



WELCOME TO THE SLATER CUP

It's exciting to be here today at such a historic venue for British sport. Aston Villa and Gloucester Rugby may play two completely different sports but the clubs were both formed within a year of each other.

Whilst Gloucester was formed in 1873, Aston Villa was coming together in 1874 with Rugby having an influence on their formation.

It is thought that having watched a fellow member of their local church playing in a rugby match, the founding members of Villa paused beneath a dim gas lamp near Villa Cross and agreed that rugby was a little too rough, deciding instead to play association football!

In fact, due to the lack of local football teams, Aston Villa's first match was against the local Aston Brook St Mary's Rugby team. As a condition of the match, the Villa side had to agree to play the first half under Rugby rules and the second half under Association rules. Villa won their first game 1-0.

I wonder how a cross code game of rugby and football would end up now!

Anyway, enough of the history lesson. I want to thank Gloucester for the huge amount of effort they have made to get the Slater Cup to Villa Park. I know that it's divided opinion amongst supporters, and I can understand some frustration.

I am excited by the change and the opportunity to move the game. I have had to get used to so many uncomfortable changes in my life as my body disappears before me. Life with MND is constantly changing and for the most part, it is very uncomfortable, but I am learning to adapt and embrace change where I can.

The club has benefitted from a growing catchment, which includes Birmingham. It is important to increase the presence of Gloucester Rugby in the area which will help with growing support and offering a pathway for young rugby players to come through and play for Gloucester.

The game is important to me personally because of my affiliation to both clubs, two wonderful rugby clubs with, in my opinion, the two best sets of supporters in the land, and certainly right up there in world rugby. They are a huge part of what makes me so proud to have represented both clubs.

You have shown the same passion and support for your clubs as you have for me and my family as I battle with MND, and now the 4ED Foundation which is doing incredibly important work for other families affected by MND.

A huge thank you to everyone for getting behind this cause. Today is a big opportunity for us to raise more awareness and funds so that we can continue supporting others with this evil disease.

The 4ED Foundation primarily supports families with financial grants to help with a range of needs and wants. This can be respite breaks, house adaptations, medical equipment and counselling services amongst other things.

We also have two teams going head-to-head off the pitch. Gloucester Legends against Leicester Legends will be arriving soon, having raced on bikes to Villa Park from Kingsholm and Welford Road respectively.

Gloucester, being led by Mike Teague and Mike Tindall along with other members of Gloucester past, are taking on a Leicester side led by Martin Johnson and of course, the brilliant Lewis Moody, who is now also fighting MND.

Funds raised by the Race to the Slater Cup will be split between the 4ED Foundation and the Lewis Moody Family Trust. Please give whatever support you can to this brilliant effort and give them a huge welcome when they arrive!

Lastly, a huge thank you for your continued support of the game and the cause behind it. I hope you all have a great day and enjoy the game.

ED SLATER



Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to Villa Park, which is hosting the eighth Slater Cup contest today, in association with Turkish Airlines.

We are breaking new ground with this fixture, bringing the Slater Cup – and the Gallagher PREM – to Birmingham and to the iconic Villa Park.

As a Club, we have been looking at hosting a big fixture in a larger stadium for a few years now, and we are delighted to be working with Aston Villa for this afternoon's game. What a fantastic venue it is!

A professional game demands a professional approach, and part of that must be growing our support and growing our commercial opportunities. We are following in the footsteps of other Gallagher PREM clubs, such as Harlequins, who have established a Big Game series for over a decade, with great commercial success.

Diversifying our commercial opportunities is crucial to long term financial sustainability, but moreover, gives us an opportunity to grow our fan base and create a compelling match day experience. On that point, I'd like to extend my thanks to all our commercial partners for their support at today's game, and particularly to our associated partner, Turkish Airlines.

As you may know, another key reason for today's game taking place at Villa Park is due to our new Academy boundary, which now stretches out beyond Birmingham. That increased footprint gives us a significant opportunity to identify and nurture young, new talent into the Gloucester Rugby pathway.

Importantly, this is more than just a game; it's about raising awareness and support for those impacted by MND. The 4ED Foundation is doing important work to support those living with the disease, led by the inspirational Ed Slater after whom today's game is named.

Ed is here today with his family, and I know will be thrilled to see so many come out in support of both his former Clubs. Although, we know he'll be cheering for Gloucester!

We're very excited to be at Villa Park and to have you all here, supporting your Cherry & Whites.

ALEX BROWN
CEO, GLOUCESTER RUGBY

**WELCOME TO
VILLA PARK**





WELCOME TO VILLA PARK

Welcome to Villa Park for this afternoon's Slater Cup game, a big occasion that everyone connected with Gloucester Rugby and Leicester Tigers have been looking forward too.

This afternoon is, of course, a hugely important game in the Gallagher PREM, but it is more than that in so many ways, first and foremost in its support for Ed Slater and the 4ED Foundation. We hope that this afternoon's game will help raise a lot of money for a cause that is dear to all our hearts and raise awareness about the ongoing fight against MND.

Beyond that, for Gloucester Rugby, today represents a big opportunity for us to go out and play a big game in what is our new catchment area, which now extends far beyond the Gloucester area. I've been here for 18 months and since then, the academy landscape has changed after we inherited a much larger catchment. The original catchment was very centralised in and around Gloucester but now we've branched all the way up to Shropshire, through South Birmingham, Moseley, all the way through Oxfordshire down to Henley and then back into our traditional areas of the Forest of Dean and Gloucester.

Within that, Birmingham really is a really crucial area for us, it's really relevant within the current academy space. We've got a number of players transitioning into the senior academy space from this area, certainly from our Moseley site and from our Warwick and Stourport sites. We're seeing a lot of talent emerging from those areas and we want to see that increase over the coming years.

With that in mind, playing today's game at Villa Park is a huge opportunity to take Gloucester Rugby into this area and show people what we are all about. It brings with it the chance to grow the fanbase, to bring in commercial partners and, from an academy perspective, it gives us the chance to show young players in this part of the world just what Gloucester Rugby can offer them.

We hope you all enjoy the game, and we hope that we will bring you on this new journey that we are undertaking at Gloucester Rugby.

WAYNE THOMPSON
HEAD OF ACADEMY

TEXT 4ED TO 70560 TO DONATE

11



THE 4ED FOUNDATION

The 4ED Foundation supports anyone living with motor neurone disease (MND) or caring for someone who is.

Established after his diagnosis by former rugby player Ed Slater, we provide grants, compassion, and community to individuals and families affected by MND, covering vital equipment, home adaptations, access to medical care and much-needed respite or family time.

