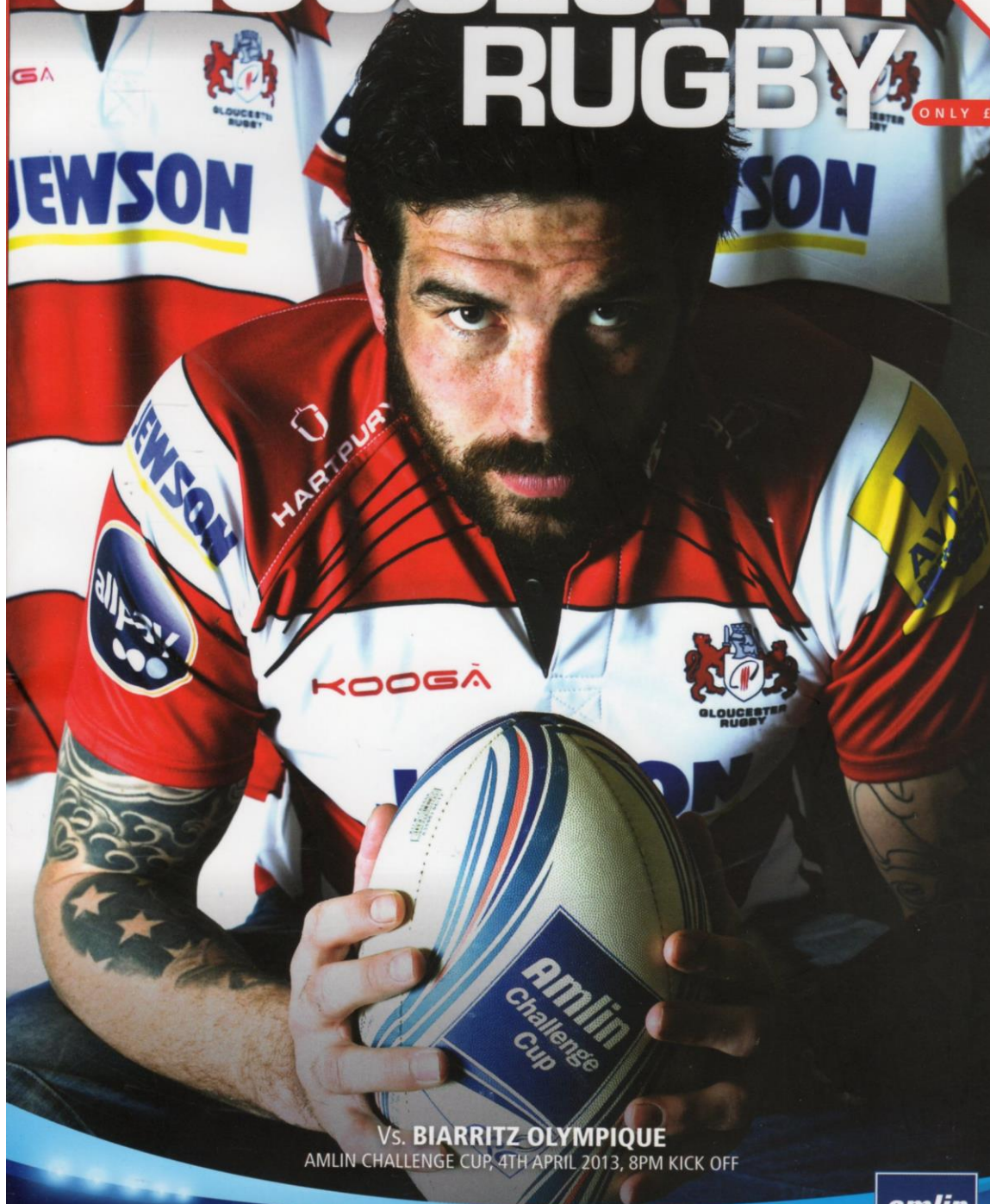


THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

ONLY £3



Vs. BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE  
AMLIN CHALLENGE CUP, 4TH APRIL 2013, 8PM KICK OFF

**Amlin Challenge Cup** QUARTER-FINAL

**Amlin**

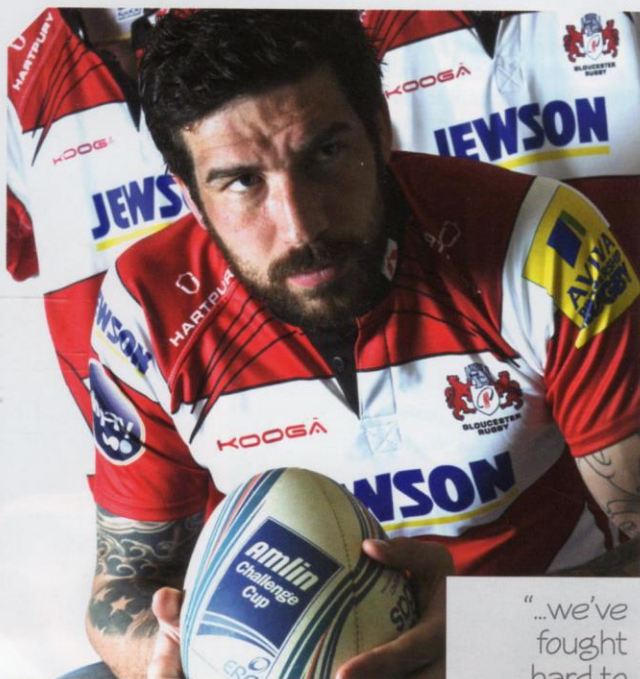
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# CAPTAIN'S *Corner*

Jim Hamilton



**S**o, it's another evening and another big game for Gloucester Rugby!

I'm sure most of you are just about catching your breath after last Friday's incredible game against Harlequins. Yet, here we are again.

It's pretty fair to say that the win over Quins has to go down as one of the games of the season. And I'm not just saying that because we edged it.

