

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



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AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY
VS. LONDON IRISH



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THE PRIDE ~ THE PASSION ~ THE HONOUR ~ THE HISTORY

AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY





CAPTAIN'S CORNER

TOM SAVAGE

Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for today's final home match of the Aviva Premiership season.

There's no hiding from it, this season hasn't gone to plan the way we have wanted. But we sit reflectively at the end of the season, and it's important to us that we finish on a high.

Momentum is a huge thing in our game, and if we can head into the summer off the back of two wins then we can build off that in the

has looked a class act and well at home in the Aviva Premiership.

Dan Robson too, has continued his fine development and next season we are excited to see what is to come from Dan and his work with some quality international operators around him.

Nigel talks a lot about culture and, as club captain this year, I have learnt even more about what this great club means, and that every time a Gloucester player puts on a Cherry and White shirt, they play for

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS SEASON, TODAY IS A CHANCE FOR THE PLAYERS TO THANK YOU AND GIVE YOU PLENTY OF REASONS TO SHOUT AND CHEER."

Support As always your support has been vital this season



hard work that is to come in our preseason preparations.

One positive aspect however this season, despite a few disappointing results, is that as a club we have seen the continued development of some hugely talented young rugby players within our squad.

Elliott Stooke started the season off the back of a successful summer with England Under 20s and, from the moment he was given the nod to make his first start in a Cherry and White shirt, he

every single one of our supporters.

From my point of view, the injury I sustained in November has made this season doubly frustrating. But it's given me a chance to work hard behind the scenes and develop my game so that, when the time comes and I am ready for a return, I hope to make a big impact.

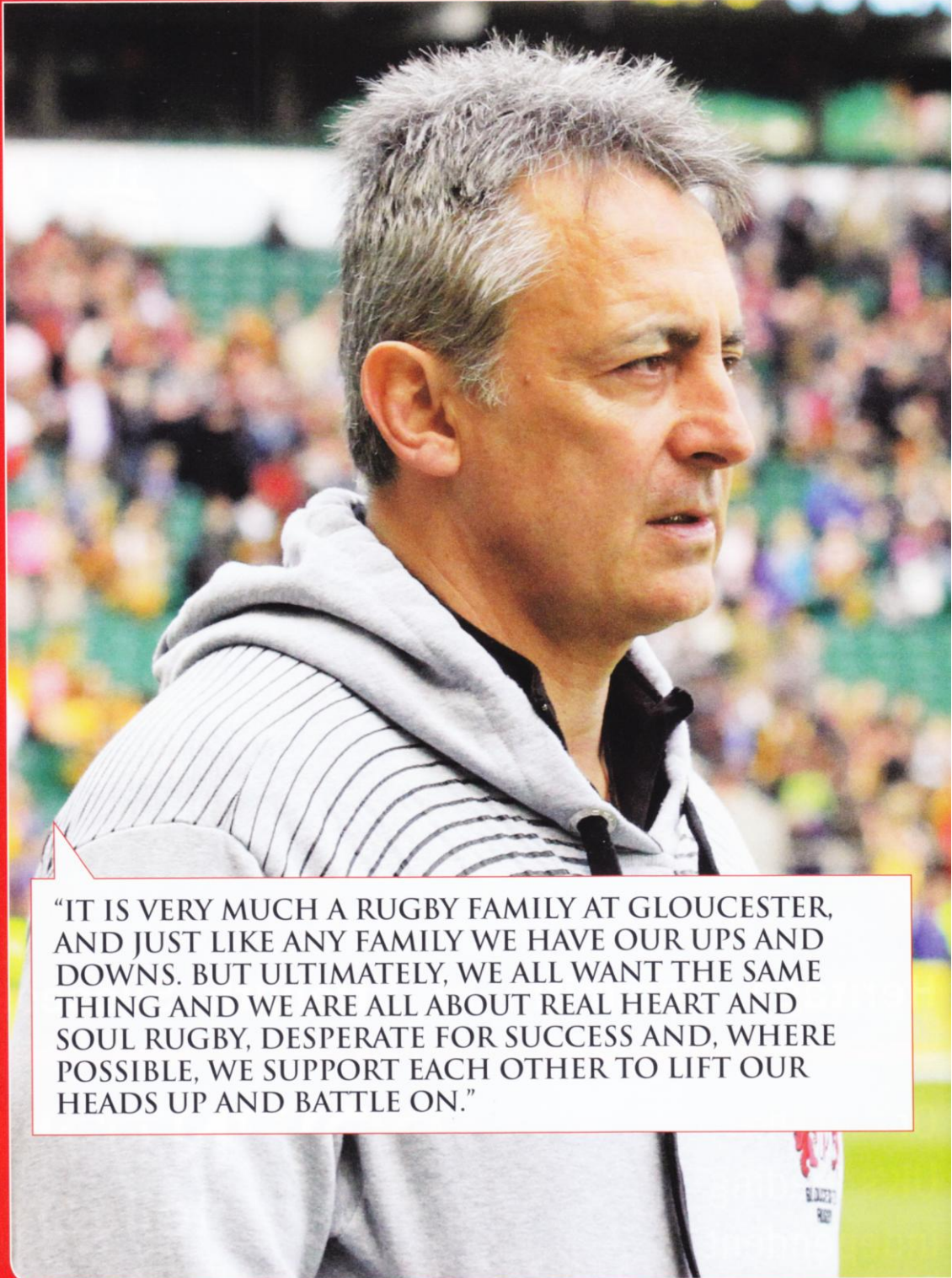
We have plenty to look forward to throughout the summer too. It's great to see the trio of Gloucester players selected for the England U20s defence of the Junior World Championship, so best of luck to Billy, Jonny and Ross.

Thank you for your support this season, today is a chance for the players to thank you and give you plenty of reasons to shout and cheer.

Enjoy the game,

Sav

NIGEL DAVIES DIRECTOR OF RUGBY



"IT IS VERY MUCH A RUGBY FAMILY AT GLOUCESTER, AND JUST LIKE ANY FAMILY WE HAVE OUR UPS AND DOWNS. BUT ULTIMATELY, WE ALL WANT THE SAME THING AND WE ARE ALL ABOUT REAL HEART AND SOUL RUGBY, DESPERATE FOR SUCCESS AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER TO LIFT OUR HEADS UP AND BATTLE ON."

COACH'S NOTES

On behalf of myself, my management team and playing squad I would like to welcome you all here today for what will be our final home game of the domestic season.

This is a day to show real energy

deserved more success. Throughout the campaign the support we have received has been remarkable, it's stayed strong and really is an additional force for our players.

Maybe no better example of this was when, after the Twickenham game against Wasps recently, we

I firmly believe today that our players will "show what it means" to play in that famous shirt.