A diagnosis of MND can overturn life as people knew it. Through 4ED, we can bring stability, dignity and hope at a time when uncertainty and fear can dominate.

So far, thanks to your kind donations, 4ED has given more than 100 life changing grants, worth more than £270,000.

If you can, please text **4ED** to **70560** to donate

RAISING MONEY & CHANGING LIVES

GRANT RECIPIENTS' STORIES

Scan the QR code below to watch some of our grant recipients talking about what the 4ED Foundation's support means to them.

FUNDRAISING

In the past year, more than 62 different fundraisers have raised money in aid of the 4ED Foundation, raising more than £83,000.

We are so grateful to our incredible community fundraisers, without whom we wouldn't be

able to continue our work helping those affected by MND.

Check out some of our fantastic current and upcoming fundraisers below:

- @johnversusmnd
- @daves_summit_4good
- @4ed_yearly_marathon
- @domjones83





"I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BETTER OR MORE IMPORTANT FOR US TO BE DOING THAN SUPPORTING ED" LEWIS LUDLOW

Whenever Lewis Ludlow goes out on the rugby pitch, be it Kingsholm, Villa Park or Twickenham, he goes out there to win. That's a given. But he is very clear that today's game comes with a very special purpose that is every bit as important.

As a former playing colleague of Ed Slater, for Luds, the Slater Cup is a huge occasion. He believes that taking this game to Villa Park, where we can draw in two or three times as many supporters as we could get at Kingsholm is a fitting tribute to both Ed and to the 4ED Foundation, which will hugely benefit from this afternoon's events.

"Gloucester and Leicester are obviously two huge clubs in the PREM, both are cities where rugby is the biggest thing. I think it's very poignant that Ed played for both of them, so now every time I think of these two clubs, I think of this game, the Slater Cup, and I think of two great rugby communities that have

come together to do great things for a great man.

"This fixture has become much, much more than just a PREM game now, it's the Slater Cup game and that's why it is so crucial that we go to places like Villa Park to make this happen.

"We are going in there to raise a boatload of money for a man and his family, who are in desperate need for it because of this terrible disease. But typical of Ed, it's not just about him, 4ED's a lot more than that now and that's what he wants people to know about. So the more people we can play in front of, the better, financially and for raising awareness of the 4ED Foundation.

"Today is for everyone in the MND community, it's not just Ed, it's not just his family, it's also the people that get diagnosed every single day and get told there's no hope. Well, there is hope, because places like 4ED go out there and create hope.

They can give people grants, they can make things happen, they can give them last holidays, they can transform people's houses so that they can cope with the obvious changes, they can make lives so much more pleasing to live whilst they still have time to do so.

"I can't think of anything better or more important for us to be doing than supporting Ed, supporting 4ED and supporting the Slater Cup. It's going to be a very cool atmosphere, it's going to be a great occasion, but the main thing we're doing it for is to raise money, it has to be the main thing, raise money, raise awareness because somehow we need to find a cure for MND.

"So let's get behind it, let's get up to Villa Park, into a much bigger stadium where we can stage the occasion and get all the things that we want from it. Let's give the Slater Cup the platform it deserves."



Gloucester Rugby is putting community at the heart of its work with the 4ED Foundation. Inspired by the courage of Ed Slater, the programme is aimed at individuals and families across Gloucestershire, and beyond, who are navigating the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that come with a MND diagnosis.

4ED exists to provide grants, tailored support, and inclusive environments where people living with MND and their families feel seen, understood, and connected. This commitment to inclusion reflects the wider rugby community's focus on belonging. Across the weekend of 27-29 March, Round 12 of the Gallagher PREM and Round 16 of the PWR will see PREM Rugby, Premiership Women's Rugby and their clubs unite for the first time to celebrate inclusivity across the game. Using the platform of elite competition, outdated stereotypes will be challenged, and one clear message will be made: everyone is welcome, and anyone can play.

Themed 'This Is Belonging', the weekend will use every game, every stand and every platform to showcase that rugby is a place for all - no matter who you are or your background. Across clubs, pitches

and communities, both leagues will spotlight the welcoming environment, and the powerful role rugby plays in bringing people together.

This is Belonging is about pride and progress - ensuring existing fans and players feel proud to be part of the rugby family, while opening the door wider to welcome new audiences who want to see themselves represented and valued in the rugby community.

Across the country, PREM and PWR clubs and their foundations are deeply embedded in their communities, delivering programmes that strengthen social connection, increase participation across all ages and abilities, and support physical and mental wellbeing long after the final whistle.

4ED is doing just that; reducing isolation, easing financial pressures, and ensuring that people affected by MND feel part of the Gloucester Rugby family.

4ED activity takes place throughout the year across Gloucester and the wider county, with support

delivered in a multitude of ways. Delivered in partnership with organisations including local NHS teams, community groups, and

specialist support services, families are able to receive holistic, joined up care.

Rob Webber, Director of Community & Foundation at Gloucester Rugby, comments:

"Through the 4ED Foundation, participants feel part of the Gloucester Rugby family - not just as beneficiaries, but as valued members of a welcoming community. The individuals we support often tell us that 4ED's work provides them with much needed compassionate support, and advice from a newfound family, something we are honoured to be able to provide."

Gloucester Rugby's ambition is for 4ED to become a leading regional model of inclusive, compassionate support for people living with MND - ensuring that no-one faces the journey alone.

As rugby unites under the 'This Is Belonging' banner, initiatives like 4ED show what inclusion looks like in practice: creating safe, supportive spaces, connecting communities, and demonstrating that rugby is more than a game - it is a family, and a place where everyone belongs.

