

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



£3 | 02.11.13
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY
vs. LONDON WASPS

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**EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW WITH
WILL JAMES
ON PAGE 40**

**WORLD & LOCAL
RUGBY NEWS
ON PAGE 64**



**EUROPEAN
ACTION REPLAYS
vs. USA PERPIGNAN
& vs. MUNSTER RUGBY
ON PAGE 68**

150 AND COUNTING

**ADEY
MagnaClean**

THE PRIDE ~ THE PASSION ~ THE HONOUR ~ THE HISTORY

AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY

AVIVA

LAND ROVER

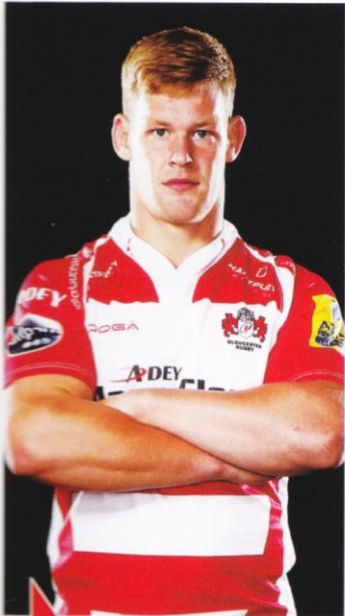
GUINNESS

GATORADE

GILBERT

HILTON HONORS

BT Sport



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

TOM SAVAGE

As a young captain in the Aviva Premiership, I knew this season would be a tough learning curve for me personally, and so far it has lived up to expectations.

I accept that some results have gone against us recently, but I must express my pride in my teammates for their application and attitude in the past few weeks.

The last time we ran out at Kingsholm, we achieved exactly what we set out to do – rise to the

team but, to a man, I believe that every member of the squad has stepped up to be counted against some of the best players in Europe.

I was obviously bitterly disappointed that we went down to defeat at Bath on Friday evening. Losing hurts and even more so against a local rival. But we pride ourselves on our ability to bounce back and perform.

We're going to have to do exactly that this evening as we welcome London Wasps, who like us, have

"THE KINGSHOLM CROWD EXPECT, WE EXPECT..."

Unity within the team will be paramount for us to get back on track

occasion on a memorable European evening, and at the same time kick start our Heineken Cup campaign.

Perpignan, Munster and Bath have all been huge challenges for

found Premiership wins hard to come by in the opening weeks after some tough fixtures.

It goes without saying that Dai Young's men will be buoyed by their impressive win over Leicester Tigers last Sunday, and we expect a huge test from them tonight.

Like us, they're a young side with big ambitions and we hope that it'll produce a great game of Premiership Rugby.

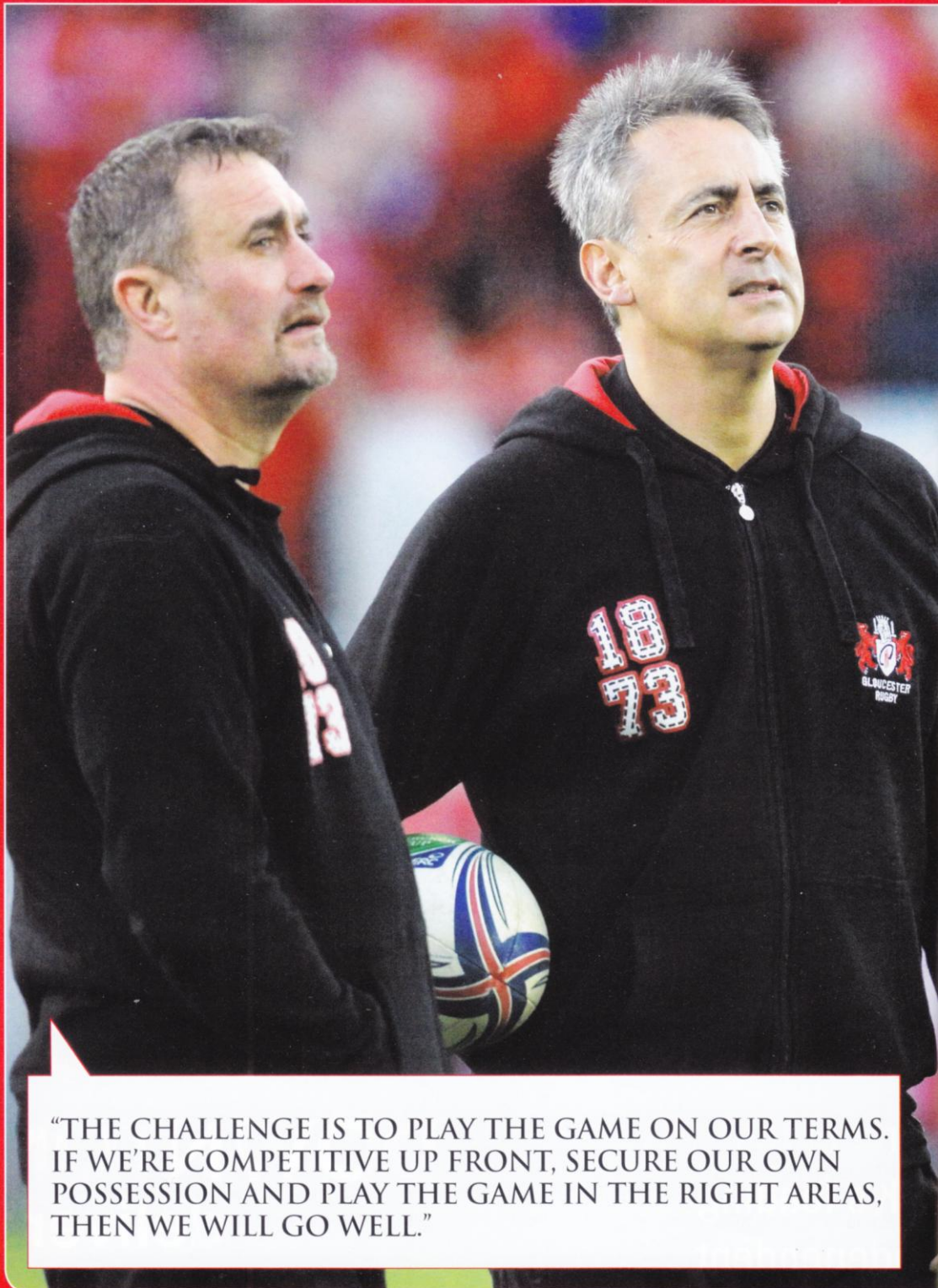
Losing at home is something we don't want to experience again and we know that if we perform as we know we can, we will give our home crowd something to shout about and put smiles back on the faces of the best supporters in the world.

The Kingsholm crowd expect, we expect and every member of the squad will be putting themselves on the line for each other and showing what we are all about.



Sav

NIGEL DAVIES DIRECTOR OF RUGBY



"THE CHALLENGE IS TO PLAY THE GAME ON OUR TERMS. IF WE'RE COMPETITIVE UP FRONT, SECURE OUR OWN POSSESSION AND PLAY THE GAME IN THE RIGHT AREAS, THEN WE WILL GO WELL."

COACH'S NOTES

On behalf of everyone at Gloucester Rugby, I'd like to wish the players, staff and supporters of London Wasps a very warm welcome to Kingsholm this evening.

After a couple of tough games on the road, against Munster and Bath, it's good to be back on our home turf against London Wasps

into that category.

On the whole, I wasn't unhappy with the two performances in Europe. Obviously, the fact that I'd selected two very different sides going into that fortnight attracted a certain amount of media comment.

But I feel that the two performances backed up the

Heineken campaign off and running with a good win over Perpignan. We had to dig deep against a very high quality opponent, and there were moments where the game could have got away from us.

We put in a similarly committed shift over in Limerick, against an opponent who again rank right up there with the very best in Europe. It was an incredible atmosphere at Thomond Park, and I think that the boys battled bravely.

Had one or two things gone our way, I genuinely believe we could have come away with something from that match. Indeed, going into the final quarter, we trailed by only six points.

But, credit to Munster, they pounced on a scoring opportunity at a key moment in the second half and that proved to be decisive.

However, returning to domestic action, we certainly weren't at our best last weekend down at Bath and that was a disappointment to us.

Our main issue at the Rec was our discipline. We simply gave away far too many penalties, and that allowed Bath to control possession and territory.

We can't afford to do so again this evening. In Andy Goode, Wasps have a canny operator at fly half who will take the game by the scruff of the neck if we allow him to.

The challenge is to play the game on our terms. If we're competitive up front, secure our own possession and play the game in the right areas, then we will go well.

I'm looking for a reaction from the squad tonight, and there's no better place to do so than in front of our superb home support.

Enjoy the game,

Nigel



this evening.

Since my last programme notes, we've seen a couple of decent performances from the team, but also one disappointing one.

It was good to take a step away from the Aviva Premiership for a couple of weeks and play a couple of rounds in the Heineken Cup.

That's not taking anything away from the Premiership – not at all! It is good, however, to pit your wits against different opposition – very often the best in Europe – and Perpignan and Munster certainly fall

approach, as it allowed the players selected for each game to be able to focus completely on that fixture.

It also reflected the fact that we've certain areas of the squad where there is genuine strength in depth, and I've had to face difficult selection decisions over the first few weeks of the season.

Certain players have not had as much rugby as they perhaps would have liked, and using the squad in this way helped to redress that balance a little.

It was fantastic to get the

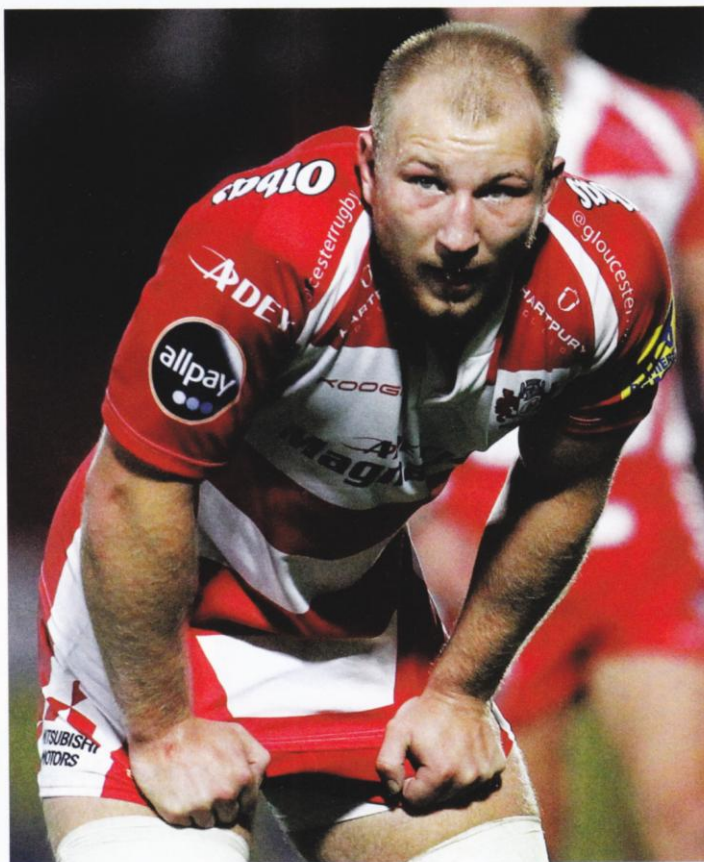


VIEW FROM The Citizen

with **STEVE IMPEY**

Steve talks to Gloucester's international flanker Matt Kvesic about the responsibility that the forwards have to make sure the backline are supplied with quality possession.

POSSESSIVE NATURE



Matt Kvesic is willing Gloucester's forwards to provide their backs with more ball as the club look to return to winning ways.

The derby day downpour played its part at The Rec during a miserable evening against Bath on Friday night.

Bath bolstered their front five, which included a return to action for former Cherry and White Dave Attwood, and churned out a 15-13 win which was more emphatic than the score line suggests.

Running rugby was never going to shine through, but where 21-year-old Kvesic is confident Gloucester can improve is to offer their back division more in the way of steady ball.

The England loose forward said: "We were never going to chuck the ball wide with the weather against Bath. It's historically wet at The Rec and the forwards ultimately win the game.

"If we step up and give our boys more ball, they are not necessarily going to be able to run it into the corner on nights like that one.

"But what it will do is give

Freddie Burns an opportunity to play to the corner and pile the pressure on like that. It strangles teams and that's where we've got to be smarter.

"It comes back to consistency. We got stuck in and showed what we can do. We stayed in the mix but we needed to play more in their half.

"Bath played some smart rugby, which wasn't anything particularly flash but they ran hard and played in our half and that's what we need to do.

"We've shown it throughout the season. We had a terrible start against Sale and on the road against Sarries which was a tough game, but we picked ourselves up against Saints.

"So there needs to be more consistency all over the pitch, whether it is in the scrum, the maul, defence, drop balls – they all need to be addressed.

"Those are the areas where we need to be more clinical and more accurate and put teams to bed. We've had chances there to do it but we just haven't."

The pack showed its power in the Heineken Cup against a potent Perpignan product at Kingsholm, and again against European masters Munster in Limerick.

Gloucester have, in contrast, failed to discover their best form in the Premiership as yet.

Kvesic is confident the tide can be turned.

He continued: "It's down to the forwards. We've probably taken a step backwards after the two games in Europe but we will have to see what happens.

