

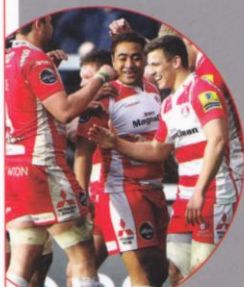
GLOUCESTER RUGBY



£3 | 12.04.14
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY
VS. BATH RUGBY



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TRIPLE-HEADER
ACTION REPLAYS
FROM PAGE 64



VIEW FROM
The Citizen
ON PAGE 28

FOR CLUB & COUNTRY

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH
BEN MORGAN ON PAGE 40

THE PRIDE ~ THE PASSION ~ THE HONOUR ~ THE HISTORY





CAPTAIN'S CORNER

TOM SAVAGE

Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for this afternoon's West Country derby.

The fixture, there is no denying, is the one we look out for every season. It's a fantastic feeling to take on our local rivals at Kingsholm and the players can't wait to get out there this afternoon.

Not only to put right what we felt went wrong last Sunday evening but, with league games running out, this is another great chance to get a

the guys behind the scenes have worked tirelessly with me to ensure I can return to the best shape possible in an attempt to lead the team out again this season.

I know, that at times like this, a team needs leaders and I'm confident within our squad that we have many of them and, alongside the sixteenth man of our crowd this afternoon, we can spur the lads on to the right performance.

Bath have had a strong season and come to Kingsholm today on

"THE FIXTURE, THERE IS NO DENYING, IS THE ONE WE LOOK OUT FOR EVERY SEASON. IT'S A FANTASTIC FEELING TO TAKE ON OUR LOCAL RIVALS AT KINGSHOLM AND THE PLAYERS CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT THERE THIS AFTERNOON."

Tight Affair Today will be no different and we will need to be at our best to beat an improving Bath team



result and affect our end of season position.

The reverse fixture at The Rec in October was a tight affair, and we have improved in many of the areas

where we were lacklustre on that night. After all, a lot of rugby has been played since then and we're still building as a team.

I'm not going to lie, my absence due to injury has been a hugely frustrating one. It's been a long road back to fitness, and

the back of a strong win over Brive. But, on a Gloucester-Bath derby day, anything can happen and, if we can put in a full eighty minute performance to our full ability, then we have more than a chance.

The club are handing out flags today, and it's little things like that, from the pitch really drive you on and give you little reminders about what it means to play for this club.

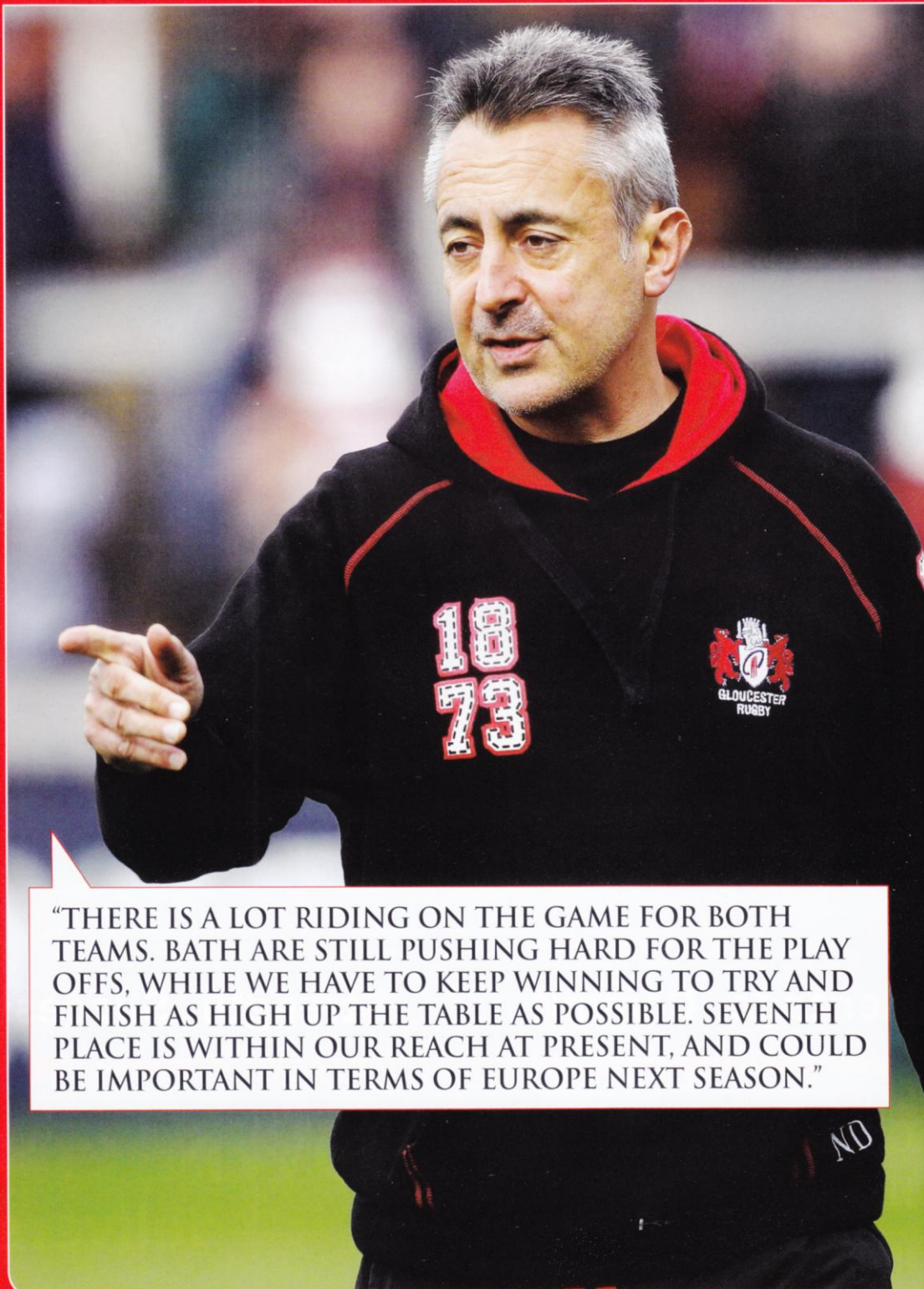
We know Kingsholm doesn't need to have an artificially enhanced matchday atmosphere, and that our supporters are the best around. There is no doubt in my mind about that!

Shout, cheer and get behind the boys today and hopefully it will be a memorable afternoon.

Enjoy the game,

Sav

NIGEL DAVIES DIRECTOR OF RUGBY



“THERE IS A LOT RIDING ON THE GAME FOR BOTH TEAMS. BATH ARE STILL PUSHING HARD FOR THE PLAY OFFS, WHILE WE HAVE TO KEEP WINNING TO TRY AND FINISH AS HIGH UP THE TABLE AS POSSIBLE. SEVENTH PLACE IS WITHIN OUR REACH AT PRESENT, AND COULD BE IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF EUROPE NEXT SEASON.”

COACH'S NOTES

Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for our penultimate home fixture of the season.