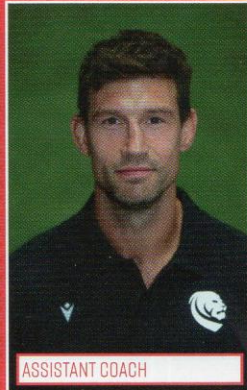


GLOUCESTER RUGBY COACHES



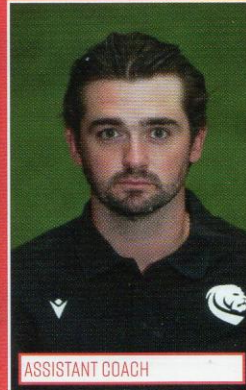
HEAD COACH

GEORGE
SKIVINGTON



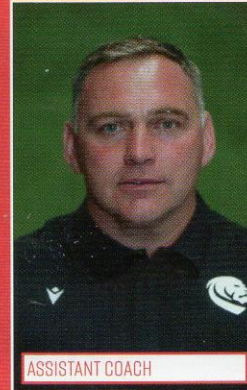
ASSISTANT COACH

DOM
WALDOUCK



ASSISTANT COACH

JAMES
LIGHTFOOT BROWN



ASSISTANT COACH

TREVOR
WOODMAN



TRANSITION COACH

T. RHYS
THOMAS



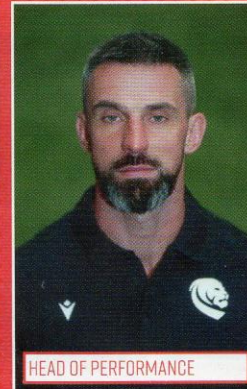
TRANSITION COACH

TIM
TAYLOR



ASSISTANT COACH

JACK
PATTINSON



HEAD OF PERFORMANCE

CILLIAN
REARDON



HEAD OF MEDICAL

RHYS
HUGHES



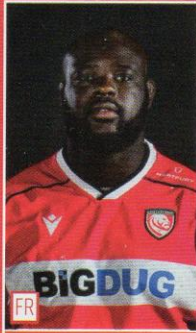
HEAD ANALYST

TOM
REYNOLDS



GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD

[FR] - FRONT ROW, [SR] - SECOND ROW, [BR] - BACK ROW, [HB] - HALF BACK, [C] - CENTRES, [B3] - BACK THREE



JONO
BENZ-SALOMON



SEB
BLAKE



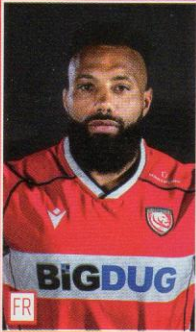
DIAN
BLEULER



MANAAKI
BOYLE-TIATIA



AFOLABI
FASOGBON



JAMAL
FORD-ROBINSON



KIRILL
GOVOTSEV



JACK
INNARD



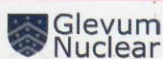
CIARAN
KNIGHT



NEPE
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ARCHIE
MCARTHUR



VAL
RAPAVA-RUSKIN



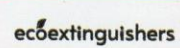
JACK
SINGLETON



MATI
ALEMANNO



HUGH
BOKENHAM



GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD

[FR] - FRONT ROW, [SR] - SECOND ROW, [BR] - BACK ROW, [HB] - HALF BACK, [C] - CENTRES, [B3] - BACK THREE



ARTHUR
CLARK



DANNY
EITE



CAM
JORDAN



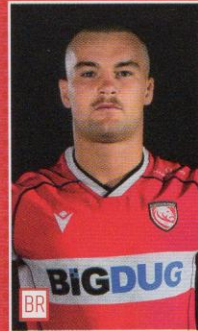
FREDDIE
THOMAS



JOSH
BASHAM



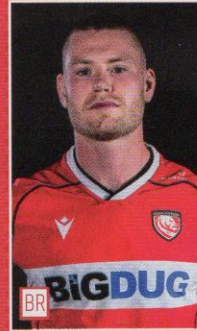
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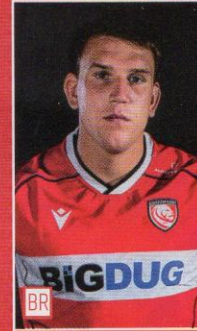
DEIAN
GWYNNE



LEWIS
LUDLOW



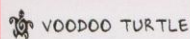
JACK
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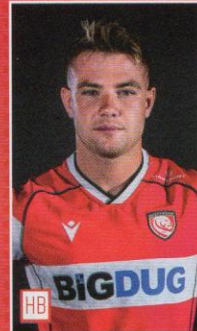
HARRY
TAYLOR



WILL
TRENHOLM



JAMES
VENTER



CHARLIE
ATKINSON



MIKE
AUSTIN



ROSS
BYRNE





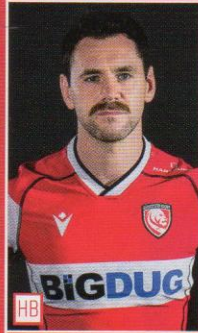
GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD

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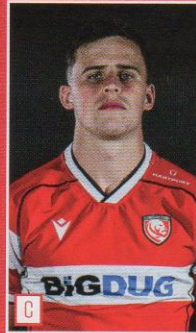
CAOLAN
ENGLEFIELD

