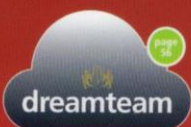


THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

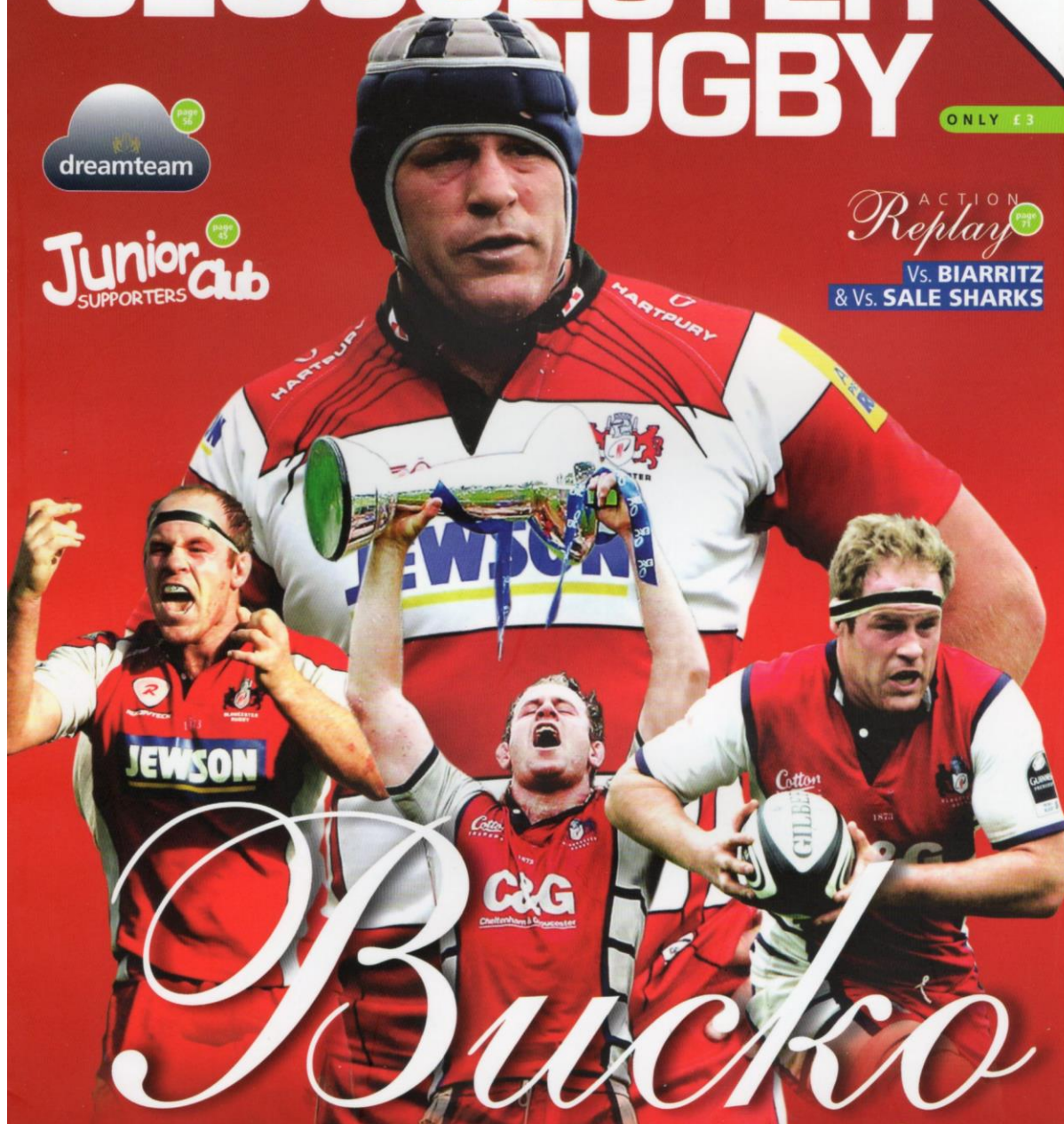


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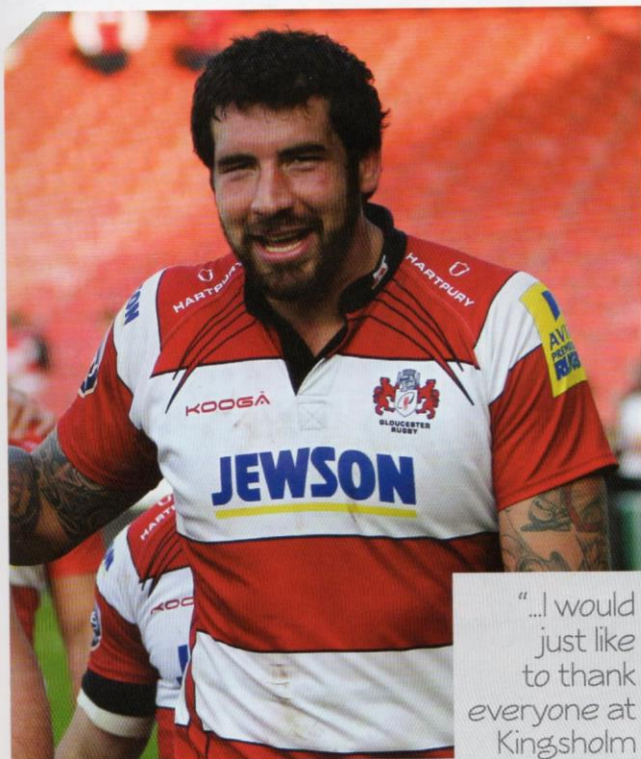
GILBERT

GILBERT

HILTON
HONORS

CAPTAIN'S *Corner*

Jim Hamilton



So, here we go. The final home game of the 2012-13 season, and my final set of programme notes. I honestly don't know where the time has gone!

It's been a tough few weeks for Gloucester. We had three home games in twelve days, and then the long trip north to take on the Sale Sharks, which is never easy at the best of times.

I'm obviously more than a little biased, but things haven't really gone our way on the pitch in the last two games.

We were all really looking forward to the Amlin Challenge Cup quarter final against Biarritz Olympique, and I thought that we were really giving a good account of ourselves in the opening quarter.

It started to go wrong when Dario

(Chistolini) was harshly yellow carded and, as soon as he returned, we lost Koree to the sin bin as well. Against a team like Biarritz, you can't play for 20 minutes with only 14 men and, credit to them, they exploited the man advantage superbly.

We then found ourselves having to chase the game, and I was proud of the boys for the way they went about it. However, Biarritz are a very experienced European side and they picked us off superbly on the break to clinch the game.

Nigel (Davies) said after the game, that the younger players in the side will ultimately benefit from the experience.

He's right. It was our first European quarter final for a number of years. For the team and the players to develop, they need to be competing at this sort of level more regularly. They'll have had a taste of it now, and they'll know what to expect next time.

Last Friday night also saw us chasing the game. The two early charge downs gave Sale a flier and they didn't look back to be honest. It gave them a massive boost and we were chasing the game again.

I've never been the best of spectators, and it was really frustrating watching this one on TV when all I wanted to do was be out there battling alongside the rest of the team.

