

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

@ WWW.GLOUCESTERRUGBY.CO.UK

f WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GLOUCESTERRUGBY

tw @GLOUCESTERRUGBY

ONLY £3

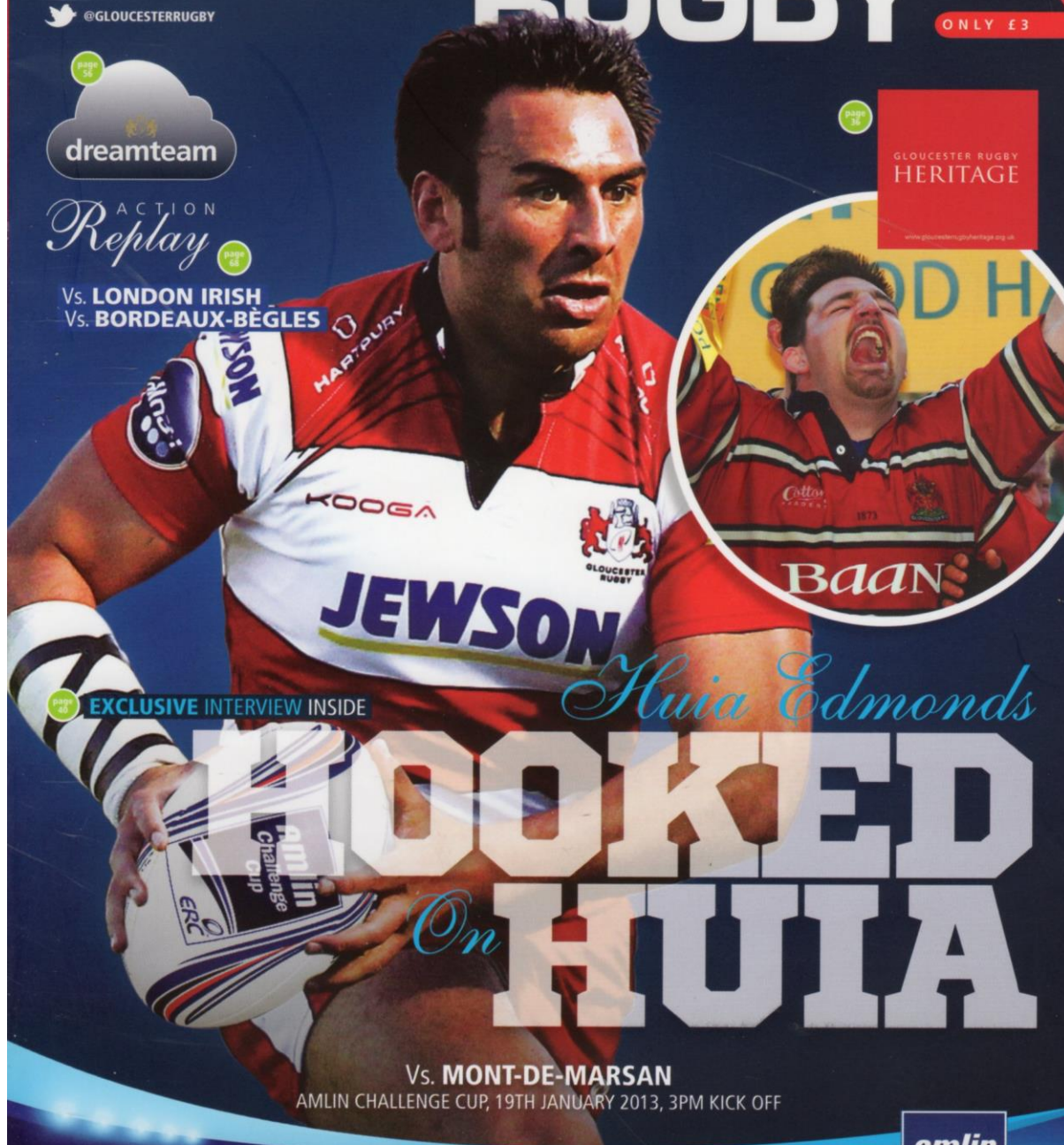


Replay

Vs. LONDON IRISH
Vs. BORDEAUX-BÈGLES

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucesterheritage.org.uk



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW INSIDE

Huia Edmonds

HOOKED On HUIA

Vs. MONT-DE-MARSAN

AMLIN CHALLENGE CUP, 19TH JANUARY 2013, 3PM KICK OFF

Amlin Challenge Cup ROUND 6

Amlin

FedEx



CAPTAIN'S *Corner*

Jim Hamilton



Welcome to Kingsholm this afternoon for our final group match in this afternoon's Amlin Challenge Cup.

It's good to be able to sit here, writing these notes, and reflect upon the fact that we've already clinched qualification for the quarter finals following last weekend's win in Bordeaux.

However, only half the job is done to be honest. We may have made the last eight, but the ultimate goal is to secure a home game in the quarter finals, and the only way to guarantee that is to win today.

If we slip up, then we could find ourselves falling down the list of seeds. It's very tight – the likes of Wasps, Stade Francais, Worcester and Perpignan are all breathing down our necks.

To be honest, I leave all the worrying about that to other people. You can tie

"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."

yourself up in knots, trying to work out which teams will qualify and which teams will drop down from the Heineken!

What we need to do is take care of business, and that means rounding off the pool stages with a win over today's visitors Mont-de-Marsan.

That in itself is going to be tough. We may have won all our games in the group so far, but we've had to earn every one of those victories, none of them have been easy.

People look at the Top 14 table and notice that Bordeaux-Begles and Mont-de-Marsan have not been having an easy time of it domestically.

But, Bordeaux gave us a really tough game down there last week and we had to work really hard for the whole 80 minutes to clinch the win.

Similarly, winning down in Mont-de-Marsan back in October was no simple feat. They've got nothing to lose coming here today. They won on the road in Bordeaux, so they're not to be underestimated.

We just have to put everything to one side and focus on an 80 minute performance. Nigel (Davies) said after the Bordeaux game, that dogging out these late wins is all well and good, but we have to start better and gain more control of games.

And he's absolutely right. On several occasions this season, we've left ourselves a lot to do in matches and just about shaded the result.

We need to cut down on the silly errors and deliver a more complete performance. Hopefully we can do that this afternoon.

It'd be good to do so, and help banish some of the memories of the Irish game here a couple of weeks ago, when we just didn't turn up. No excuses, it was a bad day at the office.

We know that and we'll be giving it everything this afternoon to reward the superb support you continue to give us.

Enjoy the game!



"I have asked the team to step up today in terms of intensity and performance and I am confident they will deliver!"

COACH'S *Notes*

Director of Rugby, Nigel Davies

An especially warm welcome to Kingsholm today from the playing squad and management for what we are anticipating will be a very cold and maybe snowy day!

The ground staff have worked tremendously hard all week to ensure that this fixture is played, and we must give

only narrowly to tough opponents in domestic competitions recently, and have shown they are no push overs particularly at home. So I must say that I have been pleased with how we have performed in this competition to date!