Today will also potentially see a number of players playing their last games for the Cherry and Whites at Kingsholm, and this will be a very emotional experience for them as, no matter what happens in a season, every player who plays here knows that this is a special place with a unique feel and support that is very difficult to experience anywhere else.

It is very much a rugby family at Gloucester, and just like any family we have our ups and downs. But ultimately, we all want the same thing and we are all about real heart and soul rugby, desperate for success and, where possible, we support each other to lift our heads up and battle on.

This is our home and from now on we will protect it!

I would like to thank personally all those players who are leaving for their efforts, which have been much appreciated, and I wish them well and know that they will always carry fond memories of their time here.

Although our hopes of finishing in a European play off position look slim we will never ever give in and that is the spirit that we must always have. So, with the emotion around some of our leaving players, and still the possibility of taking something from the season, our players will be looking to "show what it means".

To our visitors a warm welcome, they have been battling like ourselves this season but are a capable team, and I have no doubt they will be also up for this game.

Enjoy your afternoon here at Kingsholm,

Nigel



and commitment at our brilliant home and celebrate the best of Gloucester Rugby, as we look forward to a big performance and fantastic game at Kingsholm today.

We have all been frustrated and bitterly disappointed with aspects of our season and, for all the efforts that I know both the players and management have put in, we have not been able to push on from the big improvements we saw last season.

One of the most difficult things for us to come to terms with is that our Gloucester faithful have

stopped off at Reading services with the new team bus pulling alongside a couple of supporter buses. The players were naturally apprehensive, however, the supporters from both buses came and met the players as they disembarked to chat, take photos and ask for autographs.

This was a very humbling experience for both myself and all the team and, once again, brings home the passion that our supporters have and what it means to support Gloucester Rugby and how they cherish the players that don the famous Cherry and White.

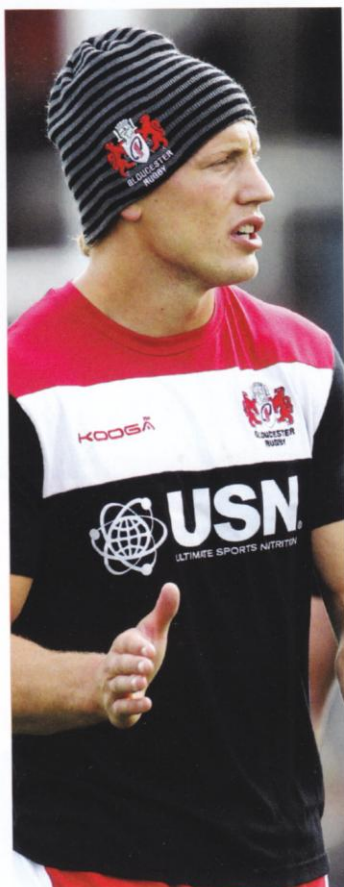


VIEW FROM The Citizen

with **MIKE BROWN**

In his final programme feature of the season, Mike hands out some unofficial awards for the 2013-14 season.

AWARDS SEASON



PLAYER OF THE SEASON:

BILLY TWELVETREES

Not only has Twelvetrees been one of Gloucester's most consistent performers, but he has been completely selfless and led by example on and off the field.

Rob Cook also deserves a mention, but Twelvetrees has been the glue in the Gloucester back-line whether wearing number 10 or 12. Solid in defence and subtle in attack.

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE SEASON: ELLIOTT STOOKE

The second-row has established himself as an ever-present fixture in the Gloucester pack with 28 appearances in his breakthrough season. Stooke brings a real physical presence and is becoming the enforcer the club has been crying out for.

In an ideal world Stooke would not have had such a work load piled on his young shoulders. But the way he has responded has left little doubt that Gloucester can build a pack around him.

UNSUNG HERO OF THE SEASON: YANN THOMAS

The scrum has been an area of concern all season. But following a disastrous start, Thomas went some way to stabilising it.

He has packed down and done a manful job on both sides of the scrum and racked up 27 appearances.

TRY OF THE SEASON: MARTYN THOMAS (Second versus Edinburgh at Murrayfield)

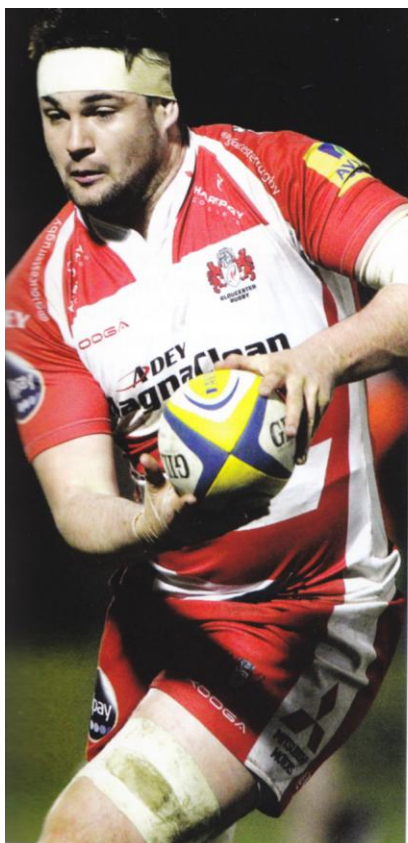
In what has been a disappointing season there has still been an abundance of sensational tries.

Elliott Stooke capped his debut with a fine try following some twinkling toe magic from James Simpson-Daniel. Charlie Sharples' score following a barnstorming Gareth Evans break also deserves a mention, while Jonny May has blazed a trail on too many occasions to count.

It was the England wing that laid the foundations for Thomas' second try against Edinburgh, beating five defenders on a trademark arcing run before slipping an inside ball to the Welsh wing.

AND AGAINST: JAMIE ELLIOTT (Northampton Saints)

Elliott's try against Gloucester in



SIGNING OF THE SEASON: **MATT KVESIC**

While we may not have seen the best of the England flanker, you simply cannot question his work-rate or desire.

The 22-year-old has shown glimpses of his best behind a struggling pack and should flourish next season with the arrival of so many forward reinforcements.

Challenge Cup quarter-finals.

OCCASION OF THE SEASON: **MUNSTER AT HOME**

There was plenty of pre-match hyperbole and it certainly delivered. Following a string of disappointing performances, Nigel Davies recruited Gloucester great Mike Teague to rally the troops and present the



Round Three is surely a candidate for the try of the season.

George North launched the attack from deep inside his own 22 before beating Henry Trinder, Jonny May and Billy Twelvetrees and finding Ben Foden in support. The ball was then moved through the hands of Calum Clark for Elliott to race home.