We haven't become a bad team overnight, though. We've had a couple of tough games, but there's no time to mope around feeling sorry for ourselves with Saracens the visitors today.

We're still fifth in the table, and a win today would be a huge step towards securing Heineken Cup rugby for next season.

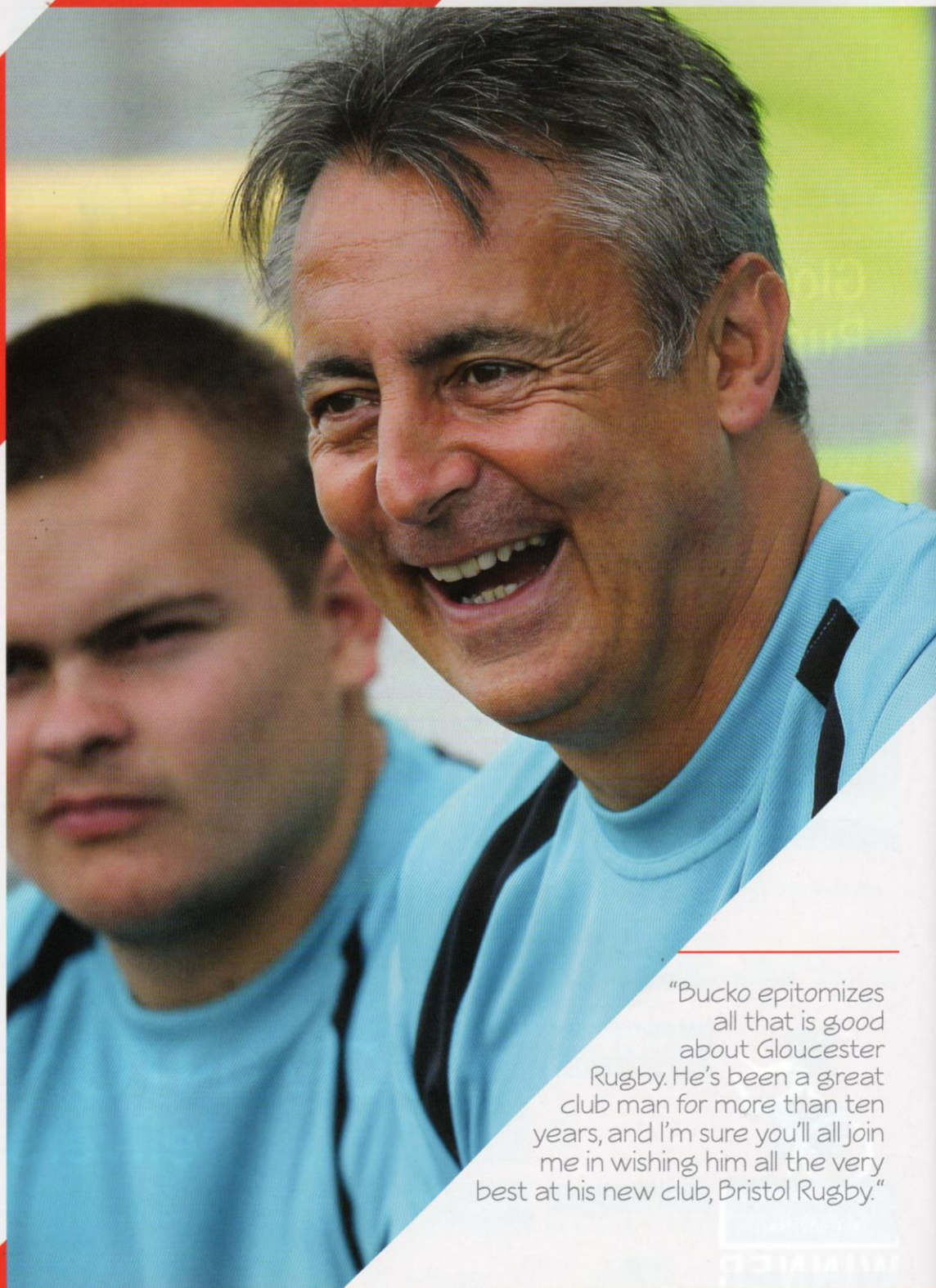
On a personal note, I would just like to thank everyone at Kingsholm for making me and my family feel so welcome. It is truly an inspirational place to play.

I will forever remain a huge fan, and will one day come back as a supporter.

To play with such special players and to also captain them this season has been a very humbling experience - one I have done with honour and pride.

Enjoy the game!

"...I would just like to thank everyone at Kingsholm for making me and my family feel so welcome. It is truly an inspirational place to play."



"Bucko epitomizes all that is good about Gloucester Rugby. He's been a great club man for more than ten years, and I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing him all the very best at his new club, Bristol Rugby."

COACH'S

Notes

Director of Rugby, Nigel Davies

I'D like to extend a warm welcome to the players, staff and officials of Saracens to Kingsholm this afternoon.

We round off our home campaign in the Aviva Premiership this afternoon, with a challenging fixture against the former champions, and current league leaders.

We've obviously had a tough couple of



The club has really moved forward over the last 10 months and must continue to grow as a successful unit.

weeks in Europe and domestically, but it's a sign of the progress that this group of players has made this season that we're still battling for a top four place.

We're still a relatively young team, a team that is still learning and growing. We've been deprived of the services of a number of key players for lengthy periods this season, yet we're still in the mix.

We are a work in progress, and I firmly believe that there is still an awful lot to come from this squad. That's one of the reasons we've focused on keeping the core of this season's squad together.

As a team that is still finding its identity, there will be days when we don't play to our potential. And we've obviously had a couple of those in the past couple of weeks. It's unfortunate but not altogether unexpected.

What is important, is how we react to this. We've got no greater incentive than taking on a very good side in Saracens this afternoon with our Aviva Premiership destiny still very much in our own hands.

We may need other results to go our way in order to have a chance of making the playoffs. However, finishing in one of the Heineken Cup qualification spots is still very much on. And that's a situation we would have readily accepted

when we reported for preseason back in June.

I'm stating the obvious when I say that this afternoon won't be easy. There's a reason that Saracens have already secured a home semi final in the Premiership play offs, and are the last English team left in Europe – they're a very good side.

However, we've shown on our day what we're capable of. We matched up well against them back in December at Vicarage Road, and I genuinely thought we could have taken the win that day.

We will need to be at our best though. We can't afford to concede soft tries or spend long periods with only 14 men on the pitch. Resilience and discipline will be key today.

As our home campaign draws to close, it seems appropriate to reflect on what has been an incredible 10 months or so. I barely seem to have drawn breath since I started in post last June!

The staff and players have worked incredibly hard over the course of the season, and I couldn't be more proud of them. We've had the obvious ups and downs, but we've stayed tight as a unit and moved forward as a group.

For me personally, I came to Gloucester wanting to test myself in a new environment. It's been a challenge and I've found out a lot about myself in the process.

It's been hugely enjoyable though, and I'd like to thank everyone at Gloucester, staff and supporters alike, for welcoming me so wholeheartedly and buying in to what we're trying to achieve.

It's a fantastic club to be involved with, and I'm genuinely excited about what we can achieve.

One final note. Today will be Peter Buxton's last home game as a Gloucester Rugby player, after more than 250 appearances in a superb club career.

Bucko epitomizes all that is good about Gloucester Rugby. He's been a great club man for more than ten years, and I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing him all the very best at his new club, Bristol Rugby.

Nigel



A BIG TEST OF CHARACTER

Nick Purewal's

View from **The Citizen**

"...We're still very much up there and we've got a lot to play for. The top four is still very doable."

Sloppy Gloucester have dug themselves their biggest test of character yet – but Ben Morgan still believes they can clamber back out, and into the Premiership play-offs.



Fit-again Morgan came off the bench for his first action in three months in Friday night's disappointing 32-9 league defeat at Sale Sharks, after ankle ligament trouble.

While he is relieved to be back for the campaign's final drive, Morgan admitted Gloucester have a lot of work ahead this week, to recalibrate their attack that failed to

fire at Sale.

The gritty Sharks shut Gloucester down completely at Salford City Stadium, dominating the breakdown and stifling Nigel Davies' stuttering side.

And number eight Morgan concedes only a total refocus will put Gloucester in the running for victory against league leaders Saracens this afternoon.

The 24-year-old loose-forward explained: "This is a big test of character, but it's one we've brought upon ourselves. It's a test we've set for ourselves, and now we've got to come through that."

"It would be no mean feat to see off Saracens under good circumstances, but we go into the game searching for attacking control again."

"They've got nothing on their minds but winning. And we've got to get back to that mentality."

Gloucester's Sale defeat leaves their play-off hopes in the lap of results elsewhere.

With two Premiership rounds to play, all Kingsholm eyes gaze longingly towards Harlequins' home clash with Northampton on the season's final day.

The two sides barring Gloucester's top-four qualification meet at The Stoop on Saturday, May 4th.

A defeat for the Saints would be Gloucester's best hope of overhauling Jim Mallinder's men and stepping into fourth place.



KING'S School have helped prove once again that Gloucester stalwart John Brain's legacy stretches well beyond Kingsholm.

The golf-loving former King's pupil lends his name to the school's annual golf day for the first time this year.

Participants will contest the John Brain Memorial Cup – presented to the school by John's wife Claire – for the June 21 contest.

For more information or to book places, please contact King's School events manager Marilyn Wheeler on 01452 337337.

Gloucester now trail Northampton by five points, and Harlequins by six.

But forget the top four a moment – with Exeter just four points behind and Bath six, the Cherry and Whites could yet slip out of the top-six Heineken Cup qualification spots.

And former Dursley and Cinderford back-rower Morgan admits only a rapid refocus will bring Gloucester the results they need now.

He continued: "This is the crucial part of our season, we came up here and we were put to the sword. It's a bitter pill to swallow, very frustrating, and we just didn't turn up.

"It's something we've got to draw on to sort out. There's two huge games to go now. We're still very much up there and we've got a lot to play for. The top four is still

this is

Gloucestershire

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very doable.

"We've got to get back to the drawing board and reassess how we move forward, in order to rebuild our attack.

"It's in our own hands, it's up to us as to what we do with it. We've got to examine the issues, cut them out and put things right on the field.

"We're just very upset with ourselves that we put on such a poor display of rugby. Sale put pressure on us for the whole game.

"When you see fans coming up travelling four hours in the car to watch that, you know it's not good enough and now we've got to repay them.

"We're definitely going to work hard in the week to put that right."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

THE FOOTLOOSE FEZ

Saracens were founded in 1876, only 3 years after Gloucester, by the Old Boys of the Philological School in Marylebone, London (later to become St Marylebone Grammar School).

They must have had a sense of humour and history, which would no doubt have irritated Richard the Lionheart but amused Saladin, because they amalgamated with a neighbouring club, the Crusaders, two years later yet retained the Saracens name.

In 1892 Saracens moved from Crown Lane, Southgate, to Firs Farm, Winchmore Hill, and then played at nine different grounds before moving to Bramley Road, Southgate for the 1939–40 season (although the Second World War actually prevented them from playing there until 1945).

They had a fairly restricted fixture list after the war, finding it difficult to attract first class sides to Bramley Road, where the facilities were very basic.

After some bleak years in the early 1980s, the club won the second division in 1989 winning every match.

The next year in the first division they surprised many by finishing fourth in the league behind Wasps, Gloucester and Bath. However, they continued to suffer from star players defecting to bigger name London clubs, and in 1993 they were again relegated.

They bounced back two years later, but only avoided the drop in 1996 when the RFU decided that there should be no relegation in the first season of professional rugby.

Crucially Nigel Wray stepped in to provide the financial backing required for a professional club and, from then on, star players joined rather

than left the Club.

**THE CLUBS
FIRST MET
IN 1968 AND
DREW THE
MATCH 3-3**

Saracens moved again in 1996 to Enfield FC's ground at Southbury Road, and a year later, to Watford FC's home ground at Vicarage Road. The Fez Heads were born, and the club embarked on a professional transformation.

They have, of course, played their home games all over the place this season, but have now opened a fine new stadium at Allianz Park. It seems consistent with their peripatetic history that they promptly abandon it in favour of Twickenham for their European games.

It all feels very different to Gloucester who have been rooted at Kingsholm for 122 years - except for that one little foray to Ashton Gate whilst the new stand was being built in 2007 - but even this blemish suggests that it will be 2123 before you next have to travel away from Kingsholm for a home match.

FACTS AND FIGURES VERSUS THE FEZ

There will be a good many at Kingsholm today who may well have been at the first fixture with Saracens, because unlike most of our Premiership opponents, Saracens are a relatively recent addition to the Gloucester fixture list.

However, even those who were present may have difficulty in recalling that first encounter - in a rather undistinguished match at Kingsholm on 23rd March 1968, the clubs played out an uninspiring 3-3 draw. Gloucester's only scoring contribution was a penalty by the immaculate Don Rutherford.

Floods and frost caused a couple of seasons to pass before the next fixture, played at

▼ Don Rutherford, captain and scorer in the first match



Southgate on 4th December 1971, which Saracens won 20-12.

Gloucester's points came from a try by Dave Owen, converted by Eric Stephens, who also

GLouceSTER

(Red and White)

FULL BACK		
1	D. RUTHERFORD (I)	(Captain)
THREEQUARTERS		
2	D. MEDCROFT	R.W.
3	J. BAYLISS (C)	R.C.
4	R. JARDINE	L.C.
5	J. GROVES (C)	L.W.
HALF BACKS		
6	T. PALMER (C)	O.H.
7	J. SPALDING	S.H.
FORWARDS		
8	J. FOWKE (C)	
9	M. NICHOLLS (C)	
10	R. COWLING	
11	A. BRINN (C)	
12	N. JACKSON	
13	P. FORD (I)	
14	D. OWEN (C)	
15	R. SMITH (C)	

SARACENS

FULL BACK		
15	G. HUNT (C)	
THREEQUARTERS		
14	A. JANAWAY (C)	R.W.
13	R. WEAVER (C)	R.C.
12	W. DOBBS (C)	L.C.
11	K. CAREY (C)	L.W.
HALF BACKS		
10	M. J. ALDER (C)	O.H.
9	D. BRIGHT	S.H.
FORWARDS		
1	R. BLOOM (C)	
2	J. LOCKWOOD (C)	
3	C. LEFEVER (C)	
4	B. GOODCHILD (C)	
5	J. BAIRD	
6	J. EVANS	
8	G. A. SHERRIFF (I)	
7	M. PLAYER (C)	

kicked a penalty, and Mickey Booth chipped in with a dropped goal. Gloucester were shorn of four of their best, playing in the England trial at Exeter that day.

Thereafter, fixtures were arranged once a season, alternately home and away, until the introduction of leagues, although even this only led to fixtures once per season until 1995-96. Since then, the teams have met most seasons, home and away, with the occasional break when Sarries slipped out of the top flight.

The teams also met in two successive seasons in the John Player Cup, Gloucester winning 29-3 on 23rd February 1985, with Nick Price, Derrick Morgan, Paul Taylor, Laurie Cummins and Ian Smith running in tries, and Tim Smith converting three of them and adding a penalty.

Gloucester had a good run against London clubs in the Cup that season, beating Richmond, Saracens and Harlequins in successive rounds, before tripping up 11-12 against Bath in the semi-final.

On 8th March 1986, Gloucester progressed again at the expense of Saracens, thanks to a 13-6 win at Southgate, courtesy of a try from Marcus Hannaford and three penalties by Tim Smith, but lost at London Scottish in the next round.

▶ The teams listed in the match programme for the first match between Gloucester and Saracens



▲ Ludo Mercier, whose kicking was even more impressive without his boots

Overall Gloucester are well ahead in the total series between the two clubs, both in terms of results, having won 39 and lost 18 of the 61 matches played to date, and also points scored with a margin of 1302 to 1033.

The record is a little more even in league matches, with Gloucester ahead 23-16 in wins and 924 to 823 in points.

The main reason for this imbalance is the Kingsholm factor – Saracens have only twice returned home from Gloucester with a win under their belts.

The first of those was a long time coming – Gloucester came unstuck 13-14 in the 23rd game in the series on 30th April 2005; the second being last season, when a 17-19 defeat on 29th October 2011 ended a two year unbeaten league record at Kingsholm.

BIGGEST WINS

The greatest margin of victory for Gloucester is 50-9, secured in the league semi-final on 5th May 2007. Tries came from all parts of the team - Peter Richards, Luke Narraway, Anthony Allen, Mark Foster, Andy Hazell, Christian Califano and a penalty try, with the ever dependable Willie Walker chipping in six conversions and a penalty. Jon Goodridge came off the bench during this match to make his last appearance for the Club.

The Cherry and White horde invaded Twickenham for the final the following week, only to be deflated by a 16-44 defeat to a rampant Leicester.

The highest score by Gloucester against Saracens is 51-20 in the Powergen Cup on 25th January 2003. Tries were scored by Thinus Delport (2), James Forrester (2), Terry Fanolua, Andy Gomersall, Adam Eustace and Rodrigo Roncero. Conversions were kicked by Henry Paul and Ludovic Mercier (3), who also kicked a penalty.

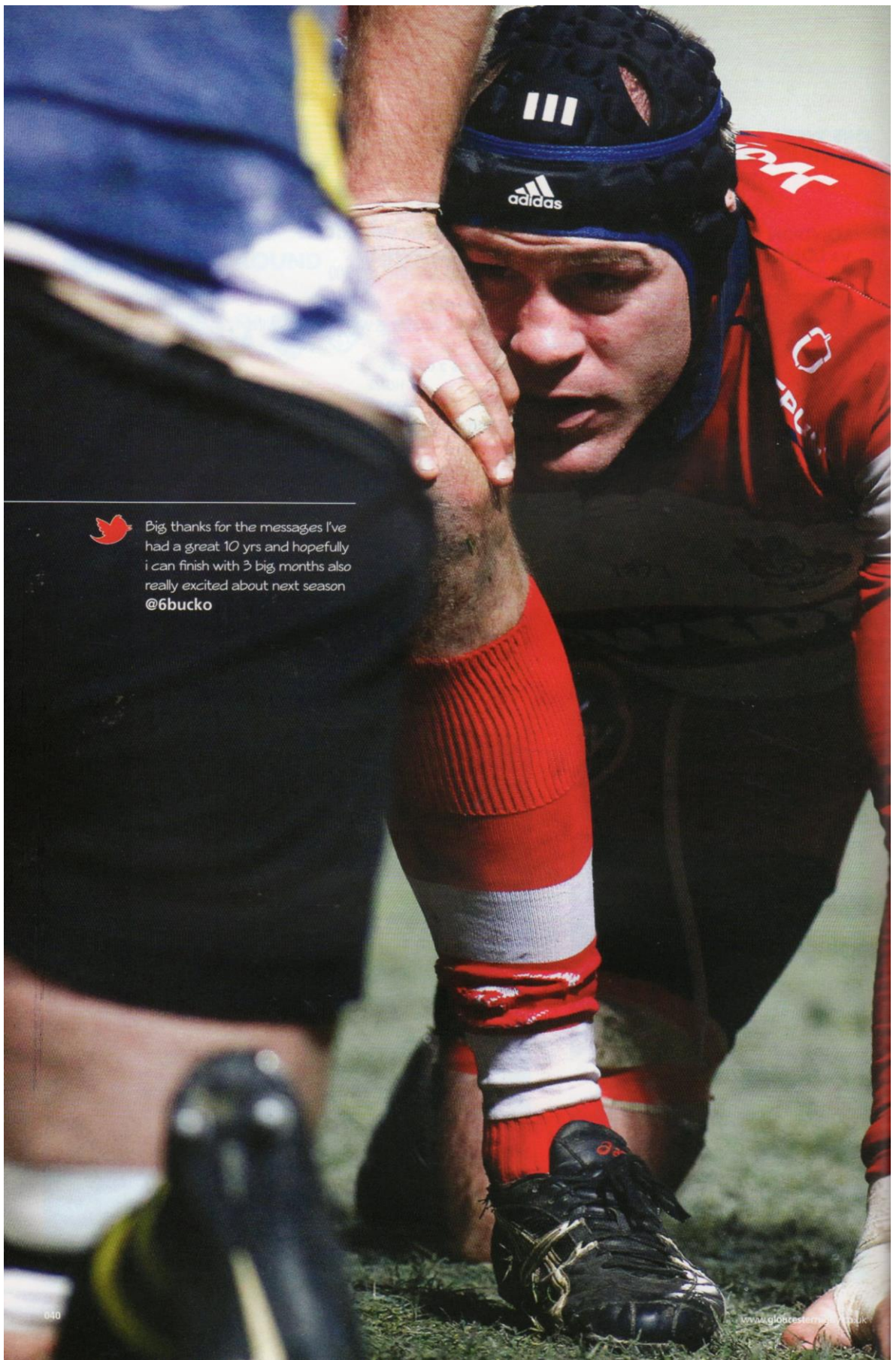
A week later, the teams met again in a league fixture at Vicarage Road, Watford, and Gloucester won again, 29-22. On this occasion "Terry from Gloucester" Fanolua again scored a try, but the hero of the hour was Ludo Mercier with a full house of scoring – one try, two conversions, four penalties and a dropped goal.

The biggest wins by Saracens were 41-11 on 14th September 1996, and 50-20 on 20th August 2000.

Bonus
CHERRIES

GLouceSTER RUGBY
HERITAGE





Big thanks for the messages I've had a great 10 yrs and hopefully i can finish with 3 big months also really excited about next season @6bucko

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

*Y*OU could forgive Peter Buxton for lingering just a little longer than usual as the Gloucester team do their usual lap of honour to thank the Kingsholm crowd after today's game.

After 11 seasons and more than 250 competitive appearances for Gloucester Rugby, today marks the final matchday that the big back rower will be involved with the Cherry and Whites.

Having joined the club back in 2002, as one of Nigel Melville's first signings for the club, he's been a fixture at Kingsholm ever since.

However, all good things have to come to an end at some point, and the 34 year old will head down the M5 this summer to continue his playing career with Bristol Rugby.

Bucko, as he's affectionately known to the Kingsholm faithful, admitted this week that the reality of the situation probably won't dawn on him until around 4:45pm this afternoon.

"I'd not actually thought about it that much until I was just asked the question. It'll be a strange moment, I guess as my time at Kingsholm comes to an end and I think it'll take a while to sink in.

"Hopefully, we'll have the right result at the end of the 80 minutes and we'll still be in a position to go on and win something at the end of the season.

"I've just been trying to get on with the day to day to be honest. Every now and again, I wake up and think about the time that I won't be coming in to Hartpury to train or to Kingsholm to play any more. But you just have to get on with it."

So many Gloucester players declare that the Kingsholm matchday atmosphere is a unique one, and Buxton is no different.

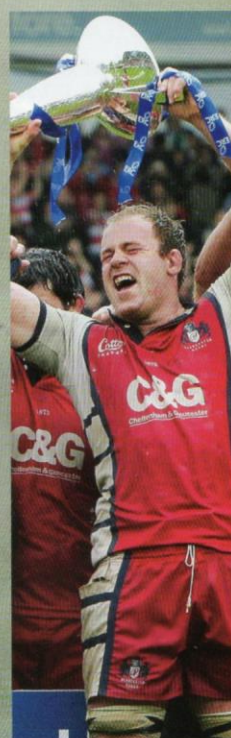
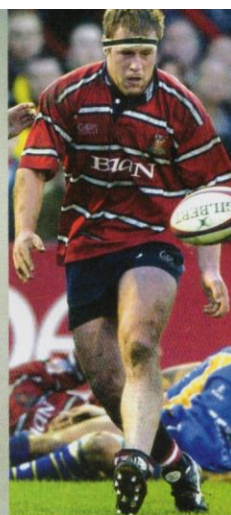
"I'll miss everything about it massively - Kingsholm is unique. Driving to the club on a matchday, walking through the car park with everyone wishing you luck for the game ahead.

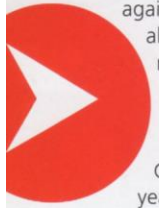
"But, of course, the main thing is the incredible support you get from the Shed from over an hour before kick off, right the way through the game. Having several thousand people shouting for you when you warm up is something I'll definitely miss.

"No-one at the club ever takes it for granted, but I think it's one of those things that you'll appreciate all the more when you don't get to experience it every week."

Understandably, in more than a decade at the club, the Cheltenham born player has racked up a lifetime's worth of memories, but some stand out more than others.

"There have been quite a few. The Heineken Cup quarter final





against Munster at Kingsholm, although we lost, was a massive, massive occasion. The whole place was buzzing and that day really stands out for me.

"Winning the Amlin Challenge Cup against London Irish a few years back was a special day and so was winning the LV= Cup a couple of years ago."

The last couple of seasons have seen him start to share the benefit of his considerable experience with some of the club's young prospects.

Working with the club's Academy staff, he's been involved with coaching the U15s and U18s teams. It's a career step he'd be keen to expand in the future.

"I'd love to keep doing it. It's just a question of the right opportunities presenting themselves to be honest.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed working with the U15s last year and the U18s this year. I've learnt a lot about myself in the process and hopefully helped a few of them to develop their game at the same time.

"Watching them progress, and seeing their effort and enthusiasm is something that I've enjoyed.

"There looks to be some real talent in the 18s group this year and hopefully we'll see them progress through the Academy and eventually into the first team squad.

"And, the other two age groups, the 16s and 17s, I think will provide some



"I've achieved a lot and I've really, really enjoyed my time here. It's been such a good place to be for the past ten or eleven years, a great place to work and play rugby."

stars of the future at Kingsholm. The club wants to develop youth and provide playing opportunities. The future looks bright on that front."

The immediate concern, though, is Gloucester finishing the season as well as possible, starting with Saracens today.

"In the ten years that I've been here, the boys have always been prepared to work hard here and that's been really apparent this season. We've hung in there in some games and got a result or at least points when defeat has looked likely.

"Hopefully we can keep that going, give it one final push and make the top four and make the playoffs.

"Saracens are the champions, they're one of the form teams and they're going well in Europe. It'll be a great test and, if we can win it, then we'll be right in the hunt."

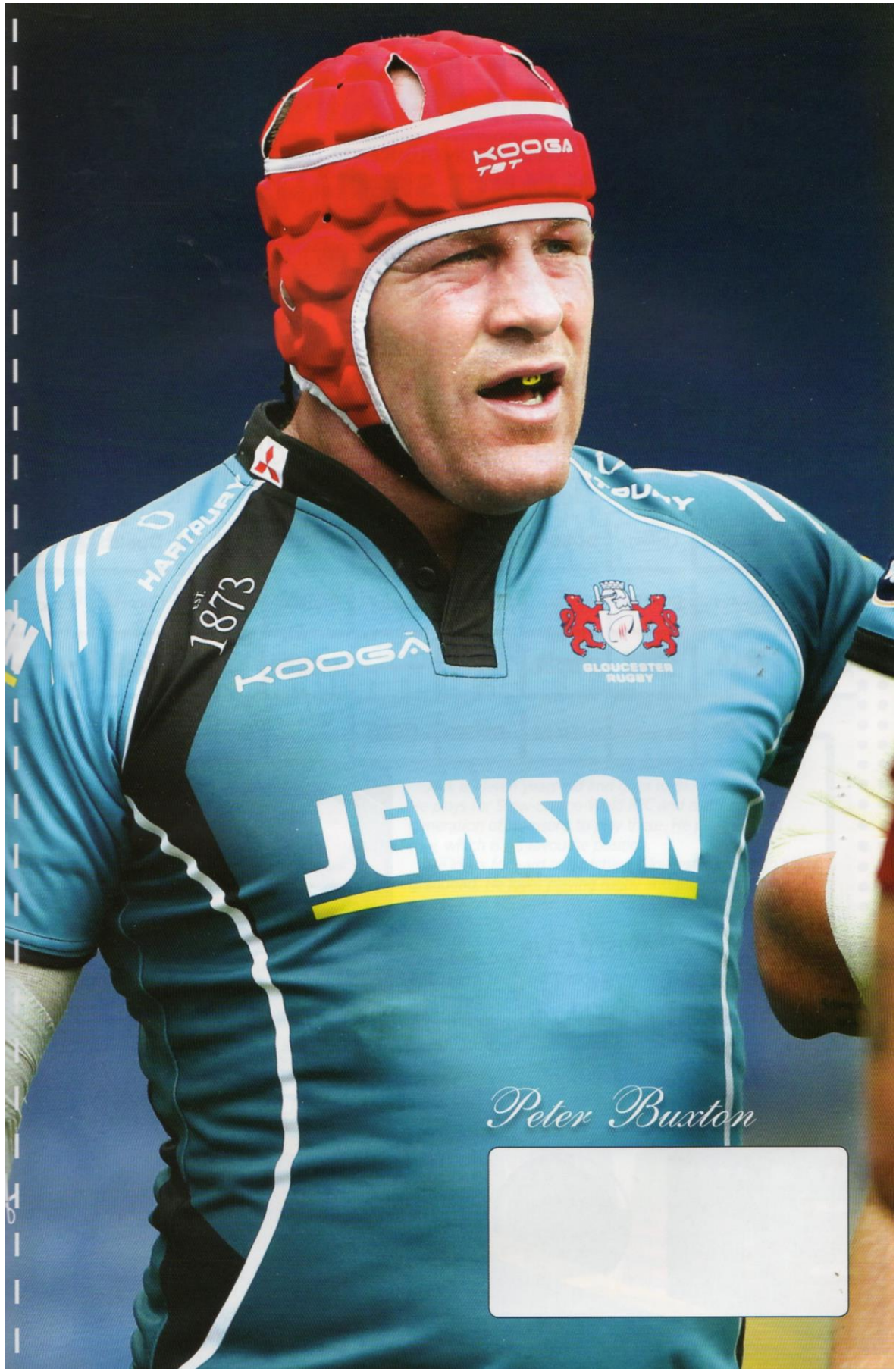
As he prepares to sign off and move on to the next chapter of his playing career, in the Championship at Bristol, he has nothing but positive memories but confesses to one last wish!