Bath Rugby are the visitors this afternoon, and I know how special this game is for everyone connected with both clubs.

for both teams. Bath are still pushing hard for the play offs, while we have to keep winning to try and finish as high up the table as possible. Seventh place is within our reach at present, and could be important in terms of Europe next season.

We've given ourselves a fighting

resilience to hang in there, and stage a fight back in the second half, but we'd left ourselves too much to do. It was a very frustrating evening.

But we'll learn from that and we do at least get to take on the same opposition next weekend and have



Certainly, the equivalent game last year was one of the highlights of the season, and showed me what a fantastic rugby venue Kingsholm can be on such occasions.

It's one of the oldest and most passionately fought local rivalries in rugby union. Both teams are busting a gut to come out on top, and the respective sets of supporters will be hoping that they have the bragging rights on Monday morning.

Whilst it is a huge game, it's also important not to get too caught up in the emotion of the occasion. Passion and aggression has to be channelled in the right way for an individual to be effective.

There is a lot riding on the game

chance of achieving that having won three of our four previous Aviva Premiership games, and next weekend of course, we travel to Twickenham to take on London Wasps who sit just above us in the table.

Wasps are an opponent we're becoming very familiar with – we've played them in the Premiership, the LV= Cup and, most recently, last weekend's Amlin Challenge Cup quarter final.

As a group, we were bitterly disappointed with the performance at Adams Park as that was a real opportunity to secure a home semi final. We simply didn't do ourselves justice on the day, went into our shells and didn't really play any rugby.

We did show our traditional

a chance to set the record straight.

For now, however, it's all about Bath this afternoon. Credit to Mike Ford and his coaching staff, they've assembled a competitive squad this season who have gone well in every competition they've been involved with.

The previous meeting this season, back in October at a rainy Recreation Ground, was a typically hard fought and close affair.

Today could well be the same and hopefully we'll come out on the right end of the scoreline this time around.

Enjoy your afternoon here at Kingsholm,

Nigel



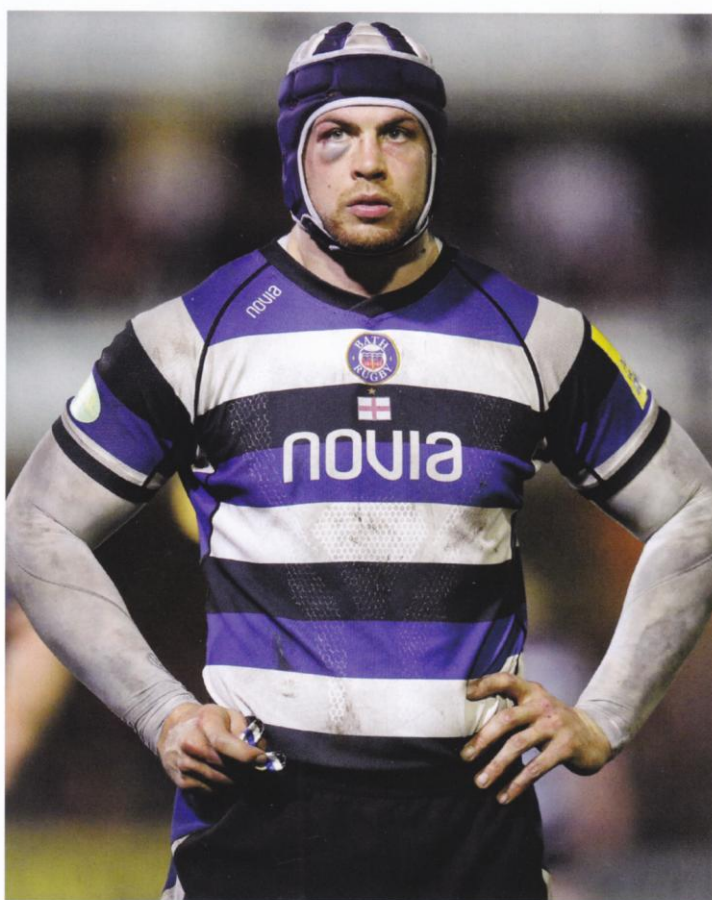
VIEW FROM The Citizen



with **MIKE BROWN**

Mike talks to Mike Tindall and Dave Attwood, two players who know a few things about the famous Gloucester-Bath rivalry and what it means to play in the derby.

A REAL TRADITION



After being dumped out of Europe in the most unceremonious of manners, there can be no better game to return to action than in a West Country derby.

Gloucester failed to turn up for the first 50-odd minutes at Adams Park and were made to pay as their hopes and dreams of silverware were left in tatters yet again.

But as James Simpson-Daniel pointed out this week, a local derby is the perfect remedy when things are not all rosey in the Cherry and White garden.

In a season where there has been very little to cheer, a victory over the great unmentionables would finally give the Gloucester faithful something to shout about.

Gloucester versus Bath is one of the great rugby rivalries and the envy of domestic leagues across the world.

It is local derbies such as this, the biggest in the West Country, that make the Aviva Premiership such a rich, exciting and vibrant league – it is the lifeblood of the game

Real history. Real traditions. Real supporters. Real clubs.

It says it all about not only about

the current plight of Welsh rugby but what is so great about this derby, that a group of Cardiff Blues season ticket-holders, two of whom are family members, will be in attendance today.

In a time where the soul of Welsh rugby has been all but ripped out, a match of this traditional magnitude and built upon local bragging rights in a meaningful competition, offers a trip down memory lane.

Tradition and heritage is, and always should be, one of rugby's greatest strengths.

Few would have dared to cross

Rec before signing for Gloucester, it remains one of the standout fixtures in the rugby calendar.

Tindall said: "The West Country derby is one of the standout great games of the Premiership, the local rivalry between the two clubs.

"Leicester-Northampton and Gloucester-Bath are the two big local rivalries and that hasn't really changed.

"It's the same both ways, from my experiences, at Bath we had always had a proud record against Gloucester. But now I've been here, it's always Bath and how much the

silence the sell-out crowd by flexing Bath's collective muscle up front.

He added: "Kingsholm is traditionally a stronghold for Gloucester but it is not something they have managed to establish this season.

"So it will be important to take the game away from the Kingsholm crowd as early as possible, because they really can be the 16th man and get in players' heads. We have to match that emotion from the offset.

"The pack has been a strength of ours all season and that's testament to the players. We would be daft



the great divide between Bath and Gloucester in days gone by, but Rob Fidler was one of the first in the modern era - making the switch in 2003 following nine years and more than 250 games in Cherry and White.

Many have followed suit in the years since and both teams currently boast players who have played for the enemy.

For Mike Tindall, who joined the Blue, Black and Whites straight from school and spent eight years at the

Shed wants to see Bath lose."

The Shed will also welcome one of its former favourites back come kick-off, in Bath's David Attwood.

The England second-row spent two seasons in Cherry and White and is relishing his return to his former stomping ground.

Attwood still keeps a close eye on affairs at Kingsholm and the Achilles heel up front has not gone unnoticed.

He expects a typical warm welcome at Castle Grim but aims to

not to target that area against Gloucester but that is more to do with our own strengths."

