

..... GLOUCESTER RUGBY OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2018/19 SEASON

# CHERRY & WHITES

..... GLOUCESTER RUGBY v NORTHAMPTON SAINTS | 1 SEPTEMBER 2018 | 2:00PM | GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP | £3.50 | 01 .....

 **MITSUBISHI MOTORS**  
MAIN CLUB PARTNER

 **Gallagher** **PREMIERSHIP RUGBY**   **LAND ROVER** **RICOH** imagine. change. **CITIZEN**  **GILBEY'S** **THE SUNDAY TIMES** **5** **BT Sport**

CAPTAIN

# WILLI HEINZ



GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM AS WE EMBARK ON A BRAND NEW SEASON, AN EXCITING TIME FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED AT THE CLUB AND IT'S GREAT TO BE KICKING OFF THE NEW GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP ON HOME SOIL.

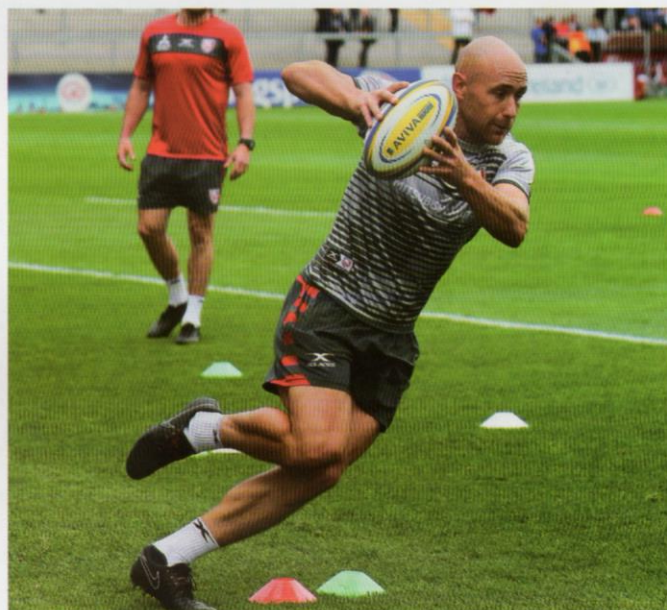
It's been a great preseason, one of the toughest I've ever experienced, and Johan has been putting his stamp on the whole programme, with lots of running, and during one of the UK's hottest summers on record, it's definitely resulted in some tough old days! But we are through it, and we can now take all of this hard work onto the pitch.

It's where all the talking stops. It's time to deliver as a squad, and we are excited to test ourselves in what is probably the toughest domestic club competition. All 12 clubs will be coming into this weekend with such optimism and hope, so it will be a massive effort to get through the opening games with the results we all want.

Firstly, for me, it's a real honour to again be pulling on the Captain's armband for this group. Johan puts a lot of trust and focus in our player leadership group to drive the team forward, take responsibility for ourselves and this is a positive move in that we have some quality decision-makers with bags of experience, coming together to drive the team forward on and off the field of play.

I love captaining this team, we're in a good place, and our squad is hugely competitive. I wouldn't like to be the coaches sitting down to decide the squad early this week, as all of the players have given their all in preseason to put their hands up for selection.

Our two preseason games too have been positive. We tried out a lot of combinations, and we achieved vital playing time together, picking up a pair of wins against quality opponents. Results in this period count for little in the final reckoning, but we're in a good place to kick off the new campaign.



The new players have come in and really bought in to our culture. We have such a tight-knit squad, the best I've felt for a long time, so we are targeting some special moments together over the next year.

We know there will be some expectations of us, rugby is growing in profile and we know the scrutiny and focus that will be coming our way. We have to use this energy, and really thrive on it as a group.

Saints will be coming to Kingsholm today with a lot of confidence, they've recruited well on and off the field, and will want to kick off the season on a winning note. It will definitely be an exciting game this weekend.

It has to be said, we have aspirations to keep developing as a group, we have a settled core of the squad, and

the club have backed our ambitions with the additions that have been brought in over the summer. I'm sure you will agree with me that the new pitch looks phenomenal and the squad are itching to get to work on it, and show what we have to offer.

As we embark on this new campaign, as a group we know what is expected of us, what we need to do and the levels we need to reach. We won't be coming out with sweeping statements, but will quietly go about our work as we know the challenges will be huge, week in, week out.

Thank you for supporting us, and I hope you enjoy not just today, but all season.

Let's do this!

**Willi**

OWNER

# MARTIN ST. QUINTON



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR THE START OF THE 2018-19 SEASON ON WHAT IS ACTUALLY GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB'S 5000TH COMPETITIVE GAME. ON THIS OCCASION WE ALSO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO THE PLAYERS, STAFF AND SUPPORTERS OF NORTHAMPTON SAINTS.

For me, there is nothing quite like the build-up to the first match of the season – there has been so much planning and anticipation of what is to come. In particular this season, we will look forward to having some very competitive European matches.

It has been a very busy Summer for the entire Club. Our re-brand was announced at the end of last season, so a lot has been done to replace logos in and around the stadium.

Our new team strip has been well received and is selling well in the Club shops, while the new pitch surface took some weeks to perfect, especially during a spectacularly hot July. The ground staff, and other members of staff, have worked incredibly hard to produce this excellent playing surface.