Today, however, is very important on two fronts. Firstly to not only qualify for the quarter finals, but also to ensure we get a home draw.

This will be vital for giving us the best chance of continued progression in the competition, and setting up what would be a big home fixture against one of the current top teams in Europe. This in itself will provide a valuable test and experience for our growing team!

It would be remiss of me not to comment in my notes today about our last home fixture against London Irish!

In general terms we have made good progress this season, but the Irish game was not representative of this, and I am bitterly disappointed about that as I'm sure you all are.

But this clearly, in my view, is a blip and we will look to start to redress that performance quickly.

I have asked the team to step up today in terms of intensity and performance and I am confident they will deliver!

Nigel



Returning players, like Jonny May, will make a big difference to the squad.

them great credit for that.

Today sees us play our last pool game in this year's European competition in a particularly tough Amlin Challenge Cup group which includes two Top 14 French teams and London Irish!

Both the French teams, although at the bottom of their League, have lost games



SETTING YOUR SIGHTS HIGH

Nick Purewal's

View from **The Citizen**

“In order to build a lengthy international career, you can't chase selection – you've got to try to become world-class.”

Freddie Burns and Billy Twelvetrees view their England Elite Player Squad selection as just the start – as much for Gloucester as Stuart Lancaster's national side.

The Cherry and Whites playmaking pair have brought out the best in each other this term, after Twelvetrees switched from

the men themselves are far from satisfied.

In fact both Kingsholm pivots expect to get better and better the more time they spend under the tutelage of Nigel Davies.

Livewire 22-year-old fly-half Burns explained: “I don't think we've even scratched the surface of what we can do at Gloucester, let alone with England, so far.

“I certainly hope so anyway. I know Billy feels the same way, that we can hopefully just keep getting better. And that's pretty exciting all-round.

“It's definitely helped us both, playing together, and it would be great if we can keep moving things forward at Gloucester to start with.

“Anything that happens after that is a bonus, and something you can only think about further down the line.

“For now we've just got to keep doing the things that have put us in this place so far, and trying to build on those and improve them.”

Chichester-born Twelvetrees swapped Leicester for Gloucester for the lure of regular Premiership rugby.

He did not expect such a swift England call – but outside observers have long tipped the man with the siege-gun boot and rapier running-pass for the highest honours.

But now he has his opportunity, he admits he must stick to what has served him so well so far.

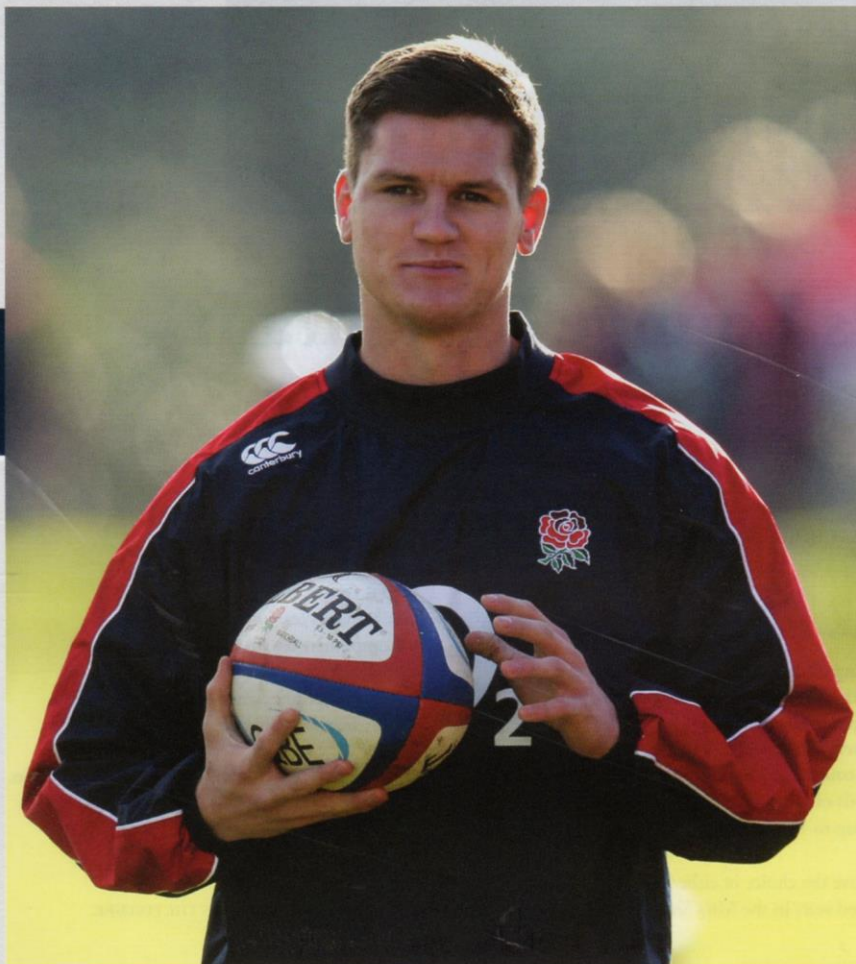


Leicester in the summer.

In a half-season flash the duo have won promotion to the full-time England squad, and the chance to impress during the upcoming Six Nations.

The rave reviews keep on coming – but

■ Strong performances in the Gloucester backline has led to Twelvetrees promotion to the EPS squad.



Burns is the in-form English fly-half and it is only a matter of time before he proves his skills on the international stage

The 24-year-old said: "To be honest we're just two young guys who want to play good rugby, we're both confident in our personalities and want to play the same brand of attacking rugby.

"So I think it's good that we both trust each other, both know each other's strengths and weaknesses and what each other want to do on the pitch.

"We've got that understanding now, I know what he's good at doing and when he wants to have a little chip and chase or cut inside, then I know to be there with him.

"And I think there's that trust there between us, so it's been good to play alongside him this year.

"The chief motivation for coming to Gloucester was to be able to play week-in, week-out in the Premiership, partly to showcase what you can do, but more so to build confidence to transfer what you do

this is

Gloucestershire

- Hooded raiders target Stroud filling station
- Dean Close School celebrate silver medal in national indoor hockey finals
- Stalker, 71, took photos of female GP in her Cheltenham home
- HMV to go into administration...



in training to the times in games when it matters most.

"The Premiership's a tough, tough league, and I think it's been good for me to have been playing in such a high-quality team against top opposition every week."

While Gloucester's representation in the full squad and second-string Saxons continues to grow, boss Davies has called on his players not to target international selection – but dominance.

The former Wales centre explained:

"The important thing is to remember that selection is just the start, not the overall goal.

"In order to build a lengthy international career, you can't chase selection – you've got to try to become world-class.

"You've got to set your sights as high as possible, and that's what I've been telling all the players at Gloucester."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugby heritage.org.uk

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

FRENCH CONNECTION II

As the match today is the first visit of Mont-de-Marsan to Kingsholm, the occasion provides the opportunity to look back at four more of the great French players who have played for Gloucester.