de Lisle
Financial Planning



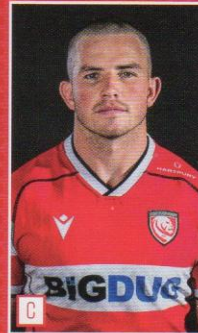
TOMOS
WILLIAMS

COOPER
ASSOCIATES
GROUP



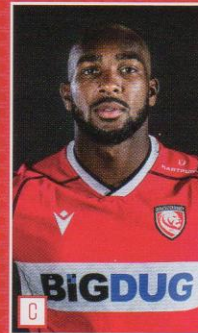
SEB
ATKINSON

Galtec
Groundwater & Civil Engineers



WILL
BUTLER

SKECHERS



JOSIAH
EDWARDS-GIRAUD

Auto Air



WILL
JOSEPH

BROADHEATH CONSTRUCTION
UK



MAX
LLEWELLYN

Hazlewoods



GEORGE
BARTON

DEAN CLOSE
FUNERAL
DIRECTORS



JOSH
HATHAWAY

Auto Air



BEN
LOADER

Auto Air



JAKE
MORRIS

HeadOn
Public Relations



BEN
REDSHAW

**Woodlands
Power**



ROB
RUSSELL

WHITES ELECTRICAL
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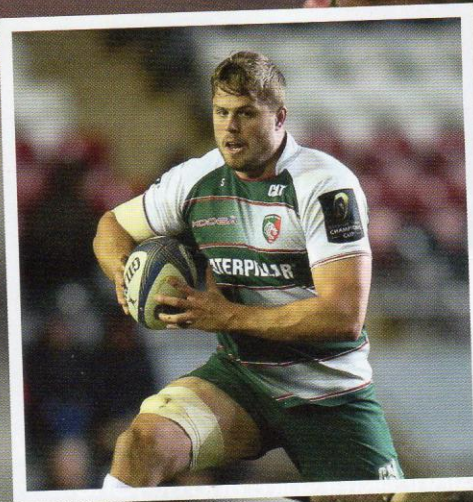
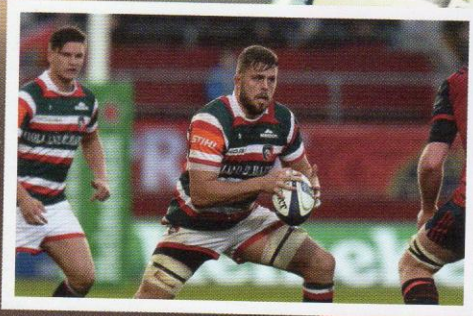
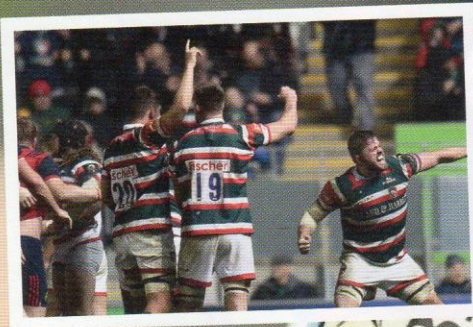
OLLIE
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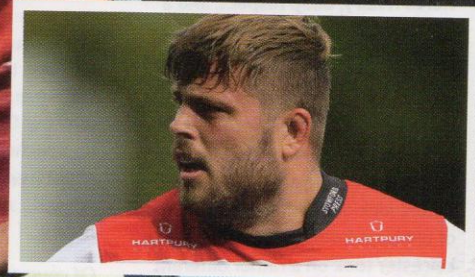
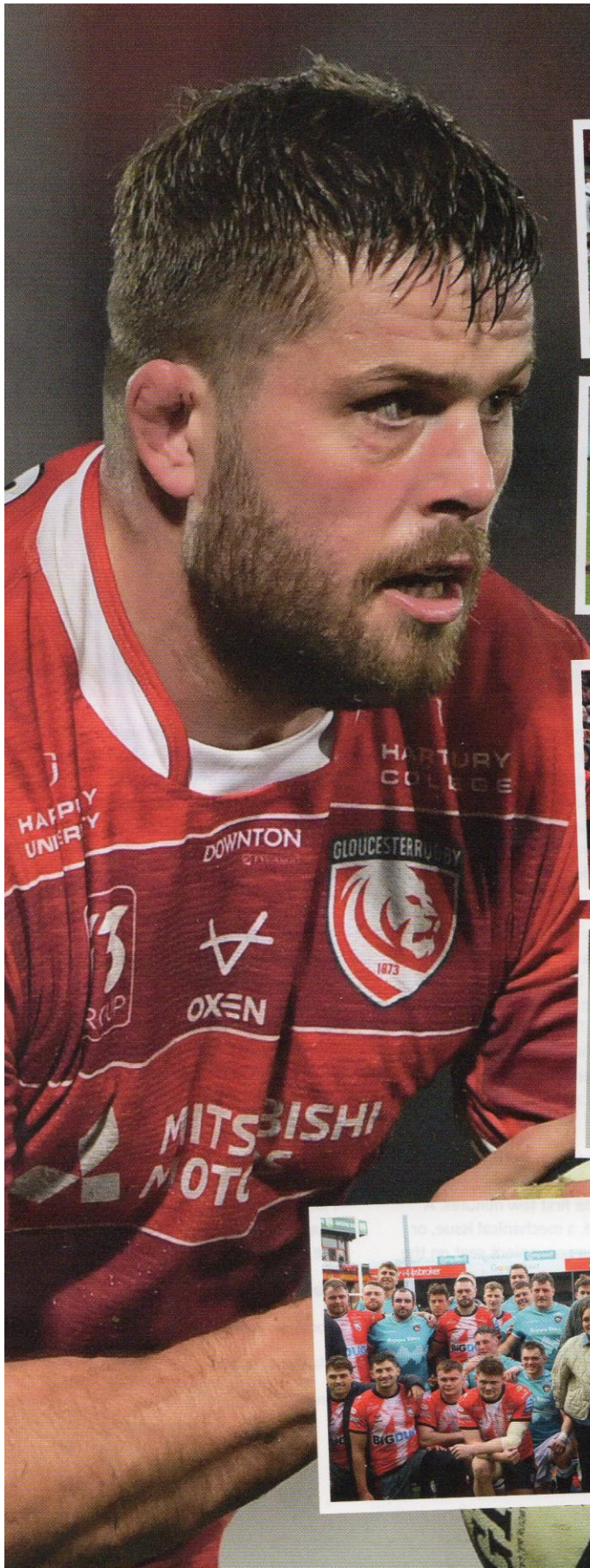
Markey
Creating tomorrow's environments...



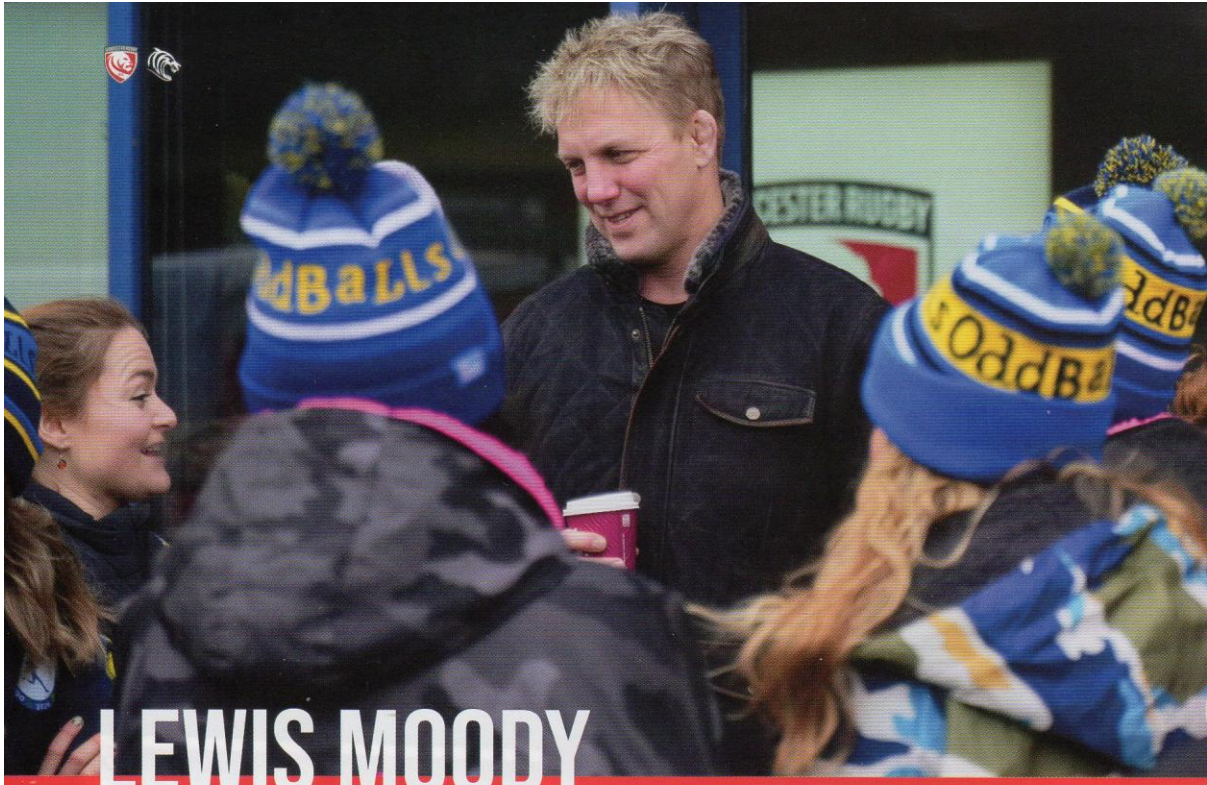
“THE BODY MAY FADE, BUT CHARACTER DOESN'T. LIFE ISN'T ALWAYS FAIR, BUT IT'S FULL OF OPPORTUNITY.”

