

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

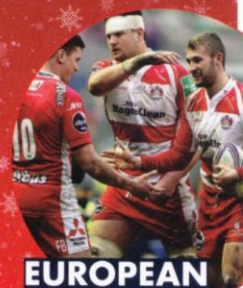


£3 | 22.12.13  
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY  
vs. WORCESTER WARRIORS

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Have a very  
**Merry Christmas**  
from everyone at  
**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY**



**EUROPEAN  
ACTION REPLAYS**  
ON PAGE 68

**EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW WITH  
MIKE TINDALL**  
ON PAGE 40

**PLAYER,  
COACH,  
LEGEND**  
**ADEY  
MagnaClean**

THE PRIDE ~ THE PASSION ~ THE HONOUR ~ THE HISTORY





# CAPTAIN'S CORNER

**TOM SAVAGE**

**G**ood afternoon, welcome to Kingsholm and I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the players, staff and supporters of Worcester Warriors who have made the short journey south.

Behind the scenes, I assure you that there has been a lot of soul searching following the defeat to Edinburgh last weekend because, after the hard work we had put in the previous week at Murrayfield, we were bitterly disappointed that

reach the standards that we know we're capable of achieving, and the visitors stifled us.

We can't keep looking back on what might have been. It's tough for me from the stands right now, not able to make much of an impact but I know the positive signs are there.

Unfortunately, I've been sidelined since the Leicester game when I injured a pectoral muscle and have since had to undergo surgery. I'm not sure exactly how long I'll be

**"...TODAY WILL BE A MASSIVE TEST, A FIERCE LOCAL DERBY WITH A LOT AT STAKE."**

**Derby Day** We are well aware what local derbies mean to the Club and the supporters and will be focused on getting a victory today

we couldn't build on that.

The Heineken Cup, whatever the future holds for it, is a top competition and there are no games that you can consider easy. You've got to earn the right to play and, sadly for us, we didn't

ruled out, but not being able to play my part hurts more the injury itself.

Looking ahead, the club continues to have a really bright future. Off the field things are going well and, on the playing side, the acquisitions of John and Richard to add to our front row options are a real statement of intent.

They're both class players and and I cannot wait to work with them, and learn from the vast experience they both have.

Worcester are a solid Aviva Premiership club and, like us, have found things tough at the start of this new campaign.

That said, today will be a massive test, a fierce local derby with a lot at stake. We need to ensure that we get our focus spot on and deliver for our supporters.

We definitely owe that to them and to ourselves.

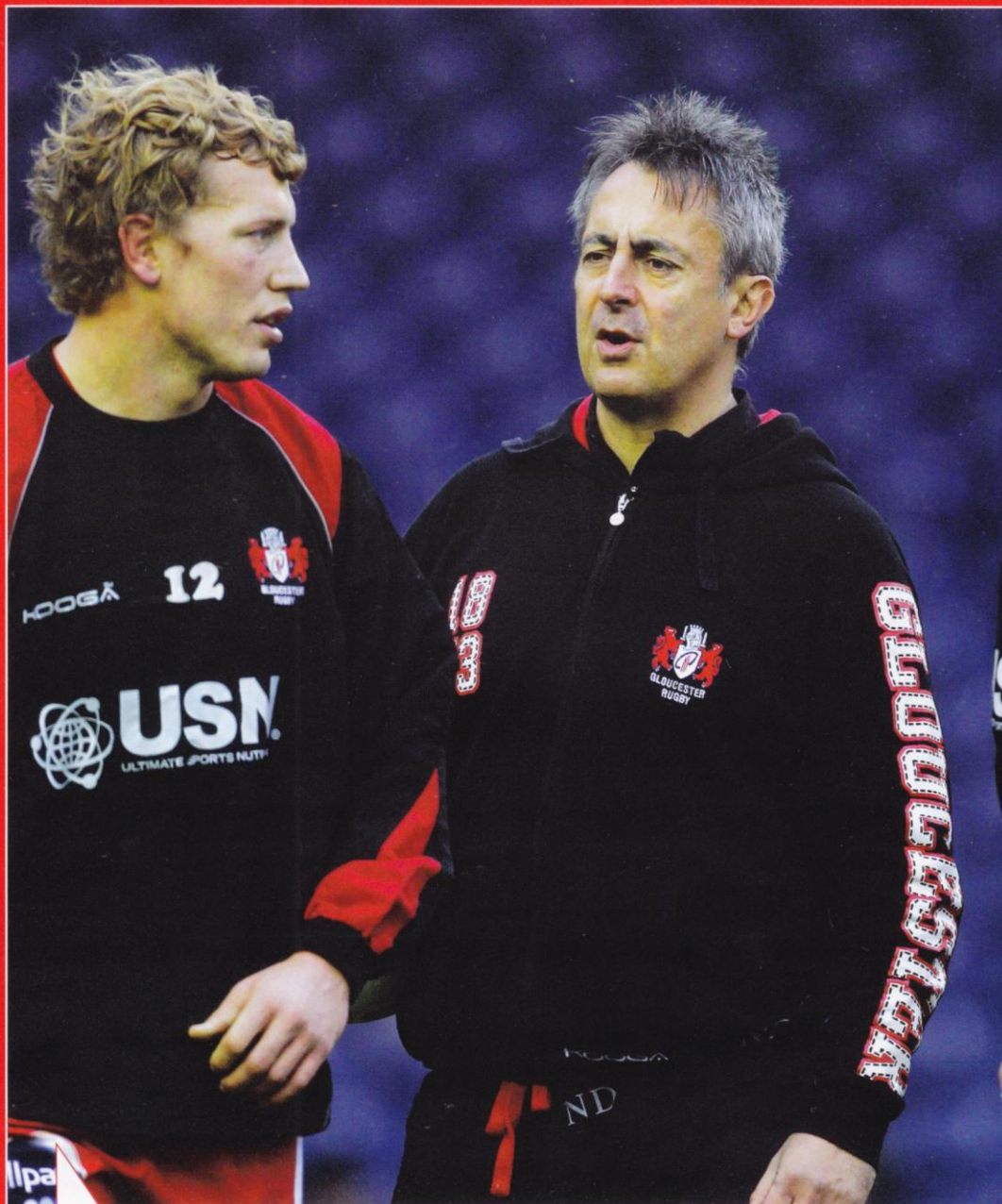
Enjoy the game,

*Sav*





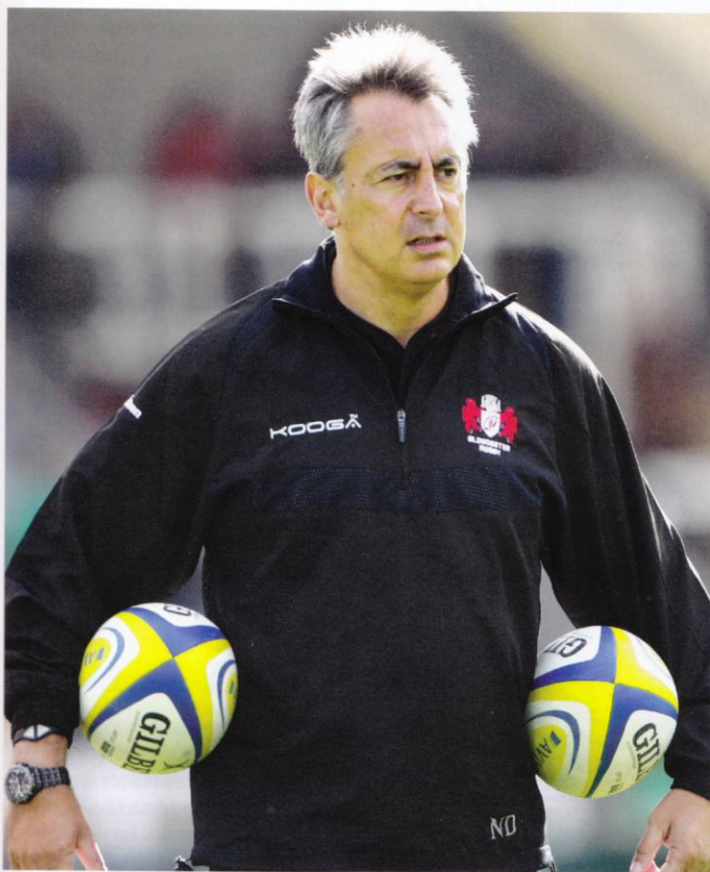
**NIGEL DAVIES DIRECTOR OF RUGBY**



"TEAMS COME HERE AND TALKING ABOUT SHUTTING THE HOME CROWD UP. HOPEFULLY, TOGETHER, TODAY WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN!"

# COACH'S NOTES

**A** warm welcome to Kingsholm to you all today, as we resume our Aviva Premiership campaign following the Heineken Cup double header against Edinburgh Rugby.



It's fair to say that everyone at the club has very mixed feelings about the two games against Edinburgh.

On the one hand, we did a very professional job up at Murrayfield to put ourselves in a great position coming in to last weekend's game. However, that good work was undone by our below par

performance against the same opposition last Sunday.

There's no sugar coating it. We were desperately disappointed to lose against Edinburgh having very much done the hard work in the away leg.

Despite the win at Murrayfield, there was absolutely no complacency in the squad. We knew full well that Edinburgh would come down here looking to restore their pride.

We were prepared for that, but we simply didn't perform ourselves. We had a more than decent platform up front, but didn't make

the most of it. We had chances to score, but didn't take them.

And, to be fair to them, they played the conditions better than we did. They kept it simple and it worked on the day.

That's something we'll have to be aware of today with weather conditions predicted to be similar to last weekend.

And we'll be facing an equally committed opponent this weekend. Worcester, by their own admission, have had a difficult start to the season and, of course, they never need any excuse to get up for a game against Gloucester.

But, it's a game that means just as much to ourselves. There's been no moping around this week. As a group, we've had a frank analysis of where we're coming up short and worked hard to address those areas.

It's hugely important for us to try and finish 2013 on a high to send us into the New Year on a high note, and we're determined to do so.

We've not had the easiest few weeks, but it's a time for us all to stay strong and united. That's how we will move things forward.

I also appreciate how frustrating it can be at times as a supporter. However, I would urge you all to continue to be as passionate and as positive as you can be in your support of the team.

Every team talks about the 16th man effect that their home crowd have. But it is genuinely true here at Kingsholm. Teams come here and talking about shutting the home crowd up. Hopefully, together, today we can make sure that doesn't happen!

Merry Christmas,

*Nigel*



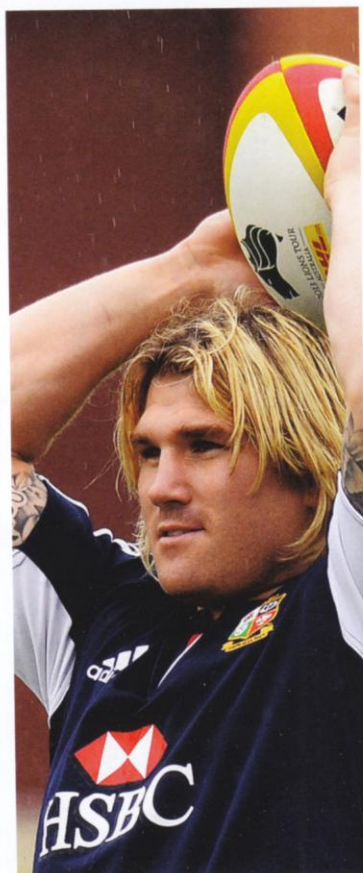


# VIEW FROM The Citizen

with **MIKE BROWN**

Mike talks to Wales, Lions and the latest Gloucester big name signing, Richard Hibbard, about his decision to become a Gloucester player.

## BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS



**T**he capture of Welsh wrecking ball Richard Hibbard is yet another major statement of intent by the Cherry and Whites.

He is the third front-row reinforcement, following the signings of Sila Puafisi and John Afoa, as Nigel Davies bids to add steel to next season's pack.

While Puafisi has already joined the squad, the arrival of British and Irish Lion Hibbard and former All Black Afoa can turn the pack into a unit that will be the envy of England.

Having covered Wales and the four regions for the last three seasons, I have seen at first hand the unrelenting physicality Hibbard brings every time he steps onto the pitch.

The explosive hooker is renowned for his scrummaging prowess and total disregard for his own safety in the collision.

England fans will remember the moment he rocked the Millennium Stadium to its foundations with a bone-crunching tackle on Joe Marler during last season's Six Nations, and infamously knocked

out George Smith in a sickening collision during the Lions third Test.

He has continued his fine form in the new campaign and was at the thick of the action in Wales' recent autumn campaign for which he was named Man of the Series.

And there is no doubt Hibbard will continue to put his body on the line when he pulls on the Cherry and White.

He said: "Hopefully I can bring the same to what I have at the Ospreys – give them more power, lead from the front, bring a presence around the pitch and physicality.

"I base my game on physicality and love those tackles and big hits – that's what happens when you grow up with three older brothers

"I try to throw myself into everything. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't but it's a part of the game I really enjoy."

Hibbard is clearly unafraid of a confrontation but he is already primed to risk the wrath of his future teammates to protect his trademark blond locks.

As part of initiations new players can choose whether to have their heads shaved or drink eight pints

on milk within 20 minutes without being sick. It sounds an impossible challenge but Hibbard is confident he has the stomach for it.

He said: "There's already been a mental amount of people asking

play for a club which still adheres to the traditional values of the game.

A club built upon solid foundations and with a feverish following which has dwindled at famous grounds in Wales.

"Nigel really sold his vision to me. He wants a big, strong pack and has real ambition to challenge for silverware. I'm really confident we will be able to compete next year and the signing of John



**"I'VE HEARD PROPS AND HOOKERS ARE THE HEROES AT KINGSHOLM WHICH IS GREAT TO HEAR..."**

about that on Twitter and I can tell you now there's no chance of me cutting my hair, so it will have to be the milk!

"It will be no problem as long as I can have some cookies at the same time."

Hibbard sought the advice of another Welsh hooker to have plied his trade at Kingsholm, Mefin Davies, before making the difficult decision to bring a decade with the Ospreys to an end.

One of the biggest attractions to cross the border and escape the incessant in-fighting in Wales was to

Even more so was the opportunity to lead from the front as the Cherry and Whites bid to build a fearsome pack of old.

Hibbard said: "I'm extremely excited to be joining Gloucester. It's such a good club and I've been lucky to play against them many times.

"I just love their style – they're a forward orientated, old school team in a real rugby area. It's not far from home and the fact that it's such a traditional club, with all those values and with such great, passionate supporters really attracts me.

(Afoa) just shows how ambitious the club are.

"When I played them they had a big, hard pack of forwards led by the likes of Oliver Azam so it was a real tough battle.

"The atmosphere really stands out in my memory. Kingsholm is a real fortress. I got plenty of stick from the crowd but it will be nice to have them on my side next year.

"I've heard props and hookers are the heroes at Kingsholm which is great to hear and hopefully the fans will take to me."



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

[www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk](http://www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk)

# NORMAN & KEN DANIELL - FATHER AND SON -

**N**orman Daniell was a winger with real pace who played for Gloucester from 1919 to 1924, scoring 53 tries in 116 appearances for the club.

He was an athlete who usually started the season with a bang, as he was already in training and used to the hard ground.

Norman Walter Daniell was born in Gloucester in 1895, one of three generations of rugby footballers. His father, Henry Daniell, was a well known athlete who appeared at events across the country and also

played rugby for Gloucester Hornets. His son Ken played for Gloucester and Gloucestershire.

8th October in one of his early games for the club (a 14-6 win at Bristol) The Times said, "Daniell deserved



Norman Daniell scores against Quins

Norman served in the First World War and played for his regiment. He made his Gloucester debut in 1919 for the United, and played occasionally for the 1st XV that season.

His first full season was perhaps his best. In 1920-21 he scored 18 tries, a total that was only bettered by his close friend Sid Brown with 20. On

every credit for taking a very difficult pass and finally for slipping through the full back's tackle (to score)."

That season at Kingsholm, Gloucester beat all four top Welsh clubs – Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Llanelli. Norman played in all four games, scoring tries against Cardiff and Swansea. The greatest win was against Newport, who on



Norman Daniell

January 29, 1921 were still unbeaten that season.

Bill Bailey of the Citizen raised funds by public subscription to present each member of the winning team with a silver cigarette case, commemorating the win. It remains on proud display in the Daniell household to this day.

The following season, 1921-22, Daniell was again among the leading try scorers with 16, scoring a hat trick against Devonport Services and the only try in a 5-3 win over Cardiff.

In 1922-23 he again scored against Cardiff in a narrow 11-8 defeat and featured strongly in a fine 11-3 victory over Oxford University, although he was less prolific over the season.

Gloucester's match against Harlequins at Kingsholm on 29 September 1923 was a tremendous game, played at a great pace and watched by a large crowd. Gloucester won the game 14-10, Norman Daniell opening the scoring with a fine try. He again played his part in a victory over Newport that season.

In April 1924 Norman Daniell injured his arm playing against Pontypool. He did not play for the first team again. A growing family, and the death of his friend Stan Bayliss while playing at Kingsholm the following January, both contributed to his giving up the game in 1925.

**Ken Daniell, Norman's son, was a centre who played for Gloucester between 1945 and 1950. He scored over 50 tries for club and county, and 44 in 89 games for Gloucester. Ken was a sprinter who could run a 10 second 100 yards and his explosive pace contributed to his prolific scoring.**

Kenneth N Daniell was born in Gloucester in 1925. He was educated at the Central School and played for Gloucester boys at the age of 14, before becoming an apprentice and playing for the Atlas Works rugby team. He joined Gloucester in 1945.

He was chosen first on the wing because of his pace but quickly



Ken Daniell

moved to the centre as he says to "see more of the ball" behind Gloucester's powerful pack and their forward-based game.

He made his mark in his first season when, playing against Cardiff and the entire Welsh back division, he scored an interception try from 60 yards - the try he rates the best of his career.

Three generations of the family had been runners and Ken himself was a member of Gloucester AC. He ran a creditable second to the British Champion McDonald Bailey (later World 100m record holder and Olympic bronze medallist) in an invitation race at the annual Dowty Sports meeting held at the College Ground, Cheltenham on Saturday August 24th, 1946. The prize for the winner was 7 guineas (£7.35) and for Ken, the runner-up, 5 guineas (£5.25).

He made his county debut at centre in an 8-8 draw with Devon at Exeter in October 1946 (the only match in which the legendary Welsh international scrum half Haydn Tanner played for the county).

Ken played for Gloucestershire throughout the season, including the drawn final against Lancashire at Blundellsands and the lost replay at Kingsholm. He was also leading try scorer for Gloucester and at one point had scored 9 tries in 10 games.

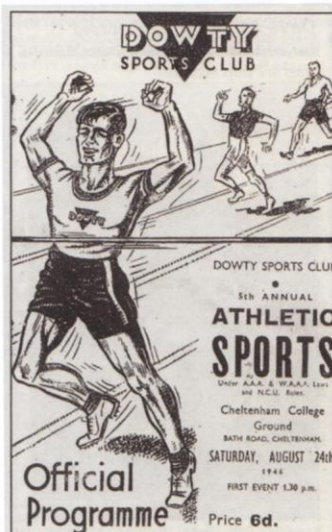
Ken Daniell was selected at centre for Western Counties against the Australians at Kingsholm on 20 September 1947 but was ill and unable to play.

He played throughout a second season for Gloucestershire, culminating in a semi-final defeat against Eastern Counties at Bristol. He was leading try scorer for Gloucester in a team which equalled the record number of 29 wins that year. Between 18 October 1947

and 10 January 1948 he scored in each of the 10 successive games in which he played - a total of 16 tries in 10 games and a scoring sequence unparalleled in the history of the club.

In 1948-49 Ken first suffered the knee injury which eventually put an end to his career. However, the Citizen reports that he was still able to find "that extra bit of speed again and draw the full back before sending in a nicely timed pass to Dangerfield to score in the corner" in a 15-9 win against Neath in January 1949.

He played in the drawn County



Championship Semi Final against Middlesex at Twickenham in February, but suffered a recurrence of the knee injury and was unable to play in the replay at Kingsholm. He missed the rest of the season.

In 1949-50 Ken Daniell became Gloucester vice captain. He continued to suffer knee problems, however, and only played a few games that season before being forced to leave the field during an 11-3 defeat by Neath at Kingsholm in January 1950. He realised immediately that at the age of 24 his career was at an end.

Ken's enthusiastic support of Gloucester burns as brightly as ever, and we hope he will have taken his place in the crowd today.





ExtraMEDIA



Sportsvibe caught up with Mike Tindall at the Mike Tindall MBE Inaugural Celebrity Golf Classic.

ExtraMEDIA

**Mike Tindall** @miketindall13

Had the privilege to get a photo of a few legends last night! Many thanks







# PRAISE THE LORD

THE LORD, AS HE'S AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN, IS STILL THE FIRST ON AND LAST OFF THE TRAINING FIELD. FOR **MIKE TINDALL**, THE COMPETITIVE NATURE IS STILL AS EVIDENT AS IT EVER WAS AND, FOR THE CHERRY AND WHITES, HIS ENERGY IS BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO THE SEASON.

**G**loucester's season so far has been stuttering but for Tindall, the upward slope is on its way.

"Yeah, we've not so much been in a funk, but things haven't been going our way. There was an opportunity to come out of the Leicester game with a win; we came close at Quins, when little went to plan. Three men in the bin puts you in a very difficult position.

"Since the Northampton game in the LV= Cup, there's been an upturn in the way that we have been playing, but there is still that error there that we're trying to work on. But the standard of performance we're putting together is generally better and we're getting there.

"With the Heineken Cup, going up to Edinburgh and getting that

win, Munster will testify that it's a difficult place to go. The way we performed was so much better, we ended up coming away a little bit disappointed that we haven't got a five pointer rather than the four pointer, so that's a good place to be.

"We haven't rested on our laurels and this week again is a vital week, back at home to start getting at winning ways at Kingsholm. Not just for us, but for our supporters."

Now at the age of 35, Tindall is still going very strong in a Cherry and White shirt and, in the second week of November, played three games in seven days and it stands out as a particularly hectic week at the office for the centre.

"Yeah, it was busy! We were very unfortunate to lose Ryan and James in the Newcastle match,



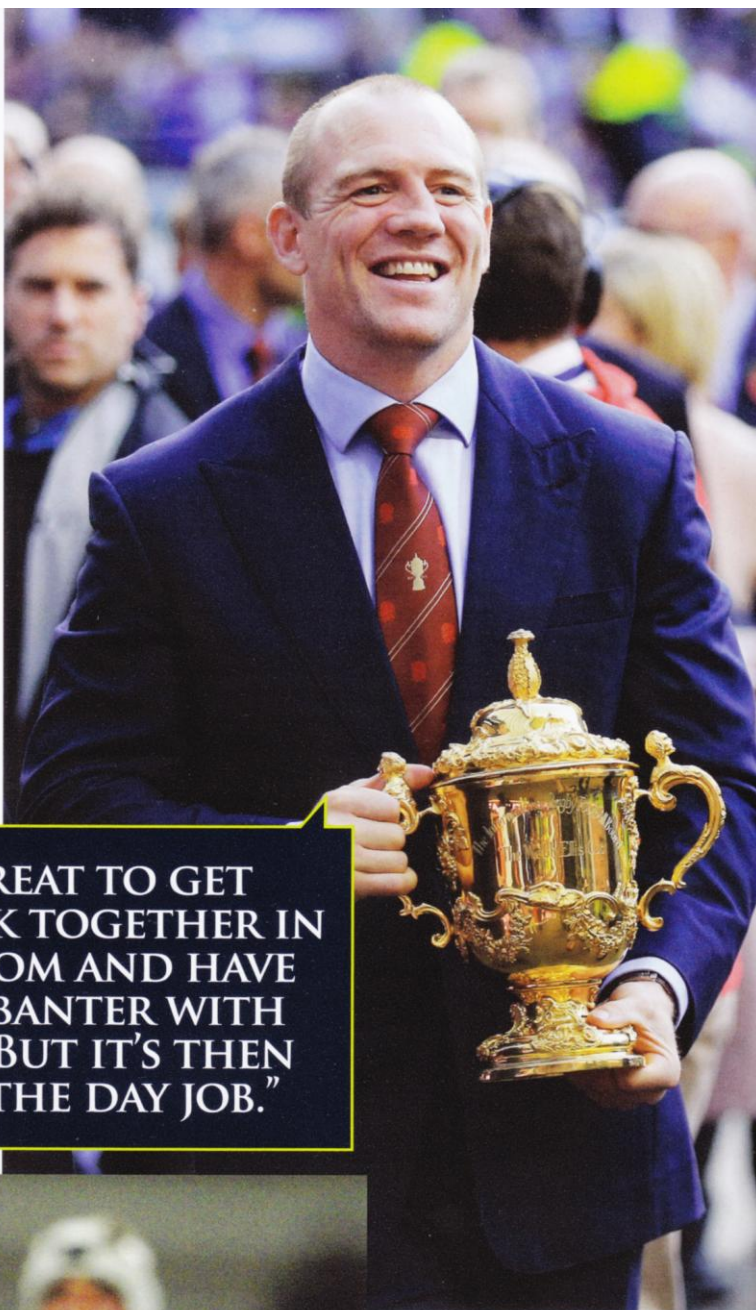
→ which was gutting for us all. You put all your plans in place for the next weeks, and we had to adapt. Things can go awry when things like that happen.

"It is difficult, but it's enjoyable and part of the challenge. I'm really enjoying running around, playing and being out there on the pitch."

In a career that began in 1997 with Bath and that has seen Tindall play with some of the greats of World Rugby, how do the current crop of Cherry and White back division partners compare?

"I think the game is slightly difficult when you compare to the players I've played with throughout my career. It differs from what Billy can do, Henry can

**"...IT WAS GREAT TO GET EVERYONE BACK TOGETHER IN THE SAME ROOM AND HAVE THAT GOOD BANTER WITH THOSE BOYS. BUT IT'S THEN BACK ONTO THE DAY JOB."**



do and what Freddie can do and even the boys on the wings.

"They're up there with the best I've played with but, the key thing is keeping them grounded, and making sure everyone understands that the way they play for their club results in what they get off the back of that.

"Take Henry for example, and the way he played for the first four weeks of the season. Unfortunately, he had the injury and niggle, and he was an England standard centre and



Classic

ExtraMEDIA

**Mike Tindall** @miketindall13

Just trying on my Cheltenham outfit, this could go down a storm thanks <http://www.foulfashion.co.uk>



with that. Tindall accepts that although it was nice to look back and mark the occasion, he remains focused on business at Kingsholm.

"One thing I've been really good at is moving on, and the World Cup in 2003 was obviously great. It was 10 years ago but I'm not going to reflect too much on it now. It was great to get everyone back together in the same room and have that good banter with those boys. But it's then back onto the day job."

Much focus will go on a new arrival into the Tindall family, with wife Zara expecting a new born in the New Year, will the babysitting duties be shared around with a fellow new addition in the Simpson-Daniel household?

"We'll see how it goes, see how Oliver gets on. He's back home with James now and we'll see what we get towards the end of January."

"It'll work quite nicely when we find out and we can have two people that don't get much sleep so we can have two on, two off which will be nice."

It's also coming up to a year since Monbeg Dude was victorious in the Welsh National at Chepstow on New Year's Day, Tindall is confident things are looking good

**"...THIS WEEK AGAIN IS A VITAL WEEK, BACK AT HOME TO START GETTING AT WINNING WAYS AT KINGSHOLM. NOT JUST FOR US, BUT FOR OUR SUPPORTERS."**

we have that throughout that backline.

"Potentially and in a dream world for them, they could all be a starting back line for England."

2013 saw the anniversary marked of England's famous 2003 Rugby World Cup win in Australia and all the festivities that came

on that front as well.

"Things are going alright. We're not going in the Welsh National this year which was an error on our part, but he won recently at Cheltenham and then we'll look to put him another race, maybe Newcastle in February and then we'll go from there!"







## KINGSHOLM NEWS with BOB FENTON

*I'm probably wrong here as my memory fades with the advancing years, but I can't recall a Worcester match when it has delivered a feast of open running rugby.*

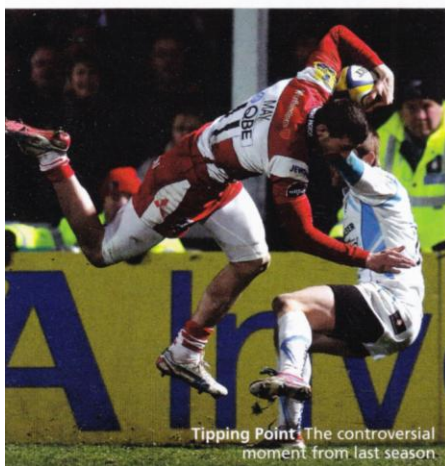
**S**unday evening... 8:20pm, hiding from X Factor and thinking back over the Edinburgh game from a few hours ago. Looking for positives. It's more than hard.

So what can we make of it? This time last week the world was looking better, and away win under the belt up at Murrayfield, and all of a sudden qualification from the group into the next stages of the competition looked like a possibility. Could have done with Perpignan winning but, at 2pm on Sunday, I was feeling pretty confident. Confident enough to predict a straightforward Gloucester win in a side bet with my Scottish friend who came to the game.

After what seemed a lifetime, but in all reality was only a few hours, later all those thoughts were in tatters, and I was obliged to



**Highlight** It does not look like a highlight... but it was!



**Tipping Point** The controversial moment from last season

listen to Braveheart-esq speeches from said Scottish friend. From my position in the posh seats, it just looked like we didn't get going – this despite a rare scrum penalty in our favour and a monster of a driving maul that resulted in the penalty try.

Having got into the lead – and Edinburgh having a player sin binned – you thought 'this is it... turn the screw, boys...' but it just didn't happen.

I wish I knew the answer, if I did I suspect I would be a rugby coach and get paid to watch the games, and not me shelling out the cash to go along. Whatever the reasons, what I saw reminded me of the kind of rugby we saw a few years ago.

The frustrating thing for a

supporter is that we know the talent that is in that side, we know that –man for man – we can stand up to most sides and not be found wanting. But recent performances don't bear that out.

That all said I am not in the '... sack the manager, get rid of the players...' camp. They are there to do a job, and I for one believe they are capable of turning things around. Yes we have lost more games than we care to remember this season, but changing horses in mid race is not a good policy.

What we do need to do is look at the underlying factors behind our current situation and work out how to address them. And do you know what, I'm willing to bet that this is exactly what our coaching team and

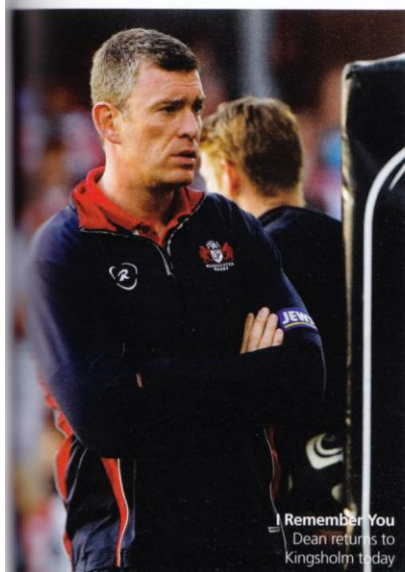




Rivalry Today's game will be as fierce as ever

players have been doing from the moment that final whistle blew last Sunday.

Enough though, we have a game to win today and we must have



I Remember You  
Dean returns to  
Kingsholm today

confidence, we must believe and back the players as we always do. Hard though it is, we must button up that frustration and pour fury down on our visitors. We know what's at stake.

And now that the distraction of the Heineken Cup is out of the way for a little while, we can concentrate on the Premiership, and yet another of those 'biggest game of the season' (© all supporters regardless of shirt colour today).

And it's one of those games when the form book goes out of the window (© all commentators when talking about derby games). Maybe that's a blessing and a curse today – both Worcester and our form can best be described as 'patchy' – ok pretty awful mainly – so maybe the blessing is that we will both turn it around and produce some great rugby from here on in.

I'm probably wrong here as my memory fades with the advancing

years, but I can't recall a Worcester match when it has delivered a feast of open running rugby. More often than not they tend to be a bit of a slug-fest, which is odd when you consider some of the players that both teams have had at their disposal over the years.

But the stats don't lie and, when you look at them, they will tell you that over the 18 games we have played in the Premiership we have won 11 compared to four, scoring 400 points to Worcester's 297. Average those out and you'll find a match score of 22 – 16 to Gloucester. I'll take that right now, thank you very much. It's Christmas, so the Worcester boys can have the bonus point.

It is going to be close though, both teams know so much about each other through the movement of players and coaches (Welcome back, Dean) between the sides over the years. Let's hope that, in the battle of the former employees, it is Matt Kvesic who is doing the happy feet dancing come no side at about 3:40 this afternoon.

You do kind of feel that the next couple of games for us are pretty pivotal in how the rest of this season is going to pan out – Worcester today, and London Irish next week will be real dogfights, you just know it. Win both of those and the whole world will look brighter; don't and – well I don't need to continue that sentence do I?

We have to be confident though, and we have to be behind the boys which, despite the frustrations expressed in a million social media and web chat channels, we all will be as soon as the match whistle blows.

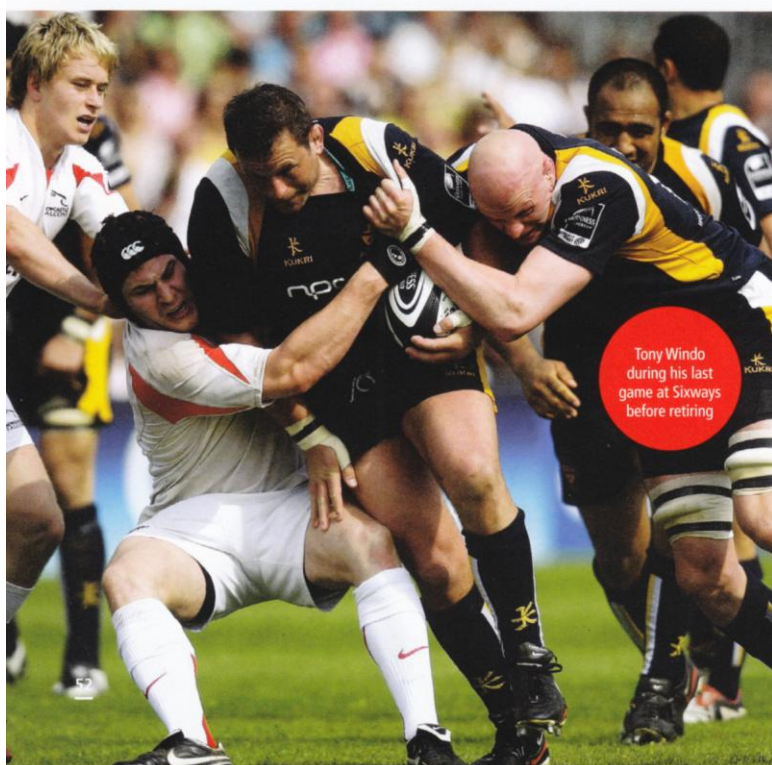
So, finally, we know Santa is a Gloucester fan because of his colours, so an early present of four points today and four more on 29th would be a great gift – if you want to be really generous, throw in a couple of bonus points too!

Have a great Christmas everyone!





WELCOME WORCESTER. AT LEAST A SHORT DRIVE DOWN THE M5 IS LOGISTICALLY MUCH EASIER THAN THEIR LONG AND TROUBLED JOURNEY TO BIARRITZ LAST WEEK FOR THEIR GAME IN THE AMLIN CHALLENGE CUP. DEAN RYAN WASN'T AMUSED, AND YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM.



Tony Windo during his last game at Sixways before retiring

**F**OR older supporters, "the" derby match was against Bristol. As Bath emerged as a force, that became the stand out fixture.

For Worcester, local rivalry in the Championship came in the form of Coventry and Moseley, but with no West Midlands club in the top flight, Gloucester is very much their derby game - for the time being at least.

BBC Radio Gloucestershire summariser Simon Devereux is one of a clutch of men who have served both clubs in the professional era. Other players include Nathan Carter, Thinus Delpont, Chris Fortey, Marcel Garvey, Craig Gillies (who was only fleetingly at Kingsholm) and Dave Sims.

All of them were at Gloucester first, which makes Matt Kvesic unusual in that he started at Sixways. Add Dean Ryan and John Brain to that list and you can see the traffic between the clubs has been pretty heavy.

Worcester's emergence coincided with Cecil Duckworth's investment into the club, and Tony Windo's move to the Warriors at the age of 30.

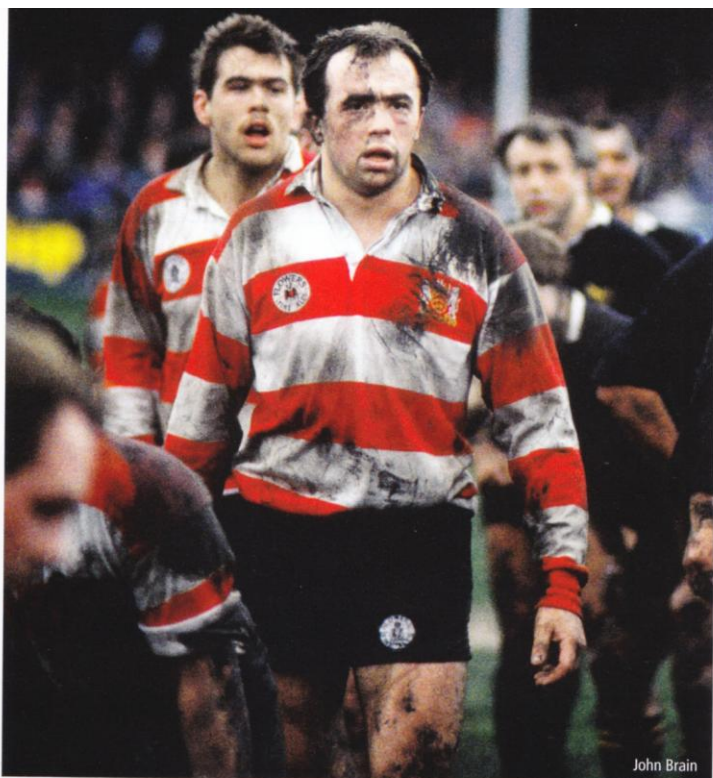
14 years on, the long serving former Gloucester loose head is Director of Rugby at Bromsgrove School, but two mornings a week you find Windo on the Gloucester training ground at Hartpury working with the current squad on scrums, scrums and more scrums.

"When I went to Worcester the idea was I would drop down to the Championship for one season and help them come up" Tony told me.

"It took five years in the end which was longer than anybody thought. At the time I was after a new challenge. I'd had a chat with Director of Rugby Philippe Saint-Andre and Trevor Woodman was coming through. Worcester gave me an opportunity and I didn't have to uproot the family."

In the end Windo spent 12 years at Worcester. He signed half a





John Brain

dozen one year contracts, which tends to focus your mind and body into putting everything into the next season because each one might be the last.

Windo stopped playing in 2008 and turned to coaching, where his long standing friendship with John Brain came to the fore.

"I started my playing career at Gloucester with John, and played under him when he was Director of Rugby at Worcester" said Windo.

"His attention to detail is something you crave for as a coach. When I stopped playing I started taking my coaching badges but a lot of my initial beliefs came from how John had coached me.

"My style has changed and you do develop your own philosophy but I respected him massively and I have tried to emulate him in my own way."

Worcester come to Kingsholm without a Premiership win but Dean

Ryan's message in recent weeks has been consistent. His team are getting to understand the style he wants, and delivering it for longer portions of matches.

The next step is to put an 80 minute performance together that will seal that vital first win, and Windo knows Worcester would like nothing more than to do it against Gloucester.

"This is a vitally important game for both teams. Worcester need a win because the longer they go without a victory the bigger the gap at the bottom will get, but Gloucester need one to ignite the season too.

"I think the boys have made some big steps in recent weeks and their attitude has been a credit to the club, putting in extra sessions to try and get the set piece back on track.

"Having Sila (Puafisi) join us will also give Shaun Knight and Rupert Harden some extra tips and ideas. You're bound to learn something from an international prop."

It's worth remembering that Worcester very nearly won at Kingsholm last season. They aspire to be more than perennial Premiership strugglers but so far have not taken that step that will lift them out of trouble.

The gap between the two teams is 11 points and Worcester have to haul a side in closer to them if they are to escape.

The clock is ticking, but it is for Gloucester too. Five home defeats before Christmas is almost unheard of.

Today's game may not be pretty, but if tension is your thing, you'll be like a pig in the muddiest sty imaginable.

The result, for one team, will make if a very happy Christmas.

I hope you enjoy yours.



Sila Puafisi in action against Edinburgh

ExtraMEDIA   

Follow Ian on Twitter: @ian\_randall1



In each and every match programme, we'll be offering Gloucester Rugby supporters the opportunity to provide the questions which will form the basis of an interview for that week's chosen player.

Simply keep an eye on the official Gloucester Rugby Twitter feed, @gloucesterrugby, in the weeks leading up to a game to see which player we'll be featuring and how you can submit your questions.

Do you want to know what they have for breakfast? Find out who has the worst dress sense, who has the best banter and who is the biggest moaner?

## #AskDan



🐦 @lexi1y

**Wolverine or Spiderman as a team mate?** Probably have to say Wolverine as he has the claws and great facial hair

🐦 @HarryTitley

**Who has been your favourite room mate and why?** Seeing as it's Harry who asked the question, it'll have to be him! Probably my only proper roommate

🐦 @byakko8

**How do you unwind on your days off from rugby training/matches?** All sorts - cinema, Xbox, going out for food and chilling with the boys

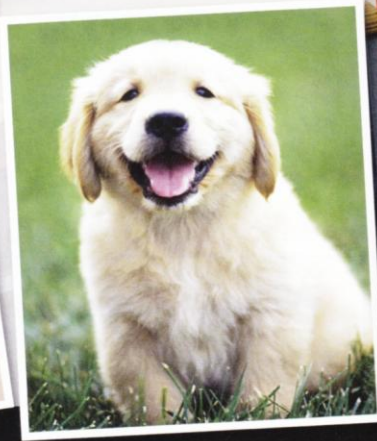
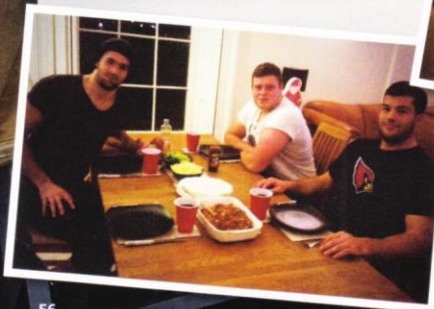


🐦 tm\_hartley

**Why is your nickname Dobby?** Basically, first pre-season camp, went on tour and had to shave my head and apparently I looked like a magical elf?

🐦 @Burrows19

**Who has the best dog in the squad?** It's got to be Bob Stewart's Golden Retriever puppy. Such a cute dog!







## NEXT TIME...



We have our new signing, **Sila Puafisi**, poised and ready for your tweets to feature in the matchday programme against Saracens in January

### Quickfire Eight

**Favourite film?** *Anchorman*

**Favourite song?**

*'Don't Stop Believing' by Journey*

**Favourite holiday destination?**

*Skiathos in Greece*

**Best mate in the squad?**

*Ryan Mills*



**Best dressed in the squad?**

*A lot of them need tips, apart from me. It's not Coxy even though he thinks he is. Huia dresses really well to be fair.*



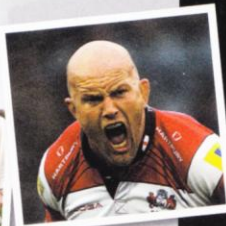
**Worst dressed in the squad?**

*Coxy, by far!*

**Funniest banter?** *Got to be*

*Will James*

**Worst banter?** *Matt Kvesic's banter is shocking. Absolutely shocking*





## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Rob Cook
14	W	Martyn Thomas
13	C	Henry Trinder
12	C	Billy Twelvetrees
11	W	Jonny May
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Jimmy Cowan
1	P	Yann Thomas
2	H	Darren Dawidiuk
3	P	Shaun Knight
4	L	Elliot Stooke
5	L	James Hudson ■
6	F	Sione Kalamafoni
7	F	Matt Kvesic
8	N8	Ben Morgan
16	R	Huia Edmonds
17	R	Dan Murphy
18	R	Rupert Harden
19	R	Tom Hicks
20	R	Matt Cox
21	R	Dan Robson
22		Mike Tindall
23		Steph Reynolds

## EDINBURGH RUGBY

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Greig Tonks
14	W	Dougie Fife
13	C	Nick de Luca
12	C	Ben Atiga
11	W	Jack Cuthbert
10	FH	Harry Leonard
9	SH	Greig Laidlaw
1	P	Alasdair Dickinson
2	H	'Aleki Lutui
3	P	WP Nel
4	L	Grant Gilchrist
5	L	Izak van der Westhuizen
6	F	Cornell Du Preez
7	F	Ross Rennie
8	N8	David Denton
16	R	James Hilterbrand
17	R	Wicus Blaauw
18		Geoff Cross
19		Oliver Atkins
20	R	Roddy Grant
21		Grayson Hart
22		Joaquin Dominguez
23		Tom Brown





## EDINBURGH RUGBY

TRIES: Tonks (6), Denton (51) CON: Laidlaw (52)

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES: Cook (10), M Thomas (17, 45) CON: Burns (18) PENS: Burns (15, 31)

12

23

**AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT WAS DELIVERED INTO THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY CAMP IN ROUND THREE OF THE HEINEKEN CUP, IN THE FORM OF AN IMPRESSIVE AWAY VICTORY AT MURRAYFIELD.**

**F**ollowing the defeat to Leicester Tigers the week previous, the trip north, via a long coach trip for the playing squad resulted in a strong performance where combinations clicked and the Cherry and Whites controlled the game throughout.

Roared on by a huge travelling support, the Cherry and Whites fell behind early on as Greig Tonks crashed over out wide but then, as the visiting pack gained superiority, Nigel Davies' men wrestled control from their hosts and dominated.

Firstly, Henry Trinder's neat kick through bounced perfectly for Rob Cook who had all the time in the world to gather and slide over.

With all the Cherry and White squad aiming to out do each other in the metres gained stakes, the next score came from Martyn Thomas who timed and angled his support run to perfection to sprint clear, after neat interplay from Billy Twelvetrees and Rob Cook in a stunning backs move.

With Ben Morgan and Matt Kvesic finding front-foot ball, the chances were aplenty for the visitors, but the home defence dug in.

Digging in was apt as, with every break in play followed by pitch repairs as the Murrayfield pitch cut up badly, continuity in the game was difficult to find and both sides struggled for any particular rhythm.

Freddie Burns, however, found his much sought after radar and, despite an early tricky miss, was landing his kicks and controlling things in a confident manner.

With a first score in the second half going to be crucial to the outcome

of the game, Gloucester had to strike first to put the game to bed after leading 18-5 at the break.

Strike is exactly what they did, and in some style via the most potent of weapons. Fielding a poor clearance kick from Harry Leonard, Jonny May grasped the ball on halfway and

David Denton burrowed over after a spell of pressure.

The Cherry and Whites coped well with the loss of James Hudson to a perhaps harsh yellow card, and began hunting down the try bonus point roared on by an estimated 2750 strong travelling support.

### Champagne Moment:

*One moment had to stand out, Jonny May does what Jonny May does best. Collecting the ball with seemingly nothing on, spotted a gap in defence and weaved his way through and gave Martyn Thomas a second score to put Gloucester in a strong position.*

set off at pace towards the chasing Edinburgh defensive line.

Bouncing off his right foot, the

The closest they got during this time was when replacement Matt Cox tried to power over the line, but

**"THE SUPPORT OUT THERE TODAY WAS UNBELIEVABLE, I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED AN AWAY FOLLOWING LIKE THAT IN MY LIFE, AND IT'S A LONG WAY FROM HOME. BUT THANK YOU TO EVERYONE IN THAT STADIUM IN CHERRY AND WHITE, YOU MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE TO US."** MATT KVESIC, GLOUCESTER FLANKER

winger slammed on the accelerator and went roaring through two tackles and, without breaking stride, slalomed past the covering tackles before veering sideways towards the corner. A neat support line was taken from Martyn Thomas who stepped his way over the line for a stunning score.

Edinburgh, to their absolute credit, regrouped but found Gloucester's defence fierce and solid. Faint hopes of a comeback were ignited when

was adjudged to have been held-up.

All in all, the game couldn't have gone much better for the team, a strong performance built off intensity in defence and at the breakdown, which resulted in the back line being able to use front foot ball and show all the tricks they possess in their travel bag.

The win was the first away triumph in Pool Six and ignited strong hopes the Cherry and Whites can have of qualification.

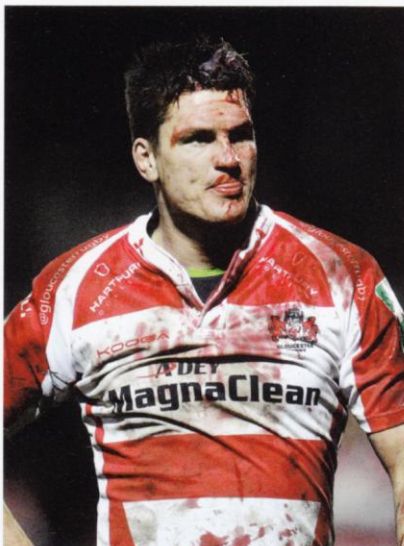


## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

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16	R	Huia Edmonds
17	R	Dan Murphy
18	R	Sila Puafisi
19	R	Tom Hicks
20	R	Matt Cox
21	R	Dan Robson
22	R	Mike Tindall
23	R	Charlie Sharples

## EDINBURGH RUGBY

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Jack Cuthbert
14	W	Dougie Fife
13	C	Joaquin Dominguez
12	C	Ben Atiga
11	W	Tom Brown
10	FH	Greig Tonks
9	SH	Grayson Hart
1	P	Wicus Blaauw
2	H	Ross Ford
3	P	WP Nel ■
4	L	Grant Gilchrist
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6	F	Tomas Leonardi
7	F	Roddy Grant
8	N8	Cornell Du Preez
16		Aleki Lutui
17	R	Alasdair Dickinson
18		Geoff Cross
19	R	Oliver Atkins
20	R	Ross Rennie
21		Sam Hidalgo-Clyne
22		Sean Kennedy
23		Lee Jones





## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

10

TRY: Penalty try (34) CON: Burns (35) PEN: Burns (45)

## EDINBURGH RUGBY

16

TRY: Atiga (50) CON: Cuthbert (51) PENS: Cuthbert (9, 17, 39)

**POOL SIX OF THIS YEAR'S HEINEKEN CUP IS SHAPING UP TO BEING ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING OF THE LOT BUT, FOR GLOUCESTER, THE TASK OF QUALIFICATION IS HANGING BY THE THINNEST OF THREADS.**

**C**oupled with Munster's dramatic, last gasp smash and grab at the Stade Aime Giral, things couldn't have gone worse in the Round Four weekend for the Cherry and Whites.

It was a dank and dismal afternoon in Gloucestershire and conditions were not favourable to the home side. In truth, Edinburgh arrived with a game plan which was delivered to a tee and stifled every card that the Cherry and Whites had to play.

As the home side trudged from the sodden field, it seemed the dreams of qualification had taken a body blow, but the result could have been so different on the afternoon.

Edinburgh, seemingly focusing on the RaboDirect, left out Greig Laidlaw, Dave Denton and Nick De Luca, all recognised Scottish internationals. But the visitors looked a completely different outfit to the one outclassed by the Cherry and Whites at Murrayfield a week previously.

In truth, Gloucester's pack excelled. They gained early ascendancy up front, but a stop-start game never possessed any tempo whatsoever, with Romain Poite picky at the breakdown and there was no flow for either side.

This fact played into the hands of the visitors who defended narrowly and when Gloucester sent the heavy runners, the Scottish wall was solid and organised.

Jack Cuthbert's boot opened the scoring when Tavis Knoyle was adjudged, perhaps harshly, to

have blocked off a chaser. Shortly afterwards, Cuthbert was on target again, fortuitously via the crossbar to double the lead.

The Cherry and Whites hit back through the old tried and tested method, the pack collected a lineout 22m out and rumbled into

the scrum, the inclusion of Tongan prop Sila Puafisi lifted the excitement levels, but most frustrating was the failure to convert the domination into position and most importantly points.

Knock ons and spills in contact were creeping in, and Edinburgh

### Champagne Moment:

*The Gloucester pack has come under a fair amount of pressure this season, but the rolling maul powered over for Gloucester's only try, and the penalty try was a fine reward for a well-executed score.*

a sprint as the Edinburgh defence disintegrated and collapsed the maul which gave Poite no choice but to award a penalty try.

Having grabbed the lead, Gloucester then conceded it shortly after. Poite penalising Twelvetrees for what looked like a solid turnover and Cuthbert obliged to power over his third.

Burns was on target with an impressive penalty early on in the second half, but then the visitors, who were yet to register a point away from home this campaign, struck the killer blow.

Centre Ben Atiga picked a smart line off stand in fly half Greig Tonks and dived over to stun Kingsholm.

With 20 minutes on the clock, the Cherry and Whites collected the weapons to deliver the onslaught. But half breaks found no support and the Scots began to squeeze the life out of the game - with the clock ticking down lineouts were taking double the normal amount of time.

Such was Gloucester's control of

were grateful to escape with clearing the lines and waiting for Gloucester to make mistakes.

The key moment occurred when with Edinburgh at sixes, sevens and even eights on their own line, Gloucester needed a calm head to spread the ball and give Jonny May an easy score with only props in front of him. But, as the forwards continued to throw themselves round the corner to squeeze over, the visitors earned the key turnover and the chance was gone.

Fittingly for the contest, the game ended on a knock on and Edinburgh holding up a ball carrier off the ground and the flat atmosphere at the final whistle was a huge kick in the teeth for the Cherry and Whites.

With Munster's win putting them well and truly in the box seat of Pool Six, only some gargantuan performances in rounds five and sixes will see a Cherry and White appearance in the knock out stages of what could be the final Heineken Cup.



Teams correct at time of print: 19th December 2013



# TODAY'S TEAMS



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

<b>ROB COOK</b>	FULLBACK	<b>15</b>
<b>CHARLIE SHARPLES</b>	RIGHT WING	<b>14</b>
<b>HENRY TRINDER</b>	CENTRE	<b>13</b>
<b>MIKE TINDALL</b>	CENTRE	<b>12</b>
<b>JONNY MAY</b>	LEFT WING	<b>11</b>
<b>BILLY TWELVETREES (C)</b>	FLY HALF	<b>10</b>
<b>JIMMY COWAN</b>	SCRUM HALF	<b>9</b>
<b>NICK WOOD</b>	PROP	<b>1</b>
<b>DARREN DAWIDIUK</b>	HOOKER	<b>2</b>
<b>SHAUN KNIGHT</b>	PROP	<b>3</b>
<b>ELLIOTT STOOKE</b>	LOCK	<b>4</b>
<b>JAMES HUDSON</b>	LOCK	<b>5</b>
<b>MATT COX</b>	FLANKER	<b>6</b>
<b>MATT KVESIC</b>	FLANKER	<b>7</b>
<b>BEN MORGAN</b>	NO.8	<b>8</b>
<b>HUIA EDMONDS</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>16</b>
<b>YANN THOMAS</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>17</b>
<b>SILA PUAFISI</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>18</b>
<b>TOM HICKS</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>19</b>
<b>AKAPUSI QERA</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>20</b>
<b>DAN ROBSON</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>21</b>
<b>FREDDIE BURNS</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>22</b>
<b>MARTYN THOMAS</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>23</b>

## WORCESTER WARRIORS

<b>CHRIS PENNELL</b>	FULLBACK	
<b>JAMES STEPHENSON</b>	RIGHT WING	
<b>ALEX GROVE</b>	CENTRE	
<b>JOSH MATAVESI</b>	CENTRE	
<b>DEAN HAMMOND</b>	LEFT WING	
<b>IGNACIO MIERES</b>	FLY HALF	
<b>PAUL HODGSON</b>	SCRUM HALF	
<b>OFA FAINGA'ANUKU</b>	PROP	
<b>CHRIS BROOKER</b>	HOOKER	
<b>ROB O'DONNELL</b>	PROP	
<b>JAMES PERCIVAL</b>	LOCK	
<b>MARIANO GALARZA</b>	LOCK	
<b>RICHARD DE CARPENTIER</b>	FLANKER	
<b>SAM BETTY</b>	FLANKER	
<b>JONATHAN THOMAS (C)</b>	NO.8	
<b>ED SHERVINGTON</b>	REPLACEMENT	
<b>GEORGE PORTER</b>	REPLACEMENT	
<b>JOHN ANDRESS</b>	REPLACEMENT	
<b>MIKE WILLIAMS</b>	REPLACEMENT	
<b>SEMISI TAULAVA</b>	REPLACEMENT	
<b>JEREMY SU'A</b>	REPLACEMENT	
<b>PAUL WARWICK</b>	REPLACEMENT	
<b>RAVAI FATIAKI</b>	REPLACEMENT	

**IN CHARGE  
TODAY:**

**Referee: JP Doyle**

**Assistant Referees: Nigel Carrick and Roy Maybank**