"It's massively important to string some winning games together. We played well against Perpignan and we played well against Munster, who are a world-class side.

"But we dropped off against Bath and it is important that we bounce back and put in a good performance against Wasps and



"...IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE BOUNCE BACK AND PUT IN A GOOD PERFORMANCE AGAINST WASPS AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS THEN."

see what happens then.

"It was just disappointing really. We were in the game (against Bath) but our discipline let us down. We can't give that many penalties away and expect to win the game.

"It's not good enough. We've done it before but it's disappointing because it's not like we didn't play – our discipline

ultimately let us down.

"We didn't adapt to the referee as well as Bath did. Ford missed a few kicks as well, which, if he knocked them over, it could've been a bigger margin.

"Referees perhaps treat the scrum a bit differently in Europe but it is definitely something we need to adapt to in the Premiership."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

A GLOUCESTER RUGBY DYNASTY

This summer Eric Stephens took over from Allan Townsend as President of Gloucester Rugby. He comes from a family which has done grand service on behalf of the Club since its earliest days.



Eric in his playing days (1966-67)

ERIC STEPHENS

Eric himself played 221 games for Gloucester, 1961-74. He was a versatile three-quarter, perhaps best remembered for his prolific place kicking. He racked up an impressive 1559 points for the Club (22 tries, 249 conversions, 320 penalties and 10 drop goals).

His best seasons were 1970-71 and 1971-2, during which he played 90 games and scored 751 points. Being a stalwart club man, he captained the United XV in his final season.

His appearances for Gloucestershire included two County Championship Finals, including one on the wing when Warwickshire were defeated at Coventry.

After he stopped playing, he acted as selector and coach for the County team. He also went onto the Club committee for more than

twenty years, and was the Club's last fixture secretary, before the advent of professional rugby did away with these appointments.

ERIC'S FATHER

"Jim" Stephens, played for Gloucester's second team in the 1920s, before going to Birmingham to play professionally.

He returned to Gloucester in 1935 and became the secretary of the Gloucester Wagon Works RFC.

He married Ivy Keys, who came from another family with excellent Gloucester Rugby pedigree.

ERIC'S MATERNAL GRANDFATHER

Frank Keys, a half-back, made 27 appearances for Gloucester, 1902-04, scoring 32 points, before moving to South Wales and playing for Bridgend, where he tragically died aged 24 as a result of an injury playing rugby, in the same year that his daughter, Ivy, was born.

ERIC'S MATERNAL GREAT UNCLE

Eric Keys, was headmaster of Linden Road School, and lots of boys who later became stars for Gloucester started their careers



Frank Keys (1902-03)

under Eric's enthusiastic tutelage.

He played one game for Gloucester against Coventry in 1903, but also served on the Gloucester Club committee for many years, and represented them on the County Schools Union from its foundation in 1908, a post he held for 45 years.

Thanks largely to his efforts, the RFU referred to Gloucester as "the nerve-centre of schoolboy rugby in England", and he organised in exemplary fashion the first schoolboy international at Kingsholm in 1927.



Eric Keys (1929-30)

ERIC'S PATERNAL GRANDFATHER

Jimmy "Jummer" Stephens, played mostly at centre but later in his career at outside-half.

He was a wonderfully versatile player, who could read the game exceptionally well, and had a fine reputation that he could be relied on to perform at a high standard week-in and week-out, which of course endeared him to the Kingsholm faithful.

He played against the 1905 All Blacks at Kingsholm, and in his last season, aged 34, The Citizen reported "the veteran keeps up his form wonderfully, and Anno Domini plays very lightly with him."

Indeed he helped Gloucestershire to win their first County Championship title that season,

beating Yorkshire 23-0 in the final at Kingsholm.

In a long career, 1894-1911, he made 321 appearances for Gloucester, scored 34 tries, and earned 28 county caps with Gloucestershire, and was thought very unlucky not to win international honours.



"Jummer" Stephens (1904-05)

His half-back partner, Dai Gent wrote: "Never was a scrum half more fortunate. I was a very young player ("Jimmy" was eight years my senior), and "Jimmy" proceeded to teach me all he knew and to shield me all he could. Thanks to him, I was lucky enough to play first for the County, and then for England."

ERIC'S PATERNAL GREAT UNCLE

Arthur Stephens (Jummer's brother), also enjoyed a long



Arthur Stephens (1897-98)

and distinguished career with Gloucester – he played at half-back and full-back in 144 games for the Club, 1890-99. Arthur played in the famous victory at Kingsholm in April 1897, when Llanelly's colours were lowered for the first time that season.

ERIC'S OTHER PATERNAL GREAT UNCLE

Sidney Stephens, 12 years younger than his brother, Jummer, played 4 games at half-back for Gloucester in 1910, in addition to a number of appearances for the A team.

ERIC'S COUSINS (ONCE REMOVED)

Eric James "Dick" Stephens, son of Arthur, played 54 matches at outside-half and centre for Gloucester, 1926-31; his first appearance was against Cheltenham on 27th November 1926, and his last against Moseley on 25th October 1931.

He also played 216 matches as an all-rounder for Gloucestershire County Cricket Club.

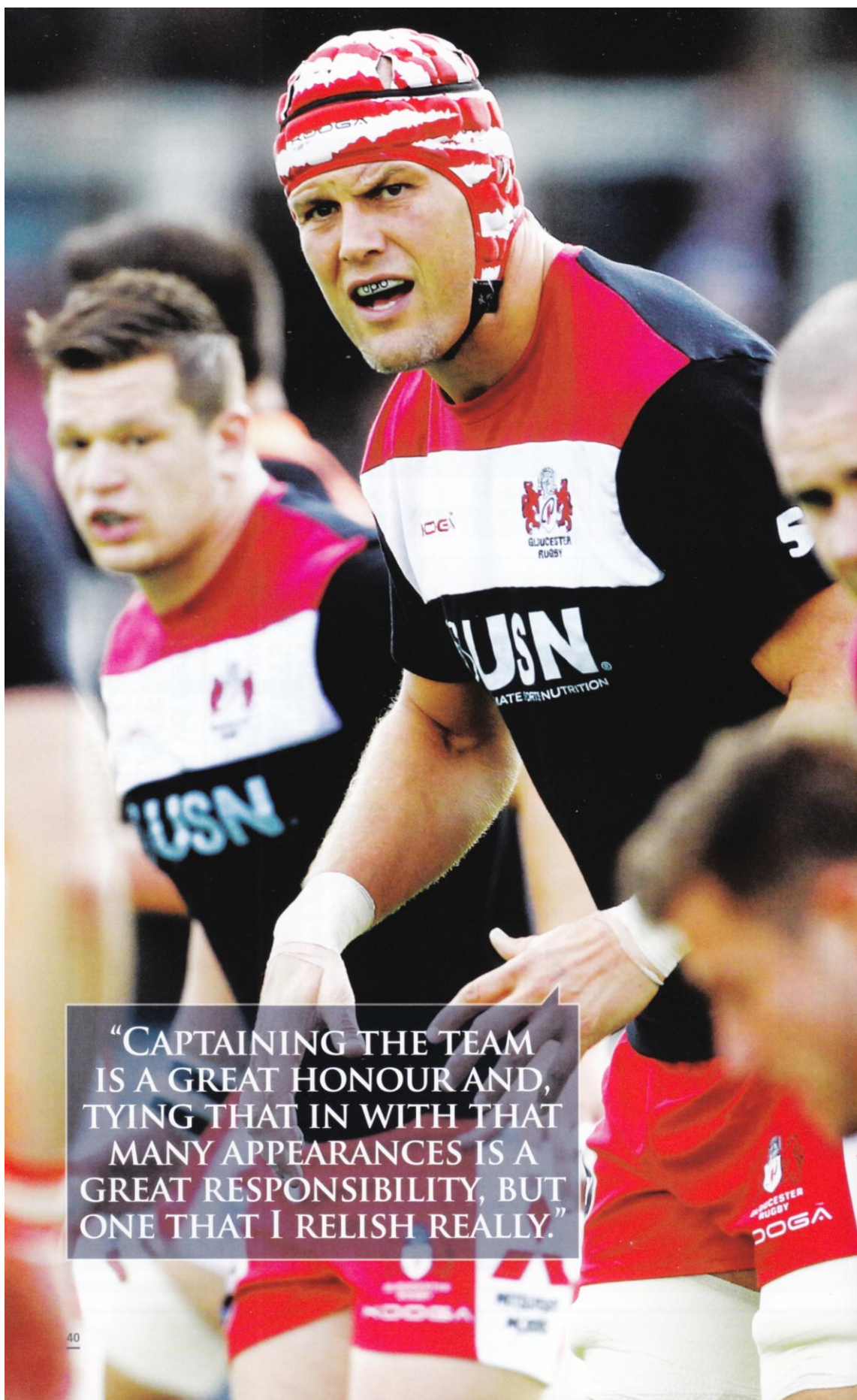
Jack Stephens, another of Jummer's nephews, made 92 appearances for Gloucester at outside-half and back, 1926-29, before he went off to join Oldham Rugby League Club.

OTHER RELATIONS?

There were two other Stephens who played for Gloucester, but neither we, nor Eric, are sure whether they are related to him.

Tom Stephens made 53 appearances for Gloucester at fullback and centre, 1927-40; and W Stephens made one appearance on the wing for Gloucester in 1939.

If any of our readers are either related to one of these, or a family history expert, and can resolve the question, we, and Eric, would be interested to know – please contact us on www.gloucester rugby heritage.org.uk



“CAPTAINING THE TEAM IS A GREAT HONOUR AND, TYING THAT IN WITH THAT MANY APPEARANCES IS A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY, BUT ONE THAT I RELISH REALLY.”



Will James hugely proud
of team effort despite
defeat in Munster



150 UP FOR GRILLS

PROUD AS HE WAS RUNNING OUT IN FRONT OF A RAUCOUS CROWD AS HE REACHED A MILESTONE OF 150 COMPETITIVE APPEARANCES FOR GLOUCESTER RUGBY, **WILL JAMES** WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE PREFERRED TO DO SO AT KINGS HOLM.

But, instead, it was in the fierce cauldron of red at Thomond Park a fortnight ago that James where the Welsh international second row joined an exclusive club.

Since joining from Cornish Pirates in 2006, James has epitomised all that is good about a Gloucester Rugby player - and he still has the physical scars to show for it.

Bringing up his 150th appearance by captaining the

side in Munster was a great achievement, but James accepts that the milestone had passed him by as he prepared for the game.

"It never really crossed my mind to be fair, it sort of just creeps up on you. A lot of guys reach that early on in their careers for one club, this is my eighth season now.

"So, when you're in the mix for that amount of time, it's pretty obvious that you're going to reach that number.

"It's a brilliant place to play,



Proud Moment
Will leads the team out against Munster

Thomond Park is special and it was pretty much at capacity there, so it was a great moment.

"Captaining the team is a great honour and, tying that in with that many appearances is a great responsibility, but one that I relish really".

The experienced lock currently finds himself as the elder statesman in the Gloucester pack, nurturing and working with the talents of Tom Savage and Elliott Stooke around him.

Coupled with the arrival of James Hudson in the summer, James is enjoying the new partnerships.

"I have really enjoyed that actually. There is always a lot of great competition for spots, with a lot of great youngsters coming through in Tom and Elliott. Now we have Huddo coming in too.

"Selection has really shown that, it shows there is a lot of diversification in that position. The coaches and the DOR are happy to work with, and select around that. It's definitely been enjoyable".

The Aviva Premiership A League has yet again proved its worth this season, with vital game time being

spread around the squad, and enhancing Nigel Davies' aim for strength in depth.

James has been impressed with the efforts of Gloucester United in their Aviva A League campaign to date, and the mentoring role he has adopted.

"It's been good actually, I've really enjoyed it. Sometimes there is the perception that the A League is not the best place to play your rugby from an older professional's outlook. But this year has been good.

"We've been able to put out good, strong sides which is a bonus. Luckily enough we've had enough good players to select a team from, which is difficult especially when you go away from home and it's been great fun.

"What is really great about it, is the confidence the younger lads have when they're playing. You can feed off that and they're not afraid to have a go."

Now in his eighth season at Gloucester since joining in 2006, added with 4 caps for Wales, James accepts that he feels the role of the second row and the game in general, is getting a lot tougher.

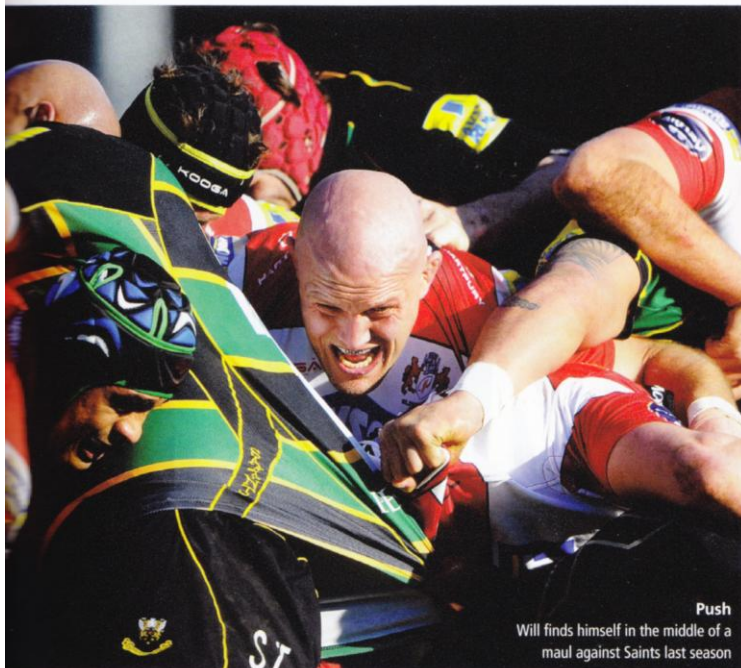
"The game is getting more physical every season, it's just that everyone is getting conditioned to deal with it. For second rows it seems everyone is more focused on playing the rugby, not focusing on other things on the field.

"The squads, the coaches and the Strength and Conditioning teams are getting more and more professional, so the knowledge gets greater. So it's more physical now than it ever was".

Locked

Will shows former England captain, Martin Corry, how to catch





Push
Will finds himself in the middle of a
maul against Saints last season

The 'Squadfather' or 'Mr Grills' as he is known affectionately in Cherry and White circles, is also the chairman of the Rugby Professional Association and he is enjoying combining the role with on the pitch duties.

"It's good, it gives you a different view of how the game is managed and run, especially at the top level in England.

"It's a great thing to help your colleagues and help them through their careers. It's a great organisation and long may it continue.

"The RPA make retirement as easy as possible, whether it be forced retirement through injury or illness or just coming to the end. They ease the transition of rugby in to the work place which is often a difficult change

to make."

Off the pitch, James is a regular on Twitter when he can, and often finds himself fielding banter from the other

side of the channel from old team mate Luke Narraway.

"Many Gloucester Rugby players around the world, thanks to the wonders of modern media can get in touch at any opportunity.

"The rugby community is very small and you're

never far away from people you know in rugby. The camaraderie is something that is always there, at whatever level.

"Luke insists on changing his Twitter picture to one of me from time to time, which is something he likes to do. I'm not sure where he's coming from, but it's pretty obvious that he enjoys it!"

**"THE RUGBY
COMMUNITY
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KINGSHOLM NEWS with BOB FENTON

Last term Rupert was a bit of a revelation, the words 'place' and 'England' often appearing in the same sentence when talking about him were not that uncommon.

Well, I think it's pretty fair to say that the world of the average Gloucester fan is looking about as bleak as the storm that is blowing over my head as I write these words.

Last weekend's affair down by the Avon was, on one hand, a total disaster. On the other, a case of what might have been...

The disaster is easy - a loss to Bath is never much fun, as Nick Lewis (and good to see that the pie diet is working well, Nick ☺) expressed so eloquently on the BBC Points West preview.

It fair ruins your weekend - especially as all you have to look forward to is two days of painting and decorating. The so nearly? Well, for a while, it looked like we may have snatched the most unlikely victory from the jaws of defeat.

For all their possession and territory, Bath didn't score the five tries that the totally unbiased Matt Perry predicted on TV. To be fair though, we really didn't deserve it.

I think every man and his dog has now waxed forth on the subject of our front row, so I'll not add to it here - and it's not the place for that anyway. I do feel for poor old Rupert Harden though, as he seems to have been singled out in many parts, both in the media and elsewhere, as the fall guy for our current predicament.

Correct me if I am wrong here, but there are seven other guys in



that forward pack who all have a part to play in where we are. Last term Rupert was a bit of a revelation, the words 'place' and 'England' often appearing in the

same sentence when talking about him were not that uncommon. So he can't have gone from a potential international player to complete patsy in the space of six months.

The new scrum laws and the way we have adapted to them are no doubt partly to blame, and maybe a collective loss of form too.

That and the fact that, even if he has lost a bit of confidence (and given the mauling he has been getting off the field it would be hardly surprising if that is the case), we have no alternatives but to keep sending him out to do his best - which he undoubtedly does.

I know if I was Rupert I would be hiding away from all contact by now and not coming out from under the duvet. He, though, is undoubtedly made of sterner stuff and I will confidently predict now that he will bounce back from this and we'll be talking about him in



different tones come April next year.

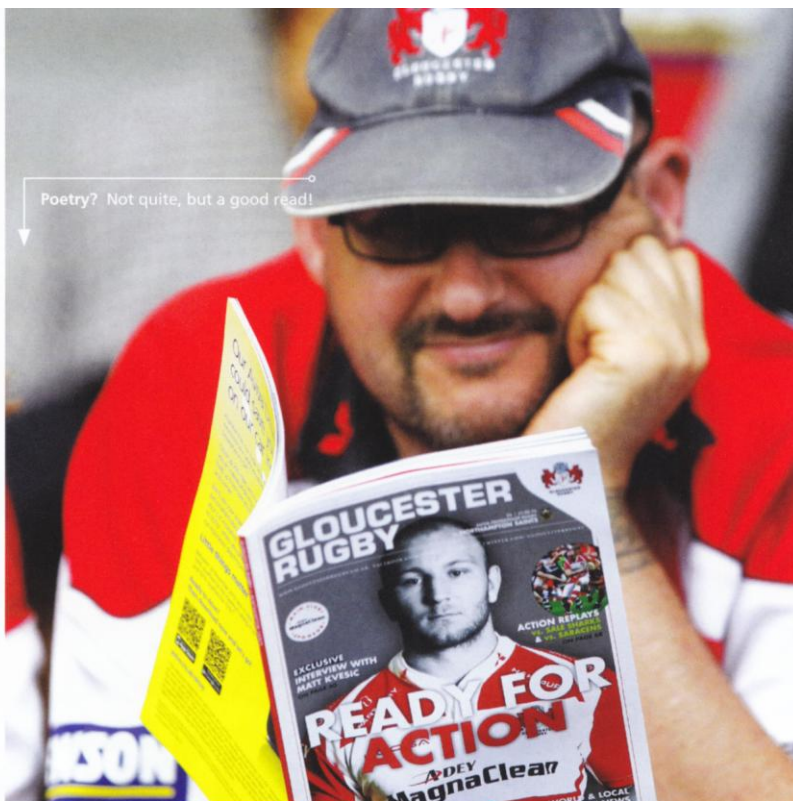
But we've got today to get through first, and there will be no respite from the pressure for a bit longer yet. Like ourselves, our visitors today from Wasps have not had the start to the season that they would have wanted. However, they'll be coming here with their confidence high after a great win last weekend over Leicester in some pretty terrible conditions.

Seeing our good old friends from High Wycombe coming down here reminds me of an enjoyable evening I spent in Cheltenham a couple of weeks ago listening to Matt Dawson (see the link here) plugging his book about the Lions.

To be fair, Matt was engaging and entertaining – as he sat down after being introduced he said 'That's the warmest welcome I have ever had in these parts!'

From there he regaled us with a number of tales, possibly the most disturbing describing how – while away in Australia – a maid came into the room only to find him 'wrestling' with a naked Austin Healey!

He gave us an insight into a typical Martin Johnson pre-match team talk: 'Come On!', and how once he, and our very own Mike Tindall, decided to find out how



Poetry? Not quite, but a good read!

many times they could punch Prince Harry before getting smashed by his security – not very many times seems to be the answer...

An enjoyable evening, but I'm still not going to buy his book, I have my eye on another one...

And talking of books (see how seamless this all is) a blatant plug for a book produced by Shedweb's very own poet in residence – Alfred

Lord Tension.

If you are not familiar with his quite brilliant work, take a look at the Shedweb message board and you'll soon find some of his stuff, but here's a snippet from his post-Munster effort 'Limerick limerick':

*We flew out to Cork,
what a treat.
On an airline that's very
downbeat.
We stood all the way
'Cos they want you to pay
Extra charges if you want a seat*

*The team was not what
we expected
With several stars not selected
But we gave them a game
And when full-time came
We had lost, but we weren't
too dejected.*

And so it goes on...

He's collected them all into a book and for just a few quid you have yourself the perfect Christmas pressie. And for each one sold he will make a donation to charity.

You'll find the details on how to order the book on the website too. It'll be well worth it.



Hats off Dawson put on a good show in Cheltenham



IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES USAIN BOLT TO RUN 100 METRES, TREVOR WOODMAN COULD HAVE LEFT RUGBY BEHIND.

THAT'S how close the former Gloucester and England prop came to turning his back on the game that had given him the elation of winning the World Cup, and literally years of pain with injury.

This weekend, almost 10 years on from since that famous win in Sydney, Woodman and the rest of the successful England squad are meeting for a re-union.

There was a charity dinner last night in Battersea, and this afternoon, at half time in the international at Twickenham against Australia, the players will do a lap of honour before another dinner this evening for players, partners, coaches and the 2003 backroom staff.

I met Woodman at a health club in Gloucester. Now 37, he reflected on a decade that had seen him retire

early from playing, live and coach in Australia and then return home to spend four years coaching at Wasps.

"The time has gone very quickly but a lot has happened, especially personally" he said.

"When you are playing at the top of the game there are always a lot of people around to support you.



When you finish, you turn round and that group becomes a handful.

"The only question is 'What are you doing now?' and I got fed up answering it. That's what brought about the move to Sydney and it was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

The door to a successful life down under was opened by the Sydney University President David Mortimer.

A successful businessman, Mortimer was open to the idea of Woodman being a part time coach as he assessed what else he might like to do.

After almost a year in the city, Mortimer's network of contacts through a group called the Friends of Sydney University then gave the former Kingsholm favourite a decision to make.

He was offered a role at a property company called Mirvac. The pull of rugby remained strong however, and he jumped, as he put it, "two footed" into coaching



Woodman in his former role as forwards coach of Wasps (above, right) celebrating with the World Cup

full time at the University until he returned to England in 2009.

Visibly, Woodman has changed very little. At Gloucester, his playing weight was around 114kg. During his time in Australia, he was down to 96kg. These days he is somewhere in between and still trains, although in a different way.

He has become a keen cyclist, having completed the Etape du Tour a couple of years ago, where thousands of riders challenge themselves over one stage of the Tour de France.

His body, however, bears the scars of battle. His injuries were major. He had surgery on his neck a year before the World Cup, and at times couldn't lift his fingers while the palm of his hand was on a flat surface.

He could have had his back fused but that would have caused pressure



"As a competitive person I wanted 50 England caps, not 22. In

giving me loads of grief over the last five or six months."

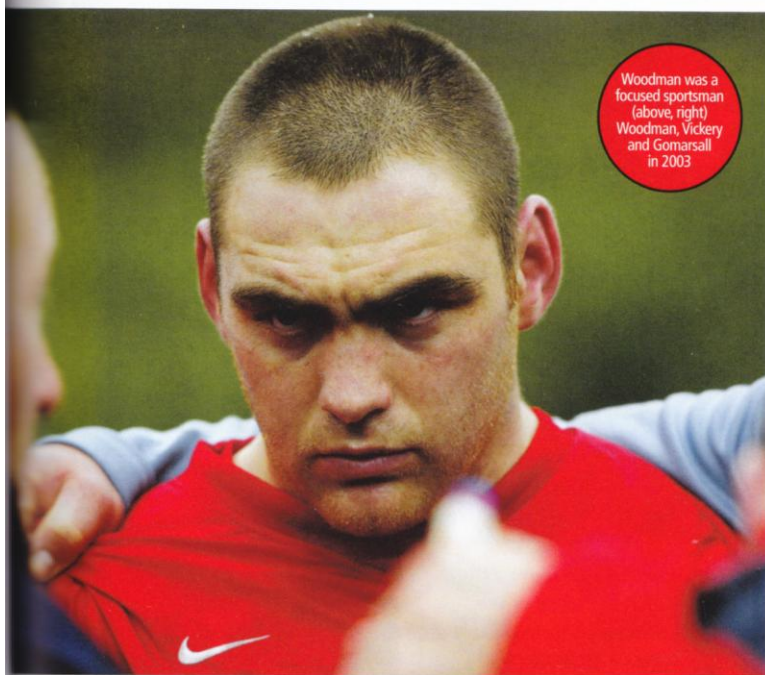
Two of Woodman's former clubs meet here today. He sees Wasps as a mirror of the Saracens team from two seasons ago, playing low risk rugby in their own half and basing their tactics on a driving game with a solid defence.

He was here for the Northampton match and has his own view on the criticism levelled at Gloucester's forwards.

"The pack will be criticised if they are going backwards. Gloucester may have aspirations to be a top four team but the top four teams last season had dominant packs. There is a difference between dominant and competitive.

"At Wasps we struggled to have a pack that could dominate. I don't see either side dominating up front, so it'll come down to what they do off the set piece, and that'll make it a tight game."

Read about Woodman's new role at Cheltenham College in the match programme for the match against Japan on November 12th.



Woodman was a focused sportsman (above, right) Woodman, Vickery and Gomersall in 2003

on the discs above and below. His neck surgeon, Rick Nelson, advised against it.

"I wanted to be a British Lion but when Rick said it wasn't going to happen, you have to be sensible" said Woodman.

my eyes it's 'only' 22, but you learn to be appreciative of what you did and what you were a part of.

"You can't put the same forces through your body any more. I'm booked in for a scan to get my neck looked at again because it's started



Follow Ian on Twitter: @ian_randall1

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Rob Cook
14	W	Jonny May
13	C	Mike Tindall
12	C	Ryan Mills
11	W	James Simpson-Daniel
10	FH	Billy Twelvetrees
9	SH	Jimmy Cowan
1	P	Yann Thomas
2	H	Huia Edmonds
3	P	Shaun Knight
4	L	Elliot Stooke
5	L	James Hudson
6	F	Tom Savage
7	F	Matt Kvesic ■
8	N8	Sione Kalamafoni
16	R	Dan George
17	R	Dan Murphy
18		Tom Heard
19	R	Gareth Evans
20	R	Akapusi Qera
21	R	Dan Robson
22		Charlie Sharples
23		Martyn Thomas

USA PERPIGNAN

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	James Hook
14	W	Wandie Mjekevu
13	C	Tommaso Benvenuti
12	C	Lifeimi Mafi ■
11	W	Sofiane Guitoune
10	FH	Camille Lopez
9	SH	Nicolas Durand ■
1	P	Sebastien Taofifenua
2	H	Guilhem Guirado
3	P	Paulica Ion
4	L	Daniel Leo
5	L	Romain Taofifenua
6	F	Justin Purl
7	F	Alasdair Strokosch
8	N8	Luke Narraway
16	R	Romain Terrain
17	R	Kisi Pulu
18	R	Giorgi Jgenti
19	R	Jean-Pierre Perez
20	R	Dewaldt Duvenage
21	R	David Marty
22	R	Joffrey Michel
23	R	Luke Charteris



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

27

TRIES: Cowan (44), May (74) CON: Twelvetrees (45) PENS: Twelvetrees (10, 17, 40, 65, 79)

USA PERPIGNAN

22

TRY: Hook (1) CON: Hook (2) PENS: Hook (21, 36, 49, 53) DROP: Hook (61)

THE LAST TIME THAT HEINEKEN CUP RUGBY TOUCHED DOWN AT KINGSHOLM, GIANTS TOULOUSE LEFT GL1 WITH A DEFEAT ON A MEMORABLE EVENING FOR GLOUCESTER.

Two seasons later, USA Perpignan were the visitors and roared on by a raucous home crowd, left on the wrong end of a 27-22 scoreline.

With the walls of fortress Kingsholm stormed by the visiting Chiefs the week before, the Cherry and Whites began the rebuilding effort with an impressive display against the formidable Catalans.

With domestic games on hold for a couple of weeks, the Heineken Cup roadshow arrived and, with it, ignited the imaginations of a Kingsholm crowd under the floodlights.

There were headline returns for former Gloucester favourites in Messieurs Narraway and Strokosch, who packed down in a particularly gigantic Catalan engine. In the cases of Romain and Sebastian Taofifenua, the size gene was definitely in abundance.

The visitors, in good form in the Top 14, started with a bang. French international playmaker Camille Lopez deftly grubbered through, Springbok Under 20 wing Wandile Mjekevu exquisitely gathered and moved the ball inside to Welsh star James Hook, who sliced through the cover to dot down, all within sixty seconds.

Perpignan continued to boss proceedings, Lopez was orchestrating his heavy goods vehicle of a pack around the park with ease, and the Cherry and Whites were restricted to simply clearing their lines as the

Catalans knocked on the door.

Billy Twelvetrees, in for the ill Freddie Burns, duly set about a personal battle with Hook. By half time, Hook had added two penalties and Twelvetrees had converted three of his own.

Nigel Davies' side were growing into the game impressively, the home pack were matching their

Hook then set about regaining the lead; another pair of penalties and drop goal took the Catalans clear with a quarter of the game remaining and Matt Kvesic in the sin-bin for killing the ball and stopping a near certain score.

The visitors had no possession in the Gloucester half in the closing

Champagne Moment:

With an earlier effort chalked off, Jonny May was not to be denied minutes later, when he hit a perfect line off Ryan Mills' delicious pass to race away. Kingsholm really did erupt!

counterparts stride-for-stride and, in the closing stages of the first period, should've scored.

Jimmy Cowan's effort was adjudged short by the TMO, and desperate defence from the visitors continued to halt the wave of home attacks.

Perpignan's mammoth pack were starting to be given the run around as the exertions of the opening stages took their toll. The home pack were gaining control and were in the ascendancy - a great sight to behold.

In the second period, Cowan was not to be denied. With opposite number Nicolas Durand on the naughty step for persistent offending, the wily scrum-half coaxed winger Sofiane Guitoune to deliver a crooked feed. The All Black reacted quickest to take the quick tap and power over from short range.

stages and, as Jonny May finally hit a gap and raced clear, the momentum changed. Referee Leighton Hodges and the TMO ruled out the score and the celebrations were cut.

But minutes later, Lifiemi Mafi was red carded after a horrific tip-tackle on Ryan Mills. As play continued, the young midfielder picked himself up to delay his pass with perfection to draw in a rogue and eager defender, which opened up a hole for May to gallop through, and this time he was not to be denied.

With Gloucester now only holding a 24-22 lead, and still in danger of a sucker-punch of a James Hook drop goal, the ball was stuck up the jumper and time was ran out with ease.

The last action allowed Twelvetrees to complete his impressive night from the tee with a long-range penalty.

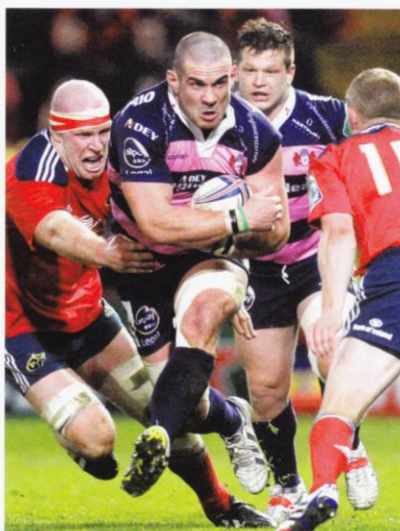
"WHEN TEAMS COME TO KINGSHOLM, THEY PLAY OUR WAY AND TONIGHT, THAT WAS HOW WE DO IT AND HOW IT SHOULD BE DONE HERE. THE FANS WERE AMAZING, AND IT WAS A SPECIAL ATMOSPHERE AGAINST A GREAT SIDE. THEY WERE EIGHT BIG LUMPS AND WE HAD TO GIVE THEM THE RUN AROUND." DAN MURPHY, GLOUCESTER PROP

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Martyn Thomas
14	W	Charlie Sharples
13	C	Mike Tindall
12	C	Ryan Mills
11	W	Jonny May
10	FH	Jonny Bentley
9	SH	Dan Robson
1	P	Dan Murphy
2	H	Darren Dawidiuk
3	P	Rupert Harden
4	L	Lua Lokotui
5	L	Will James (C)
6	F	Matt Cox
7	F	Akapusi Qera
8	N8	Ben Morgan
16		Tom Heard
17		James Gibbons
18	R	Yann Thomas
19	R	James Hudson
20	R	Gareth Evans
21	R	Tavis Knoyle
22	R	Freddie Burns
23	R	Rob Cook

MUNSTER RUGBY

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Felix Jones
14	W	Keith Earls
13	C	Casey Laulala
12	C	James Downey
11	W	Johne Murphy
10	FH	Ian Keatley
9	SH	Conor Murray
1	P	Dave Kilcoyne
2	H	Damien Varley
3	P	BJ Botha
4	L	Donncha O'Callaghan
5	L	Paul O'Connell
6	F	Donnacha Ryan
7	F	Sean Dougall
8	N8	Peter O'Mahony (C)
16	R	Mike Sherry
17	R	James Cronin
18	R	Stephen Archer
19	R	James Coughlan
20	R	CJ Stander
21	R	Cathal Sheridan
22	R	JJ Hanrahan
23	R	Denis Hurley



MUNSTER RUGBY

TRIES: Varley (33), Murphy (66) CONS: Keatley (34, 68) PENS: Keatley (3, 9, 12, 65)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRY: Sharples (15) CON: Bentley (16) PEN: Bentley (38)

26

10

WHEN THE FIXTURE LIST WAS PUBLISHED DURING THE SUMMER, MANY EYES WOULD HAVE BEEN CAST FORWARD TO WHEN THE CHERRY AND WHITES WOULD LOCK HORNS WITH TWO-TIME EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS MUNSTER.

Ten years after the 'Miracle Match' in Limerick, the 2013 squads locked horns at a red-hot Thomond Park and a 23,000 strong home crowd.

After the impressive win over Perpignan in Round One, Nigel Davies' men were buoyed with confidence as they travelled to Ireland to take on the wounded Munstermen, after their defeat to Edinburgh in their own campaign opener.

Davies handed a first start to Jonny Bentley at fly half in a much changed side led by Will James who chalked up his 150th competitive Gloucester appearance.

There were plenty of opportunities to impress for several of the travelling squad, and, from the first moments, the challenge was laid down by the hosts.

The atmosphere was electric - every tackle, contact and attacking foray was roared on by the deafening home crowd, and the contest at the breakdown was fierce.

But the Gloucester players were giving as good as they got - Matt Cox and Akapusi Qera were putting in shuddering hits, and centre Ryan Mills' huge hit on experienced stalwart of Irish rugby, Paul O'Connell, really put down the marker that the visitors were up for the battle.

Sadly for Gloucester, referee Jerome Garces' confusing interpretation of the breakdown favoured the home side in the early stages and Ian Keatley eased Munster ahead with a trio of penalties

inside the opening quarter.

Gloucester though hit back instantly. With Dan Robson growing into the game, a smart kick forced Johnie Murphy back and the electric Charlie Sharples upended the former Leicester wing into touch. From the ensuing lineout, Rupert Harden and Matt Cox

contested game.

Gloucester were spoiling everything the Munstermen threw at them, with Casey Laulala being suffocated by Mills and Tindall and the attacks were becoming more and more one dimensional.

A huge compliment Gloucester could

Champagne Moment:

After a neat kick downfield, smart thinking by Dan Robson outfoxed British Lion Conor Murray and laid the score on a plate for the impressive Sharples.

made good ground, before Robson fixed opposite number Conor Murray to put in Sharples to the corner.

Bentley converted superbly in the sporting silence, and Gloucester at this point were dictating the pace with the home masses growing frustrated.

In European competition, decisions in favour of the visitors are in short supply, especially at a partisan Amphitheatre such as Thomond Park.

The hosts had an attacking lineout, which in the first instance was not straight, but the red force rumbled towards the line. As it parked up over the line, the ball was nowhere to be seen with plenty of bodies between the ground and scorer Damien Varley.

With no celebration forthcoming from the home players, the try was awarded after consultation with the TMO and Munster went into half time with a 16-10 lead despite an evenly

take was that despite trailing by six points, the home 23,000 were growing increasingly frustrated and nervous.

The game then took a massive swing the way of Munster. A Keatley penalty finally opened the second half scoring and, almost immediately, the hosts crossed for their second try.

Gloucester had every right to feel hard done by. Rob Cook was taken out in the air by Donnacha Ryan and the ball fell to Keatley, who, with Cook out of position, judged his cross-kick to perfection and Johnie Murphy galloped home without breaking stride.

Still, despite the deficit, Nigel Davies' men battled bravely and, to a man, the squad put in every effort for their shirt and their teammates.

The relief at full time said it all, with 23,000 leaving with smiles on their faces as Gloucester had threatened throughout to cause a big upset.

"WE CAME HERE AND SHOWED THAT WE HAVE A LOT OF FIGHT IN THE TEAM AND THAT WE ARE NOT AFRAID OF TAKING ON ANYONE, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE." BEN MORGAN, GLOUCESTER NUMBER EIGHT

Teams correct at time of print: 31st October 2013



TODAY'S TEAMS



GLoucester Rugby

ROB COOK	FULLBACK
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	RIGHT WING
MIKE TINDALL	CENTRE
RYAN MILLS	CENTRE
JONNY MAY	LEFT WING
FREDDIE BURNS	FLY HALF
DAN ROBSON	SCRUM HALF
DAN MURPHY	PROP
DARREN DAWIDIUK	HOOKER
RUPERT HARDEN	PROP
ELLIOTT STOOKE	LOCK
JAMES HUDSON	LOCK
TOM SAVAGE (C)	FLANKER
MATT KVESIC	FLANKER
GARETH EVANS	NO.8
HUIA EDMONDS	REPLACEMENT
YANN THOMAS	REPLACEMENT
JAMES GIBBONS	REPLACEMENT
WILL JAMES	REPLACEMENT
MATT COX	REPLACEMENT
JIMMY COWAN	REPLACEMENT
CHARLIE SHARPLES	REPLACEMENT
MARTYN THOMAS	REPLACEMENT

LONDON WASPS

ELLIOT DALY	FULLBACK
CHRISTIAN WADE	RIGHT WING
BEN JACOBS	CENTRE
CHRIS BELL (C)	CENTRE
JOSH BASSETT	LEFT WING
ANDY GOODE	FLY HALF
JOE SIMPSON	SCRUM HALF
MATT MULLAN	PROP
CARLO FESTUCCIA	HOOKER
JAKE COOPER-WOOLLEY	PROP
TOM PALMER	LOCK
KEARNAN MYALL	LOCK
ASHLEY JOHNSON	FLANKER
GUY THOMPSON	FLANKER
ED JACKSON	NO.8
TOM LINDSAY	REPLACEMENT
SIMON McINTYRE	REPLACEMENT
WILL TAYLOR	REPLACEMENT
JAMES CANNON	REPLACEMENT
JAMES HASKELL	REPLACEMENT
CHARLIE DAVIES	REPLACEMENT
JOE CARLISLE	REPLACEMENT
CHARLIE HAYTER	REPLACEMENT

**IN CHARGE
TODAY:**

Referee: JP Doyle

Assistant Referees: Nigel Carrick & Gareth Copsey