PERFORMANCE OF THE SEASON: **PERPIGNAN AWAY**

Gloucester had been written off ahead of the clash but they produced a superb all-round performance to secure a 36-18 win at the formidable Stade Aime Giral.

Nigel Davies' side bagged five fantastic tries to qualify for the Amlin



shirts and they responded with a performance full of passion and desire.

They failed to secure the win but they pushed the Heineken Cup semi-finalists to the wire and had Kingsholm rocking.

SUPPORTER OF THE SEASON

A special mention to lifelong Gloucester supporter **Melissa Smith** who is beginning the celebrations for her 100th birthday at Kingsholm today.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugby heritage.org.uk

BOOTH & HOPSON

GLOUCESTER RUGBY'S GREATEST HALF BACK PARTNERSHIP



he fully deserved the international cap that somehow always eluded him. Nicknamed "The General" by sections of the press, primarily because of his name, he lived up to that nickname on the pitch.

Terry Hopson was a mercurial genius, one of the most naturally gifted footballers ever to play for Gloucester. He was noted for his prodigious touch kicking and his ability to break with real pace. Although a match winner on many occasions, his lack of consistency sometimes frustrated his many admirers.



Early Days

Mickey Booth and Terry Hopson were born within a few months of each other, within a stone's throw of the Kingsholm ground and both attended the local St Marks Infants' School, before Mickey went on to Sir Thomas Rich's and Terry to Central School.

On leaving school, Mickey Booth played first for the newly formed Longlevens club and then for Spartans before joining Gloucester early in the 1956-57 season. He quickly impressed and, after three games for Gloucester United, made his debut at scrum half against Oxford University a few days before

his eighteenth birthday.

After leaving school Terry Hopson joined Gordon League, where he played in his preferred position of outside half. He moved to Bristol with his family in 1957 and joined Bath RFC, where he played for two seasons in the centre.

In 1958-59 he played against Gloucester both home and away, scoring a try at Kingsholm and making the scoring pass for his side's only try in the return at Bath. The matches were both drawn, 8-8 and 3-3, with Mickey Booth playing for Gloucester in the game at Bath.

ON match day in the 1960s, the first priority for a Gloucester supporter would be to secure a place in the Shed, open the programme, and scan the team list anxiously to check that Mickey Booth and Terry Hopson had been selected to play as the half back pairing that day.

Mickey Booth was a wily tactician who could control a game from an early age. His sniping runs, sound tactical kicking and fine service marked him out as one of the very best scrum halves of his generation, and many sound judges believed that



The Partnership Begins 1959-60

The Hopson family returned to Gloucester in 1959 when Terry's father, the former Gloucester hooker Joe Hopson, took over the Talbot Hotel. Terry joined the Gloucester club at the start of the 1959-60 season.

By this time, Mickey Booth was already well established as the Gloucester scrum half, having played over 90 1st XV games and ten for Gloucestershire and appeared in an England trial the previous season at the age of 19.

Terry played his first game at centre in a 17-14 home defeat by Stroud on 10 September (Mickey was playing in a county friendly in Bristol) but moved to outside half to play a further three games in ten days alongside Mickey Booth.

All three games were won and the reports on the new half back pairing were glowing. The Booth and Hopson partnership had arrived.

The two 20 year old half backs went on to play 35 games together in that first season, the best of the five seasons under Peter Ford's captaincy.

Doubles were achieved against Coventry, Bath and Moseley and there were notable wins against Cardiff, Leicester, Neath, Aberavon and both Oxford and Cambridge Universities. When Gloucester beat London Scottish 11-0 at Richmond on January 2, they had completed 13 successive victories – a club record.

The RAF Intervenes 1960-62

The partnership was broken the following season when Mickey Booth was called up for service in the RAF, which limited his Gloucester appearances. He

played in the RAF side which won the 1962 Triangular Services Tournament at Twickenham and played for the RAF against Gloucester in two narrow defeats at Kingsholm. He played in France with Combined Services in 1961 and toured South Africa in 1962.

Gloucester's team performance was disappointing in 1960-61 but Terry Hopson scored 16 tries and in 1961-62 caught the eye of the county selectors for the first time.

For Club and County 1962-66

Booth and Hopson played their first County Championship game in tandem against Somerset in October 1962 and for the next four seasons were the regular county pairing at half back.

On 17 December 1963, just three days after an off-key performance by Terry Hopson in a desperate 3-0 scrambled victory over Somerset at Kingsholm, the Hopson-Booth partnership put on perhaps their best display playing for Western Counties against the All Blacks at Bristol. The New Zealanders were run desperately close in winning 22-14 and considered Booth and Hopson to be the best half back pairing that they had met on tour.

Calls for the pair to be considered for international selection were ignored, although Mickey Booth was a travelling reserve for the final trial. This was the peak of the partnership with both players at their best. In four seasons they played 106 games for Gloucester and 13 times for the county.

The Later Years 1966-70

The 1966-70 period brought mixed

fortunes for Booth and Hopson and the opportunities to play together were more limited. Their final game in tandem was against Newbridge on 23 February 1970. The partnership had spanned eleven seasons and 206 games.

Terry Hopson had an outstanding game in Western Counties' 9-0 win against the Wallabies in January 1967 but had difficulty getting into the Gloucester side. In February 1968 he resigned and was approached by Bath. The following month he returned to Kingsholm with Bath and featured in a rare bitter-sweet 18-6 Bath victory over Gloucester.

He rejoined Gloucester for 1969-70 and had another fine season, playing for Western Counties who drew 3-3 with the Springboks in December and for Gloucestershire in the County Championship final.

Returning for Gloucester United at Kingsholm in January 1971, following a thigh injury which had sidelined him all season, he suffered a broken leg, which ended his career.

Mickey Booth also had his problems with the Gloucester committee and as a result played few games in Hopson's final 1969-70 season. He played on with great success for a further two years however, striking up a fine partnership with Tom Palmer and ended his career at Twickenham in Gloucester's 1972 Cup Final victory over Moseley.

Hopson on Booth:

"Mickey Booth....a very, very good player.....good at protecting an outside half....he was deadly accurate with his passing....he was an immaculate chip kicker....if his pack wasn't going forward, he'd make sure it was... he'd do little sniping breaks to break the game up.... he could win a game without an outside half."

Booth on Hopson:

"Terry Hopson was so gifted....he had the biggest kick I've seen in my life....pace, an eye for an opening.... when he was on form he was a magnificent player."

Interviews with Terry Hopson and Mickey Booth may be heard on www.gloucester rugby heritage.org.uk.