The players have, of course, been back in training for some weeks at Hartpury and have had time to acquaint themselves with the new surface at Kingsholm. They have been working hard and I know Johan is pleased with their efforts and has enjoyed having his squad for the entire pre-season, unlike last year when he was only able to start with us at the end of August.

Last season we made real progress with Johan as Head Coach and I feel there is a good atmosphere here at the Club and everything to look forward to.

I was delighted to take part in our Fans Forum this week. It is always good to be able to meet up with as many supporters as possible, and

respond to any questions or concerns that they may have. The feedback we gain on these occasions is invaluable.

It just leaves me to say thank you once again for your unwavering support. Club Membership numbers, at a record high, reflect the optimism around the Club, and certainly the support in the ground last week against the Dragons was tremendous.

I know there will be a good Kingsholm welcome for the Gloucester players today, and I am sure that as they run out they will be proud to play in this great Club's 5000th fixture.

Enjoy the game!

**Martin**

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

# DAVID HUMPHREYS



## GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP OPENER AGAINST NORTHAMPTON SAINTS.

I don't know about you, but the summer seems to have flown by. Yet here we are again, getting ready for the first game of what I'm sure will be another memorable season in the life of Gloucester Rugby.

Quite a bit has changed here at Kingsholm over the summer. The new badge and the Club re-branding have given the stadium a new look and feel, yet it still remains reassuringly familiar. From a rugby perspective, the most significant change is the one that you can see this afternoon – the new pitch!

So much has already been said and written about the new playing surface, which is now a mixture of natural grass and synthetic fibres. The most important feedback obviously comes from the players and having trained and played on it over the last few weeks, they're delighted with it and looking forward to a perfect playing surface throughout the season.

On the subject of the players, we've welcomed a number of new faces into the squad over the summer. As always, the new players have brought energy, enthusiasm and real quality to training but the key has been keeping the core of our squad together from last year to build on the progress we made over the course of last season.

While we're very excited to see the impact Danny, Matt and Franco will make on their competitive debuts this afternoon, I'm also looking forward to seeing how our established players have benefitted from a full preseason with Johan and the coaches.

Preseason has been tough for the players but, unlike 12 months ago when Johan arrived in Gloucester a week before our first game, it feels that we're so much further down the road in terms of our preparations than we were heading into last season.

From the day preseason started 10 weeks ago, everyone has been focused on being prepared for the challenge of Northampton today and getting the season off to a winning start.

I'm delighted to welcome Chris Boyd to Gloucester for his first Premiership game and I'm sure you will give him and all the staff, players and supporters from Northampton, a very warm Kingsholm welcome.

With so many changes around Kingsholm over the summer, one thing that hasn't changed is the incredible Gloucester support. With nearly 10,000 people here for a preseason friendly last Thursday evening, it reminded us all what a wonderful place this is to play rugby and how important your support will be throughout the season.

**David**

# AFTER 145 YEARS, THE CHERRY AND WHITES PLAY GAME NUMBER 5,000

ON 4 OCTOBER 1873, THE NEWLY FORMED GLOUCESTER FOOTBALL CLUB TOOK TO THE FIELD FOR THE FIRST TIME, TO PLAY THE COLLEGE, WHICH WAS IN FACT THE KING'S SCHOOL, GLOUCESTER. THE GAME WAS PLAYED ON THE OLD COLLEGE GROUND, WHICH WAS AT THAT TIME SITUATED AT THE DEANS WALK END OF THE PRESENT KINGSHOLM.

Gloucester won the game by two goals and six tries to nil. Did any of those players have any concept of what they had set in motion? This was the birth of what became known as Gloucester Rugby Club, an institution venerated by generations of local folk, who pass on their enthusiasm to sons (and increasing numbers of daughters as well) to this day.

The club flourished and Gloucester went through the 1882-83 season unbeaten. They were christened "The Invincibles". The first Gloucester born player to be selected for England was three-quarter, Walter Jackson, who won his single cap in 1894, but by then he was playing for Halifax.

The first Gloucester player to win England recognition was Frank Stout, a forward, who won the first of 14 caps in 1897. He also played seven times for the British Lions.

The greatest try scorer in Gloucester's history is Arthur Hudson (1906-20), the winger who won eight England caps. Arthur scored 242 tries from 268 appearances. He also holds the record for most tries in a season. He achieved this in 1905-06, when he crossed the try line 41 times from only 26 games!

Sid Smart (1911-26), a forward, won twelve caps either side of World War 1, quickly followed by Tom Voyce (1918-1927), one of the greatest

players to have worn the cherry and white shirt. He transformed wing forward play, and won 27 England caps. In addition, in 1924, he played twice for the British Lions, during their tour of South Africa.

In the thirties, Gloucester had an outstanding team that achieved great success, especially against Welsh clubs. In 1929 there was the first win at Cardiff since 1898, only to repeat the feat the following season!

In 1932-33 Gloucester achieved the double over Newport for the first time in 50 years, and the following season won at Swansea for the first time ever, and then later in that season completed the double over the Welsh club.