In terms of playing the game at pace, yet still being able to showcase incredibly high skill levels, I think it was an amazing game.

The ball hardly seemed to be out of play, it was breathtaking rugby. There was one phase of play just before half time which seemed to go on for about three or four minutes.

And the atmosphere was amazing on the night. We've had some great occasions here at Kingsholm over the past two or three seasons, but this one was right up there.

With the ESPN cameras present, I think we

"...we've fought hard to get out of the group stages to secure a home quarter final, and it's important that we don't let that effort go to waste."

showed the watching world everything that's good about Gloucester Rugby, both on and off the field.

But, we've had hardly any time to dwell on the Quins game. Sure, we've analysed the game, but we've had to turn our attention pretty quickly to tonight's opponents, Biarritz.

It's obviously been a short turnaround, and Nigel and the rest of the backroom staff have had to be really smart with the schedule to make sure we arrive at tonight's game in the best possible shape.

One consolation, of course, is that Biarritz are in exactly the same boat as ourselves. They played last Friday against Grenoble so there's no real advantage for either side on that front.

Biarritz will arrive at Kingsholm with a side packed full of talent. They've had an up and down season, and I know they changed their coaching set up just before Christmas.

What is beyond any doubt though, is that they possess an impressive European pedigree. They're the current holders of the Amlin Challenge Cup and have made the final of the Heineken Cup twice.

As the holders, they'll be coming here this evening determined not to give up their trophy without a fight and, given their current position in the Top 14, this competition represents a possible route back in to the Heineken Cup.

But, we've fought hard to get out of the group stages to secure a home quarter final, and it's important that we don't let that effort go to waste.

It's the first European quarter final we've had here in my time at the club, and it's the sort of match that we want to be playing on a regular basis.

Which makes it all the more disappointing that I'm going to miss out having injured my ankle last week against Quins. Obviously I'm gutted not to be playing, but I've tried to do my bit in helping the boys prepare this week.

It should be another great night under the lights at Kingsholm, and hopefully we'll be celebrating at full time.

**Enjoy the game!**



"This is a game that I think we've all been looking forward to, players and supporters alike. It's the sort of game that we want to be competing in on a more regular basis."



# COACH'S *Notes*

Director of Rugby, Nigel Davies

**I'D** like to extend a warm welcome to the players, staff, officials and supporters of Biarritz Olympique to Kingsholm this evening.

When I spoke to the media after the Harlequins game last Friday, I joked that there must be easier ways to make a living – and I was only half joking.

Our last two games – the wins over London



The victory over Harlequins was great preparation for tonight's encounter

Welsh and Harlequins – have gone right down to the very last play. It's great drama, but it's not very good for the nerves!

It's been tense stuff, but we've shown great fortitude to fight to the very end and come out on top in both games.

We've also set out to try and out work the opposition and, the fact we've been able to do this is testimony to the fantastic work done by Paddy Anson and the rest of the Strength and Conditioning team.

I've spoken on many occasions about the resilience that this Gloucester team has shown throughout this season. I can't stress how important it is, it's the quality that underpins everything else we do on the playing field.

We may not be performing to the best of our ability on any given day. However, when we have that sheer, dogged determination that runs throughout this squad, then we will always have hope.

Those last two wins have seen us cement our position in the Premiership table. Only three rounds remain and we're currently in fifth place.

However, we're within two points of third placed Harlequins so making the end of season play offs is still within reach. We're in the middle of a real fight for those places, and it's good that we've got so much to play for.

And that includes tonight, of course, a game that presents a totally different type of challenge – a knockout game against a top European side in Biarritz.

This is a game that I think we've all been looking forward to, players and supporters alike. It's the sort of game that we want to be competing in on a more regular basis.

We have a relatively young squad, a group of players with so much potential and they will learn and improve as a result of playing in such games.

Tonight will be a real test. French club sides have a reputation for not always 'turning up' when they play away from home. I don't think for one instant, however, that's going to be the case tonight.

Biarritz are a team who possess an impressive European pedigree. They've reached the Heineken Cup final twice and, of course, they're the current holders of the Amlin Challenge Cup.

Like any French side, they're capable of turning on the style in attack – they've got some real threats out wide in the form of players like Balshaw, Brew and Ngwenya.

However, they've also got a more pragmatic side to them. They're very powerful up front and they've got a scrum half in Dimitri Yachvili, who can not only control a game, but also kick 90% of his goals!

After a tricky start to the season when they lost a few in a row and made changes to the coaching team, they're coming into tonight's game on the back of a couple of wins. So, they'll be feeling good about themselves.

It's all pointing towards a real tussle tonight, but it's one we're looking forward to.

I finished my last set of notes by acknowledging the support we've had recently. Last weekend, we had nearly 15,000 supporters here at Kingsholm again, roaring us on against Quins.

At the risk of repeating myself – thank you. Such support is incredibly important to us. I'm sure we'll have more of the same tonight and we aim to repay your faith.

Nigel



# A BAROMETER OF OUR PROGRESS

Nick Purewal's

*View from* **The Citizen**



**"It definitely brings something different when you line up against friends, it's always an intriguing dynamic."**

**A Heineken Cup final in everything but name is the perfect yardstick for Gloucester under Nigel Davies, believes Mike Tindall.**

Player / backs coach Tindall is disappointed



not to square up to old friend Iain Balshaw in tonight's keenly-anticipated Amlin Challenge Cup quarter-final.

Tindall's ex-Gloucester and Bath team-mate Balshaw will miss out through a knee injury, but former Kingsholm favourite Dimitri Yachvili is expected to marshal the men from the Basque country.

Gearing up for a classic European tussle, Tindall reckons this last-eight tie will show Director of Rugby Davies' men just how far they have developed this term.

After Friday night's hugely-impressive 17-15 Premiership victory over league champions Harlequins, Tindall believes the Cherry and Whites are ready to jump straight back to top form.