ED SLATER





TEXT 4ED TO 70560 TO DONATE



LEWIS MOODY

I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to today's Slater Cup clash. Two historic clubs, Gloucester and Leicester Tigers, ready once again to go toe-to-toe – this time in what promises to be a tremendous occasion. Fixtures like this carry a special weight; fierce rivalry, deep respect, and a shared history that always delivers something memorable.

It promises to be a cracking encounter out on the pitch, but I'm not sure it will quite match the level of competition already laid down before kick-off. Earlier today, a group of old boys from both Gloucester and Leicester took on a rather different challenge - a 57-mile race to the ground, all in support of the 4ED Foundation and the wider MND community. And it is absolutely safe to say, the competitive juices never fade.

The moment it became clear this wasn't just a ride, but a race – particularly against Gloucester – things stepped up a notch. There was no "let's just enjoy the day and roll in together" approach. Not a chance. The first call was simple: who are

our ten strongest and fittest cyclists? From there, it was game on. Some wisely stepped aside early – injuries mysteriously appearing, roles behind the bar suddenly becoming essential – but for those involved, the preparation became serious business.

Training rides, mileage comparisons, and more than a few glances at performance stats – let's just say it's been taken very seriously in certain quarters. I'm not entirely sure how our Gloucester counterparts approached it, but I'd wager things might have been a little more relaxed... or at least that's what we're hoping.

Of course, with all this preparation, there's every chance it could unravel within the first few minutes. A puncture, a mechanical issue, or perhaps a convenient seat on the support bus – which, I should add, comes equipped with refreshments – may yet prove too tempting. But that's all part of it.

Joking aside, what truly matters is the reason behind it all. Days like this are about more than rivalry. They're about coming together – old teammates, old friends –

doing something challenging and meaningful in support of a cause that touches so many. The 4ED Foundation and the fight against MND is something incredibly close to many of us, and the support shown already has been nothing short of inspiring.

To everyone here today who has donated, supported, or simply shown kindness—thank you. It genuinely makes a difference. And if you're reading this, I'd encourage you to take that extra moment to give again if you can. There is real hope in this space, but hope only moves forward with action.

So please, enjoy the game. These are the occasions rugby is all about. I look forward to seeing many of you – assuming I'm still able to walk after the ride.

May the best team win.

Come on you Tigers...!!!

Warmest regards

Lewis



THE RACE TO THE SLATER CUP

If you see one or two famous faces from the Gloucester or Leicester sides of the past hobbling around Villa Park this afternoon, it may not be because of old war wounds picked up in this fixture in their playing prime.

Instead, they are likely to be tending to muscles, strained hamstrings and other tender parts that have been put through the wringer this very morning as they have cycled from their respective home stadia all the way to Villa Park, a distance of roughly 45 miles.

Teams of former players led by Gloucester's Mike Tindall and the Tigers' Martin Johnson CBE have agreed to race from their respective home patch at Kingsholm and Welford Park in order to help raise funds for the 4ED Foundation for the wider fight against Motor Neurone Disease and, of course, to have

the bragging rights throughout the afternoon, whatever happens on the Villa Park pitch.

They set off at 7am, with the BBC Breakfast cameras there to watch them and having put in the hard



yards of training over the last few weeks, it looks set to be a close battle for the line.

Whoever comes home first, the fight against MND is going to be the winner, so we offer our grateful thanks to all the guys who have taken part in the race.

Our gallant racers have sent themselves the task of raising £100,000 for the charity and you can help them on their way by scanning the QR code to donate at the Just Giving page. Thank you all for your support.



TEXT 4ED TO 70560 TO DONATE

THE SLATER CUP – THE RESULTS



MARCH 12 2023 KINGSHOLM	 5 26 	DECEMBER 24 2022 WELFORD ROAD	 28 13 	MARCH 22 2024 WELFORD ROAD	 25 27 
OCTOBER 20 2024 WELFORD ROAD	 29 26 	NOVEMBER 25 2023 KINGSHOLM	 20 38 	DECEMBER 19 2025 WELFORD ROAD	 45 14 
		JANUARY 25 2025 KINGSHOLM	 29 26 		

GLoucester v LEICESTER TIGERS - THE STATISTICS

Today is the 237th meeting between these two sides, having first met in October 1891. Over that period, the record is remarkably even. Gloucester have won 112 and Leicester 116, with 8 drawn. Gloucester have scored 3,342 points and Leicester 3,237.

The Castle Grim factor has given Gloucester a significant advantage at Kingsholm, with 115 games played,

