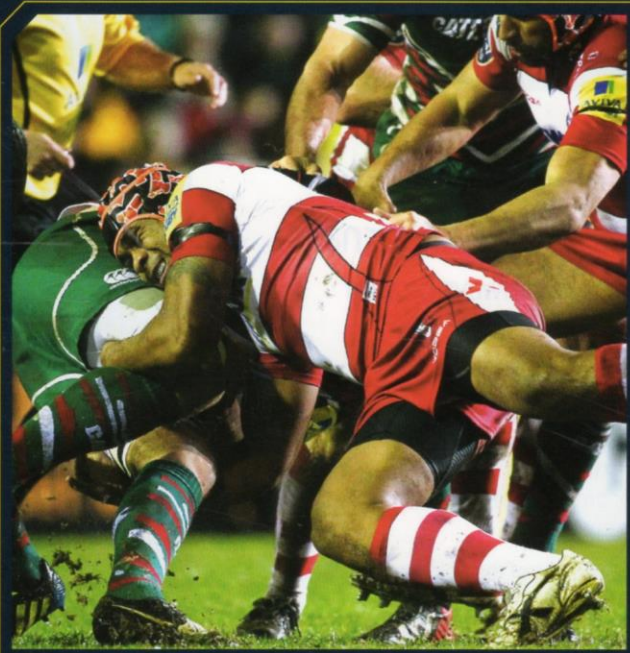
#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Luke Arcsott
14	W	Gonzalo Camacho
13	C	Ian Whitten
12	C	Jason Shoemark
11	W	Matt Jess
10	FH	Gareth Steenson
9	SH	Haydn Thomas
1	P	Brett Sturgess
2	H	Simon Alcott
3	P	Hoani Tui
4	L	Aly Muldowney
5	L	James Hanks
6	F	Dean Mumm
7	F	James Scaysbrook
8	N8	Richard Baxter (c)
16	H	Neil Clark
17		Ben Moon
18	P	Carl Rimmer
19	L	Tom Hayes
20	F	Ben White
21		Kevin Barrett
22	FB	Ignacio Mieres
23		Sireli Nagelevuki



# ACTION Replay

## LEICESTER TIGERS GLOUCESTER RUGBY

17  
12



### LEICESTER TIGERS POINTS SCORERS



TRY: Allen (46)  
PENS: Ford (4, 60, 70), Murphy (54)

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



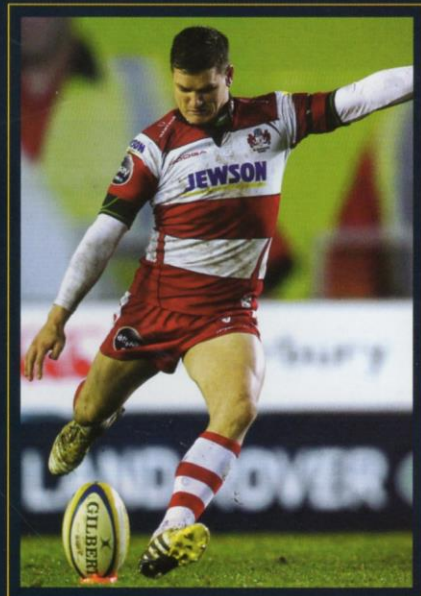
PENS: Burns (7, 26, 44, 68)

Several months ago, Gloucester Rugby travelled to Welford Road on the back of three very good victories, but slumped to a heavy 36-3 defeat.

The 2012-13 Gloucester team are a completely different outfit though, and came incredibly close to clinching a rare away victory at Leicester.

Backed by a sell out 24,000 crowd, the Tigers threw the kitchen sink at Gloucester, whose defence buckled at times but never broke.

Even when under the cosh at scrum time, and with prop Shaun Knight in the sin bin, Nigel Davies' side refused to capitulate and





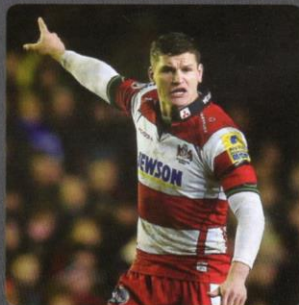
29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2012, 17:00 KO  
WELFORD ROAD  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP: ROUND 12



## Champagne Moment

In a match that was very much an arm wrestle in wet and muddy conditions, Freddie Burns opening kick off shone like a beacon.

The fly half spotted space over Ben Youngs' head and landed the ball on a sixpence, rolling it into touch a few metres from the Tigers line.



restricted the home team to a solitary penalty from fly half George Ford.