The 34-year-old has admitted Gloucester will invoke the spirit of last term's tub-thumping 34-24 victory over Toulouse at Kingsholm on Friday, January 20, 2012 this week.

And Tindall expects the Kingsholm atmosphere to rival the 16-3 Heineken Cup quarter-final home defeat to Munster back in April 2008.

He explained:

"Thinking about Biarritz coming back here gets me thinking about that quarter-final against Munster in the Heineken Cup. Kingsholm was bouncing that day, and it will be the same again on Thursday.

"We've had some great games against





Biarritz in the past – then you throw in the return of the likes of Balsh and Yach who are loved by the fans, and you know there will be a warm welcome for them.

"But, at the same time, you know it's going to be fierce and ferocious. And it's a Heineken Cup-standard quarter-final. It's a great barometer of our progress, and a great challenge for us.

"Toulouse last year was fantastic, and we'll look back at that a little this week – that's a great example of how you want to approach and play big games like this.

"If we could put on a similar display to that on Thursday, then I think we'll have a pretty good night."

Calling on Gloucester to repeat their 23-8 victory over Biarritz at Kingsholm in January 2010, Tindall admitted he would have

## this is

### Gloucestershire

- Dad of 17 pointed gun at Mormon missionaries
- Benedict Cumberbatch wows fans as BBC's Sherlock films in Cheltenham
- Two men in hospital after shooting in Tredworth
- Echo campaign launched to save Charlton Kings Cricket Club



relished taking on good pal Balshaw.

He continued: "I'm gutted that Balsh won't be involved, I was seriously looking forward to locking horns with him out on the field."

"He'll be here in any case and it will be good to catch up, but I think we'll both miss not having that head-to-head battle.

"It definitely brings something different when you line up against friends, it's always an intriguing dynamic.

"Biarritz play that typical French style that's that little bit less structured than the English way. But it is very dangerous if you let it get the better of you.

"Yach is a great player, he's their leader in many senses on the attacking front, he's very dangerous and someone who can really cause you problems."



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

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

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

# GLOUCESTER AND BIARRITZ: THE HISTORY

**This will be the eighth meeting between Gloucester and Biarritz Olympique Pays Basque.**

The series started with a pre-season friendly played in Biarritz on a hot evening in early August 1997, and has continued through six rounds of European competition in 1999-2000, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. Every match to date has been won by the home side.

### THE FIRST MATCH

**BIARRITZ 35 GLOUCESTER 19**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1997**

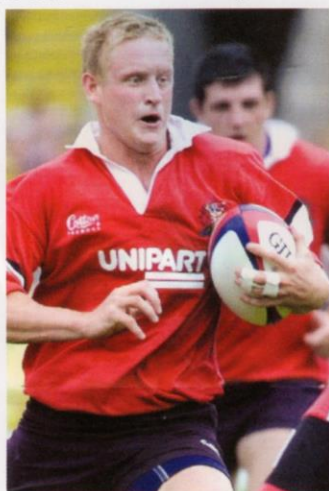
#### PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY

**The first match between the clubs was played over three periods to allow both teams to use a large squad of players.**

The evening temperature in Biarritz was 30 degrees and the home side were further forward in their preparation than Gloucester who faded badly after taking a 12-7 lead.

It was an early opportunity to see summer signings Philippe Saint-André, Terry Fanolua and Richard Tombs go through their paces but the highlight of the game was a brilliant try by Chris Catling who jinked his way round several tacklers, using his pace and balance to beat three or four lines of defence and run round to

▼ Chris Catling



score under the posts.

### 1999-2000 EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

**GLOUCESTER 22 BIARRITZ 13**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1999**

**What a contrast! On a bitterly cold November day at Kingsholm, Gloucester got their European campaign off to a winning start.**

It was a fiery encounter between two well-matched packs which erupted into a massive brawl as the first half closed.

From a Gloucester viewpoint the match was notable for two things: an outstanding performance by the young open side Andy Hazell, who seized his opportunity in the absence of club captain Kingsley Jones, and the debut for Gloucester of legendary All Blacks lock Ian Jones who scored the match-clinching try.

**BIARRITZ 39 GLOUCESTER 25**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2000**

**Gloucester's European adventure was blown away by a brilliant 26 minute hat-trick by French international wing Philippe Bernat-Salles.**

Tackles were missed as Biarritz ran the ball from all parts of the field extending their lead to 36-10 by half time, Gloucester replying with an excellent try for Tai Glassie created by Richard Tombs.

Gloucester came back well in the second



half with tries from Richard Tombs and Neil McCarthy, but they'd left themselves far too much to do.

## 2008-2009 HEINEKEN CUP

**GLOUCESTER 22 BIARRITZ 10**  
13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2008

**This was a good result for Gloucester, but was, in truth, a rather undistinguished and very physical battle, dominated by the boot.**

The outstanding players for the home side were Mike Tindall, who, as so often, made the hard yards and Olly Barkley who had one of his better days in a Gloucester shirt, kicking four penalties and a conversion. James Simpson-Daniel scored Gloucester's only try.



▲ Mike Tindall

**BIARRITZ 24 GLOUCESTER 10**  
23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2009

**Biarritz deservedly won this game against a Gloucester side that had travelled with high hopes of victory.**

Former Gloucester scrum half Dmitri Yachvili ran the match for Biarritz, scoring 14 points, including a try from his own chip ahead.

For Gloucester, 14-0 down after 15 minutes, James Simpson-Daniel stepped inside the Biarritz defence to score a superb try in reply.

With the half time score at 17-10, Gloucester were beginning to get back into the game, but they were slow off the blocks again at the start of the second half and, after allowing Biarritz an early score from a charged down kick, spent the rest of the match chasing a lost cause.

## 2009-2010 HEINEKEN CUP

**BIARRITZ 42 GLOUCESTER 15**  
17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009

**There can be few better places to watch rugby than Biarritz on a glorious October afternoon. A stroll across the beach in the morning and lunch at a small bistro was followed by a walk along tree-lined avenues to the ground.**



Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu ►

◄ Stade d'Aguiléra

The locals were getting quite used to Gloucester fans by this time and the atmosphere was warm and welcoming.