Following a disappointing display and with the two teams at opposite ends of the table, the bookies' favourite is no secret. But today offers the perfect opportunity to put some pride back into the Cherry and White jersey.

Gloucester don't have to win but they must demonstrate the passion, intensity and desire the badge deserves.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

MATCHDAY PROGRAMMES

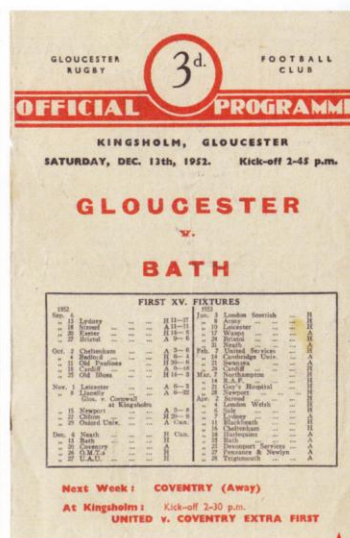
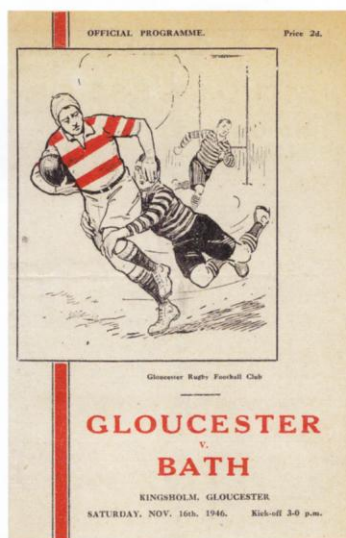
THE Gloucester Rugby Heritage Project's website currently holds something in the region of 1600 Gloucester programmes dating from about 1900 to 2001/02 - and we're actively working on the later years.

As we've been scanning and uploading we've noticed the dramatic change in style and format - and what better to illustrate this today than to take a look at the front covers of Glaws v. Bath programmes?

The earliest programme we have for matches between the two sides is dated 16 November 1946. It's a single folded sheet, showing the two teams, with just ten scant lines of notes, information on how Gloucester Rugby Club members can apply for international tickets (at 10/- a pop), and a list of First XV fixtures for the season with the results to date.

Six years later the design had changed, the fixtures and results appeared on the front cover, and there was almost a full page of notes.

The programme for 8 February 1958 carried a comment on the



(Left): 16 Nov 1946 Right): 13 Dec 1952

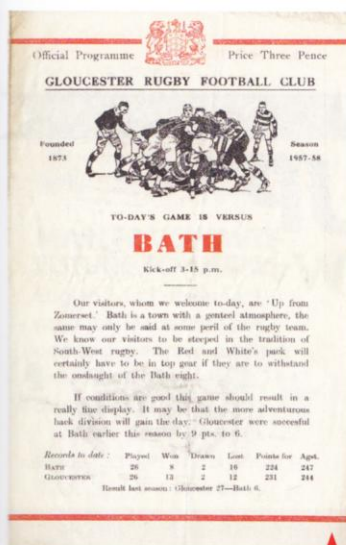
front page that "Bath is a town with a genteel atmosphere, the same may only be said at some peril of the rugby team."

It reminded supporters that all profits from sales of the programme went towards the Memorial Ground Fund, and furthermore that tea and sandwiches were available in the Club Room after the match.

The 1958/59 season saw the

arrival of a cover design which continued in use right through to 1973/74, and the programme for the match against Bath on 13 December 1958 was distinctly more chatty than had previously been the case.

It included an apology for an earlier error regarding Peter Ford's playing career, where it had been stated that he had played for the



8 Feb 1958

RAF "during the last war", and which had led to many enquiries as to just how old he was.

The club rapidly withdrew the "during the last war" comment. The cover design was cleverly augmented for floodlit matches, as for the one against Bath on 7 February 1969.

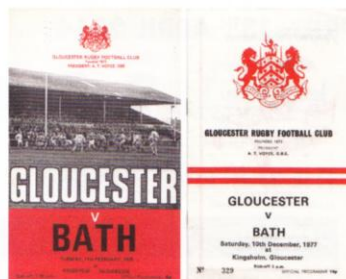


(Left): 13 Dec 1958 (Right): 7 Feb 1969

The 1975/76 season finally saw the end of this long-running cover,

and the programme for the match against Bath on 17 February 1976 displayed a new cover featuring, for the first time, a monochrome photograph.

This design lasted for a couple of seasons before being replaced by the design seen for the match on 10 December 1977.



There then followed a regular change of design for the remainder of the amateur era, gradually introducing a limited amount of colour.

Full colour programmes arrived when the game went professional in 1996, when we were introduced to the "First Division Rugby Promag", a production of English Rugby First Division Ltd and containing both syndicated articles and local contributions.

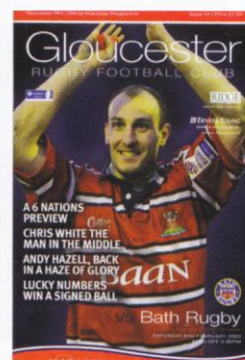
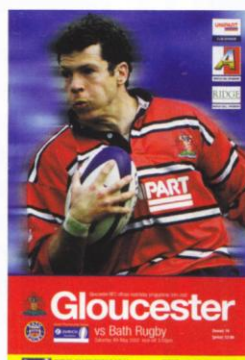
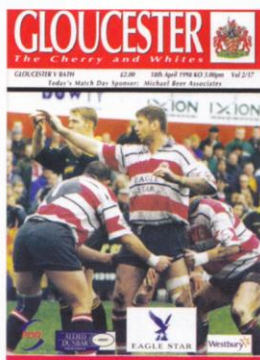
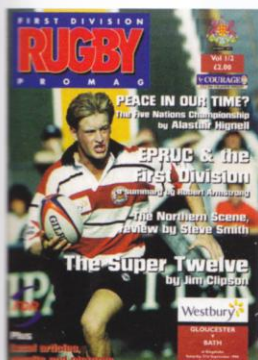
The cover format was the same for all clubs, although the cover photographs differed. This lasted for just one season before the clubs all went their separate ways again and the present programme style was introduced, gradually increasing in size until we reach the 82 page full colour glossy magazine we see today, packed full of information - and advertisements.

But adverts are by no means a new concept, as they appear in the c. 1900 programme - no doubt providing a useful source of funds for the club, supplementing the income from the programme cover price.

Space doesn't allow us to take a look back at the many contributors to the programmes over the years, but a special mention should go to Arthur Russell, who produced his "Kingsholm Kackle" from 1965/66 until 1979/80, and to Peter Arnold whose notes first appeared in 1980/81 and who was still writing his column in 2012/13.