"I've achieved a lot and I've really, really enjoyed my time here. It's been such a good place to be for the past ten or eleven years, a great place to work and play rugby.

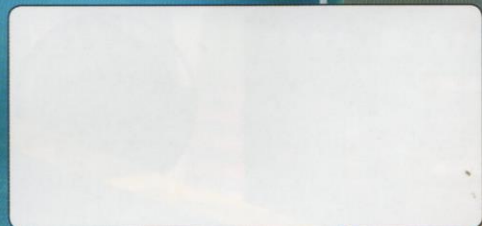
"I've always enjoyed coming to training and playing the games. And that's down to everyone at the club, the supporters, the city but also the guys around you in the dressing room.

"The one regret would be that we didn't quite get that Premiership title. Hopefully, we can get it this year – that would be some way to sign off!"





Peter Buxton



Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton

"We'll have defeats, we'll have horrible defeats, but if we make the same progress next term as we did this, Gloucester will be a proper force to be reckoned with."

So, hopefully by now, all the angst over last week's 'performance' at Sale will have subsided a bit and we can concentrate on today.

Yes, it was disappointing to go down like that. But let's not forget the fact, that it was the first fixture of the season where we failed to come away without a point.

Had we been playing the same way we did last season, I reckon we would have been at least about 10 points short of our current total, and scrapping around in the also ran pile rather than slugging it out over the last two weeks with an outside (albeit it quite a long way outside) chance of making the play offs.

Again, if we cast our minds back a year, thinking that we might be in the race for the European Cup places would have been a bit fanciful. But here we are in fifth place looking good.

Ok the wheels came off a bit last week, but that was then and this is now. And if you want a test to see how you can bounce back, why not do it against arguably the best team in England?

And you could also say that they are the most divisive team in England too – in fact they should be sponsored by Marmite, as it seems you either love them or hate them. Either way, you can't ignore them!

Really though, it's not that black and white. On the field they are a veritable juggernaut of a

side, great players in every position, great players in reserve and even more great players hanging around the training ground doing woodwork and basket weaving courses on the off chance of getting a game there at some point.

I think at the last count they had about 12800 players in their squad, each paid around £1m a year in cash and every one of them a South African international. Or maybe I have been reading too much 'comment' on other clubs' fan websites...

As ever the facts don't bear out the stories, do they... I think there are four players in their squad who have actually played for South Africa amassing 130 caps between them – 111 of those belong to John Smit! Compare that to the 280 caps held by the 11 players who have turned out for England and the 'all South Africans' blabber starts to fall apart.

Maybe the way Sarries have gone about marketing themselves has got people a bit hot under the collar. Personally I think some of their initiatives are a bit tasteless, but then I am a self-confessed dinosaur. 'Opera singers' warbling is a bit much for me, and I reckon their 'Stand Up' song should be banned as it is the closest thing we have to a rugby equivalent of water-boarding.

But, at the end of the day, if all their marketing, lunatic mascot, people dressed as Crusaders (don't get that one – weren't the



Saracens on the other side?) switching games to Twickenham or Wembley, giving discounted or free tickets to community groups and schools helps to bring in a new audience, and helps to get kids, who wouldn't maybe have considered playing and watching rugby into the game, then it's all worth it.

It's easy to knock them, and for that matter Wasps and London Irish for some questionable marketing, but we're lucky – we haven't had to move home, away from our traditional home and support and had to build new communities and support.

And we've never had to play in that horrible dump of a stadium in Watford. I am so glad they have moved and am looking forward to a trip to the new ground next season.

Of course they are going to lose today, though – this is the game that gets us the European Cup spot for next season.

But then after today, that's it isn't it... No more rugby at Kingsholm for ages. This season has gone by in a flash, it feels like it was only last week when I sat down to hack out some

A few Gloucester fans managed to enjoy themselves at the Salford City Stadium!

words for the Northampton programme back in August, and now here we are heading towards the final curtain.

So what can we say about this season? Well for me it's been one of the more enjoyable ones. As ever, supporting Gloucester has been a rollercoaster of emotions, highs followed by lows – wins over Quins followed by destruction by Biarritz and Sale.

But, what we have seen on and off the field, has been some progress that, if we are all honest, we maybe didn't expect to see when we looked forward this time last year.

In the 'where do you think we will finish' games during the summer there were more than a few who thought we would be at the wrong end, and at least one local pundit predicted Sale would win the Premiership.

Most of us, though, thought anything above 6th and a Heineken Cup spot would be a result, and barring some really freak results over the next week or two we'll get that.