On the field however, Biarritz showed no mercy to a Gloucester side, ravaged by injury. Badly beaten in the scrums and making numerous handling errors in the backs, Gloucester were blown away by a brilliant hat-trick from American wing Takudzha Ngwenya, who was unlucky not to score a fourth, and by further tries from Erinle and Courrent.

To give Gloucester credit, they battled to the end and were rewarded by consolation scores for Tom Voyce and for Jake Boer, who played the last half hour, having been brought out of retirement to provide injury cover.

The waiter that evening expressed his deepest condolences (and I think he was sincere...), but by that time they were hardly needed.

**GLOUCESTER 23 BIARRITZ 8**  
16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010

**This was by far and away Gloucester's best performance of the season after the humiliation of the Stade d'Aguiléra, three months earlier.**

Now it was Gloucester who played the creative rugby, taking the game to Biarritz in an exciting first half performance.

Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu and James Simpson-Daniel were outstanding but try-scorers Tim Molenaar and Lesley Vainikolo also had excellent games. Equally dangerous was prop Alasdair Dickinson, who had a storming game in the loose and played his part in a dominant scrum, having looked out of his depth in the first leg.

Biarritz, who were the only unbeaten club in the Heineken Cup at that stage and were firm favourites, were rocked back on their heels and they were the team who found themselves playing catch-up rugby, offering too little, too late.



*Bonus*  
CHERRIES

GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
**HERITAGE**











# LOVING LIFE



**E'S a difficult man to miss, Jim Hamilton. When you're 6' 8' in height, you do tend to be head and shoulders above the rest!**

This season, however, has seen the Scotland international increase his profile even further as, in addition to continuing to represent club and country with distinction, he's also taken on the captaincy role at Gloucester.

To say the least, it's been an interesting campaign for the Cherry and Whites as they've reinvented themselves under Nigel Davies, but Hamilton has relished his role in it.

"It has been a season of transition. We've had new faces on the coaching side of things in Nigel, Paul (Moriarty), Paddy (Anson) and Mike (Tindall) of course. We've also brought in a few new players.

"But the fact that we've been competitive in the Premiership, and are still fighting for the top four, and have done so well in the Amlin Challenge Cup is testimony to the work everyone has done and the progress we've made."

One of the first things that Nigel Davies did was to name his big second row as his captain – a role that Hamilton has embraced proudly.

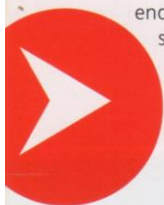
"I've said on several occasions what a massive honour it is to captain a huge club like Gloucester. It's actually quite humbling for me when you consider the great captains the club has had in the past.

"I've taken great pride in playing for the club, but captaining the side is something special, especially when you get to lead the side out on great occasions at Kingsholm. It's something that will live with me forever."

It's probably not been the easiest of times to assume the captaincy, with the team literally developing week by week. But Hamilton admits that's a source of additional satisfaction.

"We've become a tight knit group. There have been times in a few games, that we could have folded. But we've fought to the bitter





end in all our matches and taken something away from every game.

"That's not a characteristic you find in every team, but it's something that has happened naturally for us as the season has progressed."

Away from Gloucester, it's also been a year of discovery and challenge on the international front, working with a new coach in Scott Johnson at Scotland. The early signs appear to be promising.

"These things tend to work in cycles at international level, the make up of the squad changing every three or four years.

"We've had some disappointing times at Scotland. One of the things I say about Scotland, is that I've not had a lot of good days but I've had a few great times.

"Everyone in the squad wants to have more good times, and to finish third in the Six Nations was a step in the right direction. There's still a lot of work to do, but we're looking forward to building on the work we've done."

The memorable win over Ireland saw Hamilton picked as Man of the Match by the BBC commentators, but he modestly deflects the praise, preferring to talk about the team effort.

"I think winning the game was fantastic, and the way the guys dug in was tremendous. Being picked out by the pundits was nice, but winning the game was a bigger highlight."



"...hopefully, supporters will remember me as someone who gave 100% every single time I took the field."

Back to Gloucester matters, and a European quarter final this evening. It's the first at Kingsholm for five years, and it's an occasion the captain feels the squad will relish.

"It will be a huge game, Biarritz are a massive European team. But we worked hard throughout the pool stages to get a home quarter final and, to say we're looking forward to it is an understatement.

"To bring a big team like Biarritz here is fantastic. It's going to be a big challenge, but one we're really looking forward to."

With a move to France in the offing, time is now ticking down on his Gloucester career – what have been the highlights?

"Winning the LV= Cup in my first year, with the squad we had at that point was a real highlight. So was going to Saracens in the semi final that year and almost pipping them. Also the home game against Toulouse when the atmosphere was electric.

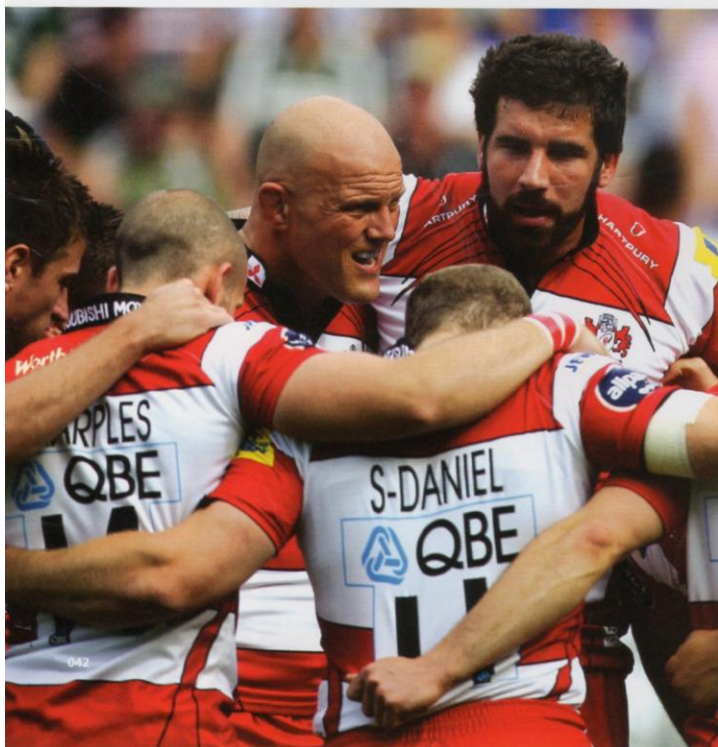
"And I've already spoken of my pride at being Gloucester captain. But, I genuinely hope that I'll have some more highlights to add before the end of this season.