PROGRAMME PRICE OVER THE YEARS

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| c. 1900 - 1930s | 1d (<½p) |
| 1946-47 | 2d (<1p) |
| 1947 - mid-60s | 3d (>1p) |
| 1965-71 | 6d (2½p) |
| 1971-74 | 3p |
| 1974-76 | 5p |
| 1976-78 | 6p |
| 1978-81 | 10p |
| 1981-83 | 15p |
| 1983-87 | 20p |
| 1987-89 | 30p |
| 1989-90 | 40p |
| 1990-91 | 50p |
| 1991-92 | 80p |
| 1992-96 | £1 |
| 1996-2001 | £2 |
| 2001-05 | £2.50 |
| 2005-2014 | £3 |



(L - R): 21 Sep 1996, 18 Apr 1998, 4 May 2002, 8 Feb 2003



ExtraMEDIA

Ben Morgan @Ben_J_Morgan8

Great meeting @rioferdy5 and @carras16 after the game. Glad you enjoyed Twickenham.





LET'S PUSH THINGS FORWARD

FOR A YOUNG MAN BROUGHT UP WATCHING GAMES FROM THE SHED, THE WEST COUNTRY DERBY DAY IS ONE THAT REALLY CATCHES THE IMAGINATION AND, FOR BEN MORGAN, IT IS NO DIFFERENT.

After starring for England in the RBS Six Nations, it's back to domestic battles for the number eight and being back in Cherry and White.

"It's been really good, obviously

with a great bunch of lads and crack on and end the season well."

Being involved in the test match arena and atmosphere is a special occasion for any player, and Morgan is looking to take as much as he can

"WE'RE IN CONTROL NOW OF WHAT GOES ON, WE HAVE FOUR AVIVA PREMIERSHIP CLASHES LEFT TO GO AND ONLY WE CAN CONTROL WHAT HAPPENS NOW."

it's been great to be back with Gloucester and continue the run of wins. We set ourselves targets to win four games, our last four Aviva Premiership games.

"For me, it's been great to back

and grow from each outing for the Red Rose.

"Hopefully we can bring that back, try and gain as much experience as we can from that. When you're exposed to that level



you have to learn as much as you can from it.

"It's more about slotting in the best that you can, and adding bits where they need to be and improving the squad.

"I think the atmosphere there, it's pretty incredible. I think that it's something that they're trying to focus on there at Twickenham. The whole experience, the long walk in, that kind of thing all helps.

"I think on a smaller scale, it's the same situation at Kingsholm. The support really is the sixteenth man on the field for the players and it really does make all the difference to us."

At the back of many players' minds is the prospect of the Rugby World Cup on home soil next year, but Morgan is fully focused on putting right the wrongs of this campaign and putting in a starring role at Kingsholm.

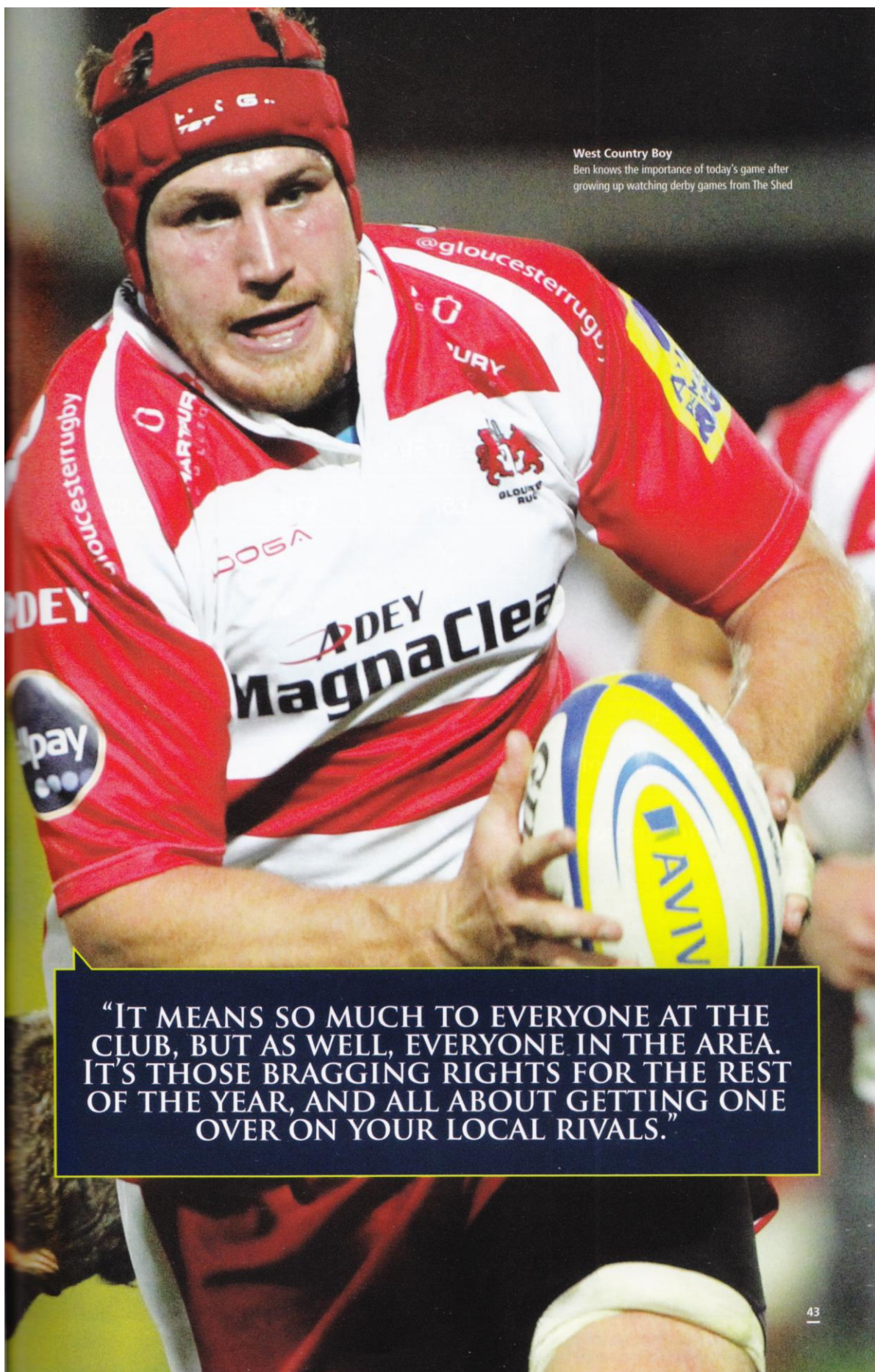
"I think you have to look after your club form before you can focus on any international business. We have set targets now back here, and it's all about hitting those targets. It hasn't been the season that we would have wanted but we have a chance to end it on a real high.

"We're in control now of what goes on, we have four Aviva Premiership clashes left to go and only we can control what happens now.

"It's going to be a great game today against Bath. It's the sort of game that, as a player, you want to be involved in and at Kingsholm. There is a lot of history behind it.

"It means so much to everyone at the club, but as well, everyone in the area. It's those bragging rights for the rest of the year, and all about getting one over on your local rivals."