ExtraMEDIA

Nick Wood @n1ckwood

since this man took over as waterboy
#jimhadabeard





BUILDING BLOCKS

WITH THE FINISHING POST OF THE SEASON IN SIGHT, NICK WOOD IS FULLY FOCUSED ON PUTTING IN THE HARD YARDS WITH THE CHERRY AND WHITES, AND A PAIR OF WINS ARE THE TARGET AHEAD OF THE SUMMER BREAK.

Ahead of the final two Aviva Premiership games, Wood stresses that the hard work is still being put in by the squad to end the campaign on a real high after a week off from playing action.

from that game.

"There were a number of things that we got right, and there were points in the game where we got into our attack and stressed Wasps. But we probably didn't do it enough - a couple of defensive errors

"IT'S VITALLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE A GOOD FAREWELL WITH THEM AND SEE IT OUT ON A HIGH."

"It's been a week off in terms of games certainly, but it's not been a week off training. We've been in working hard since the Wasps game to try and put things right

cost us and didn't allow us to put pressure on them.

"In terms of the league table, you certainly don't want to go into the summer on a low because it rolls



Comeback Nick regrets his start to the season and has made an impact in the scrum since his return

→ onto pre season and into the start of next season.

"It's the last couple of games with this group and there are many publicised signings and a number of guys that have been here for a couple of years that are leaving. It's vitally important to have a good farewell with them and see it out on a high."

No one could have predicted the start of the season that the experienced front-rower endured, and he admits that it was a tough time. But, since then, things have been going in the right direction in both the Cherry and Whites' scrum and overall game.

"Obviously I have got to hold my hand up regarding the start of the season. I can't say too much about how the team went at the start because I cost myself and the team my availability for those weeks, and

was subsequently not registered for the four European games off the back of that.

"To miss twelve games at that crucial point of the season, there is no pointing fingers from me as to that, as it was my mistake.

"Certainly with the scrum, the battering we took at the start of the season and through to Christmas and after, we've done really well to turn that around in the last four to six weeks. Imagine if we'd have got that going at the start of the season then we would be a force to be reckoned with."

The change in personnel at scrum coach saw Tony Windo's fine tenure come at an end, and the return of World Cup winner Trevor Woodman to oversee the Gloucester engine.

"The thing about Tony, it wasn't about the coaching, it was just the hours needed. It is such an integral

part of the game, such a technical area that itself has undergone big changes over the last year in terms of the new laws.

"The advantage with Trevor is not only his technical knowledge, his pedigree as both a player and a coach, but the fact that for him, it's a full time job and he can dedicate that time."

With Richard Hibbard and John Afoa just two of the new additions heading to Kingsholm next season, Wood is relishing their arrival and the impact they will bring and is tipping them to be fans' favourites.

"Two great signings. Hopefully things will carry on the way that they have been going, and players will be here for many seasons and hopefully both finish their careers at Gloucester.

"Now we have got the coaching staff that can dedicate the time to



that area, we can all get the best out of one another."

As an experienced member of the Gloucester squad, Wood is quick to praise the impact of several of the younger members of the squad and the brightness of their performances throughout a topsy-turvy campaign.

"Stookey has had a great year, not only has he improved in terms of ability but his durability as well. He has played most games this season and it's his first season in the Premiership.

"It's no small feat for him, it's such a brutal game these days and it's only getting more and more physical. So to come in and put in that string of performances, is a great credit to him as an athlete and person.

"On top of that, you've got Gareth Evans. He's been around for a few years and he's waited for



his chance. Unfortunately, he got injured against Bath but with the opportunities he's had this year, he's been great.

"IT'S BEEN A WEEK OFF IN TERMS OF GAMES CERTAINLY, BUT IT'S NOT BEEN A WEEK OFF TRAINING. WE'VE BEEN IN WORKING HARD SINCE THE WASPS GAME TO TRY AND PUT THINGS RIGHT FROM THAT GAME."



"Games like Perpignan away stand out for me, and he's really shown his class and fair play to Gareth for taking his opportunity."



KINGSHOLM NEWS with BOB FENTON

*So, here we go then, once more into the breach, dear friends...
Forget this year; it'll be all different by August. That's the great
thing about sport, there is always one more time!*



Funny how a few weeks can feel like a lifetime, isn't it? It's four weeks ago today that we were getting ready to welcome Bath to the pitch, hopes of a European play-off place still burning brightly.

Fortunately nothing much happened in that game that is worth reflecting on, I know we lost but can't recall much else happening... Did I miss something?

That was one of those occasions when I hit the mental 'delete history' button almost as soon as

the final whistle was blown. The untidy end to the game has been done to death, so best forget it and move on. Anyway, even though we lost, a win away at Wasps in their annual over the top extravaganza at Twickenham could possibly get us into that now almost mythical European place.

Didn't quite work out though did it? Even though the score board said the result at the end was close, in reality we were a long way short of getting the win.

Once again it seemed that the

opposition kit man had packed the clock of invisibility from Harry Potter or wherever that immediately rendered players immune to our tackling attempts. Maybe next season we can afford to get one too. Or perhaps someone will find an antidote so we don't come top of the missed tackles league next term.

Somewhat bizarrely, though, we could still get that European place – all we have to do is win our next two matches and as long as Wasps and Exeter lose both their remaining games with no bonus points we're in!

So we'll start today with a swift five points against London Irish. I hope their supporters will forgive me for this, but I reckon that they are right next to us in the table of under-achievers for this season, and are out of the reckoning for anything other than a quick trip to the travel agents to book that summer holiday. So, the least they could do is let us take the points and run off up the road to Worcester next week to complete the win double.

So Europe is possible, dead easy. But I've just checked outside the window and there is no sign of any airborne members of the pig family. So I guess we should accept our fate with dignity, humility and no small amount of under the breath swearing.

So, how did a season that promised so much, deliver so little? No point in asking me, if I knew the answer I'd probably be watching from the dugout rather

than the stands. But, since I am writing this stuff, I'll try to answer my own question.

For me it was all about small margins - little mistakes, lost confidence and daft errors have cost us dear this term. And I don't think that there are many people here today who will not be reaching for the aforesaid 'delete history' button to erase the memories of this season from the memory banks as quickly as is humanly possible.

No doubt the inquests will go on (and on and on) we might grumble, we might threaten to stay away, but deep down we know we'll be back. Come August we'll all be back in position, ready to go and hearts filled with hope.

My guess is that we'll have said goodbye to a fair few members of the current squad, some we know about and some we probably don't. I wish them well wherever they end up - with the usual caveat of when (or if) they play against us - on those occasions they are contractually obliged to have a complete nightmare.

We'll also have a few new faces and names to pin our hopes on - Afoa, Hibbard, Laidlaw, Palmer - that's a pretty good quartet for starters. Some others we know and maybe there are a couple more to be announced, fingers crossed.

They will all be looking forward to their initiation, I'm reliably informed that they will ALL have to undergo it regardless of experience and stature in the game. Yeah... Not so sure... Would you like to be the bloke that tells Richard Hibbard that you are about to shave off his trademark locks??? I think I'd pay good money to watch someone try!

It looks highly likely that we'll also be saying 'Au Revoir' to our near neighbours from Worcester as they seem destined for a spell in the Championship. Barring miracles happening we'll be replacing them with another, more historic, derby with Bristol seemingly unstoppable in their quest for promotion.

Seeing them back in the Premiership will see the re-start of The Rifles Cup, I believe that, since the trophy was



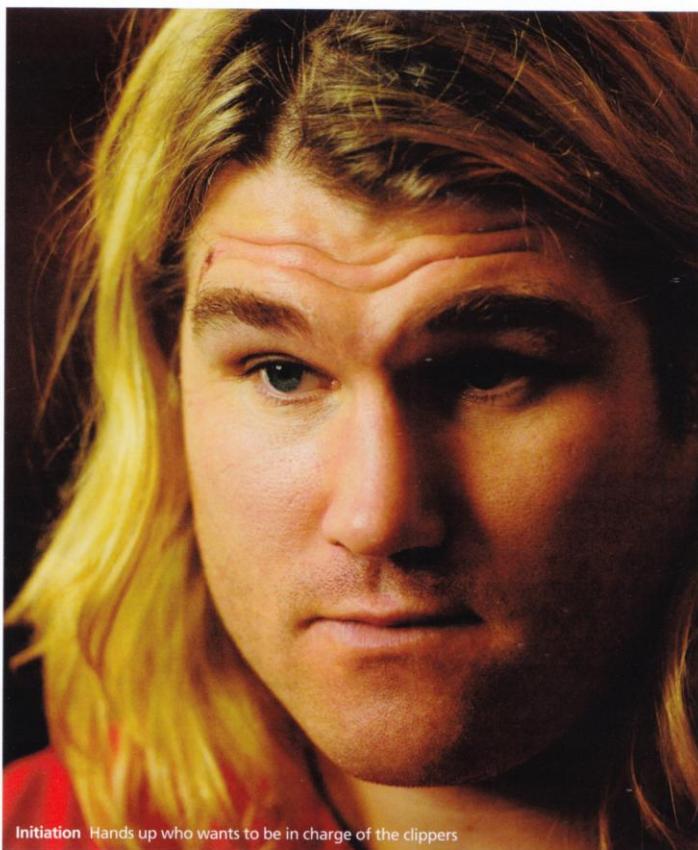
Hard season It has been a season to forget

donated by the Regiment, it has always resided at Gloucester. So maybe we can win some silverware next year!

So, here we go then, once more into the breach, dear friends...

Forget this year; it'll be all different by August. That's the great thing about sport, there is always one more time!

Have a great summer and I'll see you then - I can't wait!



Initiation Hands up who wants to be in charge of the clippers



WITH APOLOGIES TO ANYONE FROM THE CHURCH (SIC) WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY, DEAR FRIENDS, TO BID FAREWELL TO THE 2013-14 SEASON AT KINGSHOLM.



IN truth, it's not been a particularly good vintage, but that happens sometimes and Gloucester fans usually believe better is around the corner, be it next weekend, or in this case, next autumn.

By that time, Will James should be settled and ready to start his first full rugby term at Ampleforth College. "Grills", as he is known to the players - it comes from a side line in barbeque sets in his early days at Gloucester - is heading to north Yorkshire as soon as the season is over, to take up a post which clearly excites him.

"The opportunity came up towards the end of last summer," he told me. "I had renewed my contract to play this season in January 2013, but coaching and development roles don't come up that often, especially within the independent schools network.

"I knew I couldn't play on for ever, and although mentally and

physically I thought I could do one more year you have to look at the bigger picture.

"I had to consider my next step, and this was something with more longevity about it. When I'd been for the interview and heard I'd been successful, it was a mix of joy and anticipation. I finish my career and have something to get stuck into straight away, especially since the school have held the post open since last September."

Ampleforth is an impressive set up. Half an hour north of York, the estate covers around 3,500 acres, and while it is a Catholic school, it is not exclusively for Catholic children.

The rugby pedigree is significant, with Lawrence Dallaglio among its former pupils. Ampleforth Abbey, the Benedictine monastery linked

Capped This is the Welsh internationals final season at Kingsholm

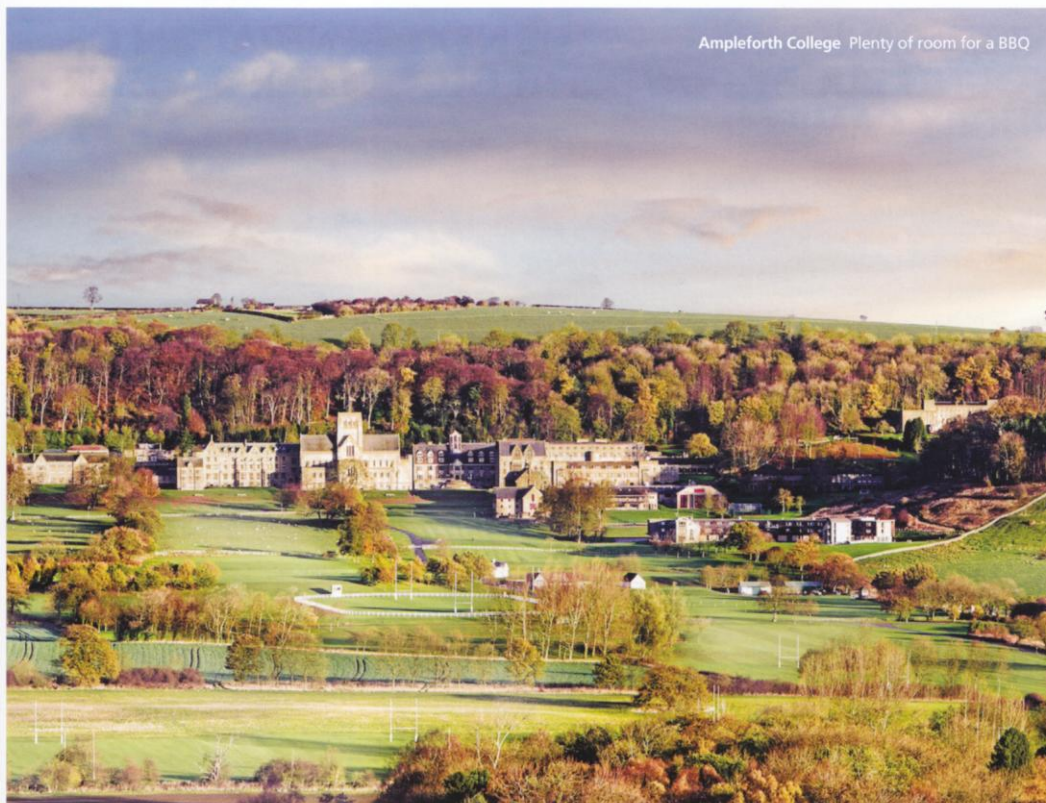


to the school, makes beer and cider which is sold in major supermarkets.