How would he like his time at Gloucester Rugby to be remembered?

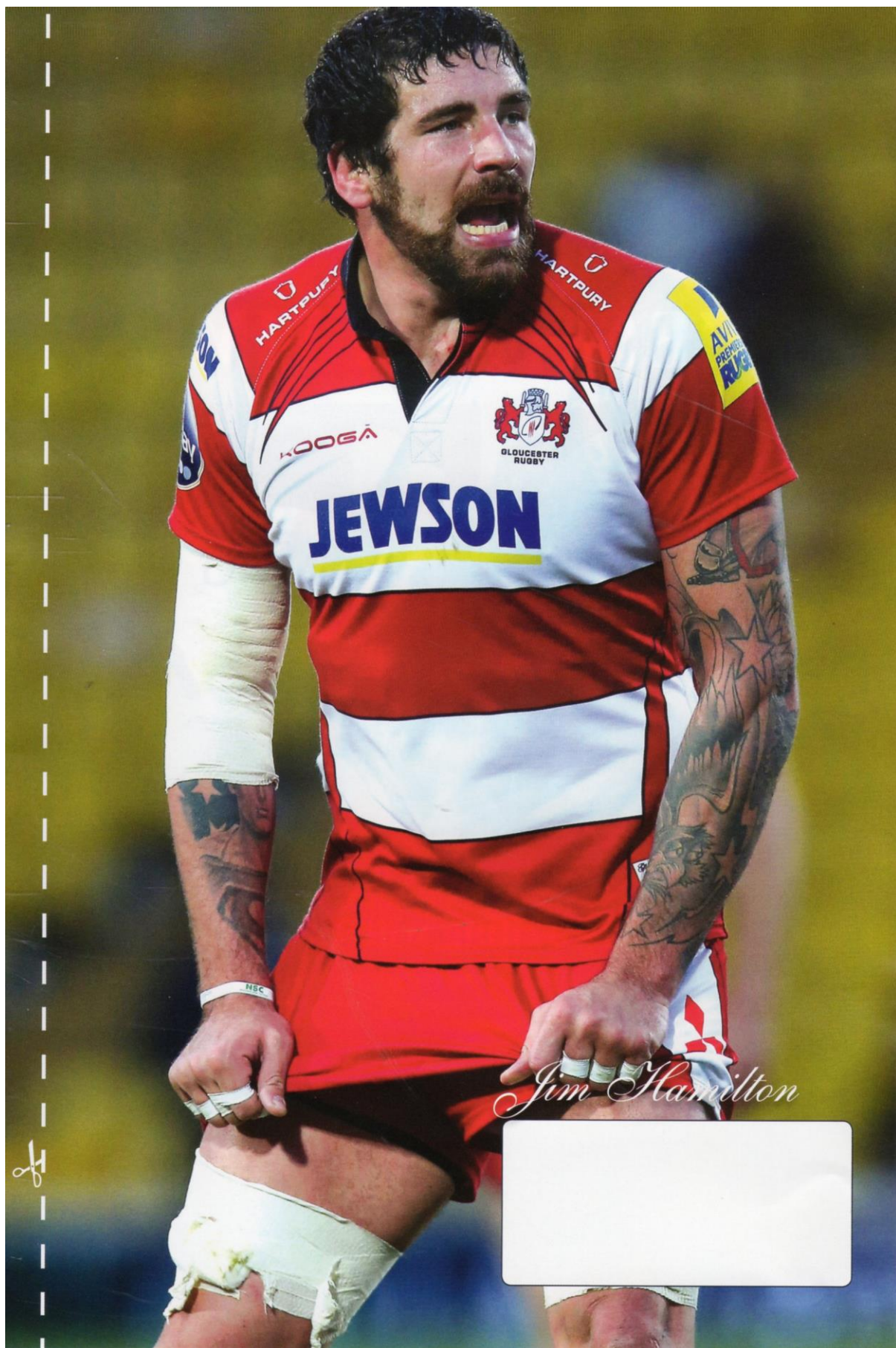
"I'd like it to be remembered for us having won something. As a player, hopefully, supporters will remember me as someone who gave 100% every single time I took the field."

"As a captain, as being in charge of a team that never gave up and fought for everything.

"But I really hope that we finish on a high this season to give the fantastic supporters that this club has some even better memories."









# Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton

*"It was good to see the ground closer to full than it has been for a while and great to hear the place rocking as the 16th man returned to form in spectacular style – Gloucester Rugby at its best, a force of nature that won't be deflected."*

**Here we go again then - another week, another floodlight game at Castle Grim.**

And, if it's half as good as the one last week – and assuming that we get a similar result – this punter will be leaving happy.

The match against Quins was a special one. It was good to see the ground closer to full than it has been for a while and great to hear the place rocking as the 16th man returned to form in spectacular style – Gloucester Rugby at its best, a force of nature that won't be deflected.

Quins tried mighty hard to do that though. I said last week, that the way they played the game was impressive, and they more than played their part in a tense and thrilling encounter. The result really could have gone either way, and neither set of supporters would have had that much to grumble about.

