

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY



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Charlie Sharples ^{page 48} EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW INSIDE

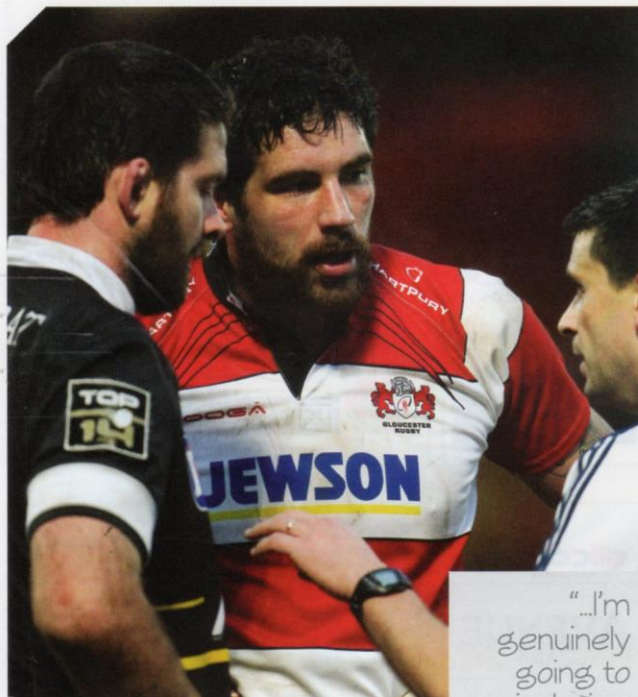
Vs. BATH RUGBY
LV= CUP: ROUND 4

2ND FEBRUARY 2013, 2PM KICK OFF



CAPTAIN'S *Corner*

Jim Hamilton



Welcome to Kingsholm for our final group match in this season's LV= Cup.

It's been all about the cup competitions for us in the past couple of weeks, as the Aviva Premiership takes a back seat temporarily.

A fortnight ago, we were delighted to make it six wins from six matches in our Amlin Challenge Cup pool campaign, and clinch a home quarter final.

That game against Mont-de-Marsan was a battle, as we knew it would be. Regardless of where they sit in the Top 14 table this season, they're capable of playing some decent rugby.

They kept the ball alive well in the first half, changed the point of attack and their fly half kicked his goals when we gave away penalties. While they were still in the game, they were a tricky opponent.

However, we got it together after half time and kept the ball away from them. Once we got more than a score ahead, their heads dropped and it was just a case of closing it out.

That meant we were all watching Sky Sports with huge interest as Sunday's Heineken Cup came to a close, to see who we'd be facing in the quarter finals. The situation seemed to change by the minute, but we're delighted to be taking on Biarritz at Kingsholm.

It's going to be a massive occasion under the Kingsholm floodlights, and I'm sure the stadium will be buzzing. Biarritz are defending the trophy, so it should be a cracker of a game.

That's all in the future though, and we can't afford to look too far ahead just yet. There are a number of important fixtures lying ahead of us, games that will very much determine our destiny this season.

Starting this afternoon against our old friends from Bath! I'm genuinely going to miss being involved in this one – I love the derby games against them, it's one of the highlights of the fixture calendar.

You might think that they've got more at stake this afternoon. They're hot on the heels of Northampton in their LV= Cup pool, just one point behind in fact, and would love to make it through to the semi finals.

We can't qualify, last weekend's defeat at Northampton ended our hopes. However, this year's LV= Cup competition has enabled us to take a good look at some of our up and coming players. They've done themselves proud and they'll be better players for the experience.

Those players acquitted themselves well up at Franklin's Gardens last weekend, and they'll do so again this afternoon if called upon.

Momentum is also important as we prepare to return to Premiership action and, if nothing else, there's nothing better than beating Bath!

Enjoy the game!

"...I'm genuinely going to miss being involved in this one – I love the derby games against them, it's one of the highlights of the fixture calendar."



"The level of support received by the team this season has been inspirational, and is much appreciated by all the squad so, hopefully, many of you will continue to support us in these vital fixtures!"

COACH'S *Notes*

Director of Rugby, Nigel Davies

Welcome to this early start of the concluding fixture of our LV= Cup campaign against our nearest and dearest!

When the times for today's kick off were being decided, it is obvious that there was no input from any Welsh voice! Which is probably just as well, because I've no doubt

to see the benefits of.

We are looking at this game as being important in terms of a performance in its own right, and also as a platform to refocus on our challenge in the Aviva Premiership.

After today's game we will be away from Kingsholm for what will prove to be two crucial fixtures against teams in a similar

position to ourselves.

Firstly Northampton and then London Wasps.

The level of support received by the team this season has been inspirational, and is much appreciated by all the squad so, hopefully, many of you will continue to support us in these vital fixtures!

A warm welcome to Gary Gold and his team here today, who themselves will be looking at this game similarly to ourselves. But, Bath will also view today as an opportunity to progress in this competition, which will only add to the contest and the intensity of today's encounter. If that was ever needed in



The LV= Cup has been beneficial to the development of many of our young players over the years

it's going to be a long enough day for some!

However, what is of more importance, is our own fixture here today. We can no longer qualify for the semi-finals of the LV= Cup competition, but we have used this competition this season to develop our squad and give opportunities within a structured team.

This will be essential in developing the level in strength in depth and competition that we need within our squad, which we are starting

such a game!

Just a quick comment on the Six Nations, I believe this weekend's results will be vital to the success and progress that both England and Wales will make in this year's tournament.

And, although it may be argued that many would expect home wins, I think both games will be very close and too tight for me to call!

Nigel



A HEALTHY SIBLING RIVALRY

Nick Purewal's

View from **The Citizen**

"We still argue over who would have to play 12 or full-back..."

Billy Burns still cannot believe he is trusted to drive a car – but he would love the licence to run the Gloucester backline.

The 18-year-old playmaker wants to dominate Kingsholm with older brother Freddie in the years to come, no matter who wins the fight to play fly half.



Academy playmaker Burns' big family dreams have a clear Cherry and White tint – but for now he will concentrate on the more immediate, but no less challenging aims.

The Bath-born England age-group cap cannot believe it is nearly a year since he

Billy has been a first choice fly-half for the England age groups for some time now

made his Gloucester debut at London Irish.