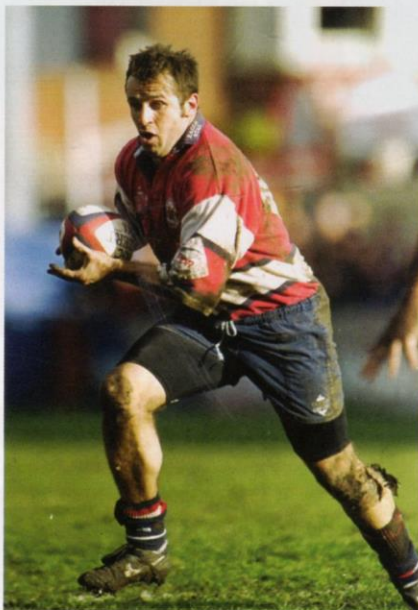
There is only one place to start of course and that is with the arrival at Kingsholm of the legendary wing Philippe Saint-André on 23 August 1997.

From that first match (a 35-13 demolition of Bristol in which Saint-André scored two tries), he became a hero in the Shed and the Marseillaise rang out on match days from the red-bereted fans.

Saint-André had been capped 64 times by France (29 as captain) when he made his debut for Gloucester; he gained 5 further caps as a Gloucester player. He played 41 games for Gloucester between 1997-99, scoring 21 tries, but his influence on both team and fans can't be measured in mere figures.

In February 1999 he took over as Head Coach from Richard Hill and retired from playing at the end of that season. Saint-André's three years

Philippe Saint-André



as coach had their fair share of controversy, but he took Gloucester to the semi-final of the Heineken Cup for the only time in their history in 2001 and at the time of his departure in February 2002 they were lying second in the Premiership.

Following his success in coaching Bourgois, Sale and Toulon, Saint-André is now the head coach of the French national team.

When Saint-André recruited hooker Olivier Azam from Montferrand for the 2000-2001 season it was the start of another Gloucester legend.

Capped 10 times by France, Azam



went on to make 240 appearances for Gloucester. He played in all eight games of the 2000-2001 Heineken Cup campaign, was an integral part of the 2002-2003 side which topped the Premiership and won the Powergen Cup, and played in both the 2006 European Challenge Cup and 2011 LV= Cup winning teams.

He was a huge favourite for his aggressive, hard-hitting mentality and was the ultimate impact player. Formidable in the loose,

he was capable of using his 115kg to turn matches, his characteristic charges accompanied by chants of "Ol-lie, Ol-lie" from the Kingsholm faithful. Azam is currently forwards coach with Toulon.

Another Saint-André recruit to make a lasting impact was Ludovic Mercier who joined Gloucester from Aurillac.

In his debut season, 2001-2002, he scored 508 points, including 17 dropped goals, and followed this with 394 points in the 2002-2003 season. In 105 games for Gloucester, he scored a total of 1325 points.

Another favourite with the Shed, Mercier's prodigious touch-finders and remarkable goal-kicking raised the chant of "Ludo-o-o" at every opportunity. When his place kicking was on song, he got so much elevation that the goalposts at Kingsholm had to be extended.

He might not have been the quickest or most creative of outside halves, but his kicking was remarkable.

In a career spanning the whole professional era (he made his debut for Angoulême at 16), he has played for no less than nine clubs in France, England and Italy. At 36, he currently plays for Saint Étienne in the third tier of French rugby.

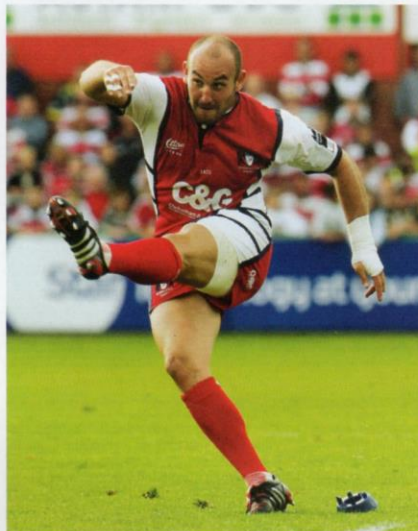
Like Saint-André, Christian Califano was



one of the great names of French rugby, when he joined Gloucester from Agen in September 2006.

The tight head prop had won 69 caps for

Ludovic Mercier



France and had a reputation as one of the most destructive scrummagers in the game, on either side of the scrum. He became the first Frenchman to play Super 12 rugby when he made his debut for Auckland Blues in 2002.

Winning five French Championships and a Heineken Cup while with Toulouse meant that his experience of European club rugby was almost unparalleled. Although in the twilight of his career, he made a major contribution in his first season when Gloucester topped the Premiership and reached the play-off final at Twickenham.

He was a formidable opponent from the start of a match, but even more so when coming off the bench against a tiring pack. His performances earned Califano one last recall for France and he played in the two autumn internationals against the All Blacks in 2007.

He played 36 games for Gloucester in his two seasons with the club, announcing his retirement in February 2008.

A motorcycling enthusiast, he competed for three successive years (2009-10-11) in the Dakar Rally.

FOUR OR MORE TRIES IN EUROPEAN COMPETITION

When you saw Shane Monahan running in those four glorious tries against London Irish recently, did you realise that he is the fourth Gloucester player to achieve this distinction in European competition? The others are:

Tom Beim



Tom Beim who scored 5 of the 6 tries in Gloucester's 52-12 victory over Roma in the Heineken Cup at Kingsholm on 15 October 2000.