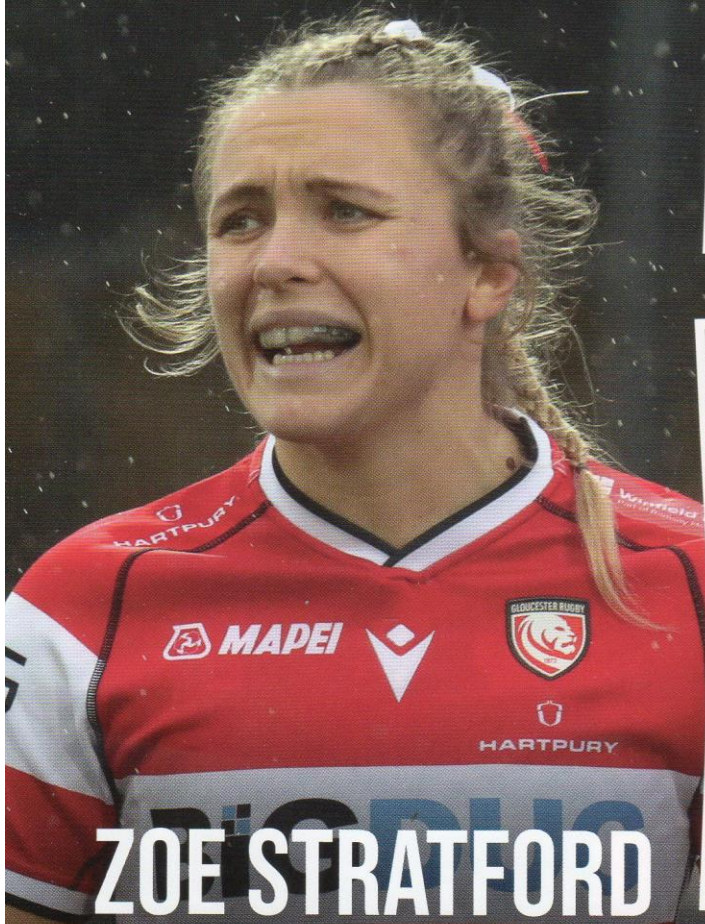
78 won, 33 lost and 4 drawn, 1,956 points for and 1,301 against.

Welford Road has been a similarly happy hunting ground for Leicester with 121 games, 83 won, 34 lost and 4 drawn, 1,936 points for and 1,386 against.

Leicester had their biggest win, 36-3, in a league game at Welford Road on March 4 2012. Gloucester's

biggest win in a league game was 34-6 on October 1 1999 at Kingsholm.

The biggest winning margin of all was Leicester 15 Gloucester 53 in a C&G Cup game on March 21 1998 at Welford Road – the try scorers were Terry Fanolua (3), Phillipe St Andre (2), Audley Lumsden and Dave Sims, with Mark Mapletoft converting 6 and kicking 2 penalties.



ZOE STRATFORD

If you find yourself in need of another Slater Cup fix after today's battle, get down to Kingsholm tomorrow when Gloucester Hartpury take on Leicester Tigers Women, with a 2.30pm kick-off. It's a fixture that Gloucester skipper Zoe Stratford is really looking forward to, albeit following the announcement of her pregnancy last week, she'll be enjoying the game from the stands.

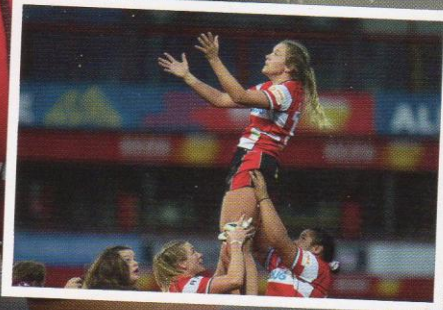
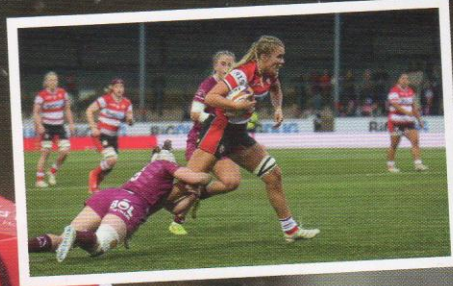
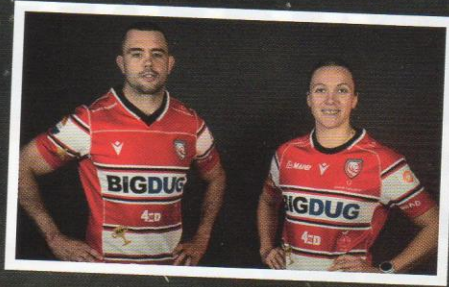
"The Slater Cup is incredibly important to the team. It's a big occasion and obviously we've got Ed at the heart of it. We always want to go out there and do our absolute best, especially against a team like Leicester, but the Slater Cup just adds to it. It's a massive day in the calendar.

"It's great that the rugby community can get behind Ed and for clubs

such as Leicester and Gloucester, the two clubs where he played, to have the Slater Cup and to make a real competition of it is incredible.

"It's incredibly important for players to be able to raise awareness of MND. It's become something that is too common in rugby, so for players to have a competition like the Slater Cup to raise that awareness and bring the crowds in, bring the funding in, is incredibly important. MND is a disease that hasn't been researched enough yet, and so we need that funding. We need the research to happen so that we can find cures and medicines to help people who have the disease.

"The Slater Cup has been really important in increasing awareness of MND, there are more conversations about it because of these games.



I think maybe a few years back, as players, we probably weren't even aware of MND. Now we know all about it, all about the fundraising, the need for more research. We obviously see Ed when he's been down here watching us playing, watching the men. It really has raised that awareness for the girls.

"I hope the Slater Cup carries on being a competition that brings together the rugby community. I think it's absolutely fantastic that two teams can go and battle it out on the playing pitch, but then afterwards, we come together to celebrate the occasion and to celebrate Ed.. As a sport and a community, we are leading the way in funding research and making people aware of the disease. That's something we can be proud of."



As we venture up the M5 today, away from our Kingsholm base, we are heading for territory that is quite familiar for Seb Atkinson. His rugby journey may have started in Herefordshire, but he is more than familiar with the sporting landscape in and around the Second City. Having made that personal journey, and having played for Worcester Warriors, he knows only too well the potential that exists to build Gloucester's profile throughout the wider West Midlands area.

"I started playing with Luctonians in Herefordshire and then moved closer to Birmingham, to Bromsgrove. I was lucky. I had some great coaches at school. I had the Mullan family, who have their links with Wasps, then Tony Windo was my rugby coach at Bromsgrove School, he's a stalwart both at Gloucester and Worcester. I'm very proud and very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with those people growing up. There's some great mentors at all the clubs over there.

"In and around Birmingham, and the West Midlands as a whole, it is a really rugby-rich area of the country. I guess with the unfortunate demise of Worcester a few years ago, a few of the clubs and the players in that area may have been overlooked or not given the opportunity to come through the pathway. That kind of infrastructure hasn't existed, there has been a bit of a gap, but now Gloucester have taken on that region, and it's exciting to see the growth and the potential that there is there.

"There's lots of big clubs and lots of history in the game around Birmingham, so it's great to have the chance to play such a stand-out game as the Slater Cup in the area. I think it will capture people's imagination. Hopefully we'll get some people in who have always been into

rugby from the local area, and maybe even some new fans too.