Flowering Rose
Ben took his chance in the Six Nations with some stand out performances for England



West Country Boy
Ben knows the importance of today's game after growing up watching derby games from The Shed

"IT MEANS SO MUCH TO EVERYONE AT THE CLUB, BUT AS WELL, EVERYONE IN THE AREA. IT'S THOSE BRAGGING RIGHTS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR, AND ALL ABOUT GETTING ONE OVER ON YOUR LOCAL RIVALS."



KINGSHOLM NEWS with BOB FENTON

I think anyone who runs on a rugby field during the game apart from the players deserves everything they get. Morons, the lot of them.



Bob was not impressed by Referee Marius Mitrea...

So, our European dream came to a bit of a grinding halt up at Wycombe last weekend, so no semi-final at Kingsholm for us this year. We staged a bit of a comeback, but the damage was done in the first half. The first 40 minutes was a bit of a microcosm of our season, little mistakes costing us dear.

Of course, our cause was not helped by probably the most inept refereeing performance I can ever remember. As I said at the time, the whole lot of them were so out of

their depth that they probably went home by submarine! But officials don't lose you games and it's wrong to suggest they did – we've proved many times this season we are more than capable of losing games all on our own!

Nevertheless we're here again and games don't get much bigger than this one... I don't know about you lot, but I'm hoping for something a little more comfortable than our last two run outs in the Premiership. I dunno, maybe a result from the past, something like 68 – 12 would

be good, because at least that way my heart rate might stay somewhere close to where it is supposed to be.

Look at the Newcastle match. Cruising away to a comfortable victory, 15 minutes or so to go, miles ahead on the scoreboard. What could possibly go wrong? Err... almost everything as it happens.

I can only assume that one of the Newcastle physios ran on and delivered a complete set of cloaks of invisibility to their players, because it seems that they became hidden from our would-be tacklers. From a position of relaxed comfort we suddenly hanging on for dear life as the men from the North East strolled through our defence like the proverbial knife through butter. I don't think I have ever seen a collapse like it, had that game gone on for a few more minutes... well who knows what might have happened.

Then Exeter. Just to make sure we were stressed beyond the highest stress levels, two of our players decide eighty minutes is too long for a rugby match and want to sit down for the last ten or so, to let the Chiefs finally score to leave it a one point game with a conversion to come.

We can only watch through our fingers as Gareth Steenson – a man who can bang a rugby ball through the posts from impossible angles with consummate ease – steps up to consign us to defeat. Except he didn't! Two wins from two games, when's the last time we did that this season?



On The Up Although we are not playing at our best, we are slowly moving up the table

Of course the real high point was Freddie slamming the daft fool who decided to run onto the field after the Exeter try. I don't think I'll get tired of watching that video, what a berk. And Freddie's best tackle of the season too! I think anyone who runs on a rugby field during the game apart from the players deserves everything they get. Morons, the lot of them.

So what can you say about Bath then. Well in my case not too much because most of it won't get past the programme censor! They beat us by the odd two points down at their place in Round Five, and it would be mighty fine to reverse that today, but it'll be far from easy.

Like it or not, they have been playing some pretty good rugby this term, you don't get to be in the top four by accident, and they will want a win today to make sure they stay there.

If the word coming out of the European Rugby set up is true, we need to get the points to edge out Wasps and get seventh position. Who knows what will happen eventually regarding Europe, the whole debate around the competition for next year seems to change every five minutes. But let's

face it, losing to Bath can properly ruin your weekend and that should



Cheers Jimmy Cowan will leave Kingsholm at the end of the season, we wish him all the best for the future.

be motivation enough.

And then there's the need to lay another block in the foundation for next season. We've been busy in the transfer market, it seems if you have the name 'Thomas' anywhere in your title you're pretty much guaranteed a contract for next season here!

It's pretty exciting seeing all these new guys signing on though – sadly it means a few will not be here, Jimmy Cowan the latest to announce he is off to pastures new. Though no news on where those pastures are... I'm sure he'll be down in the south of France with the sun on his back before too long though.

But back to today... a plea. Come on boys, put in a performance, get the result. If we can get the points today it'll almost make up for everything else that has gone on this season!



WHEN IT COMES TO CLUB OCCASIONS, FEW DOMESTIC GAMES CAN MATCH THIS AFTERNOON'S FIXTURE.

YOU only had to see the "sold out" signs last Monday to realise that, and the feeling today will be heightened a little because the prospect of another game against the blue, black and whites in two weeks time was taken away by events last weekend.

While Bath were crushing a Brive side without an away win in the Top 14 all season, and with most of their leading players rested, Gloucester's interest in the Amlin Challenge Cup ended at Wasps.

I recall seeing details of the Italian officials and wondering what impact that might have in a game between two English sides. I'm not one of those who suggests that Gloucester get the thin end of the wedge every time from referees - that simply doesn't wash - but when some of the injured players take to social media in disbelief at a key decision while the game is still in progress, that says to me that the

use of the TMO has to be looked at.

The score in question was the second Wasps try, awarded early in the second half with the score at 13-3. There were two elements of doubt - had the ball been touched down short of the line, and was there a knock on in the build up.

The TMO was introduced to make sure the correct decision is made, but sometimes the conversation between the referee and the TMO makes that difficult. It shouldn't be.

Ultimately, the referee goes to the TMO because he isn't sure if a try is scored. He should only ask the TMO if he can confirm the touchdown. If neither are sure, it's not a try. What we often hear is "is there any reason why I cannot award a try?" which is a very different question.

Moreover, the decisions, as on Sunday, are taking far too long. The body language of the players directly involved usually says a lot, and if the officials can't decide

within a limited time (maybe 2 minutes) then it should be a five metre scrum. Sunday's decision for Festuccia's try took an eternity.

It must be said however, that Wasps deserved to win. Nigel Davies said afterwards that Gloucester "didn't fire any shots" until it was too late, and those shots only came when Nathan Hughes was in the bin.

After feeling as if the team had taken a step forward at Exeter, it looked to have lost ground again at Adams Park. The hope will be that today's occasion can be a lift once more, because all Gloucester's eggs are now in the Premiership basket.

At the time of writing, the belief remains that the team finishing 7th will be involved in a play off with the 7th placed club in the Top 14

Decisions Marius Mitrea



for the last Champions Cup place next season, although this is still to be signed off. It looks like a three way scrap, with the top six now clear of the remainder.

A victory today, especially with Wasps, London Irish and Worcester

version of what we now know as the Premiership. Both have been in it ever since, with Wasps the only other ever-present.

There was also a sequence of Cup semi finals around the same time (1985, 1989, 1992 and 1996)

trailing only 20-18 in terms of wins, with two matches drawn. Selection permitting, no doubt Freddie Burns, James Hudson and Mike Tindall will all have that extra desire to do well today, as will Bath lock Dave Attwood, whose potential duel with



Experience Tins knows what the derby game means to both sets of fans

to play, would give Gloucester a fighting chance, but Bath have been used to winning this season and with almost everybody fit they will come here with plenty of confidence.

Newer or younger supporters may wonder how long the rivalry has existed between Gloucester and Bath. Both teams were, in 1987, part of the first

Courage League, the original

along with the final in 1990. All of those games were won by Bath.