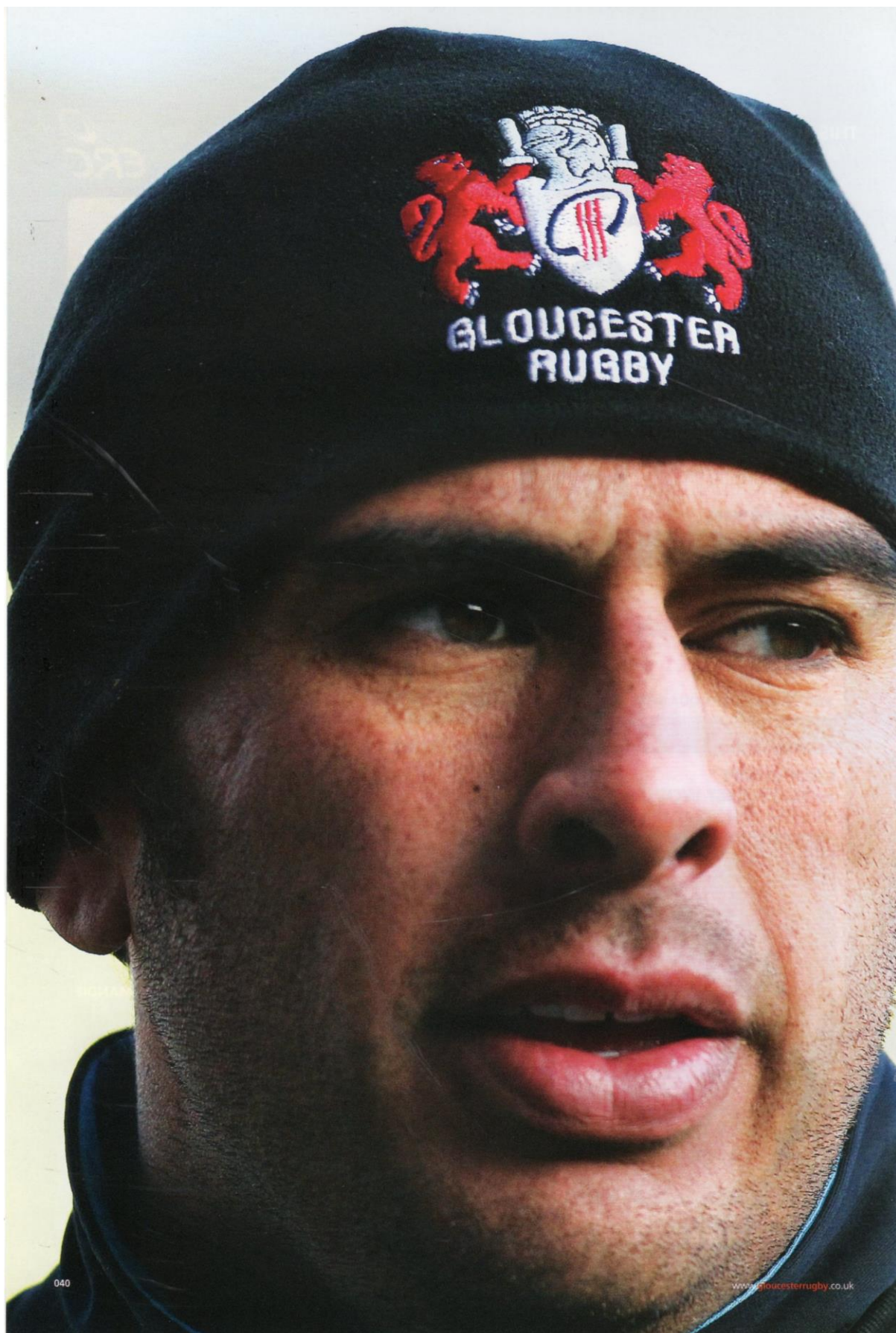
Darren O'Leary who scored 5 tries in Gloucester's 99-0 victory over Gran Parma in the Parker Pen European Shield at Kingsholm on 5 January 2002.

James Simpson-Daniel who scored 4 tries in Gloucester's 106-3 victory over Steaua Bucuresti in the European Challenge Cup at Kingsholm on 29 October 2005.

Bonus
CHERRIES

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE





Look HUIA'S Talking



In his first season at the club, Huia Edmonds, the man from the other side of the world, has settled in Gloucestershire and loves his life both on and off the pitch.

Signed from the ACT Brumbies, Edmonds, like his brother Manny, is a fully fledged Wallaby and developed his rugby talent through the Australian age-groups.

However, he was actually born in Ashburton, New Zealand, before the family relocated, as he explains to the matchday programme.

"I moved to Australia when I was about 6. My whole family came over, then my Mum moved across and joined the clan. I first lived on the Sunshine Coast and then moved to Canberra, and did all my schooling down there so it was a really good move for me"

He is, therefore, not the only Kiwi in the Gloucester squad, but does a certain World Cup winning scrum half give him any stick for being a Kiwi and playing as a Wallaby?

"He thinks I'm an Aussie! He doesn't really give me much stick to be honest. I was raised there but I'm actually a Kiwi. He's from Antarctica, wherever he comes from, Southland? And that's not even a part of New Zealand!"

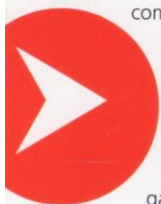
Huia's brother Manny was the first of the Edmonds' to pursue a career in rugby in Europe having played for Perpignan and Bayonne. But did Manny persuade Huia to come and join him in the Northern Hemisphere?

"He tried to get me over here when I was a little bit younger, around 21/23 but I didn't make the move as I wanted to play for my country. I decided I wanted to stay at the Brumbies and get my Wallaby jumper which I did"

That must've been a competitive household then?

"It was, it was quite competitive at a young age. We lived across the road from a football field and every day when we got in from school we'd be across at the Oval.

"Mum wouldn't see us until late at night. We did athletics, cricket, rugby league, rugby union – always doing something but always very



competitive"

On the pitch Edmonds has been really enjoying his time so far at Kingsholm, but insists a lot more is still to come.

"So far, so good. I spoke a few weeks ago before the Leicester game and things were going great, but since then we hit a little bit of a rusty patch.

"It's a long season, and we're gonna get losses throughout the season but hopefully we're gonna bounce back and be a bit stronger and get a lot of wins between now and the end of the year"

Prior to the Rugby World Cup 2011, Edmonds agreed a contract to sign for Saracens but, had it not been for an injury, he could have been plying his trade at Vicarage Road?

"I signed a contract with Saracens at the end of 2010 for the 2011/2012 season, but I came back from the Wallabies with a shoulder injury but I delayed until after the World Cup in 2011.

"Saracens said it's either get the op done now or get it done after the RWC. But we want you to come back and play in September. It was one or the other.

"Europe was always going to be there, but it could be my last chance to play in the World Cup and I chose my country."

With Gloucester now in a break from the Aviva Premiership and finishing off the Pool stages of the Amlin Challenge Cup, this offers an unusual structure for Edmonds.

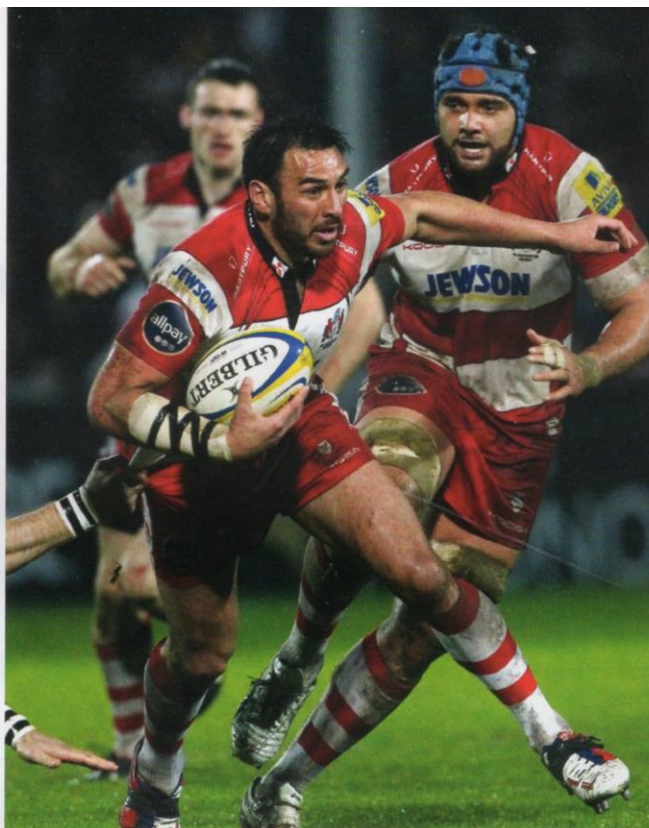
"I'm not used to this sort of format; you get into the Premiership mode and then have a four week break and get into European games.