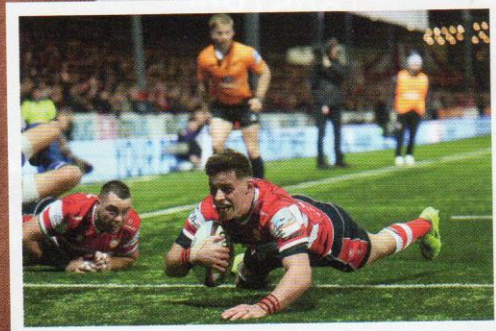
"Birmingham Moseley has always been a big club with lots of history, I was on loan at Stourbridge for a little while, there's obviously Bromsgrove Rugby Club. There's many rugby clubs in the Birmingham area that play a good brand of rugby that's exciting, but also has that same feel that you would get in Gloucester in terms of the physicality and the competitiveness. It is a really strong rugby area and to have a game like this there is a big step forward, both for the area and for Gloucester.

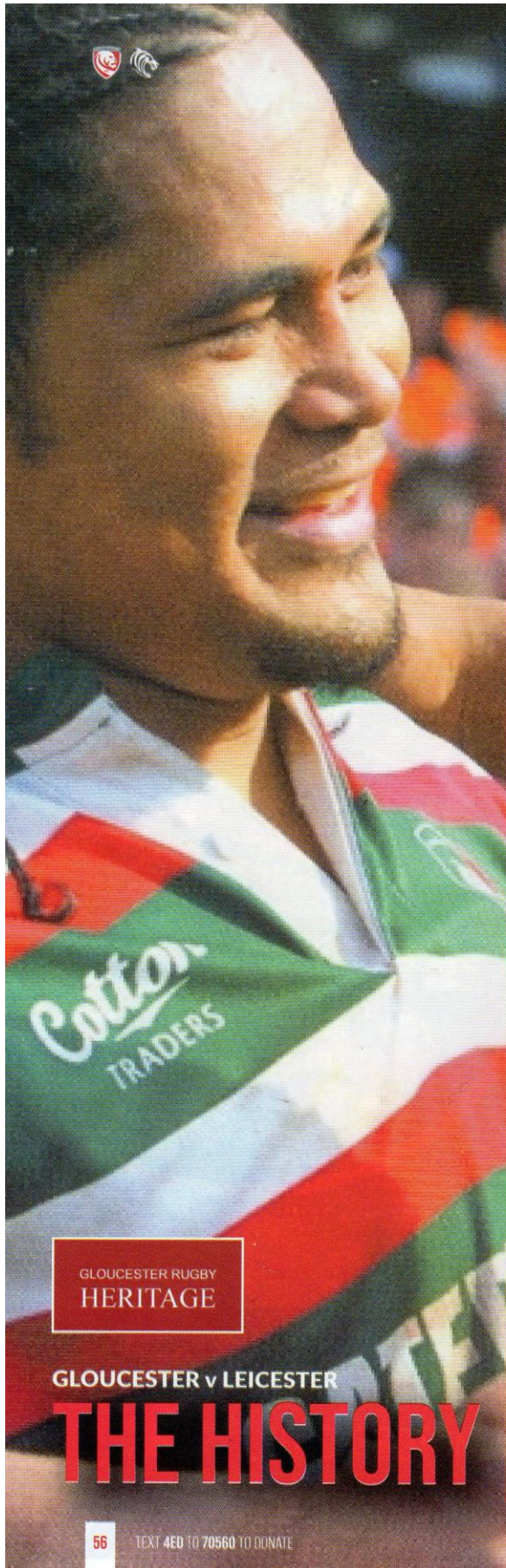
"With the opportunity to play the Slater Cup game at Villa Park, we'll try and produce a spectacle and get fans on their feet, create a buzz about PREM rugby. There is a great amateur scene in the West Midlands, but hopefully we can show what the professional game has to offer them too.

"Birmingham's rich in its sport, lots of big football clubs in the area, cricket's obviously big at Edgbaston, so I'm sure that given the opportunity and some exposure that you get from a game like this one, there's definitely more people who will get into the game, either from a fan's point of view or a playing point of view.

"We are the shop window with this game, and we want to give them something to enjoy and something they will commit to in the future."

SEB ATKINSON





GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

GLOUCESTER v LEICESTER

THE HISTORY

56

TEXT 4ED TO 70560 TO DONATE

Gloucester and Leicester are two clubs with an awful lot of history. Gloucester was founded in 1873, Leicester dates back to 1880. It was a few seasons before they met, Gloucester travelling to Leicester on October 31 1891. Gloucester played in red, yellow and black and came up against a Leicester side resplendent in new jerseys with scarlet, green and white stripes, the change from stripes to hoops made in 1895, roughly when Gloucester adopted cherry and white as their colours.

Perhaps Leicester thought God would be on their side by selecting four clergymen, but it was a 15-0 victory for Gloucester, with tries from Walter Jackson, Trevor Powell and Walter Taylor, all converted by Jackson, the first Gloucester player to become a British Lion when touring South Africa that summer. The Gloucester team were impressed by the "substantial meat tea" provided by their hosts, such hospitality encouraging further fixtures.

The first fixture at Kingsholm was on January 2 1892, when Gloucester won by three tries to nil, Jackson, Taylor and Charlie Williams scoring. When Gloucester next visited Leicester on November 19 1892, the game was played on the new Welford Road ground. Gloucester won again, 16-0, with two tries from Jackson and three from Taylor, Jackson converting two of them (a try counting two points, a conversion three.)

