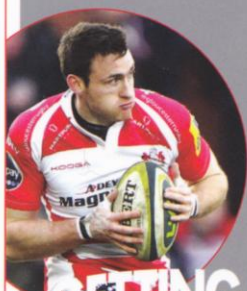


# GLOUCESTER RUGBY



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**GETTING TO  
KNOW YOU**  
with  
SHANE MONAHAN  
ON PAGE 56

**LV= CUP**  
**ACTION  
REPLAYS**  
ON PAGE 68

**EXCLUSIVE**  
INTERVIEW WITH  
CHARLIE SHARPLES  
ON PAGE 40

## SUPER SHARP SHOOTER



**ADEY  
MagnaClean**

THE PRIDE ~ THE PASSION ~ THE HONOUR ~ THE HISTORY





# CAPTAIN'S CORNER

**TOM SAVAGE**

**G**ood afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for today's game against Harlequins.

It's been a mixed few weeks for us. Since I last penned these notes the boys have really upped things in terms of intensity and level of performance. It was exactly what was needed.

From a personal side of things, my recovery is going really well, the hard work put in behind the scenes from the physiotherapy staff is great

with a win.

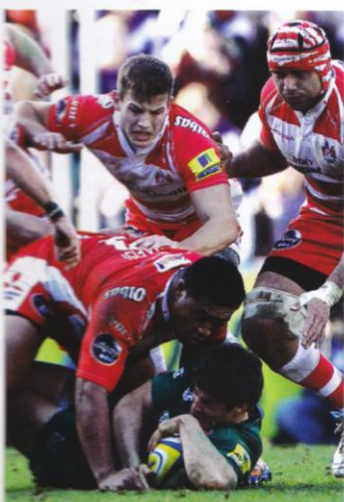
In the following week, Nigel and the coaches challenged the players and really focused on the basics of the game ahead of the trip to Welford Road.

No-one really gave us a chance outside of our own camp but, on the day, we did ourselves proud. Watching on it was frustrating to see us miss out on a few scoring chances, but we looked a serious threat with ball in hand.

In particular, the back row on

**"AS NIGEL AND THE PANEL SAID AT THE FANS' FORUM LAST WEEK, WE ARE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND FROM MY POINT OF VIEW IT'S EXCITING TO SEE AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE OPEN AND HONEST TO OUR SUPPORTERS."**

**Performance** The intensity against the Tigers was excellent



and I owe them a lot. Hopefully I will be able to bring you an update as to when I can pull the jersey back on in the next few weeks.

The win against Wasps was a good afternoon all round. It was great to see the boys express themselves against a good side and really impose our own game plan to record a good win.

We would then have definitely wanted to build on our growing confidence up at Sale, but the result was not what we were after. It was a frustrating evening for sure, our lack of discipline was highlighted and it let us down.

Against a team like Sale, your indiscipline can cost you the game and Sale are more than happy to let you make mistakes. That said, when we upped our game in the second half we could, and perhaps should, have left the North West

Sunday really stepped up. Ben and Matt haven't had that much rugby in recent weeks as they are back-and-forth from England camp but, against Leicester, they stood out and dominated quality opposition.

As Nigel and the panel said at the fans' forum last week, we are heading in the right direction and from my point of view it's exciting to see and it's important to be open and honest to our supporters.

We're looking forward to today's game against Harlequins, they're a talented squad and bring an exciting tempo - but so do we.

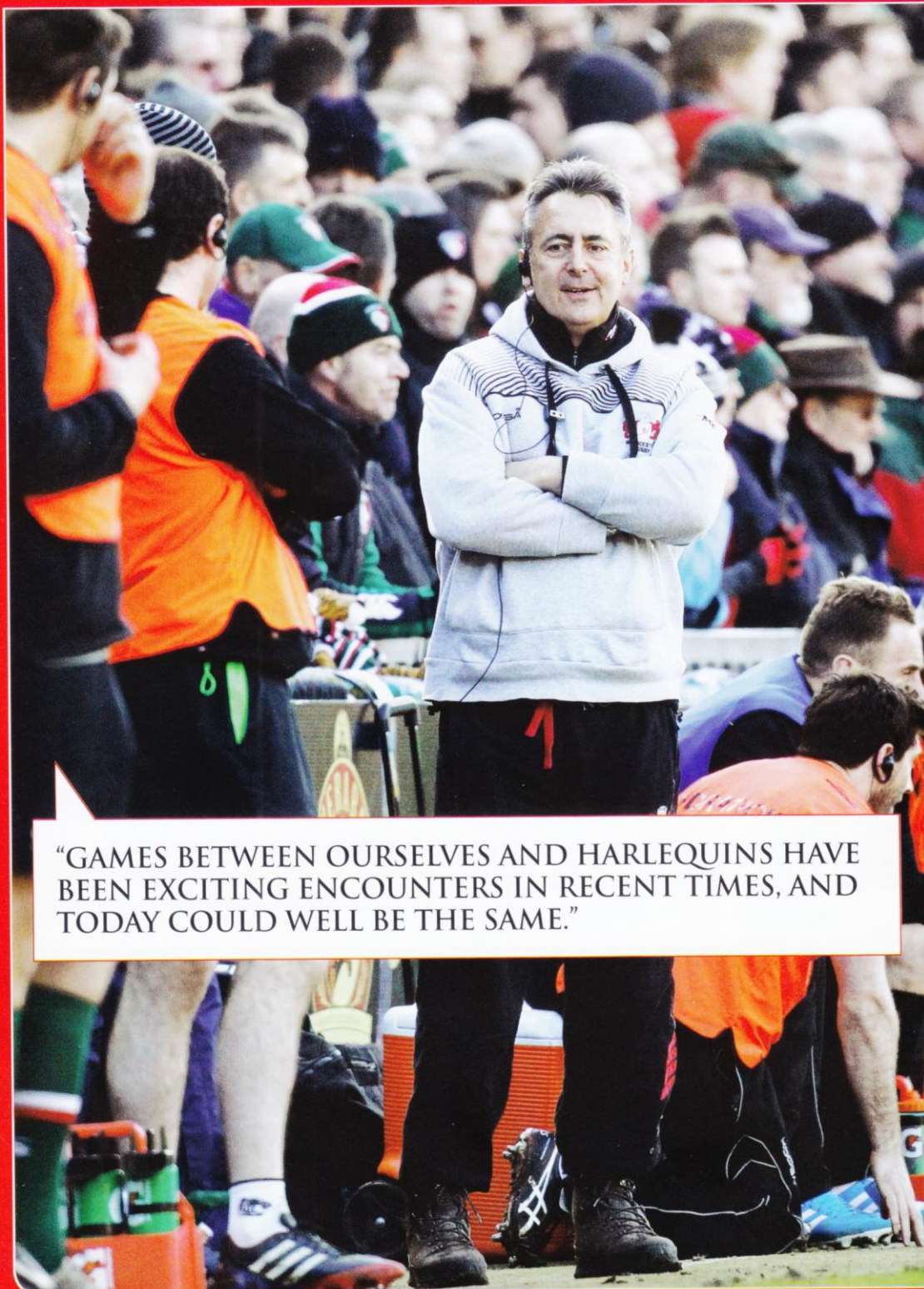
Take league position out of the equation and I would say we're two well-matched sides and it should be an exciting match.