"It's something I need to get used to – it's great to see all the squad get game time. We have a big squad here and I want to see everyone get a run. Not just the same team week in, week out."

As soon as he arrived in England, Edmonds was quick to get involved with his teammates and really indulge himself in both the Gloucestershire lifestyle and bonding with his new team mates.

"Really enjoying it, I've got to make the most of it whilst I'm here, who knows how long I'm going to be here for.

"I try to get out and about when I can, go and see different things within the country and get to know my team mates on a not so much professional basis outside of rugby. I think I've done that. My family are having a great time too.



▼ Huia's expansive running style has made him a firm favourite with the Gloucester faithful



"I wouldn't call myself a social butterfly, I'm not the sort of person who can sit and watch TV all day and I like to get out and do things."

Spending time within the Gloucester squad is always going to bring out the competitive edge in anyone, Huia's a keen card player and has been showing the rest of the squad a thing or two.

"We've played a few games of poker and I got myself a new jacket thanks to the boys. I've also taken in Cheltenham Races once or twice which is brilliant for the occasional flutter"

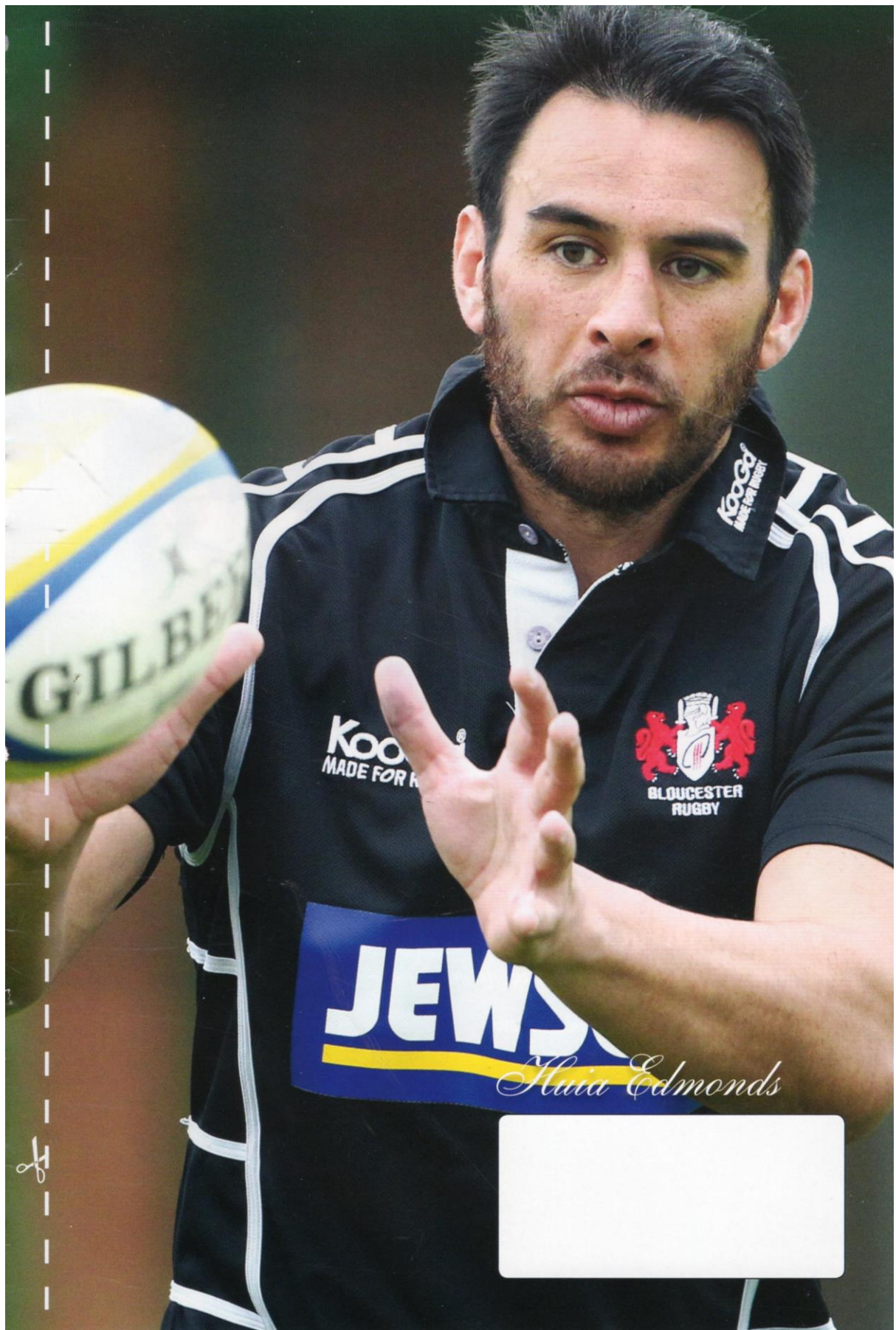
"There's a few boys within the team who enjoy doing that so it's good to have a bit of fun with them"

Surely it must help having some teammates that own a race horse and know what they're doing?

"I'm not sure they know what they're doing so much! But they do own a horse and it's had a few wins. I've put money on Monbeg Dude every time apart from the last race it won. So I missed out on a 40/1 win."

Coming from Down Under, the winter weather in Gloucestershire must take a bit of getting used to?

"It's starting to warm up a bit. I like the cold and I like the heat, the sun is a big part of me especially living back in a country where you see it a lot of the time and I knew what I was in for when I came over here.



Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton

"Strongest side possible I hope. We need to batter them and rediscover the joy of tries."

It's been a funny couple of weeks, the defeat against London Irish caused consternation and gnashing of teeth all over the county.

I think we had forgotten what it was like to lose a match at home and, after the three previous encounters between ourselves and the men in green, some people may have thought that it was a foregone conclusion.

I really hope that no-one on the playing side had that opinion, and I seriously doubt that they did. But, whatever the reason for it, we turned in a lacklustre performance of the kind we haven't seen since round one, when we also managed to lose at home.

It was uncomfortable viewing from the off, we just didn't hit our straps and that gave rise to real nervousness in the crowd. Well, it did for me, anyway.

I guess that kind of tension gets to everyone; we know the players feed off the energy of the crowd, so I guess it's fair to think that it works with other emotions too. It's not that easy to switch it off though, it's hard to cheer when there is not much to get excited about!

Then last week it was back to winning ugly at Bordeaux to set this one up tonight. Any win is a good win, especially when we came from behind to do it. Whoever it is at ERC that thinks Friday night games are a good idea, needs to have a long hard look at

himself though.

I would have loved to make that trip but, coming so soon after Christmas, the chances of getting off work to do so were less than zero. I hazard a guess that it was the same for an awful lot of others who would have made the trip had it been a Saturday or Sunday.

Sponsor money and TV calls the shots I guess, and perhaps I should be used to it by now. But, as ever, it is always pleasing to see / hear so many Gloucester fans trekking halfway across Europe to support the boys.





There can be no other club in Europe who have supporters who will back their team with money, time and energy like Gloucester. I salute you all!

But here we are then, the last of the pool games for the Amlin Challenge Cup and for once we are in a position where we have already qualified for the next round and look to have a pretty good chance of getting a home quarter final.

A defeat would put a very large cat among the pigeons but I can't see that happening today. In fact the question is, has our coaching in the run up to this game included a reminder of where the try line is and how to cross it? And whether we can do that at least four times to definitely secure a home tie in the next round.

Normally at this time of year we are reaching for slide rules (younger readers ask a grown up), an abacus (ditto), fingers and toes and anything else that can be used to work out the fiendish combinations, dreamt up by some mad bloke

The Gloucester faithful would of made a difference to the team last weekend in Bordeaux

locked in the basement of ERC Towers, that determine whether or not you progress and where you will play if you do.

But, as I said earlier, for us it's simple. Four tries equals 27 points, and that should get us through as the second highest qualifier from the Amlin pools, and that will mean we face one of the rejects from the Big Boys Cup. Don't ask me to speculate on who that might be - my brain hurts from working out where we are. Anything else I'll leave to the experts.

The lack of tries has been a source of some consternation of late, and we are somewhat fortunate that Freddie is in such fine form from the kicking tee. Without his boot we would have been in the mire for sure.

One bit of positive news on the fire-power front comes with the return from injury of Jonny May and Henry Trinder, both have a fair sprinkling of stardust so should help things along a bit. I'm sure that Mike Tindall - the grand old man of the back line - is pleased to see Henry back too, it means he can probably have a bit of a well-deserved rest!

I'm sure he didn't think he would have had so much game time as he has in the first half of the season and at his ripe old age deserves to put his feet up.

But, in my opinion (for whatever that's worth) I believe we miss him when he's not in the side. He's been there, seen it, done it and got the T shirt - not to mention a World Cup winner's medal - and the organisation and experience he gives to the young tyros around him is invaluable.

It'll be interesting to see who gets onto the pitch tonight - and I believe an A Hazell is back in contention after his enforced lay off following the fracas last time we met M d M.

Strongest side possible I hope. We need to batter them and rediscover the joy of tries.



COTSWOLD LIFE SPECIAL
FEATURE

The. winning habit

Words by: Steve Gibbs



PROFESSIONAL sport is all about taking your chances. Making the most of opportunities, on and off the field, when they come your way.

Appropriately, and with perfect timing, Gloucester winger Charlie Sharples last November took his place in the England team which started the first rugby international of the autumn, and twice danced and barrelled his way over the Fiji try line into the national spotlight. Suddenly, what fans at Kingsholm have known for several years, the rest of the country found out in thrilling fashion.

"It was a good couple of weeks," he states with classic understatement, before correcting himself. "It was a pretty mad couple of weeks, to be honest. The weekend was a bit of a whirlwind."

That other sporting cliché, of winning being a habit, has stood Sharples and the rest of this burgeoning, exciting cherry and whites squad in good stead this season. With new coach Nigel Davies honing what has been described as 'the most exiting backline in the Aviva Premiership' into a formidable attacking force, Sharples is thankful for the personal benefits that collective achievement has brought.

"The form of the team has been pretty good and that is probably what has led to the likes of myself, Freddie Burns, Billy Twelvetrees and Ben Morgan being called into the England set-up."

Of course, playing for Gloucester brings with it a level of expectation engendered by the past triumphs which continue to echo around the imposing Kingsholm terraces. Born in Hong Kong but educated at the city's



"I watched Gloucester when I was growing up, as a teenager watching from the Shed, and now being able to run out at Kingsholm, you appreciate how important it is."

St Peter's High School, the 23 year-old has an acute awareness of what a return to the top would mean to the team's supporters.

"Gloucester has been my only club. It very much feels like home to me. I watched Gloucester when I was growing up, as a teenager watching from the Shed, and now being able to run out at Kingsholm, you appreciate how important it is. It's a special place to play and the guys understand what it means to pull on that shirt. It's a privilege for us to be able to play in front of such a great atmosphere."

That 16th man has inspired many a

player to write himself into the club's rich history, and with an already intense schedule compounded by the demands of extra international call-ups, the depth of Davies' squad is starting to be revealed.

"Gloucester has been lucky enough to be graced with a number of good backs over the years," recognises Sharples, "and at the moment there's a group of us all coming through together. There's a conveyor belt of talent that's moving through and hopefully those guys will keep getting better, and the competition for places will grow.

"We've definitely got a good balance in our squad, with the experience of Mike Tindall and (World Cup-winning New Zealander) Jimmy Cowan alongside the younger guys. Hopefully we'll bring out the best in each other, but it's not something that will happen overnight. You've got to put all the building blocks in place if you want to create a team that wins trophies."

The spring of 2012 may just have been a crucial watershed for the club, and Sharples admits that Davies has already made his mark.

"Nigel has been able to put his own stamp on the team and create his own culture, and

"Nigel has been able to put his own stamp on the team and create his own culture, and if everyone buys into that, you'll get success."

if everyone buys into that, you'll get success. I had a great relationship with Brushy (former Head Coach Bryan Redpath), and I was upset when he left, but we fell into a negative spiral at the end of last season. It needed someone to come in and make significant changes to completely refresh everything and get us back on track."

Yet his parting shot could easily be a warning to both himself and his teammates, to remember that the hard work has actually only just begun.

"You can look at players and say they've got the potential, and the talent to go places, but then you've got to get there through your own hard work. You can have all the talent in the world but no-one is going to do it for you."