In 1936 there was the first win at Llanelli for 38 years. At full-back was Harold Boughton (1927-46), who made 372 appearances, scoring 1423 points, and was capped three times by England. Don Meadows at fly-half played 305 times and was captain in 1936-37. Back-row forward Les Saxby, won two England caps and was captain four times between 1927 and 1932. Legendary "Bumps" Carpenter, one cap, was a miner from the "Forest", and hooker in 354 games. And, of course, who could leave out "Digger" Morris, (1931-48) who played in the second row, made 317 appearances, and captained Gloucestershire to the County Championship final in 1947.



In the fifties George Hastings (1948-59, 260 games), a prop who could also play in the back-row, won 13 caps. About this time the fixture list grew longer and longer, so that by the seventies it was commonplace for well over 50 games to be played per season. Consequently, long-serving players posted impressive numbers of appearances.



## I THINK THOSE VICTORIAN GENTLEMEN WHO VENTURED OUT IN THE AUTUMN OF 1873 WOULD BE PROUD TO THINK THAT FROM THAT SMALL BEGINNING, A FAMOUS AND MUCH LOVED RUGBY CLUB WOULD BE STILL THRIVING NEARLY 145 YEARS LATER

The "five hundred club" consists of five players who have played the most games for the club. These figures will never be beaten. Alan Brinn (1960-79) 574 games, Bob Clewes (1968-82) 541, Dick Smith (1958-77) 540, Richard Mogg (1974-92) 513, and Peter Ford (1951-68) 507.

With some reluctance the Rugby Union introduced a cup competition in 1971, refusing to call it that, but giving it the title of the National Knock-Out Competition. Under the inspiring leadership of Mike Nicholls (1961-77, 434 games), Gloucester were the first winners, beating Moseley in the final at Twickenham 17-6. Playing at blind side flanker was John Watkins (1969-82) who played in 389 games and scored 109 tries. A magnificent athletic player, he deserved more than the seven caps he won. Gloucester had played all their games away, and won a magnificent victory in the quarter-final against London Welsh, a team bristling with British Lions and Wales internationals. Gloucester were given no chance, but a typical full-blooded forward performance saw Gloucester home, with a try from Mike Potter and Eric Stephens adding a penalty and conversion. Stephens' career spanned 1961 to 1974, and he totalled 1,559 points.

Gloucester won the cup again in 1978



TOM VOYCE

defeating Leicester 6-3. Richard Mogg scored a try in the corner, and Peter Butler converted. Butler is the highest scorer in Gloucester's history, chalking up 3,006 points, and two England caps.

Gloucester continued to produce outstanding forwards in this period. Mike Burton (1964-80) made 366 appearances, and won 17 England caps. Phil Blakeway (1971-85), 140 games and 19 caps and Mike Teague (1978-95), 306 games, 27 caps, plus four for the British Lions. He was also made Man of the Series for the Lions tour of Australia in 1989.

Following the John Player Cup win over Leicester in 1978, it would be 24 long years before the Cherry and Whites won another major trophy, although in 1982 the John Player Cup was shared with Moseley, following a 12-12 draw in the final.

In 2002 Bristol were beaten 28-23 in the final of the Zurich League Championship, with Ludovic Mercier scoring 23 points. In 2003 Gloucester defeated Northampton 42-30 in the final of the Powergen Cup, in front of a crowd of 70,000 at Twickenham. Tries from James Simpson-Daniel, Marcel Garvey and James Forrester had already been scored when, late in the second half, the "Saints" were attacking strongly and threatening to turn the game, when Ludovic Mercier intercepted in his own 22, broke to half way where he passed to Simpson-Daniel who streaked home unopposed. The game was safe. "Ludo" was another fine kicker scoring 1325 points for the club in 105 appearances. James Simpson-Daniel or "Sinbad" was one of the finest wingers to play for Gloucester, scoring 119 tries. His career was punctuated by injuries, which was possibly why he did not win more than ten caps.

Three years later Gloucester won another final. This



MIKE TEAGUE

time it was the European Challenge Cup. In a very exciting game London Irish were beaten 36-34 after extra time. Forrester was involved again chasing a kick ahead and scoring almost on the dead ball line. He was a dynamic attacking flanker whose career was cruelly cut short by injury.

In 2011 Gloucester beat Newcastle to win the final of the LV= Cup. Nicky Robinson, in his second and final season, kicked four conversions and two penalties, whilst tries were scored by Tom Voyce, Charlie Sharples, Darren Dawidiuk and Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu, in the 34-9 victory.

More recently, in 2015, Edinburgh were beaten 19-13 in the final of the European Rugby Challenge Cup. Captain Greg Laidlaw, capped 63 times by Scotland, was the major contributor with four penalties and a conversion of Billy Twelvetrees' try.

And so today the Cherry and Whites play their 5,000th game. So far 3,037 matches have been won, 1,621 lost and 341 drawn. I think those Victorian gentlemen who ventured out in the autumn of 1873 would be proud to think that from that small beginning, a famous and much loved rugby club would be still thriving nearly 145 years later.