Enjoy the game,

**Sav**



**NIGEL DAVIES DIRECTOR OF RUGBY**



“GAMES BETWEEN OURSELVES AND HARLEQUINS HAVE BEEN EXCITING ENCOUNTERS IN RECENT TIMES, AND TODAY COULD WELL BE THE SAME.”



# COACH'S NOTES

**I'd like to wish everyone a very warm welcome to Kingsholm this afternoon as we take on Harlequins in the latest round of Aviva Premiership action.**

We've had a couple of tough away trips to Sale Sharks and Leicester Tigers over the past two

good surface to play on.

Media pundits may have said before the game that it was a dead rubber, with neither team able to qualify, but there's no such thing in reality.

There is always something riding on a game and, for us, it

but let a game slip away that we could, and maybe should, have won.

We were very much in the game as half time approached, but the yellow cards, one either side of the interval, cost us dearly. Discipline is such a key aspect of the modern game, and it proved to be the difference on the night.

On the other hand, I thought we were very unlucky not to come away with more from Welford Road last weekend. Leicester Tigers away is one of the toughest games on the fixture calendar and I was proud of the effort that the boys put in.

There was a lot of focus on the series of scrummages a few minutes before full time that led to Toby Flood's decisive penalty. However, we really should have had more points on the board by then. We created some great scoring opportunities against a miserly defence, but didn't take enough of them.

What was pleasing was the passion and intensity that we had to our game. Our work in the physical exchanges was excellent and good to see.

It's given us plenty to build upon as we've prepared for today's game. Games between ourselves and Harlequins have been exciting encounters in recent times, and today could well be the same.

They can play with real tempo if they hit their stride and, when they're on song, can be difficult to live with. But the important thing is for us to work hard, and play the game the way we want to and in the right areas of the pitch.

We were very close against the Tigers last weekend. Hopefully, we'll be that crucial bit better today.

Enjoy your afternoon here at Kingsholm,

*Nigel*



weekends, so it's definitely good to be back in front of our own supporters once again.

Our last game here, against London Wasps in the LV= Cup, was one of our more enjoyable afternoons at Kingsholm this season. I have to pay tribute to the ground staff, because the weather had been terrible in the run up to the game, but they delivered a very

was important to deliver a decent performance ahead of our return to Premiership action.

We also welcomed back the likes of Ryan Mills and Henry Trinder after injury, and were also able to give some valuable game time to some of our most promising youngsters like Lloyd Evans and Sam Underhill.

So, we travelled north in very good spirits to take on Sale Sharks



# VIEW FROM The Citizen

with **MIKE BROWN**

Mike talks to Gloucester skipper Tom Savage. Discussing 'injury beards', his impending return to the playing squad and the competition he faces in the back row.

## THE POINT OF RETURN

**T**om Savage is counting down the days until his next shave.

The Gloucester captain has grown an 'injury beard' since tearing his pectoral muscle against Leicester Tigers in November.

But he is a whisker away from making his comeback, and is aiming to be razor-sharp upon his return which could be as soon as next month's clash with Northampton Saints.

Savage, 24, said: "We're looking to get back into rugby in the next two to three weeks. The rehab is going well and I'm a little bit ahead, if not on par with where I should be which is great."

"Someone said I should grow a beard while I was injured, but I'm starting to wonder whether it was a good or bad idea. Fingers crossed I will be able to have a shave soon."

"It's just a case of making sure I'm 100 per cent fit because the last thing you want is to come back a week early and be back to square one."

"It's really stepping up now, I'm really loading it, going from single





arm weights to double arm and doing fitness every day, out on the pitch and running.

"The positive of an upper body injury is you can get back running quite quickly so I've done a lot of

season, especially as club captain.

Savage faces increased competition for a starting spot following the impressive emergence and development of both Elliott Stooke and Gareth Evans but he is

have been some high-profile ones recently with Manu Tuilagi and Jonathan Davies.

"But there's light at the end of the tunnel now and I'm desperate to be back on the pitch and



**"YOU'RE ALWAYS UNDER PRESSURE IN SELECTION. WHETHER YOU'RE PLAYING OR NOT, WE HAVE A COMPETITIVE SQUAD AND IN BOTH THE BACK-ROW AND SECOND-ROW YOUNG GUYS ARE REALLY STEPPING UP."**

that, skill work and been flogged on the Wattbike, which is one of the worst machines about.

"There's a big chunk of rugby to come at the end of the season and I'm looking to hit the ground running."

Gloucester have won just two Premiership clashes since Savage suffered the increasingly common injury at the bottom of a ruck.

He admits it has been hugely frustrating to be stuck on the sidelines in such a tumultuous

up for the challenge.

He added: "There's never a good time to be injured and with the way our season has been so up and down it's been an absolute nightmare to be away from it.

"I tackled assisted and was about to roll away from the ruck but got cleared in the back and my arm got caught and went back past the point of no return.

"In the last couple of years Tim Molenaar and Nick Wood have had similar injuries and there

involved with the boys as much as possible.

"You're always under pressure in selection. Whether you're playing or not, we have a competitive squad and in both the back-row and second-row young guys are really stepping up.

"The likes of Stooke and Gareth Evans have put in some brilliant performances. The competition for places is better now and it will only push everyone on and make us better players."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
HERITAGE

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

# MIGHTY MEN FROM CINDERFORD

**G**loucester Rugby's association with the Forest of Dean has been long and illustrious, providing a host of players including three past captains and a string of internationals and trialists.

Two of the greatest of these were the legendary Cinderford hard men Arthur "Tart" Hall and Alfred Denzel "Bumps" Carpenter whose long careers together spanned two world wars.

Both men were miners who worked at Lightmoor Colliery, both were loyal club and county men who each won four County Championship medals but, more than that, both were hard as teak and the go-to men when things got tough. They also shared an all-consuming love of the game.

## ARTHUR "TART" HALL

Arthur "Tart" Hall was born in Ruspidge in the Forest of Dean in 1886. His father Thomas was a miner who had worked in the Yorkshire coalfields. On leaving school, Arthur joined his father and brother at the coalface at Lightmoor Colliery.