I have to say, that if we can't break into the top four come the end of the season, I hope that Quins do and I hope they win the title again.

For me, their rugby has a bit of everything without some of the more toxic side effects of a couple of the other clubs at the top of the tree. If we can follow their model, and couple that with the dog and fight we have shown this season so far, we will be up there with the best in no time.

But we can put the Premiership on hold for a week, tonight it's Europe that's important.

Thursday night is not the best day of the week for a game, plays havoc with organising work diaries to make sure I can get here in time, but there is something about midweek games in European competitions that makes them just that bit more special. We can all point to our favourites over the years though, in my eyes, you would be hard pressed to better the win over Toulouse last season.

A bit like here at home, the power base in French rugby is changing as more and more money is poured into a few teams. It's not that long ago that Biarritz would have been seen as title contenders before a ball has been kicked to start the season. Things have changed a bit now, and it must seem a lot longer ago than 2006 since they last claimed the French title.

Courtesy of massive investment in some other clubs, they are now a mid-table side along with former pace setters Stade Francais as the newly minted teams pull away from them. One look at their line-up, though, shows what an outfit they are and - lest you forget - they won this competition last year.

They return with a couple of old Kingsholm favourites in tow too, one who will almost certainly start and one who, through injury, won't.





The one on the field will be the little maestro Dimitri Yachvili. Those with slightly longer memories will recall him turning up as one of the first signings of the Blessed Philippe Saint-Andre (wonder whatever happened to him??).

Yach was a very quiet 20 year old who I first encountered as he was walking round Kingsholm looking slightly homesick. On the field, though, he was sheer class and the tussle he had for the number nine shirt with Andy Gomarsall was compelling to watch.

I checked the stats out that the Aviva Premiership site has on all players who have appeared in the competition, and was pretty surprised to see that Dimitri only scored a handful of points – in fact, according to that site, he got as many yellow cards as he did tries.

He'll be looking forward to coming back for

Jonny May appreciated Gloucester's 16th man last Friday night

sure. He's still got Gloucester blood running through him as he showed by his reaction to a Biarritz win over Bath not so long back, commenting that as a former Gloucester player, it was always good to put one over the men from the Rec.

Unfortunately, the one who won't be on the pitch in a playing capacity will be Iain Balshaw. Balsh was one of those players who divided opinion everywhere he went. Many found his performances to be inconsistent and erratic. I think watching him in full flow was a rare sight to see.

I remember when he played for Bath coming up to Kingsholm and running in a try from about 60 metres out, he outpaced our then half-back and occasional Boxer (just ask Chad Eagle!) Byron Hayward so easily that he could have stopped to share a drink and a chat with fans before jogging over the line.

And, in Gloucester colours, he was just as impressive. Memory has dulled the details of the game back in 2009 when we were going through one of our 'let's just keep kicking it aimlessly stages'. He just decided to break ranks and run with the ball, sparking a complete revival in fortunes.

He was some finisher too – his stats show 52 tries scored in the Premiership, which must put him up there with the top performers over the years.

The other thing about Balsh, and you need to stand close to him to observe this, is his impossibly high voice! When he shouted for the ball it was at such a shrill pitch that dogs all over Gloucester began to bark!

He is a great, great player though, and my sister had an impossible crush on him after she met him after a game at Wycombe a few years back. No wonder he cleared off to France shortly afterwards!











## *A Moment in Time*

**JAKE BOER** ANSWERED AN SOS CALL AHEAD OF GLOUCESTER'S HEINEKEN CUP POOL MATCH IN BIARRITZ BACK IN OCTOBER 2009.

WITH THE CHERRY AND WHITES SUFFERING A HIDEOUS INJURY LIST, THE FORMER GLOUCESTER CAPTAIN, WHO HADN'T PLAYED A GAME FOR 13 MONTHS AT THAT POINT, FLEW IN FROM SOUTH AFRICA A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE THE GAME TO LINK UP WITH THE SQUAD.

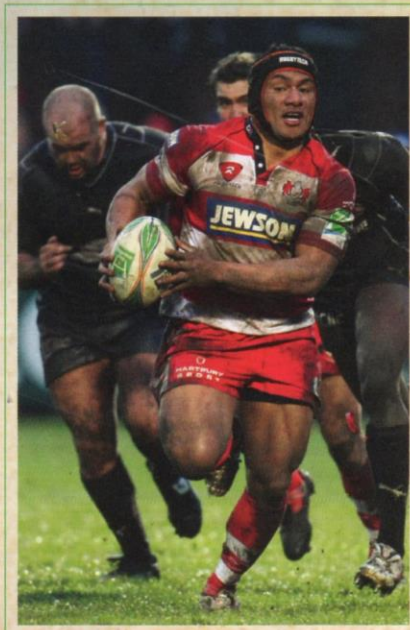
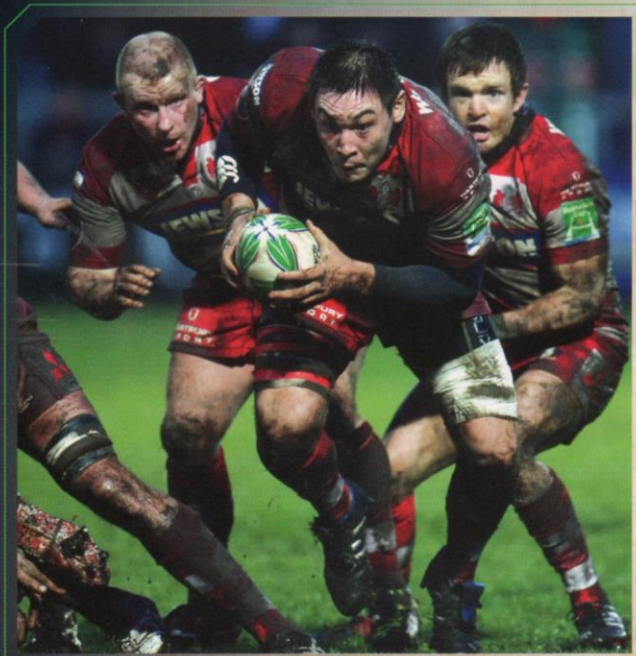
BOER MADE A SECOND HALF APPEARANCE AS A REPLACEMENT, AND SCORED A TRY. BUT IT WASN'T A FAIRY TALE RETURN, AS BIARRITZ RAN OUT 42-15 WINNERS.