I remember talking to PA announcer Graham Spring about this fixture. "It felt like the world had ended when we lost at Twickenham 24 years ago" he said. "The will to beat Bath stems from memories of disappointment."

Overall, however, results have been re-balanced since. The League record is now close, with Gloucester

Elliot Stooke should be one of the day's great sub-plots as Gloucester chase the result that would give Kingsholm something to smile about after a season of indifferent performances and huge dollops of frustration.

ExtraMEDIA t

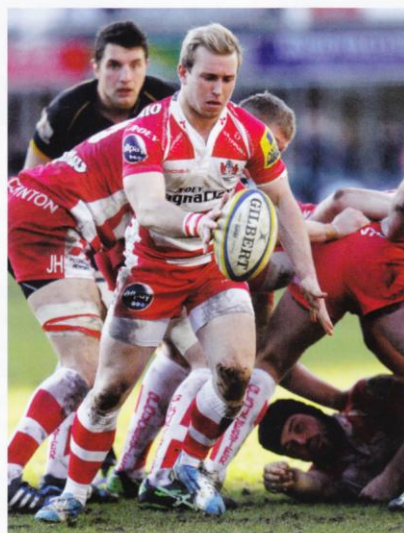
Follow Ian on Twitter: @ian_randall1

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

| # | POS | NAME |
|----|-----|------------------|
| 15 | FB | Rob Cook |
| 14 | W | Charlie Sharples |
| 13 | C | Henry Trinder |
| 12 | C | Mike Tindall (c) |
| 11 | W | Martyn Thomas |
| 10 | FH | Freddie Burns |
| 9 | SH | Dan Robson |
| 1 | P | Yann Thomas |
| 2 | H | Huia Edmonds |
| 3 | P | Rupert Harden |
| 4 | L | Elliott Stooke |
| 5 | L | James Hudson |
| 6 | F | Matt Cox |
| 7 | F | Matt Kvesic |
| 8 | N8 | Gareth Evans |
| | | |
| 16 | H | Dan George |
| 17 | P | Dan Murphy |
| 18 | P | Sila Puafisi |
| 19 | L | Will James |
| 20 | N8 | Ross Moriarty |
| 21 | SH | Tavis Knoyle |
| 22 | FH | Billy Burns |
| 23 | W | Shane Monahan |

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

| # | POS | NAME |
|----|-----|-----------------|
| 15 | FB | James Wilson |
| 14 | W | Ken Pisi |
| 13 | C | George Pisi |
| 12 | C | Tom Stephenson |
| 11 | W | Jamie Elliott |
| 10 | FH | Stephen Myler |
| 9 | SH | Kahn Fotuali'i |
| 1 | P | Ethan Waller |
| 2 | H | Mike Haywood |
| 3 | P | Salesi Ma'afu |
| 4 | L | Sam Dickinson |
| 5 | L | Christian Day |
| 6 | F | Calum Clark |
| 7 | F | Phil Dowson (c) |
| 8 | N8 | GJ van Velze |
| | | |
| 16 | H | Ross McMillan |
| 17 | P | Alex Waller |
| 18 | P | Tom Mercey |
| 19 | N8 | Samu Manoa |
| 20 | L | Ben Nutley |
| 21 | SH | Lee Dickson |
| 22 | C | Will Hooley |
| 23 | FB | Ben Foden |





Match Details: 1st March 2014, KO 15:15, Franklin's Gardens
Attendance: 13,238
Referee: Tim Wigglesworth

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

39

TRIES: K. Pisi (1), Clark (55), Stephenson (64), AM Waller (73), Hooley (77) **CONS:** Myler (1, 56, 65, 75) **PENS:** Myler (19, 40)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

13

TRY: Trinder (6) **CON:** F. Burns (7) **PENS:** F. Burns (22, 47)

A WIN OVER HARLEQUINS THE WEEK PREVIOUS GAVE NIGEL DAVIES' MEN A BIG BOOST GOING INTO THE TRIP TO FRANKLIN'S GARDENS TO TAKE ON THE LEAGUE LEADERS.

For an hour of the contest, Gloucester matched their opponents and were doing a grand job of frustrating the home crowd but, as the hosts flexed their muscle and unloaded their bench, the result was only going one way.

Everything the hosts were throwing at the Cherry and Whites was being dealt with until the closing stages, when the Saints pulled away to make the scoreline look impressive, backing up their determination to display how hard done by they felt following the reverse fixture in September.

Saints struck first - a loose ball wasn't dealt with and it bounced into the hands of Ken Pisi who turned and burst through a gap to run home untouched.

Then, with the Saints looking to add to that, Henry Trinder pounced on a loose pass, gambling on making the interception and he ran in from his own try line to level the scores.

It was a lively game and Gloucester were making hay in attack. Twice in quick succession Huia Edmonds gathered and kicked forward only to be taken out - both times neither was punished, much to Gloucester's frustration.

Both teams were giving it their all, but mistakes were creeping into the match and it would come down to who could capitalise to seize the upper hand in the arm wrestle.

Myler added a penalty after Gloucester were harshly adjudged to have infringed at the ruck, but Freddie Burns leveled the scores

with a quarter of the game gone.

Gloucester had to work hard in defence in the phases before the break, a strong home maul was held just short but Myler knocked over the succeeding penalty to give the home side the ascendancy at the break.

Burns converted an early second half penalty after good running from Edmonds and Hudson before, tied

in defence but, from the moment Calum Clark touched down after wriggling out of a tackle, the momentum sat firmly with the hosts.

Tom Stephenson cut a great angle to break through and touch down and, shortly afterwards, Alex Waller was the scorer from a rolling maul.

With the game gone, there was still time for controversy as

Champagne Moment:

On a tough day at the office, Henry Trinder's length of the field sprint for a try after intercepting near his own line was the highlight of the afternoon for Gloucester.



at 13 points apiece, Jim Mallinder brought on his heavy artillery from the bench and, from that point on, it injected new life into the hosts and, in hindsight, changed the game.

Gloucester were working bravely

Will Hooley touched down after taking the offload a good few yards forward that put the gloss on the win for the hosts and a disappointing end to the game for the Cherry and Whites.

"WE DIDN'T IMPOSE OURSELVES ON ANY ASPECT OF THE GAME. I'M REALLY DISAPPOINTED. WE WERE INACCURATE. WE GAVE AWAY SLOPPY PENALTIES, AND YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO DO THAT AGAINST A TEAM OF THIS QUALITY.