Burns Junior stepped off the bench to replace Mike Tindall at ten – and then produced a great impression of his older brother, although Gloucester slipped to a 23-15 LV=Cup defeat on February 4, 2012, despite two Ian Clark tries.

The confidence to stand flat and hit the line aged just 17... now where have we seen that before?

Billy admits that rugby assurance must be in the genes – but also concedes where the driving is concerned, there is no such luck.

He explained: "I was on the way to my driving test when I got the call from our Academy manager at the time, Billy Clark, to tell me I was on the bench for that match.

"I was so nervous about the game that the test went by in a bit of a blur – and that's the main reason I passed!

"I'm one of the worst drivers around, but somehow I managed to get through – I think because I wasn't panicking because I was thinking about the rugby.

"I can't believe it's a year since that game, it's come around so quickly."

The LV=Cup has saved itself through reinvention as a development competition, with fixtures aligned purposely with autumn internationals and the Six Nations.

It is the life blood of tomorrow's top talents, a godsend for the likes of Burns Junior.



With older brother, Freddie, involved in the six nations, Billy may get a chance to shine for Gloucester.

The England Under-18 cap will be keen to add to his one first-team appearance for the season in this fortnight – but not intent on repeating the broken collar bone that cut short an impressive outing in Gloucester's 33-27 Ospreys defeat in November.

Freddie Burns and Billy Twelvetrees' Six Nations calls, coupled with a knee injury to Tim Taylor, could open other avenues for Billy Burns in the next six weeks.

Older brother Freddie might be pushing Stuart Lancaster's full England starting line-up, but he also admits he is nervously looking over his shoulder at his fast-developing sibling.

Burns the younger does not believe that hype – but will still dream of one day conquering Kingsholm as a duo.

Billy continued: "I don't know whether Freddie's just saying that to psych me out or not.

"It's great having a bit of rivalry with Fred, but it's not as though I can lay too much claim right now.

"Trying to challenge for any time in the first team is tough, but it's also a great thing to work for. But I can't hide from the fact that he taught me everything I know.

this is

Gloucestershire

- Gloucestershire flood warnings remain
- New Arrivals for Robinswood Hill
- Anti-incinerator petition signs up 760 people
- Gloucester Quays fire



"We do relish that challenge though, it's pretty healthy and we enjoy it all.

"The dream would definitely be to play in the same Gloucester starting team. We still argue over who would have to play 12 or full-back, but that would be amazing.

"Growing up we've always been the two in our family who have tried to play together, and so doing that for Gloucester at Kingsholm would be incredible.

"My mum would be in a right state if it ever happened though!

"Our family have been brilliant pushing us in the right direction and at the right times, and it would be just as big a deal for them as it would be for us.

"Right now I just want to get hold of whatever chance possible, it's great to be fit after the injury.

"I've been called up into the England Under-20s training camp, and that's a big boost.

"So I've just got to keep plugging away with all of that, working hard to make an impression.

"Maybe if there's any chances with Freddie and Billy being involved with the Six Nations, that would be great too of course – but I'm not about to get ahead of myself."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugby heritage.org.uk

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

GLOUCESTER MAN IS UNLUCKY 13 FOR BATH

Clifford and Oscar Walwin were brothers born and bred in Gloucester.

Oscar played several games for Gloucester just before the First World War, during which he died for his country in the fighting on the Somme.

Clifford did not play for Gloucester, but he survived the war, and came back to play rugby for Bath. Tragically, he was injured, and subsequently died, whilst playing for Bath against Cross Keys on 28th December 1919.



As a mark of respect for Clifford,

the Bath Club withdrew the number 13 jersey which he had been wearing. Many will remember Bath playing without a 13 jersey, and their fullback wearing number 16.

This tradition lasted for some 80 years, but since 1998-99 Bath have been wearing No. 13 again.

TRACK RECORD AGAINST BATH RUGBY

Today is the 220th encounter between Gloucester and Bath. The clubs first met 131 years ago in 1882 and, so far, Gloucester have won 131 matches, lost

67 and drawn 21. The points difference favours Gloucester 2871-2176.

The clubs first met in a cup competition in 1971, and the boot is on the other foot with regards to the rivalry in cup matches, with Bath ahead by 7 wins to 5, and by 196 points to 174.

FIRST CUP ENCOUNTER

**30th September 1971
National Knock Out Competition
Bath 3 - Gloucester 12**

This was the first season in which the RFU sanctioned and organised a national cup competition, although there were some at

◀ Clifford Walwin, No. 13

The teams in the first cup match ▼

GLOUCESTER		BATH	
Colours: Red & White		Colours: Blue, White and Black	
Full Back		Full Back	
(15)	R. ETHERIDGE	(16)	B. THOMPSON
Threequarters		Threequarters	
Right Wing (11)	R. CLEWES	Right Wing (15)	R. S. ELLIOTT
Right Centre (12)	J. BAYLISS	Right Centre (14)	D. JENKINS
Left Centre (13)	R. JARDINE	Left Centre (12)	N. HUDSON
Left Wing (14)	E. STEPHENS	Left Wing (11)	R. ASCOTT
Half Backs		Half Backs	
Stand-off-Half (10)	T. PALMER	Stand-off-Half (10)	G. PHILLIPS
Scrum Half (9)	M. BOOTH	Scrum Half (9)	M. C. LLOYD
Forwards		Forwards	
(1)	R. COWLING	(1)	J. S. PARSONS
(2)	M. NICHOLLS (Capt.)	(2)	N. GOULD
(3)	M. BURTON	(3)	N. K. CARTER
(4)	A. BRINN	(4)	P. B. HEINDORFF
(5)	N. JACKSON	(5)	K. M. PLUMMER
(6)	J. WATKINS	(6)	R. J. WALKEY (Capt.)
(8)	J. HERNIMAN	(7)	P. R. HALL
(7)	R. SMITH	(8)	R. LYE
Referee: Mr. D. Foley, Devon Society (Exeter)		Kick-off: 5.30 p.m.	
		† International T Trialist	

Twickenham who still harboured reservations about such a competition.

There were no set dates for each round, so the clubs had to agree a date on which to play their tie.

Bath and Gloucester agreed to play on a Thursday evening at the Rec early in the season. So early in fact, that this was the first knock out game ever played in a national competition.