CLASSIC  
ACTION  
*Replay*

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE

23  
08



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



**TRIES:** Vainikolo (20), Molenaar (66)  
**CONS:** Robinson (20, 66)  
**PENS:** Robinson (11, 33, 46)

## BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE POINTS SCORERS



**TRY:** Harinordoquy (75)  
**PEN:** Courrent (27)

**The build up to the last meeting between today's two teams was very much dominated by the weather.**

The Kingsholm ground staff cleared the pitch of snow on the Monday before the game, only to see another heavy downfall on the Wednesday! Out came the spades and wheelbarrows once again to ensure the game went ahead!

Biarritz had taken the spoils in round two. Gloucester competed gamely at the Parc des



16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2010, 15:00 KO  
KINGSHOLM  
HEINEKEN CUP



Sports Aguilera, only for three tries in fifteen minutes from Taku Ngwenya to leave their hopes in tatters.

However, Gloucester knew that they were still in with a shout of qualifying for the quarter finals of the Amlin Challenge Cup if they could defeat Biarritz and the Newport Gwent Dragons the following weekend.

Accordingly, Gloucester went about their task with gusto and took the game to the French side from the off.

Predictably given the weather in the days leading up to the game, conditions were less than ideal and the opening exchanges saw both teams making extensive use of their forwards.

A Nicky Robinson penalty gave Gloucester an early lead, but the game really came alive on 21 minutes, when Alasdair Dickinson burst away from a ruck, rode a tackle and offloaded to the supporting Lesley Vainikolo who sprinted home from the 22m line to score the game's first try.

Vainikolo was in his element at this stage. Ngwenya was finding this a far different game from the first encounter, and was working overtime to try and contain the big Tongan.

Valentin Courrent and Robinson swapped penalties as Gloucester went into half time with a 13-3 lead, and a big second half beckoned.

The heavens opened during the half time interval to make handling even more difficult, and it was another penalty from Robinson's boot that extended the lead to 16-3.

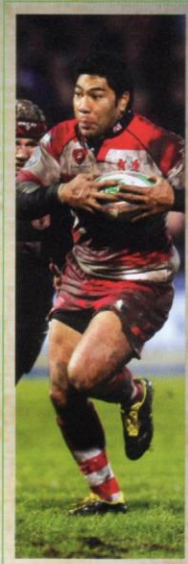
Biarritz did test the Gloucester defence, but the home side held firm and made the game safe with 15 minutes to go.

Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu again through in midfield. Vainikolo took the offload and was caught just short of the line but Molenaar was on hand to score his first try for the club. Robinson converted for 23-3.

To their credit, Biarritz didn't roll over but spent several minutes down near the Gloucester line.

Several times they looked to have crossed but proud Gloucester defence kept them at bay until, at last, Imanol Harinordoquy smashed his way over.

Replacement Tranier missed the conversion and that was it for the scoring as Gloucester closed out one of their most impressive and complete performances of the season.



### Bryan Redpath

Director of Rugby  
2009-2012

*"We were smart and kept the scoreboard ticking over and we kept our patience. I'm delighted with the win. "The key thing was that we stuck to our guns and held them at bay. We knew that if we played in the right areas we would create chances - and we took them."*

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Olly Morgan
14	W	James Simpson-Daniel
13	C	Tim Molenaar
12	C	Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
11	W	Lesley Vainikolo
10	FH	Nicky Robinson
9	SH	Rory Lawson
1	P	Alasdair Dickinson
2	H	Scott Lawson
3	P	Greg Somerville
4	L	Dave Attwood
5	L	Alex Brown
6	F	Alasdair Strokosch
7	F	Akapusi Qera
8	N8	Gareth Delve
16		Darren Dawidiuk
17	R	Nick Wood
18		Pierre Capdevielle
19	R	Adam Eustace
20	R	Luke Narryway
21		Dave Lewis
22	R	Freddie Burns
23	R	Tom Voyce

## BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE



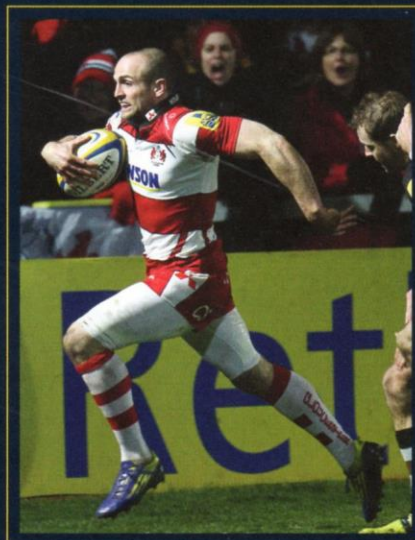
#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Paul Couet-Lannes
14	W	Taku Ngwenya
13	C	Arnaud Mignardi
12	C	Ayoola Erinle
11	W	Ilíkèna Bolakoro
10	FH	Valentin Courrent
9	SH	Yann Lesgourgues
1	P	Eduard Coetzee
2	H	Romain Terrain
3	P	Remy Hughes
4	L	Jerome Thion
5	L	Manuel Carizza
6	F	Magnus Lund
7	F	Samu Vahafolau
8	N8	Imanol Harinordoquy
16	R	Benoit August
17		Yvan Watremez
18	R	Moses Moala
19	R	Trevor Hall
20	R	Fabien Alexandre
21		Benoit Guyot
22	R	Laurent Tranier
23		Nicolas Brusque



# Replay

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY HARLEQUINS

17  
15



### GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



**TRIES:** May (42), Qera (69)  
**CONS:** Burns (43, 69)  
**PEN:** Burns (20)

### HARLEQUINS POINTS SCORERS



**TRIES:** Buchanan (7), Smith (22)  
**CON:** Evans (22)  
**PEN:** Evans (54)



Rugby union is a funny old game at times. One point separated Gloucester from London Welsh the week before. Two points were the difference between Gloucester and Quins. But, what a contrast between the two matches.