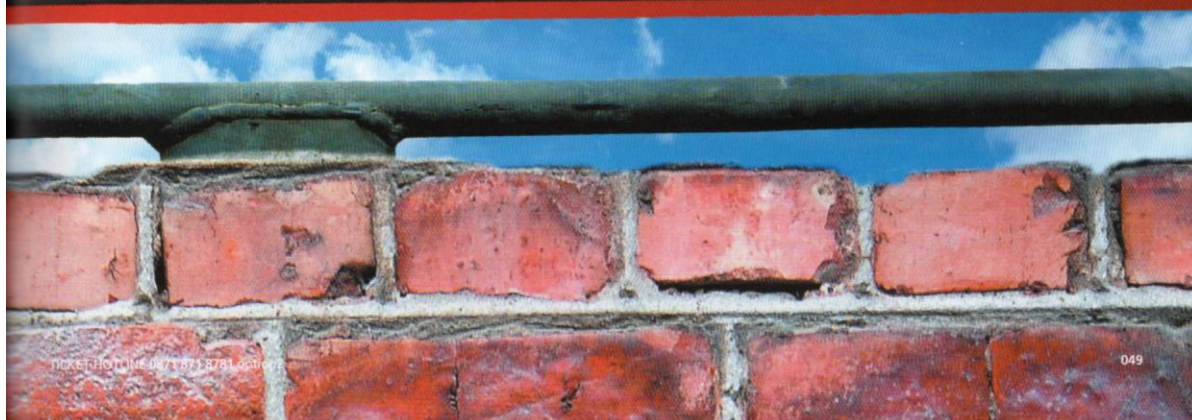
We've done it with the usual mix of injuries and mishaps – losing Sinbad, Morgan x 2 and Jimmy Cowan at vital times of the season haven't helped us.

They will be back though, unlike Alex Brown who lost his fight against injury and has had to retire. A great bloke is Alex, I hope we can keep him in some sort of capacity around the place.

And we've seen some players from the lower league come in and take the place by storm – stand up Mr Cook and Mr Kalamafoni.

So, already we look forward to next season, as ever I do it with optimism – or as some may like to put it, as a 'happy clappy'. We'll have defeats, we'll have horrible defeats, but if we make the same progress next term as we did this, Gloucester will be a proper force to be reckoned with.

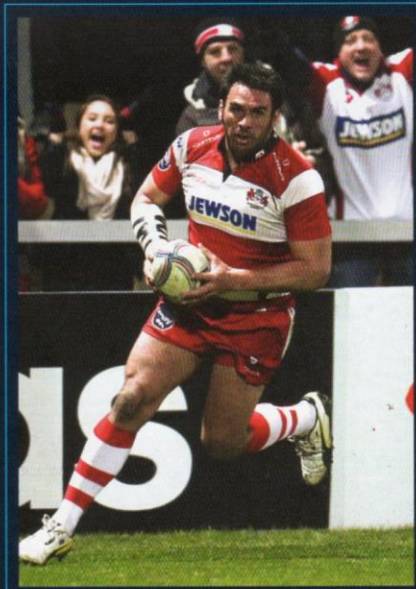
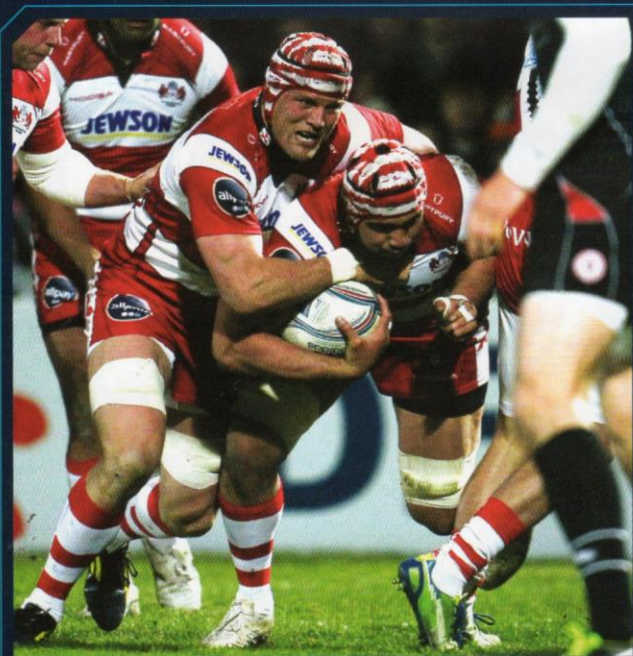
Bring it on! Have a great summer everyone.



Replay ACTION

GLOUCESTER RUGBY BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE

31
41



GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS

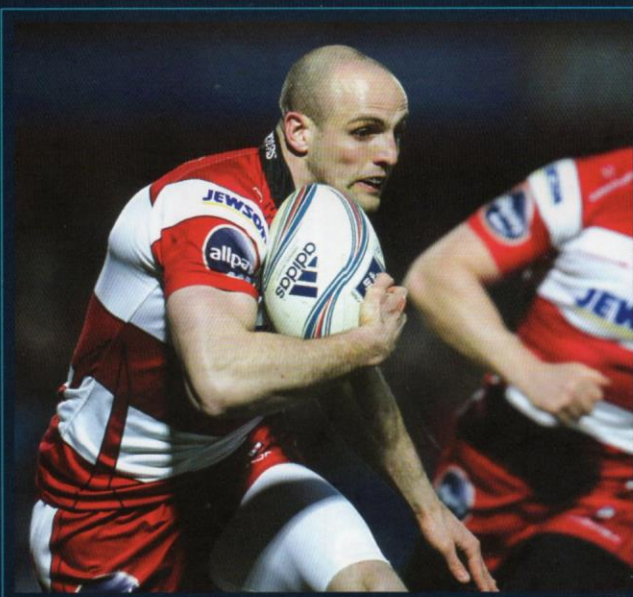


TRIES: Tindall (13), Monahan (78),
Edmonds (80)
CONS: Burns (79, 80)
PENS: Burns (10, 26, 34, 47)

BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE POINTS SCORERS



TRIES: Thomas (22, 31), Heguy (36),
Baby (56), Burotu (73)
CONS: Yachvili (23, 32, 38, 57, 75)
PENS: Yachvili (18)
DROP: Traille (11)



After topping their Amlin Challenge Cup pool with six wins from six matches, Gloucester's European hopes were dashed by an impressive performance from trophy holders Biarritz Olympique.

Nigel Davies' side gave it everything. In fact, they started the game in fine style, taking the game to the French side right from the kick off.

4TH APRIL 2013, 20:00 KO
KINGSHOLM
AMLIN CHALLENGE CUP: QUARTER-FINAL



Champagne Moment

Gloucester's first try was a reward for a patient build up, as the pack firstly set up great field position with some powerful ball carrying, before Freddie Burns dummied and then floated a lovely cut out pass for Mike Tindall to score in the corner.



As the first quarter drew to a close, the home supporters could have been forgiven for thinking that a semi final berth was well within reach.

However, Biarritz made the most of the next 20 minutes when two yellow cards derailed the Gloucester effort. The French side took full advantage by scoring three tries, taking an iron grip on the game.

One appeared extremely harsh, and the Shed was doubly incensed when Martyn Thomas was upended with what looked like a tip tackle, but not even a penalty was awarded.

Trailing 14-27 at the half time interval, Gloucester knew that they would have to throw caution to the wind in the second half, and they went on to dominate possession and territory.

As the hour mark approached, the Cherry and Whites looked set to get back to within a score following Sione Kalamafoni's rampaging run. However, the ball was turned over and Biarritz ran it back for a length of field try to break Gloucester hearts.

Gloucester fought to the very end. Late tries from Shane Monahan and Huia Edmonds gave the final scoreline a less lopsided appearance, restored some pride and gave the team something to build on for the Sale game the following Friday.

Disappointment was the initial reaction around the stadium but, as Nigel Davies said after the game, this young Gloucester team would learn from their first quarter final appearance for four years and come back stronger for the experience.

Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

"We weren't outclassed or outplayed, that's for sure. We weren't as good as we can be and we weren't as clinical as we should be.

"Two or three moments will win or lose you the game, we got them wrong and they got them right.

"This side is learning, it's learning how to win games, it's learning how to compete at the highest level and make no mistake, that Biarritz are one of the top teams in Europe."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Martyn Thomas
14	W	Charlie Sharples
13	C	Henry Trinder
12	C	Mike Tindall (c)
11	W	Jonny May
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Dave Lewis
1	P	Nick Wood
2	H	Koree Britton ■
3	P	Dario Chistolini ■
4	L	Lua Lokotui
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	Yann Thomas
19	R	Andy Hazell
20	R	Gareth Evans
21	R	Dan Robson
22	R	Rob Cook
23	R	Shane Monahan

BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Marcelo Bosch
14	W	Taku Ngwenya
13	C	Benoit Baby
12	C	Damien Traille
11	W	Teddy Thomas
10	FH	Jean Pascal Barraque
9	SH	Dimitri Yachvili
1	P	Eugene van Staden
2	H	Arnaud Heguy
3	P	Francisco Gomez Kodela
4	L	Erik Lund
5	L	Mathias Marie
6	F	Tanguy Molcard
7	F	Raphael Lakafia
8	N8	Imanol Harinordoquy ■
16	R	Benoit August
17	R	Thomas Synaeghel
18	R	Ben Broster
19	R	Pelu Taele-Pavihi
20	R	Seremaia Burotu
21	R	Yann Lesgourgues
22	R	Charles Gimenez
23	R	Paul Couet-Lannes

ACTION
Replay

SALE SHARKS GLOUCESTER RUGBY

32 09



SALE SHARKS POINTS SCORERS



TRIES: Leota (0), Peel (6, 73), Shepherd (39), Cueto (80)
CONS: Macleod (6, 39)
PEN: Macleod (29)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS

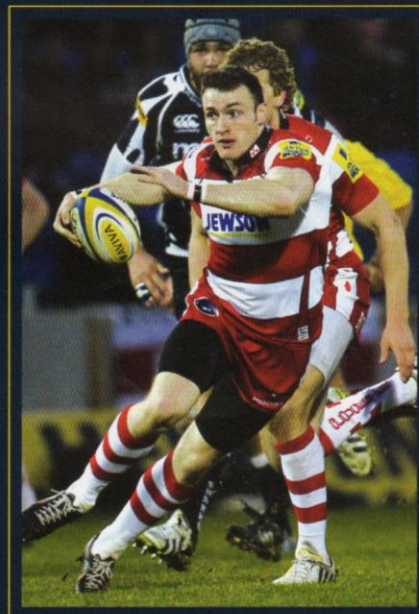


PENS: Burns (4, 14, 53)

Heywood Road and Edgeley Park were never the happiest of hunting grounds for Gloucester in recent times.

And, despite a change in venue to the relatively palatial Salford City Stadium, the Cherry and Whites' record in the North West is still an unenviable one after this 32-9 defeat.

Both teams came into the game needing a win, but for vastly differing reasons. The Sharks wanted to pull definitively clear of London Welsh at the foot of the table, while Gloucester wanted to keep their top four



12TH APRIL 2013, 19:45 KO
SALFORD CITY STADIUM
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY



Champagne Moment

The reappearance of number eight Ben Morgan after three months out with an ankle injury was a positive for Gloucester on a difficult night.

Morgan only got a 20 minute run out, but did enough to show that he'll play an important part in the final two games of the season.



challenge alive.

A good start would be vital. However, it couldn't have gone any worse for Gloucester.

One kick charged down for a try is a rare occurrence. Two is the rugby equivalent of lightning striking twice. And all this in the first seven minutes. It left Gloucester facing a 12-0 deficit, and they never got back on terms.

There was no lack of effort or ambition. On several occasions, Gloucester moved menacingly into the home 22 only for the move to break down due to a handling error or a wrong option taken.

Freddie Burns kept his side in the game with a couple of well struck penalties, but Sale struck a killer blow on the stroke of half time which effectively put the game to bed.

Sam Tuitupou found Cameron Shepherd with a smart inside pass that sliced open the Gloucester defence and the full back waltzed home.

The frustration was that the pass was a good yard forward and, although referee David Rose sent it upstairs, TMO David Grashoff ruled that Tuitupou's hands had moved backward.

It left Gloucester a mountain to climb in the second half, and Sale were able to sit back and defend the lead that they hadn't had to work awfully hard for.

Gloucester battled, but were always playing from deep and never really looked like getting the try that would lead to a brave comeback.

As time ticked on, and the feeling that it wasn't going to be Gloucester's day grew, the Sharks struck twice late on against an opponent now reduced to 14 men to rub salt into the wounds.

Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

"Overall, that was hugely disappointing. We conceded two soft tries and never really recovered from that. "We weren't good enough and I have to give credit to Sale - they played well."

"This team is a lot better than they showed tonight and that's the disappointing thing."

SALE SHARKS



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Cameron Shepherd
14	W	Tom Brady
13	C	Johnny Leota
12	C	Sam Tuitupou
11	W	Mark Cueto
10	FH	Nick Macleod
9	SH	Dwayne Peel
1	P	Alasdair Dickinson
2	H	Marc Jones
3	P	Henry Thomas
4	L	Kearnan Myall
5	L	Andrei Ostrikov
6	F	Dan Braid
7	F	David Seymour
8	N8	James Gaskell
16	R	Tommy Taylor
17	R	Ross Harrison
18	R	Tony Buckley
19	R	Tom Holmes
20	R	Richie Vernon
21	R	Nathan Fowles
22	R	Danny Cipriani
23	R	Charlie Amesbury

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



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



Teams correct at time of print 18/04/13

TODAY'S *Line-ups*



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

VS

SARACENS



ROB COOK	15	ALEX GOODE
CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	CHRIS ASHTON
HENRY TRINDER	13	JOEL TOMKINS
BILLY TWELVETREES	12	BRAD BARRITT
JONNY MAY	11	DAVID STRETTLE
FREDDIE BURNS	10	OWEN FARRELL
DAN ROBSON	09	NEIL DE KOCK
NICK WOOD	01	MAKO VUNIPOLA
KOREE BRITTON	02	JOHN SMIT
SHAUN KNIGHT	03	MATT STEVENS
TOM SAVAGE (C)	04	STEVE BORTHWICK (C)
LUA LOKOTUI	05	ALISTAIR HARGREAVES
SIONE KALAMAFONI	06	KELLY BROWN
AKAPUSI QERA	07	WILL FRASER
BEN MORGAN	08	JACKSON WRAY
TOMMASO D'APICE	16	JAMIE GEORGE
DAN MURPHY	17	RHYS GILL
YANN THOMAS	18	CARLOS NIETO
PETER BUXTON	19	MOURITZ BOTHA
ANDY HAZELL	20	JACQUES BURGER
DAVE LEWIS	21	RICHARD WIGGLESWORTH
RYAN MILLS	22	CHARLIE HODGSON
MARTYN THOMAS	23	CHRIS WYLES

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE: JP Doyle

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Peter Huckle and Paul Burton

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