Unfortunately the game was a poor advertisement for cup rugby. Eric Stephens kicked four penalties to win an uninspiring game.

However, three more away wins against Bristol, star-studded London Welsh and Coventry, saw Gloucester at Twickenham, where the 17-6 win over Moseley allowed our late and much lamented captain Mike Nicholls to step up and collect the diminutive but hard-earned trophy.

SUBSEQUENT CUP TIES

Gloucester drew Bath at home in the following season's competition, and won 16-0, with tries from John Watkins, Alan Brinn and Eddie Pinkney, two of them converted by Peter Butler.

More than ten years passed before the Clubs faced one another again in a Cup match, and Bath then won their first tie.

They squeaked home 12-11 at Kingsholm in the 1984-85 John Player Cup, but went on to win the whole competition – in fact this was the second of three successive seasons in which they were Cup Winners.

The competition acquired a new sponsor, and became the Pilkington Cup, but under this name Gloucester lost all four encounters with Bath.

The most exciting of these was the semi-final in 1992. In a pulsating match, the lead kept changing hands, until Tim Smith kicked a penalty to take the game into extra time, during which Tim soon landed another penalty, and Gloucester held on until they were just three and a half minutes away from Twickenham.

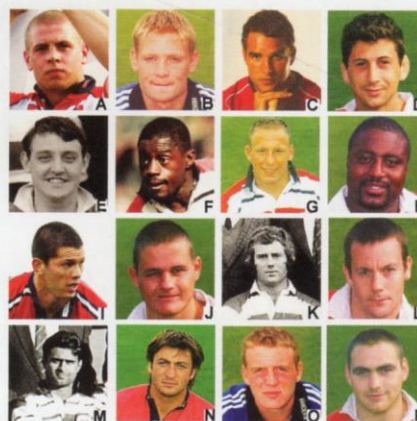
But, just when the match seemed to be won, Bath turned the game on its head. From a scrum deep in the Gloucester 22, Bath conjured a wonderful try for winger Tony Swift and, with Gloucester desperately throwing caution to the wind, scored a second on the other wing through Jim Fallon to take them into the final, 27-18.



▲ Willie Walker

Another change of sponsor reversed the clubs' fortunes, and Gloucester won both of the matches played in the Tetley's Bitter Cup. Along came another sponsor, and Bath won both matches played in the Powergen Cup.

The most recent cup clash was on 2nd December 2006 at Kingsholm in the EDF Cup. Gloucester prevailed 30-12, thanks to tries from James Merriman, Adam Balding and Willie Walker, plus a penalty try as well as 2 conversions and 2 penalties kicked by Willie.



FRIEND AND FOE

Despite the fierce rivalry between the Clubs, there have been numerous players who have performed on both sides in Gloucester v Bath clashes. This applies to all those pictured here – can you name them?

THEY PLAYED FOR GLOUCESTER AND FOUGHT FOR THEIR COUNTRY

Pete Wilson has interviewed Martin Davies about the Great War, 1914-1918, section of his forthcoming book on the wartime experiences of Gloucester players.

The interview can be heard on BBC Radio Gloucestershire between 1200-1300 tomorrow, Sunday 3rd February – it's worth a listen if you're interested in the history of the Club.

Answers:
FRIEND AND FOE
A. Dave Attwood
B. Iain Balshaw
C. Ollie Barkley
D. Rob Fidler
E. Terry Hopson
F. Audley Lumsden
G. Neil McCarthy
H. Steve Ojomoh
I. Henry Paul
J. Ed Pearce
K. Keith Richardson
L. Ian Sanders
M. Alastair Saverimuttu
N. Rob Thirby
O. Mike Tindall
P. Trevor Woodman

Bonus
CHERRIES

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE



AVIVA

TRY OF THE WEEK:

Charlie Sharples:

Gloucester Rugby v Northampton Saints



Good luck to all the @gloucester rugby boys today! Especially the young lads on debut and @Ryan_Milzy on his injury return!! @CharlieSharples

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

2

2012 was a defining year for Gloucester's young players, none more so than Charlie Sharples. A first Six Nations appearance, first tries for England and the ongoing improvement into one of England's very best wing three quarters.

Yet he'll be the first to admit that it hasn't all been plain sailing, and it's credit to the character of the Hong Kong born flyer that he's been able to doggedly overcome the odd setback.

His first Six Nations appearance, in the cauldron of the Stade de France, was an obvious high point. However, the season ended with a shoulder operation pending as the rigours of 18 months of non stop rugby took their toll.

He duly missed out on England's summer tour of South Africa, but was reinvigorated as part of Gloucester's new regime under new Director of Rugby Nigel Davies – until he injured his other shoulder...

"It was obviously a frustrating start to the season, as I'd worked really hard through pre-season to get fit, then managed to play a couple of pre-season games and then the first 2 games, so to then get another shoulder injury was obviously frustrating.

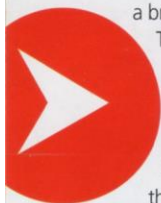
"But looking at it now, there has been a few of the guys in the squad that have been out for 3 or 4 months, yet I was only out for 4 weeks so I count myself as quite lucky as it wasn't that bad.

"Since I got back from that I've managed to string together quite a lot of games which has been good!"

In fact, after returning to first-team action in the Amlin Challenge Cup encounter at Mont-de-Marsan, Sharples has not looked back.

"I've played virtually every weekend since then, whether that was being away with England or back with Gloucester. So it's always good to play and you can never moan about playing too much, that's what you want to be doing and enjoying ultimately."

After returning to full fitness and getting a long run of games for the Cherry and Whites, Sharples was selected for England for the Autumn Internationals, and marked his return to the international stage with



a brace of tries in the win over Fiji at Twickenham.

"That was really pleasing, I'd only been fit for 3 or 4 weeks with my shoulder but getting the call up because of Chris Ashton getting a ban opened up the door for me for the Fiji game.

"It was great to get another game and a couple of tries and be part of a win like that at Twickenham was very enjoyable and a great experience.

"Obviously the following week against Australia, a different game and challenge, but that's all vital experience and you have to learn from it and improve. Unfortunately my involvement ended there but it's all good experience to be involved at that level"

The Fiji game brought Sharples up against his Gloucester team mate Akapusi Qera, but was he wary of being on the receiving end of one of those tackles?