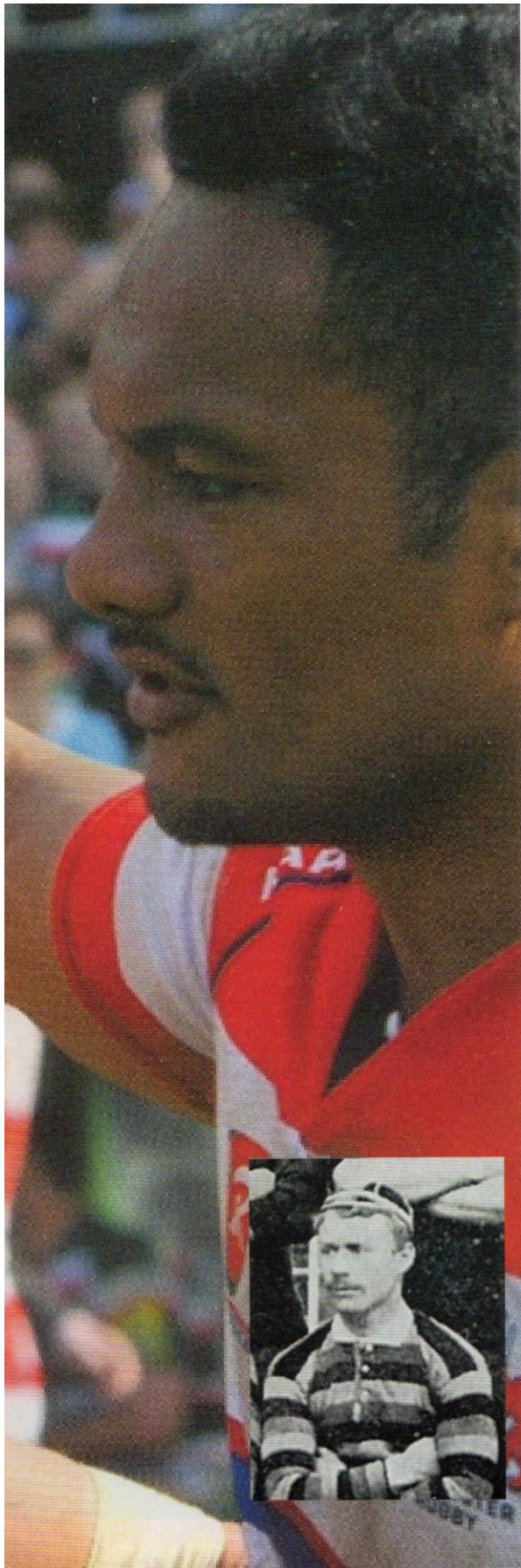
After moving into permanent homes in 1891/92, development continued in parallel - England internationals were hosted and changing rooms built in the early 1900s, new stands in the 1920s, floodlights installed in the 1960s. By then, Leicester players recall the highlight of away games at Kingsholm was the excellent lunch they habitually stopped off for in Stratford-on-Avon on the way down.

In 1905/06, New Zealand toured this country for the first time and a friendship built up between Arthur Hudson of Gloucester and England and the All Black wing Duncan McGregor, who brought two teammates, Mynott and Seeling, on a visit to Gloucester, coinciding with a game against Leicester on January 13. Leicester found themselves facing three All Blacks in cherry and white, and they were to the fore in a 20-0 win.

In 1937, Gloucester followed Leicester's example by playing three clergymen (Kit Tanner, Mervyn Hughes and Bill Phillips). It worked for Gloucester, who won 14-9.

The first time Villa Park hosted rugby was the County Championship final on March 9 1922, nine Gloucester players turning out for Gloucestershire, who triumphed 19-0 over North Midlands to secure their third successive title. Further success there came in 1951 when England full-back Bill Hook was invited to play for R I Scorer's XV against North Midlands, and kicked two conversions in a 10-6 victory.

Two matches have been played at Twickenham - Gloucester won the cup final in 1978 and Leicester won the league final in 2007. They have also met twice at Northampton - Leicester won a Heineken Cup semi-final in 2001, and Gloucester a Powergen Cup semi-final in 2003.



GLOUCESTER VS LEICESTER

MEMORABLE

MATCHES

GLOUCESTER 6 LEICESTER 3

(JOHN PLAYER CUP FINAL)

15th April 1978

Having won the inaugural knockout competition in 1972, Gloucester returned to Twickenham six years later. Gloucester was the premier club in England that season and beat holders Gosforth, Wasps and Harlequins en route. The score may have been close, but Gloucester dominated territory and possession and scored the only try. Richard Mogg was the man of the match, not only scoring Gloucester's try, which Peter Butler converted, but bringing off a match-saving tackle close to the final whistle.

LEICESTER 41 GLOUCESTER 41

(JOHN PLAYER CUP FINAL)

16th April 2011

You were in danger of missing the excitement if you blinked at this game, the highest scoring draw in Premiership history. Leicester built a 14 point advantage, but Gloucester fought back and Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolo made a last minute interception and ran almost the length of the field to score, Freddie Burns kicking the conversion to draw the match. Gloucester try scorers were Fuimaono-Sapolu (2), Ollie Morgan, Andy Hazell, and Tim Molenaar; Freddie Burns kicked five conversions and two penalties. For Leicester, who had George Skivington in their second row, try scorers were Alesana Tuilagi (3), Scott Hamilton and Billy Twelvetrees; Toby Flood kicked five conversions and two penalties.

Details of every match between the clubs can be found in the Gloucester Rugby Heritage book entitled "150 Years of Gloucester Rugby", available from the Club shop at Kingsholm.



TEXT 4ED TO 70560 TO DONATE

57

the
SLATER
cup AT VILLA PARK



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

BEN REDSHAW 15
WILL JOSEPH 14
MAX LLEWELLYN 13
(c) SEB ATKINSON 12
OLLIE THORLEY 11
CHARLIE ATKINSON 10
CAOLAN ENGLEFIELD 9
VAL RAPAVA-RUSKIN 1
JACK INNARD 2
AFO FASOGBON 3
ARTHUR CLARK 4
MATIAS ALEMANNI 5
DEIAN GWYNNE 6
LEWIS LUDLOW 7
JACK CLEMENT 8

REPLACEMENTS

SEB BLAKE 16
DIAN BLEUER 17
CIARAN KNIGHT 18
FREDDIE THOMAS 19
WILL TRENHOLM 20
RHYS PRICE 21
GEORGE BARTON 22
JOSIAH EDWARDS-GIRAUD 23



LEICESTER TIGERS*

15 FREDDIE STEWARD
14 GABRIEL HAMER-WEBB
13 WILL WAND
12 ORLANDO BAILEY
11 OLLIE HASSELL-COLLINS
10 BILLY SEARLE
9 TOM WHITELEY
1 NICKY SMITH
2 JAMIE BLAMIRE
3 JOE HEYES
4 HANRO LIEBENBERG
5 OLLIE CHESSUM (c)
6 JOAQUIN MORO
7 HAMISH WATSON
8 OLLY CRACKNELL

REPLACEMENTS

16 FINN THEOBALD-THOMAS
17 ARCHIE VAN DER FLIER
18 WILL HURD
19 OSIAN THOMAS
20 HARRY PALMER
21 JACK VAN POORTVLIET
22 JAMES O'CONNOR
23 IZAIA PERESE

OFFICIALS

REFEREE:
MATTHEW CARLEY

ASSISTANT REFEREE 1:
IAN TEMPEST

ASSISTANT REFEREE 2:
NEIL CHIVERS

TMO:
DAVID ROSE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



**TURKISH
AIRLINES**



**Birmingham
Airport**

VILLA PARK | SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2026 | 1PM

ANY LINE-UP CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED INSIDE THE STADIUM BEFORE THE GAME.

*EXPECTED LINE-UP - TEAM NOT ANNOUNCED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT