

£3 | 16.11.13 LV= CUP NEWCASTLE FALCONS PATEORS

VIEW FROM
The Citizen
ON PAGE 28



WORLD & LOCAL RUGBY NEWS ON PAGE 64

MagnaClean

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH JAMES HUDSON ON PAGE 40





CAPTAIN'S CORNER

C TOM SAVAGE

ood afternoon and welcome to our first home LV= Cup game this afternoon as we welcome Newcastle Falcons.

In this, my first season as Club Captain, I have to say this season so far has been a massive learning curve for myself and the rest of our young squad.

We haven't been happy with the way we have played, and the way recent results have gone against us. But the determination and

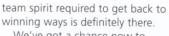
group of players, to play to a level we know we are capable of and put a smile back on the faces of our loyal support.

There is no denying that this season hasn't gone to plan so far. The frustrating thing is that we've done so many good things in certain games, only to undo those efforts with an error at a vital time.

At the highest level, there's a fine line between success and failure and rugby union can be a cruel game sometimes.

"AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN SUCCESS AND FAILURE..."

The DI= Cup allows some of our Academy players to show their skills at the highest level



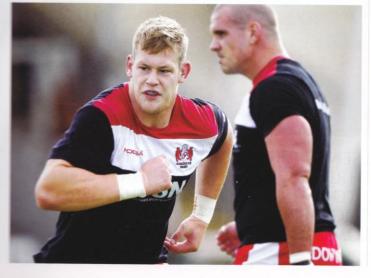
We've got a chance now to have a big look at what we're doing as a whole. We are all striving for the same goal and, it's at times like this, that we need to come together as a club and a But there's been no feeling sorry for ourselves, just a united determination to put things right and hopefully kick start momentum and a good run of performances.

With three games in the past week, it has put pressure on the whole squad, but it has also given big opportunities for the young players in our squad to feature.

As a young player myself, I hugely value the importance of the LV= Cup, it is a competition which has been good to Gloucester over the years and proved the the young quality we have coming through.

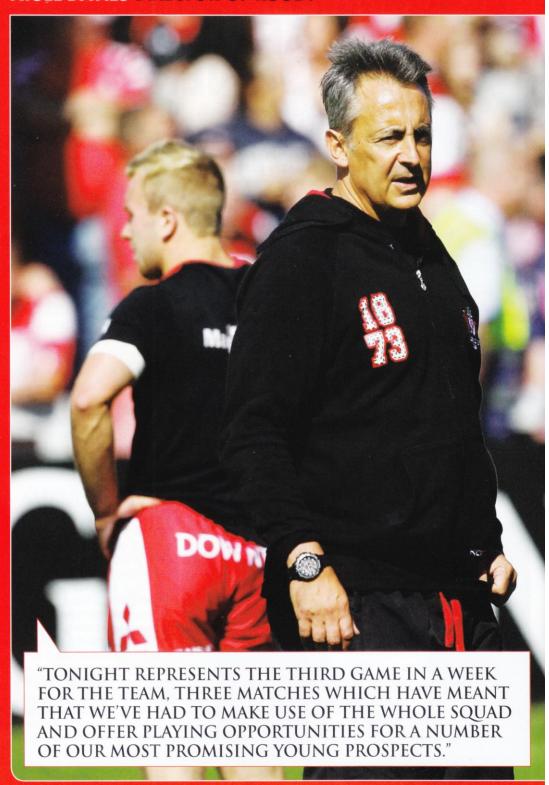
It's great for the club to show young players like 17 year old Ollie Thorley and Lloyd Evans, who came in and looked comfortable at Franklins Gardens.

Hopefully, players like that are the future of the club and getting exposure at first team level can only help their development.



Sav

NIGEL DAVIES DIRECTOR OF RUGBY



COACH'S NOTES

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

Tonight represents the third game in a week for the team, three matches which have meant that last season it was Carl Hogg who stepped up – and it's proved to be a useful exercise.

It's good experience for the likes of Stan to take charge of the team in the build up to a match, and to be responsible for the matchday delivery, and useful for the players to hear a slightly different been nowhere near good enough consistently.

Our discipline hasn't been good enough, and we've allowed too many scores from first phase and turnovers. It's frustrating, because, when we get it right, as we did against the likes of Northampton and Perpignan, we can compete with the

very best.

We obviously return to Premiership action at Harlequins next Saturday, and my hope is that these two home games, against Japan and Newcastle, will allow us to build some confidence and momentum to take into next weekend.

On that note, it was fantastic to see Japan here at Kingsholm earlier this week. It's great for Gloucester, the club and

the city, to be

hosting international fixtures and it certainly whets the appetite for what we can expect in Rugby World Cup.

The club game is certainly on the up in Japan and, with them hosting the World Cup in 2019, touring and playing top class fixtures on a more regular basis will help their international team make an impact at that tournament.

Enjoy the game,

Nigel



we've had to make use of the whole squad and offer playing opportunities for a number of our most promising young prospects.

For me personally, it's also been a time to take stock, to reflect on how we've performed so far this season and carry out some vital planning work for the future.

That's why I've handed over the reins to Andrew Stanley over the past couple of weeks, to prepare and manage the team for the two LV= Cup matchdays.

It's something I've done before

coaching perspective.

I've spent the time wisely. Once the season is underway, the games come thick and fast and, no sooner have you finished reviewing one fixture, than you're preparing for the next.

I've been able to take a step back since the London Wasps game, and analyse in great detail where we currently stand.

And my obvious conclusion is that we've not reached the standards so far that we're capable. We've shown glimpses of our best form, but we've



VIEW FROM The Citizen

with STEVE IMPEY

Steve talks to Gloucester's experienced second row forward Will James about the pressures involved in getting back to winning ways and how the LV= Cup can help to gather momentum.

GAME STRUCTURE



owering Will James is hoping the simple things will bring Gloucester back to winning ways this season.

The Cherry and White lock tried to gather the positives after a young Gloucester side lost 33-6 at Franklin's Gardens in the LV= Cup last Saturday.

The Kingsholm contingent go into their second cup clash against Newcastle Falcons this evening, having lost four of their last fixtures in all competitions.

Although the pressure is on the team to start winning, 36-year-old James is confident that it will happen if the team learn from their mistakes.

He said: "I think the boys put in quite a good shift by half-time against Northampton, and the 18-6 score line was probably a fair reflection of where we were at that point.

"We had a couple of try-scoring opportunities which we didn't take, and to come away having lost 33-6 was very disappointing.

"I thought we had a hard time up front and, it's not an excuse, but I couldn't get my head round what was going wrong with how the scrum was being managed.

"Northampton seemed to get the rub of the green there and Franklin's Gardens is a hard place to win, especially with a few young lads in the mix.

"But there is no excuses from us and there is no group more disappointed than the players."

James, who has swapped in and out of the Gloucester starting line up with competition from line-out guru James Hudson and Academy-product Elliott Stooke, is relishing the chances to rectify some wrongs in time for the return of the Aviva Premiership.

In a week, Gloucester travel to The Stoop to face Harlequins and then welcome reigning champions Leicester Tigers to Kingsholm.

"We have been working on our structure in games, and I think it showed in the first half against the Saints. The boys were well structured and knew what they were doing.

"But, as in all cases, if the game begins to get away from you in the second half, you are having chase it.

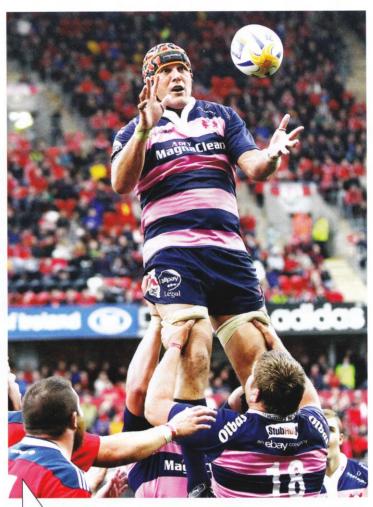
"A team like Northampton like to build momentum and they did that in the second half.

"We've had a very busy schedule with Japan and the game against Newcastle Falcons at Engsholm.

And that will hopefully build our momentum going into the eague. There are no hiding places, we just have to get our heads down and see where we've gone arong and try to rectify it.

The challenges are continuous. The physical side of things is probably easier [than the mental ascect] because, although some of the boys will be sore, we've a group that we've managed to

It's important that we get it ight mentally and that we impose ourselves on the field. More mensity is going to be needed,



"THERE ARE NO HIDING PLACES, WE JUST HAVE TO GET OUR HEADS DOWN AND SEE WHERE WE'VE GONE WRONG AND TRY TO RECTIFY IT."

and the LV= Cup is very much a building phase with the league being our number one priority.

"We're coming off two home fixtures at Kingsholm, and I think those have been aimed at building confidence and taking that into the Premiership.

"You've got to test yourself in a pressurised environment and

these young guys have had that opportunity to do that.

"You can take positives and you can take negatives from these games because guys can learn from the mistakes they've made.

"And if the whole team can improve on the mistakes we've made, it can only be a good thing."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk

"AWAY THE LAD" TO GLOUCESTER

with Newcastle the visitors this afternoon, our thoughts turn to a Geordie lad who travelled south to become a favourite son of Kingsholm.

THE IMMACULATE DON

An astonishingly neat and gifted player, a dapper dresser, and a highly organised and inventive coach, Don Rutherford has been an immaculate top-level performer in every aspect of his long and successful rugby life.

He was born and bred in Tynemouth, and played his early club rugby for Percy Park in North Shields, where he won caps for Northumberland and England, before going to St Luke's College, Exeter.

We have his wife and father-inlaw to thank for Don's arrival in Gloucester. Don was travelling from Newcastle to Exeter by train, when Sue Bradley got on for the leg from Birmingham to Gloucester. She was returning home to Sharpness, where her father, Jack, was the docks manager.

This short journey was enough to spark the flame, and whilst Don was pondering which club to play



Don as captain of Gloucester in 1967-68

for when he left college, he went to stay with Sue at Sharpness.

He was tracked down by a deputation from Bristol RFC, keen to obtain his services. Met on the doorstep by Sue's father, it was made quite clear to them that they were wasting their time - the hand of his daughter was entirely dependent upon Don playing for Gloucester. Don took a teaching post at Wycliffe College, signed on at Kingsholm, and wedding bells rang.

Don arrived at Kingsholm for the start of the 1964-65 season. He may have been an international fullback, but the Gloucester selectors put him in the Possibles side for the pre-season trial.

Mickey Booth got John Bayliss to smell Don's shirt before the game, and then sent up a series of high kicks for Don to catch with John hunting him down. Don came through unscathed and was soon the most respected and valued of Gloucester men.

Don found playing at Kingsholm a revelation: "...it was one man and a dog at Percy Park – my father and about another ten people watching the match. I thought I was in heaven at Gloucester.

"My shorts, my socks, my shirt were hanging up in the dressing room. There was a big crowd – The Shed was full – and I just loved it. It was the atmosphere and I thought 'God, at last! Here are people who want to play rugby' And the players themselves were utterly fascinating – utterly fascinating – brilliant."

In the course of the next four seasons, 1964-68, Don made 93 appearances for Gloucester, scored 539 points, and was captain in 1967-68, before injury brought a premature end to his career.

He captained Gloucestershire in 1965-66, played for the Barbarians, added 9 further England caps whilst playing for Gloucester to the 5 he had won previously, and became a British Lion in Australia.

But his influence on the Gloucester club was much greater than the picture painted by these impressive statistics. He was the classiest of players, calm ignored the other two and ran round the blind side to score a try.

A whole generation of Gloucester players still eulogise about the effect which Don had on the Club.

Those two who plotted his downfall in his first game are to the fore in their plaudits.

Mickey Booth: "Don immediately stamped his class on this Club. He opened our eyes up to what the game was all about. I think he rugby. He was a professional before his time - he altered the whole way of training. He taught tactics, different styles of game. He could change a game in the middle of the game. I think he brought us forward no end."

When it came to the centenary of the Club in 1973, Don assembled an international team to take on Gloucester at Kingsholm, which was probably the most spectacular array of stars ever to appear at Kingsholm. But Gloucester played out of their skins and won 24-14.

Don's coaching talent was recognised nationally when he was appointed as the Technical Director of the Rugby Union in 1969 – their first-ever professional appointment.

He contributed so much to the development of English rugby that he remained in post for thirty years, putting in place a national coaching structure.

Needless to say he continued to strive for improved standards, and just as Gloucester players had found some of his innovations uncomfortable, so did the England team when first faced with weight training and the like.

He was awarded the OBE in 2000 in recognition of his services to Rugby.

Don and Sue now live in retirement near Penzance.



The teams for the Club's centenary game in 1973

and unruffled, and seemingly with so much time to perform even under pressure.

He queried and cajoled the team into taking their preparations for games more seriously, and as captain he lifted the coaching of the team to a new level. He was a master tactician, and introduced many innovative moves.

One memorable tactic was to put Mickey Booth (scrum half) Terry Hopson (stand off), and Don himself (fullback) in a straight line behind one another, about 25 yards out from the goal line.

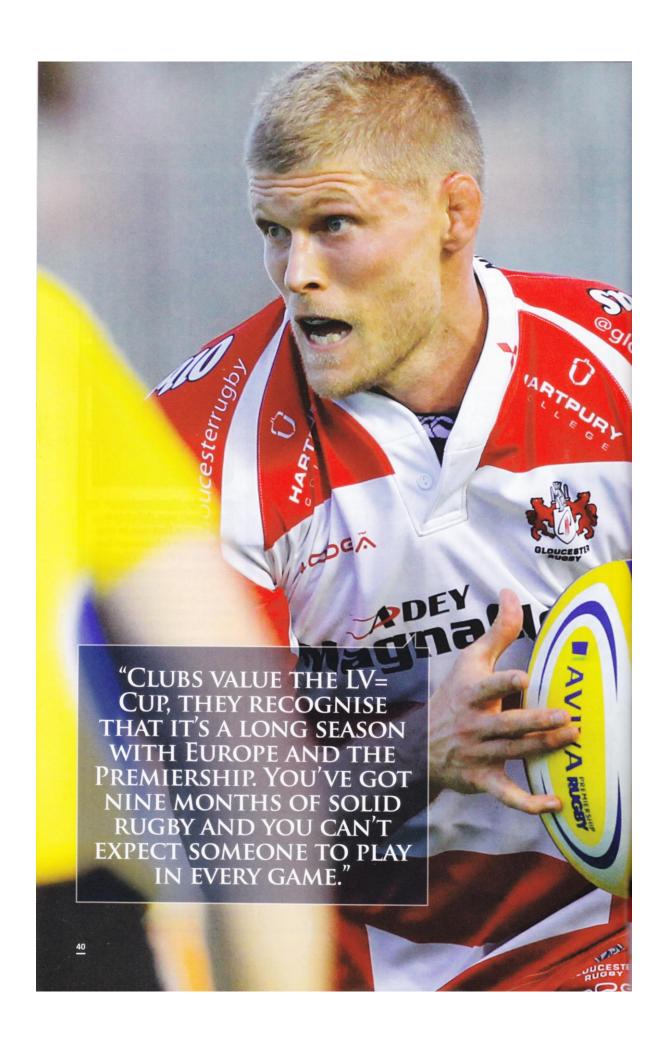
The baffled opposition, and an equally bemused crowd, would then find Booth going one way, Hopson going the other, and "The Don" being left to take a clear shot at goal with a drop kick.

Except of course when Terry

made an incredible difference". And John Bayliss: "Don was a tremendous asset to Gloucester



A trio of Gloucester and England fullbacks get together in 2010 – Bill Hook (1950s), Peter Butler (1970s) and Don Rutherford (1960s)]





ExtraMEDIA

James Hudson @JamesHudson5

Great time down @OldPatesiansRFC this evening. Really enjoyed working with the lads. #lovealineout

MASTER OF THE SECOND ROW

FOR ANY ONE OF THE CURRENT GLOUCESTER SQUAD, COMING UP AGAINST HIS FORMER CLUB IS GOING TO BE AN ODD OCCASION.

or James Hudson,
Gloucester, Newcastle and
the LV= Cup all go hand in
hand on a memorable day for
the Cherry and Whites.

After leading out the Falcons in 2009 against Gloucester in the final of the LV= Cup, Hudson is relishing the chance to relive some memories and lock horns with his ex team mates, now under the stewardship of Dean Richards.

"I really enjoyed the four years that I had at Newcastle, we had

a few tough years. But the thing about it up there, was a group of boys that were very tight and always stuck to working very hard for each other. It was always very enjoyable despite the tough few seasons."

"I think we won two of the three games in our group and didn't really expect to get through. It's the nature of the competition you can get through like that.

"We had an unbelievable win away at Quins in the semi-final on

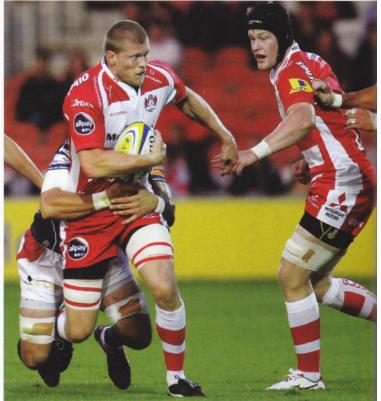


a Friday night. I can remember us scoring in the corner in the last minutes.

"It was a fair effort as we were down a lot in that game in the first half so it was a good experience. We were struggling at the time in the Premiership, so it was a welcome relief and we just came up a little bit short against a very good Gloucester side in the final." build momentum and confidence throughout a very busy campaign.

"Clubs value the LV= Cup, they recognise that it's a long season with Europe and the Premiership. You've got nine months of solid rugby and you can't expect someone to play in every game.

"The squad here is managed very well by Nigel and the coaches, and they know when to rotate and keep



Gloucester have recognised the victory in 2009 with a signed shirt and memorabilia adorning the wall at their Hartpury College training base, and with Hudson featuring in a Newcastle shirt, a fair bit of banter is forthcoming!

"It's more about how terrible the photo is, and the boys give a bit of banter but it's one of those things."

Known as a leader and experienced member of the squad despite being at Kingsholm for only a short time, Hudson recognises how important the LV= Cup is to everyone fresh to keep going.

"It's a great opportunity for the young players to impress, and for the players that have been doing so well in the A League, they can put their hand up to show what they can do and push for the shirt."

With Gloucester possessing promising youngsters in the second row, Hudson has really enjoyed working with the likes of Elliott Stooke, Tom Hicks and Jonny Hill and their work in the line out.

"There's a really good crop of young second rows here, I've been

really impressed with Stookey whilst I've been here. He's really taken the chance that he's been given and pushed on to be starting in the first team

"Hicksy as well has got a bright future, I've enjoyed working with him so far. He's one of those lads who has played a lot of A League rugby, but he can now put his hand up to play in the LV= competition and show what he can do

"And you've got young Jonny Hill, who again has played a lot of A League rugby and done really well so there's some really good young talent coming through."

Hudson is now urging the young players around the squad to seize their opportunity in the following weeks.

"That's the best thing really, you can't expect a group of young players to go out and do it all at these tough games as you're still

representing the first team. We need to have that experience and framework in there.

"The likes of Freddie playing at 10 against Northampton, and the guys with experience coming in, it allows the youngsters to flourish

and play with the comfort around them."

Off the field, Hudson has a hugely keen interest in nutrition and food and is often seen posting pictures on Twitter of his delicious, healthy meals.

Having gained his qualifications, the 6ft 7" lock has set his aims on a career in nutrition when the time comes to hang up his boots.

"That's my plan, I studied my

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"...I STUDIED
MY DEGREE IN
BIOCHEMISTRY
AND I DID MY
MASTERS IN
THAT BEFORE

degree in biochemistry and I did my masters in that before I started my rugby at Bath. Since then I've done my sports

nutrition qualification. I've really enjoyed doing that and it's allowed me to focus on other things off the field.

I STARTED MY

RUGBY...'

"I feel it's important to change your focus during the week and get your mind away from the rugby. It's still working with players and athletes but hopefully I can gain the knowledge to take with me when I finish playing and be able to go on and make it into a full time career."





KINGSHOLM NEWS with BOB FENTON



...let's make a bit of a pact – we the supporters will cheer louder than ever if you, the team, start to put together a few wins. Come on, you know it makes sense!

ell, if I said in the last (Wasps) programme that things were getting a bit tough for Gloucester supporters, then the scale of depression got ratcheted up a couple of notches over the last couple of weekends.

Defeats to Wasps and then Northampton have not helped lift the mood, but those of us who have been there before in the dark times, know that salvation is just around the corner.

The trouble is, at the moment we can't see where that corner is, let alone what it is going to take to get around it.

I don't think that we're at the stage of cancelling all the Christian Wade was too hor to handles for the Gloucester defence

perimeter advertising and replacing it with adverts for 'The Samaritans' or similar, and personally I find some of the over-the-top doom and gloom mongering a bit much.

Of course we are disappointed by defeats – who isn't – but it's not like anyone goes out onto the park and actually wants to lose, is it? It's not as if the players, coaches and staff don't care – of course they do. My guess is that if we feel pretty rubbish on a Saturday evening, they are feeling a heck of a lot worse.

Another pet dislike is this 'success now or sack the manager' mentality that seems to be creeping over into some parts from our cousins in the round ball game. For me, it achieves not very much at all – and sport's not like that!

Our coaches will be well aware of the demand for success that is placed upon them from the moment they sign the contract, and we can't have it both ways: we can't expect coaching contracts to be awarded to retiring or injured players because they have served the club so well, then bemoan the lack of experience in the back room.

And, as I said, some of us have seen it all before and will doubtless see it all again, such is the way of the world.

There were signs in the Wasps game that we were approaching that mythical corner and were dropping through the gears ready to round it. The line out worked well, apart from one or two exceptions the forwards all went pretty well.

We scored some good tries, showed some spirit but in the end were undone by a combination of our own foot shooting and some

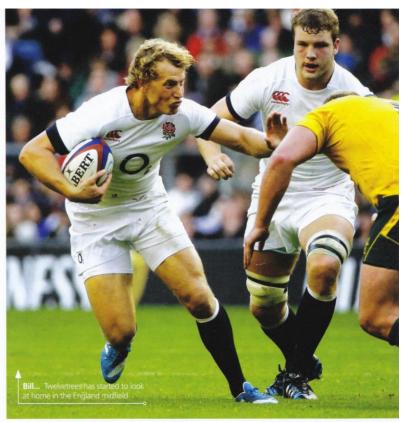


excellent finishing from one of the best young wingers in the country. We scored four tries and lost, we must have done something right!

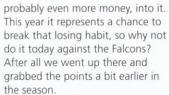
Then the LV= Cup, last weekend – it really was a case of men against boys as we threw possibly the youngest player to start a Gloucester first team game into the fray. It didn't work and we got a bit of a spanking...

In 'normal' seasons the LV=
Cup – and to refresh this is the
competition where teams in
one group play various teams in
another group to work out who
comes out top of the group they
are in, and in which they haven't
played each other (still with me?).
Somehow, despite the
convoluted format, it works.
We've been in the final often
enough so we clearly understand
how it all hangs together.

Anyway, as I was saying, in 'normal' season (i.e. those where we win the occasional game), we supporters look upon this



competition with a bit of disdain, which is harsh on the sponsors who put a lot of effort, and



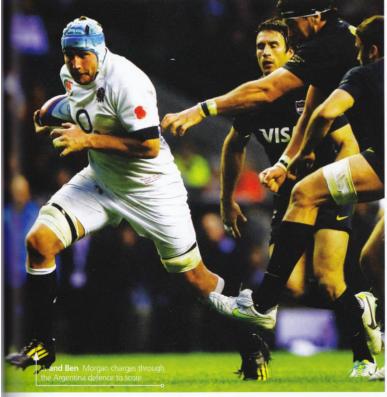
The past few weeks have not been without their bright spots, Billy and Ben (love the fact that someone has been quick enough to link the combo to the 'Flower Pot Men' – younger readers ask your parents – or possibly grandparents) both scored in England's win over Argentina – the bright spots of a pretty drab day.

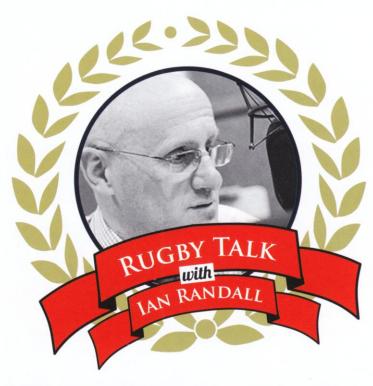
But back to today, we all know it's easy to support a winning team, it's not so hard when things are not going so well. So let's make a bit of a pact – we the supporters will cheer louder than ever if you, the team, start to put together a few wins. Come on, you know it makes sense!

And as the venerable Westy said the other day:

"We have to get behind the team, now more than ever; they may not be playing well, but they're all we've got."

Couldn't have put it better myself.





THE RETIREMENT WITHIN THE LAST 12 MONTHS OF BOTH ALEX BROWN AND OLLY MORGAN BECAUSE OF INJURIES SHOWS HOW PHYSICALLY DEMANDING THE PROFESSIONAL GAME IS.

WITH it has come an ever increasing list of players unable to complete what you might call a natural career path simply because their bodies, despite the advances made in medicine and conditioning, are unable to cope.

Other recent notable retirees include Joe Ansbro, Dan Hipkiss, Lee Mears and Shaun Perry. The vision of Damian Hopley in forming the Rugby Players Association in 1998 when he himself was forced to retire early now looks of ever increasing value.

Not surprisingly perhaps, about 98% of all Premiership players are members, but do regular Premiership fans have any idea what the RPA does?

Hopley as CEO runs a small team and is supported by former Bath prop David Barnes as Rugby Director. There are then seven regional player development managers, with the Kingsholm squad under Josh Frape, who played a handful of first team games here more than a decade ago.

Barnes told me:

"We want to look after the players and protect the image and reputation of the game. I would like to think the players know the role we play every day of the year, but it does come home a bit more when something happens to one of their team mates. Players are fortunate to receive good salaries but injury can happen at any point."

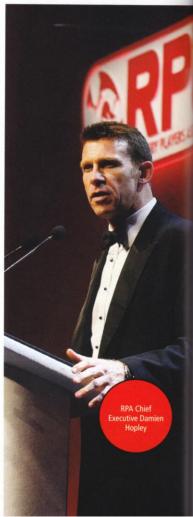
To that end, the RPA carry out an extensive annual injury audit. It takes time to work its way through all the necessary channels but it is comprehensive and Barnes says there is always a discussion about how the RPA formulates what it does in the light of the results.

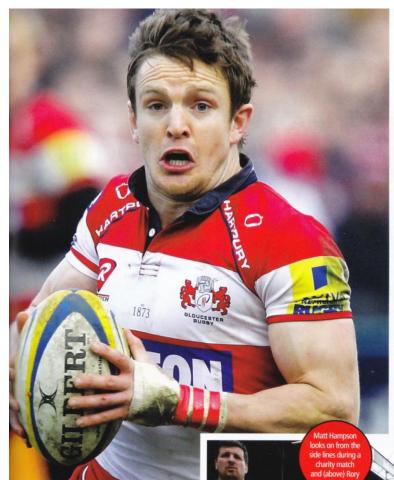
Concussion is in the spotlight at the moment. Scrum caps may reduce cuts and cauliflower ears but they don't stop it, which means the protocols surrounding how concussion is dealt with at the time, and when the player is allowed to play again, remain under constant review.

Surprisingly perhaps, Restart - the official charity of the RPA - has had to deal with increasing numbers of players who have experienced difficult times post their rugby careers.

One of the highest profile cases has been Matt Hampson, who was injured while training with England at age group level, but it is also there to support players who are injured playing for their club, and who are then released.

The charity helps not only with medical care and assistance, but also with mental health too. Barnes says it means getting the message





here but less so about what our role is" said Barnes.

"We, the RPA, are here to help the 'everyday' player. The charity is there for the injured and ill. We have different mandates.

"Restart is fortunate that as the numbers of players needing their help is rising, the numbers of people coming forward to help raise funds is doing so too."

Today's visitors Newcastle are now sadly without a former favourite here who succumbed to a wrist injury in the summer. Scrum half Rory Lawson was personable off the field and a terrier on it but, at 32, he became another of those early retirees.

Most of the players on show today will be at the other end of their careers, and probably thinking about nothing else but playing rugby.

out early about life after rugby.

"The biggest area of progress since my involvement has been in getting players to develop as individuals away from the game.

"They can join an academy at 16, but they have an annual turnover of about 20%. From the age of 18, we encourage players to continue their education or get relevant work experience so that if they do have a serious injury, they have something to fall back on.

"Most players think they will play until they are 35, but over the past three seasons the numbers retiring because of injury has been rising. Last season it was 22, which is nearly two per club."

More RPA research has shown that more than 80% of players think having an outside interest helps them perform better on the field because their life balance is better.

The chairman of the Players Board, Will James, is just one example, having developed a A P

property business.

It is a fact of life that in most cases, a player will earn less once they retire from rugby than they do while playing, so the message about acquiring other skills is hammered home at every opportunity.

"I think fans are aware we're

It would be wise to balance that enthusiasm for the game with a bit of planning for the future.





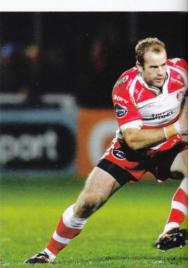




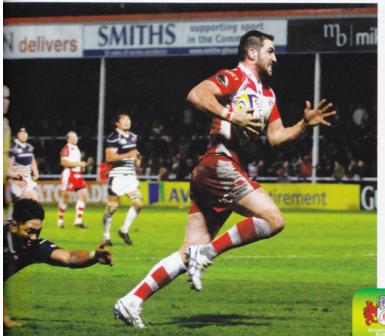
















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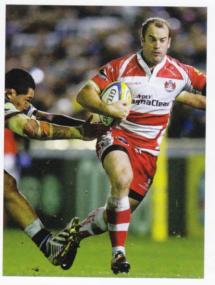
GLOUCESTER RUGBY

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15	FB	Rob Cook
14	W	James Simpson-Danie
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3	P	Rupert Harden
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5	L.	James Hudson
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7	F	Matt Kvesic
8	N8	Sione Kalamafoni
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17	P	James Gibbons
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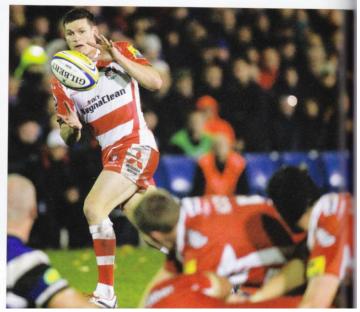


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4	L	Stuart Hooper (c)					
5	L	Dave Attwood					
6	F	Matt Garvey					
7	F	Francois Louw					
8	N8	Carl Fearns					
16	н	Ross Batty					
17	Р	Nathan Catt					
18	Р	Juan Pablo Orlandi					
19		Will Spencer					
20		Alafoti Faosiliya					
21	1	Martin Roberts					
22	С	Gavin Henson					
23		Horacio Agulla					









BATH RUGBY

5

PENS: Ford (5, 27, 31, 45, 65)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

K

TRY: Burns (60) CONS: Burns (61) PENS: Burns (33, 66)

THE LATEST CHAPTER IN THE WEST COUNTRY DERBY HISTORY WAS WRITTEN ON A BLUSTERY AND DAMP EVENING AT THE REC, WITH THE SPOILS GOING TO THE MEN IN BLUE, BLACK AND WHITE.

he points were all scored by the two fly halves, marshalling two battling packs in the rain, and it was Bath's outside half George Ford who just edged Freddie Burns by two points in a game that was abrasive and hard-fought, but far from a classic.

Gloucester's main undoing was the penalty count. Gloucester's defence was solid and rarely penetrated, but the constant concession of penalties kept Ford in business from the kicking tee.

It was perhaps fortunate for the Cherry and Whites that Ford's kicking radar was slightly off, but he still kicked five penalties to keep Nigel Davies' men at arm's length until the final stages.

With the vast majority of the sell out attendance in The Rec soaked through before kick off, Bath raced into a 9-0 lead thanks to indiscipline from the visitors.

But, whilst Bath were hoping to pull away and win in style, the spirited Cherry and Whites battled hard for possession and Burns ensured they were playing in the right areas of the pitch.

Burns got Gloucester on the board with a long-range penalty from wide when Jonathon Joseph was adjudged to have deliberately knocked on, while Ford was off target with two efforts just before half time.

The ball rarely saw the outside backs, and both sets of flyers were industrious and coming looking inside for work. But the respective defences were solid and comfortable to compete without risking infringing.

Bath set out in the second half to build on their lead and the home pack set about rumbling over. The Cherry and Whites stood firm, but the penalty count was rising, and Gloucester saw Rupert Harden sin binned for an innocuous looking infringement.

The small period of dominance

Almost immediately Gloucester went on the attack again, Burns and



Champagne Moment:

Freddie Burns scored all of Gloucester's points and his try sparked thoughts of a dramatic win. The charge down of George Ford and skillful touch down was reward for a solid performance after being released from EPS duty.

allowed Ford to knock over his fourth penalty of the evening and restore the lead to nine points.

Bath tried to take advantage of the extra man, but the Gloucester pack battled to wrestle the initiative and, roared on by a vociferous travelling support, piled the pressure on the hosts.

Then the efforts were rewarded, in admittedly fortunate circumstances. Peter Stringer fed Ford who attempted to clear across his body.

Burns read the body language of his opposite number and threw himself in the way to block the kick. The ball then did exactly what Burns would have wanted, it skidded towards the line and bounced up perfectly for Burns to pounce on and slide over. He then converted, and Gloucester trailed by just two points with a quarter of the game remaining.

Jonny May were finding gaps and asking questions of the hosts. Ford though, added another penalty as Bath pushed to put the game to bed.

Anthony Watson was sinbinned when he knocked down a pass that looked destined to set Simpson-Daniel away, and Burns knocked over the resulting penalty.

Unfortunately, the Gloucester side couldn't wrestle possession in the right areas as the home crowd grew increasingly nervous and, when Stringer hoofed the ball out, a huge sigh of relief rose from The Rec as Gloucester had run the hosts very close.

A losing bonus point was the least that Nigel Davies' men deserved for the spirited effort but, on the balance of play and Ford's off day with the boot, few would argue with the final result.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

POS FB W

NAME

Rob Cook James Simpson-Daniel Henry Trinder

W 10 FH SH 2

Ryan Mills Jonny May Freddie Burns Dan Robson **Yann Thomas Huia Edmonds** Shaun Knight Will James James Hudson Tom Savage (c)

22 23

Darren Dawidiuk James Gibbons Rupert Harden Elliott Stooke **Gareth Evans** Jimmy Cowan Charlie Sharples Matt Kvesic

Andy Hazell

Sione Kalamafoni



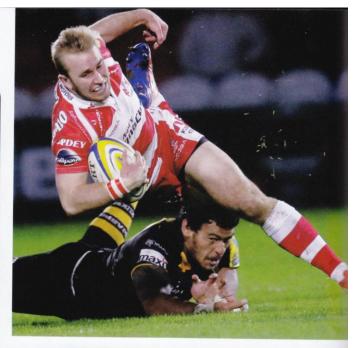
POS

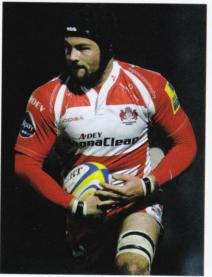
NAME

15 FB 14 9 SH 6 N8 18 20 N8

Elliot Daly Christian Wade Chris Bell (c) Charlie Hayter Josh Bassett Andy Goode Joe Simpson Matt Mullan Carlo Festuccia Jake Cooper-Woolley Tom Palmer Kearnan Myall Ashley Johnson James Haskell **Nathan Hughes**

Tom Lindsay Simon McIntyre Will Taylor James Cannon **Guy Thompson** Charlie Davies Joe Carlisle Tommy Bell









23

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

30

TRIES: Knight (31), Kalamafoni (43), Cook (71, 80) CONS: Burns (32, 80) PENS: Burns (29, 58)

LONDON WASPS

35

TRIES: Wade (15, 76), Hughes (20), Thompson (73) CONS: Goode (16, 21, 74) PENS: Goode (40, 61)

AFTER THE WALLS OF FORTRESS KINGSHOLM WERE PARTIALLY REBUILT FOLLOWING THE EXCITING HEINEKEN CUP WIN OVER PERPIGNAN, A FEW MORE BRICKS WERE JOLTED LOOSE AS A LATE SURGE FROM LONDON WASPS, MEANT A THIRD SIDE LEFT KINGSHOLM WITH AN AVIVA PREMIERSHIP WIN THIS SEASON.

n a blustery evening, designated as Forces Day, the visitors flew into a 14-0 lead through a long-distance Christian Wade solo effort, and a opportune score from number eight Nathan Hughes who capitalised on Gloucester losing control of possession at a scrum in their own 22.

A shell shocked Gloucester dusted themselves off and slowly fought their way back into the game, taking control of possession and territory and got on the scoreboard as Freddie Burns knocked over his first penalty.

The Cherry and Whites then benefitted from a stroke of luck. Smart hands in midfield fashioned an opening for Andy Hazell. The ball popped loose in contact and bounced forward off his foot, Shaun Knight reacting quickest to pounce and touch down.

With referee JP Doyle awarding the try after consulting with the TMO, Gloucester had halved the daunting deficit and were very much in the ascendancy.

The last action of the first period was Andy Goode knocking over a close range penalty, as the visitors went in 17-10 at the break and the game very much in the balance.

Gloucester came flying out in the second period, they had to do so, and Wasps spent most of the opening stages camped in their own half.

The Cherry and Whites then struck, with the rolling maul looking to be a positive weapon, Huia Edmonds

double-bluffed and found Sione Kalamafoni at the front who was unstoppable from short range.

Nigel Davies' men then sensed the

Champagne Moment:

Rob Cook's first score put Gloucester into the lead, after 14-0 down it looked a long way off and after the huge effort put in to claw back the visitors.

lead and Ryan Mills nearly gave it to them. The young centre showed superb strength to sit Charlie Hayter down, and power to the line but he couldn't quite get the ball down and was held up.

Burns and Goode traded penalties and, when Burns took aim with one more from out wide, the ball dropped narrowly short but was knocked into Gloucester hands, recycled through phases and a perfectly judged pass from replacement scrum half Jimmy Cowan found Rob Cook who had a simple route to the line.

After chasing down the fourteen point deficit, Gloucester had done

superbly to wrestle control of the game and looked set to close the game out.

Wasps were however smart from the kick-off, eager runners pressured the Gloucester defence, the ball was spilled and found wing Josh Bassett who gave Guy Thompson one of the easier scores of his career.

Kingsholm was stunned. To work so hard to earn the lead, to then see it ripped away in the next instant was a real sucker punch.

Wasps duly struck again as Christian Wade darted round the back of the maul, then scuttled down the touchline to dive in for the clincher and the visitor's bonus point score.

There was still just enough time for Gloucester to earn a try bonus point themselves, as a well-judged flat pass from James Simpson-Daniel gave Cook a stroll to the line and the stand-out full back a second try.

Wade's brilliance aside, Wasps' smash and grab win was made all the easier by basic errors at key times that the visitors capitalised on in some style.

These lapses cancelled out a powerful performance from the pack and some genuine cutting edge behind the scrum.

"WE ARE OUR OWN WORST ENEMIES AT THE MOMENT. WE SHOT OURSELVES IN THE FOOT AND SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE THE MISTAKES THAT WE DID, AND IT COST US." ROB COOK



TEAMS



NEWCASTLE FALCONS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

	MINISTER STREET		No.	
ROB COOK	FULLBACK	15	FULLBACK	TOM CATTERICK
JONNY MAY	RIGHT WING	14	RIGHT WING	NOAH CATO
HENRY TRINDER	CENTRE	13	CENTRE	DANNY BARNES
MIKE TINDALL	CENTRE	12	CENTRE	JAMES FITZPATRICK
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	LEFTWING	11	LEFT WING	ZACH KIBIRIGE
FREDDIE BURNS	FLY HALF	10	FLY HALF	RORY CLEGG
JIMMY COWAN	SCRUM HALF	9	SCRUM HALF	WARREN FURY
NICK WOOD	PROP	1	PROP	GRANT SHIELLS
DARREN DAWIDIUK	HOOKER	2	HOOKER	GEORGE MCGUIGAN
RUPERT HARDEN	PROP	3	PROP	KIERAN BROOKES
ELLIOTT STOOKE	LOCK	4	LOCK	FRASER MCKENZIE
WILL JAMES	LOCK	5	LOCK	SCOTT MACLEOD
TOM SAVAGE (C)	FLANKER	6	FLANKER	RICHARD MAYHEW
ANDY HAZELL	FLANKER	7	FLANKER	WILL WELCH (C)
MATT COX	NO.8	8	NO.8	CHRIS YORK
DAN GEORGE	REPLACEMENT	16	REPLACEMENT	SCOTT LAWSON
YANN THOMAS	REPLACEMENT	17	REPLACEMENT	GARY STRAIN
SHAUN KNIGHT	REPLACEMENT	18	REPLACEMENT	SCOTT WILSON
TOM HICKS	REPLACEMENT	19	REPLACEMENT	GLEN YOUNG
LEWIS LUDLOW	REPLACEMENT	20	REPLACEMENT	HARRISON COLLINS
DAN ROBSON	REPLACEMENT	21	REPLACEMENT	CHRIS PILGRIM
RYAN MILLS	REPLACEMENT	22	REPLACEMENT	JOEL HODGSON
STEPH REYNOLDS	REPLACEMENT	23	REPLACEMENT	TOM PENY

Referee: Gwyn Morris Assistant Referees: Roger Baileff & Andrew Pearce