Tart played his first rugby for the local village side Ruspidge before joining Cinderford RFC. Cinderford



Arthur "Tart" Hall

had a very strong fixture list at the time and his uncompromising play brought him to the attention of both the county and England selectors.

He partnered the great Adrian Stoop of Harlequins at half back for England against the South in a 1911 England trial, and played for Gloucestershire against the touring South Africans the following year.

Tart moved from Cinderford to Bristol early in the 1912-13 season and won his first County Championship Winners medal for Gloucestershire in the final against Cumberland that year. He was known to arrive at Gloucester

station after playing for Bristol or the county and walk the rest of the way home to Ruspidge.

Wishing to return to play his rugby nearer his home in the Forest, Hall offered his services to Gloucester in a letter to the committee in September 1913.

Gloucester checked with Cinderford "who had first claim on him" and he moved straight into the first team at half back playing 27 games.

After the 1914-18 war, he rejoined Gloucester and, at the age of 33, moved into the back row, where he was to play for a further 9 seasons and 200 games.

He went on to win a second England trial (for the South against England in 1920) and to win three more County Championship Winners medals against Yorkshire (1920), Leicestershire (1921) and North Midlands (1922).

At the time of his retirement, his 43 caps for Gloucestershire had been bettered only by Frank Stout.

Tart Hall played in Gloucester's 50th Jubilee match against the RFU President's XV in 1924-25. He was 38 and announced his retirement at the end of that season. He still came back to play a number of games over the





next three years; his last game was at the age of 41.

Tart could rarely be persuaded to claim expenses and, on his retirement, Bill Bailey (WB of The Citizen) wrote: "What sacrifices he made in time and money to play for Gloucester and other clubs is known only to himself. Hall has had a wonderful career, and a more popular player has never donned a Gloucester jersey."

## ALFRED DENZEL "BUMPS" CARPENTER

Denzel "Bumps" Carpenter was born in Abenhall near Mitcheldean in 1900, the son of a farm labourer. His elder brother was a coal miner and Bumps, like Tart Hall, started work at Lightmoor Colliery.

Bumps played junior rugby in Cinderford from the age of 15 before graduating to the senior side. He became Cinderford captain and in 1925-26 made his debut for Gloucestershire.



Denzel "Bumps" Carpenter

The following season he played five games for the county and featured in Gloucestershire's 3-0 victory over the touring New Zealand Maoris at Bristol.

And so, in 1927-28, already an established member of the formidable Gloucestershire front row, Bumps made the move from Cinderford to Kingsholm.

Aged 27, he now embarked on a remarkable 315 match Gloucester career that was only ended by the 1939-45 war.

Bumps Carpenter was respected throughout the game. A man with huge hands, he was noted for his fitness, stamina and strength which carried him flat out for 80 minutes. Wilf Wooller called him "a

by England at Twickenham.

The following season, he played prop for Gloucestershire & Somerset against the touring Springboks and, after being overlooked for the first trial, played at prop in the second for a Rest side that beat England 16-6.

The whole of the Rest front row were chosen for the international against South Africa and Bumps, starting at prop, moved over to hooker in the second half, as he had done in the trial. He became the first Forest player to play for England.

By all accounts, he acquitted himself well in a beaten pack but his rival at hooker, Doug Norman of Leicester, was retained against Wales and Bumps was dropped after only one game.

2d. OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 2d.				
ENGLAND		REF. JES. W. L. FREEMAN (Club Rugby Football Union)	SOUTH AFRICA	
(White)			(Green)	
No.			No.	
15	R. J. BARR ... .. Leicester	Full Back	29	G. BRAND ... .. Western Province
14	*C. C. TANNER ... .. Gloucester	Three-Quarters	24	J. H. van der WESTHUIZEN ... .. Western Province
13	*J. A. TALLENT ... .. Cambridge Univ. & Blackheath	R. Wing	26	B. G. GRAY ... .. Western Province
12	R. A. CERRARD ... .. Bath	R. Centre	22	F. WAREING ... .. Western Province
11	*C. D. AARVOLD (Captain) ... .. Blackheath	L. Centre	25	M. ZIMMERMAN ... .. Western Province
10	*R. S. SPONG ... .. Old Millhams	L. Wing	21	B. L. OSLER (Captain) ... .. Western Province
9	*W. H. SOBEY ... .. Old Millhams	Steady Half	20	P. de VILLIERS ... .. Western Province
8	A. J. ROWLEY ... .. Coventry	Scrum Half	1	L. STRACHAN ... .. Transvaal
7	L. E. SAXBY ... .. Gloucester		7	F. BERGH ... .. S.W. Districts
6	J. McD. HODGSON ... .. Northern		8	P. J. NEL ... .. Natal
5	R. G. S. HOBBS ... .. The Army & Richmond		11	H. KIPLING ... .. Griqualand West
4	C. WEBB ... .. Royal Navy & Devonport Services		12	G. DANIEL ... .. Transvaal
3	*G. G. GREGORY ... .. Bristol	Forwards	13	M. LOUW ... .. Western Province
2	D. J. NORMAN ... .. Leicester		17	P. MOSTERT ... .. Western Province
1	A. D. CARPENTER ... .. Gloucester		19	J. MACDONALD ... .. Western Province
*Star recruit				

remarkable player, a typical West Country forward and a true Gloucester club forward," and Bill Hook told the story of how as a 17 year old full back he was introduced by Bumps to the Bristol dressing room: "This is the baby we've brought down...you drop him anything below the line and I'll be looking for you....Come on, me baby, you'll be all right now!"

Bumps was a first choice for Gloucestershire for a staggering 13 seasons (1925-39) winning a record 61 caps and four County Championship Winners Medals against Lancashire (1930), Warwickshire (1931), Durham (1932) and East Midlands (1937).

He at last caught the eye of the England selectors in 1930-31 when he was selected for the final trial, playing hooker for the Rest in defeat

In 1937 Bumps was chosen for the Barbarians' Easter tour of South Wales and played against Cardiff and Swansea. It was a rare honour for a respected veteran, which he admitted to cherishing more than his England cap.

Bumps Carpenter was the players' choice as Gloucester club captain for the 1939-40 season but war intervened bringing an end to his career.

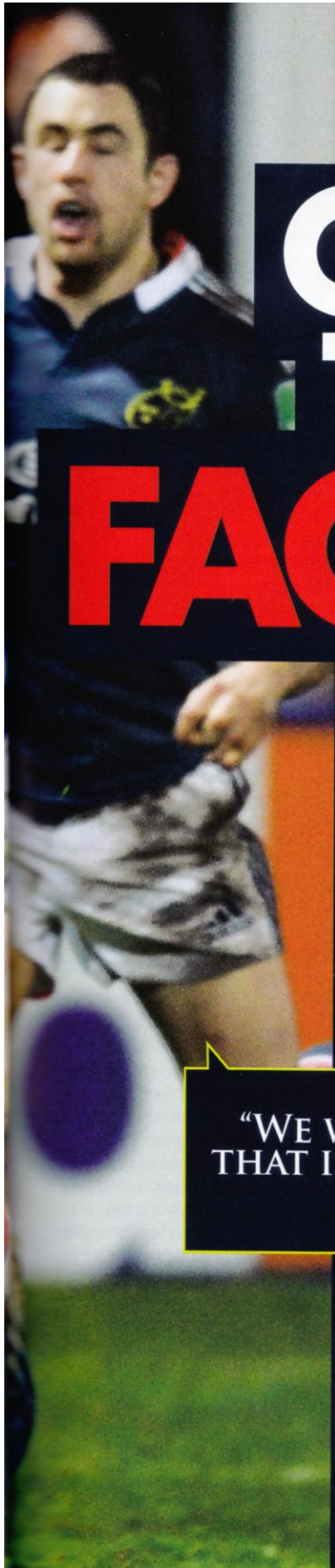
He joined the RAF in 1942 as soon as an appeal went out for over-age volunteers as drivers and flight mechanics.

He played on for another four years in wartime fixtures and had the pleasure of packing down with two of his sons, Denzel (Gloucester & Cheltenham) and George (Lydney) both of whom played for Gloucestershire.









# CHARLIE THE TRY FACTORY

AMONGST THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY BACK LINE, THERE IS PACE TO BURN AND, IN THE CASE OF **CHARLIE SHARPLES**, THE RACE IS ON FOR THE END OF SEASON RUN IN AND FINISHING ON A HIGH NOTE.

**S**harples returned to Gloucester colours with tries against Sale Sharks and Leicester Tigers which followed a spell representing England Saxons, and the

to meet up with them and go away for a couple of weeks.

"It's always a good experience to go and meet up with those guys and train in a new environment and test yourself, and I thoroughly

"WE WANT TO FINISH TOP SIX AND THAT IS STILL A GOAL FOR US AND WE CAN STILL DO THAT."

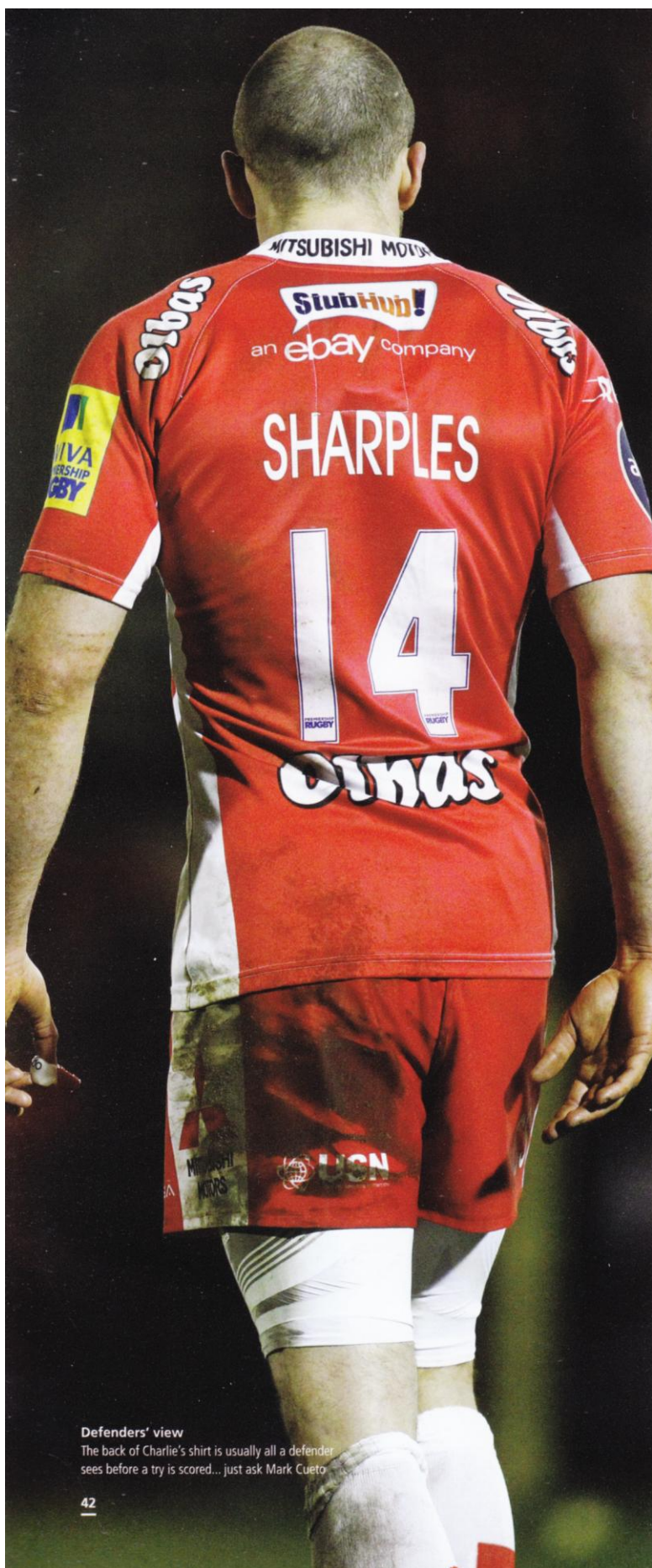
speedster has had a busy few weeks on the back of his scoring exploits.

"It was a nice surprise to have the call up, obviously coming back from the Perpignan game and having a nice win out there. It was a nice surprise to then go straight off

enjoyed those two weeks. So it's now important for me to learn from that time and push on for Gloucester"

After making his full England debut against France in 2012, Sharples experienced a great start to his international career but injury





#### Defenders' view

The back of Charlie's shirt is usually all a defender sees before a try is scored... just ask Mark Cueto

and selection has forced him to restart the push for honours.

After omission from the original England squads in the New Year, Sharples' tries against Munster and Perpignan in the Heineken Cup thrust him into the eyes of the selectors and, following a couple of injury withdrawals, resulted in a call-up for the Saxons.

"It was nice to have a few good games. I've spoken quite honestly about the season from my perspective and how it's been a little frustrating for me. It was therefore really nice to go and score a few tries and build the confidence in myself and, when I'm doing that, I can put my hand up and be in with a shout of impressing."

Add in to the mix the thrill of representing his country at Kingsholm against the Irish Wolfhounds, alongside a few Gloucester team mates, and you have the recipe for a memorable evening.

"It was brilliant, I was chuffed to bits for the younger lads and in the end there was quite a few of us. Stookie, Dan and myself all got the late call-ups joining Freddie, and so I was really pleased for those guys."

"It was just rewards for those guys and I hope they will be able to push on from there with England and move up the ladder, because they're definitely capable of doing so."

Director of Rugby Nigel Davies has gone on record to state that all the games Gloucester compete in from now until the final curtain in May are cup finals, and Sharples is loving the big game feel.

"It's been like that for us for a number of weeks to be fair. Where we are at at the moment in the table, every win counts for us. We want to finish top six and that is still a goal for us and we can still do that. But we're going to have to put in some good performances and get on a good run."

"We've got a really tough set of games against the top teams but it should be a real test for us. But it's a perfect opportunity to show what we're about".

And for today's opponents, Sharples always enjoys the chance





Last weekend  
Charlie races through to score against Tigers

**"...WE HAVE TO PROVE TO ONE ANOTHER THAT WITH THIS RUN-IN WE COULD PUT TOGETHER A GOOD RUN OF FORM AND BUILD SOME MOMENTUM FOR A BIG FINISH."**

to take on the men from the Stoop.

"I always enjoy playing Quins. They play a really good attacking style of rugby, and it's always a good game. So, hopefully, the conditions allow both teams the chance to express themselves.

"I really enjoyed playing in the game at Kingsholm last year, which we won and many of the boys still remember that as being a great game. It was nice to get the win and it's always a fixture I look forward to.

"Obviously we'll both be missing a few guys who are in action at Twickenham so there are a lot of

boys in both sides who will be wanting to put their hand up and show what they can do."

Motivation, determination and passion will all be buzz words for the Gloucester squad between today and the end of the season, as has been the case in recent weeks, and Sharples is relishing the big game feel and is thoroughly focused on a big finale to really show what the team is all about.

"It has been a disappointing and a frustrating season, but we have put ourselves in a position where we still do have plenty to play for. We still have a quarter final in the

Amlin, and we are still on for top six if we can get some good results.

"There's plenty to play for, we have to not only prove to our fans that have been very patient with us. I wouldn't want to be a fan watching us every week, as you don't know what you're going to get, we owe them some performances.

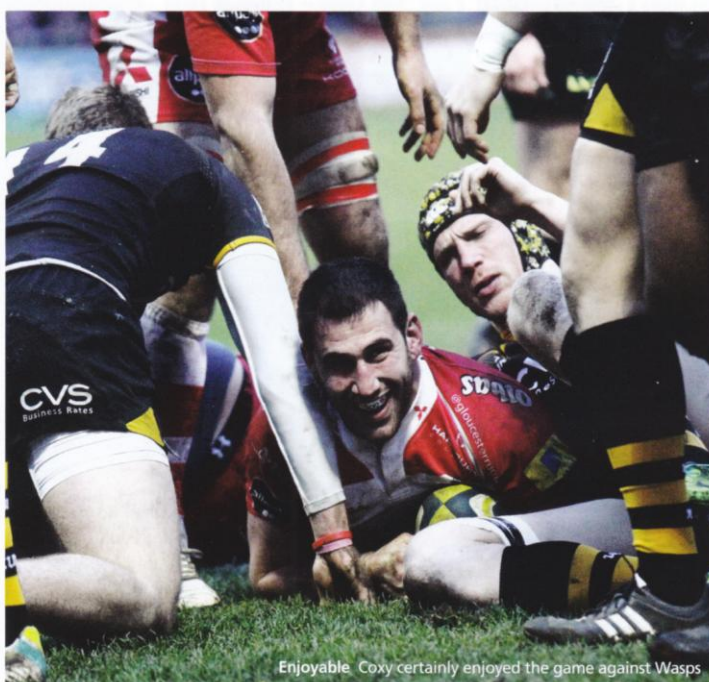
"But we also have to prove it to ourselves, we don't want to write the season off now, but we have to prove to one another that with this run-in we could put together a good run of form and build some momentum for a big finish."





## KINGSHOLM NEWS with BOB FENTON

*The internet is a wonderful thing though, and so is BT Sport – when they work. Intermittent wifi is the curse of the modern age and is probably responsible for more shredded nerves than just about anything else.*



Enjoyable. Coxy certainly enjoyed the game against Wasps

**H**ere we are again then, back for another ride on the rollercoaster that is our season.

Today we are in that odd time of the year when clubs are stripped of key players who are away with the international sides, and I still don't understand why important league games are played on international days. But there we go.

That rollercoaster I mentioned has had a few ups and downs, our last game here against Wasps was a great one to watch, even though it was a pretty meaningless fixture in the cup that no one cares about.

Still we won in style – a bunch of

tries like that against any opposition has to be a good thing. Hopefully that win will give some confidence going into the Amlin Challenge Cup match in a few week's time – a result there gives us a home semi-final and then who knows...

The week after, I stopped off in Sale for our match while en route to Murrayfield. I quite like the new stadium that Sale have – so much better than the last dump they were in, and considering the weather and kick off time, there was quite a good crowd in for it. Parking and getting out is a bit tricky but it's not that bad.

It is a magical stadium though, every now and then there would

be huge outbreaks of cheering and clapping for no apparent reason. Not very unusual in itself, but the spooky bit was that no one in the stadium seemed to be clapping or cheering while this sudden burst of enthusiasm ran round the ground.

Clearly it was the ghosts of matches and crowds past coming back to haunt the stadium, either that or someone was playing a tape over the PA system... I really don't like that kind of thing, or the stupid trumpet thing that 'encourages' people to suddenly burst into life.

It was also a bit embarrassing when the PA announcer at the stadium couldn't identify scorers – yelling a '...a try for Sale!...' every now and then was painful. Don't go Graham – we love your understated approach!

Jonny May's introduction to the Six Nations proved to be a bit of an 'ouch' affair as with only a couple of minutes on the clock he is on his way to the treatment table







with a broken nose. Good – or maybe not so good – to see him keeping with the tradition of young Gloucester players having a bit of a rude awakening in the international game. Remember Anthony Allen's first cap – he got the ball and Richie McCaw's elbow in the mouth at the same moment!

It was great to see him bounce back so quickly though, in time

Surely common sense would dictate that when the surface is like that, keep it for the players – but not at Murrayfield. We were treated to some cod-Scottish nonsense for a few hours (well it seemed like that) before the game with a band and dancers churning up the pitch before the players got near it. I'm all for creating a buzz before a game, but some of the jingoistic

junk that happens these days leaves me very cold.

I guess that makes me a fully paid up member of the grumpy old man's club but I'm happy there. It was a fun match to watch though. When my Celtic colleagues were giving me stick, it was a pleasure to point to the scoreboard and ask which team had scored 'nul points'.

So then last weekend, so near but yet so far... a bit of a familiar story for this season really. For me keeping up with events was trickier than usual, I was about 1100 miles away, working in Slovenia!