"Yeah! I was always keeping an eye out for where he was, ensuring he wasn't lining me up. But it's always great to come up against a fellow teammate at the highest level!"

Back on the domestic front Sharples has been a key part of the Cherry and Whites back line, and Director of Rugby Nigel Davies has been quick to praise his winger despite Sharples sometimes not getting the scores that his efforts merit.

"That's what I want. I want Nigel to be happy with the way I'm playing and the way I've been developing. I'm glad that he's pleased with that.

"The week before the Mont-de-Marsan game we had a bit of a drought, not just in the backs but in the whole team, which was frustrating as a big part of my game is to score tries and be a finisher.

"But that allowed me to focus on other aspects of the game, and improve and work harder to develop into a better all-round player. I wasn't necessarily scoring the tries and making the headlines but I felt I was improving myself as a player, which I was pleased with.

Sharples scored his much-sought after try in the home win over Mont-de-Marsan thanks to a



strong break and offload from Billy Twelvetrees, and could be forgiven for letting out a big sigh of relief as he outpaced the covering defence in typical fashion.

"I think I ran across 4 people from about 40 metres to get on the end of that one, so it was great to dot down and end the drought, which was a big sigh of relief and hopefully that will be the first of many from now on.

"That's the way it is on the wing, you take your opportunities when you can, and the chances have been few and far between in recent weeks, so it's good to take one!"

Ahead of the Bath fixture this afternoon, Sharples is quick to recognise the importance of the LV= Cup regardless of results

"It's a good competition. Over the years Gloucester have had good success within the competition, I've been involved in three finals and been on the winning side in one of them. We have a focus to win and keep the momentum going that we build up.

"It's a good chance to rotate the team and give some of the guys a rest and get game time. You need to keep guys fresh and give others a go that are playing well elsewhere"

With the next generation of Gloucester's youngsters getting their chances in this year's campaign, Sharples recognises the quality and opportunities for the likes of Billy Burns, Steph Reynolds, Ross Moriarty and Elliott Stooke in the competition.

"I remember making my first step up against Bath and it's vital experience. It's daunting but it's good that they are ready to step up for first team games and I hope they go well and enjoy it!"

This afternoon with Bath the visitors to Kingsholm, Sharples says there is no shortage of motivation to play their West Country neighbours regardless of the competition or what is at stake.

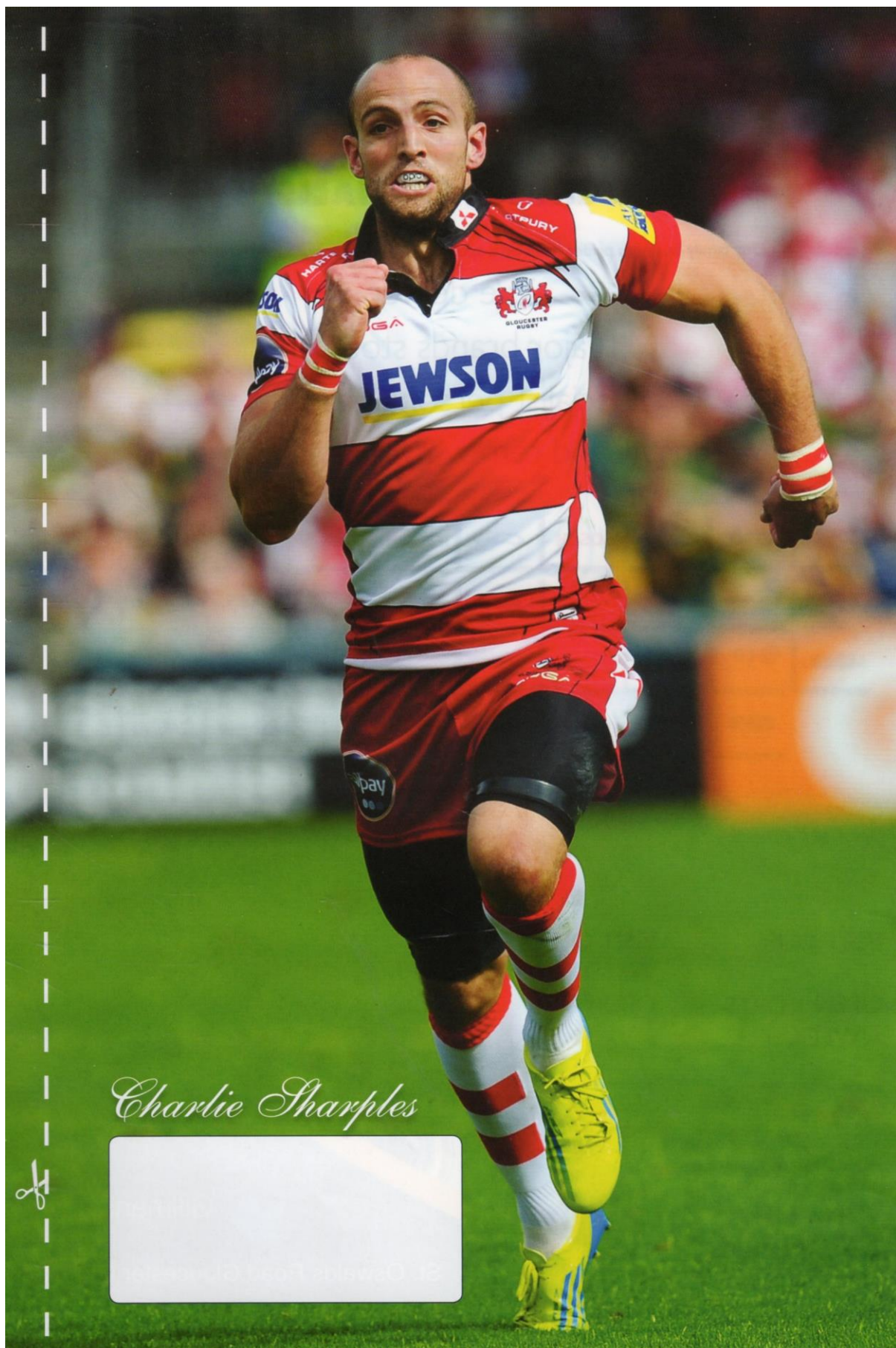
"There's no bigger game for Gloucester. It doesn't matter what competition we play them in, it is always going to be a big game and definitely one we want to win.