Gloucester and Harlequins combined to slug out a match that one ESPN commentator called the best he'd seen since working for the channel. And he had good reason for such enthusiastic words.

Right from the very first whistle, both teams looked to play the game at pace, moving the ball wide at every opportunity. It was breathless



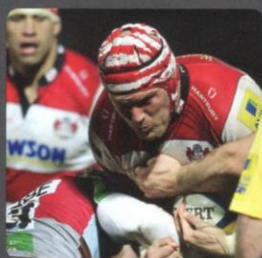
29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013, 19:45 KO  
KINGSHOLM  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY



## Champagne Moment

In a match of so many highlights and moments of individual brilliance, it's hard to pick one that stands out.

However, Henry Trinder's second half offload behind his back to Will James was a moment of skill few could envisage, let alone think about.



and it was exhilarating.

And Kingsholm is a stadium that is custom made for such occasions. The crowd of nearly 15,000 lapped up every minute of it, getting right behind their team but also loudly praising all the good rugby on show.

The first half almost defied belief. Gloucester took the game to Quins and dominated territory and possession. However, the visitors scored two tries and led 12-3 at the half time interval.

The second was an absolute gem. Nick Evans' chip over the top was perfectly weighted for Sam Smith to run on to and score.

Nigel Davies' half time team talk must have been an interesting one. Rarely can Gloucester have played so well yet trailed by nine points.

But they set about their task in style after the break. Charlie Sharples' lightning break resulted in Jonny May jinking his way over for the team's first try and it was game on.

The cool head of Evans slotted a penalty to give his team a little breathing space at 15-10 but Gloucester were far from done.

Unrelenting pressure from Gloucester resulted in a yellow card for replacement hooker Joe Gray, and the home pack took advantage of the extra man as Akapusi Qera drove over to give his team the lead.

It was then down to ten minutes of dogged defence to keep the current Aviva Premiership champions at bay.

Everyone at Kingsholm knew that one mistake could lead to a penalty opportunity that could see Quins take the win.

But it didn't come as Gloucester displayed incredible discipline in the tense final few minutes to deservedly take the points.

### Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

"It is an important result in terms of our season and our challenge, not only from the performance and the result, but the springboard it might allow us for our remaining games."

"If we hit our straps, who knows? We will take each game as it comes. There is a lot of hard rugby to be played."

### GLOUCESTER RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Rob Cook
14	W	Charlie Sharples
13	C	Henry Trinder
12	C	Billy Twelvetrees
11	W	Jonny May
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Dan Robson
1	P	Dan Murphy
2	H	Koree Britton
3	P	Shaun Knight
4	L	Lua Lokotui
5	L	Jim Hamilton (c)
6	F	Tom Savage
7	F	Akapusi Qera
8	N8	Sione Kalamafoni
16	H	Huia Edmonds
17	P	Nick Wood
18	P	Dario Chistolini
19	L	Will James
20	F	Andy Hazell
21	SH	Dave Lewis
22	W	Mike Tindall
23	FB	Martyn Thomas

### HARLEQUINS



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Mike Brown
14	W	Ross Chisholm
13	C	George Lowe
12	C	Tom Casson
11	W	Sam Smith
10	FH	Nick Evans
9	SH	Danny Care
1	P	Joe Marler
2	H	Rob Buchanan
3	P	James Johnston
4	L	Olly Kohn
5	L	George Robson
6	F	Joe Trayfoot
7	F	Luke Wallace
8	N8	Nick Easter (c)
16	H	Joe Gray ■
17	P	Mark Lambert
18		Will Collier
19	L	Charlie Matthews
20	H	Jack Clifford
21	SH	Karl Dickson
22	FH	Ben Botica
23	C	Matt Hopper





Teams correct at time of print 03/04/13

# TODAY'S *Line-ups*



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

VS

## BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE



MARTYN THOMAS	15	MARCELO BOSCH
CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	TAKUDZWA NGWENYA
HENRY TRINDER	13	BENOIT BABY
MIKE TINDALL (C)	12	DAMIEN TRAILLE
JONNY MAY	11	ALED BREW
FREDDIE BURNS	10	JEAN-PASCAL BARRAQUE
DAN ROBSON	09	DIMITRI YACHVILI
NICK WOOD	01	THOMAS SYNAEGHEL
KOREE BRITTON	02	BENOIT AUGUST
SHAUN KNIGHT	03	BEN BROSTER
LUA LOKOTUI	04	ERIK LUND
WILL JAMES	05	MATHIAS MARIE
TOM SAVAGE	06	THIBAUT DUBARRY
AKAPUSI QERA	07	RAPHAEL LAKAFIA
SIONE KALAMAFONI	08	IMANOL HARINORDOQUY (C)
HUIA EDMONDS	16	ARNAUD HEGUY
DAN MURPHY	17	EUGENE VAN STADEN
DARIO CHISTOLINI	18	FRANCISCO GOMEZ KODELA
ANDY HAZELL	19	TANGUY MOLCARD
BEN MORGAN	20	SEREMAIA BUROTU
DAN ROBSON	21	YANN LESGOURGUES
BILLY TWELVETREES	22	CHARLES GIMENEZ
SHANE MONAHAN	23	PAUL COUET-LANNES

### THE OFFICIALS

**REFEREE:** John Lacey

**ASSISTANT REFEREES:** Dudley Phillips & David Wilkinson

**Amlin Challenge Cup**

**Amlin**

**FedEx**