The internet is a wonderful thing though, and so is BT Sport – when they work. Intermittent wifi is the curse of the modern age and is probably responsible for more shredded nerves than just about anything else.

The Slovenian internet decreed that I would miss most of the second half; 8-3 up and then nothing... expletives and much hitting of F5 to no avail.

That makes for the game today to be that more significant, we've dropped down to 10th and, while Worcester and Newcastle are some way behind us, there is no point in leaving things to the last minute.

So let's get a few points today and go into the last leg of the season on a high.

ExtraMEDIA

**Mike Tindall** @miketindall13

*And it begins payback, before you know it you can't see out of one eye!!*

to get a run out at Murrayfield. I was fortunate enough to be there for that game, and while he didn't manage to score it was clear that the Scots were petrified of him to the point that at times it seemed he was man-marked even though the ball was miles away.

How he – in fact how anyone – managed to stay upright on that bog of a pitch was a bit of a mystery to me, I know the game was supposedly invented on a cabbage patch but surely there is no need to recreate that surface for an international stadium.



Thinner. It was a big second half performance from Gloucester against the Tigers





TECHNOLOGY IS A WONDERFUL THING. UNABLE TO GET TO THE FANS FORUM 10 DAYS AGO, I WAS AMONG SEVERAL HUNDRED WHO WATCHED EVENTS UNFOLD VIA THE EXCELLENT VIDEO STREAM ON THE CLUB WEBSITE. MY ONLY SURPRISE WAS THAT MORE SUPPORTERS DID NOT ATTEND IN PERSON.

**ONE of the last questions concerned Andy Hazell, and whether the club could find a place for him on the coaching staff following his retirement.**

Nigel Davies played a straight defensive bat, which I believe he was right to do. While emotionally the fans may be comfortable with former players like Alex Brown, Olly Morgan and Peter Buxton being involved behind the scenes, their link with the club should not be a passport to a job. Nigel has to be happy that they are making a significant contribution in their own right.

What Hazell's retirement does do is leave Shaun Knight as the one Gloucester born player in the squad, and he's clear what it means to be in that position.

"Growing up in Gloucester you understand what the club is all

about" he told me.

"It is a massive honour to be a professional, especially as it is my home city. I never thought it would happen until I was about 16 and I realised I might have a chance to get into the Academy.

"As soon as I went to the Sixth Form at St Peters I focussed my attention on rugby and nothing else. I'm lucky to do what I do and, if I wasn't doing it, I'd probably be dreaming about doing it while working with my dad. He's an industrial cladder."

Knight's father Adrian played for the United side in the 1990's, with just occasional outings in the first XV.

Shaun remembers coming to watch Matson in the Combination Cup final at Kingsholm as a toddler, when he was already playing with a

rugby ball.

Fast forward, and he's hoping to play a significant part in the last phase of the campaign after a year disrupted by injury.

"I had a problem with my knee at the end of last season which slowed me down at the start of this season, but that's sorted now" explained Knight.

"I then went through a period where I was getting migraines from scrummaging. It started in the home game against Perpignan. I needed medication for a fortnight after that but fortunately it's been clear ever since.

"I'd strung a few games together until the match at Sale which I missed with a lower back problem which is just wear and tear. I'm optimistic I can be playing again





before the break for the LV= semi finals and final."

Knight was 24 on Wednesday, still young for a prop, but he is familiar enough to be stopped in the street by supporters who want to talk rugby with him. It's

Six Nations. Results elsewhere last weekend were not favourable, especially with improving London Irish winning at Wasps.

The gap to the top six is 12 points, but the team deserved some reward for their part in a real arm

two play off places. Their need for points is matched by Gloucester's and Knight says being on the right side of today's result is essential if any realistic hope of a top half finish is to be kept alive.

"Harlequins lost two big guys in



something he accepts comes with the territory, whatever the results - and that those hard core fans won't be short of an opinion.

"I grew up as a supporter and still live in Gloucester, so I see what they see" said Knight. "The difference is I have more inside information than they do...!"

This is, of course, is Gloucester's only home game in this block of Premiership matches during the

wrestle at Welford Road.

Gloucester have let winning positions against the Tigers slip twice this season, and, on both occasions, Richard Cockerill has admitted his team were fortunate to sneak the results without playing well. That is, however, why they are still in contention for the top four.

Today's visitors stuttered to victory over Newcastle, and are in what looks to be a three way chase for

their pack last summer in Olly Kohn and James Johnston but they've still got some good players who produce a good style of rugby.

"It's been a tough season but as with any home game we need to be winning it."

ExtraMEDIA t

Follow Ian on Twitter: @ian\_randall1

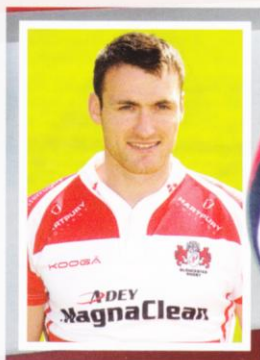


In each and every match programme, we'll be offering Gloucester Rugby supporters the opportunity to provide the questions which will form the basis of an interview for that week's chosen player.

Simply keep an eye on the official Gloucester Rugby Twitter feed, [@gloucesterrugby](https://twitter.com/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?

## #AskShane



[@whearty](https://twitter.com/whearty)

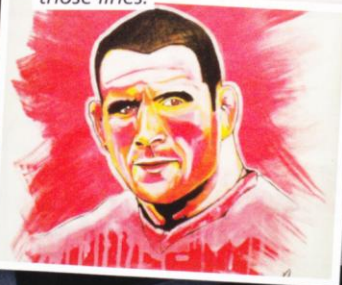
**Did you ever see the movie 'Drive'?**

The answer is yes! I have 20 copies of it...



[@spawels49](https://twitter.com/spawels49)  
**What are your plans after rugby? #natural #media**

I've never really thought of media, the art is something I have thought about. I have my degree in product design so maybe something along those lines.



[@cowan\\_jimmy](https://twitter.com/cowan_jimmy)

**Why can't Ireland beat the ALLBLACKS? #106yrsshane**

Tough question Jimmy, maybe because we don't all get two goes at conversions! We'll do it one day.



[@swift4prez](https://twitter.com/swift4prez)

**Favourite pub in Galway?**  
The Huntsman Pub!

[@byakko8](https://twitter.com/byakko8)

**In rugby, you are expected to move around. How have you found living in Glos, it being a traditional rugby city?**

I really love living in Gloucester, I really enjoy the rugby and it's a great city. I'm really comfortable here. The fans are great.

[@brownetown87](https://twitter.com/brownetown87)

**Is it true that you and your brother slept in a bunk bed together til you were 23?**

We still do...





