

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



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HEINEKEN CUP

vs. USA PERPIGNAN



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THE PRIDE ~ THE PASSION ~ THE HONOUR ~ THE HISTORY

ADEY
MagnaClean

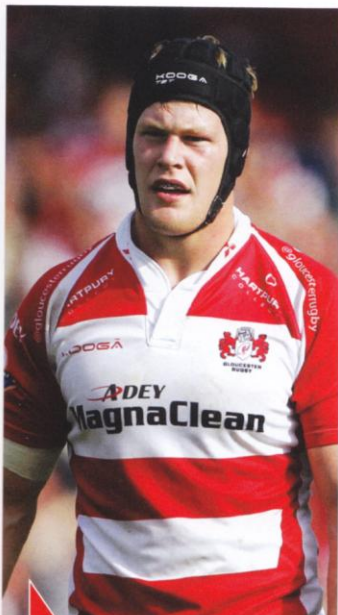
Heineken® CUP ROUND 1



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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

TOM SAVAGE

I'm not going to deny that this evening's game is a very special one for me personally.

I've only made one appearance in the Heineken Cup. That was as a replacement against Harlequins two years ago.

That was my last appearance for nearly three months that season, as I was subsequently sidelined by a knee injury. It was a frustrating time for me as I felt I was just establishing myself in the first team.

It also meant that I was a spectator

of an edge to them.

This one, of course, has the extra element of us possibly welcoming a couple of old team mates in Luke Narry and Alasdair Strokosch back to Gloucester.

There's been a bit of banter flying back and forth across the Channel since we discovered we'd be playing against each other. Twitter especially has been fairly lively!

But we'll put the friendships to one side for 80 minutes as we focus on the game, and there will be plenty of

"...I WILL BE A VERY PROUD MAN WHEN I LEAD OUT THE TEAM THIS EVENING FOR OUR FIRST EUROPEAN OUTING OF THE SEASON."

when we played Toulouse on that memorable Friday evening in January, a truly fantastic Kingsholm occasion when we showed that we're capable of taking on the very best in Europe.

This evening could very well be another such occasion. As soon as the draw was made, we quickly realised that Perpignan are one of the top French sides in the competition, a club who possess a great European pedigree.

So, I will be a very proud man when I lead out the team this evening for our first European outing of the season.

The encounters between English and French clubs are always exciting ones, with a little bit

time for a catch up afterwards.

It's an important game for all sorts of reasons. But, not least because we've got a bit of pride to restore after last weekend's defeat to Exeter.

Losing is a painful enough experience at the best of times. Losing at home is something we hate to do. And losing when we haven't really performed is the worst feeling of all.

Knowing that we've been outplayed, and that we've let down our supporters hurts every single member of the squad. There was an amazing crowd in at Kingsholm last weekend, and we simply didn't do it justice.

It was a very quiet dressing room after the game, and none of us want to go through that again.

There's been a quiet determination in training this week, and I promise you that every man wearing a Gloucester shirt will be busting a gut to bounce back this evening.

Sav

We hope to have some more results like the victory over Toulouse last season



NIGEL DAVIES DIRECTOR OF RUGBY



"ONE OF OUR STRENGTHS AS A SQUAD IS OUR TOGETHERNESS. WE'RE A STRONG UNIT, THERE HAS BEEN NO FINGER POINTING, JUST A COLLECTIVE RESOLVE AND DETERMINATION TO BE BETTER."

COACH'S NOTES

On behalf of everyone at Gloucester Rugby, I'd like to wish the players, staff and supporters of Perpignan a warm welcome to Kingsholm this evening for the first round of the Heineken Cup.

the past 15 years.

The two competitions have created some magical rugby occasions, and I've been fortunate enough to have been involved in many of them.

The Heineken Cup and the Amlin

of the best performances I've seen from an opposing side since I came to Gloucester. They deserve a lot of credit.

After two wins in a row, it was frustrating to round off the first phase of Premiership matches with



We are very excited to be playing in the Heineken Cup once again and playing amongst Europe's elite.

I'm delighted that we're able to take on teams of the calibre of Perpignan in Europe this season.

When I accepted the role of Director of Rugby at the club, one of my main goals was to see Gloucester qualify for the Heineken Cup once again. A club of this stature should be competing with the very best in Europe.

There has been a lot of talk about the future of the European club competitions and, to be honest, that's out of our hands. We'll leave all that to the various administrators.

What I would say, however, is that European club rugby has become a massively important part of the rugby calendar over

Challenge Cup provide clubs with the opportunity to take on different opposition from different countries every year, to test themselves in different environments. That's been good for player development and for the game in general.

That's why we're really looking forward to taking on Perpignan this evening. I'm told that the two teams haven't met for over ten years, so there's a real sense of anticipation.

For us, there's also the small matter of us bouncing back after last week, when we delivered a below par performance against the Exeter Chiefs.

I'll take nothing away from Rob Baxter's side. That was one

a defeat. But we have to take it on the chin, learn from it and look to improve in the areas where we were below our best.

One of our strengths as a squad is our togetherness. We're a strong unit, there has been no finger pointing, just a collective resolve and determination to be better.

We've worked hard in training, we've prepared well for tonight. Perpignan will be a formidable foe but we know, that if we get things right and play as we're capable of doing, then we can match up well against them.

Enjoy the game,

Nigel



VIEW FROM The Citizen

with **NICK PUREWAL**

Nick talks to Gloucester's evergreen player/coach Mike Tindall about bouncing back from last weekend's defeat and not allowing the returning Luke Narraway to have the last word.

KINGSHOLM GRIT

Set the Kingsholm intensity, or face the ignominy of an insufferable Luke Narraway.

That's Mike Tindall's warning to the Gloucester squad as they prepare to open their Heineken Cup campaign by hosting Perpignan.

Tindall slammed the Cherry and Whites for failing to drive the expected Kingsholm grit in Sunday's 29-12 Exeter Chiefs Premiership defeat.

The 34-year-old player/backs coach admitted Gloucester were well below any acceptable par for a home fixture against the Chiefs.

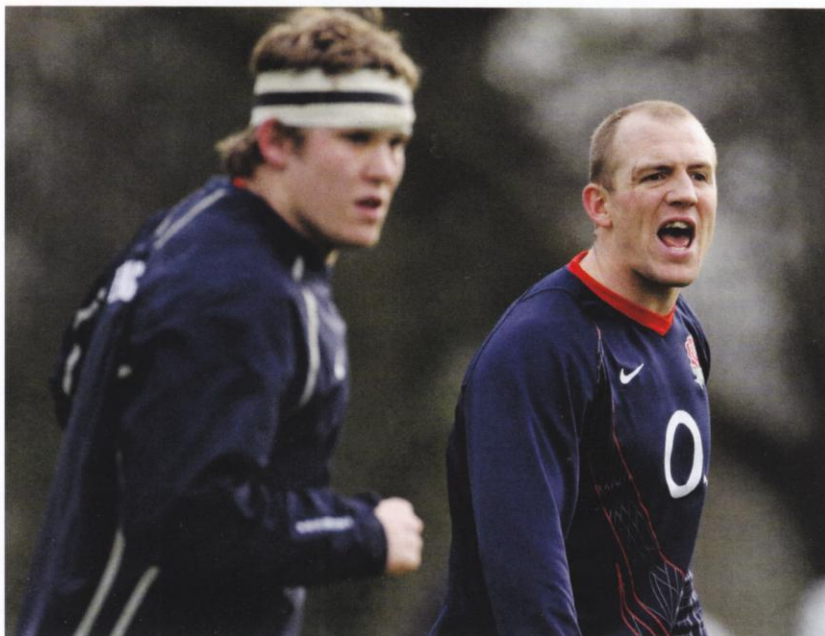
Now the World Cup winner believes it is time Nigel Davies' side sorted out their early-season shortcomings once and for all.