# JASON WOODWARD



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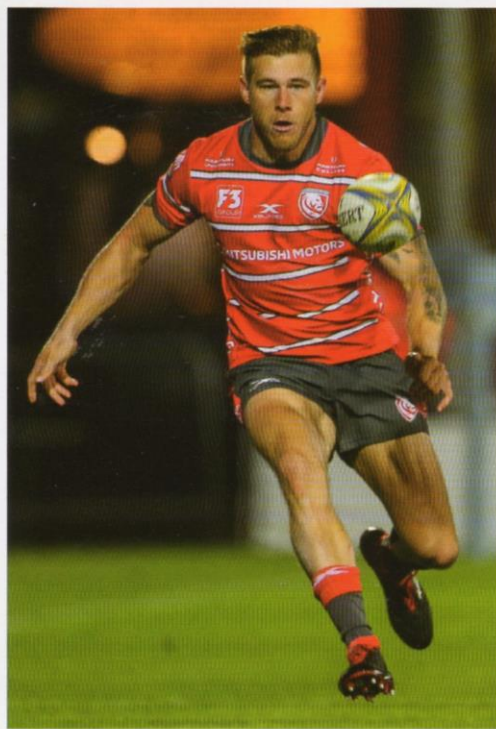
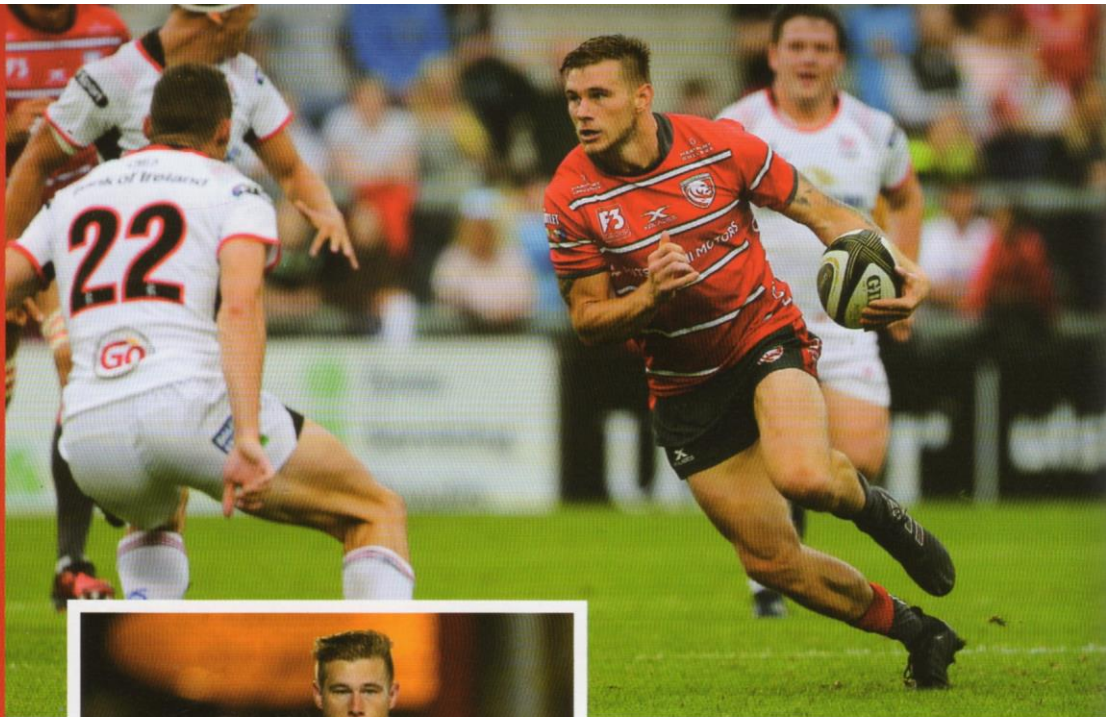
THERE'S A GOOD BUZZ AROUND THE PLACE, EVERYONE YOU SPEAK TO IS UP FOR IT, NEIGHBOURS, FRIENDS AROUND TOWN ALL GETTING UP FOR IT. THE BOYS ARE EXCITED, I'M EXCITED. IT'S HARD TO NOT GET EXCITED!



With the long runs, and hot days of preseason now confined to the memory bank until next summer, focus can finally tune into the action on the pitch, and one of the Cherry and Whites' most potent weapons chats this week about the preparations and the months ahead.

Jason Woodward's summer arrival twelve months ago came with a dramatic introduction to the Kingsholm faithful with an 83rd minute winner against Exeter Chiefs. But a year on, the full-back is looking to turn winning moments like that into a regular occurrence.





After a summer break getting to spend quality time with his family off the back of being the new face on tour to South Africa with England, Woodward is glad to see the back of the preseason training preparation.

"I missed a fair bit of the boys' work, as I missed a lot after reporting back late, so I haven't found it too bad!

"The boys have been filling me in though, they've been flogged a fair bit and worked their socks off. We're looking pretty fit, the hard work has obviously been paying off, and I think we're in pretty good shape coming into the new season."

Woodward's form in Cherry and White last season saw him pick up a fair few admirers, including Eddie Jones and his coaching staff, and with it a spot on the summer tour of South Africa. Despite not getting the game time, Woodward is realistic and able to look back on the positive lessons from the experience.

"It was good, it was a good experience for me to be away with England. Obviously on a personal level it was frustrating to not get the game time, but I see it as another step closer, and I'm keen to sort of crack on this year!"

Taking Billy Twelvetrees' delayed pass, the full back's try in Round One sparked jubilation in the Kingsholm stands, capping a dramatic win over Exeter Chiefs. Woodward describes the buzz amongst the squad ahead of the new season opener.

"Everyone is really excited, especially getting a first up game at Kingsholm on the new track. There's a good buzz around the place, everyone you speak to is up for it, neighbours, friends around town all getting up for it.

"The boys are excited, I'm excited. It's hard to not get excited! You've been training hard together all summer, so it's time to get out on the field."

Summer investment from the club has been vast, but a new Kingsholm pitch is a headline introduction, and Woodward is chomping at the bit to threaten defences on the new track.

"It was good last week to get out on the pitch, having played against Gloucester at Kingsholm, some focus was put on the pitch."

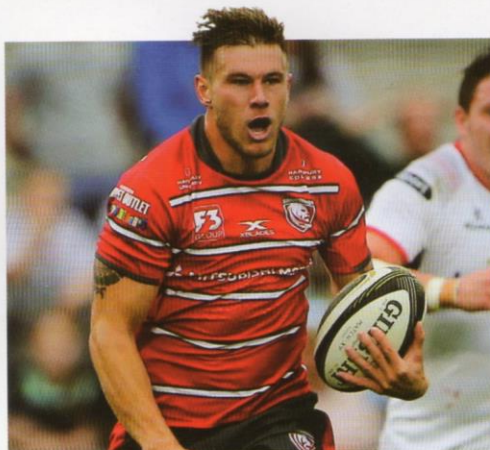
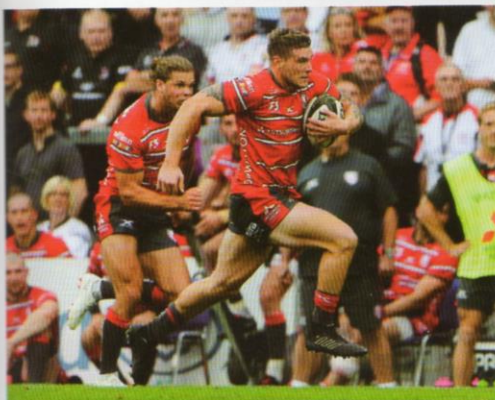
"In recent years it got a bit chewed up, a bit swampy. To put some time in on the pitch recently was really exciting."

And off the pitch, Woodward alongside partner Rachael welcomed a new arrival after the birth of daughter Elsie in June, and he's taking to Fatherhood like a duck to water.

"It's been an awesome introduction. Elsie has been amazing, she's a good little sleeper and we've hit the jackpot there. I'm just waiting for it to all go pear-shaped! There's not been too many sleepless nights so far, it's been life changing.

"It does change my perspective as to why I play, and gives me an extra driving force every time I take to the field.

"When it's just you and your partner you have your drive and your aspirations, not just in rugby but in life, and then your little girl comes along, that puts



everything in perspective. Everything you used to worry about or care about, means nothing then!

"I'm loving life now!"

And with focus on Northampton Saints, one new-face at the Gardens will get a warm welcome from Woodward this weekend in the form of his former Hurricane boss Chris Boyd.

"It's good to see Chris over here, and getting stuck in at Northampton. He'll be no doubt making changes over there, and turning things around, and I'm expecting good things from them this year. They will be tough, especially after looking at some of their preseason clips.

"They will bring a big line speed, and a big, physical pack with a quality set of backs, and they will play with some width and confidence. Their pack like to bully other teams, and for a first up game, it's going to be a proper contest."



# KINGSHOLM NEWS

WITH BOB FENTON



HERE WE ARE AGAIN THEN - NEW SEASON AND A HOST OF OTHER NEW THINGS.



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We have a very smart new pitch that looked more like it came from Gloucester Carpet Outlet than a garden centre, we have a new retro shirt – straight out of 2002 - and if it brings the same success as that old one everyone will be happy. And we have a new club badge.

Unsurprisingly the latter has divided the troops a bit, personally I don't mind it. It's very marketable and I suppose that is the key purpose of any 'logo'. It'll become 'traditional' soon enough!

We've got new announcers and a new PA system for them to play with and new two-pint glasses for those who need them. Maybe

we could develop some kind of new drainage system to stop those enjoying said two-pinters getting up and down to run to the toilets every few minutes too!

We also have a very smart new club app if you are one of those people who can't look away from your phone for a few minutes. Personally I can't do that, the action on the field is the key thing for me, not a tiny screen. The ref link thing will be good though!

And along with all of that we have a whole bunch of new players and – dare I say it – new hope.

Last week at the last of the

warm up games I noticed a poster around the place that had an unattributed quote on it that went along the lines of 'I've never looked forward to a season more...' or something like that. It must have been unattributed, as it could have been said by just about anyone of several thousand Gloucester fans, such is the buzz around the place at the moment.

I can't really remember anything like it, certainly not this side of the time back in the dark ages when we announced the arrival of Philippe Saint-Andre and a couple of other international stars. Even that pales into insignificance compared to what we are experiencing today.