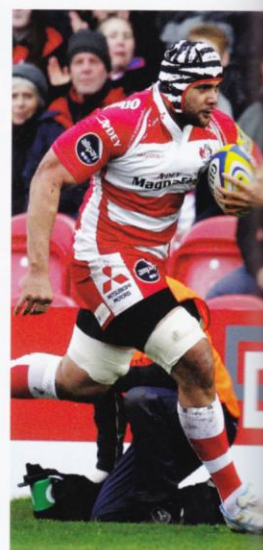
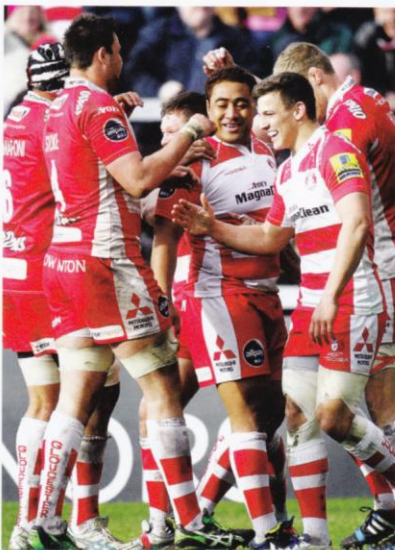
THE MOST DISAPPOINTING THING FOR ME IS THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE CONTROL IN ANY SINGLE ASPECT OF THE MATCH." NIGEL DAVIES

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

| # | POS | NAME |
|----|-----|------------------|
| 15 | FB | Rob Cook |
| 14 | W | Charlie Sharples |
| 13 | C | Henry Trinder |
| 12 | C | Mike Tindall (c) |
| 11 | W | Martyn Thomas |
| 10 | FH | Ryan Mills |
| 9 | SH | Dan Robson |
| 1 | P | Nick Wood |
| 2 | H | Darren Dawidiuk |
| 3 | P | Shaun Knight |
| 4 | L | Elliott Stooke |
| 5 | L | James Hudson ■ |
| 6 | F | Sione Kalamafoni |
| 7 | F | Matt Kvesic ■ |
| 8 | N8 | Gareth Evans |
| 16 | H | Huia Edmonds |
| 17 | P | Dan Murphy |
| 18 | P | Sila Puafisi |
| 19 | F | Will James |
| 20 | N8 | Ben Morgan |
| 21 | SH | Jimmy Cowan |
| 22 | FH | Freddie Burns |
| 23 | W | Jonny May |

NEWCASTLE FALCONS

| # | POS | NAME |
|----|-----|-------------------|
| 15 | FB | Alex Tait |
| 14 | W | Noah Cato |
| 13 | C | Gonzalo Tiesi |
| 12 | C | Danny Barnes |
| 11 | W | Zach Kibirige |
| 10 | FH | Phil Godman |
| 9 | SH | Mike Blair |
| 1 | P | Rob Vickers |
| 2 | H | Scott Lawson |
| 3 | P | Oliver Tomaszczyk |
| 4 | L | Scott Macleod |
| 5 | L | Fraser McKenzie |
| 6 | F | Will Welch (c) |
| 7 | F | Andy Saull |
| 8 | N8 | Chris York |
| 16 | H | George McGuigan |
| 17 | | Gary Strain |
| 18 | P | Scott Wilson |
| 19 | | Sean Tomes |
| 20 | F | Richard Mayhew |
| 21 | SH | Warren Fury |
| 22 | FH | Joel Hodgson |
| 23 | W | Lee Smith |





Match Details: 22nd March 2014, KO 15:00, Kingsholm
Attendance: 13,015
Referee: Wayne Barnes

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES: Kalamafoni (17), Cook (27), Hudson (47), Tindall (55), May (59) **CONS:** Cook (17, 29, 49) **PENS:** Cook (34, 42, 76)

NEWCASTLE FALCONS

TRIES: York (23), McGuigan (62), Saull (67), Tait (71), Cato (80) **CONS:** Godman (24), Hodgson (62, 68, 80)

40

33

AFTER A SHORT BREAK FROM AVIVA PREMIERSHIP ACTION, THE CHERRY AND WHITES SECURED THEIR FIRST LEAGUE DOUBLE OF THE SEASON, BEATING A SPIRITED NEWCASTLE FALCONS AT KINGS HOLM BUT NOT WITHOUT A LATE SCARE.

A lot will be made of the late Falcons' comeback that saw them run in four late tries, but, in truth, the relentless first hour from the Cherry and Whites looked to have put the result in no doubt as they recorded their first maximum point haul of the season.

Nigel Davies named a strong side with his returning England trio of Twelvetrees, May and Morgan returning to camp, the latter two taking a place amongst the replacements with Twelvetrees rested.

Gloucester made a bright start with the Falcons having to work very hard to keep the game scoreless. At the other end, Zach Kibirige, on debut for the visitors, made a sharp break which coaxed James Hudson to infringe and earn a yellow card.

Gloucester were growing in confidence though, with Dan Robson and Matt Kvesic both making bright breaks, before Sione Kalamafoni powered his way over from short range to open the scoring.

The Falcons, to their credit, gained a foothold in the game and, after a plethora of phases, Phil Godman's looped pass found number eight Chris York in space on the right to go over untouched.

Gloucester, though, did come roaring back and, with Kalamafoni sucking in defenders with barnstorming runs, the space was created for the backs. Ryan Mills and Mike Tindall combined to send Rob

Cook through a tackle and over the line, a score which the full back duly improved with the conversion.

Half time arrived with Gloucester enjoying a healthy 17-7 lead and control of the game, despite Martyn Thomas just being unable to collect a Jimmy Cowan pass with the line in clear sight, a possible score which may have ended the contest.

With half the job done, the Cherry

his way over despite the attention of Alex Tait.

With Kingsholm bouncing, Nigel Davies' had the chance to bring on his returning England contingent in Ben Morgan and Jonny May and it was the latter that scored with his first touch. Cook and Trinder combined delightfully to set up the speedster who pressed the turbo to race away for try number five.

"PEOPLE WILL SAY THAT WE WON WITH A BONUS POINT, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THERE IS A VERY QUIET CHANGING ROOM.

TO DROP OFF THE LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE AS BAD AS WE DID TODAY IS UNACCEPTABLE AND THE PLAYERS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THAT." NIGEL DAVIES

and Whites had to continue the pressure, tempo and momentum they had built up in the first half and the scores would come.

Good pressure in defence earned territory and then Hudson, against his old teammates, caught Mike Blair napping to charge down the Scot's kick and fall on the ball for a simple finish.

The fourth try wasn't far away as the Cherry and Whites sniffed blood, with Huia Edmonds' almost making the line himself and his attempted offload to Charlie Sharples failing to find the mark.

The ball was regained by Gloucester and, with Sharples making good ground, the ball was spread to Cook who was tackled just short. But captain Mike Tindall picked up the offload and powered

37-7 up as the hour mark passed, the game was seemingly in the bag but, to their credit, the men from the North East never threw in the towel.

Substitute fly half Joel Hodgson was busy and keen to take the ball up to the gain line and test the Gloucester defence.

First George McGuigan muscled over, then Andy Saull claimed the score from a driving maul. When Alex Tait ghosted through, the visitors had their bonus point score and Kingsholm was stunned.

Noah Cato touched down with the final play and the Falcons had earned a losing bonus point on top of the four tries, and more than deserved the Kingsholm applause as Gloucester had well and truly taken their foot off the pedal.