Fortunately, the future looks bright and, once again, it all comes down to timing. "You've just got to be ready so that when the opportunity comes you make the most of it. Hopefully I have thrown my hat into the ring. Now the ball is in my court – it's all very well getting there but you've got to play well to stay there."

www.cotswold.greatbritishlife.co.uk



The Best Places to Visit

Our Glorious Countryside

The Finest Property

Our Magnificent Heritage

12 ISSUES FOR JUST £12



Subscribe to *Cotswold Life* and **SAVE 71%** when you subscribe by Direct Debit

Alternatively, subscribe by credit or debit card for just £15 for 12 issues – **SAVING 65%**

* Where you live Discover the county's towns and villages * Top property All the best in the county * Part of the community Meet local people worth celebrating * Out & about Pictures from social events * Home style Gardening and interiors inspiration

GREAT REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE:

- Get the latest news, on the places you love
- **SAVE up to 72%** on the cover price
- **FREE UK delivery**
- Never miss an issue of the ultimate guide to enjoying life the Cotswolds
- **FREE** access to fully searchable digital archive of *Cotswold Life*

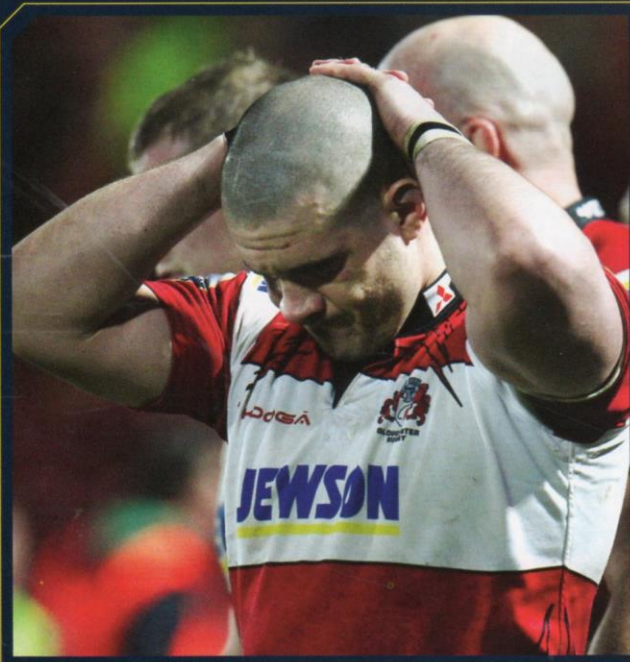
www.subscriptionsave.co.uk/cots/TP12 ☎ **0844 848 4215** quote TP12

Savings are based on cover price. UK offer only. Details of the Direct Debit Guarantee are available on request. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your first issue. BT landline calls to 0844 will cost no more than 5p per minute; calls made from mobiles usually cost more. For overseas orders please visit www.subscriptionsave.co.uk. Offer ends 31/12/12.

ACTION
Replay

GLOUCESTER RUGBY LONDON IRISH

12
18



GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



PENS: Burns (1, 34, 57, 61)

LONDON IRISH POINTS SCORERS



TRIES: Skivington (22, 37)

CON: Shingler (39)

PENS: Shingler (11), Homer (71)

On an emotional day at Kingsholm, Gloucester couldn't make it four wins from four against London Irish this season as the visitors battled their way to an 18-12 win.

A host of former Gloucester greats took to the field before the game to pay tribute to Mike Nicholls, who sadly passed away over the Christmas period.

The minute's silence was impeccably observed by the 13,000, a suitable tribute to one of the most influential figures in Gloucester's proud history.

Unfortunately, the round of applause that followed referee David Rose's whistle that signaled the end of the minute's silence, was one of the few occasions that the Kingsholm crowd were stirred into action.

What followed was a very listless display from the Cherry and Whites, who failed to reach the levels of performance which have been on display so frequently in recent months.

It certainly wasn't down to lack of effort. No Gloucester player could be accused of giving anything less than 100% on the day.

Unfortunately, however, the level of execution was way below where it should



5TH JANUARY 2013, 15:00 KO
KINGSHOLM
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP: ROUND 13



be and, as Nigel Davies said after the game, Gloucester aren't good enough yet to get away with that lack of precision.

Had it been one particular facet of the game that was below par, Gloucester may well have got away with it. However, there was simply too much that didn't click on the day.

Ironically, Gloucester started quite brightly, putting Irish under real pressure right from the kick off. The visitors were stretched and Freddie Burns kicked a second minute penalty.

However, Gloucester couldn't build on their early advantage and, as error followed error, London Irish's confidence grew visibly and they gradually took control.

Shingler levelled the scores with a penalty of his own, before George Skivington stretched over the line for the game's first try and an 8-3 lead.

Burns narrowed the gap with his second penalty, but the Exiles landed a killer blow on the stroke of half time. Shane Monahan couldn't deal with a chipped kick into the Gloucester 22 and Skivington pounced for his second try.

Turning around 15-6 in arrears, Gloucester had a mountain to climb but set about the task manfully. Sadly, though, the precision still wasn't quite there and time wasn't on Gloucester's side.

Burns did kick two more penalties to get Gloucester back to 15-12 with 19 minutes to go.

A memorable comeback looked on the cards, but Tom Homer landed a penalty of his own on 71 minutes to keep the Cherry and Whites at arm's length.

A late flurry gave the home crowd hope, but half chances were fumbled away and Irish held on for a vital win.

Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

"Emotionally we didn't turn up for this fixture and with such a fantastic crowd here today, there are no excuses. As a group we failed, we accept that and we're sorry."

"It's important we bounce back, it's the nature of the game and you're going to lose matches. It's certainly not where we want to be but we're working hard to get there."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



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

LONDON IRISH

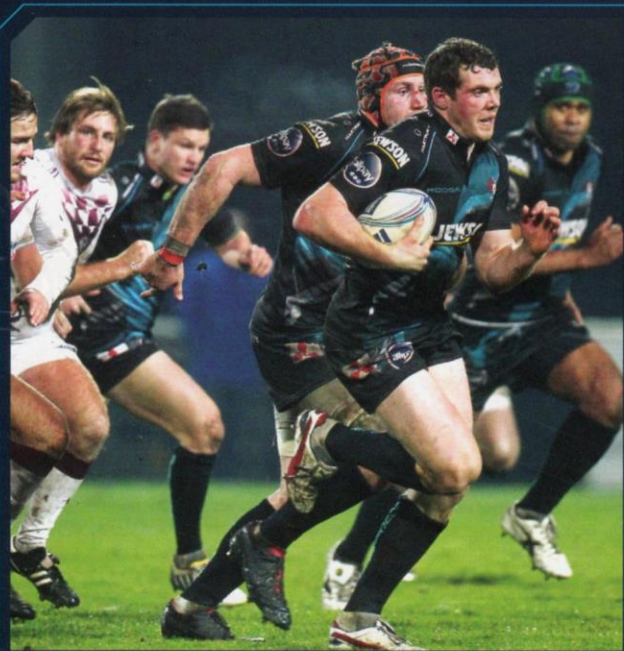


#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Tom Homer
14	W	Jonathan Joseph
13	C	Sailosi Tagicakibau
12	C	Steve Shingler
11	W	Marland Yarde
10	FH	Ian Humphreys
9	SH	Patrick Phibbs
1	P	Max Lahiff
2	H	David Paice
3	P	Halani Aulika
4	L	George Skivington
5	L	Bryn Evans (c)
6	F	Matt Garvey
7	F	Jebb Sinclair
8	N8	Chris Hala'ufia
16	H	Scott Lawson
17		Jerry Yanuyanutawa
18	P	Leo Halavatau
19		Kieran Low
20	F	Jamie Gibson
21		Guy Armitage
22	FH	Shane Geraghty
23	SH	Jack Moates