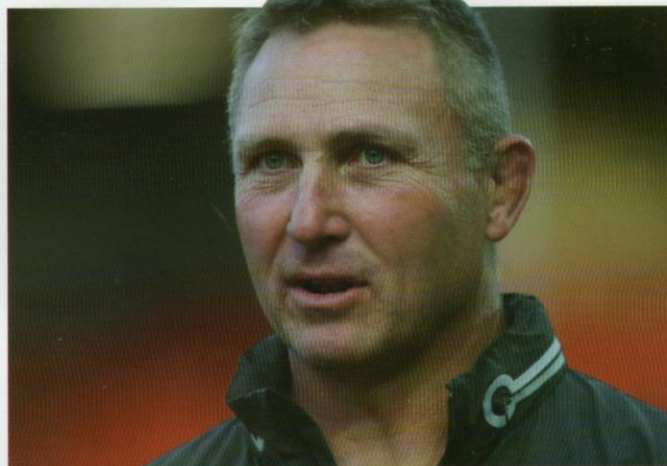
I guess this is largely down to the way we went last term. If people are honest, the majority will say that at this point last year we were not expecting too much. We had a new coach who had barely had time to get to know the names of his squad and were going into the fight on the back of some pretty miserable results the year before.

What we saw was a massive resurgence in confidence, players playing with freedom and desire all steered by a coach who was instilling believe and oozing calm authority.

We've built on this with a host of exciting signings, many from South Africa who the boss will know very well, and who will bring a real hard edge to the squad. I do feel a little sorry for the guy whose job it is to make the doors higher around the place as a couple of them are proper monsters.

And, of course, we have landed the fly half that we have all loved to hate in the past, Danny Cipriani. He's a special player and could rapidly become a very important cog in the wheel.

I remember one of the first times I saw him play for Wasps – up at that awful place near High



Wycombe in an evening game in whatever the cup competition was called in those days. It was one of those games where we were ripping Wasps apart and, with two-thirds of the match done, we were holding a significant lead. Then on came some kid called Cipriani, along with another dude called Haskell, and they absolutely ripped us apart.

After the game, I sat there with my mate Rob trying to figure out what had just happened (and anyone who ever visited Wasps at Wycombe will know that you might as well hang around after the game once it ended as getting out of the industrial park

was impossible – a bit like the Ricoh!) and all we could agree on was that we had just seen the future of the England team.

It's slightly ironic that those two will be lining up against each other today after James Haskell made the move to Northampton in the summer. Hopefully Danny can stay out of his way!

Talking of Northampton, they had a season to forget last year and have made a number of on and off field changes. No doubt they will be hoping that their new coach has the same impact that Johan did when he walked through our doors and that they will get off to a good start today.

I'm sure we will be smart enough to expect that and – just as we did last year – get the first win of the season under our belt in the first game. Maybe not leave it quite so late to secure it though!

I seem to remember around this time last year I was quoting 'Red' from Shawshank Redemption talking about hope killing you. I've been around this place for long enough to always have that bit of nagging pessimism when we go into a new season. But I genuinely believe things are going to be a bit different this year. If we can make a similar sized improvement to that which we made last year, then this is going to be a very special season.

Bring it on!





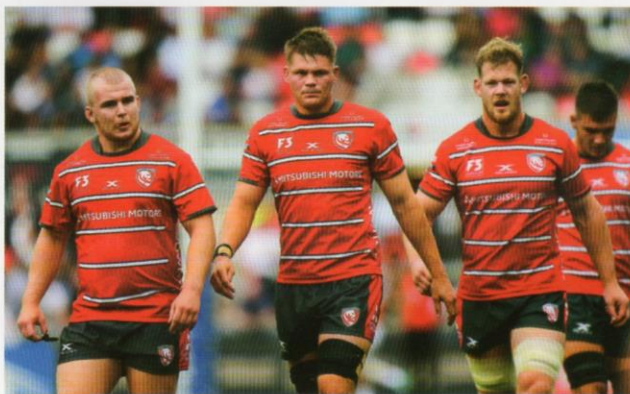
# ULSTER RUGBY

# 17



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

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70

“WE’RE OBVIOUSLY ALWAYS PLEASED TO GET A VICTORY. BUT, FOR US, IT WASN’T ALL ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING TONIGHT.”

“IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GET A GOOD HIT OUT, WE’VE WORKED ON A LOT OF THINGS IN PRESEASON AND SAW SOME OF THEM OUT THERE. OUR DECISION MAKING WASN’T PERFECT AT TIMES BUT, CREDIT TO THE PLAYERS, THEY SHOWED A LOT OF COMMITMENT OUT THERE AND LOOKED DECENT.”

HEAD COACH JOHAN ACKERMANN

After a tough preseason campaign in what, at times, were brutally hot weather conditions, Gloucester Rugby finally opened up their preseason campaign with a 29-17 victory over Ulster at the Kingspan Stadium in Belfast.