And he admits a happy by-product of victory over Saturday's Catalan visitors would be denying former Gloucester number eight Narraway any bragging rights.

Narraway's Kingsholm decade came to an end last summer, after Bryan Redpath sought a new direction with Ben Morgan and Sione Kalamafoni.

The 30-year-old is now in his second season at Stade Aime

Tindall will be hoping Gloucester can keep Narraway quiet today



Giral, alongside Scotland and ex-Gloucester flanker Alasdair Strokosch.

While Strokosch's silent-assassin status precedes him, Narraway has always been far more vocal.

And Tindall knows the barrage of banter that will come Gloucester's way if the French Top 14 outfit triumph at Kingsholm.

He explained:

"Everyone knows what Naz is like, you never want to lose a game with him on the opposition.

"He would be unbearable to be honest, and so we just can't give him that satisfaction.

"Strokes is coming back too, so we've got to get pumped. Perpignan can be brilliant, but they can also be average.

"It's up to us to be honest to set the intensity. We didn't do that against Exeter and that was unacceptable. If we can set our own intensity, then we can get into our game."

Tindall accepts Gloucester deserve every bit of flak that will come their way after Sunday's toothless Exeter defeat.

He admits the lack of tight-five bite cannot be repeated, but also asserts Gloucester can learn from the Chiefs' doggedness.

England's most-capped centre continued:

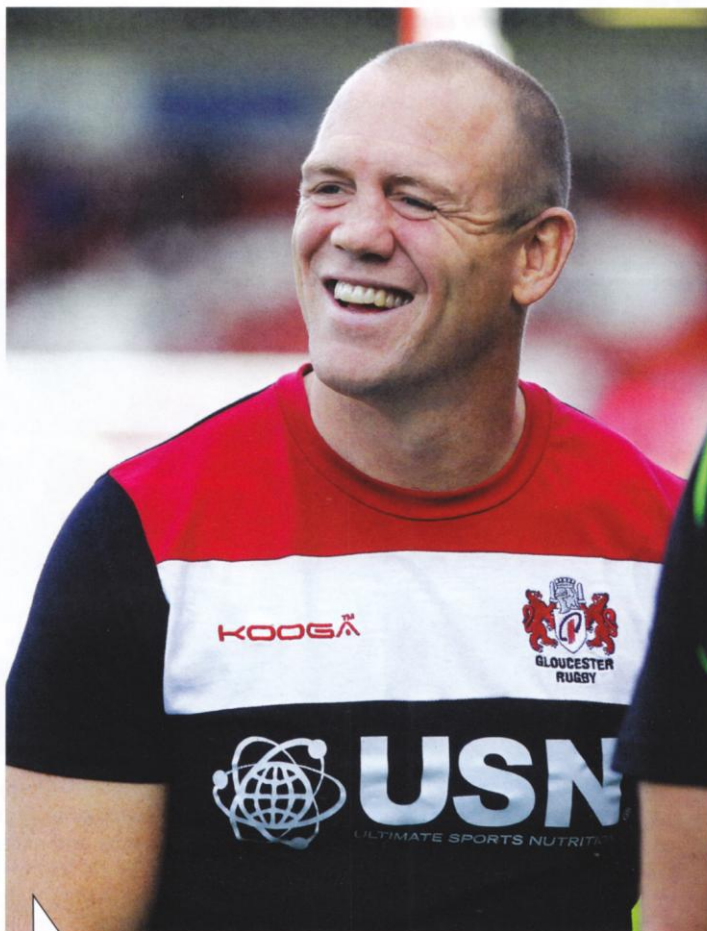
"Gloucester don't lose that easily at home, it's written in some sort of folklore somewhere I would imagine, and we've got to bring back that intensity we expect at Kingsholm.

"Exeter didn't do anything flash, they just keep the ball, they are relentless, they keep coming and coming, round the corner again and again, and they don't make mistakes.

"They forced us into errors, and they capitalised on the penalties. And we can really learn something from that.

"Defensively that was the main thing that wasn't good enough.

"We gave a lot of scrum



"GLOUCESTER DON'T LOSE THAT EASILY AT HOME, IT'S WRITTEN IN SOME SORT OF FOLKLORE SOMEWHERE I WOULD IMAGINE..."

penalties away, we messed up a couple of times at the base of the scrum, and these are the things we just really don't need.

"There's lots of things to work on, we know where we need to improve, and quite frankly, we haven't got time to be down about things.

"We've got a lot to solve and we've just got to get on with it.

"We talked all week about them playing out of their own half, we purposely put our wingers up to give them loads of space to kick.

"They didn't take that bait, they kept attacking from deep, and we let them break through on the inside.

"That's the disappointing thing for me, and I'm sure Paul Moriarty will have a lot to say about that too."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugby heritage.org.uk

THE FRENCH CONNECTION PRE-WW1...

RACING CLUB DE FRANCE 1908

The first French side to visit Kingsholm was Racing Club de France, the forerunner of the present day Racing Metro and one of the leading French clubs of that era.

On Christmas Eve 1908 they played their first match of a tour of England and Wales against a Gloucestershire XV captained by Gordon Vears, which included ten other Gloucester players alongside two each from Cheltenham and Cinderford.

The Gloucestershire XV overwhelmed their French opponents by 39 (6 goals, 3 tries) to nil. Frank Smith helped himself to three tries, "Father" Dix scored two, and there were one each for Lindsay Vears, Jim Stephens and Dave Holland; Welshman kicked the six conversions.

TOULOUSE 1911

Two years later, in February 1911, the Gloucester Club paid the first of two visits to France, undertaking the long journey to Toulouse to play the Stade Toulousain team.

This trip took six days, with departure from Gloucester at 2:25pm on Saturday (seriously



Arthur Hudson captain in France 1911-1912

weakening the team for the match at Abertillery that afternoon, a fixture which was lost 3-14, by a makeshift side who were probably sorry that they weren't going to France!)

There were overnight stops in London and Paris on the way out and a night in Toulouse before the game.

Gloucester beat Toulouse by

18 points to 13 on 28th February 1911, scoring 3 goals, 1 penalty against 2 goals, 1 try. Holford, Pegler and Hall scored Gloucester's tries, Cook converting one and kicking a penalty.

The result was somewhat controversial, and the match finished with a hostile demonstration against the referee, who was none other than the Rev O E Hayden, a Gloucester Committee man, who had accepted the invitation to take charge of the game.

Fortunately nothing serious happened and, under an escort of players and gendarmes, Rev Hayden was able to exit the field of play unmolested.

There was a further night in Toulouse, and another in Paris on the way back, before arriving back in Gloucester at 8:40pm on Thursday evening.

However, the players still had enough energy left to defeat Swansea 13-6 on Saturday. The trip was judged a great success, and was never forgotten by the players, who regarded themselves as fortunate to be selected in the party.

The match had been filmed and within two weeks the film was

PALACE PICTURES
 AT THE
PALACE THEATRE
 (IN THE GOLDEN FRAME)
TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!
 And at every Performance until further Notice.
GLOUCESTER
 v.
TOULOUSE.

THE GREAT MATCH AS PLAYED IN FRANCE JUST RECENTLY.
 Certainly the finest Football Picture ever seen in Gloucester, showing first and second half of the Game; also excellent Photos of the Teams and of Local Gentlemen.

TERRIFIC RECEPTION NIGHTLY.
 Highly praised and applauded at the Second House on Wednesday night by THE GLOUCESTER TEAM, who were interested Patrons. TO SEE OURSELVES AS OTHERS SEE US. Here are a few of the Players' Opinions—

GORDON VEARS—
 "An excellent film, true to life."
A. HUDSON (Capt.)—
 "A splendid Picture! And what a length."
H. BERRY—
 "Certainly worth a Golden Frame."
F. YATES—
 "A Picture we must all see again."
J. HAMBLIN—
 "A remarkable Film. Highly interesting."
W. HALL—
 "A jolly good Picture, recalling a very pleasant Trip."
W. DIX—
 "Instructive—Entertaining—Amusing."
W. JOHNS—
 "A triumph of Bioscopic Art."
SHOWN TWICE NIGHTLY, at 7 and 9.
 In addition to our usual efficient and lengthy Programme.

MATINEE TO-DAY (SATURDAY), at 3.
 Book Circle Seats now, without extra charge. Telephone 176.
 Prices 9d., 6d., 3d., and 2d.

Gloucester at the pictures – Citizen 18 March 1911

being shown twice nightly at the Palace Theatre in Gloucester. It proved a major attraction, but sadly no copy is believed to exist today.

STADE FRANCAIS 1912

During the following season, 1911-12, Gloucester took the somewhat shorter journey to Paris to play Stade Francais, and were away for only three days.

It proved just as enjoyable, and resulted in another victory, 13-3, Gloucester scoring 2 goals, 1 penalty against 1 try. "Father" Dix and Arthur Hudson scored the tries for Gloucester, Lionel Hamblin converting both and kicking a penalty.

The match was played on Thursday 14th March 1912, and afterwards the Stade Francais club entertained their visitors to a memorable banquet.

Gloucester travelled home the next day, not arriving until the early hours of Saturday morning, which may have contributed to their rather dismal 0-3 loss to Cinderford later that day.

... AND AFTER

FRENCH UNIVERSITIES 1966

It was to be another 54 years before the Gloucester club played a French side at Kingsholm for the first time. On 29 March 1966 the French Universities, who were in Britain to play their annual match against British Universities, played Gloucester in an all-pay game.

The French side, which contained the great Pierre Villepreux at full back and a couple of other future internationals, won 17-0 and went on to beat British Universities 9-0 two days later.

BEGLES 1975

At long last, the first match to be held at Kingsholm between Gloucester and a French club took place under floodlights on 18 February 1975 when Begles visited during a West Country tour.

It was a fitting first match in which both sides played sparkling open rugby. Alan Brinn, John Bayliss and Eddie Pinkney scored tries for Gloucester, but Begles won a thriller 21-20.

PERPIGNAN 2002

With the onset of professional rugby and European competition everything changed and visits to Kingsholm by French clubs became an annual event.

On 8 December 2002, a bitterly cold day at Kingsholm, Gloucester took on Perpignan for the first time in the Heineken Cup. Gloucester won 33-16 but the forward battle was fiercely contested and only Gloucester's superior finishing won the game.

Marcel Garvey scored two tries, the second an outstanding effort in which he took the ball in midfield and hammered through the cover defence. Ludovic Mercier kicked 7 goals and scored a try for a personal tally of 23 points. The pack did well to hold the opposing eight



Ludovic Mercier 41 points in two games against Perpignan

with an outstanding performance from Peter Buxton.

Six days later in Perpignan, it was a different story. The Perpignan pack driving forward dominated the Gloucester eight in the first half and by half time they were 23-6 up.

Despite a third Mercier penalty, the lead was increased to 31-9 midway through the second half. Gloucester clawed back a try when Boer emerged from the bottom of a forward drive to score.

James Forrester came on late to add some pace and invention and chipped through to win back possession for Tom Beim who put in Mercier for a try which he converted. Final score 31-23.

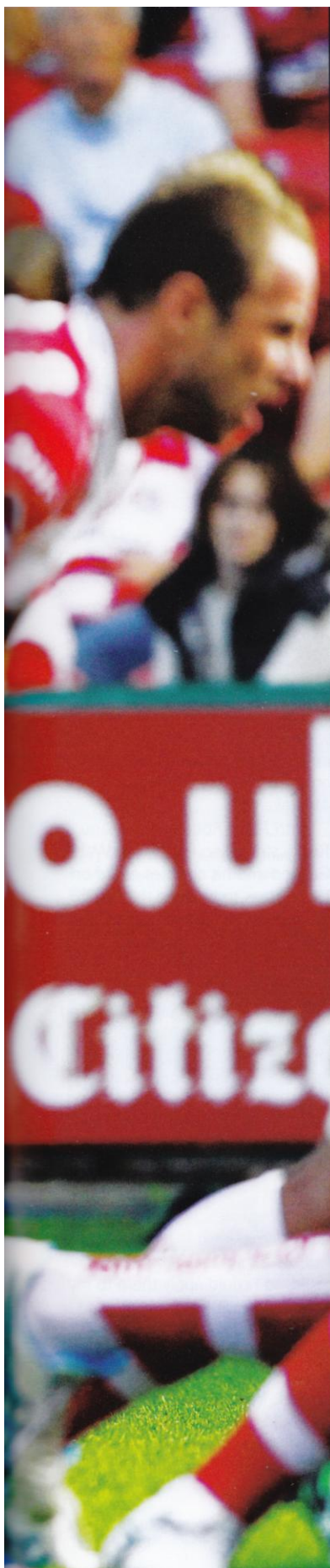
ExtraMEDIA



Billy Twelvetimes @Billy_12trees

Really glad to be staying at Gloucester, awesome club and great supporters

“...I WAS PRETTY KEEN TO GET IT ALL SORTED AND SIGNED. I’VE LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF MY FIRST YEAR HERE AND IT’S BEEN GREAT.”



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

FOR **BILLY TWELVETREES**, THE WHIRLWIND EVENTS OF THE PAST 12 MONTHS HAVE MEANT THE CENTRE'S FEET HAVE BARELY TOUCHED THE GROUND.

Arriving at Kingsholm after three seasons with Leicester Tigers, the Sussex-born centre has been cemented a role in the Gloucester midfield, been capped for England and seen himself called up to the British and Irish Lions squad.

Next up, Twelvetrees put pen-to-paper on a new two-year contract at Kingsholm, and explained his delight on extending his stay in Gloucestershire for years to come.

"I'm thoroughly excited about staying here, so I was pretty keen to get it all sorted and signed. I've loved every minute of my first year here and it's been great.

"I've loved every game and working with the boys on the system and the way we've played. Playing at Kingsholm has been a great thing for me, and the support that follows us away from home is brilliant. So, it was a simple decision to stay here and keep playing for Gloucester."

Picked in the England squad for the RBS Six Nations, a debut try



against Scotland was the stuff of dreams and only defeat to Wales at the Millennium Stadium put a dampener on a memorable Six Nations.

Off the back of a great first season with Gloucester, Twelvetrees was named on England's summer tour of Argentina, and for him, it went by in a heartbeat.



Passing on the baton: Twelvetrees has taken on the Tindall role in the Gloucester backline

"It all went by pretty quickly to be honest. When I finally got a chance to stop in the summer, it was great to reflect and look back on everything and let it all sink in.

"Coming to a new club and establishing myself here was a big thing for me, just to play regular rugby week in, week out in the Premiership was huge. To then get the reward of playing for England was a dream come true. Even looking back on it all now, it doesn't seem real to me, but it was a huge honour.

"Playing for England is one thing but you just want to do it more and more. I want to kick on now and prove that I can still perform to make that step up again."

Whilst Twelvetrees and his England colleagues were impressing in South America, the rugby world was captured by the latest chapter in the British and Irish Lions history on the other side of the world in Australia.

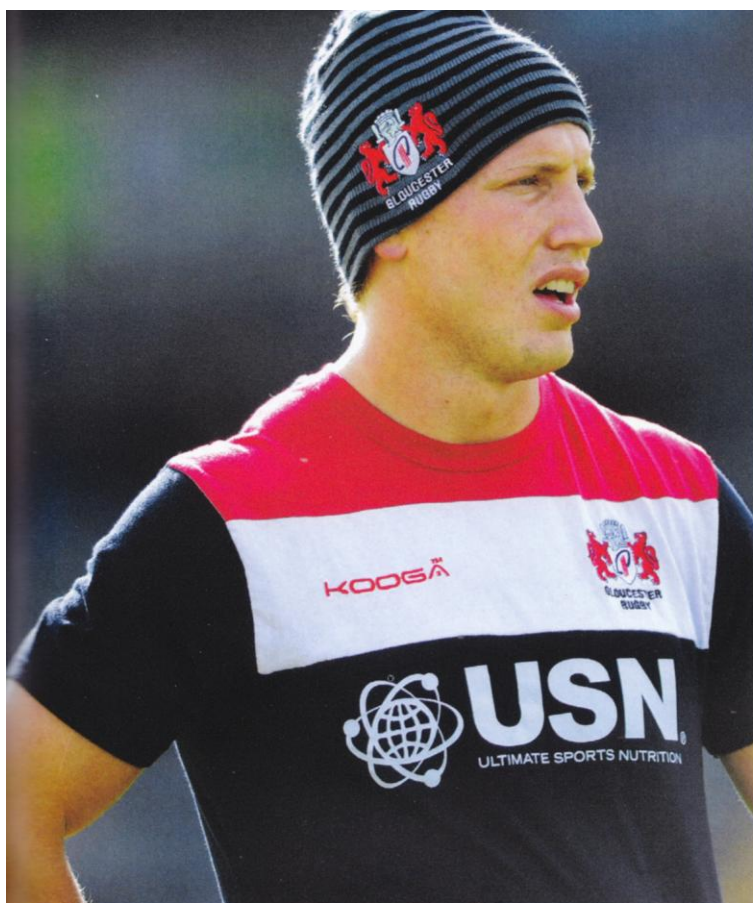
With Jamie Roberts and Manu Tuilagi struggling for fitness, Warren Gatland and his coaches called on Twelvetrees to become the first Gloucester Rugby Lion since Phil Vickery in 1997. The call came as a bolt out of the blue.

"Shock initially. When Stuart Lancaster told me that they wanted me, it was more of 'Blimey that's pretty cool'. So, I told my girlfriend, then told my family and then I was on a plane within a few hours of that. It was a huge honour to be there, to meet all those players and be part of the tour was an unreal experience.

"Great players and great coaches and, for me, I just tried to learn as much as I could from them, when I could, so I could apply them to my game.

"I'm fully aware of what it meant to all the boys out there and the management. The desire to win was evident. My role was to ensure that we could get the Test team in the best possible state to win the series.

"It was such a great environment



"THE TOUR RESULT WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AND I CAN LOOK BACK ON IT WITH A LOT OF PRIDE."

that. It was nice to knock it over when it really mattered."

With Gloucester returning to the Heineken Cup, Twelvetrees appreciates what a great competition it is and how his teammates are relishing the opportunity and challenge.

"The boys are hugely excited about it, the Heineken Cup is huge for the club and the supporters and everyone in the club wants to be here. It's a big part of why I came to the club, with aspirations to be in the Heineken and it's a huge competition."

"It's really exciting and hopefully we can hit the ground running."

"It's extremely tough to get out of your group, you have to target

wins in your home games and go from there. In the six games, you have to be on the money in each one, it will test the squad, we know that, but it's a challenge that we are really looking forward to."

"It would be great to create some more big memories. Playing against a French side, Irish side and a Scottish side, it's hugely exciting and the boys will enjoy playing those games."

"IT'S REALLY EXCITING AND HOPEFULLY WE CAN HIT THE GROUND RUNNING."

ExtraMEDIA

Billy Twelvetrees @Billy_12trees

Accidents happen on slides, where is your ear gone @tc_savage



to be in for me, and something I'd love to do again, and I can't say enough what an amazing experience it was. The tour result will go down in history and I can look back on it with a lot of pride."

After an exhilarating summer, the start of the Aviva Premiership

season has brought Twelvetrees back to ground with a bump. Defeats in the opening two games of the season are not facts to be savoured.

"From a player's point of view we weren't too down after the opening weeks. We knew that it wasn't how we should be performing. We got a good win against Saints and a good win against Newcastle, which gave us good momentum."

"I didn't even realize I was captain against Saints to be honest. I

just knew that Freddie was off and I knew I wanted to take the kicking responsibilities if it came to it.

"I didn't ask Cookie to be honest – which was a bit rude – but that's why we practice, for moments like



KINGSHOLM NEWS with BOB FENTON

It's great to be back in the Heineken Cup, especially as it may well be the last time the competition is played in its current format.

Where do you start after a game like last Sunday...

It's hard to find many positives out of that, apart from it being a really nice day weather-wise. We were also treated to some fairly odd pre-match entertainment involving giant balls and the posts.

I'm all for some sort of pre-match entertainment, but I couldn't tell what it was all about as the bloke with the microphone was shouting so much he was totally inaudible.

Note to said person: there is a clue in the name of the thing in your hand – it's a microphone and therefore it amplifies things for you, so don't shout into it! To be fair, about two hours later I was musing that, had we used those giant balls during the match, we may have got a better result than the one we ended up with.

Chatting after the game, and reading the many comments online afterwards, it's obvious that people are hurt by performances like that. We all look forward to Saturday (or whenever) with hope and some degree of expectation.

But sometimes sport is cruel, and fair play to Exeter there can't be a person inside the ground who wouldn't agree that they fully deserved their win. Well maybe apart from the odd little chap who walked past the group of Exeter fans in the Shed and called them all cheats... Very strange.

Results like that happen sometimes though. We just have

to hope that we bounce back in a positive way today. Heaven knows we'll need to front up with today's visitors, not least because they number our old 'Assassin' on the blindside, Alasdair Strokosch, to those who may have been living in a cave for a year or so.

kick off time – I know the clubs get a heap of cash from the TV deal, but 6pm on a Saturday! Still, on the positive side, it does mean that I won't be forced to seek refuge from the X Factor tonight.

It's great to be back in the Heineken Cup, especially as it



Tweet Tweet Naz will be supplying the banter on Twitter ahead of today's game

They also have former skipper Luke Narraway on the bus with them – no doubt by now the Twittersphere has been awash with wind-ups between those two and their old mates at Castle Grim.

So what to expect today then, for a start this is a really inconvenient

may well be the last time the competition is played in its current format. The politics around the competition are way too mind-boggling for me to keep up with.

I just hope they get it all sorted and ensure that a full European tournament – and one with a 'fair'



Great game. It was flat out for 80 minutes in the New Zealand v South Africa game last weekend

qualification process – is in place for next year. The competition is way too important to lose – it really is the best club rugby tournament on the planet.

Perpignan may not be the huge force that they were a few years ago, but will be coming over buoyed by a win last weekend against Biarritz, and currently sitting comfortably in the top half of the Top 14. Strokes and Naz are in good company over there, they have a fearsome squad, no doubt detailed elsewhere in this programme.

A few names spring out though a couple of Welshmen - James Hook, who has just extended his contract with them, and Luke Charteris and a couple of other Premiership old boys – Dan Leo and Richard Haughton. As I recall those two had enough hair to keep

a barber with and industrial hedge trimmer working overtime for a month – how Haughton ever got a scrum cap on was one of life's mysteries.

Back to last weekend for a moment. I did watch one great game - the 'Rugby Championship' decider between South Africa and the All Blacks. Needing to score four tries and at the same time preventing their visitors getting a point, the Boks threw everything at the New Zealanders. They soaked it up and threw it straight back.

I know there are many who view some of the Super however many it is this season and some of the southern hemisphere rugby with some disdain. It is quite different to what we see week in, week out, but that doesn't make it any less entertaining – well not to

me, anyway.

This game was a proper classic and – whatever your views on the north v south debate – you couldn't help but be utterly captivated by the spectacle. It was flat out attacking from both sides played in a fantastic atmosphere.

I remember Thinus Delpoit talking about the special feeling he got playing at Ellis Park, having watched that match I can understand why. It was flat out from the first to last whistle and how those players were able to breathe, let alone run, in the last few minutes was beyond me.

And credit as well to Nigel Owens who refereed it, and it was little surprise that he was down with cramp towards the end. If you haven't seen it, try to find it on line somewhere, it really was that good.



EUROPEAN GAMES HAVE - WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE 1998-99 SEASON WHEN ENGLISH TEAMS DID NOT TAKE PART - BEEN PART OF GLOUCESTER RUGBY'S DIET FOR THE PAST 17 YEARS.

FROM Colomiers to Connacht, and from Treviso to Toulouse, there have been some memorable encounters across nine seasons in the Heineken Cup, and eight in the Challenge Cup. In all, it amounts to more than 100 matches.

My first away trip, as I suspect it was for many Gloucester supporters, was in 1997-8 to the Challenge Cup quarter final in Paris against Stade Francais.

Like the bulk of the 500 or so fans who made the journey, it was overnight coach both ways, but the experience, albeit in defeat, galvanised interest in European rugby.

Having been to a variety of venues since, you see some regulars who go everywhere, and others who cherry pick one fixture each season.

Generally this tends to be somewhere new, although as time goes by this is getting more and more difficult, as is born out by this

season's draw.

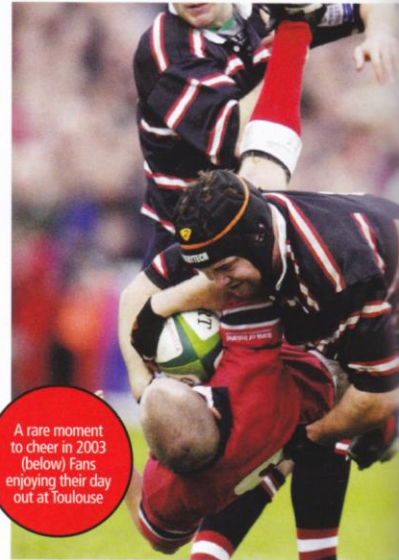
Gloucester have faced all three teams before, and I have been fortunate enough to visit all three grounds.

January 18th 2003 will come back into the minds of many supporters next weekend, as it will for the two current Gloucester

players, Andy Hazell and James Simpson-Daniel.

This was, of course, the date of the "miracle match" against Munster - ultimately a piece of sporting theatre that will go down in rugby folklore.

It was the first season Gloucester had faced an Irish team in the



A rare moment to cheer in 2003 (below) Fans enjoying their day out at Toulouse

Heineken Cup, and a team that had twice been beaten in finals.

Some pundits, from my recollection, said they were past their best, but at that stage they had never lost a Heineken Cup fixture at Thomond Park.

The match order in the pool stages sent Munster to Kingsholm



first, and Gloucester to Limerick last. Gloucester had won the home game with a bonus point on a sunny October afternoon.

All seemed rosy after a 12 try romp in Italy against Viadana and a home victory over Perpignan, who come here today.

The French, however, exacted revenge on their own ground, and had to play Viadana last - surely a banker victory.

For Munster to edge Gloucester out and qualify for the knockout stages, the maths were improbable. Win, score four tries and overturn a big points difference. Surely anyone predicting this would be taken away by the men in white coats.

Little did I know just how much the 16th man - the crowd - would inspire the Munster team. Surveying the ground empty, it was a spartan venue, with three sides open to the elements. The transformation when full was astonishing.

Andy Deacon



Ronan O'Gara at half back, never panicked.

Every time you felt Munster were running out of steam, they manufactured a try. The first three were evenly spread, leaving them

for wing Kelly in the last minute.

Since that famous occasion, Gloucester have faced Munster in the group stages in 2003-4 and again in a quarter final here in 2007-8. Munster won 16-3 that day, but that defeat is a rare blemish on Gloucester's home Heineken Cup record.

Only Stade Francais, Agen, Cardiff and Harlequins have also won here, but today's opponents come with some handy inside knowledge from Luke Narraway and Alasdair Strokosch.

Both are now 30, and part of a Perpignan squad that won away from home for the first time this season at Biarritz eight days ago.

No doubt there will be warm and respectful applause pre-match, but they'll know the Shed will pile into them verbally once the first whistle goes.

It's also worth remembering that Gloucester are notionally the "minnows" in this group because of their chequered history in the competition.

All the more reason that a win is needed on this opening night.

(right) Strokosch takes on the Bourgoin defence in 2007 (below) Ludo scores against Perpignan



confessed after the match that he'd never heard anything like it in his career. Moreover, this apparently ageing team - built around the likes of skipper Jim Williams in the back row, and Peter Stringer and

the final quarter to find the fourth.

At that point, the momentum was so great you couldn't see them "butchering" the position, and, as history tells us, their relentless pressure created the crucial score

ExtraMEDIA t

Follow Ian on Twitter: @ian_randall1



RUGBY BRAIN

Has the ability to see what other players cannot and is always one step ahead of their opponent.



BIG HEART

Will never let his team-mates or the supporters down and always puts 100% effort in to every game.



STRENGTH

Both physical strength around the pitch and mental strength in commanding the troops in a battle.



HANDLING

Passing, dummieing, offloading... all are done to a sublime standard and create moments of skill you will always remember.



SPEED

Speed of thought as well as having a blistering turn of pace are important in both attack and defence.



KICKING

A great kicker can be the difference between winning and losing. A player with great kicking ability can control a game and bring an extra dimension to the team





RUGBY BRAIN
James Simpson-Daniel

Not the fastest winger in the world but Sinbad's ability to see an opportunity and the skill to make it happen is the best I have ever seen. A Gloucester legend and he still has much to offer.



BIG HEART
Olivier Azam

Put his body on the line for the team every game he played. Always first to 'help' a team-mate out and will always be loved by the Kingsholm crowd for it.

Always led from the front. A great character of the game.



STRENGTH
Akapusi Qera

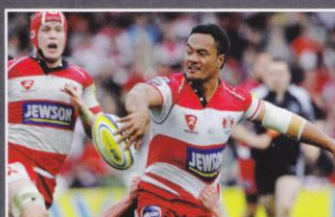
Gloucester has been blessed with some talented pacific islanders over the years.

Q has quickly become a Gloucester legend. His huge tackles, explosive breaks and handling skills puts him as one of the world's best back-rowers.

THE *Ultimate* GLOUCESTER PLAYER

Today's 'Ultimate Gloucester Player' contributor is Dave Tandy from Tewkesbury.

Send your suggestions for your 'Ultimate Gloucester Player' to duncanwood@gloucester rugby.co.uk



HANDLING
Eliota Fuinmaono-Sapotu

An incredibly gifted rugby player with some of the quickest hands in world rugby. Eli brought a big bag of tricks to the Gloucester back-line and always seemed to have great fun in showing his skills off. The outrageous dummy against Newport says it all!



SPEED
Peter Richards

Not an obvious choice but his ability to keep our backs on the front foot with quick feet and speed of thought was fantastic.

His partnership with Ryan Lamb brought some truly fantastic moments, he was often my man-of-the-match.



KICKING
Jon Goodridge

Again, not an obvious choice... especially when Ludo kicked so many points for us.

Goodridge quite simply had the best left-boot (apart from a certain Mr Wilkinson) I have ever seen.



GLOUCESTER LEGEND OLLY MORGAN FORCED TO RETIRE FROM PROFESSIONAL RUGBY

It was with great sadness that Gloucester Rugby this week confirmed that full back Ollie Morgan has had to retire from professional rugby with immediate effect.

The former England international has been sidelined since tearing his lateral collateral and anterior cruciate ligaments in a Premiership fixture at Sixways against the Worcester Warriors in January 2012.

Since then, the 27 year old has battled courageously in an attempt to get back to full fitness, undergoing a number of operations due to infection and exploring all possible recovery options, including a spell in America with renowned knee specialist Bill Knowles.

However, Morgan confirmed this week that he has reluctantly accepted that his knee would not be able to withstand the rigours of professional rugby.

Speaking at Kingsholm, a venue he graced with so many brilliant performances over the past few years, Morgan confirmed:

"It's been such a difficult decision. Even though I've had a long time to consider this moment, it doesn't make it any easier.

"The frustrating element is that we've actually made so much progress with my knee. I can't speak highly enough of the work that Bob Stewart and the medical team, and also Jamie Bain, have done with my rehabilitation.

"However, I have had to reluctantly accept that, the knee just wouldn't be able to cope with the stresses of matches week in and week out, as well as regular training sessions. It would just be too much."

Having a career end early is tough for

any player, but the London born player insists that he will look back on his rugby career with fond memories.

"There have been so many great moments. I've loved every minute of my time as a Gloucester player, and I represented my country. Not many people can say that.

"It's disappointing that I'm not able to bow out in the way that I'd like, but I've had so many highs and made so many great friends. You can't have any regrets when you look at it like that.

"I'd like to thank my team mates, the coaching staff, everyone who works at Kingsholm and the supporters of course. It's been a special experience.

"This particular chapter has come to an end. And it's disappointing that injury got the better of me. But that's a fact of life in modern rugby. It's all about the future now and I'm looking forward to exploring the various options available to me."

Director of Rugby Nigel Davies was first to pay tribute to Morgan.

"It's always desperately sad when a player has to retire due to injury. In my time at Gloucester, we've lost the services of Alex Brown and now Ollie. Both were class players.

"I rated Ollie as a player even before I arrived at the club. Since then, my admiration for him as a man has grown immeasurably as I've watched him dedicate himself to overcoming the injury.

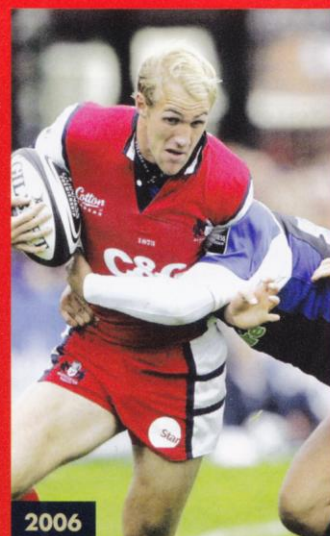
"He's given it absolutely everything, and I know it's been a tough decision for him. Ollie has been a great servant to the club and I'm sure has a bright future ahead of him."



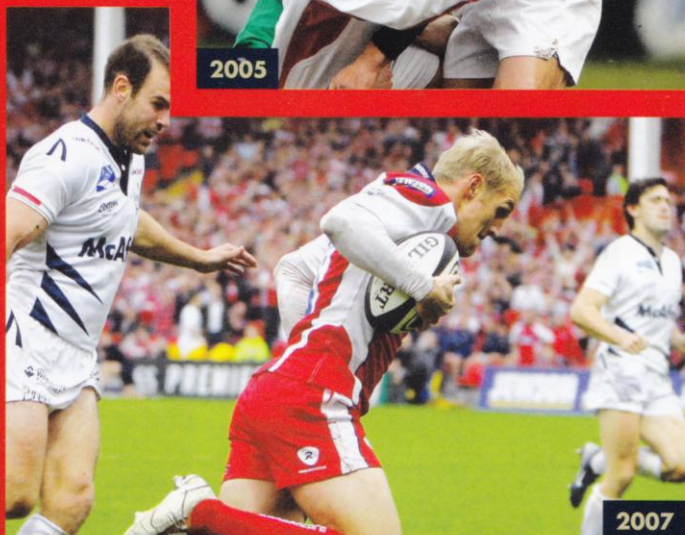
2004



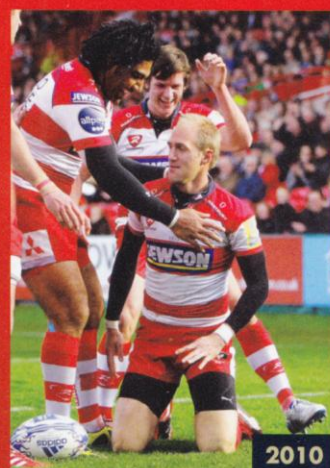
2005



2006



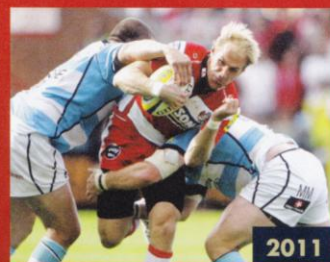
2007



2010



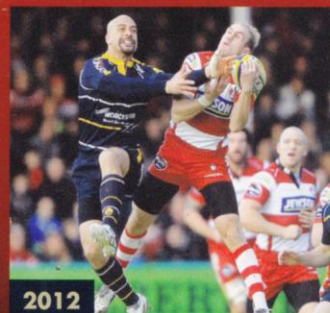
2008



2011



2009



2012

GLoucester Rugby

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Martyn Thomas
14	W	Charlie Sharples
13	C	Mike Tindall
12	C	Billy Twelvetrees
11	W	James Simpson-Daniel
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Tavis Knolly
1	P	Yann Thomas
2	H	Darren Dawidiuk
3	P	Rupert Harden
4	L	Tom Savage (c)
5	L	James Hudson
6	F	Sione Kalamafoni
7	F	Matt Kvesic
8	N8	Ben Morgan
16	H	Huia Edmonds
17	P	Dan Murphy
18	P	Shaun Knight
19	L	Elliott Stooke
20	N8	Gareth Evans
21	SH	Dan Robson
22	FB	Jonny May
23	F	Akapsi Qera

EXETER Chiefs

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Phil Dollman
14	W	Matt Jess
13	C	Ian Whitten
12	C	Sam Hill
11	W	Tom James
10	FH	Gareth Steenson
9	SH	Dave Lewis
1	P	Brett Sturges
2	H	Chris Whitehead
3	P	Hoani Tui
4	L	Dean Mumm (c)
5	L	Damian Welch
6	F	Tom Johnson
7	F	Ben White
8	N8	Dave Ewers
16	H	Jack Yeandle
17	P	Ben Moon
18	P	Carl Rimmer
19	L	Don Armand
20	F	Kai Horstmann
21	SH	Haydn Thomas
22	C	Henry Slade
23	W	Fetu'u Vainikolo



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

12

TRIES: M. Thomas (19), May (66) CON: Burns (66)

EXETER CHIEFS

29

TRIES: White (32), Mumm (63) CONS: Steenson (32, 64) PENS: Steenson (18, 29, 43, 75, 78)

WITH THE FIRST SEGMENT OF AVIVA PREMIERSHIP COMPLETED, ROUND FIVE ENDED IN HUGE DISAPPOINTMENT FOR THE CHERRY AND WHITES. A BUMPER CROWD LEFT KINGSHOLM THOROUGHLY FRUSTRATED AFTER A 29-12 DEFEAT TO A STREETWISE AND PHYSICAL EXETER CHIEFS.

After two wins on the bounce against Northampton Saints and Newcastle Falcons, expectations of going into the Heineken Cup with a third victory in a row after a disappointing start were high.

But the Chiefs and their travelling tribe – feathers and all – arrived at Kingsholm and executed their game plan with precision.

The powerful pack simply outmuscled their home equivalents, and were well marshalled by the returning Dave Lewis, who found quick ball in abundance thanks to his hard-working colleagues.

But the Chiefs weren't perfect themselves early on, with Gareth Steenson wasting several kicks from the tee until he finally found his range.

Gloucester then took the lead with their first meaningful period of possession. First phase ball saw Billy Twelvetrees feed inside to Martyn Thomas on a neat angle to cross at the Tump end.

Steenson's boot was getting more and more use, with the hosts struggling to exit comfortably. The Chiefs were ferocious and effective at the breakdown, and with Lewis

thriving on quick ball, phases were building and pressure grew.

When flanker Ben White crawled over from close range, the visitor's

Chiefs pack were rewarded again as they set up the position from which Dean Mumm touched down to effectively to kill the game off.

Champagne Moment:

Gloucester Rugby launched the ADEY Magnaclean Big Ball Challenge for the first time. The exciting new pre-match game involved a team of both sets of fans competing to push the Big Ball over the posts. The first week was won by the Gloucester fans, to a great cheer.



dominance finally reaped rewards. Exeter prop Hoane Tui then thought he had rumbled to the line minutes later, and only the TMO's decision reprieved the hosts.

With Gloucester aiming to regain parity on the scoreboard, the required accuracy to finish chances off was lacking. Whenever the hosts moved into scoring range, the Chiefs forced an error and duly sent the ball back to where it came from.

Gloucester tried to fight back after the break, but just couldn't break through a solid Exeter defence. With a classic sucker punch, the

Jonny May responded with Gloucester finally fashioning a piece of quick ball for his second try in as many weeks.

However, with Steenson bossing the game, any hope of a comeback was quashed by a couple of late penalties to rub salt into some already festering wounds.

When lock Elliott Stooke's last gasp burst to the whitewash was chalked off by the TMO, it summed up the afternoon for the Cherry and Whites, who left the pitch pointless and the travelling tribe from Devon toasted a famous victory.

"NO ONE WILL COME DOWN HARDER ON OURSELVES THAN OURSELVES, AND WE KNOW THAT WAS NOWHERE NEAR GOOD ENOUGH IN FRONT OF OUR OWN FANS AND IN ANY GAME."

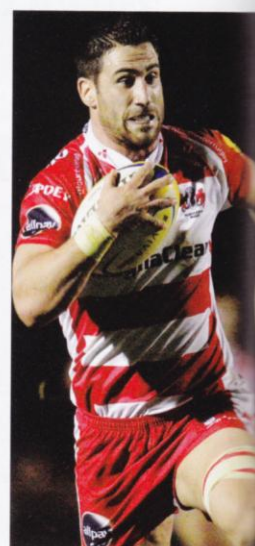
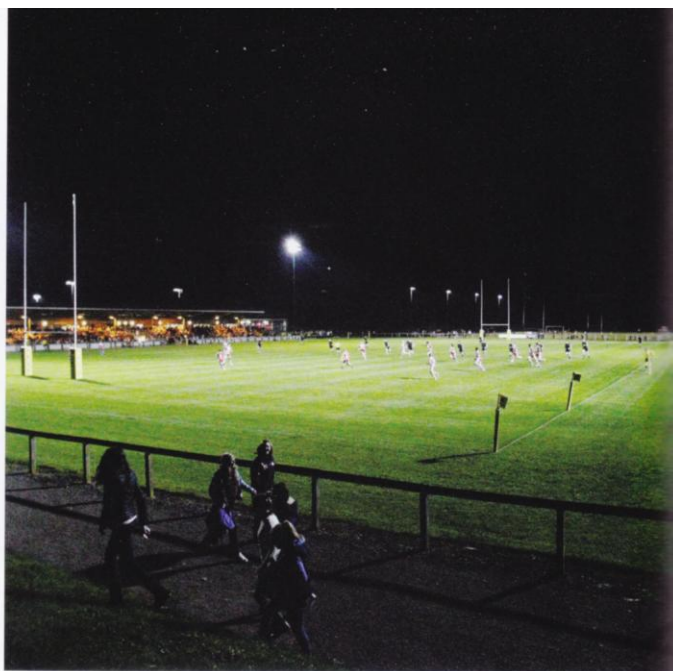
MARTYN THOMAS, GLOUCESTER FULLBACK

GLOUCESTER UNITED

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Charlie Norman
14	W	Steph Reynolds
13	C	Tim Molenaar
12	C	Ryan Mills
11	W	Drew Cheshire
10	FH	Billy Burns
9	SH	Dan Robson
1	P	Will Davies
2	H	Dan George
3	P	Tom Heard
4	L	Will James (c)
5	L	Tom Hicks
6	F	Lua Lokotui
7	F	Matt Cox
8	N8	Gareth Evans
16	R	James Gibbons
17	R	Ryan Charles
18	R	Richard Jones
19	R	Simon Linsell
20	R	Lewis Ludlow
21	R	Reece Boughton
22	R	Lloyd Evans
23	R	Ben Roberts

NEWCASTLE FALCONS

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Craig Willis
14	W	Nathan Bailey
13	C	Michael Tait
12	C	Chris Harris
11	W	Ollie Walker
10	FH	Phil Godman
9	SH	Warren Fury
1	P	Gary Strain
2	H	David Nelson
3	P	Kieran Brookes
4	L	Josh Hedley
5	L	Will Witty
6	F	Ben Morris
7	F	Dan Temm
8	N8	Ollie Hodgson
16	R	George McGuigan
17	R	James Hallam
18	R	Trevor Davison
19	R	Nick Cairns
20	R	Anthony Rumis
21	R	Jonny Burn
22	R	Josh Bragman
23	R	Luke Wilson



GLoucester UNITED

44

TRIES: James, Evans, Mills, Hicks, Cox, Cheshire (2), Charles CONS: Burns (2)

NEWCASTLE FALCONS

7

TRY: Hallam CON: Godman

WITH THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE EXETER DEFEAT THE PREVIOUS DAY STILL LINGERING, THE A LEAGUE YET AGAIN PROVIDED A VITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CLUB TO RESTORE MORALE, AND THE UNITED SIDE DID JUST THAT.

With Newcastle Falcons making the lengthy journey to Gloucestershire, the game was superbly hosted by the club's proud partners at Hartpury College and the youthful side produced a fine performance of exciting and clinical rugby.

Captained by Will James and boosted by the return of hooker Dan George after his opening day rib injury, Rob Thirlby stuck mainly with the young charges who had impressed throughout the A League campaign so far.

The Falcons had barely touched the ball when they found themselves two tries down. A break from Hartpury's Charlie Norman lead to Will James crashing over, and James was also involved in the second as a powerful maul established a platform for Gareth Evans to slide over.

Within twenty minutes the bonus point was in the bag. With the pack providing a solid base, the backs were thriving on quick ball and slick offloads meant the Newcastle defence was being breached with regularity. Ryan Mills and Tom Hicks both crossed after powerful individual bursts.

With Billy Burns and Dan Robson

pulling the strings at half back, the duo combined superbly to set Matt Cox up for a length of the field score and the hosts turned around at half time with a 29-0 lead.

last play.

Coach Rob Thirlby expressed his delight with the United side for a clinical performance:

"The boys have been great,



With Newcastle refusing to throw in the towel, the home defence worked hard and stood firm under plenty of pressure with the experienced Phil Godman probing constantly to set his backs loose.

Replacement hooker Ryan Charles crossed, before Drew Cheshire showed great strength and acceleration to bust a hole and race clear to bring the try tally to seven.

The Hartpury crowd was being treated to an impressive Gloucester performance, it was a great setting for rugby and the atmosphere grew to cheer on the Cherry and Whites.

Newcastle rumbled over for a consolation score before Cheshire grabbed his second with the game's

they've taken on everything we've asked them and put their hands up. The defence we showed was great, the intensity we displayed in all facets was superb and, as coaches, we're thrilled with the application the guys have shown.

"For the club, it's great for boosting morale when the boys perform on a Monday night and we couldn't ask for more.

"Coming to Hartpury has been great, it's a throwback for some of the guys who have grown up on this pitch, and they looked at home out there. We know how good the facilities are, and the College created a great atmosphere this evening."

"FOR THE CLUB, IT'S GREAT FOR BOOSTING MORALE WHEN THE BOYS PERFORM ON A MONDAY NIGHT AND WE COULDN'T ASK FOR MORE."

ROB THIRLBY, UNITED TEAM COACH

Teams correct at time of print: 10th October 2013



TODAY'S TEAMS



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

ROB COOK	FULLBACK	15
JONNY MAY	RIGHT WING	14
HENRY TRINDER	CENTRE	13
MIKE TINDALL	CENTRE	12
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	LEFT WING	11
FREDDIE BURNS	FLY HALF	10
JIMMY COWAN	SCRUM HALF	9
YANN THOMAS	PROP	1
HUIA EDMONDS	HOOKER	2
SHAUN KNIGHT	PROP	3
ELLIOTT STOOKE	LOCK	4
JAMES HUDSON	LOCK	5
TOM SAVAGE (C)	FLANKER	6
MATT KVESIC	FLANKER	7
SIONE KALAMAFONI	NO.8	8
DAN GEORGE	REPLACEMENT	16
DAN MURPHY	REPLACEMENT	17
RUPERT HARDEN	REPLACEMENT	18
GARETH EVANS	REPLACEMENT	19
AKAPUSI QERA	REPLACEMENT	20
DAN ROBSON	REPLACEMENT	21
RYAN MILLS	REPLACEMENT	22
MARTYN THOMAS	REPLACEMENT	23

USA PERPIGNAN

JAMES HOOK (C)	FULLBACK	
SOFIANE GUITOUNE	RIGHT WING	
TOMMASO BENVENUTI	CENTRE	
LIFEIMI MAFI	CENTRE	
JOFFREY MICHEL	LEFT WING	
CAMILLE LOPEZ	FLY HALF	
DEWALDT DUVENAGE	SCRUM HALF	
SONA TAUMALOLO	PROP	
GUILHEM GUIRADO	HOOKER	
KISI PULU	PROP	
SEBASTIEN VAHAAMAHINA	LOCK	
ROMAIN TAOFIFENUA	LOCK	
ALASDAIR STROKOSCH	FLANKER	
LUKE NARRAWAY	FLANKER	
JUSTIN PURLL	NO.8	
ROMAIN TERRAIN	REPLACEMENT	
SEBASTIEN TAOFIFENUA	REPLACEMENT	
GEORGE JGENTI	REPLACEMENT	
LUKE CHARTERIS	REPLACEMENT	
DAN LEO	REPLACEMENT	
NICOLAS DURAND	REPLACEMENT	
SIONE PIUKALA	REPLACEMENT	
RICHARD HAUGHTON	REPLACEMENT	

IN CHARGE TODAY: Referee: Leighton Hodges (Wal) Assistant Referees: Ian Davies (Wal) Sean Brickell (Wal)

Heineken CUP



FedEx

Amlin