Today, James will run out ahead of the Gloucester team with his two children, Bethan (12) and Moyce (10). He signed for Gloucester at 29, so to stay for eight seasons and to

chairman of the RPA, since the role has to be held by a current Premiership player. He leaves behind a group being extensively restructured by Nigel Davies, but one which James believes has a good blend.

looks into further down the line, but he feels he is coming in at the right level. As a second row, confrontation is part of the game, and his distinctive shaven head - latterly often hidden by a scrum cap - will be one of those familiar



Ampleforth College Plenty of room for a BBQ

represent Wales at full international level is a phase of his career he regards highly.

"I've had some great times and it's been a privilege to be involved in so many memorable games" said Will. "There have been some disappointments, when we have got close to winning things, but once you have played at Gloucester it becomes part of who you are.

"I'll always look for the results and have a genuine interest in how the guys are doing, and I hope the club can get back up to the top of the table and be challenging for honours in the future."

As well as leaving Kingsholm, James is also standing down as

"There has to be a balance. Very few teams can succeed on youthful energy alone, but equally you can't have one which is top heavy on age, with the majority of the guys over 30.

"There's a lot of quality coming in from people who have performed on the highest stage - an All Black (Afoa), a British Lion (Hibbard) and an experienced Scotland international (Laidlaw). There are some younger boys here who have been exposed to the Premiership for a while now, and by adding those established players things can only get better."

Coaching in the professional game maybe something James

Kingsholm sights consigned to the memory.

London Irish come here today with little to play for, unlike when the sides met earlier in the season. Gloucester's form was sketchy at best, but the narrow win, allied to the victory over Worcester, created a cushion that meant any threat of relegation was headed off before it really took hold.

Let's hope for a spectacle to finish the season on an uplifting note.

Enjoy your summer.



Follow Ian on Twitter: @ian_randall1

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Rob Cook
14	W	Charlie Sharples
13	C	Henry Trinder
12	C	Billy Twelvetrees
11	W	Jonny May
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Jimmy Cowan
1	P	Nick Wood
2	H	Dan George
3	P	Shaun Knight
4	L	Elliot Stooke
5	L	James Hudson
6	F	Sione Kalamafoni
7	F	Matt Kvesić
8	N8	Ben Morgan
16		Dan Murphy
17		Yann Thomas
18	R	Sila Puafisi
19	R	Will James
20	R	Gareth Evans
21	R	Tavis Knoyle
22	R	Thomas Young
23	R	Martyn Thomas

LONDON WASPS

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Andrea Masi
14	W	James Short
13	C	Elliot Daly
12	C	Chris Bell
11	W	Viliami Helu
10	FH	Andy Goode
9	SH	Joe Simpson
1	P	Matt Mullan
2	H	Carlo Festuccia
3	P	Jake Cooper-Woolley
4	L	Joe Launchbury
5	L	Kearnan Myall
6	F	Sam Jones
7	F	James Haskell
8	N8	Nathan Hughes ■
16	R	Tom Lindsay
17	R	Simon McIntyre
18	R	Phil Swainston
19	R	Tom Palmer
20	R	Guy Thompson
21	R	Charlie Davies
22		Joe Carlisle
23	R	Charlie Hayter





Quarter-Final Match Details: 6th April 2014, KO 19:00, Adams Park

Attendance: 5,311

Referee: Marius Mitrea (Italy)

LONDON WASPS

TRIES: Mullan (30), Festuccia (43), Helu (76) **CONS:** Goode (31, 44, 77) **PENS:** Goode (36, 51, 65, 71) **DROP:** Goode (13)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES: May (55), Evans (61), M. Thomas (80) **CONS:** Cook (56, 63, 80) **PEN:** Cook (33)

36

24

THE BONUS POINT WIN IN PERPIGNAN BACK IN JANUARY KEPT GLOUCESTER'S EUROPEAN DREAM ALIVE FOR 2013/14 BUT, ON A WET AND WINDY NIGHT IN HIGH WYCOMBE, LONDON WASPS PUT AN END TO THE ADVENTURE AT THE QUARTER FINAL STAGE.

On a night where rain drizzled down from start to finish, Gloucester were left to rue a lacklustre first half showing which left themselves with a mountain to climb in the closing stages.

Both sides started well with ball in hand and tried to play the game in the right areas, but slowly the home side gained the ascendancy in the forwards and forced Gloucester to defend for long periods.

Andy Goode opened the scoring with a drop goal as Gloucester repelled a number of Wasps attacks, but the Cherry and Whites were struggling to turn their own field position into pressure and points as referee Marius Mitrea failed to let the game flow.

It was a physical encounter, with the Wasps back row prominent in the loose and, as a result, Gloucester's tackle count rose.

A rare chance came as Matt Kvesic charged down a Goode clearance but, as the ball bounced into the hands of Freddie Burns, the stand off was unable to wriggle free of the last man.

The first try arrived at the half hour mark and went the way of Wasps. The home forwards worked hard round the fringes, and prop Matt Mullan had just enough strength to dot down.

The two kickers, Rob Cook and Goode then traded penalties, although the former missed a crucial kick on the stroke of half time. The Cherry and Whites were

well in the game without ever really getting going.

The start of the second half saw Wasps open up a healthy lead in controversial fashion.

Hooker Carlo Festuccia's dive for the line under a pile of bodies was referred upstairs to the TMO. The decision was an age in coming, and

to the score.

Gareth Evans peeled off a maul to dive over in the same corner for his first Gloucester try and Cook's brilliant conversion made it a six-point game.

As Adams Park was getting very nervous, Goode calmed those nerves with a pair of penalties, to all

Champagne Moment:

Gareth Evans showed great strength to power over the line with three Wasps' defenders on his back. A deserved first score for the back rower after a plethora of impressive displays throughout the campaign.



footage showed the ball lost forward and grounded short of the line.

Much to the frustration of the visitors, the try was awarded and left Gloucester with it all to do as Goode then knocked over another penalty.