To fly straight in from their preseason training camp in Jersey and win on the road is no mean feat although, of course, not too much can be read into

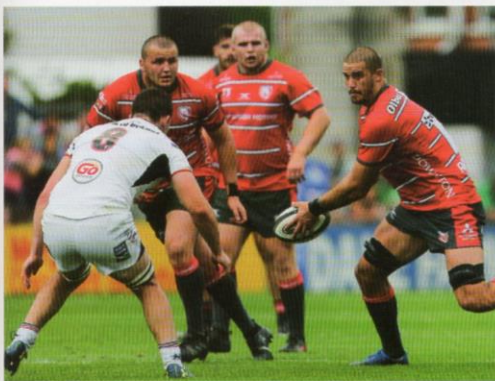
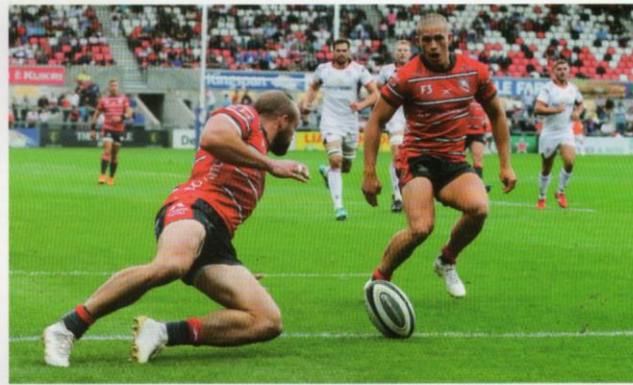
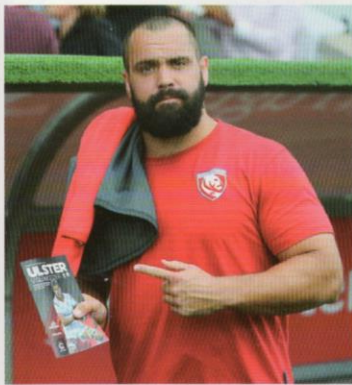
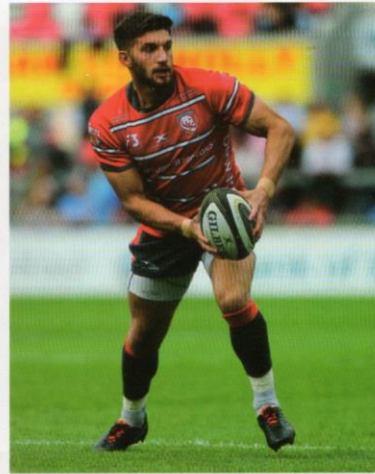
the performance in a preseason friendly.

But Gloucester can take heart from the fact that, in their first competitive hit out, there were plenty of positive aspects to their game and the outcome could have been even more favourable had a few more scoring chances been taken.

Predictably, both teams looked a little disjointed in the opening

quarter, one barnstorming run from Jake Polledri was the main highlight and one gilt-edged chance went begging before Gerbrandt Grobler drove over from close range to open the scoring.

Ulster responded straightaway as Gloucester conceded a penalty trying to run the ball from deep from the restart. Fabulous defence kept out Kernohan, but Marcus Rea spotted a gap from



close range and plunged over. Peter Nelson converted to level the scores after 32 minutes.

And the home side made it two tries in two minutes as a bad missed tackle in midfield saw number eight Nick Timoney power his way over from 25 metres out and give his side a 12-7 lead.

But there was still time for the Cherry and Whites to ensure they

went into half-time with a lead. As with the first try, the catch and drive was prominent, but it was Owen Williams who spotted a gap and showed good strength to score and convert his own try for a 12-14 half time lead.

Gloucester extended their lead early in the second half as Tom Hudson showed great vision and rolled a grubber kick though for Charlie Sharples to hack on and score. But, with

Billy Burns pulling the strings, Ulster hit back and a try from James Hume narrowed the gap to 17-19.

The Cherry and Whites had to weather a bit of a storm, but did so without conceding any further points before moving downfield and creating a catch and drive try for Todd Gleave, while the fifth and final try, from Henry Purdy, was probably the pick of the bunch.



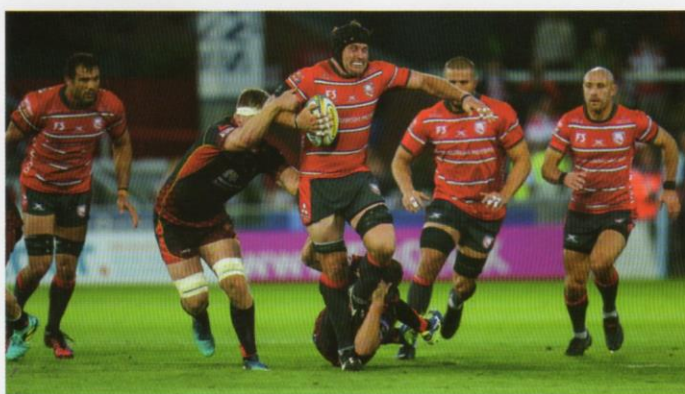
# GLOUCESTER RUGBY



# DRAGONS RUGBY

# 40

# 31



“THE DRAGONS ARE A GOOD SIDE. I'M REALLY HAPPY BUT WE'VE STILL GOT LOTS TO WORK ON. IT'S VERY ENCOURAGING THOUGH TO SEE EVERYONE BUYING INTO THE STRUCTURES WE WANT TO CREATE. IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE AND THAT WILL SEE US GET BETTER AND BETTER.”

BACKS COACH TIM TAYLOR

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Gloucester Rugby rounded off their preparations ahead of today's Gallagher Premiership season opener with an entertaining 40-31 victory over the Dragons here at Kingsholm last Thursday.