"We don't want to be losing at home to Bath and letting them get one over on us and it will be no different in this game."

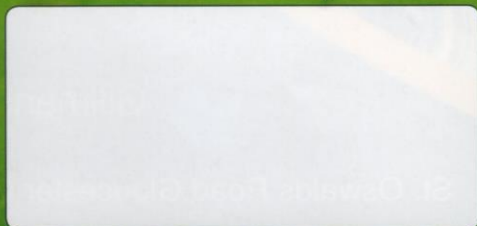


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We don't want to be losing at home to Bath and letting them get one over on us and it will be no different in this game."



Charlie Sharples



Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton

"...it seems that January is rapidly becoming the rugby equivalent of Blind Date – everyone is busy matchmaking with everyone else's players giving rise to all sorts of wild speculation."

So now we know then. Having dispatched Mont-de-Marsan to top our group, we get one of the clubs to drop out of the big boys cup, and yes - Biarritz are coming to town in April.

A great chance to cross swords with one of the great clubs of European Rugby and to welcome back a couple of our old boys: Iain Balshaw and Dimtri Yachvili.

We know all about those two guys from their time at Kingsholm. But, in all honesty if you don't know anything about the rest of the Biarritz squad you must have been living on another planet for the last few years.

Just look at their team sheet – like a who's who of great French internationals, but with Magnus Lund and Ben Broster thrown in. They also have the USA international Taku Ngwenya to add a bit of pace – am I looking forward to watching him and Jonny May going head to head.

But that's a good six weeks away, lots of rugby to be played between now and then – starting with today...

A conundrum... What to do, what to do... We're all but out of the LV= Cup (I think, it's pretty hard to know what's going on in this competition) having lost two games, so the sensible thing to do would be to take a look at the up and coming Premiership fixtures, and think it's probably best to rest the key first team

players and let this one go.

But the opponents today are Bath and the ancient laws of rivalry means that you have to do everything in your power to beat them.

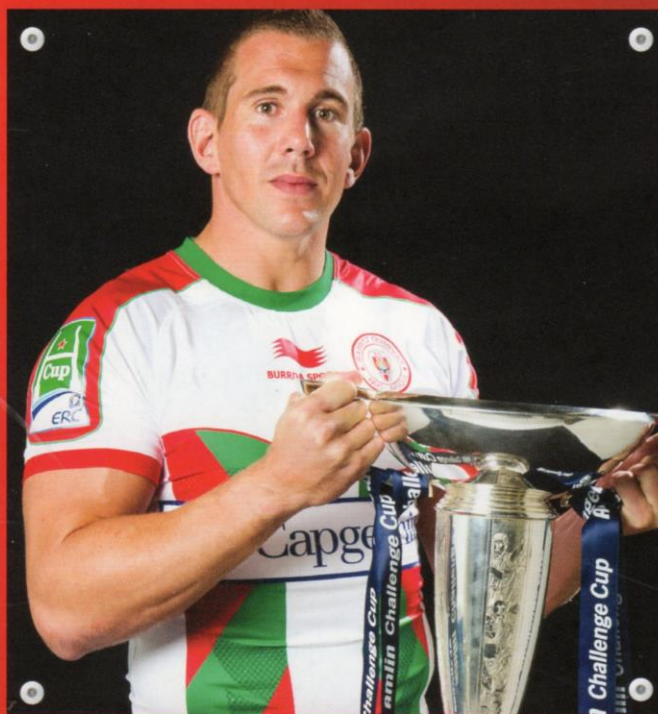
So, while the head says it's common sense to take it easy and concentrate on the big prize of the Premiership, the heart says common sense has no place in the discussion!

On balance I think the best option is to give some of our up and coming players a taste of the big game atmosphere.

Under normal circumstances the attendance at Kingsholm for this kind of fixture may have been on the low side. But, hopefully as Bath are the visitors, it'll bring a few more folks to the party and add a bit of spice to the occasion. For the likes of Ryan Mills, Elliott Stooke and Ross Moriarty et al, getting this kind of experience can only be good for their development.

I'm just glad I am not responsible for deciding! I'd be pretty rubbish at it – my one and only time at playing that Championship Manager footie computer game thing saw me relegated with only one win, immediately sacked, and left out of work for so long I lost interest in it. Stupid game.

Mind you I fare no better on predictions, fantasy leagues and anything else that requires a modicum of skill so I avoid them – there is, after all, only so much humiliation you can



take.

Fortunately for everyone, Nigel Davies will be making the hard decisions and I for one will be happy to go along with whatever he decides.

Looking ahead a bit, we have two away games in the Premiership that will give us a very real test of our abilities – Northampton and Wasps away will be far from simple.

We owe Saints one for the first game of the season when they turned us over on our own patch, and wins for us at Wycombe have been harder to find than droppings from a rocking horse.

The outcome of these games is going to

Kingsholm is already excited about the return of Biarritz for the Amlin quarter-final

give us a really good indication of where we are this season. This time last year I would have probably already filed them under the 'no chance' category, but this year we have shown how close we can push the top teams – remember, we were just a whisker away from away wins at both Welford Road and Watford.

So this time the matches are filed under the 'good chance of a win' category. They could have been in the 'really good chance' category, had it not been for the lottery caused by the crazy decision to play league matches on international days when teams are stripped of their top players.

I've probably said it before, but it is ludicrous to play important club fixtures when key players are away on international duty. We could easily be stripped of half a dozen players at a key time of the season.

With so much riding on league positions, it's unfair to tilt the table so firmly against clubs who want to promote the growth of young home nations qualified players. It would never happen in another sport, so why does it happen in Rugby Union? Answers on a postcard to the gin palace in TW2, please.

And, being January, we come back to the fantasy stuff I mentioned earlier, as it is at this time of year that clubs can approach other players about possible moves.

Now it seems that January is rapidly becoming the rugby equivalent of Blind Date – everyone is busy matchmaking with everyone else's players giving rise to all sorts of wild speculation.

The number of people who 'know someone who said something that someone said to someone' rumours makes my head spin. I can't keep up with it, Maybe it's an age thing...

Mind you, if you ask me nicely, I'll tell you one that is nailed on for sure.



THE WEST COUNTRY DERBY

WORDS: Tom Burrows

REVERED BY MANY THROUGHOUT RUGBY AS THE FIERCEST DERBY IN THE CLUB GAME, GLOUCESTER VERSUS BATH IS STEEPED IN HISTORY, DRAMA AND PASSION.

DESPITE both Worcester and Bristol being considered local rivals, the Cherry and Whites taking on the Blue, Black and Whites has always caught the eye and been the one game in which bragging rights are vital!

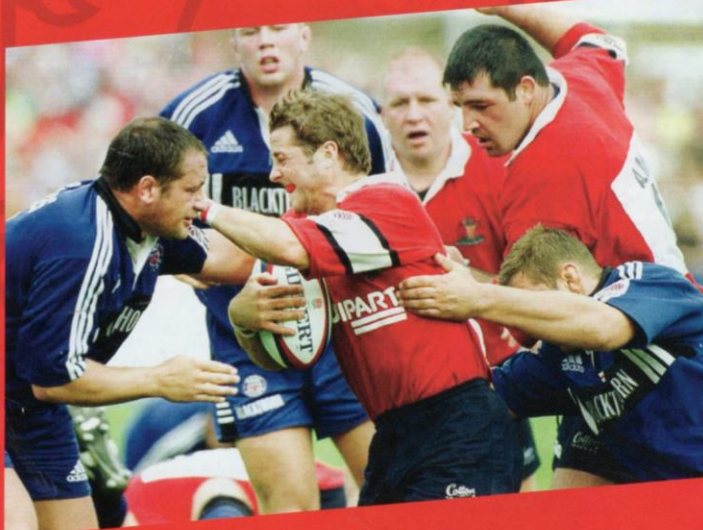
Several players have worn the colours of both clubs in this derby fixture – the likes of Olly Barkley, Iain Balshaw, Gareth Delve and Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu spring to mind.

Freddie Burns is a product of the Bath Academy, and current Gloucester Rugby Performance Analyst Rob Thirlby has also represented both sides.

And clashes between the two teams have often lived up to expectation.

Consider the 1995/1996 season where, in one of Richard Hill's first games of the season, the Cherry and Whites scrapped for survival against top of the league Bath on a Wednesday evening at Kingsholm.

With Gloucester needing to win their remaining 3 games to stay up, and Kingsholm Stadium packed to the rafters, Paul Halford's early try led to a 12-0 lead. Gloucester held on for a 15-12 win against the Champions elect,



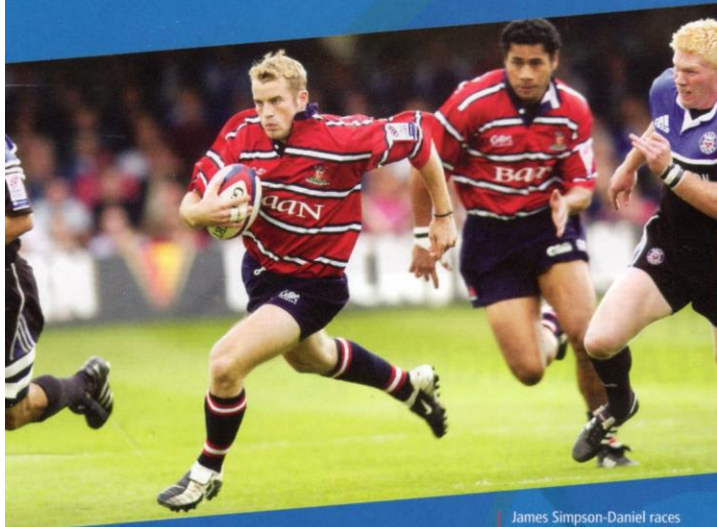
Andy Gomersall, the Gloucester scrum half, powers through the Bath defence in 2000

and eventually stayed up in the top flight after a home win against Saracens on the final day of the season.

It was tries from both Balshaw and (whisper it quietly!) Thirlby in 2000 that saw Bath come away from Kingsholm with a 22-21 victory despite 13 points from Andy Gomersall and a Byron Hayward score.

Gloucester did however win 24-18 in the

Tetley's Bitter Cup at the Rec, but, later on that season, the men from the Spa town recorded a 50-16 win at the Rec as Bath eventually



James Simpson-Daniel races away to score one of his 3 tries against Bath in 2002

finished runners-up to the Leicester Tigers in the Zurich Premiership in the 2000/2001 season.

The following 2001/2002 season belonged to the Cherry and Whites despite a narrow 12-9 loss at the Rec. Gloucester famously ended the season in incredible form; a 68-12 victory at Kingsholm and 9 tries including a James Simpson-Daniel hat trick, was the cherry on top of a superb season, culminating in the 28-23 win over Bristol Shoguns at Twickenham in the Zurich Championship Final.

Gloucester topped the table by 18 points in 2002/2003 but lost the final to London Wasps. A 21-21 draw at the Rec and then a 29-16 win kept the bragging rights in Gloucestershire.

2003/2004 saw Wasps crowned as Champions, however it was Bath that topped the table, with Gloucester down in fourth position. The men from the Rec had regained some measure of superiority. Coming away from Kingsholm with a 14-20 win and then a 41-7 thumping on the final day of the season capped a good season for the Somerset club.

In recent seasons results between the 2 clubs have not only seen tight encounters, but dramatic ones!

In 2005, a last-gasp try from Andy Williams secured a Powergen Cup Final place for Bath after an extra time 24-19 win broke Gloucester hearts in a dramatic finale. With the scores tied at 19-19 after 80 minutes of play, it took until the final play of extra time for Williams to collect his own kick and touch down in the corner. Bath however lost the final against

Leeds Tykes.

Gloucester fans have always targeted a victory at the Rec, something that the Cherry and Whites had failed to do for nearly 17 years leading up to the 13th September 2008. Despite being outscored three tries to one, 16 points from the boot of Willie Walker and a vital Luke Narraway try set up a 21-5 lead, before 2 late tries from the home side threatened to extend the unwanted record further. But the scenes of delight that greeted the final whistle at the Rec that day will live long in the memory of Gloucester supporters.