However, Gloucester made more of their rare forays into Leicester territory, with Freddie Burns landing two penalties to give his team a 6-3 half time lead.

The Welford Road crowd was getting restless, and the boos directed towards Gloucester hinted at a job being well done by the Cherry and Whites.

When Burns added a third penalty early in the second half, after another spell of pressure from the Tigers, the atmosphere was becoming distinctly hostile.

Gloucester needed a period of consolidation, a few minutes to keep Leicester at bay and increase the frustration in the home camp.

However, direct from the kick off, Gloucester failed to clear their lines and a try eventually resulted for former Kingsholm favourite Anthony Allen. Leicester were back in the game and so was the crowd.

Ford added two penalties, but Burns kept his side in the match with a well struck effort to set up a frantic final few minutes.

The Tigers tried to close out the game, as they have done so many times before, but Gloucester were in no mood to simply roll over.

The home side were forced to defend their line as if their lives depended on it, pressure that was built up even more when the Gloucester pack destroyed a Tigers scrum with no time left on the clock.

Again, the action was all on the Tigers line but a timely turnover saved the day and Gloucester were left to reflect on a case of so near and yet so far.

## Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

*"To be able to come here and not play particularly well but compete to the end is encouraging. We're a side in transition and a side with a lot of room for improvement but I think we're already seeing glimpses of how good this team can be."*

## LEICESTER TIGERS



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Geordan Murphy
14	W	Niall Morris
13	C	Manusamoa Tuilagi
12	C	Anthony Allen
11	W	Adam Thompstone
10	FH	George Ford ■
9	SH	Ben Youngs ■
1	P	Marcos Ayerza
2	H	Tom Youngs
3	P	Dan Cole
4	L	Louis Deacon (c)
5	L	Geoff Parling
6	F	Brett Deacon
7	F	Julian Salvi
8	N8	Jordan Crane
16	H	George Chuter
17	P	Logovi'i Mulipola
18	P	Martin Castrogiovanni
19		Ed Slater
20	F	Steve Mafi
21		Sam Harrison
22		Dan Bowden
23		Matt Smith

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Martyn Thomas
14	W	Charlie Sharples
13	C	Mike Tindall
12	C	Billy Twelvetrees
11	W	Shane Monahan
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Jimmy Cowan
1	P	Nick Wood
2	H	Huia Edmonds
3	P	Shaun Knight ■
4	L	Will James ■
5	L	Jim Hamilton (c)
6	F	Sione Kalamafoni
7	F	Akapusi Qera
8	N8	Ben Morgan
16	H	Darren Dawidiuk
17	P	Dan Murphy
18	F	Dario Chistolini
19	L	Tom Savage
20	F	Matt Cox
21		Dave Lewis
22	SH	Dan Robson
23	C	Tim Molenaar





Teams correct at time of print 03/01/13

# TODAY'S *Line-ups*



## GLoucester RUGBY

US

## LONDON IRISH



ROB COOK	15	TOM HOMER
CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	TOPSY OJO
MIKE TINDALL	13	JONATHAN JOSEPH
BILLY TWELVETREES	12	SAIOSI TAGICAKIBAU
SHANE MONAHAN	11	MARLAND YARDE
FREDDIE BURNS	10	IAN HUMPHREYS
JIMMY COWAN	09	DARREN ALLINSON
NICK WOOD	01	MAX LAHIFF
HUIA EDMONDS	02	DAVID PAICE
SHAUN KNIGHT	03	HALANI AULIKA
WILL JAMES	04	BRYN EVANS
JIM HAMILTON (C)	05	MATT GARVEY
SIONE KALAMAFONI	06	DECLAN DANAHER (C)
AKAPUSI QERA	07	JEBB SINCLAIR
BEN MORGAN	08	CHRIS HALA'UFIA
DARREN DAWIDIUK	16	SCOTT LAWSON
DAN MURPHY	17	JERRY YANUYANUTAWA
DARIO CHISTOLINI	18	LEO HALAVATAU
TOM SAVAGE	19	GEORGE SKIVINGTON
MATT COX	20	JAMIE GIBSON
DAN ROBSON	21	GUY ARMITAGE
TIM MOLENAAR	22	STEVEN SHINGLER
MARTYN THOMAS	23	PAT PHIBBS

## THE OFFICIALS

**REFEREE:** David Rose

**ASSISTANT REFEREES:** Gareth Copsey, Roy Maybank

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