It gives the Cherry and Whites two wins from two in their preseason campaign, but nobody will be fooled into reading too much into those two performances as the Gloucester

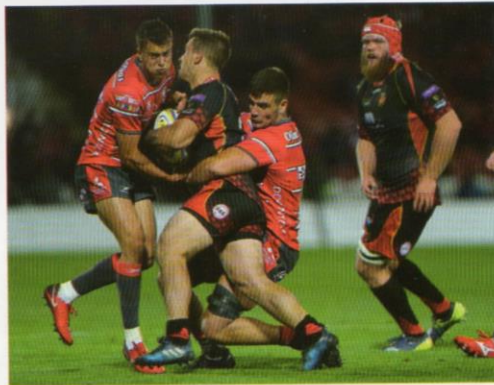
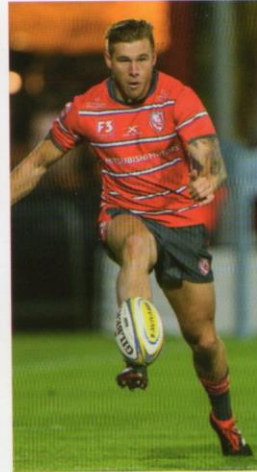
coaching staff took the opportunity to give game time to as many players as possible.

The newly-installed Kingsholm pitch looked amazing and played well but, unfortunately on the night, some pre-match rain made the ball slippery and ball-handling was tricky for both teams

In the circumstances, both teams probably played more expansively than they would have

had points been at stake. But both teams stuck at it and, in the final reckoning, it was an open affair with both sides able to take positives from it.

Gloucester would have been especially pleased with the first 40 minutes when they played some scintillating rugby at times. All the changes in the second-half saw their momentum disrupted slightly but, overall, it was a good workout.



The visitors obviously hadn't read the script for the night and took an early lead when full-back Jordan Williams slipped through a tackle to slide over.

However, Gloucester started to string some phases together and look dangerous. Danny Cipriani's flat pass put Matt Banahan over in the corner for the home team's first try and Banahan then sent Jason Woodward away for the second.

Josh Lewis narrowed the gap to 14-12 as a nice show and go saw him dart through to add the Dragons' second try, but the Cherry and Whites finished the half well with a catch and drive try for James Hanson and a 21-12 advantage.

That lead was quickly extended as the Cherry and Whites threatened to cut loose, Franco Marais and Mariano Galarza both scoring from close range before

a penalty try took Gloucester's points tally to 40.

However, that was it for the scoring for Gloucester although they tried valiantly to keep moving the ball wide when possible.

But it was the Dragons who had the better of the final quarter as tries from Dafydd Howells, Tiaan Loots and Rhodri Williams made the final score 40-31.





# GLOUCESTER RUGBY



# NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

| T            | P | C | D | POSITION          |    |                   |    | T                   | P | C | D |   |
|--------------|---|---|---|-------------------|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Jason WOODWARD    | 15 | FULL BACK         | 15 | Ahsee TUALA         | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Matt BANAHAN      | 14 | RIGHT WING        | 14 | Ken PISI            | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Henry TRINDER     | 13 | OUTSIDE CENTRE    | 13 | Rory HUTCHINSON     | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Billy TWELVETREES | 12 | INSIDE CENTRE     | 12 | Piers FRANCIS       | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Ollie THORLEY     | 11 | LEFT WING         | 11 | Tom COLLINS         | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Danny CIPRIANI    | 10 | FLY-HALF          | 10 | Dan BIGGAR          | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Willi HEINZ (C)   | 9  | SCRUM-HALF        | 9  | Cobus REINACH       | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Val RAPAVA RUSKIN | 1  | LOOSEHEAD PROP    | 1  | Alex WALLER (C)     | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | James HANSON      | 2  | HOOKER            | 2  | James FISH          | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Fraser BALMAIN    | 3  | TIGHTHEAD PROP    | 3  | Ben FRANKS          | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Ed SLATER         | 4  | LOCK              | 4  | David RIBBANS       | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Mariano GALARZA   | 5  | LOCK              | 5  | Courtney LAWES      | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Ruan ACKERMANN    | 6  | BLINDSIDE FLANKER | 6  | James HASKELL       | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Lewis LUDLOW      | 7  | OPENSIDE FLANKER  | 7  | Heinrich BRÜSSOW    | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Ben MORGAN        | 8  | NUMBER 8          | 8  | Teimana HARRISON    | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| REPLACEMENTS |   |   |   |                   |    |                   |    |                     |   |   |   |   |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Franco MARAIS     | 16 |                   | 16 | Dylan HARTLEY       | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Josh HOHNECK      | 17 |                   | 17 | Francois VAN WYK    | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Ciaran KNIGHT     | 18 |                   | 18 | Jamai FORD-ROBINSON | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Freddie CLARKE    | 19 |                   | 19 | Api RATUNIYARAWA    | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Jake POLLEDRI     | 20 |                   | 20 | Jamie GIBSON        | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Callum BRALEY     | 21 |                   | 21 | Alex MITCHELL       | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Tom HUDSON        | 22 |                   | 22 | James GRAYSON       | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■            | ■ | ■ | ■ | Owen WILLIAMS     | 23 |                   | 23 | Nafi TUITAVAKE      | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |



### MATCH OFFICIALS

**Referee:** Matthew Carley  
**Assistant Referees:** Jack Makepeace & Greg Macdonald / **TMO:** Trevor Fisher