The 36-27 win for the Cherry and Whites that same season has been consigned to memory as yet another incredible encounter. A double from James Simpson-Daniel and tries from Rory Lawson and a young Charlie Sharples, secured a bonus point alongside 11 points from the boot of Olly Barkley – this time in Gloucester colours – won the game in front of a packed Kingsholm. The lead kept changing, and both sides fought tooth-and-nail to get the victory in a game that saw 3 yellow cards, 1 red and 7 tries.

2011 saw one of the games of the season. Having already won at the Rec; Bryan Redpath's Gloucester were again triumphant over Steve

Luke Narraway scored the vital try in the famous victory for Gloucester at The Rec in 2008



Tom Voece scored twice in the 2011 derby game at Kingsholm



Meehan's Bath 34-22 in a pulsating encounter at Kingsholm in front of the ESPN cameras.

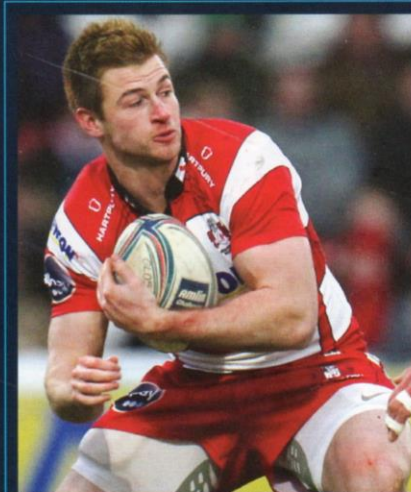
An early score from Henry Trinder after a clever box kick from Rory Lawson was cancelled out by a powerful run from Matt Banahan. The 2 teams matched one another score for score. Paul Doran-Jones touched down for the home side before Tom Biggs responded. But former Bath winger Tom Voece's second half brace secured the win and the bonus point. Bath's Olly Barkley's return to Kingsholm was an unhappy one as he left with a broken ankle.

Gloucester recorded another win at the Rec last season. In a fiery, muddy encounter it was a late Ryan Mills penalty that secured the win. A 14-11 victory owed much to a Nick Wood try and a momentous effort from the Cherry and Whites pack in the quagmire.

ACTION Replay

GLOUCESTER RUGBY MONT-DE-MARSAN

36
16



GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



TRIES: May (9, 78), Sharples (22),
Trinder (59, 63)
CON: Twelvetrees (78)
PENS: Burns (2), Twelvetrees (21, 50)



MONT-DE-MARSAN POINTS SCORERS



TRY: Brethous (27)
CON: Claverie (28)
PENS: Claverie (4, 13, 18)

It was distinctly hard work for Gloucester Rugby against Mont-de-Marsan as they sought to close out Pool one of the Amlin Challenge Cup, but Nigel Davies' side eased clear in the second half to clinch a home quarter final.

At half time though, there was a hint of frustration in the air at Kingsholm as the French side had patently not read the script and refused to roll over.

In fact the French side played some quality rugby in the first 40 minutes, which made a mockery of their lowly standing in the French Top 14 table. Skilfully keeping the ball alive,

19TH JANUARY 2013, 15:00 KO
KINGSHOLM
AMLIN CHALLENGE CUP: ROUND 6



Champagne Moment

Playing at fly half rather than in his usual inside centre position, Billy Twelvetrees showed his class in the first half.

From deep in his own half, his jinking run shredded the Mont-de-Marsan defensive line before timing his pass perfectly for Charlie Sharples to score.



they posed a real challenge with ball in hand.

However, the second half was a different matter. Once they fell more than a score behind, heads dropped and an element of niggles crept into their game.

Gloucester kept their heads and started to turn on the style as the French fell apart and, in the end, ran out fairly comfortable winners.

The Kingsholm ground staff worked miracles to clear the pitch and stadium of snow in the run up to the game, and the early signs were that the Gloucester team appreciated their efforts.

The Cherry and Whites struck through Jonny May and Charlie Sharples in the first half, but were promptly pegged back by the visitors, for whom fly half Jean Baptiste Claverie was in fine kicking form.

And Stade Montois scored probably the try of the half. Martyn Thomas' clearance was superbly returned by Fiji Sevens star William Ryder. He skillfully evaded tackles, made good ground and flanker Brethous crossed in the corner.

Half time arrived with the teams locked together at 16 points apiece. Gloucester needed the win to guarantee a home quarter final, and supporters anxiously checked the pool standings in the match programme.

They needn't have worried. Gloucester took a grip of the game that they weren't to relinquish and the French side never really threatened in the second half.

Two tries followed for Henry Trinder in only his second game back after injury, and May completed his brace late on to seal the victory.

Six wins from six in the pool stages and just one question remained – who would be the visitors to Kingsholm in the quarter final?

Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

"I'm very pleased with the fact that we're in a relatively difficult group, but we've come through to win all our matches and secured a home quarter-final which is vital for us."
"We felt a little bit of pressure at one point of the game and because of that, we weren't able to pull away from them in the first half, but the talk at half-time was about composure, not panicking, sticking with what works for us and the players did that."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Martyn Thomas
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	Koree Britton
3	P	Shaun Knight
4	L	Jim Hamilton
5	L	Will James
6	F	Tom Savage
7	F	Akapusi Qera
8	N8	Sione Kalamafoni

16	R	Huia Edmonds
17	R	Dan Murphy
18	R	Dario Chistolini
19	R	Peter Buxton
20	R	Gareth Evans
21	R	Dave Lewis
22	R	Billy Twelvetrees
23	R	Shane Monahan

MONT-DE-MARSAN



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Yohann Durquet
14	W	Jordan Beaulavon
13	C	Ximun Lucu
12	C	Tamaz Mchedlidze
11	W	William Ryder
10	FH	Jean-Baptiste Claverie
9	SH	Arnaud Pic
1	P	Julian Fiorini
2	H	Thomas Bordes
3	P	Tevita Mailau
4	L	Sebastian De Chaves
5	L	Scott Murray
6	F	Yann Brethous
7	F	Vincent Farre
8	N8	Alexandre Ricaud

16		Pierre Correia
17	R	Morgan Phelipponeau
18	R	Eric Dos Santos
19	R	Aldric Lescure
20	R	Julien Cabannes ■
21	R	Alexandre Douvesy
22	R	Thibault Duvallet
23	R	Mathieu Giudicelli ■

ACTION *Replay*

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 26 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 07



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS POINTS SCORERS



TRIES: Burrell (33), AM Waller (68)
CONS: Lamb (33), Myler (68)
PENS: Lamb (9, 22), Myler (55, 63)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



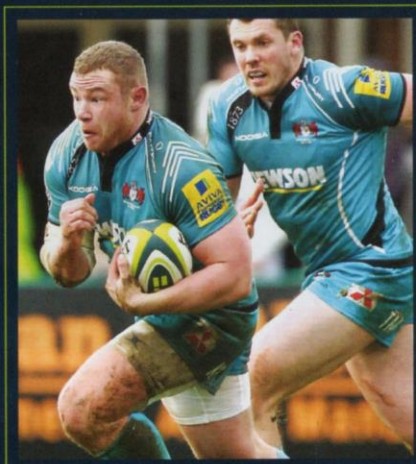
TRY: Mills (24)
CON: Mills (25)

Gloucester's hopes of progressing to the semi final stages of this season's LV= Cup came to an end following the 26-7 defeat at Northampton Saints last weekend. However, there were still plenty of positives to take from this game.

Up against a considerably more experienced opponent, Gloucester combined dogged defence with ambition in attack, and could genuinely feel that the final scoreline didn't truly reflect their efforts.

Ryan Mills scored the only try of the afternoon for Gloucester, but several quality line breaks could have resulted in further scores on another day.

However, the Saints are renowned for being miserly in defence and in were in no mood to give anything away.



26TH JANUARY 2013, 15:00 KO
FRANKLIN'S GARDENS
LV= CUP: ROUND 3



Champagne Moment

Gloucester's try was well executed and stunned the Franklin's Gardens crowd.

Shane Monahan made the initial inroads, steaming into the Saints 22 before quick recycled ball gave Ryan Mills a sight of the line. The returning fly half needed no second invitation and powered his way to the line.



And their grim determination to clinch a win in front of their own supporters was evidenced by the kicking of penalty goals in the second half when the win looked all but guaranteed.

But Gloucester battled all the way to the very end and, in the final quarter, looked the more likely to score further tries, an effort which seemed to be appreciated by the knowledgeable home crowd.

On the plus side, Ryan Mills showed no signs of having played no competitive rugby for nearly 220 days and fellow young guns, like Elliott Stooke and Steph Reynolds, didn't look out of place on the big stage.

Combine the above with the fact that Andy Hazell showed no signs of ring rustiness, and Tongan international debutant Lua Lokotui made a promising first appearance, and there was food for thought for the coaches on the way home.

Gloucester began well, but didn't capitalise on an early visit to the Saints 22. In contrast, the home team pragmatically kicked two penalties from their trips into enemy territory.

Nigel Davies' side did, however, have the satisfaction of shocking the home crowd by scoring the first try of the afternoon as Ryan Mills finished off a fine break by Shane Monahan.

Maintaining the lead up to half time could have created some uncertainty in the home ranks, but Luther Burrell blasted through to give Saints a 13-7 lead at the break.

Gloucester comfortably soaked up what Saints had to throw at them in the second half, and the home team were restricted to two Stephen Myler penalties until Alex Waller burst clear of a maul to dive over and complete the scoring.

Carl Hogg

Forwards Coach

"I thought our defence was outstanding at times and we certainly worked them hard on that front. But their experience and set-piece control told on us. It denied us any real field position, and so we had to try to launch attacks from deep."

"It was great to see Andy Hazell and Ryan Mills back, and new signing Lua Lokotui showed up well too."

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Ben Foden
14	W	James Wilson
13	C	George Pisi
12	C	Luther Burrell
11	W	Tom May
10	FH	Ryan Lamb
9	SH	Martin Roberts
1	P	Alex Waller
2	H	Mike Haywood
3	P	Tom Mercey
4	L	Mark Sorenson
5	L	Christian Day
6	F	Samu Manoa
7	F	Phil Dowson
8	N8	Rhys Oakley
16	R	Ross McMillan
17	R	Soane Tonga'uiha
18	R	Ethan Waller
19	R	James Craig
20	R	Ben Nutley
21	R	Lee Dickson
22	R	Stephen Myler
23	R	Tom Collins

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Martyn Thomas
14	W	Steph Reynolds
13	C	Henry Trinder
12	C	Tim Molenaar
11	W	Shane Monahan
10	FH	Ryan Mills
9	SH	Dave Lewis
1	P	Yann Thomas
2	H	Koree Britton
3	P	Dario Chistolini
4	L	Lua Lokotui
5	L	Elliot Stooke
6	F	Peter Buxton
7	F	Andy Hazell
8	N8	Gareth Evans
16	R	Tommaso d'Apice
17	R	Dan Murphy
18	R	Tom Heard
19	R	Tom Savage
20	R	Ross Moriarty
21	R	Jimmy Cowan
22	R	Mike Tindall
23	R	Rob Cook



Teams correct at time of print 31/01/13

TODAY'S *Line-ups*



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

VS

BATH RUGBY



ROB COOK	15	NICK ABENDANON
CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	HORACIO AGULLA
MIKE TINDALL (C)	13	MATT BANAHAN
TIM MOLENAAR	12	BEN WILLIAMS
SHANE MONAHAN	11	OLLY WOODBURN
RYAN MILLS	10	STEPHEN DONALD
JIMMY COWAN	09	PETER STRINGER
DAN MURPHY	01	CHARLIE BEECH
HUIA EDMONDS	02	ROB WEBBER
RUPERT HARDEN	03	ANTHONY PERENISE
TOM SAVAGE	04	DOMINIC DAY
LUA LOKOTUI	05	STUART HOOPER (C)
PETER BUXTON	06	BEN SKIRVING
ANDY HAZELL	07	GUY MERCER
SIONE KALAMAFONI	08	NICK KOSTER
DARREN DAWIDIUK	16	NATHAN CATT
YANN THOMAS	17	ROSS BATTY
TOM HEARD	18	KANE PALMA-NEWPORT
AKAPUSI QERA	19	DAVE ATTWOOD
GARETH EVANS	20	WILL SKUSE
DAN ROBSON	21	MARK McMILLAN
BILLY BURNS	22	SAM VESTY
MARTYN THOMAS	23	JACK CUTHBERT

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Ian Davies (WRU)

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Nigel Carrick and Paul Burton

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