To their credit they did respond and Burns' brilliant pass gave Jonny May an easy finish. This gave Gloucester an understandable boost and they were hungry in defence and attack following Nathan Hughes' yellow card in the build up

but put the game to bed. The final nail in the coffin arrived as Helu fell on a loose ball following a sharp break from Elliot Daly to score the host's third try.

Gloucester did cross for a consolation in added time as Martyn Thomas cut a neat line to dive over but, for all the second half effort and endeavour, Gloucester deserved more from the officials but were left to rue a poor show in the first 40.

GLoucester Rugby

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

BATH Rugby

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Nick Abendanon
14	W	Semesa Rokoduguni
13	C	Matt Banahan
12	C	Kyle Eastmond
11	W	Horacio Agulla
10	FH	George Ford
9	SH	Micky Young
1	P	Paul James
2	H	Ross Batty
3	P	David Wilson
4	L	Stuart Hooper (c)
5	L	Dave Attwood ■
6	F	Matt Garvey ■
7	F	Carl Fearn ■
8	N8	Leroy Houston
16		Tom Dunn
17	P	Nathan Catt
18	P	Anthony Perenise
19	R	Dom Day
20	F	Guy Mercer
21	SH	Peter Stringer
22	C	Gavin Henson
23	W	Anthony Watson



IN A GAME THAT WILL REMAIN LONG IN THE MEMORY, BATH RUGBY RECORDED THEIR FIRST LEAGUE WIN AT KINGSHOLM SINCE 2006, ON A DRAMA-FILLED AFTERNOON IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

As a spectacle, it had it all, big hits, a spicy atmosphere, a sell out crowd and a fair share of controversy – a perfect West Country derby recipe it would seem. But the post match debates raged far longer than usual following this one.

Nigel Davies' men were the brightest in the opening stages, working the ball through the phases in the

Kingsholm sunshine and, when gaps appeared, the speedsters on the flanks worked hard to gain ground.

Billy Twelvetrees opened the scoring from the tee with a 4th minute penalty, but George Ford then levelled the scores with a penalty of his own.

The reverse fixture between the two sides at The Rec in October saw the home pack enjoy the upper hand over the Cherry and Whites but, on this





Match Details: 12th April 2014, KO 14:15, Kingsholm

Attendance: 16,121

Referee: Tim Wigglesworth

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRY: Trinder (70) **PENS:** Twelvetrees (4, 24, 28, 67)

BATH RUGBY

TRIES: Hooper (54), Penalty try (78) **CON:** Ford (79) **PENS:** Ford (12, 35)

17

18

occasion, it was a different story. The home forwards stood toe to toe and at times had their opponents under a lot of pressure.

Twelvetrees kicked Gloucester into a 9-3 lead with two penalties, the second of which came as Carl Fearn was rightly sent to the naughty step for playing the ball on the floor after a good Gloucester break.

Meanwhile, Ford knocked over his second as Gloucester were penalised for a line out infringement that had the hosts and fans alike scratching their heads.

Gloucester were causing the highly revered Bath defence problems and, on the stroke of half time, Matt Garvey's unconventional upending of the marauding Gareth Evans brought about a second yellow card for the visitors.

With 30 seconds left of the half, Twelvetrees booted the penalty to the corner and, as the line out was prepared and a strong attacking position possible, referee Tim Wigglesworth called time on the first forty minutes.

To be fair, neither side had managed to get their game going and the game lacked a serious amount of rhythm and tempo, with penalties almost as frequent as pints being served in the Kingsholm bars.

Gloucester started the second half well, but on 50 minutes, their afternoon received its first huge blow. With Bath seemingly going nowhere on half way, Nick Abendanon was caught high by Sila Puafisi and the Tongan replacement was shown a straight red card by Wigglesworth.

It was a big setback for

"IT'S HUGEY FRUSTRATING. WE DID SO MUCH GOOD IN TERMS OF STEPPING UP AND PLAYING THE TYPE OF GAME THAT WE NEEDED TO WIN A LOCAL DERBY.

THERE WAS GOOD INTENT ALTHOUGH OUR ACCURACY LET US DOWN ON OCCASIONS IN THE FIRST HALF IN PARTICULAR." NIGEL DAVIES

Gloucester, and it got worse as the visitors scored with their next move. A rolling maul got into motion and captain Stuart Hooper dropped down on the line to silence the stadium.

Down to 14, that looked to be a killer blow for the hosts with thirty minutes left. But to their upmost credit, Nigel Davies' charges dusted themselves down and got on with taking the game to their rivals.

The introduction of Rob Cook sparked a bit of life into the team and the full house crowd; a superb break took the full back deep into the Bath half. In their desperate attempts to deny quick possession, Bath lock Dave Attwood was carded for killing the ball.

Twelvetrees knocked over his fourth penalty of the afternoon and then Gloucester struck again, and in some style.

Good counter-rucking from replacement loose head Dan Murphy presented the ball to Tavis Knoyle, and swift thinking from the Welshman presented the opportunity for Twelvetrees and Mike Tindall to give Henry Trinder the chance to dummy his way over the line and send Kingsholm into jubilation.

Twelvetrees' conversion was key, but was agonisingly wide of the

right upright, which left Bath with a sniff of a chance still. Sadly, they took it.

Nick Abendanon scorched onto a suspiciously forward pass from Banahan and looked odds on to score before Jonny May clicked on his turbos to catch him as Gloucester regrouped.

Mike Tindall was sinbinned – somewhat harshly for playing the ball on the floor and was followed by Huia Edmonds who timed his drive a split-second early as Bath held their line out jumper in the air.

Down to 12 men, Gloucester's rush defence was stern, May producing an incredibly brave tackle on Anthony Perenise and Kingsholm had its heart in its mouth as Charlie Sharples got his hands to a loose pass. Had he gathered then it would've been game over.

Instead, Bath kept Gloucester pinned back and, after securing the turnover, drove a final telling maul over the line, a score which referee Wigglesworth deemed worthy of a penalty try.

Tempers boiled over with Tavis Knoyle the recipient of a red card as players from both sides piled in.

When the dust settled, Ford knocked over the final conversion and put an end to a hugely dramatic afternoon.