ACTION
Replay

BORDEAUX BEGLES GLOUCESTER RUGBY

26 31



BORDEAUX BEGLES POINTS SCORERS



TRIES: Carballo (17), Leupolu (39)

CONS: Munro (18, 40)

PENS: Munro (2, 13, 45, 57)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



TRY: Dawidiuk (30)

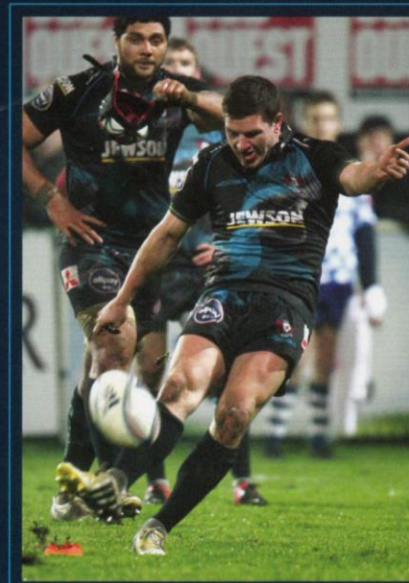
CON: Burns (31)

PENS: Burns (4, 20, 24, 36, 54, 62, 75, 80)*

Director of Rugby Nigel Davies admitted that his side had made things very difficult for themselves in the 31-26 Amlin Challenge Cup victory over Bordeaux-Begles which saw his side clinch a quarter final spot.

Gloucester trailed heading into the final five minutes, only for Freddie Burns, enjoying a memorable week after his call up to the senior England squad, to kick two penalties and secure the win.

Davies and his side had arrived late, caught



11TH JANUARY 2013, 20:00 KO
STADE ANDRÉ MOGA
AMLIN CHALLENGE CUP: ROUND 5



Champagne Moment

The majority of Gloucester's points on the evening came from the boot of Freddie Burns.

However, the superbly executed catch and drive that resulted in the try for Darren Dawidiuk, was a moment of strength and precision that Bordeaux had no answer to.



up in the Bordeaux rush hour. Despite a delayed kick off, it looked as though Gloucester were affected by their rushed build up as the home side built up a useful 13-3 lead.

It was an advantage, in truth, that the French side, led by the former Wasps duo of Ibanez and Worsley, didn't have to work that hard for.

Gloucester's first up tackling was below par, and they will think themselves lucky to only concede the one try in the opening exchanges.

However, Gloucester have earned a reputation for pulling irons out of the fire this season, and suddenly clicked into gear. The Cherry and Whites' pack got their rolling maul moving, and a try for Darren Dawidiuk was richly deserved.

Burns didn't look like missing off the tee, but the good work was undone as Bordeaux hit back with a close range score from prop Leupolu on the stroke of half time.

The second half was nip and tuck. The home side looked well set when they eked out a four point lead and Gloucester saw replacement hooker Huia Edmonds sent to the sin bin, but they couldn't shake off Davies' dogged troops.

The drama went right up to the last seconds. After Burns' dead eye goalkicking seemed to have killed off the French challenge, the French side created a drop goal chance for fly half Camille Lopez.

The hero of the hour for Gloucester was scrum half Dan Robson, who charged down the kick then chased downfield as the ball was hacked on and tackled a Bordeaux defender over his own line.

The demoralized French outfit, capitulated at the ensuing scrum and Burns slotted his eighth penalty to close out the win.

Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

"We made it hard - we let them have two soft tries in the first half just by falling off tackles and that really wasn't good enough. We were poor defensively in the first half. We had plenty of people to make tackles but we just didn't make them.

"We've won five games out of five in a group with two Top 14 teams and one Aviva team. That's not a bad record and hopefully we can finish the job next Saturday."

BORDEAUX BEGLES



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Lachie Munro
14	W	Rafael Carballo
13	C	Charles Brousse
12	C	Michel Denetre
11	W	Thierry Brana
10	FH	Camille Lopez
9	SH	Julien Seron
1	P	Jefferson Poirot
2	H	Hikairo Forbes
3	P	Tamato Leupolu
4	L	Andrew Chauveau
5	L	Francois Tisseau
6	F	Gautier Gibouin
7	F	Rohan Kitshoff
8	N8	Damien Larrieu
16	R	Fabien Rofes
17	R	Franck Labbe
18	R	Nicolas Decamps
19		Karolis Navickas
20	R	Hugh Chalmers
21	R	Baptiste Serin
22	R	Felix Le Bourhis
23	R	Louis-Benoit Madaule

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Rob Cook
14	W	Charlie Sharples
13	C	Henry Trinder
12	C	Tim Molenaar
11	W	Jonny May
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Dan Robson
1	P	Nick Wood
2	H	Darren Dawidiuk
3	P	Dario Chistolini
4	L	Jim Hamilton
5	L	Will James
6	F	Sione Kalamafoni
7	F	Akapusi Qera
8	N8	Ben Morgan
16	R	Huia Edmonds
17	R	Dan Murphy
18	R	Shaun Knight
19		Peter Buxton
20		Gareth Evans
21		Dave Lewis
22	R	Mike Tindall
23	R	Martyn Thomas

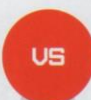


Teams correct at time of print 17/01/13

TODAY'S *Line-ups*



GLOUCESTER RUGBY



MONT- DE-MARSAN



MARTYN THOMAS	15	THIBAUT DUVALLET
CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	YOHANN DURQUET
HENRY TRINDER	13	SIMON LUCU
TIM MOLENAAR	12	TAMAZ MCHEDLIDZE
JONNY MAY	11	JORDAN BEAULAVON
FREDDIE BURNS	10	JEAN BAPTISTE CLAVERIE
DAN ROBSON	09	LAURENT MAGNAVAL
NICK WOOD	01	PIERRE CORREIA
KOREE BRITTON	02	THOMAS BORDES
SHAUN KNIGHT	03	MATHIEU GIUDICELLI
JIM HAMILTON (C)	04	SEBASTIAN DE CHAVES
WILL JAMES	05	SCOTT MURRAY (C)
TOM SAVAGE	06	YANN BRETHOUS
AKAPUSI QERA	07	VINCENT FARRE
SIONE KALAMAFONI	08	ALEXANDRE RICAUD
HUIA EDMONDS	16	VICTOR PAQUET
DAN MURPHY	17	MORGAN PHELIPPONNEAU
DARIO CHISTOLINI	18	VICKUS LIEBENBERG
PETER BUXTON	19	ALDRIC LESCURE
GARETH EVANS	20	ARNAUD PIC
DAVE LEWIS	21	ALEXANDRE DOUVESY
BILLY TWELVETREES	22	WILLIAM RYDER
SHANE MONAHAN	23	JULIAN FIORINI

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Dudley Phillips (IRFU)

ASSISTANT REFEREES: John Carvill and David Keane

Amlin Challenge Cup

Amlin

FedEx