GLoucester Rugby

| # | POS | NAME |
|----|-----|-----------------------|
| 15 | FB | Rob Cook |
| 14 | W | Charlie Sharples |
| 13 | C | Mike Tindall |
| 12 | C | Billy Twelvetrees (c) |
| 11 | W | Jonny May |
| 10 | FH | Ryan Mills |
| 9 | SH | Jimmy Cowan |
| 1 | P | Nick Wood |
| 2 | H | Darren Dawidiuk |
| 3 | P | Shaun Knight |
| 4 | L | Elliott Stooke |
| 5 | L | Will James |
| 6 | F | Sione Kalamafoni ■ |
| 7 | F | Matt Kvesic |
| 8 | N8 | Ben Morgan |
| 16 | H | Koree Britton |
| 17 | P | Yann Thomas |
| 18 | P | Sila Puafisi ■ |
| 19 | L | Lua Lokotui |
| 20 | N8 | Gareth Evans |
| 21 | SH | Tavis Knolly |
| 22 | FH | Freddie Burns |
| 23 | C | Henry Trinder |

EXETER CHIEFS

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





Match Details: 29th March 2014, KO 15:00, Sandy Park
Attendance: 10, 171
Referee: Matt Carley

EXETER CHIEFS

TRIES: Jess (33), Armand (80) **PEN:** Slade (6)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRY: Sharples (46) **PENS:** Cook (17, 31, 44)

13

14

THE CHERRY AND WHITES MADE IT BACK TO BACK WINS IN THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP FOR THE THIRD TIME THIS SEASON FOLLOWING A VERY HARD FOUGHT AND DECISIVE VICTORY AT SANDY PARK.

After going down to the Chiefs at Kingsholm in around five, the visitors looked a completely different side with a dominant scrum and backs that posed a threat with every touch that stood out in an error-strewn clash next to the M5.

Chiefs, back at Sandy Park after their LV= Cup victory at the same venue a fortnight previously, made a shaky start and, had it not been for the intervention of the TMO would've been behind within the first 90 seconds as Rob Cook coasted through a gap from a well-weighted Ryan Mills pass.

The man in the van, however, spotted the tiniest of knock-ons in the build-up and the perfect start for the visitors wasn't to be.

Henry Slade in fact opened the scoring for the hosts as Gloucester ventured offside, but the game was scrappy with Nigel Davies' men content to soak up the pressure and take advantage of the hosts' errors – much to the scorn of the home faithful.

Then the Gloucester scrum started to hit its straps and won a penalty for a powerful surge against the head. Rob Cook then rewarded the hard work of the pack, knocking over a tricky penalty into the swirling wind.

With the game still yet to find its rhythm, one element that the Cherry and Whites found they could rely on was their dominance up front and Cook stepped forward to put the visitors into a deserved lead with half an hour on the clock.

The lead was short lived, the

Chiefs finally clicked and, after a powerful burst from Dave Ewers, the back division combined for the hosts, resulting in Matt Jess scrambling over in the corner.

Chiefs held the 8-6 lead into the break, with the first score in the second half, typically, set to be a hugely crucial one.

It went to Gloucester, firstly Cook added a simple penalty after good pressure and phase play from the pack and then Gloucester added a special score of their own.

Elliott Stooke stole Chiefs' lineout ball, which Shaun Knight did well to recover and the ball was spread wide with ambition.

Mike Tindall picked a super line to draw in the defenders and fed a neat pass to Rob Cook on the angle who ghosted through the gap and fed Charlie Sharples.

Sharples on his 100th Aviva Premiership appearance needed no second invitation from that position as he sped through and dotted down.

The conversion was narrowly wide from Cook, as was a subsequent penalty kick but the game was opening up in Gloucester's favour as the Chiefs sought a route back into the contest.

On several occasions, good ambition from Freddie Burns, showing the vast travelling support exactly what he is truly capable of, made sharp breaks and, with Jonny May a constant threat, the scoring pass or bounce was agonisingly close.

Back came the Chiefs and, as the game neared its conclusion, the visitors were defending deeper and

deeper. Sila Puafisi's brief appearance ended when he was sin binned for a clumsy late hit and, with Chiefs



Champagne Moment:

Good spoiling work at the line out by the forwards created the platform for the backs to cause havoc, and the try stemmed on a great delayed pass from Mike Tindall as he found Rob Cook on a smart angle to put in Sharples for another score for the winger.

looking for the vital seven pointer, the Cherry and White wall was being really threatened, if not breached.

The Chiefs did finally score with the game in added time through Don Armand, with Sione Kalamafoni in the bin. The result then sat firmly on the right foot of Gareth Steenson – a man who knows the Sandy Park breeze and seemingly a cert to win the game for his team. A conclusion that would sum up the campaign for the Cherry and Whites.

But lady luck smiled on the visitors, the Irishman's kick drifted narrowly wide and a third domestic away win of the campaign was stocked away in the bag back up the M5.

Teams correct at time of print: 10th April 2014



TODAY'S TEAMS



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| ROB COOK | FULLBACK |
| CHARLIE SHARPLES | RIGHT WING |
| HENRY TRINDER | CENTRE |
| BILLY TWELVETREES (C) | CENTRE |
| JONNY MAY | LEFT WING |
| RYAN MILLS | FLY HALF |
| JIMMY COWAN | SCRUM HALF |
| NICK WOOD | PROP |
| DAN GEORGE | HOOKE |
| SHAUN KNIGHT | PROP |
| ELLIOTT STOOKE | LOCK |
| JAMES HUDSON | LOCK |
| SIONE KALAMAFONI | FLANKER |
| MATT KVESIC | FLANKER |
| BEN MORGAN | NO.8 |
| HUIA EDMONDS | REPLACEMENT |
| YANN THOMAS | REPLACEMENT |
| SILA PUAFISI | REPLACEMENT |
| WILL JAMES | REPLACEMENT |
| GARETH EVANS | REPLACEMENT |
| TAVIS KNOYLE | REPLACEMENT |
| FREDDIE BURNS | REPLACEMENT |
| MARTYN THOMAS | REPLACEMENT |

BATH RUGBY

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| NICK ABENDANON | FULLBACK |
| HORACIO AGULLA | RIGHT WING |
| MATT BANAHAN | CENTRE |
| KYLE EASTMOND | CENTRE |
| SEMESA ROKODUGUNI | LEFT WING |
| GEORGE FORD | FLY HALF |
| MICKY YOUNG | SCRUM HALF |
| PAUL JAMES | PROP |
| ROSS BATTY | HOOKE |
| DAVEY WILSON | PROP |
| STUART HOOPER (C) | LOCK |
| DAVE ATTWOOD | LOCK |
| MATT GARVEY | FLANKER |
| CARL FEARNES | FLANKER |
| LEROY HOUSTON | NO.8 |
| TOM DUNN | REPLACEMENT |
| NATHAN CATT | REPLACEMENT |
| ANTHONY PERENISE | REPLACEMENT |
| DOMINIC DAY | REPLACEMENT |
| GUY MERCER | REPLACEMENT |
| PETER STRINGER | REPLACEMENT |
| GAVIN HENSON | REPLACEMENT |
| ANTHONY WATSON | REPLACEMENT |

IN CHARGE TODAY:

Referee: **Tim Wigglesworth**
Assistant Referees: **Andrew Pearce and Gareth Copsey**