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	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Jimmy Cowan
1	P	Nick Wood
2	H	Huia Edmonds
3	P	Shaun Knight
4	L	Elliott Stooke
5	L	James Hudson
6	F	Sione Kalamafoni
7	F	Matt Kvesic
8	N8	Ben Morgan
16	H	Dan George
17	P	Dan Murphy
18	P	Rupert Harden
19	L	Lua Lokotui
20	L	Ross Moriarty
21	SH	Dan Robson
22	C	Steph Reynolds
23	FB	Bill Meakes

LONDON WASPS

#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Andrea Masi ■
14	W	Viliami Helu ■
13	C	Elliot Daly
12	C	Chris Bell (c)
11	W	Tom Varndell
10	FH	Andy Goode
9	SH	Joe Simpson
1	P	Matt Mullan
2	H	Carlo Festuccia
3	P	Jake Cooper-Woolley
4	L	Joe Launchbury
5	L	Kearnan Myall
6	F	Ashley Johnson ■
7	F	James Haskell
8	N8	Nathan Hughes
16	H	Tom Lindsay
17	P	Simon McIntyre
18	P	Phil Swainston
19	L	Tom Palmer
20	N8	Sam Jones
21	SH	Charlie Davies
22	FB	Joe Carlisle
23	C	Charlie Hayter





Match Details: 19th April 2014, KO 15:15, Twickenham Stadium
Attendance: 38,294
Referee: Wayne Barnes

LONDON WASPS

TRIES: Haskell (11, 72), Varndell (22), Daly (36), Johnson (59) **CONS:** Goode (12, 22, 37, 60), Carlisle (72) **PEN:** Goode (19)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TRIES: May (13), Edmonds (64), Burns (76) **CONS:** Twelvetrees (13, 66, 76) **PENS:** Twelvetrees (28, 31, 40)

38

30

WITH THE NEWS THAT SEVENTH PLACE IN THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP COULD OPEN UP A PATHWAY INTO NEXT YEAR'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP, GLOUCESTER TRAVELLED TO TWICKENHAM FOR THE STINGER IN THE HOPE OF GAINING AN EDGE ON ONE OF THEIR RIVALS FOR THAT SPOT.

Instead, mistakes at key times handed the victory to London Wasps on their big day, but Gloucester showed real pride throughout to give their hosts a scare.

The late withdrawal of Martyn Thomas saw Freddie Burns come in and start at fly half, and the pivot impressed with Gloucester showing plenty of ambition on the vast expanses of the HQ pitch.

A neat early chip from Burns saw the fly half feed Charlie Sharples, but the scoring return pass was fumbled and the chance was gone. A Gloucester mistake was then punished as James Haskell just about made the line after a Nathan Hughes break.

Gloucester, however hit back immediately. As the hosts tried to exit cleanly, a pass went astray and Huia Edmonds reacted quickest to hack through and open the door for Jonny May to race away and score his tenth of the campaign.

Andy Goode then knocked over a penalty before Wasps were gifted another try as Tom Varndell intercepted a Gloucester pass in midfield out of the air to stroll home.

Reigning in their ambition, Gloucester kept it simple and worked the phases. This earned two penalties, which Twelvetrees converted and the Cherry and Whites were back in the game.

Frustratingly, Wasps scored again almost immediately, Chris Bell bursting through in midfield before

drawing the final man for Elliot Daly to score.

Gloucester had the last say of the half, Ben Morgan was impressing with his ball carrying and he earned a penalty, which Twelvetrees duly bisected the posts with.

Nigel Davies' men made a bright start to the second half, moving the ball around well and forcing wing Will Helu to knock on deliberately, the Tongan seeing yellow for his troubles.

Most frustratingly for the Cherry and Whites was the inability to turn the pressure and the man advantage into points during the sin bin period.

Dan Robson made a welcome return from the replacements and his first involvement was a superb charge down of Andy Goode's drop goal to ease the pressure.

Wasps kept on knocking on the door, however, and their fourth try came when back rower Ashley Johnson barged his way over after cutting a neat line.

The game looked to be drifting away from Gloucester as the Mexican waves floated around the stadium, but Nigel Davies' men didn't throw in the towel.

Huia Edmonds' opportune break from the ruck resulted in a score and the comeback looked on, before Wasps killed the game off through another Haskell try.

There was still time for Johnson to receive a yellow card for a deliberate knock on and for Burns to cross for the eighth and final

try of the day as he intercepted a Charlie Davies pass.



Champagne Moment:

Freddie Burns produced one of his trademark chip and chases to prise open the Wasps defence, before a superb pass off his left hand hit Charlie Sharples in stride.

As Gloucester searched for a late pair of bonus points, they were denied as Andrea Masi took one for the team and took out Charlie Sharples as the winger chipped ahead.

It was a tough result to take after much endeavour but two defeats in three weeks to Wasps have taken the momentum out of the end of Gloucester's season.

Teams correct at time of print: 1st May 2014



TODAY'S TEAMS



GLoucester Rugby

ROB COOK	FULLBACK	15
CHARLIE SHARPLES	RIGHT WING	14
MIKE TINDALL	CENTRE	13
BILLY TWELVETREES (C)	CENTRE	12
JONNY MAY	LEFT WING	11
RYAN MILLS	FLY HALF	10
DAN ROBSON	SCRUM HALF	9
NICK WOOD	PROP	1
HUIA EDMONDS	HOOKER	2
SHAUN KNIGHT	PROP	3
ELLIOTT STOOKE	LOCK	4
JAMES HUDSON	LOCK	5
SIONE KALAMAFONI	FLANKER	6
MATT KVESIC	FLANKER	7
BEN MORGAN	NO.8	8
DAN GEORGE	REPLACEMENT	16
DAN MURPHY	REPLACEMENT	17
SILA PUAFISI	REPLACEMENT	18
WILL JAMES	REPLACEMENT	19
MATT COX	REPLACEMENT	20
JIMMY COWAN	REPLACEMENT	21
FREDDIE BURNS	REPLACEMENT	22
SHANE MONAHAN	REPLACEMENT	23

LONDON IRISH

JAMES O'CONNOR	FULLBACK	
MARLAND YARDE	RIGHT WING	
FERGUS MULCHRONE	CENTRE	
EAMONN SHERIDAN	CENTRE	
ANDREW FENBY	LEFT WING	
SHANE GERAGHTY	FLY HALF	
TOMÁS O'LEARY	SCRUM HALF	
MATT PARR	PROP	
MIKE MAYHEW	HOOKER	
LEO HALAVATAU	PROP	
GEORGE SKIVINGTON (C)	LOCK	
NIC ROUSE	LOCK	
KIERAN LOW	FLANKER	
BLAIR COWAN	FLANKER	
OFISA TREVIRANUS	NO.8	
JIMMY STEVENS	REPLACEMENT	
JOHN YAPP	REPLACEMENT	
JAMIE HAGAN	REPLACEMENT	
JEBB SINCLAIR	REPLACEMENT	
GERARD ELLIS	REPLACEMENT	
TOM HOMER	REPLACEMENT	
IAN HUMPHREYS	REPLACEMENT	
DARREN ALLINSON	REPLACEMENT	

IN CHARGE TODAY:

Referee: **Steve Lee**

Assistant Referees: **Ashley Rowden and Robin Goodliffe**