## Quickfire Eight

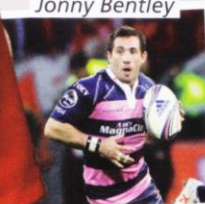
**Favourite film?** Tough one...other than Drive.  
I'll go for the original Predator



**Favourite song?**  
'Yellow Submarine' by the Beatles

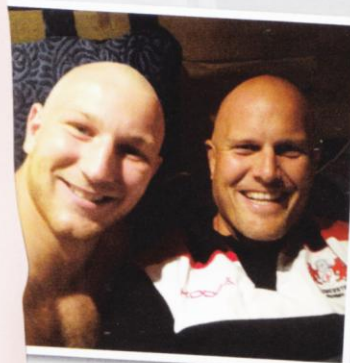
**Favourite holiday destination?**  
Tenerife

**Best mate in the squad?**  
Jonny Bentley



**Best dressed in the squad?**  
Ryan Mills

**Worst dressed in the squad?**  
Dukey and Matt Kvesic



**Funniest banter?** Mr Grills

**Worst banter?** Dukey



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Martyn Thomas
14	W	Steph Reynolds
13	C	Andrew Bulumakau
12	C	Billy Burns
11	W	Drew Cheshire
10	FH	Jonny Bentley
9	SH	Tavis Knoyle
1	P	James Gibbons
2	H	Koree Britton
3	P	Rupert Harden
4	L	Will James
5	L	Tom Hicks
6	F	Ross Moriarty
7	F	Alex Woodburn
8	N8	Lewis Ludlow
16	R	Dan George
17	R	Dan Murphy
18	R	Tom Heard
19	R	Jonny Hill
20	R	Sione Kalamafoni
21	R	Reece Boughton
22	R	Lloyd Evans
23	R	Will Hayward

## SCARLETS

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Jordan Williams
14	W	Kristian Phillips
13	C	Steffan Hughes
12	C	Adam Warren
11	W	Aaron Warren
10	FH	Josh Lewis
9	SH	Aled Davies
1	P	Rob Evans
2	H	Kirby Myhill
3	P	Jacobie Adriaanse
4	L	Richard Kelly
5	L	Johan Snyman
6	F	Josh Turnbull
7	F	Craig Price
8	N8	Sione Timani
16	R	Darran Harris
17	R	Wyn Jones
18	R	Horatiu Pungea
19	R	Carwyn Jones
20	R	Lewis Rawlins
21	R	Connor Lloyd
22	R	Gareth Owen
23	R	Kyle Evans







**Match Details:** 24th January 2014, KO 19:30, Parc Y Scarlets

**Attendance:** 5,487

**Referee:** Neil Hennessy

# SCARLETS

**TRIES:** Hughes (33), A Warren (76) **PEN:** Lewis (59)

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

**TRY:** Burns (54) **CON:** Burns (55)

13

7

IT'S THE NORM TO EXPECT A DELUGE OF RAIN TO ARRIVE AS YOU CROSS THE SEVERN BRIDGE TO HEAD INTO WALES AND, ON A DAMP AND DISMAL EVENING FRIDAY EVENING, THOSE EXACT CONDITIONS GREETED GLOUCESTER AS THEY TRAVELLED TO TAKE ON THE SCARLETS.

**T**he weather conjured up memories of midweek Anglo Welsh clashes of years gone by, and a young Gloucester side went to West Wales and bravely stepped up to the plate before going down to a late sucker-punch from the more experienced hosts.

Andrew Stanley was handed the reigns for the LV= Cup clash, and with Saracens in cruise control at the top of the pool, vital momentum and confidence was all to play for.

Nigel Davies was returning to his old club, and the wet weather was there to give him a traditional welcome. Conditions were very testing for the young players in Cherry and White, standing up to be counted in the drizzle.

The two sides were well-matched, and the visitors were probing for openings in the Welsh defence. But chances were few and far between as fly halves Josh Lewis and Jonny Bentley fought to put their sides in the right areas of the pitch.

Possession was regularly changing hands, but neither side could turn territory into points and all 30 players were putting everything into the cause.

The young Gloucester side were rocked early on with captain and pack leader Will James forced to exit with a knock to the head, but the youthful trio of Ross Moriarty, Lewis Ludlow and Jonny Hill excelled and took charge with some powerful carries and fierce work at the breakdown.

The score was opened close to half time as, with Scarlets keen to put pressure on the Gloucester back three, a loose ball from an up and under rebounded into the hands of Steffan Hughes and the centre slid over in the corner. It was a fortuitous score, but a clinical one all the same as Scarlets' Garryowen tactic paid off.

Gloucester into the lead, and it was exactly what the young Cherry and Whites deserved.

Tavis Knoyle was a man possessed on his return to Parc y Scarlets, and the scrum half was really impressive, inspiring on a young backline which lost its experienced pivot with Bentley hobbling off after

**Champagne Moment:** Billy Burns showed a moment of class to wriggle free of the rush defence and then a good turn of pace to skip away and show plenty of strength to get the score.

Gloucester reorganised and regrouped as they reacted to being a score down and kept knocking on the door, but couldn't find the scoring pass.

It was a moment of rare quality

a plethora of late hits.

Josh Lewis then put Scarlets back into the lead with a penalty against the run of play, and the hosts then held onto that lead as Gloucester huffed and puffed to get a crucial

**"I'M VERY PROUD OF THEM. THEY WERE A VERY YOUNG BUNCH, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS THE END OF THE GAME. WE WERE YOUNG BUT WE WERE COMPETITIVE RIGHT UP TO THE VERY END.**

**WE'RE PLEASED WITH THE ENDEAVOUR AND THE COMMITMENT. WE WERE UNFORTUNATELY JUST ON THE WRONG END OF THE RESULT BUT, COUPLED WITH RECENT PERFORMANCES, WE'RE TAKING SMALL STEPS FORWARD."** ANDREW STANLEY

that saw Gloucester fly back into the game and shock the home crowd.

Billy Burns took a pass on the back foot, spun out of two tackles and just had enough pace to stretch through the cover and just reach the try line. He converted his own try to put

score. Burns' penalty dropped agonisingly short of the crossbar and the chance was gone.

All that was left was for Scarlets to cross and close the game out, Aaron Warren the scorer as he swooped up a loose ball and the game was done.



## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Rob Cook
14	W	Martyn Thomas
13	C	Henry Trinder
12	C	Mike Tindall
11	W	Shane Monahan
10	FH	Ryan Mills
9	SH	Tavis Knolly
1	P	Nick Wood
2	H	Koree Britton
3	P	Rupert Harden
4	L	Will James
5	L	James Hudson
6	F	Sione Kalamafoni
7	F	Matt Cox
8	N8	Gareth Evans
16	R	Dan George
17	R	Dan Murphy
18	R	Shaun Knight
19	R	Tom Hicks
20	R	Sam Underhill
21	R	Jimmy Cowan
22	R	Lloyd Evans
23	R	Bill Meakes

## LONDON WASPS

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Tommy Bell
14	W	Tom Howe
13	C	Andrea Masi
12	C	Chris Bell
11	W	Josh Bassett
10	FH	Joe Carlisle
9	SH	Charlie Davies
1	P	Ricky Reeves
2	H	Carlo Festuccia
3	P	Phil Swainston
4	L	Esteban Lozada
5	L	James Cannon
6	F	Ashley Johnson
7	F	Sam Jones
8	N8	Rory Pitman
16	R	Kevin Davis
17	R	Simon McIntyre
18	R	Taione Vea
19	R	Kearnan Myall
20	R	Matt Everard
21	R	Brett Sheehan
22	R	Viliami Helu
23	R	Charlie Hayter







**Match Details:** 1st February 2014, KO 15:00, Kingsholm

**Attendance:** 10,750

**Referee:** Greg MacDonald

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY

**TRIES:** Trinder (13, 16), Cox (19, 58), Murphy (72) **CONS:** Cook (17, 20, 60, 74) **PEN:** Cook (40)

## LONDON WASPS

**TRY:** Johnson (23)

36

5

**THIS GAME MAY HAVE BEEN A DEAD RUBBER IN TERMS OF THE LV= CUP, BUT FOR THE CHERRY AND WHITES, IT WAS AN ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON, A TOP PERFORMANCE AND THE START OF FORTRESS KINGSHOLM BEING REBUILT.**

**F**ive tries were notched up, and a return from injury to some key players sent the thousands that braved the Kingsholm cold, home happy.

The ground staff at Kingsholm had worked very hard to ensure the game went ahead, with Gloucestershire getting a battering by the weather - the players repaid their hard work by putting in an exciting performance of intensity and skill.

Gloucester flew out of the blocks, the returning Ryan Mills orchestrating things from fly half, and he set up the first try for the also returning Henry Trinder to dot down after a spilled ball by the visitors.

It was a deserved lead as Gloucester had all the possession and chances. They turned their dominance into points with two more quick tries which owed much to opportunism, and also good pressure in defence. Firstly, a spilt ball in midfield saw Trinder swoop and race away to dive over.

Next, another loose ball fell for Gareth Evans, and the number eight marauded clear before being caught before the line. The ball was recycled well and Tavis Knoyle fed Matt Cox who barged over in the corner.

Three tries already in the bag, Gloucester would've challenged themselves to keep their foot on the gas and not let Wasps back into the game. Thoughts of a comeback were enlightened though, when Ashley Johnson dropped over from a textbook catch and drive. But, in truth, that was the closest that Wasps got in the eighty minutes.

The Cherry and Whites led 22-5 at half time and all was well, Henry Trinder had got through the first half of his return unscathed and the players were matching the passion and intensity of recent weeks.

The LV= Cup had delivered, yet again, the chance for the Cherry and White coaches to cast their collective eye over some young talent and hand them the chance to impress in

muscles and dominate at the maul as try number four arrived from the rolling maul.

Replacements were breaking up the rhythm of the game but plenty of the players from both sides were eager to impress.

Try number five came for the hosts in the form of Dan Murphy as he barged over from close range after Academy back rower Sam Underhill

**Champagne Moment:** Returning Henry Trinder showed good pace to swoop on a loose ball and gallop away for his second try which he clearly enjoyed!



the first team.

Centre Bill Meakes came on for Trinder at the break and the Australian showed an impressive turn of pace and balance to make plenty of breaks in the centre, showing plenty of potential in the Clifton RFC player.

Cox then crossed for his second as the forward pack began to flex their

had gone close.

The game displayed the renewed sense of confidence in the Cherry and Whites squad and with big Premiership games on the horizon, a result like this does no harm in showing the first team that their places are not secure and there is plenty of quality across the Cherry and Whites squad.



Teams correct at time of print: 20th February 2014



# 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 (C)</b>	CENTRE	<b>12</b>
<b>MARTYN THOMAS</b>	LEFT WING	<b>11</b>
<b>RYAN MILLS</b>	FLY HALF	<b>10</b>
<b>DAN ROBSON</b>	SCRUM HALF	<b>9</b>
<b>NICK WOOD</b>	PROP	<b>1</b>
<b>DARREN DAWIDIUK</b>	HOOKER	<b>2</b>
<b>SILA PUAFISI</b>	PROP	<b>3</b>
<b>ELLIOTT STOOKE</b>	LOCK	<b>4</b>
<b>JAMES HUDSON</b>	LOCK	<b>5</b>
<b>SIONE KALAMAFONI</b>	FLANKER	<b>6</b>
<b>MATT COX</b>	FLANKER	<b>7</b>
<b>GARETH EVANS</b>	NO.8	<b>8</b>
<b>HUIA EDMONDS</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>16</b>
<b>YANN THOMAS</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>17</b>
<b>RUPERT HARDEN</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>18</b>
<b>WILL JAMES</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>19</b>
<b>MATT KVESIC</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>20</b>
<b>JIMMY COWAN</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>21</b>
<b>FREDDIE BURNS</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>22</b>
<b>SHANE MONAHAN</b>	REPLACEMENT	<b>23</b>

## HARLEQUINS

<b>OLLIE LINDSAY-HAGUE</b>	FULLBACK
<b>SAM SMITH</b>	RIGHT WING
<b>TOM CASSON</b>	CENTRE
<b>JORDAN TURNER-HALL</b>	CENTRE
<b>UGO MONYE</b>	LEFT WING
<b>BEN BOTICA</b>	FLY HALF
<b>KARL DICKSON</b>	SCRUM HALF
<b>MARK LAMBERT</b>	PROP
<b>DAVE WARD</b>	HOOKER
<b>PAUL DORAN JONES</b>	PROP
<b>NICK KENNEDY</b>	LOCK
<b>CHARLIE MATTHEWS</b>	LOCK
<b>MAURIE FA'ASAVALU</b>	FLANKER
<b>LUKE WALLACE</b>	FLANKER
<b>NICK EASTER (C)</b>	NO.8
<b>JOE GRAY</b>	REPLACEMENT
<b>DARRYL MARFO</b>	REPLACEMENT
<b>KYLE SINCKLER</b>	REPLACEMENT
<b>TOM GUEST</b>	REPLACEMENT
<b>JOE TRAYFOOT</b>	REPLACEMENT
<b>SAM STUART</b>	REPLACEMENT
<b>LOUIS GRIMOLDBY</b>	REPLACEMENT
<b>PAUL SACKEY</b>	REPLACEMENT

**IN CHARGE  
TODAY:**

**Referee: Greg Garner**  
**Assistant Referees: Andy Watson and Ashley Rowden**